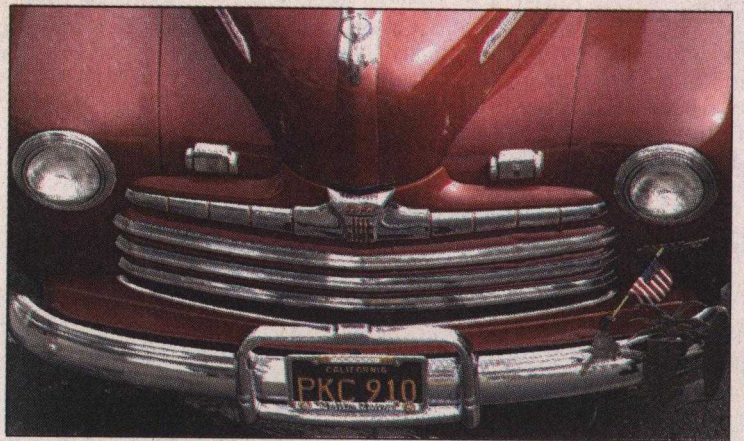


welcome to ... WOODIE WORLD

Annual car show on wharf a big draw



They sure don't make 'em like they used to. Here's a close look at the grill of a Ford woodie.



Anita 'Pinky' Miglione of Brisbane, decked out in her all-pink ensemble, perches on the bumper of her Studebaker wagon at Saturday's Woodies on the Wharf event on the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf.

Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel photos

By **TOVIN LAPAN**
Sentinel correspondent

Events - Festivals -

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SANTA CRUZ

Marshall Machado of North Carolina knows what being passionate about automobile restoration is all about.

In 2000, while visiting his sister in Santa Cruz, he came to the annual Woodies on the Wharf show. After seeing the classic California cars, he vowed to one day return with a woodie of his own.

Machado had restored old Corvettes before but never a woodie. He went back to the East Coast and soon found a 1932 Ford woodie rotting in the barn of a Pennsylvania farmer.

"For me it was a labor of love, to rescue a car from oblivion and bring it back to life," Machado said.

After pouring \$60,000 and four years of work into the car, Machado built a custom trailer for his woodie and hauled it 3,000 miles to this year's show.

More than 200 similarly inspired people had cars on display Saturday in the show's 10th year. The event has quadrupled in size since its inception.

Visitors roamed the wharf taking in the various models, many with classic wooden surfboards strapped to the top.

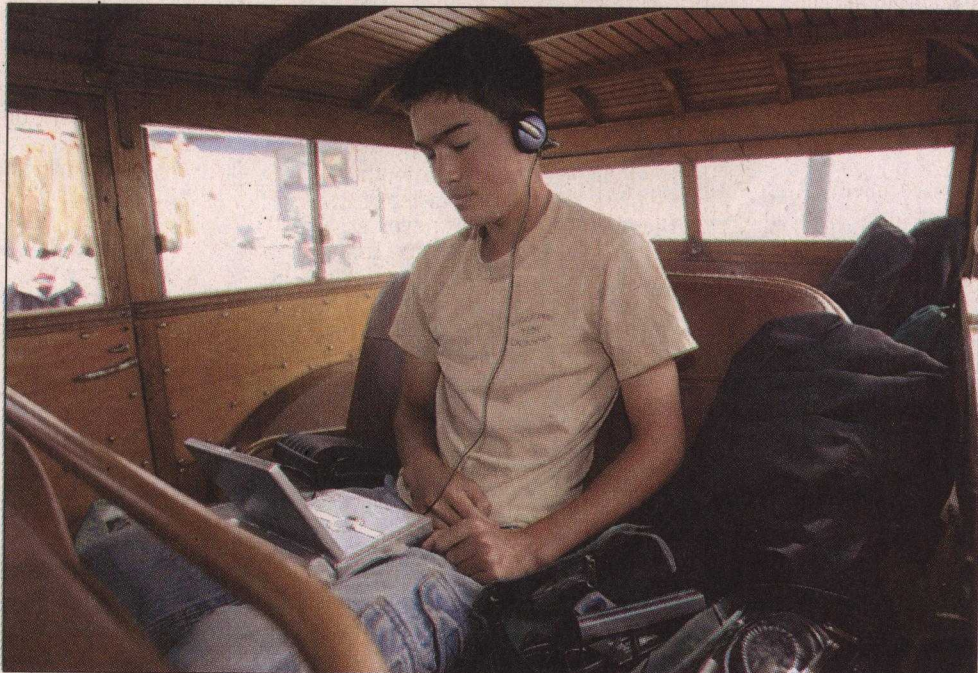
"There are a lot of cars here and a great variety of styles. The weather is perfect, and the woodies are beautiful," said Barbara Webber of Sacramento.

Greg Martinez, 42, of San Francisco takes his 1929 Ford — the first woodie model — out at least once a week, and if gas prices creep any higher he can always go to his local liquor store for fuel.

"These old ones will run on anything, kerosene, whiskey. But it's got to be a really good whiskey."



Dale Schirmeister of Simi Valley, left, and Ernest Lee of Bonita talk shop between their cars on the wharf.



John Steck of Carmel spans the technological generations Saturday, working on his laptop computer in the back of his dad's woodie parked on the wharf on Saturday.