

Charles F. Carpentier (left), Illinois secretary of state, compares license plate now used with two possible new ones held by Prof. John E. Baerwald,

University of Illinois engineer. Baerwald headed team which made study to find better plate design.

License Plate Reform Won't Hurt Big Shots

Low Numbers Would Remain, With Letters After No. 999999

Members of the I-Gotta-Drag Club won't suffer a bit if Illinois adopts a recommended new license plate system.

Numbers from 1 to 100 will still be available for those who cherish such status symbols.

Motorists who fancy tricky plate numbers such as 123456, 999999 or 121212 will continue

to be satisfied—providing they have enough clout.

Use of letters was the big change urged by a University of Illinois research team in a report made to Secretary of State Charles F. Carpentier Monday.

THE TEAM'S recommendations, resulting from a two-year study, include:

baerwald also urged that the national license plate size, 6 by 12 inches, be increased to 6 by 14 inches.

But they suggested that Illinois not go to the larger size until it is adopted nationally.

The researchers advocated an increase in size of the state's name and the year number.

THEY urged that bus, taxi and livery vehicle plates should carry one letter plus one to four numbers.

Truck plates, they said, should bear up to four numbers followed by a letter.

The letter-number system for passenger cars permits 6,250,000 combinations, with the letters I, O and Q omitted to avoid confusion.

—Continued use of numerals alone for the first 999,999 licenses issued in the state. This means no plate will have more than six digits. Many now have seven.

—A combination of two letters coupled with one to four numbers for plate issued after the first million. This would yield combinations such as AA-1 or ZZ-9999.

—Discontinuance of plates carrying amateur radio operators call letters and special plates issued to disabled veterans. They are nonuniform and confusing, the researchers said.

—Adoption of one, two or three high-contrast color combinations that would be reversed or rotated annually.

—Elimination of the "Land of Lincoln" slogan. Such things don't belong on plates, said the research men.

CARPENTIER can order all of the changes except dumping the slogan. That would require legislative action.

The secretary told the Daily News it is "likely" that he will approve the letter-number system—possibly in time for the 1961 plates.

UNIVERSITY engineers headed by Prof. John E. Baer-

IF CARPENTIER approves the change, it will end a controversy that has been bubbling for years.

Police long have argued that seven-number plates are too hard to read quickly and memorize.

This makes it more difficult for crime witnesses to remember the numbers of getaway autos. Police hunting for wanted numbers have trouble with long numbers, too.

TWO potential methods of improving plates were ruled out by engineers—for the time being, at least.

ReflectORIZING plates increases their visibility at night but involves several problems, said the researchers.

A plate number code denoting the home county of motorists "is not a function of license plates," they said.

PURPLE AND WHITE FOR COLLEGES ON 1964 PLATES

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Springfield, Ill., May 24

Purple license plates with white lettering will be used on Illinois automobiles in 1964. Secretary of State Charles F. Carpenter announced today.

Purple and white, Carpenter noted, are the colors of two of the oldest Illinois colleges—McKendree at Lebanon and Rockford, at Rockford. Northwestern university at Evanston, whose colors also are purple

and white.

WHITE ORANGE TO BE LICENSE COLORS IN 1962

Springfield, Ill., July 24 (UPI)

—The color combination for the 1962 Illinois motor vehicle license plates will be white numbers and letters on an orange background, it was announced today.

The secretary of state's office said the color combination was chosen from a list of 22 recommended by the University of Illinois engineers who prompted the change this year to the numeral-letter system.

The color combination was chosen, the announcement said, because it will not duplicate the colors of license plates of any nearby state, and it will not duplicate a combination used by Illinois in recent years. The colors are not those of a college or university as has been the custom of recent years. No college or university requested that its colors be used in 1962.



(TRIBUNE Photo)

Patricia Scalfini, 21, of Oak Park holding 1960 Illinois license plate and 1961 model which will be first to include lettering. New plates will be cardinal red with white numbers.

(Story on page 22)

8-17-61

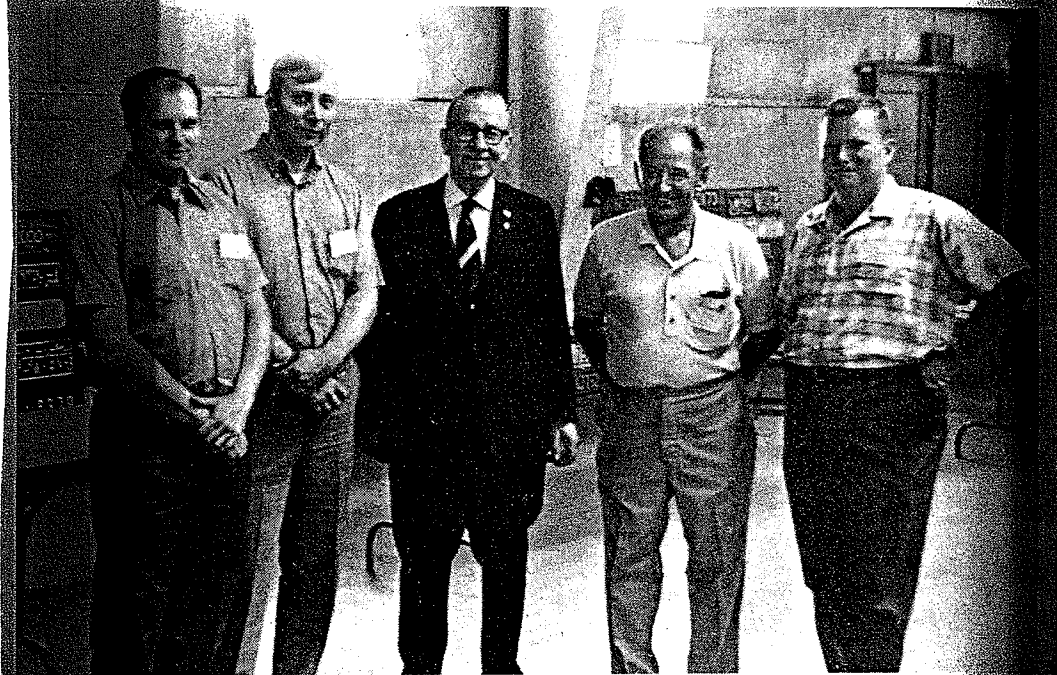
Next Year's License Plate



Secretary of State Charles F. Carpenter viewing the 1964 Illinois automobile license plate held by his granddaughter, Jane Ann Carpenter, 3. Distribution of the purple and white plates will begin Dec. 2.

71-6-63

Greeting The Secretary of State



The Host Committee of the Association of License Plate Collectors of America greet Secretary of State of Illinois, Paul Powell, who spoke at the convention on Saturday.

Left to right are Dick Pack of Chicago, Barney Schukraft of Chicago, the Secretary of State, Vern Schultz of Northbrook and Howard Rasmussen of St. Charles.

7-1-76



The way it was: In the 1950s, the Chicago Auto Show was a stage event, with the cars driven in for visitors to view and with an emcee describing. In 1954, Ronald Reagan handled the show.



New plates unveiled

Secretary of State Jim Edgar displays Friday new license plates for the state of Illinois. The plate, which will be used beginning next year, will be two-tone silver blue and white with navy lettering. (Sun-Times Photo by John H. White)

del.

Q. No problem, just curious. I've noticed that the numeral 8 on Illinois license plates is upside down.

WANDA ANNE DOBBS, Whiting, Ind.



Crazy eights.

A. We weren't sure if you were joking or not, but the Illinois Secretary of State's office took your question seriously and pulled out its ruler. It measured the numeral from all angles and failed to come up with any evidence that the 8 is upside down. One possibility is that you happened to see a freak license plate. Because many dies are used in the factory to make plates, there's a slim chance they are not exactly the same. Also, there's a chance that the 8 was a 3, 5, or 6 that was altered by the owner to look like an 8. If so, watch fast, because it won't be around long.

Legislative Council Scores

'Handout' of Tags to Dealers

MAR 21 1958 BY GEORGE THIEM
Of Our Springfield Bureau

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Illinois is lax in issuing auto dealer license plates at \$3 a set promiscuously.

Illinois also has one of the lowest fees and loosest statutes on the subject of any state, a legislative council report by Jack Isakoff, research director, has revealed.

Secretary of State Charles F. Carpentier admitted there are abuses when a reporter revealed complaints from Georgia \$25 and \$5. Daily News readers that large numbers of Illinois dealer plates were observed on cars in Florida.

"It's the law and we can't do much about it until the law is changed," he said.

Carpentier's office, however, did the work in redrafting the motor vehicle code enacted by the 70th General Assembly.

THE 1957 statute permits a passenger car dealer to pay \$20 for the first set, and \$3 for each additional set up to the total of salesmen, clerks, stenographers, mechanics, gas pumpers, janitors and cleanup help in his employ.

In practice the secretary of state takes the word of the dealer and sells him as many plates as he applies for. There is no checkup or enforcement even of the "one set per employe" rule.

Based on the 7,500 dealers who purchased 33,000 sets of cut-rate plates last year, the state lost approximately \$600,000.

THE COUNCIL report disclosed that New York, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and North Dakota forbid even a dealer from using cut-rate plates for personal use.

Most other states restrict dealer plates to cars that are for sale.

In Illinois there is no restriction on use of \$3 plates as long as the dealer owns the car. California, Ohio and Pennsylvania also were reported to have "liberal" dealer plate laws.

Pennsylvania charges \$25 for the first set and \$5 per set thereafter, New York \$15 and \$5, New Jersey \$50 for

RED AND WHITE

'61 Car Tag: Two Letters, Four Digits

A new letter-number combination for Illinois auto license plates will go into effect in 1961.

Charles F. Carpentier, Illinois secretary of state, said the new plates will go on sale over the counter Dec. 1.

THE FIRST 999,999 plates with white figures on a cardinal red background, will bear figures only.

The new system will provide for licenses with no more than six digits or combination of digits and letters, Carpentier said.

Holders of licenses with numbers in the first 999,999 may still write in to get their same numbers reissued, he said.

HIGHER numbers will be in the new pattern, with the first

combination AA 1,000. The AA series will run through 9,999.

Then combinations of double letters and figures will continue, through P, but omitting I, O and Q, to avoid confusion with similar figures.

After the double letters have been exhausted, new combinations of two letters, starting with AB, will be used.

THE NUMBERING system was recommended by a member of the University of Illinois engineering staff after an extensive study.

Plates will cost about \$1 each to make, the secretary said.

Blast Laxity In Sale of \$3 Auto Plates

Hit Slogan On Illinois Auto Plates

Looks as if "Land of Lincoln"—or any other slogan—may be ruled out so far as future Illinois license plates go.

The first phase of a University of Illinois study aimed at improving the state's plates concludes that an auto tag has no place for huckstering.

ANOTHER conclusion is that while the designation of a car owner's home county is not a true function of plates, such a numbering system would be helpful to police.

The second phase of the study will cover the color, design and reflectorizing of license tags.

Still unanswered is whether future Illinois plates will be of the letter-number variety, eliminating the "club" whose members hold numbers from one to 100.

JIM VANDY
Collector of License Plates
2515 E. Olive St., Suite 2C
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MAGA #10

'65 AUTO TAGS TO HONOR LATE SECY. OF STATE

**Carpentier's Favorite —
License Plates Will Be
Green On White** 4/4/64

Green lettering and numerals on a white background will be the color combination for Illinois 1965 motor vehicle license plates, announces Secretary of State William H. Chamberlain.

The colors were chosen in honor of the memory of the late Secretary of State Charles F. Carpentier with whom they had become closely identified over the last 12 years through his use of them on stationery and other publications issued by the office, in exhibits at the Illinois State Fair and other expositions, on Illinois State Library bookmobiles and Driver License Division mobile units and on all billboards, posters, brochures and other materials used in his political campaigns.

"This is only a small tribute to a man who gave outstanding service to Illinois during his tenure as Secretary of State, particularly in the field of traffic safety," Chamberlain said. "The Drivers License Law which he developed immediately upon becoming Secretary of State in 1953 is still a model for the entire nation, and his vigorous firm and fair enforcement of it has saved thousands of lives on the highways. I am pleased to be able to honor Mr. Carpentier's memory in this manner."

"The green and white combination, fourth on the list of 22 combinations recommended by the University of Illinois survey of license plate function and purpose, will offer a distinct contrast to this year's purple and white colors, and will not conflict with colors used by neighboring states," Chamberlain said. "Issuance of the 1965 plates, and over-the-counter renewals, will begin in the near future."

XRA



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#10

MAPA

Carpentier and the 5-Year Plates

STATE SEN. DONALD D. CARPENTIER, candidate for the Republican nomination as secretary of state, is calling for greater automation of the office—a message we welcome from him. Speaking at a \$100-a-plate dinner here Friday, Carpentier said greater use of computers would make it possible to issue five-year license plates to Illinois motorists, renewable by decals issued annually, instead of the present yearly changeover.

If elected, Carpentier said, he would start a complete review and audit of the driver-licensing procedures with the goal of making traffic safer, and would speed up police communications systems. All these are, of course, worthy aims. We are particularly pleased with Carpentier's improvement of the five-year license plates, one of the key money-saving recommendations of the Business Management Study committee for Illinois.

Both Republican aspirants for the office, Carpentier and Brian Duff of Wilmette, have announced themselves in favor of the multiyear plates—a program blocked by the present secretary of state, Paul Powell—and have called for other important reforms. Which indicates that, whoever gets the G. O. P. nomination, voters will have a clear choice in November: Either overhauling this important state office or continuing the status quo under Powell.

'A Manufacturing Error'

19 ILLINOIS 65
992 322

LAND OF LINCOLN

19 ILLINOIS 65
77E 766

LAND OF LINCOLN

(TRIBUNE Staff Photo)

Nicholas Grapsis' 1965 state license plates.

Nicholas Grapsis, 27, of 1106 Balmoral av., was somewhat surprised yesterday after he purchased his 1965 state license plates.

He set about the task of removing his old plates from his car when he noticed something strange about one of the new plates . . . the numbers were upside down. Grapsis, who purchased the plates thru a currency exchange, wasn't quite

sure what he should do, so he called THE TRIBUNE.

A spokesman in the secretary of state's office in Springfield told a TRIBUNE reporter that it was the first complaint of this nature received this year. "It's a manufacturing error and sometimes happens," he said. The spokesman added that a new plate, with the numbers right side up, will be ordered for Grapsis.

Legislator Car Plates—Nos. 1 Thru 177

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 29—Speakers for Illinois state representatives will be assigned numerically on a combination seniority and alphabetical basis, Secretary of State William H. Chamberlain announced today.

Previously, a member's license has borne the number of his district followed by a small numeral 1, 2, or 3, indicating seniority within the district. Under the old system, each of the

59 districts had three representatives.

All 177 state representatives will be elected on a state-wide basis Tuesday, because districts were abolished in the aftermath of Gov. Kerner's veto of a reapportionment bill. Chamberlain said the license plate, bearing the words "official" and "House" will be numbered thru 177. In cases where two or more legislators have the same seniority, assignment will be alphabetical according to surname.

If he is reelected, the No. 1

license will go to Rep. Michael Ruddy [R., Chicago], who has been in the House 13 terms.

Others at the top of the seniority list: Michael E. Hannigan [D., Chicago] 16 terms; Lloyd [Curley] Harris [D., Granite City], 14 terms; George S. Brydia [R., Prophetstown], Charles W. Clabaugh [R., Champaign], and Ben S. Rhodes [R., Normal], each 13 terms; and Clyde Lee [D., Mount Vernon] and Noble W. Lee [R., Chicago], 12 terms each.

Plates for Yellow Cab



Secretary of State William H. Chamberlain (left) presents 1965 license plates for Yellow Cab company to Robert E. Samuels, company president. Ceremony was in honor of Yellow Cab's 50th anniversary.

**RUSH SNARLS
W. SIDE STREET**

Homeowners irate as

Access Is Blocked

The last minute rush to get license plates before the three-day deadline is causing motorists to more than just the inconvenience of waiting in lines. Fifty homeowners near the major vehicle rally at 360 Lexington Ave. are having difficulty getting in and out of their neighborhood because of cars blocking driveways, garages, alleys, and even streets.

Joseph P. MacManus, assistant secretary of state, said he was aware of the problem. He located the facility inadequate to handle the flow of motorists getting license plates and said the area was too congested to handle the renovation plan.

Most will quit.

McDonald said one Lexington street factory handles about a million "household" appliances every year. Most of the middle class men would be applying for work with the last minutes left.

The street in which the motor

BY ROBERT HOWARD
[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 10—A black-on-white color scheme for 1967 motor vehicle license plates was announced today by Secretary of State Paul Powell in an effort to get maximum safety benefits of reflectorized materials.

It was only a minor variation from the 1966 plates, which featured red letters and numbers on a slightly red-tinged white background.

Watts Pennman, Colby Powell told this "Pioneering heretofore," gaining a community recommendation from Governor-elect Elkins, experts to permanently within the nation's largest white background that is

vehicle finally is located. It's a dead end. Monitors have to extend the same way they extend. The street is in poor condition. McMillan joined

Long Street said:

McManis said the survey is being undertaken to determine where the people applying for the Lexington street facility are most in demand if they could be served as well.

He said that for the first two phases are being sold in the First National bank, 60 S. West, 6000 St. Drivers' tests have been suspended until after the dust is over.

the dominant feature of the 1966 plates. In future years, the lettering is to alternate from red to black.

Recent heavy logs in parts of Illinois have convinced Powell that the reflectorized white background has a great safety value. Under adverse conditions, the 1966 plates show more vividly than the licensees of former years in which dark

or groups usually were used. Reflectronization was used for the first time on Illinois hard-core plants this year under the following authority: "The Illinois Gas was increased 60 cents a cubic foot to cover added costs of production."

And Study Cross
Powell signed a \$2,500 check
Mater donated for a study on
depression in D. John H.
B. would direct of the insur
very within salary cap in the

University of Illinois college
of engineering.

The objective, the secretary of state said, is to determine whether is a better and more economical reclamation process than that being used under a Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing company contract. The study is to cover materials, methods, and costs.

The university's traffic center, under a contract with the state secretary of state, Charles F. Carpenter, recommended adoption of the current system of a maximum of two letters and four numerals on license plates. Like reflectorization, it was designed to improve legibility for the benefit of traffic police.

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MAA #10



[TRIBUNE Photo]

Elmer W. Rietz of Highland Park affixing 1955 license plate to his auto while others in his collection dating to 1912 lay atop the hood and fenders.

(Story on page 15, part 3)

2 OBTAIN SAME AUTO LICENSES FOR 44 YEARS

(Picture on back page)

Two executives of the Powers Regulator company, Skokie, found out recently during a telephone conversation that they have a hobby in common. Each has had the same auto license number since 1912, and each has saved all of the plates.

Elmer W. Rietz, 1812 Park Avenue West, Highland Park,

export manager for the company, has had Illinois license number 2398 each of the 44 years. He said he simply applied for the same license number each year and got it. He keeps the license plate collection on the wall of his garage.

Paul Charles, office manager for the company at Winnipeg, Man., was issued license 179 by the Canadian province of Manitoba in each of the 44 years. Charles also has his collection of license plates on his garage wall.

2-25-55