

MECHANIX[®] ILLUSTRATED

THE HOW-TO-DO MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 1970 **35^c**

'There's a Ford in My Past'

BUNKIE KNUDSEN Tells It Like It Happened!

20 Great Home Fix-Up Ideas

McCahill on Light Trucks

Hot Tips on Saving Taxes

BUILD YOUR OWN CAMPER

FRANCHISE FEVER: a Disease That Makes You Rich

CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO LUGGAGE

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VOLUME 66, NUMBER 501



WHAT is MIMI doing in that babbling brook? See page 62.



HOW would you like to build your own camper? See page 74.

COMING NEXT MONTH

- **ANNUAL BOATING ISSUE.** Special boating section in full color! Photos and plans for constructing an unsinkable sailboat and a glass-bottom boat. Useful new gadgets for the boatman. Smooth way to boat-camp.
- Other boating features: A 30-day live-aboard houseboat test by Tom McCahill. Plans for a cartop johnboat. How to buy boat insurance. Buying a used outboard motor.

PLUS: Road test of Ford's terrific Torino. Basics of renovating a basement. Fast ways to learn a foreign language. How to manage time-payment buying.

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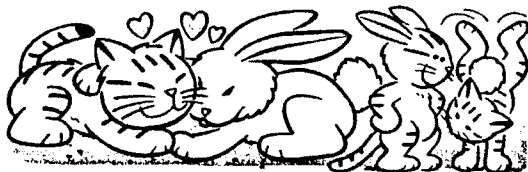
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Dear Editor

Address letters to: Letters Editor, Mechanix Illustrated, 67 West 44th St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

• **Cabbits revisited.** We're still getting mail from some of our readers who claim that cats and rabbits can mate and produce cabbits. The best testimony to date comes from Tom Conti of Stamford, Conn., who claims he owns such an animal. Tom describes his pet as having "pure white rabbit fur—much softer than cat fur. It has a cottontail and powerful hind legs like a rabbit, but it has a cat's head and retractable cat claws." Tom, however, can't tell us how it was bred. He found it as a



stray. We've seen photographs of the animal and it looks pretty much like a cat—a strange cat, mind you, but, nevertheless, a cat.

Our only really cheerful note for you cabbit fans comes from Howard J. Bohner, head of the rodent and rabbit section at the National Institutes of Health. Mr. Bohner is attempting to produce a germ-free strain of rabbits and since no germ-free cottontails exist he plans to create one by crossing rabbits with germ-free cats. "Cats have been known to foster rabbits," he says, "and we're hoping it works under laboratory conditions."

• **Cold Derriere Dept.** I noticed a mistake in the November Inventions Wanted page. Your bicycle-seat cooler was illustrated by a boy all wrapped up in a winter coat and scarf who is riding past a house with smoke coming out of the chimney and surrounded by trees with no leaves. Now who wants a seat cooler in the winter?

George Foley
Cape Elizabeth, Me.

Our artist thought we wanted a picture of a seat warmer rather than a seat cooler. And our Inventions Wanted editor didn't catch the error since he's from northern Minnesota where summer and winter look pretty much the same.

• **Through a scope darkly.** I would like to compliment Wynn Davis on his December article, Focus on Rifle Scopes. There is one statement he made that is, sadly enough, all

too true. He said that many experienced hunters use bright scopes as field glasses to scan the country ahead or to study a sighted animal. This is just fine for studying a sighted game animal. But how many times have I been in the field only to look up and see some hunter carelessly pointing the muzzle of a high-powered rifle directly at me? It's enough to make your blood run cold.

Jack Rives
Bisbee, Ariz.

Worse yet, it's enough to make your blood run out.

• **Sick in the head.** How right Frank Remington was in his article, Are You Really Sick? (November MI) even he probably doesn't know. The cause and cure of all psychosomatic ills was revealed in 1950 in the book, Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health, by L. Ron Hubbard. Since that time the technology used to treat psychosomatic illness has been improved to the point that such illnesses can be resolved 100 per cent of the time by standard Dianetic technique (the word Dianetics comes from two Greek roots: *dia*, which means through, and *noos*, meaning mind). Now there is hope and permanent cure for anybody suffering mind-caused illnesses.

Randall Wise
Mill Valley, Calif.

• **MI fights the revolution?** I believe if more of the younger generation were to read your magazine and take an interest in the material therein, they wouldn't have so much time for protesting.

Scott S. Osborne
San Francisco, Calif



I wouldn't bet on it, Scott. You'd be surprised at the things home-and-shop skills can be used for these days.

• **What's in a name?** In the November MI, John Nowell wrote in saying that some ophthalmologists object to optometrists calling
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