

1765 TELEGRAPH, BLOOMFIELD HILLS (One Mile North of Square Lake Road) 338-4531



Identical 22year-old twins Shanya (left) and Tanya Shelton demonstrate the Fiero GT, America's first production two-seat, mid-engine sports car, that will be on display at the Auto Show. Steven Douglas assembles the door panel. The Fiero Show Center includes a 18-foot backdrop, a self-contained sound system and theatrical lighting.

Early car manuals didn't mince words

The curved-dosh Oldsmobile of 1903 is one of America's classics and the original owner of those tiller-steered vehicles was given instructions to keep his "horseless" carriage running.

given instructions to keep his "horseless" carriage running.

For example: "Never fill the gasoline reservoir by lamplight." Actually, that's still good advice, says the Automotive Information Council (AIC) of Southfield, and so is making sure today's ear gets unleaded gasoline.

The owner manuals of these earth downers are the same today.

unicaded gasoline.

The owner manuals of those early days were quite explicit in their instructions—even to the point of not losing the manual. The 1903 curved-dash Oldsmobile owner was warned: "Keep this book in the tool box. A new copy will not be furnished unless satisfactory explanation is given."

The owner's manual that comes with tool and a proper such that the comes with tool of the comes with the co

The owner's manual that comes with today's vehicle also offers very explicit instructions and a wealth of information. But few owners bother to read them.

Here are some examples of information contained in the early manuals.

The owner of a 1902 Cadillac runabout

The owner of a 1902 Cadillac runabout was told how to keep the drive chain in proper condition. "... take about four pounds of beef tallow, about one pound of

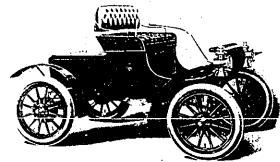
flake graphite and about one pint of heavy lubricating oil, then heat and stir. When thoroughly melted and mixed, put the cleaned chain in the hot oil." The manual didn't explain how to remove the chain from its hot bath.

THE MAJORITY of today's drivers won't remember a time when there was a tube in every tire and it was smart to have a spare tube handy. Oh tube care, the motorist was advised:

a spare tube handy. On tube care, the motorist was advised:

"A tube, if carried loose in its cardboard box, will be chafed by jostling about. If carried in the tool box, it is likely to be cut by sharp objects and rotted by oil or grease. Spare tubes should be wrapped in cloth or carried in tube bags. Don't hang tubes over nails in the garage. Keep them away from heat or strong light." There was no warning about using the tube as a life support in the old swimming hole before setting it into a tire.

"The information in today's owner manuals will not provide a walk through automotive history," says the AIC, "but it will provide helpful hints for trouble-free driving."



The 1904 curved dash Oldsmobile was one of the most popular cars of its day and an engineering innovation, it came with an explicit owner's manual that advised never filling the engine with gasoline near a lamp.