

FIRST REPORT: FMC MOTOR HOMES

by BOB SWEET

The mushrooming recreation vehicle industry has been drawing some giants recently. First GMC announced its intentions of building a motor home and now FMC Corporation—a billion-dollar, worldwide manufacturer of diversified machinery, chemical and film products—unveiled its RV intentions.

The first effort by FMC is a luxury motor home, to be marketed first on the West Coast, then nationally by early 1973. However, FMC's endeavors don't end there. The company plans other recreation vehicles in the future, besides motor homes.

Called the FMC 2900R, this new motor home is fully engineered from the chassis up.

FMC stresses luxury, and for a pricetag of \$21,000, you'd expect they would. The unit is 29 feet long and has a 14,000-pound GVW, making it one of the largest production coaches.

The 2900R is fully self-contained, and the luxury touches are numerous: deep shag carpeting; vinyl walls; rich woodgrain cabinetry; color-coordinated drapes and upholstery; large dining, living and sleeping areas; lavishly appointed bath, complete with shower, tub, toilet and vanity; "chef's dream kitchen" with double sink, counter-level stove and eye-level oven, refrigerator/freezer and lots of counter space.

Engineering and safety, however, are even more highly stressed by FMC engineers, who point to a "total package" design, whereby body and chassis have been engineered as a single integrated unit.

A tubular steel lower frame brings floor level down for lower center of gravity and better stability. Vehicle height, as a result, is low—eight feet, four inches. An aluminum upper cage frame protects occupants.

Rear-mounted 440 Chrysler engine is unique. Eliminates long driveshaft and provides easy exterior access for service.

Fully independent suspension gives firm but smooth ride.

From the outside, the FMC is clean, free of roof-mounted appliances, which reduces air resistance. Skin is molded fiberglass, and is available only in white and gold as pictured.

FMC Corporation, Recreational Vehicle Division is located at 1105 Coleman Ave., San Jose, California 95106. ©

