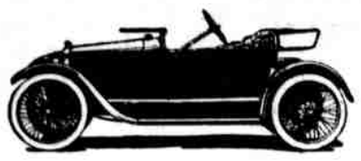

Automobile Section

of the Mohave County Miner

VARIOUS FLAGS USED IN RACES HAVE MEANING

Checkered Flag Perhaps Best Known to Public—Yellow Flag Signifies Danger.

Few people, even those more or less familiar with automobile racing, know the meaning of various flags used on the track to signal the drivers

They're called the International Road Racing Signals by the contest board of the American Automobile association, under which all championship events are run, and the designation are as follows:

Red flag—Course is clear.

Yellow flag—Blocked course, stop.

Green flag—You are entering your last lap.

White flag—Stop at pit on next lap for consultation.

Black and white checkered flag—You are finished.

Black flag with white center—A competitor is trying to overtake you.

Because of the fact that it has been sung in fable, fiction and other forms of publicity ever since the introduction of automobile racing, the black and white checkered flag is the best known of all of those used on the race course. It is the cheering word to a driver that he has finished a terrific grind; welcome to the first man who gets it and envied by the rest who may not have been in the running at all, or slowed down to the mighty hand of fate that shows itself to race kings in innumerable forms, tire trouble, engine trouble and accident.

Two of the other flags need explanation as to uses. They are the yellow flag, the black flag with white center. The former is not interpreted as a "stop" signal; it is used chiefly as a "danger, slow" warning. For instance, when a dangerous hole was punched in the Fresno speedway in the august, 1921, 150-mile race, yellow flags were held up through the hole warning drivers away from it. In spite of this some of the drivers forced by running neck and neck with each other past the danger site drove over the hole and knocked down one flag after another. It was one of the greatest exhibitions of driving skill that have ever been witnessed; hitting that hole would have meant certain death.

The other signals are perfectly clear in their meaning.

It might help also to mention some of the signs that are held up by pit men, talking to their drivers by means of huge letters and figures on blackboards. For instance, "P-2" will mean that the driver from whose pit the signal comes, is running in second position; the number of the lap in which the driver is running is often given as he can not, at all times, see the score board from which the fan gets his knowledge, and the time being used to make laps is often transmitted from the pit to driver in this fashion.

The fan will know by comparing these latter with the score board, whether the signal is for lap or time, if the driver happens to be turning his laps in even seconds. The pit man will signal the numbers "37," meaning 37 seconds flat, as the time for the last lap, and this time may be taken during any lap. If the signal reads "36-4" it means the lap was turned in 36 4-5 seconds.

SWEDISH INTERESTS WANT AMERICANS TO JOIN IN AUTO SHOW

American automotive manufacturers should not neglect to exhibit their products at the next Swedish International Automobile Exhibition at Goteborg, Sweden, says Consul Sholes in a report to the Department of Commerce at Washington.

It will be held in conjunction with the Goteburg Jubilee Exposition from May 8 to July 15, 1923. Almost 75 per cent of the 29,562 cars and trucks in use in Sweden are of American manufacture. The Royal Automobile Club of Goteburg has already sent a committee to the Continent with the intention of arousing interest among European manufacturers. Accessory manufacturers should be particularly interested in this exhibition.

DONALD B. MACMILLAN USES EXIDE BATTERY IN HIS EXPLORATIONS

Donald B. McMillan, the Arctic explorer, has returned from Baffin Land with much new evidence of the value of storage batteries on polar expeditions. The fact is now fully demonstrated, according to Farrow-Stackpoole, the local Exide Service Station, that storage batteries are necessary equipment, not only in connection with the scientific work of polar exploration, but because of their value in adding to the comfort of the men and the maintenance of their morale.

Storage batteries furnished current for ignition in the oil engine of the Bowdoin, MacMillan's staunch vessel. There was, also, an electric light plant equipped with the Exide type of storage batteries. With this plant MacMillan's men enjoyed a freedom from the horrors of the Arctic winter darkness that would make generations of former polar adventurers green with envy did they but know of it. These same batteries furnished current for the operation of a moving picture machine and many otherwise weary hours of enforced inactivity were passed away with the help of moving pictures accompanied by suitable selections from a talking machine.

The Eskimos, themselves, were tremendously affected by these contrivances of the white men. MacMillan tells the story of the Eskimo employed by the Hudson Bay Company in solitary charge of a post some forty to fifty miles from where the Bowdoin made winter quarters. He heard rumors of the wonderful battery operated electric lights which rivaled the summer sun for brilliance and surpassed the Northern Lights for usefulness. No one knows what doubts and hopes may have filled his oboriginal mind.

Excited by the Arctic gossip he loaded his sledge with provisions, placed his two children on the load and, with his wife helping him in the traces, he trudged his way for two days over the pathless distance to see

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LESS GAS USED IN SEPTEMBER THAN IN AUGUST

However, Report Shows Increase Of 16 Per Cent Over Year Ago.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 30.—Consumption of gasoline in the United States in September amounted to 507,934,527 gallons, a decrease of 75,000,000 gallons, or 12.98 per cent, from the figures for August, in which month a high record mark for domestic consumption of gasoline was attained, states the bureau of mines. Consumption of gasoline in September was, however, approximately 16 per cent greater than in September of last year.

Production of gasoline in September amounted to 536,491,988 gallons, whic is a decrease of 2.45 per cent from the August output, but an increase of 28.68 per cent over the figures for September, 1921. Exports of gasoline for the month were 44,833,608 gallons; imports were 4,563,316 gallons; and shipments to insular possessions amount to 1,974,668 gallons. Stocks of gasoline on hand October 1 were 690,050,809 gallons, a decrease of 13,700,000 gallons during the month.

The number of operating refineries reporting to the bureau of mines in September was 309 as compared with 295 operating in August. These plants operated at 88.52 per cent of their individual capacity.

Production of kerosene in September amounted to 197,935,102 gallons, an increase of approximately 13,500,000 gallons, or 7.35 per cent, over the August output and about 44,000,000 gallons, or 28.51 per cent, above the figure for September, 1921. Stocks of kerosene October 1 were 270,576,864 gallons, a decrease of 15,000,000 gallons for the mont. Kerosene exports and shipments to insular possessions in September amounted to 72,114,973 gallons.

The output of gas and fuel oils in September amounted to 917,857,786 gallons, whic is 27,000,000 gallons, or 2.8 per cent, below the August production, but about 129,000,000 gallons above the figure of September of last year. Exports of gas and fuel oils and shipments to insular possessions in September were 74,823,025 gallons. Bunker oil laden on vessels engaged in foreign trade amounted to 117,458,082 gallons. Stocks on hand October 1 were 1,364,957,165 gallons, a decrease of only 1,654,446 gallons during the month. Gas and fuel oil stocks were 135,000,000 gallons above the figure for September, 1921 .

Production of lubricating oils in September amounted to 82,056,712 gallons, a decrease of 6,775,000 gallons, or 7.62 per cent, from the August output, but an increase of 18.83 per cent over the output for September, 1921. Exports and shipments to insular possessions during the month totaled 28,136,445 gallons. Stocks of lubricating oils October 1 were 214,727,811 gallons, a decrease of 6,000,000 gallons during the month and of 15,500,000 gallons compared with figures for September a year ago.

Big Ben, the clock in the Parliament tower in London, is wound by an electric motor. The bell of the clock was cast in 1858.

MOTOR CAPITAL TWICE THAT OF NATIONAL BANKS

Frank B. Ansted, president of the Lexington Motor Company, Connersville, Ind., in a recent address before bankers caused considerable surprise when he said: "Few people realize that the automobile industry has grown to such magnitude in a short time that today the capital invested in it is twice the capital of all the national banks in this country.' '

Mr. Ansted takes as the latest total of the capital of all the national banks $1,276,477,000. The amount of capital invested in the automobile industry is considerably in excess of two billion dollars.

Mr. Ansted predicts that the industry will build 2,500,000 cars in 1923.

MONTANA'S SEVEN P. C. SYSTEM WILL DEVELOP COUNTRY

HELENE, Mont., Nov. 25.—(Special).—Reports of the state highway department indicate that the new seven per cent highway system of this state, when completed, will result in 50 per cent of the population and 31 per cent of the state's area being within five miles of a trunk highway.