

EXPERIMENT ON WHEELS

Manufacturer Experiments With Revolutionary Type Automobile

To the average American, whether he is a farmer or city man, laborer or millionaire, there is nothing as fascinating as an automobile. Every year Americans look forward to the day when new models are put on display.

Recently an experiment in the automotive future—a low, sleek sports car with dramatic, sweeping lines of a jet aircraft—was unveiled by the styling section of General Motors. It gave Americans a glimpse of what the future might hold for them.

Harley J. Earl, GM vice president in charge of styling, said the new vehicle will bear the symbolic name of Le Sabre. In development four years, Le Sabre will be a "laboratory on wheels" for testing both mechanical and styling ideas that designers have sketched on drawing boards and discussed in engineering shop talk.

"This is the car of the future in the sense that some of its design or mechanical features may appear some day in standard motorcars," Mr. Earl said.

"Le Sabre is purely experimental. Actually, it is the second car of its kind, the advanced counterpart of an experimental car we built 12 years ago for the same reason—to find out whether some of our futuristic ideas would pay off on the road," he declared.

Mr. Earl's 1938 experimental car was equipped with a number of styling and technical innovations considered advanced at that time. But they appeared, sometimes in modified form, on later production models.

It was the first American styled car on public display with electrically controlled convertible top and door windows, curved glass door windows, pushbutton door latches inside and out, a low vertical front grille, fender extensions over the doors and tail lamps recessed in the rear fenders.

Details of the hood and fender treatment also appeared in the design of subsequent General Motors production cars.

"We didn't know in 1938 what features of our first experimental car would be used—or abandoned—as we developed our styling since that time," Mr. Earl declared.

"By the same token, it is impossible to say now what innovations we are testing in Le Sabre may be used stylistically or mechanically in future production models," he said.

300 Horsepower Engine

He pointed out that materials used in Le Sabre, such as magnesium and aluminum alloys, would be unobtainable from a cost standpoint in current production models.

Le Sabre will be powered by an experimental V-8 engine with 16-1 compression ratio plus supercharger. Its dual fuel system will utilize current premium fuels and methyl alcohol (methanol). Methyl alcohol will be injected into the combustion chambers through the carburetor at a certain level of the speed range for extra power boost.

The engine, still undergoing tests, is expected to develop more than 300 horsepower with supercharger. Stroke and bore will be 3 1/4 by 3 1/4 inches. Piston displacement will be 215 cubic inches.

Engine weight is expected to total 500 pounds. Horsepower to weight ratio, as yet undetermined, is expected to be remarkably high in comparison with standard production vehicles.

Le Sabre's total weight is expected to be in the neighborhood of 3,000 pounds. The low weight factor is attributed to use of heat-treated magnesium and aluminum alloys in body and engine construction.

The body is only 36 1/4 inches high at the cowl and 50 inches high with the convertible top raised. Wheelbase is 115 inches and overall length is 200 inches. Overall width at the front fenders is 76 1/2 inches.

The top section of the front grille is part of the lighting system. When the front lamps are turned on, the grille revolves out of sight and a pair of close set headlights, fitted on the reverse side of the grille, swings into place.

Beneath the headlight-grille assembly is the radiator air intake. An inverted Y-shape bar protects



A simulated tail cone and dramatically styled tail fins give the Le Sabre the jet aircraft look.

the aluminum radiator core. Additional slotted air inlets range along the sides of the main inlet. Two other small air scoops are designed on the underside of the front bumper.

Fuel Tanks in Fenders

The lighting system includes a pair of running or parking lamps at the outer extremities of the front fenders, just above the flanking curve of the bumpers.

Two sets of three tail lamps are mounted on the trailing edge of the rear fins, outlying the car from behind. These operate as tail lamps and directional signals, while below them at the base of the fins are the backup lights.

The simulated jet-type tail cone houses the spotlight, centered by a "spinner" or bomb-shape hub that serves as a rear bump-r. Two smaller but similarly shaped spinners are fitted into the split front bumper design at either side of the radiator grille.

Le Sabre's twin tail fins have the functional purpose of housing aircraft type 20-gallon rubberized fuel cells, one for gasoline and the other for methyl alcohol. They are similar to fuel tanks in aircraft wings.

Although Le Sabre's instrument panel appears as replete with indicators, dials, meters and control knobs as a bomber cockpit, Mr. Earl said their operation would be simple even for a driver at the steering wheel for the first time.

Both labels and illumination of the instrument clusters—one on the steering post and the other in a center group beneath the crash roll—are clearly defined. Various indicators are illuminated from behind, while the center group of instruments can be lighted by a fluorescent tube.

The indicators flash red warning signals, such as the fuel, oil and torque converter gauges, to notify the driver when the levels reach a certain low point or a dangerous condition exists.

Le Sabre has the usual instrument panel gauges and dials. In addition it has such aircraft features as a tachometer, compass and altimeter. Other indicators register engine oil temperature and pressure and the torque convert: fluid level and temperature.

Hydraulic Jacks

Knob controls are illuminated by small bulbs in plastic inserts in the handles. They light whenever the ignition is turned on.

Electrical pushbutton door releases operate inside and out and windows are lifted and lowered electrically. In the event of battery failure, door releases function mechanically with an extra push on the buttons or a turn of the car key.

Instrument panel controls operate hydraulic jacks on each of the car's wheels. In the event of a blowout or flat tire, the driver can jack up the car without leaving his seat. An electrically driven screwjack, controlled by a switch, is available to adjust the driver's seat.

In addition to a warm air circulating system, the car is equipped with thermostatically controlled electrical seat warmers. These operate on the same principle as electrically heated flying suits used by airmen.

As with Mr. Earl's earlier experimental car, Le Sabre has an electrically operated convertible top. Its construction differs from the earlier version, however, in that it has no visible linkage.

Also, it may be partially opened to ease the way for driver and passenger to get in or out of the seats. If the car is parked with top down, rain falling on a sensitized spot between the seats actuates the top raising mechanism and raises the windows automatically.

Jet Aircraft Lines Used in Styling

The experimental Le Sabre was in development for four years. It utilizes lightweight aluminum and magnesium alloys in its body and engine construction and incorporates the sweeping lines of a jet aircraft in its styling. It is not necessarily the automobile of the future, but some of its design and mechanical features may appear some day in standard motorcars. Designers, however, report it may be years in the future. The use of aluminum and magnesium alloys in body construction would make it too expensive for the average American.



Man of Letters

IT LOOKS as if the "man of letters" in the White House is going to make a lot of money for the recipients of those letters.

Out in Denver, Dr. Neal Bishop, who suggested to Mr. Truman that John L. Lewis be appointed ambassador to Russia, is going to auction off his Trumanesque reply for the benefit of the Denver Community Chest.

The reply, which stated that he, Truman, would not even appoint John L. as dogcatcher, should bring a large amount of money—though Bishop has generously given the letter to the Community Chest and they will make the profit.

Meanwhile, in Washington, Paul Hume, the Washington Post music critic, has turned down various offers for his letter regarding Margaret Truman's singing. One offer is reputed in five figures.

If Mr. Hume ever does decide to sell this coveted letter, it can make him much more dough than he realizes, for he will only have to pay a capital gains tax of 25 per cent on the sale. In other words, the Truman letter is not earned income, but a special personal gift from the President of the United States. A gift is not taxable until it is sold, and as long as Mr. Hume keeps the letter more than six months, his tax will be only 25 per cent.

If treasury agents argue about this, Mr. Hume can tell them quite truthfully that his letter is something which happens only once in a lifetime, that it was an unsolicited gift from the President, and that if any gift tax is paid it should come out of Harry Truman's pocket, not his.

Other people who get indignant letters from the President can also cash in on this nice low-bracket tax. In brief, the President has been awfully kind to Mr. Hume, to Bernie Baruch, to Dr. Bishop, to Jimmie Byrnes and others. The only one he has slighted is me, because when he hurled the "servant of brotherhood" charge in my direction, he did it orally. He did not write me a letter.

Someday, if I can get up nerve enough, I am going to ask Mr. Truman to put it in writing, so I can have something either to hand down to my children or else sell under a capital gains tax.

New Order of Draft

Selective Service Director Lewis Hershey is recommending the following changes in the draft law to the new session of congress:

- 1. That the draft age be lowered from 19 to 18 years, with the maximum age limit kept at 25.
2. That deferment of enlistees in the organized reserves and the national guard be stopped.
3. That draft eligibles between 18 and 25 be taken in the following order: First, all unmarried students except the top third in their classes; second, married nonvets without children; third, unmarried veterans; last, nonvets with children.

Increased Living Cost

One thing that has stumped price czars Alan Valentine and Mike Di Salle is that they cannot impose price controls on certain farm products until the cost of living goes up even more.

This is because the farm bloc in congress inserted a provision in the price control bill whereby certain farm prices cannot be controlled at a point under parity or under the price of last May and June.

Because of this, the agriculture department has advised the big bakers and millers that they face no early price control. Bread will have to increase one or two cents a loaf to permit price controls, Ralph Trigg, the department's production and marketing boss, privately informed bakers and millers last week.

The agriculture department has also informed Economic Stabilizer Valentine that over-all controls on farm products would raise the nation's food bill 5 to 10 per cent because of the number of commodities now below parity prices.

Meat Price Ceilings

Of the foods that will be controlled, beef, lamb and veal top the list. All are above parity. Price Administrator Di Salle will have a meeting with Chicago meat-packers and western cattlemen this month and expects to put a price ceiling on meat in February. It will take at least that time for him to get organized.

Silver Bullets

A plan to use "silver bullets," the ancient and still most effective weapon in China, is being carefully studied by U.S. strategists.

One specific proposal offers hard cash and a guarantee of food to Chinese who surrender to United Nations forces in Korea. A soldier with rifle or pistol would get \$10 plus six months' food rations. A soldier surrendering a mortar would get one ounce of gold, and so on up to five gold bars.



GRATEFUL FOR FREEDOMS . . . Former federal worker, Miss Margaret E. Gruver, 53, stands in front of the \$10,500 home she deeded to the United States government in appreciation of the "freedoms enjoyed by an American citizen." Miss Gruver was forced recently to leave her job as a government worker by bad health. She announced the gift of the house to the government in a letter to Senator Johnson, Colorado Democrat. She enclosed a deed and the key of the house in the letter. Miss Gruver says that she plans to go to Florida to live in a trailer camp with her mother who is 73 years old.



GREEK WARRIORS IN ACTION IN KOREA . . . Greek soldiers on patrol are silhouetted against the sky as they proceed along a ridge in Korea during the withdrawal of United Nations troops after Chinese and North Korean Communists began their drive south across the 38th parallel. Presence of these troops and those of other member nations of the U.N. should dispel critics of the U.N. action in Korea who complain that the United States is bearing the whole burden of defending the Korean republic from the Communists. Most of the rear guard action in the evacuation of troops by sea has been fought by our allies.



BUS PERFORMANCE BRINGS DOWN HOUSE . . . This is a general view of damage wrought when a bus skidded on the icy street at Chatterton and Olmstead avenues, New York City, recently. It struck an auto, jumped the sidewalk and smashed into a ground floor grocery store, knocking down one wall of two floors of a three story apartment house. No one was hurt, but 16 families were forced out into the cold with no immediate arrangement for shelter from the weather.



MASQUERADING BANDIT . . . Salina, Kansas, police say Russel Pearsall is the much sought after "female impersonation bandit." He is held in connection with the shooting of a Salina policeman during a frustrated holdup attempt.



NOT A GHOST . . . Marine P.F.C. Albert Haeb, 19, New York City, erroneously listed as dead in the Korean fighting last September, displays war department wires with his parents following his arrival home recently. He recalled the mixup in telegrams which caused his parents to arrange a memorial service. Albert and his parents show the three telegrams which said he was (1) wounded, (2) dead, (3) recovered.



PIQUED . . . Claiming encroachments against their ancient privileges, India's displaced ruling princes have organized under leadership of Maharajah of Baroda (above) to win recognition and guard their ancient rights.

Few Tools Are Needed To Make These Pieces



Toy Chest and Play Table

THESE TWO gay pieces of play equipment are easy to make. Hand saw, coping saw to cut out wheels and screw driver, are all the tools needed. Pattern 252 gives directions for both pieces and actual-size stencil designs for decorating. Price of pattern 25c.

WORKSHOP PATTERN SERVICE, Box 10, Bedford Hills, New York

Join MARCH OF DIMES JANUARY 15-21

Eat Dickinson POPCORN! It's Healthful - It Always Pops! SEE YOUR GROCER

Hey, SKINNY! - want solid pounds of flesh? If you're thin, run-down, and underweight - lack pep and energy due to no organic reason - cheer up! Here's a real help - thanks to a great medicine developed by a doctor, called Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. This proven formula with its wonderful stomachic tonic action should help you gain the weight you want as it has helped thousands of skinny folks.

Made ESPECIALLY For KIDDIES' CHEST COLDS to relieve coughs - aching muscles. There's a special Child's Mild Mucrole made for kiddies' tender skin. Mucrole is not only given speedily relief but it breaks up congestion in upper bronchial tubes, nose and throat. Just rub it on chest, throat and back.

Got a Cough? GET DELICIOUS COUGH RELIEF! SMITH BROTHERS WILD CHERRY COUGH MEDICATION

WHEN SLEEP WON'T COME AND YOU FEEL GLUM Use Delicious Cheewing-Gum Laxative REMOVES WASTE NOT GOOD FOOD

FEELING POORLY? See how SCOTT'S helps build you up! If you feel run down, and colds hang on - maybe you don't get enough natural A & D Vitamin food. Then try good-tasting Scott's Emulsion - the HIGH ENERGY FOOD TONIC! See how you begin to get your strength back! How you can fight off colds! Buy it today at your drug store. MORE than just a tonic - It's a powerful nourishment! SCOTT'S EMULSION HIGH ENERGY TONIC