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With a fine Brushstroke...

Even today the designer Brooks Stevens, born in 1911, rank among the best designers in the world. He created distinctive shapes and especially his body designs for cars, motorbikes and trains are undoubtedly regarded as icons today. Some famous examples are the Jeep Grand Cherokee Wagoneer, the 1949 Harley-Davidson FLH Hydra Glide or the 1947 Olympian Hiawatha Train. He also exclusively created a series of roundish shaped vans for the company Western Publishing.

Based on the chassis of a bus he created one bigger version for the company S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., based in Racine – Wisconsin, in 1939. Instead of a salesroom he designed the rear compartment as a motorhome. The big camper was presented on a fair in New York 1939. By the standards of the time the interior was markedly luxury. The amenities included running water, a separate bathroom, a gas powered refrigerator and a foldout desk. Even a small laboratory was on-board.

The company boss of S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., Herbert F. Johnson, planned to use the motorhome in Brasil, where his company was in search of carnauba palms. From the leaves of the carnauba palm they obtained the so-called carnauba wax, which was used as a versatile lubricant. However the search was already abandoned in 1940 and the vehicle returned via New York back home to Wisconsin.

As the USA came into World War II the motorhome got a 'second life' and served as a mobile recruiting office for soldiers in the state Wisconsin. Afterwards it was used as a mobile blood donation center, before it vanished without a trace.

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