

□ Only recently Lloyd Howell mentioned that he doesn't like to participate in a competition unless he knows he can do well.

It's not that Howell is looking for a guaranteed victory; nor does he shun the thought of a tough challenge, but he is a proud man and does not want to see his efforts wasted on defeat.

This is what makes Lloyd Howell one of Canada's most successful rallyists today.

The Canadian International Winter Rally is in Howell's mind one of the toughest events in Canada, and it is also his favorite. In fact it was this particular event that generated Howell's interest in rallying some 11 years ago when he witnessed the finish as a spectator and decided to participate.

Lloyd Howell, a 37-year-old PBX repairman with the Bell Telephone Company, has enjoyed many years of success, most of which have come from personal achievements or outright victories in many Canadian rallies.

Although he has possessed an interest in cars since his boyhood, Howell had only slight ambitions for car racing.

It was back in 1952 that he owned a 1947 Mercury, which was a true hotrod. "However," says Howell, "I was never that interested in racing, because I don't think I would do well at it."

He can't say the same for rallying.

Howell has the confidence which is needed by an athlete and perhaps because of this attitude he has enjoyed many victories. But probably the best known story of Lloyd Howell came in the 1961 Winter Rally when he mentioned to the organizers prior to the rally: "just fill my line in with zeros."

Yep, you guessed it. Howell finished the rally without a single penalty point.

"This was my biggest thrill in rallying," pointed out Howell who

this year drove a Comstock entered Ford Anglia, sharing in the team victory in the winter event. Last year Howell came in second place.

Originally known as a top-notch navigator, Howell has since become one of Canada's leading rally drivers. But during the time he was a navigator he developed, along with Frank Langdon, their own modified version of a Halda calculator. This particular piece of rally-



Lloyd Howell

ing equipment has since become a familiar sight in Canadian rally cars and Howell points out that 80% of rally winners in Canada have used his equipment.

This equipment consists of a clutch drive unit that permits adjustment to mileage readings along the route.

This modification proved so successful and desirable that the Halda factory incorporated this idea into their new Mk. 5 unit about two years ago. However, many rallyists still prefer Howell's own modification as it feeds new mileage in the counter faster.

This year the Comstock team em-



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ployed a completely new counter recently developed by the Howell-Langdon team using some Halda parts.

A simple front wheel drive odometer attached to hub cap or grease cap is Howell's new invention. It can be quickly installed for rallying or snapped off for normal street driving.

Howell gets a real charge out of inventing new navigational gadgets — almost as much as out of competition itself.

Married and living in Rexdale, Ont., Howell says he does not have any particular aim or goal to shoot for in rallying. "Actually, I enjoy working on cars as well and when I finish competing I think this is what I would like to do," says Howell.

Other than the long hours he spends working on his cars, Howell does little preparation for a rally although he, like most everyone, makes a couple of dry runs.

"Actually you can become rally-wise or develop rally-sense," says Howell.

Explaining himself further he said: "For example, this year in the first Canadian National Exhibition Rally, there were some errors printed in the directions, however my navigator, Brent Davies, seemed to sense which was the right way. As you know we ended up winning the event. This is what I mean by rally-sense.

"It's like any other sport," continued Howell, "you can get 'hot' during the rally and there are many times when I have found myself really 'up' for a forthcoming event."

Judging by his successes one would have to say Lloyd Howell is not only fired up for most events, but he also has plenty of rally-sense.