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SEPTEMBER 1966

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But Petty races a Plymouth for a lot of the same reasons so many people buy the production version of the Plymouth. Things like torsion-bar front suspension.

Asymmetrical rear springs. And a complete package of safety features like safety door handles ... all standard equipment. And options like disc brakes, heavy-duty suspension, limited-slip differential and a choice of engines on up to the street version of the 426 Hemi. And the same history of reliability that makes the race car a winner. So see your Plymouth Dealer and check out one of the '66 Plymouths ... they're winners Monday through Saturday too.



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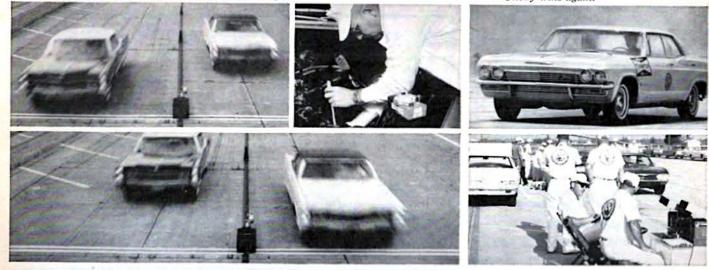
Does it really matter what brand of spark plugs your car of plugs were switched, the test repeated. In 46 cases out uses? You bet it does! of 50, Cadillacs with Champions accelerated faster.

In tests at the famous Sebring Race Track, sanctioned In other tests with Chevies, 49 out of 50 Chevrolets acby the United States Auto Club, 46 out of 50 new Cadillacs celerated faster with Champions. What's more, in still accelerated faster with Champion spark plugs than with more tests 48 out of 50 Chevrolets got better gas mileage the brand that originally comes with Cadillacs. Here's how with Champions. More proof that the brand of spark plugs the tests were run. Two Cadillacs were paired does make a difference in your car. DABLE

against each other in each test. Both were started simultaneously by an electronic device and accelerated at full throttle for 200 yards. The brands .



1. Crossing the finish line on acceleration test, the dark Cadillac with Champions wins easily. 2. Now we switch the brands of plugs. 3. This time, the white one wins with Champion!



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1. 49 out of 50 Chevrolets accelerated faster with Champions. 2. Electronic timers confirm it . . . Champion-equipped Chevy wins again!

All tests were conducted by Nationwide Consumer



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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 1966

THE AUTOMOTIVE GO & SHOW MAGAZINE

VOLUME FOURTEEN

features

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COVER Kicking off with the Hot Rod Story, this month is a special cover creation that spans the hot rodding

sport from its

inception to the

present day. Art Director, Bob Young handled the graphics.

> Research Librarian PCC Art Director Photo Director Controller

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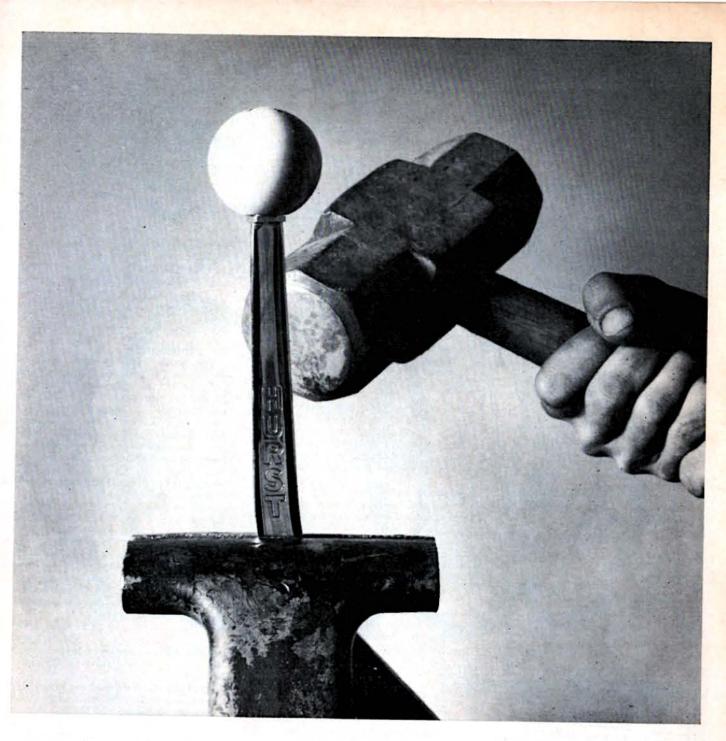
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STORY

NUMBER SEVEN

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Our motto has always been, "Shift as hard as you like, but If you're dead set on breaking one of our shifters, play it don't break your arm." We're sure of the strength and stamina safe and use a sledgehammer or a hacksaw. You see, our of our shifters. That's why we guarantee them for life, and warranty guarantees your shifter forever, but it doesn't cover why you find them in the cars of the big winners.* broken arms and shifted-out drivers.

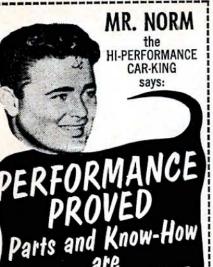
Recently we've heard that being able to break a Hurst As for the mark of a man-the sign of a pro driver-join shifter is recognized as the mark of a man, a driver who the HURST RACING TEAM and get all the credentials can throw superhuman effort into his shifts. We're inclined to you need: membership card, jacket patch, car decals, Hurst agree. Because even though our shifters are made by hu-Hustler hat (specify size), a year's subscription to the man hand, nothing less than superhuman abuse

is going to hurt them. When we do come across the rare broken one, we find it's the result of welding on extensions or an attempt by someone to re-engineer the shifter.



*Like these recent Springnationals winners : Jere Stahl, Stock Eliminator, in his Hurst shifter- and Line/Loc-equipped Plymouth. Mike Schmidt, Street Eliminator, in his Hurst-equipped BFX Ford. Arlen Vanke, Jr. Stock Eliminator, in his GTO, the stock factory shifter modified with a Hurst KPO kit. CAR CRAFT SEPTEMBER 1966 5

Hurst Racing Team News and a new '66 catalog. Membership fee is only \$5.00 for everything. Send it to The Shifty Doctor, Dept. 52C, Hurst Performance Products, Warminster, Pa. 18974. Hey, today.



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Engines & info

Please tell me where I can possible get a specification chart or booklet on the '58 and '61 Chevrolet 348" engines. Everywhere I go, people tell me they don't know.

Also, I think it would be a good idea if the writers permitted their addresses to be published so that we could communicate with one another.

Incidentally, Car Craft is one of the most informative automotive books.

Otis L. Clark, jr. Philadelphia, Penn.

Full details on those 348" engines can be found in "The Complete Book of Engines," which should be available at your nearest book shop. We agree that publishing the address might be a good idea, but many of our readers prefer the present method. Ed.

Just the facts, man ...

As I was thumbing through some old issues of Car Craft, a few items caught my attention.

First, on page 17 of the September '65 issue, a more or less top photo of the "Hurst Hemi Under Glass" was shown. The same photo was to appear in the next issue, but alas this picture was more or less bottom view. What gives?

Second, on page 71, the competition fuel eliminator is listed as having a Ford engine, but the caption on page 22 says a Chrysler engine. By studying the photo closely, the mill looks like a Chrysler hemi.

Third, on page 16 in the Straight Scoop, Steve Scott is said to be building a dragster. Can you tell me what has become of this project?

Fourth, in the July '65 issue, in the Straight Scoop again, the radio program "See You at the Drags" was mentioned. Is this program being broadcast this season?

Last, what is the address of the NHRA so I can get a '66 Rule Book?

Your magazine is the only one I buy without opening it first - except Mad Magazine. Tony Marsh

Winamac, Indiana

To answer your questions in order. 1. Did we say we would be using any special photo in the centerspread? It sure didn't, just the car. 2. Our error on the results sheet, it is a Chrysler. 3. Top secret at this time. 4. To our knowledge, it is. 5. 3418 West First Street, Los Angeles, California 9004. Ed.

396 or 327?

On page 58 of June '66 Car Craft, you said that "A bore of 4.001 and stroke of 3.25 gives you the 396 inches.

Well, I worked it out just to be sure I was right and the bore of 4.001 and stroke of

3.25 doesn't make 396 cu. in., but 327 cu. in. instead.

I think what you want is a bore of 4.09 and a stroke of 3.76, that makes 396 cu. in. **Glenn** Perrine

Jackson, Michigan

You're right. It should have read 4.094 x 3.76. It figures out right. Ed.

Dragquestions

Your article "Big Digs West" in the May '66 issue of Car Craft has me snowed under. On page 18 you state that originally, the NHRA has run their championship meets where the low 16 elapsed time cars ran for the top fuel title on Sunday, following the AA/FD class racing on Saturday - but because of foggy conditions, they decided to increase the top fuel field to 32 and the top gas field from 8 to 16. Would you please explain what fog has to do with increasing the number of cars in an elimination.

Also on page 21 of the same article, you say that Ed and Ray Kohler's Anglia turned 131.38 mph in 10.41 seconds to beat Johnny Loper who turned 136.36 mph in 10.32 seconds! How does a 10.41 e.t. beat a 10.32 e.t.? I've been away from racing for about a year due to the U.S. Army and this war in Vietnam, but brother, I'm yet to see the day I turn 10.32 and some guy who turns 10.41 walks off with the trophy!

P.F.C. Hugh B. Goetz Pleiku, Vietnam

We know a fair question or questions deserve fair answers, right? I think we can clear up all the mysteries.

First off, the NHRA always runs AA/FD class racing on Saturday followed by eliminator racing on Sunday with the low 16 elapsed time cars of the meet. Performance on Saturday has absolutely no bearing on who gets to run on Sunday. The Saturday winner sits out and races the Sunday winner. This is the standard practice. Now, because of extreme fog, like visibility about 100 feet at the very best, cars could not take to the strip until midmorning not only because of fog, but because of a damp strip. This did not allow many drivers a chance to make a single run and qualify. So NHRA officials decided to extend the field on Sunday and allow qualifying on Saturday to continue to 32 fuel cars and 16 gassers.

Traveling at 200 mph which is roughly about 290 feet per second with visibility limited to 100 feet, everyone concerned thought the change was made for the best. It's too bad you weren't there on Sunday because the racing was some of the best we've seen in many years.

We stood on the starting line and watched (continued on page 8)









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MAIL RUN (continued from page 6)

the race between Johnny Loper and Ed Kohler. I think you know that he who leaves first often times wins, and Kobler did. Ed.

G/S vs GTO

In your may issue of CC you have an article on the CC test of the Buick Gran Sport. You also said that it falls into the D/S class and turns 104 mph in 13.30 seconds. Here, I think you could have made a mistake because my cousin's '66 GTO (3-2's & 4-speed trans - runs in BB/PS) raced a Gran Sport and beat him by over a car length and he did this by only turning 96 mph and in the mid 15's. I don't understand the two second and 8 mph difference. Please try to explain to me the difference and why you think there is such a difference.

Sam Nasea North Collins, N.Y.

Just something to think about, Sam, but maybe the Buick your cousin raced was not equipped the same as the one which we tested and reported on which was definitely on the strong side. Also proper tuning and tires plus chassis tricks always help. Ed.

Anti-north

I must truly say that your magazine is the greatest in my book. Everyone is given a chance to voice their opinion so here's mine. I'm tired of hearing about the great West, the great South and the great East. Brother they're all crazy in the carburetor. The NORTH is what's happenin'.

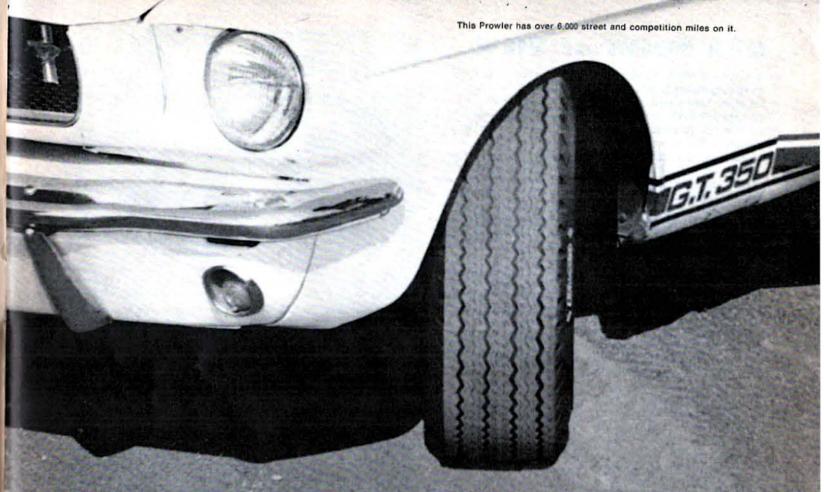
Want some names? Here are a few examples - Don Garlits, Chris Karamisines Connie Kalitta, Maynard Rupp, Ramchargers, Dick Jesse, Golden Commandos, Bob Ford (The Quiet Ones) and "Ohio" George. Also there's Roger Lindamood and Dick Branstner. Let's see the so-called greats compare with these names.

Well, that's my opinion. Keep up the good work.

David Leach Detroit, Michigan

Now when did we ever say that the North was behind? There are plenty of good running cars in the north as well as south as well as east, plus west. We just try to cover everything. Ed.





Prowlers, the new street slicks by Eliminator, put Mustangs-or any of the other wild ones-on a concrete and asphalt diet ... big bites of it, with the big, sure Prowler footprint.

Eliminator is the first to make a really sensational, really sensible cross between the acceleration bite of slicks and the all-weather, long-life virtues of street tires. But not the way some confused tire manufacturers do: wrapping a drag-racing tread compound around a premium carcass and nicknaming it a street slick ... even though it has the standard sort of highcrowned contour ... and a tread pattern you wouldn't wear to a drive-in movie ... and not much more than a big toe's worth of extra footprint.

Prowlers are the street slicks designed by the people who understand racing tire design. Isn't that the sensible way to go at high performance? We started with the drag-racing features of our Super Stock tire: Light, strong, low-profile nylon carcass. Sticky yet long-wearing tread compound. Tread shaped to race-ready contour. Broad shoulders with molded in pressure points. Tread width within NHRA/AHRA specs.

Then we tooled it with a tread pattern that sheds water like a goose loose in a carwash. Four big, bold grooves, wide enough to trench off water and prevent hydroplaning ... and spaced far apart so the tread can't pinch up and lose traction. Twelve rows of zigzag siping ... thousands of biting edges that gnaw through rain or grease when cornering.

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OUR POINT of VIEW

the rare opportunity to drive around one of the famous proving grounds the large automobile manufacturers at least once and possibly twice or use to test the functions (durability, economy, safety, etc.) of their new models. This particular test track was the Ford Motor Company's, located in Dearborn, Michigan. The main track is two and a half miles around and resembled Route 66. It was loaded with vehicles of all types - cars, trucks, jeeps, etc. cruising along like they were on the way to L.A. The infield contains "obstacle" courses which duplicate every kind of road condition including a steep hill, mud and water, railroad crossings, pot holes, bricks, rocks and ridges. There is also a straight section that is used for a drag strip and Dick Brannan was giving the "quarter mile" treatment to a new model. It's quite a scene and I found it a little hard to realize that each of these machines was on a special assignment - that each mile something was being learned that would benefit the product in some way. One car in particular proved of great interest and in turn led to the most impressive part of the entire testing program - a tour through the new Ford Reliability Laboratory just a mile away. This car was almost a computer on wheels with a maze of wires attached to components throughout the vehicle. As it was driven around the test course, the actions of the springs, shocks, steering, seats, brakes, etc. were recorded on tape. The tape would then be run and, through a highly technical and ingenious method, would recreate the test track conditions. This enables the engineers to completely test a car right in the Lab and in doing so, speed up the process so that in many cases 100,000 miles of test track driving can be condensed into a 24-hour period. Advances like this insure us of better, safer and more durable cars in the future.

-Alex Xydias

or ever been associated with a race car has been "Caught In The Act" more by the ever watchful official. Every racer (and if you ask some, they'll never admit it!) has tried at one time or another, to pull a sneaky. And, sometimes, they even get away with it. Now possibly you're wondering what this is all about? As all regular readers of Car Craft know. each month we feature "Caught In The Act." a situation that demonstrates the point of not cheating. Now, the copy and story ideas come from racers and officials who we would rather not name because, well, just because. They are very much real and have happened to racers from the fastest AA/FD to stockers. They have been pulled at biggest and smallest event and all over the nation. While going over this feature in our magazine with another staff member recently, we hit upon an idea. Since these situations have happened and still do, why not let our readers tell us of a "harrowing experience" that has happened to them. Of course, we would keep everything involved, readers names, places and persons in the strictest confidence to "protect the innocent." Naturally, when something like being disqualified for a very unique reason is not a bit funny at the time, as the years go by, many a laugh is had at bench racing sessions. While we're on the subject of sending things in, we would like to encourage everyone to send in more CC/Gassers and letters. The jokes are great! Something else in the humor line are "photo funnies." If you ever spot any pictures in our magazine that you can think up a clever caption for, send it in, we would love to use it. Letters are also wild. They contain ideas for stories plus comments and opinions on same. It's always easier to go about planning a new issue with several fresh ideas. So if you have anything to say, don't hesitate for a minute; we like to hear from people like you, our readers. -Bob Leif

subject to me and something that an action photograph of a couple of you usually forget is involved with the manufacturing of automobiles. It's also something that might be looked into further and considered when building that new street machine. The other day I ran across an interesting fellow. His name is J. W. Cothran who's known as the "Quiet Man." Not because he stands around and doesn't bug anybody, but because he's head of a team which has undertaken a massive a 8 x 10 glossy photo. And if you anti-noise campaign with the Ford Motor Company vehicles. His team was confronted with the job of quieting some 15,000 components, each one capable of producing its own peculiar sound. It was the research team's assignment to eliminate as many sounds as possible either by insulation or by making them harmonious with each other. An interesting comparison is the symphony conductor who knows immediately which of the 80 or 90 instruments in his orchestra has produced a wrong note. The "team" on the other hand had to contend have to do is compare blower drives. with thousands. In reducing the fuel tanks, breathers, injection noise level, they uncovered sounds that had before been masked by tant of all, the number and placea higher general noise level. As ment of decals. These little goodies an example, the noise of a heater often save our day. The associations fan had never been noticeable until are aware of this problem. This is a new level of quietness was given evident at major meets where they the passenger compartment. Sud- instruct push-car personnel to keep denly the whirr of the fan became their right window, the one with quite annoying. A new frame-body the car number on it, rolled up -relationship introduced on '65 model Ford cars made a breakthrough in can't identify rear numbers when the battle against noise and vibra- they're engulfed in tire smoke. The tion. Prior to '65, Ford cars had solution? It's simple! A small oval been built with a rigid frame and a aluminum number plate could be the relationship was reversed; the dragsters: one that would be frame was flexible, and the body Pretty interesting.

-Dick Scritchfield

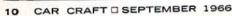
• On a recent trip to Detroit, I had • I think everyone of us who races • This has become a fascinating • How many times have you viewed dragsters smoking away from the line, often with smoke trailing around the cockpit for the full quarter-mile? And how many times would you have been in the dark as to who was who if the captions hadn't clued you in? More than once, I'm sure. With exception to the few rails fitted with a full nose section, clearly lettered with identifying names, just about every dragster looks alike in think you have trouble, consider the plight of the poor journalists who cover the major meets where maybe 60 different dragsters are on hand and upwards of 300-500 action photos must be sorted through to find a good selection of cars. With the name and/or number safely hidden behind a well-laid smoke screen, it's virtually impossible to distinguish one car from the next. Generally, the trick is to have good still photos of the top cars before selecting the action shots. Then when you find a wild photo, all you systems, air foils, and most imporor face being eliminated. Even they flexible body. With the '65 models, designated as necessary for all mounted atop the chassis, behind rigid. Mounts between the two were the front wheels. Background colors designed so that the frame would could be white or according to the absorb most road shocks without car's respective regional division. transmitting them to the body. The number can be owner's choice. or his standing in the association's points system. In any event, standardization of this system would be a boon to competitors, associations and journalists alike. Why not give it a try.

- Bud Lang

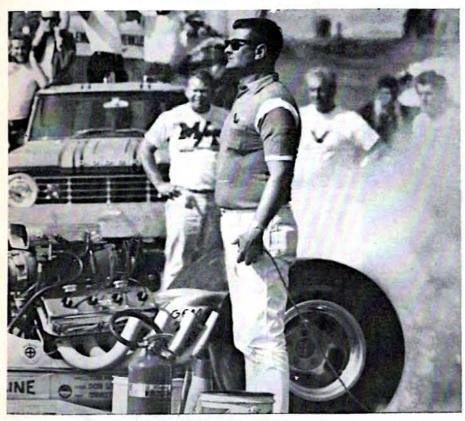








Every two-car drag race involves three men. Here's the inside story on the third, the often unnoticed, but vital ... A man in the middle



By Howard Pennington

HOUSANDS OF EAGER spectators jump to their feet in anticipation of the big showdown. A crack of engines echo out of the staging fire-up area as two low slung AA/Fuelers paced themselves to the starting line. Waves of noise spiced by the pungent perfume of nitro pollute the air as two masked drivers whing their throttles to keep their big engines alive and cleaned out for the bucks-up run that is only moments away.

This is the main event in drag racing - and the Top Fuel Eliminator run at the NHRA Nationals is the one with all the marbles.

All eves are on the cars. Each belching high-powered monster slowly moves up to the first staging line while taking their careful staging instruction from the starter, which by now is strictly a sign language affair. A few more inches and both cars are staged, the staging lights go on. Thousands of eyes now quickly refocused for the countdown as the yellow lights start their march downward. GREEN! The two rails ex-

plode like missiles at blast-off, leaving their heavy smoking trail of twin roostertails as an indication of a clean start and a great run.

Left behind, obscured in the dense clouds of burning rubber, stands a big guy in a bright red shirt. He's a guy that everyone in the stands notices then quickly forgets when the revs come up. But to every driver who comes to the line ready for that crucial stage and elimination run, the big guy in the bright red shirt is - THE MAN!

Buster Couch, chief starter for the National Hot Rod Association, is what you might tag as the "man in the middle." More important, he is the key guy who calls 'em as he sees 'em and is responsible for every run being classified a good run. This, for your information, is a tall order with drag racers.

Just how important is the starter? Ask Wally Parks, NHRA president, and he'll tell you. "The starter is the final safety man, the custodian of fair starts, and the man who paces the action on the strip. Every start of every race becomes his personal responsibility. After everybody else has done his job, he's the man who must decide when it's time to push the blast-off button."

Buster Couch pushes that button, which is mounted on a small box he holds in his hand, any time after both staging lights come on. Before he pushes it, he makes sure both drivers are ready.

"I look at the positions of the drivers, and listen to the sounds of their engines to know when they're ready. When they're all set for a clean, fair start, I punch the button."

Important as that blast-off button is, it's only one of many things Buster Couch has to be concerned with as chief starter.

Before competition gets underway at a meet, he must check out the starting system to make sure it's working properly. When two cars roll up to the line he must check last minute safety details, like shoulder harness and seat belts, helmets, fire suits if needed and make sure that goggles are being worn, not just pushed up on the helmet somewhere, forgotten to be pulled down by some overly excited driver. His concern with safety doesn't stop at this check, either, but continues all through the actual run. At the Bristol Springnationals, for instance, Buster noticed that the driver of a D/Dragster made his run with his arms sticking outside of the cockpit. Later he cautioned the driver. During Eliminator runs that same driver again drove with his arms outside.

"It's a good thing he lost the run," Buster told me, "because I would have disqualified him for that if he had won." One of Buster's assistants defended the driver by saying that he had to have his arms out like that to reach his chute ring.

"He should have the ring in a different spot, then," Buster said. "His arms belong inside."

Tough? Sure. He has to be tough to get his job done and maintain safety. Yet all during a meet drivers keep coming up to thank Buster for something he did that was a big help to them.

One of his biggest problems comes with cars that are push started. They seldom start simultaneously, and he has to make sure one driver doesn't stall for time and try to overheat his opponent's engine. Anytime there is a delay that isn't the fault of the driver, Buster will ask him, "Not too hot, are you?" Obviously, overheating is really a problem with fuelers, and sometimes Buster will send them back to staging and let them run later when they've had a chance to cool down the engines.

Another big part of the starter's job is watching the condition of the track to make sure it's clear of oil or debris. Buster and his crew keep a sharp eye out for the smallest item that might (continued on page 14) Graham Hill Mel Kenyon



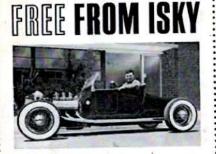
Also on has won 1-2-3 at all USAC 1966 Championship races to date. PHOENIX ...TRENTON...MILWAUKEE...LANGHORNE...and ATLANTA. 60 Oil Treatment is used by men whose lives and livelihood depend on their cars. They count on (To protect the power and performance of their engines. (To blends with any motor oil to form a tough, protective film on the moving parts of any engine. The first time you need oil, every time you change oil, protect your engine the way the pros do-add op Oil Treatment. At service stations everywhere. Used by most racing drivers, and millions and millions of motorists in cars like yours.





THE NAME OF is synonymous with hot rodding

The above headline is an actual quotation from a note of appreciation, sent to us by a young hot rodder. Another wrote us, "As far back as I can remember, I've heard the name 'isky' whenever rods or drags were discussed". Still another wrote, "Isky has done more for the novice hot rodder than anyone else". It makes us feel very good to know that hot rodders all over the world think so highly of us...and our products think so highly of us...and our products and our way of doing business. This is the stuff upon which reputations are built ..., and we are proud of ours.



An 8" X 10" autographed glossy photo of Ed Iskenderian in his first hot rod, which he built in the early days of hot rodding before World War II, when he was a teenager. Also included, an Isky decal plus a six page reprint from a top auto mag. All sent FREE and postpaid. Mail coupon below or send postcard.

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MAN IN THE MIDDLE (continued from page 12)

come off a car. And of course he has to make sure that the track is clear at the far end before sending another two machines hurtling through the eyes and into the shutoff area.

Buster Couch has a regular crew of four that work with him as pre-starters, in shifts of two, at all the big meets. Jim McCutchen is a high school teacher and coach from Memphis, Tenn. Jerry Coley is the operator of Alabama's Phenix City Dragway, and also of the Dixie Southland Dragway in Montgomery, Alabama. Jib Barnes, from Buster Couch's home town of Decatur, Georgia, also works on NHRA record certification teams. The fourth regular member of Buster's crew, cousin Kenneth Couch, is in the service. Beland McClure, a strip manager and announcer from Charlotte, N.C., is filling in for him.

"Being a pre-starter is a real tough job," says Buster, and tough it is, but Buster's great sense of humor has the crew smiling or laughing almost every moment they aren't busy. But from the moment two cars roll out of the staging lanes until they clear the track at the other end, it's strictly business.

Drag racing is a full time "business" with Buster Couch. He's the NHRA Divisional Director for the Southeastern United States, and, as Buster puts it, "A Divisional Director is with his job 24 hours a day."

That job includes assisting prospective track builders with layout and planning, helping racers with tech problems, advising strip operators how to improve their tracks, attending major races at NHRA tracks in his Division, and always acting as a goodwill ambassador for drag racing.

How well Buster Couch has handled his job as DD can be summed up with a couple of quick facts. When he took over as Director in 1964, the South was often known as the "forgotten area" of drag racing. Starting with six strips, Buster now has nineteen active strips in his Division, with two more under construction.

Born in Loganville, Ga., thirty-one years ago, he was named Eddie H. Couch, but soon became known to everyone as "Buster." He was always interested in race cars, and often went to stock car races with his father. He attended high school in Atlanta. When a drag strip opened up nearby in '55, Buster played role as a spectator. Next week he was back as a racer. In '57 he bought a new Pontiac and set it up for racing. Running in A/Stock, he won numerous trophies and set several strip records.

He became an announcer, assistant strip manager, and flag starter at the

old Newton County strip. Field Director Ed Eaton came in with an NHRA tech crew to put on the first NHRA record meet held at that strip. Buster Couch was impressed with what he saw.

"Their attitude toward legality and safety made quite an impression on me," Buster recalled, "plus the fact that they also had a heck of a lot of fun."

NHRA was also impressed with Buster, and he was asked to come and help at the Nationals. He worked as a prestarter at the '62 Nationals, and again in 63, first year of the Xmas Tree. In 1963, he also started helping Phil Bonner, as a crew member. He went with Bonner to the 64 Winternationals, and asked NHRA if he could be of any help to them. He could. They gave him the job of starter.

About a year earlier, NHRA had asked Buster to join them full time. He was interested, but didn't feel he was ready. "Without realizing what he was doing," his wife Ann said, "he started to study and prepare himself for the job of a Divisional Director."

After the way Buster handled the starter's job at the '64 Winternationals, the DD job offer was repeated and he accepted.

But what is it like to actually be out there on the line during all the action?

I got a chance to find out when NHRA gave me permission to be with Buster on the line at the recent Bristol Springnationals.

The first thing you notice is NOISE!

It's not too quiet anywhere around an operating drag strip, but sitting in the grandstands at a big meet is almost like being in a public library compared to what it's like out there between the rods and rails as they rev up and blast off.

I had managed to get fairly used to it when two big AA/FD's rolled into position. This would be my first time between a pair of these 200 mph missiles. Sticking my fingers in my ears, and opening my mouth to help equalize the pressure on my ear drums, I got all ready and braced for the blast. That's what I thought! "The Tree" went Green and two big feet stomped on two hardworking loud pedals! WHAM! WHAM! Double shock waves of sound shook my whole body, almost knocking me off my feet. I never did notice which car won that round ... at that point, how could I care, what I wanted was ... out!

Yet time after time, Buster Couch stands between a pair of fuelers, as steady and motionless as if he were carved from a slab of stone. (Later, I asked Buster how he endured the noise) "Believe it or not," he said, "you become so accustomed to it that it's just part of the job."

(continued on page 68)

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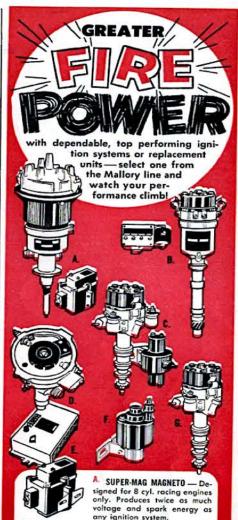


September 8th has been proclaimed by Car Craft Magazine as "Tube Nite!"

You'll be the personal quest of CBS Television, DuPont and the Petersen Publishing Company for one of the biggest, most exciting evenings of television. DON'T MISS IT!

The night of September 8th is going to be one to remember for the millions of us who are enthusiasts of one or more of the many sports and hobbies devoted to and dependent upon the movement of the wheel. On that night, "THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WHEELS," produced by Petersen Productions, Inc., will be coming your way on CBS. brought to you in color by DuPont. This is one of the most exciting shows ever to be seen on television. For a full sixty exciting minutes, you will be sitting on the edge of your seat, and very often that seat will become the driver's cockpit of some of the most powerful racing machines as they hurtle around the track at Indianapolis, Riverside, Dautona, or down the drag strips at Pomona. Indy. etc. You will hold on for dear life as you take the wildest go-kart ride ever filmed, but don't turn loose yet - there's still a ride with James Bond in his famous "007" car as he sprays oil on a pursuing car, machine guns his way through a road block and ejects an enemy agent through the roof. Had enough? Well, how about a ride with Craig Breedlove down the black line at Bonneville in his world land speed record jet car - it gets a little hairy when the drag chute tears off and the car is out of control, but don't worry - Craig saves the show with one of the most unbelievable crashes ever captured on film. There's much. much more - car shows, dune buggies, slot cars, motorcycling, stock car racing, antique cars, customs, etc., but we don't want to give it all away. Just be sure you're ready at

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CAR CRAFT SEPTEMBER 1966 17

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Daytona, Sebring and now Le Mans.

Goodyear tires sweep the three longest endurance races in the world.

First came the Daytona Continental—the only round-the-clock race in the United States. Then, victory at Sebring's 12 Hours of Endurance. And now, one, two, three at Le Mans—the original 24-hours of tire torture. All three races won on Goodyear Blue Streak Racing Tires.

Although it was the second year in a row that Goodyear took the first-place honors at Le Mans, it was a race that still made history.

First win for an American car. A new lap record of 143.5 miles an hour. The longest distance ever run-3,020 miles worth of acceleration, braking, twists and turns—at a record average speed of 125.5 miles an hour. And although first position was a see-saw battle throughout the entire 24 hours, a car on Goodyear tires was always in the lead.

The tire that ran away with Le Mans is called a Goodyear Blue Streak Sports Car Special.

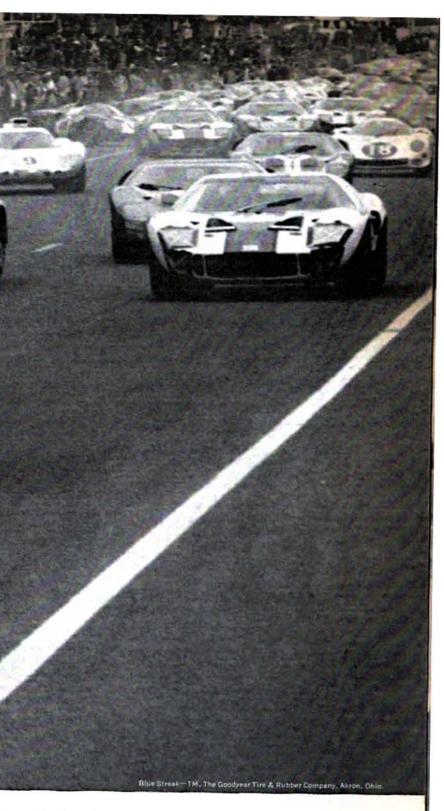
Special, because it's designed to meet the rugged demands of the track it runs on. Made for maximum getaway in the straights. Extra side bite in the curves.

The results at Le Mans speak for them-

selves. Another victory for Goodyear racing tires.

No wonder winners go Goodyear. Goodyear Race Tires are distributed to Goodyear Dealers and Service Stores by: Gofaster, Inc., New Rochelle, N.Y.;





Huggins Tire Sales, Thomasville, N. C.; Lauderdale Auto Marine Service Inc., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; RRR Motors Inc., Homewood, III.; Bob Schroeder Race Cars, Dallas, Texas; Carroll Shelby Enterprises Inc., Gardena, Calif.



FORD'S SWEEPING 1-2-3 victory at Le Mans may well mean that Ford will ease off somewhat on its powerhouse racing program. Victory in the international 24-hour classic was Ford's big, publicity stated objective for the year, and it was achieved in all-out style. The Ford engines at Indy proved last year's win was no fluke with their strong finish there, and what's left to conquer? There is a strong feeling around Motor City that Ford will cut back its successful and expensive racing program quite a bit, now that all major objectives have been won. At the moment, it seems doubtful if Ford will go back to oval track stock car racing, either, although that could change at any time, depending on whether of not the rules change. And Chrysler seems to be holding up on its stock car racing plans for the next year until it learns what Ford plans. Looks like all the action will be at the drag strips.

MULTIPLE CARBURETORS ARE a thing of the past for General Motors cars, at least for 1967. That's a recent report from the Motor City, which says that all the GM line will go to single carbs, even the 442 Olds. A new and improved 4-barrel carb is said to have been developed for the high-performance cars. Although reports and rumors from Wheeltown indicate that GM is backing off on performance vehicles.

DON GARLITS HAS built an all-new Don Garlits' Dart, re-placing the earlier Dart-Charger-Polka Dart, Don Garlits Dart machine. Big Daddy describes the new machine as "a dragster chassis with a plastic body." Following the newest trend, it's roadster style. The light weight, tube frame, fiberglass vehicle tips the scales between 1600 and 1700 pounds. The Dodge hemi engine is not rear mounted, as driver Emery Cook sits behind the mill. He doesn't have to worry much about missing a shift, as it has high gear only. Don looks for it to be a real run-ner. There's other surprising news about Garlits, too. He's going to close his Detroit shop and move back to Tampa, Florida. The business has been highly successful so far, Don said, but his family and the to the rung offen miserable family just can't get used to the rugged, often miserable Michigan winters around Detroit, and all of the Garlits' girls grandparents are down in Tampa. It's a decision based strictly on Don's concern for his family's happiness, and those who know Garlits well, know what a family man he is.

WORD FROM DETROIT is that Pontiac is going to standard-ize on one engine size, and that will be 400 cubes. (For the V-8's, that is.) Grand Prix Pontiacs, GTO's Bonnevilles, every-thing, so this rumor runs, will have 400 cubes, no more, no less. Gone will be the 421" mills and the 389 inchers, also.

GET OUT YOUR fastest crayons and color Roger Lindamood "Gone" once again. Lindamood will soon be match-racing around the country with a lightened, steel bodied Dodge Charger, named "Roger Lindamood's COLOR ME GONE". Both the rear and front wheels have been moved forward 11 inches, and the Dodge hemi engine has been moved rearward about 9 inches. The car will be injected on fuel, and has a tubular front axle. The body has been chopped about three inches by the windshield posts. Lindamood, you will remember, first gained national drag racing fame when he took Top Stock Eliminator honors at the 1964 NHRA Nationals, driving "Color Me Gone," built by he and Dick Branstner. Later, the car became one of the first wheel-standing funny cars. Lindamood says his new Charger is built for fast, strong, wheels-on-the-ground-and-turning-like-mad match racing.

AT LEAST ONE new car model that's ready to go this fall won't be seen for some months yet, according to reports that have reached STRAIGHT SCOOP. That car is said to be Pon-tiac's version of an "answer to the Mustang". Our information is that this car will use the overhead cam 6-cylinder Pontiac engine, and weigh a rather light 2700 to 2800 pounds. Earliest release date is now said to be be next March or April, although the car could have been introduced this fall.

YOU MAY HAVE to check both ends of the 1967 Corvairs to find the engine, if rumors around Detroit are true. Word is that some will have the traditional (for Corvair) rear-engine placement, while the new car Chevrolet is bringing out to combat the Mustang will be front engined, but in the Corvair lineup. Latest report is that this model will be known as the "Corvair Camaro," but don't bet too much money on that spelling of it. (Reports are conflicting.)

THE CONTINUING BATTLE between Craig Breedlove and Art Arfons to see who can hold the title of "fastest man on earth' will continue this fall, it seems, and also possibly spread to the water. The first move was made by Arfons who is scheduled to go on the Bonneville Salt very soon. He is hoping to rack up a speed of about 650 miles per hour. If he succeeds in regaining the record, look for Breedlove to go out soon after and try to recapture it. Later this fall, Arfons plans to test a special vehicle that he has developed to go after the World's Unlimited Water Speed Record, presently held by Englishman Donald Campbell. And word is that Breedlove has a model of a boat he plans to build in an attempt to hold both land and sea records. Although Arfons is guarding the secret of his craft, word is that it will employ a completely new idea, which even Arfons himself isn't sure will work. Should be another interesting fall for fans of all-out speed.

FORD'S HIGHLY-SUCCESSFUL Mustang will have some-thing even more to offer the performance fan in 1967, according to reports from Detroit. It will be a 390 cubic inch engine. Combined with the light weight of Ford's performing pony, the engine should make it quite a package. Sources in Dearborn also say it looks like the Ford Fairlane and Mercury Comet will both be offered with a 427 inch engine option, which should make a couple more potent performers.

WILD WORDS ARE always floating around Detroit before new-car introduction time, but none have been wilder than the report that Pontiac is planning to bring out - hold on to your hat-an ECONOMY GTO. Word is, it will have a low compression engine, two barrel carb, and no more than 250 horsepower. This will give a guy the status of having a GTO, so the thinking behind it is said to run, without having to pay the higher insurance rates that many companies are slapping on high-horsepower models. Question of the month has got to be: How will GTO lovers react to this?

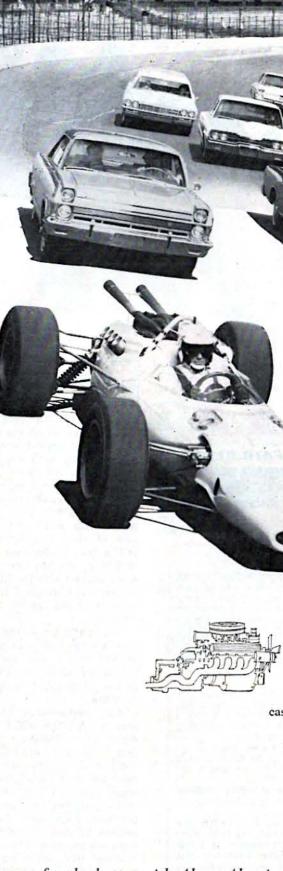
THE NEW COUGAR which Mercury is bringing out as their counterpart of the tremendously-successful Ford Mustang is reported to be somewhat more of a luxury car, and less of a sporty car, than the Mustang. It will be somewhere between a Mustang and a Thunderbird, according to unidentified reports flying, around Detroit. It is said that Mercury intends to keep the Comet as its main performance car.

CHEVROLET IS SAID to be seriously considering dropping the 360 horsepower engine from the Chevy II, since its high power to weight ratio makes it about as potent a machine as a Dodge or Plymouth street hemi. It's another phase of GM's rumored easing off on high performance vehicles, according to reports

THE SOUTHERN DRAG team of Ronnie Sox and Buddy Martin are building a new fiberglass, tube-frame, fuel injected Barracuda for their match race efforts.

THE FUNNY CAR fad has spread even to the ranks of Volks-wagen fans. EMPI, the Riverside, California outfit that has made a big business out of providing speed and custom parts for the popular VW Beetle, started work recently on a lightweight, tube frame car with a fiberglass VW sedan body and a VW engine. Biggest news is the projected weight of the car. They figure it will be around 750 pounds! EMPI has had some good dragging VW's before, especially their H/Gas car, but never anything as wild as this promises to be.

ONE OF THE country's largest Pontiac dealers, Packer Pontiac of Detroit and Miami, is getting somewhat active in racing once again. Back when Pontiac was a big contender in NASCAR oval-track racing, the name Packer Pontiac was on the most successful cars of all, those driven by the great Fireball Roberts. Now they are sponsoring a B/Stock entry in drag racing. The car is a 1962 Pontiac Catalina 421 cubic inch super duty model. When it was new, it was a super stocker, one of 275 mostly-aluminum S/S Pontiacs built that year. Tuner and driver is Howard Maseles, who feels that the biggest obstacle that stands between him and a crack at the lunior Stock Fliminator title at between him and a crack at the Junior Stock Eliminator title at the NHRA Nationals will be the recently released Chevelles with the 396 cubic inch engines. These are also in B/Stock. Another obstacle might be Wiley Cossey, who won B/Stock at both the NHRA Winternationals and Springnationals with a '66 Belair Chevy powered by a 427 inch mill. As a sidelight on GM and performance, it's interesting to note that Junior Stock at both Winternationals and Springnations went to '66 GM cars . . . Cossey's Chevy at Pomona and Arlen Vanke's GTO at Bristol.



Change for the better with Alcoa Aluminum

Cuts weight. Raceway or highway. The insistent metal from Alcoa.

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The men who designed and built the famous "Indy" engine, which revolutionized racing last year.

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These are the very performance qualities that help sell passenger cars. This is why, eventually, aluminum s going to insist on being the standard in passenger-car engines. Alcoa will help make it so. Alcoa's unmatched experience with all forms of casting-die casting, permanent-mold casting, sand casting and plaster casting-will provide the means. No one has worked with aluminum longer, using so many techniques A in so many related fields.





the special event programs produced by the NHRA.

WHAT INNOCENTLY STARTED AS A LOVE AFFAIR BETWEEN

A STRIPPED DOWN "TIN LIZZIE" AND A YOUNG HOT ROD

"MAVERICK" WITH A WRENCH—HAS BECOME THE GREAT-

EST. MOST EXCITING AUTOMOTIVE SPORT EVER KNOWN.

taking experience.

discharge, he was back with the hot rod clan as a public relations man for the Paxton Division

of Studebaker Corporation exploiting superchargers. From that time on, he was a hot

In January, 1964, he went back behind a newspaper desk as Editor of NHRA's "National Dragster." With NHRA, he also doubled as Publicity Director and handled the editorial copy for

Roulston joined the public relations staff of the very promotion-minded Hurst Performance

Products organization in July 1965 and among many varied activities, directs the firm's Hurst

Armed Forces Club project, in addition to their other publications. His selection as author

for The Hot Rod Story rated as "one of the highlights of my life and career. I only hope that

the hundreds of individuals I've left out or passed over will realize that every hot rodder has

contributed a paragraph to The Hot Rod Story, but the editors of Car Craft are limited to

BY DAN ROULSTON

The author of "The Hot Rod Story," has watched and reported

the growth of this exciting sport from many different view-points. His introduction to the wild world of wheels came

near his native Lubbock. Texas, when he climbed off a quar-

ter-horse mare and took a ride in a hill-climbing jalopy, popular in the area. He was hooked on cars after that breath-

Service in the Marine Corps brought him to Southern Cali-

fornia where he was introduced to hot rodding immediately colored by rubber dissolved in a combifollowing the Second World War. Dan was interested in all types of auto racing at the time, but when organized drag racing arrived, he "found his home." Soon after Dean Brown founded "Drag News," he joined the staff of the fledgling publicanation of gasoline, alcohol and nitromethene. tion, first as a writer/columnist and then managing editor. During this period of time, he was Auto performance enthusiasts probalso a newspaper editor and public relations man with the Marine Corps, stationed at several ably formed the initial chapter of the Southern California posts. "Drag News" was a "full-time" job in the evenings, with drag racing consuming every weekend. He managed to work in the corps during the week. Marine Corps transfer orders interrupted his drag racing activities in 1960, but after his

motor sports fraternity and pledged its first members immediately following completion of the second car. Right from the start there were devil-may-care types obsessed with the desire to put these horseless carriages to a competitive test. There were also featless fans anxious to view the performance and a populace thirsting to learn of the results.

From this beginning motor sports have developed, like poker, into many versions and varieties, some of them almost unidentifiable with the original.

But it also has its basic "five card draw" and "five card stud".

On one side there are the conventional clans, driving purpose built vehicles on road courses and around ovals. You might say they are the "draw" poker players of the club.

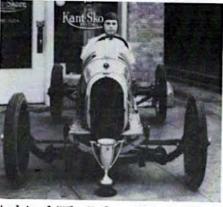
Then there is the hot rodder . . . the wild card in a deck of uniformity, a selfmade mechanic/machinist/engineer who fails to be impressed by theoretical limitations and doesn't understand the meaning of "can't" and "impossible" when it comes to cars.

In essence, the hot rodder is a maverick with a wrench. He's full of ideas, ability, enthusiasm and unanswered questions. And there's nothing he likes better than bucking a "pat hand", for he does his finest work when the odds are highest and things look the darkest.

He started from oblivion and had no place to go, but he wanted to traverse the distance, fast. Fortunately, for the breed, he slowly brought his goal into sharp focus, set his sights, polished his sport to a high luster and finally placed it on display for public acceptance.

This eventuality was probably the farthest thing from his mind in the pre-World War I days when Henry Ford issued his version of the "Emancipation an emerging era. His freedom came in expression of individuality affectionately known as the "Tin Lizzie."

Under the embryonic hot rodder's hands, "Lizzie" was transported from the farm to the big city in a dazzling spiral that brought converts and condemnation. world. We are concerned only with her flirtation with the hot rodders, a chance meeting which turned into a life-long



Ed Winfield pioneered the hot rod sport and went on to become its first speed equipment manufacturer. He was an avid track racer as well as a lakes rodder.

love affair that has surrounded her with a multitude of healthy grandchildren. The early hot rodder went to the root Proclamation" for the restless youth of of the situation in his quest for speed by removing everything he considered unthe form of a low cost, readily available necessary from the Model "T". His next step was to coax more horsepower from the basic four cylinder engine and improve on the mass-produced method of getting his increase to the ground where it could be converted into a cloud of billowing dust, fighting a losing battle to

HE SANDS OF time have streaked

the number on the side of the first hot rod beyond recognition and the driver's entry form has long been lost amid boasts and challenges rendered at thousands of bench racing sessions. But everyone agrees who he was.

CHAPTER ONE

He was a tall, thin, short, fat teenager in his early 20's, from the east side of West Los Angeles, who lived just a few blocks over the Hollywood Hills from the San Fernando Valley. His world started with the Ruxtell two-speed rearend and stopped just a few feet in front of his roaring Fronty-equipped Model "T".

This is HIS story-The Hot Rod Story.

It is written on a unique combination of salt, sand and asphalt, brilliantly

only three segments.'

rodder 100% of the time.

Acclaimed "The Father of Hot Rodding,"



"Lizzie" was fickle and played with the affections of many men after she was exposed to the bright lights, glitter and gaudy paint of the auto performance

stay attached to the rearend of a boxy roadster.

One of the first exponents of this strip and modify society was Ed Winfield - the father of hot rodding. As an 11-year-old youngster in La Canada, California, Winfield stripped a "T" to its bare chassis and used up about four generations of luck as he drove it to a frightening 60 mph. Two years later, in 1914, he was a much more experienced mechanic and design engineer. Winfield's second creation featured a lowered chassis, reworked suspension and modified engine. This time the roostertail of dust trailed behind the landlocked missile as it reached near orbital speeds of 80 mph.

Other drivers had gone much faster, but they were all backed by well-financed programs and utilized specially built racing cars and engines (the draw poker type).

Winfield's accomplishments launched the hot rod movement with dual recommendations. The Model "T" was both readily available and simple in design. It was also surprisingly de-tuned.

Within a few short years, Southern California hot rodders (apparently this title was adopted right from the start) had developed the Ford four-banger far beyond the wildest expectations of the factory engineers.

The small amount of what could be classified as speed equipment available for the "T" engines at this time came from oval track racers and reached the hands of street machine users in secondhand condition. Early hot rodders, like (continued on following page)

Winfield were not satisfied with this situation and contributed some original ideas of their own, usually fabricating them in backvard garages.

Outward appearances were of no concern as long as it worked. Winfield demonstrated an early attention to detail, however, and soon other hot rodders were asking him to duplicate his craftsmanship for their own engines. This launched him as the sport's first businessman/manufacturer, as he designed and offered for sale an array of high performance cams, carburetors and high compression heads. Like many

Individually, and in small groups, they found the area that was to become their "Mecca" . . . the dry lakes.

> others who would follow him, he probably did not plan to follow this vocation but followed success with more success.

> For the most part, test facilities for trying out the performance capabilities of these early hot rods were dual purpose, also serving as public by-ways for regular city traffic. Society's limitations put a definite crimp in this initial street racing activity, however, various hot rodders began searching for better places to hold their high speed activities.

> This search eventually brought the drivers and their hot machines to the dry lake beds of the Southern California Mojave desert region. But the only organization involved was their common desire to put their engineering efforts to the ultimate test of maximum speed.

> The same period of hot rod evolution that spawned Winfield high compression heads and longer duration cams, also marked the appearance of the Fronty "T", designed by brothers Louis and Gaston Chevrolet. The Frontenac equipment was introduced to the oval dirt track racers of the era, but quickly found acceptance with the hot rod fraternity. The overhead valve conversion eliminated much of the "monkey motion" and assisted in sending a surge of new power to the popular Ruxtell rearend.

> Success breeds competition, however, and the flow of specialized high performance equipment from the Frontenac shop in Frontenac, Michigan primed the pump for a rash of other manufacturers that soon appeared in Southern California hot rod circles.

> Joining the Fronty swing was another red-hot "option" from "Racing Joe". He almost matched Ford's production line efficiency with his "Rajo" (Ra-Jo) high performance heads, featuring 17.3:1 compression.

The ultimate Fronty "T" however, 24 CAR CRAFT SEPTEMBER 1966

was the hot rod of the age. This was the hot setup of the day and consisted of dual overhead cams, 16 valves, 8 spark plugs, a conversion unit that made the proud owner literally tremble in anticipation just at the sight.

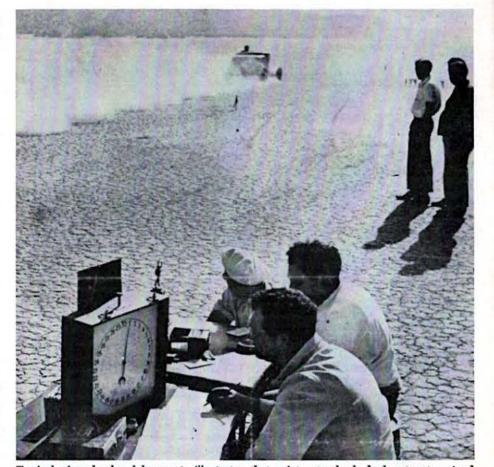
This could well have been the powerplant that pulled the first de-nuded Ford roadster across Muroc dry lake. Only the thrill of having reached the absolute maximum speed of his car could have overshadowed the excitement experienced by this first adventurous hot rodder when he rolled over a small rise and viewed for the first time that vast fellow rodders of his wonderful, isolated discovery.

Individually, and in small groups, they also journeyed to this site that was to become their "Mecca," to taste of the previously forbidden fruit of "on the floor and flat out." To say the least, they quickly became addicts.

Their uniforms were neither standard nor colorful, and this situation was duplicated by their cars but concerned no one. A meet was quickly organized and consisted only of spreading the word.

A trip to the dry lakes might result in a solitary experience or a turnout of a dozen or more modified "T" and "A" roadsters, "tubs" (open two-seater touring cars appropriately stripped) and a smattering of other types. They would house powerplants featuring Fronty and Rajo equipment for "T's", while "A's" would make use of racing heads from Riley, McDowell and Schoefield of two and four port, overhead valve variety. Naturally, the real "hot dogs" transferred this increased power through a Muncie 3-speed transmission and into a Ruxtell rearend. This gave the big spin to

the special Buffalo spoked racing wheels. Cross-breeding of components also added variety and speed to the picture as Chevy engines consumed Durant rods and Olds three-port four-banger heads.



Typical of early day lake meets illustrates that safety standards had not yet arrived. Note close proximity of timers and spectators as roadster roars thru the timing trap. Cars were hitting 80-90 mph on the hard baked lake beds that were swept clean by the wind.

During the 1920's, most of the lakes activity was of an impromptu nature with little organization. This fact, plus increasing complaints of street racing by "young toughs in rakish-looking sports cars" threatened all of amateur auto racing in Southern California, so steps were taken to bring the groups together.

The first Muroc lakes meet was held on March 25, 1931, under the sponsorship of the Gilmore Oil Co. and supervision of George Wight, founder of Bell Auto Parts.

Cars were divided into several classes for this first meet. At the top of the heap were Rajo-equipped Model "T" entries. Flathead "T's" all ran together, while Chevys and Frontenacs were lumped into another class. Overhead Model "A's" and flathead Model "A's" completed the two remaining brackets.

A pace car brought the entire class down to a flying start. If any car jumped the start, it was placed 100 feet behind the others for a handicap restart. First and second place finishers were eligible for open competition with all of the other class winners for a "Top Eliminator" run-off. An entry fee of \$1.00 per car was charged at this first meet.

Within a few weeks, the Purdy Brothers of Los Angeles had developed a stop watch timing mechanism for individual speed runs and crowds of several thousand youthful fans were commonplace. Most of the cars at these meets were running in the 85-100 mph bracket, but at least one modified, stripped down pick-up truck, topped the field at 100.

On April 19, 1931, Gilmore Oil Co. sponsored a special trophy for the Muroc meet for the overall winner and Ike Trone took home the award with his Riley equipped "A", running 105 mph. A little more than a year later, Joe Mozetti really shook up the troops when he whistled across the Muroc expanse at a speed of 118.43 mph on July 10, 1932. He was driving a wild Fronty "T".

Records were unimportant to these early hot rodders, but by September 17. 1933, they had broken the competition down to include three overall winners. Frank Lyons was the big gun with 117.64 mph with his Riley four-port. Pete Clarke ran with his fenders, unlike Lyons' stripped machine, and turned 114.65 mph in another Riley four-port. In the flathead division, Regg Schlemmer pushed his Winfield equipped "A" to 113.21 mph.

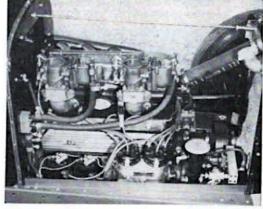
It took a couple of days to unwind after a thrilling day at the lakes and then it was back to building and planning for the next outing. Most of the bench racing sessions were held at the famed Scully's Cafe, a booming hang-out in Los Angeles during those wild early 30's. A year after the first Gilmore Oil Co. sponsored event at Muroc, with the nation still reeling from the effects of "Black Tuesday" - the day the bottom fell out of the stock market, hot rodders

received a legacy which was placed in trust for them. It would be several years, however, before they would collect on that windfall.

That inheritance took place on March 12, 1932, when the Ford Motor Company introduced a pair of new engines. One, the Model "B", an improved version of the standard four-cylinder Model "A" mainstay. The other was to become the "immortal 'flathead V-8", the auto industry's first low-priced, massproduced V-8.

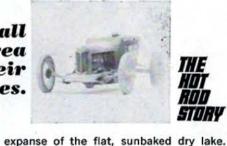
By the mid-1930's, Merle Finkenbinder of the "Revs" hot rod club had improved on the timing system, using a





taut piano wire stretched across the course to trip a set of electric clocks. An enterprising hot rodder, he rented this system to his own club for several meets as hot rodding continued to take faltering steps toward organization.

Just as man emerged from his cave and banded together in a mutual society, these lakes meets began to take on a form of organization, but no one complained of the restraints being too tight. Most of this organization was the simple concession of running one car at a time against the clocks instead of everyone blasting off helter-skelter. Muroc was a vast expanse of clay-like



As soon as he had had his day of

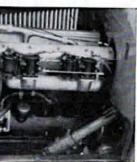
glory of flat out speed assaults, he prob-

ably replaced the stripped off windshield,

top, fenders and other non-essentials

and headed back to Los Angeles at near

duplicate speeds to inform all of his



Below - Earliest of the overhead valve conversions was the Rajo. Winfield downdrafts carbs are mounted on this head. Not capped off port where 3-carbs could be run if desired.

Right - Twin pods on the Riley OHV unit was true identity of a wild hot rod during Thirty's. It was in great demand and assisted in powering many 4-barrels to class records.

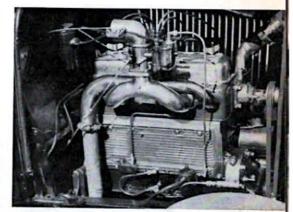
alkali mud, baked solid over the generations by the desert sun, smoothed by occasional rains and swept reasonably clean by strong winds, winds which also contributed a major share of danger occasionally to the flat-out speedsters.

Extending some 12 to 14 miles in length and six to eight miles across, the open land allowed plenty of room to run in virtually any direction. This favorable feature served as a very dangerous diversionary offshoot that eventually brought scheduled organization.

While one car was racing on the designated course, others would be holding impromptu speed sessions along the

> Left - One of the most radical of the early adaptations for Model "A's" was this dual OHC McDowell head. It provided plenty of extra horses but proved expensive for the average rodder.

Below - Famous Cragar overhead valve head was a favorite of the hot rodder for the Model "A's" and "B's". Head gave a lot of punch to the little 4-bangers.





sidelines. This frequently resulted in spectacular, even fatal collisions.

Seeing the writing in the sand after receiving increasing attention from law enforcement officials and other civic leaders, the hot rodders began to spend a little more of their free time talking instead of tinkering.

During this time, organization of the hot rod movement started in depth at the ground level. Car clubs were mushrooming all over Southern California. Meeting in garages and club rooms, the members compared notes and experimented. Everyone's goal was Muroc.

Hot rodders are an adventurous group (continued on following page) CAR CRAFT SEPTEMBER 1966 25

and soon they found other dry lakes and within a short period of time, Rosamond and Harper were also resounding to the throaty roars of these backyard bombs.

Lakes meets were generally held on weekends, with a steady flow of hot rodders arriving throughout the night. The cold desert air kept most of them snug in their caravan of cars or stuffed in their sleeping bags on the desert floor. There were always the brave ones who spent the night tuning their cars, much to the discontent of those who were attempting to catch up on a few "z--'s." And then there were also the all night big game hunters who had to see who could hang draft on a ten pound desert jack rabbit as he sped a zig-zag thirty-five mph course across the lake bed trying to make it home safely before dawn, while trying much harder not to become a permanent hood ornament on a '32 grille shell.

The first rays of morning light met with an explosion of exciting engines as the lake bed literally came alive. Huge old tire bonfires with their trailing black clouds of smoke marked the beginning of the hot rodder's day as he warmed himself before moving to the line of high speed battle. The course was marked by small red flags and was usu-



The explosion of exciting engines at early dawn marked the start of the hot rodder's day

ened: desert temperatures of one hundred degrees or more always had its marked effect on total engine performance, for there was no substitute for those cool, fresh early morning hours for peak engine efficiency.

With a full day of racing behind them, the hot rodders headed back to Los Angeles for a week of inactivity - theoretically. Los Angeles area police would challenge this. Any stretch of open and reasonably level public thoroughfare in-



Aerial view of El Mirage lends vivid picture of rodders in action during weekend lake meet. Various streaks across lake's floor are old courses used over period of events. When course became too rough and dangerous for high speed trials, track would be moved to smoother locaton. El Mirage measured some 5 miles in length, 2 miles wide.

ally two miles long with a quarter mile timing trap at the end. The order of the day was simple but also could become very complex. Move to the line, make your run, return to the pits for more tuning modifications, even overhauls if you were unfortunate enough to fry a couple of pistons or cough a rod. Back to the line again for another attempt at the class record, or to protect it if you were one of the more astute "mavericks" in competition. When the sun had climbed to high noon the pace of activity less-

stantly became a little Muroc when a couple of rodders got together.

When the weekend rolled around again, the streets were cleared as everyone headed for the lakes. Rolling in from various directions were members of the "Road Runners," "Knight Riders," "Sidewinders," "Ramblers," "Throttlers" and "Idlers." One far-sighted group called themselves the "90 MPH Club."

Seeing the need for more accurate and reliable timers, the hot rodders continued to look for new methods of tim-

ing. The sport's first "technical inspection" was launched to insure proper clearance of all components (chassis under-carriage) for the piano wire. Several times during a meet things came to a halt when some bad guy broke the wire.

J. Otto Crocker came to their rescue with a system using photocells and light beams. Not only were they reliable, but the new clocks were more accurate. The San Diego, Calif., watch repairman soon became one of the most important men at the meets and a tremendous contributor to the growth of the hot rod sport.

During all this time, the quest continued for more horsepower. With a wide variety of special heads available, the search went inside the engines and the first cam grinders for the hot rodders began to emerge. Ed Winfield began to receive competition from Pierre "Pete" Bertrand and Harry Abazian. The latter was being assisted by an inquisitive youngster named, Ed Iskenderian.

As more and more speed and high performance equipment became available, George Wight's Bell Auto Parts began to stock additional shelves and he took on a helper, Roy Richter, who also drove George's midget track racer. After a very successful career as first a driver, and then a race car builder, Richter would eventually take over the entire Bell Auto operation and take it to even greater hot rod industry heights.

Through an evolutionary process, Richter took over part of the Cragar operation, an offshoot of the famed Miller-Schoefield racing engines from Crane Gartz "CRA-GAR", a member of a prominent plumbing manufacturing family. Under Gartz's operation, the Cragar heads and other speed equipment found great acceptance in the overhead valve conversion field for the popular Model "A" four-banger.

Hot rodding was going and growing faster and faster, but it still wasn't getting very far on a formal basis.

"Pete" Bertrand gave an indication of things to come when he clocked an amazing 121.62 mph in a four-banger running one of his cams and a Winfield head. These early pioneers of speed were always surrounded by young hopefuls, looking and learning. Bertrand's crew was headed up by young Clay Smith, who would make his own mark in the cam grinding and racing engine business a few years later.

As the speeds increased, the obvious need for better organization and control became more apparent. Wild runs across the lakes by non-competitors and a destruction-bent vandal element threatened to undermine the entire hot rod movement.

Nightly street races on Lincoln Boulevard were also drawing the wrath of law enforcement officials and the local

citizenry. Inadequate facilities and lack of supervision at these well attended, but outlaw street races often ended in tragedy. One of hot rodding's most promising young engine builders, Phil Weiand, only seventeen at the time, was one of the many accident victims of these activities. Displaying the same determination that he put into his racing activities, Weiand came back from a spectacular roadster flip to become one of the sport's strongest supporters and most successful businessmen.

Finally, in mutual self-defense, a meeting was held by representatives of about a dozen car clubs with the idea of conducting inter-club lake meets. Everyone realized this would require a more formal organization and the Southern California Timing Association emerged.

Initially, membership consisted of the "Road Runners," the "Knight Riders," "Sidewinders," "Ramblers," "Throttlers," "Idlers," the strong "90 MPH Club" -and now the "Bungholers." The "Derelicts" were added at the next meeting. Then came the "Albatas," "Desert Goats," "Hot Irons," "Knight Flyers," "Velociteers," "Pacemakers," "Mobilers," "Kingsmen," "Gophers," "Outriders," "Mercuries," "Dolphins," "Rattlers," "Ridge Runners" and "Revs."

One of the first orders of business was a schedule of meets for the 1938 season. Before this could be resolved, however, discussions were launched concerning the various engines and equipment in use. This led to the new association's first rules. After long and heated discussions, to put it mildly, four cylinder engines were separated from the new V-8's. Dual overhead cams were outlawed, but single overhead cams and superchargers were given the SCTA stamp of approval. Undoubtedly, the first rumblings against the "establishment" were uttered at these meetings.

More came later when the classes were set up along speed lines. Cars ran in class breaks of 80.90 mph, 90-100, 100-110 and over. Additional classes were added as speeds increased.

SCTA really started some of the hot rodders grumbling when they later banned coupes and sedans at their events. If it wasn't a roadster, it wasn't a hot rod, was the leaders' philosophy.

Within a few weeks after SCTA was formed, other groups began to band together, patterning their activities after this pioneer clan.

The "Road Rebels" Club of Los Angeles had a set of clocks and this became the basis of the Western Timing Association. One of the founders of this group was Bill Burke, who would make his big marks later on the Bonneville Salt Flats. Another set of clocks that spawned a

racing association was Ray Ingraham's

The hot rodder and car that shook up the troops and put everyone on the trailer for almost 10 years, was Bob Rufi and his 140 mph rear engine streamliner. He even had the gall to do it with a 4-cylinder Chevrolet. Needless to say, this really hurt the Ford lovers. Note Rufi's creative wheel covers used in those early years. Later he enclosed rear wheels with special individual "pants" covers.

timers that eventually evolved into the Rusetta Timing Association, "Rusetta," is the Greek god of speed.

Although of lesser size, the Bell and Mojave Timing Associations were also formed and added further organization and strength to the rapidly growing hot rod movement. Each of these groups held their own separate meets.

Under the guidance of Ed Adams, SCTA's first president, and with big assists from Vern Hurst, Arthur C. Tilton and Jack Harvey, the first SCTA lakes meet in mid-1938 was a roaring success and set the pace for all other lakes activities. The future held even more promise and the entry fee was raised from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per car.

Although still rebels at heart, the hot rodders now had organization, rules and regulations. They weren't being invited in droves to Beverly Hills mansions, but the rodders were suddenly finding a strong friend and supporter in Southern California law enforcement officials as a result of their organizational activities. This was a far cry, and an enjoyable feeling, from illegal street racing.

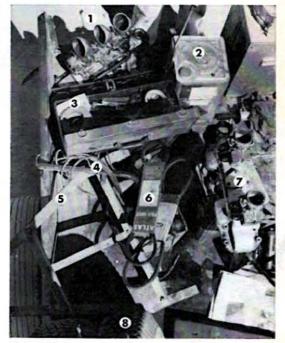
inance in various areas. Tony Capana, Sandy Belond, Jack Andrews, Lou Senter, Paul Schiefer, Vic Edlebrock, Ak Miller, Randy Shinn, Wally Parks and Roy Richter were frequent class winners and typical of the ambitious youths who

But the name that was on everyone's lips in the late thirties was Bob Rufi. For out of the tremendous invasion and supremacy of the Ford legion came, of all things, a Chevrolet four-banger powered rear-engine creation. Rufi put everyone on-the-trailer as he and his Chevy streaked across the dry lakes at Muroc, Harper, and Rosamond at speeds above 140 mph. These performances would remain as the best for almost 10 years. One of the reasons for Rufi's longstanding record was the war clouds that were gathering over Europe. The first hot rodding casuality of the war danger was the race course itself. Just as the wide expanse of desert appealed to the racers, it also appealed to the government as a gunnery range for military flyers.

Actually, the dry lakes were owned by the government, but the racers had as-



Names also began to establish domwould become by-words in the sport.



Hot rodders are a meticulous group. They have a place for everything and everything has its place. Competing at remote lake meets meant coming prepared, and they did! This typical pickup bed is a great example. #1 and #7 ... if two carbs didn't work, try three. #2 ... the almighty fuel was never left behind. #3...a true rodder's trademark, a tidy tool box. #4... spark plugs, wires, and an extra igniter were a must. #5 ... this guy was one of the chosen few; he towed to the meet. #6 ... fan belts? ... they were never used; must have been for the truck? #8...new set of skins for that all-out blast. "Zinfandel" and large box of Boraxo not shown!

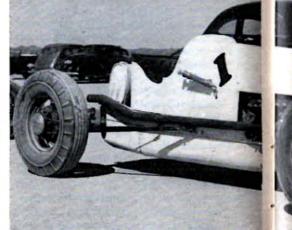
sumed a fraternal affection for the dust and dirt and resented the intrusion. The end came in early 1941 when a small group of soldiers informed the hot rodders they were no longer welcome to use the lake bed at Muroc. The war spirit had not yet encompassed the country and the assembled hot rodders advised the soldiers they were not welcome at their race course. The soldiers were better organized than the hot rodders. They insisted that the hot rodders leave.

Cool heads prevailed as additional soldiers arrived and a heavy-hearted group of roadsters began the trip back to the old Muroc General Store and the (continued on following page)

Backyard hot rodders innocently spawn a multimillion dollar **Hot Rod Industry**



One of the first V-8 rods to really turn on was Karl Orr's modified, 134.40 mph. Modifieds ended at rear seat for body shell, tail piece or other fairings beyond this point classified car as a streamliner.





THE HOT ROD

STORY

Lake meets always meant a little "camp-out" for the boys. Arriving late at night everyone tried to catch up on a few Z...s. This was exremely difficult though for throughout the night there were always those who had to finish tuning their engines and others who had to seek out and chase their favorite big game ... rabbits!

highway for the last time. There was none of the usual enthusiasm and speed. A colorful era of The Hot Rod Story had come to an end.

The area around Muroc became the now famous Edwards Air Force Base, site of one of the nation's largest test facilities for experimental aircraft. One section of the old hot rod timing course now serves as the main landing site for the X-15 rocket plane. It inherited an impressive history and some of the pioneering spirit of those early speed merchants must have rubbed off.

Because Harper was much farther away and Rosamond was also being incorporated into the military expansion program, the hot rodders turned to nearby El Mirage dry lake for their continuing racing activities.

El Mirage was smaller, less smooth and more changeable than Muroc, conditions which previewed the decline of lake meets as the war grew closer.

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Tommy Thickstun (right) explains his first 180 degree manifold to Vic Edelbrock Sr. Above is one of Edelbrock's first backyard "Y" manifolds used on his famed roadster. Heads were Arco, filled

favorable conditions was a pit stop at a small winery in Adelanto, Calif., near the El Mirage area, following each meet. "Zinfandel" became synonymous with El Mirage lake meets and it took a lot to wash the dust from your throat after a weekend of racing.

and milled.

By mid-1941, the meets were better organized than ever and classes were more realistic. Competition was the keynote and the reckless abandon of the Runners," "Sidewinders, etc." was one earlier days was gone.

Competition also served to accelerate



overcame tradition and nostalgia. Competition within the various clubs was intense, no stone was left unturned in bolting together an engine offering more experimental horsepower.

This "do or die for the old," "Road of the mainstays of the lakes meets.

New names came out of this switch The only consolation for these un- the development of the Ford V-8 engine to the V-8 as individuals developed new



products and accessories that were duplicated or desired by others. One of the first to reach major proportions was Vic Edlebrock, Sr. A pioneer in the sport, Edlebrock made the flathead roar with authority. He suddenly found himself out of the driver's seat and into an executive's chair with a successful line of speed equipment. A carburetion manifold he designed was so superior to the factory produced item that Edlebrock found himself in the speed equipment manufacturing business. He would later develop a line of high compression heads for the V-8.

Edelbrock's entry into the field provides an interesting case of how the speed equipment industry developed. how one man improved on another's idea. Originally, Edelbrock ran a garage in Los Angeles and carried manifolds built by Tommy Thickstun as a sideline. He felt the Thickstun units had some limitations and suggested some modifications. Thickstun did not take advantage of his dealer's comments, so Edelbrock dropped the line and began making his own manifolds.

He was one of the first manufacturers to offer high performance components on a true business-like basis with a dealer network.

Edelbrock received plenty of competition from another dry lakes competitor, Eddie Meyer. Both men were producing excellent equipment and were out to prove the worth of their products by running their own personal roadsters at SCTA meets. Edelbrock's entry was a stock looking '32, while Meyer ran a rear-engined creation. They were constantly battling for the class record.

Individuality is the life's blood of the hot rodder and additional ideas and adaptations continued to appear on the scene. Phil Weiand collected a following with his intake manifold design and another business venture was launched.

Earl "Pappy" Evans, one of the sport's true pioneers, was also manufacturing a complete line of heads and manifolds. With more speed equipment appearing on the scene, street rods were increasing in both number and quality.

While most of the engine builders were concentrating on developing more power through the usual heads, pistons, and carburetion, a completely different approach was used by brothers Tom and Bill Spalding. They were perfectly happy with the equipment available, but felt there was a definite need for an improved ignition system. Speeds in excess of 130 mph proved their Spalding ignition was the way to go. Another famous name among hot rodders who branched out into established products was "Kong" Jackson of Kong ignition fame. Jackson's ignitor, in addition to possessing dual coils, points and a precision ground cam lobe, also featured a steering column lever system for degreeing spark advance manually - and it worked like a champ for its day.

With the Ford V-8 supplying previously Jack Harvey had built the first

unknown amounts of horsepower, new designs began to creep into the roadster realm as the European war grew hotter. "streamliner" several years before, utilizing sheet metal from a convenient soft drink sign. Karl Orr, operator of Karl's Speed Shop - one of the first pure hot rod establishments in Southern California, reached 134.40 mph in a Modified roadster powered by a V-8 engine fitted with Weiand manifold and Bertram cam

The speeds turned in by these hot rodders became even more impressive with a check of the SCTA record book. In 1940 the records listed only 29 cars as having topped 100 mph. An average meet would attract 75-100 entries.

It was at this point that the hot rod world, along with the rest of the country, found itself in a wild spin. Roadsters and coupes went up on blocks and in storage as hot rodders donned military uniforms and went off to war.

SCTA formerly suspended its racing activities on December 4, 1942, on motion of president Bozzy Willis.

On ships riding the high seas, at lonely outposts at the corners of the world and in the battle lines, hot rodders recounted their activities for the anxious ears of thousands of other young Americans. Most of them had probably never heard nor seen a Southern Californian hot rod. Oh, they had their own pride and joy sitting at home, but nothing the likes of a true hot rod So-Cal style. But like good food, it doesn't take

long to develop a taste for the thrill of excitement such as that experienced by Southern Californian rodders.

In barracks bull sessions, the hot rodder became the center of attention and thousands more learned of the intriguing automotive backyard sport that blanketed the Pacific Coast southland. The war may have quelled actual participation in hot rodding, but it also served as a dissemination center and a spawning ground for interest in the sport and the new generation of enthusiasts would be active rodders, not just bystanders.

They were learning to work with their hands, new engines were being developed for the war machine, and a giant economy meant they would have money to spend for cars, engines and equipment.

The established hot rodders also found their answer for news of their former way of life being filled by a special monthly newsletter. The SCTA News was a project headed by Veda Orr, wife of Karl Orr. Each month's mail brought news from home and such additional items of interest as Sgt. Wally Parks' "Veep" which was "tearing them up" in the Philippines.

The vehicle was a standard military Jeep which had been outfitted with a V-8 "60" engine. Parks, today the head man of the National Hot Rod Association, declines to remember exactly



An SCTA officially timed dash plaque was the sign of a very fast car. It served as authority like this one belonging to Vic Edelbrock, clocked at 112.22, 1939. Dash plaques were symbolic with a true rod.

where he acquired the engine in such a far-away land.

When the war ended, hot rodding did not simply resume its pre-war activities, it exploded into a nationwide epidemic.

The entire country was threatened with burial under a pile of stripped off fenders, running boards, hoods and other non-essentials as youthful WW II veterans scooped up their "Rupture Duck," discharge papers . . . and their three hundred dollars mustering out pay.

As Detroit resumed production of cars, older models, which had served honorably during the conflict, were suddenly pushed aside for the newer beauties. (continued on following page)

THE HOT ROD STORY

To the hot rodders this was like getting money from home, and with \$300 hot bucks in his new "civies" pocket, he was an automotive king.

asts to five day Jail

hax of a faid by

A completely different atmosphere greeted the hot rodders when they returned from war. Their military training had expanded their mechanical abilities, dangers of war had honed their recklessness and a booming economy was introducing hundreds of new methods of manufacturing and production.

It wasn't the dry lakes, however, that echoed to the roar of the souped up engines. It was the public streets and highways. All of the earlier public acceptance activities by the pre-war hot rodders were wiped out as the number of hot rods on the streets grew fantastically. Street racing was the "in" thing in Southern California. On any given night in the dazzling post-war era hundreds of hot rods could be found at the drive-ins around Los Angeles.

They would range from beautiful channeled roadsters running all of the hot set-ups to stripped down jalopies from the fringe element. The true hot rodders were proud of their equipment and these drive-ins served as their showcases actually, the first glittering concept for future car shows. But the "shot rodders" were also there, adding their unsavory highlights to the hot rodder's reputation.

Picadilly's drive-in was one of the first and most popular of the Los Angeles area at the end of the war. It nestled at the corner of Washington Place and Sepulveda Boulevard and at the bewitching hour resembled the later day pits at a major drag race.

DeMay's, on the corner of Slauson and Stocker, was another favorite haunt. And in Long Beach you could always hit McDonald's, at the traffic circle, and find an array of fine street machines. Pat's Pantry was the spot to meet around

.........

Judge Deals Out ail Terms to Hot Rodders Western and Santa Barbara, but the Frying Pan on LaBrea was the real swinger. The owners even had a specially decorated trophy room in the back that catered to the hot rodders.

> In natural evolution, the comparison of equipment soon turned into claims of performance and a challenge for a little "gear box drill." North Sepulveda Boulevard, ol' Rivergrade Road, East 17th Street in Long Beach, Culver and Avalon Boulevards became ... the haunts for these clandestine speed trials.

> When the word was spread that a couple of hot ones were going to "punch off," several hundred cars often turned up to watch. Although these areas were smooth, wide streets in the still underdeveloped rural areas of Los Angeles, this type of "recreation" was frowned upon by the city fathers and hot rodding received a black eye and reputation which would take years to rectify.

> Street racing was not only dangerous, it could also be expensive. An agreement of "three lights for pink slips" was a challenge of three fast drags from successive traffic lights with the ownership (pink slip) of the loser's car going to the winner. And you didn't offer to give him a ride home. He was usually a little hot under the collar and mad at himself for his driving and mechanical shortcomings.

Outlaw street racing became so severe in the Los Angeles area that within months it took a brave soul to get behind a "banjo" steering wheel for a

Illegal street racing

trip across town. The reason was simple. To curtail the inexcusable street rod activity the city was faced with, the Los Angeles Police Department laid down the law. Without going into detail it read, "stop all street rods or similarity thereof, cite them for every vehicle infraction that can be levied, in short, make it as tough as possible!" Within weeks it became impossible to travel across town without being stopped two or three times within a given two or three mile distance. The pressure did the trick, and soon it took a braver soul than most to venture out of his driveway with a beautiful street rod for everyone to admire.

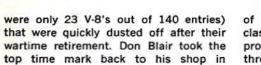
The true hot rodders, organizers of the pre-war clubs, associations and meets, were concerned with this outlaw activity and began plans to resume their lakes activities. Bozzy Willis, who had called a halt to the SCTA activities at the start of the war, brought together the group that started it off again. The lack of organized events was believed to be one of the main reasons for the mushrooming street racing.

Muroc was still closed to the hot rodders - never again would they be permitted to aim their sleek racers down that vast expanse except for a brief exhibition-test appearance several years later by Mickey Thompson's "Challenger I" . . . so El Mirage was selected as the base of activities. The sincere hot rodders affiliated with a car club drew up strict rules governing street racing and established penalties for those who violated the rules. Club jackets and car plaques became status symbols of emerging respectability.

Hot rodding thus launched one of the most concentrated, and eventually successful, image building, public relations campaigns ever organized. And it succeeded with simply the enthusiasm of dedicated amateurs.

Organized hot rodding was back in action!

Most of the cars were pre-war roadsters running four-banger engines (there



Pasadena with a 134.32 mph run. This gave the competition something to shoot at. Other outstanding performances at that meeting included Karl Orr's 124.65 in a Modified roadster.

Pre-war stars like Vic Edelbrock at 121.13 mph. Ak Miller, and Paul Schiefer were right behind them. Further down the list of entries were names like Phil Remington, "Nellie" Taylor, Lou Baney, Jim Lindsley, Chuck Potvin. Connie Wiedell showed up with a Cadillac powered " roadster and turned 130 mph, shaking up the Ford purists.

New classes were introduced, built around the number of modifications to the body and chassis, plus engine size.

The new SCTA classes were broken down to include "A" class for roadsters with stock bodies and American automotive production engines, unsupercharged, of under 260 cu, in, original stock displacement. "B" class was for modifieds with bodies of either modified stock or special construction consisting of firewall, cowl, sides and back. There could be no streamlining back of the driver's seat. The engine had the same limitations as "A" class. Class "C" was for Streamliners and allowed any body shell except stock. Here again the engine reguirements were the same as those for "A" and "B" class. "D" was the unlimited class which could have any type

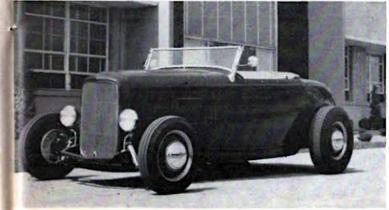
of body allowable in the other three classes and any American automotive production engine not covered in the three preceding classes.

With these new guidelines, the rodders started building new machines. For the most part, they selected the flathead V-8 engine which was widely available and ready. By this time, there was a wealth of speed equipment on the market perfected especially for them and these speed goodies were aimed strictly at the hot rodder, and not like the early four-banger conversion speed equipment that found its way over from the circle tracks. The hot rod business was there and waiting.

It was only natural that a certain amount of interest by a select group of hot rodders commenced to take shape in the form of hot rod round-round racing, but not as we know it by today's standards. A quarter mile dirt oval had been converted out of an old rodeo stadium in Newhall, California, about thirtyfive miles from Los Angeles proper. Strictly established on an outlaw basis. this track and its early participants were the pioneers of the later formed California Roadster Association (CRA). Here on Sundays, everyone who thought he could go fast and was a pretty good handler at turning left would file through the pit gate and sign up for the day's afternoon of street roadster racing. Most of the entrants drove their street rods to the track, very few were privileged with the facilities of a tow bar and a push car.

Enough can't be said about the "Immortal Flathead" ... and here it is in its true hot rod form. Shortly after the war there were over two hundred manufacturers producing special speed equipment for this single powerplant. With this emphasis, interest and support, the engine pushed many cars well over 200 mph!

Nestled in the bucket of his pre-WW II street rod at left is teenager, Ed Iskenderian. Ed's '24 "T" body was perched upon a set of Essex rails, running a '32 Ford engine. After the war, rodders took a much different approach and created what is considered today, "The Classic Hot Rod". The 1932 Ford roadster below is a great example. Note attention paid to construction and detailing of the post-war breed. Building cost would sometimes go as high as \$3000, but who cared, it was a beautiful streetrod, ran like stink, and . . . bucks were plentiful.



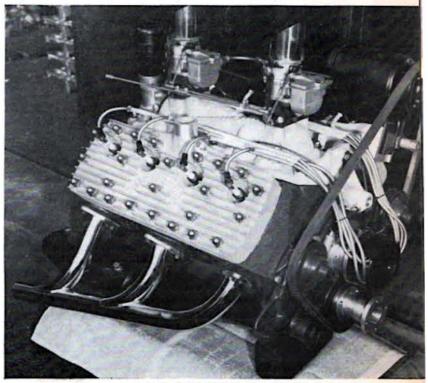


was the cry, but a bunch of dedicated amateurs had the answer.

In the pits it was a simple task to ready your street racer for post time. You merely removed your headlights and other extremities that could easily become damaged by nerfing, etc., (and there was a lot of that!) and you were ready for a heat. Oh, there was qualifying and a trophy dash, but that's about where it ended. From there it was "everybody races," with qualifying heats determining who was to gain a berth in the main event ... and what a destruction derby! The wild part of it all was the tremendous payoff for the daring novice racers. A heat race paid six-toten dollars and a case of oil for a win. while the main event paid the grand total of twenty-five bucks and another case of oil if the lucky driver scored twice in the afternoon's exciting activity.

Out of this street-rod track racing emerged some of the greatest drivers the professional racing business has ever known, drivers like Troy Ruttman, Manual Ayulo, Jack McGrath, the Rathman Brothers, etc. This activity and its popularity also contributed to the birth of the renowned Gardena half mile "Carrell Speedway" (now in a new location and called "Ascot Speedway"). Carrell Speedway's first christening contest was that of the hot rods.

As hot rodding grew in activity . . . so did the manufacturing industry. Joining the already established manufacturers were other hot rod bred businessmen like Paul Schiefer and Harry Weber who (continued on following page)



Track roadsters were "In" and so were the lakes-Hot **Rodding Was Back** In Action!



captured the clutch and flywheel market. and a clan of cam grinders ranging from Ed Iskenderian, Kenny Harmon, Howard Johansen, Chuck Potvin, Jack Engle and Chet Herbert. Weber also was a leading cam grinder. New heads and manifolds were being manufactured by Offenhauser, Navarro, Sharp, Tattersfield, Fenton, etc. The versatility of their abilities is reflected in their various approaches, which all resulted in increased performance.

One of the really impressive machines running at these initial El Mirage meets following the war was Tony Capana's 16-cylinder Marmon. Driver, Babe Ouse had pushed this storming monster to a new SCTA mark of 145.39 mph.

Official two-way records, however, were still held by Rufi's 140.00 mph in the Streamliner class. Don Blair had the Unlimited record of 134.08, followed by Karl Orr's Modified mark of 133.03 and Randy Shinn's 127.09 in the roadster class. Crocker continued to improve his timing equipment and speeds were being recorded with greater accuracy.

Hot rod ingenuity was always at work and it didn't take them long to find that Detroit-produced high performance equipment was also available to them. Special high compression Denver heads and Rocky Mountain brakes were designed for high altitudes and mountainous roads, but were purchased in great numbers for near sea level use on long, flat straightaways . . . like El Mirage.

The post-war era also brought a new hope to the lakes. War surplus centers were loaded with interesting looking items and one of the first the hot rodders grabbed were airplane fuel wing tanks. PBY wing struts, made of long, strong chrome moly tubing, were also within the financial reach of the builders. These wing struts were light, and quickly replaced bulky roadster frame rails that had been using for chassis.

With a wing tank, designed to cut through the air with a minimum of resistance, wrapped around a light weight chassis, the hot rodder had a streamlined race car at a reasonable cost. One of the first such machines was built by Bill Burke, who had decided on this approach while in the service. This type machine was immediately tabbed as a

"tank" or "lakester" to set it aside from the roadsters and enclosed streamliners. Burke also built most of the other tanks used by fellow rodders.

With SCTA's ban on coupes and sedans still in effect, a dissident group led by Lou Baney and Bob Corbett branched out and reformed the Rusetta Timing Association and welcomed the hardtops with open arms. From this group would come names like Ed Pink, Bob Meeks, Don Towle, Fran Hernandez, Mickey Thompson, Red Wilson, and Bob Pierson.

By the end of August, 1946, SCTA was running very hard with some 25 clubs and an average of 175 to 200 cars per meet. It was a big show. The entry list at the August 18th outing included such now familiar names, in addition to the veterans, as Rudy Ramos, Lewie Shell, Dean Moon, Doug Hartelt, Doug Caruthers, Chuck Daigh, Frank Coon, Tom Beatty, "Racer" Brown and Jack McAfee. Caruthers' modified roadster would eventually turn into Art Chrisman's famed #25 dragster in later years.

In 1947. Ak Miller took over the reins of SCTA, with Wally Parks as secretary and full time general manager, and hot rodding took on more organization and image.

As the lakes meets continued to run smoother and smoother, and the speeds moved steadily upward, the hot rodders began to look into the future, setting their sights on higher goals. Some 700 miles north and east of Los Angeles was one of the world's finest sites for high speed runs. Many a bench racing session included a few minutes of day dreaming about the possibility of hot rodders getting an opportunity to run on the famed Bonneville Salt Flats.

Even though the organized rodders wanted nothing to do with the outlaw street races, they still met at their favorite drive-ins to compare equipment. From this pastime, a humorous design evolution transpired. Initially, no one ran hoods as they proudly wanted to show off their engines.

This situation was ideal for sticky fingered individuals who were not above collecting parts for their own cars at the expense of others.

Solid hood panels soon took over in an effort to hide what you had lurking in the engine room for prospective opponents, as well as conceal your treasure and investment of a beautifully built engine that could immediately whet the appetite of any "midnight auto suppy" gang member.

One of the first automotive retail stores to concentrate exclusively in the specialty of street-rod accessories was a small two-stall-plus-counter establishment on South Grand Avenue called Eastern Auto Supply. Two young brothers, Alex and Phil Kraus, who had worked with their father in the business prior to WW II, returned from the service to take over the reins of the business with one sight in mind - the hot rodder. They not only pioneered their field, but offered hard-to-get, rejuvenated grille shells, custom-made hood panels, special-built chromed spoke wheels, and developed a whole line of inexpensive engine bolt-on accessories of their own design. On any given Saturday morning groups of rodding enthusiasts would line Grand Avenue, some from as far away as fifty to a hundred miles, waiting for Phil or Alex to crack the doors for a full day of shopping from the counter cases to the walls and ceilings heavily ladened with hard-to-get components. The scene would be reminiscent of a bargain basement sale at Macy's.

The store became so successful that the Kraus brothers ventured further into developing special bolt-on accessories for the rod builders; this was in addition to stocking many rebuilt and chromed goodies for the early model body shells ('32 to '41) that were experiencing prodigious popularity with the young enthusiasts. Naturally, things have changed today. The small two-stall-plus-counter store is dark and deserted, the walls and ceilings bare, and the business moved. Its new location is a three and a half acre site in south Los Angeles and on the front of the new 70,000 sq. ft. building is the firm's new name, "California Custom Accessories Manufacturing Company." Cal Custom's stock in trade today numbers approximately three hundred and fifty specially designed products for early and late model cars, distributed nationally, all for that customized street rod look.

Street racing had grown to full strength by the summer of 1947. It was running wild and dedicated hot rodders were faced with a full grown problem of oblivion if something wasn't done.

In an effort to tell the story of organized hot rodding, a special meeting was called, in response to proposed legislation that would put an end to all hot rod activity. Those attending included police, civic officials, SCTA membership and other interested hot rod club groups. Hot rodding had some

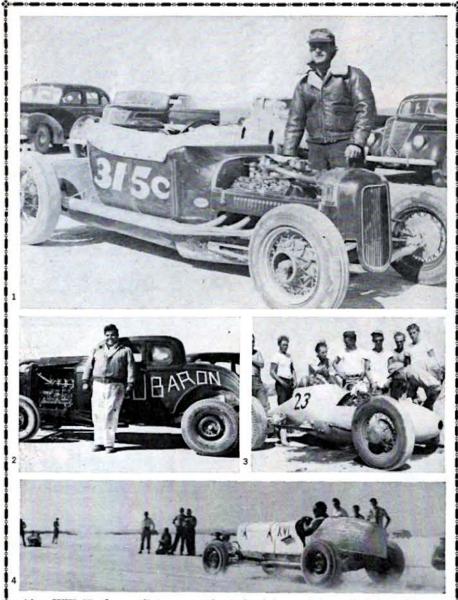
friends in the law enforcement offices led by Ez Ehrhardt and Chuck Pollard of the California Highway Patrol, Gordon Browning of the Los Angeles Police Department, and Chief Ralph Parker and Sgt. Bud Coons of the Pomona Police Department. These officers had been assigned previously to work with car clubs and spoke up on their behalf. The hot rod sport, thanks to the supporting group attending, won a reprieve.

Another booster at that meeting was Robert E. Petersen, a young hot rodder working in the publicity department at MGM studios.

Soon after that meeting, Petersen began to lay the groundwork for one of the greatest contributions to the hot rod sport, a publication to be known as

"Hot Rod Magazine." The first issue appeared in January, 1948, and was a grand total of twenty-four pages in size. One of the reporters of that first publication was Anthony Granatelli, a member of Grancor Speed Equipment Company in Chicago and now a vice president in the Paxton Division of Studebaker Corporation and well known today for his work on the famed Novi Indy cars.

The magazine was quickly adopted by the entire hot rod fraternity and served as a vehicle for dissemination of news concerning lakes meets, club activity, track roadster racing, pictorial features on top rods, tech stories and rod building tips. Some of the early editorial pioneers were Wally Parks, Walt Wor-



After WW II, the prodigious growth of dry lakes activity called for additional classes to accommodate new developments in engines and chassis. Examples were: 1. Paul Schiefers' "T" roadster, one of the first channeled rods. 2. Rusetta Prexy, Lou Baney's chopped coupe. 3. Another first was Bill Burke's "wing tank", a new type streamliner; later the full-bodied streamliner would move this open wheeled body shell into the "lakester class". 4. Tony Capana's V-16 Marmon powered lakes rod qualified for the wild, hairy and fast unlimited class.

on and Bob Hoeppner, (Woron is now Publisher of Motor Trend, another leading Petersen publication in the general automotive field). Don Francisco, Racer Brown and Ray Brock took their turn at the helm as technical editors, (Brock today is HR's Publisher). No one could be more responsible for photographically capturing the growth of the sport of hot rodding than staff photographer, Eric Rickman, who has recorded over a million photographs of the sport in historical progress. Today, "Rick" Rickman is still top gunner with his camera for HR.

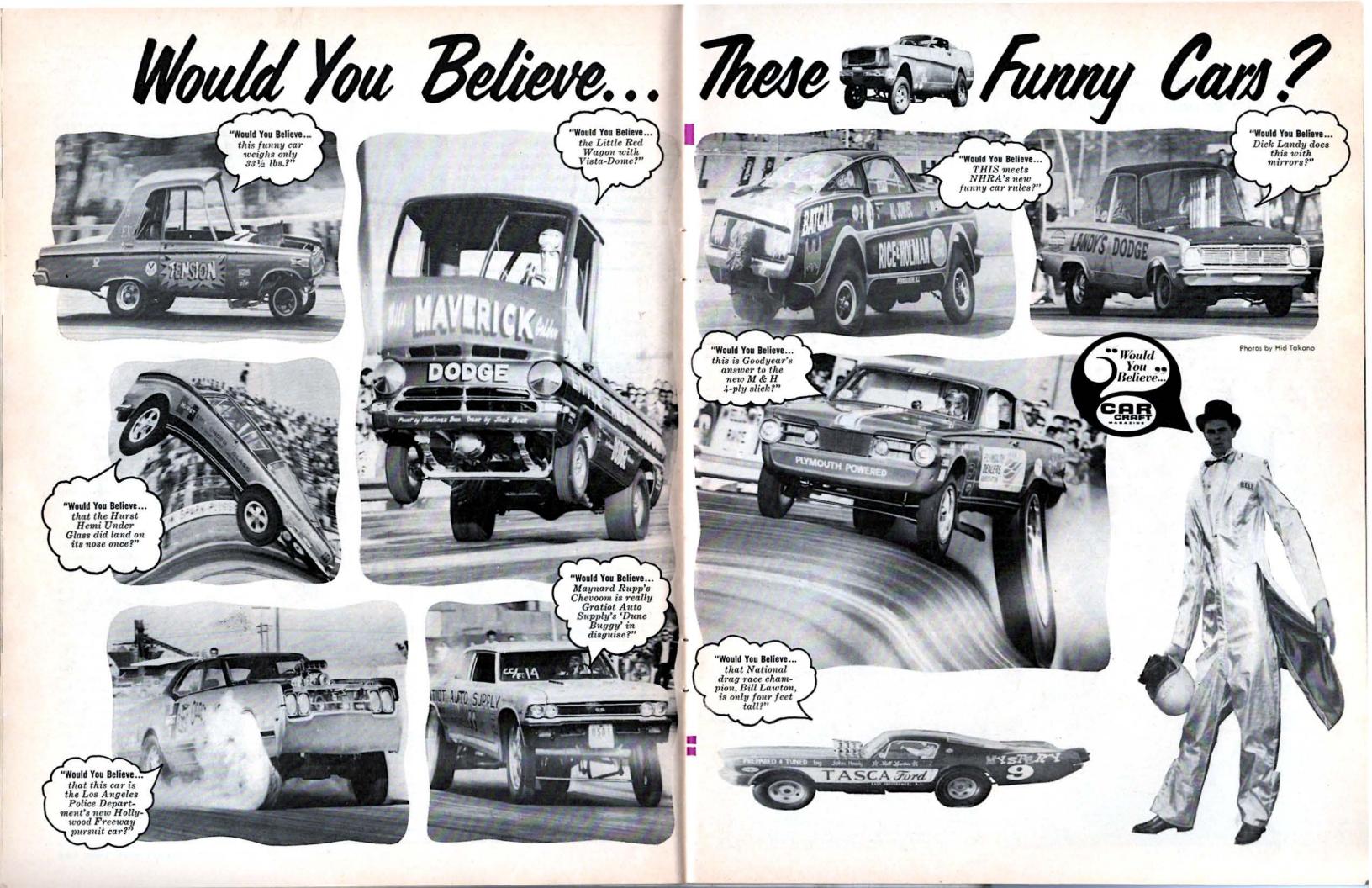
Synonymous in those early years with Hot Rod Magazine was a cartoon character by the name of "Stroker Mc-Gurk." Any hot rodder who didn't keep abreast of Stroker's antics might as well turn in his 100 mph dash plaque.



The steam generated around Stroker and his universal appeal of satirical pantomime humor for hot rodders everywhere was its creator, Tom Medley. Tom, one of the old hot rodders, is still with Petersen today in the capacity of Publisher of Rod & Custom magazine. It was a sad day when the little mascot was retired and Medley put away his pen and India ink for the last time because the imaginative character conveyed to thousands of enthusiasts the bright side of the old adage, trial and error, which has been the theme of hot rodding since time one.

Hot Rod Magazine and the staff behind it over the years have contributed more to the sport's growth than any other aspect since it became the established automotive bible of new and old hot rodders throughout the world. The format basically remains the same today after eighteen years of publication. But the magazine, as with the sport of hot rodding, has grown in size considerably. What was once a twenty-four page magazine now greets almost eight hundred thousand avid monthly readers with one hundred and thirty-two pages of colorful action and technical reporting today.

One of the first ads to appear in the initial issue of Hot Rod Magazine told of the first annual Automotive Equipment Display & Hot Rod Exposition on January 23-25, 1948, at the Los Angeles National Guard Armory. This was the first hod rod show ever staged, and, of course, served as a showcase for the sport's achievements and automotive craftsmanship. The show was promoted by a group of private businessmen who. in turn, coordinated their commercial efforts through the co-sponsorship of the Southern California Timing Association. (continued on page 70)

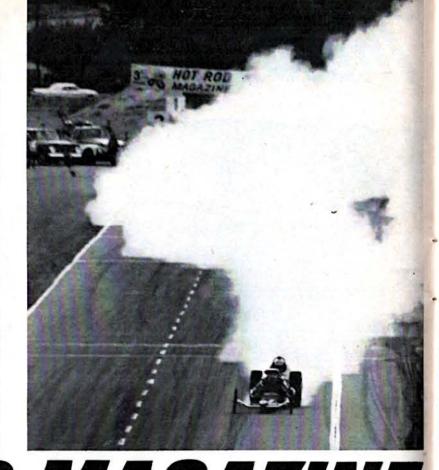


When all the smoke had cleared. the Riverside Raceway was truly the world's fastest battleground. Speeds in the 215-220 mph range and e.t.'s in the 7.20's & 7.30's made the speediest drag race ever run.

BY BOB LEIF

HAVING A HERITAGE of being one of the fastest and quickest drag meets each year, the Third Annual Hot Rod Magazine Championships didn't tarnish their image at all. On hand for the three days of exciting racing at the Riverside Raceway were a top select field of 210 mph plus dragsters, fantastic stock bodied exhibition machines and a cross section of some of the best racing equipment around.

Concerning the quick and fast department. How's a 221 mph run by a dragster sound? Ron Rivero did it. How about a 7.24 e.t.? The Adams and Wayre dragster did that with John Mulligan at the controls. How about a 184 mph pass by a stock bodied "funny car"? Jack Chrisman in his "little red Comet" Kendall GT-1 roadster was the man. This was a drag meet and every racer on hand knew he had to run if he wanted to





36 CAR CRAFT D SEPTEMBER 1966



Tom Grove's "Ford Charger" won Experimental Stock Elim, kept its string of major victories going. Grove won Comp. Elim. at Bristol Springnationals. Jim Wetton's Dodge fouled to give Grove the victory.



Exhibition Stock Elim. went to Jack Chrisman at the expense of Jim Liberman drivng "Brutus," a blown Chrysler powered GTO. On final blast, Chrisman's wild "topless" Comet hit unreal 182.18 mph.

Left - Tom "The Mongoo\$e" McEwen collected the Top Fuel goodties from Hot Rod queen Penny Ward which amounted to better than \$3,750 in cash. McEwen drove Lou Baney's Brand Motors Spl.





Right - Ron Rivero is all smiles and well he should be following big blast of 221.66 turned during eliminations. Assisting in the pushing chores (center) is engine man Jim Fox who tuned healthy blown Chrysler.

Below left - Smoke and lots of it is the calling card of the Hurst "Hairy Oldsmo-bile" which delighted fans with super runs such as this one under "full smoke" con-ditions. Joe Schubeck drives Olds monster,

Lower right - This is the run that set the crowd on its ear. Ron Rivero (foreground) came out even against Nick Marshall but in a mere 7.33 seconds, not only got a win but a new speed mark at 221.66 mph



win because one quick trip through the pit area indicated that all the slow cars staved home.

With better than \$23,790 in prize money floating about for winners, one might get the idea that the competition was stiff. It was! All categories boasted top quality runners, Leading the top fuel list were such names as Danny Ongias, James Warren, Kenny Safford, Tommy Allen, Ron Hampshire, Dave Beebe, Jim Dunn, Nick Marshall, Mike Sorokin, John Mulligan, Connie Swingle and we could go on. Gas burning dragsters also were in evidence with Billy "The Kid" Scott, Gary Murphy and Tom Larkin all on hand for the fun.

The ever popular funny cars were headed by Jack Chrisman's Kendall GT-1 roadster (See June and July CC) Dick Landy's Dart, Joe Davis' "Colt 45", etc. Stockers fielded such celebrities as Butch Leal, Mike Schmitt and Bob Spears.

During the first two days, qualifying for dragsters was the item and before all the rubber had been plastered on the Riverside surface, many interesting things would happen. On Friday, all present got a good idea of just what could happen as Dave Beebe in the Beebe Bros. and Sixth fueler cranked off a wild 7.48 e.t. at 210 mph. Several other adventures were made into the mid seven second bracket by fuel pilots.

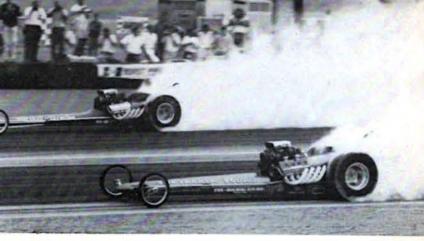
Trying for top speed with Beebe was Nick Marshall driving the Marshall & Vermilya entry. Second in the elapsed time department was John Mulligan in Gene Adams and Jack Wayre's screamer with a 7.51 e.t. hitting 206.88 mph.

These performances were just a teaser of what was to come. The weatherman said warmer days were on their way which meant speeds and elapsed times would continue to pick up as the traction improved.

Possibly one of the reasons why speeds were picking up was some of the new tuning principles being utilized by both gas and fuel racers. Many had disclosed that they were running their engines "leaner" in the jetting section than ever before because the air was very dense. Several other Top Fuel contenders disclosed that the traction seemed to improve as the day got hotter, thus cars were able to turn in better elapsed times and speeds in the afternoon sun than in the early morning cool. (continued on following page)

Left — Butch Leal's "California Flash" Plymouth won Top Stock crown even with Harry Holton turning a better e.t. on trophy blast. Leal ran 11.65 e.t. while Holton lost with a quicker 11.56 e.t. mark.





HOT ROD DRAGS

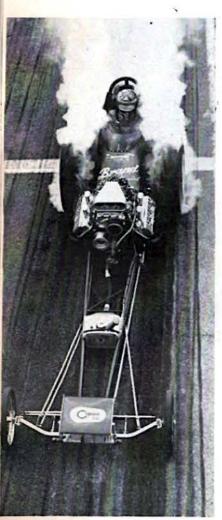
Looking at Saturday's racing, fuelers and gas dragsters were on the grid to qualify while stock and street classes were set for eliminations, however. Sunday would be the day devoted to all eliminator title racing. Top speed of fuel dragsters held the spotlight on Saturday action with

John Mulligan finally coming out the winner with a fantastic 219.29 mph in a 7.24 second sprint. When tuner and engine builder Gene Adams was quiried on what changes he had made to the powerful Adams and Wayre car to achieve this fantastic run, he replied that the nitro percentage had been upped to 73% from 70% along with a tire change. Mulligan could only say that "it felt good and strong." Ron Rivero driving the "Frantic Four minus One" fueler astounded the troops with a sensational 7.39 e.t., 217.90 mph clocking just before the Adams & Wayre pass. What was the real clincher was that power came from a 354 cubic inch Chrysler, the engine that everybody thought wasn't strong enough to do the job. Apparently engine man Jim Fox had other ideas and the results proved it. The crew reported no "speed secrets" were employed, just a matter of getting the injector just right. Also in the big run department was Connie Swingle driving Ed Pink's "Old Master" AA/FD which punched in at 7.38 e.t. and 212.26 mph.

Stock class activity was limited to elimination racing with the various winners and runner-ups going into eliminator racing on Sunday. For the S/S title. Butch Leal with his four-speed equipped Plymouth proved to be the man as he dusted off all comers for the title. Leal used his standard "California Flash" Plymouth to get the job done.

Tiny Anglias running big bad blown engines were not running A/GS for the Hot Rod meet but AA. (Since the meet was run on NHRA rules, blown Anglias cannot run A/GS.) Two of the nation's quickest and fastest were on hand. Jim Shores and Skip Hess and their "Critter" running strong while Ed and Ray Kohler's "King Kong" was not to be forgotten. When it came time for the big race, the Kohler car was hurtin' in the engine room (piston ring problems) and was really blowing smoke. At the green light, Shores and Hess jumped out with a slim lead and extended it for the win with a 9.56 e.t.

While all street class machines were going through the elimination process, several runs for the wild Hurst Performance "Hairy Olds-



Left - Off the line tactics like this won the Top Fuel title for Tom McEwen. Big Crower/Schiefer equipped Chrysler built by Ed Pink performed flawlessly all day. Right - Steady e.t.'s in the 10.40's for Ed Weddle were enough for the Comp. Elim win over a strong field. Neat roadster features sprung engine, automatic trans. Middle right - One of the biggest upsets of the meet occurred in the second round of Street Elim when eventual winner Roland Gravelle dumped Mike Schmitt's B/FX'er. Below right - Top Gas winner Billy Scott shows Dick Landy (center) and Gary Gabelich the technique of wheelies ala bike during a bit of special intermisson fun. Below - While other backers may be more inclined towards watching, Brand Motors sponsor Lou Baney prefers to perform much of the fuelers trackside tuning himself.

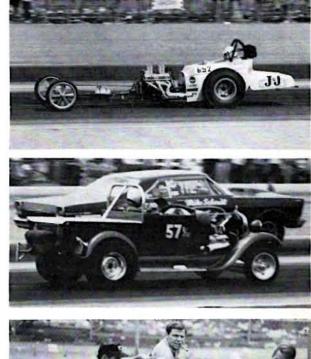
movile" were unleashed. Driver "Gentleman Joe" Schubeck brought everyone on the vast Riverside grounds to their feet when the fourwheel drive monster charged down the quarter mile engulfed in smoke. Speeds were held down because of "excessive" wheelspin, said Schubeck.

When Sunday popped its head, every driver and tuner on the premises knew that this was the day. The weather was ideal, warm sunshine which meant even warmer traction. Surprisingly, few teams had reported any burning of the "midnight oil" in order to get their cars ready, in fact, despite a few blower pops and minor engine failures, the meet was relatively free from major problems, thus no all night repair jobs.

Festivities opened following a parade of top fuel contestants with the first round of racing. The day's events would go like a round of Top Fuel, Top Gas and other eliminators,

Opening round of Top Fuel was left all on hand wondering just what more could happen. Ron Rivero hit 221.66 mph in 7.33 seconds while in the process of beating Nick Marshall. This was good for top speed of the meet plus being the fastest time ever turned at a major drag racing event. Other notable accomplishments was a losing 7.52 e.t. and 213.28 mph by Dave Beebe which was turned in while losing to Leroy Goldstein's hole shot. Tommy Allen for Allen & Huff got to James Warren for Warren, Corburn and Miller with a strong 7.45 e.t. and 211.76 mph. In losing, Warren clocked a better 7.42 but again, it was the question of the hole shot. In the middle of the melee, Tom McEwen driving Lou Baney's "Brand Motors Spl." now fitter with an Ed Pink Chrysler, failed to take an easy run when Billy "The Kid" Scott fouled out in Terry Gall's fuel rig. McEwen, eventual winner turned in a 7.51 e.t.

Gas dragsters were having a field day. Several cars went out of competition because they could not pass a fuel check while several others were fouling out. Competition was stiff with such names as Adams, Rasmussen & Scott, Tom Larkin, "The Gaslite", and Bob Keith all present. As a point of information, the gas dragster Scott was driving was the same car which grabbed off Top Gas honors at the '65 HRM meet with Rick Stewart at the wheel. In the final go, Scott nailed Dan Madigan on the starting line and sailed to a 8.48 e.t., 180.72 victory.





Looking for funny cars we find Jack Chrisman's "GT-1" Comet roadster. Bob Davis' "Jolly Green Giant" Chevy, Al "The Flying Dutchman' Vander-Woude's Dodge roadster. Of the seven cars in the class. Dick Landy's Dodge Dart was the only injected entry. To prove that these machines not only look wild but go fast. Chrisman cranked on a fantastic 8.72 e.t. and 184.42 top speed making his beautiful red Comet roadster the fastest of its kind in all the land.

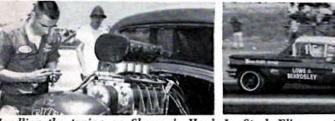
In the second round, Landy beat Jim Liberman driving "Brutus", a blown Chrysler powered GTO while blowing his engine in the process, so Liberman advanced to the next round. (A special rule was in effect for this meet allowing for the loser to enter the next round should the car that won be out because of mechanical problems.) Chrisman then beat Davis. In the final, it was Chrisman the winner over Liberman with an 8.71 e.t.!

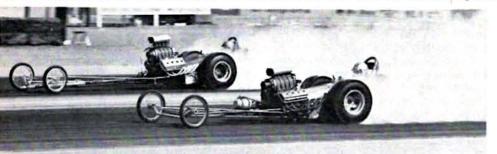
Through use of handicap starts, eliminator racing in Super, Competition, Top Stock and Junior Stock takes interesting forms. Can the faster and quicker car that leaves late catch the slower car that goes early?

Super Eliminator pits both street and competition class supercharged cars together. Shores and Hess grabbed the trophy with their rapid blown Chevy engined Anglia running consistently in the 9.50 e.t. area. Hugh Tucker, the man who grabbed off the bracket at the NHRA opening round.

Winternationals and Walt Marrs both lost the hard way. When cars When it comes down to Stock and Junior Stock Eliminator, a book Could are paired, they can also loose by going too quick. This happened to be written. Everybody has a favorite and this is where the fans really get up and cheer. Follow his previous day's win in S/S, Butch Leal Tucker's roadster and Marr's coupe when they faced each other in the did the job on all the boys with middle eleven second runs. Falling by Ed Weddle's J&J Muffler modified roadster equipped with B & M the wayside were Mike Schmitt, Bob Spears and Harry Holton on the Automatic trans dominated racing in Competition Eliminator with confinal race. Leal's four-speed equipped Plymouth was the measure over sistant e.t.'s in the 10.40's. Wading through the stiff field, Weddle the remainder of the competition and the "California Flash" never downed Dan Geiger's flathead Ford dragster for the final loot. missed a shift.

One of the most awesome collections of e.t. bracked machinery composed Street Eliminator. Such notables as Mike Schmitt with his B/FX SOHC powered Galizie, winner at the Bristol Springnationals, was on hand also with Dean Lowey's EMPI "Inch Pincher" Volkswagen Greer and Barber's Willys and many more. Outsider was Roland Gravell with his immaculate injected Chevy powered Street Roadster. Gravell showed what his machine could do beating Schmitt in the







in Top Gas. Billy "The Kid" Scott driving Gene Adams and John Rasmussen's Beacon Auto Spl. did the job on a host of hearty competitors. In the final round, Dan Madigan fell to the 18 year old handler's 8.48-180.72.

Left - Ed "the Old Master" Pink lived up to his title as he provided horsepower for the Brand Motors entry. Pink's own car driven by Connie Swingle didn't do bad either, clocking a 7.38 e.t. at 213 mph. This was the first meet for which Pink supplied engine to McEwen.

Right - Linda "Miss Hurst Golden Shifter" Vaughn was also on hand for big affair to aid with awards presentation. Here, she declines an offer to "take a ride" with Top Gas winner Bill Scott. Clad in her offi-cial black and gold outfit, Linda was a very big hit.

second round. With this in hand, he breezed through the next pair of races to claim the title of Street Eliminator.

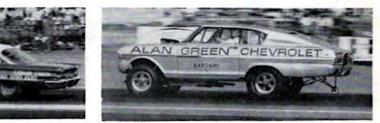
A special eliminator for the HRM meet was Experimental Stock. This was for fuel burning injected "funny cars," Tom Grove, winner of Competition Eliminator at Bristol again proved he was the man to beat going just fast enough to win each race. Grove outdistanced the competition with his SOHC Mustang hitting 9.98 e.t. at 131.45 mph on his final win over Jim Wetton's Dodge.

Going along with the Top Fuel program was Jr. Fuel. This is a class run basically in Southern California which is for small displacement dragsters running unblown. Small they might be, but fast they are as eight of these screamers dashed for the loot, Winner was Lincoln & Jones with their injected Chevy which hit 8.38 and 188.22 when the smoke (and heavy nitro fumes) had cleared the air.

Back on the top fuel program, the red light along with a hole shot or two was taking its toll on the "big guys." Mike Sorokin in the popular "Surfers" AA/FD caught the red light against Kenny Safford while Winternationals runner-up Jim Dunn did the same thing against Connie Swingle. Leroy Goldstein also gave Ron Hampshire a charity pass. In the meantime, McEwen hit 7.43 e.t. while beating Rick Stewart driving for Bill Crossely and Hank Clark for the Beaver Brothers used his early lead and 7.50 e.t. to get Paul Sutherland who clocked in a 7.46.

Junior Stock was a hotly contested battle mostly between older GM iron. Boiling it down to the final, the group originally started out with nineteen cars; it was Keith Berg, Jess Tyree and Ramon Lowe for Lowe and Beardsley. Despite protests, fuel checks and other things that make the lower class stockers so interesting, Lowe and Beardsley's Pontiac was the winner following a protest.

In the Top Fuel third round, Safford dumped Hampshire and (continued on page 76)



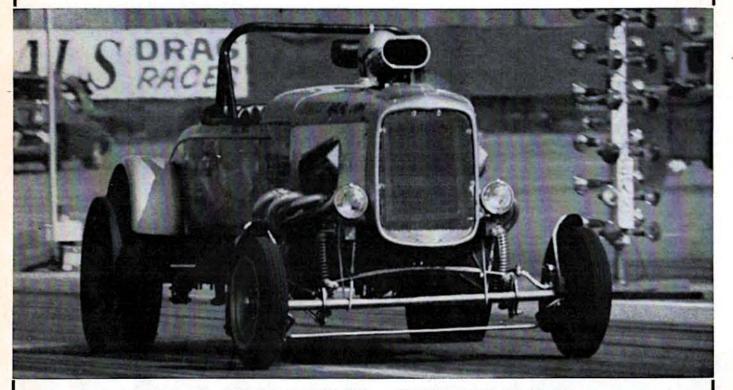
Handling the tuning on Shores & Hess' Jr. Stock Elim. went to Lowe & Beard-Super Elim. winning Anglia was Jack Bay- sley's '60 Pontiac. Steady runs in the Alan Green 427 powered Chevy II fastback. Driven er, Jr. Stock Elim. at the '65 HRM meet. mid 13 second bracket were the answer. by Dick Milner, car lost out in hot elimination racing.

New driver, same car provided the winning combination



CAR CRAFT D SEPTEMBER 1966

Your engine can be puttin' out lots of ponies but if the suspension isn't designed for draggin', you'll never get past the first round. Here's the dope.



DRAGGIN' SPRINGS

BY LEROI SMITH & BUD LANG

Blasting off the line above is Hugh Tucker's Chrysler powered '32 Chevy roadster. It runs a transverse leaf spring, only a couple of leaves, and suspension shocks at front axle.

THERE'S A SNEAKY change taking place in drag racing. A trend so subtle it has gone virtually unnoticed by the majority of hot rod enthusiasts. Yet, little known as it is, the idea has been almost directly responsible for the amazing increase in quarter-mile acceleration performance these past few years.

It all has to do with springs; those seldom considered components that connect the running gear to the frame. As one might suspect, these appendages of specially treated steel have not been overly important to the rapid development of all-out drag vehicles, but they've played an extremely underrated role with anything remotely considered a street class machine.

With most initial development atten-40 CAR CRAFT SEPTEMBER 1966

tion directed toward the all-important aspect of power, the early Ford transverse leaf spring was long considered adequate. In the last two years, however, especially with the development of fantastically performing stock bodies cars, springs have become as critical as superchargers.

In some of the earlier drag strip experiments, the rear springs were discarded altogether (a possible carry-over from popular Bonneville practice), with less than ideal results. In the very late 1950's, with an abundance of power available via superchargers, big inches, etc., serious drag racers competing in the street classes began a concentrated assault on the mysteries of vehicle weight transfer. From that time forward, as much attention has been paid the drag racing chassis (sometimes more) as the entire powertrain.

Out of these initial inquiries came realization that the ordinary spring could play a vital role in effective weight transfer, and subsequent vehicle performance. Leading the way in this

research were the gasser and roadster boys, since they had much more latitude within the strip rules than did the stock drivers.

One of these early suspension pioneers was a relatively unknown (outside the West Coast) roadster owner from Ventura, California. Competing with a healthy Oldsmobile powered Chevy street roadster, Hugh Tucker soon was king of the roost. This with a car considerably heavier than current rivals (the old Chev sunk scales at over 3000 pounds), and about as streamlined as a locomotive.

Tucker's formula for success was really quite simple - get every possible fraction of horsepower on the pavement - and keep it there! To all outward appearances, the big silver barn door was built just like most other contemporary race cars. The major difference was the rear springs. Instead of the common Ford transverse semielliptic spring, there were two halfsprings used (formally known as quarter-elliptics); one at each side.

This type of car springing system was not new, but it had not been very prevalent on drag machines. In fact, except for occasional revivals in this or that road racing powerhouse and the late Crosleys, they were more or less obsolete. Tucker started with two old Ford springs. One end of each was sawed off just to the edge of the centerbolt. This thick centersection was then positioned against the inside of the boxed frame rails, the one remaining eye settling adjacent to the bearing hub of the '57 Oldsmobile rear end, attached to a shackle. Mounted in this trailing arm fashion, the spring was free to move up and down at will.

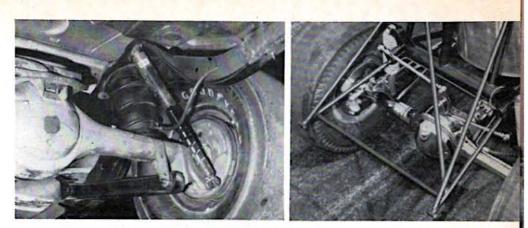
Because each individual spring connected to the rear axle well out toward the ends, and since the front of each spring was located parallel with and against the sturdiest part of the modified channel frame, a much better control of the huge slicks was obtained. Each spring was free to flex, but the resultant transfer of forces to the chassis did not have as adverse an effect as with a single cross-leaf spring.

Furthermore, the quarter-elliptics could be individually "tuned" to the chassis. That is, one side could be made stiffer (loaded) than the other to resist torque reactions, etc., by the use of spring clips which retard spring action. Whether the front of the spring was placed high or low in relation to the rearend did not seem to have a big bearing on traction, although K. S. Pittman reported his Willys gasser had much better bite with the front mount above the rearend centerline. When the frame mounts had been low, the car would break loose wildly, with traction improving as the mounts were raised. Tucker used adjustable mounts, but had little indication of traction change.

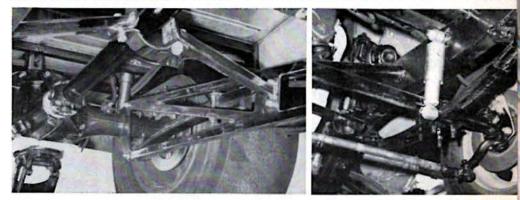
The point that is evident here is that every modified automobile cannot utilize the same spring arrangement with the same results regarding traction so long as the basic cars and running gear are not identical as to design and weight distribution. There are far too many factors involved to simply stipulate that any given spring design, etc., will work equally well on any number of cars. Such is not true. However, where cars are similar in make, similar results can be achieved.

When quarter-elliptics are used at the rear, very strong torque rods are an absolute necessity. Where an enclosed drive shaft is used, pre '48 Ford type, the torque rods should be the same length as the 'shaft itself, so as to "swing" with it from the single front universal joint arc. A strong anti-sway bar must be installed to eliminate side travel of the body and frame over the rearend, too.

Coil springs have also been used with (continued on page 78)



Steve Bovan's '65 Chevy II match racer at right features a '57 Pontiac rear end outfitted with coil springs and 50/50 Monroe tube shocks. '50 Olds trailing arms were attached to new rear end pads and a tube crossmember. Note simple swau bar set-up.



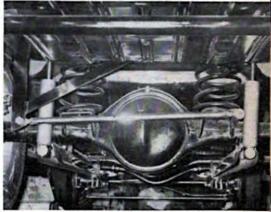
set of real beefy stabilizer bars are attached to the rear end of this gasser. A pair of quarter-elliptic springs are outboard of the bars, hang below housing by short shackles. An anti-sway bar and big tube shocks at rear complete this package.

Right center - Quite a few late model au tos being set up for drag racing are be-ing stripped of those heavy independent A-frames. This '55 Chevy now runs a tube axle equipped with parallel semi-elliptic springs. Shackles are attached at front.

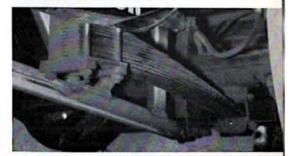
The photos at right illustrate how Hugh Tucker mounted his quarter-elliptic rear springs. He used one Ford transverse unit for each side, cutting it a couple inches from the centerbolt, discarding the short end. The centerbolt aligns the spring to the perch plate welded to the inside of the frame rail, preventing it from shift-ing fore and aft. U-bolts hold it secure. the The spring eye and shackles are centered beneath the axle housing, outside of the husky Heim-joint equipped stabilizer bar.

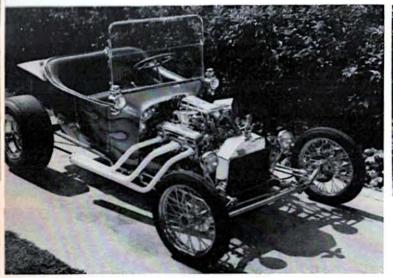
The rear end under this '65 Pontiac GTO is an earlier '58 unit. Dick Jesse selected it because of added durability required in match racing. Trailing arms and centermount is stock. Air-Lift bags inside the coil suspension allow weight to be jacked.

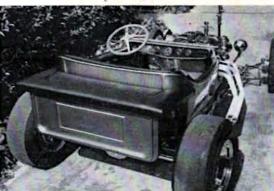
At upper right is Jack Chrisman's Comet roadster which features Autolite suspen-sion shock absorbers (coil-wrapped shocks) and Watts linkage stabilizer bars. Such a combination keeps weight down along with providing stability needed at high speeds.







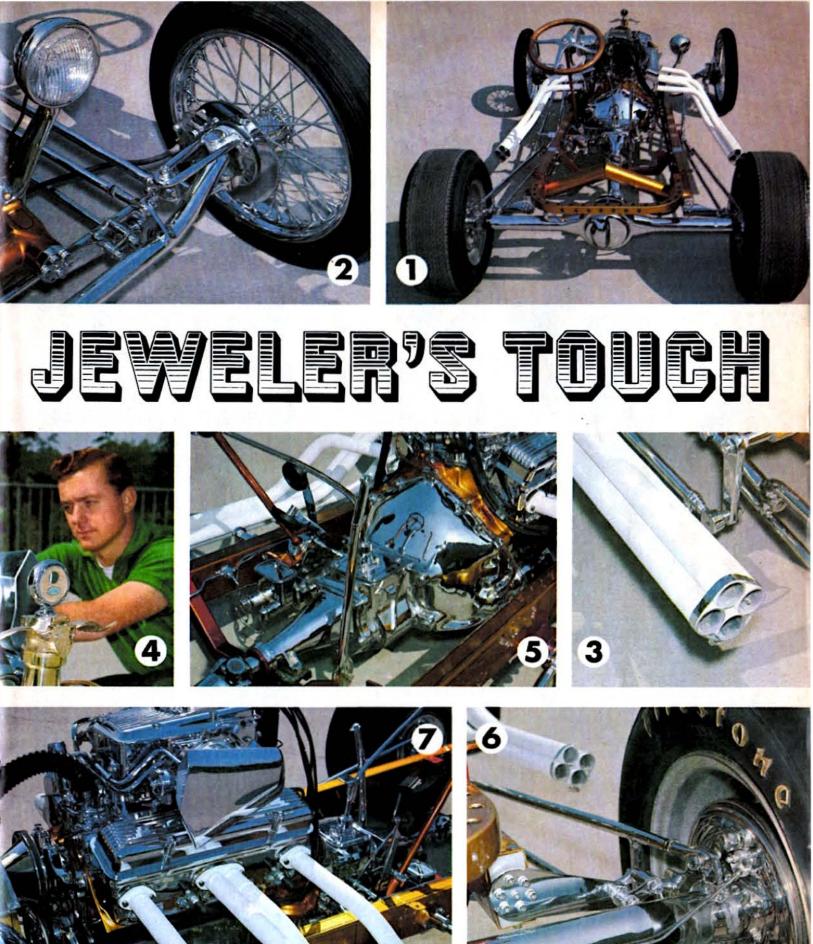


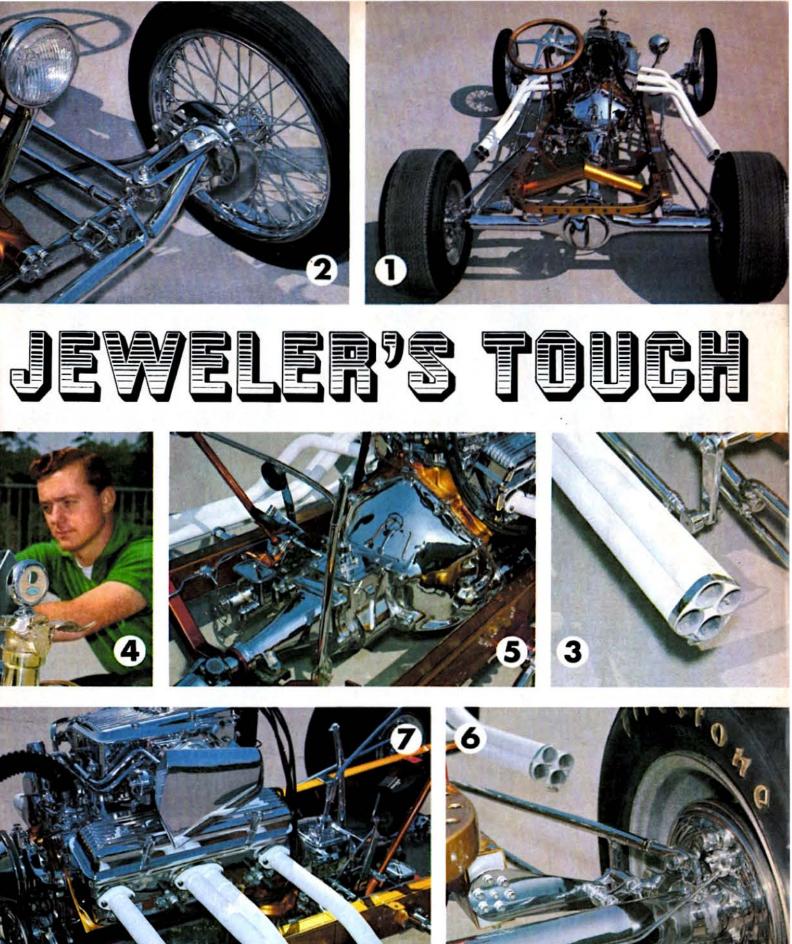


Cal Auto fiberglass '23 pickup box was mated to a '14 Glass Tee body, then package was completely up-holstered in black Naugahyde with full rolls, pleats. Reminiscent of "yesteryear," neat flames extend over Candy Gold lacquered body panels, displaying talent of Dennis Rickeloff of Compton. Tom did body work.

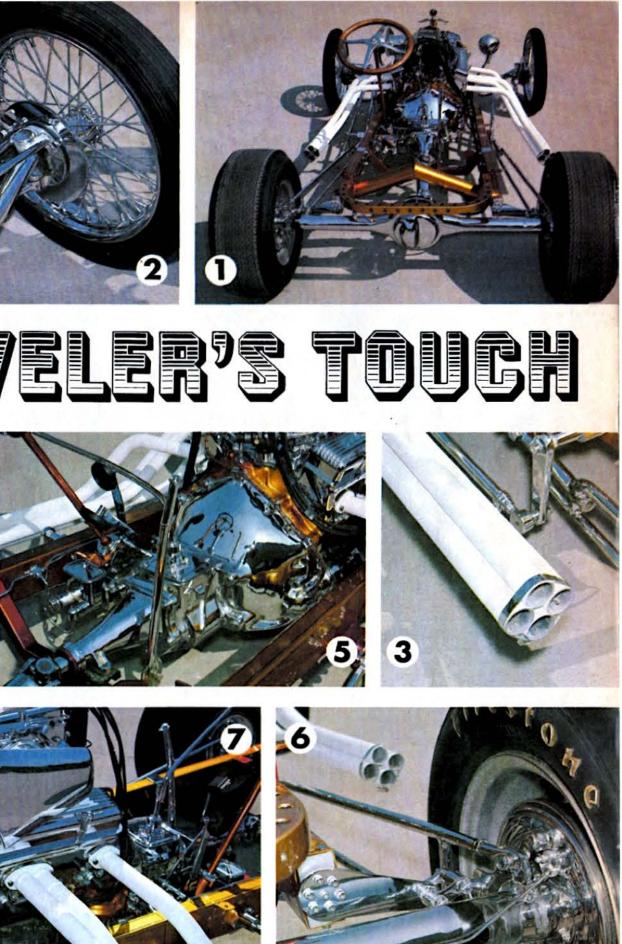
Sunglasses are needed to view Booth's chrome chassis. 10.60 x 15 **Firestone Indy tires** are mounted on Cragar 10" wheels. Rear end is '51 Ford with addition of tubular radius rods at rear. Tubular rear X-member fits inside the bed.

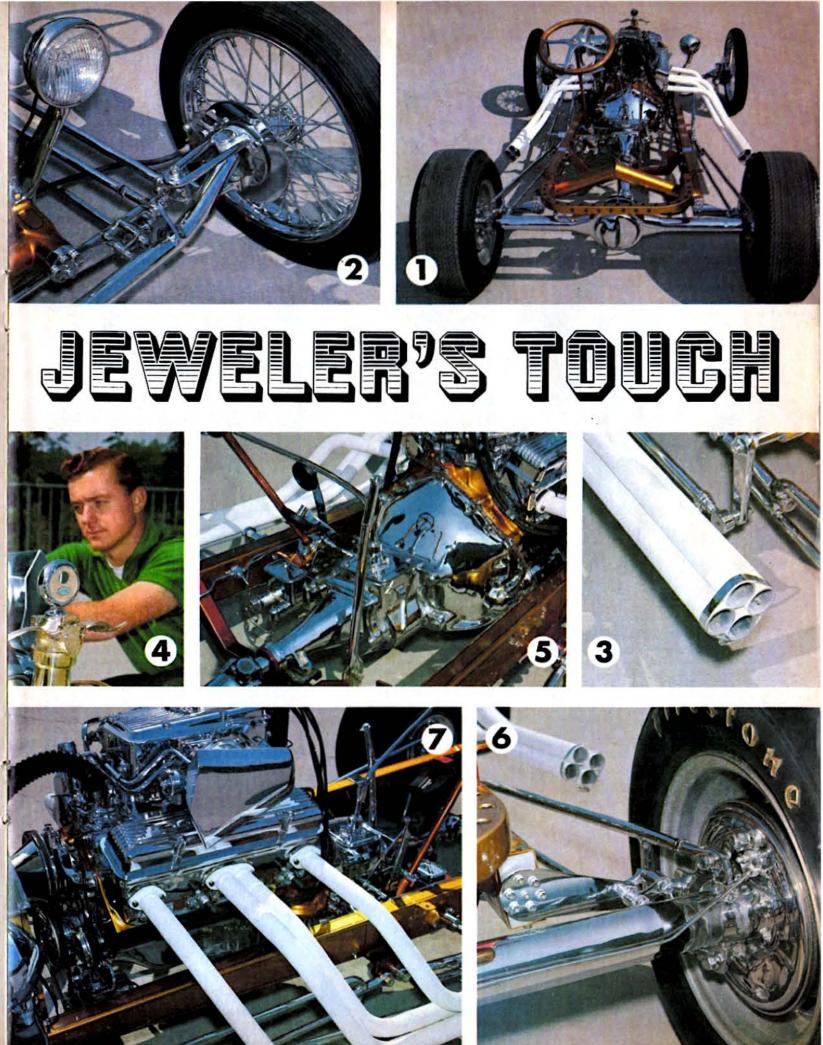
2. Discs of Air-heart spot brakes have been brakes have been chrome plated af-ter Henry's Ma-chine and Booth modified them for '40 Ford front spin-dles. Tires are 3.45 x 18 Dunlop on '36 H-D spoke wheels.



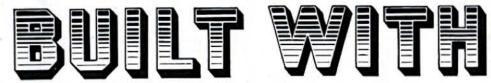












Finished to perfection, Tom Booth's master-piece could have easily come out of any jewelers showcase, but instead, it was driven out of his garage.

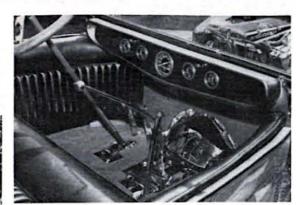
3. 2" x 4" steel tube frame was further reinforced to hold Ross steer-ing. All welds and brackets have been filled and ground smooth. Exhaust system features eight cycle mufflers.

4. Owner/builder Tom Booth had Gilbert Metal Prod-ucts of El Monte, Cal. reproduced the '14 "T" radia-tor. It has a 4" core and holds 3 quarts over stock conecitu over stock capacity.

5. Even aluminum received chrome treatment! Unusual transmission is an aluminum cased "X - Shift" built by Turner's Garage for late model Chevy gears.

6. Every nut, bolt, and tube is plated, including the '51 Ford backing plates. Rear torsion bars, like the front, are ¾" rod spring steel; mount-ed inside of frame.

Engine is basi-cally stock 301 c.i. fuel injected Chevy with chrome plated heads and accessories by Custom Chrome. We said you'd need dark glasses. Right?



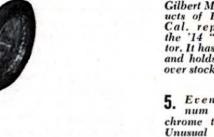
Instruments are by Stewart-Warner, have been set in a wood-grained tunneled fiberglass dash. With carpet removed, chromed trans and bell housing are revealed.

At left and above center are two more views of this wild little street rod built by Tom Booth over a 16 month period. Fuel injected engine is a 301" Chevy.

Photos by Fred Enke, Dick Scritchfield



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The Gay Pontiac team out of Dickinson, Texas, wasn't completely satisfied with last year's exhibition GTO that turned e.t.'s in the high 8's at over 160 mph! They wanted something really hot for the 1966 season. So Mr. Carl Gay, head of the team, contracted with Jay Howell of Howell Automotive Engineering in Oak Park, Michigan to go from the ground up on a brand new super-lightweight '66 GTO that would make Don Gay's old one look like a mild hop-up job. Howell is in partnership with Pete Seaton Enterprises to handle complete performance design, engineering and construction under one roof. It's one of a growing

BY ROGER HUNTINGTON • list of highly-capable speed shops in the and rigid, so the frame won't "work" midwest that offers this type of service. The only thing Gay specified for the new car was that it have a light tubular tion is had

> steel frame and look as much as possible like a stock GTO. It has been Howell's theory that some of the new '66 tube-frame funny cars have frames that are too stiff

to give the best rear-tire bite off the line. He feels that best off-the-line tracwhen

Blown 421 Pontiac features Enderle injectors top side. Blower drive is M/T unit. Inside good stuff includes Crane cam, Forgetrue pistons, stock crank.



Car builder Jay Howell shows how easy it is to pick up entire front end of car. Minus engine and run-

absorb some of the initial surge of least the ones with upwards of 1000 engine power before the tires burn loose horsepower-seem to twist their frames

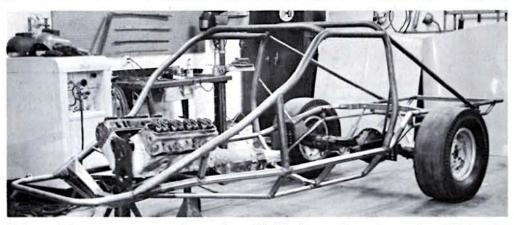


Fiberglass body of GTO was built by A & A Engineering of Atlanta, Ga. Features absolutely stock lines even though front wheels have been moved up seven inches and the rears 14. In first outing in major competition at the NHRA Springnationals, car won class, but lost in eliminator.



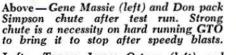
Left - Candy red "Texas Tiger" rolls on Halibrand mags all around with M&H slicks used to put power to pavement. If you want to see this terror go, turn page.

Right - In the trunk we find Delco heavy duty battery which supplies starting power and small "tapper" keg used for water. A Jabsco pump does the circulating chores.



Tube steel frame was constructed so as it would "flex" enough to give good weight transfer. Design incorporates good beam stiffness (up and down bending) but by bowing out the sides, also maintained low twisting stiffness. Main rails are 2" o.d. tube with .060" wall.

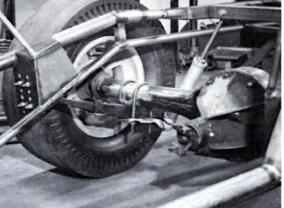


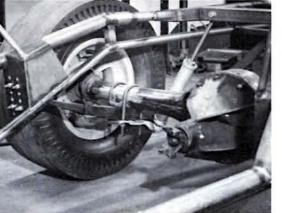


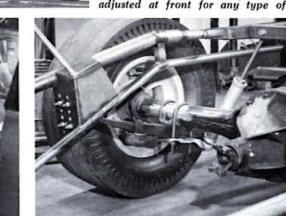
Left - Tuners James Osteen (left) and Massie built engine and handled all of the finish work on Pontiac powered match racer. Squirt can eases engine starting.

Lower left - Barren interior features a Covico steering wheel which is coupled to a Corvair steering unit. Moon gas pedal and foot operated brake are featured.

Below - Rear suspension is similar to Mopar super stock setup, '57 Pontiac rear end mounts on 6 leaf springs which can be adjusted at front for any type of strip.









GTO front end features tube axle mounted on a single transverse spring. Wheels are mounted on Ford spindles. Shocks are Monroe 70-30 models.



the frame can twist and give a little to that the quickest cars off the line - at violently. He quite a bit, so the left front wheel rides several inches above the right. The effect is to cushion the explosion of power to the rear tires. Cars with super-stiff frames seem to burn easier off

well. So a tubular steel frame that would have good beam stiffness (up and down bending), but with relatively low torsion, or twisting stiffness, was designed. He did it by bowing the main side tubes out around the cockpit area in a sweeping curve. The secondary side tubes (below the main tubes) are Don Gay, that Pontiac fella is here again and this is the set with his is and this set closer in, giving a kind of bowl Don Goy, that the streatly outdone himself with his 's really outdone himself with his 's becally on a specially of the special of the s

time, he's rean A wild fiberglass body mounted with a blown fuel burning specially us of a for built

Below right - Well cushioned drivers seat is mounted in standard position. Lever nearest seat is chute release while control for B&M Turbo Hydro pops out of floor.







Beware of your stock block and heads-They're not as flat as you think! For low stock or big fueler, Parallel surfacing is a must. If you don't, you'll just blow your gaskets.

BY BUD LANG

THE MATING GAME

competition use, be it stock or blown, is to have the cylinder block and heads parallel surfaced, guaranteeing they are parallel with the crankshaft axis. Due to mass production methods of building engines, and allowable tolerances, what may be okay for a stocker is far from right in an engine designed to put out maximum horsepower. Jim Cavallaro and Gary Koehler of Dynamic Engine Service in Detroit, Michigan will be the first to inform you of the importance of this service.

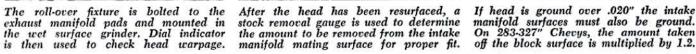
Many an engine has blown because a gasket was not held down firmly; it blew or burned away, and water poured into a cylinder bore. When this happens, man like your engine is out to lunch, right now. Water just doesn't compress. But where the heads and block mating surfaces are perfectly flat, chances of blowing a gasket in this manner are nil. Still, even with flat surfaces, your engine can be suffering. This is because the block surfaces, or

angle during manufacture, causing you to have varying amounts of displacement in the cylinders, thereby giving sible. you different compression ratios at each cylinder. The only answer would be to have the block and heads checked accurately to guarantee that in addition to being flat, these surfaces are also in perfect alignment with the crankshaft axis.

To accomplish this, Dynamic first align bores the cylinder block main bearing bores, after which a true machined mandrel is installed in the block in place of the crankshaft. The mandrel is then secured in a unique wet surface grinder, a Lempco 545BL, and a dial indicator is used to determine the approximate amount of material that must be removed from both banks to bring the surfaces down to an even, level plane. Since the crankshaft axis and surfaces of the block must be absolutely parallel, both head surfaces of the block have to be checked to deter-

NE OF THE MOST important steps one or both of the cylinder heads, could mine which surface will require the to take in building up an engine for have been machined at a very slight greater cut. It would not necessarily be true that both banks would be ground the same amount, though this is pos-

> Run-of-the-mill blocks, according to Dynamic, generally require cuts of from .010" to .025" to true them up with the crankshaft axis. This machining process is referred to as parallel grinding or surfacing. The Chevrolet block being surfaced here, as an example, required an .018" cut with the wet surface grinder on one bank and a .006" cut on the other. The reason for the difference in cut depth was due to a .010" taper from front to rear on one bank and the unequal distance from center of the crankshaft to each block surface. Had both been cut .018" then the displacement in the cylinders of one bank would be minutely greater than that of the other bank, with a corresponding change in compression ratio. Granted, .012" difference isn't going to amount to much, but why not have everything right on. After all, that is what we're







exhaust manifold pads and mounted in stock removal gauge is used to determine manifold surfaces must also be ground. the wet surface grinder. Dial indicator the amount to be removed from the intake On 283-327" Chevys, the amount taken

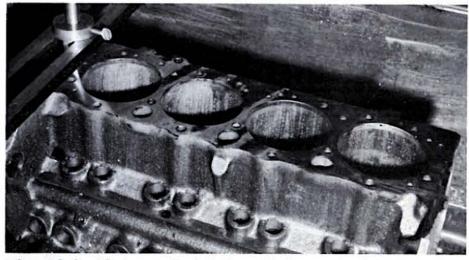
going to all of this trouble for.

To true the cylinder heads, the head roll-over fixture is bolted to the exhaust manifold pads and secured in the wet surface grinder. Alignment and leveling is performed in the same manner as the block surfacing set-up. Normally a .010" cut will true up new heads, with somewhat larger cuts required for heads that have been in service on an untrued block. Surfaced heads on an untrue block will warp after use and will require resurfacing once they are pulled off. This applies to stock street engines, too.

When surfacing the cylinder heads, if a cut greater than .020" is required, the intake manifold mating surfaces on the heads must also be ground. Because the block features cylinder banks (we are referring to V-8 engines only) at a 90° angle from each other, as the block and head surfaces are milled away, the heads actually move down closer to the crankshaft. Imagine a large V being whittled down from the top. If a plate (a manifold in our case) of a certain length were laid across the top of this V before it was shortened, then it would certainly be "longer" after the V is reduced in height, simply because the two "legs" of the V are closer together

at their top ends. Therefore, the mani- .025" to true them up, then using the fold itself would be "too wide" for the engine if the heads are cut more than say .020". The mating angles would remain the same but the bolt holes and ports would no longer match perfectly because the manifold would ride too high between the heads. The formula for figuring the amount of material that must be cut from 283"-327" Chevy head manifold surfaces is: multiply the amount taken off the block surface by 1.2. On Chrysler hemi and 409 Chevy engines this ratio is 1.4. With the 283"-327" Chevrolets, material must also be removed from the front and rear surfaces of the intake manifold pads where it rides on the block, or the same cut can be made from the top block surface. Because the Chevy manifold rides on top of the block, when the head manifold surfaces are ground using the 1.2 ratio to extend the width between the heads to take the manifold, the manifold pads or the block top must still be cut to lower the manifold the required amount. The ratio for figuring this latter cut (off the manifold pads or block) is 1.6.

For example, to clear things up, these modifications would go something like this: if 283" Chevy heads were cut to get the results he's after.



What might be right for a stocker is far from right in an engine designed to put out maximum horsepower. Block mating surfaces must be perfectly flat in addition to being exactly aligned with the crankshaft axis. Material must be removed from both banks to bring the surfaces down to an even level plane, then the heads are ground to match.



Run of the mill blocks generally require cuts of from .010" to .025" to true them up with the crankshaft axis. This is referred to as parallel grinding or surfacing.

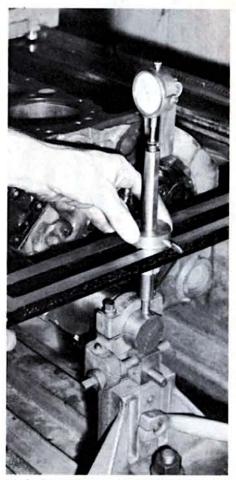


Gary Koehler of Dynamic Engine Service sets up a Chevy block in their Lempco 545BL wet surface grinder. Before man-drel is installed, mains are align bored.

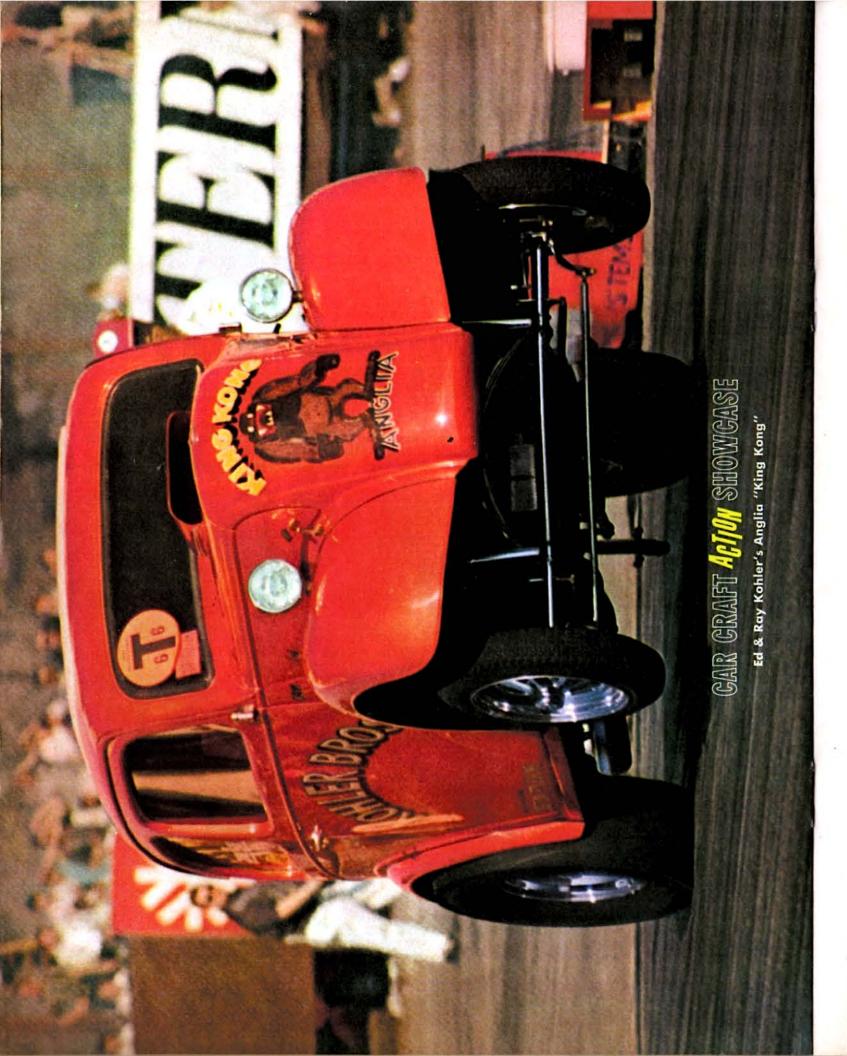
ratio 1.2 we would remove .030" $(1.2 \times$.025 = .030) from the manifold mating surface of each head. Then, because the manifold is still riding high on top of the block, using the ratio of 1.6 we would remove .040" of material either off the block top itself or from the front and rear manifold pads $(1.6 \times .025 =$.040). It's that simple. With engines that feature valley covers rather than having the manifold seal off the block center, the latter cut is unnecessary.

After parallel surfacing the heads, whether you would need to have the combustion chambers cc'd or not, would depend on how much the heads were out of alignment in the beginning and to what purpose the engine will be put. If it's competition use, definitely so. If it's just for street use and the heads and block were pretty "square" to begin with then it might not be necessary.

As you can see, this job is really not a gigantic task, but it's one that takes the right equipment and some knowhow. At Dynamic, an engine seldom goes out the door without having been parallel surfaced. Since a lot of their work is with modified engines, it's the only way to go if the customer is going



With the true machined mandrel in place of the crankshaft, it is aligned in the grinder by using a dial indicator. The head mating surface is then measured.



THEN BUILDING A car for a specific drag racing class, several different items must be considered. Many enthusiasts just merely cover the surface items, and give a little thought to little things. A quick glance at Ray & Ed Kohler's beautiful little Anglia and you could easily see that these guys have forgotten absolutely nothing.

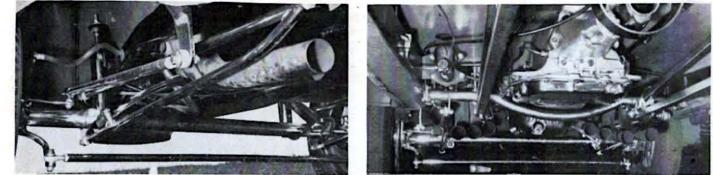
Billed on Southern California drag strips as "King Kong," the beautifully finished orange coupe started out originally as an A/G entry (in fact, it won its class at the '66 Winternationals) but recently the sturdy chassis has been revamped to accept a wild blown 427 Block Chevy. The time and effort involved was proven worthwhile as the coupe hit 9.23 e.t. and 154.21 mph while dusting off some of the finest A/GS cars in the nation. Running the injected 388 cubic incher in A/G, the best e.t. recorded was a 9.85 seconds.

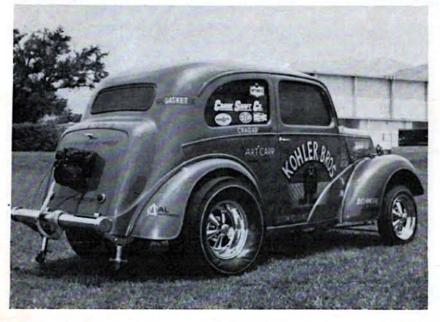
Along with super sanitary workmanship and material, the Kohler Anglia carried forth a few departures from the tried and true drag racing ideas.



GASSER GORI

"King Kong" will be long remembered by movie fans as the "baddest





First off, the car was fitted with a Torqueflite trans by Art Carr. This was one of the first cars in the nation to run this type of trans and the results were well worth it.

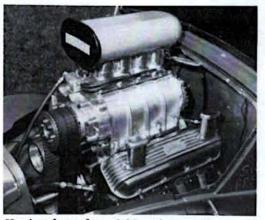
Ed and Ray handled the chassis construction by themselves while Demar Ray was called upon to do the critical engine work. Features of the big blown engine include a Hilborn injector setup on top feeding a mighty 6-71 GMC blower. Blower drive and manifold equipment is by Cragar with the popular 3" drive being utilized. Making those valves move faster than ever is a 990-C Sig Erson cam which has proven reliable. While many feel that roller cams are the item, the Kohlers' have retained the flat tappet idea and with these performances, who could argue.

Champion plugs in the 454 cubic incher are fired with a Schiefer mag while stroked crank and pistons all come from the CrankShaft Co. Push rods are by the Smith Bros.

Most of the original body has been replaced with Cal Automotive fiberglass (continued on following page)

gorilla" of all time. Ed and Ray Kohler's swing'n coupe is getting the same reputation, only this time in A/GS.

Bottom side look at the steering and front end assembly shows how radius rods are neatly attached to frame. Note shock location. Looking from the rear axle forward, we note sturdy crossmember under Torqueflite. Brake master cylinder is located at the left.



Here's where those 9.23 e.t.'s come from. 454 cubic inch blown Chevy features Sig Erson cam, CrankShaft Co. crank, pistons & rods, Schiefer mag. firing Champion plugs, Cragar equipment. Left — Tiny coupe rolls on Cragar wheels all around with Goodyear slicks puttin it to strip. Paint was touch of Martines Bros. Parachute is from Chute Metal Co., rear bumper is by Bros. CAR CRAFT SEPTEMBER 1966 51

losing department. Stock wheelbase is featured with the front being tied down with a "buggy spring" arrangement while quarter elliptic suspend the Pontiac rear end. Steering gear was once in a Volvo. Anglia spindles guide the front wheels.

If you're wondering about that color, it's candy Tahitian orange which was applied in flawless form by the Martines Bros. of Azusa, Calif. Stylecraft of Covina did the simple but very effective upholstery job which is done up in black naugahyde with black carpets.

Added stopping power comes in the

panels which aids a lot in the weight form of nine foot ring slot parachute by the Chute Metal Co. Stock brakes are used at the rear while the front runs with Airheart spots.

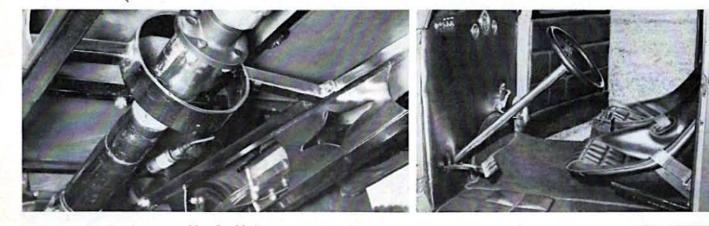
Topping off this little beauty are a complete set of Cragar wheels with Goodyear slicks for that gettin' it to the ground.

Recently, several critics of the Kohler Bros. car popped up stating that the performances were just flukes and not the real thing. Shortly afterwards, the boys answered these and others with five runs all under 9.50 seconds all at the same event. Does that answer your questions? G

Photos by Chan Bush, Dan Bo



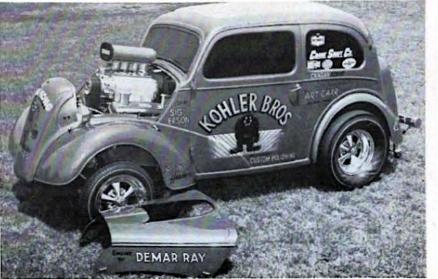
"King Kong's office" was done up in black naugahyde Pontiac rear end is suspended with a quarter elliptic spring setup in con-by Style Craft. Steering wheel is a Covico hooked to junction with heavy duty shocks. Sturdy traction bars were custom fabricated. Volvo unit. Push buttons between seats control trans. Rear end gears are 4.56. All chassis work on car was handled by Ed & Ray.



Protecting the driveline assembly should front U-joint break is special frame anchored hoop. Driveline was pirated from a Chevrolet and has not offered any problems. A special adaptor is used at front of drive shaft to mate the unit with modified Torqueflite trans by Art Carr.

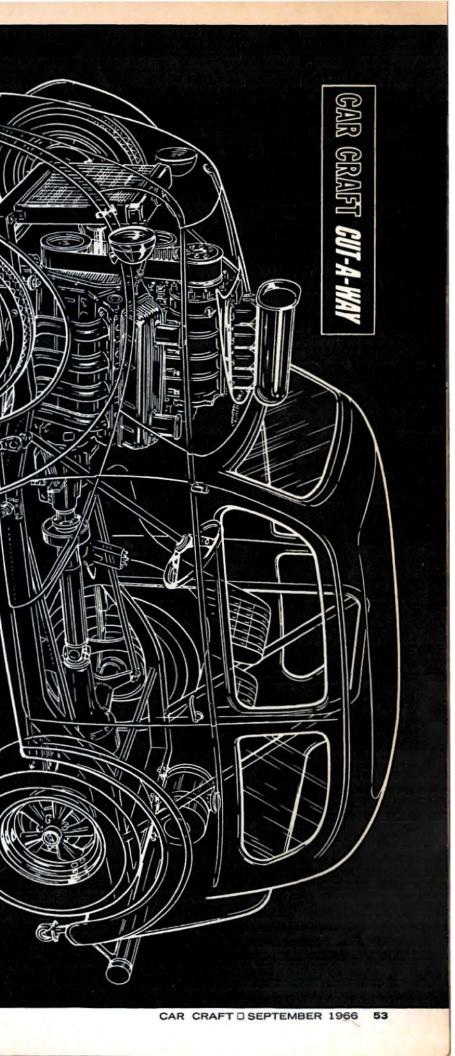
Above right - "Flat" dash board is covered in black naugahyde. Instruments filling the center are Stewart-Warner oil pressure water temp. and tachometer. Switches at top left of photo are for ignition and front and rear lights. Gas pedal is mounted to far right of the driver.

Right — Fiberglass by Cal Automotive was used for fenders, doors, hood and grille to keep the weight down to 2270 pounds. Exhaust noise of engine comes out Belanger Headers. Talented sign craftsman Jack Burr is responsible for wild lettering and artwork on "King Kong" gorilla. 52 CAR CRAFT D SEPTEMBER 1966











BY ALEX WALORDY

HE MOST COMMON example of unbalance recognizable to the average driver is a front end that goes into a shimmy and dance routine at 55 or 60 mph. A heavy spot at one point on the tire or rim excites the front suspension and when the system goes into resonance, it can shake the whole car. But more important, these same forces can destroy an engine. Unbalance forces grow with the square of rpm to that what represents acceptable engine balance at 5,000 rpm is enough to crack main bearing webs at 8,000 to 9,000 rpm. Since the heavy point causing the

unbalance revolves, the force it exerts continuously changes direction. The resulting stress cycling helps fatigue bearings and break out main bearing webs. Thus we can say that balancing helps an engine live longer. Since a balanced engine can twist tighter, you could even say that balancing helps raise horsepower.

A routine balancing job on a stock engine, using one of the small units found at the better equipped speed shops will do little over the factory balance in terms of overall engine smoothness. After all, the car makers use some pretty sophisticated equipment to do the job. When you install new forged pistons or a stroker crank and proceed to modify the rods, there is no choice but to balance the engine since all the weights have been changed.

While looking into the finer details of Pete Seaton's "Shaker", one of the hottest Chevelle funny cars around, we got to talking to Pete and Jim Cornell, who balanced Pete's engine, about some of the steps involved in a good balancing job. Jim has accumulated some pretty specialized electronic equipment and feels he can balance to much finer toler-

ances than most. To prove his point, he proceeded to set a crank in the cradles of a balancing machine then positioned his electronic pickup. Just blowing lightly against the side of the crank was enough to send the meter needle across the scale. Jumping on the concrete floor several feet away from the machine also resulted in clearly visible reading changes. The same electronic gear can also be used for a variety of other checks. such as tracing down driveshaft vibration problems, and balancing right in the car, or mass balancing the engine, but we are getting ahead of ourselves.

Unbalance is measured in terms of ounce inches. One ounce inch is equivalent to an unbalance of one ounce, swinging on a 2 inch radius. The product of the swing arm times the unbalance weight is expressed in ounce inches. A good stock production engine would probably be balanced to within .25 ounce inches. After all balancing errors are stacked up, you might find .125 ounce inches on a finely balanced race mill and this will be cut down to approximately half that value by mass balancing.

Any unbalance results in a force which in turn causes motion. For instance, on a drive shaft, a motion of .003 to .004 inches will be uncomfortable at 70 to 80 mph. On an engine, the minimum amplitude of motion should be around .0001 inches, equivalent to .062 ounce inches.

To check the extent of unbalance and the peak to peak amplitude of the motion, Seco Engineering uses a sensitive I.R.D. electronic pick up. When this pickup is placed against the cradle of a crank balancer, or against an engine, it will detect motion, and translate its velocity into an electrical voltage output which is then detected, amplified and measured by an electronic "black box." The pickup has a floating coil that moves past a magnet, and senses only the motions along its axis of travel, so it doesn't pick up extraneous information.

The metering section of the IRD includes a tuner that can be set so that it will read only the vibrations coming in at a certain frequency. For instance, if the engine is run at 2,000 rpm, any unbalance will come in at 2,000 cycles per minute. The instrument is set to that value and automatically excludes other vibrations. For instance, firing frequency on an eight is four times per turn, instead of once per turn for unbalance, so there is no chance of mistaking firing impulses for unbalance.

When you want an engine balanced, you can either complete the preliminary work yourself, or send in everything that turns and moves, including the damper, crank, flywheel and clutch, plus the rods, pistons, rings, bearings and any locks or buttons that hold the pins, plus any related bolts.

Since the pin and piston are fitted to

each other, swapping pins to equalize In stock classes, you are not allowed

piston weight is poor practice. All of the piston and pin weights must be brought down to that of the lightest one. Don't weaken the piston by removing metal directly under the wrist pin area. Wherever possible, remove the excess weight from the corners of the boss or from the upper part of the pis boss (some Chrysler stock pistons are lightened that way). Any drillings and changes in the piston must be completed before the actual balancing is begun. to rework the rods. However, in the gas and unlimited classes, there is much room for lightening and improvement if you plan to stay with the stock rod. For instance, you can polish, remove all marks, and also save considerable weight by cutting down on the balance pads at either end of the rod. These balance pads are the manufacturers way of correcting for variations in production weight due to eventual wear in the forging dies or differences in production of forging dies.

Polishing the rods strengthens them by eliminating any incipient cracks and surface defects. However, you should avoid cross scratches and certainly should not grind the rod hard enough at any one point to induce heat and grinding checks. Also, don't grind away metal in critical areas, such as the rails (continued on the following page)



By suspending one end of a connecting rod from a chain or succeel fulcrum, the other end can be weighed. It is important that end weight of rods be held to same figure.



If you are going to remove any forging marks from the rods by grinding, do this before balancing. Likewise, avoid grinding marks across rod to prevent cracking.



The crank can be lightened at several locations, by eliminating casting risers as this one. Any reinforcing by welding ribs should be done before crank is balanced.



After balancing, reciprocating weight of rod, piston, pin with clips, rings, bearings is equaled with bob weights. Weights are attached when balancing crankshaft.



For accurate balancing, even out the gaps between bob weight halves, divide washer weights on rods equally, and center pairs of bob weights on the crankshaft journal.





Jim Cornell uses an I.R.D. electronic pickup and strobe light for balancing. It is a very sensitive unit, capable of getting a reading if you even blow on a crank. CAR CRAFT SEPTEMBER 1966 55

THE BALANCING ACT

around the cap. Some builders use a pilot on which they can swing the rod in front of sanding belt or a grinding wheel at a desired radius to cut down on the balance pads evenly.

If you are going to do this preliminary work yourself, leave enough metal for the balancing to finish equalizing the weights. The upper part of the rod acts as the reciprocating weight while the bottom end of the rod tends to approach pure rotating weight. For balancing purposes, the rod must be weighed not just to equalize overall rod weight, but also to equalize the top and bottom end weight. The rod is suspended from one end by either a long chain or a movable support, and the other end is weighed on a scale; the procedure can then be reversed. Another method is to equalize all top end weights and then equalize the total rod weights by milling or grinding the balance pad at the cap.

The reciprocating weight of the piston and rod assembly comes to a dead stop at the top and bottom dead centers, and must then accelerate sharply again in the opposite direction. This "pushpull" motion causes secondary unbalance forces which must be compensated for within the crank by built-in counterweighting. In addition, the crank must also provide counterweighting for rotating unbalance of the individual throws. Put a crank on a balancing machine without the benefit of additional bob weights to compensate for the piston and rod weight and it would literally try to jump out of the machine as soon as it begins to spin. This is simply because the counterweights are designed to operate with the rods and pistons, and not by themselves."

The amount of bob weight needed is no mystery. On a standard V8, you compute it by adding the reciprocating weight in one cylinder to the full rotating weight. For a typical engine application, the list of weights would look as follows:

crank. Jim Cornell takes the additional precaution of balancing the main portion of the bob weight so that its center of gravity is located along the axis of the crank pin.

There is practically no limit to the amount of changes that can be made in the crank itself. One often overlooked item in the addition of center counterweights. In the high rpm crank, stroked or stock, this cuts down center main loads. On some cast cranks, risers can be removed from the crank pin area, reducing the rotating mass. Any lightening that is done at the crank pin area translates itself into double the weight saving since a corresponding amount of metal can then be removed from the counterweights.

Some engines, such as Buick, Olds, the 260 and 289 Fords, call for the crank to be balanced together with the flywheel and the harmonic balancer (damper). If you plan to run a nonstock flywheel and no damper, the crank counter weighting will have to be changed accordingly. If you change cranks on these engines, the engine must be rebalanced with the flywheel and damper or you will run into definite problems. Some builders rework the crank so that no external counterweighting is needed. This is particularly true of modifieds run on round and round tracks.

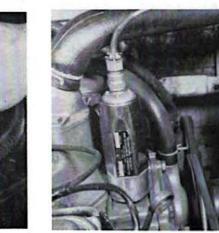
Stroker cranks must counter balance considerably larger forces since the swing on the journals is increased. You can reduce the problem to some extent by going to lighter pistons and wrist pins, or you can add fish plates at the sides of the counter weights. This is inexpensive, but whenever the crank has to be reground or rechromed, the plates must be removed. A more permanent but also more expensive cure is to mill out part of the counter weight and weld a strap to cover the opening. The hollow section is then filled with lead. Since lead weighs approximately 21/2

times more than steel, the gain in counterweighting is considerable. If you have gained clearance between the crank and the piston skirts by using longer rods, an external strap can sometimes be added to the counterweight to good advantage. Since the strap is on the maximum swing radius, it will also pro vide the most counter balancing for a given weight. Least expensive and also least desirable is the possibility of adding external counter weighting, at both the flywheel and the damper.

On the more straightforward balancing jobs, without external counter weighting, the crankshaft is balanced first. The flywheel then can be balanced by either bolting it onto the crankshaft or mounting it on a separate mandrel. The mandrel generally has a .003 inch taper to accurately and positively pilot the flywheel. If you send out the crank for grinding, do have the flywheel flange trued up and check it with a dial indicator after the crank comes back. Keep the crank pushed forward so that the end thrust play does not induce an error. Any wobble at the flywheel flange will cause both balancing and clutch problems.

With the notable exception of Chevies, most flywheels are mounted without the benefit of a locating dowel. You should use new tightly fitting bolts at both the clutch and the flywheel. Seco Engineering always marks the flywheel with an up position before bolting it to the crank, balances it that way, asks you to reinstall it in the same position, thus any clearance that allows some drop off at the bolts is automatically taken up in the same direction each time. If you encounter a clutch cover with loose bolt holes, you can use a square drift to flatten them down and size them inward. The new bolt that you insert then pulls the opening into shape and insures a snug fit.

Balancing an engine without also balancing the clutch is hopeless, because



After engine is fully balanced and assembled, you can still benefit from mass balancing as a finishing touch. Here the pickup is used to detect any unbalance.

the clutch represents a larger unbalance potential than any single engine part. Dual disc clutches with a floater plate require a certain amount of clearance at the floater so they don't bind up. This means that the floater plate will never be accurately piloted and you just close your eyes to wherever unbalance it induces.

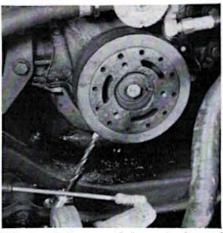
Clutch discs are generally balanced separately on a mandrel, together with their facings. They are usually pretty good but a bad one can destroy itself. Before you send out a clutch for balancing, be sure that it is aligned and adjusted or you will be wasting your money. Similarly, a worn flywheel or pressure plate should be either reconditioned or replaced before the balancing is done. Wherever possible, the balancing of the pressure plate assembly should be done by drilling out the bosses in the pressure plate. When this is not possible, a small bob weight can be tacked to the cover, a practice on which all clutch manufacturers frown. Keep welding heat at a minimum to locate the balance bob weight on a rib so that distortions are minimized.

A flat disc such as a flywheel is balanced in a single plane and both static and dynamic balance will be equivalent. Where a long object such as a crank or driveshaft is involved, it must be balanced in two places. Suppose for instance that we have an unbalance of one inch ounce at the front of a long driveshaft. If we now put this driveshaft on a set of knife edges, the heavy spot of the driveshaft will tend to roll downward. We could balance the driveshaft statically by adding another weight at the rear end, 180 degrees opposite to the unbalance. The drive shaft will now be statically balanced and will stop at any point on the knife edge. If we now attempt to spin the driveshaft, it will wobble violently on its supports because there are now two individual unbalanced ends each one trying to move around in a circle of its own. To achieve dynamic balance, each end of the driveshaft must be balanced separately. Since there is some cross effect, after you balance in each plane, the balance in the opposite plane must be rechecked.

When balancing an item such as a drive shaft directly on a car, Jim scribes a chalk mark at one end, uses a strobe light and a pickup, then proceeds to run his instrument so as to freeze the chalk mark with his strobe (since the strobe flashes once each time the part turns, the part itself appears to stand still). The unit is now turned exactly to the rpm of the driveshaft and excludes other extraneous sources of vibration such as the rear wheels which turn at a lower speed. The pickup gives both an indication of the amount of unbalance and also a phase angle shown by the position of the chalk mark. A trial

balance is now attempted by adding clay at some arbitrary point and watching both the angular change in the chalk mark and the amount of unbalance indicated by the pickup. From this a trend can be accurately established in the amount of clay as well as its position can be altered accordingly. A very similar method is used for balancing cranks or mass balancing the complete engine. In the case of the driveshaft, the two plane balancing is achieved by checking the driveshaft with the pickup at the rear axle and at the transmission extension housing. The pickup is seldom put on a rotating shaft, since it would then be exposed to an additional source of error, such as out of roundness or runout. The mounting of both the rear axle and the transmission is sufficiently flexible so that even the slightest unbalance can be detected.

Even after a good engine balancing job, there is a stack up of tolerances which can affect the final smoothness of the engine. Some of the things are within the control of the balancer, such as equalized weights, and some are not, such as large main bearing clearances, differences in the keyways on which the damper is mounted, etc. Not too long ago, we spoke to one of the top mechanics at Holman & Moody and he defined the benefits of "mass balancing" (balancing after the engine is completed) by saying "It takes the shake out of the steering wheel." On a new car, the engine is mass balanced right at the factory and little pins are pressed into the damper. On a rebuilt engine, mass balancing is an easy way out. For a race mill, it is pretty much a finishing touch that helps smooth out the feel of the car. When the engine is checked for mass balance, the pickup is placed at the clutch housing and at a location such as the front of the pan or the water pump and a corresponding amount of drilling done at the flywheel or at the crankshaft damper. Ċ



When and if any unbalance is detected in the assembled engine by utilization of the electronic pickup, it can be corrected. This crank dampener is being drilled.

Rings					64.30	grams
Pistor	1					grams
Wrist	Pin a	& Circlin	os or l	Button	s.148.00	grams
Recip	rocat	ing Rod	Weig	ht	240.00	grams
					47.30	
					47.30	grams
	0.1	Walaht			. 2481.20	arome

brass, both for weight and to avoid scratching the rod journals. A long screw with a thumb lock which allows the additional balancing washers for making up the bob weight to individual requirements. Once the bob weight is determined, the necessary amount of washers is split between the bob weight halves. Bob weights are installed so that the gaps are equal within .001 inches and they are also centered on the

UNIVERSITY TILLING

A blunt drift punch is used to stake and tighten clutch cover holes. After clutch and flywheel are balanced, they should be marked to insure future proper alignment.



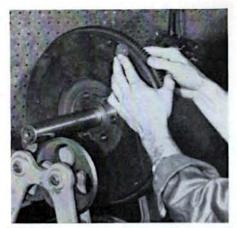
The pistons, complete with their pins and circlips, are weighed individually. Then the heavy ones are machined, usually on the inner skirt, to weight of the lightest.



A drive shaft can be balanced directly on the car. An electronic filter system makes it possible to isolate the many driveshaft vibrations from those caused by the axles.



The electronic pickup will also detect vibrations at the rear of an engine in the car. Here an automotic transmission flywheel is being drilled to balance assembly.



With the mandrel riding on knife-edged rollers, the heavy side of the flywheel goes to the bottom. Clay is added to find light side, then heavy side will be drilled. CAR CRAFT SEPTEMBER 1966 57

Here's all that's needed to turn a standard FoMoCo C6 automatic transmission into a purebred racing unit; and Art Carr shows you how to go about it.

the master's touch

BY BUD LANG

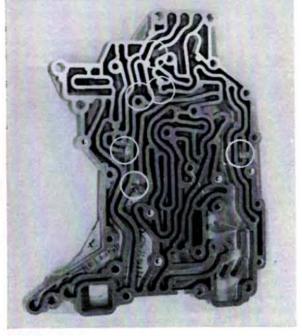
ROLLOWING THE TREND initiated by Chrysler Corporation, The Ford Motor Company decided to introduce their Merc-O-Matic and Cruise-O-Matic transmissions in 1964, using one of many three speed automatic transmission gear trains developed by the late engineer, Howard Simpson. This in itself is not astounding, but the fact that this "self-employed" inventor personally developed and patented nearly two dozen ways in which simple planetary gear sets could be used for transmitting power in a three speed auto trans while using fewer parts with greater quietness and more efficiency is. It should be clear then why these two giants of industry, along with General Motors, decided to spend considerable sums of money retooling to one of the Simpson principles – and pay for the right to do so.

The Ford transmission that we are concerned with here is the new C6 three speed automatic that is standard in both Ford and Mercury automobiles and as a "Sports Shifter" in the GT series of Fords and Comets. The Sport Shifter backs up the big 390 cubic inch engine, and is a design that can be easily converted to a "racing transmission" capable of safely handling the explosive horsepower available in today's drag racing engines.

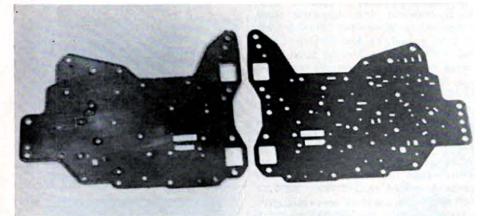
Art Carr of Arcadia Transmission Service, 400 N. First St., Arcadia, Calif., has been working with Mercury Division's Director of Sales Promotion, Fran Hernandez, for quite a while trying to come up with some answers concerning the C6 for use in competition cars. One of the most prominent of the cars being used as a "mobile lab" has been Jack Chrisman's '66 Comet GT-1 roadster. Jack and Art had earlier installed a modified C6 trans in Jack's former '65 Comet when the C6's first became available. This supercharged fuel funny car was the original test lab on wheels, proving and disproving theories involved with modifying the C6 for racing. Shortly after these tests began, Jack had his '66 roadster ready for the match race circuit and had to leave for tour commitments. He replaced the supercharged SOHC Mercury engine in the '65 car with its earlier powerplant, a blown 427 cubic inch wedge Mercury, and sold the package to Andy "Dee" Keaton, who had campaigned with Jack in '65 as head mechanic.

Since taking over the '65 Comet, Dee has been working with Art in a continuing effort to build a dependable racing transmission. And you wouldn't believe how many times these units have been pulled, torn down for modification, and replaced. Time and again Carr would "open" the trans, make a small adjustment, change a part, modify one segment of the valve body, try new clutches, etc., even though the unit was functioning perfectly. He knows these transmissions inside and out, and with every change, he knows what he is doing and what he's af'er. Bu⁴, like everything mechanical, a new development should be "put to the test" under actual competition conditions before it can be proven right or (continued on page 60)



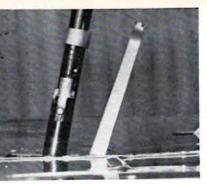






At left is the valve body separator plate Carr designed for use in the C6 transmission. Note the difference in it and the stock plate on the right. Talk about engineering!

At right is the Servo cover and piston. The upper end of the piston formerly featured a small lip and seal, similar to the large one shown. For reasons outlined, it's removed.



A Logghe Stamping Co. ratchet shifter featuring twin handles is used on Jack's C6 trans. The short handle on the right can be used to shift each gear manually.

Right — A spring-loaded ratchet pin on the side of the large shift handle is utilized to shift gears. It is turned to side as shown to engage with shifter ratchet.

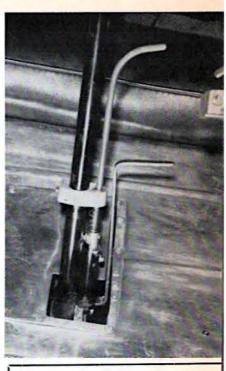
Left — With ratchet pin in up position, the small handle, right, is moved back to shift trans into 1st gear. Release pin, move handle forward and catch 2nd. Spring loaded, handle returns to rear ready for shift to 3rd. Small handle is for reverse.

Carr machines away the wall area in six specific passages so as to re-route trans fluid from one circuit to another. This is mute evidence of work put into C6 trans.

Right. Converter "A" is the special high stall speed converter Carr employs in the C6 trans. "B" is the stock C6 converter.

Below — At left is a stock front Serco band spring, at right a new one. Spring is often changed for more 2nd gear apply.

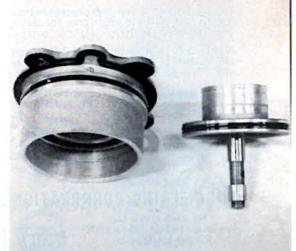








e in the C6 transmission. Talk about engineering! iston formerly featured a as outlined, it's removed.





Total Performance is what you get with Custom Designed Racing Pistons by JE... Racing Pistons designed and engineered to take over where stock leaves off... designed to give you the difference you need to win.

When you order a set of JE Racing Pistons for a 327" Chev . . . we've got the very latest info on tape right up to the last race results. Want a set for your 289" Mustang for Smooth and Hot Highway Cruising? Same thing . . . latest reports from "the group" have gone into our computers memory banks Or, you may need pistons for a Gasser or a Fueler or a Sprint Car . . . JE has 'em all, and they're each made for TOTAL PERFORMANCE.

The difference when you run JE is the results ... Don't make the mistake of stuffing in a wild cam, bolting on a manifold, changing gears and then run a set of also-ran pistons ... you won't like the results. Sure you can run stock pistons in your car ... but NOT if you really want to WIN.

And, you get your JE Custom Engineered Pistons, computed for YOUR use, within days. You choose from Cast or Forged.

Send today for NEW Racing Piston Catalog, Decal and location of your JE Dealer sent together with "How To Order" information, only 50c.



(continued from page 59)

wrong. Many sleepless nights, thousands of hours, and untold dollars have gone into the developments displayed here. Yet, Art is still experimenting with other means to further improve the C6 automatic transmission.

The area we'll focus on first is the converter section which is found between the engine and transmission. Because it allows you to idle the engine without stalling, the converter plays a big part in the overall performance of an automatic transmission vet invariably people fail to understand the purpose of this component. Contrary to popular belief, you cannot raise stall speeds and increase performance in a stock converter by changing the stator or cutting the turbine blades as is done with Hydramatic transmissions. The hydro transmission uses a coupling, not a torque converter, to move the automobile and is locked into a direct condition, therefore it does not convert torque like a torque converter.

The hydro by-passes this coupling after it reaches third gear, thus going into a direct drive operation. This system is good because it allows you to "build in" a stall speed of say, 2000-2500-3000 or 3500 rpm, that would be compatible with the specific car you are operating. By increasing the stall speed in a given car to an rpm level that is "just right," you'll get off the line a lot quicker and realize better times.

A torque converter, by its name, relates just what it does for you. It converts engine horsepower into foot pounds of torque. The torque converter will never become a complete direct drive unit, so it cannot be cut or machined using the hydro principles, though some individuals apparently think so.

It was in 1956 when Carr initially began working with the torque converter type transmission, a time when other "racing" transmission companies were fully engrossed in the highly capaole Hydramatic unit, ignoring these transmissions altogether. During this ten-year period, he has developed several methods of achieving high stall speeds in a torque converter transmission. Referring back to an earlier article Car Craft ran, entitled "Tuff Cruiso," (Aug. 1965) we find that Carr designed two different converter units for the Cruise-O-Matic trans that would offer two ranges of stall speeds, both higher and more desirable (for drag racing) than the stock unit. The stall speeds discussed ranged from 2000 to 4000 rpm while the stock converter gave a stall speed in the neighborhood of 1600-1800 rpm. At this time, Carr has but one converter developed for the C6 but it features design principles not found in any other transmission. It, too,

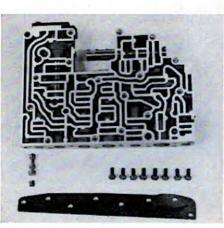
is smaller than the stock converter, and this feature alone allows a higher stall speed to be achieved, since the engine can overcome it (the converter) more easily.

Yet, when Carr builds a C6 automatic for a customer he also has to know the engine size, whether it's blown or injected, if it will be running on gas or fuel, weight of the car, etc. Then the converter will be designed for this particular car, allowing the highest "built in" stall speed possible for the powerto-weight ratio, etc., in question. Art refers to the changes he makes in the converter simply as "paddle wheeling." But this process is quite complicated in both theory and actual design change. It is also a big factor in Art's success with the "racing" three speed automatic trans.

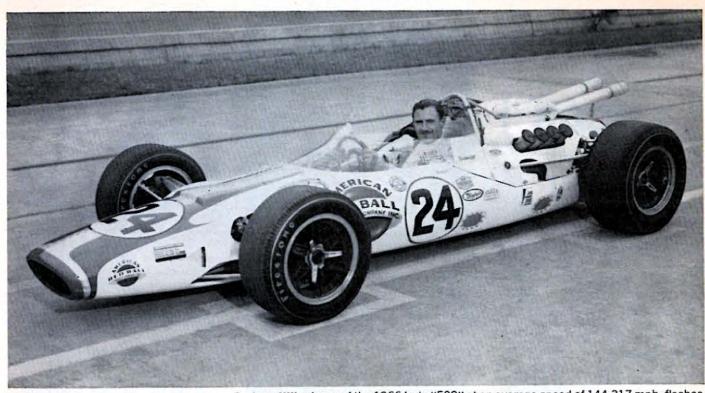
One of the first changes he makes in the transmission itself to convert it into a racing unit is to do away with the automatic shift mechanism. To do this, a valve body had to be developed to change the shift pattern. In performing this task, Art reversed half of the shift pattern so it works as follows: P-R-N-1-2-3. Reverse and neutral positions are away from the driver, as with stock transmissions, but the three for-(continued on page 62)



Here are the many components discarded in building the C6 into a racing trans. The large gear at top center is the parking gear, removed if car has a park brake.



The main valve body casting is not modified but it retains only the pressure regulator and cutback control valve, the latter seen removed, which is also plugged.



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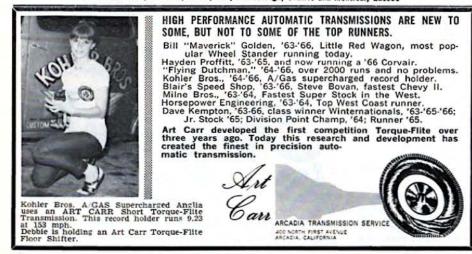
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MASTER'S TOUCH

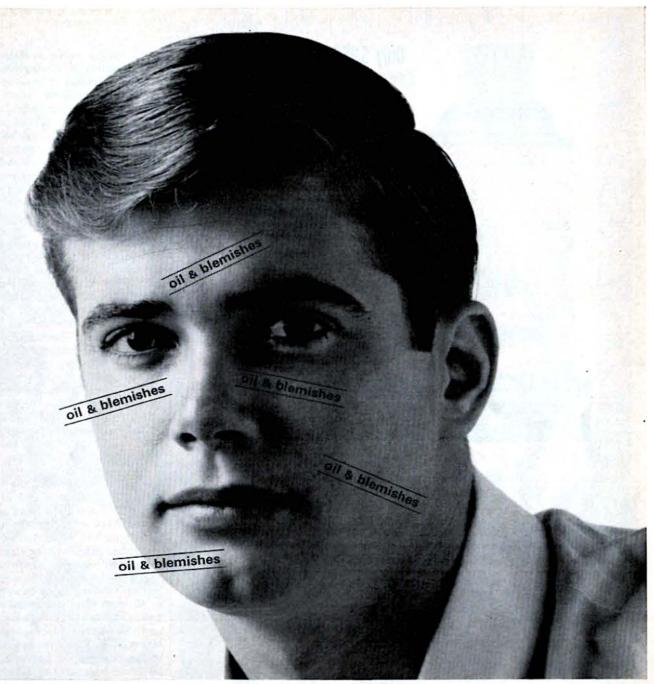
(continued from page 60)

ward positions are reversed. The original shift pattern of the standard C6 transmission is P-R-N-D2-D1-L, while in the GT cars with their Sport Shift C6's, the pattern is P-R-N-D-2-1. With the Sport Shifter, the trans will stay in low gear if that is where the handle is placed initially, or will shift from low to second if it's placed in second, stopping at that gear position; same as with high or drive, it will upshift to that gear. Therefore, if functions just like a racing hydro trans, and you can shift it 1-2-3 the same way.

By now you are probably wondering why he changed the shift pattern around for the forward gears and converted it to a completely manually operated transmission, especially when the Sport Shift combination can be shifted manually through the gears. While the manual shifting feature of the Sport Shifter is desirable, the pattern leads you right into neutral and then reverse - if you throw a good strong shift. Need I say that if this occurs under heavy throttle, good-bye engine and/or transmission. And here we find the answer to why the forward pattern has been reversed. It all sounds so simple. Just reverse the shift pattern and drop from neutral into low and shift through the gears, away from reverse and toward the seat. Lots of action without blowing anything. But how to go about performing this feat was something else.

Since the valve body controls all shifts, it would have to be redesigned. If you haven't had one apart yourself, we have a few photos that will give you an idea of just how intricate this component is. The valve body and separator plate in their modified condition are responsible for this shift pattern alteration and are the end result of untold hours of research and testing. Art manufactures his own separator plate which contains fewer transfer holes than the stock component, and the holes it does possess are usually in a different location and are of different size than any previously used.

Specific wall areas in the valve body itself were also machined away so that fluid could be re-routed into other passages for the performance of work other than the stock transmission was designed for. Here we discover why many holes in the separator plate were eliminated, others added, and sizes varied. The stock valve body performed specific functions. Art desired to have it perform some of these functions, not all of them, and often in different sequence and under different pressures and/or conditions. Therefore, the entire valve body and separator plate had to be analyzed as a whole to realize what (continued on page 64)



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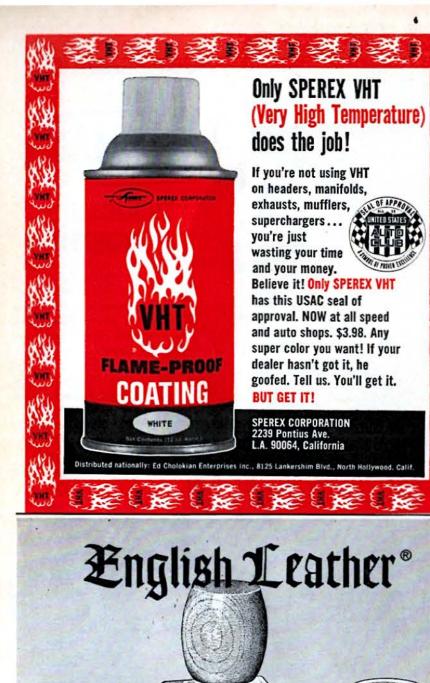
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MASTER'S TOUCH (continued from page 62)

every spring, valve, passage, etc., in it was designed to accomplish. Then this same product has to be completely redesigned to perform other functions through an existing design. And if you think Carr didn't inherit a few grey hairs over this baby, you're mistaken.

In addition to re-routing transmission fluid through valve body passages and separator plate holes, every internal component in the valve body with exception to the cutback control valve and pressure regulator valve were scrapped. Even the cutback valve was blocked off though, so use can be made of its existing circuit for other purposes. Also, the governor assembly and vacuum modulator, along with the vacuum hose kick down linkage, were removed since they are no longer necessary.

A problem with the front band was encountered, so modifications in this area were also necessary. To conform to racing standards, the band had to be made to apply harder when going into second gear. This was accomplished by modifying the front Servo piston and plugging the neutral hole in the side of the Servo body. Normally the front band would release as fluid pressure was directed against the face of the piston's larger ring. During band "apply," fluid is directed against the smaller ring face at the opposite end of the Servo piston. But since the band apply action is not hard enough, causing slippage, something had to be done.

Art has machined the ring off the piston's small end (see photo illustration) thereby allowing fluid to continue working on it during apply as well as flowing on through what was formally a neutral area (between the two piston rings) and apply pressure to the neutral side of the larger ring. This increase in total area makes possible the harder apply action he found necessary to achieve. Because fluid is not normally in the "neutral" zone of the piston, the neutral hole in the side of the Servo body also had to be plugged to prevent the fluid from continuing on its merry way.

By performing these operations, band and clutch timing going into high gear have also been affected. Band release timing has been slowed down because the band apply area on the piston was enlarged through machining away the small ring. What has happened is that when the operations just discussed were performed, the greater apply area on the piston gives strong, hard apply action to the band when shifting into second. Everything takes place fast. But when a shift to high is being made, due to the larger amount of fluid on the piston's apply side, band releasing is slowed down. Then when you shift to (continued on page 66)

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MASTER'S TOUCH (continued from page 64)

third, the high gear clutch apply action is faster than the second gear band release. Therefore, to get the timing regulated, high gear clutch apply must be restricted, otherwise you will have high gear clutch "on" and second gear band trying to release simultaneously, which would cause damage to both band and clutch plates. This timing is regulated through the valve body separator plate which Art developed, and is extremely critical.

Now that the transmission has been modified sufficiently to turn it into a competitive racing unit, another area should be concentrated on if we are to keep this expensive piece of property functioning as (re)designed. Reference here is made to the automatic transmission lubricants available. The standard auto trans fluids (ATF) available, any of them, are regarded by Carr as being inadequate to provide protection to all of the vital transmission parts under the extreme operating conditions found today in high performance automobiles, especially those that are blown fuelers.

During the many years Carr has been developing racing transmissions, including Turbo Hydros, Hydros, Cruise-O-Matics, Torqueflites and the new C6 Ford transmissions, he has also been working with a wide variety of fluids to protect these units. Golden Bear Oil Company, a major producer of automatic transmission fluids, recently began working with Carr in an effort to develop a "racing" ATF that would not break down under high pressures, heat and load conditions prevalent in a racing trans. Art calls this fluid "Super ATF" and has it available in standard quart cans.

Everything considered, Ford has a very fine transmission here, and when combined with the changes illustrated, it has proven to be a real performer on the drag strip. Don't be surprised however if in a few months you learn from someone who is running an Art Carr modified C6 trans that theirs is a bit different in one respect or another from the one shown here; it's just that he is never satisfied. What is doing the job right today, Carr feels, can be doing it better tomorrow. If you're doubtful, ask his wife, Lori, she'll tell you how many times she has extinguished the flame on that "midnight oil."



"Is there any truth of the rumor that loe got married last week



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"Sometimes, after a big meet," he Up until the staging lights come on,

When the cars are about in place. Buster stands between them, facing down the strip. When both staging lights are lit, he checks to make sure both are ready, and presses the blast off button in his hand. He stands still as a statue until both cars have gone past, then moves from one lane to the other, sweating out both cars until they are safely through the lights and off

The moment it's all clear, his serious nanner drops off and out pops a joke or funny remark, easing the tension for himself and his crew, if only for a few seconds, until the next two cars roll up and it's back to business again. I figure Buster Couch must have learned a lot about good driving techniques from his experience working with the nation's top drivers in every class, and asked if he would pass some of it along.

starting line," he said. "First, build your car well, to safety specifications. Familiarize yourself with the starting system at each strip where you race, and make as many practice runs as possible. Learn the bite at each track. and how your car performs at that track. And learn your own reaction time in connection with the starting system.'

try ignoring those rules and see how many important races you win.

But whether you're a racer or a spectator, next time you're at one of the big races where Buster Couch is starter, you'll find you get more enjoyment out of watching the action if you also watch the smooth, skilled, cool operation of the third man in the race. Watch the cars, certainly, but also keep an eye on Buster Couch, the man in the middle. G



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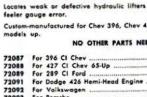
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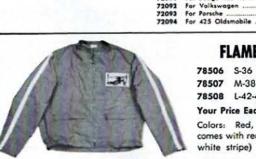
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CAR CRAFT SEPTEMBER 1966 68





added, "it does take me a couple of days to stop shaking and get my hearing and sight back in focus."

Buster is almost always in motion. He quickly inspects the driver of each car coming up, and motions them forward with hand signals, easing them into the staging lights. If one car fails to fire, or dies on the line, he holds up one finger to the other driver, telling him he can cool it, as it will be a single run. A slicing movement of finger across throat tells drivers to cut their engines. And when the big red foul light comes on, Buster takes a giant step sideways into the center of that lane and gives a big "thumbs down" signal, in case the officials in the tower missed the red foul light.

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"Many, many races are won on the

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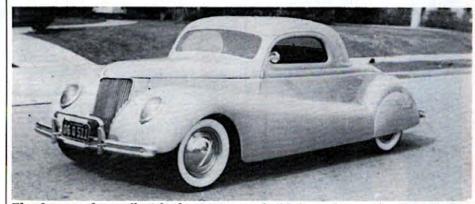




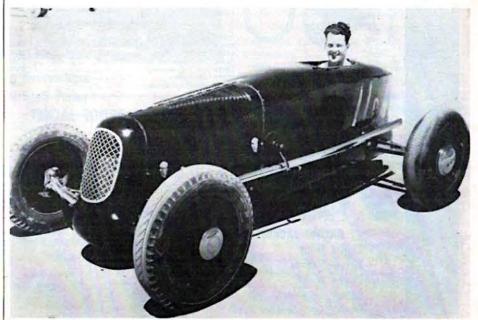


The show was an overnight smash. For top record holders from the lakes, track three days it entertained 55,000 spectators and showed them what the hot rod sport was really all about. One display was a complete model mockup of a lakes meet, how the event functioned. safety requirements for participants. event organization, in short, a complete education program for the viewing public. Local automotive dealers associations took part with displays featuring

and custom street-rod versions. And the hit of the show were two street roadsters that were built progressively on stage during the show hours that eventually were awarded on the last evening as door prizes to the lucky spectators who had the winning ticket stubs. The streets had two new hot rods . . . but ones that represented safety and legal construction. Another phase of the hot rod move-



The first car that really felt the custom car builder's torch was the 1936 Ford. It offered stock styling that seemed to lend itself to restyling. Bob Fairman's three window is a good example of what took place. Fade-a-way fenders were popular as were solid hood panels. Bumpers were exchanged for either '36 DeSoto's or '41 Ford. All stock trim was discarded, door handles, etc.; ripple bar wheel discs and skirts, a must.



Owner-builder-driver, Stu Hilborn, cracked the magic 150 mph barrier with his Streamliner in '48. Under the hood of his sleek racer nestled a 1934 Ford flathead of only 221 cubic inches, but on top a "plumber's nightmare", his first fuel injection system built in the backyard. Stu continued to pioneer and develop the fuel injection theory and today s one of the leading manufacturers in the speed equipment field.

ment that gained tremendous exposure through this first hot rod show was the custom car craze. Unlike their go fast cousins, the "chrome and polish" clan built and stylized their machines strictly for exhibition. Craftsmanship was in big demand and customizers like Jimmy Summers, Roy Hagge, Valley Custom, Barris Customs, and Gil Ayala's Custom followed the trail of the speed equipment manufacturers and found themselves in business as artists in metal.

Out in the San Fernando Valley, a young ex-sailor, just home from the military service, rented a sewing machine for 30 days in order to upholster his new street rod. Tony Nancy had haunted the custom shops of Los Angeles for months and his decision to try his hand at fancy rolled & tucked fabrics and leather custom upholstery work resulted in a two-year rental of the sewing machine and another highly successful business, Nancy's Auto & Boat Upholstery. Today you'll find Tony's upholstery Seahorse trademark in just about every plush 200 mph dragster's cockpit in the country. And that's not to mention his own popularity in the sport as the builder of some of the finest drag race cars ever assembled.

By the middle of 1948, the lake meets were looking mighty strong. A young man with a dream named Stuart Hilborn, after several years of experimenting with a wide variety of carburetor set-ups, developed the sports first fuel injectors. With its revolutionary "plumber's nightmare," installed on a 221 cu. in. Ford V-8 engine, in a streamline chassis, he became the first rodder to travel over 150 mph.

At the same time, Bill Burke and Don Francisco were topping 145 mph with their tank and Regg Schlemmer had the "C" roadster record with a mark of 138.975. Doug Hartelt held the "B" roadster record at 129.365 for the two way average.

The Ford and Mercury V-8 flathead had completely taken over by this time. The entry list showed three hundred and two V-8's and only seventeen 4-Bangers.

New competitors were making their mark, too. Chuck Scott (father of AA/GD driver Billy "The Kid" Scott), Don Nicholson (that's right, "Dyno Don" was running a Chevy six roadster) and Kenny Parks, younger brother of Wally Parks, were among them.

One of the more interesting machines during this period was Charles Dimmit's V-16 Cadillac powered rear-engined roadster. The car featured a 147 inch wheelbase and was equipped with two Cadillac transmissions to handle the tremendous 452 cubic inch engine.

The Spalding Brothers took a different approach and unveiled a new roadster with full torsion-bar suspension on all four wheels. Built from a '27 "T," it was powered by a 240 cubic inch Chevy six with a new head designed (continued on page 72)



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Photo taken at El Mirage Dry Lake, summer 1941. Rosetta Timing, Association meet. Douglass '32 Ford Roadster equipped with Doug-lass headers, V-8 flathead with '36 Ford truck cast iron heads milled & polished, Win-field 34 cam, ported & re-lieved, .060 ever stock bored, heavy duty pistons, Thicksten dual manifold, 97 Ford Carbs, Bendix Scintilla Mag. At Mur-oc Dry Lake (now Edwards Air Force base) this Ford was clocked at 108.18 and 111.94 for 1st & 2nd places, LA. Gophers meet summer 1941 thru measured 34 mile run. 0 0 0 O. 0

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THE HOT ROD STORY

(continued from page 71)

Ø

by Wayne Horning, a pioneer in the Chevrolet speed equipment field.

A third route to power was being explored by Tom Beatty, using Rootestype GMC superchargers. Pre-war lake meets had seen McCulloch "cream separator" type superchargers and blowers from Deusenbergs and Grahams in use, but none had made a big impression. Beatty was on the right track, but was a couple of years away from his big score in the high speed record books.

The search for power continued. Big engines, little engines, heavy cars, light cars, superchargers, injectors, everyone had a different idea on how to go fast. Club competition continued to be the red-hot basis for most of the activity. At the end of the year, the "Lancers" were one point winners over the "Road Runners" in a real nip and tuck affair.

While Southern California continued to be the hot-bed of activity, the movement was spreading throughout the country. Without the advantage of a nearby dry lake, most of the country's other hot rodders were forced to be content with an occasional street race, but interest was growing and everyone was trying to find the answer.

At El Mirage, streamliners and modifieds were increasing their speeds almost weekly and the distance available for racing, which had been adequate in the past, was slowly bringing about a change due to the rate of speed and shut-off area.

Every meet brought more and more discussion about the possibilities of a new site. Even though they were looking all over the Southern California area. the SCTA officials were keeping a sharp eye looking north toward Bonneville. Their dream was a full size meet on this site where so many famous men had carved their names in the international World Land Speed record book.

At times, they must have admitted to themselves it would be quite a task to challenge these highly financed attempts by large corporations and governments with their homemade bombs, But they were anxious to try.

SCTA assigned themselves the project and began negotiating with Utah state officials. Preliminary publicity had brought considerable interest from car enthusiasts throughout the country and the tempo began to pick up for a national hot rod event.

The customizers were caught up in wild designs and exotic paint jobs, the now professional track roadsters were enjoying tremendous success up and down the Pacific coast, and jalopy racing was beginning to find a following. None of these, however, held any interest to the avid hot rodder who wanted (continued on page 74)



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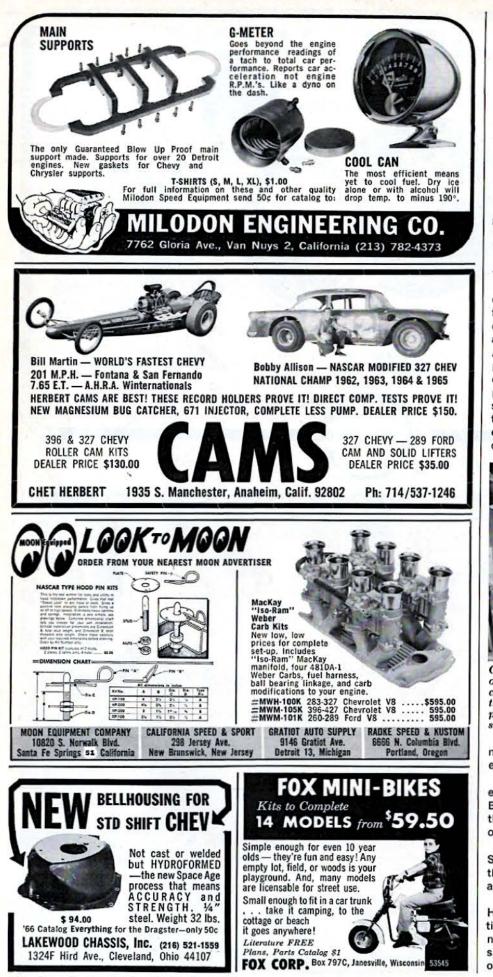
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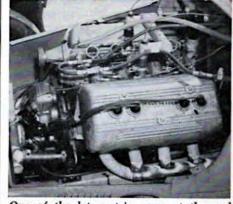
THE HOT ROD STORY

(continued from page 72)

to go as fast as he could. Yesterday's "fast" was today's "not good enough," so he continued his search for power.

One route he went was a wild engine conversion that appeared on the scene following the war. Zora Arkus-Duntov, today, the man who is Mr. Corvette at Chevrolet but then an engineer with his brother, Yura, at the Talbor racing cars of England, was commissioned to design an overhead valve conversion unit for a fleet of Ford flathead powered garbage trucks in London. Their efforts were to produce more power for the vehicles.

Little is known as to the success of the trucks hauling English refuse with better daily e.t.'s, but the post-war era found many Ardun-(Ar-Dun) equipped flatheads hauling across the dry lakes of Southern California. Clem TeBow and Don Clark, proprietors of C&T Automotive, were among the earliest pioneers and successful users of the Ardun heads which provided plenty of power to prove their specially built C-T stroker crankshafts in actual competition. C&T Automotive and the newly discovered Ardun head were soon to become partners in one of the greatest.



One of the late entries seen at the end of the lakes meets was the Ardun OHV conversions for flatheads. This was part of the combination that C&T Automotive employed to capture the first International speed record for the hot rodding sport.

major hot rod breakthroughs in the early post-war era.

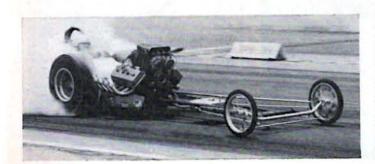
Hot rodders continued to look under every hood in their search for power. But everytime they found more power, the desire for better facilities to try it out flamed up in their minds.

By the end of 1948, officials of SCTA felt they had all the arguments they needed and launched their drive for a National championship at Bonneville.

Next month's continuation of The Hot Rod Story will feature their sensational debut on the salt and the beginning of a new phase of the hot rod sport - the thrills and excitement of organized drag racing! G



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HOT ROD DRAGS (continued from page 39.

McEwen beat Clark while Edmunds was putting Swingle "on the trailer." Jerry Glenn for Winkel, Trapp and Glenn trounced Ron Rivero only to break on the run, thus allowing Rivero to come back.

By the time the final fuel round had rolled around, all other eliminator bracket racing had concluded and everyone stood waiting and watching. McEwen fired first and Rivero soon after. Both cars went to the extreme outside of their respective lanes to stage. McEwen moved up first, with Rivero following, suddenly . . .

a staging malfunction, Rivero had rolled out of the staging beam, he then re-staged his powerful machine. When both of his staging lights came on, the starter began the count down - then a red light in Rivero's lane and McEwen streaked for the win. What had happened was that Rivero's car had rolled out of the beam and thus the light.

After the final race, the strip was then quiet. cars were rolled on their trailers and racing fans packed up to go home, to treat their sunburns and tired feet, something they really didn't mind getting after a great day in the Riverside sun. E

	CLASS WINNERS Class Name Engine E.T. A/G—Bill Brasher, Chev 10.94 B/G—Chard Barber, Chev 11.28 C/G—Buzz Wadsworth, Chev 12.70 F/G—Desi Gamboa, Chev 15.39 G/G—Loren Sapp, Hudson 12.49 H/G—Dean Lowrey, VW 13.77 A/MP—Bob Thomson, Plym 12.44 B/MP—Jim Carr, Olds 15.69 C/MP—Walt Schumacker, Chev 12.33 E/MP—Dick Trope, Hudson 15.49 D/MP—Steve Beach, Chev 13.38 E/MP—Dick Trope, Hudson 15.42 D/G—Vern King, Jr., Chev 15.30 D/A—Anthony Trillo, Chev 11.23 C/A—Manuel Herrera, Chev 11.23 C/A—Manuel Herrera, Chev 10.86 A/A—Ron Mandella, Chev 9.02 B/S—Roland Gravel, Chev 10.88 B/SE—Roland Gravel, Chev 10.48 C/FD—Dale Emery, Chev 10.59 B/FD-Dale Pirronello, Chev 9.42 JFD—Doe Pirconello, Chev 9.48 JFD—Goe Pirronello, Chev <th></th>	
	Class Name Engine E.T.	Speed
	A/G-Bill Brasher, Chev10.94	129.87
	C/G-Buzz Wadsworth Chev 12 70	120.64 109.89
	F/G-Desi Gamboa, Chev15.39	90.81
	G/G-Loren Sapp, Hudson12.49	108.04
	A/MP—Bob Thomson Plym 12.44	96.35
	B/MP-Jim Carr, Olds	96.35 116.27 61.39 109.75
I	C/MP-Walt Schumacker, Chev12.93	109.75
1	E/MP-Dick Trope Hudson	104.65
I	F/MP-Don Williamson, 'Vette 14.70	88.14 95.64
I	D/G-Vern King, Jr., Chev 15.30	91.09
I	B/A-Anthony Trillo Chev	152.28 119.52
I	C/A-Manuel Herrera, Chev11.21	123.96
I	D/A-Kay Sissel, GMC10.86	129.68
I	AA/A—Kon Mandella, Chev 9.70 A/SR—Jerry Haves Chev	149.00 130.24
ļ	B/SR-Roland Gravel, Chev 11.64	117.64
I	C/SR-Tom Stone, Buick14.01	98.68
I	B/C-Ed Weddle, Chev	152.15 157.06 126.76
I	CC/FD-Bob Pickett, Chev	126.76
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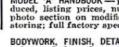


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DRAGGIN' SPRINGS (continued from page 41)

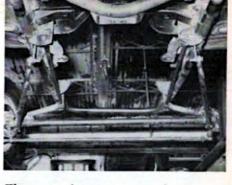
much success on drag cars; including gassers, altereds, funny cars and roadsters. They offer one big advantage; reduced weight – the average coil weighing less than half an elliptic spring. The coil overall size is such that it can be easily fitted in small working areas, and it is the ideal container for that effective pre-loading device, the air bag. In addition, the coil spring has more than twice the stored energy (inch pounds) per pound of spring material than the leaf spring.

Selection of the proper coil spring to use is much the same as with leaf springs: just enough to support the car. However, the spring must be long enough that the coils do not bind on maximum rear end travel, which for an average street class drag car will be about three inches.

Renault, Borgward, Corvair, and similar lightweight compacts have provided coil springs for drag cars not so equipped, with the units being mounted as far toward the end of the axle housing as possible. In this way, the slightest deflection of the tire makes a rather similar deflection to the spring.

Cars running coil springs at the rear generally use an air bag (Air Lifts) to *load* the right rear wheel. This is accomplished by running more bag air pressure over the right wheel. This is necessary to provide even traction through both rear tires, since torque loading from the engine tends to shift body weight to one side. Another method that can be employed where coil springs are used with respect to jacking weight is to employ springs of different "return rates." But the many variables available with the Air Lift bags cannot be had in this instance.

With exception of cars already equipped with coil springs and Aframes up front, few drag car builders have ever resorted to them as a means of suspending the front axle assembly. Two simple suspension systems are most commonly used with tube or Ibeam front axles under the majority of drag cars today. These are the long standard transverse semi-elliptic spring, of the type used on Ford and Mercury passenger cars until 1948, and the twin parallel semi-elliptic springs as used on many other passenger cars until the independent A-frame arrangements became prevalent. Just a few words to clarify the terminology used in relation to these spring types should be in order as I've noticed in the past that many rodders frequently refer to quarter-elliptic springs as semi-elliptics. Full-elliptic springs would be where you had two leaf type springs joined together, forming a football shape when viewed from the side. The bottom spring would be attached to the axle



The suspension arrangement Steve Bocan is using is simple, light-weight and ideal for dragging. Morris Minor torsion bars allow weight jacking on his '65 Chevy II.

whereas the upper one would be attached to the frame, both from the centers, leaving their joined ends free. A semi-elliptic situation is had where only one, or two springs mounted independent of one another, are used. These springs would, of course, form a single curve, or a half-football shape. When mounted across the front, or rear, of the frame, then this single spring is called a transverse semi-elliptic (this is the type Ford employed through 1948). Where two are used, one on each side of the frame running parallel with the frame main rails, then you would have parallel semi-elliptic springs. Chop one of these units in half, have a half spring made up, or use one from a Crosley rear end, and you have what is called a guarter-elliptic spring. If you want to get scientific about the whole thing, none of these configurations are truly full, semi or quarter-elliptical in shape, but since the similarity is there, and it sounds so much more technical in nature than referring to your springs such as: "I'm running semi-footballs in front and quarter-footballs in the rear" that you can't blame the persons who first pinned this name of them.

Like the aforementioned coil springs, with or without Air Lift bags, any of the elliptical forms of springs can also be designed to "jack" weight. This is performed simply by the addition, or subtraction, of spring leaves on one side or the other. This is possible only where you run parallel springs, however.

All Chrysler and FoMoCo products running on the street and strips feature parallel semi-elliptical springs at the rear but while both are similar in design (semi-elliptic), the similarity ends right there with respect to drag racing. Practically all of the FoMoCo's, both private and factory backed entries, are equipped with what are commonly referred to as traction bars, lift bars, stabilizer bars, torque bars, etc. In order, these terms, by their very names, (continued on page 80)





DRAGGIN' SPRINGS continued from page 78)

are supposed to perform one or more feats for the user. Traction bars are supposed to improve tire traction by preventing the rearend from moving in any but an up-and-down motion, prevent housing wind-up and stop wheel hop. Lift bars perform the same function but are also designed to lift the body as the axle housing tries to windup, thereby increasing the effect of weight transfer to the rear wheels for more traction. Stabilizer bars are supposed to operate like traction bars. keeping everything steady while under acceleration. Likewise with torque bars. They resist engine torque which tends to twist the chassis and lift wheels from the pavement, etc. Any way you look at them, they are all appendages added to the chassis in an attempt to correct problems brought about by excessive horsepower, adhering drag slicks, engine re-locations, etc. In most cases they have appeared successful, but to what degree we'll never know.

Chrysler Corporation, on the other hand, seems to feel that there is another way to attack this problem, without going to the work of adding extra weight to the chassis. All of their Plymouth and Dodge drag cars, from the little stockers to the all-out fuel funny cars, run simple, parallel semi-elliptic rear springs without the aid of bars of any nature. After a lot of experimentation with springs of various leaf thicknesses, widths, lengths, center bolt locations, etc., they finally arrived at spring combinations for their various cars that will "do the job" on any dragstrip, when used in conjunction with proper shock absorbers. I emphasize proper because Chrysler engineers frown on the use on any shock absorber that is designed to allow the front of a car lift rapidly while the rear will drop just as quickly, then hold the car in that position for quite some time before it finally settles back to normal, usually as the car is well on its way through the lights. They achieve all the body lift they need for weight transfer strictly through spring design and proper shock absorber choice.

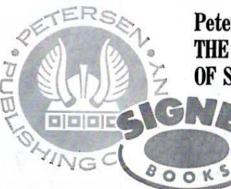
Whereas the use of torsion bars are found on the front ends of Chrysler Corporation vehicles, many imports, and on almost all dragsters, few stock bodied cars of other makes when being altered for dragging have ever been equipped with them. They are no heavier than leaf or coil springs, are not too hard to install, and offer independent weight jacking possibilities in a matter of minutes. In fact, only one funny car that I can think of at this time is using a set of torsion bars up front. It's the Blair Speed Shop Chevy II built by driver Steve Bovan. It runs (continued on page 82)







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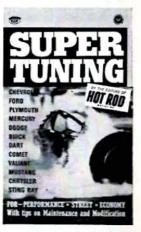


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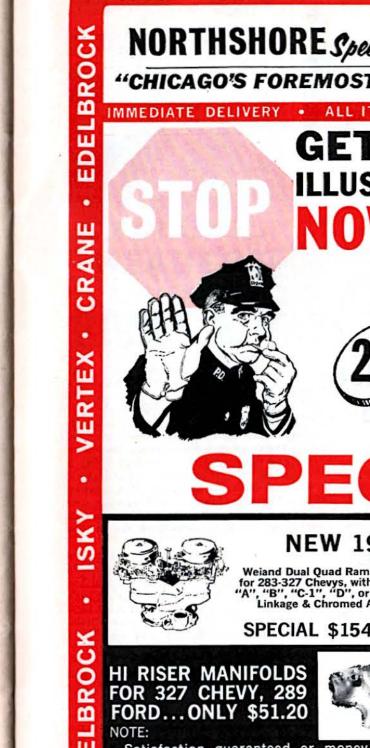
DRAGGIN' SPRINGS (continued from page 80)

a blown, fuel 396 engine and employs a pair of Morris Minor torsion bars on the tube front axle.

Stock bodied cars when outfitted with coil springs at the rear are also equipped with an anti-sway bar and rear end stabilizer bars. The former prevent the body from moving sideways over the rearend while the latter prevent the axle housing from attempting to shift fore and aft. Naturally, anytime coils are added to the rear of a car not formerly equipped with them, both of these components must be utilized. An anti-sway bar is connected to the chassis at one side over the rear end while its opposite end is connected to the axle housing on the other side.

With regards to an anti-sway bar system, another means that is much better, performing the same function with more finess, is the Watts linkage arrangement. It consists of two bars and a shorter "scissor" bar in the center which pivots on a post. One bar is connected to one side of the chassis, extending to just beyond the rearend vertical centerline. The other bar attaches to the axle housing, on the opposite side of the car, and extends to just beyond the rearend centerline. These bars are usually about 8 to 10 inches apart and though parallel to each other, are on opposite sides of the rear end in relation to one another. The inner ends of the bars connect to the centrally located "scissor" bar which pivots about a bolt attached to a bracket on the rearend centersection. As the rearend moves up and down, the two horizontal bars maintain their attitude at all times while the smaller "scissor" bar moves from its near vertical static position to a near horizontal one. Each time the axle housing moves, this pivoting bar goes through its scissor-like movements. The major difference between this arrangement and the single anti-sway bar is that Watts linkage maintains the body in the exact longitudinal plane it is in at all times. A single bar, because it swings on an arc, will tend to induce some amount, however slight, of body side movement as the rearend functions up and down under the chassis.

In brief, this is the story on what's happening beneath those drag chassis, with respect to suspension engineering. There is a tremendous area here that the serious rodder can work with, and if he takes the time to consider what he wants from his chassis, what other people (especially factory engineers) have done to achieve the same thing and what effect any changes will have on his car, he shouldn't have any problems getting that power on the pavement, not once but time and again, and with race winning results. ¢





TIGER FROM TEXAS continued on page 45)

well doesn't use chrome-moly tubing for his frames.

The main tubing is 2 inch o.d. with .060" wall with secondary tubes 114 o.d. x .060". The roll cage is 2 inch tubing with .105" wall. The entire frame weighs 160 lbs., which is 100 lbs. lighter than standard GTO frame.

Front suspension under Don's GTO is a dropped steel tube axle, 2" x.156" wall, hung on a single transverse spring. To keep it steady, 20 degree positive caster and 70-30 Monroe heavyduty shocks are utilized. The steering unit is a Corvair aluminum steering box for minimum weight. Ford spindles are used for the front end.

The rear suspension is almost a duplicate of a MoPar S/S rear end. The basic rear axle is a 1957 Pontiac chosen mostly because it has a narrow 57 inch tread width that allows big slicks inside the stock GTO fender wells. The Pontiac axle is suspended on standard Plymouth Super/Stock rear leaf springs (6 leaf), but with the axle mounted 2 inches farther forward from the stock mounting point. Traction arms are not used. Howell states, because a little torque flexibility is needed to cushion the initial take-off shock.

The rear suspension is completely adjustable for optimum bite off the line. The front spring eyes can be moved up and down a total of six inches (by a series of holes in the mounting plates), rear shackle length is variable, location of pinion bumper and moving one spring eye relative to the other are all possible. Monroe 50-50 shocks will be used to start with.

Don Gay's Infinity II GTO has a wheel base of 109" with the front wheels set forward an equivalent 7" and the rears forward 13". The body is set back 7". This setup should put at least 55% of the static weight on the rear wheels.

The standard body was completely stripped of every shred of upholstery, dum-dum, sound deadener, undercoating, glass, plastic, and all the wiring and instrument panel. Then out came the firewall, floor pan, fender wells, and much of the steel bracing inside the body shell. The torque box across the cowl had to be sectioned to clear the set-back engine; but was then reinforced with sheet steel. But the rest of the firewall, floorpan and fender wells were replaced with sheet aluminum. Plexiglass windows are used.

Don picked up his GTO and headed for Texas to install the '66 Pontiac 421 cubic inch High Output engine, originally delivering 376 hp. A pair of super-duty '63 Pontiac heads replaced the '66 models, though the latter are well-designed, because they are better suited to use on a blown fuel engine. Inside the engine, Gay runs a set of Mickey Thompson forged aluminum

rods with Forgedtrue pistons and rings. O-ringed.

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An M/T aluminum blower manifold with port injection mounts the Gimmy blower which in turn takes an Enderle fuel injection system. Both supercharger end plates and drive system are M/T products. Firing a methanol/ nitro mix is a Joe Hunt Scintilla Vertex magneto and Champion spark plugs. On the exhaust side of the ledger, we find Gay using a set of Doug's headers. James Osteen and Gene Massie, engine builders and mechanics, maintain both engine and car, a full time job

when you're on tour.

builders, B & M Automotive.

te 170 mph bracket.

Infinity II looks so much better like this machine was built to run - so we know it will. It's one of the most attractive funny cars campaigning now, and it's bound to be one of the most spectacular. E



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The heart of the Poncho is a Crane roller billet camshaft, grind #298R, running .563" net valve lift. A Crane valve train kit, including lifters, retainers, pushrods, etc., are also utilized. Both intake and exhaust valves are custom chrome stemmed racing products by Donovan Engineering. Other head work consists of a fine port job by Crane Engineering. The heads were

A deep sump oil pan of 10 quart capacity was manufactured to hold that amount of SAE 40 Pennzoil and necessary amounts of STP additive. The entire reciprocating assembly was dynamically and statically balanced by Houston Engine and Balancing Service. Backing up this massive power plant is a modified '66 Turbo-Hydro trans, the work of noted racing transmission

At this writing, Gay's greatest triumph came at the NHRA Springnationals in Bristol, Tenn. when he captured the CC/Fuel Dragster class. Don's best performance at this meet was 160 mph with an e.t. of 9.10 seconds. Since he only had the car in operation for a couple weeks before this meet, there is no doubt that he'll soon be in the eight's with his top times in



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SHOW CIRCUIT Last minute preparations are being completed for all new National Custom Auto Fair, scheduled for September 2-5 at the Murat Shrine Temple in Indianapolis and produced for the first time by Promotions, Inc., and International Productions. The MILK WAGON, a Rod & Custom Magazine cover car from Los Angeles, is billed with the MUNSTER KOACH as featured attractions for the event which will again be sponsored by NHRA and held in conjunction with the 12th Annual National Championship Drag Races. It promises to be a BIG auto weekend in Indy; we'll see you there! . The National show begins the 1966-67 International Championship Auto Shows which are fully sanctioned by ISCA. Companies already pledged to make merchandise awards thru the Parade of Prizes include Accessories International, Ansen, ARC, Cragar, Hurst, Keystone, Mickey Thompson, Popular Hot Rodding, Schiefer, and Weiand. Already planning to travel their displays for the entire season are American Racing Equipment, Cragar, Keystone, and Suzuki. P. A. Sturtevant has inaugurated the new club point system with a \$200 tool award. Established by Promotions, Inc., the 1966-67 ICAS will include nearly 50 events produced by Bob Larivee, Bill Holtz, Carl Casper, Al Hayward, Ray Farhner, Don Stacy, and Warren Bookman. Check the full page schedule ad in this issue and plan to participate now!
George Barris has been commissioned by Capitol Records to build 21 candy-striped Mini Austin promotional cars for their personnel. George is also constructing for Bud Poore an unbelievable KAPSUL KAR, based on a 1934 Ford yet composed of parts from various famous movie vehicles. "Would you believe" that the KAPSUL KAR will be buried under the Silver Dollar Casino in Las Vegas? Ray Farhner, well known car builder and show producer, has opened a new custom shop in his hometown of Rayton, Missouri, outside of Kansas City. His latest project, a HORSE-LESS HEARSE, should prove to be the wildest kookie car imaginable. Based on an actual hearse, which once carried the famous outlaws to "boot hill," the HORSELESS HEARSE will derive its power from a rear mounted Plymouth Hemi. We'll have to see it to believe it! Bob Marianich at the Carriage Shop in Detroit is re-styling and rebuilding the CAR CRAFT DREAM ROD to follow new design ideas developed by Harry Bradley. Model Products Corp. will release a new model kit reproduction during the winter. Mike and Larry Alexander of Detroit are putting the finishing touches on a full custom 1965 Chevrolet for Tom Louise of Syracuse, N.Y., and we will undoubtedly be seeing it on the show circuit. The Brothers DEORA truck is finally ready for paint, really fulfilling our greatest expecta-tions.

Gene Winfield has moved his facilities to Phoenix. Arizona, and is co-ordinating production of AMT Model Company's new full-size fiberglass sports rod. Directing the new auto accessory and car division is Don Beebe. ■ Dave Puhl, builder of the ILLUSION, has traceddown Spence Murray's old ROD & CUSTOM MAG-AZINE DREAM TRUCK and begun restoring it to original show shape at his shop in Palatine, a suburb of Chicago. . Tom Holden, a fine craftsman and one of the Detroit AUTORAMA judges, has begun constructing a radical handbuilt show rod for Don. = ISCA, 1917 East Nine Mile Road, St. Clair Shores, Michigan.





Those of us who publish CAR CRAFT and those of you who read it, know that Drag Racing is one of the most exciting sports in the world. We know that it is also one of the most popular spectator sports with over seven million fans in total attendance at over four thousand meets last year. However, very few of us know the history of this great sport. There is one man, who not only knows its history, but has participated in every phase of its growth from founder to competitor, to president of the largest drag racing organization in the world - the National Hot Rod Association. If there is a "Mr. Hot Rod," it has to be Wally Parks. His hot rodding career began before World War II on the dry lakes of Southern California where he helped form one of the first timing associations. Wally was instrumental in the sport moving to the famous Bonneville salt flats where it would gain it's first national recognition. He was also editor of HOT ROD Magazine. Because of his background and knowledge of the sport, he is recognized as the leading archivist and historian of drag racing. The history of drag racing has never been told before, but now the man who knows it best has written its first full story: DRAG RACING: YESTERDAY AND TODAY (Published by Trident Press, \$4.95). Here are not only the names, dates, and records from the Model T to the newest FX'ers, but the excitement, speed and color of the races, and the personal stories of the men who design and drive these rubber-burning missiles. Included too, is a glossary where terms like "hauler" and "rail" are translated for the beginner who hasn't been exposed to the drag racers' lingo. This is an excellent and accurate account of our sport. We enthusiastically recommend it to all of our readers.

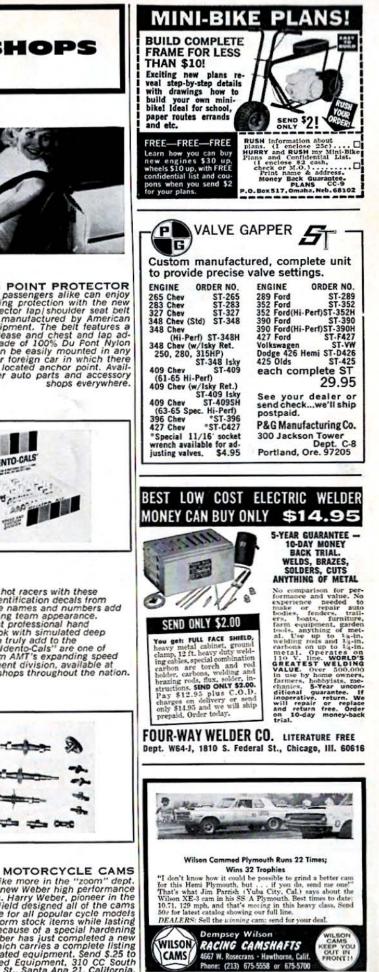
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ONE MAN IN A TUB-Did you hear the one about the butcher, the baker, and the candle stick maker getting captured by cannibals? Well the butcher and the candle stick maker escaped. That's right, the cannibals studabaker.

GLOSSARY

coffee at those drag strip concessions. Mildew – A term used when inquiring about someone's engine. "What will the mill do?"

Pop Cycle - Dad's Honda.

THE NAME GAME - They call him "Auto Lite" because he has been fired so many times.

A JUST REWARD - Two of the bad bunch were talking and one of them said to the other one, "You haven't said a word all night Ralph, what's the matter with you, did you get caught siphoning gas again?" The other one answered, "No, not exactly; someone put a tiger in their tank and now the cat has got my tongue.

CHEAPSKATE – Two little boys were at the candy store buying some goodies and one said "Gee, that was sure nice of that old lady to give you a dime for helping her across the street." The other said, "Oh, that wasn't for helping her across the street, it was for carrying her skateboard."

THE HARD WAY - A woman pulled her convertible into a car wash and asked the attendant if he would vacuum it out for her. He looked inside and was amazed to see that it was full of sand all the way up to her waist. He said, "Wow, I'll bet you have learned to always put your top up when you are in a sand storm." She said, "No, but I have learned to never honk my horn at a dump truck that is having trouble getting started at a stop signal."

LAME LIMMERICKS A driver that could not be beat Lost at last when he raced on the street And to this day The people all say He got carried away . . . with conceit. A car builder named Sonny Altered his Dodge to funny He reworked the chassis His hemi engine was gassy

T'was a shame he ran out of money. He was very good at steering He was a champion at gearing Too bad about Myron Ignoring that siren One thing he failed at was hearing.

OH, THAT'S HOW THEY DO IT A man took his new compact car back to the dealer for a check up. He said to the mechanic, "I like everything about it, ex-cept one thing," "What's that?" asked the mechanic. "Well, I don't get as good gas mileage as my friends get in theirs," he A man took his new compact car back to mileage as my friends get in theirs." he said. "Oh, that's easy to do," said the mechanic. "Just do the same thing they do, lie about it."

HE WAS SO DUMB - he thought souping an engine meant pouring chicken noodle in the carburetor!

AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD – a wom-an looked helplessly at a flat tire. A passer-by stopped to help her. After the tire was changed, the woman said, "Please let the jack down easy. My husband is sleeping in the back seat."

THE SHORTEST LENGTH OF TIME is between the time the traffic light changes and the nut behind you beeps his horn.

AN ALARMED MOTORIST PULLED HIS CAR – to a quick stop when he saw a young man standing beside an overturned small sports car. "Anybody hurt in the accident?" he asked. "No accident," said the young man calmly, "I'm just changing

A SPEED SHOP RECEIVED - the fol-lowing note with the final long overdue payment on the engine reworking:

"Dear Sirs: This should make us even. Sincerely, but no longer yours, ... "

CHARLES: Do you know why a traffic signal turns red?

CHUCK: No, why? CHARLES: If you had to change in front of all those people, you would turn red too.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE? - Two guys were riding in a car and one of them said, "Hey, did you hear that thunder?" and the other one said, "That wasn't thunder, one of my rain tires just blew out."

HE IS SO DUMB HE THINKS - a turkey shoot is a device for slowing down a fast turkey.

A SPECTATOR AT THE DRAGS was trying to shake some ice down from the bottom of a cup, when it all tumbled down at once, some of the ice going up his nostrils; whereupon, he sneezed, becoming the first man in history to literally blow his cools . . .

BELIEVE IT OR NOT - there is now an "Old Starters Home" for phased-out victims of the Xmas Tree starting lights. You should see the old codgers fight it out for who gets to raise the flag every morning!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE that I have a friend who's so hung up on his car that he installed a set of Friendship Rings??

HE WAS SO DUMB-that he thought Hemi Under Glass was a foreign dish.

Ć

If you've heard a good one lately, let's hear it. Whether it's a funny tale, gag or even a wild poem — Car Craft will pay you \$5.00, if accepted. Address all material to Jack Crandall "CC/GASSERS" Editor Car Craft, 5959 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles 28, Calif.

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