



WINNER

AT

LEMAN'S



WHAT IS THE Le MANS?

The sports car race held each year at Le Mans, in France, is the world's toughest test of automobiles. Cars entered here represent the world's outstanding builders of high-performance cars, many of them seeking to demonstrate the quality of custom-built, rather than mass-produced, products. The race draws entries from all over Europe, and occasionally from the United States. Until 1966, the checkered flag of Le Mans endurance run had never signalled an American victory.

Le Mans is a 24-hour race. Victory goes to the car that travels the greatest distance in that time. Speed is important. But a capability for running at competition speeds throughout the full 24 hours is more important. And most important of all is the reliability of the car to perform totally, under the stress of hours at best possible speed through a variety of driving demands and—as when the rains came in the closing hours of the 1966 race—weather conditions.

The Le Mans event is a road race, run over an 8.36-mile route on two-lane French roads. These are temporarily blocked to regular traffic for the 24 hours of the race. The route includes a hill, S-turns, a three-mile "straight" that bends into a kink and then leads to a 90-degree corner, plus other challenges to stress and test every item of a car's running and controlling mechanisms. To travel these throughout 24 hours, at competition speeds exceeding 200 mph to less than 60 mph, continuous up- and down-shifting, braking, cornering, is to stress the engine transmission, steering and every other feature of a car to the utmost.

HOW DOES Le MANS ADD TO MY FORD?

For you as a Ford Owner, Le Mans has double importance. First, the race itself furnishes the sternest test possible of the value of new components and techniques and whether

they are ready for use in Ford passenger cars. Second, the challenge of Le Mans provides a strong incentive to the hundreds of Ford idea people whose inspirations on design, materials, engineering, and production for improved cars are first applied in the prototype cars built to run at Le Mans before being placed in the Ford you buy.

This line of thinking is what makes the Ford GT Mark II a new approach to prototype endurance racing. Ford has utilized its Le Mans effort for truly prototype purposes—evolving and testing new ideas whose eventual use will be in daily service on mass-produced cars and trucks.

That's why, for example, the Ford GT Mark II cars at Le Mans—running against Europe's finest custom-built, hand-made and hand-assembled racing machines—were equipped with what were basically *production* engines and *production* drivelines.

And that's why any buyer of a Ford Galaxie can order as his engine a powerplant basically the same as that of the Mark II. He knows, when he orders, that his engine incorporates the same strengths of performance and reliability that swept the field at Le Mans. Similarly, the buyer of any Ford car or truck knows that *his* engine was produced with the same benefits of proved design and tested manufacture.

Every component of Ford vehicles benefits from the gruelling test that is Le Mans. Ford's Autolite electrical equipment and parts, for instance, stood stresses described this way by CAR LIFE magazine:

"Electrical troubles are just one of the many things . . . which can eliminate a car from Le Mans. Engines must be started without external aid after each pit stop, the uphill road making it impossible to cheat, and hours of vibration or of running at maximum rpm can play havoc with starters, motors, generators, batteries and other components."

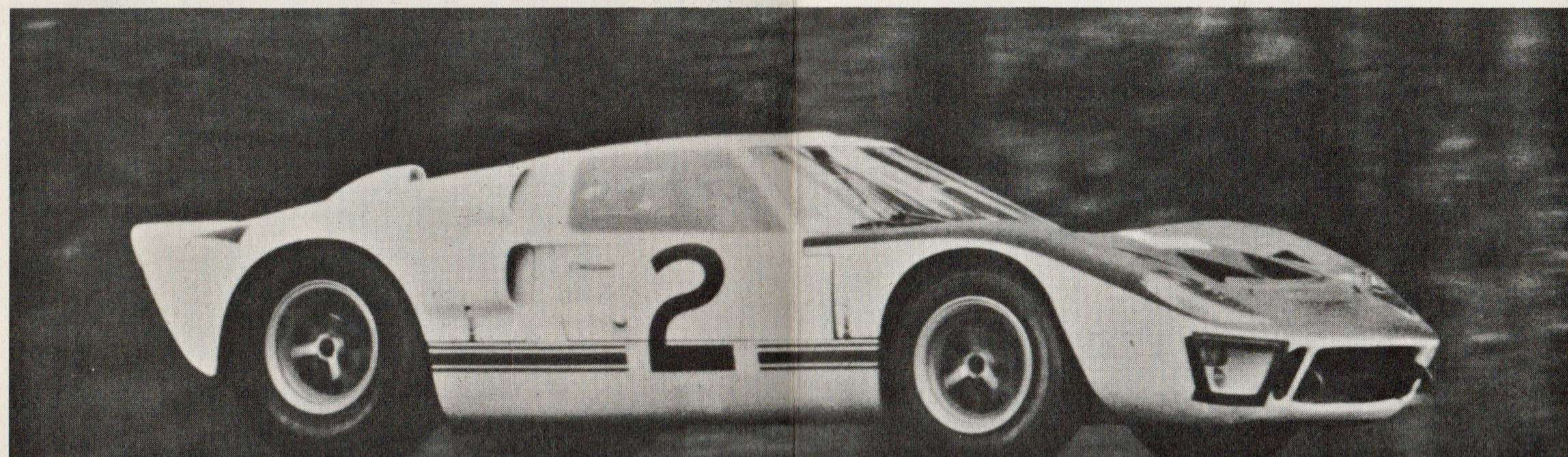
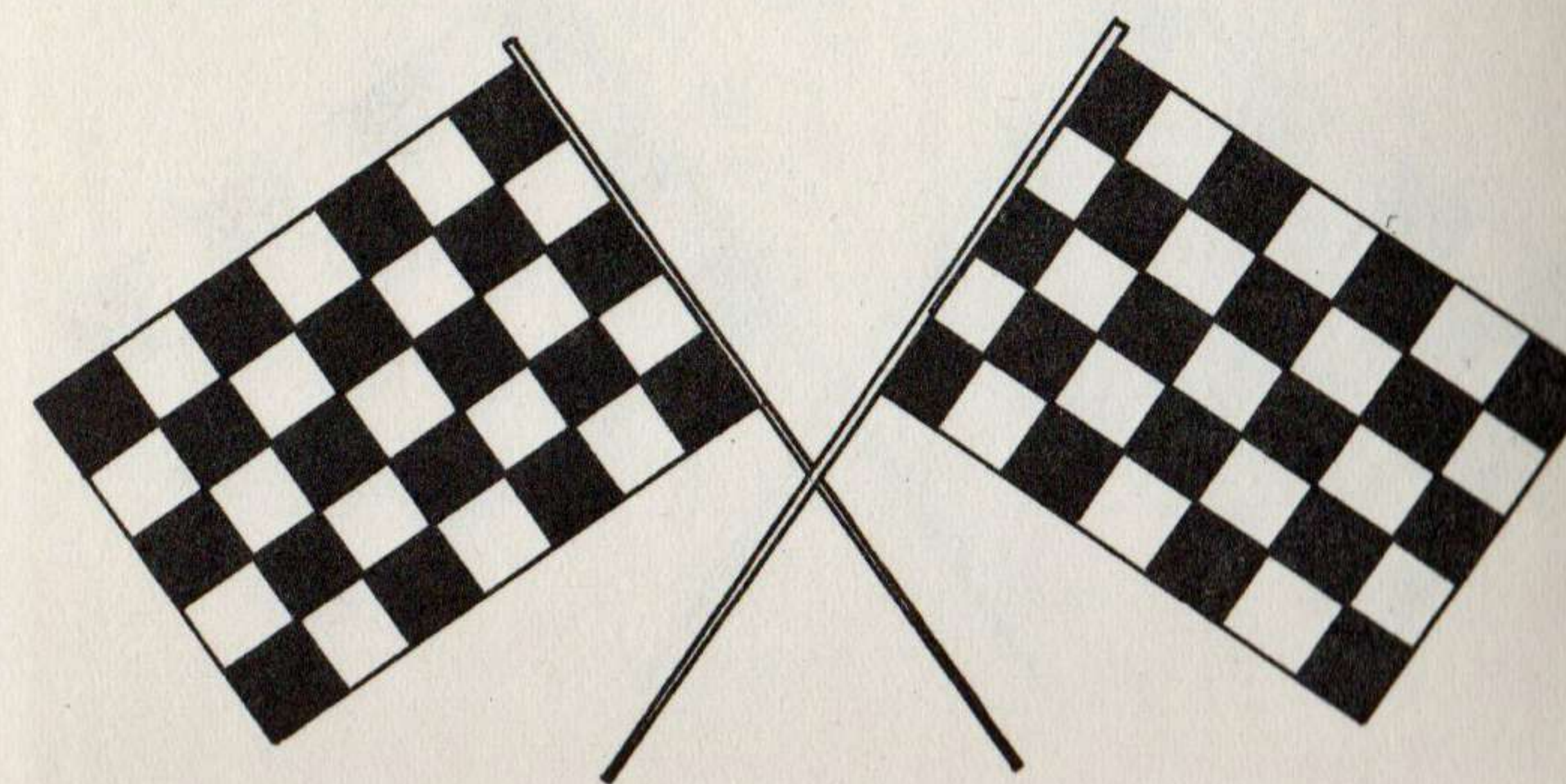
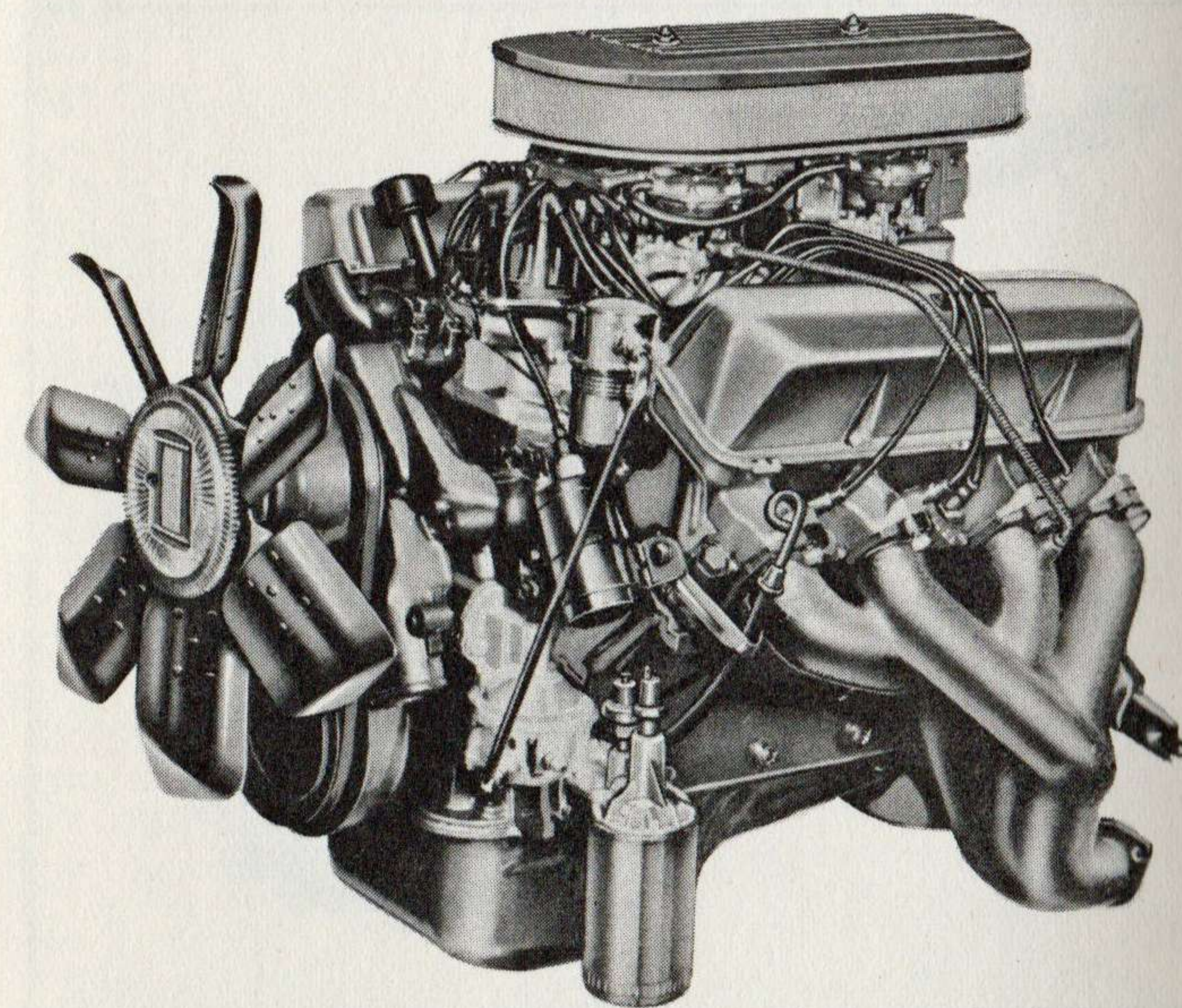
It's these same electrical components, proved at Le Mans, which provide the power for your Ford.

In short, Le Mans tests and proves Ford's better ideas for reliable total performance in Ford cars and trucks. Ford owners benefit in their assurance that the vehicles they drive incorporate those tested, proved ideas.

FORD'S "427" V-8

The Ford "427" High-Performance V-8 Engine that powered the first three winners at Le Mans is virtually the same as those offered on the standard line of Ford cars. Aside from the modifications required to fit the car, the only changes were in materials for some arrangement of the exterior components, plus a special carburetor, ignition system, and a dry sump oil system.

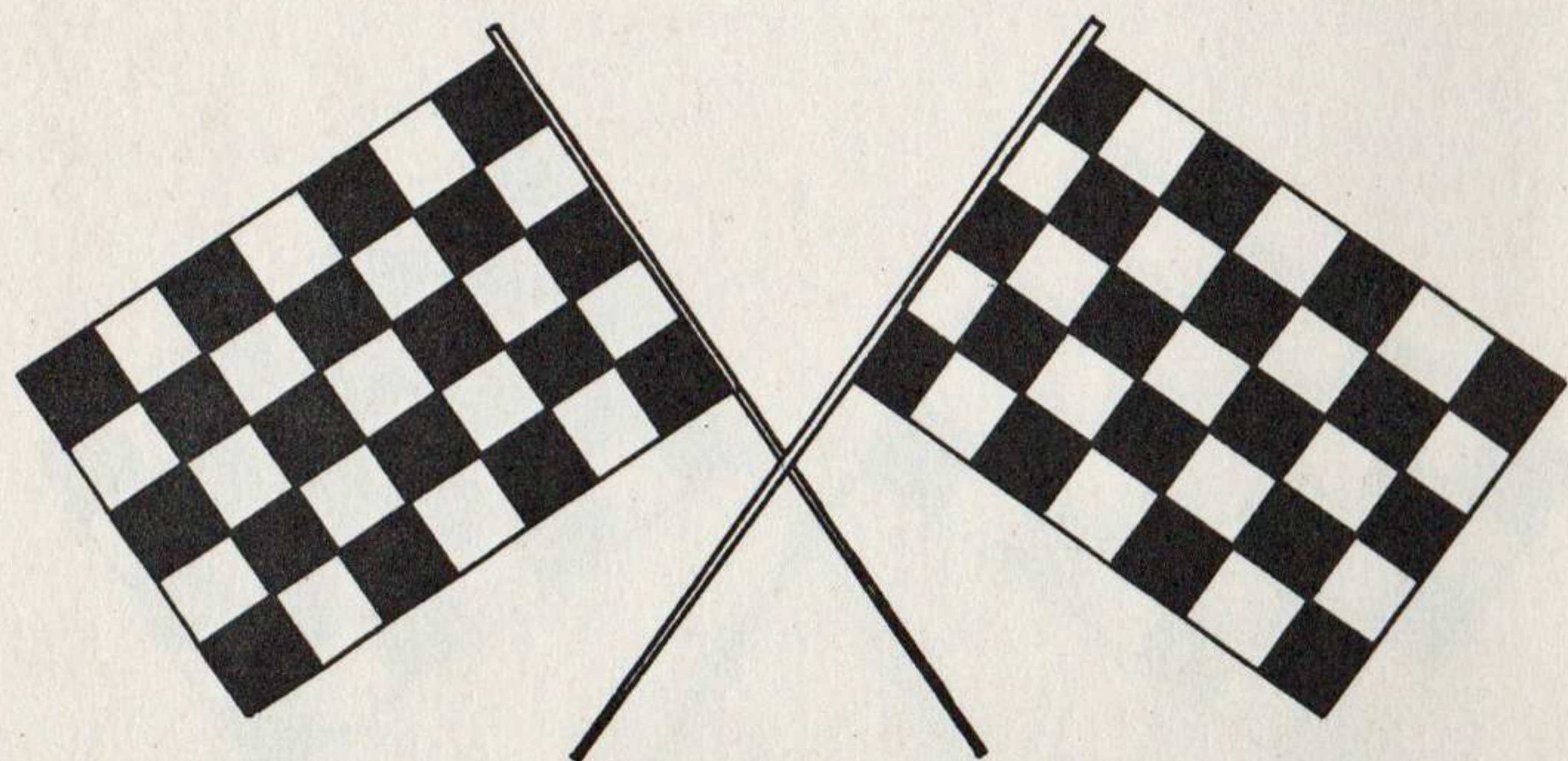
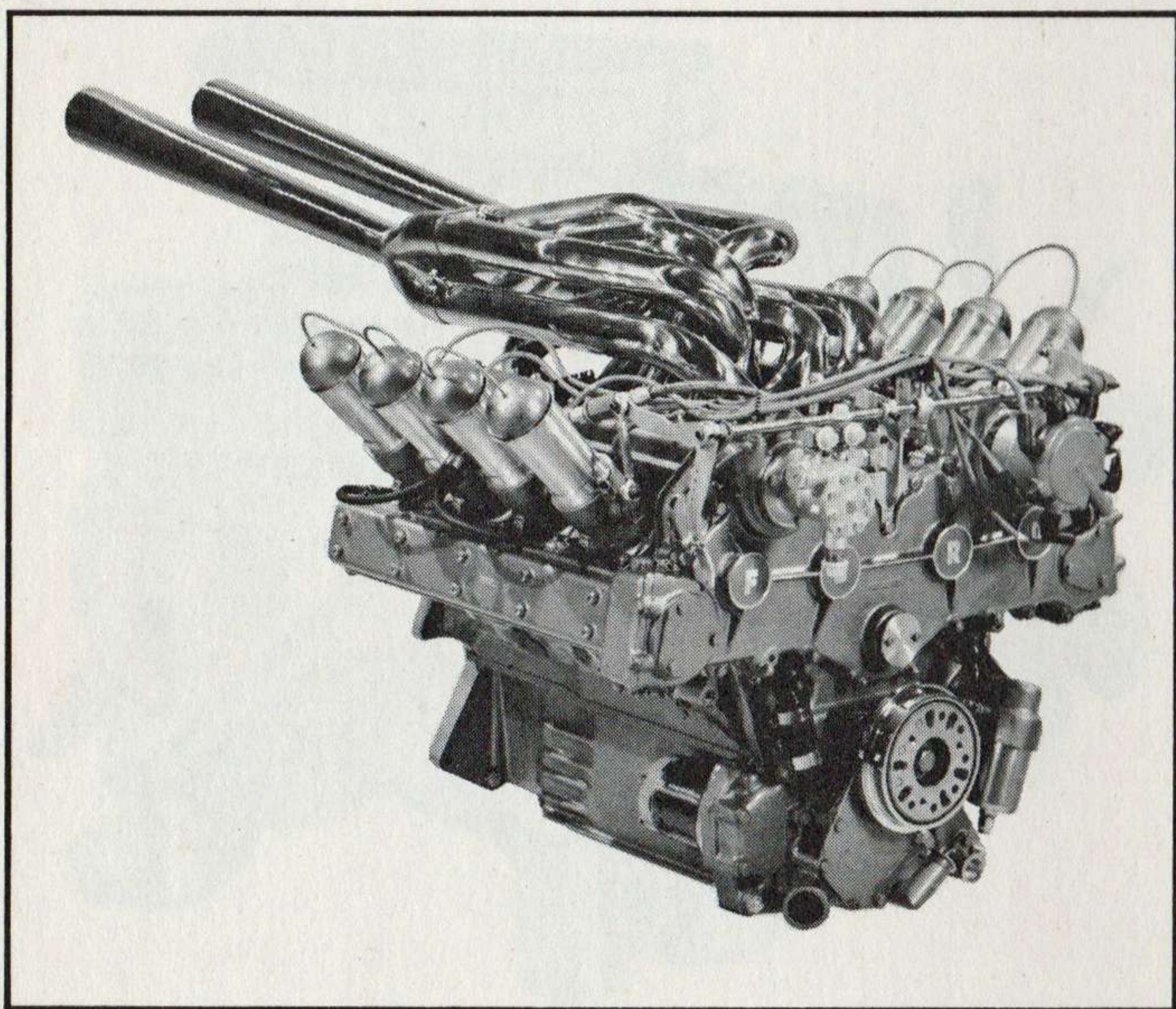
The internal parts of the engine are exactly the same as those on all production "427" V-8's. In essence, the victory in Europe's most gruelling test of endurance was accomplished with engines available to every Ford buyer. And the engineering know-how and manufacturing skill is applied to all Ford engines . . . for Ford, Fairlane, Falcon, Mustang, Thunderbird.



FORD'S "INDY" ENGINE

Specially built Ford "Indy" engines have powered the winners of the Indianapolis 500-mile race, America's most punishing test of automotive equipment, for the past two years. On this outstanding performance, the "Indy" engines have gained recognition as the most dependable and durable engines in their class. One result is almost exclusive use of the Ford "Indy" engine in the "big car" racing circuit . . . where this powerplant continues to add new records and new victories almost weekly throughout the country.

An engineering team unmatched in its skill and know-how produced the Ford "Indy" engine. This same engineering team has shared in development of all Ford engines . . . designing into them the performance, durability, economy and dependability demanded for all of Ford's Total Performance cars.



HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE FEATURES DEVELOPED THROUGH FORD'S PARTICIPATION IN RACING EVENTS

- **WIDE-OVAL TIRES**
Better Cornering and Ride
- **SMALLER STEERING WHEEL**
Easier, More-Positive Driver Control
- **FLOW-THROUGH VENTILATION**
Reduced "In-Car" Noise
- **TRANSMISSION**
Higher Load Capability
- **ENGINE DESIGN**
Improved Oil Flow Control
- **CONNECTING ROD DESIGN**
Increased Strength and Durability
- **SUSPENSION SYSTEM**
Increased Load Capability
- **DISC BRAKES**
Added Brake Life

