

WHEELIE MONSTER

Bob Thompson's Santanimal is colorful, big, loud, and does something no other truck can!

By Peter du Pre

There seems to be something about the camaraderie of good friends and liberal libations that is conducive to the creation of good ideas. The great Beethoven used to compose songs on tavern tablecloths to amuse his friends. And Toulouse-Lautrec, the French impressionist, used to doodle drawings on napkins in French cabarets.

In modern times, the tradition has continued. The idea of the Jeep Cup was conceived over a bottle of vodka shared between friends. So it was with Redmonds.

Washington, resident Bob Thompson, owner and builder of the latest excitement in exhibition trucks, Santanimal. Bob was having a beer with a couple of his employees and started doodling on a napkin. The resultant drawing was the image that later became the truck featured on these pages. But just as the ideas of the Wright brothers were laughed at, Bob's idea wasn't immediately accepted by his cronies. They not only thought he was nuts, but they insisted that what Bob wanted to

