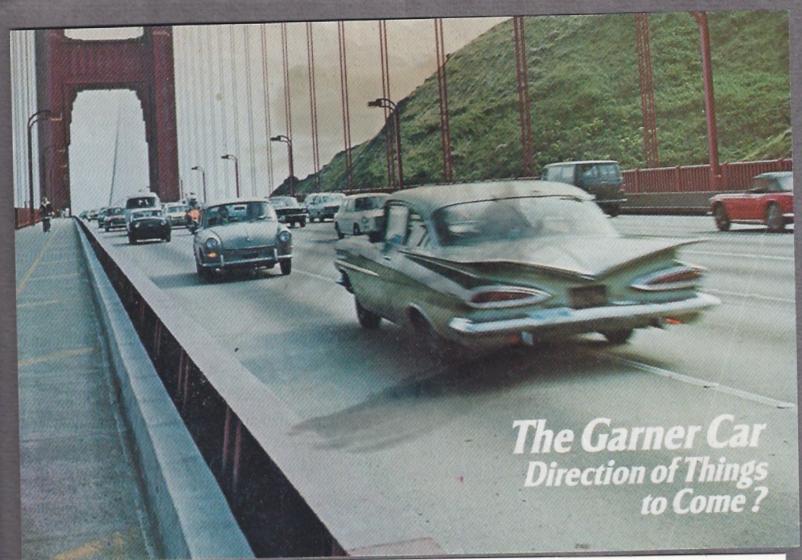
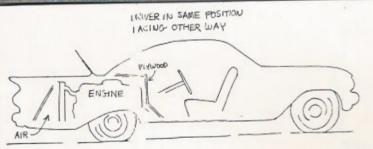
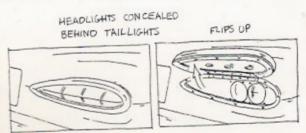
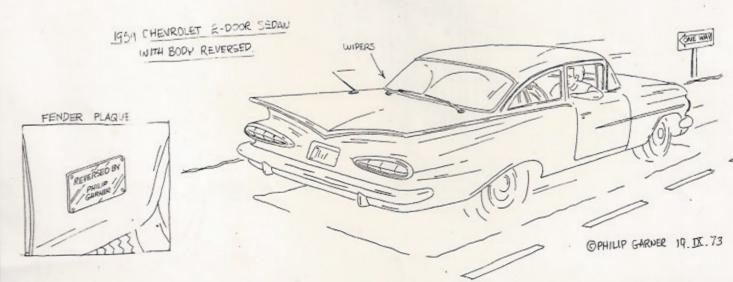
LOOK OUT! THIS JERK'S HEADIN' RIGHT FOR US!! Aw, relax, fella. While it does look like the oncoming '59 Chevy is going the wrong way down a San Francisco freeway, it really isn't. So keep your eyes on the road—a rational explanation follows. Photographed by Jeff Cohe









The '59 Chevy, see, is actually going the right way. It's just that the car is built backward, a statement of self-expression by Phil Garner, conceiver and executor. It required 250 man-hours of planning and labor, the aim being a fully operational, drivable car. "It's a tribute to the American automobile," says Garner. "Also to the American public, whose demand for the unique makes such things possible."



Work in progress: This is Garner making headlights out of taillights. Clips hold the lenses up so the Chevy can drive at night.



Here, the new steering wheel and the old (left). Old passenger seat is occupied by the driver.



Body-change operation: In these three pictures the chassis is turned around. Vacuum-operated wipers were installed on the rear window, which now, of course, becomes the windshield. Any questions so far?



In addition, a tail pipe was attached under the original front bumper; battery, radiator, and engine were relocated in what was the trunk; a Volkswagen gas tank went in under the hood, the front of the car.





Road testing the Chevy: These pictures show the backward car completing a left turn. Garner drove, lived to tell about it. reported the steering a bit weird. In any event, heads turned, eyes rolled, everyone gaped a lot.



Fill 'er, er, up: The attendant thought Garner showed up in reverse. Informed, he dutifully serviced the tank under hood, cleaned rear window.



Assorted reactions: Garner sat in the driver's seat and wore a mask with a painted face on the back of his head. He overheard these comments: "You ought to drop a three-twenty-seven in it, man," said a kid from a local garage; "You see everything in Sausalito," said a cop; "An accomplishment," said an old woman.



End of the road: Even though the Chevy conformed to highway codes, it was stopped by police on numerous occasions. The car was legal, yes, but hard to handle. After these pictures were taken, Garner buried the car in a secret place, forever. And so it went.

