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NAPA Jobber and Son Help Hearst Claim '82 NASCAR National Championship



The 1982 season was quite a spectacular one for Tom Hearst, NASCAR National Champion — due at least in part to NAPA Jobber Hap Simmons and his son, Keith.

Hap Simmons, owner of Oregon Auto Supply (Oregon, Ill.) and Freeport Auto Supply (Freeport, Ill.), was a primary sponsor of Hearst throughout the season.

Keith Simmons, operating out of Oregon Auto Supply's complete machine shop, is engine specialist for Hearst's Tri-City Buggy Firebird. (The Oregon shop's major products are dyno-tested race car engines supplied to many of the best race car drivers in the Midwest.)

Hearst, of Wilton, Iowa, drove his car to 26 wins in NASCAR competitions in Iowa, Michigan and Illinois, easily winning the Winston Racing Series Central Region before capturing the Winston Racing Series national championship.

Engine specialist Keith Simmons accompanied Hearst to the NASCAR Winston 1982 Racing Series banquet in Daytona, Fla. on December 16, where they received their beautiful trophy and a sizeable check from Winston and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

THE LIFE OF A COUNTERMAN

I work behind the counter
in an automotive store.
Sometimes I'm called a "genius,"
sometimes I'm called much more.

I claim I'm no mechanic,
yet when the job goes sick
The mechanic comes and asks me
what makes the darn thing tick.

I'm supposed to know the numbers
of bolts and nuts and gears
For every car that was ever made
for more than forty years.

I'm an engineer and machinist,
and what not, Ah my Lord!
I'm supposed to be an Edison
combined with Henry Ford.

But life would be a pleasure
and I'd grin from ear to ear
If the customer would tell me
the MODEL, MAKE and YEAR!

AUTO FIRSTS HISTORY

While there is little resemblance between the automobiles of the turn of the century and those manufactured today, you may be surprised at how long ago many auto inventions were introduced. Check your knowledge with this short auto history quiz, provided by the Automotive Information Council (AIC):

1. In what year did the steering wheel come into general use?
a). 1902 b). 1903 c). 1905
2. When were four-wheel brakes standard equipment on most cars?
a). 1901 b). 1907 c). 1927

3. In what year was the patent applied for which carried the essential features of the modern gasoline automobile?
a). 1879 b). 1895 c). 1902

4. When was the first motor vehicle race held in which any of the contestants finished?
a). 1895 b). 1897 c). 1905

5. When was the first U.S. production car with an eight-cylinder engine introduced?
a). 1907 b). 1920 c). 1924

6. When was air conditioning first offered as an option?
a). 1920 b). 1939 c). 1951

4. a). The first race was held in 1895 and was won by J. Frank Duray. He traveled at an average speed of 71.2 miles per hour over the 55-mile course.
5. a). The Hewitt car company introduced a V-8 limousine in 1907, the first U.S. production touring car with an eight-cylinder engine.
6. b). An air conditioning unit was offered by Packard in 1939.

ANSWERS:
1. a). By 1902, the steering wheel had virtually ousted the tiller or lever steering system.
2. c). In addition to four-wheel brakes, in 1927 cars commonly had air cleaners, gas filters, oil filters, automatic windshield wipers and rear view mirrors.
3. a). In 1895, the U.S. patent office granted George Baldwin Selden the patent he had applied for in 1879.