



Off-the-road Luxury

\$6000 JEEP WAGONEER: PLUSH IN THE BRUSH!

TO MANY persons, vehicles with off-the-road capabilities mean fun, adventure, and new freedom. But there are some who can associate only boils, backaches, and other forms of discomfort with them. In their Wagoneer models, the Kaiser Jeep Corp. has provided total relief for the latter group without spoiling any of the joy for the first.

With their latest variation, the Super Wagoneer, they've added luxury and flashy appearance along with improved performance to the other good points of the series. The 270-hp, 4-barrel Vigilante V-8 (by American Motors) produced 0-60 and quarter-mile times of 12.8 and 18.7 seconds, respectively. This beats

the 2-barrel version by nearly 2 seconds on 0-60 and shortens the quarter-mile time by 1 second, making the 4wd Super Wagoneer a real performer on the road.

One off-road jaunt on a hot day in the Wagoneer is enough to convince anyone that this is the *only* way to travel. We shifted into 4-wheel drive, closed all windows to keep out dust, pollen and insects, turned on the Clardy air conditioner, selected a music station on the Bendix radio, and set off across the countryside. The air conditioner, incidentally, felt as if it had enough capacity in the maximum cool range to frost the windows. Even with an outside temperature in the mid-80s, the lowest setting

provided sufficient cooling for two occupants.

There are two ranges of 4-wheel drive, the higher one sufficing for all but the roughest going. In low range, we were able to growl up the steepest grades and, when we wanted to, stop and restart midway up. This maneuver was made much easier with the GM Turbo Hydramatic transmission than it would have been with a clutch and manual setup.

On the highways and boulevards the Wagoneer gives a quiet, comfortable ride. The high body and large all-around glass area give unusual visibility for either sightseeing or gauging traffic. Premium gasoline mileage ranged be-



OUR JAUNT OVER THIS WEEDY HILLSIDE FLUSHING JACK RABBITS COULD JUST AS WELL HAVE BEEN A TRIP ACROSS THE VELDTS FOR EXOTIC GAME.



Ventilated bucket seats, console, simulated wood paneling, padded instrument panel, adjustable steering would be right at home in luxury sedan or plush personal car.

tween 12-15 mpg on the open road and 2-3 mpg less in the rough.

Equipped as it is with power brakes and steering and the automatic transmission, the Super Wagoneer shouldn't give women drivers any trouble — either on or off the road. Four large doors and the tailgate provide easy access to both passenger and cargo space. The steering wheel is oval and adjustable, allowing it to be lowered to a comfortable position without interfering with the legs.

All the equipment we've mentioned and more, including an electric tailgate window, is standard on this model. About the only thing not included is a clock, which is an extra-cost, dealer-installed item. The bill for this luxurious 4wd comes to \$6118 plus local taxes — a figure far more jolting than the ride, but an easily justifiable one if you stop to add up all the items, not forgetting the extra driving wheels.

If you want and can afford one for pleasure, or if you find that you frequently have to stop and round up stray cattle on your way to the charity ball, there's simply no substitute for the Super Wagoneer. — *John Ethridge*

PHOTOS BY DARRYL NORENBURG



First, we attacked some steep dirt grades, then crested some abrupt rises to see if the leaf suspension would take it (it did), and finally pulled old Indian trick of driving up stream bed to cover our trail.

