



## THE ULTIMATE READERS' RIDE

Normally, you'd expect a bigwig from one of America's largest and most successful corporations to ride around in a chauffeur-driven limo or possibly drive a high-roller car such as a Mercedes-Benz, a BMW or even a Cadillac. Not if that executive is a down-home country boy turned VP, whose love for cars and trucks has been credited with the successful about-face in the marketing of one of America's most famous brands of vehicles—Chevrolet. Jim Perkins, Vice President of General Motors and Chevrolet's General Manager, is a regular guy from Texas who just happens to like performance cars and trucks. His latest "ride" is an all-wheel-drive 300hp S-10 pickup, aptly nicknamed Baby Thunder by Mark McPhail of the Chevy Race Shop. Built with off-the-shelf GM parts by the Chevy Race Shop and John Moss' skunkworks operation at GM's Arizona Proving Grounds near Phoenix, Baby Thunder is packed with a Corvette LT1 V8 that's mated to a modified 4L60-E automatic and Astro van all-wheel-drive viscous transfer case that splits power to an S-10 4x4 axle up front and standard 3.42:1 rearend out back. The rear suspension was lowered slightly and the truck was fitted with '93 Corvette wheels shod with huge Goodyear GSC tires. On the inside is a floor-mounted Corvette shifter, bucket seats and full instrumentation lifted from a GMC Syclone. Last year at our *Sport Truck* shootout ("Tripping the Lights Fantastic," August '94), the truck ran the quarter in 13.90 seconds at 97.71 mph. So how do we know Perkins actually drives the thing? He made a surprise appearance in Baby Thunder at a recent truck show in Scottsdale, Arizona, where we took these pictures.