

Research Review

# Wheel Lock Causes Hazards of Skidding

Skidding, one of the worst hazards to plague motorists on the highway, is involved in at least 35 to 45 per cent of the accidents in the Eastern United States.

This road hazard is currently under study at the University and is part of the Automotive Research Program, which was organized in 1955.

**IN BRAKING**, a skid develops because one or more wheels lock, Wolfgang E. Meyer, professor of mechanical engineering and head of this research program, said.

"The most effective means of preventing wheel lock and insuring rapid stops is to make sure that high friction between tire and pavement is maintained even though the pavement is wet," Meyer said.

Hartwig W. Kummer, research assistant of mechanical engineering, developed a full-scale tester that consists of a single-wheeled trailer towed by a light truck and adapted to measure the force developed when the trailer is locked.

The testing device attracted the attention of the Pennsylvania Department of Highways and led to the establishment of a cooperative project with the University that is known as the Joint Road Friction Project.

Using this tester, the joint project has measured more than 5,000 sections of pavement in a 4,000-mile skid-resistance survey.

A similar testing device, currently under construction, will be turned over to the Department of Highways.

**WITH THIS DEVICE**, the Department will be able to determine periodically the skid resistance of various roads and different pavements and to study how the skid resistance of various pavements changes from year to year under varying traffic densities.

It is known that the inclusion of small, hard particles in softer material will make a pavement skid resistant for longer periods, Meyer said. However, more must be learned about the wear process before it will be possible to design skid-resistant pavements economically from locally abundant materials, he added.

# Tourist Trade Destroys Amish Towns

The tourist trade, which brings "outsiders" into the Old Order Amish areas, is destroying these communities, John A. Hostetler, professor of sociology at the Ogontz campus, said recently.

Speaking at a meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Hostetler, who is Amish by birth, cited the "commercialization" of the Amish in Lancaster County as one example where the tourist trade in destroying that group's "self-respect."

Community disorganization, migration, suicides and moral de-

terioration have become linked with "commercialism," Hostetler said.

The younger Amish generation, seeking higher education, has begun to scrutinize the charter which calls for the Amish to live close to the soil and apart from the rest of the world, he said.

The adult Amish, Hostetler added, are becoming aware of signs of stress and change within their communities. Fathers are having difficulty in controlling their children who, under the influence of "outsiders," are obtain-

ing drivers' licenses and automobiles. These moves help to bring about the breakdown of the Amish communities, he said.

The "outsiders who take advantage of the Amish young people," according to Hostetler, are helping the younger Amish generation in their trend toward becoming a part of American society without the knowledge of their parents or church.

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