

Junk cars laid to rest in scrapyard

Monday, September 24, 1979

(F7A)

(Continued from page 3A)

"Only one of the dogs bites," King says.

The mean reputation of junk yard dogs is dispelled here by a friendly shepherd puppy who greets each customer with a wagging tail and stands still long enough to be petted.

King says the yard is at maximum fill now with between 500 and 600 cars, vans, pickup trucks and school buses parked in the weeds and dirt.

"Twice a year, a company comes in here and hauls the cars out. We used to crush our own, but labor got too expensive."

Cars are hauled to a steel processing plant in Pontiac.

"They require gas tanks and tires be removed first. And we throw scrap metal pieces lying around the grounds into the cars, too."

Some of the un-mechanical parts removed from the junk cars include ice skates and fishing poles.

"When someone wants to get rid of their car, they don't always clean it out first," he said.

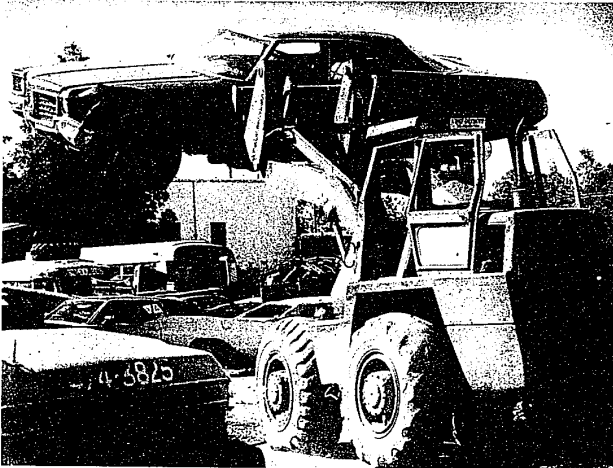
"Offers at dealerships are so low on trade-ins that some people figure they'll drive the car 'til it quits, then junk it."

"So they might have just bought a new tire, then the motor blows. They're not willing to pay to fix it. So they junk it."

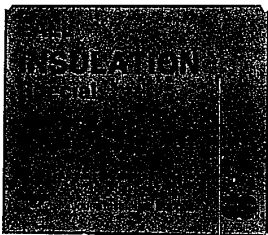
"WE GET THE good tire, the good brakes or whatever is still usable along with the wreck."

The ice skates and fishing poles go to the employees.

Inside the barn, King has a collection of 5,000 wheel covers.



Above, a crane operator lifts another junk car into the mounting pile that will be stripped and crushed into a metal chunk half the size of a football. At right, a friendly German Shepherd guard dog enjoys the afternoon in the cluttered auto scrapyard. (Staff photos by Randy Bort)



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