

MAY 1963

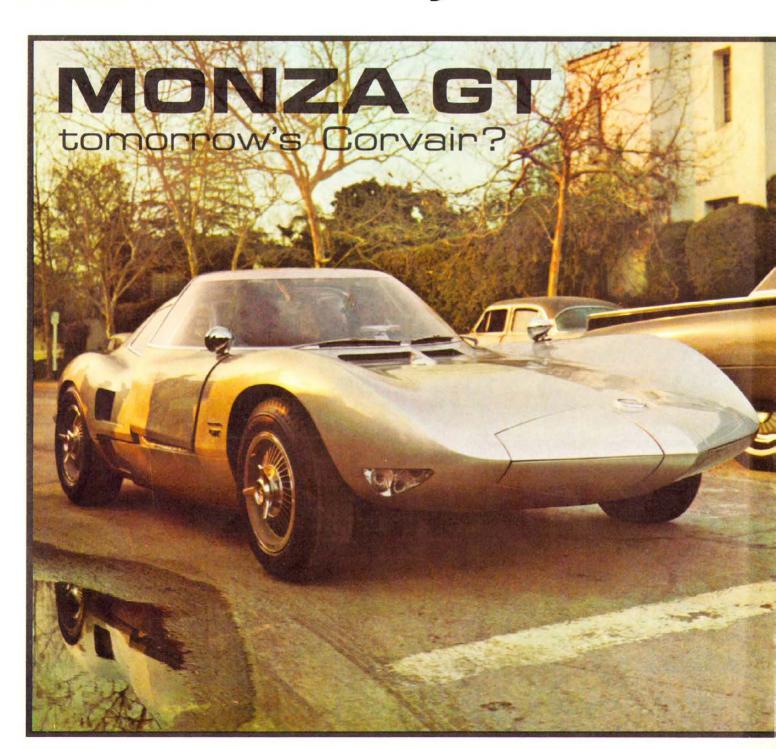
50 CENTS

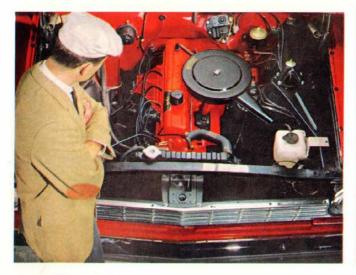
COMPLETE SPECS 1963 U.S. CARS

WINTERNATIONALS REPORT

ROAD TESTS

OLDS STARFIRE Chrysler 300-J





Thrift like this is nothing new



sport like this is nothing new



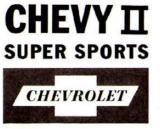
Chevy II Nova Super Sport Convertible

but both in one car . . . that is new

A happy combination? No doubt about it from the way these Chevy II Super Sports are catching on.

Under the hood you've got a peppery 6-cylinder engine. Smooth, dependable, eager to do about everything but run through a gallon of gas. (From the way it nurses the stuff, in fact, you're likely to suspect that it goes around making its own.)

With this goes our Super Sport package*—front bucket seats, all-vinyl trim,



THE MAKE MORE PEOPLE DEPEND ON

special instrument cluster, sports-minded styling accents and (with Powerglide* transmission) a floor-mounted range selector. The package comes on either convertible or hard-top. Either way you've got a spruce easy-handling machine that gives you plenty of ginger—without a lot of needless ginger-bread. Check it out at your dealer's. . . . Chevrolet Division of General Motors, Detroit 2, Michigan. *Optional at extra cost.



1963 Rambler Classic V-8 "770" 4-Door Sedan

Floor-shift option is one of four transmissions offered.

ANNOUNCING RAMBLER CLASSIC WITH A BRAND-NEW V-8

"Car of the Year"now offers high-economy V-8 running mate to famous Classic 6

Latest news about the '63 Rambler is the exciting option of a brandnew 198-hp V-8 engine in Rambler Classic as a running mate to the famed Classic 6. This new, lowpriced, balanced-performance V-8 adds extra zest to the Rambler Classic, plus excellent economy in the Rambler tradition. It joins the other new and major Rambler developments that won MOTOR TREND MAGAZINE'S "Car of the Year" Award—developments like Advanced Unit Construction that gives this Rambler far greater strength and solidity, with a sleek new lowness that keeps full room for six 6-footers inside; like curved glass side windows that curve into the roof to permit astonishingly

easy entrance; like new Tri-Poised Power that cushion-balances the engine for amazing smoothness. With V-8 performance added to this Rambler's new beauty, famed economy, and traditional high resale value—you have potent reasons to see your Rambler dealer.

American Motors— Dedicated to Excellence



CAR LIFE

MAY 1963

CONTENTS

Volume 10, Number 4

SPECIAL FEATURE

SPECIFICATIONS OF 1963 U.S. AUTOMOBILES 35 a complete technical guide

ROAD TESTS

CHRYSLER 300-J 12 one for the (open) road OLDSMOBILE STARFIRE 17 fast-touring highway cruiser MG-1100 72 roomy British sedan

FEATURES

RETURN OF THE PRODIGALS 28 the '63 Winternationals

THE LIGHTENING STROKE 33 light-weight S/S Dodge for the drags Two New Approaches 34 the British Lola and the U.S. Excalibur

THE MONZA GT 51 breathtaking idea car

THE CIRCUIT IN QUARTERS 54 Part II—Indianapolis and NASCAR cars

EXPERIMENT FOR FUN 58 Dragmaster's automatic Dart

TECHNICAL

Science and the Chassis 23 Part IV—the steering system SHARPENING THE DART 64 for a modest \$225 TECHNICAL CORRESPONDENCE 80 cures for ailing autos

CL ASSIC

1930 LINCOLN MODEL L 67 Locke-bodied roadster

DEPARTMENTS

LETTERS 2 the pen is mightier . . .

OUTLOOK 8 rumors and opinions

CALENDAR 8 automotive events

AUTOS ABROAD 10 Triumph's Spitfire 4-new British sports car

MOTOR CITY MEMO 11 more 4-speeds; turbine developments

BOOKS 82 worth reading

New & Used 82 classified advertising

WINDOW SHOPPING 83 new products

REARVIEW MIRROR 84 the Wolseley-pioneer sports car

COVER

THE MONZA GT-by Marvin Lyons

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: JOHN R. BOND

Editor: Dennis Shattuck. Managing Editor: Dave Black. Associate Editor: Gene Booth. Editorial Associate: Jean Krumpe. Editorial Assistants: Patricia Davenport, Barbara Wine. Art Director: Hal Crippen. Art Associates: Bill Motta, Barbara Boyter.

Contributors: Roger Huntington, Marvin Lyons, Bob Pendergast, Ralph Poole Business Manager: Elaine Bond Circulation Manager: Ray Powers

Advertising Director: Ben LaMaster, 366 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.

Western Advertising Manager: Richard Bartkus Midwest Advertising Manager: Frank Willard

Advertising Assistant: Shirley Meyers

CAR LIFE is published monthly by Bond Publishing Company, 834 Production Place, Newport Beach, California, Second class postage paid at Newport Beach, California, and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 1963 by Bond Publishing Company.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. U.S., possessions, and Canada: \$4 one year, \$7 two years and \$9 three years. Single copy 50 cents. All other countries: \$5 one year, \$9 two years, \$12 three years. Foreign countries and Canada: remit by money order or

draft on a bank in the U.S., payable in U.S. funds.

ADVERTISING. See SRDS. Main office: 834 Production Place, Newport Beach, California; telephone MIdway 6-3981. Eastern advertising office: 366 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.; telephone YUkon 6-1735. Midwest advertising office: 1775 Penobscot Bldg. Detroit 26, Mich.; telephone WOodward 3-1775.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. Three weeks notice is required for a change of address. Please furnish both old and new addresses, with an address imprint from a recent issue. Send to: CAR LIFE, 834 Production Place, Newport

Beach, California.

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS are welcomed by CAR LIFE but cannot be considered unless guaranteed exclusive. Photographs should be re-leased for publication by source. Not responsible for return of unsolicited manuscripts, drawings unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.