

## LIFESTYLES

# Dausman memoir on shelves

The Sentinel report

The fastest American-built car is The Blue Flame rocket car, which held the world land speed record from 1970-1983 with an average speed of 622.407 mph.

It was designed to be the first land speed vehicle to achieve 1,000 mph. Why didn't it? What went wrong? If The Blue Flame is such an important American car, why is it housed in a German museum?

Lake Manitou resident Ray Dausman, the rocket designer for The Blue Flame, tells the story of the The Blue Flame in his new memoir "The Reluctant Rocketman: A Curious Journey in World Record Breaking."

Author Sarah Kasprowitz is Dausman's daughter, and has crafted his memoir to share the untold story of The Blue Flame and explain that while the world may see The Blue Flame as a huge success story, Dausman considers it a failure.

The Reluctant Rocketman is relevant today because the 1,000 mph benchmark has never been attained. There are several land speed record projects in the works in all corners of the globe.

The most well known is the British Bloodhound SSC team of engineers and land speed experts who are working feverishly to be ready in 2015 to make their attempt at 1,000 mph.

The Reluctant Rocketman is about a part of American history, but it is also about timeless themes such as innovation and the price of invention.



**MEMOIR** The cover of "The Reluctant Rocketman: A Curious Journey in World Record Breaking," about Lake Manitou resident Ray Dausman and the rocket engine he designed that set a Guinness World Record. Dausman's daughter, Sarah Kasprowitz, is the author.