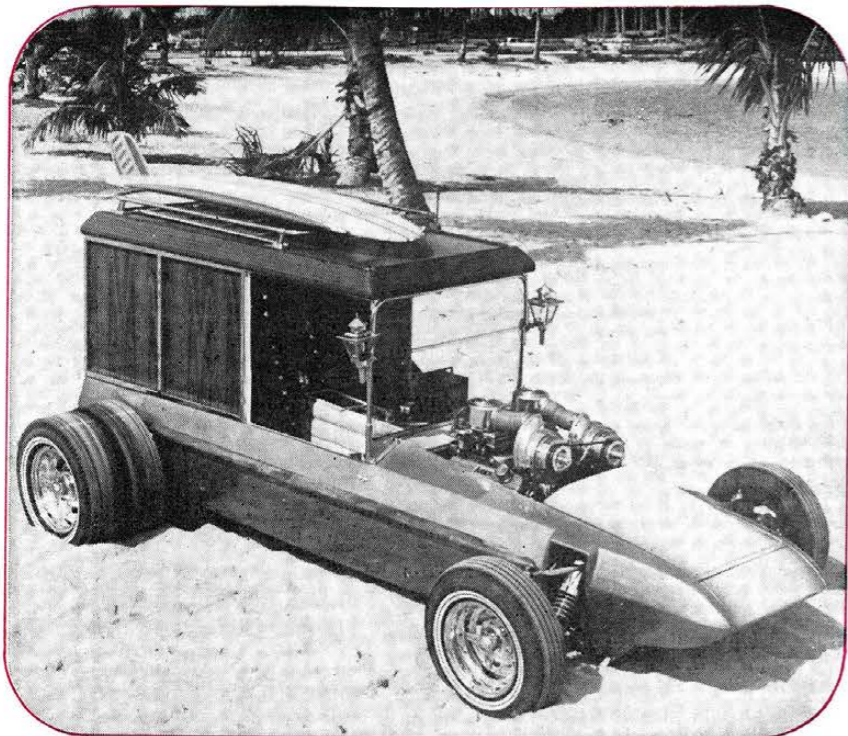


# Surfers Stoke Streetsters



*"Follow Me" is a full-length surfing adventure motion picture . . . but it's also a wild new custom surfing van that has touched off a new trend in groovy street machines — take a look*

**By Jim Hodge** ■ Surfers are much the same as hot rodders. They're doers. They experiment with surfboard sizes and weights, fin design, cavitation, and techniques, all in an effort to improve "it's got everything" performance when they're out on the waves "playing their own song."

But now the sun, sand, and sea worshippers have taken to wheels, and "stoked" is the only way to describe their creations. Stoked: That means wild, good, great, neat, or the most in surfing lingo.

The surfers have become street rodders, in a way. Now they're experimenting with street iron that's on a par with some of the best hot rodding has to offer. But the surfers' bag is a little different—different enough to prompt an all-new trend in custom wheels for street use or in this case, street and beach.

Vans. That's the new kick. Tough surf vans that come in all the razzle-dazzle finishes: pearl, lace inserts, flake, striped. Chevy Dodge, VW and Ford vans. Big mills, chrome and plain, little mills (even Bug-power VW's). Mag, chrome, and reversed wheels, on big and little rubber. Some dumped, some lowered all-round. You name it; they're doin' it.

Surfers have added a new dimension to their custom wheels, though: Practical, functional, elaborate custom interiors that are way way out, incorporating all the comforts and necessities of a "home on wheels." The loungelike interiors offer the ultimate in accommodations for comfort while waiting for surf, with portable refrigeration, stereo tape systems, maybe television, and, of course, custom-built racks to carry surfboards.

Hot Rod Magazine has been eyeing this new trend in customized vans for several months, and when Robert E. Petersen Productions announced the coming premiere of "Follow Me," an all-new colorful and exciting, round-the-world surfing adventure movie, we decided to take a closer look at this popular new trend.

"The most" in custom vans was inspired by the new movie, and it's known, of course, as "Follow Me," a project car produced by the editors of Rod & Custom Magazine. On these pages you'll see an artist's rendering of the modified 1969 Chevy van, built by

Gene Winfield, after a design conceived by Harry Bradley "Follow Me" is an elaborate example of a "typical-of-today" surfing van. The Chevy V8 mill is dressed in chrome goodies; the van has been reshaped and refitted here 'n there by master Gene Winfield, who also painted it, and the "it's-got-everything" interior is the product of Art Trantafello.

"Follow Me" will be on display throughout the nation in shows and exhibits, and will be featured at many of the premiere showings of the full-length surfing movie

of the same title, which can be seen in theatres and drive-ins in all parts of the country this summer.

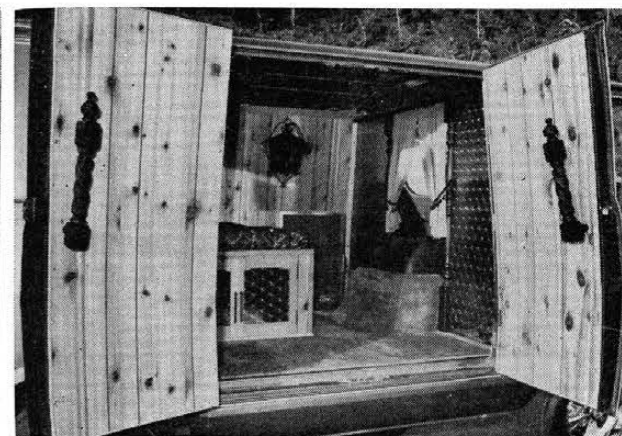
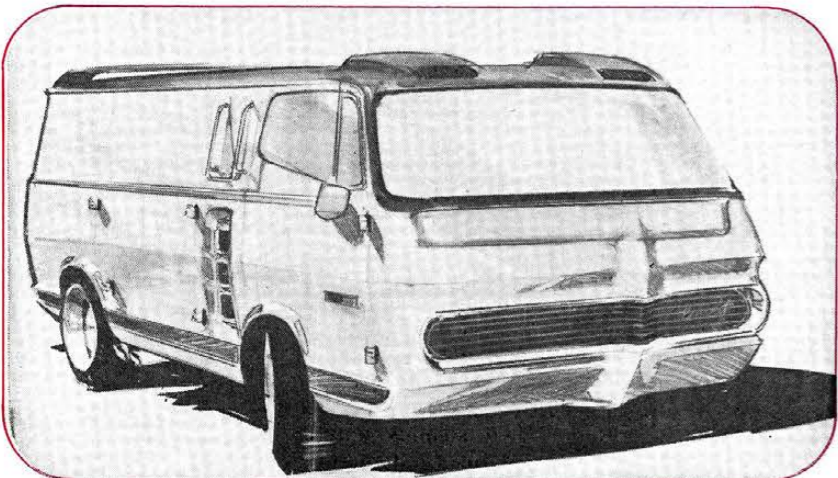
Other examples of today's surf 'n street wheels are also found on these pages. George Barris' famous "Surf Woody" although not a van, is perhaps responsible for the trend in customized surf/beach wheels. Powered by a dual-supercharged 289 Cobra engine, Barris' "Surf Woody" was one of the first customs designed for surfers.

In the accompanying photographs is

Bob Barbour's super-sano Chevy van, which is a good indication of what's happening on the streets today in surf vans. The plush interior of Bob's machine is complemented by a wild paint job and striping, set off with Cragar wheels. Bob is a member of Associated Vans, a club in the Southern California area made up of more than 50 owners of surfing vans.

Watch for this surfer's streetster and be sure to see "Follow Me," showing soon at the theatre or drive-in near you. What's it like? Stoked, man, stoked. ■

photography: PPC Photographic



Bob Barbour's teal blue '65 Chevy van is a prime example of "where it's at" for surfers. Voted the "Best Looking" by Bob's fellow club members in the "Associated Vans," it pioneers the trend toward livable interiors with knotty cedar paneling, carpeted floor and plenty of lounging room. Other

luxury touches include bottle-glass panels to hide the driver area, a small refrigerator, a TV set, clothes closets, and lots of storage space. Bob did the interior work with some help from his parents. Body and paintwork were executed by Reseda Auto Body Black Naugahyde was used on padded dash.

