EDITOR Joe Oldham

MANAGING EDITOR **Philip Nochlin**

DETROIT EDITOR **Robert Lund**

TECHNICAL EDITOR Ken Zino

ART DIRECTOR Joseph D. Doyle

PRODUCTION MANAGER Nick J. Tartaglia

SENIOR EDITORS **Bob** Cerullo, SAE John Samanich, SAE

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Carl Caiati** Peter S. Carberry

Roger Huntington, SAE Jeff Scott CONTRIBUTORS

Lucien L. Garvin **Cliff Gromer Rich Taylor**

STAFF ASSISTANTS Marybeth LaBarbera Donna Mattei **Sue Farace**

PUBLISHER Alan M. Waxenberg ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLISHER **Winifred Dougherty**

PUBLISHED BY THE HEARST CORPORATION PRESIDENT John R. Miller CHAIRMAN **Randolph A. Hearst** EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Frank A. Bennack, Jr. CHAIRMAN MAGAZINES DIVISION **Richard E. Deems** PRESIDENT MAGAZINES DIVISION **Gilbert C. Maurer**

VICE PRESIDENT MAGAZINES DIVISION **Edward Fein**



COVER: Ford's Mustang is only one of a bumper crop of new cars and engineering developments. You'll find Bob Lund's complete report in this issue. Photo by Ford Photographic.

Volume 150 Number 3 P tember

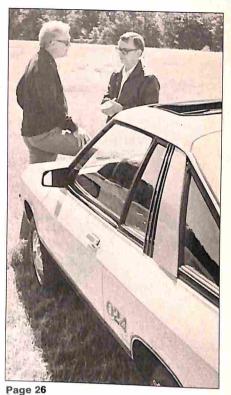
DETROIT 1979

- 26 CAR WARS Bob Lund, our man in Detroit, takes you behind the scenes and under the hood to acquaint you with the new cars.
- **28 AMERICAN MOTORS** Can the new Spirit do it for AMC?
- **30 CHRYSLER** Downsized full-size models and 2-door Omni/Horizons.
- 31 FORD Downsized full-size models and the great new Mustang/Capri.
- **40 GENERAL MOTORS** For now, just a new Eldorado. Toronado and Riviera.

lereMart.com

Gift Quality Vintage Magazines **TECHNICAL**

- 24 MANUAL UPDATE Revisions to your 1978 Auto Repair Manual and 7th edition Automatic Transmission Manual.
- 30 POWER FOR '79-AND BEYOND A lot is happening under the hood. Here's a rundown.
- 37 GM'S E-BODY SUSPENSION Fully independent and state of the art.
- 43 SPARK PLUG PRIMER All you ever wanted to know about spark plugs-and more.
- **59 FIVE TOUGH STARTING** PROBLEMS And how to solve them.
- 72 FACTORY SERVICE MOTOR's bulletin service to keep you up to date.
- 74 FIX IT Tips to save you skinned knuckles.



(2)

REPORT

38 PERFORMANCE AND BUICK The 'doctor's cars' are quickly becoming banker's hot rods.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- 51 BOB LUND'S DETROIT HOTLINE The latest news from our man in Motown.
- 57 WHAT'S NEWS Who, what, when, where, why and how in the industry.

DEPARTMENTS

- **4 INSIDE MOTOR**
- 6 EDITOR'S REPORT
- 2¢ WORTH 8
- 10 TRACKSIDE
- **12 VIEWPOINT**
- 14 PERFORMANCE CORNER 16
- THE BUSINESS PAGE
- 18 PRODUCT NEWS
- 20 LEGISLATIVE WATCH
- **33 READER SERVICE CARD**
- 78 INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Spark Plug Primer

Solving Five Tough Starting Problems



September 1978

10

Motor

One!

903-197

Still The

J'estavino

We're

me

75th

Bob Lund Takes You Through All The New Goodies From American Motors, Chrysler, Ford And General Motors.

Ford's Exciting New Mustan

67-1

09K19 SEP79

*MRK3 31661 16695 0 MARKHAM REPAIR S S RATZLAFF S PDY 116 FORD

100 B