

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 know-how 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.

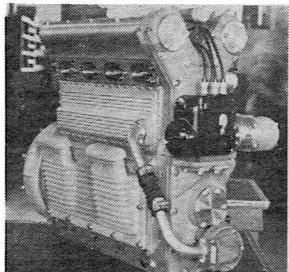
Beautiful street roadsters are the White Rod and Black Rod, the two displayed side by side for contrast. The "white" rod is actually light blue, so forgive us for carrying the contrast theme into the titles. Blue, white, black, or any color—these rods show fine craftsmanship.

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 Czechoslovakia—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

MOTOR LIFE

Vol. 3, No. 11

June, 1954

CONTENTS

TEST REPORTS

CHEVROLET CORVETTE	Hank Gamble	24
The first sports car from Detroit.		
OLDS 98	Robert Johnson	30
On a cross-country road test.		

FEATURES

STUDE ITALIA		15
Customizing in a mild manner.		
INDY SECRETS (part I—Indianapolis Chassis: 1954) Frank Kurtis		18
New developments revealed for the first time.		
INDY SECRETS (part II—New Offie Challenger) Griff Borgeson		20
Superchargers may be coming back!		
BLACK ROD		22
Photos of a beautiful car.		
WHITE ROD		23
Different treatment, another beauty!		
INDIANA CUSTOM		26
THE SQUEEZE FOR HORSEPOWER	Roger Huntington	28
The pros and cons of combustion chamber design.		
CARBURETOR LINKAGE	Barney Navarro	34
It's more important than you think.		
IT'S THE "G"s THAT KILL!		36
How to live through an auto accident.		
COMMIE CAR	Jack Novak	37
Sometimes you can get too foreign.		
STABILITY IN THE MODERN CAR	O. D. Dillman & E. J. Collier	38
A penetrating analysis of the stability problem.		
QUESTIONNAIRE		52
We want you to fill this out.		

DEPARTMENTS

THE CURRENT ISSUE	4	DEADLINE DATA	12
CORRESPONDENCE	6	BUYER'S DIRECTORY	42
TECHNICAL TIPS	8	RESTYLING BY READERS	44

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.

W. S. Quinn.....	Publisher
Frank Campbell.....	Editor
Louis L. Kimzey.....	Managing Editor
Barney Navarro.....	Technical Advisor
Marvin Patchen.....	Advertising Manager
Jack Kabateck.....	Advertising Service
Ralph Poole.....	Photographer

MOTOR LIFE Magazine is published monthly by Quinn Publications, Inc., 4949 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 27, California. Phone Normandy 3-8008. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Los Angeles, California, under the act of March 3, 1897. Copyright 1954 by Quinn Publications, Inc. Reprinting in whole or part forbidden except by permission of the publishers.

SUBSCRIPTION price \$3.00 per year throughout the world. Single copy 25 cents. Change of address must show both old and new addresses. ADVERTISING: Advertising manager Marvin Patchen, 4949 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 27, California. MIDWEST ADVERTISING: Prendergast & Minahan, 168 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 1, Illinois. UNITED KINGDOM: Kenneth Kirkman, 2 Longcroft Ave., Banstead, Surrey, England. AUSTRALIA: William J. Palomer, 211 Moorefields Road, Lakemba, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.