

Maybe if we call them the Ten Suggestions...

And, lo, it came to pass that an evil drought did strike the land. And as the desert sun doth suck up a shallow pool, it dried and withered the sustenance of the beasts of the field the people did treasure the most, their auto-mo-biles.

For in those days, a man's wealth was measured by the size and numbers of his auto-mo-biles; and he did cherish them above all other things upon the face of the earth. And, for want of sustenance, the auto-mo-biles did sputter and die.

And the people, in their suffering, did raise up their voices to the heavens. Some cursed those who produced the sustenance; some cursed those who sold it; and some cursed their rulers.

arthur
hoppe
innocent
bystander

And they went unto soothsayers. Said one: The sustenance shall soon return. Said another: Thou shall not see sufficient sustenance again within all the days of your lives.

And some of the people raised red or yellow or green banners to ward off evil spirits; and all hunted and fought through the hours of the days for the

few precious drops that remained.

And in their suffering, they did raise up one of their number called Simon; and they did make of him their Czar.

And Simon did come down from the summit of Capitol Hill and spake unto the people, saying: Keep unto thee this covenant and there shall be sustenance for all; and thy flocks of auto-mo-biles shall increase unto the days of thy children's children. And he commanded them, saying:

Thou shalt have no other Czars before me.

Thou shalt not take the name of thy Czar in vain should the pump go dry as thou pullest up.

Thou shalt observe the alternate days of the month, odd for odd, even for even; but for the 31st day, which shall be known as a free-for-all.

Remember the sabbath and keep your tanks full.

Honor thy father and thy mother and do not borrow the family car.

Thou shalt not kill, even the man who bargeth ahead of thee in line.

Thou shalt not commit speeds in excess of 55 m.p.h.

Thou shalt not siphon.

Thou shalt not alter thy gas gauge to bear false witness.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's economy car, nor his Jeep car, nor his license plate, nor any means of sustenance that is thy neighbor's.

And all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Czar hath said will we do. And there was rejoicing in the land.

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But, lo, it came to pass that all the banners and covenants and

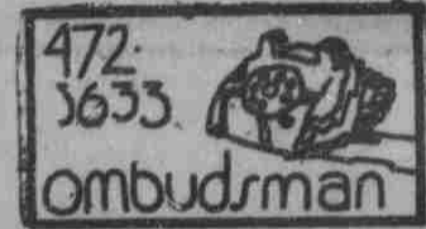
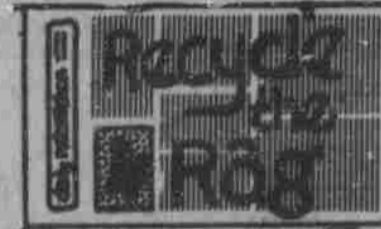
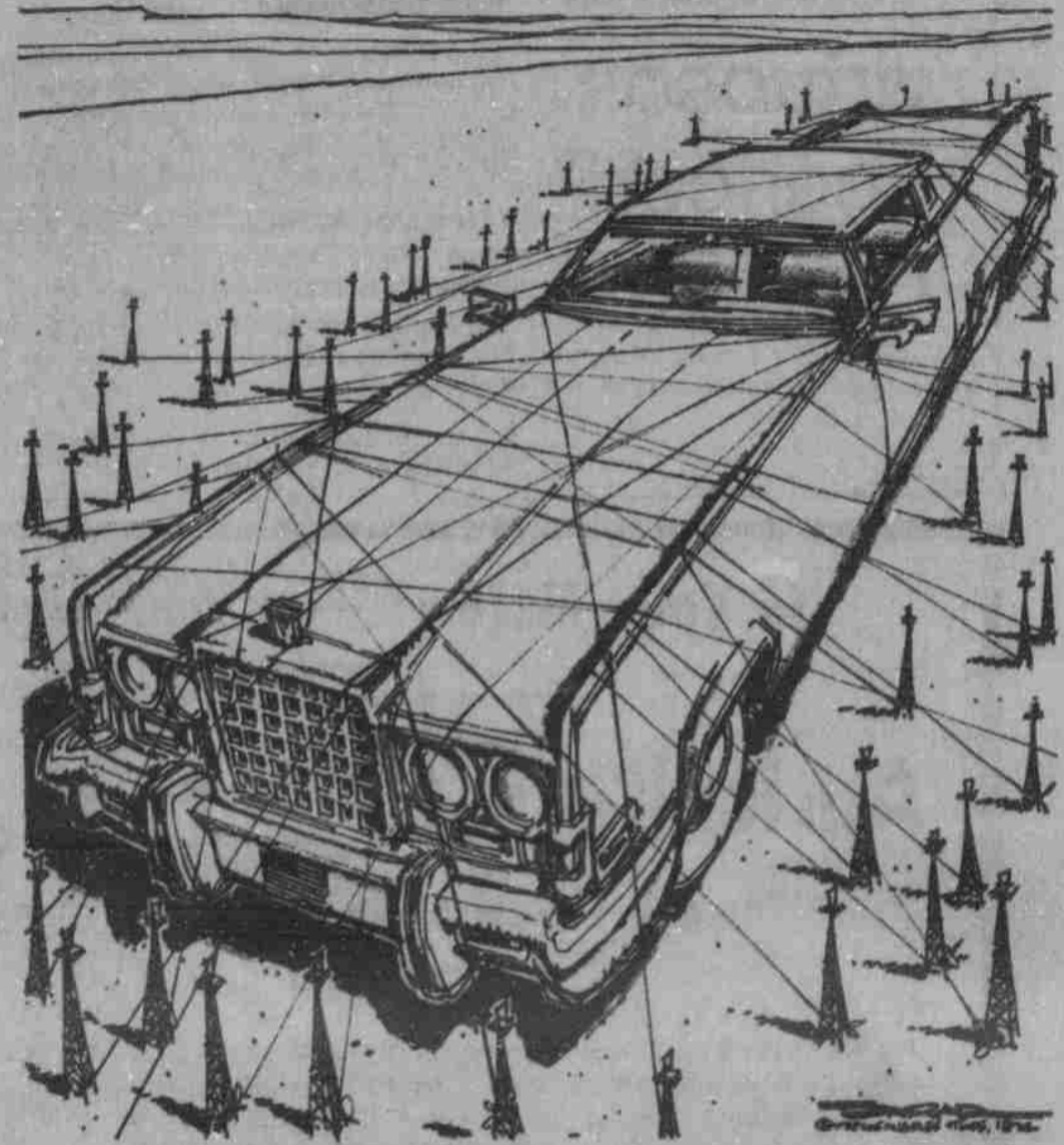
commandments could not bring forth sustenance whereof there was no sustenance. And the auto-mo-biles did yet sputter and die in the fields.

And the people did turn from their Czar and curse him, saying, What good

are his Ten Commandments?

And a wise man did rise from among them; and he spake, saying: Well, they worked as good as the first Ten.

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