# MOTOR LIFE

FORMERLY HOP UP MAGAZINE

**JUNE 1954** 



BY FRANK KURTIS



CORVET ROAD TEST

THE BIG SQUEEZE FOR POWER!

BY ROGER HUNTINGTON

CROSS COUNTRY ROAD TEST: OLDSMOBILE 98



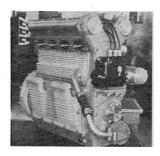
## **CURRENT ISSUE**

The contents of this issue of MOTOR LIFE range from an exclusive Frank Kurtis story about his preparation of new Indy car chassis to a road test on an American sports car. Both articles, as well as the always popular How-to-do-its, technical pieces by Roger Huntington, and features on new customs and roadsters, reflect the demands of inquiring readers.

The Indy Story in two sections—one on the car chassis, the other on the Offie engine—reveals for the first time

what will be new at Indianapolis on Memorial Day. The latest developments by the men who have top race knowhow make fascinating reading.

Roger Huntington again offers an excellent automotive analysis, this time on engine combustion chambers — what's good and what's bad



about them. Roger, incidentally, is doing "The Boulevard Ride" for the July issue, a treatise on car suspensions.

Barney Navarro discusses the pros and cons of carburetor linkage systems. This is an article of interest to the Detroit stock-product owner as well as racing fans.

We wish to call attention to a questionnaire on page 52, addressed to you, the reader. By filling it out and returning the questionnaire to us you will be letting us know what articles on these pages are of special interest to you. We aim to please.

Customs and rods include a Chevy-Cad combination from Knox, Indiana, a blend of the best in original factory design from two divisions of General Motors.

Beautiful street roadsters are the White Rod and Black Rod, the two displayed side by side for contrast. The "white" rod is actually light blue, so forgive us for carrying the contrast theme into the titles. Blue, white, black, or any color—these rods show fine craftsmanship.

Along with the Chevrolet Corvette we have a road test on the 1954 Oldsmobile 98; this road test was run cross-country from Michigan to California. The car was subjected to all weather and road conditions. Next month's road test features will be the sensational Nash Metropolitan with the Austin engine and the Willys Ace, the car with remarkable acceleration.

An educational one-pager is a write-up on the need for safety belts. Diagrams show exactly what happens in various types of car accidents—and what you can do about it.

A humorous one-pager which we trust you will find amusing concerns a strange automobile made in Czecho-slovakia—a Tatra—and the American who encounters continual problems of ownership. Since the Czechs are on the red side of the international fence, the title of this article by Jack Novak is a natural—"A Commie Car." Jack writes that one day the Tatra, parked in front of his house, blew up! Leaking gas fumes plus a wiring short set off the explosion but the neighbors preferred to think of the big bang as a communist plot.

Last minute news is to be found in Deadline Data; this is a summary of late developments in the over-all automobile picture, in Detroit, London, or Tucumcari.

The Editors

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### COVER

Customizing in the best of taste is the theme of the cover photograph which features the work of the Valley Custom Shop in Burbank, California—plus Miss Darlene Baioccho who posed with the brilliant red Studebaker at Long Beach, California. More pictures and details on how and why Stan Mashburn had his '53 Commander customized make up a major feature in this issue.

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