

# BOOKS & VIDEOS

EDITED BY CHAD ELMORE

## BOOK Diners of Pennsylvania

Authors Brian Butko and Kevin Patrick did their homework. They compiled this softbacked, 250-page book on just about any and every diner you could imagine in the state of Pennsylvania. And 25 are singled out with special treatments. The book covers each major region. Many black-and-white photos bring the diners to light. I especially like the 1945 picture of Baker's Diner, floating on flood waters across Market Street in Elizabethtown, and interior shots of Daddypop's, the Cloister Diner, and others. A great view reveals Zinn's which became the heart of a recreational site and even car shows. Yet, as Zinn's expanded, the center of the business was its stainless-steel diner. The histories of specific diners are a real strength of this book. But I won't underplay the maps, brief write-ups, and menu specialties on many others that offer travelers a trip to the past with some of the best food around. Price: \$19.95; contact Stackpole Books, 5067 Ritter Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

—Gerald Perschbacher

## VIDEO American Motors (Nash) of

the 1950s If Nash or AMC tickle your automotive fancy, then you've got about two hours of viewing on this VHS video. Gleaned from factory issued training material, first up is a colorful filmstrip covering seven virtues for 1955 models. Technical information comes naturally. Other black and white and color filmstrips speak of benefits for owners due to special construction techniques and extras. Simulated showroom presentations and safety tests are included. Hudsons, Ramblers, and Metropolitans are seen. Price: \$23.95 ppd.; order from David Axsom, 5120 N. Elk Run Rd., Waterloo, IA 50703-9522.

—Gerald Perschbacher

**BOOK Inside John Deere: A Factory History** Expect an interesting treatment of the John Deere company, and that's what you'll get when you open this hardcoverd, 128-page book by Rod Beemer and Chester Peterson Jr. While history has its place in the book, lots of details cover recent years and current achievements. Many photos are recent and in color. There's a good blend of "where we came from" and "how we are today," as you advance through the Deere &

Company story. If you like to know the diverse nature of its associated endeavors over the years, then the book is an enlightenment. Price: \$24.95 plus \$4.95 S&H; order from Classic Motorbooks at (800) 826-6600.

—Gerald Perschbacher

**BOOK Small Wonder: The Amazing Story of the Volkswagen Beetle** With the recent second coming of the Volkswagen Beetle, automotive publisher Robert Bentley must have detected a need for yet another reissue of the famous Volkswagen book *Small Wonder*, by Walter Henry Nelson. Previous releases were in 1965, 1967 and 1970—during the heyday of the original Beetle. This book was written by a repeat Volkswagen owner and with the extensive cooperation of Volkswagenwerk. It should be expected to present quite a favorable view of the product and men of that company; it does. The history of the car that preceded the company is told, from Ferdinand Porsche's mentoring of his concept to Adolf Hitler's enthusiastic promotion of automobiles and the long gestation period for the first Beetle, the Strength-Through-Joy Car in Hitlerspeak. What surprised me was the influence of Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Co. on Dr. Porsche and his design for the car and production facilities. What entertained me was the updated appendix section detailing the vari-

ous changes in each year of Beetle from 1949 through 1978. *Small Wonder* also covers the organization of the first dealer and service network in the United States and the strong-willed personnel Volkswagen sent here to do the job. Finally the book does what it seems to have been intended to do originally—promote the then common belief that the Volkswagen was really a better car at a bargain price sold by an organization interested in service before sales. Remember, this was written 30-plus years ago, at the height of VW sales success here. The current Volkswagen line seems far removed from those days. Now it's just another car brand, with many competitive models and indifferent dealers. But back in the '60s the Volkswagen was really unique. It was a high-quality vehicle selling for a reasonable price. It did lack performance and frequent styling changes—the keys to Detroit marketing. But it did offer some things that a lot of buyers wanted—quality, reliability, durability and resale value. This book is a nostalgic look back at the times and style of the incredible Volkswagen success in the United States and worldwide. For more information, contact Robert Bentley Inc., of Cambridge, Mass., at (800) 423-4595.

—J.W. Whitehead

**VIDEO Headliners (Bowed and Formed Backed)** Installing headlin-

ers in a car or truck is one of the most challenging tasks in any restoration project. Now, master upholster and owner of an award-winning custom upholstery shop, Vince Iacouzze, has put out a new video covering the subject in easy-to-follow detail. *Headliners (Bowed and Formed Backed)* covers everything from how to remove headliners to reinstalling them better than the factory originally installed them. In between, there are good instructions on such subjects as rebuilding a foam headliner backing board, "floating" a headliner, relieving tension to get all the wrinkles out, and how to heat-shrink perforated headliners without destroying them. There is information on what kinds of glue to use and even where to purchase replacement headliners. Like his other videos, Iacouzze interjects hints and suggestions from his years of experience adding, for example, tricks that most upholsters don't know. Don't tackle a headliner replacement without first viewing this tape. Available from Concours d, Elegance Upholstery, 1607 Pine Ridge, Bushkill, PA 18324, (888) ELEG-UPH, (570) 588-0969 for \$29.95 plus \$5.95 S&H

—Bill Siuru

