

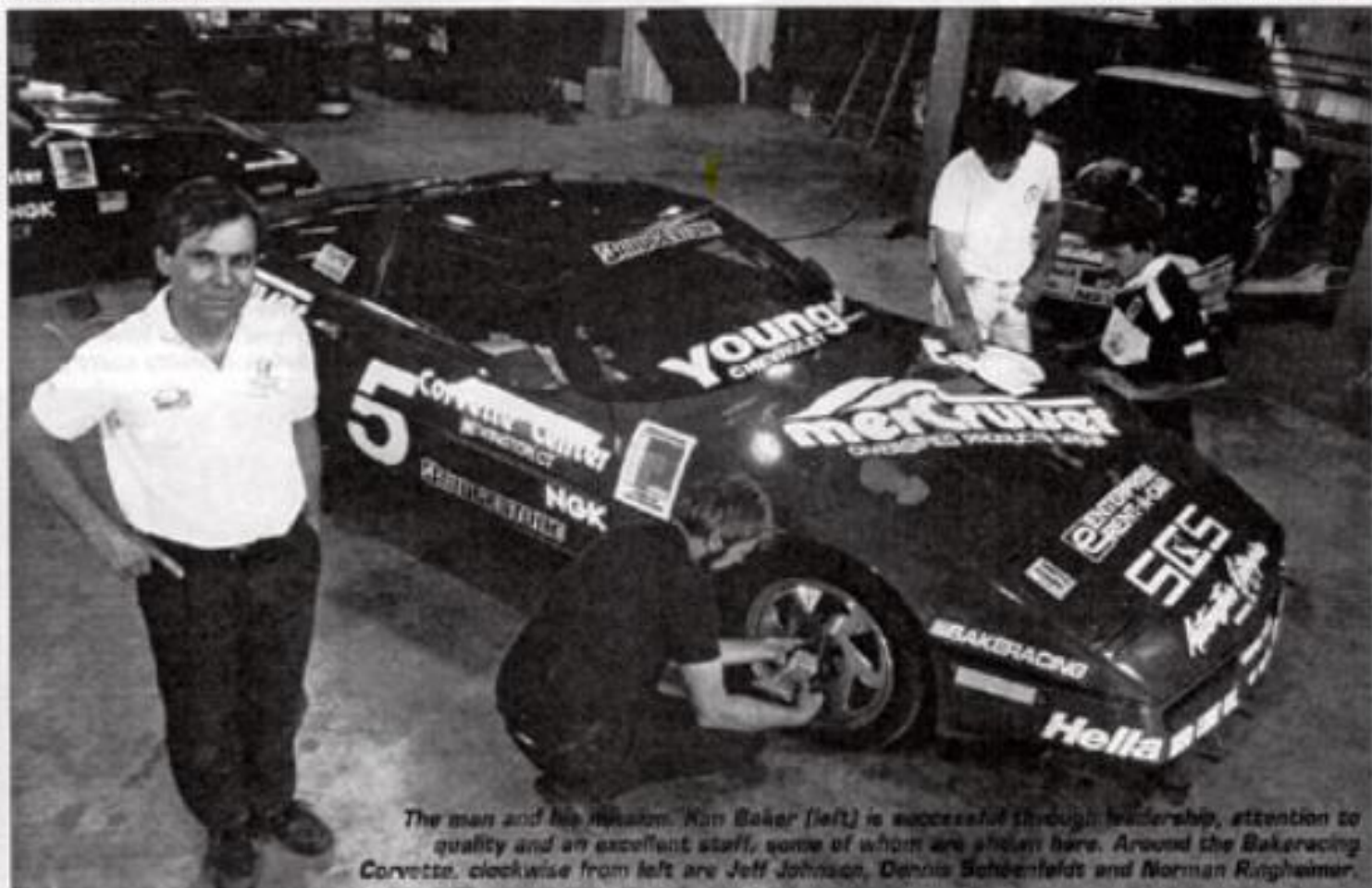
Kim Baker: Corvette Racer

A regular *Yreka* contributor, Hib Halverson hails from West Covina, Calif., where there is no smog or traffic. Sure. A doctor once told him that his blood platelets were shaped like bowties and that he needed to spend time at the Zora Arkus-Duntov clinic for the Chevrolet-impaired. He didn't listen.

The man, his business, his motorsport.

By Hib HALVERSON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE AUTHOR



The man and his machine. Kim Baker (left) is successful through leadership, attention to quality and an excellent staff, some of whom are shown here. Around the Bakeracing Corvette, clockwise from left are Jeff Johnson, Dennis Schoenfeldt and Norman Rughamer.

Kim Baker has been a fixture in Corvette road racing for nearly a decade. He drove the "new car" to its first National Championship, winning the Showroom Stock/GT class at the SCCA runoffs at Atlanta in 1984.

In the old Escort Endurance Series, his Bakeracing organization took team championships in 1986 and '87. Baker's drivers, Bobby and Tommy Archer, won 16 races and shared the Driver's Championship both years. From this, Kim earned his reputation as an engine wizard, a chassis setup genius and a master strategist. Baker also

used his substantial driving talent to win four races in those two years. His two-year Escort run was an amazing feat, because team owner/manager/drivers who are successful at all three are quite rare.

Kim did not compete in the Corvette Challenge as Chevrolet hired Bakeracing to supervise the setup and testing of all Challenge cars. He spent 1990, the first year of the new Escort World Challenge, rebuilding his team, but in '91, Kim Baker was back with a vengeance!

At this writing, his two Corvette Z07 Coupes have done well in the World Chal-

lenge. In six out of eight events, Bakeracing No. 4, with Shawn Hendricks at the wheel, qualified first or second. Shawn won at Sears Point ("Baker's Back, Big Time," Sept. '91, page 28) and Des Moines. He finished second at Dallas, Denver and Road America. Co-driving with Peter Hanson, Don Knowles, Boris Said and Bill Cooper, he was fourth in the 24-hour event at Mosport, Canada. With two races to go, Bakeracing has already won the Team Championship and nailed down the Manufacturer's Championship for Chevrolet. Shawn Hendricks has a com-