The Latest in Radio and Aviation
Commander BYRD Tells How to Get into the Flying Game... Page 9
Don't Be a Back-Seat Driver!

Gus Helps a Husband Who Was Nagged into a Smash and Gives Some Advice for Passengers

By MARTIN BUNN

"NOW Horace," nagged the cross looking woman in the back seat, "are you sure we don't need oil? You'd better have the man look over that back tire while we're here. Is the radiator full of water? Remember what I told you—"

"Yes, my dear," the solemn faced man behind the wheel mumbled mechanically as he received his change from Joe Clark, threw the ignition switch and kicked the starter button. Meanwhile the flow of advice and commands from the woman on the back seat continued.

"Be careful not to grind the gears, Horace! Don't let in the clutch too fast, you jarred me terribly the last time—look out! There's a car coming! You'll hit it sure as I'm alive—"

"Yes, my dear," repeated back to the gentleman as the car rolled away.

"How'd you like to be tied to that for the rest of your life?" grinnned Joe Clark to his partner Gus Wilson, who was working on a car in front of the Model Garage.

"HUMPH!" grunted the veteran mechanic. "Every time I hear a nagging woman like that I'm glad I'm a bachelor. She's a 'back-seat driver' for sure!"

"Look! Quick!" Joe interrupted with a shout. "Whatever is that bird trying to do! He's heading straight, for that parked car! I don't need to be told again—by Jink's, he woke up just in time—and now look at him skid! That's no trick of being playing on a wet road—twice around and going straight at the telegraph pole!"

But the car's speed shrank considerably before it hit the pole and luckily for the occupants, it was traveling backwards at the moment so the impact came directly on the center of the rear bumper. The latter cushioned the blow to some extent, but Gus and Joe distinctly heard the snap as the spring steel gave way.

Even before Gus and Joe could reach the scene of the accident, it was quite evident to our reader was seriously injured for they could hear the woman rasping on intermittently.

"Now, see what you've done, Horace! Why didn't you pay more attention? I never saw anyone so careless! The whole trip is ruined, and it's all your fault!"

The car owner had been aimlessly patting around, muttering "Yes, my dear," but this last remark suddenly got his goat.

"Yes, my—Aw, rats!" he snapped savagely, "lay off me! How the dickens can I drive a car with you jawing all the time? If you know so much about it, you can do it yourself, from now on. I'm through!" And with that he dashed a wrench on the ground, glared at his wife defiantly, spun on his heel and stalked off down the road.

"Here's where I cure one back-seat driver of a mighty bad habit," whispered Gus to his partner.

"Most unfortunate accident, madam," he said, stepping up to the side of the car, "Can we help you out?"

"You're the men from that garage we stopped at," the woman said. "Well, it's a good thing that fool husband of mine has sense enough to have this accident where it could be fixed. He doesn't pay any attention to what I say—just goes along and drives to suit himself. I'll give him a piece of my mind all right!"

"Can you drive the car to the garage?" asked Gus after he and Joe had freed the spring that had caught around the pole.

"I don't know how to drive," she snapped.

"Oh," said Gus, with an odd smile. "Then I'll drive for you. I can make a temporary repair on the bumper, and there isn't much else to fix."

Horace had marched down the road and perched on a stone wall where he was calmly smoking a cigarette.

"Don't bother with him," rasped his wife. "He can stay there forever for all I care! Drive to the garage!"

As soon as Gus had stopped the car in the garage, he and Joe set to work.

"What's the matter with the car, anyway?" the woman inquired.

"Well, madam," replied Gus, "this car has a broken rear bumper. The gas tank is dent ed, a mud guard is bent out of line. That's what's wrong. But as for what caused it, I'd say it was—your!"

"Me!" she gasped indignantly. "Ridiculous! How could I be to blame when I wasn't even driving the car?"

"Maybe you didn't actually have your hand on the wheel," Gus growled, "but from what I heard while you were getting gas you do all your driving from the back seat. No man can drive a car and do a good job of it with somebody pouring advice into his ear all the time. You probably kept telling your husband how to drive until he got so flustered he didn't know what he was doing. Take it from me, if you want to avoid trouble let your husband drive in peace. You admit you don't know how to drive so your advice couldn't be worth much anyway!"

"THERE!" interrupted Horace, who had silently entered in time to hear most of Gus's remarks. "That's just what I've been telling you all the time, and you wouldn't listen to me! Now you get exactly the same thing from somebody that really knows something about automobiles!"

Horace settled with Gus, climbed into the car and stepped on the starter. His wife started to speak and then gulped back the words with a quick look at Gus. "By Golly," exclaimed Joe. "It almost looks as though you did shut her up."

"Maybe," replied Gus, "but I doubt it. Takes a lot more than that to cure a woman who's in the habit of bossing her husband."

"A lot of people don't seem to realize that driving a (Continued on page 182)"
**Do You Make these Mistakes in ENGLISH?**

**Sherwin Cody**

Many persons say, "I hope you learn only but the mistakes I have made." This is a typical example of the "catching the rule of thumb" method by which you acquire a better command of the English language. By only 15 minutes a day your mistakes can be corrected. This 45 minute contextual test will prove your comment to be absolutely clear. Most persons make grammatical "error" areas which they cannot prove themselves lacking in the essential points of English.

**WONDERFUL NEW INVENTION**

For many years Mr. Cody has observed the problem of creating instinctive habits of using good English. After countless experiments he has discovered the following method by which you can acquire a better command of the English language. The 15 minute contextual test will prove your comment to be absolutely clear. Most persons make grammatical "error" areas which they cannot prove themselves lacking in the essential points of English.

**LEARN BY HABIT—NOT BY RULES**

Unlike old methods which stress correct habits, your correct habits are not formed. Finally the rules themselves are learned to be used. The new Sherwin Cody tests provide for the formation of correct habits by challenging your attention constantly only the right things. Each mistake is isolated by the S.C. Code, and you can stop on any word by which you have been tripped. A 45 minute contextual test will prove your comment to be absolutely clear. Most persons make grammatical "error" areas which they cannot prove themselves lacking in the essential points of English.

**Free Book on English**

A new book explaining Mr. Cody's remarkable method is available to you for free. It explains how English can be improved and corrected.