

Hit & Run

By Marilyn Reeves

Gosh, it's really coming down out there! These old windshield wipers simply can't keep up – I can barely see through those smudgy little arcs they leave behind each time they make a pass. And I hate that horrible, grating sound! Why didn't I get them replaced when I had my car worked on last month? The guy said they were getting worn out. But no, I wanted to save a buck. Now I'm paying the price.

Come on, come on. Is that light ever going to turn green again? This intersection at Hilltop Road and Oak Street must be the worst one in the city when it's icy. With this steep hill just before the stoplight, only two or three cars are getting through at a time. Well, I'm going to hold back until there's no one in front of me and then gun it. That's the only way this old car is going to make it through. Should have gotten snow tires put on too, but who can afford snow tires?

Okay, here we go. They're starting to move up ahead. First the blue car, then the pickup, then me ... Now! Go for it! Oh, no. It just turned red again. Well, I've got the momentum going, so I'm not going to stop. Just wish I could see if there's anything coming the other way. Is that a ... no, it's just a ... oh, no! I think I hit something! My right front headlight just went out. And what was that thump?

Oh, dear Lord, I did. I hit something! Well, I can't stop now. Gotta keep moving. The street levels off in another half block or so. Okay, I'd better pull over to the side of the road here so I can look back and see what it was I hit. Well, shoot! I can't even get the car door open – the wind is blowing the snow so hard I can't see anything, anyway. I guess if it was anything ... or any ONE? ... I'll hear about it on the evening news.

Home at last. So glad my automatic garage door opener is working. I'll just sort of slip-slide on in and worry about shoveling the driveway tomorrow.

Okay. Now I just need to pull off my boots before I walk into the kitchen and set them on some papers to dry. Where should I put my wet coat? Guess I'll just hang it on the back of the chair for now.

Gosh, I'm starving! What is it about cold weather that makes a person hungry? I know. I'll just heat up the left-over stew from last night while I change into my sweatpants and dry out my hair.

(Half hour later): That stew hit the spot. Maybe I'll have a cup of hot chocolate while I'm watching the news. Here we go. All comfy and cozy. My, that hot chocolate tastes good. Glad I'm not that news reporter standing out there in the blizzard... What? What's that she's saying?

"Boy on bicycle killed at the intersection of Hilltop Road and Oak Street?" "Driver didn't even bother to stop?" "Police searching for an older model Honda Civic." "Hit-and-run driver wanted for manslaughter!"

Well, it just has to be a coincidence, that's all. I'd never hit somebody and then run. But maybe I should check my front bumper, just in case ...