

50 YEARS OF MOTORING

This eddity was built 54 years ago. What Stephenson's Rocket was to the railways this and others were to the new-born motor industry. In commemorating the half century of British motoring we present this historical review with the commentary by the man who captured for Britain the world's land speed record - John Cobb.

These are the kind of motors you will see during the great cavalcade of cars which will tour Britain during the coming months. Vintage models from 1896 to 1946 - the pioneers of the industry which started as experiments and ended up with the ability to keep running fifty years later.

They're known as the old crooks - but this doesn't apply to the spirit of the men who built and believed in them - such as Henry Ford who recalls his very first "Old River", forerunner of the Tin Lizzie. Time moves forward to the auto-baby.

And one way of parking a car without tears.

Ingenuity in the industry is untiring. Look at this - what a brilliant idea for the future tourist. A sleeping car modelled on Pullman lines. Pity we can't have more of them.

Eleven years ago a manufacturer built this streamliner and made it manoeuvre like a ship.

Out of the Pathe library comes this flash-back to 1903 and the Gordon Bennett race at Ballyshannon on forerunner of the world's great racing tracks.

Skipping the years here's "Bluebird" in 1935 rebuilt and off to Daytona for Malcolm Campbell's attack on the world record. A great racing man, George Eyston in '36 lowered the record, and then I went to Utah salt flats and drove my Railton at 369 miles an hour.

The spectacular crashes of the track always command a place in a newsreel, but don't forget that the racing-cars of today shape the touring cars of tomorrow. 100 mile an hour saloons are commonplace products now. Once, such speeds were the sole right of racing drivers.

Two names that rank high in the motor-racing world - Donnington Park - and Indianapolis.

The Showrooms of today - Yes, we've moved forward quite a bit since the days when a little red flag went in front.