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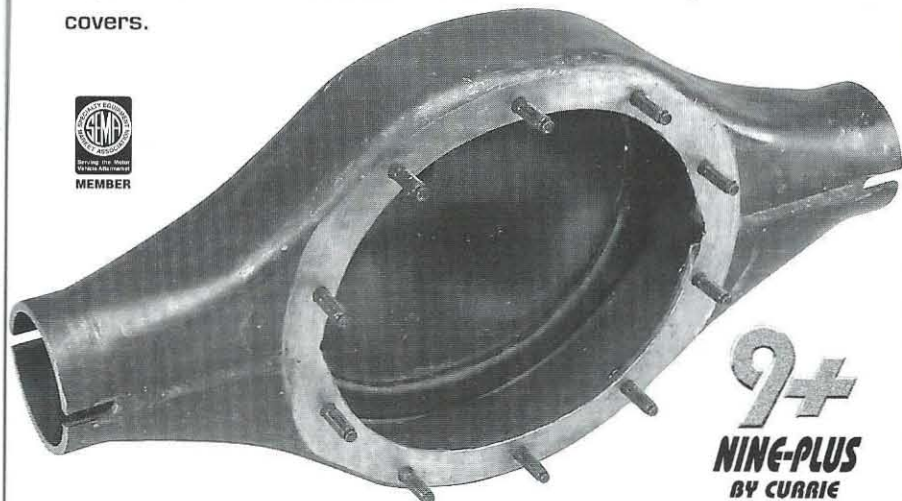
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our first full year of production. Non-stocking combinations can be produced usually in about two weeks."

Rings

"For piston rings, Grant, and I believe a number of manufacturers, are developing more durable materials for compression rings," said Michael Flynn of Grant Piston Rings, Holland, Michigan. "Material development will aid in the trend in more narrow compression rings that will in turn reduce ring flutter."

Grant introduced its Proven Performance line of rings a few years ago in the Midwest, but Flynn said they plan to expand its marketing efforts into the southern and West Coast markets. Grant's piston rings come in four levels: the Race Proven Series, or the "R" performance level rings are compatible with unlimited horsepower, full power engines with open compression ratio at any sustained high rpm; the Claim Proven Series, or "C" performance rings work with engines up to 600 hp, compression ratios up to 13:1, with rpm limits of 7500; the Street Proven Series, or "S" performance rings are suitable for mild performance enhancement street engines for occasional performance output; and the Gas Proven Series, or "G" series rings which are cast iron performance level ring sets available in all popular ring groove configurations to fit a large segment of the performance piston industry. Additionally, Grant offers the H series rings for use on hypereutectic pistons.

Verne Schumann, also of Grant Racing Rings, observed, "More and more racers are getting into the metric type rings—the 1.5 mm and 1.2 mm in the compression rings, and the 3 and 4 mm, and occasionally a 2.8 mm on the oil rings. He said Grant returned to the performance ring industry approximately 4 1/2 years ago to fill a need for the claimer engine market in the Midwest. Now, he estimates about half of the company's performance ring sales are in this market.

"The biggest trend here at Total Seal is we're developing lighter and thinner ring packages," said Matt Hartford, in the company's Phoenix, Arizona, headquarters. "Also, we're making the most of stronger materials so a thinner ring

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