

Female Team To Vie Against Mates In Rally

By **EDYTHE HUMPHREY**
[Herald Staff Writer]

At least one team of Calgary girls will participate Saturday and Sunday in the Snark, annual spring rally of the Calgary Sports Car Club.

The girls are Gayle Vickery, driver, and Linda Boers, navigator. Their car is an MGB, belonging to Gayle and her husband Keith.

Both girls have husbands com-

peting against them in the 100-meter rally from Calgary to Turtle Mountain and back to Calgary.

STRICTLY FUN

While the Snark may be a serious venture for some of the male drivers — such as Gayle's husband who is trying for Centennial points for next year's Shell 4000 — the girls told The Herald in an interview Monday that "for us, it is strictly fun."

Gayle feels it is a fun rally because there is no night driving and night driving complicates a rally. An overnight stop is arranged at Turtle Mountain Lodge, where a party is scheduled.

Linda, on the other hand, feels it is attitude which governs the fun of a rally. Both girls agree that rallying in the Snark is like any other competitive sport. If you win, you're happy, and if you lose, you're still happy because you had fun.

POETIC THEME

The rally name originated in a poem by Lewis Carroll. It deals with the hunt of an imaginary animal, ferocious but never seen. The poetic theme permeates the regulations of the rally, and rallyists never know when a line of poetry has meaning for them and when it is gobbledygook.

Linda and Gayle's prime objective in the Snark is to concentrate on keeping on the course, then on time.

It is more important to finish the rally than it is to finish first, they agree.

Both girls feel that the initial requisite for the Snark is a dependable, well-prepared car. They do not mean well-prepared in the sense that they need a lot of rally equipment. Their husbands will incorporate what equipment they have in their cars, and the girls will drive the Vickerys' family MGB.

Preparations for them means the basics of paper, pencils, ral-

ly board, light and a good watch (sealed).

Second comes the need to work themselves into the proper frame of mind. "Tension mounts, and the car becomes a little world of its own for about nine hours. You're dominated by maps and watches," said Gayle.

"I worry about losing a good friendship," said Linda. Both girls feel it is wiser to rally with other women than with their own husbands.

The Calgary Sports Car Club has a trophy they call the Lovers Cup. It is for married couples only, and in order that the competition be open, there must be at least three entries. Not only must a husband and wife obtain the necessary points, but they must also be on speaking terms with each other when the rally ends.

CHANCE PAIRING

Linda and Gayle teamed up by accident, and decided to enter the race for the sheer enjoyment of it.

Linda was looking for a driver some weeks ago. She prefers the navigating and mechanical end of a car. At the tender age of 12, under the influence of a brother who is a mechanic, Linda became fascinated with car engines.

Gayle agreed to team up with Linda because she likes to drive. She gained experience driving in skill-testing gymkhanas in Europe where she spent three years in Germany with her army husband.

Most of the women members are in the Calgary club because their husbands are enthused about the sport of rallying. The wives serve as party checkers, timing people in, and they are situated all over the route.

A CHALLENGE

Asked what appeal sport car rallying has for a woman, both Linda Boers and Gayle Vickery agree there is the social aspect, and the angle of participation and challenge. "It's nice to see what you can do with a car," Gayle says, from the viewpoint of the driver. Adds Linda, "the navigator tries to outwit the organizer."

Can the two girls take care of themselves on the Snark 500 between Calgary and Turtle Mountain and back? They can both change a tire, change the oil and make minor repairs. "We wouldn't dare show our faces if we couldn't," they said.





FREQUENT OIL CHECKS PART OF RALLY CAR CARE
... Mrs. Keith Vickery keeps car in top shape