By Nancy Whitaker

IN THE TRUNK

I am the first to admit it, I know nothing about the mechanics of a car. My main expertise is to put the key in it, press on the gas, shift the gears and go.

I am sure there are a lot of women who can check the oil, pump up the tires and put water in wherever it goes. I envy these ladies, because I am not even sure I would know how to get the hood up on a car. In other words, I am saying that if I had any car trouble, my only alternative would be to call someone who knew something about the internal and external workings of a vehicle. In other words, a repairman.

Now, in no way does that mean I don't know how to drive. I think I am a good driver, at least I feel safe riding with myself. My husband and kids would probably beg to differ, but hey, their driving scares me, too.

A couple of years ago, I bought a cute little red convertible. I am really proud of it and call it my "baby." However, as with any different vehicle, you need to get used to knowing where all the different features are located.

I had no trouble in learning how to put the top up and down, however, I did have a few problems finding out about the idiosyncrasies of how the windshield wipers worked. I finally mastered that and the headlights.

Those that know me know that I am short, actually only about 4-foot10! Naturally when I drive a car, I need the seat pulled way up and the steering wheel tipped as far down as it will go just to get close enough to drive.

I did notice that after driving my car different places that people would say, “Nancy, the trunk on your car is open. Did you forget to put it down?”

I wondered why in the world is my trunk up? I knew I had not opened it or put anything in it.

This kept happening to me over and over. Each time I drove someplace someone would tell me my trunk was up. I thought and thought, but could not figure out why it was always coming open.

Well, little did I know that you could get in the trunk with more than just keys.

Now, I knew that down on the seat on the drivers side, there was like a lever. Ooops.... silly me. I thought it was a seat adjuster. I had been moving that lever almost every time I drove the car.

One day my husband told me when I was getting in the car to open up the trunk. I said, “You are out there. You open it. Don’t you have a key?’

He said, “See that lever down there? That is to open the trunk without a key. You just slide it back.”

I said, “No, it isn’t. That lever is to adjust the seat.”

So I proceeded to show him how it worked and what do you know? Up went the trunk.

So, all that time, I was opening up the trunk instead of adjusting the seat.

The trunk would open part ways and when I went down the road I did not realize it was open. I do know that it seemed whenever I got to work or wherever I was going, someone would say, “Your trunk is open.”

I finally know why the trunk was always open and I now know what that lever is for.

Like I said, I am not really mechanically inclined, but it was nice to find out how that trunk works. I can handle that much mechanic ability.

I do wish I knew a little more about cars and what makes them run, but for now, I am content to know how to start it, drive and get in my trunk. (I mean it doesn’t take a rocket scientist.)

Do you think you have to be mechanically inclined to drive a car? Do you know how to check the oil and the air in the tires? Have you ever opened the trunk when you thought you were adjusting the seat? Let me know and I’ll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.