

Blonde, blue-eyed and headed for trouble

Our heroine, age 15, is saved from potential disaster at roadside check point

She was 15, blonde, blue-eyed and headed for trouble.

If the above sounds like the beginning of a Grade B Hollywood thriller, at least the locale is correct. The setting was California, but the circumstances were not what one might suppose.

The young lady in question was driving her bright yellow, 1966 Mustang along a highway outside a major California city. She was ordered by a state highway patrolman to pull into a roadside vehicle inspection station. That's where her trouble began.

First, no license

First of all, being under-aged, she had no license to drive the car. (Only the fact that a front-seat passenger was holding a small baby in her lap prevented

the police from impounding the car.) The vehicle itself was as lethal as a letter bomb from a terrorist.

Most of the lugs holding the wheel to the axle were missing. Thus, the paper thin tires were listing at an oblique angle to the road. Shock absorbers weren't functioning, brakes were defective, the exhaust system leaked, lights did not work and the engine was missing practically every emission control element including the air cleaner. In total, 18 violations of safety and anti-emission codes were found.

While the random inspection program responsible for the above scene has been dropped by California in a budget slashing move, results show the need for inspection in that and other states.

Safety defects spotted

Of the 1,518,698 vehicles checked last year (11.5 per cent of California's total) nearly a million safety defects were spotted.

In addition 1.2 million cars were checked for emissions and 23 per cent of them exceeded allowable limits.

As far as safety was concerned, about half the cars had defective lights, about 15 per cent had noisy or leaky exhausts and another 15 per cent had unsafe tires or wheels. Other common defects were bad wiper blades (\$84,000), unsafe brakes (\$36,000), obstructed glass (\$30,000), defective steering (\$20,000), and inoperative suspension (\$19,000).

Pilot investing

Last July, California began investing all of its vehicle inspection funds in an emissions check program in the southern part of the state. First phase of the program will be a pilot project in Riverside County. Eventually six counties in the Greater

Los Angeles area will be included.

According to Jack Dolan who will be supervising in that area. There are more vehicles (nearly six million) in those six counties than in all but a few the program, "Six counties may not seem like a lot, but 53 per cent of all cars in the state operate

other states in the country."

Dolan added, "The benefits of the emission inspection program in California

will do more than clean up our air. We expect that maintenance that will result from keeping emissions low will also save enormous amounts of gasoline."



NO LICENSE, NO LUCK — Recording more violations than she had years, a 15-year-old California motorist was apprehended during a random vehicle check. Under-aged, she had no license to drive and her car was totally unsafe. Note the nearly bald tires and wheels held in place by only three lugs in the rear. Also, the motor was completely devoid of any anti-pollution equipment including air cleaner. California has since halted its random safety and emissions inspection program.

Certified mechanics fill need for dependable car service

A national organization formed only three years ago has tested 95,000 automotive mechanics and certified approximately 70,000 of them as competent in one or more technical areas. The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is the name of the organization, and their tests are developed and administered nationwide by Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N.J.

They pay fee

Mechanics or their employers pay the fees for the tests and the program is strictly voluntary. Herbert S. Fuhrman, NIASE President, says: "The nation's mechanics deserve huge credit for turning out in such large numbers for these voluntary tests. It certainly expresses a strong desire to prove their competency. We hope that consumers will ask for certified mechanics to work on their cars and will look for mechanics' credentials displayed in service areas." Shops employing certified mechanics are authorized to display

play orange and blue signs which read: "We employ mechanics certified by NIASE — let us show you their credentials."

Pinpoint certification

The credentials show specifically in what areas

a mechanic or body repairer or painter is certified.

The Institute offers certification in eight automobile areas offered are six tests for heavy-duty truck and bus mechanics, and two tests in body and



our circle of coverage includes

Automobile Financing
We know You'll Like

JOHN CANEPA AGENCY
insurance

451 COOPER RD.

266-5225

PAT MITCHELL
Dodge LTD.

Easy to
get to

Easy to
Call

PAT MITCHELL, PRES.
IN ONTARIO CALL:

524-5101

FROM ROCHESTER CALL:

872-1304

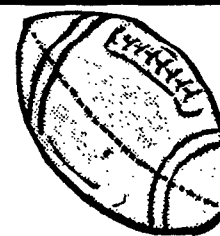
— Easy to deal with —

SALES — AUTHORIZED — SERVICE

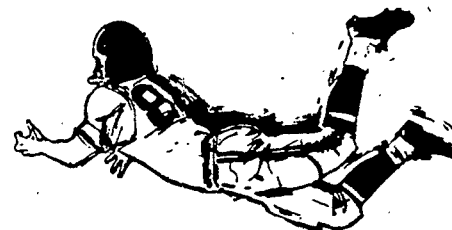
(ONLY 5 MINUTES EAST OF XEROX)
ROUTE 104 ONTARIO

Open Mon-Tues-Thur Till 9 PM
Wed-Fri-Sat Till 5 PM

THE TRANSMISSION KING



DON'T FUMBLE THIS CHANCE!



ROCHESTER'S #1

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION SPECIALISTS

For 17 Years we have led the way,
when in Trouble,

phone

473-3130



- FREE TOWING WITHIN CITY LIMITS
- REBUILT
- REPAIRED
- EXCHANGED

6-MONTH GUARANTEE

CLIP & SAVE

COUPON SAVINGS

\$10⁰⁰

OFF!

ON ANY MAJOR REPAIRS

MILT & RON'S

"THE TRANSMISSION KING"

847 CLINTON AVE. S.

473-3130