

Common sense saves gas

By PATRICK KELLY

Few automobile owners know how to get the most mileage and performance from the gasoline they buy.

So the U.S. Department of Transportation offers these precautions you can take to improve performance and save gasoline.

- First, to improve performance:
 - Shop for a good mechanic. Check your friends and neighbors to see if they know one who is a specialist on your car.
 - If you have your car serviced at a large agency, get acquainted with the service manager and see if you can have the same mechanic service your car every time.
 - Be sure that a careful service record is kept on all repairs, so that the mechanic knows what work has been done before, and when.
 - Follow the recommendations in your owner's manual for major and minor service and tuneups.

Further, to save gasoline and conserve energy:

- Check your tire pressure at least once every month and check each tire, including the spare.
- Too low tire pressure increases rolling resistance, causes increased tire wear and reduces gasoline mileage.
- Periodically have your mechanic check the treadwear pattern of your tires to see if they are wearing evenly. If the front end is out of alignment, you will notice irregular treadwear. Mileage will also drop.
- If possible, avoid pressing your accelerator all the way down when climbing hills and long grades. It wastes gasoline.

- Avoid excessive high speed or jerky driving—learn to drive as smoothly and steadily as traffic and road conditions will allow.
- Turn off your engine if you stop more than a minute. Restarting uses less gasoline than a minute's idling.
- Use the brake rather than the accelerator to slow your car, it places on a hill.
- Junks starts and fast gear changes can burn more than 100 per cent more gasoline than normal acceleration.
- Avoid weaving, spurning and lane changing in heavy traffic. Such practices waste fuel.
- Look ahead and pace yourself to minimize stops at traffic lights and stop signs.
- Slow down. Excessive speed is the greatest waster of gasoline. For best mileage, do not exceed 50 miles per hour.
- Limit the use of auto air conditioners and other fuel-consuming accessories.
- If you get a sudden drop in gasoline mileage, check with your mechanic. Trouble is brewing, and the sooner you have it fixed, the less it is likely to cost you.
- Keep track of the miles per gallon of your car. This can help you learn better driving habits and spot trouble early.
- Before you buy a new car, ask the dealer how many miles per gallon you can expect. These figures are usually available for most models.
- Reduce the number of unnecessary auto trips through careful trip planning.
- Use mass transit, car pools or bicycles when feasible. And walk—shoelateral is cheaper than gasoline.

The 1978-79 edition of "Historical Museums in Michigan" has just been published by the Historical Society of Michigan in Ann Arbor. This second edition lists 144 museums, including 22 in the Upper Peninsula.

The 36-page visitors' guide is pocket-size and gives complete information obtained from each museum. Listings include the mailing address and telephone number of each museum, a brief description of the exhibits, the year-round schedule (including months and holidays closed), and all admission charges. Each entry includes the name and telephone number of a contact person for more information about group-sponsored tours and special arrangements.

Copies may be ordered for 50 cents each (40 cents in quantities of 10 or more) from The Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor 48104.

Michigan's historical museums cover a wide range of topics, from early pioneers and Indian cultures to industry, period furnishings, ethnic groups, skiing, musical instruments, and magic.

According to the Upper Peninsula entries, visitors can take a guided underground tour of the East Vulcan

Mine which operated between 1870 and 1945 at Iron Mountain. In Copper Harbor, the Fort Wilkins Historic Complex represents an excellent example of a frontier U.S. Army Post of 1847-70.

Artifacts from early missionaries are on display in Sault Ste. Marie's Tower of History/Shrine of the Missionaries. Great Lakes Indians exhibits are featured by museums from Marquette to St. Ignace, and Escanaba, as well as by Lower Peninsula museums from Petoskey to Niles.

The guide also reveals that railroad displays are popular among many museums, including Flint's Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad. Here, one can visit a restored community of 18 buildings from 1860, and ride a rebuilt turn-of-the-century steam-powered railroad operating on a 9.5 mile track.

Michigan's ethnic heritage is reflected by such museums as Detroit's Afro-American Museum, which features 21 mounted African animal specimens. Dutch culture in the state is the focus of Holland's Netherlands Museum and Zealand's Historical Museum. The Beaver Island Museum in St. James offers insights into an early Mormon community in Michigan.

Ann Arbor group offers museum guide

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