

History's Greatest Automotive Mysteries, Myths and Rumors Revealed

by Tech Editor Ron Couturier

The authors of this 256 page hardbound narrative, Preston Lerner and Matt Stone, are veteran writers with impressive credentials. Preston Lerner is a regular contributor to *Automobile* magazine and has written motorsports articles for *Sports Illustrated* and *The New York Times Magazine*. He has authored *Winning: The Racing Life of Paul Newman* (2009), which he co-authored with Matt Stone, and *Scarab* (2003). Matt Stone, the former editor of *Motor Trend* magazine, has been a professional journalist and photographer since 1985. He is a member of SPEED TV's Barrett-Jackson Auction broadcast team and has authored several books including: *My First Car* (2011), *McQueen's Machines* (2010), *Winning: The Racing Life of Paul Newman* (2009), and *365 Cars You Must Drive* (2006).

This book is filled with crazy stories, myths, mysteries, rumors and legends. There is the old legend of the nut who allegedly strapped JATO rockets to a 1964 Chevrolet, lit them off, got airborne at 350 MPH and buried himself halfway up the sheer face of a cliff. There's the story of James Dean's death car (Porsche 550 Spyder) and how parts of his car were sold off and later cursed their owners.

Did you know that one of the Aston Martin DB5s James Bond drove in *Goldfinger* and *Thunderball* may have been thrown from an airplane and dumped in the Atlantic ocean off the coast of Florida as part of an insurance scam? There's the Bonnie and Clyde story and the fact that they almost always exclusively stole Ford V-8s as their get-away cars because they were the fastest cars of their day? And that Clyde Barrow even wrote Henry Ford a thank-you card.

Remember the movie *Bullit* where Steve McQueen plays Frank Bullit, a tough veteran investigator with the San Francisco P.D. Although McQueen was a capable and talented driver, witnessed in the epic 1971 movie *Le Mans* in which he did his own driving. Did McQueen, in fact, do all driving in the chase scene in the movie *Bullit*?



There are 27 amazing tales in this book. The stories are backed by exhaustive research. Separating fact from fiction is not always easy. It's an entertaining read which will get you laughing at times. A must read for all gearheads.

