



## Mysterious Fire in Paved Roadway Has Been Burning a Year

**F**OURTEEN years after a creek bed in Philadelphia, Pa., had been converted into a paved street, a passing autoist noticed a slender curl of smoke rising from a slight crevice in the roadway, thus discovering a fire that probably will shatter all records for novelty and length of activity before it is finally subdued.

This discovery was made last summer. The motorist turned in an alarm, a fire company responded, and has been on duty ever since, establishing what is very likely an endurance record for fire fighting. They will soon complete their first year on the job.

When the road was laid in 1909, from 300 to 400 feet of the foundation was filled with cinders, coke, and other furnace refuse, and the highway laid over all. Fourteen years afterward the pavement was discovered to be a mass of fire. The cause is believed to have been spontaneous combustion. It is thought that several red hot coals from the fill-in material that, in many cases, was dumped direct from power houses, became sealed in the great mass of waste. This bit of fire slowly smoldered and spread until it permeated the entire foundation, finally

gaining the air, which fanned the pavement furnace to fresh activity.

Firemen have succeeded in digging a trench in part of the burning mass through which a firehose creates a wall of water night and day, month after month.

The fire probably will be allowed to burn itself out, which, according to estimates, will take about three or four years more.

## Escalators for Salmon

**T**O SOLVE the problem of building a 90-foot dam in the Columbia River without blocking the run of salmon that go up the river to spawn, model escalators will be erected to determine whether the fishes will consent to this form of transportation.

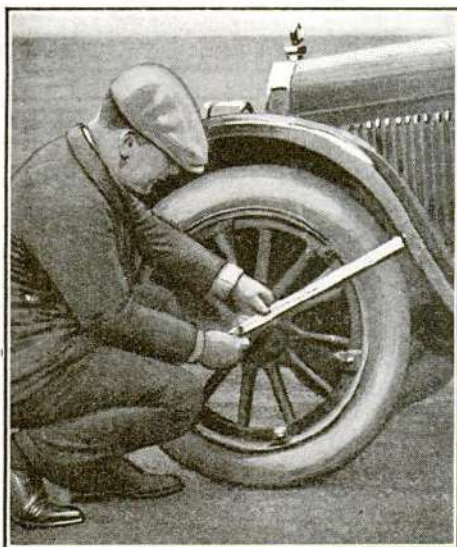
## Excavating Shovel Swims to Work in River

**I**NSTEAD of dismantling a 22-ton excavating shovel in order to lower it from cliffs down to a dam at Eau Claire, Wis., engineers saved a week of time and expense by running the machine into the Chippewa River about a quarter of a mile below the dam and then moving it upstream under its own power.

It had been planned originally to disassemble the machine and skid the parts out on a platform, from which they could be lowered by derricks to the river 70 feet below and then reassembled. To save

time, however, it was decided to make the shovel swim to work, so the engineers put three men aboard and started it on its unusual and treacherous trip, in which it encountered deep holes, hidden ledges, and swift currents.

At times the water almost reached the vital engine parts, but after 5½ hours' battling against the current, the shovel finally arrived at its destination and crawled out of the water like a huge hippopotamus, to the great satisfaction of the men who conceived the idea.



## Gage Measures Clearance for Balloon Tires

**A** SIMPLE wooden gage has been devised to determine whether your car has sufficient clearance for use of balloon tires. The gage consists simply of a stick with holes at certain distances from one end. These distances correspond to what may be termed the radius of the clearance circle.

A nail is placed in the hole corresponding to the size of tire the car requires and the point of the nail held to the center of the hub. If the end of the gage in swinging around the nail as on an axis strikes the fender above, the clearance is inadequate.

All the above measurements are made with a maximum load in the car.

## New Anti-Aircraft Gas

**A** GERMAN is reported to have invented an aerial defense gas that makes it impossible for any one breathing it to ascend higher than 6000 feet.

Beyond that height the aviator's lungs will burst.



The amphibious excavating shovel in midstream, bucking the current under its own power