The sports car has traditionally been defined as a car suitable for personal transportation over public roads but that as delivered by the maker can enter competitive events and expect to be successful. Only a small number of makes and models have met this challenging criterion. France had its Bugatti and Italy its Alfa-Romeo, but in America perhaps only the Mercer Type 35 Racedabout is qualified for membership in such an elite group. Manufactured from 1911 through 1914 it dominated the light car class, with displacement limited to 300 cubic inches, and on occasion gained the winn –

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### Book Reviews

**Mercer Magic: Roeblings, Kusers, The Mercer Automobile Company and America’s First Sports Car**  
*by Clifford W. Zink*  
Roebling Museum (Sep. 2015)  
roeblingmuseum.org/ 609-499-7200  
200 pages, 12” x 9” hardcover  
265 b/w and 60 color images  
Price: $60.00  
ISBN-10: 0692542353  

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**James Garner’s Motoring Life: Grand Prix the Movie, Baja, The Rockford Files and More**  
*by Matt Stone*  
Car-Tech, Inc. (Sep. 2014)  
cartechbooks.com/ 800-551-4754  
160 pages, 9” x 9” hardcover  
88 b/w and 120 color images, indexed  
Price: $34.95  
ISBN-10: 161325136X  

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Your commentator grew up watching *Maverick* on television with her dad. We enjoyed every episode but somehow those in which brother Bret was featured were best. Bret was actor Jim Garner’s character and thus, in concert with the script writers, his creation. So you could say that I’ve been “a fan” since practically the beginning.

Years later, discovering Garner was also a “car guy” was like that proverbial cake frosting. Among James Garner’s acting career credits—to name but a few; on the “small screen” *The Rockford Files* and movies *Murphy's Romance, Victor Victoria, Americanization of Emily, Victor Victoria, Americanization of Emily*, and *Grand Prix*. Car-guy Garner did his own stunt driving in both *Rockford Files* and *Grand Prix* and even became a professional racing team owner, establishing and running American International Racing team (AIR) from July 1967 to the last month of 1969.

Author Matt Stone chose to focus on Garner’s involvement with cars in his new book *James Garner’s Motoring Life*. But as your commentator was reading Stone’s book, as well as the other that Stone commended to readers in his introduction with these words: “Every James Garner fan needs a copy of this *New York Times Best Seller List* book, *James Garner’s autobiography The Garner Files*” (which was on the shelves of my local public library) some of life’s strange ironies took place; namely the passing of two others prominent in the lore and legends surrounding Corvette, and each with a direct relationship to Garner too—car builder and racer extraordinaire Dick Guldstrand, who had been part of AIR, and Martin Milner, a fellow actor most remembered for *Route 66* and *Adam 12*.

Overall Stone’s presentation and portrayal of Garner’s *Motoring Life* is “spot on.” But two “oopses” completely surprised me (true confession) as I’ve been acquainted with the author since the earliest days of his