

December

VOLUME 47, NUMBER

Reeves Callaway said he was going to do it and he did it. And now we've tested his 1995

Le Mans race car, the 475-bhp GT2, as well as its street-legal brother, the 435-bhp

SuperNatural Corvette LM. Also tested this month: Mercedes-Benz's all-new E-class

and four great V-12 GT cars. Sports fans: Check out our early warning report on Greg

Moore—the hottest driver in Indy Lights, soon to be starting fires in Indy Car. And don't

miss Jack Yamaguchi's report of what may be the next RX-7 in Ampersand.

ROAD TESTS

- **52** Mulsanne Missiles—fairy tales...can come true...it can happen to you... you can run at Le Mans. We test Callaway's GT2 race car and street-legal LM
- **62 1996 Mercedes-Benz E320**—Mercedes-Benz orders up a fresh plate of styling with extra safety, spicy performance and an airbag on the side
- **72** V-12 Grand Touring—heading north to The Weekend in a BMW 850Ci, Ferrari 456 GT, Jaguar XJS 6.0L Convertible and Mercedes-Benz SL600

FIRST DRIVES

- **47 1996 BMW 328i**—BMW talks torquey: Displacement is up on Bavaria's inline-6, but the 328 should feel right at home in the American market
- **48 1997 BMW 528i**—M3s and Z3s are all well and good, but this is the BMW whose sales numbers are at least as important as its performance numbers

FEATURES

- Salon: Lotus Eleven—the Eleven's success turned Colin Chapman's name from a household word into a household worry among many race teams
- **98** Long-Term Wrapup: Chevrolet Camaro Z28 Convertible vs. Ford Mustang GT Convertible—our yearlong ponycar face-off peaks at the Peak
- 112 Long-Term Tests: Nissan Maxima SE and Mazda Millenia S—life begins at 40,000 miles: the latest on our long-term sedans from Japan
- **132** Little Car, Big Man, Really Big Mountain—Simanaitis gleans the secrets of getting a Formula 3 Cooper to the top at the Mt. Equinox Hillclimb

TECHNICAL

- **116** Blood, Sweat & Gears, Part 2—concentrating on cutting corners (optimizing the suspension) and stopping quick (setting up the brakes)
- **138** Technology Update: A/C, Freon & You—stay cool, Freon fans, the end of your air-conditioned days is not upon us: the cold truth about R12 and R134a

COMPETITION

126 Greg Moore: On the Road to Indy—Bob Judd sniffs the air in Indy Lights and comes up with the overwhelming scent of a future Indy Car winner

COLUMNS

- 16 Miscellaneous Ramblings—reports you may have heard or read of the death of the sports car were exaggerations, meaning: Don't make me laugh
- **26 Side Glances**—Fifty races on one set of tires? Fifty races on one engine? \$3.50 of premium unleaded and a \$15 entry fee? This is the stuff of Legends?
- **32** Ampersand—first look: the RX-01, the next RX-7? John Lamm covers the Frankfurt show; Paul Frère drives the ultimate BMW M3 in Europe
- **146** About the Sport—We have an Indy Car champ: Jacques Villeneuve. In Formula 1, Schumacher and Herbert are warring and winning











DEPARTMENTS

- 15 People & Places
- 18 Letters to the Editor
- 44 Years Ago
- 156 Technical Correspondence
- **158 Road Test Summary**
- **162 Tech Tidbits**
- 164 Time & Place
- 166 Showcase
- 172 Market Place
- 174 PS

COVER PHOTO BY RON PERRY CONTENTS PHOTOS BY RON PERRY, GUY SPANGENBERG, BILL WARNER, RICHARD M. BARDN & JOHN LAMM



3

Le Mans Racer

Also Testea F-CLASS: A bold

new statement

laguar XJS Convertible

Mercedes-Benz Si

AUG 97 UM28 #C912 55410-2731 JIM PENNINGTON X 3 705 CHOWEN CURVE EDINA

55410 5-DIGIT #BXBDDKP*****