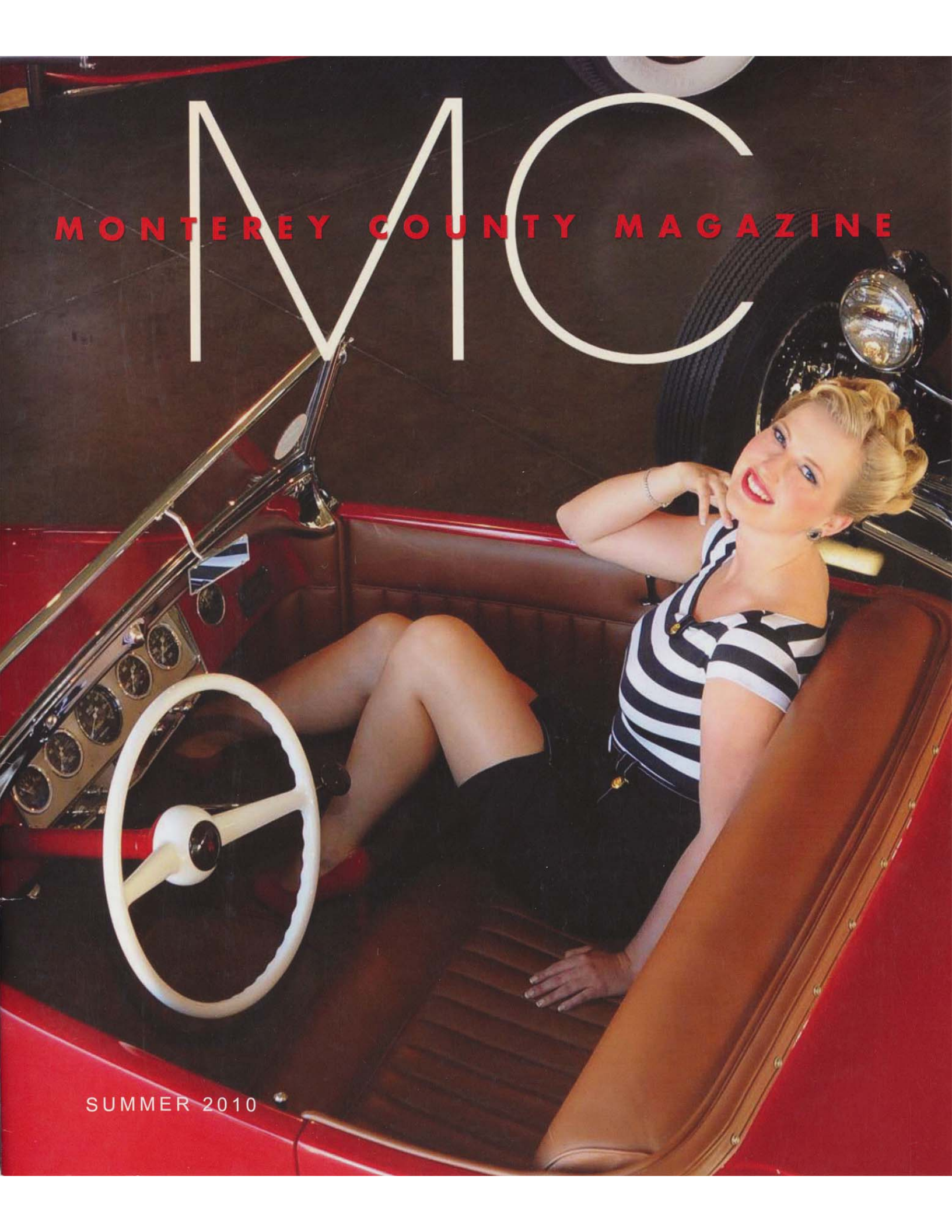


MCMC

MONTEREY COUNTY MAGAZINE



SUMMER 2010



Photography: **Glen McDowell** Model: **Kimberly Hughes**
Hair & Makeup: **Joette Catanzaro** Clothing: **Girl Lee Boutique**
Location: **DBO Racing at Ryan Ranch, Monterey**



MEN OF MANY HATS

Photographed and Written by: **Oliver Cooper Cripe**

Walking through the garage shop doors with my dad, we had no idea what lay ahead for the coming hour. However, instantly recognizing the place where such fantastic transformations take place was a thrill in itself. We were guests in the private sanctuary of one of the biggest car enthusiasts in Monterey County, Don Orosco. Our mission: to capture the renovation of a 1940 Ford Woodie in its critical stages.

Paneled in maple, basswood and birch, this classic wagon is the original California surfer dream car. Its smooth lines and roomy interior make it a classic amongst car collectors. This particular car was acquired in Arizona and has been worked on for the past 22 months, due to be ready for show around August.

The men who facilitate these makeovers are just as interesting as the cars they work on. "I guess we're men of many hats", stated Olle Erickson, Chief Mechanic and Fabricator for Don Orosco's DBO Racing at Ryan Ranch in Monterey. He's been with DBO for 14 years now and rebuilds everything from racing machines to show cars. Olle's partner and right hand man around the shop is Jesse Cruz. Although he assists in all stages of every project, Jesse's true talent shines when he paints. Every part must be tactfully stripped, primed and refurbished in multiple stages to ensure the highest quality paint job. Jesse's "Cloud Mist Grey" paint coats give the car a defined "wet" look that keeps true to the car's surfer roots.

Not a car particularly built for speed, the simple nuances of design are what make these wagons special. The interior bench seating and smooth top shell were custom-made for the project by Nick Alexander Autoworks located in the City of Industry. Coupled with the immaculate attention to detail on the dashboard, the whole interior is set to look like it rolled off the lot an hour ago.

The engine block and many other components of the car have been refurbished and sealed to look brand new, enhancing the overall aesthetics of the car as a whole. One unique trait of DBO Racing's reconstruction is the attention to powder coating and painting of mechanical part housings. This not only adds to the smooth look of the car, but adds to the functionality as well.

Balancing their time between multiple project cars and imminent deadlines seemed extremely daunting, but Jesse and Olle handle it with what seems to be relative ease. These multi-talented masters have been working steadily around the clock in conjunction with other projects in order to finish the Woodie in time for the Ocean Avenue Concours in Carmel in August.

The nonchalant personalities of both Jesse and Olle combined with their friendly demeanors demonstrates why this team works so well. The beauty of the cars they work on is a reflection of what a small team with such great passion can accomplish. 🏎️

