

## Free Wheeling

This will be our annual survey of those inevitable days of anti-freeze, snow tires and winter driving conditions, soon to be with us again.

Winterizing the family car is important but no more so than winterizing your driving habits at the same time.

Highway patrol maintenance experts endorse these winterizing tips which will increase your comfort and safety from now until the first warm breezes of March.

**ANTI-FREEZE** Flush the cooling system, check the radiator and hoses for leaks and install recommended amount of anti-freeze to coldproof your car.

**TIRES** Heavy snowfalls are not unknown in North Carolina. But don't wait until the first flurry to have your snow tires installed, if you plan to use them this year. Also check the other tires at the same time.

**CHAINS** A set of studded tire chains in the trunk is extra insurance against getting stuck when and if that big snow hits.

**WINDSHIELD WIPERS** Be sure that the rubber of your wiper blades has not become worn or brittle. Have the arm pressure adjusted to one ounce of pressure for each inch of blade length to sweep off wet snow and sleet. Windshield washers are a big help, too.

**DEFROSTER** The defrosting system should be powerful enough to keep your windshield clear of fog and should melt ice in a very short time.

**LIGHTS** When you check your headlights also check the tail lights, brake lights, turn signals and license plate light.

**MUFFLER** A muffler and exhaust system in good condition is vitally important during cold weather when we are likely to have the windows closed much of the time. Make sure you are not getting exhaust fumes through the heating system. A muffler does not have to be noisy to leak. At least one window should be left "cracked" for proper ventilation, no matter how cold the air outside.

And some pointers on winterizing your driving:

**VISIBILITY:** If your windshield is fogged up you might as well be driving with your eyes closed. On those days when ice forms on the windshield, scrape it completely off before starting out. A little peep hole is dangerous. Equally important are clear windows to the rear and sides.

**LIGHTS** With early darkness many of us drive to and from work in the dark or in the shadows of dusk. Use your headlights, not the parking lights, under these conditions. At twilight you may not be able to see much better with your headlights on, but other drivers and pedestrians will be able to see you. A good rule is to use your headlights whenever the sun isn't out, especially on the open highway.

**STOPPING STARTING** On glare ice—the kind of ice that's almost transparent—stopping distances are increased as much as 10 times with regular tires. Snow tires help somewhat, but even with reinforced tire chains it takes nearly four times as long to come to a complete stop.

At icy intersections, a principle of physics takes over. It defines why ice is especially slippery and best demonstrated by holding an ice cube in your hand. When you first grasp it as it comes from the refrigerator it is not very slippery. But as the heat from your hand begins to melt it, it becomes hard to hold. Ice at intersections is constantly melting from the passage of traffic and then freezing again. Wet ice is far more hazardous to the driver than comparatively dry ice.

**EMERGENCY STOPS** Avoid them if you can by increasing the distance between you and the car ahead and by staying alert for pedestrians and cross traffic. If you have to stop suddenly on packed snow or ice, pop your brakes rapidly off and on. Locking the wheels will only cause a skid and possible loss of control. Letting air out of the tires, incidentally, does not increase traction.

**URNS** Turns on snow or ice should be made gradually. Momentum will cause your car to continue in its original direction unless speed is reduced sharply. Turning with the brakes off will have no effect on the direction of your movement, so slow down before you begin to turn.

**GETTING GOING** From a standstill on slippery pavement you can get the best traction by starting off slowly. Wheel spinning does no good and may cause you your car to fishtail.

Pedestrians too have their troubles in bad weather. For one thing the pavement is likely to be slippery and older people, especially, are unsure of their footing. Cold winds or blowing sleet and snow will cause walkers to

## This Is The Law

By ROBERT E. LEE  
(For the N. C. Bar Association)  
**UNENFORCEABLE CONTRACTS OF MINORS**

May an adult enter into an enforceable contract with a minor?

The general rule is that an adult cannot make a contract that is binding upon a person less than twenty-one years of age. A contract for necessities is an exception to the general rule.

Legally speaking, persons less than twenty-one years of age are infants. They do not have the necessary legal or mental capacity to make an agreement that is enforceable against them.

The ordinary contracts of an infant are voidable at the option of the infant. An adult party to a contract cannot by an act on his part escape his obligation to perform; but an infant may at his option disaffirm or elect

to huddle within their warm coats and turn their faces away from the wind to keep warm, thus making it difficult to see approaching cars.

Winter is a rough time for pedestrians. The Christmas shopping season may not turn out to be a time of joy for many—unless...well, you know the rest.

not to perform his obligation. An infant can secure the advantage of a good bargain and relieve himself of one that is bad.

When does a minor become an adult?

A minor reaches his majority on the first moment of the day preceding his twenty-first birthday. This is said to result from the fact that the law does not take into account fractions of days. As the law has been forced through necessity to fix an arbitrary time limit for the defense of infancy, a person is an adult with full capacity to contract on the day before his twenty-first birthday.

Charlie Jones, age twenty, represents to the Smith Motor Company that he is twenty-two years of age. He looks to be twenty-two years of age, and the Smith Motor Company, relying on the representation, sells to Jones a new automobile at a price of \$3,000. Jones pays \$1,500 in cash and gives to the Smith Motor Company a promissory note secured by a conditional sales agreement for the balance. Jones uses the car for eight months, wrecks it, and brings the car into the Smith

Motor Company as a heap of junk and demands the return of his money. During the past eight months Jones has made monthly payments under the conditional sales agreement amounting to \$500. May Jones recover \$2,000 from the Smith Motor Company and refuse to make further payment towards the purchase price of the automobile?

Yes. The automobile was not a necessary for the particular infant.

An infant may disaffirm his contracts for items of personal property other than necessities at any time before he reaches twenty-one or within a reasonable time thereafter.

The fact that Charlie Jones lied about his age is immaterial under the court decisions of North Carolina.

A minor borrows money from an adult. Subsequent to reaching twenty-one years of age, he promises to pay. May there be a recovery of the money he borrowed as a minor?

Yes. After reaching his majority a person may ratify and thereby turn a voidable contract created during infancy into a valid and enforceable contract. The particular contract has been ratified. Ratification cannot be effectually made until the infant has reached his majority.

**RAINMAKING**  
Mark Twain has reputedly

said: "Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it." This is no longer true.

Not only have we for some years been air conditioning our automobiles, homes, and buildings, we are now turning our attention to modifying the weather of the great outdoors.

Weather modification is an aspect of our society that has arrived and will grow. The meteorologist has brought forth a new science. Most of the work of weather modification is now being done commercially in the semi-arid southwestern states of this country.

Hundreds of commercial operators now collect fees from thousands of satisfied customers who seem to have no doubt of man's ability to produce weather changes. The number of acres five years ago under contract for rainmaking was already sixteen times as great as the number of acres under irrigation. Many of these contracts stipulate that no payment shall be due unless positive results are shown.

The problem of the rainmaker is to find clouds of sufficient size with proper temperature conditions in their upper layers.

When this condition exists, the cloud may sometimes be "seeded" by inducing nuclei into it.

If properly administered, artificial nucleation can trigger precipitation in a cloud or storm before it might otherwise have occurred in nature.

Although many chemical agents might be developed for this work, the two most commonly used to date are (1) dry ice dropped by an airplane to produce ice crystals and (2) silver iodide smoke dispersed into the cloud by airplane or from ground generators and carried into the cloud in natural updrafts.

The cost of rainmaking is relatively low. For example, in the 1,400,000 acre watershed area of the Santa Anna River, in California, it is said that for a cost of \$40,000 rainmaking activities added 20 per cent more rain than would have naturally fallen in the target area. This meant water for less than three cents per acre-foot.

A small number of experiments also indicate that variations of modern cloud seeding techniques can be applied in suppressing tornadoes, snowstorms, hail, lightning, and hurricanes either by overseeding (triggering them off in unpopulated areas under control).

By storing moisture desert plants can survive on an annual rain fall of only 1 to 2 inches.

## Spice CABINET

• Try spreading 1 teaspoon instant coffee over roast beef before baking it. The coffee really adds to the flavor.

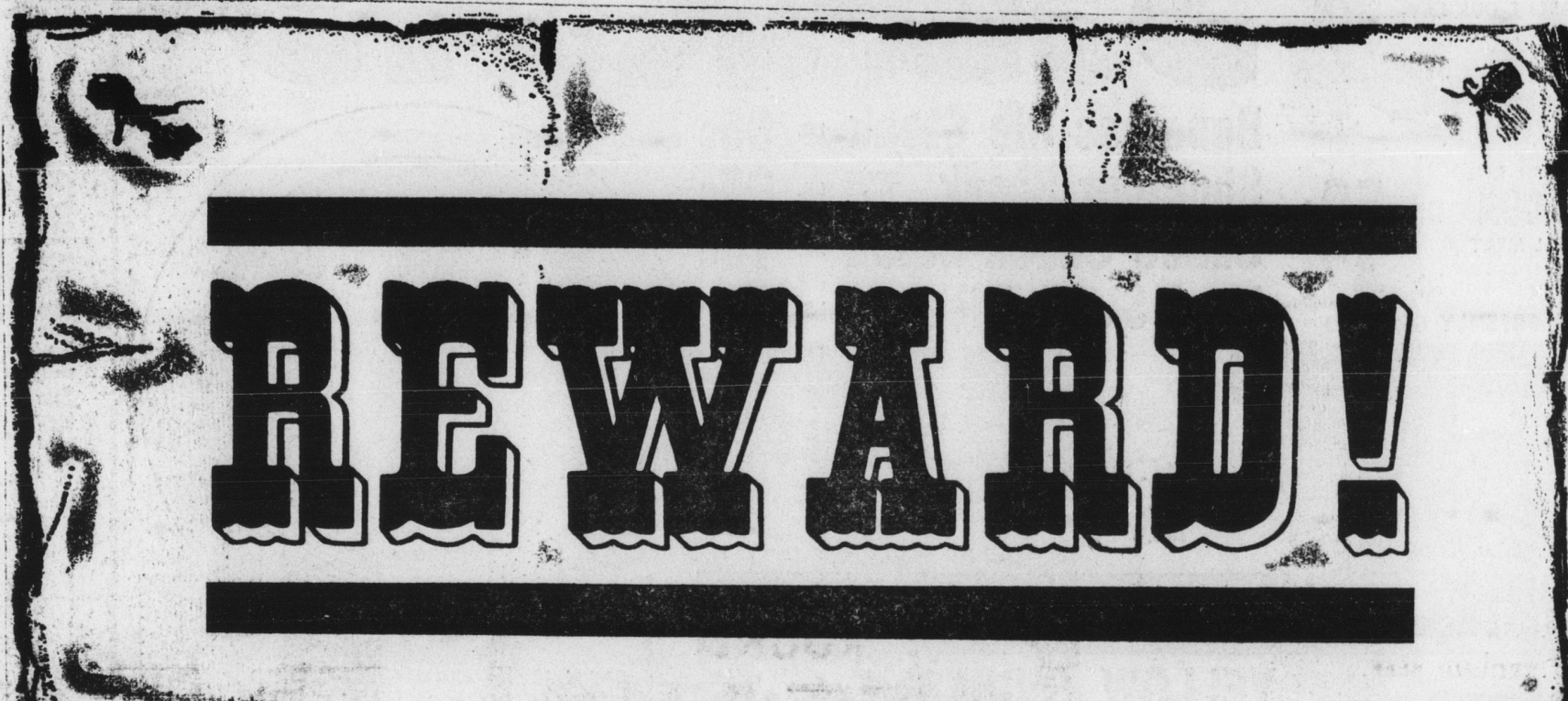
• When baking, sift the dry ingredients onto paper plates. The plates can be bent up in the middle for easy pouring, then dusted off and saved for the next baking venture.

• For a vegetable treat, pour a small amount of Italian salad dressing over cubed, cooked beets (canned, fresh or frozen); let them stand for about ½ hour. Heat and serve.

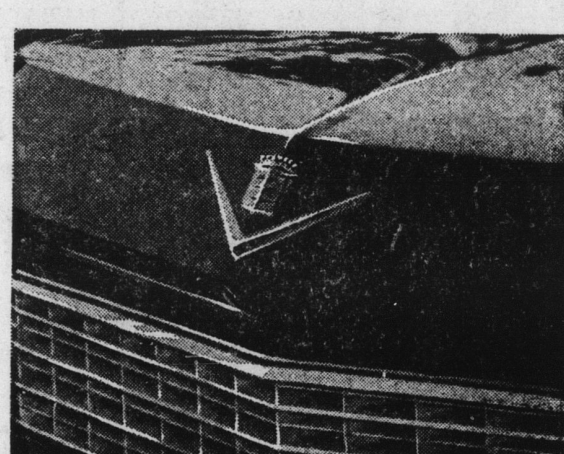
• If your pie crust always seems to shrink while baking, try this. Make crust a day early and store it (unbaked) in refrigerator. The next day, put right from refrigerator into preheated 425 degree oven for 12 minutes.

Agra, India, has both light and heavy industry.

Medicare may affect 19-million people.




# REWARD!



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"Gee, you look pretty when you get mad!"