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PONTIAC INTRODUCES 285 HORSEPOWER V-8 FOR LIMITED PRODUCTION

(Pontiac, Mich. Jan 18) -- A new 285 h.p. Strato-Streak V-8 engine has been developed and released as optional equipment on 1956 Pontiacs according to an announcement today by R. M. Critchfield, Pontiac General Manager.

The special engine, with compression ratio of 10:1, exerts maximum torque of 330 foot pounds. It has twin four-barrel carburetors and special intake manifold. Special camshaft, special valve-lifters and inner valve springs, special ignition coil and special distributor are used in the engine.

Either the Pontiac Strato-Flight Hydra-Matic or Synchromesh transmission can be used with the more powerful V-8.

The limited production of the new power plant is intended primarily for sports car and stock car racing enthusiasts. The engine is available on all Pontiac models and will be installed in cars built at the main plant in Pontiac, Michigan, Mr. Critchfield said.

In addition to the optional 285 h.p. engine, Pontiac continues to offer in 1956 its 227 h.p. V-8 as standard equipment in the Star Chief series, and a 205 h.p. V-8, standard on the 870 and 860 series. The addition of Pontiac's optional dual exhaust system boosts the horsepower on these two engines 12.6 and 10 h.p. respectively.