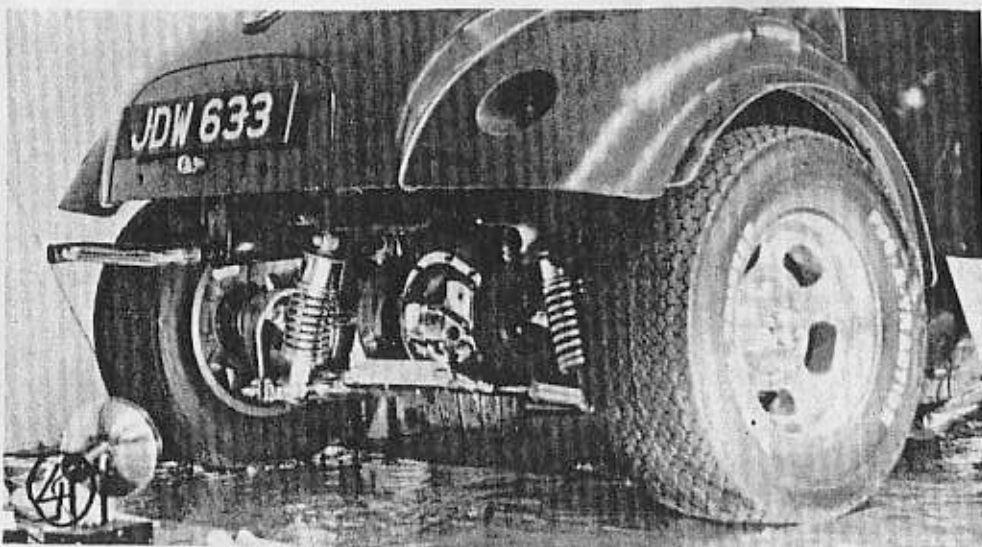


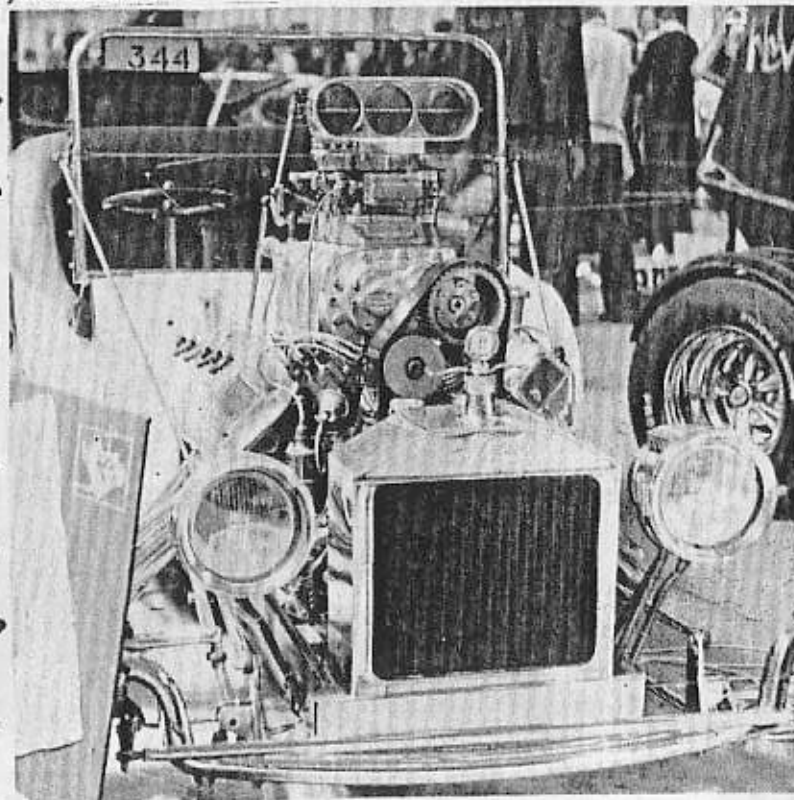
ROD + CUSTOM SHOW BELLE VUE

This was the 6th Rod and Custom show to be held at Belle Vue, and last year's was proclaimed the biggest and best in Europe. But this year's unfortunately was not to be its best. Not all the cars turned up and the quality of exhibits was very poor.

In its early years the custom show saw rods such as Nick Butler's Revenge C-cab, Andromeda, V12's and V8 Ford Pops, all finished to a high standard by professional builders. This year none of the quality that showed in the '79 Show was to be seen. Last year's "Best of Show", Geoff Heald's Triumph Herald was at the Show again-later this year his car is flying to the US to represent



Britain in the Nationals-the only British car ever to do so. (US do it bigger and better of course!). The star of the Show this year was a radically sectioned and lowered VW Beetle with a Porsche 911 engine for the US. Ian Etheridge's Celestial Camaro was seen again-the paintwork is some of the best I've seen. Plenty of US Chevy vans were to be seen, customised by British rodders but nothing radical had been done to them. Bikes were the in-thing this year-about 50 of them altogether. The quality of finish on these was excellent-many having completely brass engines and engraved brass exhaust pipes. A British bike will join Geoff in America this year to compete in the Nats-it's looking good, fellas!



The economic climate seems to have taken its toll on the British rodder-let's hope next year the quality and quantity will be back for the 7th Rod and Custom Show.