3 stars join Chrysler

Louis Jourdan (left) and Chuck Connors (right) join Aspen spokesman Rex Harrison in the Dodge advertising corral. In Dodge's largest quarterly advertising budget, Jourdan will sell the Monaco, while Connors concentrates on trucks. Dodge figures to reach 90 per cent of all U.S. households at least 40 times with these personality tie-ins.

The car's ready, how about you?

Every driver should check, before the winter weather steps hard, not only his driving skills, but his car's condition. These questions will give many drivers a quick refresher.

Will radial tires eliminate the need for snow tires?

While radials perform better on shallow and packed snow, they cannot perform like regular snow tires in deep snow. You should not mix radial tires with bias-ply or bias-belted snow tires. The three types of tires are built differently, and the radials handle differently. This could result in skidding or slipping on snow or ice.

Will snow tires improve breaking power on ice?

No. Snow tires help braking on loosely packed snow but are little help on ice. Starting traction may be better with rubber-studded tires, but some drivers believe it will also help them stop. This is wrong. And reducing the air pressure of tires won't increase traction. Decreased pressure only increases tire wear.

What about putting extra weight in the trunk to increase steering control?

Maybe. Putting weight in the trunk may help steering if the weight is on or in front of the rear axle. If it is put behind the rear axle, the weight will reduce the control the driver has over the car.

When stopping on ice, is it better to take your foot off the gas pedal and start braking immediately?

No. Deceleration, by taking your foot off of the gas pedal quickly, will cause the engine to brake itself and throw the car into a skid. It is better to ease up on the pedal and pump the brakes lightly.

Remember, ice is twice as slippery at near freezing temperatures. When the temperature is near 32, the ice can be wet and covered with a thin layer of water.

Winter survival kit

- Spare tire (inflated)
- Jack and lug wrench.
- Tools (pliers, screwdrivers, adjustable wrench)
- Flashlight.
- Jumper cables.
- Emergency flares and reflectors.
- Fog type extinguisher.
- First aid kit.
- Shovel (with folding handle to conserve space)
- Thermo blanket.
- Gloves and knee high boots.
- Spray deicer.

This homemade winter survival kit may, at times, seem unnecessary but it can be an unexpected lifesaver.

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1971 VW Station Wagon — $1,495
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