

*Dave
Any chance?*

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LIA WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER — The General Battery and Ceramic Corporation, Box 1262, Reading, Pennsylvania 190633 General Battery's principal interest in lead is in industrial and automotive lead-acid batteries.

ELECTRIC SMOG is the intriguing headline of an editorial comment in the December 8, 1966, edition of Machine Design, hinting that some of the cures proposed for eliminating hydrocarbons from auto exhausts may be worse than the disease itself. The reason is that, according to the major automakers, some of the new battery designs being touted are capable of giving off harmful fumes, too. In fact, this edition also carries the story of the hydrazine-air fuel cell now under test in a 3/4 ton truck by the Army Mobility Equipment Command, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and quotes the press officer, a Colonel Frank Milner, as cautioning the viewers to note a distinct odor of ammonia. "This," he said, "is because hydrazine is made from ammonia and naturally smells like it. Since this vehicle is strictly research, we have not worried about these vapors or tried manifolding the exhaust..."

BATTERY DEVELOPED WHICH REPORTEDLY CAN POWER AUTO AT STANDARD SPEED, is news item in November 28 edition of Electrical World magazine. The piece quotes Dr. Morris Eisenberg, of Electrochimica Corp., Menlo Park, Calif., as saying that the battery can power a moderate size American car at speeds up to 70 mph, for 160 to 170 miles. Principal drawback is that the battery cannot be recharged enough times to be practical — only about 30 or 40 times. The battery uses lithium anodes in an electrolyte composed of "organic solvent."

INDUSTRIAL TRUCK FORECAST — Material Handling Engineering magazine regularly carries a forecast of business in its January issue. Regularly, too, they call on LIA for its view. In a short by-lined appraisal, Dave Borcina made these points about lead-acid battery powered material handling trucks: Item: Use of lead-acid battery power in this area doubled between 1961 and 1966. Item: In the long-term view, lead-acid industrial battery sales have grown at a higher rate than the Gross National Product. Item: The phenomenal growth of the past 5 years will probably taper down to about 10 per cent per year. Item: Newer exotic battery types now in the headlines are probably several years in the future for industrial use.

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