

Costs More To Operate Car Today

(Special to the Eccentric)

NEW YORK—With many Birmingham families a way on vacation jaunts in their cars and others getting ready to go, the matter of how much the trip will cost is one of prime consideration.

Another question that a driver asks himself, especially when his car is "checked over" before such a trip is "How much am I spending a year to operate it?" Few of them have more than a rough idea.

According to the American Automobile Association, which has just released figures on the subject, it costs more to run a car today than it did ten years ago, when a similar report was issued.

THE TYPICAL driver of a standard-size sedan in the popular price range, traveling 10,000 miles a year, which is average, now spends \$1,203 annually for maintenance and operation, compared with \$1,178 in 1939.

In Birmingham, under these normal driving conditions and on the basis of the city's passenger car registrations, local residents are spending an estimated \$13,992,000 a year.

A breakdown by the AAA shows that a car costs \$2.21 a day, or \$807 a year, even when it is not being used.

THE LARGEST part of this fixed charge is depreciation, which amounts to \$645. Next is fire and property damage and liability insurance, \$107.

In addition, there are the non-fixed charges—for gas, oil, tires and maintenance—which come to 29 cents a mile, according to the AAA.

All told, for 10,000-mile use, it adds up to 12 cents a mile. At 20,000 miles a year, the fixed charges remaining the same, the cost is \$1,028, bringing the rate down to 8.1 cents a mile.

For those who go only 5,000 miles a year, however, it shoots up to 20 cents per mile.

FOR COMPACT cars the figures are lower. At 10,000 miles a year, domestic compacts can be run for \$248 less and foreign compacts for \$536 less, states the AAA.

Studies show that rising operating costs have little effect on the extent to which cars are used. In Birmingham last year, filling station receipts came to nearly \$6,145,000, compared with the 1959 total of \$5,947,000.

Eclipse of Moon Coming Friday

ANN ARBOR—A near total eclipse of the moon will be Friday, Aug. 25. The moon will slip into the earth's shadow at 8:26 p.m. and get completely out at 11:42 p.m.

The lunar show will be generally observable across the North American continent, according to Associate Prof. Hazel M. Lee of the University of Michigan Astronomy Department.

The optimum time of evening on a weekend (Friday) in comfortable summer weather makes this eclipse particularly favorable, she adds.

Soon after the eclipse begins, there will be noticeable dimming of the eastern edge of the disk. "The darkened area will gradually increase until mid-eclipse at 10:09 p.m., when only less than one per cent of the moon's diameter will remain outside this dark inner shadow. A narrow sliver of the moon's surface will remain illuminated by the direct rays of the sun," Prof. Losh points out.

The second highest waterway in the world is at the famous locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. More tonnage passes through those locks in an eight-month Great Lakes navigation season than either the Panama or the Suez canals handle in a full year.

NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Water Is Vital to Man; Its Influence Is Endless

WALLOON LAKE—As I rest at the rim of the lake the water calls to me with its insistent voice. My hand idly cups the life-giving fluid. As it trickles through my fingers a fragment of sunlight falls light as a feather across the pages of my book and a dragon fly shines iridescent in the summer's haze.

LIFE was cradled in water. As man, given a day or a week, is prone to return to its prototype to find such elemental satisfaction as he can.

For this simple fluid made up of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen is more than 70 per cent of his body substance. The ancient sea water yet flows in his veins; its lure cannot be denied. Knowing too little of his past heritage, he yet longs for its healing ways.

WATER appears in many guises. The water-catcher may choose the hidden brook, the lazy river, the quiet

Weekly Visit They're All 'Wheels' in This Family

By IRMA DAVIS
Staff Writer

"There isn't any challenge in baking a cake with ready-made mix," says Young. "I prefer my own speed skater, upholsterer and bread and cake baker."

Young has a taste for meeting challenges and his own way of going about it.

That's why he rides a bike almost daily from his home at 539 Smith St., Birmingham, to downtown Detroit where he is employed as chief clerk in the sales office of the Milwaukee Railroad. The 17-mile trip takes him about 50 minutes and he is convinced there are two different groups of automobile drivers traveling Woodward and from work each day.

"They're relaxed in the morning; at night, it's another story."

HIS WIFE, Lucinda, commented, "People come up to me and say, 'Oh, you're the lady whose husband rides a bicycle.'"

"I was always the guy that the champion beat, at least as a youngster," Young replied.

The living room of his home is filled with trophies—won not only by Young but by his family. The family ride together, usually at the State Fair Grounds, every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

On Wednesdays Young and his two daughters, Sheila and Susan meet with Wolverines Sports Club members and the group rides a healthy 20 miles usually before they call a halt.

SUNDAYS ARE racing days for Young who then averages 60-70 miles with the Wolverines. Frequently he is accompanied by one of the youngsters.

Young has won the state bicycle racing championship for as well as numerous other competitions.

Sheila, 14, won the Golden Wheel Sprint championships for girls in Chicago in 1956. James, 16, second in the same event. Roger, 8, also won two races in this event in 1958 and 1959.

Roger wants to be a paleontologist; Jamie aspires to do "anything his dad does."

Mother, of course, is the family's "ardent fan."

THE COUPLE met, appropriately

enough, in a bicycle shop in Detroit.

They were married after he returned from the service but not until they had both competed in a national bike championship competition in which Roger tied for national woman's championship. She won the state championship the same year.

Young took up skating as a youngster because he "was too small to be chosen by the other kids playing baseball. When you skate or bike, the little fellow has the same opportunity as the bigger kids."

He has been skating ever since. He has won the Midwest Eastern Racing championship, the national championship and estimates that he has won a total of "20 to 25 championships, both on bike and skates."

THE CHILDREN follow right along on their skates. Roger is the winner of this year's state championship in his class, also the winner of the Barrie International and the Detroit City competitions.

"Sheila," her dad proudly says, "is the third best skater in the state in her class, same place third in the Detroit races this year and Susie fills the field."

Young has been active in the club's work and has participated in setting up bicycle safety programs for children.

Both he and his wife would like to get together with some of the couples they have met biking in the Birmingham area.

HE DOES NOT permit his own children to ride in the street unless he is along although he has relaxed the rule now for Susan. Their biking is confined to special areas where tracks are provided.

He wishes "there were a place in Birmingham where a kid could ride safely. They provide ballfields and things like that, but nothing for kids who like to bike."

In the winter, "from the time

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Bye, Bhavnager; Hello, Bangalore!

Julia Hoopengardner, Birmingham college student, is nearing the end of her visit to India. She is staying with families there under the Experiment in International Living Program.

Dear Friends and Neighbors: Our vegetarian delegation has left Bhavnager behind. There's no doubt about our having left memories. We just hope they are as pleasant as the ones we have carried away.

Also left behind was the letter of good wishes to the mayor from our Mrs. Florence H. Willett.

Our route to Bangalore was exciting. New Delhi is such an impressive capital across the sea, all its somewhat of Washington, D.C., except that the government buildings are rose and cream colored.

We enjoyed seeing wide, tree-lined streets and well-kept lawns again. And the grand, new American Embassy gave us a particular thrill.

PRIME MINISTER Nehru took time out to meet with us. That was at the time when the incident was most seriously hit. After having met Vice President Grant and his family, all of us feel the president's duties are in good hands, leaving the country.

The Taj Mahal is every by moonlight. Ranar was the hottest place we had been in all of India. Calcutta was as hot as we had imagined.

Southern India is cooler. Bangalore's climate and flowers are delightful.

MY FAMILY here is a 25-member joint family. My father

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has a saw mill and wood working shop. Nearly all of the family speaks English, which is typical of this area.

It is much more westernized. My home is beautifully wood paneled and our terraced gardens would save an acre; any I've seen in the States.

Bangalore has arranged a tight schedule for us. One program was a reception by the mayor at which I proudly presented Mrs. Willett's second letter, after being garlanded.

At this point, we're rushing from place to place so fast I'm sure we're not realizing all we are learning.

It will take a while to collect and organize our thoughts on this adventure we've had.

BUT I DO know we are carrying away from India an understanding and appreciation. Understanding of her problems of village development, languages, higher education, national government and economics.

And appreciation for her vast heritage of philosophy and the arts, the spirit in which she is trying to progress as a democratic nation and the progress which we've witnessed.

But most of all we have gained an understanding and appreciation of the individuals who make up India, whom we've grown close to and become concerned about.

MY HOPE is that another year Birmingham might like to sponsor a Community Ambassador with the understanding that she would share pictures and experience upon return home.

JULIA HOOPENGARDNER

100 YEARS AGO

New State 'Kanawha' Becomes W. Virginia

By LON K. SAVAGE
Special Writer

Important promotions and new assignments were in the works 100 years ago this week for many of the top officers of the Civil War. Seven men who went down in history—Lee, Grant, McClellan, Joseph E. Johnston, Albert Sidney Johnston, Beauregard and Sherman—were all promoted.

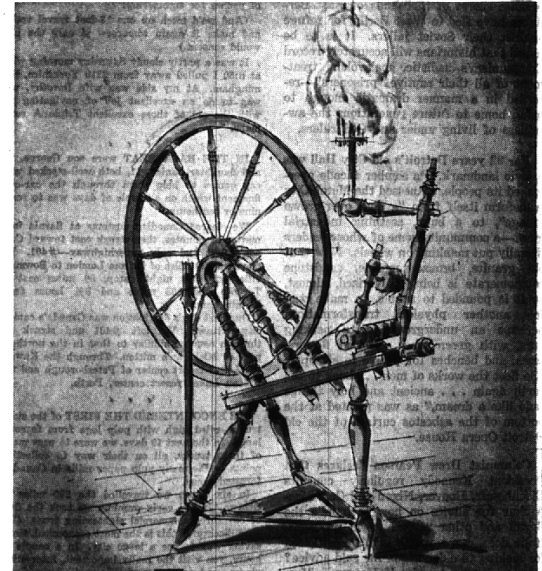
It was a period of shifting and sifting in the interim between fighting, and the changes were to affect every theatre of operation.

Still another change—a change in geography—look place that week. Western Virginia was divided from eastern Virginia by a con- siderable strip of land, and a new state named "Kanawha" was formed.

The name, assigned to the state on Aug. 20, was changed to West Virginia three months later, and that name was used when the state finally was admitted to the Union in June, 1863.

But on that Aug. 20, 1861 an attempt to change the name from Kanawha to West Virginia was defeated.


IN WASHINGTON that week, George Brinton McClellan was officially confirmed a major gen-



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