

# Now That's A Hot Rod

BY JAY LENO

Photos by John Lamm

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Never one to go partway, Leno decided to give himself a 16-ft.-long, air-cooled, 800-hp-plus rod.

All of my car-owning buddies used to kid me because I never had a real hot rod. Well, a little over a year ago, a guy named Randy Grubb showed up at my garage. He was hauling a trailer with a car on it that he and a pal of his, Mike Leeds, had built. Unfortunately, the car had no rear brakes, headlights or turn signals and was far from road legal. However, it did have a 190-in. wheelbase and an engine from an M-47 Patton tank. Naturally, it got my attention.

So I handed over shopping bags full of \$20 bills and the car was mine. And, it stopped all of that no-hot-rod nonsense I was hearing--in a hurry.

Enter Bernard Juchli, foreman of the "Jay Leno More-Money-Than-Brains Garage." Bernard has built numerous race-winning cars and worked on many projects over the years. He took one look at this project and said, "Just shoot me now."

As if getting this car roadworthy weren't already enough of a challenge, we soon had to replace the engine because

somebody had opted to use radiator hose as an oil line. There I am, going down the freeway for the first time. I put my foot into it and *boom!* That 90 psi of oil pressure was too much for the radiator hose and all 16 gal.--that's right, 64 quarts--of oil was gone in less than 10 seconds. That was the end of that.

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