

# Buffalo blizzard Be ready to cope with potholes

## Prompts preventive measures that can help motorists cope in advance with snow

"The Blizzard of '77" taught thousands of Western New York motorists that it pays to be prepared for winter driving. Unfortunately, it was not an easy lesson to learn.

Hundreds of people found themselves stranded in fire halls, police stations, etc. and even the fortunate ones that made it home often had to endure several hours of waiting in the bitter cold before being rescued. A 10-day driving ban in Metropolitan Buffalo helped city crews clear the streets, but it was after the fact as far as all those motorists who attempted to get home on Friday, January 28, were concerned. Most ended up staying in downtown office buildings and stores for the weekend.

The Auto Club of Western New York operated, as always, 24 hours a day during the entire storm period, but because of the volume of emergency calls, clogged streets and treacherous driving conditions, service in many cases was delayed several days.

In order to avoid these problems in the future, the Club suggests some basic preventive measures that motorists can take before the snow sets in.

Antifreeze and snow tires are a must, of course, but there are a few other steps you can take to prepare your car for winter.

**TUNE-UP** — Regular tune-ups at any time of the year make good sense as far as intelligent car maintenance goes, but during the cold winter months they become especially important. A poorly tuned car will quit on you much more readily than a well-tuned car.

**BATTERY** — A service station can check your battery in a matter of minutes. A battery's starting capabilities can be reduced as much as 60% in sub-freezing temperatures and dead batteries are the single major cause of winter Road Service calls. Having the fluid level checked, cleaning the terminals and inspecting the cables can help alleviate this problem.

**WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID** — Just like the water in your radiator, the water in your squirts will freeze unless protected by an antifreeze. Keep the reservoir filled at all times.

Following the above steps will assure you that you are well prepared to take on the cold winter months, but there is always the chance that you will break down anyway. Anticipating this event, there are a few things you should have in your car at all times.

**BATTERY BOOSTER CABLES** — Having cables can be a great convenience any time, especially when there are no phones around.

**REFLECTORS** — In the event of a breakdown on the highway, it is imperative to warn other drivers. At least two reflectors should be carried and, in most cases, placed 50 feet in front of the car and 50 feet in back of the car.

**FIRST AID KIT** — One of the commercially available kits will do to repair those little nicks and scratches you can get fumbling around under the hood or changing a tire.

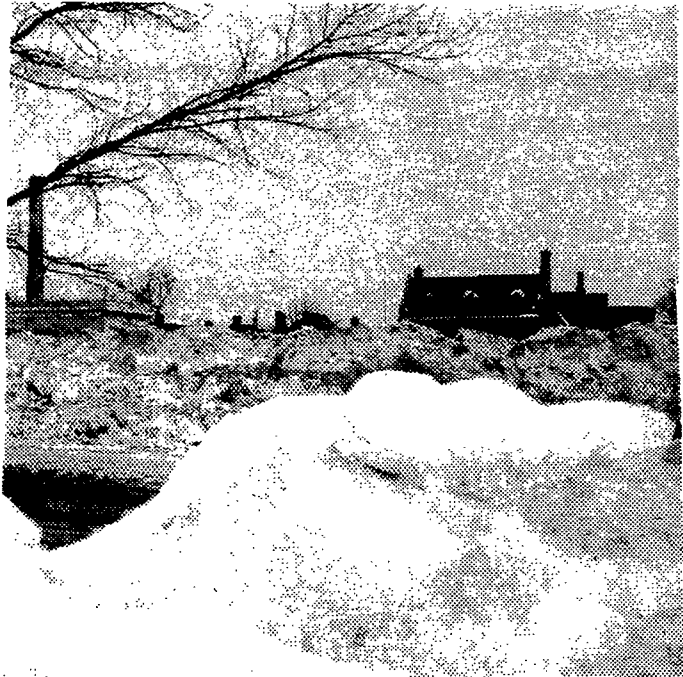
**MISCELLANEOUS** — A flashlight can obviously come in handy at one time or another. A small piece of rug is useful if you have to kneel down for anything, and rock salt, a tow chain, and a shovel may all prove to be worth their weight in gold sooner or later. Lock antifreeze, carried on your person, will allow you to get at all these wonderful items you so wisely stored in your trunk when the lock freezes on you.

Working parts of the automobile can be damaged by flying stones or when you drive over a gaping pothole that has missed the attention of street repair crews. It might be well worth your time and money just to make sure that the unseen under areas of the car went through the long summer and early fall without any problems that might stop you during the first snow.

Talking about potholes, a front end alignment may be necessary. It's relatively inexpensive and can save a lot of money in uneven tire wear.

There's another example of the cars being better equipped than ever for winter. Many lines now offer radial tires as standard

equipment. While they don't grip the road as well as optional snow tires, the radial tread is better than the bias-ply tire.



Is your car protected against winter cold? Fresh anti-freeze should be installed for maximum protection against the elements and a rust-clogged radiator. Oil and filter should be clean and the car's body should be free of salt deposits and the bumps and nicks that contribute to early body deterioration.

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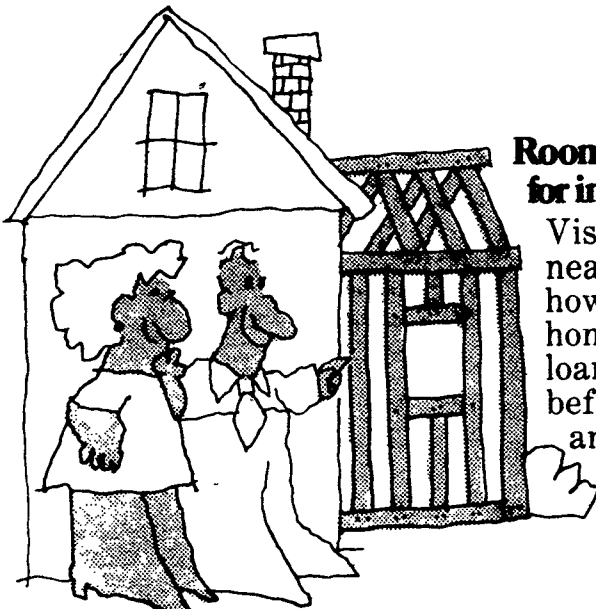
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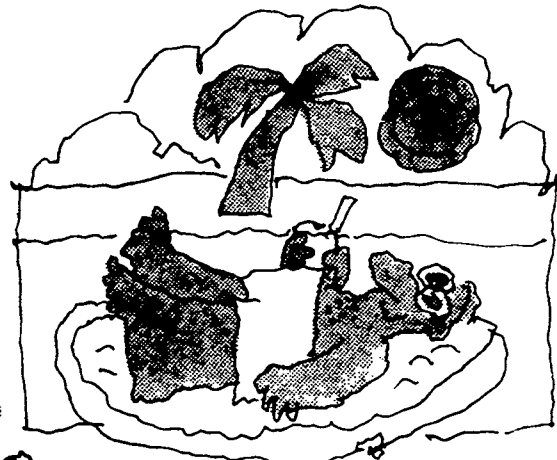
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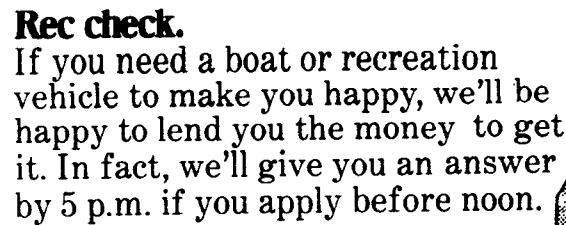
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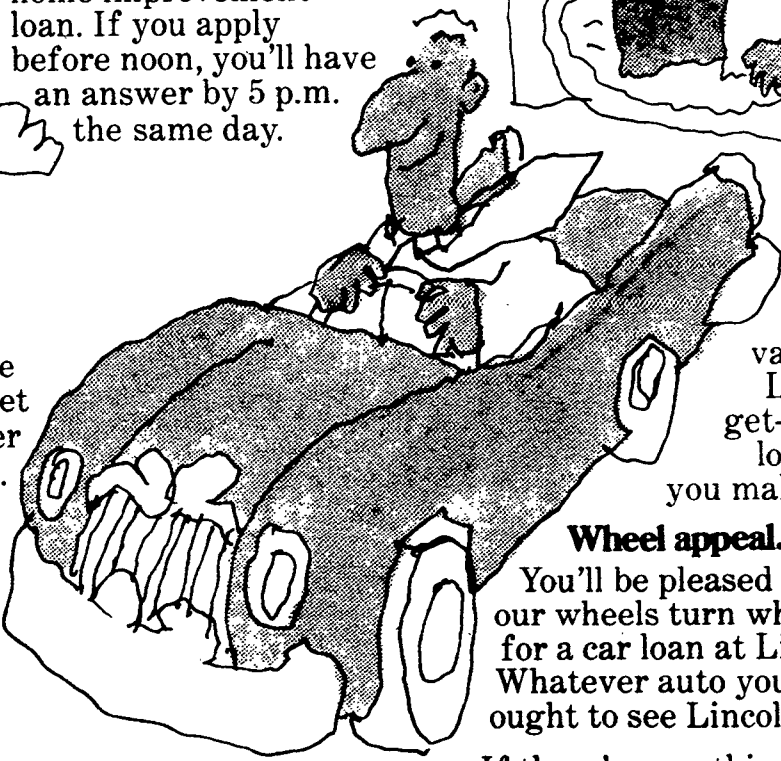
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