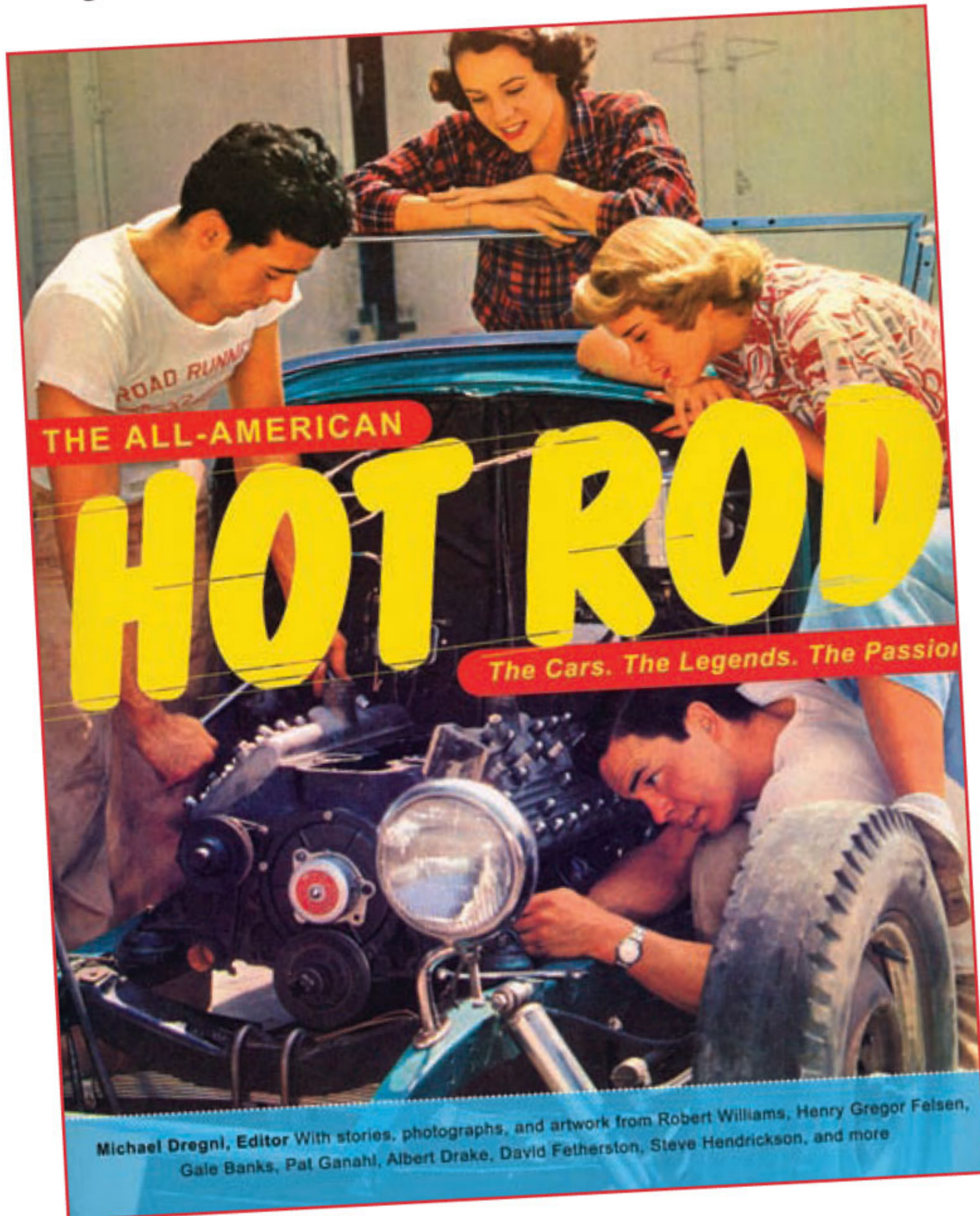


Wed, Write, And A Fired Few

The All American Hot Rod – The Cars, The Legends, The Passion, multiple authors, Motorbooks International. ISBN 139780760338285 with 200 pages, color and black and white photos, illustrations, period advertising, posters, album covers and artifacts.

This book is cultural peek into the genre. Like a secret



decoder ring, the book reveals that which was, the symbols of cool, what quickened the pulse of an emerging motorized generation that craved individuality – as fast as pretty as they could afford it.

Editor Michael Dregni gathered writing, photos and artwork from more than a dozen people involved in varying ways and degrees in the hot rod culture to create an interesting, yet subjective perspective.

You'll find some Speedweek program covers, bad boy street racer confessions of the law-breaking kind, drag racing war stories including "lies from losers on the 1/4-mile," as well as some of the music of the period.

Pat Ganahl offers readers "the 20 most influential hot rods of all time." Some cars no one would argue with, but concocting such a list for the culture is impossible because personal favoritism factors into every attempt. I never heard of a number of them, but my interest has always been sharply focused on motorsports, not street rods.

Then you have great period pieces from yesteryear specialist Albert Drake, consummate rodder and motorcycle rider

Allan Girdler along with Jay Carnine who reminds us that years ago some cars were painted using a vacuum cleaner and fly sprayers.

As a former jet car racer, I took exceptional issue with Steve Hendrickson's comment that "jet cars are for p***ies" and figure anyone who says such a stupid thing doesn't know the first thing about the marvelous powerplants.

However, he redeems himself by listing Gary Meadors as "Patron Saint of Fairgrounds", Tom Medley as "Patron Saint of Humor", the late Wally Parks as "Patron Saint of Burnouts" and Al Teague as "Patron Saint of Salt", but mistakenly calls the Spirit of '76 streamliner a non-existent "full-bodied lakester."

Don Pennington's contribution includes wonderful piece that includes "Chipmunk" Bruce Geisler, a living embodiment of what it means to be a land speed racer but oddly, no photos of his incredible record-setting car are included.

Gale Banks offers a self-serving, glory-claiming commentary on Bonneville, but it is his partner Duane McKinney, who in 1981, drove the Sundowner Corvette 240MPH making it the fastest production car on the planet. Done with Banks, Duane still runs the car today.

There is no index, so forget about looking up anything I have mentioned, you are reduced to thumbing through the pages to find something unless you get lucky and rightly guess in which of the six chapters it in: beginnings, legends, velocity, gow jobs, delinquency and cruising.

Ceramic Speedsters

In the world of die cast collectors Joel Dunford is the red herring of model makers. Eschewing metal, Dunford personally hand crafts ceramic tributes in his Apple Valley, California studio and we



recently bartered books and models. I ended up with his gorgeous 23-inch Summers Brothers Goldenrod and Mickey Thompson's brilliant blue Challenger.


Each model starts with Dunford taking measurements followed by photos from every imaginable angle that helps him carve a clay replica that will be used for the master mold. The painstaking process includes hand painting details and three trips to the 2,000 degrees kiln.

"Land speed race cars are the ultimate combination of the original designers, builders and drivers," explains artist Dunford who has also crafted numerous drag racing cars and now operates his 3-dimensional ceramic art studio under the trade name Carlectibles!

Many Goodguys readers might also recognize Dunford's hot rod work. The models have attracted the attention of most every visitor to my studio and I never tire of looking at a bit of LSR history parked on the credenza.

Dunford has a nice variety of current editions, but the website also lists his closed editions as well. These are punched out in some Asian sweatshop, Dunford makes 'em all and in order to make new editions, others simply have to cease production.

Check it out at www.carlectibles.com and vote for him making more LSR cars. Oh, how I want to see the Kenz & Leslie 777 streamliner, TEAMVesco Turbinator, and Ab Jenkins Mormon Meteor III get Dunford's full attention some day soon. By the time you read this, the Main & Poteet Speed Demon ought to be available for sale.

Note: Photojournalist Louise Ann Noeth is the authoress of the award-winning book, *Bonneville: The Fastest Place on Earth*, a complete historical review of the first 50 years of land speed racing. The publisher is sold out, but Noeth has less than 50 copies left, including a limited number of limited autographed editions. For more details and to order, go to: www.landspeedproductions.biz. It has been a GREAT run! 



Not many of these in America. . . It was a Blue Hat wedding in March when Dr. Jeanine Pflum married Michael Lueders there was a trio of 300MPH witnesses to the happy event. Left to Right: Tanis (1st gal over 300MPH) and Seth "the benevolent dictator" Hammond with Jeanie's dad Lee Gustafson. All four earned their cerulean head gear in Seth's lakesters.

