



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS



PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

In the last week of August, old-time movie star, Gary Cooper's 1925 Duesenberg SSJ sold for \$25 million, the most ever paid for an auction vehicle in the U.S. There were only two SSJ's ever made, one for Gary Cooper and one for Clark Gabele. They were built on a specially shortened 125 inch-wheel base chassis numbered J503 and J567.

As many as 500 roads in the Carolinas and neighboring states, have been damaged by the recent big storm. Some roads are closed and there are detours on many others.

Uber, Airbus and 19 other companies have been selected by Japan to develop and build flying taxis.

Tesla's self-driving trucks have been tested in city-to-city deliveries, but now it is on a cross-country test trip using Tesla's super-charging network. Results have been good, but a few questions came up. How long does it take to top-up using the Tesla super-charger, what to use if there is no super-charger available? The vehicle has an extra-long extension cord to help to reach the plug-in.

There are warnings about vehicles that were in floods during the recent floods in the east. Scammers are buying the vehicles, cleaning them up and trying to sell them as used vehicles without telling buyers they were flood vehicles.

Vespa scooter's has announced that it will offer electric scooters in the U.S. and Europe beginning in October. They will be available in Asia in 2019. They will have a range of 62 miles per charge. A hybrid model with a range of 124 miles per charge will be available soon.

A federal safety agency is recommending all new motorcycles built for road use in the U.S. have anti-lock brakes and electronic stability controls as standard equipment. The NTSB says while it is required on passenger cars, the features have lagged for motorcycles. Nearly 5,300 motorcyclists died on U.S. roads in 2016.

In the first week of September, Mercedes unveiled its first entry into the all-electric luxury vehicle market. It joins Jaguar's new electric vehicle SUV, and is due in U.S. show rooms in the fall. Audi and Porsche will begin selling electric luxury vehicles in 2019. The new vehicles are seen as competition to Tesla.

VW has announced that it would cease production the Beetle.

Autonomous Tractor Company of Minnesota is developing a self-driving tractor for farm use and it will be available soon.

A bipartisan coalition of lawmakers is behind an effort that would tackle the \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog eroding the country's most iconic attractions, including Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Canyon and the Great Smokey Mountains. The top 10 National Parks needing repairs, starting with #1 are – The National Mall, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Golden Gate National Rec. Area, Natchez Trace Parkway, Blue Ridge Parkway, Mount Rainer National Park, Statue of Liberty, Boston National Historical Park and Big Bend National Park.

Porsche has announced that it will drop diesel engines in Europe starting in its fall lineup. It is the first German auto maker to drop the diesel engines.

The consumer shift to pickups and large SUVs has created a niche business in garage remodeling as people try to make space for vehicles that may comfortably seat eight people and still have room for storage. We have moved from a 7-foot garage height to 8-foot door.

Not all of the following state bills are laws at this time. They have recently been introduced and are currently under consideration by the respective legislatures.

ALASKA

The city of Juneau plans to replace its diesel buses with electric buses over the next decade.

Gov. Walker has signed a bill that allows boroughs and cities to prohibit drivers from using cellphones in school zones.

ARIZONA

More than 1,300 water jugs have been placed along state Highway 68 since April to help travelers fight the desert heat.

A new city law in the city of Surprise prohibits talking on a cell phone or sending text messages while driving.

ARKANSAS

The city of Springdale will install one-way protected bike lanes and is warning drivers to be aware of the changes.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles has approved a pilot program for dockless electric scooters that could remove thousands from city streets and may help end traffic congestion.

Current California law requires riders of stand-up electric scooters to wear helmets when traveling on roads. The law also requires the scooters to travel more than 15 mph. AB 2989 would allow scooters on the streets with a speed limit of 35 mph. The Assembly has sent Gov. Brown a bill that would allow anyone 18 or older, to ride an electric scooter on city streets without wearing a helmet, but those under 18 must wear helmets. The scooters are not allowed on sidewalks, but can travel on city streets and in bike lanes. Gov. Brown signed the bill on September 21st.

State DMV officials say wait times improved by an average of 30 minutes between July and August. In a report on September 6th, DMV said it had discovered that it had sent the California Secretary of State, 23,000 erroneous voter registrations. A DMV program allows eligible applicants getting a driver's license to be automatically registered to vote. DMV is reviewing their records to see if there are more voter registration errors.

A forest fire in Northern California ripped onto Interstate 5 near Redding on September 5th. It forced frantic drivers to abandon their vehicles, including

several big rigs. Some vehicles were damaged by the fire. Some flames reached 300 feet high. Interstate 5 was closed from Redding to Mount Shasta for several days. A detour was available, but it added 140 miles of driving. CHP officials say the detour added 3 to 8 hours of driving time to travel to Oregon and Washington.

A replacement bridge being built at the second-busiest port in the U.S., that the will stretch 8,800 feet over the port of Long Beach, is being built with about 75 seismic sensors that will measure the forces imparted on the span when one of several faults sets off an earthquake. The new bridge replaces the Gerald Desmond Bridge and will open sometime in 2019.

September 1st marked the start of California's Pedestrian Safety month to help educate drivers and pedestrians about safe roadway habits. The slogan was "Pedestrians don't wear armor".

There have been several problems with I-5 in the Sacramento area. The freeway was built in 1974, is a major truck route, is past due for a remake. Official say that CALTRANS keep Band-aiding it over and over, but it can't be Band-aided anymore. Drivers who suffered car damages due to the many potholes in the area can file a claim with CALTRANS.

A new requirement in the Los Angeles area requires transportation planners to take into consideration how their plans would affect horses. No additional information on the requirement is available at this time.

CONNECTICUT

A new report says 308 bridges on state roads are deteriorating and structurally deficient.

DELAWARE

The state's 4 DMV offices have installed "Safe Selfie Zones" so new drivers can share the news without revealing personal info via photos of their licenses. (There are only 4 DMV office in the state????)

Florida

Attorney General Pam Bondi has filed suit against Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group for allegedly deceiving motorists and charging “grossly inflated” fees.

Contractors that worked on a bridge near Florida International University that collapsed March 15th, killing six people, have been fined more than \$86,000.

HAWAII

The Hana Highway Regulation Committee is working with Maui agencies to curb bad driving behavior on Highway 360.

IDAHO

The state will receive more than \$90 million in federal grant money to help expand Interstate 84.

A trucker who caused an accident on June 16th that killed him and three other people, had more than 20 traffic violations in several states.

ILLINOIS

The number of high-speed tickets issued on Lake Shore Drive (Chicago area) jumped to more than 4,300 last year, up from 500 in 2014.

INDIANA

A 1976 Ford Escort GL once owned by Pope John Paul is going on auction and could command as much as \$300,000.

KANSAS

State residents affected by flooding can get replacement car titles and drivers licenses. It is not known at this time if there will a charge for the service.

LOUISIANA

The state is getting \$80 million in redistributed federal highway funds that weren't spent by other states.

MAINE

The Maine Turnpike Authority has approved a \$120 million plan to widen 5 miles in each direction of the Turnpike from Scarborough to Portland.

MASSACHUETTS

A \$102 million project to replace one of the Interstate 495 bridges across the Merrimack River has started. It will not be completed until 2022.

MISSISSIPPI

Nearly \$400,000 will be spent to rebuild the road to the Port of Greenville.

MONTANA

Glacier National Park officials have reopened the full length of the Going-to-the-Sun road.

NEVADA

Hundreds of steel posts are being installed along the strip for pedestrian safety. Several hundred steel posts have already been installed.

NEW JERSEY

The state's gas tax will climb by 4.3 cents a gallon on October 1st.

OHIO

Columbus has issued an emergency order banning electric scooters from sidewalks. Other cities are also considering a ban.

OLKAHOMA

The new half of U.S. Highway 77 Bridge over the South Canadian River is now open.

RHODE ISLAND

The state is getting nearly \$2 million in additional federal funding for road maintenance and safety projects.

UTAH

Utah County Commissioners have rejected a 0.25 sales tax hike for transportation projects.

A new report says 60% of car seats are installed incorrectly and 20% of people never read the instructions, according to federal data. There were very few details in the report on how to determine if the seat is installed correctly.

VERMONT

Littleton town residents say they support a proposed addition to the Route 18 Bridge between Littleton and Waterford for snowmobiles.

WASHINGTON

U.S. Highway 395 has been renamed for former U.S. House Speaker Tom Foley.

WISCONSIN

Gov. Walker says the state should focus on fixing and maintaining the roads instead of spending money to widen them.

Milwaukee has won a grant to fix pot- holes as part of Domino's "Paving for Pizza" program

WYOMING

Inspiration Point at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River is now open after reconstruction.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

According to AAA, teen drivers have the highest crash risk of any age group.

In many cities, you can hire a consultant, they are called driver rehabilitation specialists and they help seniors who become anxious or uncertain about your ability to pilot a vehicle. A specialist will assess your abilities and offer advice to help you drive more safely. They may suggest vehicle modifications that could make your time behind the wheel less physically taxing. Most specialists offer discounts to seniors and your health insurance may cover part of the evaluation.

Tesla has opened its first in-house body shops to reduce repair times after complaints of long wait times at Tesla authorized collision repair centers. Owners who have ordered cars and made non-refundable deposits have reported waiting weeks after Tesla told them their cars had been built before they arrive.

Honda has been ranked as the most stolen automobile for several years dating from 1997.

Failed the course!! A car jumped the curb, crashed through a fence and landed in a swimming pool during a driving lesson. Maybe the driver needs a few more lessons.

No Rides today. The Wyler Aerial Tramway in El Paso Texas has been closed after a study found that the single-span cable tram has exceeded its life expectancy.

Toyota has announced that it will put direct android auto support systems in some vehicles starting in October.

Name Change. A state park in Brooklyn New York will be renamed for former U.S. Rep Shirley Chisholm.

Nash cars were produced in Kenosha, Wisconsin from 1916 to 1937. In 37, they merged with Kelvinator and in 1954 became part of American Motors. In 1938, Nash introduced a heating and ventilation system that is still used today. They were the first to mass-produce unibody construction in 1941 and first to install seat belts in 1950. The Nash seats could be made into a bed, if the driver did not want to stop at a hotel or motel. One of the first to use modern headlights.



LARRY BECKER

26 September 2018

Do you know this guy??

I've gotten old. I've had 2 By-pass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer, and diabetes. I'm half-blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. I have bouts with dementia, poor circulation, can hardly feel my hands and feet anymore, can't remember if I'm 85 or 92 and I have lost all of my friends. But, thank God I still have my Florida driver's license.