



The builder of this fascinating tracked pickup was the Cat Trac Company of Toronto, Canada. Starting with a conventional Ford model F100 pickup of 1961, the modifier has used the original Ford axles and even the tires and wheels, and has fitted a system of a Bombardier-type track with four intermediate roadwheels, and a pair of top rollers which both maintain track tension and force the returning track to clear the body. Probably the only change required to the original drive train would have been the addition of individual brakes on each side of the rear axle to steer the unit. Note that on firm terrain the fixed roadwheels, which have a semi-elliptic spring for each pair, carry the entire weight of the truck; the front and rear tires are about two inches off of the ground. An angled front belly plate has been added to assist in moving through deep snow. This vehicle was also part of Exercise Great Bear in Alaska in February 1962. Weighing 3,170 pounds net, it could carry a 1,100-pound payload, powered by Ford's 114-horsepower, 223 cubic inch, six-cylinder engine. Normal 6.50 x 16 truck tires were used, along with little 4.80 x 8 bogie wheels. A top speed of 40 miles per hour was attainable; it had a 30-foot turning circle, and could climb a 60% grade. (TS)