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WESTERN AUTO**
Mon & Tue
March 16 & 17th

Mon - 11am - 5pm
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Stored Gasoline Can Be An Expensive Convenience

Gasoline stored on the farm or around the home can be an expensive convenience unless the storage period is fairly short.

John Glover, extension agricultural engineer at North Carolina State University, suggests that the gas shouldn't be stored for more than six months.

There are a number of reasons for this, he explained.

First, the fuel contains a blend of several parts. One of these provides engines with easy starting and is extremely volatile, evaporating rapidly. When the storage tank is exposed to the sun or high temperatures, most of this ingre-

dient is lost in about 60 days.

Secondly, after gas "ages" a little, it becomes gummy, similar to shellac. This gum can stop up the engine carburetor and cause engine deposits. The gum can cause damage when mixed in small amounts with fresh gasoline.

Also, seasonal changes in grades of gasolines provided by suppliers can mean trouble if

gas blended for one season is carried over in storage tanks until another season.

As an example, winter-grade fuel should not be bought just before spring. This gas might result in the engine skipping due to vapor lock. The condition occurs when gasoline boils in the fuel lines, fuel pump or carburetor.

Vapor lock can even cause

an engine to cut off. The only remedy then would be to wait for the engine to cool or to pour water on the lines or fuel pump to speed the cooling process.

Summer grade gasoline can cause hard starting during cold weather, Glover explained.

The specialist suggests buying gasoline so it will be used in one season or at least in a six-month period.

Another consideration is the kind of storage tank and the place it is located.

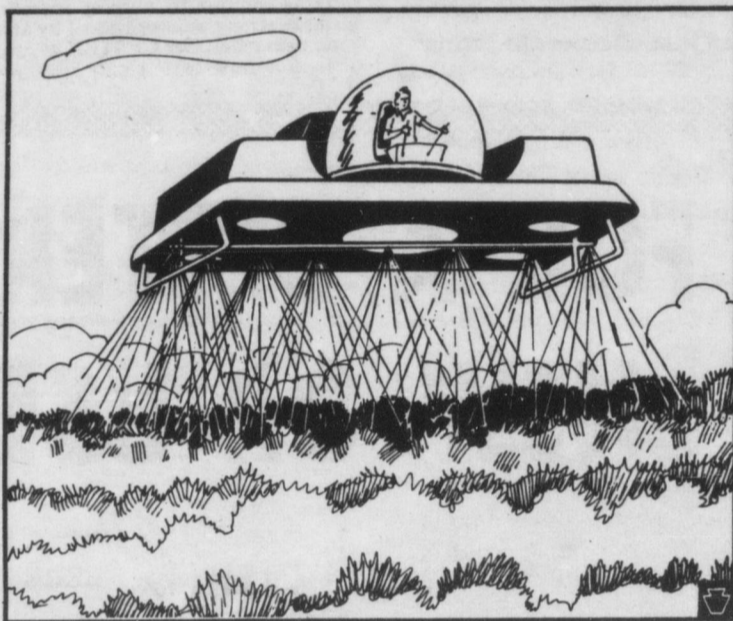
A dark colored 300-gallon tank in bright sunlight during hot weather can lose 10 to 12 percent of its capacity by evaporation in about three months.

In a 55-gallon barrel, losses can run as high as 12 gallons or 22 percent of capacity during the summer.

By painting the storage tank with white or aluminum paint, evaporation losses can be reduced by one-third.

Glover pointed out that evaporation can be reduced by two thirds in white tanks equipped with special vented or pressure caps and kept in the shade, open shed or buried. If it is buried, the color, of course, would not matter.

World of Tomorrow



Hovercraft (bottom) that spray crops, pull down warm air to warm the soil for early seed germination and longer growing seasons, and work the soil with vibrating tillage members will appear on many farms by the year 2000, Ford Motor Company farm machinery experts predict. Ford sees the hovercraft evolving from special high-clearance tractors (top) currently used for cultivating, spraying, topping or defoliating tall, mature crops and from light airplanes used for crop dusting.

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