# GAR! DRIVER



The untold story.

Page 64

EDITOR/PUBLISHER David E. Davis, Jr.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Don Sherman

EDITOR AT LARGE Patrick Bedard

ART DIRECTOR Anthony J. Nelson

MANAGING EDITOR Don Coulter

ASSOCIATE EDITORS Rich Ceppos, Larry Griffin Jean Lindamood

TECHNICAL EDITOR Csaba Csere

PRODUCTION EDITOR Susan Wallin

COPY EDITOR Suzanne Wise

ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Malo Catherine Villareal

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Harriet W. Stemberger

EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT L.J.K. Setright

ASIAN CORRESPONDENT

Jon P. Bird
MILITARY AFFAIRS EDITOR
Steve Smith

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
David Abrahamson, Gordon Baxter
Charles Fox, Dan Gerber
Anne Hope, Bruce McCall
P.J. O'Rourke, Warren Weith

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS Pete Biro, Ken Dallison Don Hunter, Aaron Kiley André LaRoche, George Lepp Humphrey Sutton

PERFECT OVAL TONES Cheryl Ritchey

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR W. Bradford Briggs

Car and Driver, ISSN 0008-6002
Published monthly at One Park Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10016 by Ziff-Davis Publishing
Company—Philip B. Korsant, President;
Selwyn Taubman, Treasurer; Bertram A.
Abrams, Secretary. Controlled-circulation
postage paid at Glasgow, Kentucky 42141.
Authorized as second-class mail by the
Post Office Department, Ottawa, Canada,
and for payment of postage in cash.

### FEBRUARY 1981

**VOLUME 26, NUMBER 8** 

### LE PROJECT CAR

35 LE CAR AND DRIVER Alpine engine, Dunlop tires, Koni shocks, and a soupçon of je ne sais quoi—by David E. Davis, Jr.

UNDER LE SKIN The quality went in before the name went on

## SPECIAL REPORT

- 41 FUEL ECONOMY Your full-service guide to mpg
- THE HISTORY.OF FUEL ECONOMY It's 1930. How about a new car?—by Jean Lindamood
- 45 THE MOBIL ECONOMY RUN The race was not to the swift —by David Bryant
- WHOM DO YOU TRUST? Our five-car posse tracks the EPA's mpg numbers—by Larry Griffin
- THE MPG FACTORY Inside the EPA—by Rich Ceppos
- 56 P IS FOR PEEKABOO! 1983 Pontiac sports car—by Don Sherman
- 58 1984 GM COMMUTER A 50-mpg future—by Gary Witzenburg
- ONE MAN'S MPG MODIFICATIONS It's not the screwdriver, but how you turn it—by Don Sherman
- THE MOLECULETOR Running on MT—by Don Sherman
- 89 FILLING UP IN THE FUTURE Gas or charge?—by Patrick Bedard

(R)

### ROAD TESTS

- 95 TOYOTA STARLET America asks for mpg. Toyota gives us 39

  —by Jean Lindamood
- 103 VOLVO GLT TURBO Not just another Volvo—by Rich Ceppos
- 129 VOLKSWAGEN RABBIT LS German as apple pie—by Csaba Csere

### **FEATURE**

PORSCHE PERFECTIONISTS Hot rodding above and beyond the '55 Chevy—by Steve Smith

### SHORT TAKES

- 92 BLAKELY BERNARDI Kids know magic—by Jean Lindamood
- 127 JAGUAR XJ-S Fastest production car in America—by Larry Griffin

### COLUMNS

- 7 DRIVER'S SEAT You promised, Mr. President
- 10 LETTERS Concerning our pompous rotary butts
- 18 BEDARD The book's not much, but it'd make a lousy movie
- 20 SHERMAN Frustration in Fordland
- 152 SETRIGHT Who's for a flat earth?

### DEPARTMENTS

- 25 FOR YOUR INFORMATION
- 110 ROAD TEST REVIEW
- 139 SPORT

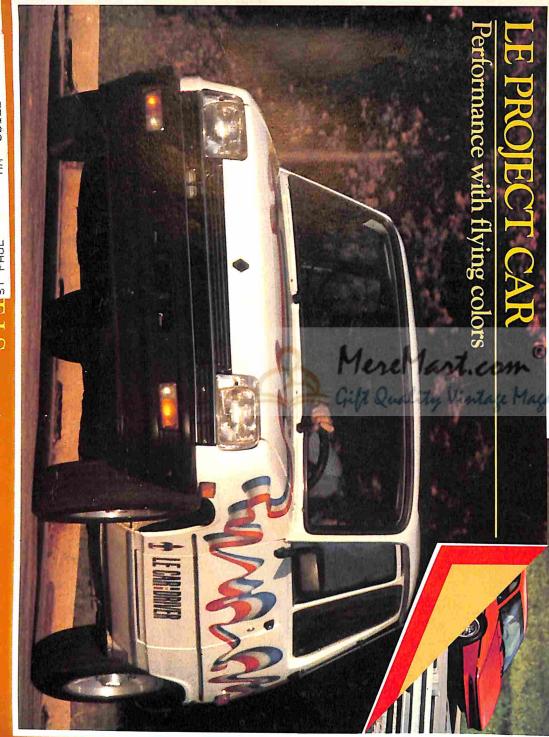
Cover photography by André LaRoche; inset by J. Dunne; illustration by Larry Tople.

# FEBRUARY 1981

Heavenly mpg, down-to-earth price

How Swede it is!

AR Pontiac's sports-car prototype unveiled



55122 T SCHREINER 1786 SILVERBELL RD ST PAUL

SE FE 490320 ck forest of Pennsylvania

-S The good life at 143 mph

0418 SEPRI

17665090