



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

March 2002
Number 31

INSIDE:

WHAT'S NEW

COACH TALK

- BRAKE SQUEAL REVISITED
- HIGH ALTITUDE
- LOW BATTERY POWER
- NO CONVERTER POWER
- MORE HEAT
- EXTEND-A-STAY
- TIRE PRESSURE
- MICHELIN GUIDE
- RAINWATER LEAKS
- THE BUBBLE MACHINE
- WARM SHOWER WATER
- CHECK VALVES
- HOT WATER ONLY
- SINGLE-LEVER VALVE
- DRAIN VALVE
- HOUSE BATTERY DRAIN

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

THE MOTORHOME: A MANY SPLENDORED THING

by William C. Anderson

"Is the checklist complete?" I asked the copilot as I buckled up the seat belt of Rocinante, our bouncing bunkhouse.

"Yes, luv," said the redhead, crawling into the copilot's seat. She held up her hand and started ticking off her fingers. "Our Five-P checklist is complete: We have our special Pillows, Pills, Prunes, Pajamas and Poothtaste. Everything we need. Roll 'em!"

All of us lucky rat-race refugees know that one of life's greatest pleasures is to slide behind the wheel in our motorized mansion, start the engine, and whiffing the aroma of fresh-brewed coffee, head out of the driveway to joust with the unknown delights of the open road.

It is this serendipitous sense of freedom, adventure and wanderlust that has captivated Americans, increasing the popularity of recreational vehicles to where one out of every four families now has a getaway conveyance of some sort. All of this is, of course, no news to our freewheeling fraternity of motorhome aficionados.

But what may not be as well known are the many uses toddling townhouses are now being called upon to perform in addition to their recreational duties. Our motorhomes are being employed for many more purposes than were originally conceived by their manufacturers. Cases in point:

EMERGENCY WARD: There is nothing handier than having a motorhome pull up to the scene of an accident. Recently a couple of Idahoans imprudently flew their light plane into a power line. Fortunately, their plane crashed in the desert along U.S. 95. A family in their Winnebago came upon the crash site, turned their motorhome into an emergency ward and supplied beds and emergency equipment for the wounded. The injured pilot was extricated from the airplane with the aid of the tools carried in the motorhome.

With increasing frequency, motorhomers are lauded for providing succor and supplies in disaster

situations. Good Sam Club members are truly becoming good Samaritans by virtue of not only having communication facilities, but being blessed with life-saving equipment ranging from fire axes to first-aid kits.

COMMAND POSTS: As any survivor of a recent hurricane or earthquake's wrath will be quick to testify, motorhome owners were generally the luckiest of the lot. While house roofs were flying or buildings collapsing, the lucky motorhome owner generally had power, heat, water and a roof over his head. More than one owner saw his motorhome become the neighborhood command post, thanks to the generator that provided emergency power for radio and television disaster relief information, and a stove that could heat baby bottles.

Motorhomes are also used by insurance and disaster teams as temporary offices in natural disaster areas to more quickly assess damage and expedite relief aid.

MEDICAL HOUSING: Hospitals in Salt Lake City, Utah, are typical of the many medical facilities that now provide parking spaces for motorhomes. The University Regional Medical Center has an RV lot with 16 spaces with full hookups for \$8 a night. Families from outlying states, who have a member attending this excellent facility, may provide the necessary emotional support for their loved ones without being caught in the vice-squeeze of high-priced motels and restaurants.

The knowledge that one's family may be only a few steps away from the hospital has a most salubrious effect on the patient; and when returning a convalescent to his or her home, there is no more comfortable transport in the world than a motorhome, and particularly a GMC Motorhome.

CINEMATIC CARAVANS: Having experienced firsthand how Hollywood studios can make lousy movies out of good books, I still retain a grudging

Continued on Page 9