

# AUTUMN MOTORING

A WELL TUNED CAR  
COULD KEEP YOU HAPPY  
ON THOSE FALL TRIPS!!!



There were times last winter when the streets of Northeastern metropolises resembled ski resorts. Heavy snow falls were just some of the conditions challenging motorists throughout the U.S. Only those car owners who had prepared their vehicles for the harsh weather were able to cope and keep going. A pre-winter check will help motorists avoid trouble during the coming months. Photo courtesy New York Daily News.

# Can your car cope with winter's snow, ice and rain?

## Learning to handle weather situations is good business

A motorist from northern Wisconsin was passing through Georgia on his way to Florida on a recent winter morning. A snowfall, rare for that area, began to descend. The northern motorist, whose car was equipped for Wisconsin winters, barely noticed the snowfall as he proceeded to his destination. Yet he was surprised to find that the one-inch snowfall paralyzed traffic in the city.

Coming from an area where winter weather is often merciless, the Wisconsinite had learned to cope with any eventuality. Motorists in milder climes are often caught short when an unpredictable winter unpleasantness arises. They skid and slide, and often their cars don't start at all.

Whether you operate a car in areas where lots of snow and cold weather are the winter norm or where fair skies and warmth are the rule, learning to cope is good business.

Last winter was the second in a row where brutal weather tested the endurance and ingenuity of the motorist in all parts of the country. Record snowfalls turned streets of large eastern cities into ski trails. Torrential rains flooded normally arid regions in the west, and record-low temperatures lingered in most sections of the land.

As a result, car owners in all parts of the country faced difficult times. The cold and the damp contributed to millions of starting failures. The deep snow and icy roads caused countless other cars to be stranded.

Yet other millions of motorists confronting the identical hardships had no starting problems or stalls. Why?

It was undoubtedly more than a matter of luck. The owners whose cars came through were ones who used that pre-winter grace period of moderate weather to prepare their vehicles.

Of primary importance, the copers most likely had their engines tuned. By doing so they purchased sure starting insurance as well as gaining maximum fuel economy and dependable performance. A tune-up, including new spark plugs, is the single most important item to invest in if you desire trouble-free winter operation.

Keeping a car going on wet, snow- or ice-covered pavement also takes pre-winter foresight. Tires must be in good condition. Brakes, shocks and steering components need attention. Safety necessities like lights, wiper blades, windshield washers and defrosters get a thorough work-out in winter, and they must be checked as well.

Also of key importance in winter weather is the condition of the cooling system and the coolant and the electrical system including the battery.

Anyone wishing to get through the coming fall and winter season with the minimum car-caused inconvenience and the maximum enjoyment of motoring has only one intelligent option open. That is to take the vehicle in to your favorite, trustworthy service outlet for a pre-season check-up.

If you do that, your chances of coping are vastly improved no matter how severe the winter may be.

## Rain drains start power from engine

There were torrents in Torrance. Even dry Arizona got drenched.

Last winter saw the usually sunny West pounded by almost ceaseless rainfall. And a growing number of motorists learned a painful lesson: unless a car is prepared for the wet weather, it may experience similar starting problems to cars operating in sub-zero temperatures.

Two leading causes of wet weather starting troubles are worn or damaged ignition system components and worn or fouled spark plugs. Since electrical current seeks the easiest path in which to flow, items such as cracked ignition cables or distributor caps provide "leaks" for the electrical energy.

Also, when foreign deposits such as carbon or oil are found on spark plugs, electricity can be shorted away from the plug firing end, preventing ignition of the fuel-air mixture (and worn plugs require additional voltage).

Fortunately the cure is simple. Take the car in for a complete tune-up including new spark plug wires (when needed), any distributor service necessary and a set of new spark plugs.

## Car Care Quiz



## This Quiz May Give You A Start

Somewhere, some time, when you least expect it, your car will encounter a startling problem. According to statistics issued by AAA, that's one of the safest bets you can make.

About 50 percent of the calls AAA's emergency road service answers are for startling assistance.

This quiz is intended to provide information on starting problems to help you avoid them this coming winter.

- According to a nationwide survey report, the best way to correct a starting problem is:
  - Replace the battery.
  - Recharge the battery.
  - Tune the engine.
- According to the same survey the geographic area encountering the least problems last winter was:
  - The Western Mountain states.
  - The Pacific Coast states.
  - The Southeastern states.
- The area with the highest rate of starting trouble last winter was:
  - The New England states.
  - The Middle Atlantic states.
  - The West North Central states.
- Comparing motorists in Louisiana and Minnesota last winter, who had the highest rate of starting problems?
  - Minnesota.
  - Louisiana.
  - No difference.
- When the battery is at full strength and the temperature is at freezing (32° F), at what percentage of power does the battery operate?
  - 90 percent.
  - 60 percent.
  - 45 percent.
- The primary reason cars will not start is:
  - Voltage available in the ignition system exceeds voltage required to fire the spark plugs.
  - Voltage required to fire the spark plugs exceeds voltage available from the ignition.
  - There's a leak in the transmission linkage.
- If you turn the ignition key and all you hear is a click, probable cause is:
  - Spark plugs are worn.
  - Coil wire is loose.
  - Battery problem.
- To help a car start in cold winter weather, one should:
  - Operate on as little gas as possible in the tank so fuel won't freeze.
  - Keep tank as full as possible to avoid fuel line freeze.
  - Use only premium fuel because it doesn't get as cold.
- If you don't have a garage, the way to help start a car on a cold morning is:
  - Park vehicle with back to prevailing wind.
  - Park with the hood close to any building.
  - Put a blanket over the hood.
- One reason motorists in the Sun Belt areas have as much starting trouble as those in cold weather states is:
  - Ozone levels in warm climates hamper starting.
  - Battery water levels are allowed to drop.
  - Ignition system maintenance is poorer.



# 1979 PLYMOUTH. EVERYTHING'S RIGHT.



**Plymouth Caravelle.**  
The big one in every way!

New wagon. Over 100 cubic feet of storage space. And more. A big engine. Super 1600 cc. V-6. With automatic transmission. Excellent steering. Over 100 cubic feet of storage space. And more.

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**Plymouth Volare makes more sense than ever!**

What a beautiful way to drive! Efficient size. Erased styling. And a lot more room inside.

Efficient size. Erased styling. And a lot more room inside. What a beautiful way to drive!

Erased styling. And a lot more room inside. What a beautiful way to drive!

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## PLYMOUTH YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!



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**Meet the fuel miser!**  
New 1979 Plymouth Colt

Pushing new fuel economy technology into the 1970s. Super 1600 cc. V-6. Fuel economy up to 34 mpg.

Super 1600 cc. V-6. Fuel economy up to 34 mpg. Pushing new fuel economy technology into the 1970s.

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