



Drag racing started as a postwar teen-age infatuation with souped-up cars in which speed-crazy kids raced recklessly at 80 or 90 mph over lonely roads, scattering drivers to death. Now in many places in the country, it has come out into the open as a respectable—and colorful—sport. An event like that shown below is no longer common—a drag meet at Santa Ana, Calif., where 3,000 racers and 325 contestants turned out for races held in the blessing of the local police.

Official drag races—the name apparently stems from the need to “drag” or stay in low gears as long as possible—are held on quarter-mile strips in cars that are often



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