



#35 1969 ZL-1



12-Second 4th Gen V6!

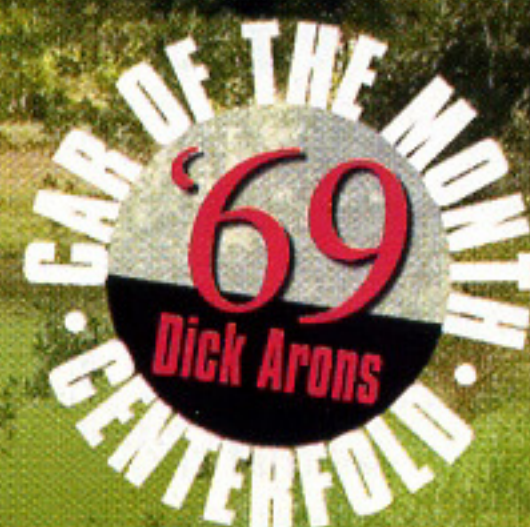
\$3.99

March 2007

Camaro

WORLD

Arrest Me Red 1970 Z28



YOU CAN DO IT!

Bruce Ensworth,
Orange Park, FL

► 2nd Gen - Tilt Column
Refurb



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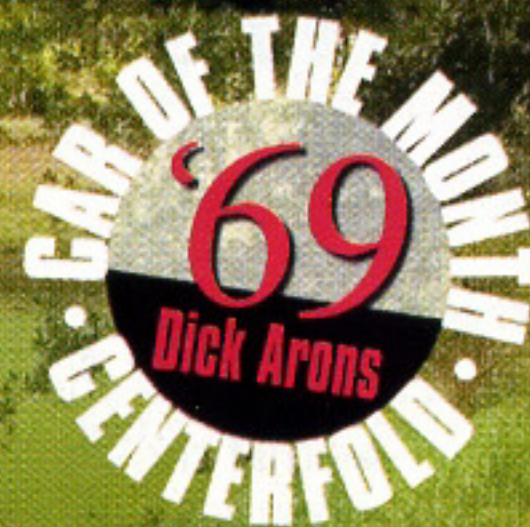
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PAGE 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

February 2007 • Volume 8 Number 2

MEMBER'S PRIDE

- Cover Story - Arrest Me Red Bruce Ensworth 4
- 12-Second 4th Gen V6! Scott Doering 12
- Centerfold: Family Reunion Matt Murphy 18
- Hard to Fathom Mark Hassett 26

YOU CAN DO IT

- 2nd Gen Tech – Tilt Column Refurbish Jim Keliher 8

DEPARTMENTS

- From The Driver's Seat Thomas Stricklin 2
- Hot New Products 7
- Special Feature 1970 Chevrolet Camaro SS/RS 22
- Club Announcements 31
- Classified Ads 31



PAGE 12



PAGE 26



PAGE 22

PAGE 18



Matt Murphy #21567809 • Atlanta, GA.

Family Reunion

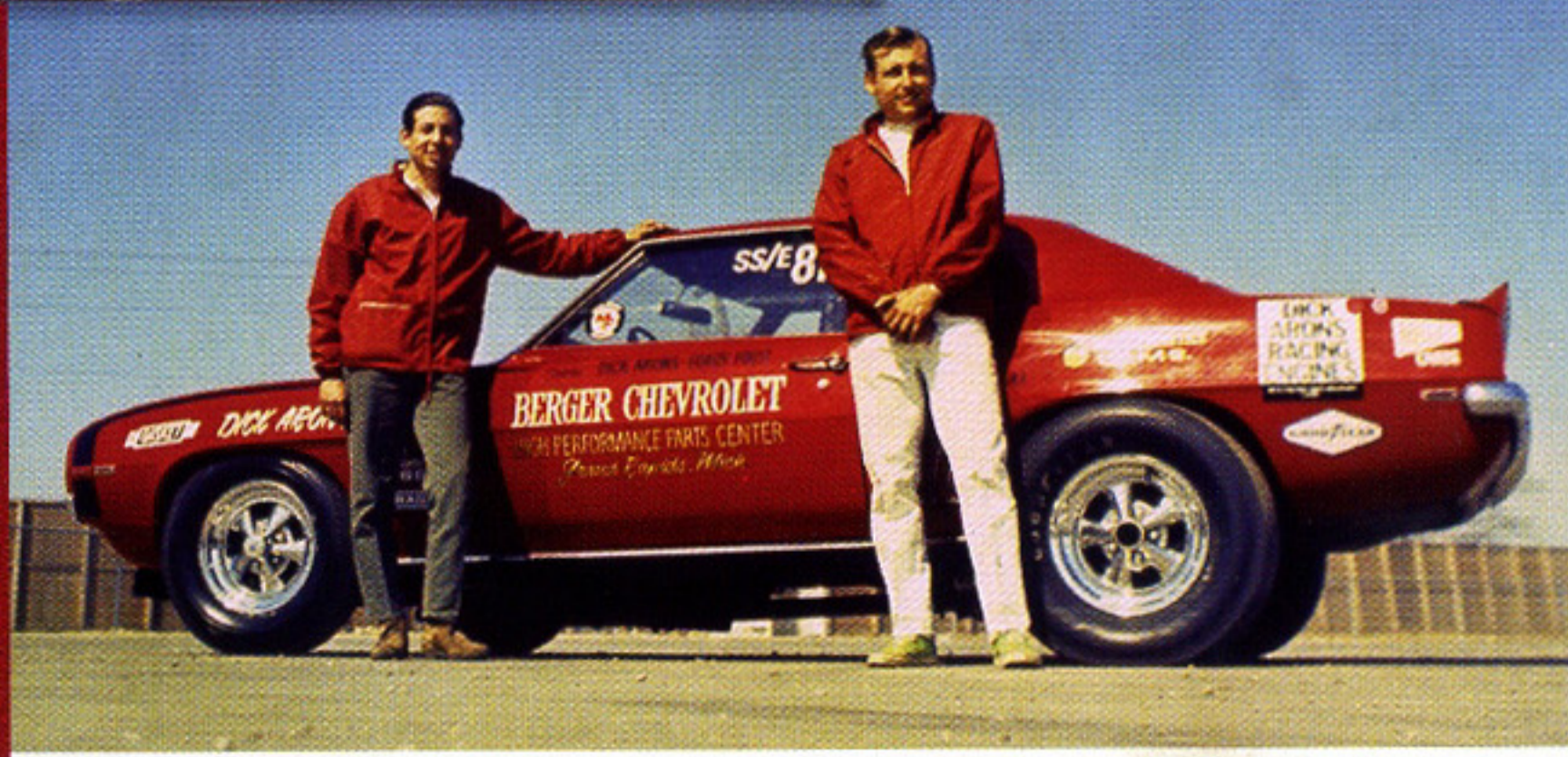
We always cherish special times in our lives forever. If we ever get the chance to relive those times it is, like the commercial says, priceless. Such is the case with this old warrior, an exactly restored drag racing Camaro from 1969 and the guys who had built and raced it.

Without ever touching a city street, this 1969 Camaro went straight from Berger Chevrolet in Grand Rapids, Michigan into drag racer Dick Arons' shop in Detroit. There it was transformed into a dedicated NHRA Super Stock/E class drag racing car and run successfully for the 1969 NHRA season throughout the USA and Canada. By December 1969, with its year in the limelight over, this Camaro went into private ownership.

Fast-forward to 2003. Berger Chevrolet gets featured in a magazine article about their new special edition Camaros. This old Camaro drag racer has been languishing in a garage since 1986. The same owner from 1969 still has the car, reads the article and enquires from Berger if they might like to buy it back. This information is relayed to Matt Murphy, who already owns 1967, 1968 and 1970 Camaros and had been looking for a 1969. He retrieves the car from St. Petersburg, Florida for restoration. Traveling 1,320-foot increments at a time throughout its



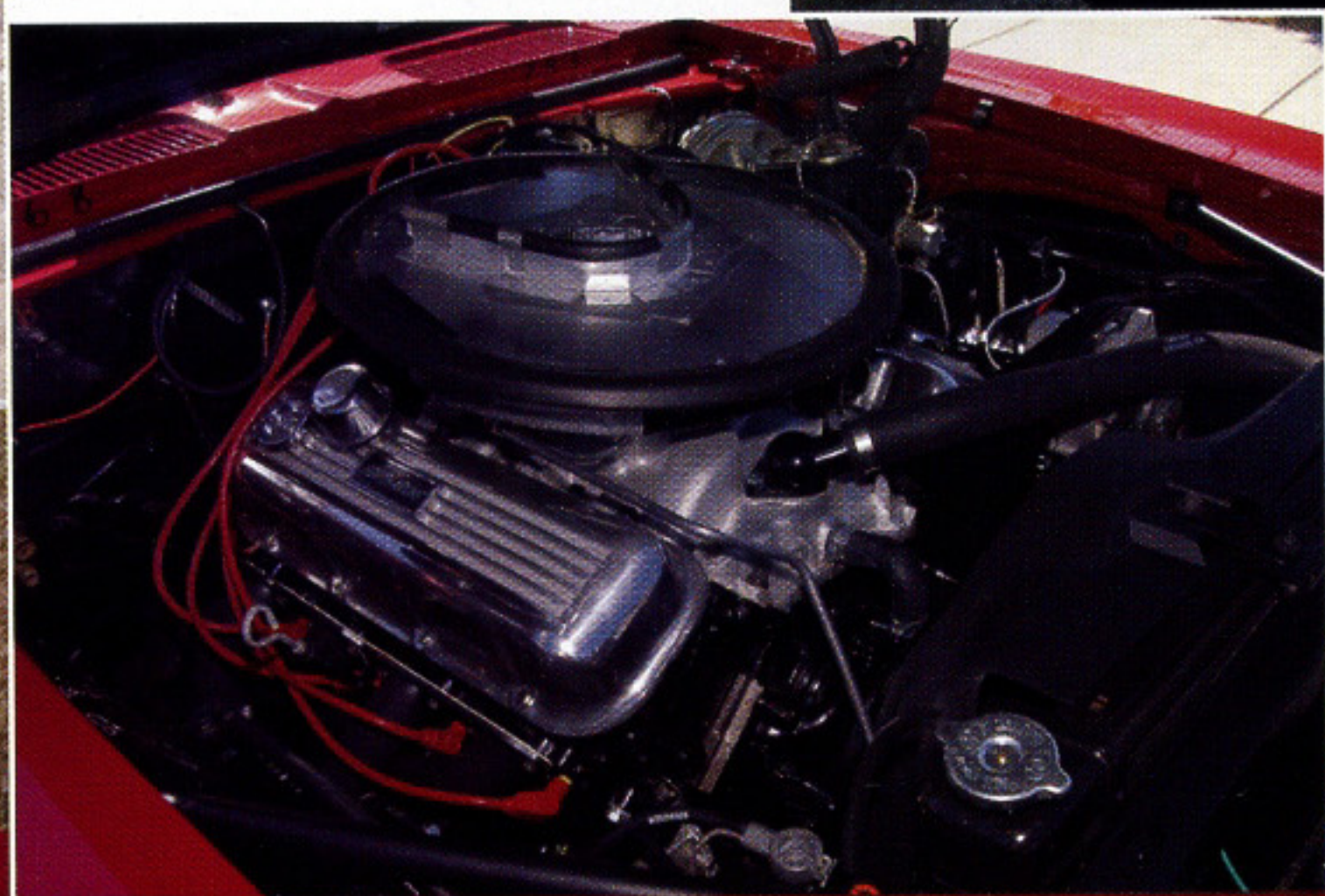
Dick Arons & Gordy Foust



Early pictures of this 1969 racing Camaro



Story by Ray Lee
Photos courtesy Matt Murphy and Pete Sommers



life, it has just 209 original miles on the odometer. Matt selected Supercar Workshop in Pennsylvania to do the work because they knew of the car and its history.

After learning the first-year history of the car, Matt found that Dick Arons still operated out of the same shop. He trailed the Camaro to Detroit for a reunion with its original master. Dick was excited to see his old super stock Camaro again and agreed to build a new 427ci engine for it.

Besides Dick Arons, the name Gordy Foust was painted

on the door as one of the drivers. In a

classic "small world" coincidence, one of Matt's friends knew him, prompting another reunion. Living only a half-hour away from Matt, Gordy brought over many newspaper articles and photos he still had of the car. With all the historic documentation, the restoration could be accurate down to the last detail.

The restoration process took two years. Having the two origi-



nal racers reunited with their Camaro after three-plus decades inspired Matt and the Supercar guys to do an "over-the-top" restoration. Matt says he wanted to make sure Dick and Gordy would be proud to attend car shows with him and the Camaro to talk about the good ole days. They were finally all together again at the 2006 York US30 Musclegar Show in York, Pennsylvania. The sight of the restored Camaro and its original drivers reminiscing with old friends made the restoration indeed, priceless. █

Personal Bio:

Matt Murphy owns a company that collaborates with Chevrolet dealerships to build modern day Camaro Supercars. He draws on his knowledge of the Camaro history to produce unique 4th generation Camaros. His wife and daughter aren't really into cars, unlike the male side of the family. Matt's father worked for Chevrolet and has owned Corvettes forever. Matt's son Timmy, who's 11 years old, wants to continue the tradition as soon as he gets his license. There's a dynasty in the making.