

# buggies in baja

ing at 7:45 which gave them the record with a total elapsed time of 34 hr, 45 min. This took more than four hours off the motorcycle time and that noise you hear may be the crowds of bike riders rushing off to regain their stolen laurels.

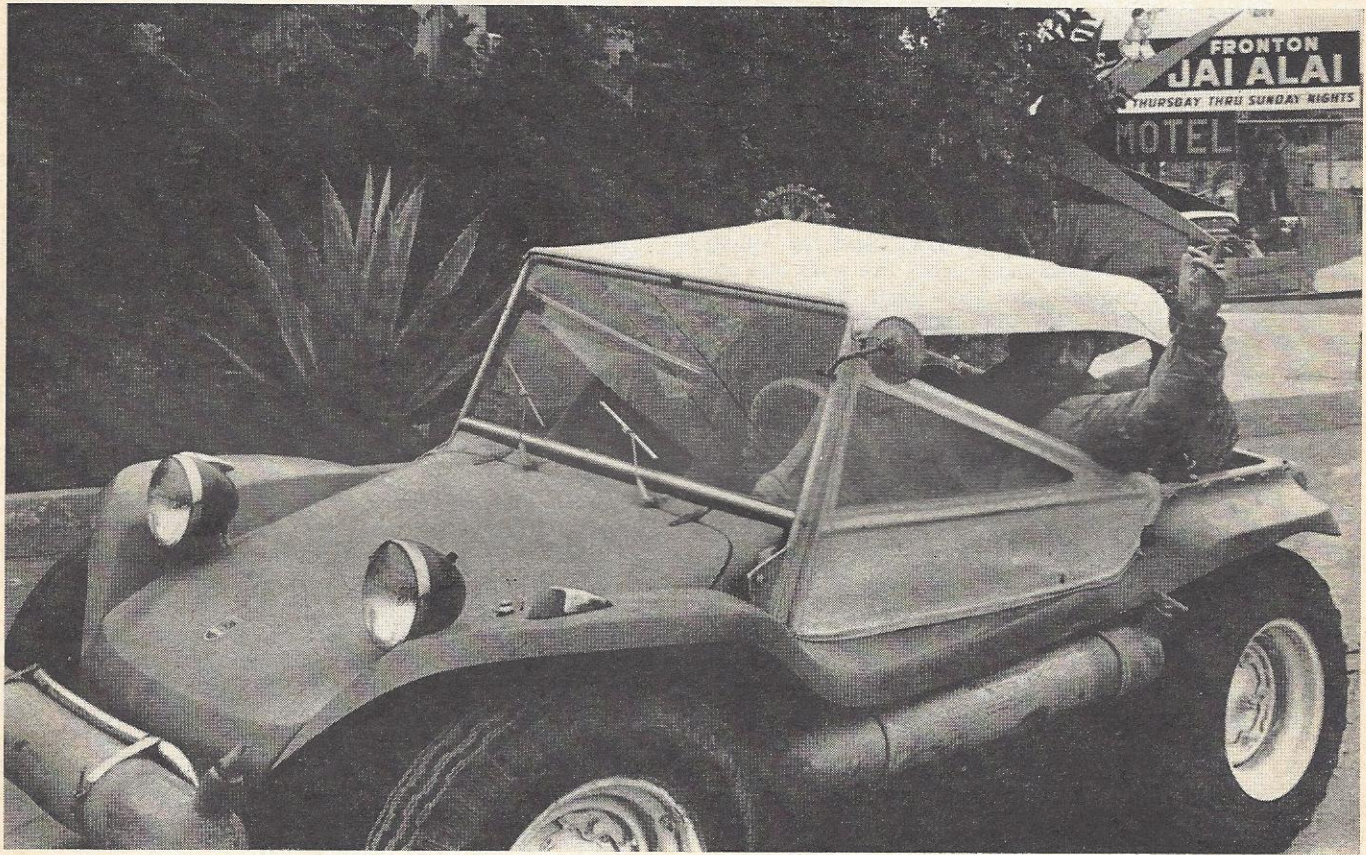
Is the new record likely to stand? Bruce doubts it. Both bike record runs met with delays resulting from navigational errors and mechanical troubles. Old Red spent over three hours either standing still or being lost and was seriously slowed by its wounds during the last half of the journey. Bruce is confident that a 30-hr time would be possible for a trouble-free run by either bike or buggy.

What kind of machine will ultimately be quicker? It's an

interesting problem. Over any particular short leg, a motorcycle with an expert rider is admittedly faster. But with the whole miserable 950-mi distance considered as one continuous leg, the parameters change and the likelihood of a single rider being able to put together a perfect ride seems remote. Three well rehearsed riders taking 4-hr shifts and being airlifted from point to point might get through in as little as 24 hours and hardly work up a sweat. But that's hardly the point of the record, either. Whatever the vehicle, avoiding serious navigational errors and keeping the vehicle healthy will continue to be the real problem.

If a bike does go down and takes back the record, would Bruce and Ted do it again? Bruce grins, "We'll see."

Would I go back to see the Boojum trees, the Great Cactus, the great empty desert and the incredibly blue waters of Bahia de La Paz? I could be ready tomorrow.



Success. Bruce waves on arrival in Tijuana. Cylinders on side and front were used to carry additional gasoline.



Above: Old Red pounding along one of Baja's primitive roads. Left: Discussing the route. From left: Bruce Meyers, Neal Allen, Ted Mangels, and San Havens in front of Old Red Manx.