

Science & Mechanics

FEBRUARY 1972

02062

**S & M TESTS
2 NEW
FRONT-WHEEL-
DRIVE
SPORTS CARS**

**JOE GUTTS TESTS
3 MINI MOTOR
HOMES**

STILL
35c



**LYLE
SHELTON
TELLS
"HOW I
FLY THE
450 MPH
AIR RACERS"**



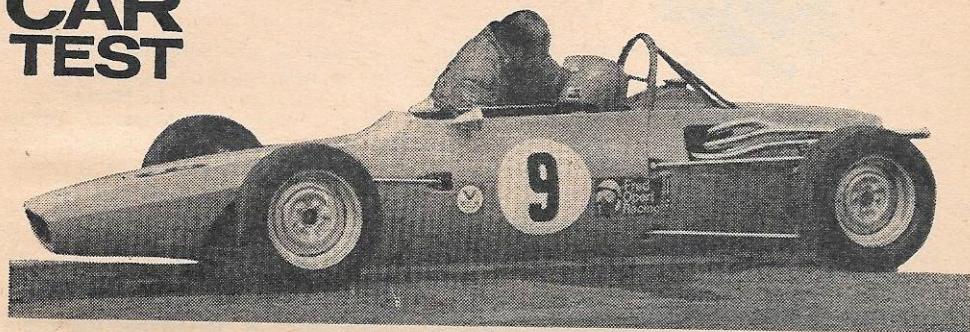
39 04 9730 TRAB05ED-9 AUG74
D TRACY
12810 SHERMAN
WARREN MI 48089

S&M
CAPSULE



CAR
TEST

TITAN FORMULA FORD

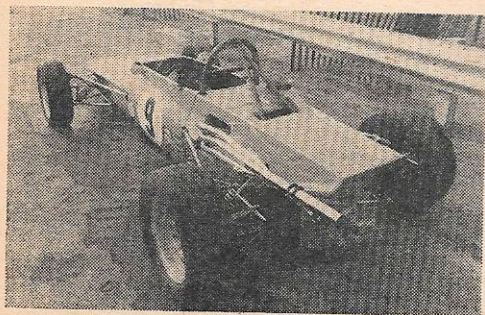


Fred Opert talks to Racing School instructor Bert Hawthorne, in the Titan.

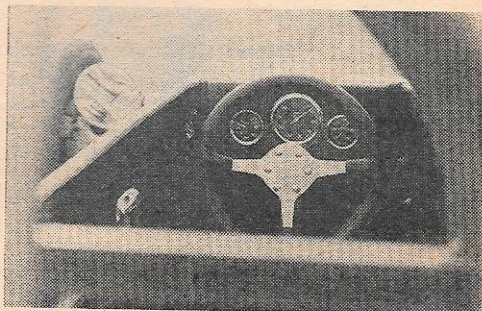
We don't often get to road test honest-to-goodness racing cars, but we were recently lucky enough to have the Fred Opert Racing School let us play with one of their Formula Fords at the Bridgehampton road racing circuit. Formula Ford is a popular amateur racing class in England that is spreading like wildfire here. Unlike Formula Vee, which uses VW engines and suspensions, Formula Ford employs nearly stock 1600cc engines from the Pinto or Capri and real race car suspensions. The stock Weber 2-bbl. carburetor must be retained, ports and valves may be polished, the engine can be balanced, exhaust systems are unrestricted, wheels must be steel with a maximum 5½-in. rim width

and the whole thing has to weigh at least 882 lbs. The result may not be an Indy car, but you could have fooled me during several hot laps around Bridgehampton. The engine screams, the road whips by, and the handling is like nothing you've ever experienced. It also doesn't cost like an Indy car. Fred Opert Racing Inc., 17 Industrial Ave., Upper Saddle River, N.J. 07458, will sell you a Titan, ready to race, for \$5395. You can probably go a whole season on one set of tires and aren't likely to blow the lightly-stressed engine if you miss a shift. If you'd like to try before you buy, Opert runs a three-day Racing School at Bridgehampton for \$500.

—JERRY HEERING



Business end of the Titan houses a nearly stock Pinto 4-cylinder engine attached to a Hewland 4-speed racing transmission.



Cramped cockpit features tiny racing wheel, reclining seat and only three instruments: tach, water temperature and oil pressure.