

Women's Auto Mechanics Course Proves Popular

Repairs Taught In Adult Class In District 4

Some men on one of Douglas County highways may someday be surprised when a woman stops to aid him in starting his stalled car.

Most males will chuckle at such a possibility. But several women in Roseburg are training in an unusual adult education course which will equip them to handle the minor car repairs that many men might just grumble at questionably and call a mechanic.

The course, called "Know Your Car" is designed strictly for women. Adult Education Supervisor Richard Boss opined that most men would probably be too proud to admit they didn't know such things about cars.

It all started last year when several women contacted Boss and asked him to organize a course for women in the Roseburg School District.

24 Women Attracted

At first, he hedged at the idea, but after some more pressure from the women, he decided to promote it. To his surprise when the class was announced, it drew 24 women the first night.

A check list of items the women might be interested in was compiled, and they checked off their requests. The course, under the direction of R. L. Madsen, high school automotive instructor, was then fashioned around those requests.

The first term was strictly classroom study, involving the theoretical workings of the car, such as the carburetor, electrical systems, etc.

Then, the women went a step farther. They requested actual shop work to apply in practice what they had learned in the classroom. Again Boss demurred, but finally gave in.

Class Now Limited

The course now under way is limited to 12 women. They work in teams of three under Madsen's direction. Each team works on a single project, such as balancing wheels or installing accessories. Then, the next week, it moves to a new project.

Not only are they learning about the basics of automobile operation, but they are getting training in the new additions to cars, such as power brakes and steering, automatic shifts, etc.

When the women have finished the course, most of them will be able to put their husbands to shame. They will not only know the workings of a car, how to repair most minor malfunctions and what to expect from a car, but they will also know how to buy a used car and how to safely operate any car they drive.

Husbands Like Idea

Despite the indication the "weaker sex" appears to be treading on hallowed male ground, the husbands appear to like the idea, Boss said.

He also related that it is the only really successful course of its kind now offered in Oregon. As an indication of its success, Boss hopes to offer the course again next year. It will again be divided into theoretical sessions and actual practice.

He pointed out at least one man who will benefit from the courses. The women now taking the course will certainly be more considerate of the mechanic who works on their car, he concluded.

Weekend crashes accounted for 15,730 killed and 766,090 hurt during 1955.

Four to 8 p.m. are the most dangerous hours of the day to drive.



THEY SAY, say the three women above, who put the final touches on changing a wheel. This team of women is made up of Vivian Heater, Alice Larson and Ethel Bateson. (All pictures by Paul Jenkins).



WHERE'S THE KNOCK?—Georgia Moss and Velma Bass appear to know exactly where it is as they study the inner workings of the motor of one of the cars they worked on.



APPARENTLY UNCERTAIN of Peggy Clark's ability with the grease gun, Helen Swenson closes her eyes while the greasing goes on. The women learn the grease points during their course of training.



DON'T LET IT SLIP seems to be the expression on the face of Glenda Clark as she adjusts a jack under the rear axle of the station wagon. Raising the jack is Hazel Smith, Dora Chism adds her weight to the problem.

Idle Lumber Co. Plant Will Be Dismantled Soon

ALBANY, Ore. (AP) — The Albany Lumber Co. sawmill, idle since January, will be dismantled by the owners, Maloney-Chambers Lumber Co., because of dwindling log supplies. The firm's other mill here, operated under the Maloney-Chambers name, will continue operation at least for a time.

Howard Maloney and J. L. Chambers, the owners, reported they have bought a Healdsburg, Calif., plant and timber and will move there.

New Contract Approved For Paper Mill Workers

PORTLAND (AP) — A new contract has been approved by California, Oregon and Washington locals of the International Brotherhood of Paper Mill Workers, union officials said Thursday.

The 19,000 workers will get a 6 per cent pay increase, mechanics will get an additional 5 cents an hour and workers with 25 years of service will get a fourth week of vacation.

The contract was negotiated here and sent to the locals for approval.

there's only one

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Mailman To Collect Pollen While On Route

PORTLAND (AP) — A mailman walking his route in southwest Portland will collect pollen on a glass slide fastened to his shirt. A woman employed in the downtown district will also carry a glass slide. And several stationary collection locations also will gather pollen samples.

It's all part of a program by the state Board of Health and the American Academy of Allergy to determine what pollens are in the air and what effect the winter's freeze may have had in reducing their numbers.

The slides, coated with petroleum jelly, will be replaced every 24 hours.

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Some Airplane, Claims Hitcher

MOSCOW (AP) — "They've really around the airport since he arrested themselves an airplane," said pilot Gari Ketcham of Clifton, N.J., after hitching a ride on Russia's prize TU104 jet passenger liner.

Ketcham, a TWA relief pilot on international runs, was the first American to get a brief spin in the plane which caused a sensation when it appeared in London last month. Several Western reporters previously had been ushered through the craft, however.

Ketcham, 27, had read newspaper accounts of the Soviet plane and came to Moscow determined to get a look at it. Much to everyone's surprise he did.

Ketcham went out to Vnukova airport Wednesday and managed to talk his way onto the plane through pilot Boris Bugiev, whose friendship he had made hanging

BORSTEL ATTENDS MEET

Frank Von Borstel was present at a recent meeting of the Deer Creek Wildcat 4-H Livestock Club held at the Radcliffe home. A film in judging of dairy cattle, poultry, and pigs was shown. After the film Von Borstel gave the group a quiz on the material covered.

At the end of the meeting refreshments were served.

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