



**H**OW DO YOU describe an all-star funny car meet that has a little bit of everything? If you were one of the 20,000 spectators that viewed the two days of action, you might describe it as wheelstands, wheelstands, and more wheelstands. On the other hand, if you were a competitor, you might tab the meet as "upset city," or "I broke everything but my seatbelt trying to win." Whatever the case may be, Drag Racing Magazine East-West Stocker Championship was the name of the game.

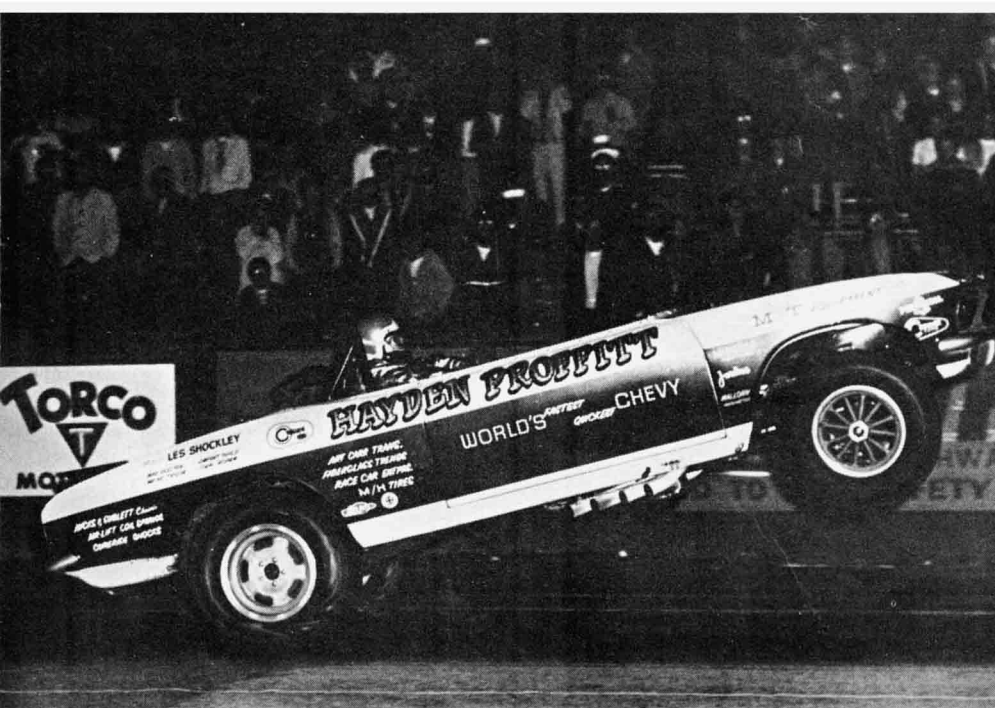
All the big guns were present; "Dyno" Don Nicholson, Mr. Norm, Sox and Martin, Arnie Beswick, Gas Ronda, Dick Landy, Don Gay, Hayden Proffitt, and Hubert Platt were among the 50 top rate contenders.

The two day program called for 14 best two-out-of-three match races among the best injected cars from the East and the West on Saturday, parlayed into heads-up competition for the big bucks on Sunday.

The match race war Saturday found the East in control.

The one race everyone was waiting for between the number one cars from the East and West, Don Nicholson and Dick Landy, never materialized. Landy had the misfortune of scattering an engine during the afternoon warm-up session, so a replacement had to be found to race the Comet of Nicholson.

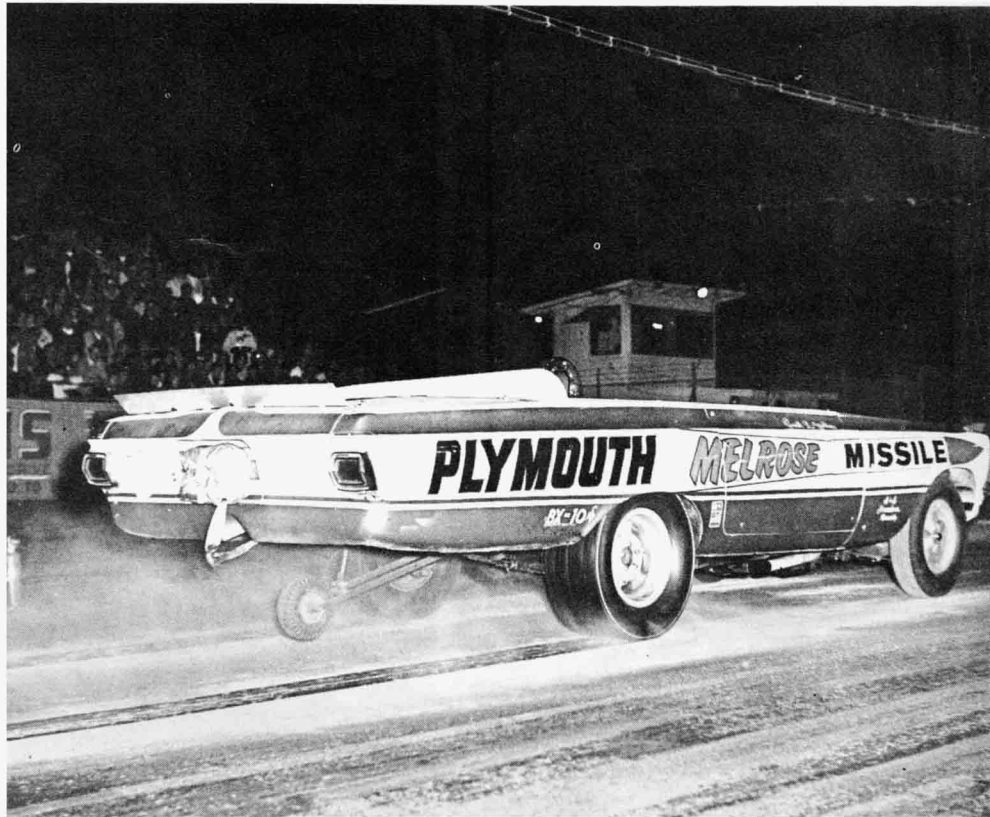
# EAST-WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS



**An all-out battle for funny car supremacy pitted the best from the West against the cream of the East. When the smoke cleared it still wasn't a clear cut victory for either faction!**

*TOP OF PAGE—Del Heinelt takes the Seaton Shaker to first round win of #2 Eliminator on Sunday over Bill Reick's Quarterbender. LEFT—Hayden Proffitt singled for the big bucks in the final of #1 Stock Eliminator when Ronda couldn't fire. He did a big wheelie, cranked 8.49-161 on his best run.*

RIGHT—Winner of the Blown class on Sunday was the stretched Jeep of Wolford & Lenarth. Chrysler powered wierdie went 8.70 on best run. BELOW LEFT—Cecil Yother puts down the dust prior to a Saturday night run. BELOW RIGHT—Yother lost on Saturday but came back Sunday to cop the big dough for #2 Eliminator with his Plymouth.



Jim Liberman volunteered his fast rising blown Chevy II as competition for the "Eliminator I," and gave Nicholson a nose to nose battle. But the Mercury proved too much to overcome, grabbing the match two straight with times of 8.69-163.93 and 8.44-167.91. Liberman ran 8.99-162.16 on a 300 foot "wheelie" run, and 8.65-165.44. Not too bad for a G.M. product!

Gas Ronda's Mustang and the Sox and Martin Barracuda appeared to be one of the closest matches of the bunch. Ronnie Sox took the first race when Ronda's mount ran into mechanical difficulties, 9.25-165.74 to 9.47-133.92. Ronda discovered after the race that his fuel tank had broken loose and was not allowing the full amount of "go juice" into the engine. The Ply-

mouth was a two straight winner with a strong 8.92-166.97 to the Ford's 9.07-156.52. The two cars came back for a third race and Ronda had the satisfaction of taking this one at 8.93-157.61.

The West had one big hope in Hayden Proffitt and his hard charging Corvair for a decisive match race win. And the "Old Master" didn't let the highly partisan West Coast crowd down. Hayden's victim was Roger Lindamood's "Color Me Gone" Dodge charger, and it was a two straight affair.

Lindamood red lighted himself into a loss in the first round as the Corvair marched by for the win at 8.90-157.61. Proffitt did a masterful job on the starting line in the second round and was simply not catchable. Times were: Proffitt—8.68-158.17,

Lindamood—9.43-162.16.

Other interesting results included: Steffy and Schartman over Tom Grove two straight; Steffey—8.60-172.14, 8.62-168.53. Kelly Chadwick took two from Pee Wee Wallace; Kelly—9.64-145.39 and 9.62-146.57. Hubert Platt wheeled his Mustang to a two straight win against Lew Arrington's "Brutus," who replaced Gene Snow's Dart; Platt—8.69-163.33 and 9.33-161.00. Pete Seaton's Corvair strapped it on Cecil Yother's "Missile" two straight; Seaton—9.46-149.75, 9.40-152.08; Yother—10.14-144.23 and 9.17-146.10. Doug Thorley grabbed one for the West in his "Chevy Too Much" in three rounds over Doug Nash's "Bronco Buster." Thorley—9.95-144.00, 10.13-140.62, and 9.91-144.46; Nash—9.69-138.24, 10.41-137.82, and 9.92-139.90.

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*Huston Platt, above, had trouble with his Chevy, was a crowd favorite. BELOW—Tom McCourry's Riviera Wagon-Master made a smoky exhibition blast.*



Four matches between Richard Schroeder and Jim Wetton, Dick Harrell and Bill Rieck, Charlie Allen and Houston Platt, and Shirley Shahan and Clester Andrews ended in dead heats as the curfew stopped the running of their third rounds.

On Sunday, three separate classes were open to all the cars that had run Saturday, plus the super-charged cars.

The first class was for blown funny cars and was worth \$1,000 plus contingency awards. The other two classes were for injected cars weighing either under 2400 lbs. or 2500 lbs. and over.

The West was in command on Sunday, as they grabbed all three eliminator brackets for a clean sweep.

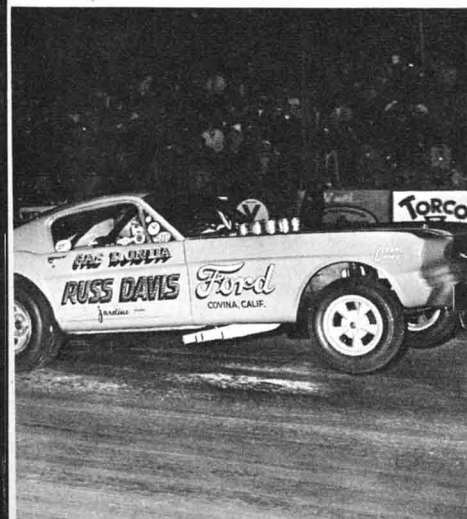
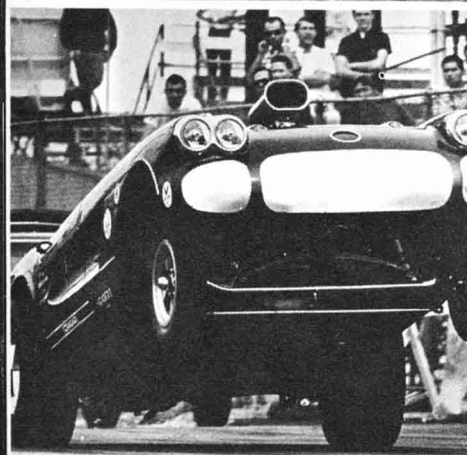
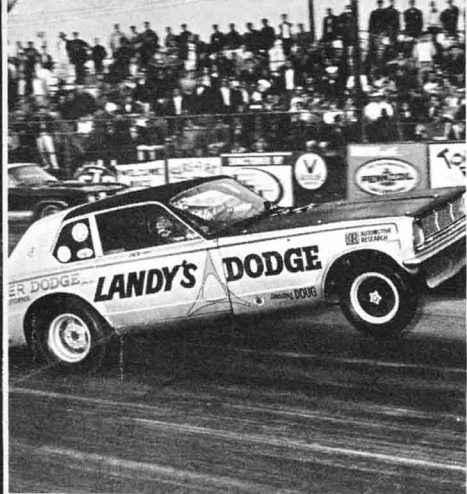
In the blown class, upset was the



ABOVE—Sox & Martin looked strong during event, downed Ronda in a match race on Saturday night but fell victim to hard-charging Corvair of Proffitt in semi-final of Sunday's #1 Eliminator. LEFT—AMT Piranha had best times of meet on exhibition run; 8.21-196.40. BELOW—Chuck Poole's "Chuckwagon" won the mythical wheelstanding championship by going farther than Shrewsberry or Maverick.



# . . . from wheelies . . .



ABOVE—Texas' popular Kelly Chadwick adjusts tire pressure for optimum bite on Lions asphalt. ABOVE RIGHT—Kelly downed the East's Pee Wee Wallace in Saturday match. RIGHT—Tom Sturm makes a pass in front of the 20,000-plus crowd of onlookers.



order of the day. Mr. Norm's "Supercharger," Don Gay's Pontiac and Larry Reyes' "Kingfish" looked like the cars to beat. Gary Dyer warmed up at 8.50-170.00 for Mr. Norm, while Gay and Reyes cut 8.65-161.57 and 8.72-170.80, respectively.

But bad luck struck all three cars during eliminations as Mr. Norm's car had ignition problems, the "Kingfish" lost a rearend on a burn through and Gay lost out to a hole shot.

The big winners were Roger Wolford and Ed Lenarth in their "Secret Weapon" Jeep, powered by a blown 392" Chrysler. Wolford did a super job of driving the 180 m.p.h. Jeep and took advantage of his knowledge of the starting system for the winning combination. The "Jeep" ran 8.80-176.12 for a second round win over Gay, 8.79-162.45. In the third round, Wolford's 8.74-176.81 was too much for Ron Rayons blown "Vette."

The light weight injected class had a similar situation brewing, as the big MoPar and Ford Factory

cars appeared to be the cars to beat.

Hubert Platt's Mustang cut an 8.68-164.83 to grab the first round over his brother, Houston Platt, who ran a 9.20-149.75.

Meanwhile, Ronnie Sox was looking good in his Barracuda and Ford's West Coast hope, Gas Ronda, cut a fat 8.65-163.04 to win the first round over Doug Thorley's Chevy II.

Hayden Proffitt kept getting quicker and quicker with the "World's Fastest Chevy" as he dropped Charlie Allen's Dart in the first round; Proffitt—8.63-158.17, Allen—8.85-159.85.

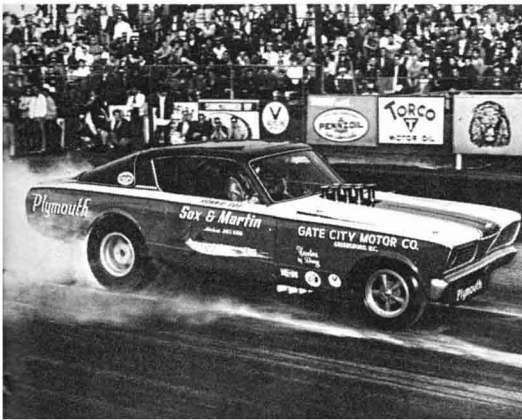
The apple cart really got upset in round two when Sox hole-shotted Platt for the win; 8.67-166.66 to 8.61-162.74. Ronda ran 8.72-159.85 to win over a wheelie plagued Dick Landy and Proffitt made an all-out single run that netted a fantastic 8.49-161.57! It looked as though Chevrolet was in command!

Proffitt ended MoPar hopes with an 8.52-159.85 win over Sox and Martin, who shut off with engine problems. Ronda singled in his Mustang to stay qualified for the final round.

The crowd was really buzzing when the two rivals pulled to the line for the final run which was

LEFT—Plenty of wheelstands seemed to be the hot setup. Just about everybody was getting those wheels up.

# to wailers!!



TOP—Roger Lindamood was runner-up in #2 Eliminator with a best of 8.96-158.50. ABOVE—Jake King, left, and Buddy Martin work on car. LEFT—Ronnie Sox lights the hides to the crowd's delight.

worth \$1,000 to the winner. Ford lovers were shot down when Ronda lost a couple of bearings trying to light the SOHC Ford and was unable to fire, but the Chevy fans couldn't have been happier!

Proffitt was the winner and delighted the cheering crowd with a gigantic wheelie on the single. What a performer!

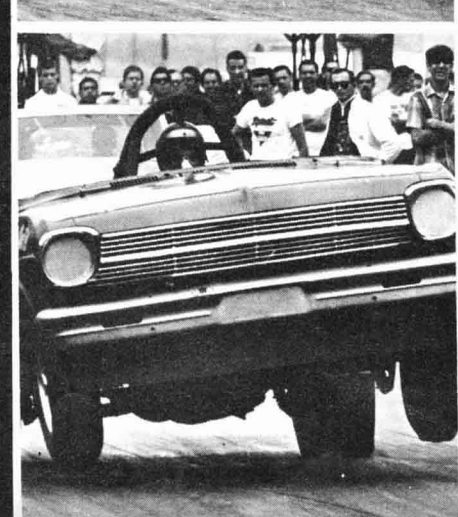
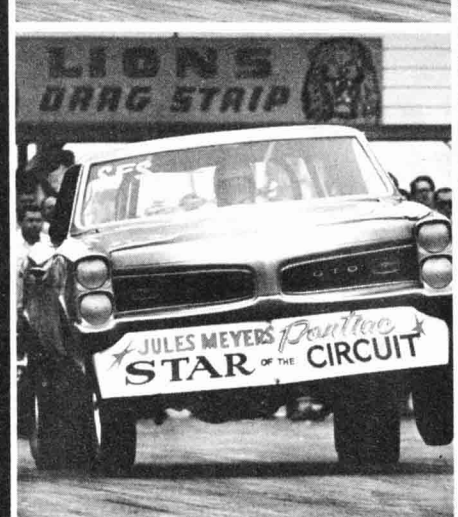
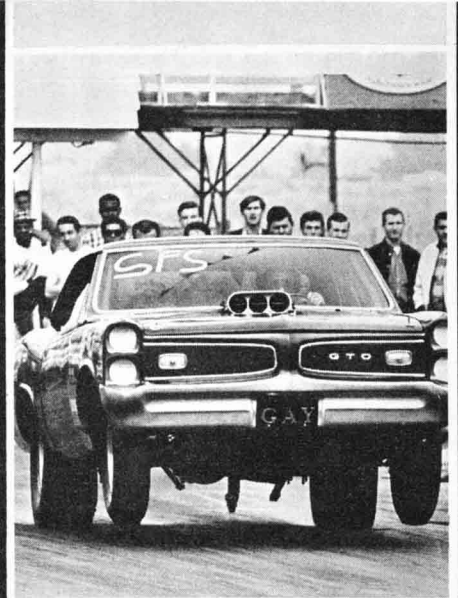
Roger Lindamood's "Color Me

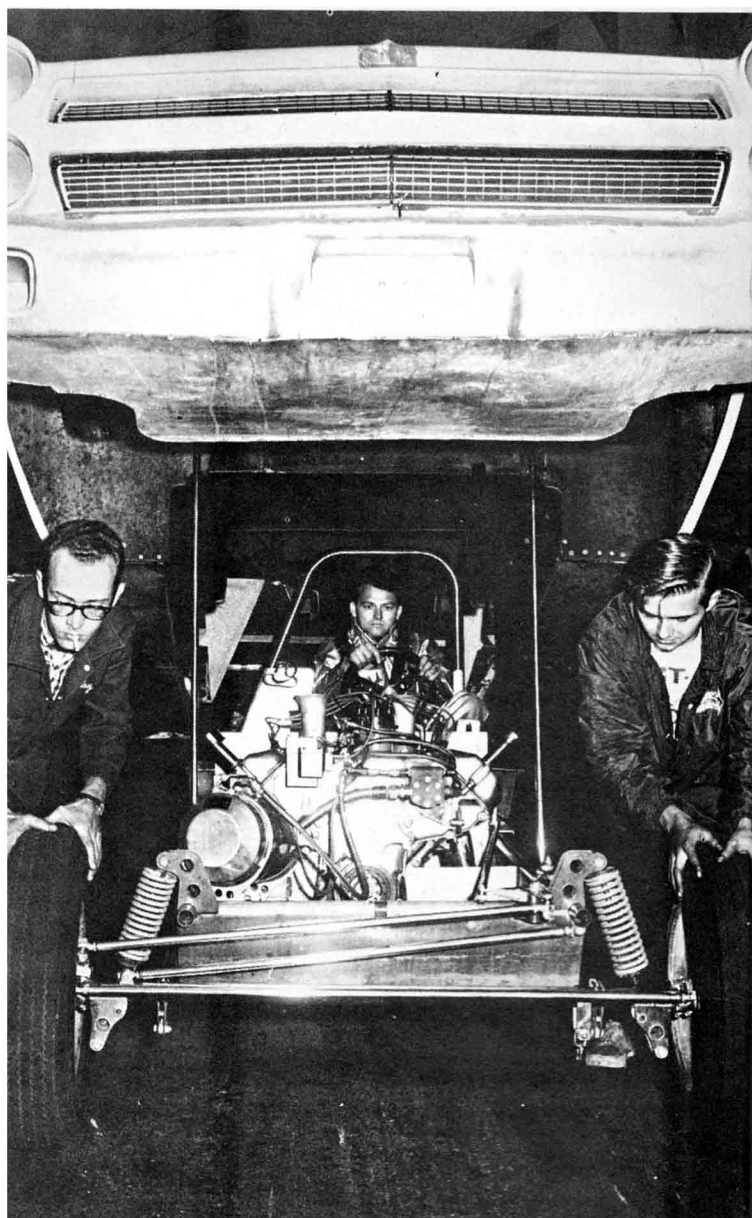
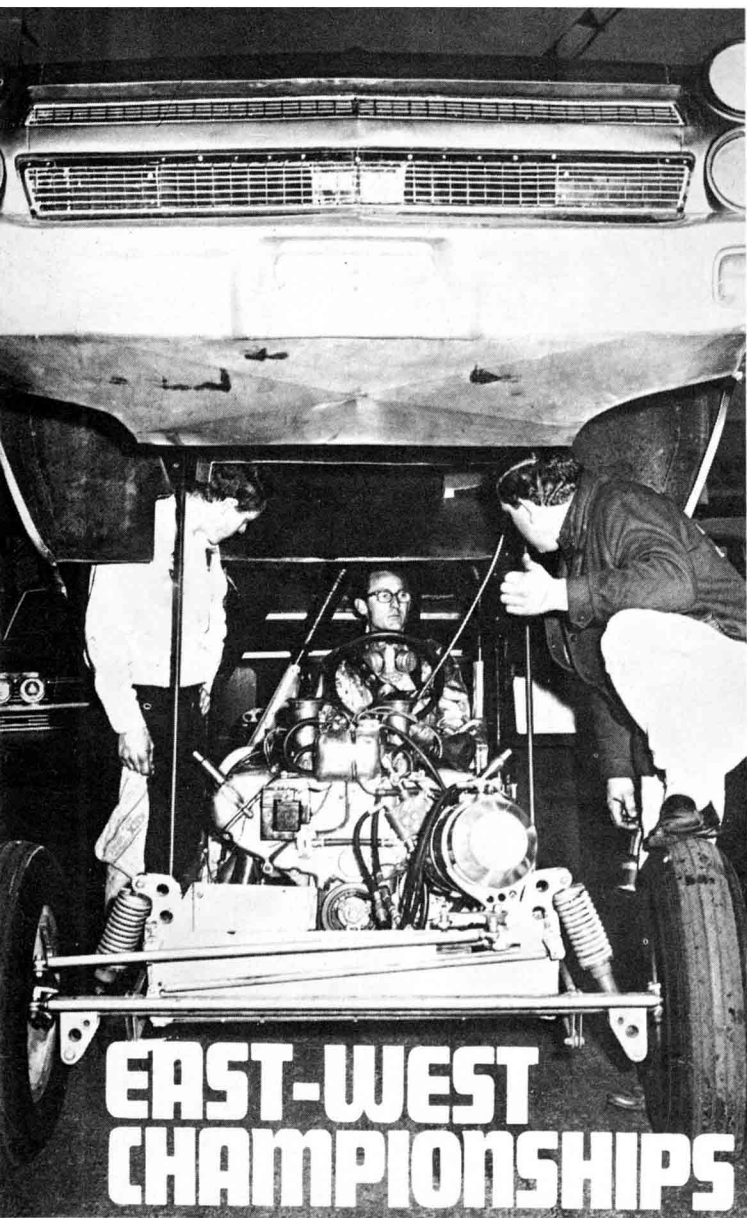
Gone" Charger appeared to be a sure winner in the heavy class as he consistently ran under nine seconds making his way into the final round.

But Cecil Yother in his famed "Melrose Missile" had "upset" in mind and wasn't going to be caught in the run for the money. Yother was the winner at 9.49-149.75 when Lindamood got completely crossed-



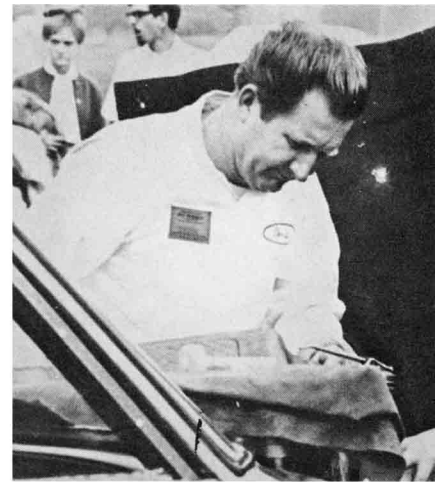
ABOVE—Lew Arrington's "Brutus" made the scene on Saturday night, filling in for Dick Landy who had developed engine trouble earlier in the day. Landy was scheduled to face Brannan/Platt. RIGHT—More wild action at the East-West Stocker Championships. Practically every funny car of note in the country attended the slugfest of drag racing.





ABOVE—Unable to compete in the #1 Eliminator bash, Schartman, right, and Nicholson staged a special match race. Eddie won the first one; 8.41 to 8.50, and also won the second one when Dyno redlighted while setting low et of the meet for funny cars at 8.35. LEFT—Dyno gave up his DRM #1 spot to Schartman. BELOW—Dyno talks to H. L. Shahan as Pee Wee Wallace works on his engine.





up and had to shut off.

Lindamood ran 8.81-163.16 and 8.95-163.63 on his way to the final run, while Yother ran 9.63-153.06, 9.39-152.54, and 9.24-152.28. Kelly Chadwick had his Chevy II running hard, as he made it to the semi-final round where the "Missile" put him away.

Other highlights of the meet included the "wheelie" trio of Bill "Maverick" Golden, "Wild" Bill Shrewsberry, and Chuck Poole. This "fearsome threesome" had the

crowd on their feet with their daredevil antics on two wheels. Poole ran off with the longest wheelstand of the meet, while Shrewsberry won the highest and wildest.

"Dyno" Don Nicholson won low elapsed time of the meet honors for legal funny cars at 8.35. The A.M.T. Piranha, driven by ace pilot Connie Swingle, made an exhibition single that amazed the crowd and competitors alike. The blown Chrysler powered sports car hit 196.40 m.p.h. in 8.20 seconds! ■

TOP OF PAGE RIGHT—Hubert Platt downs "Brutus." ABOVE—Doug Thorley works on his injected Chevy. ABOVE LEFT—Dickie Harrell's Chevy. BELOW—Cecil Yother stops his #2 Eliminator winning machine with the aid of a chute.

