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Roger Lee builds a brass 1960s California dragster

by JIM HAUGHT

LIKE TO BUILD dragsters that have unique history and no one else has built yet," says Roger Lee of Stockton, California. Chet Herbert, Zane Shubert, and Ron "Big Yohns" Johnson were interviewed and provided picture history of this 995-pound small-block Chevy Top Fuel dragster that raced in the mid-1960s in Southern California.

Big Yohns was having the 1:1 vehicle car recreated, and he commissioned Roger to build a replica of the Shubert and Herbert dragster in brass.

"My uncle George told me that when you build a model, you must know the subject and the competition," says Roger. "I decided that I had to build in a larger scale to obtain the details needed to compete and challenge the best." He chose 1/16 scale "because of the brass tubing sizes that were available."

The 40-spoke front wire wheels took 10 hours of construction time; the rear slicks are made from black Delrin. The engine block, heads, blower, manifold, and body are made from .016" brass sheet.

The 2005 NNL West (where these photos were taken) was the first public showing of the unfinished Shubert & Herbert Dragster replica. At that time, the model had 821 pieces; the finished model has 1,131 parts and is 94 percent brass ("I wanted to use as much brass as possible," Roger said). He estimates the model took 750 hours during a six-month period.

"Building this dragster challenged my modeling techniques, made me develop new construction methods, and I learned about the early days of drag racing," says Roger. ■



