

## 1° INSTALMENT

### *He should be a bank clerk, but...*

By this first page starts the magazine which deals with the Lavazza story, a man who even if is already too young is going to become a legend for everybody love cars and races.

Piero Lavazza was born in Turin on August the 20th in 1940, but when the rebuilding after the war wasn't already done Piero had lived his first experience in driving cars.

"It happened in 1948 when I drove my first car", he says, "in secret I got on my dad car, the keys were inserted and I turned on the ignition. I didn't know the car was ready to go, so I have made my first 50 meters as a real pilot".

After this Piero started driving seriously.

"I learned driving car on a Fiat 500 "Belvedere" (the famous "Giardinetta") and I remember its ratings: TO152109" he affirms. Seeing the astonished faces of everybody that were listening his words he adds too " The first car should never be forgotten!". I take my first lessons in 1950 and there was a waiter,(who worked in a hotel in Bardonecchia where Piero was spending his holydays) that saw what happened. First day I drove around the garden of the hotel and on my seat I put a cushion for seeing outside, because I was not very tall.

The second day we went to Rochemolles. By this experience my father permitted to me driving his car around our garden.

All these facts could make think that Piero immediately will be a good pilot, but on the contrary he went to school for becoming a bank clerk because it was what his mother wanted for him. But he had a passion: model aircraft construction, so in 1959 he won an Italian qualification and in 1960 he participated to the world championship in Budapest.

"Really I was contacted by national team for 5 consecutive years, but during that period I had some problem about school, so I always had to decline.

But Piero didn't like studying double entry, on the contrary he tried to read and understand the well-known book written by Dante Giacosa in relation to Fiat 500, which is utilized by most important technological schools.

The beginning of Piero Lavazza as a real pilot it wasn't a positive experience.

"I had rent a kart for participating at the opening of the racing track in Rivoli (Turin). During the free race tests I was able to stay with the others, who will become famed for racing cars for example Maglioli. When I finished the free race tests my preparer wanted to drive my kart and he shattered it.

I repaired my kart throughout the same night and the day after the kart broke during the 8° lap ...". But Piero isn't demoralised, in facts he continues to dedicate himself to model aircraft either static or dynamic considering it as a job. In 1963 he bought a new car from Austria and he participated to the race Stalovenà-Boscochiesanuova where there were 52 participants he occupied the second position.

"My mother didn't want that I had continued to make races because safety was the most important thing even if I was a precise and a correct pilot, so I have sold the Austrian car and I have bought a 850 TC Abarth". So Piero had to renounce

to the races in fact that period he made many car accidents because he run speedy pretending to be in a race track.

“I changed my car again and I bought my first Fiat 500 which with I have participated to some races as Cesana – Sestriere, Aosta – Pila; at the race in Monza he conquered the 8° position and finally he won the race Pontedecimo – Giovi and he signed the record in his category.

“I left my girl because she wanted that I had abandoned races, so I chose freedom. I was so angry that I started to run as a mad.

I always studied the itinerary of the race and all the possible dangers because I had to know all the particularity of the race track.