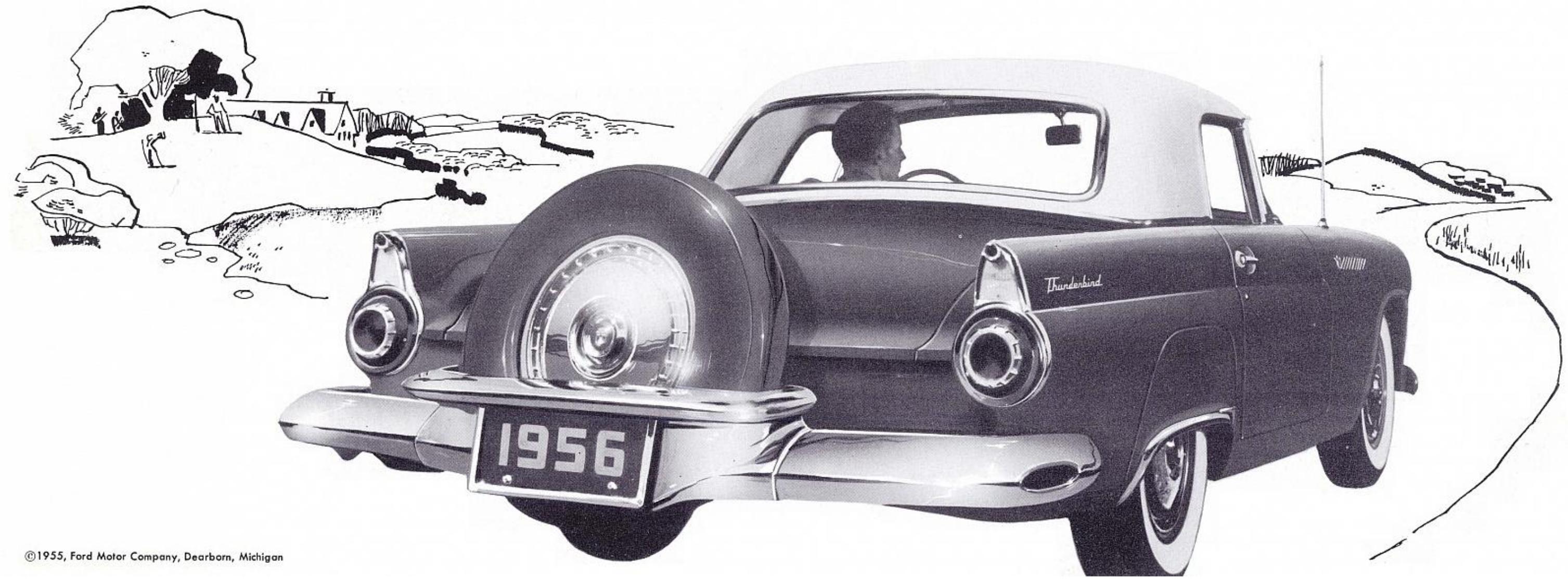


Newest version of America's most exciting car

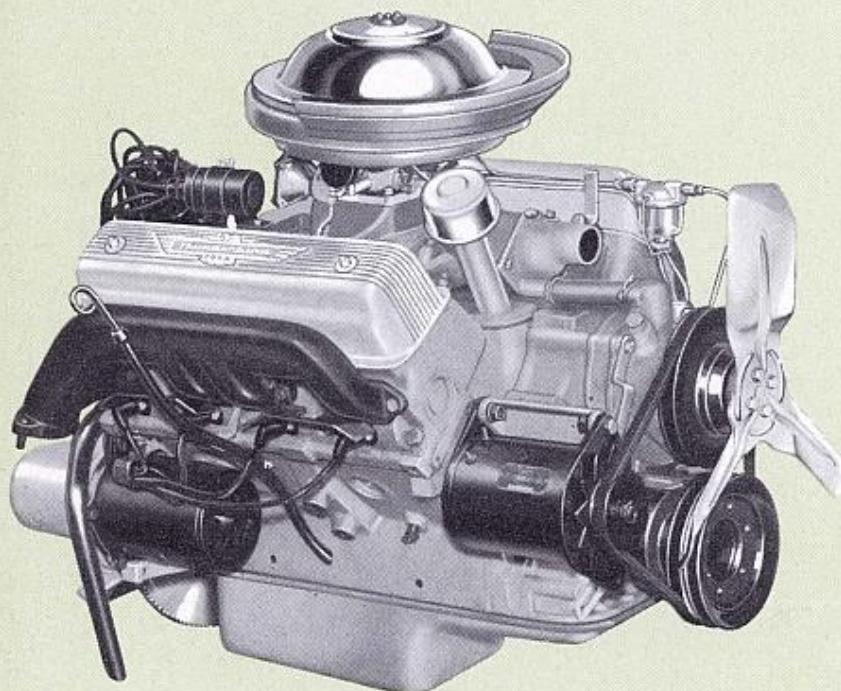
'56 FORD THUNDERBIRD



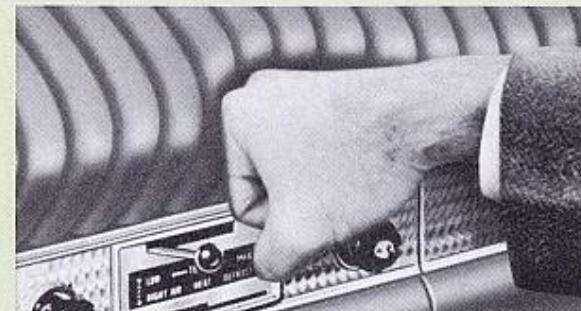
You'll go places as you've never gone before



# with new Thunderbird Y-8 power... new Lifeguard Design...



There's more "GO" than ever, beneath the sleek hood of every new '56 Ford Thunderbird. Whether you select the new Thunderbird Special Y-8 that gives you 225 h.p. with Fordomatic Drive . . . 215 h.p. with Overdrive . . . or the new 202-h.p. Thunderbird Y-8 with Conventional Drive, what a promise of high-performance motoring waits for you behind the wheel! In traffic, the Thunderbird Y-8's are as docile as a lady could desire. They start easily, idle smoothly . . . respond with a change of pace that's as agile as one could wish.



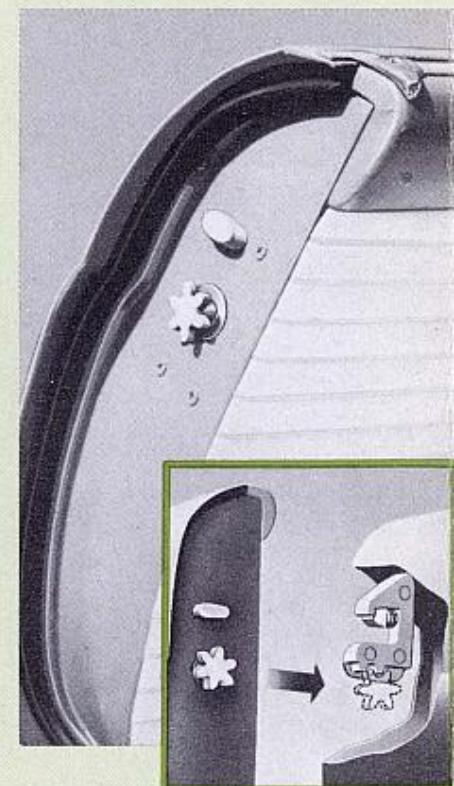
New optional Lifeguard padding is available for instrument panel and sun visors. This special new protective padding material has proved to be five times more shock absorbent than foam rubber.



New deep-center Lifeguard steering wheel acts as a cushion to protect the driver's chest from the unyielding steering column, should he be thrown forward in an accident. Wheel position is telescopically adjustable.



New optional Ford seat belts help hold you and your passengers firmly in the seat. Belts are securely anchored to reinforced, all-steel floor structure. They're easily adjusted or released with one hand. Lifeguard rear view mirror and new optional Lifeguard sun visors give you extra protection against injury in the event of an accident.

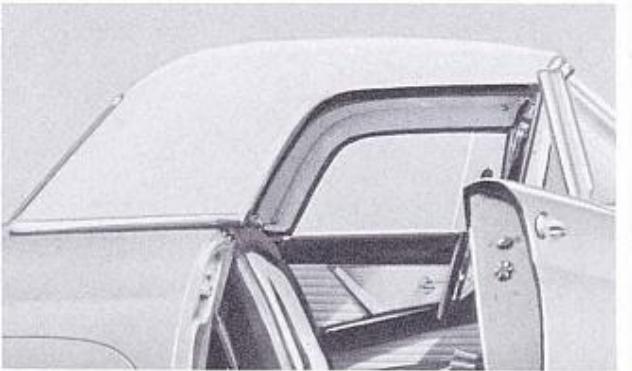


New Lifeguard door latches have a new double-grip engagement to help keep doors from springing open . . . give added protection against occupants being thrown from the car should an accident occur.

and colors to match your own good taste !



This year, color harmonies start with the roof and run clear through to the steering wheel. The smart, new black rayon convertible top, above, folds right down out of sight behind the seat. A white, fabric-grained vinyl top is also available.



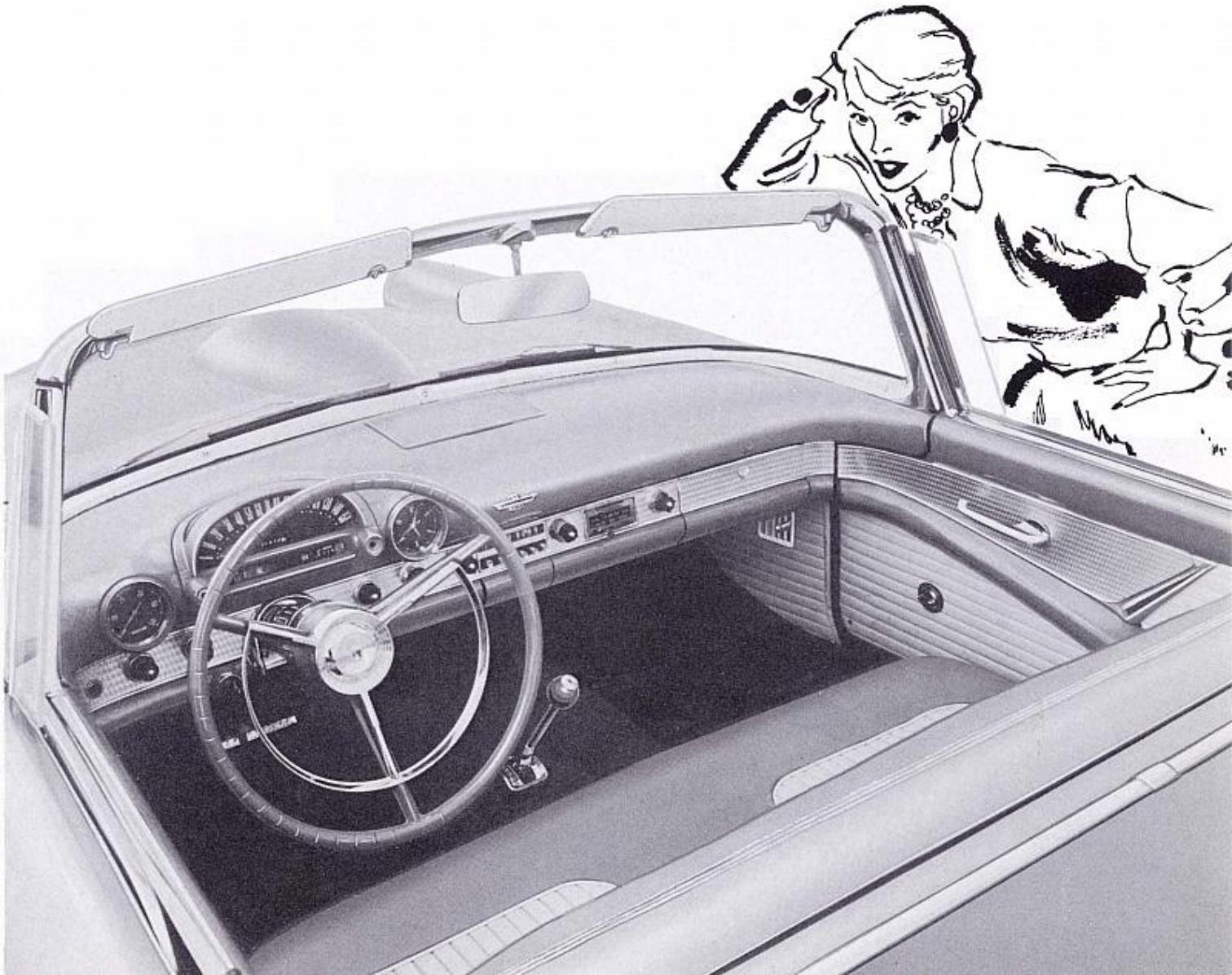
Above is the sleek, new hard top which is easily fastened in place in seconds. It comes in colors that contrast with the body color, producing a handsome new two-tone effect. Also available in matching color on special order at no extra cost.



There are 13 gorgeous two-tone Thunderbird color combinations for '56. Or, if you prefer, you can order your Thunderbird in one of seven beautiful solid colors. Gay new all-vinyl interiors . . . White and Red, White and Peacock, White and Green, White and Black or White and Brown . . . are color-keyed to the exterior colors of your choice. Carpet and steering wheel complete the picture . . . they're color-harmonized, too!

The beautiful new Thunderbird control panel groups its instruments so they can be read at the glance of an eye. Illuminated for quick reading at night. A tachometer shows engine revolutions per minute and the electric clock has a sweep second hand.

New comfort-contoured full-width seat offers room for three. It is foam-rubber-cushioned and fully adjustable for the most convenient driving position.



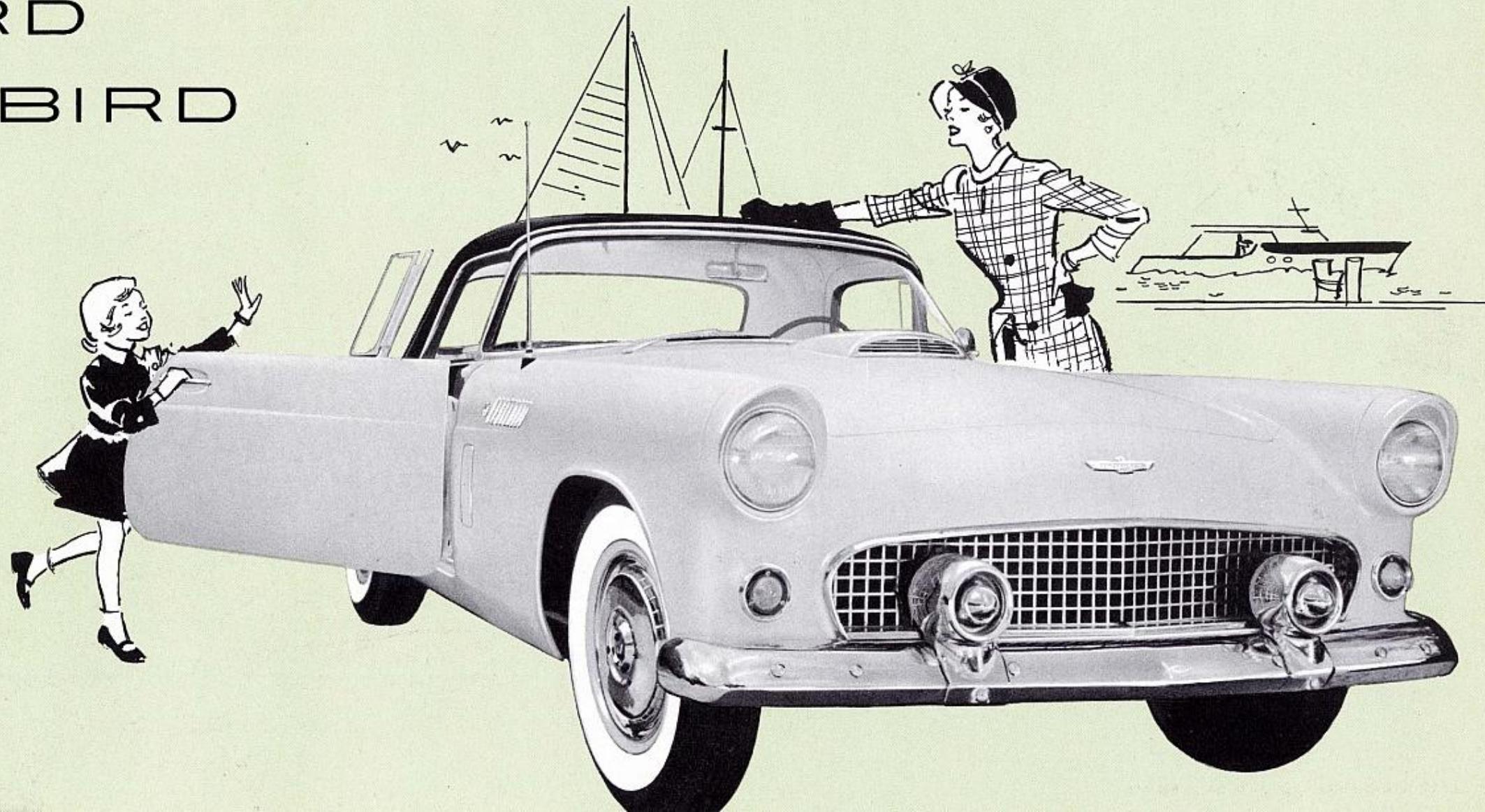
with the more beautiful...more powerful...more distinctive  
new FORD  
THUNDERBIRD

One trial run in the new Thunderbird is enough to quicken the pulse of even the most seasoned driver.

Here is enormous power, tamed to obey your every command . . . precision handling that makes *you* the master . . . road-holding stability that breeds new confidence and skill . . . new Lifeguard Design that provides new protection for you and yours.

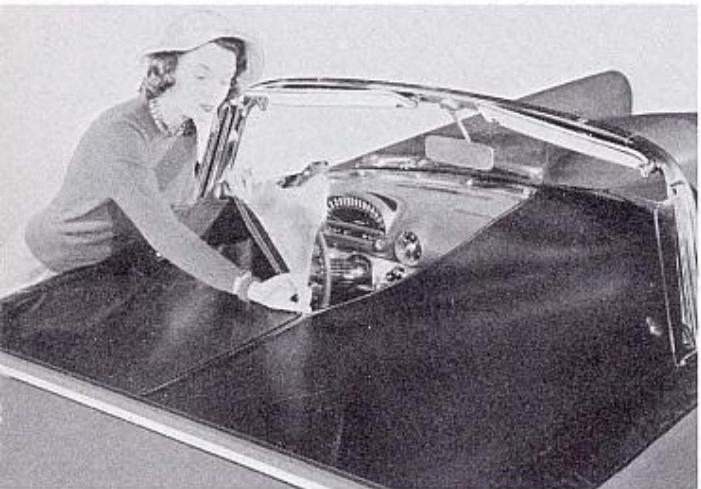
Here is the newest version of an automotive classic. You'll recognize it in the beauty of line . . . in the many new things in the Thunderbird for '56. The spare is mounted *outside* for a smarter silhouette . . . there's more space for your luggage . . . and you'll enjoy new cowl and window ventilation.

You who have special appreciation for advanced design and custom craftsmanship, you who get keen enjoyment from a car that responds to your touch with the sureness of a thoroughbred, should really be driving a Thunderbird. It is for people such as you that this distinguished personal car was designed.



# '56 FORD THUNDERBIRD

designed for complete practicality



New color-keyed tonneau cover snaps on neatly and quickly. Protects driver and passenger compartment from dust, dirt and rain. Converts from one piece to two pieces in seconds. Simply unzip it and you can remove cover from driver's side.



With the spare tire mounted *outside*, there's space for all the luggage you see at left, and more, in the Thunderbird's big new luggage compartment. New spare tire mount moves down out of way on hinged bracket. Deck-lid pops open on counterbalancing hinges when you turn the key.

F O R D   D i v i s i o n   o f   F O R D   M O T O R   C O M P A N Y

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Thunderbird Special Y-8 Engine** (with Fordomatic or Overdrive): 312 cu. in. displacement; 3.80 in. bore x 3.44 in. stroke; 9.0 to 1 compression ratio, 225 h.p. with Fordomatic—8.4 to 1 compression ratio, 215 h.p. with Overdrive. **Thunderbird Y-8 Engine** (with Conventional Drive): 292 cu. in. displacement; 3.75 in. bore x 3.30 in. stroke; 8.4 to 1 compression ratio, develops 202 h.p.

**Engine Features:** Overhead-valve, 90°-Y, short-stroke, low-friction design. Double Twin-Jet carburetor with automatic choke; dual exhausts. New, high-turbulence combustion chambers for top performance with premium fuel; 12-volt electrical system.

**Transmissions:** Fordomatic—torque converter plus automatic gear mechanism; automatic "low gear" starts; floor-mounted Safety-Sequence Selector with illuminated dial. Conventional Drive—11" semi-centrifugal clutch with 3-speed transmission; floor-mounted shift lever. Overdrive—automatic 4th gear cuts "in" around 28 mph, cuts "out" about 22 mph.

**Chassis:** X-type frame; Ball-Joint front suspension with ride stabilizer; 4-leaf, semi-elliptic rear springs with friction-control inserts; double-acting shock absorbers; Double-Sealed, 11" duo-servo brakes, 169.8 sq. in. lining area; 17" dia. deep-center Lifeguard steering wheel with 2" adjustment; parallelogram-linkage steering system, 23 to 1 over-all ratio, 36 ft. turning diameter. Hypoid-type rear axle, 3.31 to 1 ratio with Fordomatic, 3.92 to 1 ratio with Overdrive, 3.73 to 1 ratio with Conventional Drive. 6.70 x 15, 4-ply tubeless tires on 5" rims.

**Exterior Dimensions:** 102" wheelbase; 56" treads; 185.2" length; 71.3" width. Height with design load: 34.2" top of door to ground; 52.2" top of glass-fibre top to ground.

**Interior Dimensions:** 45.1" leg room; 58.8" hip room; 53.3" shoulder room; 33.1" head room (glass-fibre top). Trunk dimensions (max.): 53.5" length, 58.2" width, 16.1" height.

**Available Equipment:** Full-flow oil filter, 4-Way Power Seat, Swift Sure Power Brakes, Master-Guide Power Steering, Power-Lift Windows, I-Rest tinted safety glass, Fordomatic, Overdrive, whitewall tires, special fuel-and-vacuum pump unit, heater, radio, rear fender shields, full-wheel covers, "wire wheel" covers, engine dress-up kit, Auto-Wipe windshield washers, turn signals.

*The specifications contained herein were in effect at the time this folder was approved for printing. The Ford Division of Ford Motor Company reserves the right to discontinue models at any time, or change specifications or design, without notice and without incurring obligation. Some of the items illustrated or referred to in this folder are at extra cost. For the price of the Thunderbird with the equipment you desire, see your Ford Dealer.*