

MARYLAND AUTOMOTIVE MODELERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 3, No.9 May 1991

by: Tim Sickle

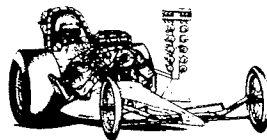
About 25 people signed in at the April meeting although it seemed like so many more people were actually there! A reminder here, gang-please sign in on the sheet at each monthly meeting. We aren't keeping any type of logbook on those people who are regular attendees or anything like that. We just use the sign in sheet to give us an idea of the monthly meeting attendance, that's all! At any rate, the April meeting was highlighted by the return of our founding father, Norman "Wagonmaster" Veber. Welcome back, Norm!

The April raffle raised \$72.00. The club would like to thank the raffle donors as shown below: Chris Whalley, Charlie Saglinbene (sort of a "long distance dedication!!), Pat Maphis, Al "Deuce Coupe" Gransee, Tim Powers, Ron Roberts, Gary Sutherlin, Brad and Lloyd Waddington (?!?). Special thanks also go to those as shown below:

Joe Formato,
Page One Graphics
5271 Challedon Drive
Virginia Beach, Va. 23462

John Mauchamer,
Wheels Hobby Shop
45 Waverly Drive, Unit D
Frederick, Md. 21701

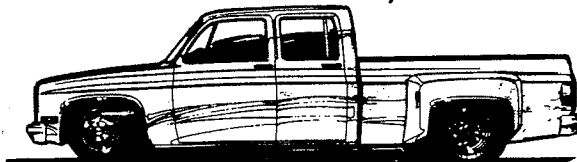
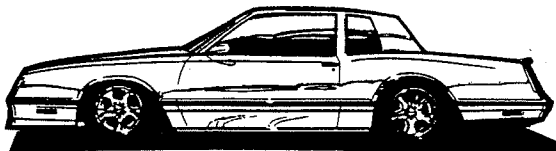
John O'Neill,
The ERTL Company
Highways 136 & 20
Dyersville, Ia. 52040



Ed Sexton,
Monogram Models, Inc.
363 North Third Avenue
Des Plaines, Ill. 61101

Bob Johnson,
Revell, Inc.
363 North Third Avenue
Des Plaines, Ill. 61101

Gary Schmidt,
Scale Auto Enthusiast
5918 W. North Avenue
Milwaukee, Wi. 53208



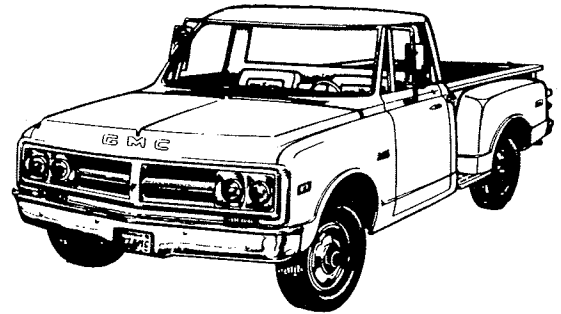
It also bears mentioning at this time that Dirk Johnson (a.k.a. Detail Master, P.O. Box 1465, Sterling, Va. 22170) will be a very active supporter of not only our club, but many other clubs across the country as well. It's up to us to actively patronize Detail Master in appreciation of his continued support [Ed. Note: With the detail items he has currently available (or on the way!), I don't believe this will be a problem!]

1972 GMC Stepside

(AMT #6081; two versions; 1/25; 102 pieces; tan, chrome, clear, clear red, vinyl tires)

I've been waiting for this one. The last time I saw a '72 GMC kit it was selling (or rather not selling) for \$65. Needless to say, I passed on that particular opportunity.

This is a reissue from tooling designed nearly 20 years ago and it looks it. The parts are molded very cleanly with a lot less flash than expected, but (typical of the times) all chassis detail is molded into the one-piece chassis. This makes any super-detailed Replica Stock projects very tough, but as far as customs go-I've got my eye on a certain C-1500 Sport Side chassis that might be just the ticket.



The 7 piece cab looks good and is well proportioned. The only problems here are minor sink marks at the front of the fenders (they don't seem to affect the turn signal lamps) and an awful parting line at the back edge of the roof. The stepside bed is a 16 piece affair whose only affliction seems to be the sink marks which span the width of the woodgrained floor in two places.

The 5 piece interior is a basic tub configuration with surprisingly sharp door panel details. It strikes me as odd that a truck of this vintage would be molded with bucket seats. I would really prefer a bench seat, but I'm lucky to have this kit at all so I won't whine.

When looking under the hood, to say the firewall detail is sparse would be a tremendous understatement. You don't even get a master cylinder. I've seen cars with inadequate braking power before, but this is a bit extreme!

The engine consists of 18 or 19 pieces depending upon which version you choose to build. The box art claims that this is a 250 hp 350 cubic inches. I don't yet know which engines came in these trucks, but the parts in this kit look an awful lot like a big block chevy to me. The optional Corvette style tri-power induction doesn't do much to make you think of anything less than 427 cubic inches.

As for the 6 decals-don't bother.

In the tire department you get a choice of AMT's ubiquitous skinny Firestones or their Goodyear Gatorbacks. 'Course they only gave me 3 Gatorbacks in my kit so I guess I get to try out their toll-free phone number. It's really good to see that a manufacturer cares enough to offer phone assistance with assembly problems or missing parts. Good goin' ERTL! I also liked the fact that they listed original colors for the body and interior.

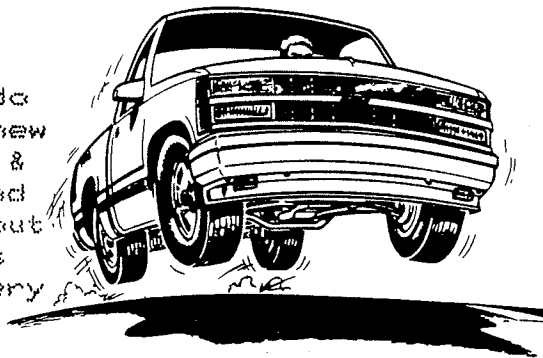
In all, with a good bit of work, this kit will make a fine shelf model. I wonder how the turbo'ed and intercooled 231 c.i. V6 from a GNX would fit into that C-1500 Sport Side chassis?!?

by: Tim Powers

'91 Chevrolet 454SS

(AMT/ERTL #6032; 129 pieces; 2 versions; black, chrome, red, clear, vinyl tires)

ERTL did a **great job** on this kit. Presumably starting with their Silverado Sportside kit, they tooled up a brand new Fleetside short bed, an all-new engine & transmission, exhaust system, wheels and seats just to name a few parts. Right out of the box this kit does justice to its subject. With just a little effort a very high quality Replica Stock model is possible.



As stated in the title, this is a '91 454SS, but a '90 version wouldn't be difficult to achieve with just an engine, transmission and exhaust system swap.

The **valve covers** accurately replicate the cast aluminum covers on the 7.4 liter Mark V powerplant from Tonawanda, NY. The serpentine belt assembly/engine accessory arrangement is authentic according to my research. I can't really comment on the new **4L80-E 4 speed automatic transmission** since I haven't actually seen a full size one, but what ERTL provides looks very believable. By the way, this kit is a landmark in C-1500 model history! ERTL finally got the air cleaner and intake tract right! I can stop raping my Monte Carlo SS kits for their air cleaners!

The **new seats** are dead on accurate, but the gauge faces are the '88-'90 variety. The **interior door panel detail** is very close to being dead on, so I won't complain. The **interior tub** even has the right number of pedals, too!

The **new stock wheels** are very well cast and totally accurate except for the center caps, which are close enough (caps from a C-1500 long bed or Sportside are more accurate). One big letdown is the lousy chrome on the stock wheels in both of the kits I bought (in case you haven't figured it out yet, I'm planning to do a '90 and a '91). The rest of the chrome parts were plated very well.

The **chassis** is the same one as in the Sportside kit with the exception of the new exhaust system and driveshaft. This is the third driveshaft design and, guess what? You get all three in this kit! The new exhaust parts replicate the true dual system used to unlock an extra 25 ponies on the '91 454SS. The **spare tire** still looks as hokey as ever, but the vents on the gas tank cover finally point the right way.

The **cab** is the same one from all the other C-1500 variations so it still has the Silverado emblems behind the doors which must be removed for the 454SS. ERTL saved us some work by not plating the grille and bumpers on this kit. They get painted black, anyway. The hood doesn't have the cut out for the custom intake from the other C-1500 kits so there's no more sink mark on the hood. ERTL also got pretty darn close with the **rear view mirrors**. They're a little large, but they're shaped right as well. The rear window has frame lines for the **sliding window**, which all 454SS's are equipped with, molded in. One part ERTL left out is

the light on the back of the cab roof to illuminate the bed. I'm not positive about the '91's, but all '90's had these lights.

The new bed is beautiful but it has two flaws: ERTL neglected the wheel opening trim and the tailgate still has those awful vertical sink marks. It'll take a lot of primer and block sanding to straighten the tailgate out.

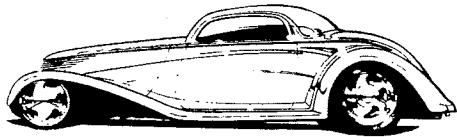
I still think the optional spoilers and such look dumb. Oh well.

The basic cab, interior, bed and chassis assembly is still the well-engineered assembly it was in earlier C-1500 kits. This kit exhibited incredibly little flash and it still had a lot of engine parts from other versions on the sprues.

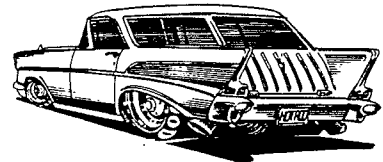
The decals look very authentic and include two sets of license plates (Oklahoma and Michigan).

This is a great kit which should build well and be a basis for many interesting conversions. I would like to build or see built a Sportside 454SS since, as legend has it, Chevrolet originally planned to build them that way (the fiberglass sides of the Sportside bed make it lighter), but they couldn't produce them quick enough for regular production demands, let alone for the 454SS's.

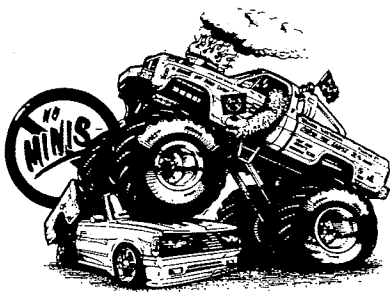
by: Tim Powers



BITS & PIECES



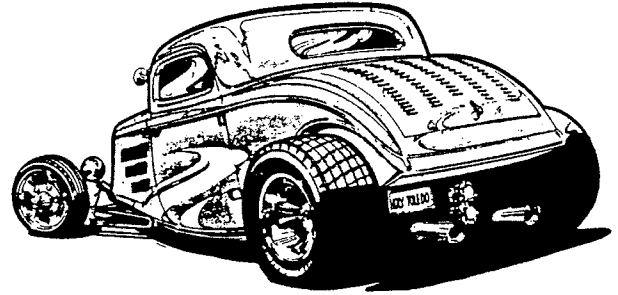
- * First off, the club as a whole would like to extend their thanks to Dave & Karen Roehrle for the cake we all ate at the April meeting to commemorate the triumphant return of Norman "Wagonmaster" Veber! Norm also enjoyed the "Wagonmaster" banner created by yours truly!
- * And while speaking about Norman, avid SAE readers are by now aware that Norm was a runner-up in SAE's April "Spot the Blooper" contest, which entitles him to a 1 year subscription to SAE. According to "Stormin' Norman", his significant other, Mary Crawford, actually found the errors and as such, according to Norm, the subscription will be in her name. Way to go, Mary!
- * And, speaking of Replicas & Miniatures Company of Maryland (who was?!?), he had some new items on display at the April meeting. I'm sure you are all well aware of that 'ole standby, Bare Metal foil, aren't you? Well, are you ready for Black and Gold Bare Metal foil?!? If so, Norm already has it on order, so check with him with regard to availability!



* For anyone interested, MAMA plates are in stock! The price is \$9.00 per set (3.00 per set goes to the club). The plates are as shown below:

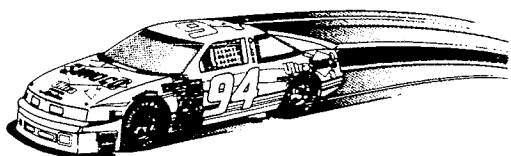


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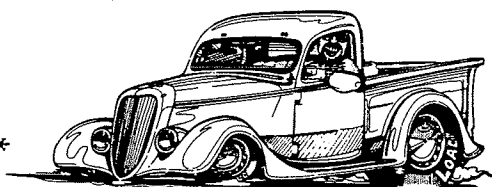


- Contact Norman Veber to place your order! (Sheeesh! Enough about Norm already! The guy just gets back in town and he's already monopolizing the newsletter!)
- * FYI! It bears mentioning at this point that Detail Depot (Jerry Flynn) and Resin Casting Specialties (Harold Bradford) also "take requests" so to speak. So, if you have something you wish copied (or even made!), give 'em a call and see if something can be worked out!
 - * Contest News! I bring tidings from that show of shows, GSLMCC XII. Larry "Hot Rod" Boothe managed to nail down 2nd place Replica for his '32 Ford; Jerry "1320" Flynn managed a 2nd place Box Stock for one of his Olds funny cars (my guess would be the "Sentry Gauges" ride of Bruce Larson, but don't quote me!); Kelvin "Pro Street" Brown garnered 4th place Street Rod for a certain Purple '39 Chevy; and last but certainly not least, Dave "Junkman" Roehrlie managed a 2nd place Miscellaneous for his "40 Ford "Beater" as well as 1st Place Heavy Commercial for his "Mercari Hunter". Word has it that a member of our legal community was rather amused at Dave's latest creation! Congratulations to you all on a job well done! This news item comes to you courtesy of Dave Roehrlie!
 - * New Items! (I can't keep up with 'em!). Jerry Flynn (a.k.a. Detail Depot) has been busy! New additions to his catalog include a Funny Car Driver w/old style face mask, Funny Car escape hatch kits, & Strange rear ends (what's so strange about 'em, Jerry?). Anyone interested in Stock Car driver figures, get 'em quick 'cause they will be discontinued (somethin' to do with the fact that Drag Racers don't go down the straightaway and turn left!). Oh by the way, Congratulations to Jerry & Nina!
 - * Rumor Mill! Rumor has it that AMT's upcoming '70 ZR1 'Vette is even better than their '66 Nova! It also is supposed to match up very favorably with Revell's '68 & '69 'Vettes. Rumor also has it that we could see a '62 Bubbleback Impl by years' end! Surf's up, dudes!
 - * "All wet" Department! In the latest issue of "Fine Scale Modeler", an article on Basic Weathering Techniques appears. The author makes a statement to the effect that not much can be done in the way of automotive weathering (or something to that affect). They don't know Dave "Junkman" Roehrlie very well, do they? Maybe we should introduce 'em!

* **New Hobby Shops!** For you Hampstead residents, Hampstead Hobbies, P.O. Box 883, 1302 Main Street, Hampstead, Md. 21074 (301)374-4465. Thanks to Dave Roehrlie for this one. The other new shop is Dad & Son Discount Hobbies (I believe they are in either Severna Park or Glen Burnie). Their phone number is (301)761-7810. Their focus is primarily trains, but they also carry some model kits, Testor's enamels and diorama accessories. So, if you are in the neighborhood, check 'em out! While on the subject of Hobby Shops, it bears repeating that several Hobby Shops would like some built-up models to display. Among these are Doug Moran at Doug's Hobby, John Southan at Hobbytown U.S.A., and Eric Baugher at GPA Hobbies just to name a few. O'mon, guys! Lets help 'em out if we can to show 'em our appreciation for their support of our club!

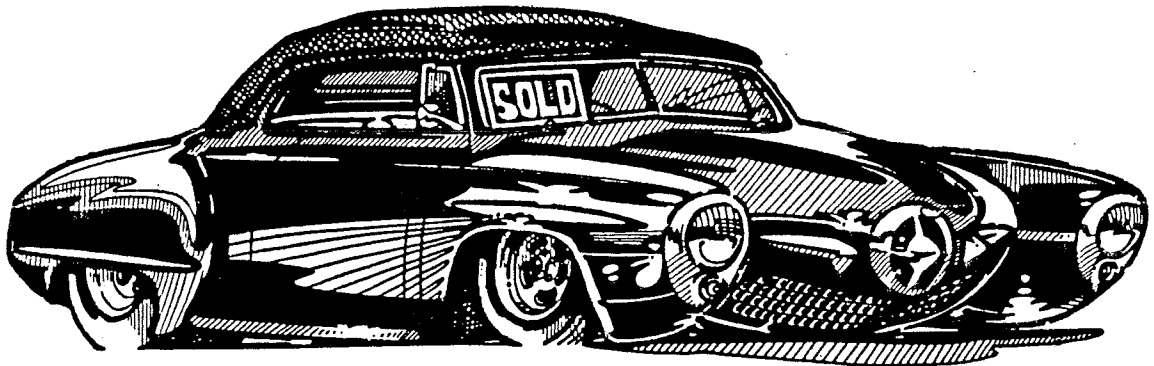


COMING EVENTS



- * May 17 thru 19-Import Auto Festival, Carlisle Fairgrounds in Carlisle, Pa. All Import Flea Market, Car Corral, Car Show & Club Gathering. Win a 1980 Triumph TR-8! (Hey, Matt!)
- * May 18 & 19-7th Annual Collector Car Show & Flea Market at the Charles County Fairgrounds in LaPlata, Md. Truck & 4x4 Show on Saturday, Custom Car Show & Model Car Show on Sunday! Admission \$3.00, kids under 12 free.
- * May 19-Plastic Kit & Toy Show at the Brickerville Fire Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For info, contact Dave Wentzel, 301 N. Cedar Street, Lititz, Pa. 17543 or call (717)627-0645.
- * June 1 & 2-Street Rod Nats East at the York Fairgrounds in York, Pa.
- * June 8 & 9-Sled East held in Gettysburg, Pa.
- * June 21 thru 23-All Truck Nats, Carlisle Fairgrounds in Carlisle, Pa. All trucks, all types! Flea market vendors & truck corral. (Hey, Tim!)
- * June 23-10th Mopars on the Beach at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, Md. For info, call (703)207-9272.
- * July 4 thru 7-Cincinnati Auto Replicas presents Model Car Spectacular at the Butler Co. Fairgrounds. For info, call Joe Dansberry at (513)863-9864 or Bill Bench at (513)683-8567.
- * July 5 thru 7-New England Summer Nationals. Door prizes, giveaways, all-day DJ, Model Car show on Saturday. For info, call Bob at (508)987-3375 or Russ at (508)537-5646.
- * July 6-New England Plastic Nationals presented by Masscar Model Club. For info, contact Neil Van Zile Jr., P.O. Box 274, Westwood, Ma. 02090 or call (617)769-2689.
- * July 12 thru 14-Goodguys East Coast Nats '91 at Carlisle Fairgrounds in Carlisle, Pa. Win a 1991 GMC Syclone!!

- * July 26 thru 28-Summer Carlisle '91 at Carlisle Fairgrounds in Carlisle, Pa.
- * Aug 16 thru 18-Mopars at Carlisle in Carlisle Pa. Win a '69 R/T Hemi!!
- * Aug 23 thru 25-Corvettes at Carlisle in Carlisle, Pa. Win a 1982 Collector's Edition!!
- * September 22-Model Car, Toy, Collector's show and Contest at the Sheraton Inn in Warrendale, Pa. (Route 19 & 179). For info, contact Jeff Linkowski, 446 Coolidge Ave., Pittsburg, Pa. 15228 or call (412)341-2180 between 5 and 11 P.M.
- * Oct 3 thru 6-Fall Carlisle in Carlisle, Pa.
- * Oct 6-Cincinnati Auto Replicas present The 5th Annual Southwest Ohio Model Car Challenge. For info, contact Joe Dansberry or Bill Bench (see numbers above).
- * Oct 12-NNL #12 at the Lucas County Rec Center (Key St) in Maumee, Ohio. This year's theme-Shoeboxes (Car or Truck!) from '49-'59! (Ed. Note: Otherwise known to us "East Coasters" as "The Big Go West"!).
- * Oct 18 thru 20-IPMS Region II Convention held at BWI Airport. For info (or even to volunteer your services!), call Bernie Hackett at (301)882-2352.
- * Nov 10-1991 AMS Convention at the Southwest Challenge in Irving, Texas. For info, write The Southwest Challenge, P.O. Box 193, Bedford, Texas 76095.



CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED-Any Ferrari-related items as well as back-issues of Cavallino magazine. Call Harold Bradford at 604-8591.

WANTED-Audio Cassettes (originals or copies!) of '60's car song hits. Contact Dave Johns at 437-1893.

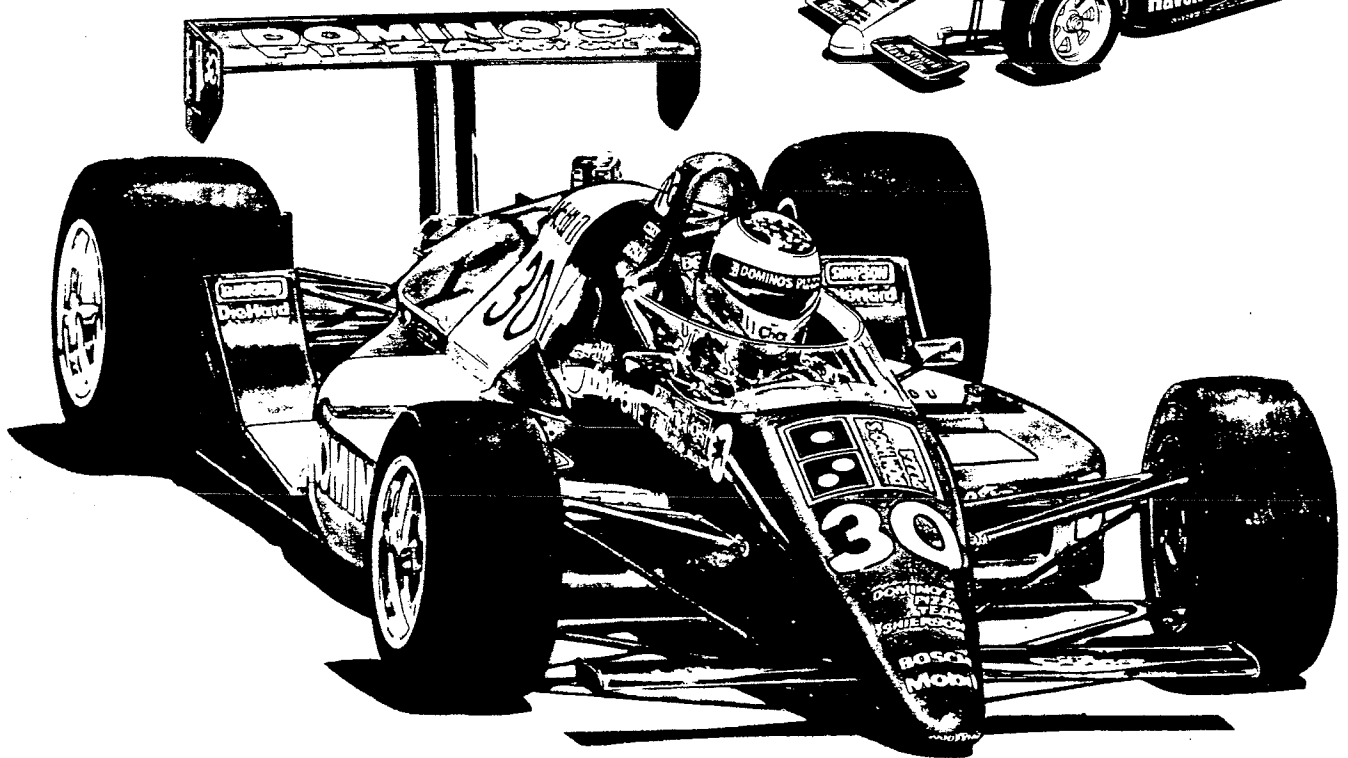
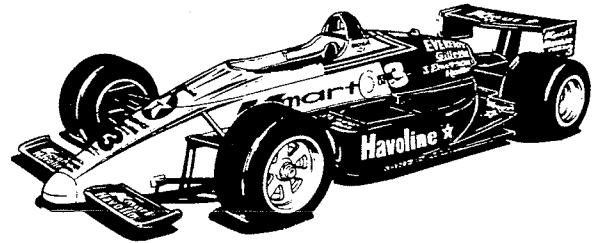
FOR SALE OR TRADE-Magazine collection consisting of Hot Rod, Car Craft, Popular Hot Rodding & Motor Trend dating from 1984 to present. Contact Al "Deuce Coupe" Gransee at 768-3128.

WANTED—Monogram Ford 4x4 Pick up (early '80's) or MPC 1984(?) Bronco, any condition but would prefer unbuilt. Also need (2) redline tires. Contact Dave Toups at 239-7081.

WANTED—Historical info (articles & pictures) of James Dean's Porsche Spyder. Contact Dave Johns at 437-1893.

WANTED—Pictures, info and kit (if available) of a Norton Commando motorcycle. Contact Dave Johns at 437-1893.

**"FLAT OUT" AT
"THE BRICKYARD"!**



Anyone having an item for the Newsletter whether it is a Bit, a Piece or even a Classified, it can be included by contacting one of the individuals listed below:

Timothy C. Sickle
15905 Ark Court
Bowie, Maryland 20716
(301)249-3830

Norman F. Veber
7479-D Furnace Branch Road
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061
(301)768-3648

