



# CORVETTE KALEIDOSCOPE

## — EDITORIAL —

As usual, we'll begin with the 'Axe Grinding' session. And, what could be a better subject than to tear into the various and sundry "Sports Car" clubs in the No. Cal. region that are so well organized in staging auto-crosses that they allow cars to run without the drivers wearing any crash-hats or seat belts. Perfect examples of this were witnessed at the auto-cross last month at Castle Air Force Base as put on by the Yosemite SCC. Here, a Simca sedan managed to invert itself with the driver having NOT the benefit of either a helmet or safety belt. Again, a Fiat pulled the same trick at the VJ event held at the Presidio a couple weeks ago. While your editor has no personal gripe with the Northern California Sport Car Council, where are they when it comes to enforcing the BASIC RULES of automotive competition among its own clubs rather than worrying so much about those not in the Council? As one of the bosses of the VJ Club said when yours truly asked him why no seat belts and helmet check: "We didn't think it was necessary!!".....no comment.....

\*\*\*\*\*

CONGRADULATIONS TO: John Zeh--upon taking the overall trophy at the auto-cross held last Sunday at Milpetas!! Great Guns, these Corvettes are really moving! (Why weren't you at the Tracy Races, John?) - Of course, we can't pass up the opportunity to ask two-gun Zeh what happened at Castle? ...180°?!

CONGRADULATIONS TO: Jack Smith--upon showing all the world that he is afraid of no man.. When Jack decides to redo the rear of another car with the front of his, he picks on none other than a couple plain-clothes Oakland cops in an unmarked car!! (again, no comment)

CONGRADULATIONS TO--JIM PAYTON of the JAG club, for going out on his own and reserving the whole hotel (all 100 rooms) in Salinas for the June 14-15 weekend (Laguna Seca Races) and giving the Corvettes first crack at reservations. All the specs will be announced at the next meeting Tues, May 20 at S&K in Vallejo. (Ray Altman has the scoop)

CONGRADULATIONS TO: Ed & Shirley McCarrroll who are going high-hat and planning a trip to Europe, otherwise known as the 'Old Country' early in '59. Ed is taking orders now to pick up any little tokens you may wish him to bring back. (Masarati, Ferrari, Mercedes, etc.) Put it on account, Ed. - On account of I haven't the money!

CONGRADULATIONS TO: Bill Souja & Bob Lenz for getting their faces plastered over a page in the latest Sports Car World.

CONGRADULATIONS TO: Eve Wanstall, for being up and around and looking so chipped after getting bent a little after some real 'winner' smashed into the rear of her car injuring her.

CONGRADULATIONS TO: The inimitable Marilyn Kane, for learning what 360° means. (Little Marlboro in none other than you know who's 290!!

GENERAL INFORMATION SECTION: If you want a real fine tune up done by a couple individuals who are more than 'sharp' see the fellows at the AURO-CHECK on El Camino Real in Sunnyvale. They have one dynamometer with a 160 h.p. maximum (rear wheels) and another to 300 h.p...They used to have one to 200 h.p., but a certain Corvette that is very close to my heart started nudging the peg one night, so they traded the 200 h.p. scale in on a 300. Now, they challenge me to peg this one, but I'm a little chicken. (About \$1,200.00 chicken) Seriously, they really can set up a car on this gadget. So far, they have such notables bringing their cars there as Rod Carveth (Aston-Martin & TR),, Pete Talbot's Porsche (winner last Sunday) etc.....Reasonable, too!

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMPETITION DRIVERS, the SCCA has just informed yours truly that recaps, on approved racing casings (and only approved caps) ARE allowed on the track. Nice to hear this after scores of us blew about \$200.00 clams on Michelins, Silver-towns, Supersports 170's, etc. (sigh)

\*\*\*

COMING EVENTS: June 14-15 - Laguna Seca. Seniors only plus novices who pass the Race Committee. This is a regional race; the National being held in November as usual. July 4-5-6 -- Vaca Valley Races. These promise to be thrillers, with all the drivers looking forward to the new road course which, at this writing, is almost ready. July 26-27 - Reno Races - At the Minden airport some 30 miles south of Reno..... Check your map - Carson City may be closer.

FRACY RACES: Where were all of you?? You sure missed a good show. Stan Sugarman's Spyder, with Jack McAfee at the helm, really showed them all the way. He won the under 1500cc and over 1500cc events! Dan Gurney, in Edgar's 4.5 Maser blew a tire and didn't finish but, while he was running, the two cars put on the greatest nip-and-tuck race seen for quite a while. Cloyd Gray proved eventual winner of both the over 1600cc Production Race Saturday and the Marque race Sunday. Andy Porterfield, the controversial Corvette hustler from L.A. had what can be termed as a fast car. He turned times equal to McAfee and Gurney, but was protested and ruled out. But, all in all, car or no car, Porterfield can really drive like few drivers can....Hugh Harn had tough luck in his Corvette, dropping out in the third lap with what appears to be a blown piston. At this point your editor enjoyed leading the pack for a bit, but got a bit out of shape on turn 5 after which he too enjoyed trouble similar to Harn's. (Anybody interested in making a small loan at 2%?) Bob Nix chased Cloyd Gray around the track, following him home and looking good in the process. Bob Bent had a rough weekend experiencing quite a bit of brake trouble which held him back; not allowing him to do the job of which he is capable. Ray Altman once again was plagued by bad luck blowing a couple head gaskets in practice Saturday, and not getting it back together until after his race had started. He did get in, but the car just wouldn't cooperate. John Luce, as usual, did a fine job in the AC, as did many others too numerous to mention. Gil Brown, the Mercedes pilot from Belvedere, (we remember him from Stockton and RDC) once again outdid his Merc around in first class fashion showing in the process just how far one can go with the swing-axle. You should see him conering at speed in the rear view mirror. All four wheels toed in, complete 4 wheel slide, etc. I've finally come up with the term to describe that car. It's a ground-gainer. In the mirror, it appears to be eating it up faster than the eye can follow. All in all, the races were fine with the exception that the course was covered with loose gravel, and proceeded to break up immediately. The result was many smashed windshields, "sand-blasted" front ends, rock filled radiators, etc. Who said this is an expensive sport???

-----  
 New Corvette Colors Available: Black. Silver. Tsrilis and Altman both are waiting for black cars to arrive from St.Louis...While on the subject, ST.Louis has doubled Corvette production this year over last.

MISCELLANEOUS: The S.F.'49'ers are enjoying their greatest season ticket sale ever. They have sold over 30,800 season tickets already as compared to about 1100 back in '46 when they first started. If you plan on buying your tickets game by game: Welcome to the End Zone!

-----  
 Forgive your editor for the many many mistakes in this issue. Between having no correction fluid on hand, and just crawling out from under one torn down Corvette...little wonder!

-----  
 NEW CAR SALES? Just great! Here's the figures from last Friday's Wall Street Journal:

Cheve:	535,000	(585,000 last year)	off 8%
Ford:	387,000	(608,000 " " )	off 37%
Ply:	146,000	(272,000 " " )	off 46%
Olds:	138,000	(178,000 " " )	off 23%
Rambler:	63,000	(35,000 " " )	up 80%
Buick:	105,000	(192,000 " " )	off 45%
Pont:	96,000	(156,000 " " )	off 39%
Merc:	48,000	(138,000 " " )	off 65%
Cad:	57,000	(62,000 " " )	off 8%
Chry:	22,000	(54,000 " " )	off 59%
Stude:	12,000	(23,000 " " )	off 48%
Dodge:	36,000	(123,000 " " )	off 71%

Edsel: produced 6,280 cars to date.  
 Lincoln: 12,000 (18,000 last year) off 33%  
 Imp: 6,000 (18,000 " " ) off 65%  
 DeSoto 13,000 (59,000 " " ) off 78%  
 Pack: 1,300 (6,000 " " ) off 78%  
 Nash-Hudson: no cars produced this year.  
 As a summary, GM is off 20.6%, Ford off 43% and Chrysler off 56.5%.--Rambler is the only make enjoying the limelight while Cheve and Cad off only 8% which is not too bad by comparison. Total production so far (the ~~xx~~ above figures are Jan.1 to May 8) is down to 1,691,139 as compared to 2,536,377 for the same period last year. Business is good?  
 T-Bird sales are included in FORD as is Continental in LINCOLN and Corvette in CHEVE.  
 The sorry note about the whole thing is that the automobile business affects other industries so greatly (such as steel, coal, RR, etc) that there is really little wonder there is an unemployment problem. And, quite naturally, this doesn't help the resale price of our cars any.

-----  
 Not that she needs it, but I understand Sigrid Zeh is in the process of being deeply involved in a modeling course. It seems all the gals at Edy's got on a starvation and exercise kick (they're all suffering from physical exertion and mal-nutrition) so Sig decided to go along with the gang. Last report has her at 67 lbs. and as strong as Paul Bunyan!!!!

GALS! Are you interested in Sports Cars?  
Are you, looking for something to supplant  
the tired old man? Then here's a couple well  
intended suggestions:

1) Coveralls. Now here's a nice little femin-  
ine item...COVERALLS...(the men will have my  
head in a basket ala Marie Antoinette) I have  
just the style in mind! Cuffed Collar with very  
slim lines, buttoning down the front and com-  
fortable push-up sleeves. A Haymaker (??)  
style in cotton and silk (no, I'm not work-  
ing for the Rag industry) available at the  
measly little sum of \$23.00...Saks 5th Avenue.  
(Sorry, no credit!)

Here's another: (If the men don't get me af-  
ter this one, I'll cancel my life insurance)  
The summer rage is the Chemise Bathing Suit!  
Now, this little dittie should make swimming  
more than interesting...at least for the fish.  
If this ridiculous idea becomes a realism,  
five will get you fifty there will be a not-  
able scarcity of men at the beaches and a boom  
in the pool hall business!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you think this is bad, try reading 1984..  
Or Aldous Huxley's Brave New World.

-----  
As a serious note for a moment, we send our  
best wishes to Irene Pofahl to help speed  
her on the road to full and complete recovery  
from the ill effects of an auto accident in-  
curred some two months ago. Its a long hard  
pull, and we wish her our best. When you get  
a moment, send her a card or note. 32 Nokomis,  
San Anselmo. Glenwood 4-0910.

If you are interested in getting into the  
pits at one of the races, and not getting  
'escorted' out, ask Fred Jetton about the  
newly discovered slide-of-hand pit pass.

-----  
FOR SALE: One complete hi-fi set. Bell amp-  
lifier, Garrard RC-88 automatic changer,  
Norelco 12" Co-ax speaker w/floor cabinet  
and all plug in installation ready for  
hook-up to TV, Radio, Tape, aux-speakers,  
etc. CONTACT: m.....

Before we close, we must satiate the ap-  
petite for notoriety possessed by our  
Activities Chairman (whô's name shall remain  
anononous) and say, at his request: quote..  
any young, attractive, trim, personable  
young women interested in securing male  
companionship (that's a heck of a word)  
contact Ron Craven, man about town (if you  
call San Leandro a town) free spender..or  
is the word 'loader' ??? ...at EL-1-1022.

-----  
Correction: Re: Tracy Races, Gloyd did win  
Saturday but placed 2nd Sunday to a Ferrari  
GT from Arizona *Sunday*

-----  
BELATED CONGRATULATIONS TO: Jerry Vercelli,  
for placing in the money his last two or  
three times out in various auto-crosses.

-----  
Don't forget to show up at our Corvanna  
being held at the Rhoem Shopping Center  
this Sunday (May 18) at Moraga. We need the  
help!

That's it for now, people. See you next  
month. Maybe I'll be on time and have the  
paper out by the 7th of June. You know how  
it is sometimes. Either write the paper or  
set up the car, so.....

*Sandy Trumble*