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INSIDE PONTIAC'S TERRIFIC 1961 TEMPEST!

# SPORIS 50¢ OCTOBER 1960 CASILLUSTRATED magazine of car and driver



## **EUROPEAN** NEWSLETTER

AMERICANS ON THE CONTINENT

An injustice was done to driver Ed Crawford when it was inferred that by his missing a shift in the new Jaguar at Le Mans on April 9th, a con rod let go. This was the official story at the time but now it seems that Jaguar was experimenting with titanium connecting rods in that particular

### FERRARI SEDAN?

That dynamic Latin duo - Enzo Ferrari and Pinin Farina - is at it again. The latest offspring of their collective talents is the recently-unveiled 250/GT "2 plus 2" coupe, perhaps the closest thing to a series "sedan" to come from the Modena factory.

Based on the standard 102-inch wheelbase, the "2 plus 2" offers front and rear seat head room of 351/2 and 331/2 inches respectively. The overall length is 1851/2 inches. Powered by a VI2 engine, displacing 2.9 liters, the car has a top speed in the 125 to 148 mph range, depending on the rear axle ratio selected. The engine develops a maximum of 240 bhp at 7000 rpm and is coupled to a four or five-speed transmission. Disc brakes are used on all wheels. The "2 plus 2" will supplement the current Ferrari line which includes the 250/GT Coupe two-seater, the 250/GT cabriolet two-scater, the 250/GT California spider and the 250/GT Berlinetta.



Space for four is featured in this tourer which combines Ferrari performance and Farina styling art.

engine. The driver would likewise not be shifting gears halfway down the Mulsaunc straight where the incident occurred. The failure of an experimental con rod is no disgrace and we regret that Jaguar felt it had to put the blame on the driver for it only caused misunderstanding all round. The unofficial word is that Coventry has gone back to steel connecting rods, as well as further tests, in view of this failure.

Richie Ginther and his wife have taken up semi-permanent residence across the street from the Ferrari factory in Maranello. Thus situated he is always on call to test new cars and has been having a wonderful time - just driving Ferraris - and has become semi-official factory test driver. Richie has great hopes for the new rear-engined car (Formula 1), which he drove steadily if not extremely fast at Monaco on its first appearance; at Zandvoort however he piloted a conventional front-engined Ferrari as engine trouble plagued the new car.

Most impressive has been Richie's debut in Grand Prix racing. We now have four top-grade American drivers participating in European racing, Phil Hill, Dan Gurney, Chuck Daigh and Richie. Richie has of course taken to single-scaters like the proverbial duck to water and is turning times close if not equal on some occasions to those of the rest of the team. With Cliff Allison sidelined for the rest of the season, Richie is even more in the limelight, and Ferrari is depending on him to shoulder perhaps more of a load than would normally be expected of a driver in his first full European season,

## REAR-ENGINED MASER?

After the armed forces, the automotive industry, by virtue of its diversity and secrecy bred of sales competition, is perhaps the most fertile field in which rumors flourish. These run from reports of the revival of Bugatti as a sales contender to the impending re-entry of Mercedes in competition. While most have no basis in fact, they are sometimes interesting conjectures offering pleasant diversion to bench racers. The latest in this category a barefaced unconfirmed rumor - is that Maserati has a 2000 GT in the works. The alleged technical details are interesting. The twin-overhead-cam engine is mounted transversely at the rear, behind the rear axle. It features a crankcase/gearbox unit something along the lines of the Austin 850 and the three-carbed engine is tilted aft. The radiator for the powerplant is mounted at the front behind a conventional-looking Maser grille, complete with trident. It's said there are two power options for the 2/4 seater. There is a 2.5liter engine developing 200 bhp at 5700 rpm and a 2-liter mill said to have an output of 160 bhp at 5600 rpm, Reportedly, Maserati will incorporate four-wheel independent suspension. Externally, the only clues that the 2000 GT is rear-engined are said to be a vent in the fenders just aft of the front wheels and Karmann-Ghia type rear deck slots. The muffler silencing the exhaust from the six-cylinder engine would also be mounted transversely and resemble that of a VW or Porsche, Immediately astern of the muffer is the spare tire, while the trunk at front contains the radiator and gas tank. -SCI



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