



Berta Benz: Hatpin repair

Joanna makes history as a woman of driving ambition

By **MICHAEL KEMP**
Motoring Correspondent

JOANNA Lumley is to relive a part of history — as the world's first woman driver.

The TV star will take on the role of Berta Benz, wife of the inventor of the motor car, Karl Benz, on Ladies' Day at the Motor Show, October 26.

Karl Benz presented his three-wheeled 'Patent Motor Car' to the world in 1887. But in the months before that he was forever tinkering with it



to try to achieve perfection.

Berta, however, thought the car was fine as it was and her sudden need to travel to a town 50 miles away gave her an idea to prove it.

Unknown to her husband, she took his car and drove it to

her destination, even repairing a valve with a hatpin on the way.

The adventurous Berta thus carved herself a niche in motoring history. And at the show in Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, presented by the Daily Mail, Joanna, dressed for the part, will be partnered by an exact replica of the world's first car. Mercedes-Benz GB, at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire said: 'Joanna will look every bit like Berta Benz — stunning.'

The show runs between October 21 and November 1.

WOMEN MAKE A SONG AND DANCE OF A CHORE

Vacuuming can turn your troubles to dust

MOST women no longer regard vacuuming the house as a chore, says a survey.

Many find it therapeutic and a welcome outlet to the stress of modern life.

One woman in ten says it gives her valuable thinking time, and three per cent use it as an outlet for their anger — swearing, moaning or shouting as they roar around the house.

Eighty per cent of more than 1,000 women questioned by House Beautiful magazine said they do not mind vacuuming. Only two per cent admitted loathing the job.

By **VIKKI ORVICE**

Fifty two per cent listen to music above the din, with 23 per cent singing as they sweep. Two per cent dance through the task, and the same proportion just daydream.

Vacuuming is considered a woman's job in 67 per cent of households, yet in the more macho North 70 per cent of women say they always have to do it. The job is shared by 29 per cent of couples, especially those under 25 where 'new man' is alive and well.

Five per cent duck the job by employing a cleaner, and one per cent get their

mothers to do it. A quarter of those questioned vacuum every day and almost half do so two or three times a week, spending an average of 30 minutes each time.

Women in the North do it on average 168 times a year, compared with 154 times in London and the South East. Women in the Midlands and East Anglia vacuum 159 times a year and in the South West and Wales 156 times.

Facts to fill the vacuum: A third of households own three cleaners, three per cent have accidentally sucked up pets, two per cent vacuum their clothes, walls and lampshades, and Midlands women vacuum their beds.

The least favourite household chores are cleaning the oven and washing the windows.



Joanna: Honouring the world's first woman driver