



Crate motors and early roadsters go together like Chevy motors and Ford 9-inch rears. JB topped his 330-horse, small-block Chevy with a big Caddy air cleaner hiding a four-port throttle body FI unit.

If there's one thing we run into at almost every event it's guys who are totally stoked on the car they just built. JB West came cruising up to my '33 Dreams behind the wheel of his just finished (and Road Toured) '34 Ford roadster while we were pulling out of the Wally World parking lot in Pueblo and was grinning from ear to ear. JB has been home-building rods out of South Lake, Texas, for about five or six rods now (and sadly a couple of late wives). Now that JB is a widower again, he's smartly decided no wife means "no adult supervision" and he's taking full advantage of that. The Dearborn Deuce he had built was nice, but lacked enough room for some serious no rules cross-country cruising, so a Speed 33 body was ordered. JB spent 18 years in the Army flying helicopters (which is a really long career for an active army heli-

copter pilot), and while gathering parts for the Speed 33 he saw Classic Instruments Bomber Series gauges and he had a theme for the car. The basic chassis comes from the minds at Pete and Jake's. The front suspension is Kugel's un-equal length tubular A-arm suspension hanging fat Wilwood six-piston stoppers and rack and pinion steering. The rear suspension is based around a posi Ford 9-inch running 3.70 gears, hanging off a four-bar, bouncing on coil-overs and spinning Wheel Vintique Street Rod wires in the 71 series. JB had used a GMPP crate before and this time he picked a 350 HO motor and topped it with aftermarket throttle body fuel injection (works great), an Edelbrock dual-plane intake and Speedway's stainless exhaust manifolds. Helping get the roadster off the line and down the highway is the 700R4 tranny. The Speed '33 can be built as a Speed 33-styled creation or as JB built his, a stock-styled ride sitting on a stock frame with the body and fenders in essentially the stock position. He still gets the advantages of a fold away top, roll up windows, 4-inch stretched doors and a curved windshield. He added a four-piece hood and '34 grille to the combination and then got everything to fit just right (which is quite a task on



Red Baron



by Louie Mayall



The interior for the roadster features all the comforts of home—like cruise, A/C, power windows, Kenwood tunes, tilt wheel, windows and a fold away top. It's almost not a roadster.

a Model 40). The car was then put into the hands of Keith Strand out of Canton, Texas, to straighten the metal and lay down the PPG Victory Red hues. The finishing touch for us are the extra long swan necked mirrors.

The interior is based around bucket seats covered in Adobe-colored leather and Nu-Ostrich done by Frank Collins. The dash is a smoothie-style stocker wearing faux woodgrain and carrying the aforementioned Bomber series gauges. Though the gauges provided the bomber-style inspiration, the rest of the interior doesn't disappoint. The custom center console carries an aircraft compass and Vintage Air A/C controls. The hand brake is the cyclic out of a Huey chopper and the clock is

from a B17. John Robert's neatly routed the wiring using a Painless wiring kit.

We here at StreetScene certainly can appreciate the "no adult supervision" concept and acting more like a teenager than a grownup. Part of what draws us to rodding is the chance to act like a kid and spend more on a carb than the car is worth. Sure we dig the satisfaction of a job well done, the excitement of finishing a long and hard project, and all the other responsible things we tell people are the reasons we rod. But, at least part of the truth is we just want to drive a badass car that everybody stares at when we drive by. Here's to acting like a kid, just watch out for the highway patrol—they don't seem to appreciate 'responsible' kids.



JB West out of South Lake, Texas, decided the best way to start acting like a kid again was to put together a sweet all-steel, Speed 33-bodied '34 Ford roadster.