



Few can keep from casting looks of envy and desire roadward when the speedy little short-fused bombs so aptly named sports cars go flashing past on our streets and highways these days.

And few are those who at one time or another since the end of World War II have not yearned secretly to drive, even race, one of the low-slung, high-g geared products of European mechanical ability.

So, for the vast, uncounted number which give the pint-sized bundles of thrust and energy a place high up their entertainment calendar, the dates April 19, 20 and 21 hold special significance.

For during that week end on the smooth black top of Dillingham Field at Mokuia, Oahu, many of the United States' best sports car drivers will converge on the Islands to race in the first annual Hawaiian International Sports Car Speed Week.

MORE than 100 cars and drivers are expected from the Mainland to augment a force of 40 or 50 Isle drivers who'll be competing for the first time in history in a truly championship gathering of the racing clan in Hawaii.

A host of speedy Ferraris, Maseras, Porsches, Jaguars, M-Gs, Austin-Healeys and other raceable sports cars will blend their roaring motors into a veritable symphony of small cars; mechanized might that will bring delight to auto enthusiasts.

The prospects of the honest-to-goodness major sports car racing event have attracted enough attention even this early in the planning so that it appears possible that

the show might be accepted for a permanent place annually on the international racing schedule.

The Associated Sports Car Clubs of Hawaii, sponsoring institution of the first Sports Week, is going all-out to sell the event to local sports fans, be they sports car enthusiasts or not.

SPECTATOR space and parking accommodations for more than 10,000 will be available at Dillingham Field and plans have been mapped with the assistance of the Honolulu Police Department to avoid traffic congestion on the highway leading to the racing area.

For three days the experts of the foreign car brigades will wheel and brake around the three-mile track at Dillingham Field in day-long programs that will feature snazzy, modified models which have attained speeds up to 190 miles-per-hour on the straightaway.

Expected to head the invasion from the Mainland will be stables belonging to Tony Parravano and John Edgar, sports car enthusiasts who have plunged hundreds of thousands of dollars into the expensive hobby of winning road races.

Carroll Shelby is expected to head Edgar's crew of drivers. The lean Texan holds the 1956 National driving championship and is generally regarded as the country's best driver.

Ken Miles, one of the West Coast's greatest; Phil Hill, regarded by many as the ace of all American drivers; Johnny Von Neumann, a California favorite, and other highly-regarded Mainland favorites are expected to race here.

Ready for the big race is sports car enthusiast Tetta Richert shown in her Porsche-Spyder. Right now, it is the only car of its type in the Territory, but many more unusual sports cars are expected to arrive next month to participate in competition at Dillingham Field. Mrs. Richert, a former speedboat racer, is the wife of Dr. Thomas H. Richert and the mother of two teen-age sons and a 7-year-old daughter. Her car, which has a lightweight aluminum body, will travel well in excess of 100 miles an hour.

Parravano, reputed to have invested more than \$500,000 in keeping his name prominent in the sports car racing game, has indicated he will try to bring the famed Marquis Alfonso de Portago of the Ferrari team as head man in his driving contingent.

Richie Ginther, Bill Murphy, Jack McAfee and a host of other equally prominent big time racers from the Mainland also are among those reported certain to enter.

At least six races are scheduled Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21, after qualifying and time tests Friday.

Local officials have announced that races will be held in all sports car divisions in both production and modified classes.

AMONG the more interesting early entries are an Alfa-Romeo, a Monza Ferrari, an Ermini Spyder, a Porsche Spyder, a Buick-Kurtis, a Mercedes-Benz 300 S.L., a Ferrari-Nach Le Mans, several Porsche 550's, a Lotus Mk IX, an Arnolt-Bristol and a Triumph TR-2.

The final list of entries undoubtedly will contain practically every top type of sports car.

While sports car races admittedly involve tremendous high speed and remarkable driving ability, it is significant that injuries and fatalities have been almost non-existent when compared to the rate involved in actual automobile driving.

Sports cars, whose owners frown when they are identified with midjet racers, stock cars or dragsters, are almost entirely imported from European countries. Only the Ford Thunderbird, the Chevrolet Corvette and the Cunningham are considered truly American-made sports cars.

Other small American cars do not qualify for the sports car categories.

NINE classes of sports cars make up the normal field for racing events such as Hawaii's Speed Week. The local event will include races in all categories with events scheduled also for novice drivers.