

(from the 1911 Texas Almanac)

AUTOMOBILES IN TEXAS.

Ten years ago an automobile was a curiosity in the leading cities of Texas. Five years ago the people in many counties had never seen what was then known as the horseless carriage. Today it is estimated that the number of automobiles in actual service in Texas will reach nearly 30,000 and that over \$40,000,000 is invested in the machines. Reports, dated August 1, 1910, from 180 counties in the State show a total of 14,276 automobiles. A canvass by the Commercial Secretaries' Association places the number at 30,000, which, at an average value of \$1,500 each, would make the investment \$45,000,000. This number is constantly increasing, and counting the life of a machine at three years, the new machines purchased to take the place of old ones cost \$15,000,000 annually.

Although the automobile is counted a luxury and in the majority of cases, is used for pleasure, or as a means of transportation from the home to the office, the automobile is found in practical everyday life in all parts of the State. In the cities it is taking the place of the hack and the carriage and in many instances of the truck and the delivery wagon. In the plains country the automobile is used to carry the mail and to cover long distances not traversed by railroads. Commercial travelers use them in making towns in their district or territory, saving time thereby, and in many other ways has the machine been adapted to commercial purposes.

According to the Almanac canvass, Dallas County led all other counties in the number of automobiles registered August 1, 1910. Since that date nearly 200 machines have been added to the list, but August 1 registry is used in comparison with other county statistics secured on that date.

On August 1, Dallas County reported 1,390 automobiles; Harris, 1,031; Bexar, 1,024; Tarrant, 852; McLennan, 546; El Paso, 506; Jefferson, 413; Travis, 375; Potter, 350; Williamson, 275; Galveston, 219; Hale, 200; Tom Green, 190; Taylor, 176; Hunt, 172; Bell, 171; Navarro, 146; Collins, 133; Runnels, 127; Cooke, 125; Lubbock, 125; Johnson, 110. Reports from other counties show less than 100 automobiles registered and are not placed in this list.

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