



KUSTOM FURNITURE BRINGING YOUR HOT ROD BACK HOME

by Jon Carroll

Cars. Do you remember when cars were *cars*? Cars were the universe—mill those heads, grind those cams. Chop and channel. Skirts and boots. Pinstriping. Lying under a '54 Ford and looking up at greasy, grimy metal and digging it — the romance of the machine. You could do *anything* to a car. It could speak for you, define you, extend your personality into real space and time. Cars.

Oil Salad is a car, the Bay Area's only desert-camouflaged '56 Ford station wagon. Oil Salad belongs to Michael Moore who, with a friend

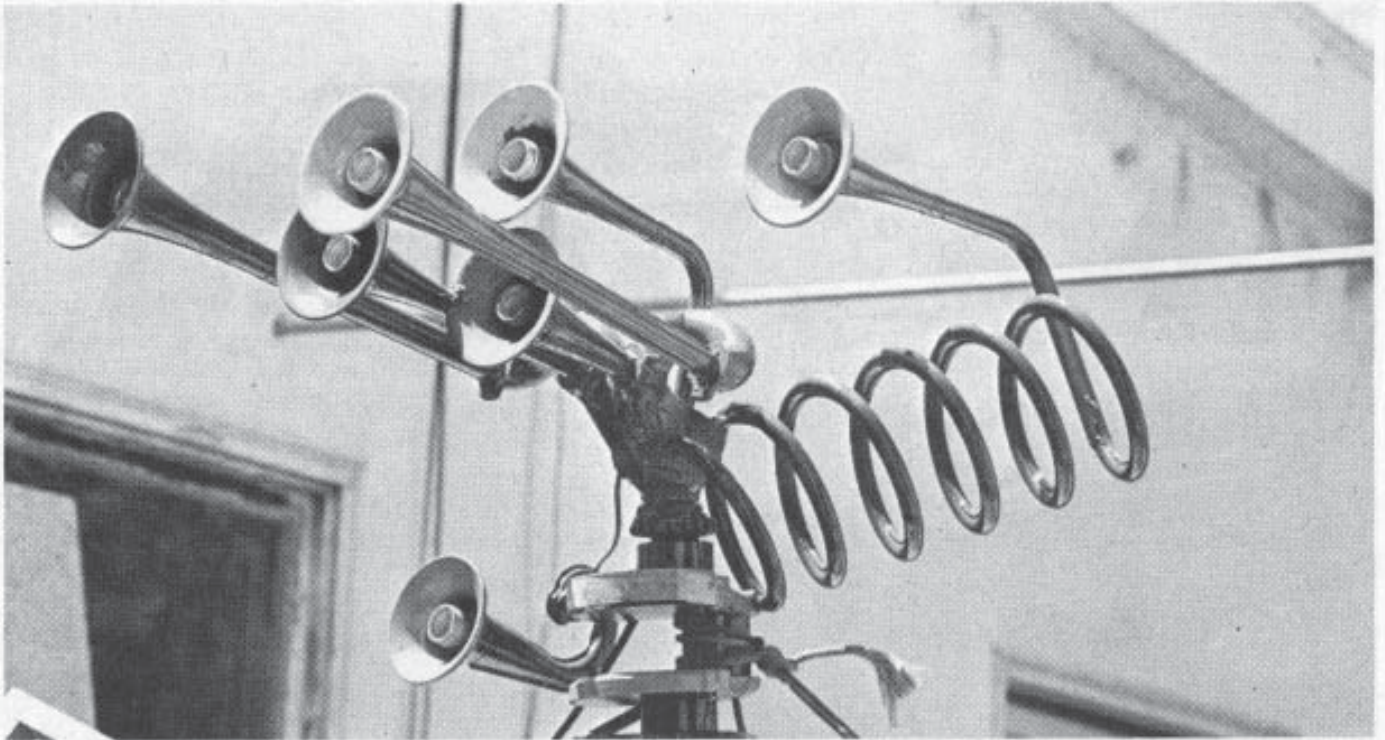
named Ted Claire, used to drive up to the Nevada desert near Pyramid Lake to leave anonymous bits of sculptures on the far side of the hills—brightly painted, non-functional things, to be found by anybody or nobody, whoever was passing. An aesthetic oasis; an ice cream cone for the mind. Some of the stuff was made out of old car parts.

Oil Salad, alas, had a habit of breaking down. Early this year it lost its transmission. Eventually it got a new transmission — the old one sat around while Mike and Ted went about their business. The old transmission germinated,

Photos by Baron Wolman

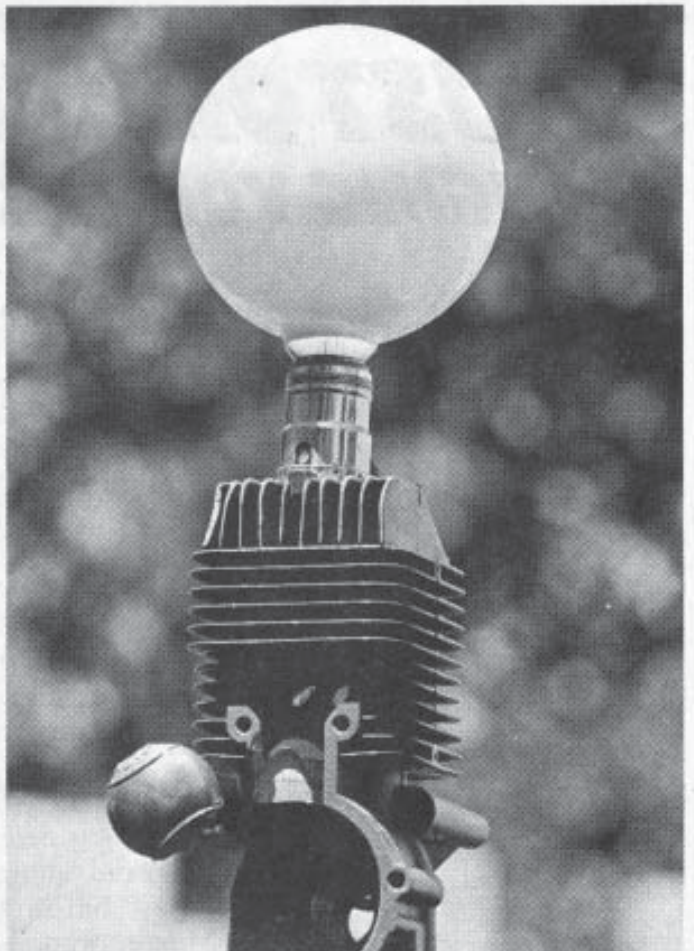
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Crank shaft and seven old car horns with sockets are a chandelier.



Michael Moore holds transmission and overdrive shaft
combination table and lamp.

KUSTOM FURNITURE



Brake drum and cylinder housing lamp.

then formed itself into a gestalt. Furniture.

Furniture?

Ted says something about it: "We dig junkyards. A junkyard is really kind of the crux of what's happening. In a junkyard, you know, you can begin to see what's at the end of the long newspaper spoon. You don't have to use stuff and then waste it. You don't have to. You can use it again." At first, it was sculpture. Now (in response to . . . the pressure of the times?) it's functional, Furniture.

If you arrange a transmis-

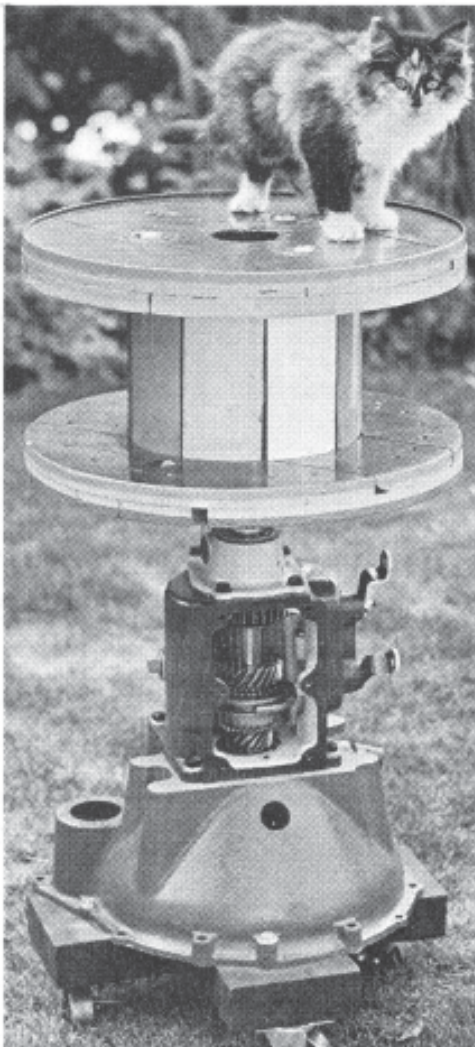
sion, a bell housing and an overdrive shaft from a '56 Ford in the proper order, add a couple of dime-store parts, you've got a combination table and lamp. At least, that's what Mike and Ted came up with. A brake drum, a cam shaft, an exhaust manifold and seven old car horns fitted with sockets make a giant lamp. A truck hood, inverted, is a lovely child's bed. Perhaps a couple of fenders, welded together, would make a good hanging chair.

There's no reason why we have to wrest more metal out

of the earth, dig more holes, scar the land. There's no reason why we should refine more ore, needlessly polluting the water and air. There is no imperative to consume new goods at geometrically expanding rates—the cowboy economy must die. New things from old. Your car is a bed, a chair, a table, a house—anything.

How do you drop out of the consumer economy? Grow your own. Michael Moore and Ted Claire are growing their own furniture. 🐾

Bell housing, transmission and wire spool table.



Ted Claire with coil spring.

