

# Little Calculator Is Replacing Slide Rule

## Liechtenstein Device Aids Navigators in Auto Rallies

By FRANK M. BLUNK

No so many years ago, four or five perhaps, the recognized experts in sports car rallying were usually mathematical geniuses loaded down with stop watches and various shapes of slide rules and books of tables. They enjoyed a supremacy over the average person because no average person could ever hope

to cope with these devices effectively. John Burns and his wife Constance, of Buffalo, were classed in the upper bracket of the rally field in those days, but it was not until the introduction in America of the little pepper-pot type of calculator named Curta, that they began to win major events. The Curta is manufactured in Liechtenstein and its inventors intended it to be a replacement for the slide rule because of its quickness and infallibility. Its worldwide acceptance as a rally instrument never entered their minds.

### Various Methods Used

Burns insists that the use of a Curta in rallies is quite simple, at least a lot easier than paper and pencil or a slide rule, since, in effect, the Curta accumulates the information set into it and always has it instantly available.

Rallyists use various methods of working with the Curta, but basically it boils down to putting the indicated rally speed, expressed in either minutes per mile or miles per minute, into the machine, then turning the operating handle to correspond either to the odometer reading or the time. The answer shown in the Curta is then either the time at which the mileage should be reached, or the mileage that should come up at a definite time.

With either method it is practical for the navigator to make an exact check as often as every tenth of a mile or every ten seconds. Speed changes are handled by setting the new speed into the Curta at the odometer mileage shown at the change point.

The Curta is now widely used and its success may be found in the fact that the "geniuses" who stick to the old methods have been relegated to the second or third echelon, while the Curta users are the top finishers.

Larry and Helen Hough of Westport, Conn., who have won their last three rallies in a row, including the New Jersey national event and last week-end's Yankee Monte Carlo, are disciples of the Curta. Others are Barbara and Jim Bickham of Sandusky, Ohio, who tied for first in last week-end's Press on Regardless National Rally out of Detroit. The Houghs and the Bickhams, incidentally, both drive Mercedes-Benz 190 SL's.

Willard Whistler and Paul Stephens of Ohio, in a Kar-

mann-Ghia, shared the first-place tie with the Bickhams. Gene and Ruth Kelly of Detroit, in a Mercedes-Benz 300 SL, were the runners-up. The Bickhams and the Whistler-Stephens team each had only 47 seconds error on the two-day, 650-mile run.

### Rally Slated Saturday

The Stargazer Rally of the Scuderia South Shore of Sayville, L. I., will be run Saturday night, starting from the Oakdale Shopping Center, on Route 27A in Oakdale. Registration will start at 7 P. M. This will be a straight time, speed and distance event of about 100 miles on paved roads. Vince Brooks, the rallymaster, may be reached at ROnkonkoma 9-4498. The entry fee will be \$4 per car.

The Metropolitan New York Porsche Club announces its Challenger Gymkhana at the Roosevelt Field (L.I.) Shopping Center for Sunday, May 15, with registration starting at 8:30 A.M. and competition opening at 10 A.M. The event is limited to 100 cars and pre-registration is recommended. Bernard Switkes, 6 Soulice Place, New Rochelle, N. Y., is chairman. His phone is NE 6-0681.

The entry list is still open for the New York Region, Sports Car Club of America concours d'elegance, to be held at the Scarsdale American Legion Post Sunday afternoon, starting at 2 o'clock. To reach the site, take Exit 17 off the Hutchin-

## Exact Check Can Be Made at 10-Second Intervals in Race

son River Parkway and continue west on Mamaroneck Road to a point just beyond the Saxon Woods Golf Club.

The Volvo Sports Car Club of New York will meet Friday night at 9 o'clock at the Bella Vista Restaurant, Route 25A, in Centerport, L. I.