

# "The Glorious Three"



Image Courtesy Maurice Louche Archives

**TDF 1960: In Nice, s/n 2129 GT has just been delivered by the factory for Willy Mairesse and Georges Berger.**

## **IXth TOUR DE FRANCE AUTOMOBILE SEPTEMBER 15-23, 1960 5075 KM - 7 HILL CLIMBS - 7 CIRCUITS**

During the fifties and into the early sixties, the "Tour de France Automobile" represented the defining reference for automobile rallies, mixing circuit races with high speed hill climbs on closed roads. The sectors in between, often on minor roads, were marked with hourly controls and check points, with an average speed limit of no more than 50 kph. Two classifications distinguished the vehicles: "Tourisme" and "Grand Tourisme," and within each category were two classes: "Scratch" (yellow ribbon) and "Indice of Performance," the latter using a "handicap" (red ribbon).

Every year, during the third week of September, spectators followed with passion the competition amongst pilots, and the road challenges met, throughout a race of more than 5000 km, organized by the F.F.S.A. (French Federation of Automobile Sport) and the "Association Sportive de l'Automobile Club de Nice" (Sports Association of the Car Club of Nice), with the cooperation of the newspaper "L'Equipe" and the company "Shell Berre" Petroleum.

For this IXth edition, new rules were applied:

- Performances in special tests were now to be expressed in kilometers instead of by a computation by points, which proved to have been difficult to follow (for hill climbs, a conversion factor was to be used for changing the time taken by each car into an equivalent distance in kilometers);

- Circuit races were now to be run over a predetermined time, instead of a number of laps fixed from departure;

- Incurred penalties were now to be all expressed in kilometers.

Also, Article 23 of the regulations stipulated that "each member of a team will be obliged to compete in at least one of the tests of classi-

fication, under penalty of disqualification from competition." In addition, note that Article 28 specified that "competitors are forbidden to make on their car, on themselves or their team member, inscriptions which could be regarded as commercial publicity."!!!

### **STAGES OF THE 1960 IXth TOUR DE FRANCE AUTOMOBILE**

Before 1st stage: NICE - NICE (118 km)

Thursday, September 15th Col de Braus Hillclimb: 7 km 100

1st Stage: NICE - SPA (1535 km)

Friday, September 16th Mont Ventoux Hillclimb: 21 km 600

Friday, September 16th Col du Rousset Hillclimb: 14 km

Saturday, September 17th Nürburgring Circuit: 1 hour

2nd Stage: SPA - ROUEN (1108 km)

Sunday, September 18th Francorchamps Circuit: 2 hours

Monday, September 19th Monthléry Circuit: 1 hour 30

3rd Stage: ROUEN - CLERMONT-FERRAND (1120 km)

Tuesday, September 20th Rouen-Les-Essarts Circuit: 1 hour

Tuesday, September 20th Le Mans Circuit: 2 hours

Wednesday, September 21st Puy Mary Hillclimb: 7 km

Wednesday, September 21st Puy de Dôme Hillclimb: 4 km 800

4th Stage: CLERMONT-FERRAND - BIARRITZ (1194 km)

Thursday, September 22nd Auvergne Circuit: 1 hour

Friday, September 23rd Col de l'Aubisque Hillclimb: 12 km

Friday, September 23rd Col du Tourmalet Hillclimb: 10 km 500

Friday, September 23rd Pau Circuit: 1 hour

