



Story below.

Jerry and Sally Venger . . . She was clocked in the better time.



—World-Herald

Buchanan . . . Front wheel drive.

Even Scribe's Dog Beats Him—

Newsman Finds Gymkhana Tough

By Fred Thomas

Only a lousy sports car driver could lose a race with a dog.

Well, at least it was my own dog.

The setback came Sunday on Ralston's Lake Seymour during the Nebraska Region Sports Car Club of America's Ice Gymkhana.

I still don't know what gymkhana means. But apparently it doesn't mean driving on ice in an open car in six-above-zero weather.

They wouldn't tell me how far down the list of 61 entries I finished. I do know my time for the 11/10-mile course sprinkled with curlicues and rubber tire hazards was nine minutes 18 seconds. That compares with the winning 5:31.

My dog Scamper, a seven-year-old German shepherd-collie-terrier, was clocked in 8:47. Scamper could have

done better but he waited while my co-pilot, Jerry Venger, pushed our car out of a snow bank a minute after the time trial started.

Venger really didn't want to serve as a co-pilot in that weather. It was his Arnolt-Bristol and he didn't trust me alone in a sports car for the first time.

Then, too, I had the feeling he was afraid I might abscond with those manhole covers he had placed in the trunk to give the car traction.

Before the event there was some concern about the car crashing through the ice. That fear vanished quickly as Jerry and I strove to bring back his car in one piece.

Once, while skidding toward a menacing drift, Jerry tried desperately to stir me into an evasive action by announcing:

"Sally and I just got back from our honeymoon in Mexico."

The marriage climaxed a

sports car romance, she with a Nash Metropolitan, he with the Arnolt-Bristol and a Porsche.

Jerry merely shrugged when I felt downcast that Maynard Buchanan, a cigar-smoking 60-year-old who is the club's oldest member, made my driving look like my wife's.

"He's got a Saab Gran Turismo 750 with front wheel drive," Jerry consoled.

Later I learned Venger had an even bigger cross to bear. Sally had turned in the better time in their husband-wife duel.

Burke Only Omahan

Paul Burke was the only Omaha winner in the four classes as he captured the guest event. Top finishes:

Over 1,600 cubic centimeters—1. Bruce Krebs, Humphrey; 2. Hal Midgah, Omaha; 3. Dick Foster, Omaha.

Members under 1,600 cubic centimeters—1. Ralph Tolman, Wayne; 2. Dale Flesher, Omaha; 3. Dr. Paul Reichstadt, Omaha.

Guests—1. Paul Burke, Omaha; 2. Paul Lewis, Omaha; 3. Stewart Schlund, Omaha.

Powder puff—1. Carolyn Heaton, Lincoln; 2. Sally Venger, Omaha; 3. Sylvia Wagner, Omaha.