

Check Car Before Going on Trip

By OLIVE DICKASON

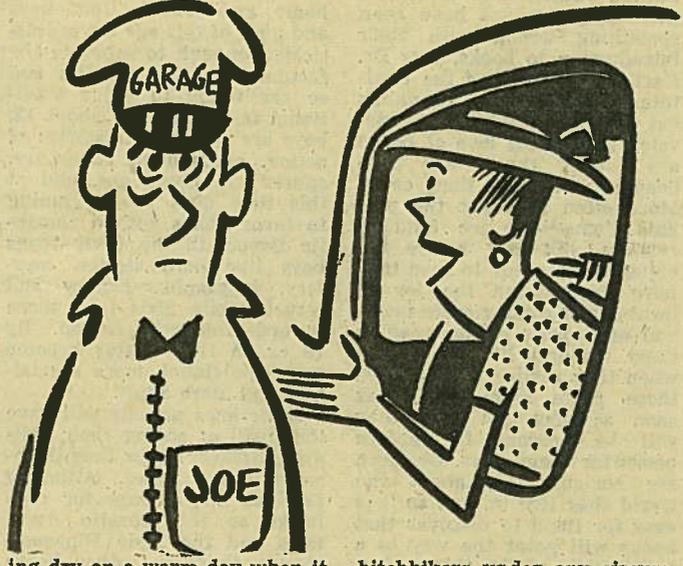
Service station attendants are regarding the woman driver with a kinder eye all the time. There's a solid basis for this: she's a good customer, because she's conscientious about her car. It can even be said that she takes better care of her car than a male driver; or at least, that she is more careful about oil changes and check-ups.

If you plan on a long trip with another woman or with children, tell the mechanic this when you take the car in for inspection. It's essential that your car be in tip top shape for the trip. If the mechanic knows you're planning to go without a man along, he'll watch out for small things not worn enough to need immediate attention but which could conceivably cause trouble en route.

Your co-operation is needed, too: If there's an annoying squeak or rattle, or if you stalled yesterday in traffic for no apparent reason, let your mechanic know about it.

Here is a check list:

Cooling system: If you haven't drained your anti-freeze, do so and flush the cooling system with a rust removing preparation. The radiator is always in danger of boil-



ing dry on a warm day when it contains alcohol. Check thermostats. They are as desirable in summer as in winter and should be kept in good working order.

Engine: A motor tune-up usually consists of replacing or regapping spark plugs, checking the air cleaner system, adjusting the carburetor and timing, replacing the oil filter a checking points and condensers and cleaning fuel strainers.

Electrical system: Be sure the battery cells are filled, as battery liquid evaporates much more rapidly in heat. Check and adjust generator regulator; this helps prolong the life of the battery. Headlight beams and windshield wipers should be working properly.

Lubrication: Regular grease job if you have driven 1,000 miles since your car was last greased. The car's transmission, differential and steering unit need thorough lubrication, with grease replaced every 5,000 miles. Oil should be changed if you have driven 1,500 miles since it was last put in.

Brake system: Check level of brake fluid in the master cylinder. This will be an indication as to whether or not there are leaks in the system. Brake lining should be checked when front wheels are pulled for lubrication.

Tires: Inspect for cuts, bruises or unusual wear patterns, which can be corrected by alignment. For maximum wear and safety, tires should be switched about every 5,000 miles. Tire inflation should be checked at least once a week to guard against premature tire failure.

Examine your tool kit to make sure you have a jack, a tool kit, a flashlight or light with an extension cord and some rags.

The fact that you have checked your car thoroughly before leaving is no reason for neglecting it while on your trip. Sustained driving makes heavy demands on a car. You should keep a sharp eye on tires, brakes, steering gear and cooling system. The battery calls for extra attention in hot weather, as it then needs distilled water more often than usual.

Gas station attendants are usually a good source of information as to road conditions ahead. In this respect, it's always wise to be forewarned.

A woman who is driving alone should never pick up

hitchhikers under any circumstances. She should always dress and act so as not to attract undue attention, which might become unwelcome. It's best not to stop on a deserted road. It's a good precaution to keep the car doors locked on the inside and the windows up part way while driving. Carry travellers' cheques rather than cash; any cash you do carry, keep in small bills.