

The things they do to their cars and vans!

AN AUSTIN Seven worth over £2,000 and a Ford Transit with a top speed of more than 130mph, were among the vehicles on display at a meeting of the National Street Vans Association near Three Bridge Mills, Twyford, over the weekend.

Brilliantly painted Bedfords and colourfully carpeted Commer conversions were there for public inspection on Sunday in the association's 'show and shine' competition.

The variety of different vehicles with personally designed paintwork and incorporating all the luxuries of home, was vast, and each had that individual flavour.

LONG DISTANCE

Owners of custom conversion cars and vans travelled hundreds of miles to be at the meeting — one couple who happened to be in England on holiday from their home in Canada also attended.

Event organiser for the NSVA, Mr. Roger Pocock, of Steeple Claydon, told the Advertiser that the response of members of the association had been very good.

The main part of the event took place on Saturday and Sunday, but many of "truck-in" enthusiasts were seen with their spectacular vehicles in Buckingham, last Thursday and Friday.

HOT ROD

The ever increasingly popular hobby of van and hot rod car conversion originally sparked off in America with the motto "Freedom on Wheels."

As with many American inspired ideas, it did not take long before 'conversions' were quite frequently seen in England.

In October 1974 eight van owners, including Roger Pocock, got together at Woburn for the first meeting of the NSVA.

"From that time the



You have to be a real back seat driver to take to the road in this Austin Seven. The interior that came with it has been removed and now is beautifully upholstered and the driving seat, as can be seen from the picture, is in the back of the vehicle. The steering column has been extended, to enable the driver to reach it.

association has increased phenomenally and we are expecting about 600 trucks here over the weekend," said Mr. Pocock.

The Canadian couple holidaying in England, Mr. and Mrs. J. Jackson, told our reporter that the first they knew about the association's "truck-in" was when someone spotted their "Vantura" van and put a sticker on the window publicising the event.

TRAVELLING

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, from Kingston, Ontario, explained that they and their three children would be travelling around England, Scotland and Europe, before making their way back home.

The Jackson's conversion job was done just before they started out on their trip to England.

The interior of the vehicle is trimmed with brown leather and there is plenty of cupboard space, and all the facilities you could possibly need are there.

Mr. Jackson explained that the van could easily provide sleeping space for all the family.

INTRIGUING

Many of the other vans were also fitted out in all sorts of intriguing ways with additions expressing the owner's sense of priorities.

some of them were almost space-age, with high backed seats, headphones for listening to the radio and vastly improved dashboard displays.

REFINEMENTS

Following on from this, several had tuned up engines in their vans with straight-through exhausts, and refinements making possible high cruising speeds.

For entertainment games were organised for the members of the

association including welly wanging, playing 'ball', as delicately as possible, with raw eggs, and throwing the frisbee.

Also the members enjoyed a pig roast on Saturday evening with music provided by the Aylesbury band "Calm."

Popular Muppet, Kermit, would be easily able to get away from Miss Piggy in this tuned-up Ford Escort van, with wide wheels and straight through exhaust system.

