

Planning A Winter Trip? Prepare For Bad Driving

Planning to visit a distant relative over this winter? Counting the days until you head for Florida for a week or two?

Your dreams of a beautiful Christmas could turn into a nightmare if you should encounter snow as you mush over the river and through the woods to Uncle Charlie's house or that place in the sun you aim to claim....if you are not prepared, that is.

Snow tires, studded tires or chains, a shovel, a bag of rock salt, plenty of anti-freeze (in your windshield washers as well as in your radiator), and all the mechanical parts of your car working right can help you get through the worst weather with the least problems.

ONE OF THE hidden dangers of snow driving is the effect of snow packed by hundreds of wheels in a short time. Sometimes this forms huge bumps of ice. Hit a series of these ice lumps at even moderate speed, and your wheels may start hopping.

This can be the first step toward a hopeless slide. It is not uncommon to see a car in a snow drift or a ditch because the driver lost control on bumpy, packed ice.

This danger is greatly increased when your car's shock absorbers are weak. Because springs and tires want to bounce when they hit a bump, your wheels would

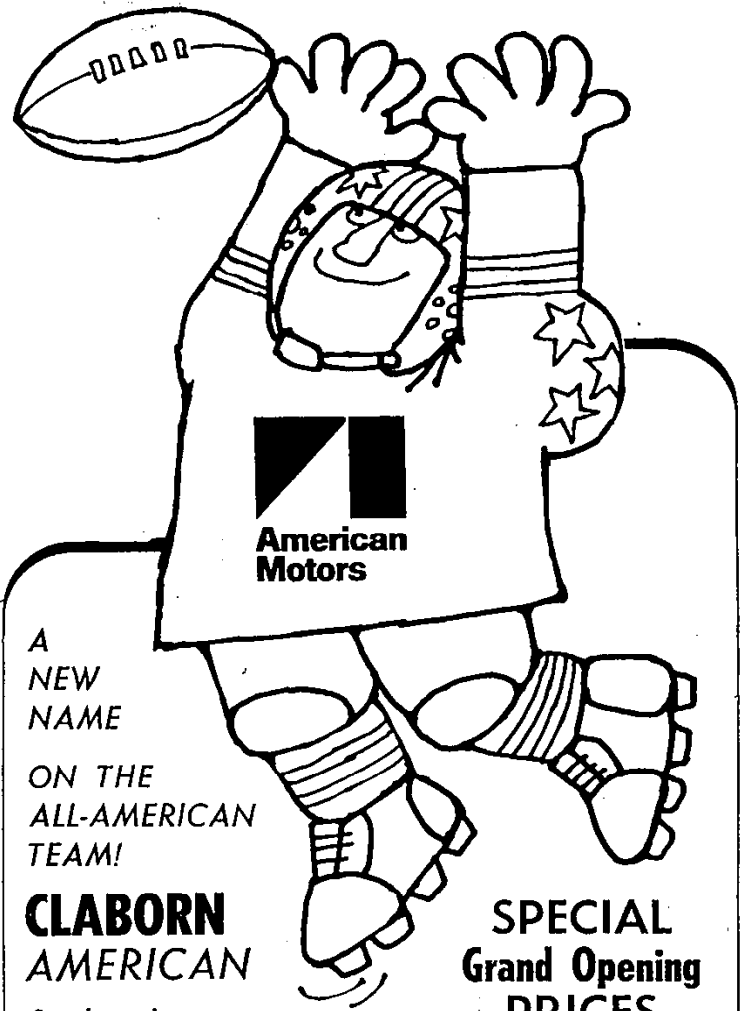
hop up and down with every irregularity in the road unless they had some arresting force to keep them where they belong...in contact with the surface of the highway.

This is what shock absorbers do-- or are supposed to do when they are working right. When they are worn, they are just going along for the ride.

So when wheels, or sometimes the whole car, seem to begin a bobbing motion, the only answer is shock treatment... new shock absorbers. This kind of control, plus generally stable, tight steering is essential when you must drive over rutted, icy streets.

SOMETIMES AT THIS time of year we get so carried away with all the excitement--with Aunt Minnie's first fruit cake of the season or the way Sister Suzie is going to flip over her new ski togs, we forget all about one of the most important parts of the whole vacation trip: the faithful friend that will haul all of us there and home again, hopefully without any problems.

Before you set out on that trip for the big family get-together, or whatever else you have in mind for the holiday season, give your car its Christmas present early. Give it a full treatment check up and servicing at your favorite auto shop.



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