

# BUSINESS NEWS

## From Wagon to Ambulance— That's Auto Conversion Co.

This is the first in a series of articles on businesses and factories in the area that are interesting and unusual. Automotive Conversion Corp. leads of the series.

By JOE CADARIU

In one corner sits a casket. In another, a shiny new stretcher. It's not the morgue—nor a funeral parlor.

It's one of the most unique businesses anywhere, and its located in Birmingham.

THE MAIN FUNCTION of Automotive Conversion Corp., 2191 Cole, is converting standard station wagons into ambulances and funeral vehicles.

The casket is used to size up interior space; the stretcher for the "Ambiwagon"—as the converted vehicle is called.

"Automotive Conversion can convert 23 makes of vehicles," said its president, George R. Squibb, 1360 N. Glenhurst, Bloomfield Hills.

"We can do most anything to standard vehicles that assembly lines can't or won't do," he said.

THE COMPANY'S main "product"—the Ambiwagon—is a custom conversion for funeral directors, police and fire departments, hospitals, and industrial plants.

About 1000 cars are annually converted in the plant, including campers, pick-ups and sliding roofs.

"The camper business is picking up with the advent of the new compact wagons, such as the Chevrolet Greenbird and Ford Econoline series," Squibb said.

Automotive Conversion outfits these campers with sinks, bunks, and sometimes even television.

"WE CAN EVEN upholster our conversions with mink," Squibb said.

The company frequently exports converted autos to foreign countries, including Turkey, Guatemala, and Chile.

"It takes us seven to ten days for the average conversion," Squibb said, "but in special cases we can be much faster."

Automotive Conversion was founded six years ago by a four-man group which included H. A. Swiggert, who is now vice president in charge of sales.



### Delivery Ceremonies

George R. Squibb, left, president of Automotive Conversion Corp., 2191 Cole, Birmingham, is shown handing over keys for two brand new ambulances to George Dorrell of the Dorrell Funeral Home, Ludington.

Dorrell is a former Birmingham resident. Mrs. Dorrell is on the right.



### On the Wagon

A worker at Automotive Conversion Corp. is shown converting a station wagon into a real live ambulance. Conversion time is usually less than a week. The company also converts vehicles into campers, hearses, and utility wagons.

### Robert Chesley New President Of Chesley, Inc.

Robert G. Chesley has succeeded his father, George W. Chesley, as president and general manager of Chesley Industries, Inc., 24777 Telegraph, Southfield.

The elder Chesley, 5775 Gilbert Lake, Bloomfield Township, founded the firm 14 years ago. He will continue as board chairman and treasurer.

Robert Chesley has been vice president-sales and advertising.

### C. Irwin Honored By Shell Oil Co.

Charles W. Irwin, 5990 Orchard Bend, Bloomfield Township, was honored recently upon his 25th anniversary with Shell Oil Co. Irwin, who is manager-industrial products, was presented with a service emblem and watch at a luncheon held in Detroit.



Irwin joined Shell in 1936 as a field representative in the St. Louis marketing office. He held similar positions in New Orleans and Cleveland before coming to Detroit in 1941 as technical products representative.

In 1948 he was named manager-special products and assumed his present position in 1957.

### Accepted by College

Robert Douglas, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Douglas, 478 Cranbrook, Birmingham, has been accepted for admission to Shimer College, according to D. G. Keuter, college vice president. Douglas is expected to begin work as a first year student at Shimer College in Mt. Carroll, Ill., this fall.

### Liverance Retires From S. S. Kresge

Howard J. Liverance of Birmingham, merchandising vice president and a director of the S. S. Kresge Co., retired recently after 37 years with the firm.

He requested retirement for personal reasons, according to A. B. Fairbanks of Beverly Hills, the firm's public relations director.

Liverance, 416 Hawthorne, will remain available for consultation and special assignments at the company's request.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Liverance joined Kresge's as an assistant store manager in Lafayette, Ind.

He became a vice president and director in 1953.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION, JUNE 30, 1961

RESOURCES	
Cash and Due from Banks . . . . .	\$ 409,137,948.19
United States Government Securities . . . . .	577,355,327.08
Other Securities . . . . .	244,793,898.14
<b>Loans:</b>	
Loans and Discounts . . . . .	\$634,361,646.96
Real Estate Mortgages . . . . .	770,482,087.79
Federal Reserve Bank Stock . . . . .	4,350,000.00
Bank Premises . . . . .	17,285,067.25
Customers' Liability—	
Acceptances and Credits . . . . .	5,655,568.86
Accrued Income and Other Resources . . . . .	10,184,406.98
	<b>\$2,039,224,289.29</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	
Commercial Deposits . . . . .	\$ 979,504,346.77
Savings and Time Deposits . . . . .	492,500,285.68
Deposits of United States Government . . . . .	127,159,809.66
Other Public Deposits . . . . .	109,630,869.66
Deposits of Banks . . . . .	132,660,359.60
Total Deposits . . . . .	\$1,841,455,671.37
Acceptances and Refers of Credit . . . . .	5,655,568.86
Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities . . . . .	22,445,186.13
Capital Funds:	
Common Stock (\$12.50 par value) . . . . .	\$ 45,000,000.00
Surplus . . . . .	100,000,000.00
Undivided Profits . . . . .	24,667,862.93
	<b>169,667,862.93</b>
	<b>\$2,039,224,289.29</b>

United States Government Securities carried at \$228,472,974.44 in the foregoing statement are pledged to secure public deposits, including deposits of \$10,823,287.14 of the Treasurer, State of Michigan, and for other purposes required by law.

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