

# THE BIKE THAT GUTS BUILT

by Johnny Dalton



Photos by Jack Herr

Paralyzed or not, Bill Blomgren still enjoys popping a good wheelie.

## Paralyzed in '66, Riding in '71

There's a pretty common bar story that a biker hears a lot: "Yeah, I used to ride, but I crashed and broke my leg. And I never wanted to ride again. . . ."

Bill Blomgren, owner and operator of B & B Cycle in Tujunga, takes the story at least one better.

In '66, Blomgren was a hard-chargin' dirt biker, carrying No. 26 plates in his district.

He high-sided it one day, racing in Simi Valley, and broke his back. After six months in the hospital, Blomgren was back together—except that

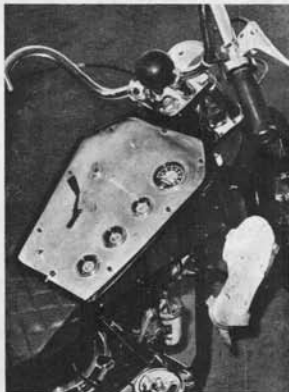
he was paralyzed for life from the waist down.

The first thing he did when he finally got out of the hospital was to repair the bike he crashed on and put it out for sale.

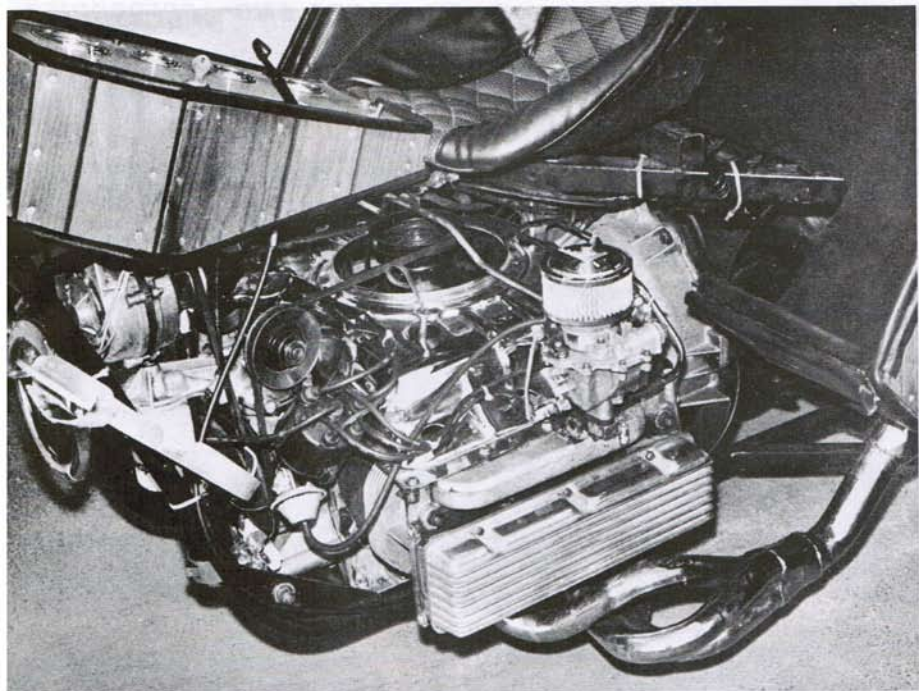
And \$625 dollars later, he had the capital to start his own business, a bike repair shop.

The second thing he did proved that Blomgren, paralyzed or not, is a stone biker.

He planned for a year, and then sent word to a buddy of his in Colorado, Gaylon Reynolds, to come



Gas tank was replaced by instrument panel holding shift control and gauges.



The '62 Vair engine was cleaned up to original specs of 85 ponies.

own and help him build a bike.

Six months later, Blomgren started putting it together again—this time as a hard-charging Vair-powered trike rider.

THE FRAME FOR the three-wheeler was built from the ground up by Blomgren, using the front end from a '67 Harley Glide.

A '62 Corvair engine was rebuilt completely to the stock specification of 85 horses. The engine puts it on the ground through a two-speed Powerglide automatic transmission, with shift control mounted through the instrument panel.

The drive rotation is reversed through a set of remachined VW Miros reduction boxes, and pushes a set of Ansen wheels, with 17-inch wide Firestones for skins. A 3.00 x 1.1 Avon, mounted on a spool hub, serves as front rubber.

For stopping, Blomgren hooked up a set of VW brakes to a Ford vacuum-boosted master cylinder. The result is power brakes, with the controls on the handlebars.

Blomgren also built the triple trees



Off the bike, Bill wheelchairs around his shop, B & B Cycle, to work on bikes.

and the front fork tubes.

The gas tank was mounted under the handmade body, and the old tank area was used to house the wood-paneled coffin-styled instrument panel, with a speedo, oil pressure gauge, ammeter and gas gauge.

Blomgren uses the bike as a multi-

purpose machine. Not only is it good for jammin' around town but, with the sides painted, serves as a rolling advertisement.

Even more, the trike is rolling proof that Blomgren won't quit, no matter what. Paralyzed or not, he still remains a biker's biker.