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Birth of Hot Rodding

Robert Genat

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THE BIRTH OF HOT RODDING



THE STORY OF THE DRY LAKES ERA ROBERT GENAT AND DON COX FOREWORD BY WALLY PARKS

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Robert Genat : Birth of Hot Rodding before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Birth of Hot Rodding:

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The Birth of Hot Rodding was selected by the American Auto Racing Writers Broadcasters Assoc. as its choice for the best book on auto racing for 2003. Subtitled: The Story of the Dry Lakes Era."The nearest thing to it, as I thought then, would be like landing on the moon!"--Wally Parks, describing the dry lakesIn the garages, shops, and fertile minds of 1920s car buffs in search of more power and speed, the hot rodding movement was born. A hot bed of this early quest for speed sprang up when the first Southern California hot rod builder hauled his creation over the ridge of mountains and opened up the throttle on the Mojave Desert's dry lakes.The dry lake beds of the desert provided the common denominator, the measuring stick against which all hot rod builders would judge their modified machines. These dry

lakes were in secluded spots where this creative breed of car folk could come together to share ideas, learn from the masters, and compete to be the fastest for the weekend. These wide open havens for speed and freedom nestled within the mountains north of Los Angeles provided nature's perfect racing surface: perfectly flat, free of obstacles, with miles to go in any direction. Places like Muroc, El Mirage, and Harper were transformed from ancient prehistoric no-man's-land to the weekend testing grounds of speed. Author Robert Genat brings together stories of the golden age of hot rodding from the men and women who pioneered the sport in *The Birth of Hot Rodding*. Profiles of the most influential racers, cars, and events accompany original photography to create a definitive history of hot rod racing on the dry lakes. With a foreword by Wally Parks, NHRA founder and chairman of the NHRA Motorsports Museum, *The Birth of Hot Rodding* encapsulates a unique piece of racing history.

From the Author "I vividly remember my first trip to the dry lakes. After all of the anticipation and last-minute preparations, a late night's journey to Muroc dry lake and arrival at that legendary expanse of desert vastness was a one-time experience, never to be matched or ever forgotten. The nearest thing to it, as I thought then, would be like landing on the moon! "Robert Genat's narrative and Don Cox's colorful photos have captured the true spirit of California's legendary dry lakes action dating back to times when each event was an exciting and unpredictable new adventure." Wally Parks

About the Author Robert Genat is an accomplished author and photographer who has written 25 books for MBI Publishing. A self-proclaimed gearhead, Robert has restored two classic cars in the last 10 years (one of which was featured in a nationally syndicated television show), and has recently completed a chopped 32 five-window coupe. He and his wife Robin own and operate Zone Five Photo. Genat lives in Encinitas, California.