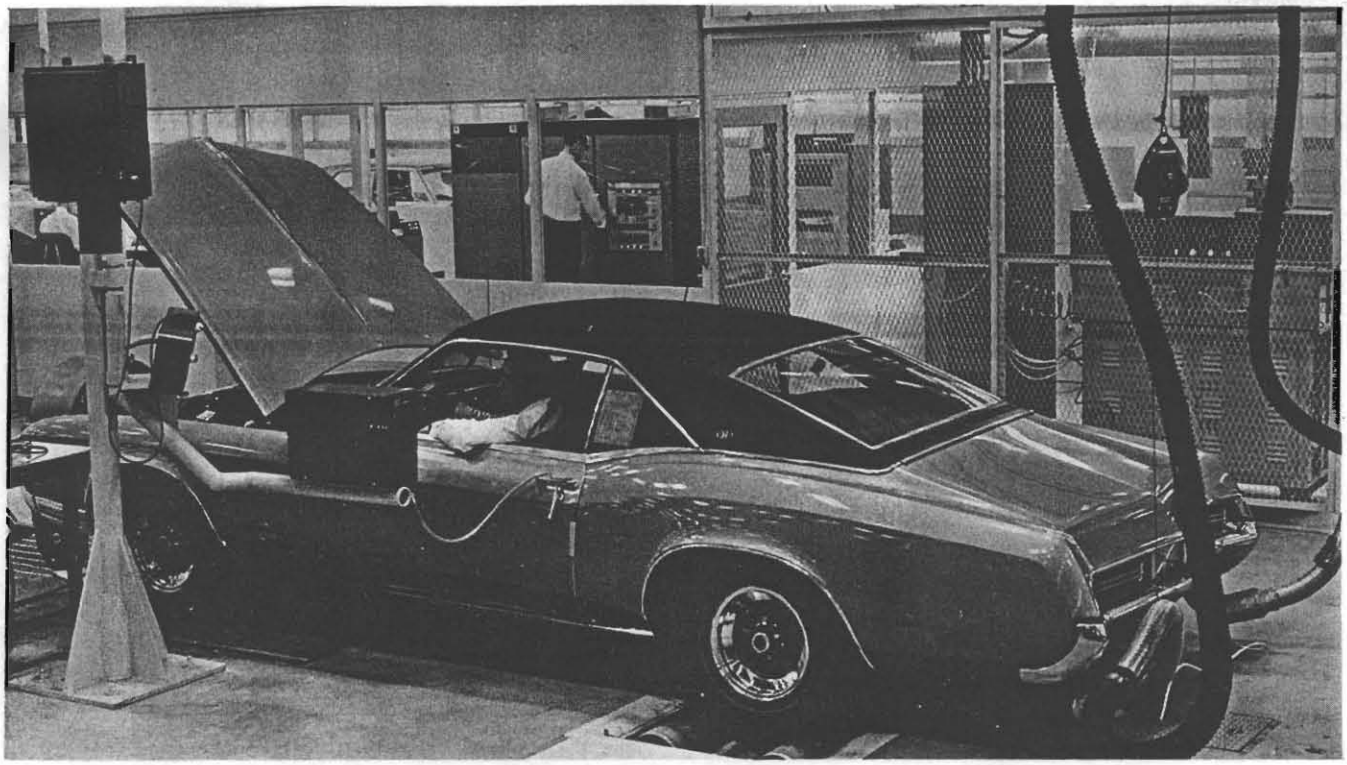

FOR RELEASE:

A. M.'s Friday,
May 26, 1967

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FLINT, Mich., May 25 . . . . The exhaust system of this new car is being checked against Federal and state standards for air-pollution control at Buick's computer-based Quality Audit Facility here. Anti-smog devices on Buick's 1968 cars will undergo the same test.

The computer -- an IBM 1800 data acquisition and control system -- monitors test results, instantly analyzes them and triggers tape-recorded instructions to test drivers.

During the test, the computer (background) instructs the driver to idle the engine and then accelerate to various speeds while the rear wheels spin on rollers to keep the car stationary. The hoses carry exhaust gases to sensing devices which analyze their chemical content and relay results to the computer.

Other computer-controlled stations are being developed to inspect safety factors such as wheel alignment and balance, engine performance and brake effectiveness.

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DPD 312 C-2
5/26/67 (A)

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FLINT, Mich., May 25 . . . . David C. Burnett, head of Buick's Quality Audit Facility here, displays a scale model of the advanced new laboratory built around an IBM 1800 data acquisition and control system.

The rectangular enclosure on the model is the computer room. Mr. Burnett is pointing to a key test station where the exhaust systems of new cars are checked against Federal and state air-pollution standards. This test will be used to check anti-smog devices on Buick's 1968 cars.

Other computer-controlled stations -- including tests for wheel alignment and balance, engine performance and brake effectiveness -- will be in operation by mid-summer.

The laboratory inspects finished, quality-checked cars selected at random from Buick assembly lines. These tests are far more stringent than standard quality-control procedures.

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DPD 312 C-2
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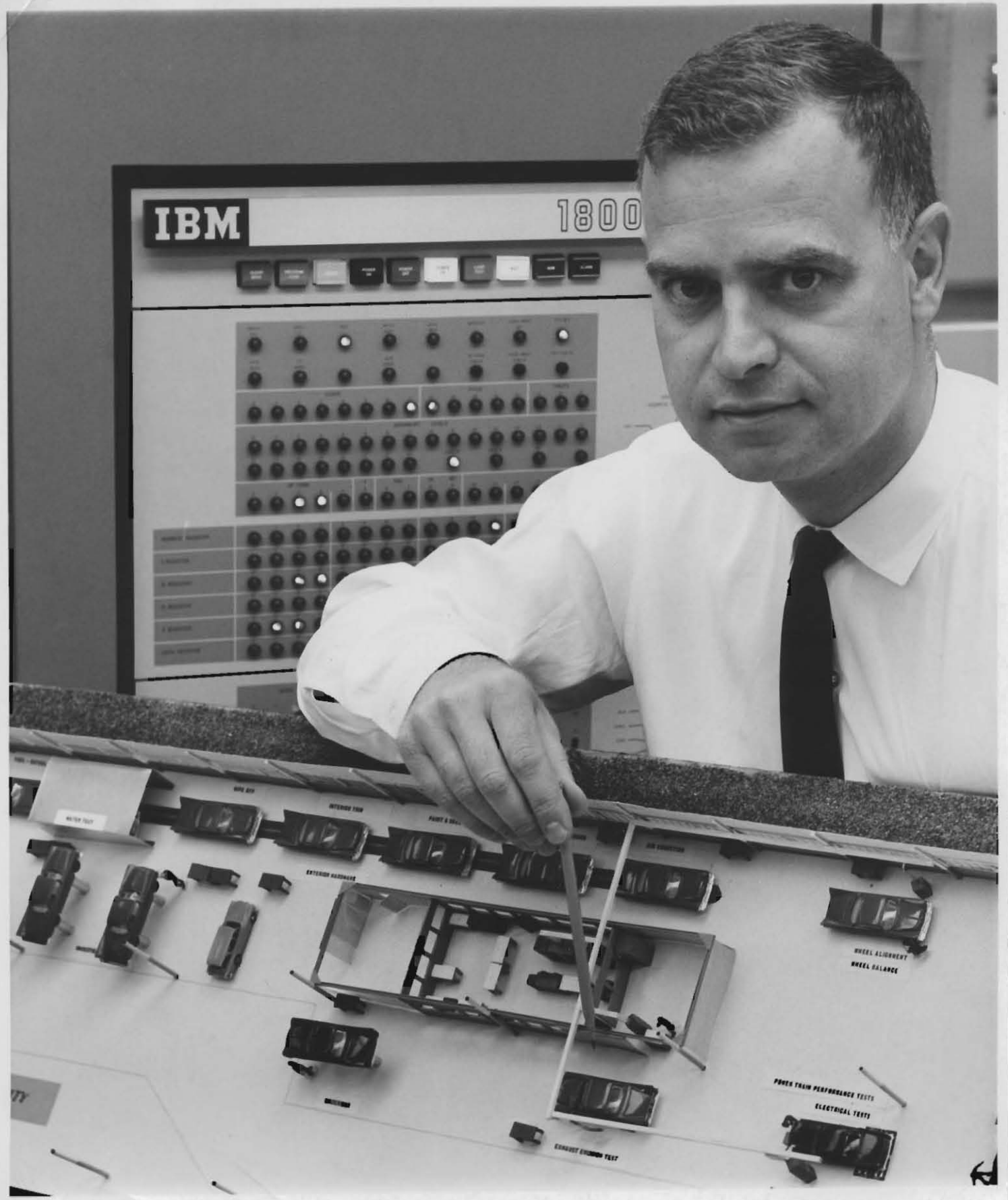
IBM
1800
WHEEL ALIGNMENT
WHEEL BALANCE
POWER TRAIN PERFORMANCE TESTS
ELECTRICAL TESTS

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DPD 1

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Auto Safety and Air Pollution Control

COMPUTER RUNS ADVANCED TESTS AT NEW BUICK QUALITY LAB

FLINT, Mich., May 25 . . . . A computer-based laboratory complex, capable of running 80 new cars a day through 850 critical tests for safety and quality, was described for the first time today by the Buick Division of General Motors Corporation.

Buick's Quality Audit Facility -- an advanced, new laboratory here -- selects finished, quality-checked cars at random from Buick's two assembly lines. The cars are then put through a battery of additional electronic, mechanical and visual tests.

The new laboratory is built around an IBM 1800 data acquisition and control system which monitors test results, instantly analyzes them, and triggers tape-recorded instructions to test drivers.

-more-

A key test now underway makes certain that exhaust gases conform to Federal and state standards for air-pollution control. This test will be used to check anti-smog devices on Buick's 1968 cars. In addition, computer-controlled stations are being developed to verify safety factors such as wheel alignment and balance, engine performance, and brake effectiveness.

John R. Gretzinger, Buick's director of reliability and quality control, emphasized that the operations of the new testing center go far beyond standard quality-control procedures.

"When we take a car into the lab," Mr. Gretzinger pointed out, "it already has been inspected and has passed hundreds of quality control points during its assembly. The Quality Audit Facility was established to augment these inspections with additional, more extensive testing. The laboratory opens new doors for us to achieve greater safety and quality assurance."

In the exhaust-emission test, a car is driven into a test station and analyzing devices are linked to the exhaust pipe.

The computer then triggers a tape-recorded voice which instructs the driver to start the car, idle the engine, and then accelerate to various speeds. The rear wheels spin on rollers so that the car remains stationary during the test. This testing procedure is based on California exhaust-emission regulations and duplicates Los Angeles driving conditions.

Exhaust samples are drawn into the analyzing devices which instantly check their chemical content. The devices generate voltages which indicate the concentration of different gases. The 1800 system measures these voltages to determine the amounts of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrocarbons in the fumes.

The computer's instant evaluation indicates whether the exhaust system meets pollution control standards.

Results of the computer analysis are immediately sent to the assembly line or to other areas of the plant for any necessary corrective action.

In addition to computer-controlled testing, other stations in the facility check such things as paint, trim and over-all assembly.

Development of the new testing complex began with the installation of the IBM 1800 system last December. Most test stations will be operating by mid-summer.

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DPD 312 C-2
5/26/67