

# FREE WHEELING!!

**By BILL CROWELL**  
Tar Heel car owners according to one estimate, (mine) gobble up over three million gallons of gasoline a day. What's even more significant, in view of this tremendous fuel consumption, is that possibly the average driver could save upwards of 10 per cent of his fuel bill by passing up premium and "super power" gas.

Engineers say it's difficult to generalize on the exact fuel requirements of the modern automobile. Still, authorities agree that most cars four years old or older will perform satisfactorily on regular grade gasoline.

It's the high compression rates Detroit has built in the past couple of years that actually require the more expensive premium brands.

One simple test will show what your car needs. The experts recommend a thorough engine tune-up as the first step. Then have the mechanic set the engine to factory specifications, following the manufacturer's recommendations to the letter. Fill the tank with regular brand gasoline and head for open country.

Most drivers have experienced engine "knock" or a pinching sound when the engine is pulling hard. This is a giveaway signifying generally that the engine is not utilizing fuel to maximum advantage. Avoiding technicalities, the fuel is burned irregularly and instead of a smooth, powerful downward explosion against the pistons, a detonation occurs and the engine protests by knocking.

With your test tankful of regular, try accelerating hard, uphill if possible. If no tendency to knock results, your engine should perform okay on regular gas. And here's where the money saving starts to show up. Price difference between regular and the premium grade of fuel average some three to four cents, as most car owners know. And remember that the average driver gets around some 8000 to 10,000 miles annually.

**SUDDEN THAW.** If the train gives a hoot for your life, the least you can do is likewise.

**NEW PRES.** Tom Secrest mans a desk as assistant head of the Motor Vehicles Department.

ment's License and Theft Enforcement Division. Tom's responsibility to the taxpayers involves assisting enforcement officers in locating stolen vehicles, weighing trucks to insure compliance with highway load restrictions, and keeping tabs (by licensing) the state's auto and truck dealers. This week, though, the able Mr. Secrest took on still heavier duties as delegates to the 12th annual convention of the State Employees' Association elected him their new president.

Convention goes made their decision in Durham at the conclusion of the two day confab, September 4 Secrest succeeds W. B. Martin of Asheville. As now president, he will serve for a year as head of the 8000 member state association.

**POPULAR.** State highway trooper J. R. Roupe raised a happy commotion among the townsfolk last week in Burgaw. The 32 year patrolman, stationed in Pender County since 1950, requested and received a transfer to Yadkinville, near his family's home. Judging, though, from the sentiment stirred up by his leaving, the popular young officer should have stood fast. The Chronicle, local journal of Burgaw, devoted a two column picture and 10 inches of type to the occasion, saying in one place, that "He (Roupe) is noted for his competence in carrying out his duties in this area and is considered one of the best law enforcement officers ever to serve the people of this county."

**ON & OFF.** Patrol Major D. T. Lambert passed on a "weighty" anecdote this week. It had to do with the recently graduated class

of rook's troopers at Chapel Hill. The major, a great one for record keeping, had the trainees at the beginning of the 12 weeks course, accurately weighed. At the end of the training schedule and before graduation he repeated the process, learning in the interval the collective class had shed or gained pounds in "exactly the right way," as he put it. What Major Lambert meant was the fannies lost weight; the beanpoles put it on. The results: a hard-muscled group of stalwarts, resplendent in their Confederate gray uniforms, hit the highways. I tell you as firm and streamlined as any Mr. America.

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## St. Augustine's Curriculum Has Been Extensively Revised

As a result of a year-long curriculum-study project during the past school year, Dr. P. R. Robinson, dean has announced that the curriculum of St. Augustine's College this year has been revised extensively. Many new changes and additions have been made in the program.

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a major in art. Not only this, but the program in art has been strengthened with the addition of new courses in art history and basic drawing and design, along with a seminar in art, set up primarily for outstanding students. The program in health and physical Education has been revised and strengthened, making it possible for students to secure the necessary background courses to command jobs in recreation, teaching, and physical therapy. In the English department, as a part of the general education program, all students are now required to take a minimum of one semester of world literature.

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