



PLAYWAGON

A Ford for Fun and Games!

SURFWAGONS, ski buses, self-contained campers and weekenders have blossomed since the advent of the VW Microbus-inspired vans. However, some potential prospects for such vehicles have been disenchanted by their truck-like appearance. Ford Motor Co. stylists, recognizing this problem, have turned a mundane Econoline van into an autoshow delight called the "Apartment." Shades of Jack Lemmon (or, more accurately, Metalflake Orange)!

Simply by sectioning 7 in. from the body below the beltline, they created a

more stable and sturdy appearance. Because the amount of side glass is undiminished, good visibility is maintained while a feeling of top-heaviness is avoided. Simple exterior trimwork is highlighted by a custom, thin-tube grillework in front, a quartet of exhaust pipes behind and Mustang styled steel wheels. While the wagon was undergoing metamorphosis, a 289-cu. in., high-performance V-8 and 3-speed automatic transmission were slipped into place.

Inside the control compartment Gemini capsule contour bucket lounges

are installed behind a staghorn steering "wheel." The radio-stereo tape deck is contained in the engine cover/console. Interior decorators applied dark-stained wood beams across the palomino vinyl head lining and then replaced with rear seats with a fully-padded-around-the-sides bench upholstered with deep pile carpeting.

Though the Apartment is enticing enough for executive dalliance, it probably will have more appeal to the serious-minded college man. Consider it as a rolling study hall: The conversation pit in back for important bull sessions, a built-in rack for reference and text books, educational TV receiver, and ice cream and cookies in the cooler for those late night sessions of cramming for a biology exam. ■

