

The Mitsubishi 500 boasts 60-mph speeds, has its rear-mounted. parallel-twin, ohv, aircooled powerplant positioned transversely.



Rear-engined Subaru features unitized construction, independent suspension, and a very small 16-hp, 356cc, vertical-twin mill.

The Mazda R-360 (right) has a hydro-kinetic torque converter, a parallel-twin, ohv, alloy engine, and independent suspension.

BITS 'N' PIECES

by Bob Rolofson

ONY ROBINSON, Stirling Moss' race me-

L chanic, has been made a director of

the British Racing Partnership, Ltd.

Co-Directors Alfred Moss and Ken Greg-

ory voted Tony into the combine for his

untiring efforts. He has been preparing

Moss cars since 1937, when he became

head mechanic for the B.R.P. During the

1960 season Tony was chief mechanic

TAPAN'S SEVENTH MOTOR SHOW, held in a series of exhibition halls beside Tokyo Bay, served notice that Japan is moving into contention for world-wide automobile export.

Although Japan's automotive industry is far from new, mountainous country, bad roads, extremely narrow streets, and a nation-wide lack of buying power has held the industry back. Export activities in all fields have raised Japan's standard of living to such a degree that more than 50,000 cars were produced in 1958, as opposed to a total of 1000 in 1949.

At the present time, the most likely contenders for the export market are the Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., manufacturers of the Datsun, and the Toyota Motor Co., Ltd., makers of the Toyopet. Although these two companies dominate the car market of Japan, their competitors are growing stronger on the home market. Having just toured the string of annual auto shows in the U.S. and Europe, most visiting automotive writers and designers studied the sub-miniatures with all the enthusiasm of a child opening a Christmas gift.

Although the present Japanese midgets have been designed to sell cheaply enough to entice the local citizenry from bicycles to engine power, they show the results of big-car thinking. Some of them use cast hollow crankshafts, precision carburetors, torque-converter transmissions, four-speed synchromesh gearboxes, hydro-kinetic torque converters, and suspension systems ranging from classic de Dion axles to highly original layouts.



Toyota's "un-named" Midget X uses a 700cc, two-cylinder, fourcycle powerplant. It's presently scheduled to sell for \$1000.



by B.R.P.). It's about time that pro racing began sharing plaudits and dollars with their master mechanics. Congratulations to Moss & Company! ... U.S. COMPACTS have upset European exports badly. A mad scramble for new outlets is the result. English auto and accessory manufacturers will exhibit at the \$5.6-million British Trade Fair in Moscow this spring. Major British firms have set up subsidy plants in Italy and Czechoslovakia, while cutting home production labor to the bone... Italy is Europe's fastest GROWING MARKET. due to relaxed import quotas and local for the Yeoman Credit Team (managed

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL AUTOMOBILE SHOW will be presented April 1-9 at the Coliseum. Exhibitors will include major manufacturers from Czechoslovakia, England, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Sweden and the U.S. In keeping with the latest import trend of setting up factory facilities in the U.S., the NISSAN MOTOR CORP. recently opened a new \$2-million parts and service facility in Gardena, Calif. This two-acre setup will serve as a processing plant for new cars, and training school for dealers handling Datsun cars and trucks...The FORD foreign car assembly plants . . . New York's MOTOR CO. seems to be actively in step

with world-wide automotive market expansion. In addition to their bid for complete ownership of the huge English Ford plant at Dagenham, they recently completed a \$75-million plant in Australia to produce Falcons . . . More and more European concerns are following Daimler-Benz' example, by building MUSEUMS FOR DIS-TINGUISHED AUTOMOBILES. Late in 1960 a super museum was dedicated in Turin, Italy, called "Museo Dell Automobile Carlo Biscaretti Di Ruffia." It goes the whole gamut from a historical library. through coachbuilding, to old passenger cars and racing machines . . . PORSCHE recently announced the opening of a small



Nissan's new Gardena, Calif., parts depot.

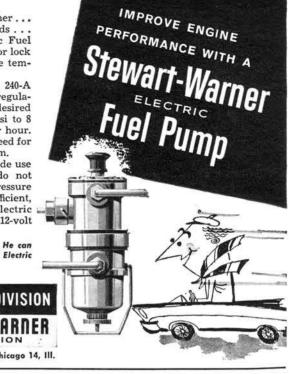
factory museum. At present it contains the old "Sascha" racing car built by Professor Porsche in the Twenties, Porsche #1 built by Ferry Porsche in Austria in 1947, the legendary "Cisitalia" F-I racing car, and the aluminum coupe which captured one of Germany's three absolute world records in automotive sport. ... When will someone fight his way into the dusty confines of the BUGATTI factory and rescue the tank cars and other priceless machinery? These cars should be in museums instead of in dust.... Some wag at a prominent Hollywood bar was overheard making plans to market three-gallon "reserve" tanks for long distance KART RACES - to be worn at the belt line. . . . It is interesting to note that the VOLVO 122-S uses parts manufactured by some 15 automotive component manufacturers . . . Newest Gran Turismo machine is the racy WARWICK GT, manufactured by Bernard Rodger Developments, Ltd. The new two-liter car is almost identical with the Peerless, which recently went out of production because of financial troubles . . . HOW ROUGH CAN A RALLY GET? The recent London Motor Club's Northwester event saw 16 of 101 starters survive the 300-mile ordeal. First and second places had to run off a tie, with 38 penalties apiece!... In contrast to a declining export market, JAGUAR CARS, LTD. recently announced that production is running at the highest level in the history of the company. An \$8.5-million re-equipment plan has been undertaken by Jaguar and Daimler . . . 1960 was PORSCHE'S most successful racing season. Porsche won the World Championship and Coupe Des Constructeurs for Formula II racing cars, were second in the Sports Car World Championship (equal in points with first-place Ferrari), took the European Hillclimb Championship, 19 National Championships throughout the world, plus over 1000 wins by private owners in club events . . . A Hollywood-type press release from Hambro tells of a Ghostly Monk stalking the huge British Motor Corp. plants, frightening workmen. Sounds like BMC has a ghost writer on their PR staff.

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AT YOUR NEWSSTAND

March, 1961