

COOKING WITH GAS

By Ken & Joyce Swan



With no pun or reference intended toward flavor, cooking with gas by generating and providing the heat through an automobile engine can mean some very expensive beans and potatoes. On the other hand, if one is Hell bent on consuming refined dinosaur grease with the aid of a Henry Ford special four banger engine that is producing a caloric foot sizzling floor board, one might as well use some sort of a contraption for cooking said beans and potatoes. Enter the manifold cooker.

Now...a manifold cooker is much like an old fashion wood cook stove; it will get hotter than Hades on one end (the one next to the firewall) and moderately hot on the other. Therefore one must constantly monitor the intended meal often and consider several dynamics that can produce a delicious and inexpensive culinary roadside reprieve. For example, the chef must take into account the length of the drive, the ambient temperature of the atmosphere, the normal heat that is produced by the individual engine, and of course the ingredients selected for roadside consumption. Predominantly liquid ingredients should be stirred often and that can be a trick at times. Meatier or more solid ingredients should be rotated and or turned on several occasions to avoid burning on one end (or side) and not getting done on the other. Items that require “high heat oven range” temperatures such as baking potatoes should be avoided (trust us on this). In general, any food that is precluded by the use of a can opener is almost always a good candidate for roadside dining.

Whenever possible, group dining can create greater varieties of culinary selections if planned carefully in advance. Always, always select dining sites carefully and use common sense. For example; avoid places with signs that read, “DO NOT FEED THE BEARS”, or “NARROW SHOULDERS”, or “AVALANCHE AREA”, or “NO STOPPING 18% GRADE”, “RUNAWAY TRUCK RAMP”, to mention a few. Remember bears have intensively sensitive noses and can smell food miles away. They can also run about 40mph (what can your T do?). In those cases, it may be best to have the spouse hang out the door by swinging onto the windshield, raise the hood, grab cooker, and toss it to the pursuing bear, mountain lion, bobcat, or fleet footed hungry hobo! Remember, there will always be a McDonalds not too far away.

What McDonalds can possibly compare to the fresh air, gnats, mosquitoes, bugs, ants, and flies (well maybe they can compete on the fly situation) and the sheer pleasure of food from the side of an engine of a vintage Ford Model T?

**HAVE FUN COOKING ON THE
ROAD!!! Yum! Yum!**

