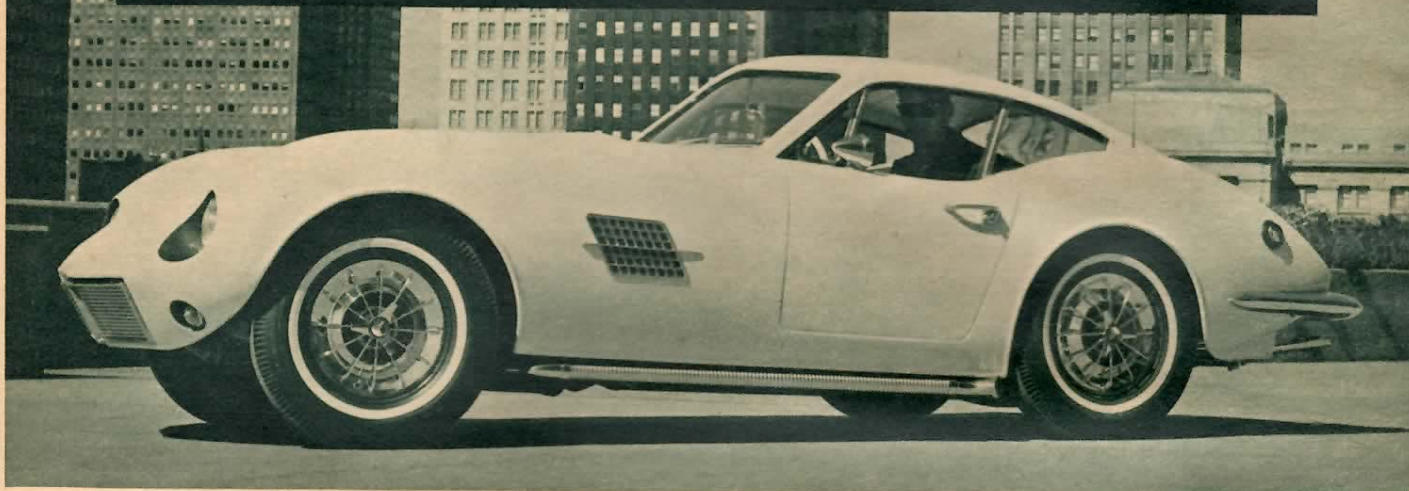
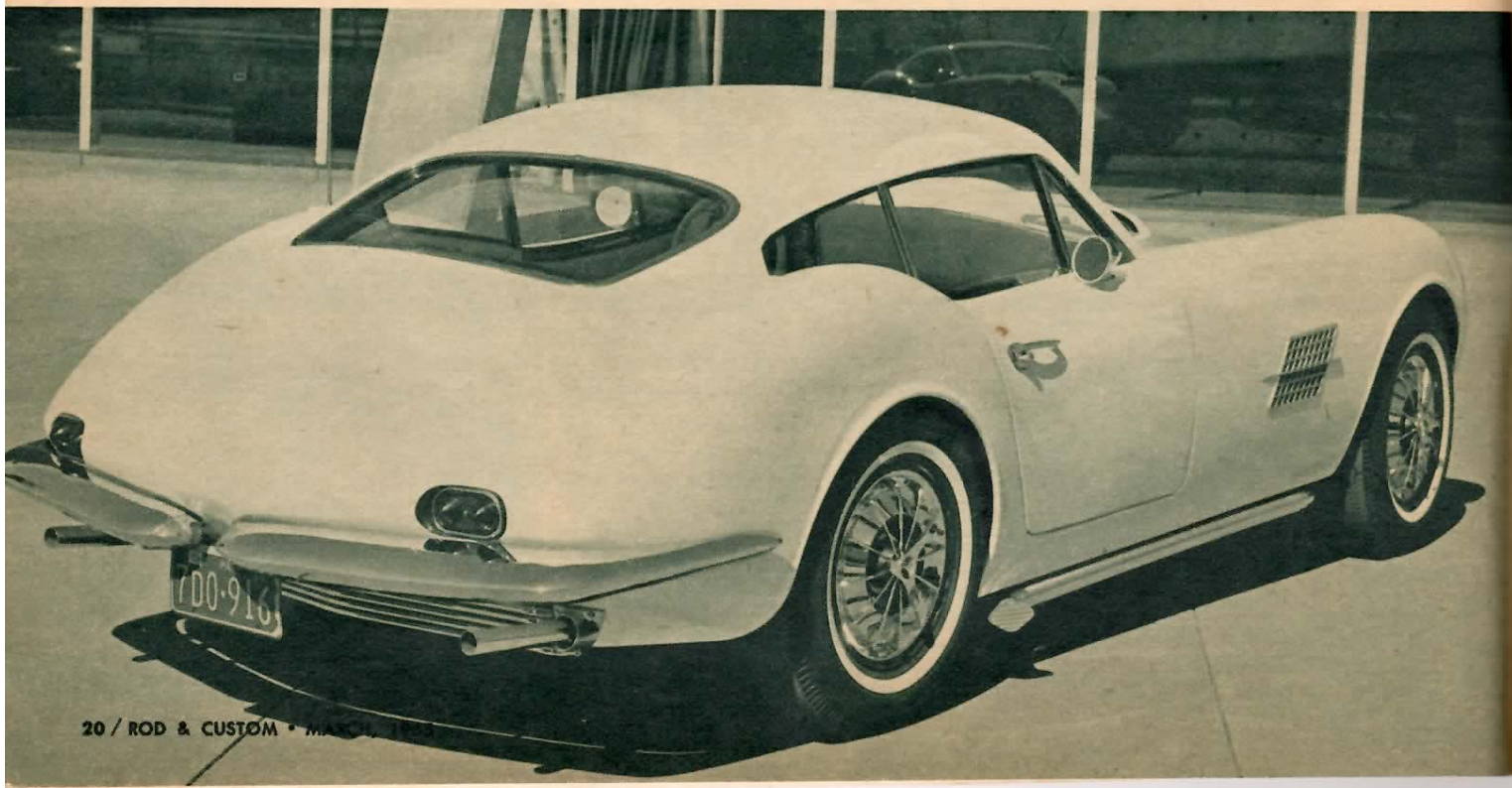


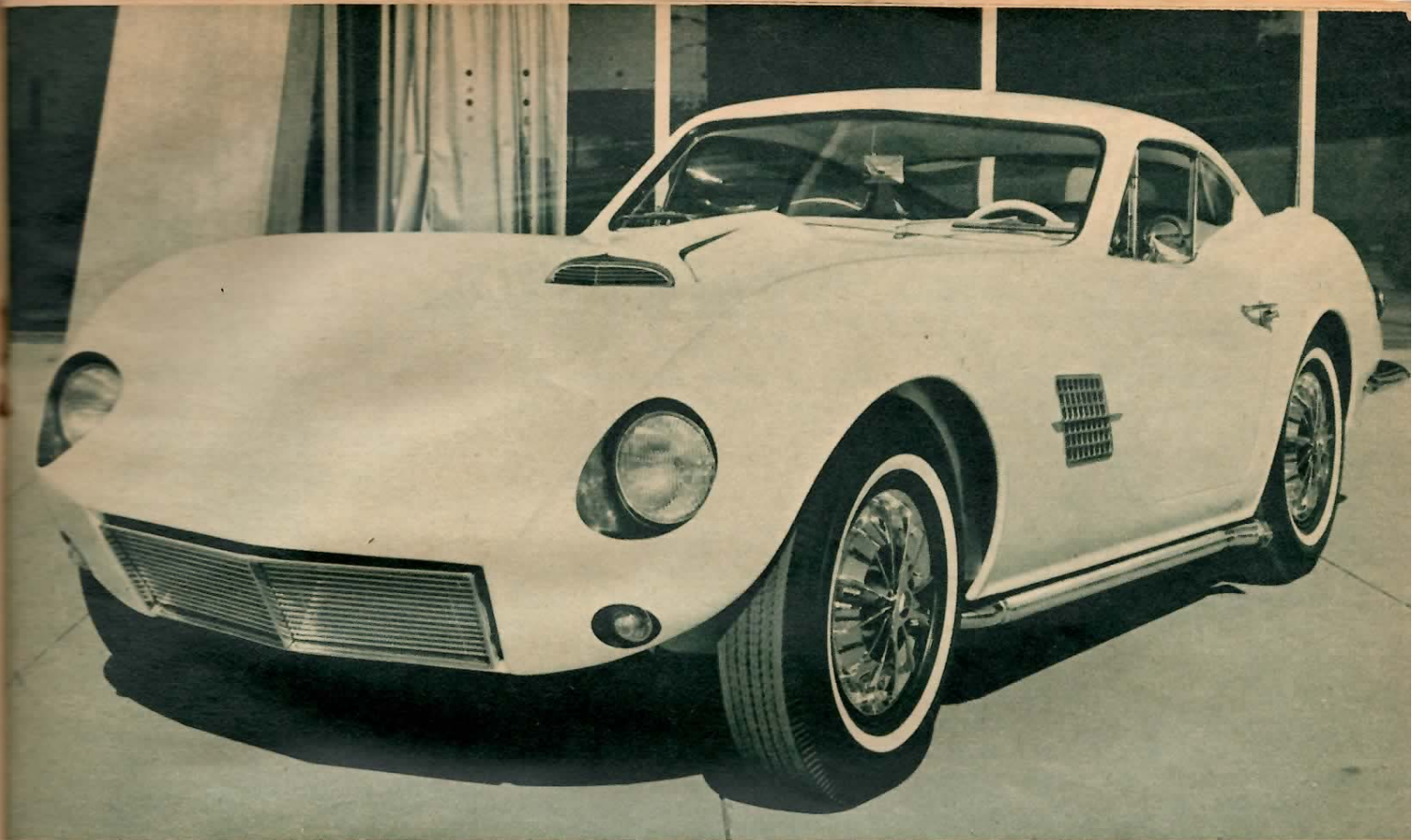
Great GT



Custom car enthusiast Frank Collingwood wanted a Gran Turismo sports car and decided to build his own, starting with an Astra fiberglass coupe body, a tubular frame, and a '57 Ford engine

An investment of \$3500 and two years is a bargain if you consider the results Frank Collingwood obtained. His goal was a custom GT-type sports car that could be driven daily. Buying a model J-4 Astra fiberglass body was the starting point. To provide more adequate headroom, the fastback roof was raised three inches. A 3- x 4-inch tube frame was built around a stock '57 Ford mill of 312 cubes. The whole thing is supported by '62 Corvette suspension in the front and a '56 Ford axle in the rear. Wheels are 15-inch Chevy with '62 'Vette binders in front, '56 Ford in the rear. Steering is by '62 'Vette through a Covico 14-inch wheel. Note the beautiful handmade exhaust system. Collingwood, a construction electrician, did everything but the upholstery.





PHOTOS BY R. F. BISSELL



CONNELLSVILLE, PA.

Fitting the windshield and window glass required eight months, but the result was electrically operated doors and windows. Front exterior features include a 140-piece handmade grille with integral front bumper and beautifully tunneled headlights. At the rear are modified '60 Buick bumpers, a custom grille, and '51 Buick tail lights. The finish is white lacquer with blue Metalflake trim. Dino of Rudolph's Upholstery in Connellsville, Pa., handled the hand-fitted interior with exceptional results. Materials are white Naugahyde and deep blue nylon frieze. Also inside: fiberglass seats, bullet lamp headrests, handmade dash with S-W instruments, console housing FM radio and shift lever.

