

# SPECIAL SECTION

# Joys Of The Del Monte Forest

If you're going to drive an elegant car you should drive it in an elegant place.



Look, there is absolutely nothing wrong with Howard Johnson's motels. In fact they may be, on balance, the best motels in the world. But what the hell is the man in the brilliant red 212 Vignale Spider doing parked under an orange roof?

He is, after all, a man apart. He has had the taste and the rare judgement and the perseverance to find and restore one of the most magnificent automobiles on earth. God knows how much money he has spent in the process. But now he is driving it; burbling and crackling through the back roads, in touch with the universe as few men ever are. Surely if there is a man who deserves to experience a harmony of his surroundings, this is the one.

So why is he edging his way past the maroon Cutlass and the jumble of pastel Rent-a-Furies on his way to the HoJo reservations desk?

The point here is if you are sensible enough to know the difference between a '48 Town and Country and a '72 Impala; to understand the pleasures of a Stage 2 Ace Bristol as compared with a TR6; to perceive the refinement of a Mulliner Continental in preference to a Dearborn MK IV, you bloody well deserve everything that goes with them.

And that's one of the great joys of going to Monterey to the concours at Del Monte and the Historic race at Laguna Seca. For in Monterey, in the Del Monte Forest, lives a place that calls itself (perhaps immodestly but certainly accurately) "The Last of the Really Great Resorts."

There it is, perched up on a hill to the south of the town of Monterey,

guarded from curious passersby by a formidable gate house complete with polite and uniformed guard. It is no coincidence that until 1957, the Pebble Beach race itself was held through the Del Monte Forest. No coincidence at all that the startling (to Americans of the post war years) cars, agile and beautiful, snarled through the forest reflecting the sun and the shadows of the cypresses.

Because in those days, to own a Ferrari or an Osca or an Aston and to race it meant that you had put yourself 10 years ahead of your time, and that you had found and chosen a place hospitable to your elegant if slightly daring judgments.

That place was Del Monte Forest, a

*Continued on page 34*

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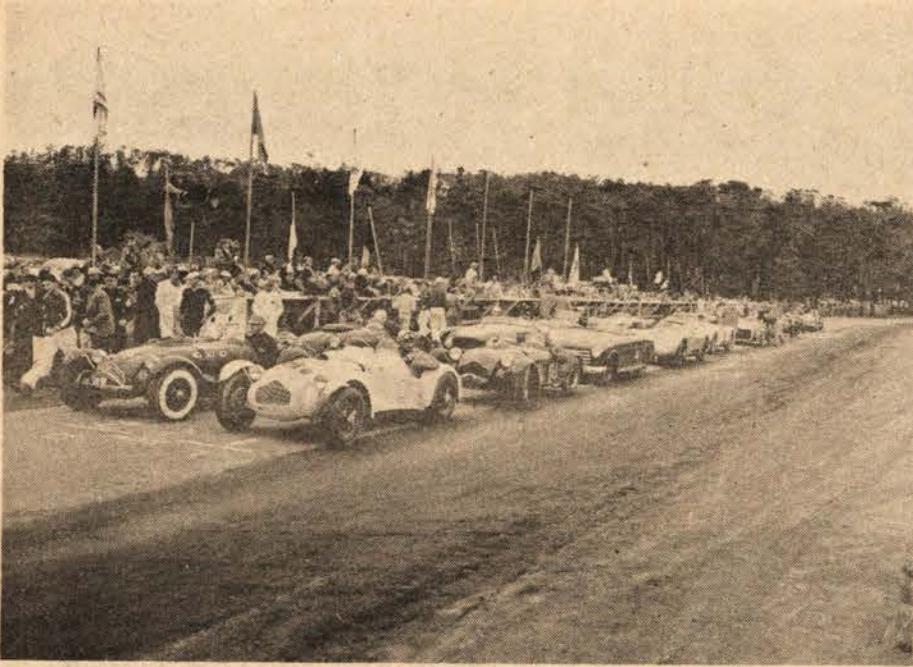
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## SPECIAL SECTION

## The Perfect Place

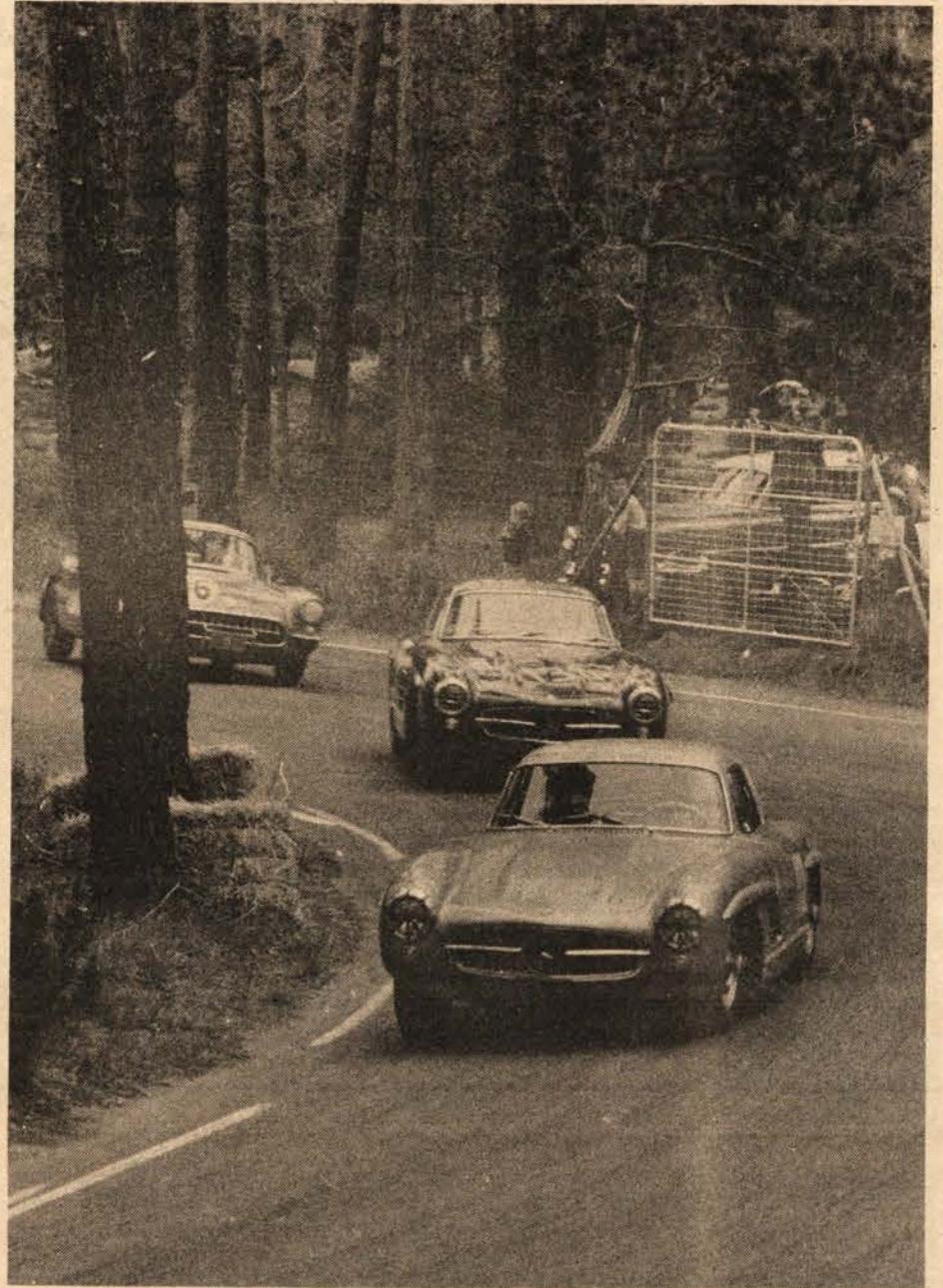


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civilized enclave with a magnificent resort hotel and with private homes to match any in the world. There were, and are, other places like it. Tuxedo Park, N.Y. and some parts of Grosse Pointe, Mich. But who would ever dream of holding a road race along the edge of Lake St. Clair and waking the Ford family in the big stone house along the road from their

solid, establishment early morning dreams? Unthinkable.

It wasn't in Del Monte, because Del Monte was, and is, a resort with an understanding of the total experience of the automobile. The people at the Lodge have always known that the proper gentleman's carriage—and to them that included carriages with uncomfortable aluminum bucket seats that could



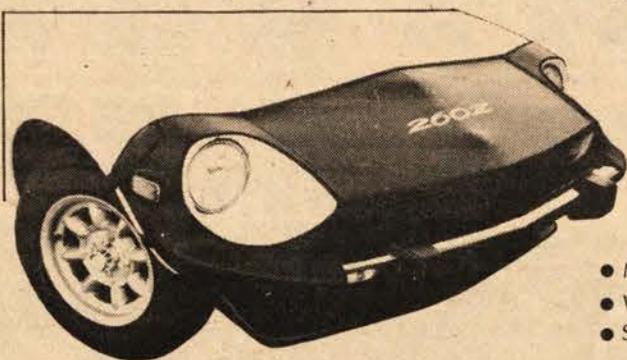
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wind out to 7000rpm in top on the roads through its property—was an integral part of the elegant life in the 20th Century.

And so the race and so the incredible Del Monte concours, the quietest and perhaps the most prestigious concours in the U.S.

That isn't all there is to Del Monte. The Lodge, annually, issues a schedule of events that reads like a summer's program for the cottage dwellers in Newport, Rhode Island in 1890—a time and a place when elegant leisure was at its height in the U.S. Thus, upcoming at Del Monte in 1974 are: the Scottish Highland Games, the Dressage Championships and an equestrian three-day event for the Western American Perpetual Cup, the Samuel F. B. Morse Regatta, the 11th Annual Golden Domino Tournament—all of which follow the early events of the year such as the Crosby, the Pebble Beach Backgammon Championship, the Los Altos Hunt Race Meet and Steeplechase, the Pebble Beach Hunter Trials and National Interscholastic Polo.

Gracious!

Well, it is. And perhaps we have too little graciousness in our lives

these days and too few places that offer it. But Del Monte certainly does and for the same reasons you have bought your Bentley or your Healey Silverstone, the Lodge should be infinitely appealing.

Here is Dean Batchelor writing in *Road and Track* and making the point nicely: "The display of automobiles . . . started soon after the turn of the century and reached its peak on the continent and in England between 1920 and 1935. Owners, manufacturers, society and in many cases, royalty looked forward to these annual or semi-annual 'contests' at their famous watering holes such as Nice, Cannes, Deauville, Bournemouth and Eastbourne. . . the original premise was to display the car and the occupants' ensembles as a total exercise in the presentation of elegance. . . The owner and his lady. . . would drive. . . to the judging area. . ."

Exactly. The ownership of a distinguished automobile requires it be driven. And the fact of ownership should comprehend driving it to a fitting place.

At Monterey on August 10 and 11, there is one of the world's great concours and the first in what should be one of this country's noblest motoring events. It is proper that they be in Monterey and particularly proper that they be centered in the Del Monte Forest.

Once you've been there and seen for yourself, you would not have it any other way.

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