

Car Parts Cost Add Up (Continued from page 8)

Parts and paint for the total rebuilding would cost \$32,548, plus labor.

A 1984 compact four-door sedan with a factory sticker price at \$8,885 was the subject of this year's study by the alliance. The vehicle features modern unibody design and has various popular options including front-wheel drive, automatic transmission, power brakes, power steering and air conditioning.

"As the Alliance indicated, the manufacturing process may be a cost-efficient marvel, but crash repair of the car is another matter. Only a fraction of a new car's parts need to be damaged before repair costs become greater than the value of the car," Culp said.

"When that occurs the car is considered by insurance companies to be a total loss.

"In such cases, the insurer will pay the owner the pre-crash value of the car and take title to the vehicle. The damaged cars then usually are sold as salvage and stripped for recoverable parts in an effort to hold down repair costs."

The Alliance points out that in a typical insurance policy for a late-model car, about two-thirds of the premium covers vehicle damage and about one-third covers personal injury.

Culp suggested car owners can help reduce auto crash repair costs, as well as insurance premiums, by purchasing automobiles with better than average repair records and with 5 mph bumper protection.

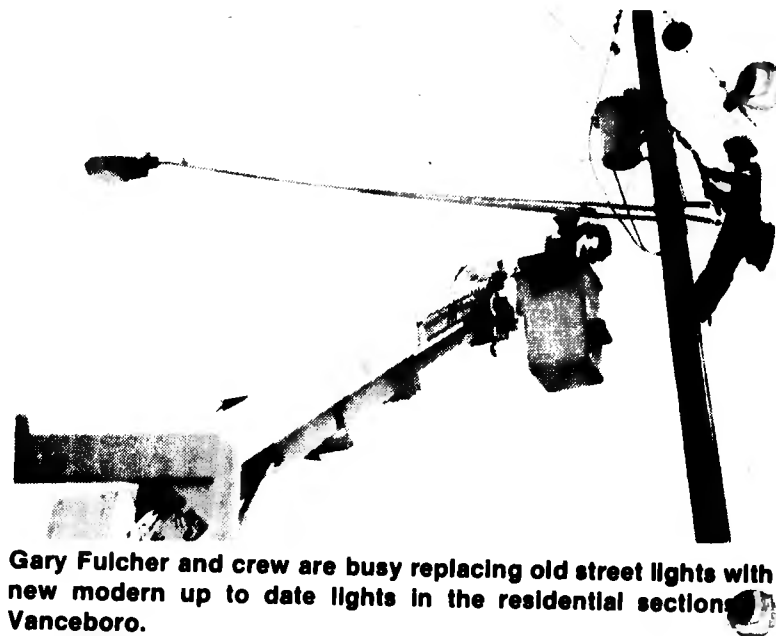
Defensive driving also can help reduce accident repair costs, Culp said. "The Alliance says courtesy is a good survival attitude not just a personal consideration and I agree. You can be dead right about who has the right of way and end up just plain dead if you insist you are right with your vehicle," said Culp.

Some insurers offer special coverages that will pay for the cost of repairs on late-model vehicles, even if that cost exceeds the car's pre-crash value. If the car cannot be repaired or the damage costs are prohibitive, the insurer would then replace the damaged auto with a new car of the same make and similar vehicle size class.

New Street Lights

Vanceboro is being outfitted with new sodium vapor street lights this week. Workmen have been busy removing the old incandescent lights and globes and replacing them with new globes on extended arms. A CP&L spokesman stated the new lights will give the streets more light and will be energy saving for the system.

This is the first updating of street lights in the residential area in over thirty years.



Gary Fulcher and crew are busy replacing old street lights with new modern up to date lights in the residential sections Vanceboro.



Ernest Cutler holds old street light fixture and old and new light bulbs.

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