

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

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By Fred Griffith

Bill Golden's Magnum Illusion (Left) Duels Little Red Wagon At Lakeland

Golden Paints To Please His Fans

By LARRY REA

It just didn't look right," is the way Bill 'Maverick' described his first impressions of the \$1,500 paint job on his new Magnum Illusion wheelstander. So he decided to become an artist.

Working almost round the clock from Monday through Friday of this past week, Golden gave the car a new paint job. He started mixing colors with names like star pearl, tangerine and aster gold.

"I used those three colors just to get right combination for the sword,"

Searcy, Ark., after living in Memphis in the early 1970s. "I owed it to my fans to give them something to remember."

Known throughout the nation for his 'Little Red Wagon' wheelstander, Golden decided last December to create the ultimate dragster, not only in performance but also in appearance. The 'Magnum Illusion' was born.

"When we got the car done last Monday I looked at it and it just didn't have the glitter, the glow I wanted," recalled Golden, who holds the world record for wheelstander.

right ingredients, and then he began his game of beat the clock. On Tuesday, he got two hours sleep, three hours on Wednesday, none on Thursday and three on Friday. He sacrificed it all to make sure things went just right in Memphis.

"I'd never painted anything in my life before this," said Golden, one of drag racing's most flamboyant drivers. He spent three days making sure a wildly colored sword was just the right color. A portion of the car ended up with what he called "an earth green" color. It was the weirdest shade of green I'd ever seen."

