



# Kaleidoscope

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CORVETTE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME VI, NUMBER 2

COR.VETTE', n. 1. Naut. A war vessel ranking in the old sailing navies next below a frigate, and having usually only one tier of guns. 2. Brit. and Canadian navies. A highly maneuverable escort vessel smaller than a destroyer, armed with anti-submarine and anti-aircraft guns, and only lightly armored.

....Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 2nd edition.  
Which came first, General Motors or the Navy Department?

Is Detroit talking about a new V-3?????  
Hot topic of most conversations in the Motor City a few weeks ago was the sudden appearance of 100 billboards which featured a stylized car fender and the wording "Testa....V-3 powered." Was a new company with radical concepts on the scene? No, just an enterprising advertising executive who wanted to test the effectiveness of the billboards!!!

## HORSEPOWER RACE RETURNS!!

They're off and running again in the horsepower race. Chrysler took the lead with its 410 hp engines which will be available in PLYMOUTHs and Dodges starting in May.

Up to this time, the honors went to General Motor's Chevrolet division which boasted a 409 hp engine. Ford and Chrysler were in a two-way tie with 405 hp engines.

A few years ago, the Automobile Manufacturers Association adopted a resolution de-emphasizing speed and horsepower. This went very well during the recession period of 1959-60, but when auto makers saw the trend in 1961 was for top-of-the-line models, with extra power and equipment, there was some hasty revision of this thinking.

Speed and power are still not quite equal to economy and compacts in some quarters. But it's becoming obvious that if the money is available, American car buyers want extra power and accessories. Gas savings and price are secondary to a large group of drivers who like, and like to talk about, their car performance.

Chrysler's new engine comes in two versions - one with a compression ratio of 11 to 1, and the other 13.5 to 1. The latter needs fuel with a rating of from 110 to 130 octane, or a special racing fuel. This need for a high quality fuel was one of the main reasons that the higher compression ratios and the hp race was abandoned, or at least slowed down, in the first place. Chrysler Corporation is a

not unlikely leader in this power drive. The company was one of the first to start a hp race in its compact editions by upgrading its 101-hp Valiant to an optional 148. It was during this period that Chevrolet increased its Corvair hp from 80 to an optional 95, and Ford announced plans for an optional 100 horses from its Falcon, up from 90. Later Ford raised its Falcon's power to 128 and so on. Ford is now in the big race with two new high-performance engines for its Mercury Monterey. One of these is equipped with three two-barrel carburetors and is rated at 405 hp.

Chrysler's new engine, mentioned above, is called "Super Stock 413" and will be optional equipment in 1962 Plymouths beginning in May.

#### FACTS:

The most expensive car in the U. S. is reputed to be a \$53,000 Rolls-Royce Phantom V with a Henri Chapron body designed by O. F. Rivers. This literally palatial machine, which won second prize at the 1961 Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance, is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Martyn of Beverly Hills. According to Lucius Beebe, who keeps track of such things, "Mrs. Martyn daily and personally dusts the exterior with imperial sable pelts."

#### ADVANCE SCOOP?

All 1963 model U. S. cars will be equipped with Amber Lights for front turn signals, according to the Automobile Manufacturers Association. Research has indicated that the amber signals can be seen more readily through headlight glare.

#### RESEARCH:

Disturbed about the TAX BITE at the gas pump? It might surprise (even if it doesn't soothe) you to know that U. S. taxes on gasoline are among the lowest in the world. U. S. and State taxes now average about 40% of the retail price of gasoline. West German taxes total 60%. In Japan they are 106%, in Great Britain 141%, in Italy 245%, and in France a staggering 333%. No wonder they figure their mpg closely abroad!!!

#### AUTO REPAIRS:

We have some trade figures for the year 1960 which show some interesting sidelights on the most prolific source of "troubles" with passenger car engines. These figures come from 37,496 dealers (both foreign and domestic) and 103,724 independent repair shops.

No. Spark Plugs replaced	165.53	million
No. Breaker Points replaced	32.50	"
No. Condensers replaced	19.20	"
No. Valves replaced	15.87	"
No. Hydraulic Lifters replaced	4.40	"
No. Pistons replaced	1.66	"
No. Rod Inserts replaced	1.56	"
No. Main Inserts replaced	1.44	"

"AMERICA'S DEADLIEST WEAPON"  
The automobile

(or)

"AMERICA'S WORST ENEMY"  
The Careless Driver

In the 189-year history of the United States there have been eight major wars which took a terrible toll of young men. A Civil War General once remarked, "war is Hell". But our enemies and their weapons of destruction cannot match the senseless slaughter that has been wrought by the automobile and the careless driver behind the wheel. The dead and injured from traffic accidents are far greater than the men killed and wounded on the fields of battle. More Americans have been killed in 48 years of automobile traffic than in all the major wars since our history began. Want proof? Here it is:

TOTAL DEATHS IN BATTLE  
1775 - 1954

600,000

TOTAL DEATHS IN TRAFFIC  
1913 - 1961

1,330,000

DEATHS KOREAN WAR  
1950 - 1953

33,000

DEATHS ON U.S. HIGHWAYS  
1950 - 1953

110,000

DEATHS SPANISH-  
AMERICAN WAR

375

DEATHS - A LABOR DAY  
WEEKEND

500

TOTAL KILLED AND WOUNDED  
ALL WARS, 1775 - 1954

1,858,000

TOTAL KILLED AND INJURED  
ON U.S. HWYS, ONE YEAR ONLY!

3,116,000

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March 10th, 1962, was another big day in the Northern California Corvette Association. Re: Easter Seals Society of Alameda County. Twenty-six storming Corvettes were at Jack London Square in Oakland bright and early for a "Kick-off" breakfast before starting out on the town disributing coin containers for the Easter Seals Drive, TV's Channel 2 giving us due publicity for a good cause. Promptly at noon, President Ron Craven blasted off right before the cameras thru a large sign decorated with the Easter Seals emblem, followed closely by last year's President Jack Riis with the remaining 24 cars right on their heels. Distribution of the containers went as smooth as the tread on

the rear wheels of a trophy-winning dragster. The weary (and unweary) workers uncannily sensed a get-together after completing their missions at the Anchor Inn. Suds and food dispensed casually, while listening to wild and tall tales each one experienced on their trips throughout the county. But don't forget, we have an appointment for return trips to pick up those containers on April 28th. (More on this at the meetings.) But a heartwarming thanks has been extended to those "worker-bees" who were willing to prove that the NCCA can be counted on. It was UNofficially reported that we were credited with distribution of over 2,000 containers on that bright and sunny day. Here's hoping we can pick them all up, FULL.

### WINNEMUCCA

By now, most of you who participated in the "Fourth Annual Sports Car Rally" at Winnemucca, Nevada, last year have received your invitations for the "Fifth Annual Sports Car Rally" at the same place. This year it's scheduled for the 26th and 27th of May (just in case you haven't received word). As usual, it should be a real bang-up affair if anything can be judged by past experience. A high-speed autocross, short course, and Concours d' Elegance, not to forget the rally on the way up there. This weekend (affectionately known as "Winnemucca") has been talked about throughout the year, and has always been known as a real "Pleasure-Bender". Prices have gone up this year, so start saving your pennies. Spare literature should be available at a forthcoming meeting. However, those who wish to may write directly to: Humbolt County Chamber of Commerce, Nixon Bldg., Winnemucca, Nevada.

Events are scheduled as follows:

Rally	Saturday, May 26th, Evening
Two-mile time trials	Sunday, May 27th, 9:00 A.M.
Gymkhana (autocross)	Sunday, May 27th, 2:00 P.M.
Concours d' Elegance	Monday, May 28th, 10:00 A.M.

### HUMOR?

Doctor: "Why do you have that TFP286 tattooed on your back?"  
Patient: "That's not tattooed, that's where my wife ran into me while I was opening the garage door!!!"

### PLEA!

If there is anything you see, hear, think, or have ideas 'bout, just lick that stamp, and send it to me. Need an address? Here it is: 2347 Barry Street, Napa, California.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

N.C.C.A. recently received a letter from the Chevrolet-Oakland division of G.M. to the effect that some of our members are abusing the club parts discount granted by some Chevrolet dealers.

As there may be some doubt about this discount, hereis the whole story:

Chevy dealers are independent merchants and their decision to cooperate with this type of discounting is optional. Some parts, when discounted 25% from the sale price, would bring the price below the cost price to the dealer.

When you are buying parts, if you ask for a discount and are turned down, don't raise the roof...it may be that this dealer doesn't grant a discount. Check with other dealers and use your own judgment.

Easter Seals.....

Thanks...sincerely...to the nine club cars and helpful friends who picked up Easter Seals containers Saturday. They did a whale of a good job and did the work of three times as many members. As their reward, they splashed into a great swimming party graciously given by Bill and LaVerne Roeber. Many, many thanks to Bill and LaVerne, too.

Needless to say, the Easter Seals representative was not impressed by the poor show to help out our charity. We weren't either.

In preparation for the subsequent mob of club members at the Roebers' beautiful pool, N.C.C.A. bought a full keg of beer and two cases of chips. It was lots of fun...but we had to call in a local police department to help us polish off the keg.

Next time, boys.....

Ron

See you in the next edition,

Bill Kendall

