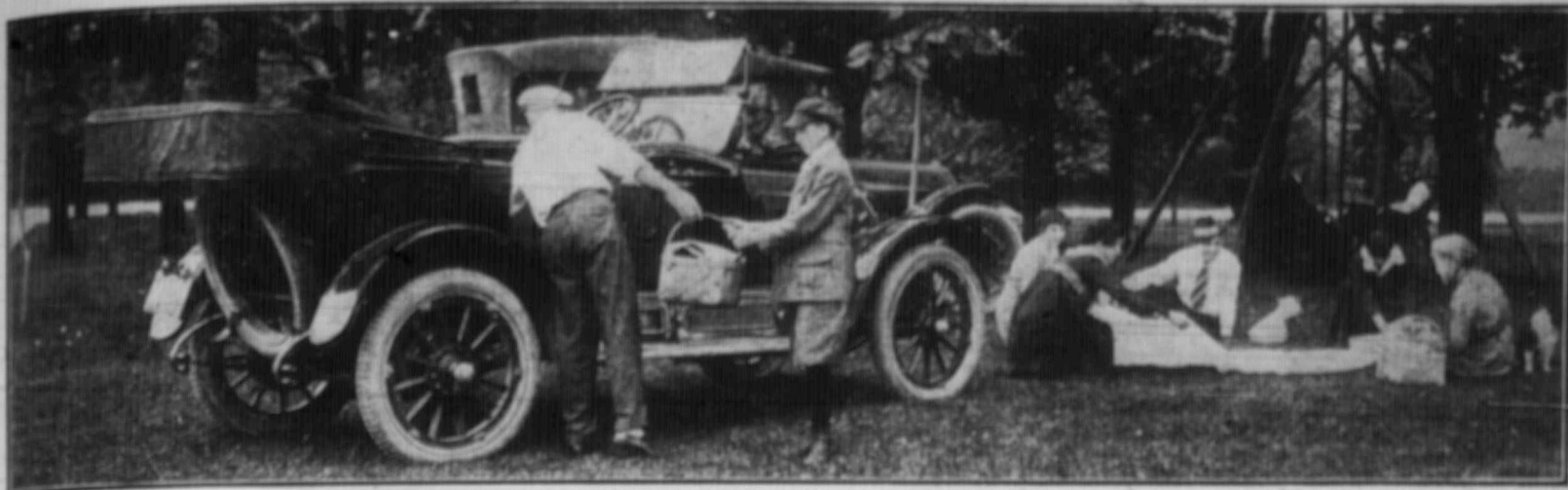




The Automobile Brings the Distant Picnic Ground within Easy Reach of the Farm Family.

An Afternoon spent like this is Rejuvenating after the Hard Work of the Busy Season.

## Women and their Gas Wagons

*Some Experiences of Women who Drive their own Cars*

By Mary P. McCallum

"SAY, Jessie, the engine has broken down. Can you go to town for repairs? I'd like to stay with the thing and get it ready by the time you return."

And this was bake-day, the busiest day in the week. But she knew the work of the farm would be seriously delayed if she said she was unable to go. Fortunately she had just put the bread in the pans and it would be an hour before it was ready for the oven.

"Why yes, Jack, I can go now while the bread is preparing for the oven. The baby is so cross to-day that the ride in the open air will do him good." And the woman of the house hastily donned her coat and hat and veil and was ready to be off.

This is a common incident in farm homes these days. Anywhere in the country one may see women driving their cars. It is an astonishing experience to stand on the main street of any of our small western towns and note the number of women who drive into town on farm business. Not long ago I sat on the verandah of one of our small town hotels and indulged in observation. It was the day the mail came in. The train returned later in the day to the city. In less than two hours eight cars came into town driven by women. They unloaded cream cans and egg crates at the station. There were a number of empties on the platform and these were put into the car to be taken home. Two called at the blacksmith shop for repairs. Three called at the local garage and had air and gasoline put in the cars. The other women to all appearances simply came into town for mail and shopping.

There were at least four makes of cars among the eight. They ranged from the Ford touring car to a seven-passenger Studebaker. There were two Overlands and two McLaughlins. Apparently the common makes of car presented no special difficulties to the woman driver. A number of the cars had self-starters. In cranking those that were not self-starting the women seemed to have no difficulty. Two of the women had small children in the car with them. Two were middle-aged. In fact, one of the women was past middle-age. Evidence would lead one to believe that age was no handicap in driving a car.

### Useful for Many Reasons

All these casual observations led one to think that here was a field for investigation among the farm women themselves. A number of women were written to and their replies leave no doubt that women are good chauffeurs. They were specially requested to tell their experience with breakdowns, and to tell of what value to farming operations their manage-

ment of their cars had been.

Mrs. Haight, who until recently has been president of the Saskatchewan Women Grain Growers, writes: "We live only two miles from town and a car is not an absolute necessity, but it is a great convenience and a great pleasure. In an emergency we can

supper often refreshes us all and we go to bed and sleep and rest a great deal better than if we had retired exhausted and over-heated. I think the general health of country people has improved with the coming of the farm car, for it enables the whole family to get out now.



Getting Repairs is only a matter of a few minutes when the Farm Woman can drive her Car.

crank the car and be in town in less time than it would take to harness or hitch a horse, and we can go without bothering the busy men or taking a horse off the work. And in these times, when feed and help are so scarce, there are few extra horses.

"Then, as a pleasure we can get between while, a car cannot be surpassed in the country. We can visit a neighbor, attend the W.S.G.G.A. or the Red Cross and be home in plenty of time for supper. And a short spin after

"Nearly every member of our family can drive our car and it is about the only pleasure there is in the country. It brings the cities nearer and makes it possible to attend picnics, celebrations, and fairs at a distance which without the car would be out of the question."

Last fall I was entertained at Mrs. Haight's home. Among other papers I saw on her library table were a couple of moving-picture magazines. When I expressed surprise at seeing them in a home 35 miles from the nearest town

where moving-picture theatres abounded she said, "We always take a motion-picture magazine so we can know what good pictures are being produced, and when something that is good is advertised for the Moose Jaw theatres we take the family in to see them. We don't mind a run of 35 miles when we know we are going to see a good show."

Miss Mae Lloyd, of Neepawa, a farmer's daughter, tells us she wouldn't care to be without a car. But here is what she says, "Before my two brothers went overseas I did not have an opportunity to drive our car very much. Since then I have used it a good deal. I have never had an accident, for I always remember a remark our minister once made. He said, 'You may be a good driver, but the one you are meeting, for instance, may not.' I can manage tire trouble very nicely, and can judge by the sound if all is well with the engine, etc."

"It falls to my lot to do the shopping, take cream to the creamery, meet trains, etc., and when the men are working on the other farm, to take their dinners, or if they have had an accident, go into town for repairs. I cannot imagine how any woman can know there is a car on the place and not learn to run it. There is a peculiar pleasure connected with driving, especially if there is someone along to open gates. Then also we would sometimes miss church and the different meetings during the week if I were not able to drive our car."

Miss Lloyd makes the following remark that sheds light on a new enterprise in which women are interesting themselves, "I have used the tractor one day for plowing and quite enjoyed it."

Miss Marion Allen, another farm girl, writes: "Since learning to drive our car I have been of great benefit in assisting father in farm work. Quite often I take the cream to town, and market other products. In harvest time and threshing I often have to make a hurried trip to town for repairs. In short, I have made many trips to town that would otherwise have taken my father off the land. I have never, however, made any lengthy trips alone. Some weeks I have averaged from 125 to 150 miles, and so far have been very fortunate not to have any breakdowns other than tire trouble. As we always carry a spare tire and I have become quite handy at changing tires."

"Very often I take mother and other neighbor women to our Women Grain Growers' meetings at Forrest. We are able to attend the missionary meetings as well. I might say that mother and I would have to stay at home many times if I



Cleaning and Polishing isn't Work to the Woman who Drives her Car.

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