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CORAYER: WAY WE WERE (from page 7)

Later Jim converted a 1967 Dodge Power Ram into a family fishing machine by building his own pickup camper. Constructed of wood with aluminum siding, windows and lots of parts from a closing RV store, it was so perfectly built that people would stop him to find out what brand it was or where he bought it.

Guys took a lot of pride in their vehicles. Some regulars carried cards with their information on them to share with other fishermen. A South County business card, Jim would pass his, complete with his RIBBA number and radio tag, KMA 1124, so they could communicate later, usually via the CB radio.



On the beach there were sometimes trucks lined

right up, other times there was more solitude. There were casting contests, kids games played through the dunes and people sleeping in their cars just to go fishing.

As more people traveled to the area, regulations began to restrict what was allowed and where vehicles could travel. Bob remembered one Sunday in 1967 or 1968, when the family headed off to church. Because things really were different back then, they left a pile of gear on the beach to hold their spot. When they returned, they were met by the police who refused them access. Just like that, the beach was closed to vehicles. His brother Jimmy had to swim the channel to retrieve the gear they had left.

One veteran surf caster thought it was the super quick Subaru Brat that precipitated the closing of places like Narragansett Beach, where fishermen could drive up to fish the river mouth.

Today there is still some access for buggies and trucks in a few places, but only after you have purchased a permit and presented all your required equipment.

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