

## Study of motor vehicle breakdowns brings word of caution from Turnpike Commission

HARRISBURG — A three-month study of automobile breakdowns along the Pennsylvania Turnpike reveals that motorists should check the gas gauges, tires, fan belts and radiator hoses before their trips if they want to avoid an emergency roadside call or towing charges.

Running out of gasoline, flat tires, frayed fan belts and worn radiator hoses top the list as the reasons for vehicular breakdown on the 470-mile Turnpike System.

Turnpike Commission Chairman Jack I. Greenblat called for the study to

determine the nature of passenger car breakdowns and charges for these emergency road services by the System's authorized service garages.

The study is for the first three months of 1978 when 7730 vehicles were repaired along the toll road or towed to authorized Turnpike garages for repairs. During that same period, more than 14 million vehicles traveled the Turnpike.

"Many of these road emergency calls could have been avoided if drivers had taken the precaution to check their vehicles prior to

the start of their trip. For example, more than 700 motorists ran out of gas on the Turnpike during January, February and March, and nearly 900 motorists had flat tires during the same period," Greenblat said.

There are 15 authorized service garages located off the Turnpike which report nearly 52,000 service calls a month. The average cost per job is approximately \$19.35.

The most prevalent repairs were for fan belts, overheating, radiator service, battery, ignition system, flat tires and assorted mechanical failures.

Statistics compiled by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission show that nearly 12 per cent of all road service calls are for patrons who ran out of gasoline.

Emergency road service calls on the Pennsylvania Turnpike are \$12.50. Towing services for passenger cars from the Turnpike to the authorized service garage or points between the garage and the Turnpike are \$25.00. The rates went into effect in February, 1977, and were the first major increase in two decades for the authorized service garages.

Repairs made off the Turnpike are strictly bet-

ween the authorized service garage and the motorist. The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission receives no funds from the garages.

Pennsylvania's service rates are not the highest compared to other state toll roads. For example, the New York State Thruway Authority allows a \$30.00 maximum for the towing of vehicles up to 15 miles from the point of disablement to the garage. The Massachusetts Turnpike allows a \$17.50 minimum plus \$1.00 for each additional mile of towing up to a maximum of \$27.50 during certain times. The Garden State Parkway in New Jersey allows maximums of \$25.00 and \$30.00 for towing vehicles.

"A little preventative maintenance can save the motorist delays and unexpected emergency road expenses," Greenblat said.

### Sun Facts

In order to list the weight of the sun in tons, one would have to add 21 zeroes to 2,184,759. If the sun disappeared it would take approximately eight minutes for us to realize it. That's because the sun is 93 million miles away and we would still see sunlight after the spheroid vanished. The sun's light takes eight minutes to reach the planet earth.

## Grain mill being readied for museum

YORK — The heart of the Rose Garden Mill is being moved from the banks of the Yellow Bunches Creek, in Pennsylvania's Cumberland County, to a permanent exhibit area in the Hall of Science and Technology at the William Penn Museum, Harrisburg.

The exhibit will open late in September, 1978, but a special preview will be conducted for members of PennAg Industries Association, who will be holding their 100th annual convention in Harrisburg at that time. PennAg is a statewide agribusiness trade group whose membership includes many people who grew up in milling families.

MarkeTechs, Inc., a York R5 exhibit firm, is putting the Rose Garden Mill display together for the museum. According to Otis Morse, MarkeTechs president, the mill was built between 1740 and 1790. Originally powered by an undershot water wheel, the mill switched to a reactor type turbine about 1913.

Original parts to be used in the display are the turbine,

the stationary bedstone and the runner stone, which rotated to grind the grain. A number of tools, bags and scoops will also be included.

One interesting feature of the exhibit will be an original toll box. Years ago, millers collected their payment from farmers in the form of ground grain or flour. This payment was called a "toll", and the toll box was used to measure it.

Morse said the exhibit construction has been underway for about three years. Although much of the equipment in the exhibit is original, the gigantic timbers supporting the machinery have all been recently hewn from large oak logs.

In addition to the Rose Garden Mill, PennAg members will also be viewing another MarkeTechs display. That display, to be erected in the group's Penn Harris Motel convention headquarters, will also tell a story of early Pennsylvania milling. It will use old tools and artifacts on loan from a number of PennAg members.

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## Kubota dealer named

NEW PROVIDENCE — Cope and Weaver, Inc., who for 28 years have served southern Lancaster Counties with International Harvester tractors and equipment, have begun sales and service of the Kubota line of tractors.

Kubota tractors, of which Cope and Weaver presently has three in stock, are offered in sizes ranging from 12½ to 47½ horsepower.

Powered by Diesel engines, all models are available with 4-wheel drive.

Cope and Weaver Inc. has been in business in Lancaster County for 28 years, moving to their present location, near here, in the Spring of 1961. Their new franchise for Kubota tractors will cover nearly all of Lancaster County, as well as portions of neighboring areas to the east, south, and west.

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