

AAA 'gas watchers' program tells motorists how to save on fuel use

Operating on the theory that an informed public voluntarily can achieve gasoline savings that would make rationing or high taxes unnecessary, the American Automobile Association has launched a Gas Watchers program.

Aimed at making "five gallons of gas do the work of six," the program is in response to President Ford's stated goal of reducing U.S. oil imports from six to five million barrels daily. A 16 2/3 per cent reduction in gasoline consumption would be needed to meet the President's objective.

The AAA program concentrates on five areas to save gasoline. They are:

Use Good Driving Techniques. "Jack rabbit" starts, fast braking and weaving in and out of traffic can cost motorists up to 44 per cent in gas mileage in normal city driving, AAA claims.

Keep Your Car In Tip-Top Shape. AAA reports tests have shown that a tune-up can result in an immediate nine to 15 per cent increase in gas mileage. "Once you've had your car tuned, don't forget about it," AAA advises. "A car needs to be tuned at least twice a year."

Attention to proper tire pressure, radiator temperature and brake adjustment also helps save gasoline.

Join a Car Pool. Just car pooling with one other person to work could reduce the average motorist's fuel use by 25 per cent.

Plan Your Driving — Try combining errands in



one trip, cutting down on the average 55 miles the average motorist expends on shopping and related needs. Map your route on each excursion to make certain you're traveling the shortest distances.

Where possible, shop by phone.

Watch Speeds. Observe the 55 mile per hour speed limit. In fact, where safe and not interfering with traffic, travel at 30 to 40 m.p.h. That is the best speed range for fuel economy.

"Gas Watchers' Guide," a 16-page booklet containing tips on how to make five gallons do the work of six, is available from most AAA clubs, at no charge for single copies.

TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS

Two out of every three miles driven by the average motorist are for essential trips. About 42 per cent of all car travel is for work-related purposes while another 20 per cent is for shopping and other necessary chores. Slightly over 33 per cent miles are driven for recreational uses.

While ignition system troubles are most often responsible for starting problems, there are other, often mystifying causes. An improperly tensioned or worn alternator or generator belt can be the culprit. The faulty belt can contribute to a fatal drain on the battery power and cause a "can't start."

More vehicles join Over-50 club on total mileage basis, not years

The Over-50 club has become the most dominant segment of the nation's motoring population. It's not the age of the drivers but the age of the cars on our highways.

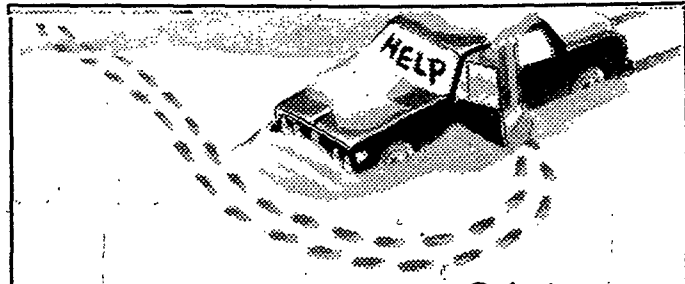
According to a recent survey, more than half of the cars in operation today have in excess of 50,500 miles on their odometers. While the supposition could be that difficult economic times have caused people to hold on

to cars longer, the survey shows the trend to higher mileage cars has been a steady one.

In 1968 only 43 per cent of the cars registered more

than 50,500 miles. The latest study shows 51 per cent of all cars have exceeded that mileage.

The significance of the figures lies primarily in a need for more maintenance on the part of the motorists.



Ode To The Road

(With apologies to John Greenleaf Whittier)

The sun that Brief December Day
Rose cheerless over hills of gray;
Amid the coldness and the snow
My car was stuck, it would not go.
And as I cursed the warmthless sun
I thought of things I should have done.
If I had had my engine tuned
I might not be here lost, marooned.
What's more, if I had fixed my lights
These winter days would not seem nights.
And had my tires been up to snuff
I wouldn't skid through slush and stuff.
And how I wish that I had checked
My cooling system, now it's wrecked;
And wipers so that I could see
The other cars ahead of me.
But I was pressing on my luck,
So now I sit here, cold and stuck.
The wisest words, my friends, I trow,
Are "Move it, buster, do it now."

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