

ROAD & TRACK

APRIL 1990

VOLUME 41, NUMBER 8

Features

- 91** North American International Auto Show—the glitter, the grousing and the Motown concept cars
- 97** Golden Brooklands—Rob Walker shares his memories from a gilded age of motor racing
- 114** Driving Impressions: Mitsubishi 3000GT VR-4 & Dodge Stealth



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS KOTT

- 124** Salon: 1929 Mercedes-Benz SSK—big and blown, with a history as lengthy as its hoodline

Cover Story

GM's conceptual supercar, the CERV III, is adding fuel to speculation about a mid-engine... and we went looking for answers. John Lamm's report begins on page 38

38



Nigel Mansell has ample reason to smile: 1989 was his best season since an exploded tire dashed his championship hopes in 1986. He's also excited about having Alain Prost at Ferrari, even if it means losing teammate Gerhard Berger. C'est la Formula 1. Our wrapup/preview begins on page 56.

Road Tests

- 48** North American Mustang P-51D—top-gun secret: our exclusive test of the world's fastest Mustang
- 81** Toyota MR2—this second-generation mid-engine 2-seater speaks perfect American—fast and fun
- 145** Porsche 911 Carrera 2—Porsche hasn't just made its bellwether better—it's made it the best ever



PHOTO BY SCOTT DAHLQUIST

Technical

- 133** Handling for Dollars—tire up, turn-in, drop down: Dr. S's chassis-tuning class is now in session

Competition

- 56** Formula 1 Grand Prix: Looking Back, Looking Forward—our statistical summing up of last season, and our predictions for this one
- 75** The Drivers—the bulldog, the angry Brazilian, the tenured professor and other acts in the F1 circus
- 77** The Engines—V-8s, V-10s, V-12s, flat-12s, 5-valve heads, 7-speed gearboxes and the Soviets too?



PHOTO BY AGENCY VANDYSTADT

Columns

- 17** Side Glances—Downtown? Sure, pal. Take the Pinocchio Tram and get off at When Dinosaurs Ruled The Earth
- 33** Miscellaneous Ramblings—reporting on the trends—from import buying to Lotus insurance
- 107** About the Sport—it's not all hot tubs and sushi: regional racing for dollars makes a lot of cents

Departments

- 6 People & Places
10 Letters to the Editor
22 Road Test Summary
24 Years Ago
28 Time & Place
152 Market Place
165 Technical Correspondence
170 Ampersand
176 PS



PHOTO BY RICHARD M. BARON

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor	Thos L. Bryant
Engineering Editor	Dennis Simanaitis
Managing Editor	Ellida Maki
Feature Editor	Joe Ruz
Senior Editor	Peter Egan
Road Test Editor	Kim Reynolds
Associate Editor	Richard Homan
Assistant Editor	Douglas Kott
Copy Editor	Lorraine Keeton
Production Editor	June Kikuchi
Production Assistant	Norma Reed
Librarian	Otis D. Meyer
Editorial Secretary	Joan Peters
Editors-at-Large	Allan Girdler John Lamm Ted West
European Editor	Paul Frère
Japan Editor	Jack Yamaguchi
Detroit Editor	Ken Zino

ART STAFF

Art Director	Richard M. Baron
Associate Art Director	Henry Thomas
Production Artists	Jane M. Ryan Scott A. McPherson

Photo Services Manager	Brian Blades
Photo Services Assistant Manager	Kirk Willis
Photo Services Photographer	Scott Dahlquist
Special Marketing Manager	David Northridge

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Dave Black	Peter Bohr
John R. Bond	T C Browne
John W. Burgess	Phil Hill
Innes Ireland	Garrett Lai
Doug Nye	Gene Parrill
Sam Posey	Cyril Posthumus
Jonathan Thompson	John Tomerlin
Ron Wakefield	Rob Walker

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

Craig Ainscough	Carl Aldana
Hector Luis Bergandi	Leo Bestgen
Dennis Brown	Jon Dahlstrom
Bill Dobson	Jorge Garcia
Phil Garner	Walter Gotschke
Charles Harvey	Hank Hinton
Yoshihiro Inomoto	Stan Mott
Howard Shoemaker	Mark Stehrenberger
Frank & Troise	

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jesse Alexander	Jon Eisberg
Geoffrey Goddard	John Konkall
Ron Perry	Nigel Snowdon
Bill Warner	Jeffrey R. Zwart

Publisher/Vice President	Richard A. Bartkus
Editor-in-Chief	John Dinkel
Design Director, West Coast Magazines	Wm A. Motta

THE CAR ENTHUSIASTS' MAGAZINE

ROAD & TRACK

APRIL 1990 \$2.95 CANADA \$3.95 UK £2.40

America's **SUPER EXOTIC**



From the
Corvette
Indy to the
CERV III



04#2J
JIM PENNINGTON
5624 YORK AV S
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55410
#PNN5624Y098#
490684 PNN 5624Y094 G42M NOV90
#227I*****5-DIGIT 55410

Turbo, Porsche Carrera 2 stang we've ever tested