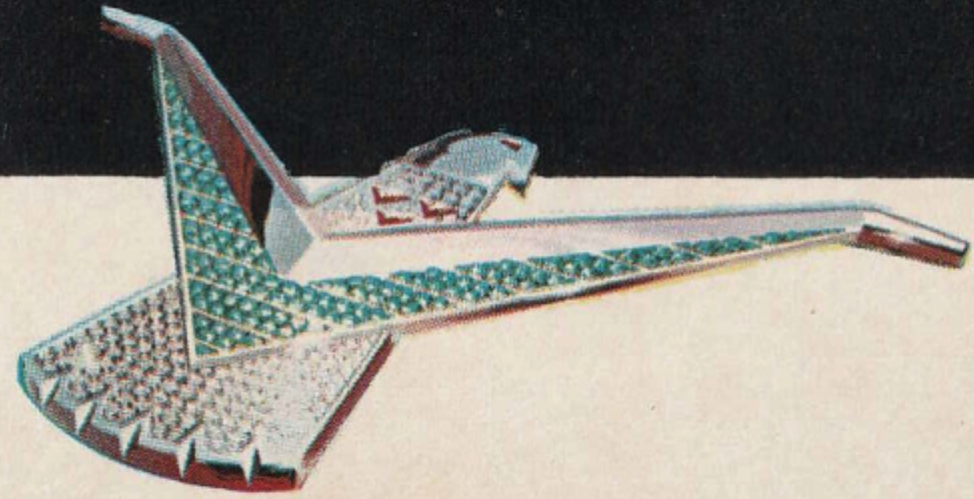


THE DISTINGUISHED 59 FORD

# THUNDERBIRD



*THE CAR EVERYONE WOULD LOVE TO OWN*



*Ford proudly presents the 1959 version of*

## AMERICA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL CAR

Thunderbird! The car all America has taken to its heart.

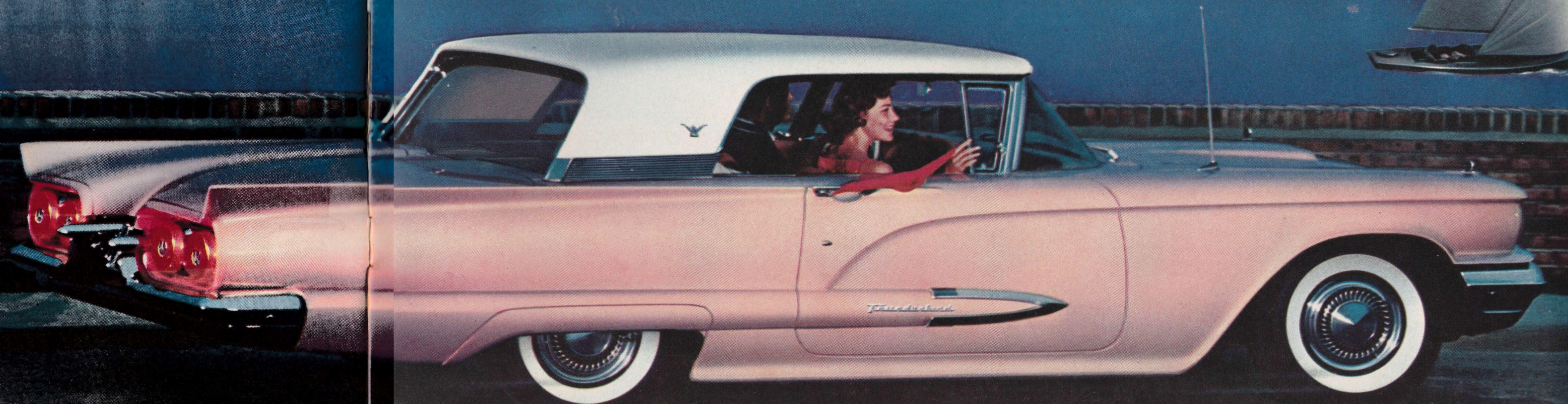
There are many reasons for Thunderbird's unmatched appeal. Most indicative, perhaps, is the fact that Thunderbird is *unique* among motor cars. Unique in compactness, in spirit, in performance. Whether you select the hardtop, or the convertible, your Thunderbird is a masterpiece of elegance and comfort. It provides luxurious room for four passengers. It is, in fact, America's most wanted, most admired car! Nevertheless, you'll find it is priced *far* below other luxury cars.

And under the hood—there's the stand-

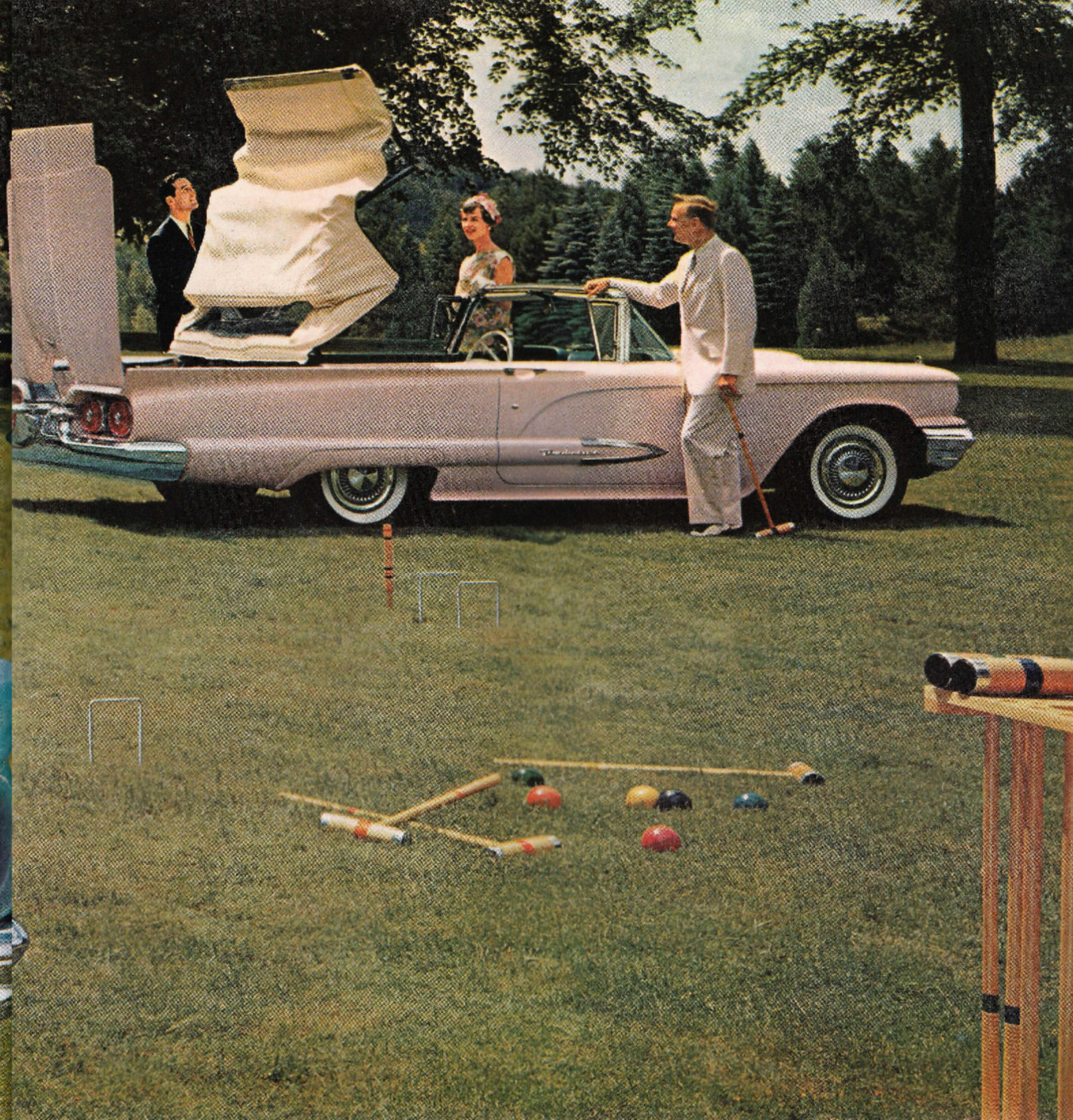
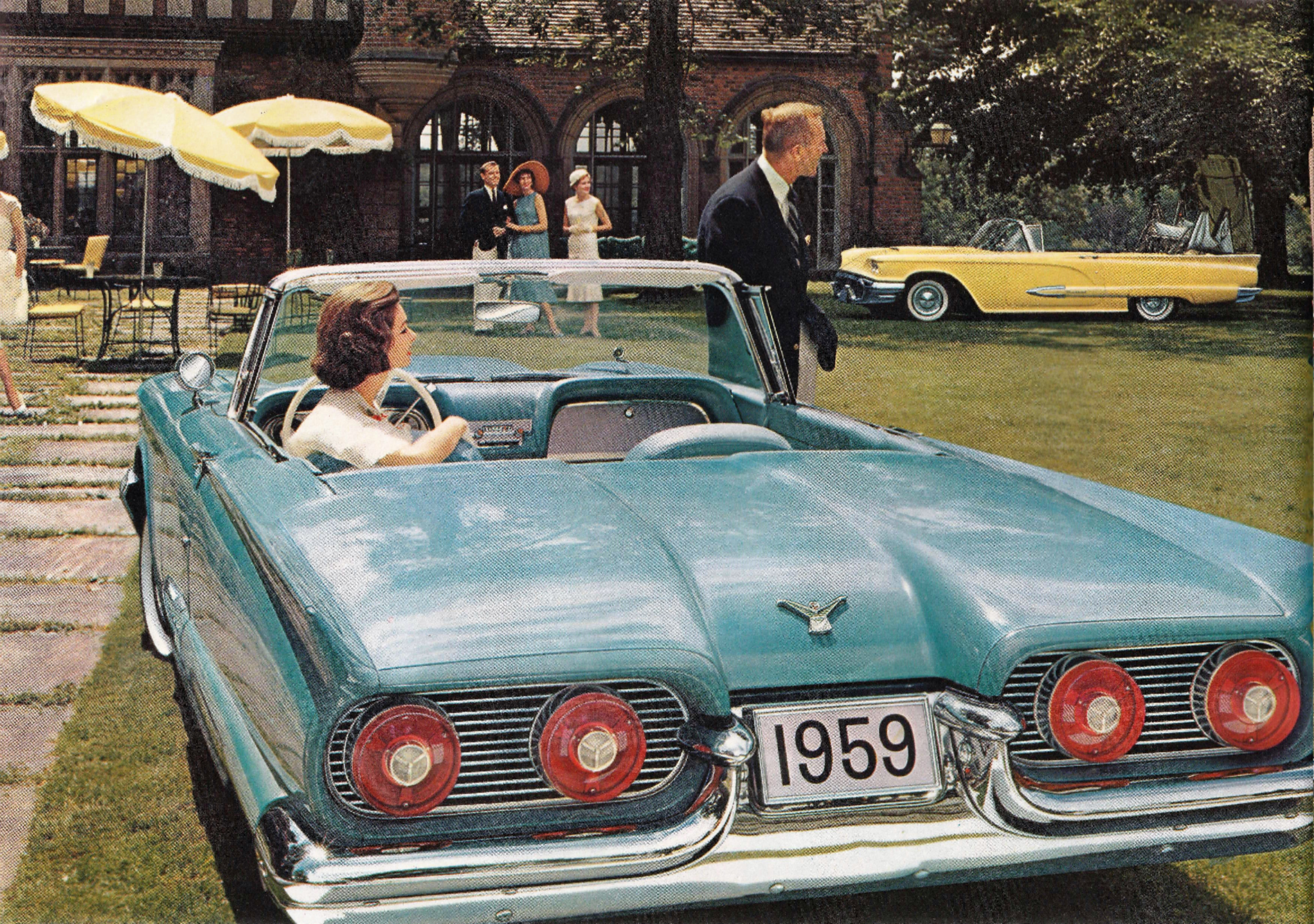
ard 300-hp Thunderbird 352 Special V-8 whose muted purring belies its power. Or as the superpower option, the all-new 350-hp Thunderbird 430 Special V-8 — the biggest, finest power plant in the industry. In short, Thunderbird's performance matches its presence. Thunderbird "Go" matches its glow.

Unrivalled for cornering and handling ease, Thunderbird performs as brilliantly in city traffic as on the open highway. From Newport to the Pacific Palisades, no more exciting automobile travels any road than Thunderbird—the car *everyone* would love to own!

© 1958, Ford Motor Co., Dearborn, Mich.







*An exclusive Ford achievement:*

## THE NEW THUNDERBIRD CONVERTIBLE !

POWER-OPERATED, ITS SOFT TOP  
DISAPPEARS LIKE MAGIC!

For glamour and individuality, there is nothing in the world to compare with the new Thunderbird convertible.

Its automatic top accords, flips and disappears—*completely disappears*—into the spacious trunk. The marvelously long, distinctively sculptured rear deck becomes flush with the rear seats, forming one long, uninterrupted sweep of pure Thunderbird beauty. It makes the car look even lower, even more dashing, even more agile, incredible as this may seem.

The effect is in a word, spectacular.

Even the *tops* are extraordinarily luxurious in the new Thunderbird convertible. You have a choice of six vinyl-clad and one rayon top, with lining in complementing or contrasting color. Inside and out, top up or down, the Thunderbird convertible is the car of surpassing beauty!



# UNIQUELY THUNDERBIRD- *Sports-car personality combined with luxury-car roominess and comfort!*

Seen on the open road, America's prestige car glows with the vivid personality of the sports car. Inside, there's the unmistakable *feel* of the grandest custom-built luxury automobile. Extra-wide, glide-through doors open your way to lap-of-luxury comfort. Thunderbird's exclusive side-by-side individual seats, front and back, make every trip a sheer delight. These contoured seats are luxuriously wide, elegantly soft. And this year, you may choose from an even wider selection of Thunderbird interior color combinations—in rich nylon and vinyl upholstery—or genuine leather can be installed at your request.

Even Thunderbird's flooring is the height of automotive fashion. It is a soft carpet of lustrous

looped rayon. And a marvelously spacious luggage compartment gives you more-than-ample room for the cross-country traveling needs of four passengers.

At the wheel, you're only a touch away from the handsome, deeply recessed instrument cluster panel, and the glove box door of ribbed die casting in gleaming satin chrome.

Your first close look at the 1959 Thunderbird will reveal a car of unique beauty and incomparable convenience. Your first *ride* in America's greatest performer will be an unforgettable experience. Before you've clocked your first mile, you will *know* why Thunderbird is the car *everyone* would love to drive . . . and own!

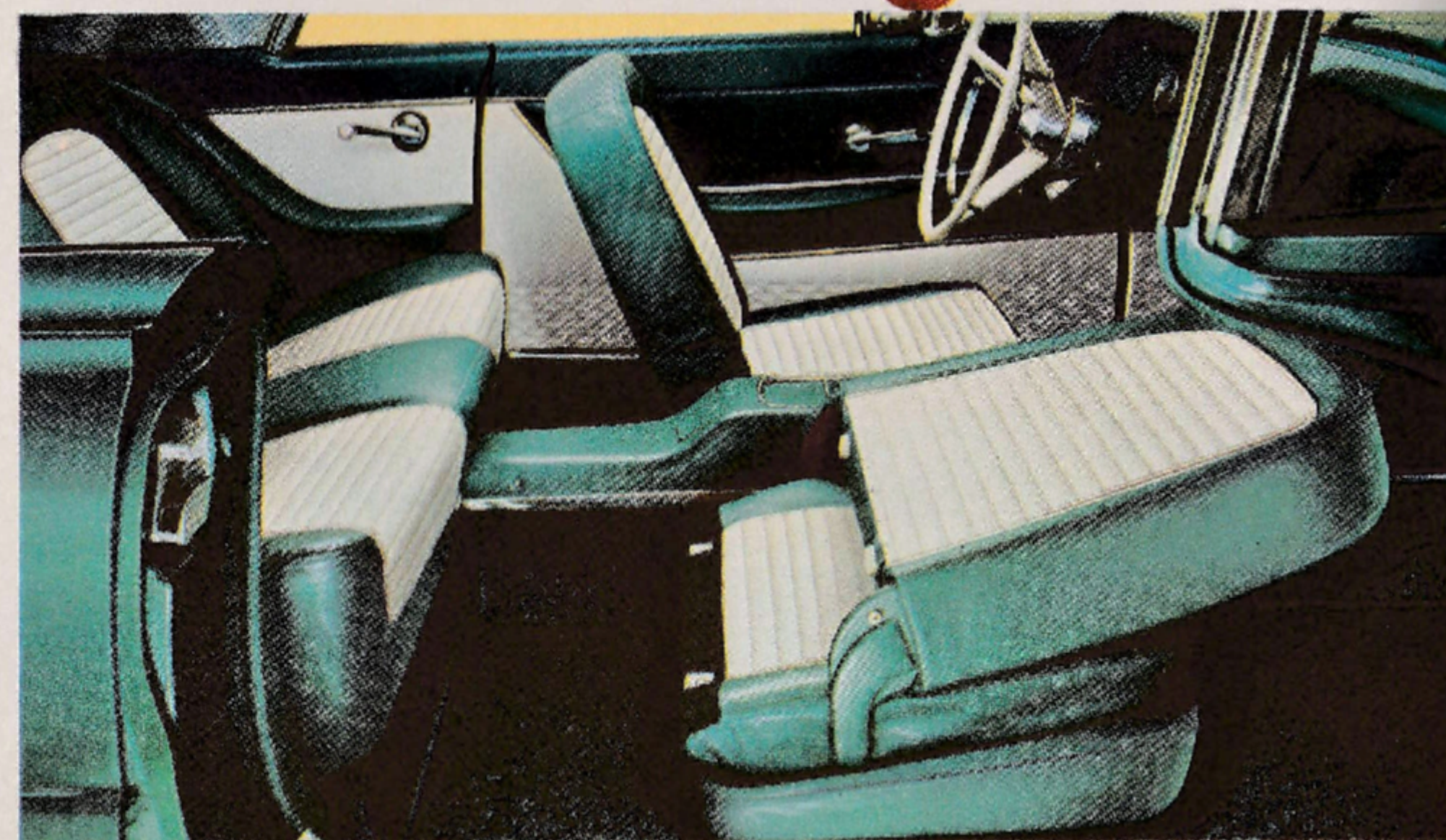
**Masterfully designed luggage compartment** is 5 feet, 5 inches wide, gives you more than 20 cubic feet of space. That's room enough for all the luggage needed for a cross-country trip! Four big suitcases, golf bags, plenty of other gear . . . all fit in easily—even with the spare tire in place. Note that the spare stows in *front* of the compartment, to give you maximum room.

**Fine-car room, comfort and luxury**—Here's wide-open, stretch-out kind of spaciousness for four passengers. Thunderbird doors are exceptionally wide (4 feet wide, to be exact). And the back of the front passenger seat folds all the way down. These give gracefully easy, *direct* access to the rear seats. *Always*, you enter or leave your Thunderbird comfortably with poise intact.

The driver and front passenger have luxurious, *individually adjustable* seats. Wide, deep, individually contoured seats accommodate the rear passengers. And where but in Thunderbird do you find the plush comfort of formed foam rubber in the cushions *and* backs of *all* seats?

**Panoramic rear window** has a distinctively visored roof that is canted to the rear deck. And the deeply sculptured deck becomes part of the car interior to form one continuous line of beautiful design. Richly gleaming chrome-plated moldings frame the window.

**"Front row" picture window**—You see up, over and around through the visored, chrome-crowned compound windshield. You get an unobstructed view in all forward directions—a safer view, too, because every Thunderbird window is Safety Glass.



**Standard equipment on America's most advanced prestige car:** thick-padded Lifeguard safety instrument panel, fully-cushioned Lifeguard sun visors and deep-center Lifeguard steering wheel. Self-regulating electric clock. Handsome Thunderbird front fender ornaments. Individually adjustable driver's seat and front passenger seat.

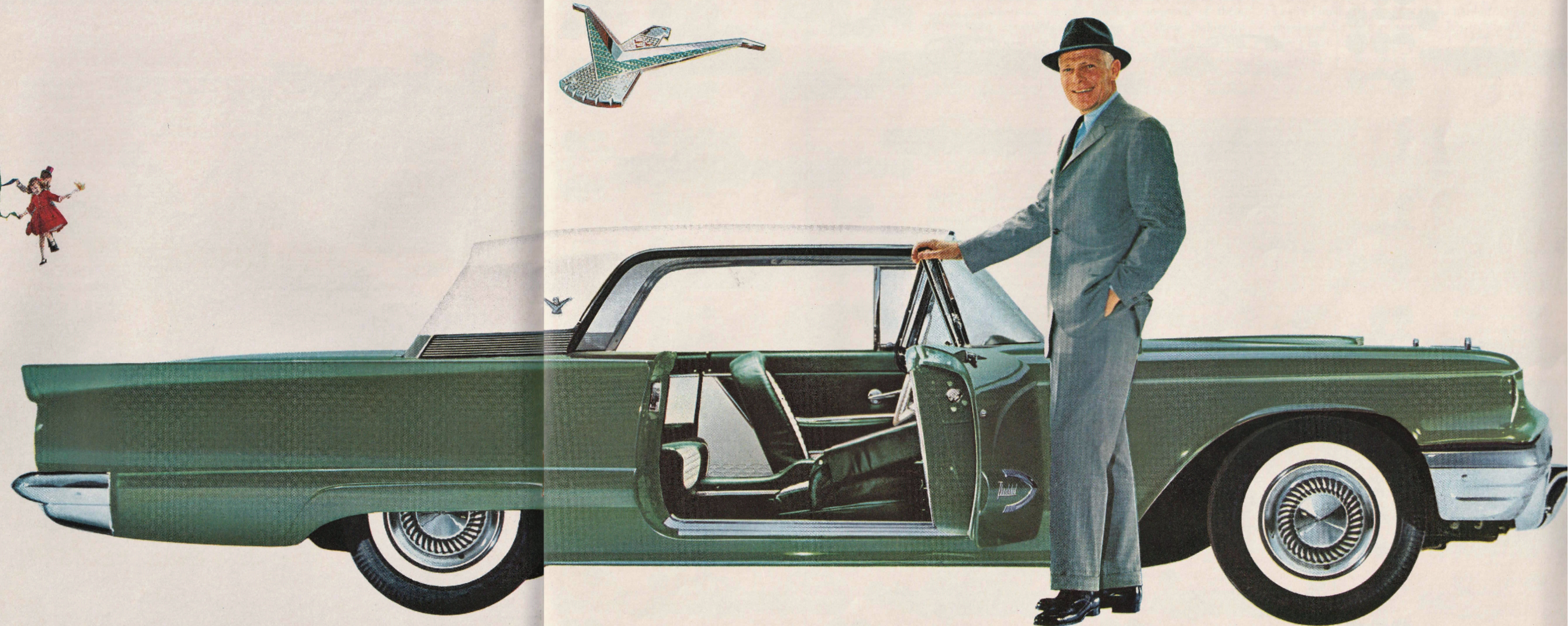




# INVITATION TO PLEASURE UNLIMITED-THUNDERBIRD STYLE!

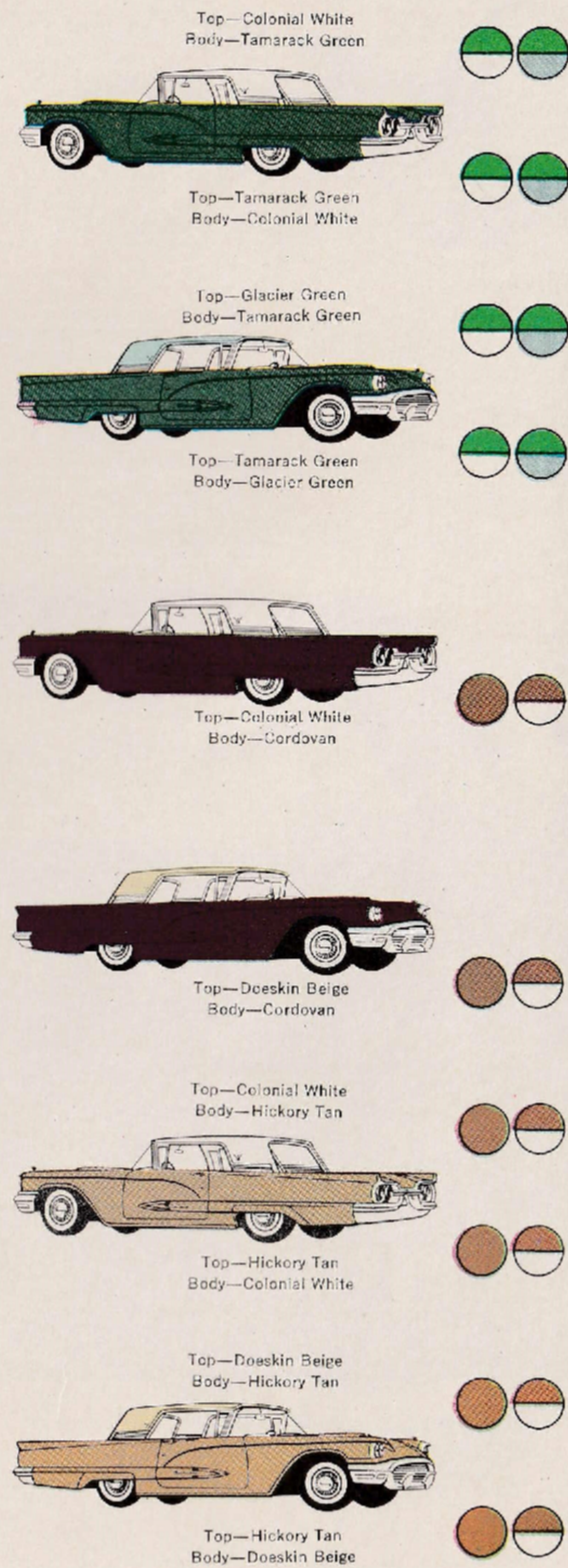
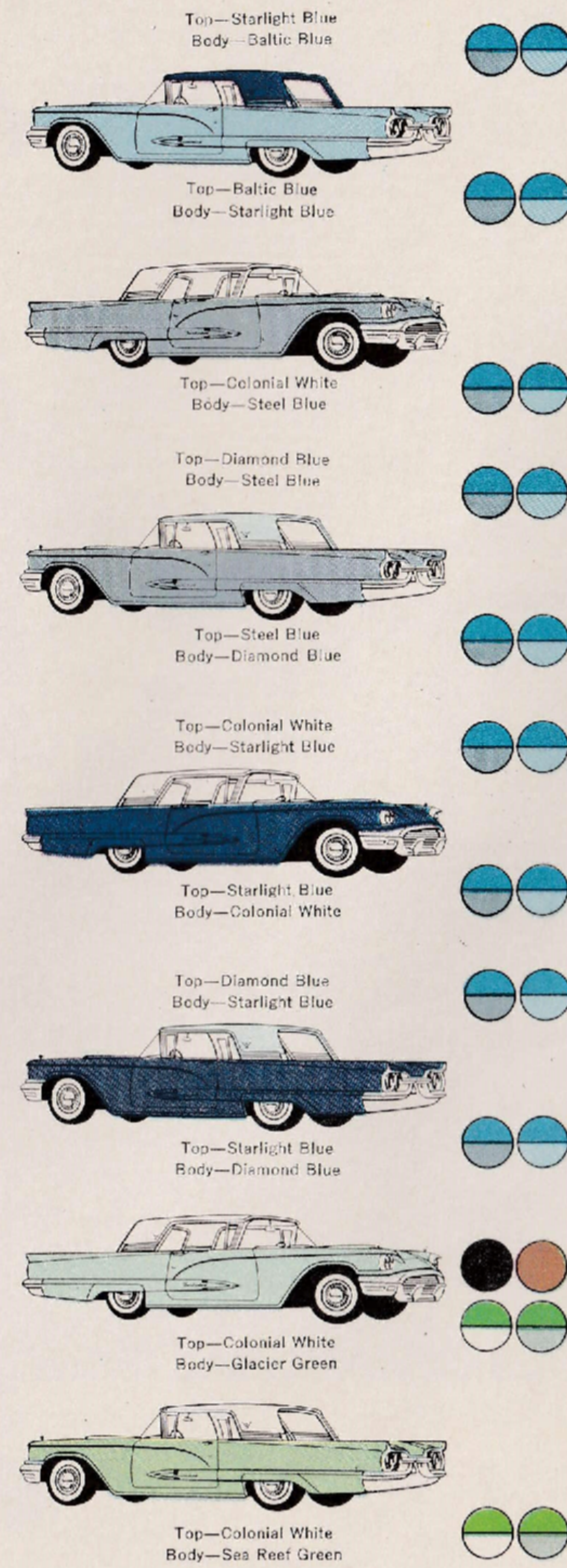
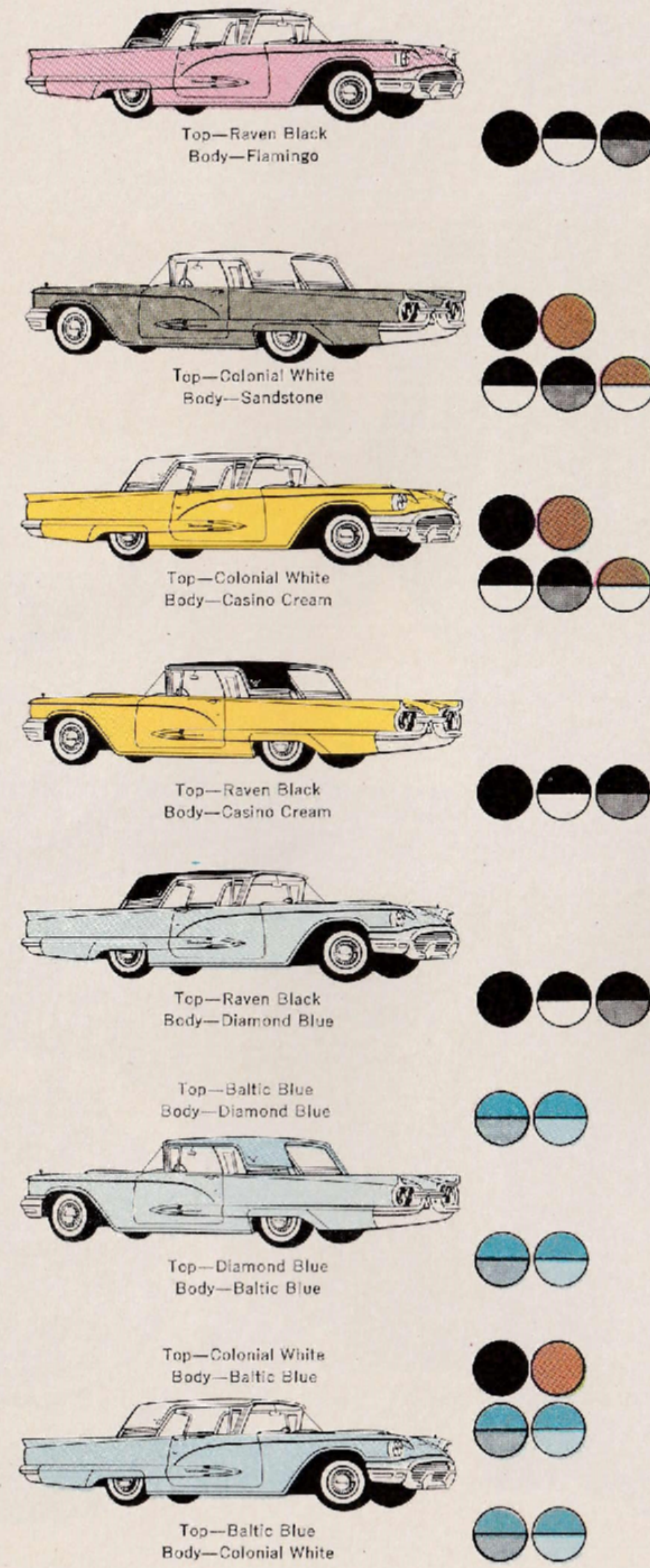
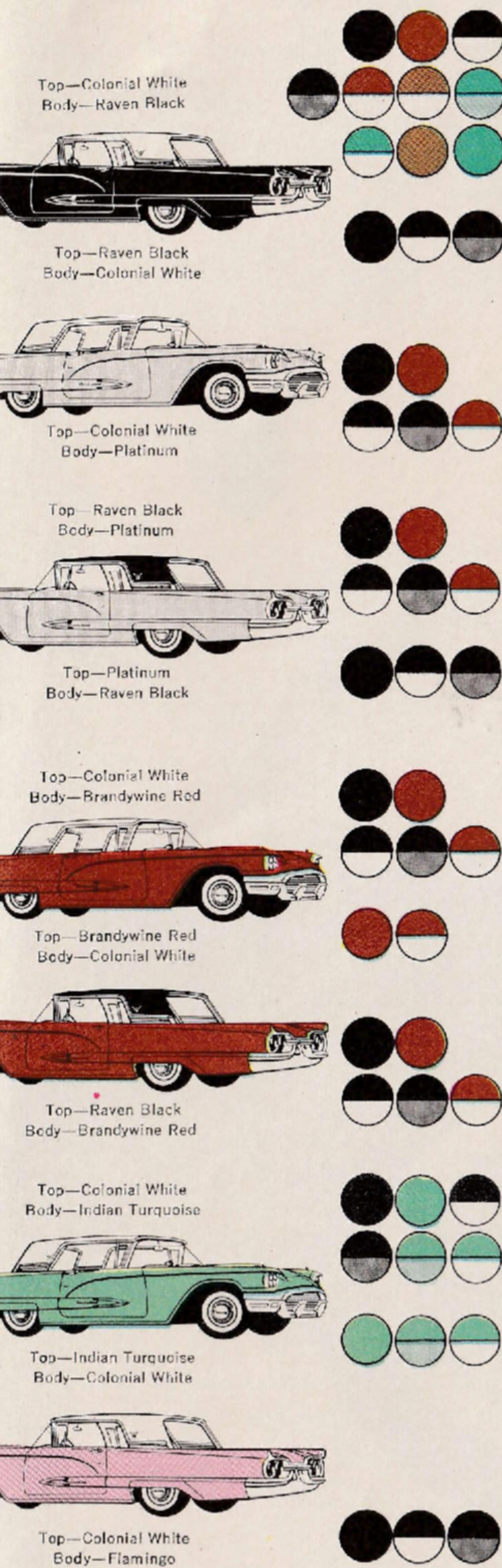


*Sophistication and originality* characterize the 4-passenger Thunderbird hardtop—a truly wonderful *family car*! At the wheel of a Thunderbird, you have the very satisfying knowledge that you are driving the car that is *unique* among all cars in spirit and personality. And you drive this modestly priced beauty protected by all the exclusive, Ford-pioneered safety features that add so much to carefree going . . . Thunderbird style!

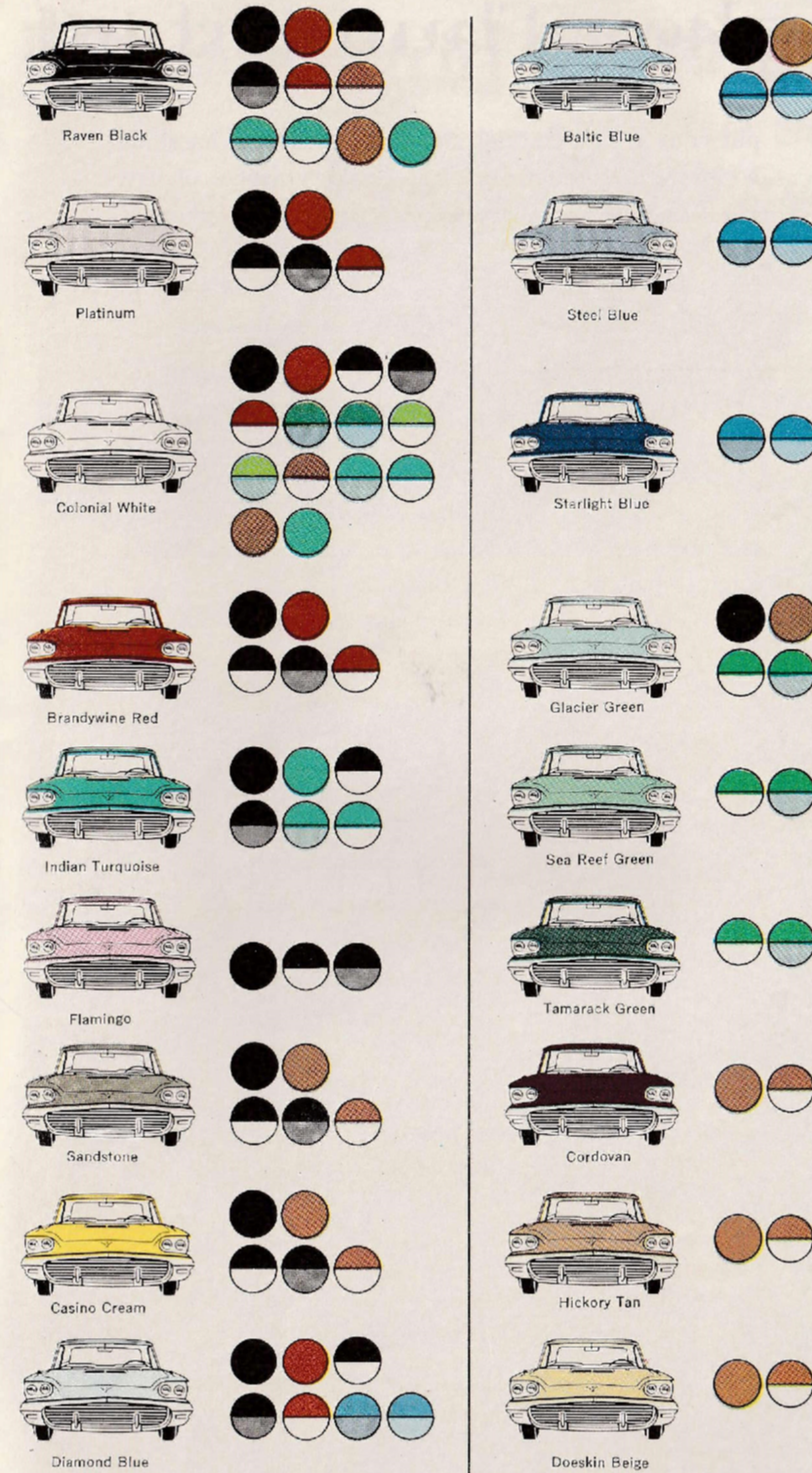




## NEW THUNDERBIRD COLORS-TASTEFUL AS THE CAR ITSELF!



## 18 rich Single Colors to choose from



## 14 Luxury Lounge Interiors!

The new Thunderbird offers you an almost limitless choice! And each one, of course, is in harmony with Thunderbird's beautiful exterior finish.

The top portion (see identifying circles) shows the color of the holster—now available in 4 genuine leathers and 6 rich Sof-Textured vinyls. The lower portion shows the deep-pleated back and cushion inserts—available in 4 leathers, 4 Nylon Check fabrics with Silver Strand, and 6 Sof-Textured vinyls.

The Thunderbird convertible offers you a choice of 6 vinyl-clad, and one rayon three-ply soft tops.

- 1 Black top and Black lining (Rayon)
- 2 White top and Black lining
- 3 White top and Blue lining
- 4 Light Blue top and Blue lining
- 5 White top and Turquoise-green lining
- 6 Turquoise top and Turquoise-green lining
- 7 White top and Tan lining

These numbers as well as the color circles correspond to those identified in the upholstery chart. In this way all exterior and interior colors are harmoniously color-keyed.



Brandywine Red, Baltic Blue and Cordovan.

And every Thunderbird color is in new Diamond Lustre Finish—the highest gloss, hardest finish ever developed for any automobile. It's so durable you won't have to wax it—*ever!*

Truly, here are colors of such beauty and subtle appeal that they could belong only to the jewel of a car that's Thunderbird for '59!



# New 430 Special V-8 Engine makes Thunderbird the greatest performer on any road, *anywhere!*

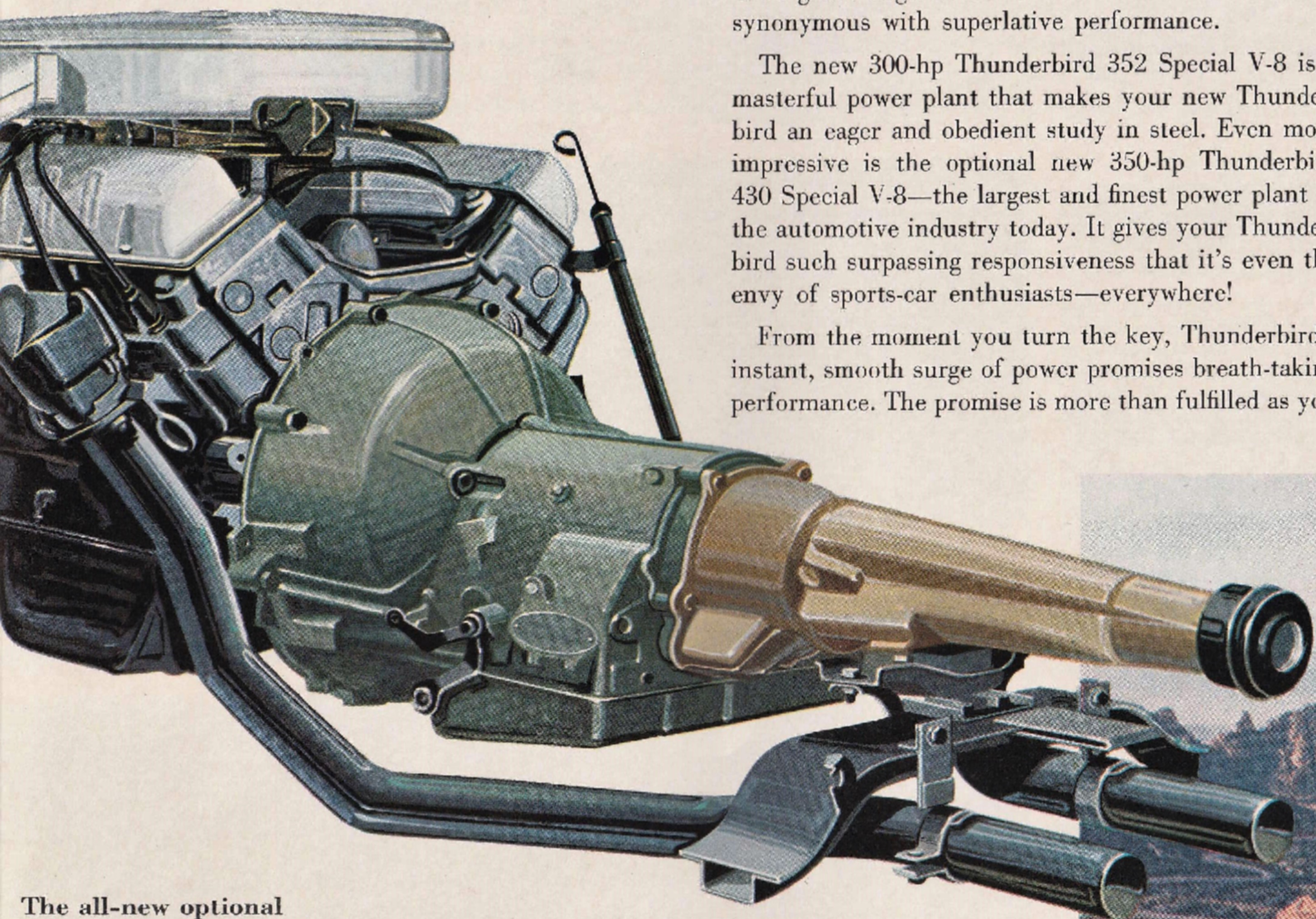
Two great engines make the name "Thunderbird" synonymous with superlative performance.

The new 300-hp Thunderbird 352 Special V-8 is a masterful power plant that makes your new Thunderbird an eager and obedient study in steel. Even more impressive is the optional new 350-hp Thunderbird 430 Special V-8—the largest and finest power plant in the automotive industry today. It gives your Thunderbird such surpassing responsiveness that it's even the envy of sports-car enthusiasts—everywhere!

From the moment you turn the key, Thunderbird's instant, smooth surge of power promises breath-taking performance. The promise is more than fulfilled as you

put your T-Bird through its paces. In case of handling, cornering, climbing, parking—in *every* aspect of driving—Thunderbird performance is nothing short of incredible. No other car performs like Thunderbird because no other car combines Thunderbird's unique compactness with Thunderbird's mighty power.

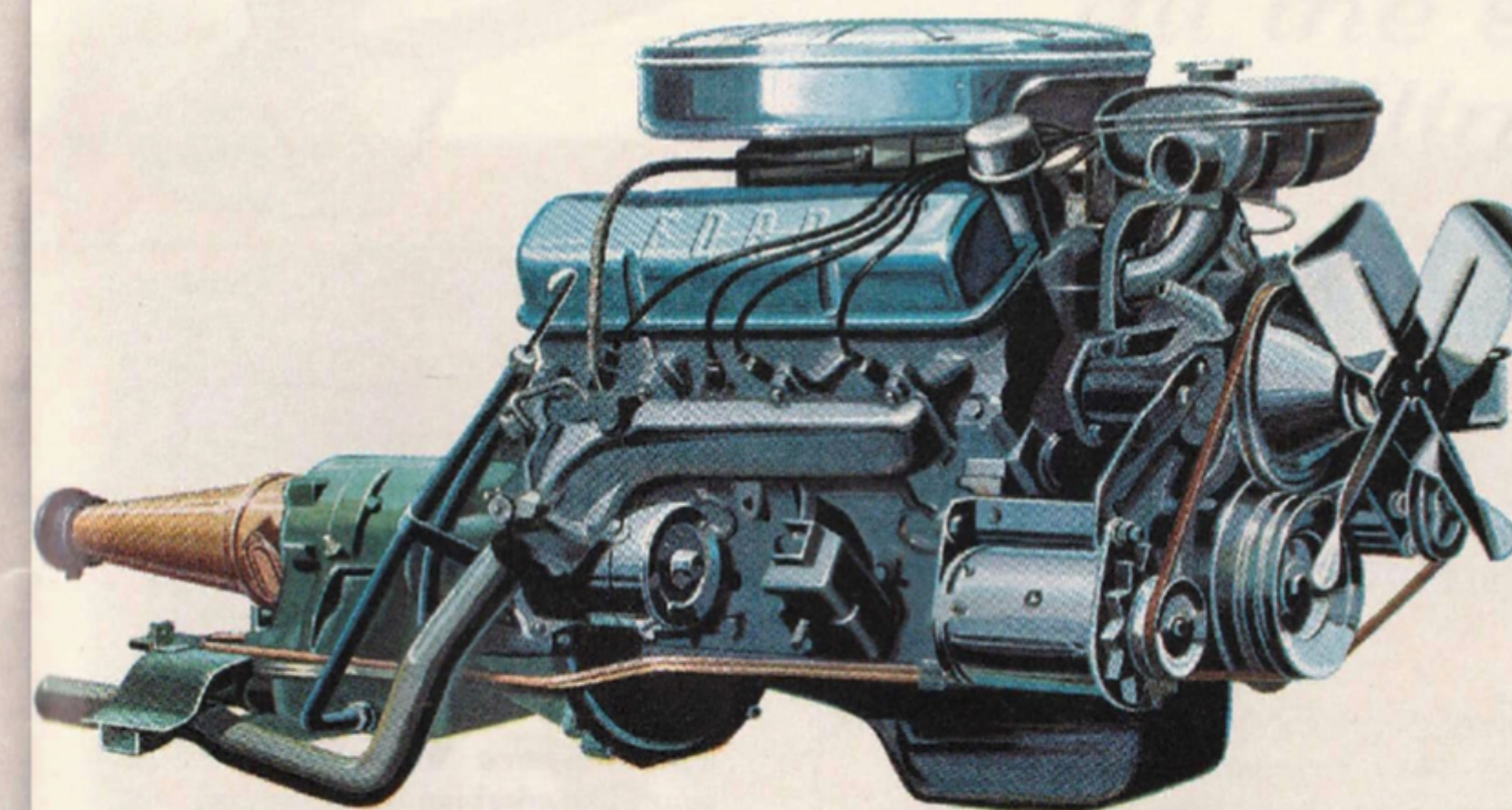
*Most important of all, perhaps,* is that the 1959 Thunderbird delivers power where it counts. Power for extra-safe passing in the normal speed ranges. Moreover, you get the gentlest ride ever—because Thunderbird's automatic ride control smooths out even the roughest country roads in a way you must experience to believe.



The all-new optional 350-hp Thunderbird 430 Special V-8

This is the mighty heart of the 1959 Thunderbird. This sensational power plant in a car of Thunderbird's compactness and poise results in performance and agility unmatched on the American road today. There's a revolutionary new in-block combustion chamber. It provides closer tolerances, better

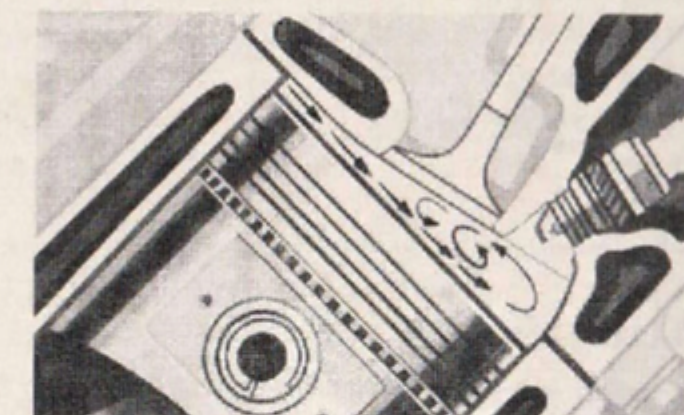
control of the compression ratio. Coupled with this for greater economy and smoother, swifter acceleration, the 430 engine boasts a water-jacketed intake manifold, 3-stage cooling, and a temperature-controlled air intake. Engineering advances like these put Thunderbird in a class by itself.



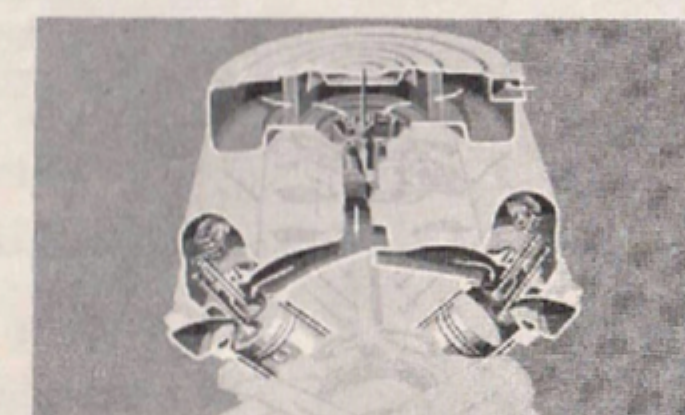
The standard 300-hp Thunderbird 352 Special V-8 . . .

with 4-barrel carburetor, is the triumphant achievement of Ford—the world's most experienced builders of V-8's. It features Precision Fuel Induction—a remarkable *direct* fuel-feeding, gas-saving system. Like the 430 V-8, it features Full-Flow oil filtration . . . zero-lash hydraulic valve lifters . . . an engine electronically balanced under its own power for optimum smoothness. All these add significance to famous Thunderbird GO!

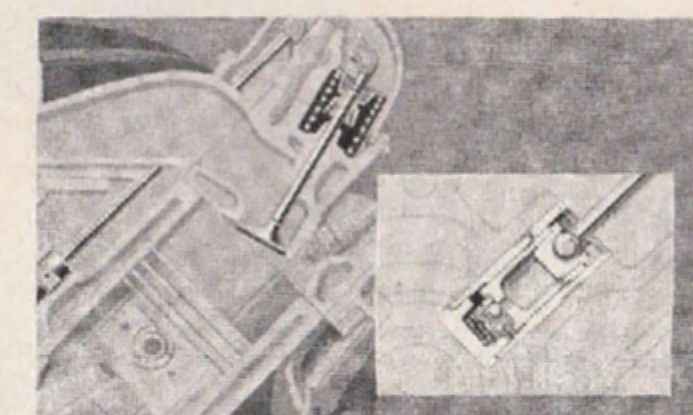
Thunderbird 352 Special V-8 Engine Features



**New Wedge-Shape Combustion Chambers** are redesigned for more efficient performance, to extract the full power potential from every molecule of fuel. Smooth, more complete combustion is the result . . . with uniformly controlled high-compression ratio.

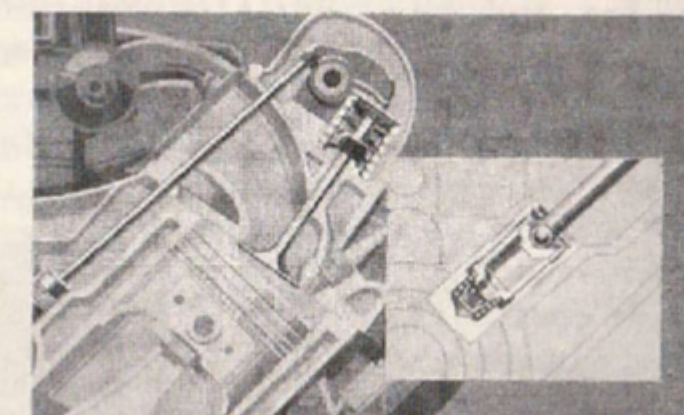


**Precision Fuel Induction** brings you more instantaneous power, more responsive power. Fuel-air mixture zooms *directly* through 8 expressways from carburetor to combustion chambers. Freer breathing means more efficient power, smoother performance.

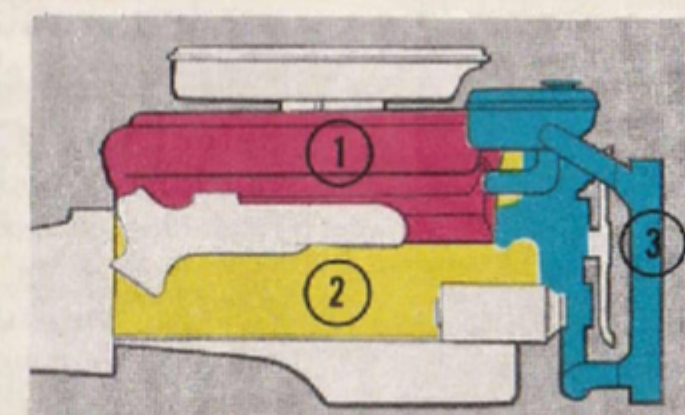


**Hydraulic Valve Lifters** are self-adjusting for zero lash. This gives you the smoothest and the quietest of engines . . . and longer valve life. And because the valve lifters adjust automatically, there's no need to set tappet clearances during engine tune-up.

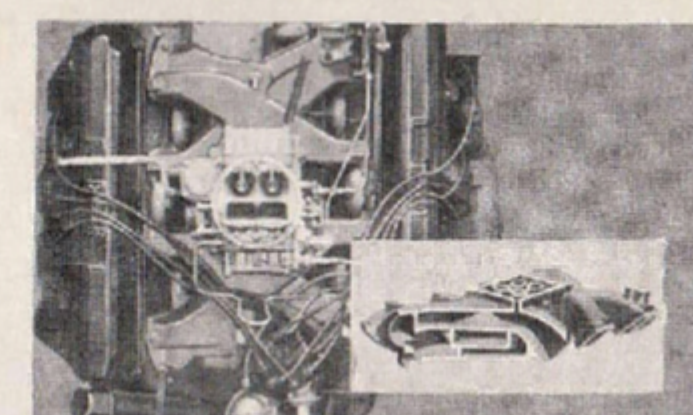
Thunderbird 430 Special V-8 Engine Features



**New in-block combustion chamber** insures close control of compression ratio in each cylinder for uniform power output, smoother idling. Less heat generated in the head means better valve cooling, and using aluminumized oversize valves with zero-lash hydraulic lifters results in longer valve life, better intake and exhaust action, smooth even combustion.



**New 3-stage cooling** is a completely controlled pressure system. Coolant circulates in three stages: (1) to intake manifold and cylinder heads; (2) to block; (3) to radiator. This gives fast starting warm-up and then proper temperature progression by three thermostats for more uniform control of internal expansion. Result: smoother, better performance and longer life.



**New fuel system advances** mean more "go" on less gas. Direct line manifold passages from carburetor to combustion chambers give freer breathing for exceptional performance and fuel economy. Exclusive preheated carburetor air system and water-jacketed intake manifold keep the fuel-air mixture at proper temperature level for maximum combustion efficiency.

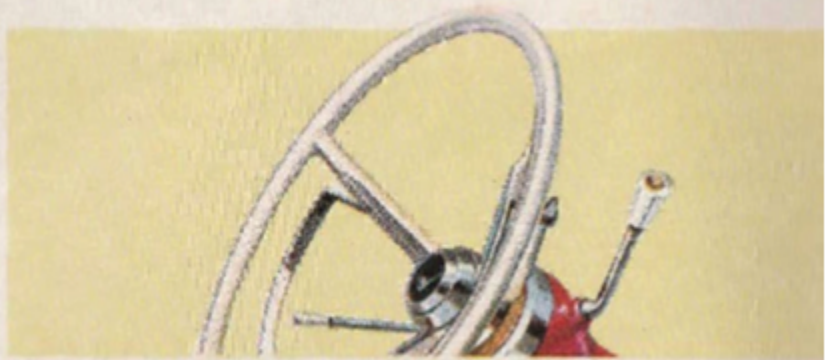
## CHOOSE FROM 3 GREAT TRANSMISSIONS



**New Cruise-O-Matic Drive** (standard 350-hp engine, optional with 300-hp engine) gives you the right GO for every driving range! Position lets you start in low for lively, full-power getaways—then move smoothly, automatically right up to superhighway speeds. A "D2" selector lets you start in intermediate for sure-footed acceleration on ice or gravel. With a gas-saver rear axle, you get "built-in" overdrive economy.



**Overdrive** (for 300-hp engine only) saves especially on long trips. It is a combination standard 3-speed transmission and an automatic fourth gear, allowing the engine to loaf while car is traveling at higher touring speeds.

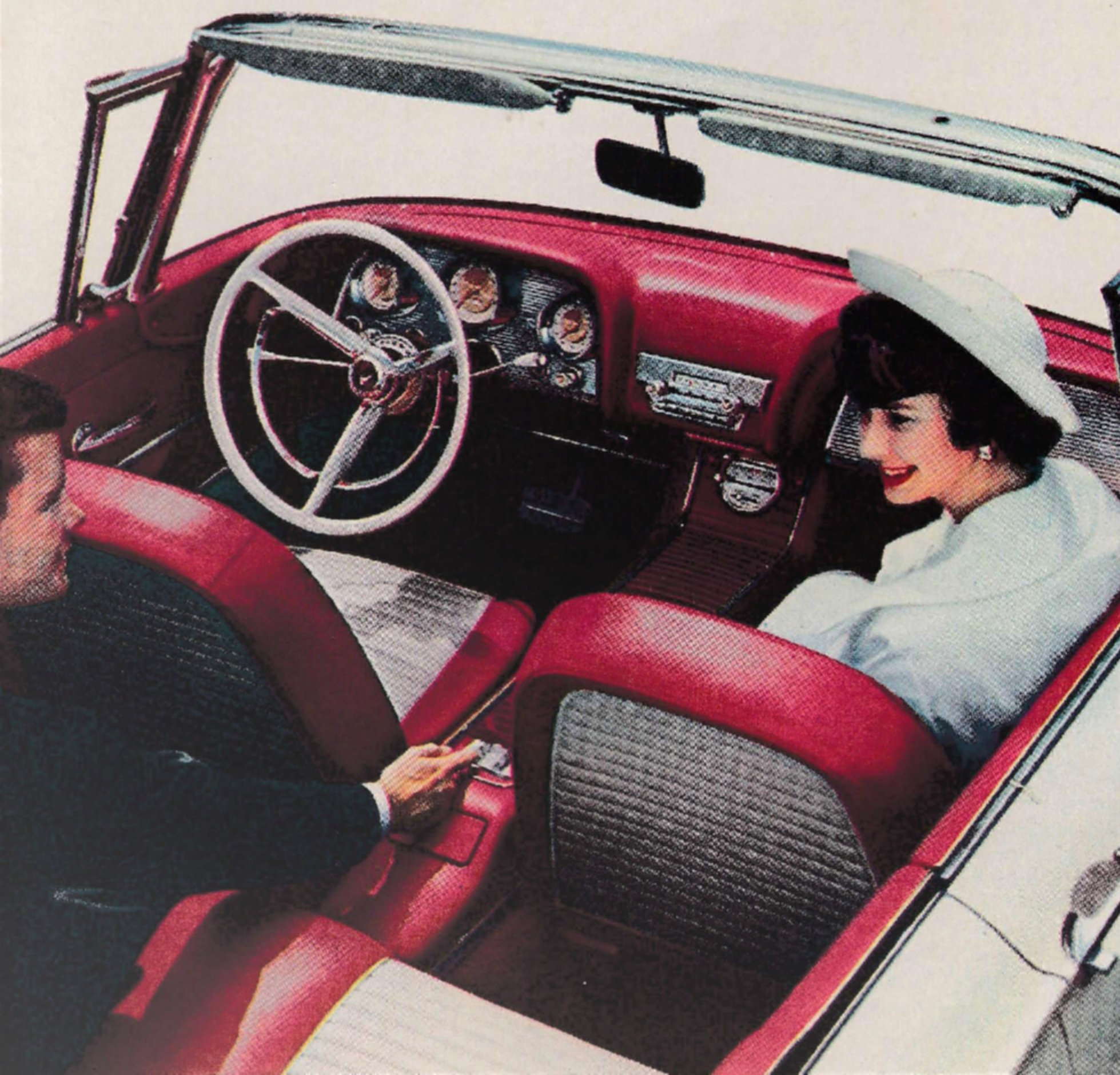


**3-Speed Conventional Drive** (for 300-hp engine only) gives you the easiest, smoothest, quietest and most responsive "stick shifting" ever developed. Shift lever shaft is enclosed in steel column. Gear ratios are tailored to 300-hp engine for smooth performance and economy.



# ptions and accessories worthy of your 59 Thunderbird

You join one of the happiest and most select groups in the world when you become a Thunderbird owner. Yours is a car beyond compare in beauty, in spirit, in performance. To add an *extra* measure of pleasure and comfort, we picture here optional Thunderbird power assists and accessories. You will note that not one is designed for "show" or mere trim. Rather, each accessory is beautifully functional and eminently practical. Each one adds a brilliant personal touch to your Thunderbird—the car *everyone* would love to own!



**Thunderbird Central Console Radio** has dual-transistorized power output for outstanding tonal quality. Superior type of speaker, with an inverted magnet, is located in console for best reception by all passengers.



**Swift Sure Power Brakes.** Not even a Thunderbird can be on the wing all the time. Easy, safe way to stop is with Swift Sure power brakes. They take one-third less effort—make your driving that much more relaxing!



**Sport Spare Wheel Carrier** gives your Thunderbird that elegant continental look. It has the Thunderbird's own emblem and name, adds about 10" to the car's over-all length. Makes extra trunk space, too.

## Perfect setting for Thunderbird accessories

The smart, exclusive Thunderbird Panel Console is an extension of the instrument panel. It runs fore and aft between the seats. And it's as useful as it is attractive. It houses the MagicAire or SelectAire Conditioner controls and radio speaker. It positions ash trays and power window controls for the convenience of all four passengers.

**SelectAire Conditioner** brings you June in January and vice versa. It cools delightfully in summer, heats comfortably in winter—with just a flick of the dual lever control. The complete unit is located entirely out of sight, out of the way, ahead of the passenger compartment.

**Radio Speaker** is ingeniously positioned in panel console. The passengers in rear seats hear the sound without straining, without your having to turn up the volume to peak pitch.

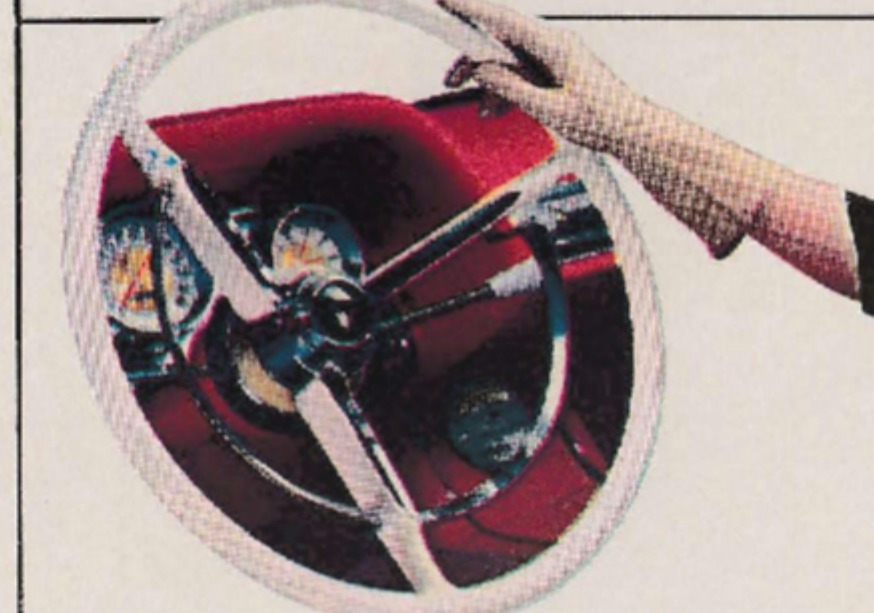
**Power-Lift Windows** are all controlled from Thunderbird's exclusive panel console. Here is a master window control within easy reach of everyone in the car!



**Thunderbird Power Seat.** Like to sit way back? Close to the wheel? Higher or lower? Touch a button and Thunderbird's infinite-position power driver's seat with synchronized tilting back goes up, down, back or forward, as you like it.



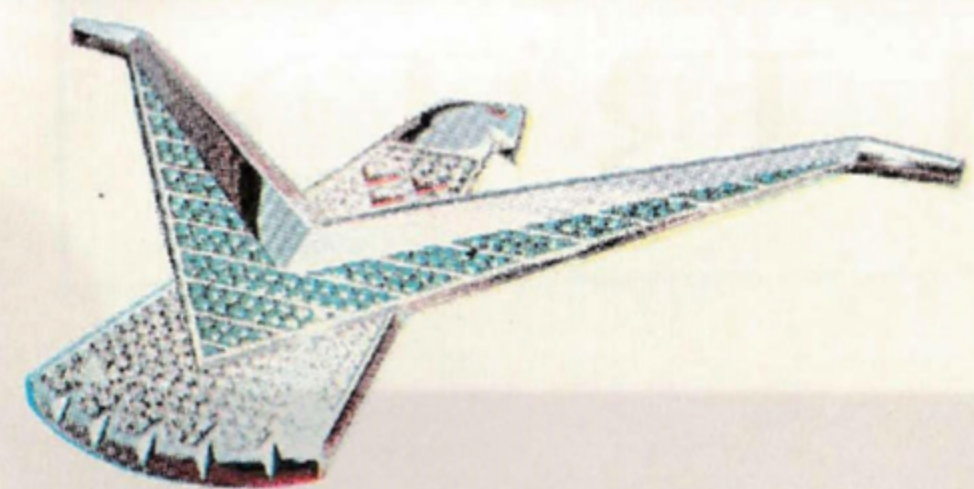
**MagicAire System** combines fresh-air heating, ventilating and defrosting into one remarkably efficient unit. Big defroster nozzles are specially designed to give even heat distribution for effective windshield-wide defrosting.



**New Master-Guide Power Steering** does 85% of the work for you! Makes your T-Bird a pleasure to steer, to park, and a snap to handle.

## OTHER EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE—

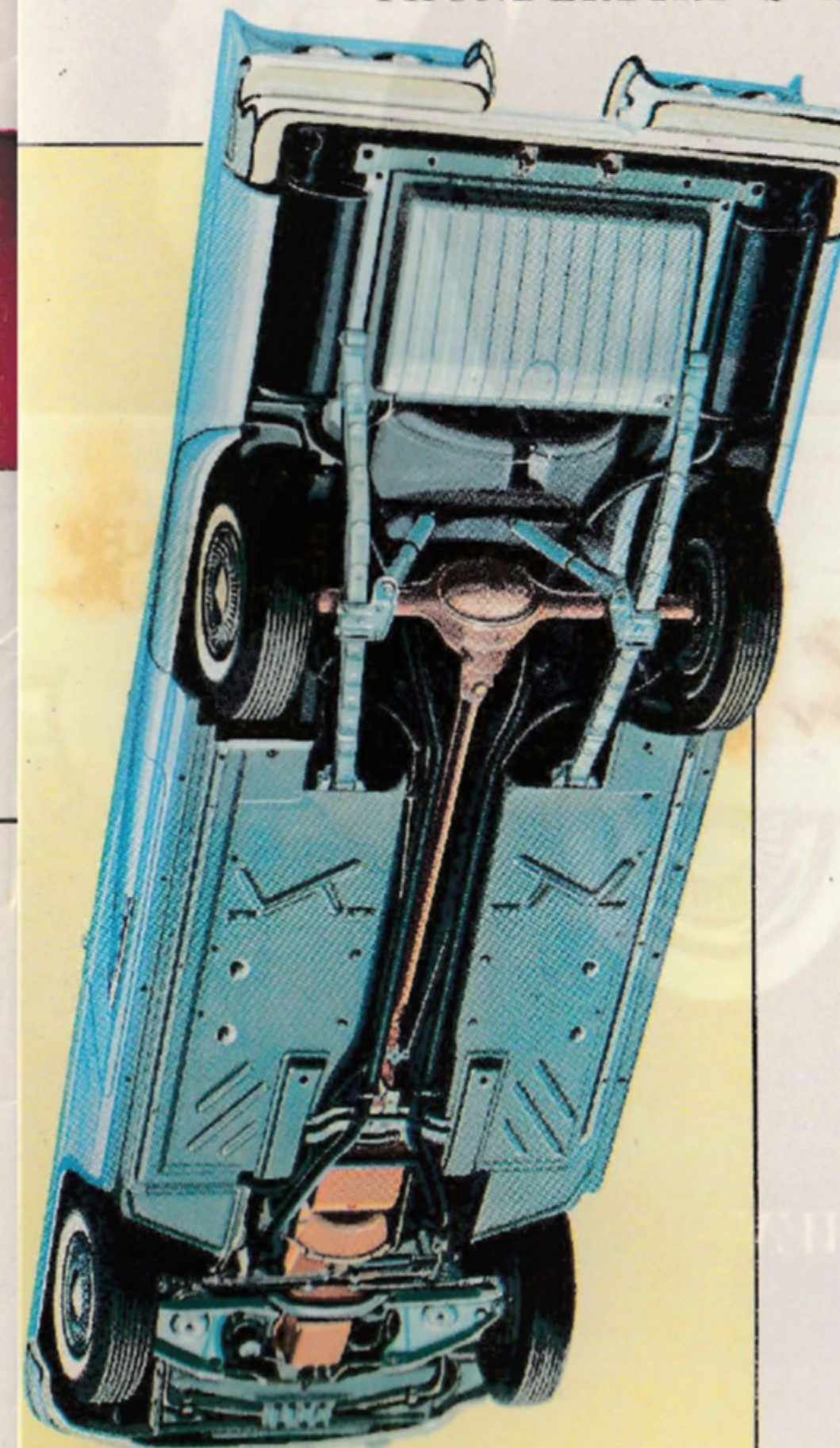
- AQUAMATIC WINDSHIELD WASHER-WIPER
- ADJUST-O-RING FULL-VIEW MIRROR
- VISORED FULL-VIEW MIRROR
- FULL-VIEW MIRROR \* FENDER SHIELDS
- SUN-RAY WHEEL COVERS
- LOCKING GAS CAP \* FORD SEAT BELTS
- FRONT FENDER ANTENNA
- DELUXE REAR DECK ANTENNA
- 65 AND 70 AMP-HR BATTERIES
- INSIDE NON-GLARE MIRROR
- I-REST TINTED SAFETY GLASS
- VISORED SPOTLIGHT WITH MIRROR



## UNIQUELY THUNDERBIRD— all the solid satisfaction of a luxury car—the fantastic handling ease of a Sports car!

As your eyes sweep across the meticulous, steel-wrought body, you sense the bank-vault solidity of Thunderbird. Driving it, you experience a ride more serene, more secure than any you have ever known. With all its outstanding engineering advances, the 1959 Thunderbird is unique for its sports-car roadability and luxury-car comfort.

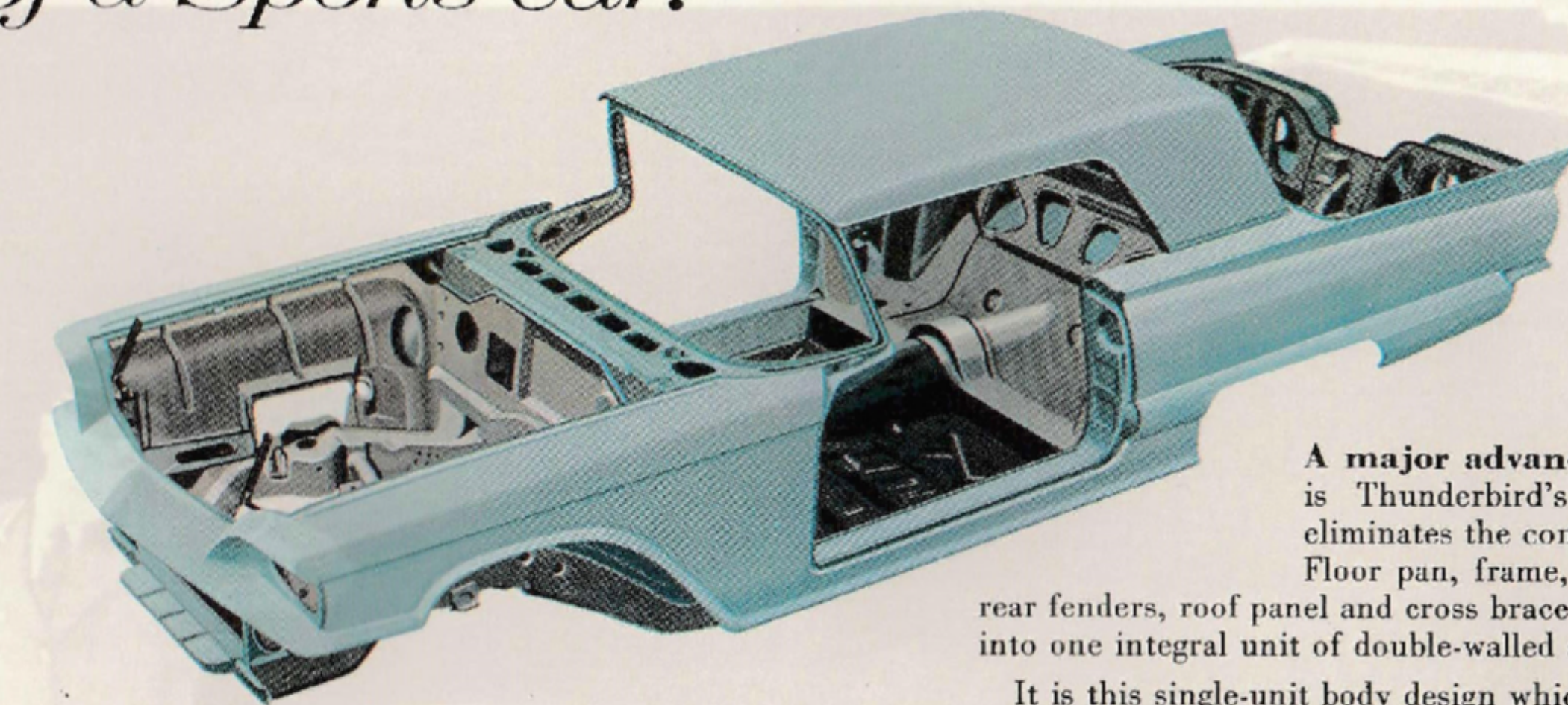
## THUNDERBIRD'S AUTOMATIC RIDE CONTROL



**Dependable, rugged Swept-Back, Angle-Poised Ball-Joint front suspension** . . . plus double-acting shock absorbers . . . *plus* a sports-car type of stabilizer bar give you the finest cornering and handling stability ever built into a car. Coil springs level out even the roughest bumps, so that you don't even know they're there!

The Thunderbird's new Even-Keel rear suspension provides a marvelously stable, fully-cushioned ride. The system is extremely simple and sturdy in design. It consists of long 6-leaf, soft-action springs with outboard rubber-bushed front supports for maximum stability. Rubber pads insulate springs at axle. Deflection-monitors on frame (over front section of springs) make contact with top leaf to shorten effective spring length under load. This, combined with the rubber-bushed tension-type rear shackles provide exclusive "variable-rate" spring action. Double-acting shock absorbers are angle-mounted for lateral stability and to dampen ride motion.

This Even-Keel rear suspension, combined with the Angle-Poised front suspension, gives you *automatic ride control*—a luxurious, cloud-soft ride that is *distinctively Thunderbird*.



## THUNDERBIRD'S SINGLE-UNIT BODY

**Exteriors and Interiors:** Exciting new body colors of gleaming, durable Diamond Lustre Finish are available in 41 sparkling Two Tone combinations for hardtop or in 18 Single Colors for hardtop and convertible. Choice of 6 vinyl-clad and 1 rayon, 3-ply soft tops for convertible. Interiors are beautifully upholstered with 6 Sof-Textured vinyl bolsters and 4 deep-pleated Nylon Check with Silver Strand fabric inserts, or 6 deep-pleated Sof-Textured vinyl inserts; also available are 4 genuine leather bolsters and deep-pleated inserts—all in colors to harmonize with exteriors. Color-keyed deep-loop rayon carpets, front and rear.

**Engines:** 300-hp Thunderbird 352 Special V-8 (standard)—352-cu. in. displ.; 4.00" bore x 3.50" stroke; 9.6 to 1 comp. ratio; premium fuel; 4-barrel carburetor, dual exhausts, aluminized mufflers. Features Precision Fuel Induction with wedge-type combustion chambers for superior performance and economy, Full-Flow oil filtration, automatic choke, free-turning overhead aluminized valves with hydraulic valve lifters. Engine electronically balanced under own power for optimum smoothness.

**350-hp Thunderbird 430 Special V-8 (optional)**—430-cu. in. displ.; 4.30" bore x 3.70" stroke; 10.0 to 1 comp. ratio; premium fuel; 4-barrel carburetor, dual exhausts, aluminized mufflers. Features preheated carburetor air induction system, water-jacketed direct-line intake manifold and in-block wedge-shape combustion chambers with machined flat heads and step-top pistons for exceptional performance and economy. Three-stage pressurized cooling system, Full-Flow oil filtration, automatic choke, free-turning overhead aluminized valves with hydraulic

valve lifters. Engine electronically balanced under own power for optimum smoothness.

**Construction:** Welded, integral body and frame, for greater durability and quietness with high strength-weight ratio.

**Suspension:** Smooth-acting Swept-Back, Angle-Poised Ball-Joint front with coil springs and sports-car stabilizer to control roll on turns. Even-Keel outboard-mounted rear leaf springs provide soft-action, variable rate with tension-type shackles and wind-up control rubber bumpers over springs. Double-acting shock absorbers.

**Brakes:** Double-sealed self-energizing hydraulic design, with suspended pedal and dash-mounted master cylinder. 11" dia. drum, 194-sq. in. lining area.

**Transmissions:** 3-speed Conventional Drive or optional Overdrive with automatic 4th gear (with 352 Special, V-8); or Cruise-O-Matic Drive with two selective drive ranges (with 352 Special V-8 or 430 Special V-8).

**Drive:** Deep-offset hypoid rear axle with straddle-mounted pinion gear. Hotchkiss drive. Axle ratios to 1: 3.70 with 3-speed Conventional Drive or Overdrive, 3.10 standard or 2.91 optional with Cruise-O-Matic Drive for 352 Special V-8; 2.91 with Cruise-O-Matic Drive only for 430 Special V-8.

**Steering:** Smooth, free-rolling recirculating-ball type gear; 25 to 1 over-all ratio. Turning diameter 40 feet.

**Tires:** 4-ply black tubeless of new Tyrex super cord,

A major advance in automobile design is Thunderbird's Single-Unit Body. It eliminates the conventional chassis frame. Floor pan, frame, body panels, front and rear fenders, roof panel and cross braces are all welded together into one integral unit of double-walled sculptured steel.

It is this single-unit body design which makes possible Thunderbird's famous low silhouette, while providing a luxuriously roomy interior. Single-unit body construction gives you greater strength, greater safety and greater durability . . . for the most solid body and the quietest ride you have ever known!

## SPECIFICATIONS

8.00 x 14, on 5½" safety rims. Whitewall tires optional.

**Dimensions:** 113" wb.; 60" front, 57" rear treads; 205.4" over-all length; height, with design load 52.5" (hardtop), 53.1" (convertible). Curb weight, 3971 lb. (hardtop), 4061 lb. (convertible).

**Standard Equipment:** Lifeguard padded instrument panel, cushioned sun visors, Double-Grip door locks, safety-swivel inside rearview mirror and deep-center steering wheel with horn ring. Manually adjustable individual front seats, electric clock, automatic dome light in hardtop and courtesy light in convertible, cigarette lighter, coat hooks in rear compartment, Thunderbird front fender ornaments, dual horns, turn signals, vacuum-booster fuel pump for positive windshield-wiper action.

**Options and Accessories:** Power driver's seat, power windows, power brakes, power steering, Radio, antennas, MagicAire heater, SelectAire conditioner, Seat belts, I-Rest tinted glass, Aquamatic windshield washer-wiper. Outside mirrors, visored spotlight mirror, fender shields, backup lights, Sun-Ray wheel covers. Locking gas cap.

**Prices:** Some items illustrated or referred to are at extra cost. For the price of the Thunderbird with the equipment you desire, see your Ford Dealer.

The specifications were in effect at the time this folder was approved for printing. The Ford Division of Ford Motor Company reserves the right to discontinue models at any time, or change specifications or design, without notice and without incurring obligation.

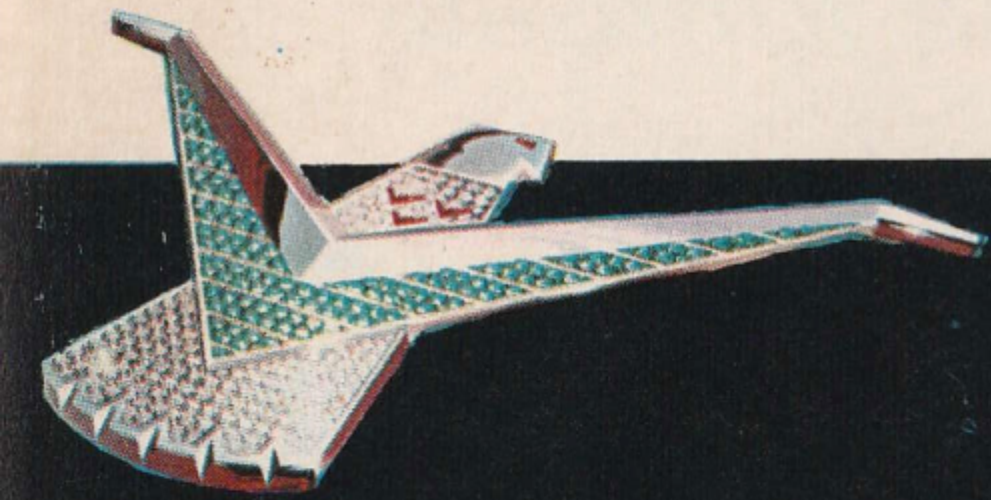


THE DISTINGUISHED 59 FORD

AUTOMOBIEL - ARCHIEF

# THUNDERBOLT

BOOSMAN



THE CAR EVERYONE WOULD LOVE TO OWN