



WORLD LAND SPEED RECORD CARS - 1964

Craig Breedlove, Spirit of America, 526.28 mph

Speed champion Craig Breedlove waited impatiently during the start of the '64 Bonneville season as the Arfons brothers blasted his record out of the books. Then, in a dramatic comeback, Breedlove shot to fantastic new heights before coming to rest in a watery ditch.

Days later, his racer indisposed, the title eluded him again

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC RICKMAN

First with a two-way average over 400 mph, and first man to exceed 500 mph on land on wheels, Craig Breedlove saw his '63 record of 407.45 mph smashed by Tom Green, driving Walt Arfons' Wingfoot Express, with a 413.20 mph 2-way mile, again three days later when Art Arfons jettied his Green Monster to 434.02 mph. Sensing the time was right for his big move, Breedlove lit the torch for what was to be the finale, and many thought that it was when his Spirit of America became a blur at nearly 540 mph, with an astounding new 526.28 official average that ended in near disaster. Who's king now? Art Arfons again: 536.71 average.



ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM A. MOORE

