

TOUGHEST CAR TEST IN WORLD:

Drivers and crews in the Kodak round Australia reliability trial make final adjustments. There's well known driver Jack Murray and Peter Antill, favorite for the gruelling 6,500 mile journey. Iex Davidson another of more than a hundred and ninety entrants. The gruntest car in the event - brother, what a load it's carrying. As a special aid for recumbent pedestrians Jack Davey has his name under the chassis. Just so they'll know who hit them. Well it's heigh he for the open road.

This entrants old enough to vote -- the car, we mean. But it may make some modern limousines look a bit silly when it gets off the high-ways onto the corrugated dirt tracks on the outback. Big and small - they're all entered. This one's so loaded it looks like a Sydney tram in the peak hour. The starting point is appropriately enough, Driver Avenue, Moore Park. Just as the moment though there's less park and more people. And here's 63 year old grandmother Winifred Conway of Rose Bay. She's all ready to sign the register at the booking in point. Provided she doesn't break too many axles she'll finish the trial on time, too.

The Cinemaound-Peugeot Film Unit which will cover the entire course. The job is in the hands of cameraman Lloyd Shiels and Director Peter Whitchurch. Bill McLachlan who has driven twice across Australia, checks over the map with his attractive navigator Marie Higgs. McLachlan got to Brisbane with more than two hours to spare. Right on starting time and there goes the first car, pushing through a mass of people lining the route for miles. More than 200,000 saw the cars set out - and just as many will see them return -- or those who do return.

Car number 2 -- a little Morris Minor -- passes the starting line exactly three minutes later. Competitors lose one point for every minute they're late or early at each control point. Mr. Reg Shepherd managing director of Kodak, which is sponsoring the trial. Mr. W. Wager of Victoria in a Ford Customaline. As we go to press comes a flash that this car was wrecked outside Sandberg and two people were injured. 6,500 miles to go -- Sydney to Brisbane, Townsville, Darwin, Alice Springs, Adelaide, Melbourne and back to Sydney.

And before they get properly going they're being nipped for bridge toll. It's no good, fellers - Sydney or the bush - the taxes get you just the same. The Cinemaound team will make an exclusive documentary of this world's longest and toughest trial, and will also send back newsreel stories.

At three minutes between cars it takes nine and a half hours to get them all way. The last one leaves at 11.5 p.m. And there's still plenty of spectators there to see them off. The trial has caught amazing public interest. They'll drive themselves round Australia -- and probably drives themselves crazy!

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**CARS BATTLE DESERT IN GRUELLING TEST:**

One of Cinesound's film units leaves Townsville ahead of the contestants on the second long leg of the thrilling Redex Trial - the tough haul to Mount Isa. The record's 19½ hours - the schedule's 16 - and he's all set to beat it. Outback residents are bewildered by the city slicker's speed. By the time he's finished waving the cars a mile away. There's Bill McLachlan in a Ford Customline, one of the favorites, and making amazingly fast time over the dry road. But not far past this point a changed signpost diverted him 75 miles out of his way. E.B. Perkins' Rover is number 13 - but not unlucky.

And there's Lex Davidson's Holden. Taking chances - but making time. Some of the road is straight and smooth - and it becomes a speed track with not a pedestrian for a hundred miles. Jack Davey - he's really giving it a go. Well all the goats aren't driving. This lonely land of wide open spaces is ideal for a reliability trial. Next year Australia may see some of the world's most famous drivers competing. There are plenty of hazards. Straying cattle and even bounding kangaroos have caused accidents. Look out, cows, or you'll be skin milk. It's dry out west and the racing cars leave twin trails of dust on their 600 mile run.

Some competitors have to push and there's a long way to go. Others fly past, stopping only for more petrol or water. They ask directions and advice from old identities, who, frankly think they're nuts. And then they're off again on this thrilling test of car and driver. Accidents have been few considering the conditions. One of the unlucky ones is Jack Murray - or his car was. Jack himself is unhurt but he watches his car being towed off to the nearest garage and then he has a few words to say which, unfortunately, we can't let you hear.

The road to Mount Isa is tough - but it's not as tough as the trial organizers thought. The cars and drivers take the ditches and corrugated surface in their stride, and on the good stretches they more than make up lost time. Spare a thought for the Cinesound boys who brought you this picture. It's not exactly a joy ride bouncing uphill over rocks. They're not in the race but they have to be up with the leaders to catch the drama of this unique trial. They had 14 hours sleep in six days. Hold on to your hats. We're going down.

There's Mount Isa - we've come 609 miles in 14 hours and are the contestants glad. They'll get 12 hours rest here - the sissies. Then they're away again and another Cinesound cameraman flies along the route to Darwin - 1098 miles away. Go films the cars racing along the bitumen highway built when the Japs threatened Australia's north. And now Darwin - and the early arrivals are already parked in the Control Point. Even though the cars start at 3 minute intervals, many hours must separate the first and last car in so big a field. Once they enter Control, drivers are not permitted to do any work on their vehicles whatsoever. Some of the cars averaged more than 60 miles an hour to Darwin. A Jaguar hit 95 M.P.H. - a speed considered bad for Sunday drivers. There's 36 hours rest here - and even time for a shave. Then, after the big sleep they make for the beach because it will be many, many miles before they'll see this much water again. It's early spring down south - 95 degrees up here.

It'll be a long way between drinks tee - so they have one for the road to Alice. There's Peter Antill, on the left. He's still favorite to win the trial and has made the fastest time so far. They're almost half way on the round-Australia drive. And there's Grandma Conway, 63 and still up with the field. Someone else will take out the prizes but for our money Grandma Conway wins the reliability contest. And tomorrow? Right down the continent from North to South.