

## Is It Fair?

President Eisenhower recently demanded, and got, a one cent increase in the gasoline tax, paid by every automobile owner when he buys gasoline. This tax, which goes in effect Thursday, means that every person who buys gas in Indiana will be paying 50 cents in tax on every dollar's worth of gas purchased.

The federal tax on gas is now 4 cents a gallon, and the state tax is 6 cents. Hoosier drivers will be paying an average of \$80 a year in gasoline tax per vehicle, a total of \$167 million!

There are two theories in road-building. One theory, which was in general practice until the early 1800's, was toll-road theory—that is, that the user should pay for the road.

But when the United States constitution was formed in 1788, the wise men in the constitutional convention recognized the real value of roads. Having just fought a hard, messy war, much of it in primitive, undeveloped areas, they realized that good highways were a prime military necessity, and necessary to carry the U. S. mails.

It was on the strength of this, included in the constitution, that allowed us to develop national or Federal highways, creating a great system of free roads for the use of the people, for military vehicles in times of defense, and for post roads.

And so was founded the second great theory on road construction and maintenance—the free theory—that roads are a problem for the entire community affected—the county, state, or federal government—and should be supported by general, not specific taxation.

This method was extremely successful, and allowed the United States to develop the greatest system of roadways in the world. And it brought transportation by auto to every citizen. In no other country was road use so general, ownership of cars so universal, or service and repairs stations so highly developed.

But then a reaction came. Vested interests, always attempting to lower their tax burden and thus raise their profits, started spreading again the old theory that the "users" should pay for the highways. The "users" turn out to be the owners of gasoline-driven pleasure cars, business cars, and gas-burning trucks; and the purpose for which our federal highway system was created—military and post roads—lies forgotten.

As the tax on gasoline rises, so the use of gasoline will decline, as hundreds of young people, or retired persons cannot keep increasing the amount of money they spend on transportation. Gas taxes in the U. S. have gone up 55% while retail prices in general have risen only 21% and gas prices only 6% since 1949.

The first gas tax was 2c, imposed in Indiana in 1925; in 1925 this went to 3c; and it has been climbing regularly every since. The first Federal tax was imposed in 1932 at 1c, and it is now 4c.

Only public reaction will prevent gasoline from reaching the cost of 50c or 60c per gallon, as it already is in Europe. There, where only the rich own cars, the tax is felt to be fair. If we want to tax the automobile away from the people, the gasoline tax is a good way to do it. Most of us feel, however, that every family should have at least one car or more in the United States.

## 20 Years Ago Today

Sept. 28, 1939—U. S. Senators Sherman Minton and Frederick Van Nuys favor appointment of Leo Kirsch as Decatur postmaster. Ernest Ehrsam, 76, of Pleasant Mills, has been granted United States citizenship. He filed a declaration of intention in 1894 and believed that he was a citizen from that date, and did not know until last year that he had not been naturalized.

John Joseph has returned to his home here after visiting several months with relatives in North Carolina, during which time he saw his brother, Capt. George F. Hatem, for the first time since the Decatur man left Syria 42 years ago.

Miss Elizabeth Scherer, 87-year-old Monroe resident, died after an extended illness.

## Monroe Cub Scout Dens Being Formed

New Cub Scout dens are now being formed at Monroe, in addition to the five dens already organized. Parents of boys who have just become eight years old, or any boys between the ages of eight and 11 who are interested in Cub Scouting, may contact the Rev. Willis Gierhart, Monroe Methodist church, for a den assignment.

## COURT NEWS

## Marriage Applications

Enos K. Schwartz, 20, of route 2, Berne, and Catherine R. Wickey, 20, of route 2, Geneva.

Charles Edward Lehman, 21, of Berne, and Louise Eileen Lehman, 18, of route 2, Berne.

Donald LaVerne Macke, 22, of route 1, Berne, and LaVerne Ellen Thieme, 20, of route 3, Decatur.

Robert Edwin Grim, 26, of route 6, Decatur, and Kathryn Maxine Lough, 20, of Decatur.

## Estate Cases

In the estate of John Lose, the court was asked to continue the business and order a petition filed.

In the estate of Lewis W. Murphy, prior to mailing to all interested persons in the determination of the inheritance tax was filed.

The schedule submitted finding the net value of the estate to be \$4,180.18. Petition for a non pro tunc entry and for authority to execute deed off execution filed.

In the Palmer O. Sprunger estate, the letters of administration were filed. A bond was filed in the penal sum of \$1,250.

Letters of administration was submitted to Eleanor L. Sprunger.

In the estate of Caroline Sallot, the final report filed with a notice ordered issued, returnable Oct. 16.

An inheritance tax appraiser's report was filed with a notice ordered issued returnable Oct. 20 in the George H. Glassburn estate.

In the Edward D. Engeler estate, an inheritance tax appraiser's report was filed with a notice ordered issued returnable Oct. 20.

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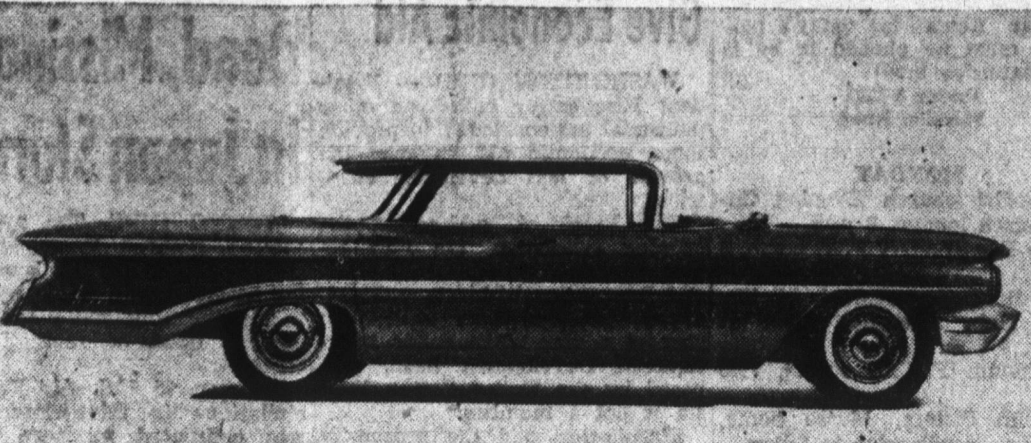
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## Clean Lines Highlight 1960 Oldsmobile



A trim balanced design of clean flowing lines highlights the modern styling of the Oldsmobile for 1960. This side view of the "99" Holiday design also is incorporated in the expansive SportSedan shows off the smooth, uncluttered lines to their best advantage. The low and level design of the hood affords better forward visibility and the rounded contour of the front fenders aids parking maneuverability. The low-level design also is incorporated in the expansive SportSedan rear deck. SportSedan body lines are also available in the Dynamic "88" and the Super "88" series Oldsmobiles for 1960.

## Ike's Grandchildren Have Savings Plan

By MERRIMAN SMITH  
UPI White House Reporter  
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Backstairs at the White House:

President Eisenhower seems to have set up an individual savings plan for each of his grandchildren, the details of which slip out only in rare public disclosure.

The children are the daughters and son of Maj. and Mrs. John S. Eisenhower. The family lives in a renovated, attractively decorated schoolhouse on the northwest corner of the President's farm in Gettysburg.

The three older children—David, 11; Barbara Anne, 10; Susan Elaine, 7—attend public school in Gettysburg. Their deal with grandfather is \$1 for an "A" on their report cards, 50 cents for a "B".

And recently, the President told of his savings plan for Mary Jean who will be 4 years old next December. At the end of the day, the President gives all the loose change in his pockets to his valet, John Mooney, who promptly deposits it in the White House equivalent of a piggy bank for young Mary Jean.

Another family note: Susan is turning into a proficient young horsewoman under the tutelage of a riding instructor and almost daily periods in a training ring on the Eisenhower farm. She's won

several horse show ribbons in the Gettysburg area.

Young David was taking golf lessons at the Gettysburg Country Club some time ago; but this type of instruction has been shelved. The President told friends recently that David had to give up playing golf, as well as taking lessons, because his school program becomes increasingly demanding. David, too, is becoming interested in other sports, including football.

The visit of Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev to this country had one effect — it produced an upsurge in the applications from reporters who want to accompany President Eisenhower to Russia.

There were something over 300 applications on file even before Khrushchev arrived in the United States. Now Press Secretary Jim Hagerty faces the problem of how to keep the number of reporters and photographers within logistical reason.

While the Khrushchev party was in the United States, their photographers devoted a good bit of film to making pictures of American Secret Service agents and power plants, even down to small neighborhood transformer stations.

One Russian movie man who works for a government theater newsreel, detached himself from the Khrushchev party in Pittsburgh and raced to Washington ahead of the Soviet premier.

The photographer then went to Lafayette Square in front of the White House. He unerringly stationed himself behind a group of people, mostly women, whom he knew in some uncanny way would cheer enthusiastically when Khrushchev drove by an hour later on his way from the airport to Blair House.

Thus, the film man from Moscow was able to get a picture of a throng applauding the premier, and the White House in the background. It should go well in the Russian movie houses, particularly the part where the "Americans" on Pennsylvania Avenue whipped out Soviet flags and waved them at Khrushchev.

## Household Scrapbook By ROBERTA LEE

**Scratched Furniture**  
Superficial scratches on light-colored furniture can often be obliterated by rubbing the meat of a walnut or pecan back and forth over them until the nut crumbles and fills them. Put a coat of wax or polish over it at once to keep the nut meat in place. A more permanent cure is beeswax, instead of the nut.

**Hardened Paint**  
Paint which has become hardened in its can, can be revived by pouring an inch of turpentine on the top of it and allowing to remain a few days. Then stir with a stick until the paint is soft and usable again.

## A NEW MYSTERY The COUNT of 9 by A. A. FAIR (Eric Stanley Gardner)

CHAPTER 36  
"I DON'T THINK Phyllis Crockett could possibly have blown that dart that distance and had it stick in the wood that deep," I told Sergeant Frank Sellers. "I don't think you can take that dart and that blowgun and blow it into a piece of wood from a distance of even three or four feet and have it penetrate that deep."

"Because you saw a blowgun that was made to shoot darts, and saw a dart that was made to be shot from a blowgun, you jump to the obvious conclusion that the dart had to come from that blowgun. I don't think it came from any blowgun."

"Then where do you think it came from, Lam, if you're so darn smart?" Sellers asked, wiping the perspiration from his face and neck. "And quit running me around in circles because I want to get out of this Turkish bath."

"Get out any time you want to," I said, "but my own idea is that somebody manufactured a short-barreled weapon that worked with a charge of compressed air; that that person stood in the closet right next to Dean Crockett and fired the dart into his chest. Then after Dean Crockett fell, this person fitted the second dart into the mechanism and released it with a charge of compressed air so that it went into that piece of wood at exactly the right angle to make it appear that it had been fired from the washroom window across the light well."

"And I think that person made a fatal mistake in a perfectly planned crime by not taking into consideration the fact that the compressed air in his gun generated more power than could possibly be generated with a pair of human lungs."

"As soon as I saw the setup, I felt absolutely certain that that dart in the wood had been the second dart that was fired instead of the first."

"You can reason it out," I said. "Put yourself in the position of Dean Crockett. If he had been standing there in the window and someone had fired a dart at him and had missed, and the dart had thudded into the wood, he would hardly have turned to face the window, put his hands on the window sill and exhibit a perfect target for the second shot. Remember, the guy had been around the jungles and he wasn't born yesterday."

"When I saw that dart buried clean to the hilt in that hard wood, I knew darn well you couldn't have fired it in there with a blowgun."

I settled back and closed my eyes.

Sellers stood looking down at me with his feet spread wide apart, mopping away at his perspiring face and neck. Then suddenly he picked up his coat, turned and walked toward the door without a word.

He got as far as the door, then turned on his heel. "All right, who did it?" he asked.

"Try the person who last saw him alive," I said, and closed my eyes. "I think they teach rookies that as the first procedure, don't they?"

Sellers stood there for a moment, then I heard the swinging doors as he went out, then he came back and said, "If it wasn't so hard in here that I don't dare to exert myself, I'd give you the business. As it is, thanks for the information."

I got into the office about ten-thirty. I looked a little better, but I had a good whiner on the right side, I couldn't take a deep breath without it hurting, and I favored one side when I walked.

I eased myself down into the swivel chair and Bertha came barging in before I had settled back in a comfortable position.

"Frank Sellers is in my office, Donald," she said. "Can you come in?"

"Tell him to come in here," Bertha strode out of the office. In about ten seconds she was back with Frank Sellers. "How you feeling, Pint Size?" Sellers asked. His voice was friendly, almost respectful.

"Lousy."

"You sure took a beating."

"You aren't telling me anything I don't know."

Sellers acted a little upset. "Donald," he said, "I wrapped the Crockett murder case up this morning."

"Who did it?"

"Oney," Sellers said. "He was pretty slick about it. He made arrangements so that he could get the blowgun out of there without anyone knowing it. He carefully hollowed out the handle of the club flag, then he stole the darts and everything was set to plant the gun in Mrs. Crockett's studio. Of course, you butt in and saved him the trouble."

I changed my position slightly, trying to ease the pain in my side. "Made himself a little blowgun?" I asked.

"Nothing to it," Sellers said. "The 'be wasn't over ten inches long, but he screwed one of those containers that holds compressed carbon dioxide on the end of it and worked out a trigger arrangement that sent the darts so fast and so hard that they were traveling like a bullet."

"Uh-huh."

"He'd been managing Crockett's business and his tax matters, and what with one thing and another, he'd got into Crockett to the tune of about eighty thousand bucks. Crockett was beginning to think something was wrong. Next he would have been having an audit made—or Oney thought that would be the next step."

I said, "That's nice. I was a little afraid he might have had his eye on Phyllis and wanted Crockett out of the way for that reason."

"Well, that's all there was to it," Sellers said. "Once we got on the right track it was easy. We searched his room. The darn fool hadn't even disposed of the air gun he'd manufactured."

I yawned. "Why did you come over here, Frank?"

"I wanted to talk with you before the case broke in the newspapers," Sellers said uncomfortably.

"Why?"

"Well," he said, "they'll probably interview you and I wondered what you were going to tell them."

"Me?" I said, raising my eyebrows. "Why, I'm not going to tell them anything except that it was my privilege to work with Sergeant Sellers of Homicide last night while he was solving the case of the jade Buddha from the Crockett penthouse, that after he had solved that theft, Sellers came ahead on his own with cleaning up the Crockett murder case."

"What about our conference in the Turkish bath?" Sellers asked.

"What Turkish bath?" I asked. All of a sudden Sellers reached down, grabbed my hand and started shaking it. "You're a game little guy," he said, "and a good friend. There are times when I feel like I could kiss you—despite the fact that I know darn well you pulled some kind of a slick razzle-dazzle on us over those two idols, and Donald, I'm not sharp enough to find out what it was."

"Then why try?" I asked. Sellers shook hands with me again, then suddenly grabbed Bertha and kissed her.

"You're the kind of private detective we need in the city," he said, and walked out.

Bertha Cool stood there blinking her greedy little eyes at me. "Well?" I asked.

"I thought she wanted to ask about the fee in the Crockett case and what arrangements I'd made with Phyllis. But, instead of that, Bertha reached up and patted her lips."

"Imagine, he kissed me," she said tenderly.

"You never can tell how women are going to react."

THE END

## DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT