

Gas Prices, Brands Are Discussed By Oil Man

Five of the questions the public most frequently asks about gasoline and the nation's oil industry were answered this week in a statement by Alton Batts of the Boone Oil Industry Information Committee. The questions deal with what determines gasoline prices, why there are so many brands of gasoline, monopoly charges, the future of oil as affected by atomic energy, and "myths about a 100-mile-per-gallon carburetor."

"Local competition determines gasoline prices," said Mr. Batts. "The individual dealer's gasoline prices tend to stabilize at a point where margin of profit and volume of sales strike the most favorable balance." He pointed out that this process and the fluidity of consumer buying habits produce small but distinct variations in local and nation-wide gasoline prices. "In the Boone area," he said, "there is a price spread of three cents a gallon. Prices may vary up to eight cents per gallon nation-wide."

As to whether the many brands of gasoline are "all the same," Mr. Batts said, "Definitely not. Each company makes different gasolines."

On the question of monopoly, Mr. Batts pointed out that there are some 42,000 oil companies in this country, plus about 200,000 service stations operated by some 100,000 separate and competing

concerns. He asserted that monopoly "could never have built today's American oil industry."

In regard to atomic energy's effect on the oil business, Mr. Batts said that "power needs are growing at such a rate that atomic energy will be a welcome supplement to other energy sources for countless years to come."

"Proved U. S. oil reserves today, despite the entire consumption of fifty years of peace and war, are more than ten times the total amount known to exist in 1900," he said. "And petroleum extraction from oil shales, now practical but costly, would yield three times the 34.8 billion barrels of our present proved reserves."

Mr. Batts said that reports of the oil industry's suppressing fuel-saving devices such as a "100-mile-per-gallon carburetor" crop up perennially. "No such carburetor has ever been patented, or even stood up to intensive investigation," he said. He added that "patents can't be kept secret" since anyone can obtain copies of any patent granted by the U. S. Patent Office.

The Oil Industry Information Committee representative, who is sales agent of Esso Standard Oil Co., here at Boone, based his statements on information just issued by the OIIC, which is sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute.

Telephone Cable To Be Laid On Bottom Of Sea

Laying of the world's first transoceanic telephone cable—to span the Atlantic between Newfoundland and Scotland—is to begin June 22, it was announced here last week by H. M. Inabinet, manager of Southern Bell Telephone Company.

The transatlantic voiceways are to be extended 300 miles westward from Newfoundland to the eastern tip of Nova Scotia via another submarine cable, and from there to the United States over a 75-mile radio relay system.

The project is a joint undertaking of American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the British Post Office and Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation and will cost about \$40,000,000. Service will be established late in 1955.

Mr. Inabinet quoted Henry T. Killingsworth, vice-president of A. A. & T. in charge of the long lines department, as saying the first cable of a twin cable system would be spun out across 2,000 miles of ocean bottom by summer's end. Summer is the only time the Atlantic is calm enough to permit such an undertaking. Laying operations will start at Clarendville, Newfoundland, and be completed at Oba, which is on the west coast of Scotland about 60 miles from Glasgow. The second cable is to be laid from Scotland to Newfoundland in the summer of 1956.

The new cable system will greatly improve the telephone service between the United States and Great Britain. This service was inaugurated in 1927 and is handled entirely by radiotelephone.

The transatlantic cables and the Newfoundland-Nova Scotia cable will be laid by HMMS Monarch. The ship is now loading the first segment of deep-sea cable at the Simplex Wire and Cable Company at Newington, N. H.

Says Dan'l Wouldn't Know His Campgrounds

Daniel Boone, who did a lot of camping in the North Carolina mountains back in the 1860's, would be very much surprised if he could come back and see what has happened to some of his old campgrounds.

Accessibility, as well as climate and scenery, has made North Caro-

Development Corp. Making Plans For New Industry

Raleigh, June 5—Capus Waynick, director of Gov. Hodges' small industries development plan, says that a business development credit corporation will "play an important role" in helping develop North Carolina.

Plans for the corporation, Waynick stated, are well under way. The development corporation, designed to provide venture capital for new industries, was authorized by the recent General Assembly at the request of Hodges.

Waynick, a former U. S. Ambassador to Nicaragua and Colombia, said the business development credit corporation is only one facet of the plan. The enabling act provides for the formation of a stock company and authorizes commercial banks, insurance companies, building and loan associations and other financial institutions to become members as well as stockholders.

"The corporation will not accept deposits," said Waynick. "It will pool loan funds paid in by financial institutions which choose to become members and by the sale of stock. Loans will be made to business enterprises which are unable to secure credit from other sources and for reasons connected with their small size, a lack of customary collateral or newness of the business."

Plans for setting up this development corporation with headquarters in Raleigh are now in their final stages. It will have 100,000 shares of \$10 par value common stock and will begin making loans after \$100,000 is paid in.

Shorts Topic On Summer Days

The coming warm summer days are making conversation pieces of shorts of all kinds. Short shorts seem to have taken a back-seat in favor of the newer Bermuda and Jamaicas. These new shorts end just a couple of inches above the knee and can be worn many more places than the old favorite short shorts.

There are a number of new shorts designed in stripes, reminiscent of the diplomat's striped pants. These are particularly noteworthy this season. The stripes, running down the body line, tend to slenderize.

Styles in denim and other cottons like twills and poplin are popular. They are easy to care for and cool to wear. In khaki color, black, charcoal, gray, royal blue, and the pale pastels that can be teamed with plain or print blouses, the short picture is very exciting.

The cool halter top is much in demand. The newest design is the tuxedo-type and is especially effective when worn with diplomats-inspired shorts.

Batiste dresses and separates are always lovely and cool looking. They are usually inlaid with lace and tucked and are appropriate for morning or evening wear.

There are designs in batiste for all ages. The younger set will appreciate the circles of floating skirt and puffed sleeves. The more mature will enjoy the straight-skirt design, with lace and tucks inlaid as trim.

Batiste is especially lovely in the summertime bloom of color, in such shades as pink, lemon, blue, lilac, or beige.

One charming design was a dress-alike outfit for mother and daughter. The dresses were equally flattering to both.

Slow Down And Live, Civic Leader Urges

Raleigh—Municipal officials of hundreds of North Carolina towns and cities are doing everything they can to solve the state's serious traffic safety problem, but they must have more public support to do the job, Mrs. Davetta Steed, executive director of the N. C. League of Municipalities, said this week.

Speaking in behalf of municipal officials throughout the state, Mrs. Steed urged everyone to participate in the current campaign of the Governors Traffic Safety Council to make North Carolina the Number One state in motor vehicle safety.

"All the efforts of all the municipal officials will come to naught without increased public consciousness of the facts that traffic safety is a personal matter," she declared.

"Keep remembering this. Keep it with you always in your daily life so that safe driving and pedestrian protection will become more than mere slogans in a campaign to keep you among the living."

"I am sure that you consider yourself a very vital part of the town or city in which you live. I am sure that when you think of your town or city that you think of it in terms of the happiness and welfare of yourself and your family, your neighbors and friends. Yet, you are not thinking of one of its most important problems, that is the problem of traffic safety. When you are safe it is very easy to exclude yourself from such effort, but actually you are not excluded when every effort on the part of your municipal officials and the State Highway Patrol is to promote and protect your personal welfare."

Mrs. Steed continued, "I hope you will begin to think in these terms so that safe driving and that safety as a pedestrian will not necessarily be only slogans in a campaign but will become a way of life for you and members of your family. Municipal officials are very conscious of the traffic problem and are doing what they can within the realm of reason to promote safety devices. They can do only so much—the rest depends entirely upon you."

"Modern means of controlling traffic and protecting pedestrians are not diabolical schemes to de-

stroy you are to cause you great inconvenience, nor are they encroachments on your personal rights; rather, they are means whereby your city officials strive to protect you and your family. Without your cooperation, these means are worthless. Rules are easily made and more easily broken. But in breaking these rules, you do so at the risk of someone's life—perhaps even your own."

Sumner Schools About In N. C. Twenty-one summer schools in North Carolina's Variety Vacationland offer courses ranging from fishing to other fine arts.

The summer courses, some operated in vacation areas by universities and colleges in mid-state, are found both in the mountains and one the coast. The fishing institutes for instance. One is held in the Great Smokies and the other reaches out to the Gulf Stream off Cape Lookout. They are operated by the Extension Division of North Carolina State College. They lead to no degree.

On the other hand, Appalachian State Teachers College and Western Carolina College offer courses leading to a Master's Degree. Music is the major at Transylvania Music Camp, Brevard. Art, photography and handicrafts are taught at several centers, while the Vagabond School of the Drama, Flat Rock, is operated in conjunction with a full-fledged summer repertory theatre.

An information bulletin listing the vacationland summer schools is available free from the Department of Conservation and Development, Raleigh, North Carolina.

ANTI-TRUST SUITS The Justice Department has filed an anti-trust suit against six major publishing and advertising associations, charging violations in the placing of national advertising in newspapers and magazines. The complaint charges a conspiracy in restraint of interstate commerce, alleging that the various associations had agreed upon uniform practices in connection with the placing of national advertising in printed media. Several of the press units have denied violations.

MINE DEATHS Accidents in coal mines have killed 111 men during the first three months of 1953, seven more than in the similar period of 1952. The fatality rate for the first quarter of this year was 1.95 for each 1,000,000 man-hours of exposure, compared with a rate of 0.99 for the 1952 period.



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Carolina Pharmacy

Washington Report

LUNG CANCER. Senator W. Kerr Scott this week called for a million-dollar tobacco research program to help scientists determine if there is a connection between smoking and lung cancer.

Scott introduced a resolution in the Senate directing the Department of Agriculture to map out an aggressive program of basic research covering all phases of tobacco production, marketing and consumption.

The Squire of Haw River said "untold millions" of dollars are now being spent in medical research to determine whether or not smoking causes lung cancer. "But," he added, "I was astounded to learn how woefully lacking we are in knowledge of the chemical components of tobacco and tobacco smoke—the sort of basic knowledge that is absolutely essential both to medical research as well as to agricultural research aimed at producing better tobacco at lower costs."

UNKNOWN: Scott said many of the chemical components and properties of tobacco have never been separated and identified by research scientists. "It is the kind of knowledge we must have if we ever expect to determine the relationship, if there is any at all, between smoking and health," he said.

Scott also pointed out that the Federal government collects over a billion and a half dollars each year in tobacco tax, "but the Federal government spends only a paltry 500 thousand dollars in tobacco research each year. That

Household Hints For Homemakers

THE MORE YOU KNOW—the easier will be the job of cleaning hard surface floors. Know the characteristics of the floor surface material. Keep the floors clean. Use water, soap and detergent sparingly on hard surface floors. Remove spots quickly. Use floor sealers correctly. Avoid using oil on floor surfaces. Use the right floor cleaner. Choose the right floor wax and use it correctly. Maintain a good floor finish.

USE ELECTRIC FLOOR POLISHER—Polishing floors by hand is long and tedious, and the homemaker finds it burdensome even though she appreciates the beauty and longevity that wax adds to her floors. The answer is an electric floor polisher. The electricity rather than the homemaker, furnishes the power.

An electric floor polisher saves time and energy—and money by saving the flooring. Electrically polished floors have greater beauty. Power polishing gives greater sheen and reveals all the design of the grain or material.

MOTHS—Moth larvae feed on dirt and grease in fabric. The primary rule of moth prevention is to make sure garments and blankets are clean before storing, using soap and water washing where possible. Store clean items in sealed bags or packages.

SPECULATION A bipartisan majority of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee joined in a report that there had been an "increase in unhealthy speculative developments in the stock market since the Fall of 1952." A Republican minority of four Senators countered, however, by charging that "the friendly study" actually was a "studied attempt to disturb the economy."

GARDEN TIME

By ROBERT SCHMIDT
Are you getting tired of running the cultivator and wielding the hoe in your garden in a losing battle with weeds and grass? Why not use a mulch?

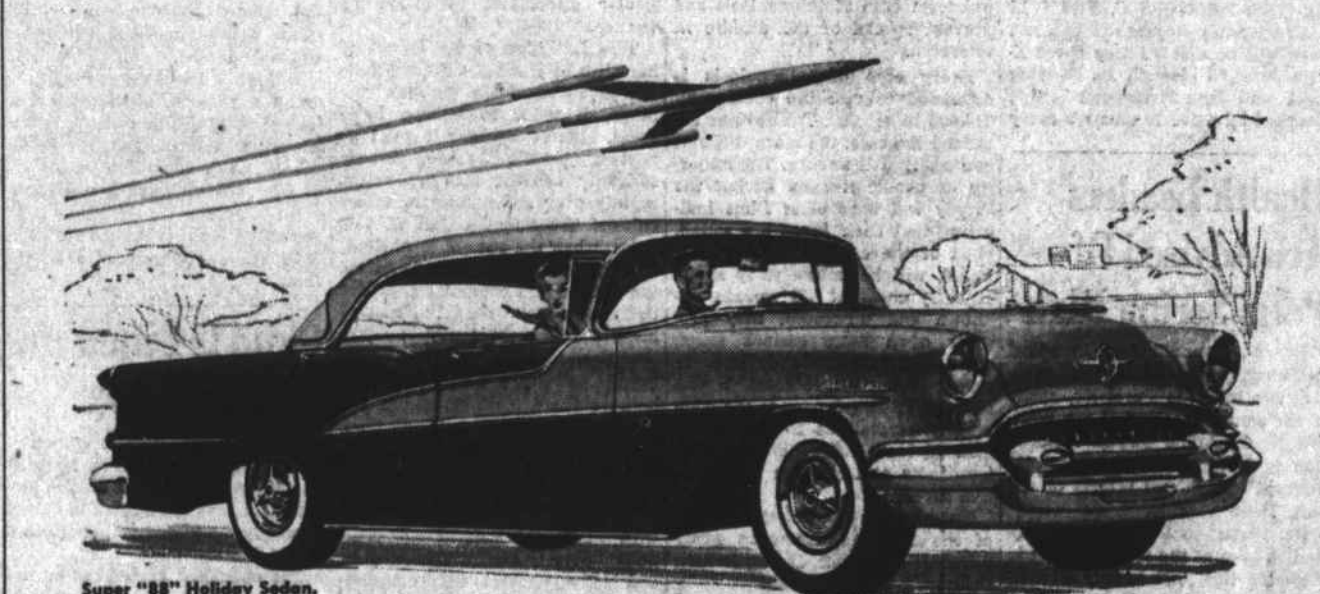
It is surprising how few gardeners make use of mulches as an aid in the conservation of moisture and the control of weeds. A mulch may be any material such as hay, straw, straw manure, leaves, leaf mold, peat, sawdust, pine straw or paper which can be put down on the ground around plants for the purpose of conserving moisture during the hot, dry summer weather. At the same time it will keep down most of the weeds. I recently read of one gardener who collected all the cardboard boxes he could get at the store, flattened them out, and put them on the ground around his plants as a mulch—and the results were excellent.

Many vegetables, flowers, small fruits and shrubs are good subjects for mulching. Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and cucumbers may be mulched with straw, leaves or paper. Azaleas, camellias and blueberries which desire an acid soil may be mulched with sawdust, leaf mold or peat. Red raspberries, dewberries and grapes may be mulched with straw or straw manure.

In all cases the mulch should be applied after the soil has been well moistened by rain or irrigation. If fertilizer is necessary it also should be applied before the mulch is laid down.

You will find that in small gardens a mulch will help solve many of your cultural problems. It seems like a mighty small invest-

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