

Teen-Age Trouble Shooters

THE WOMAN MOTORIST was frantic. Her automobile stalled in an unfamiliar section of Brooklyn and a carload of teen-agers, some in leather jackets, screeched to a stop beside her. One jumped out, pulled open her car door, and said, "Ma'am, we're from the trade school. Need some help?" Within moments, while the woman watched in awe, the youths surrounded the car, explored it from hood to trunk, and then, reluctantly, told her the embarrassing truth. "Sorry, ma'am. You're just out of gas." While one teen-ager produced a spare gas can and poured some into her tank, the others explained their purpose. Their group—the Automotive Custom Crafters—is the

brain child of an instructor at the Brooklyn High School of Automotive Trades, where the teen-agers are learning to be auto mechanics. In addition to "on-the-job" training in the shop, the youths now take "off-the-job" training as well, touring Brooklyn in their own cars looking for motorists who happen to be in trouble.

They're prepared to fix flats, change parts, or push the car to a nearby service station. They charge nothing. Their reward is the chance to test their automotive skills in a variety of emergencies—and spread the word that some teen-age "gangs" are serious about their schoolwork and not ashamed to display what they've learned.



1. Teacher Bernard Peck shows approval as students put final touches on sports car.



2. The boys change a tire for a motorist who is obviously pleased and grateful.

3. And here's a driver who is happy that the boys came by to push him out of the mud.

4. The lads replace an engine like real mechanics after carbon and valve job.

Photos: Efield from Three Lions

