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CENTERFOLD

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AUGUST 1990

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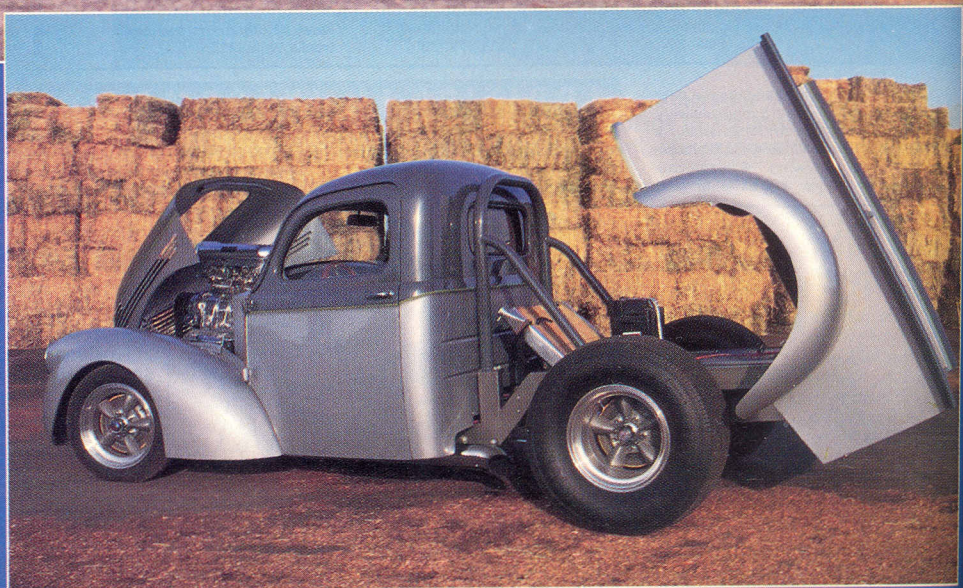
Plus: Homebuilt Cars and
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HOT TRUCK



Bob sprayed the body GMC silver and Lincoln (as in welder) gray acrylic enamel. The American 5-spokes measure 4½ front and 10 rear, with 31x16.5 M/Ts.



Bakersfield is a California oil town better known to hot rodders for its Fuel and Gas Championships. Some of the influence of the fabled Famoso raceway (where these photos were taken) obviously rubbed off on resident Bob Hudson long ago. It was 1962, in fact, when he acquired this '39 Willys pickup and built it into his version of the Gassers then running on the track. "I've driven it, raced it, shown it, and stored it since then," says Bob.

Bob even did his own silver and gray velour upholstery, with help from Bill Purkison. Mildly channeled body leaves little room for seating.



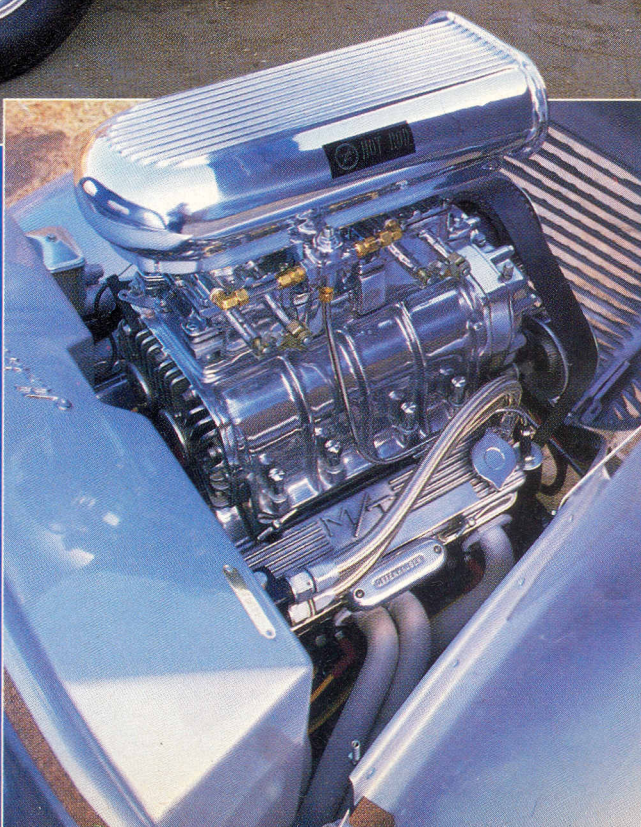
Photography: Pat Ganahl



A fresh 355-inch Chevy gets pumped up by a 6-71 Jimmy and dual AFB's, all liberally polished. Bob made his own headers. The trans is a Muncie 4-speed.

Don't call Bob's blown pickup a street rod

But stored hot rods are no fun. Finding himself finally with a little free time and spare change, Bob decided it was high time to haul it out and upgrade it once again. Doing virtually all the work himself, as usual, it's now better than ever. And future plans don't include storage. Says Bob: "I plan to drive it, race it, and show it. I love my truck!" Obviously.



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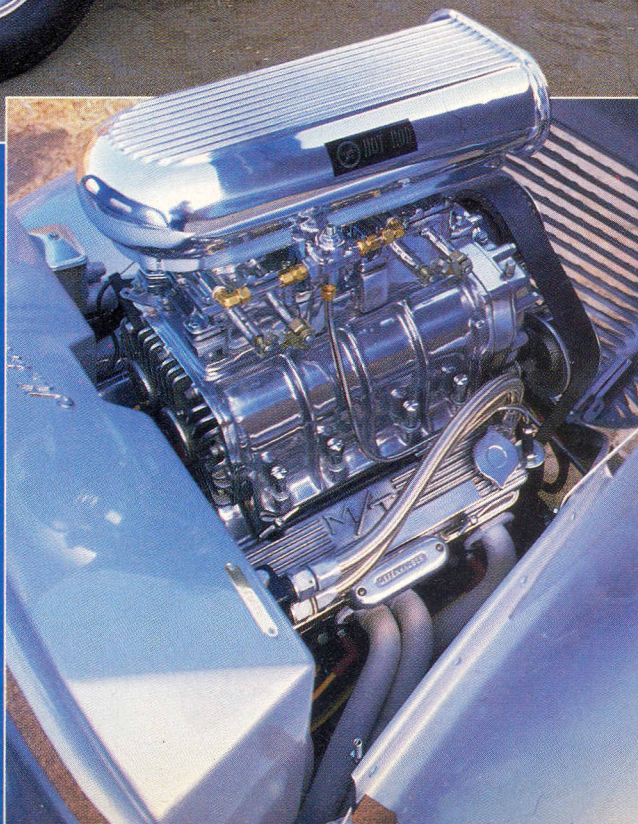
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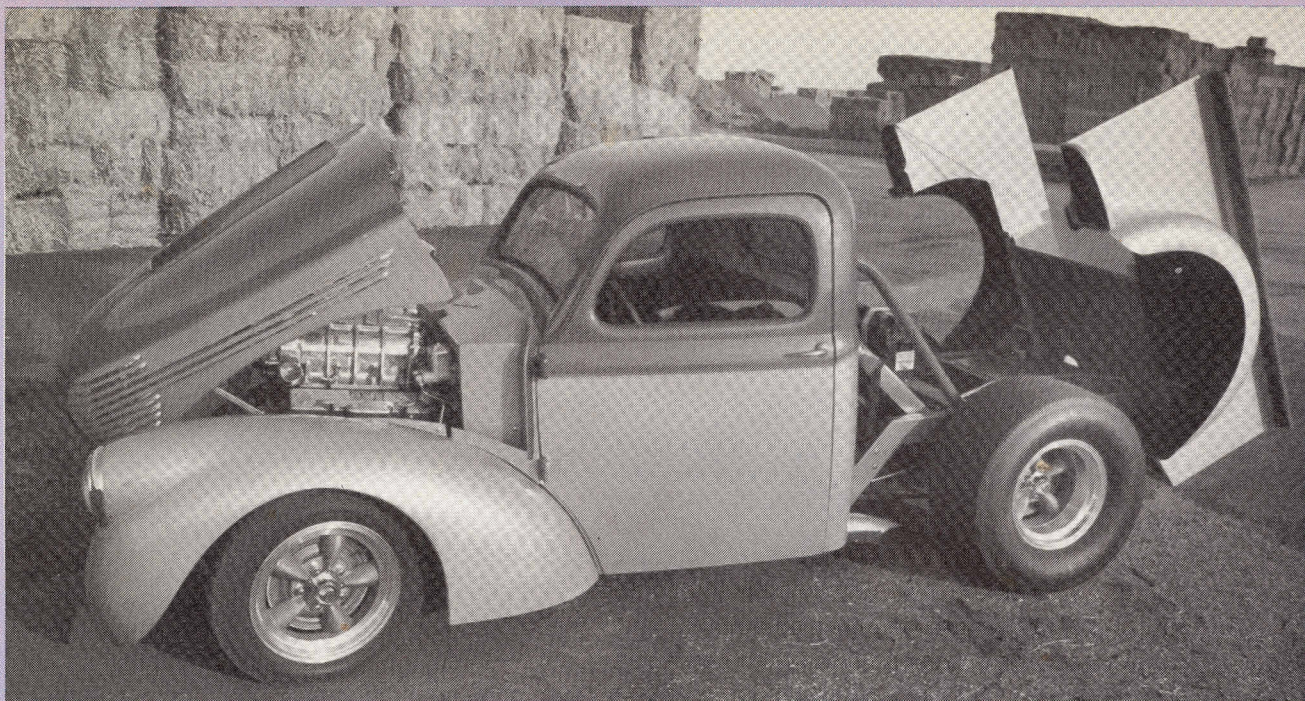


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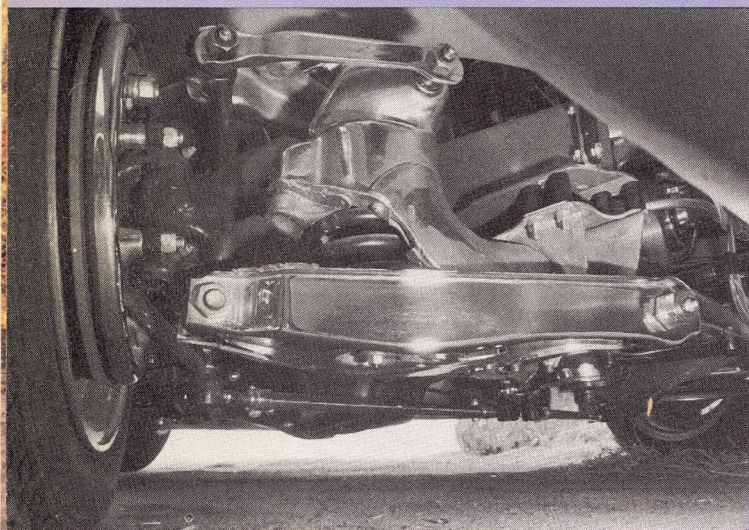
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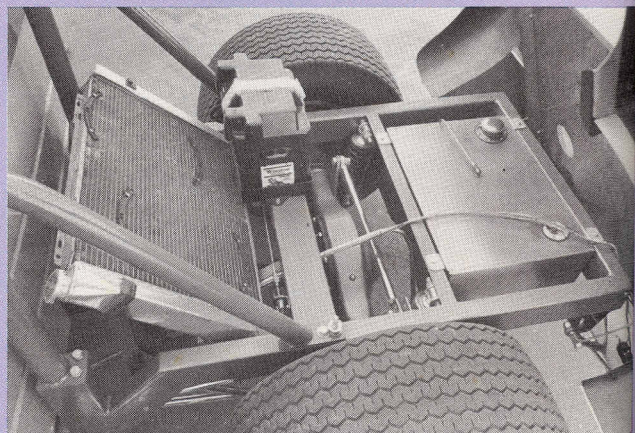
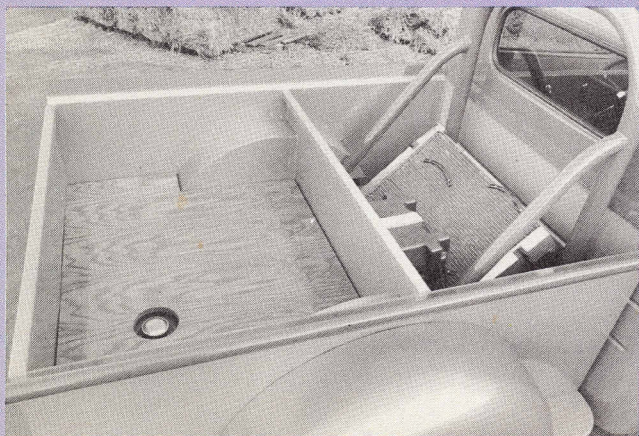
The shortened tilt bed is mostly handmade. The front wheel openings have been radiused.



Long before Mustang II's were even built, Bob installed a liberally-plated early Corvette front suspension with bolt-in crossmember—identical to '53-'54 Chevy passenger cars.



A clean handformed dash holds plenty of S-W gauges. The Model T wheel is a vestige from the '60s.



The mildly-tubbed bed tilts to expose a stainless fuel tank, aluminum radiator, 2x4 tube frame, and a coil-over 9-inch Ford rear with Dura-Blue axles and spool. 🚚