

# Auto

MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

# EXPRESS

60p April 17-23 Issue 81

**ON YOUR BIKE ICKE**



A whiff of Green hypocrisy? Page 12



**YOU CAN'T BEAT A USED**



Say Bonnie and Clyde Page 16



**WIN £250** If you can spot the car Page 54



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## Britain's No1 seller for motorists

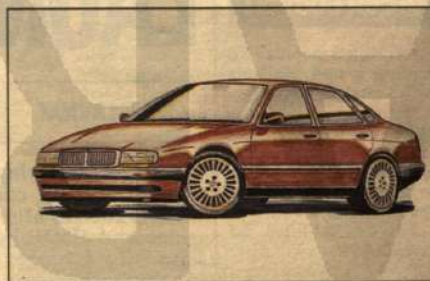


**RED HOT LANCIA**  
Delta HF Integrale Page 28

**ON TEST:** Used Fiat Pandas; 4x4 saloons from Subaru, Vauxhall, Citroen, Peugeot and Ford; Lancer Liftback Page 25

# JAG IN POLE POSITION

Open Iron Curtain and cheap labour means likely Polish base for Jaguar Page 6



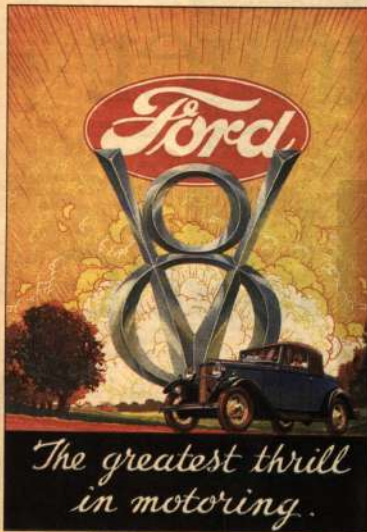
**Join the caravan trail**  
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# You can't beat a used Ford

In spring 1934, Clyde Barrow (of Bonnie and Clyde fame) wrote to Henry Ford praising his V8. Al Baron tells the tale

'I have drove Fords exclusively when I could get away with one ...

For sustained speed ... the Ford has got ever other car skinned'



*The greatest thrill in motoring.*

**BIG DEAL:** Original Ford poster from the sunrise days of motoring

**EXTRA LEADED:** Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death by cops near Arcadia, LA on May 23 1934. Bullet holes on the side and windshield testify to the hail of lead poured into the car



**M**ANY big names have advertised cars over the years, but the prize for the strangest endorsement ever received by a motor car manufacturer must go to the Ford company.

In 1934, Henry Ford received a glowing testimonial for his V8 from Clyde Barrow, the infamous bank robber immortalised in the film Bonnie and Clyde.

In the 1967 movie, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were played by Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway. Ruggedly handsome Beatty, with Dunaway as his partner, robbed the rich. And if they did not give to the poor, at least they empathised with them.

In reality, Clyde Barrow was a huge, ear- and nose-sized, distinctly unattractive youth. Far from being a latter-day Robin Hood, he was a vicious psychopath who murdered something like a dozen people in cold blood.

Apart from Bonnie, Clyde had two great passions - guns and cars. During their two years on the run outwitting the southern police, the vicious Barrow gang was surprisingly inept at robbery. It escaped with something less than £6,000 from its biggest



**PARKER'S MOOD:** Clyde's beloved Bonnie Parker posing with a Ford V8

heist and most of the time it took considerably less loot.

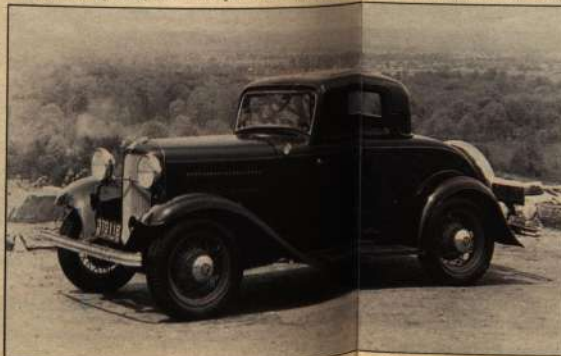
But Clyde, we are told, did have one talent. He was an extremely skillful driver.

In the days before souped-up police cars, the Ford V8 was rated as just about the fastest thing on four wheels.

Tall and usually black, with

large shining radiator, it was arguably the most reliable motor vehicle of the era. It could do 70mph in second gear and a cool 90mph in third.

It had several other features which proved invaluable to a man in Clyde's line of work. It held the road when cornering, was quieter to drive than most



**BEFORE THE FIRE:** The distinctive lines of the Ford V8 type 18. This is a



**FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED:** Ghoulish punters flocked to see the bullet-riddled car that Bonnie and Clyde drove

modern cars, had very sensitive steering and could ride across open country and even-ploughed fields.

It was well-upholstered and spacious, too - an important feature, because Clyde and Bonnie slept in the car and shared it with a pet rabbit.

The Ford V8 was streets ahead of the police cars of the time - Plymouths and Chevrolets.

On May 23 1934, after killing and wounding dozens of people, committing numerous robberies and stealing an unspecified number of cars, Bonnie and Clyde were gunned down on a backroad near Arcadia, LA.

A team of lawmen lying in ambush pumped 167 bullets into their tan-coloured Ford V8. They

had blasted their way out of ambushes before, but this time they were caught cold. They never had a chance.

Later, a huge crowd gathered round the bullet-riddled car, many of them taking ghoulish souvenirs, such as the car's hubcaps and splinters of glass.

Police from New Mexico to

Missouri heaved a sigh of relief on hearing of their demise. But a mere six weeks before, the Ford Motor Company, in Detroit, had received a letter from Clyde, addressed to Henry Ford himself and posted from Tulsa, Oklahoma on April 10, 1934.

Here (on the right) is a facsimile of the original.

Tulsa, Okla  
10th April  
Mr. Henry Ford  
Detroit Mich.  
Dear Sir:-  
While I still have got  
breath in my lungs I  
will tell you what a dandy  
car you make. I have drove  
models exclusively when I could  
get away with one. For sustained  
speed and freedom from  
trouble the Ford has got over  
other car skinned and even if  
my business hasn't kept  
strictly legal it don't hurt any  
thing to tell you what a fine  
car you got in the V8 -  
Yours truly  
Clyde Champion Barrow

## I can make any other car take a Ford's dust. Bye-Bye, John Dillinger

**CLYDE BARROW** was not the only world-famous gangster to appreciate the performance of the Ford V8.

A month after Henry Ford received Clyde's note another arrived from Public Enemy Number One, John Dillinger.

Dillinger's career was even more dramatic than Clyde Barrow's. He escaped the electric chair at least twice.

On October 12 1933 he shot his way out of Lima prison, Ohio, eliminating Sheriff Jesse Sarber in the process.

He was recaptured in Tucson Arizona early in 1934 and transferred to Crown Point, Indiana. Here he made his most daring escape.

### Desperate bid

A news report of the day describes his break for freedom: "John Dillinger, listed as America's Public Enemy No. 1, a notorious desperado and killer, escaped yesterday from the local jail in the most sensational 'break out' ever recorded in American prison



**DEAD IN TRANSIT:** Dillinger's corpse in a police van en route to the mortuary

annals... With the aid of a dummy pistol, he forced a guard to unlock the door of his cell. Then, with an equally desperate negro prisoner, he seized two machineguns from

the warden's office... At gunpoint, they took a car from a garage owner and set off down the main highway." On March 31 that year he evaded capture once again by

blasting his way out of a police ambush in Minnesota.

But the bloody end to his career was not far away.

Chicago cops were tipped off by a girlfriend the gangster was going to a movie starring James Cagney and Myrna Loy. At 10.40pm on Sunday July 22 1934, as he left the Biograph Cinema, Dillinger was gunned down by the police.

### It's a treat

On May 17 1934, two months before John Dillinger's violent death, Henry Ford received this letter:

Hello Old Pal:-  
Arrived here at 10am today. Would like to drop in and see you.

You have a wonderful car. Been driving it for three weeks. It's a treat to drive one.

Your slogan should be, Drive a Ford and watch the other cars fall behind you. I can make any other car take a Ford's dust.  
Bye-Bye  
John Dillinger