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DEADLINE DATA

A new car will be added to the three makes which the Ford Motor Company now produces. The fact was revealed recently when the firm announced plans for construction of a new plant near Detroit for the car. Manufacturing facilities will be ready by the spring of 1955. There was no official hint as to what the car will be like, although rumors suggest it may be the restored Continental or a series of models placed between the Mercury and Lincoln price brackets.

Large scale use of European styling in American cars will not happen, George Romney, top executive of Nash, told a recent SAE meeting in Detroit. He predicted that instead a new American-type small car will develop.

The time has come for European drivers to race in America and for U.S. drivers to go abroad, Sam Hanks, '53 AAA big car champ, announced. "There's little difference in ability between the professional race drivers of any nation," he said. The secret of equal competition was equipment, according to Hanks, since race cars are built either for road racing or for speedways.

Ban on export kits and other special equipment in stock car racing was proposed before the annual meeting of the AAA Contest Board held in Detroit. The board took the suggestion for study and said it would announce its decision at a later date. The '54 season opens at Knoxville, Tenn., in March.

Indianapolis 500-mile race will see a new series of Kurtis cars in action. Ten of the models, to be known as the 500C, are under construction and will contain significant improvements over the 500B series of last year.

Reliable Detroit sources have reported that one of the 1954 models will soon have a supercharger as optional equipment. Among the interesting prospects this creates is the possible effect the car will have on stock car racing.

Packard's first plastic sports car was scheduled to be unveiled at the second annual World Motor Sports Show last month in New York City's Madison Square Garden. Other features highlighting the exposition were a Ghia of Italy "mystery sports car" and a new automatic device which cuts a driver's speed to 35 mph if he has been drinking.

First test case of radar equipment for police work in catching speeders is now in the courts. A motorist found guilty of traveling 41 mph, through use of the device, has had decision reversed when installing engineers testified the radar could be as much as two mph off.

Fire in GM's Hydra-Matic plant last year was blamed for Pontiac not getting its new V-8 for '54. Tooling equipment assigned for the new engine was diverted to restoring the damaged Hydra-Matic assembly line. The V-8, naturally, is expected to be introduced in 1955.