Future seen for electric car

By Leland Shefter
During January, 1945, Dr. George M. Harrison, Director of the Lincoln Laboratory, at MIT, made a prediction.

"Twenty-one years later, the Ford Motor Company is working to make this prediction come true.

In a lecture given in 1945 to a business group, Dr. Harrison, dean from 1926 to 1939, said that the electric car should some day replace the gasoline-powered model, as soon as certain technological difficulties are overcome.

Steered wheels

"How much simpler it is to steer the wheel of the conventional car than the rudder of the boat," he said, as soon as certain technological difficulties are overcome. Since the generator sometimes already supplies the electricity to run the whole car with electric power, the switch is easy.

Chassis and wheels

"Then we need only mount a small engine on each wheel and operate these from a central storage battery." (Dr. Harrison would have the additional advantage that — when running down hill — we could store energy in the battery for future climbs. What present day motor car 250 horsepower car can do "...into its fuel tank while coasting?"

Weight problem

Dr. Harrison explained the reason electric cars are impractical is that one pound of gasoline can deliver over twenty times as much energy than that produced by one pound of storage battery. Moreover, Dr. Harrison believes (as did Thomas Edison) that the lead storage battery is not the lightest storage battery that can be produced.

Dr. Harrison concluded, "Don't push a storage battery which will drive a car 200 miles on one charge, yet weigh no more than an engine, plus 35 gallons of gas, and the job is done."

In other words, development of storage batteries is the key to making electric cars a practical reality.

The Bulletin Board

Friday, November 18

5:00 p.m. — RSS. Dinner. Student Center, Mezzanine Game Room.
12:15 p.m. — Chess Club. Student Center, Multi-Purpose Room.
7:30 p.m. — APO Meeting. Student Center, Rm. 491.
5:00 p.m. — Club Latino Meeting. Student Center, Rm. 467.
1:00 p.m. — I.F.C. Dinner. Student Center, Rm. 491.
9:15 a.m. — Roman Catholic Mass. Student Center, Chapel.
7:15 a.m. — Eta Kappa Nu Honorary Society Meeting. Student Center, East Lounge.
12:00 p.m. — Bridge Club. Student Center, Rm. 26-100.
4:30 p.m. — I.F.C. Dinner. Student Center, Mezzanine Game Room.
7:30 p.m. — Jewish Sabbath Services. Rabbi. Student Center, Rm. 491.
1:00 p.m. — Roman Catholic Mass. Student Center, Chapel.
7:30 p.m. — Jewish Sabbath Services. Rabbi. Student Center, Chapel.
9:00 a.m. — LSC Movie. "The Chase." Admission: .50.
7:30 p.m. — Jewish Sabbath Services. Rabbi. Student Center, Chapel.
1:00 p.m. — Roman Catholic Mass. Student Center, Chapel.
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