What You Should Know About Antifreeze

Gus Tells How to Protect the Cooling System of Your Car During Cold Weather

By MARTIN BUNN

HELO, Gus!” called Jim Backson, the asthmatic proprietor of the town’s commercial hotel, as he steered his car into the Model Garage one frosty morning.

Gus Wilson, half owner and auto mechanic of the establishment, unwrapped himself from around the motor on which he was working.

“Well, Jim,” he said, “what’s eating the bus this morning? Frozen radiator, maybe?”

“Naw, nothing like that,” Backson puffed as he squirmed out from under the steering wheel. “Just a tiny little leak you ought to be able to fix in a couple of minutes.”

Gus walked over and inspected the radiator. “ Ain’t no such thing as a little leak in an auto radiator—leastways when it comes to getting it fixed,” he observed. “Generally takes just as long to fix a little one as it does a thumping big one. Got time to wait while I do the job?”

“Yeah, I guess so. Business is pretty slack right now,” Backson grunted, tossing his overcoat into the car and draping himself comfortably on the edge of the work bench.

“Be sure to save that antifreeze solution, Gus,” he cautioned.

The veteran auto mechanic shoved a pair under the drain cock and turned it on. He had to poke it with a piece of wire before the flow started.

“Say, what kind of slop is this, anyhow?”

“Any kind of a salt solution is bound to be bad,” Gus said. “It eats away the cylinder or radiator walls or both.”

“Guess that gadget?” Backson inquired.

“Latest thing to clean radiators,” Gus replied. “Water goes in the big pipe and the little one is connected to the air pressure line. Shooting the air in with the water in short bursts fills the radiator with a churning mixture of water and bubbles that loosens the sludge and rust. Lot’s better than the ordinary flushing out—specially when you shoot the water and air into the bottom of the radiator. I’ll do the cylinder jacket the same way when I get through with this.”

“But it’s very complicated inside?” Backson asked.

“No, it’s only a casting with a passage bored in it so the stream of air comes out of a fine nozzle right in the middle of the stream of water.”

WHEN Gus noted that the water issuing from the top of the radiator was clear, he replaced the water and air injector with a cork, filled the radiator with water and set it up on the bench.

“Jiminy!” gasped Backson. “You’ve put the whole works on the blink. Look at it leak. Must be at least a dozen holes. What happened?”

“That’s what that ‘swell’ antifreeze did.” Gus grumbled as he gently poked at the leaks with the end of a screw driver. “See, the metal’s all eaten away. Cleaning it uncovered a lot of places that were just held closed by (Continued on page 141)
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