

# FROM THE PITS

ART LAURING

*Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Apr 4, 1954;*

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. A26

## FROM THE PITS

BY ART LAURING

"Man proposes and Fate disposes—" best describes the recent Bakersfield road race wherein Sterling Edwards Ferrari developed a crankcase hemorrhage, thus permitting Ken Miles to defeat the entire field in two major events.

This latest brace of victories for Mr. Miles now makes him the No. 1 target. It reminds your scribe of a recent movie horse opera wherein the hero, an acknowledged top-flight gunman, was stalked by every six-shooter slinger who wished to become champ provided, of course, they could beat the ace to the draw and shoot straighter! So it is now with Miles.

What the boys, perforce, must do is accumulate some of the slender Englishman's intestinal fortitude, assimilate his track strategy and dedicate themselves to insuring a Miles-type of perfection of their machinery. And then, conceivably, a sportster Gallahad may be able to tilt with and unseat this "Cid"!

This chronicler here and now reiterates his admiration for Miles' racing and engineering savvy. Still, he looks askance

at the designation of that MG Special (sic) as a "sports car"!

Why does not the factory manufacture and sell duplicates of this amazing bug? Also, to make competition interesting, will someone provide Bill Pol-

lack with a big-bore Cad-Allard OR Ferrari?

Turning to the "amateur" aspect of the race it was interesting to note the performance of a cut-down Jupiter, super-modified by Otto Zipper and owned and driven by Ray Stevens. This sleekster, according to Johnny Williamson who proxied as an observer for your historian, may uncork a startling win at the Pebble Beach scrabble which roars April 10

and 11 at Carmel. Also deserving of a kudo is the Buick V-8 Roadmaster engine-powered hot rod roadster which came rather close to grabbing a first. Owned by Max Balchowsky, the "whistling ghost," as it has been dubbed, is steadily clawing its way into the winning circle of top competitive brackets.

NEWS REVS-PER-MINUTE: Those interested in obtaining a Curt Davis Venturi muffler

for their Jags, MGs, Sunbeams Alpines or what-not, should drop a card to the white-haired, lively-eyed inventor at his home: 3229 1/2 Arlington Ave.

Compton . . . According to the San Fernando Valley chapter of the Four Cylinder Club of America the Douglas Aircraft Co.'s sportster rally rolls April 17 and the Long Beach MG Club's hill climb occurs the following day.