

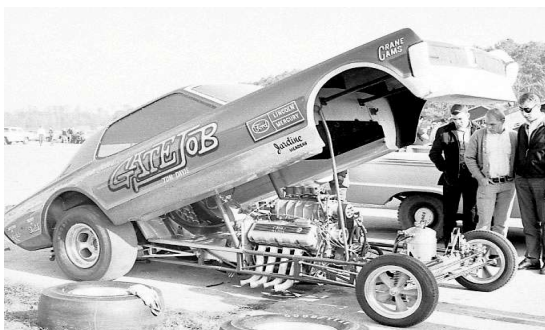
Original Funny Cars

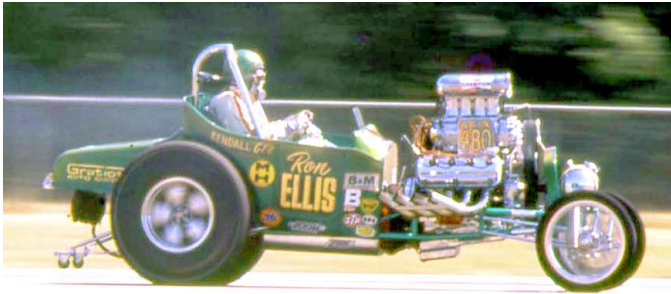


Well Ford had a better idea. Remember that SOHC V8, it was the only engine that could compete with a hemi on nitro so Ford commissioned one of their suppliers the Logghe Stamping Company to build three tube chassis, one piece fiberglass bodied, modern style Funny Cars. The three drivers were “Fast” Eddie Schartman, Jack Chrisman, and “Dino” Don Nickelson.



Now the transition from backyard hotrods to professionally built race cars was complete. As we will see in 1969, the original cars now had new owners.





DRAG GREATS of the late 1960s & early 1970s, part two

Photos by David Marshall (Copyrighted)

The big three of American autos had been building high performance cars for many years. Each year the engines got bigger and more powerful. By the mid 1960s they were selling some very hot cars at workingman's prices. In 1968 you could get a Chevy with a 427CI Rat motor (big brother of the little mouse) or a Ford with a 428 SOHC V8 that was a real powerhouse, or a Plymouth with a 427CI Hemi. All of them came with two four-barrel carburetors in lightweight bodies.

Pro Stock started as the top of the horsepower stock cars. These were really "Stock" cars right from the factory and with just a little messaging would put out 500 HP. The class of Pro Stock was to separate the local kid from the aspiring pro but they were still stock cars that burned off the street gasoline. Not like the so-called Pro Stocker of today that is a professionally purpose built racecar burning Racing fuel. The message was "Go down to your dealer and get one".

Originally these cars would go 110 MPH in 12 seconds but reliable records don't start until 1970 when Bill "Grumpy" Jenkins went 9.98 ET & 140 MPH. In 1973 "Dyno" Don Nickelson went 9.01 ET & 150 MPH. It was not until 1978 that they went 8.49 ET, and 1982 before the record fell into the sevens at 7.82 ET. By 1994 they broke into the sixes and in 1997 over 200 MPH. This is absolutely astonishing when you see, as we will later that Fuel Dragsters didn't run that quick until 1966s.

Well let's look at the cars. First the locals then the big names.

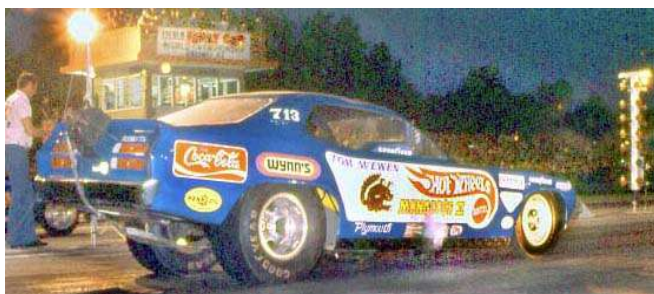




Bruce Larson



Ed "The Ace" McCulloch



Because his friend was called the Snake he became Tom "The Mongoose" McEwen.