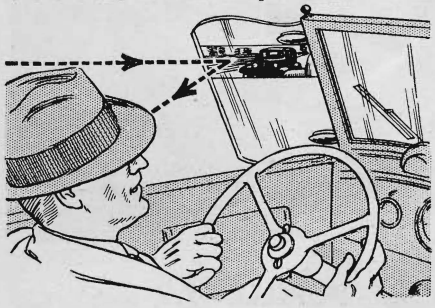
Handy Hints *for* MOTORISTS

Suggestions Valuable for All Car Drivers Contributed by Readers

When a car is stalled, it can be moved, as at right, by putting it in gear and then turning the engine over with the hand crank. This is a good thing to **know in an emergency**

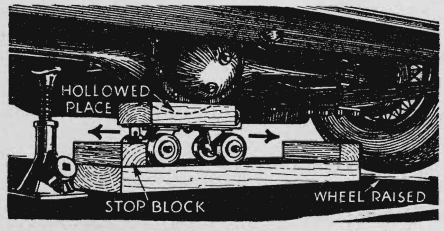
Moving Stalled Car

IF YOU have ever tried to push a stalled car, you will agree that it can be quite a task, particularly if there is a slight grade upward. The next time you find yourself in such a predicament and no help is available, try your hand crank. Put the car in reverse or high gear, depending on the direction it is to be moved, and turn the crank with your right arm while you push or pull the radiator with your left. If the car is a heavy model, or mired in mud or snow, remove the spark plugs to ease up on the compression. Not long ago, a lone driver in New York State moved his stalled car free of a railroad crossing by resorting to this simple kink.—E. L.



Rear-View Mirror

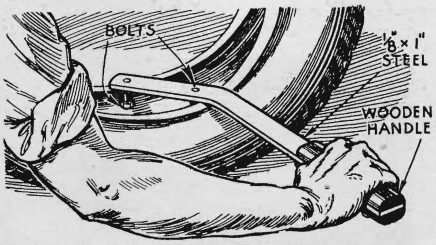
DESIRING a rear-view mirror on the driver's side of my car without adding an extra piece of equipment, I conceived the idea of having a 4-in. wide strip on the left wind-wing silvered. I find that it does not interfere with the driver's forward view and can be adjusted to any angle. To protect it against rain and moisture, I applied several coats of thin waterproof varnish to the back side of the silvered area. The entire expense of silvering was no more than the cost of a mirror and the combination eliminates a bothersome accessory.—E. L. B.



Rolling Car Sideways

OFTEN when making home repairs in a crowded private garage it is impossible to maneuver the car into a good position that will be near the bench as well as a window. The writer got around this difficulty by using a simple roller-skate arrangement. First, the rear end of the car was raised by placing a regular jack under the axle slightly at one side of the differential housing. A small block of hard wood, hollowed out to fit the bottom of the differential, then was fastened to the top of a sturdy roller skate with screws and nails. This assembly was placed on a large square of hardwood, fitted with stop blocks at each end, and eased under the differential as shown. Finally, the jack was removed. The car resting on the skate then could be shifted easily.—J. A.

Good Tire Spreader



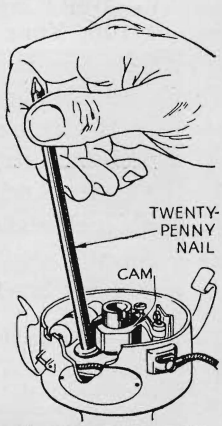
THIS homemade spreader eliminates the usual difficulty of holding a tire open while inspecting it for puncture holes, tacks, or worn spots. It consists simply of a piece of ⅛- by 1-in. steel, heated and bent at a slight angle as shown. Two bolts are tapped into the short arm. In use, the spreader can be operated easily and rapidly with one hand leaving the other free. The bolts, held parallel to the tire, are inserted between the rim beads and then the handle of the spreader is pulled toward the user. This automatically spreads the edges of the tire apart. By working the handle back and forth as the tire is turned, a rapid inspection can be made.—W. E. S.

Repairing Timing Gears

WHEN my timing gears started to get noisy recently. I was confronted with the problem of either paying a garageman $10 for the job or trying to fix them myself. I decided on the latter and on removing the gears found that the fiber gear, although in perfect shape otherwise, was badly worn around the key slide. I remedied that, however, by filling the old groove with melted battery-top compound and by filing a new keyway on the opposite side of the gear.—J. H.

Distributor Cam Wrench

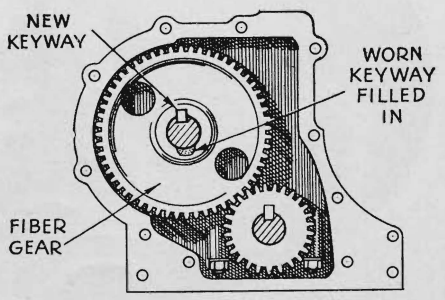
WHEN it is necessary to adjust a distributor, most home mechanics find it difficult to loosen the timing cam. Service men do the job easily with a special hook-shaped wrench, but few amateurs have such a tool. However, a twenty-penny spike can be made to serve as a good substitute. Merely slip one edge of the flat head under the cam and pull the spike end away from the shaft in a prying motion. The writer has used this makeshift successfully on several makes of motors.—L. VanT.



Twenty-penny spike, used as above, makes a good cam wrench

Home Vulcanizing

ORDINARY cold tire patches can be made self-vulcanizing by applying, in sparing amounts, a solution of thirty grains of sulphur chloride dissolved in an ounce of carbon disulphide. After the mended tire has been driven for a short length of time, the patch will automatically become vulcanized.—G. S. G.



Home-repair job on your car's timing gears can be accomplished in the manner illustrated