



# Castor Earl

## Your good Samaritans

I want to say a few words about your Good Samaritans: I don't like 'em.

I want to say a few more words: There are just too dang many goody-two-shoers around these days.

Let me give you a couple examples of what I'm talkin' about.

Do you mind at Easter when we thought the worst was over and all of a sudden, whap!, buried in another foot, or litre, or metre, or whatever the new fanangled measure is, of snow?

Well, I had to go out that day with the missus to do some visitin' - the worst fool thing I've ever done and I've done plenty of fool things.

I was drivin' the ole jalopy with Butch, my cat, sittin'

beside me up front. I usually take Butch along 'cause I figure he's good protection from those hotheads who don't like the fact I never go faster than 20 miles an hour, or kilograms, or whatever in blazes you're supposed to say now. The missus, she's a back-seat driver from way back.

We're drivin' along when I spy the temperature gauge showin' the engine is hotter than blazes.

So I pull over and throw up the hood. Being I was a little peeved what with the trouble and all that chatterin' comin' from the back seat, I almost broke the thing off its hinges. The car's an ole-timer like myself and there's perty near just rust holdin' both of us together.

I look under the hood and all I can see is a pile of snow. I'd been plowing through snow so deep it

had all flung back up all over the engine.

I haul out the shovel and start flingin' snow all over the place when a young lad stops his picker truck to see what this ole geezer's up to hackin' away at his car with a shovel.

He takes a look and starts scoopin' away the snow until he sees my fan belt -- the car's fan belt, that is -- has come lose and the rad is all plugged with snow and he says that's the reason she's overheatin' -- the car, not the missus.

He gives me one of them looks that says "you crazy ole coot" and sets to work with his tools puttin' everythin' back in order. Then he waits around while I start 'er up so I figure he wants pay for his trouble and offer him 50 cents.

He just gives me another of them looks, tells me he don't want no money, and takes off.

Now, if that ain't what you call a Good Samaritan, I don't know what is. If the tables would have been turned and if it would have been me comin' along with the help, I would have asked for five bucks. The only way to get along in this world is to grab whatever you can when you can grab it.

And that's only the half of it. I get started along again and dang if she don't konk out on me again.

So I says to myself, Earl I says, maybe that young lad didn't put the fan belt back on right. Like I says, never trust anyone who does somethin' for nothin'.

I get out and take a look but

the belt's still on good and solid. I try to start'er up again and I notice the gas gauge is readin' empty.

I hike to the nearest house, ask for some gas; the lad there grabs a container, drives me back to the car, and pours it in.

I try and pay him 50 cents and he gives me that same kind of funny look and says maybe I can do him a favor sometime.

I says to myself, sure, if the price is right. So I take off and the back tires kick snow all over this Good Samaritan, the second in the same day.

What I'm tryin to say is there should be a law against all this do-goodin' that's been goin' on lately.

Your Good Samaritans give people like me a bad name.

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