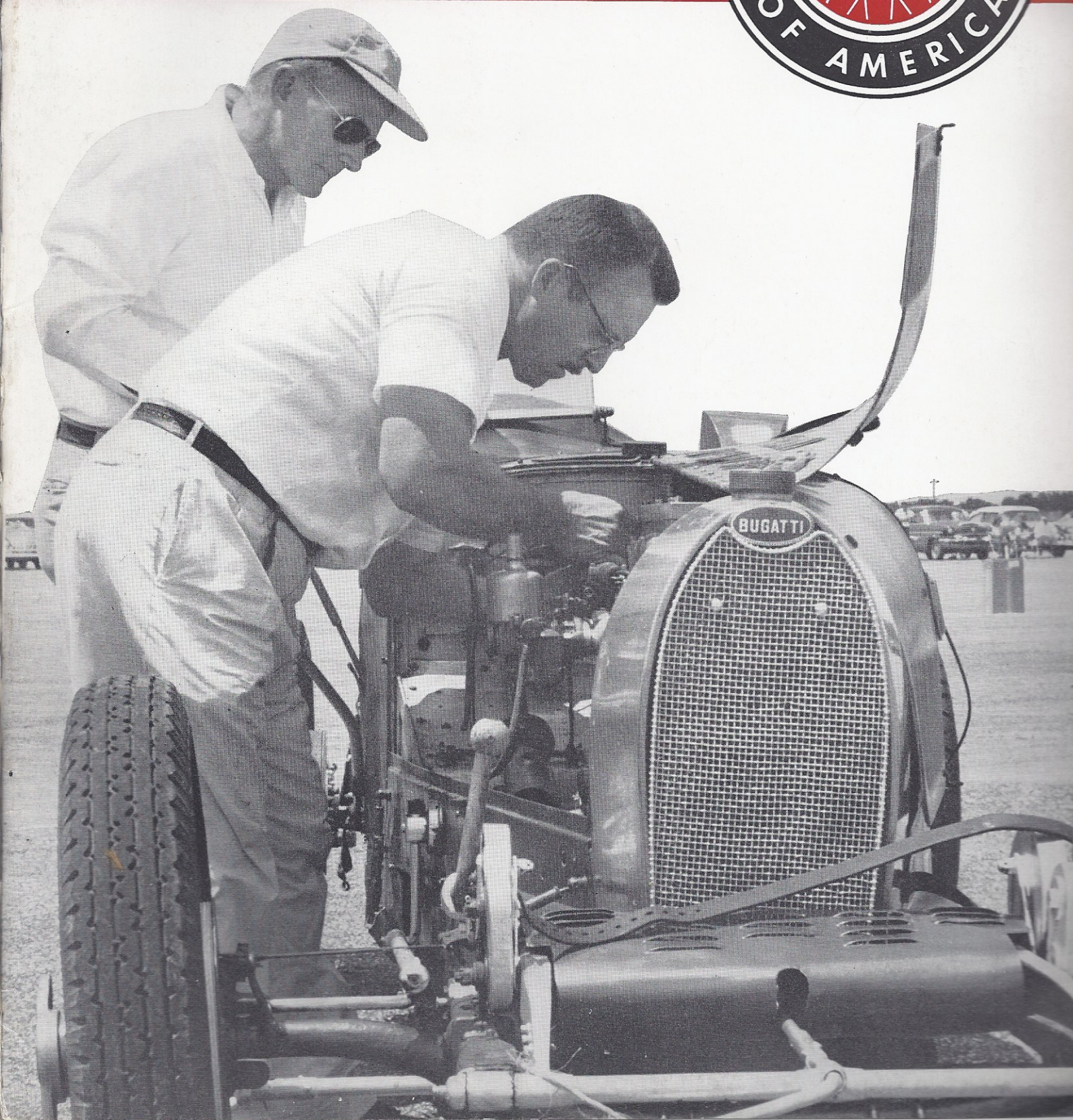
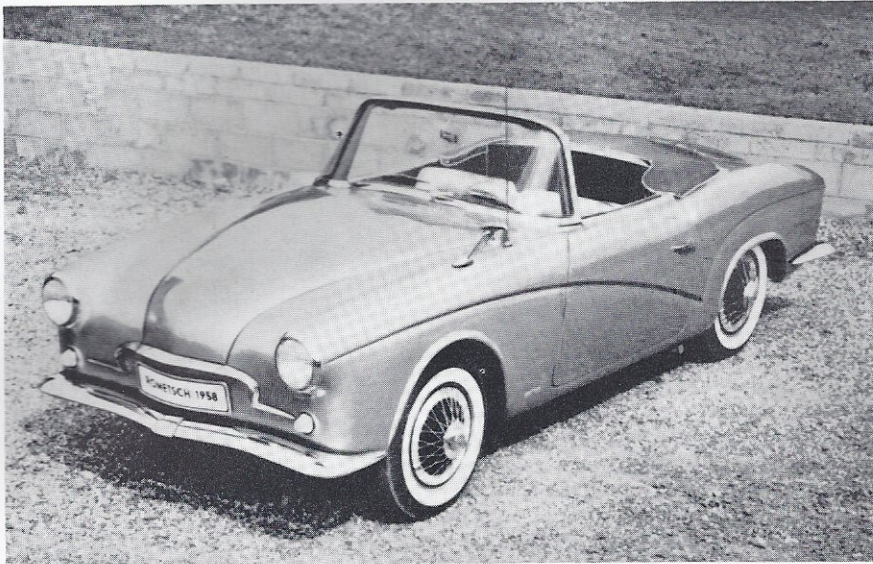


NOVEMBER 1958

SPORTS CAR





The Rometsch, a custom-bodied VW introduced this year, comes in both the convertible and coupe body. Price is \$3295 at Globe Automotive Imports in Montgomery, N. Y., exclusive Eastern distributors.

Did You Know That....?

by ARTHUR H. ROSIEN

... Centro Sud has ordered a new Maserati GP for 1959. This car will be identical to the one driven at Rheims this year by Fangio, and costs a reported \$13,000... Maserati is testing a new 2-seater convertible powered by a dohc 1500cc engine giving about 110 hp, with a top speed of 115 mph. Same gear box as in the 2-liter sports racing car, with syncro on all four forward speeds.... Chances seem very good to see Maserati back in a full racing program next year... The Vanwall program for next season is very much up in the air at this time, and is complicated by the fact that Temple Buell is rumored to be interested in hiring the entire team, including Moss, to drive for him... The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, The Society of Automotive Engineers, the Society of Naval Architects and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers have awarded their coveted Elmer A. Sperry Award to Dr. Ferdinand Porsche (in memoriam), Dr. Heinz Nordhoff and co-workers. The medal was established "to encourage progress in the engineering of transportation," and was given for their personal engineering contributions in the design of the car. This is

the first time the award has been made to foreign engineers... The GP of the U.S. has been approved by the FIA, and will be held at Sebring on Sunday, March 22, the day after the 12-hour race... The American International Rally was cancelled because of "unforeseen technical difficulties"... Presumably Porsche keeps track of the service record of its cars and awards a gold watch to those which have gone 100,000 miles without a major engine overhaul... Peugeot has sold its entire 1958 allocation for the U.S., and expects to market 12,000 cars here next year... The Dauphine "Florida," a prototype by Ghia at the Geneva Show this year, will go into production next April at the rate of 50-100 cars per day... Louis Chiron will act as chief instructor at the racing drivers' school at Modena, planned to train drivers for Italian entries in GP racing... The contract commitments of European drivers to various parts manufacturers gets complicated when these drivers race both sports cars and GP cars. A recent advertisement stated: "C. A. S. Brooks and co-driver" won the Tourist Trophy Race... The Austin Healey 100-6 set seven new

Class D records at Montlhery from 48 hours through 10,000 miles, ranging at the 100 mph mark... Fangio's wife was very upset at the treatment accorded him at Monza, where he was ordered off the track by an official and was not given the normal courtesy of being honorary starter; one report claims that she was nearly arrested when she protested his treatment by the official. At any rate, it proves the old saying of "out of sight, out of mind"; or as Mrs. Fangio said: "When you retire, you are forgotten"... Two German auto clubs make an annual practice of taking judges, attorneys and police officials for drives in fast cars in the Stuttgart area to teach them first hand about traffic problems, normal driver behavior encountered and traffic violations. The officials praised the project, and felt it kept them from becoming "blinded by narrow interest"... The Vanwall won the 1958 Formula I Manufacturers' Championship with six first places to show for its six best performances counting for points; Ferrari was second... The South American "Temporada" season of races are off for 1959 due to financial losses on these races in the past, and the uncertainty of Fangio's entry... Aston Martin will probably ease up on sports car racing next year and concentrate heavily on Formula I... The use of disc brakes by Ferrari on Hawthorn's car at Monza may mean a change for next year; the red cars have been beaten by slower cars this year due to lack of braking power... Vanwall's test of a plastic cockpit bubble was successful as far as speed goes, but the noise level was too high for the driver... Shelby may quit the European scene based on a lack of good rides and resultant poor prize moneys. Most of his mounts were completely inadequate, as in the Monza GP when his car did not fit him and vibrated badly from wheels out of balance... Moss' loss of the world title by one point brings into focus the lap signals given him at the Portuguese GP. The usual system of notifying Moss when someone turned the fastest lap was changed, and Moss did not realize that Hawthorn had done the fastest lap. His performance that day would indicate he was capable of still faster laps, but instead he eased up in the belief that he had the best time... At

a recent GP race the various drivers showed up in the following personal transport: Shelby in a 3.5-liter GT Maserati; Gendebien in a 250 GT Ferrari; Brooks in a DB2/4 Aston Martin; Behra and Bonnier in Porsche Carreras; von Trips in a Porsche 1600S; Trintignant in a Facel-Vega; and Gerini in a 4.9 Super America Ferrari This year's Round Australia Rally was tough as usual, with 35 finishers out of 68 starters. At one point on the route some 35 cars were stuck in the mud, with an enterprising farmer towing them out for about \$5 each. Two drivers hit kangaroos, and one claims to have gotten out of his car to hit a crocodile on the head to get it out of his way Sir Henry Segrave's "Golden Arrow," which in 1929 set the world record at 231.44 mph with a 12-cylinder engine developing 900 bhp, was presented by Castrol to the Montagu Motor Museum at Beaulieu An aluminum engine is nearer practicality through a new process that electroplates a zinc-titanium coating on an aluminum cylinder bore to give the wear characteristics of iron A new trend is beginning with 1959 models of American cars offering optional *economy* kits A recent 1958 Chev Impala turned a 15-second timing for the quarter-mile acceleration run, and after protest was found to be stock. This meant a terminal speed of about 101 mph, and a performance close to the advertised 315 bhp Gendebien presumably missed the Tourist Trophy race due to lumbar haematosiis, but apparently found a speedy cure since he entered the much tougher Tour de France the next day The new Aston Martin DB 4 is a real beauty with body by Touring; 0-100 mph and back to a stop again in 30 sec., with a top of 140 mph; this is a full four-seater sedan Production of existing Lagondas has ended, and a new model will be produced A Singer Gazelle IIA ran for 24 hours at Snetterton, covering 1,392.94 miles at an average of 58.039 mph Facel-Vega will put disc brakes on their HK500 sports coupe Storez, the only real challenger to Gendebien in the Tour de France until his Porsche

Carrera dropped out, announced his retirement from rally driving. Peter Whitehead was killed in this event when his highly placed Jaguar ran off the road and dropped 30 feet. It happened in so remote an area that help was an hour in coming; his brother Graham was only slightly injured Citroen is coming out with a prestige version of the DS 19, and with new body types for the ID 19 including an ambulance, a van and a station wagon Jean Behra was chosen as 1500cc Champion of Germany, open this year to foreigners for the first time The Monte Carlo Rally will include a start from Warsaw at the request of Russia, who promises entries as a result John Bolster reminds us that the original Le Mans starts meant running to the car, putting up the top and then making a compulsory pitstop after four laps to lower it—just the thing for today's pseudo tops which are shams to meet regulations Pit stops still tell

a story. At the Tourist Trophy, *Listers* changed all four wheels and refueled in 59 seconds; Ecurie Ecosse did the same in 60 seconds; and Aston Martin, unable to jack both ends of the car simultaneously, took 63 seconds; but Porsche, still using bolt-on wheels, took 73 seconds to change just two rear wheels Triumphs entered in European rallies are still using the 2.2-liter engine English rallies continue to fascinate with their tales of nocturnal incidents. A recent one found an irate farmer stopping a car and leaning on the hood to keep it from continuing—the driver, undaunted, simply started up and carried the farmer until he let go. One navigator got his car on the wrong road, and in turning let the driver back into the unseen river; upon stepping out the navigator found 4 feet of cold water around his legs. Another couple, hardly fond of cows, found themselves in a pasture full of them and so hurriedly abandoned ship.



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