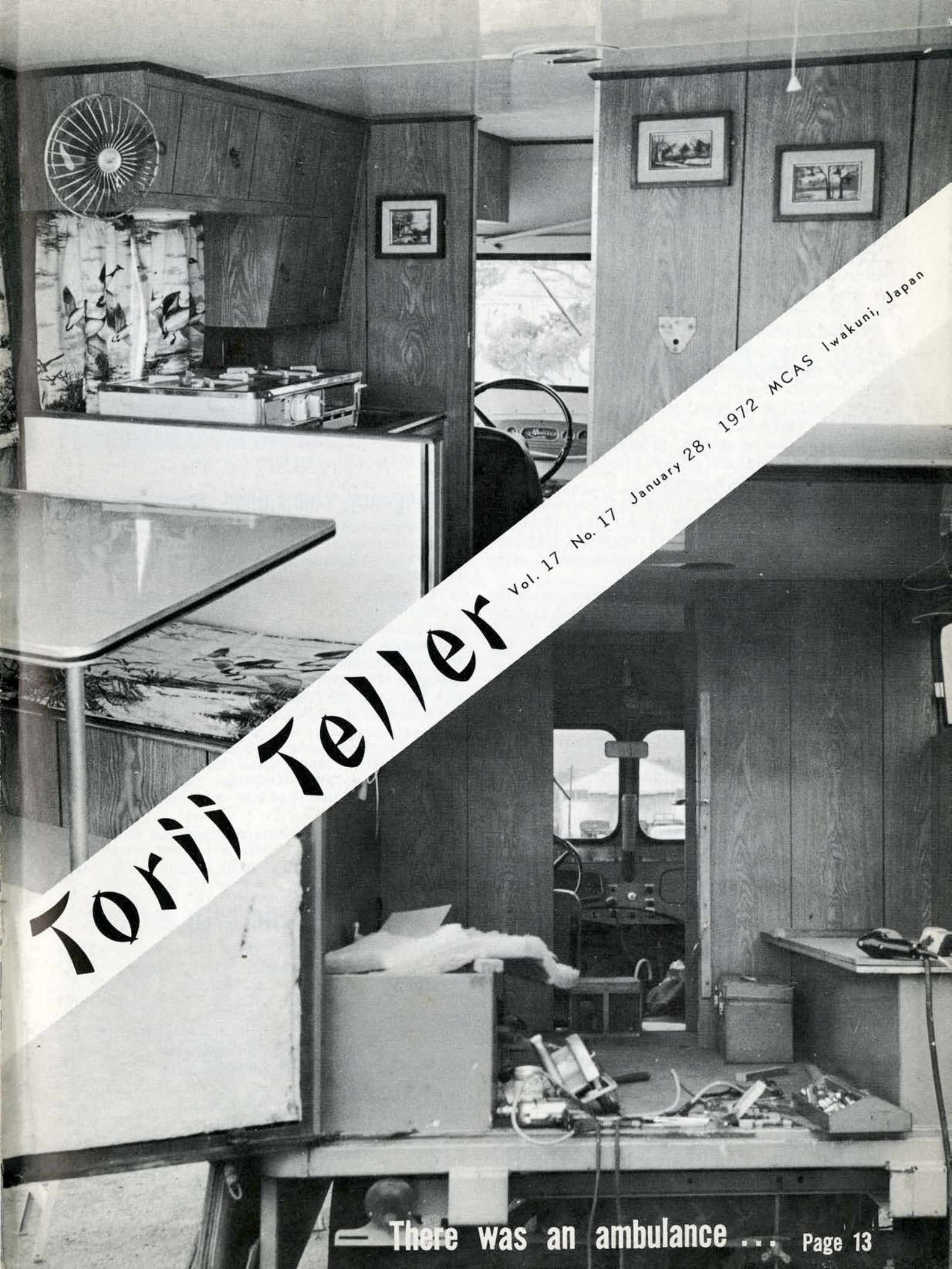




Torin Keller

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VMFA-232 pilot home on wing and a prayer

The plane was in trouble, there was no doubt about that. And, as it made its first pass over the field, no one was more aware of it than 1stLt. Gene Salaniuk, the pilot.

The fuel situation was critical and he couldn't get his right main landing gear down.

The drama that unfolded here last Friday afternoon began normally enough. Salaniuk and his Radar Intercept Officer, 1stLt. Darrell Sayer, were on a routine training mission for VMFA-232.

"Everything started out OK" Salaniuk recalled. "Then, about 10 minutes into the mission, I noticed I was losing pressure in my hydraulic system."

Concerned about this development, Salaniuk and his wingman turned back to the base. "At 6,000 feet I lowered my landing gear and it was then that I discovered that I couldn't get my right main landing gear to come down."

A visual check by the wingman and indicators on the control panel of the F-4 Phantom jet confirmed that the right landing gear was still in the up position.

"We went through all the emergency procedures and did all kinds of wild maneuvers trying to get the gear down, but it wouldn't budge."

The manual on the F-4 calls for, in this particular type of emergency, a short field arrested landing. There was only one small problem: Salaniuk had never made an arrested landing in an F-4.

After Salaniuk and his RIO, Lieutenant Sayers, had talked it over, the decision was made to land the crippled jet.

A large crowd had formed near the Search and Rescue hut to watch the drama unfold. As the crash crew foamed the runway, Salaniuk made preparations for his landing.

The first pass was a miss, and on the second landing attempt the cable broke. "I didn't feel any reduction in speed," said Lt. Salaniuk, "so I had to put on my afterburner and get out of there."

Now the fuel situation became critical and with slightly more than 1,000 pounds of fuel remaining, the two lieutenants began to think about bailing out.

An attempt to refuel was aborted because the winds were too rough at the reduced altitude at which the plane was circling.

With the fuel critically low, Salaniuk again tried to land. The F-4 approached the field and this time the cable caught and held the plane. The plane continued down the runway a few seconds and then its right wing dropped to the ground.

From the field near the SAR hut, a round of applause and cheers broke out from the crowd. It had been Salaniuk's third flight since joining VMFA-232 on January 10. As the F-4 slid to a stop, Sayers, in the back seat whispered, "Thank God."

From the front seat Salaniuk added: "Amen."



A Phantom is home safe!

Interagency counselling team to visit

A special overseas interagency counselling team is slated to arrive here Monday, January 31 for special counselling of interested Iwakunians at the Joint Education Office.

The purpose of the team is to provide "civilian readjustment" services to servicemen expecting release from active duty within the next six months.

Representatives of the Department of Labor and the Veterans Administration make up the team. These team members will have with them presentation materials, kits, forms and other related materials to assist servicemen and women in completion of the necessary paperwork to help ready themselves for educational pursuits, employment or veterans' benefits upon their return to civilian life.

The team will be available for consultation in the Education Office, Bldg. 1478, from 1-4:30 p.m. Monday, and from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday February 1 with a normal lunch break.

Iwakunians with immediate questions may talk to the representatives at these times or wait for their next visit. The team is slated to begin making monthly two-day visits here.

Career Planners to arrive

The Headquarters Marine Corps Career Planning team will visit Iwakuni Wednesday, Feb. 2, making special presentation programs for all company grade officers, Staff Non-Commissioned Officers, and career-oriented sergeants and below.

Staff NCOs will attend a presentation at 8:30 Wednesday morning with enlisted men following at 10:15 a.m. The officers' program will be presented at 1 p.m.

Accompanying the team will be Col. Bain McClintock, head of the HQMC Career Planning Branch; Col. Hazel Benn, head of the Education Branch and Maj. James Bugbee, representing the Enlisted Assignment Section of Headquarters.

The one-hour and 15 minute enlisted and Staff NCO programs are to be conducted by SSgt. M. J. DePersig. Maj. Dale Shuman will head the 90-minute officers' presentation.

President talks of ending war, increasing pay

Following are excerpts of the long version of the President's State of the Union Message, January 20, which refer to the Department of Defense.

Ending the War:

"The condition of a nation's spirit cannot be measured with precision, but some of the factors which influence that spirit can. I believe the most dramatic single measurement of the distance we have traveled in the last 36 months is found in the statistics concerning our involvement in the war in Vietnam.

"On January 10, 1969 our authorized troop ceiling in Vietnam was 549,000, and there was no withdrawal plan to bring these men home. On seven occasions since that time I have announced withdrawal decisions — involving a total of 480,000 troops. As a result, our troop ceiling will be only 69,000 by May 1... we will reduce that level still more.

"In this same period, expenditures connected with the war have been cut drastically... a drop of well over 50 percent in American air activity... Our ground combat role has ended.

"Our aim is to cut the death and casualty toll by 100 percent, to obtain the release of... prisoners of war, and to end the fighting..."

This is our policy:

" — We will maintain a nuclear deterrent adequate to meet any threat to the security of the United States or of our allies.

" — We will help other nations develop the capability of defending themselves.

" — We will act to defend our interests whenever and wherever they are threatened any place in the world.

" — We will faithfully honor all of our treaty commitments.

" — But where our interests or our treaty commitments are not involved our role will be limited.

" — We will not intervene militarily.

" — But we will use our influence to prevent war.

" — If war comes we will use our influence to try to stop it.

" — Once war is over we will do our share in helping to bind up the wounds of those who have participated in it.

"In the last three years we have moved from a wartime to a peacetime footing... from a period when Americans often acted as policemen for the world to a period when other nations are assuming greater responsibility for their own defense.

"... as we avoid extreme reactions in our political attitudes toward the world, so we must avoid over-reacting as we plan for our defense. We have reversed spending priorities, but we have never compromised our national security.

"Our plans for the next year call for an increase in defense spending. That increase is made necessary in part by rising research and development costs, in part by military pay increases... and in part by the need to proceed with new weapons systems to maintain our security at an adequate level.

"In the year ahead we will be working to improve and protect, to diversify and disperse our strategic forces in ways to make them even less vulnerable to attack and more effective in deterring war... I recently directed the Department of Defense to develop a program to build additional missile launching submarines, carrying a new and far more effective missile.

"I will also propose a substantial program to develop and procure more effective weapons systems for our land and tactical air forces..."

"Further substantial military pay increases are planned. I will also submit to the congress an overall reform of our military retirement and survivor benefit programs, raising the level of protection for military families. In addition we will expand efforts to improve race relations, to equalize promotional opportunities, to control drug abuse, and generally to improve the quality of life in the Armed Forces."

Children's Dental Health Week

February 6-12 is the 24th annual National Children's Dental Health Week. As part of the observance, the Torii Teller, in cooperation with the Station Dental Department and 11th Dental Company, today begins a series of articles on facts about dental health.

Recent newspaper articles have noted that tooth decay will soon be completely eliminated as a disease problem. Is this really true?

Tooth decay will not be totally eliminated, at least in the foreseeable future. However, it can be prevented in large part even today by taking advantage of proven public health measures, professional treatment, and complete home care.

One of the well-established and most effective decay preventives is fluoridation of public water supplies. Today, more than 92 million people in the U. S. drink fluoridated water. This dental health measure has proven to reduce the incidence of decay in children by as much as 60 percent. The water going to the housing area aboard MCAS Iwakuni is fluoridated and for those with children living off base, fluoride tablets can be prescribed by the Dental Department.

Fluorides are being used in other ways to prevent decay, especially for people in communities that do not have fluoridation.

The American Dental Association recommends the use of fluoride dentifrices. Additionally, fluoride can be applied directly on children's teeth at periodic intervals. Many school districts provide fluoridated water for school children.

No alternate use of fluoride is as effective as fluoridation of community water supplies, however.

Fluoridation is just a stepping stone toward complete oral hygiene. Scientists are studying other methods of preventing decay, including trying to isolate specific bacteria which form decay-causing acids, and a plastic material which is applied to tooth surfaces to seal the pits and fissures in teeth which are especially prone to decay.

It is possible to reduce dental disease significantly today by drinking fluoridated water, practicing good oral hygiene and making regular visits to a dentist for checkups.



editorial

With all the happenings here and the constant meetings among Iwakuni's servicemen it is time to bring to light that we must all reaffirm ourselves not only as Marines but as people with a goal.

The day of reckoning is approaching, the day when we must either live up to our personal goals or remain the "in-a-rut" type Marine who lives each day only for what can happen that day.

The Marine Corps offers the ultimate in leadership-by-example, or has in the past. With the Vietnam era came a loosening of the reins, a more or less haphazard attitude of, "As long as the job gets done, why worry about it?"

It is the job of every Marine, no matter what his rank or position in the Corps, to make sure not only that the job is done, but that it is done in a manner that will bring credit upon himself, his unit and his Corps.

We should not sit back and relax...rest on yesteryear's

from the chaplain

Remember who you are

Lt. Thomas A. Schultz, MAG-15 Chaplain

Do you know who you are? If you should try to tell someone today, what would you say? Perhaps you would give your name, rank, unit and military MOS. Certainly you would give a job description of your daily activities. You might even give your home of record and tell something about your heritage - the family back home. But the question is much deeper. Who are you in relation to the Creator?

Many Marines are attempting to answer the question, "I am looking for me. I am trying to find myself."

Many times fate makes us forget who we really are. Though we often face situations in life which are beyond our understanding there is One to whom we can turn, and One who does understand.

There is something within the self that makes one seek after his true identity. Something inside every being cries out for a better life, for greater fellowship with the Creator, and for a contentment that cannot be found by one's own human effort and determination. This search also prods us to find the better self for which we were created.

There is a Divinity in our humanity which makes us discover our true selves. There comes a moment of inspiration in life — though it comes time after time — to make us discover the presence of Jesus Christ, who not only created us but who sustains and strengthens us in life. He is the One who can bring us to our real identity.

Life has a new and thrilling start for the one who can realize that he is always in the presence of God who can reveal Himself in our times of darkness and disappointment. In such moments of darkness, if we can recall a blessing from the past and regain the strength of an inner spirit which we have felt, then suddenly we too will discover who we are. The important thing is that we know God who made us and that we begin to search earnestly, through Him, for the identity of our real selves.

The Psalmist asks, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?" and this affirms man's relationship to the Creator. "Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honor." Would you really like to know who you are? Put your hand into the hand of God, walk in fellowship with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit; search diligently for His truth.

laurels so to speak. We must keep the image of the "green machine" an enviable one, one to be emulated not only by those who will come after us, but an image to be sought by all persons.

As Marines we may not always be understood, but we are respected. It is this respect that it is our job to protect and prolong. It is the respect won by thousands of Marines who have given their all to accomplish their mission whether in war or peace.

Whatever it takes to accomplish a given mission, as a Marine it is our responsibility to come up with it.

What does the future hold in store for us? Will we be treading the same paths again, what will the Corps look like, what will it be?

These are questions that only a Marine can answer. And answer it we must through a show of esprit de corps and a bonding together of all Marines towards a common goal, that of keeping the Marine Corps a unit of integrity, understanding, and faithfulness.

Marine muscle, imagination and ingenuity are the strength upon which our Corps is founded and the stepping stone for the continuation of the modern Marine Corps. But mingled with the muscle, imagination and ingenuity, must be common sense and the ability to see both sides of the coin.

Duty with Marines - America's finest - has always been, and will continue to be, the high point in the life of many of us. But only if we can remember that it is a team effort, one in which we must all take part. J"W"J

Joe Tamatte



Ah, humm, Joe! We hate to perpetually be in your case, but you might consult the orders where you'd find that you are not required to salute while riding. However, if that captain had been on the bike and you'd been walking, the story would be different . . . and your umbrella is out completely with the uniform!

...That became a camper

Almost anyone with a yen for the great outdoors would love to own a motor home. The biggest drawback is usually the cost.

A good self-contained truck and camper unit costs at least \$5,000... and that's without all the fancy extras. However, a pair of Marines here used some foresight to outfit themselves with custom campers for only \$750 apiece!

Lieutenant Colonel George E. Pratt, CO, H&HS, and Capt. Norman R. Ford, Special Services Recreation Fund Officer, built their own campers from surplus ambulances.

Has almost everything

They completely modified military truck-type ambulances into custom campers boasting such innovations as showers, dual gas tanks, built-in water tanks, stereo system and oak panelling. Four-wheel drive, optional equipment on many camper trucks, came as a bonus with the ambulances.

Colonel Pratt first thought of making campers of the ambulances while walking through the salvage yard here. He and Capt. Ford were first in line during a salvage sale of surplus military items last June and bought the ambulances for \$150 apiece.

"Both ambulances were in good mechanical condition," said LtCol. Pratt. "Mine needed new hoses, and I had to straighten a bent tie rod but it ran. It had less than 10,000 miles on the odometer."

The colonel started up his camper-to-be and drove it to the Station Hobby Shop where he started the initial work, stripping the vehicle interior. He later had it towed home, off-base, as it was not registered in Japan.

Designs own floor plan

Colonel Pratt read dozens of magazines on recreational vehicles before adopting a floor plan for his camper. He designed the interior for maximum utilization of space, laying out the details on graph paper over a two-week



period. While he had no background in campers, the colonel had helped build a house and has plenty of experience working on his own vehicles.

He cut windows in the sides. Size was determined by the metal framework of the truck body. He cut two windows (22X30 and 12X14 inches) on the left side with metal shears. Two sliding picture windows were cut into the right side, positioned where he planned installing a dinette.

Two steel benches along each side of the ambulance were on the left where he planned building the dinette and kitchen sink. He framed the windows in oak from an old bed frame and bought windows from a Japanese auto junk dealer. He built a framework around the interior, mounting sheet metal around the windows to stabilize the side panels.

Relocates fan

Screwing ¼-inch plywood latticework into the metal roof, he replaced the metal ceiling with wood. He had to relocate one of two exhaust fans in the roof to center above the bathroom, which was built behind the passenger seat. Fiberglass 1½-inch in thickness was used for insulation. Two sheets of finished white veneer measuring 3X6 feet finished off the ceiling. They were affixed with contact cement.

Once the ceiling was in place, LtCol. Pratt built a partition from the bathroom door to the driver's compartment. The same door that closes on the bathroom swings open to the inside of the truck to close off the driver's compartment from the body of the vehicle. He built in the wall paneling with ¼-inch pre-finished plywood, then mounted kitchen cabinets and a dinette along the left side. The right side consists of the bathroom (which doubles as a closet), back of the cab storage cabinets, and a bench on the side that makes into a full length bed.

Sleeps four

By lowering the dinette table and laying a cushion across, it makes into another bed. A full length bunk is mounted above the main bed and doubles as a back rest for the sofa. Storage space is located in cabinets above and beneath the sink, in the bathroom, beneath the front seats in the cab and built into the seat along the right wall.

By September, most of the interior work was completed — almost all done by LtCol. Pratt himself. His wife sewed the slip covers for seats and curtains out of cotton duck material.

His next project was to have Japanese metalsmiths build a 60-gallon-capacity stainless steel water tank to mount atop the rear of the camper. The box containing the water tank also serves as storage space for a folding awning 10X15 feet. It can also store an 8X8 foot tent. The box is 10 inches high, 5 feet wide and 42 inches long.

