



Fins And Chrome: American Automobiles of the 1950s

E. John DeWaard

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With the close of the 40s and thoughts of hardship and world war behind them, Americans embraced the new decade with vigor and optimism. Rapid technological advances were being made, industry was thriving, and the country was prosperous. Nowhere was the spirit reflected more than in the automobile industry. Stylists, engineers, and designers were in their element, producing cars which exuded luxury and power. A new network of roads was opening up the country and it was a time characterized by youth, leisure, excitement and freedom. Fins and Chrome takes an unabashed look back at this fabulous era, examining it through its cars. The station wagon was popular, catering to new suburbanites. A new taste for luxury emerged. A generation of teenagers developed their social lives around the automobile. Customizing was the thing to do. While stock-car racing remained a popular pastime, the development of faster and more powerful cars encouraged the trend toward superspeedways. Together with hundreds of exciting photographs, this lively text revives that spectacular decade. Author E. John DeWaard has written ten books, built his own hotrods, and has proudly owned and reconditioned two Packards, three DeSotos, and one Plymouth.

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