

Preparations Make Tot Travel Easier

Shall we take the kids?

That is probably the most debated question after, "Where should we go on vacation?"

Whether it's a two-week respite or a four-day weekend, most parents usually bring the children if they're under 12 years of age.

Traveling with tots can be a nightmare, or if planned correctly, good fun. But before starting on any trip, be it across country or a hundred miles to see relatives by car or plane, here are a few helpful hints:

READ UP — A few weeks before leaving, talk to children about the trip, explaining what they'll be seeing. Encourage them to write away for information, even if you have to address the envelopes. As mail starts arriving, give each a manila folder to keep the pamphlets. You'll be surprised how meaningful the journey will suddenly become to them.

ORGANIZE EARLY — Don't wait till the last minute to check the car, buy clothes, or make hotel/motel reservations. Remember, many

places have accommodation plans where children stay for free if they're in the same room as the adults.

TAKE A LITTLE OF HOME — Strange surroundings, especially motel/hotel rooms can be disconcerting to tots. Pack your child's favorite sleep toy and a sudsy friend such as bubble bath. Some children don't like taking baths in strange tubs, but a bubble bath makes it fun and more like home.

PACK LIGHTLY — No matter what time of year, always carry the minimum wash/wear clothes. For boys: two slacks or shorts; two crew shirts; a lightweight jacket; underwear; socks; shoes; swimtrunks; pajamas; suit, tie and white shirt.

Girls can pack the same, except substitute a dress for the suit, and add a purse or tote bag.

MAKE CAR COMFORTABLE — Adults have trouble sitting in cars for long hours, and so do children. Station wagons are good for long trips. Carry luggage on top of car. Place an army surplus or fitted mat-



TOT TRAVEL by car is so much easier on parent and child when the child's needs are planned for.

ress in back of front seat. Do the same in a sedan, but use luggage to fill in space between front and back seats. Now children have plenty of room to stretch, play and sleep.

BRING GAMES — Twenty questions and other word games are fun while traveling. Once you arrive at the destination, have a game the tots can make. It will give them something to do and then play; for example, take an empty box, punch holes, place clothespins in each hole, assigning point values and toss dime-store bracelets at them.

STOP AND SEE — At regular intervals, stop to see points of interest and eat. Rest areas provide places for children to run off excess energy. Pack an insulated jug and cut down on food bills.

TAKE SHOULDER STRAP BAG — Mothers need both hands free to hold onto kids, and plenty of room to carry diapers, food, books, etc. A canvas shoulder bag is the answer.

Following these tips will make any vacation, car ride or weekend visit more fun, because the entire family will be enjoying it together.

Check And See

IS CAR READY FOR VACATION?

Taking a vacation trip this summer? Planning to take the kids, the water skis, half a ton of luggage and your Irish Setter?

Join the happy throngs. Tens of thousands of families will be out there on the super highways with you, hauling trailers, boats, car top carriers and — in too many cases — more weight than their cars are prepared to handle.

To be sure your car is up to the task, have a talk with your automotive service man about the services you'll need to be safe.

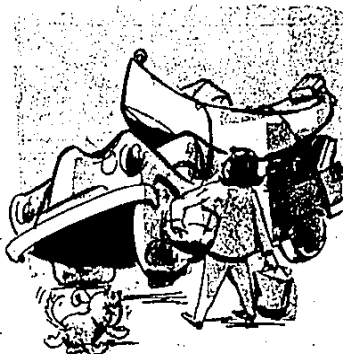
Remember that brakes will have additional energy to absorb under heavily loaded conditions. Your shock absorbers will have extra work to do, too.

YOUR ENGINE has to be in tune so it will have the get-up-and-go it needs to pass other cars safely and help you avoid possible problems.

Steering must be right — and tight. How about your tires? Can they safely carry all that weight?

Remember the little things, too — the smeary windshield wiper you've been intending to replace and the turn signal that went on the un-blink last week.

The best way to handle a pre-trip auto check-up is to estimate the load you will be carrying. Tell your mechanic that you'll have 200 pounds of luggage on top, the family inside — including Aunt Tillie's reported 180 pounds in the back seat — and your outboard motor in the trunk.



... Oh! Not more stuff.

Then ask him, with that in mind, to bring everything right up to snuff and replace anything that might be on the verge, so you won't be stuck with a problem out in the middle of nowhere.

AVOID CONCENTRATING too much of your load in the rear of the truck. This can lower the rear end excessively, affecting your car's handling and its headlight aim.

Once you are properly packed and you know the car can carry the load, remember that it will handle differently with all that weight. This is especially true if you use a car top carrier, which adds the elements of wind resistance and higher positioning of weight.

Don't push yourself — or the car — and you, Aunt Tillie and the kids ought to have the best vacation yet.



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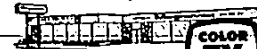


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