



A publication dedicated to the preservation of a classic and timeless vehicle

March 1996
Number 7

INSIDE:

WHAT'S NEW

COACH TALK

- E-MAIL
- INVERTER/
CHARGERS
- HEART
- TRACE
- BRAKES
- FMVSS
105 & 106
- NO HEAT
- HARD START
- STEERING BOOT
- BLOWER RESISTOR
- WIGGLE WAGONS
REVISITED
- HEATER HOSE
LEAKS
- FLUID LEAKS
- GEAR RATIO
CHANGE
- TRANSMISSION
- FINAL DRIVE

NAFTA TRAIL SOUTH TO COSTA RICA

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

CRUISER OR CAMPER

by *Walt Sener*

Few will dispute the fact that the GMC Motorhome was designed to cruise effortlessly from one border to another. Now, twenty-plus years later, it still cruises faithfully on highway or byway to almost any destination desired.

Several years ago a trip was planned to travel casually from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The thirty-day projection soon disintegrated. In Reno, Nevada, for example, there was a holdup by a room full of one-armed bandits. In Sacramento, California, the motorhome occupied two metered parking spaces while we futilely looked for enough gold to feed them at Old Sutter's Fort.

A circuitous route through the busy city of San Francisco led to a first-ever, fog-free view of the Golden Gate Bridge. The inlet to San Francisco Bay was crossed safely, and a new heading set for the Land of the Grape.

The Pacific Ocean finally came into full view while en route north on coastal Highway One. As expected, there were numerous scenic stops along the Oregon and Washington coasts. In addition, there was a relaxing voyage from Port Angeles aboard the Victoria Ferry, a much delayed return to Seattle, and with considerable reluctance the sojourn back to the East Coast.

The GMC Motorhome seems to enjoy defying the long arm of "John Law," especially when seeking a coveted parking space. In the City of Brotherly Love, one of Philadelphia's Finest patiently observed my effort to occupy two adjacent spaces directly across from the Franklin Institute. When questioned, the officer responded there was no time limit for the visit as long as both meters were fed faithfully on a recurring basis. In the heart of the city at Independence National Historic Park — I chickened out! Passengers were discharged so the motorhome could be parked at a much more convenient facility along the Delaware River.

GMC Motorhomes offer good fellowship and the opportunity to share common interests with people from all walks of life. One GMC Motor-

home club in particular has been purported to be ... different. In addition to fun and frolic, the group shares a vast accumulation of technical knowledge during each rally. Where else can one be awakened by loud voices and a persistent thump on the door? A cautious peek outside reveals four eager self-acclaimed experts armed with an abandoned bed slat to which is secured a clear plastic tube containing a "U" column of water on a precisely inscribed scale of numbers. The project of the day? To measure the pressure of liquid petroleum gas at each range burner, and to make an appropriate remedial adjustment if warranted.

Having now applied the well-known Peter Principle of Bureaucratic Expansion, at the next rally the team quickly grew to six. Beginning with the same unsuspecting neophyte, this time the team decided not to thump on the door. Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, an aggressive attack was made to the right side of the motorhome. Jack Man raised the rear wheels while Block Man inserted a support under the rear suspension. The motorhome was then lowered, and air pressure was released by Air Man.

Retaining nuts were removed by (whom else?) Nut Man, and the air bag was removed by Bag Man. After complete extension, the air bag was cleaned, carefully inspected, and in connection with the basic intent of the project, rotated 180 degrees prior to reinstallation by Hot Dog Man! Throughout the rally season, only one air bag was found defective, due to abrasion by an errant stone.

So, even after twenty-plus years of faithful service, the inimitable GMC Motorhome still cruises effortlessly when called upon to do so. And, at the risk of being severely criticized, it serves admirably as a really great ... Camper!

Walt Sener has played the trumpet since 1929, had a newspaper route and was a gymnast of note. He retired after 37 years with the Department of Defense and has been writing anecdotes about the GMC Motorhome since the 1970s. 🎺