

deBeaubien's car is roomy — when you consider 60 miles per gallon

Dick deBeaubien has the perfect car for the energy crisis.

Not only is it economical, "It's a fun little car to drive."

His little roller skate is a 1971 Honda 600 sedan.

The Japanese car, which he purchased used, gets 30-40 miles per gallon in driving to (and around) Cass City from his Doerr Road home. He doesn't use it for highway driving, but a son once did, driving back and forth to Northwood Institute in Midland. On the open road, it can get 60 mpg.

The car is slightly over 10 feet long, is 52.5 inches wide, 52.4 inches high, and weighs 1,356 pounds.

"As little as it is, it's amazing how roomy it is," deBeaubien said, adding that that only applies to the front seat. The back seat

only has room for two very small persons.

The front wheel drive car is pulled along by a 2-cylinder, 36-horsepower engine, displacing 36.5 cubic inches (598 cubic centimeters — hence the model designation, "600").

The tiny engine has more than enough power, according to the owner, to drive the car 70 miles per hour "and maybe more." (The owner's manual lists top speed at 75.) It has a four-speed transmission.

BACK IN 1971, HONDA was better known as a motorcycle manufacturer, though it is as well known today for its cars.

The air-cooled engine looks like a motorcycle engine and is the same size as many motorcycles, but none of its parts are interchangeable with Honda motorcycle

engines, to deBeaubien's regret.

Despite the fact, it is still possible to get parts for the car, though the car hasn't been imported here for several years. Honda car dealers don't stock parts, but can order them.

According to Barney Prince, a salesman at Westbay Honda in Saginaw, the company sold the cars in this country in 1970-72. The dealership wasn't around then, or at least didn't sell Hondas, but he believed the sedan sold for under \$2,000.

In addition to the sedan, like deBeaubien's, there was also a more streamlined coupe version.

THE RETIRED LUMBER yard owner purchased his car for \$625 from a Bay City man about two years ago. He (deBeaubien) was in Bay City watching

the St. Patrick's Day parade and spotted the car parked with a "for sale" sign on it.

The car now has more than 52,000 miles on the odometer. Since he has owned it, the only major mechanical work done was a rebuild of the engine, done early on, which he suspects might have been necessary due to it having been driven extra hard prior to then.

Since the rebuild, he has had few mechanical problems. A mechanic at a local service station does the repair work.

The only rust is on the front fenders, which he plans to replace eventually.

AS MENTIONED, deBeaubien only drives the car around town, for reasons of comfort and safety. "You're going to come out second best (in an accident), no matter who you tie up with."

He describes the ride as firm, but comfortable, but not so comfortable he would want to take it on a long trip, even if the safety aspect didn't bother him. (For highway travel, he prefers his several years old Cadillac, purchased used but in mint condition for only \$2,500.)

His wife, Nancy, is the only other one who drives the Honda.

Despite its light weight, deBeaubien said the car handles well, even on a windy day. "It holds the road as well as anything I've ever driven."

He has driven it on snow covered roads with no problems, thanks to its front-wheel drive, but never through deep snow. That might be a problem because of the car's small wheels. (The wheels — not the tires — are 10 inches in diameter.)

Honda apparently never sold many 600's in this country, and now sells a line of larger (but still considered small) cars.

Compared to when the car was sold in this country, deBeaubien said, "I would assume there would be more of a market now, because people are so gas conscious now." Back when the car was new, gasoline was selling for 30 cents a gallon.

"It's a fun little car," he concluded. "It is economical. There's no question about that."



CUB SCOUTS — Members of Deford Pack 3593 who received awards last Thursday were, front row, from left, Dick Mallory, Steve Schmidt, Randy Woodward, Darin Gyomory and David Osentoski. Back row, Laurel Griffen, Ray Stachura, Robbie Kurtz, Mike Hamilton, Griffen Stachura and Joe Harmer.

Deford Cubs hold annual banquet

Deford Cub Scout Pack 3593 held its third annual Blue and Gold banquet last Thursday at the Deford Elementary School.

A spaghetti dinner was enjoyed by over 60 people. All boys were present, with each accompanied by at least one parent.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Boy Scouting, each boy took part in telling the history of scouting.

Cubmaster James Gyomory presented the following awards:

Wolf rank: Mike Hamilton, Dick Mallory.

Bear rank: Ray Stachura.

Gold arrows: Mike Hamilton, Dick Mallory, David Osentoski, Steven Schmidt, Randy Woodward.

Silver arrows: Robbie Kurtz, Darin Gyomory, Mike Hamilton, Dick Mallory, David Osentoski, Steven Schmidt, Randy Woodward.

Webelos badges and four activity pins: Laurel Griffen, Joe Harmer.

Holdup results in armed robbery charge in court

Thomas Myshock of Flint is facing a charge of armed robbery in Tuscola County District Court as the result of the robbery of Zabriskie's Market in Watrousville, southwest of Caro, shortly before 8 p.m. last Wednesday.

A lone bandit, armed with a large derringer type pistol, escaped with about \$600 in small bills.

According to the sheriff's department, a neighbor of the store thought a vehicle parked nearby looked suspicious and wrote down the license plate number.

That led police to the suspect, who was picked up by Flint police the day after the robbery.

An undisclosed amount of money was found in Myshock's possession, the sheriff's department reported, but at this point it cannot be established the money was taken in the robbery.

Myshock is a former Fairgrove resident.

Myshock was brought to Tuscola county Friday, where he was arraigned by Judge Richard F. Kern, who remanded him to jail with-

out setting bond. A pre-preliminary examination was scheduled March 10 and preliminary examination March 14.

Ask county for road money

Continued from page one

the cost for the paving program.

The chairman of the board's community services committee speculated his fellow commissioners will go along with matching the amount contributed by the townships.

That would mean a total of \$8,000 per mile, still far short of the \$30,000 needed.

That throws the ball of wax back to the Road Commission, which says it doesn't have the money. Its funds come from state gasoline taxes and license plate fees, not from normal county revenue sources.

Decker expects the three road commissioners will have stated an official posi-

tion by the time of the March 12 meeting.

At \$4,000 per mile, the county would have to pay a total of \$108,000 for the 27 miles. He added that all of that won't be paved this year (if money is available), thus it won't need that much money now. It does have enough money, however, to pay for some paving this year.

Whether some paving gets done is a question presumably to be answered March 12.

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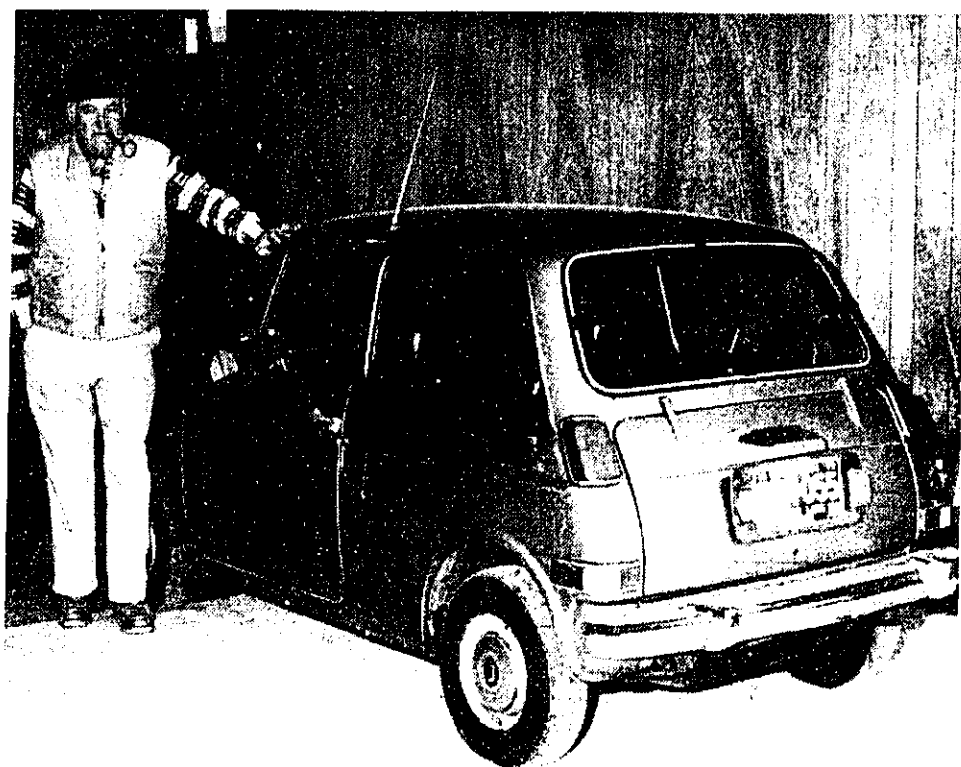
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ROLLER SKATE — Dick deBeaubien and his 1,356-pound 1971 Honda 600 sedan, which he purchased used about two years ago.

Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, Tuscola County Courthouse, Caro, Michigan
THE COUNTY OF TUSCOLA

REQUESTS BIDS FOR PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) POLICE CARS and ONE (1) VAN

For the Sheriff's Department, The Board of Commissioners reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities, or to accept the bid that in their opinion is in the best interest of the county. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope to the undersigned committee, C/O Sheriff's Department, 420 Court Street, Caro, Michigan 48723.

Bids will be opened March 11, 1980, at 2:30 P.M.

Copies of the specifications are available at the Sheriff's Office or the County Clerk's Office.

SHERIFF COMMITTEE
Robert Russell Donna Rayl
Royce Russell

Gasoline stolen

Charles Weitschat of Riley Road, Deford, reported to Tuscola county deputies Feb. 25 that a 55-gallon drum partially filled with gasoline and a 6-gallon gasoline can were stolen between Feb. 22-24 while he was away from home.

The fuel tank of a van parked in his yard was drained.

Total loss was put at \$105.

Book sale Saturday

The Thumb Area Reading Council is sponsoring a sale of educational books, games, etc. Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Cass City High School cafeteria. The sale is open to parents as well as teachers and school administrators.

Citizens of Tomorrow



Jennifer Sue, 1, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Binder, 4250 Mertz Road, Mayville.



Medina, 11, and Sheela, 6, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shaft, 6549 Main Street, Cass City.



Shannon, 1, child of Mr. and Mrs. John Jacques, Phillips Road, Deford.



Kathy Jo, 8, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Hall, 5825 Main Street, Deford.

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