

Rockin' at Random

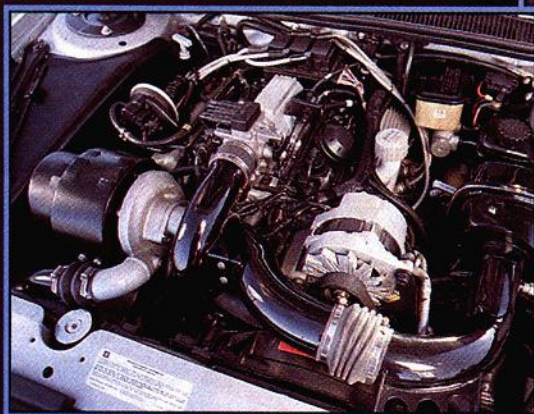
Buick Identity Crisis

Edited by John Baechtel



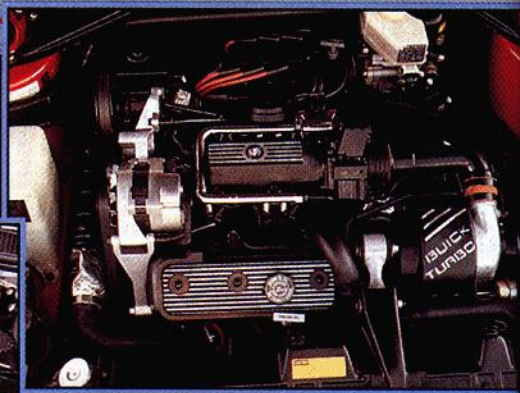
GMC Turbo Syclone And The Engine That Wouldn't Die

Buick may be puzzled about how to use its great little 3.8L or upgraded 3800-series turbo motors, but another GM division has a grand idea that may just put all of us "boy racers" into GMC S-15 pickups. Recently unveiled at the Chicago auto show is the GMC Syclone, a 3.8L turbocharged and intercooled-enhanced version of the legendary Buick Grand National V6 engine with 270 horsepower and 370 lbs.-ft. of torque. Lighter than a Grand National Regal, the Syclone (Yes, it's spelled with an "S." Maybe it should be a "Slyclone!") is designed to blast from zero to 60 in under six seconds, with an estimated quarter-mile performance in the 13-second range at about 103 mph! Its low-ridin' profile is accented by ground-effects panels, air dams, a rear tonneau cover, and a spoiler with deep-tinted glass. The line forms to the left, over there with all the other "boy racers."



Feeling guilty over having (accidentally-on-purpose) produced yet another all-conquering musclecar—the Regal Grand National—Buick Motor Division is still searching for its true identity. At a recent press preview of various concept cars, Buick General Manager Ed Mertz said that Buick is a market-driven company that emphasizes power, but David S. Sharpe, Buick's general engineering and planning manager, commented that Buick is "not going to produce 'boy racer' cars—that's just not our image. We're keeping an open mind. We really want to see what the writers think about these concept cars. This evaluation is important to us."

So here goes. Three turbocharged Buick Reattas were shown—two conventional FWD versions and a rear-wheel-drive conversion with a high-horsepower, intercooled 3.8L Grand National-type engine. This is the Reatta they should have built in the first place. In addition to utilizing one of the best and most versatile powerplants GM has to offer, the car featured a combination of Reatta front struts and a



FWD Reatta Turbo

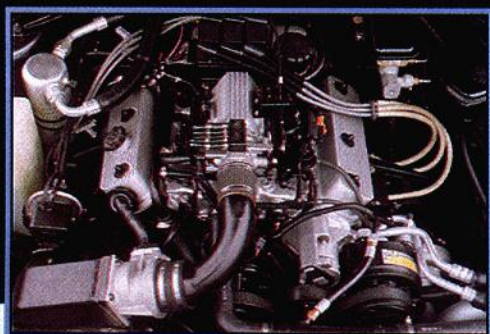
RWD Regal Turbo



RWD Reatta Turbo



RWD Regal Turbo



RWD Reatta Turbo