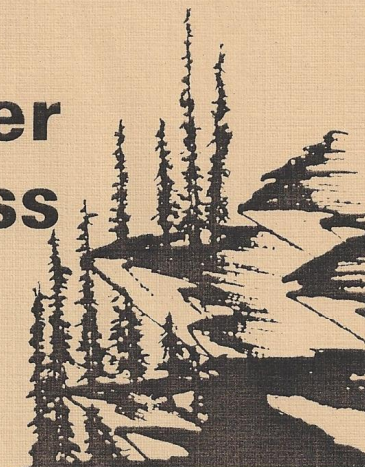


# An etcher who works on glass

Robb Rich is an artist whose pictures appear on the windows of automobiles, vans, and other vehicles.

His finely detailed scenes are scribed with ordinary glass cutters and special tools



by Robert A. Latimer  
Field Editor

Robb Rich puts the finishing touches on an intricate birdwoman figure on a California customer's car. The project took one week and was one of his most elaborate jobs.



## The coming thing

The "big jobs" are his favorites, Robb Rich says. By big jobs, he means decorating bar mirrors, picture windows, room dividers, etc.

As he operates now, Robb's process is time consuming work. "You can't pump the stuff out. It takes a lot of time."

He has worked four days on the door of a small van refrigerator and is still not finished.

His eventual hope, he admits, is to get out of the small work and into the larger jobs such as working with contractors and architects.

"Everyone keeps telling me this is the coming thing."

**R**OB B RICH, a 27-year-old artist from Dumont, N.J., has developed an unusual specialty of high interest to the automotive glass field.

For the past seven years, he has been etching intricate designs into the windows of sports cars, ordinary passenger cars, and vans. Inspired by what the customer wants, he etches delicate, finely detailed scenes which include snarling lions and tigers, angel figures, elaborate pastoral scenes, birds, night scenes, feminine figures, marine landscapes, ships, boats, and mountains. They are often etched on both sides of the glass. Most are executed from his own drawings, converted to renderings, and transferred to the windows of the customer's car after a conference on ideas, presentation of his finished artwork, and alterations the patron may want.

Over the years, Robb's entry into visual arts has covered the entire spectrum of subjects. Most are microscopically detailed projects which may easily require a week of intense, carefully controlled work with a broad variety of hand and power tools. The young artist uses no acid or chemicals in transforming an ordinary sports car backlight into an ethereal, permanent, eye-catching scene. Each of the lines that make up every scene is individually cut into the glass, often requiring hundreds of painstaking cuts on a single effort, with absolutely no margin for error. (There are no erasures when a slip of a tool creates an unwanted scratch or sends a line in a different direction than Robb had intended.)

## Aquatic scenes

Among his customers (when he took his unusual craft to Hollywood a year ago) was Zsa Zsa Gabor. The colorful actress, whose Rolls Royce Sedan was already appointed