



Initial response to the Ford Drag Clinics has been good, as attendance has averaged over 400 during early meetings. The program aims to prove that Fords really are "The Going Things."

Hubert Platt, with mike in hand, will head up the Eastern clinics with partner Randy Payne, while Californians Ed Terry and Dick Wood will conduct sessions in Western half of U.S.A.

DRAG TEAMS

By Bob Swaim

The "Better Idea" people at Ford Motor Company are at it again, and this time they have really come up with something that will tickle the fancy of you performance enthusiasts. What they've done is formulate a pair of Ford Drag Teams which will tour the country throughout the coming year. One team will cover the Eastern states, while the other will work in the West. Each team will work towards the same three objectives; to win races on the weekends, hold drag racing seminars at dealerships during the week, and to form a Ford Drag Club at each of the dealerships they visit.

Ed Terry and Dick Wood are the Western Team members, who between them have won six major national titles. Ed, from Hayward, California, won the NHRA Winternational B/Experimental Stock title in 1963, the C/Modified Production and Street Eliminator titles at the 1964 *Hot Rod Magazine* meet, plus A/Sports honors at the 1964 NHRA Nationals. Wood, with partner Lou Guidi, won the tough D/Modified Production gold at both the '67 and '68 NHRA Winternationals. Dick hails from Fremont, California.

Over on the "other" coast, the colorful Georgia duo of Hubert Platt and Randy Payne will expound Ford's "better ideas." Hubert, the "Georgia Shaker," has been campaigning Fords in one form or another for the past 17 years, first rising to national prominence in Southern-style, "Run Whatcha Brung" racing, which he "introduced" to California in 1965. Payne, a Chevy racer of note for over ten years, switched to the Ford camp in 1967, successfully campaigning a SS/E Mustang and earning the right to compete at NHRA's World Finals in Tulsa,

Oklahoma, that year. At one time, Randy held both ends of the NHRA SS/E record.

The mechanical means by which the teams hope to accomplish their racing objectives come in the form of two Super Stockers for each team. The Eastern contingent of Platt and Payne will campaign a SS/IA Mustang Mach I and a SS/J Cobra, while the Western duo of Terry and Wood will hit the strips with their SS/I Mustang Mach I and a SS/JA Cobra. All four of the cars are powered by Ford's 428-CID ram-air Cobra Jet powerplant. Upon their availability, the current Mustangs will be replaced with Ford's new Shotgun Motored "Boss 429's." These cars will most likely compete in SS/C class. Each of the teams will run their cars at weekend Super Stock bashes in their respective geographic areas, and will get together to compete at the major NHRA and AHRA events throughout the year.

When they aren't busy competing on the strips, the Ford Drag Teams will be headquartered at Ford dealerships and will conduct performance seminars. These should prove to be very informative to those of you who attend. Subjects such as preparation of a drag car, Ford's performance parts program, and safety in racing will be dis-

from FORD

Ford opens a new phase of their total performance program with the introduction of two national drag teams and a brand new seminar program

cussed. The teams' race cars will be on display, and any questions you may have about them will be answered. Also, a very interesting film on drag racing will be shown at each seminar, and free performance literature will be handed out. As you can see, this is a program that you won't want to miss.

Perhaps the best part of the entire program will be the formation of Ford Drag clubs at each of the dealerships the teams visit. Membership in one of these clubs will prove to be very worthwhile, and everyone is invited to join, even non-Ford owners. Members will receive a membership card, decals, jacket patches, and a monthly National Ford Drag Club Newsletter which will report on drag racing events and new performance developments from FoMoCo. In most cases the sponsoring dealership will offer discounts to club members on parts and labor, and some dealers may go so far as to provide their own club with a project car for members to prepare and race. Of course there will be club-organized social functions so that members, wives and girlfriends can get in on the fun too. The advantages of being a member are many, so don't miss the chance to join when the Ford Drag Team is in your area.