EACH WHEEL A STEAM ENGINE!
See Page 63

$10,000 in Cash Prizes
BEWARE of Polish That Eats Away Car’s Lacquer, Gus Warns as He Tells How to Keep Auto Like New

By MARTIN BUNN

There’s stuff in this polish,” Gus said, “that’s sure to damage a car’s finish.”

Why Cleanliness Pays on CHASSIS and MOTOR

WHERE’D you get this stuff?” Gus Wilson asked as he picked up a gaudily decorated can that was resting on the edge of his partner’s desk in the office of the Model Garage.

“That’s a marvelous new auto polish, Gus,” Joe Clark replied as he pushed aside the pile of bills in front of him. “A couple of swipes with that will put a shine on the dingiest old crock you ever saw. We ought to be able to sell a lot of it.”

Gus shook the can, then unscrewed the cap and moved it in front of his nose as he cautiously sniffed.

“Marvelous polish, eh!” he growled. “A couple of swipes give you a grand shine, do they? Well, I’ll bet another couple of swipes or so’ll take the finish off altogether. That would be grand stuff to sell if the Model Garage was in the repainting business. How much of it did the salesman stick you for, Joe?”

“Only a dozen cans,” Joe replied. “He said it wouldn’t hurt any auto lacquer. Are you sure it’s no good?”

“My nose tells me there’s stuff in it that’s sure to damage the finish if you use it much,” said Gus. “If you don’t believe it, polish a spot on the fender of the service car every day for a week and see what happens.”

At the end of the week, Joe called Gus over and pointed to a spot a few inches square in an inconspicuous place on the service car’s rear fender. Although the finish shone with a fine shine at that point, there was a small streak in the middle where the gleam of bare metal showed through.

“You win, Gus,” Joe admitted, as Gus examined the spot. “Guess we’d better throw the rest of the stuff in the ash can.”

“That’s the place for it,” Gus smiled, “only I hope it doesn’t eat holes through the ash can!”

“What I want to know is, how does that fellow call ‘polishing Pete’ get by with all the polishing he does without taking the finish off? He spends nine tenths of his time polishing his car and the other tenth riding around town to show people how swell it looks.”

In THE first place,” Gus said, “Pete knows a thing or two about polishing a car. He uses one of those hard wax finishes that takes a bit of elbow grease to apply, but which actually forms a protective coating over the lacquer. Then, instead of letting the car go till it’s all covered with mud and grime, he goes over it with a duster when he gets home and then gives it a light rubbing with a clean soft rag. Road dirt and scum never have a chance to harden on the surface of his car and so he doesn’t have to dig away a lot of the lacquer itself to get a polish.

“But that can’t go on forever,” said Joe. “No matter how careful he is there’ll come a time when the finish gets shabby and nothing but a polish with a bit of bite to it will restore it. What does he do then?”

“What every one else does,” Gus explained. “He uses a good cleaner or one of the good combination cleaners and polishers.

“That’s one of the things that people don’t seem to understand about lacquer finishes. They don’t check or crack and they don’t peel or flake off as the old paint finishes did. But time takes its toll of lacquer just as it does of most everything else. After a while, depending mainly on how much ultra-violet light from the sun actually reaches the finish and also on changing temperatures, moisture, atmospheric gases, and so on, the extreme outside skin of the lacquer coating gets rotten and discolored. The only way you can bring back the finish then is to strip off this skin of broken-down lacquer so as to get down to good lacquer again.

That’s why even the really good lacquer cleaners and polishers seem to make the color of the finish run onto the rag. It isn’t color you see, it’s the particles of dead lacquer being rubbed off that color the rag. If you let the finish go long enough without any cleaning at all, you can rub your dry finger over it and it will show the color of the dead lacquer particles.”

“Then no matter what you do, the finish is bound to go in time, isn’t it?”

Joe broke in.

“Of course it is,” Gus replied. “But if you take care of the lacquer finish on any car made today, it’ll look fine as long as the car lasts. Of course, that doesn’t apply to a car that is garaged in the street or back yard without shelter.

“Another thing lots of car owners don’t know yet is how important it is to dry a car right after (Continued on page 126)

Gus says:

Lots of fellows buy their cars on the installment plan. Why not apply the same principle to your repair bills? Instead of letting things go till they pile up into a job that will nick you for a big roll, it’s a lot easier to have repairs done as soon as they become necessary. If you let a lot of little items go till they all have to be fixed at once, the bill won’t be nearly so easy to handle.
washing. Most fellows, after they get through washing off the mud and grime with soap and water, just let the car stand till it’s dry. If you could rinse the car with distilled water, that would be true, but ordinary water contains chemicals, and every drop leaves a spot when it dries.

“The proper trick is to wipe off all the water drops with a piece of chamois leather. What’s still more important is that to see the chamois is clean. Unless you frequently wash the chamois with soap and water, it’ll pick up grit and scratch the finish.”

“Seems to me,” Joe grinned, “most fellows don’t want to go to all that bother.”

“I’m a bachelor, and nobody cares whether I keep my car clean or not, but I should think you married birds take the trouble to keep your cars clean just to keep your wives from jaying.”

“After traveling through rain and mud, suppose you let the hose flow on your car gently to wash the dirt off, then mud, and then give a quick wipe with the chamois. Isn’t that better than letting it dry and cake on so you have to give the car a regular wash?”

“I’d be inclined to, I suppose,” Joe agreed, “once you got the habit.”

Joe glanced toward the garage where the veteran auto mechanic’s own car stood in its assigned parking space, and commented:

“Yes,” he nodded as he observed with renewed interest the spotless condition of Gus’s two-year-old bus, “I think I’ll treat my boat to a thorough cleaning and then try to follow your method.”

Gus walked over to his car and lifted the hood. “Take a squat at that,” he suggested as he swung a drop light around so that its light fell on the motor.

“Gosh!” Joe exclaimed as he gazed at the motor, which looked as though it had been designed for an exhibition. “You couldn’t eat your dinner off any part of that motor. Why is the use of keeping the motor so clean when nobody sees it anyhow?”

“I wouldn’t want to eat off it,” Gus smiled. “But there are mechanical reasons why it’s a good idea to keep the motor clean. In the first place, it’s easier to work on. Even so simple a thing as changing a spark plug is a filthy, disagreeable job if the motor is covered with road dust and oil.”

“Also it’s a lot easier to see what you’re doing on a clean motor. On top of that, a clean motor runs better because when you clean the motor, you just naturally clean the distributor head and the spark plug cables, then, if you get caught in a driving rain, all their juice won’t flow out through the dampness.”

“Properly driven,” Gus grunted. “Two gallons a week for a 100 horsepower, 1800 cubic inch motor with a gas tank is kept filled up with fuel oil. Three miles per gallon. That means that a tankful of gas will go in a hurry. Remember the Corazon is a 4 cylinder, 160 cubic inch motor, and it will go 30 miles a gallon. But we felt the need of putting a quart of oil in there. The Corazon is a 160 cubic inch, 100 horsepower motor with a gas tank so you’re doing more than that.”

Limited Offer
Artistic Terrestrial Print, $5.00, 9x12 and $10.00, 16x20. Will be shipped on a first-come, first-served basis. Artistic Terrestrial Print is a limited edition of 500 pieces, and all-number extra to buy. Send $50 for the 16x20

FREE CARRYING CASE
Beautifully crafted genuine leather carrying case will be shipped with your order. Each case is individually dusted with fine leather dusting. Each case is a genuine leather case with a lifetime guarantee.

FREE Shipping
FREE Shipping is included with each order. No additional shipping charges will be added to your order. Each order is shipped within 2 business days. Shipping is estimated to take 3-5 business days.

FREE Gift Wrapping
FREE Gift Wrapping is included with each order. No additional gift wrapping charges will be added to your order. Each order is gift wrapped within 2 business days. Gift wrapping is estimated to take 3-5 business days.

FREE Returns
FREE Returns are accepted within 30 days of delivery. No additional returns charges will be added to your order. Each return is processed within 2 business days. Returns are estimated to take 3-5 business days.

FREE Customer Service
FREE Customer Service is available 24/7. No additional customer service charges will be added to your order. Each customer service call is processed within 2 business days. Customer service is estimated to take 3-5 business days.

FREE Installation
FREE Installation is provided with each order. No additional installation charges will be added to your order. Each installation is processed within 2 business days. Installation is estimated to take 3-5 business days.

FREE Technical Support
FREE Technical Support is provided with each order. No additional technical support charges will be added to your order. Each technical support call is processed within 2 business days. Technical support is estimated to take 3-5 business days.

FREE Shipping and Handling
FREE Shipping and Handling is included with each order. No additional shipping and handling charges will be added to your order. Each order is shipped with FREE Shipping and Handling within 2 business days. Shipping and Handling is estimated to take 3-5 business days.

FREE Installation and Setup
FREE Installation and Setup is provided with each order. No additional installation and setup charges will be added to your order. Each installation and setup is processed within 2 business days. Installation and setup is estimated to take 3-5 business days.

FREE Customer Support
FREE Customer Support is available 24/7. No additional customer support charges will be added to your order. Each customer support call is processed within 2 business days. Customer support is estimated to take 3-5 business days.

FREE Technical Assistance
FREE Technical Assistance is provided with each order. No additional technical assistance charges will be added to your order. Each technical assistance call is processed within 2 business days. Technical assistance is estimated to take 3-5 business days.