

THE VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CLUB

"WE LOVE OUR SILVER BULLETS
AND WE TREAT THEM ALL WITH CARE
THEY'VE PASSED THEIR SILVER ANNIVERSARY
WHICH MAKES THEM INTERESTING AND RARE.
WE MAY NOT BE TOO "SPIFFY"
WE MAY HAVE SILVER IN OUR HAIR
BUT WE'RE INTO FUN AND FELLOWSHIP
NO 'NEWER MODELS' CAN COMPARE."

—ALICE STEPHENSON

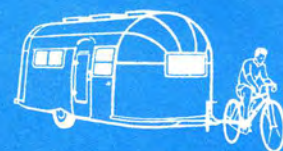


Presents

THE VINTAGE ADVANTAGE NEWSLETTER

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- ⊕ A STREAMER WITH PERSONALITY don alexander
- ⊕ THE NEW BAMBI 16' christopher deam / bryan burkhart
- ⊕ INTRO TO THE VAC WEBSITE rj dial
- ⊕ THE BELIZE CARAVAN, A SERIES chris yelland



www.airstream.net

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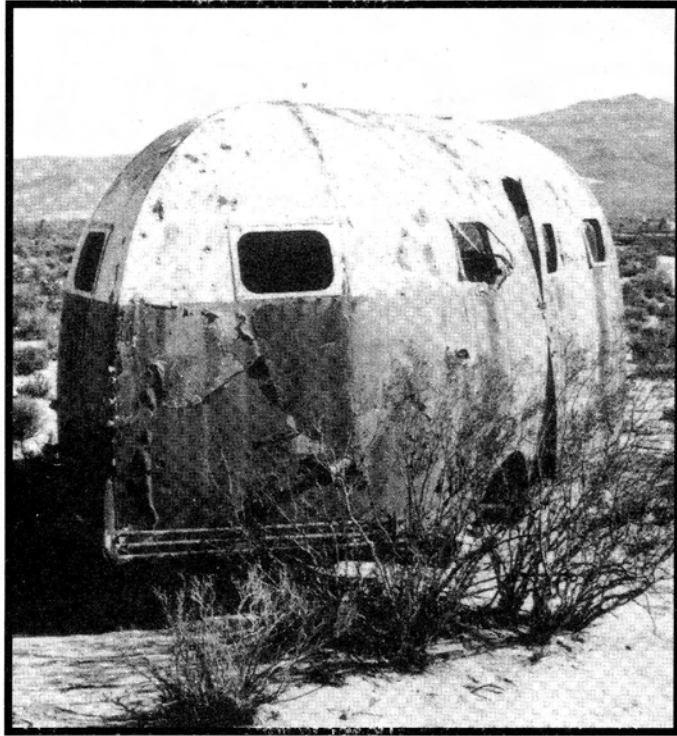
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AT SOME

point your interest becomes more than a passing curiosity. Your beyond watching them on the road, whipping your head around 180 degrees, following the vanishing shape into the distance while keeping your own car on the road. Your beyond observing other people enjoy themselves camping, looking stylish, beyond words. The word , obsession begins to superimpose itself across anything you look at. The first section of the morning newspaper you turn to is called, Trailers for Sale. You call on several advertisements only to find they have already sold. You put handwritten notes on dusty aluminum trailers on the side of storage facilities, behind gas stations, dreaming that the owner wants to sell the trailer for next to nothing . . . Months roll by. Hopelessly, your dream fades from your thoughts . . . One day your visiting your brother-in-law at his cabin in the mountains above Sacramento, somewhere up on Mount Lassen. On the front of the local bar/canned food shop is a sign saying, 1962 Airstream for sale, \$600, call 391.3246. Out behind the bar is an Airstream trailer. It s the one! You dial the number and a voice comes on the line confirming that the trailer behind the bar is the one for sale. Your heart races and the conversation begins to talk details. An hour later you are handing the mountain man (who s moving to Las Vegas) \$600 dollars and signing your name on the pink slip. He flips you the keys to the door while telling you it has a family of mice and a couple big ant nests somewhere inside, but he hasn t been able to get rid of them . . . Sure it needs some work, actually quite a bit of work, much more work than you could ever imagine, but it s yours. All yours.

The Presidents Message

WELCOME AIRSTREAMERS

On behalf of the VAC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Third Vice President and Media Coordinator, Tom Howarth, and our new Web Master, R.J.Dial, for taking the time and making the effort to get our web site back up and running. It is a job well done.

Bill Scott, our Concours de'Elegance Steward for the year 2000 has had to resign because of health reasons. On behalf of the VAC, I'd like to thank Bill for putting in the time and effort, and by saying, "Job well done."

Noland Vogt, our First Vice President and Chairman of the Concours de' Elegance, is looking for someone who would like to take on the responsibility of the Concours' Steward. If interested, please contact Noland.

Our Treasurer, Pat Ewing, has also given notice that he is stepping down from his position, because of health reasons and to be able to devote more time to his being the Region 10 Representative. So Pat, on behalf of the VAC, I'd also like to thank you for putting in all the time and effort as treasurer and also thank you for all you have and will be doing as the Representative for Region 10. As usual, all I can say is a "Job well done."

Linda Moore, our Membership Chairperson, has graciously accepted the Treasurer position. She will be acting as both the Membership Chairperson and Treasurer. On behalf of the VAC members and myself, I would like to publicly thank Linda for taking on this added responsibly.

Our Region Representatives have been established and their names and addresses can be found elsewhere in this issue of the VA. Please call on them with your VAC questions. Also keep on the look out for caravans, rallies, gatherings, open house's, etc. that they may be planning for their regions. Were trying to make the VAC programs available to more members.

Please participate in your regions VAC activities.

VAC members, Ruth Baldwin and John McHugh, have scouted and planned our 5th Wagon Wheels Caravan. It will be named the George and Marianne Pruitt Memorial Wagon Wheel Caravan in honor of the Pruitts, VAC members that had participated in previous Wagon Wheel Caravans. Marianne was a past VAC Recording Secretary. Both have recently passed away.

The caravan will be a numbered caravan, starting on June 15, 2001 in Two Harbors, MN. and ending on June 24, 2001 at Pipestone, MN. Look for more information in future issues of the Blue Beret, Vintage Advantage and on the VAC web site. It promises to be a fun event, so sign up early.

I have procured a place for us to assemble before the 2001 Sioux Falls International. The Empire Mall in Sioux Falls will be available on June 25th, 2001 at noon, until June 26th, 2001 at 1:00pm. At which time, our Second Vice President and Parade Chairman, Rick Davis, will take charge and assemble us for our parade into the International which is scheduled for 2:00pm, June 26th, 2001. We will have a police escort. Anyone planning on parking at the vintage site at the International should try making it to the parade. There is no guarantee that you will be able to park with us if you don't parade in with us.

As always, Vintage has a few seminars planned. Howard Lefkowitz on batteries and "Bud" Cooper on the Belize Caravan. We also will have Past International President, Owen Dickerson, giving a impromptu talk at one of our social hours, on his experiences of owning an Airstream. Try not to miss this one!

Since this is the first V.A. Advantage of the new year, Dolores and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all, a very prosperous and healthy New Year.

And above all, participate and Have Fun.

Don Perry

Appointed Board Members

Bud Cooper (#26019)

Technical Correspondent

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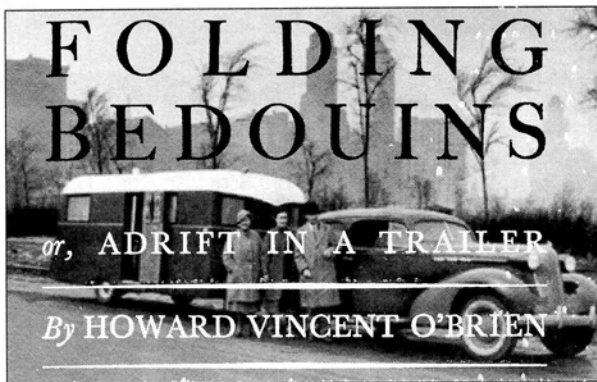


The Editor's Desk

Greeting to all . . . This is the first issue of 2001 (finally) and it is a nice collection of articles and several stories sent in via letters (see "my grandfather" and "streamer with personality.") This issue also contains the first in a series of articles on the "Belize Caravan" that will continue over several issues charting the events the caravan experienced. From what I can tell, it was a great trip for all, taking the road less travelled...

Also in this issue is an update on the **new model Bambi 16** that Airstream is embarking on. Many of us saw the prototype unit at Bismarck, North Dakota, at the International Rally 2000, well here is an update.

If all this isn't enough, I came across a nice little book that is dated "1936" and it is a detailed account of an early trailer trip that many of you will find interesting if you have not got it already. Just because its new on my radar certainly doesn't mean much, here is the title and a title picture:



"FOLDING BEDOUINS, OR, ADRIFT IN A TRAILER. BY HOWARD VINCENT O'BRIEN.

Several VAC members have inquired about the "2002 Airstream Calendar" I have been working on. It is a 12 month wall calendar with images from my book, "Airstream, The History of the Land Yacht." It is available on the VAC site and there are more views on my website: www.modernhouse.com Please take note that I have a new email address: bjb@modernhouse.com This will be the best way to contact me regarding VAC information and for contributions to the newsletter in the future.



FRONT

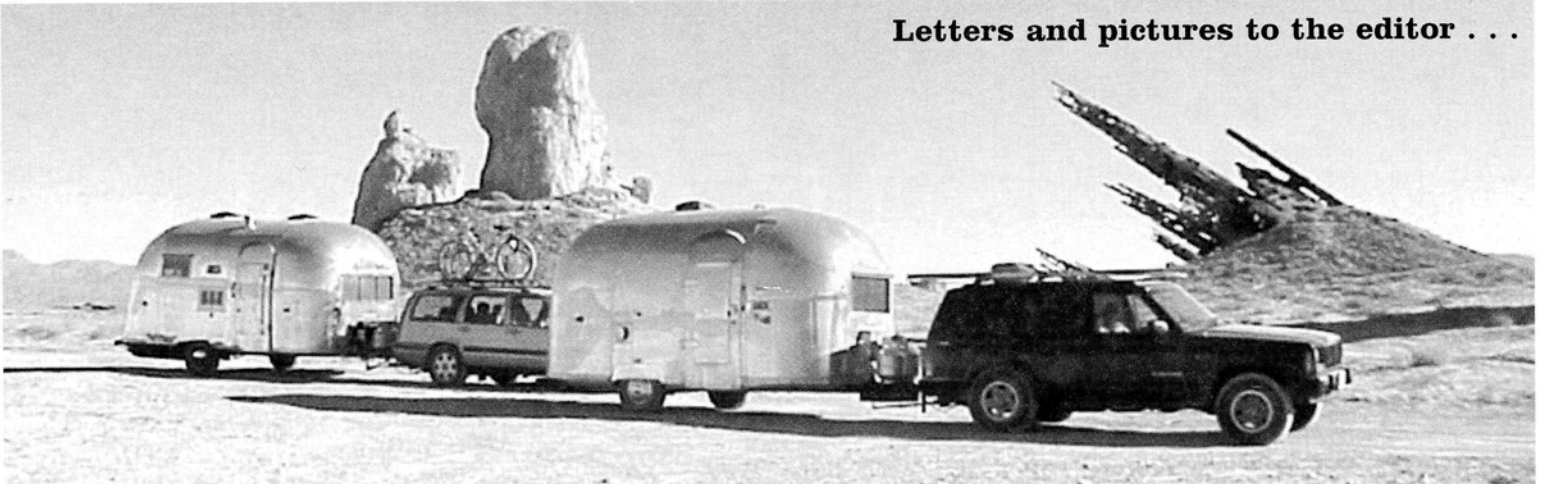


BACK

Take note, **The VAC website** will have a password for members and that is detailed in a couple pages in this issue by RJ Dail. Take a look. Pssst, the password as of this issue it is, "safari" New passwords will replace it, those new passwords will be printed in future issues of the VAC News.

On a somber note, **Ed Davis** has passed on. Right about the time of the last VAC newsletter. Many of us have known Ed and Lilian Davis as VAC members and as great friends through the years. From time to time, Ed has sent me letters and notes that would qualify for me

VAC COVER IMAGE: KEN AND PETEY FABER (#3113) 63' CHEVROLET AND 64' BAMBI, IN BACKGROUND, CHUCK AND DODIE REED (#2514) 57' CHEVROLET AND 57' AIRSTREAM WANDERER. ON OLD ROUTE 66, ILLINOIS, JUNE, 2000 IN FRONT OF RESTORED SERVICE STATION. KEEP IT ROLLING...



FROM MARK AND KC MARCINIK / SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE DESERT, NORTHEAST OF LOS ANGELES. TO THE RIGHT IS A FILM PROP OF A CRASHED SPACESHIP IN THE REMAKE OF "PLANET OF THE APES" BY NONE OTHER THAN TIM BURTON, THE FAMED AIRSTREAM OWNER WHO ALSO MAKES MOVIES. BEFORE, OR AFTER NEW YEARS 2000.

as the best mail of the month. His voice and smile will be missed but his spirit will always be right here, you can count on that.

Thanks to all the contributors to this issue: the writers, the photographers, (the printers!) assembly and distribution, and all the caravaners who have had a good time at the events covered or not covered in this issue. Keep rolling.

In order to keep this lively, your reader input is always nessesary if not vital. Please continue to send stories (hopefully with a photographs). General feedback towards the newsletter: the good, the bad, and the ugly, comments about articles within are welcome. Put a stamp on it. Send the strange and unusual along with the practical. As with all submissions, please send a digital version along with the printed story. Contact me if you have a question(s).

Best to all, enjoy.

Bryan Burkhart
bjb@modernhouse.com



SEPT 9-11, 2000 DON AND ORA WICHMANN WERE ASKED TO DISPLAY THEIR RIG, A 1958 AIRSTREAM AND A 195 PICKUP TRUCK ON THE STATE CAPITAL GROUNDS FOR 3 DAYS. THEY WERE PART OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TELLING THE HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA. THE TRAILER AND THE TRUCK REPRESENTED 1950'S RECREATION.



SUZANNE,
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SPIRITED
BOOK REVIEW AND MY FAVORITE, THE FOLLOW-
ING PARAGRAPH!
BRYAN

My mother was a first cousin of Wally Byam and he spent a great deal of time in my mother s home when they were both growing up in Oregon. (Wally s father abandoned his mother, she later re-married.) My mother married, moved to Spokane, WA and I remember Wally and Stella coming through Spokane to visit when I was about thirteen. He then proceeded to invite me to visit them in CA, but my mother wouldn t let me go because they always swam nude in their pool !

Suzanne Fleming



TURKEY PICTURE THIS WAS INSPIRED BY A BOOK BY TOM ROBBINS, "SKINNY LEGS AND ALL," IN WHICH THE PROTAGONIST WELDS DRUMSTICKS ONTO AN AIRSTREAM MOTORHOME. I THOUGHT THIS WOULD LOOK COOLER. THE TOW VEHICLE IS A SOAP BOX RACER PILOTED BY MY 7 YEAR OLD, ZACHARY. PHOTO: KEN JACKSON

My Grandfather,



An Airstream Pioneer

J.L. McCoy was born in Texas and raised in San Antonio. Most often he was called Mac. By early 1900 s he was in Canada where he met my grandmother Ni a in the city of Winnipeg. She spoke only French and he spoke only English but they married on December t, 1918. The traveled about and worked in various places in Canada until the birth of a daughter whom they named, Chiquita .

The family went to Texas about a year later and Mac worked in the oil fields in Mexia where he bought a business hauling water. Water sold for more than oil out there. Mac and Ni a had two more children, a boy and a girl before they moved on. Mac was mostly self employed. He had a farm in South Dakota until World War II. He moved to Riverside, Ca in 1940 and had a scrap metal business. Ten years later they again moved on to Compton, Ca. He owned a trailer sales business called Budget Corner at 15501 South Atlantic Avenue. His slogan was, Always at Your Service. Our Greatest Asset - Your Good Will. He sold that business about 1950, bought an Airstream trailer and began traveling. He soon joined Wally Byam Caravanners with his Number 3 Airstream.

During summer travel they would take one of us grandchildren along with them. We each had a turn. My older brother Ron remembers going to Canada on a caravan in 1956 or 57. They spent the entire summer in Canada and travelled from one end of the country to the other. He still remembers the trip fondly and describes it as a wonderful experience, the best time of his life. The people were all so wonderful and friendly. They had pot-lucks, camp fires with singing and get togethers every night. Everyone got along. It was great fun.

My turn came in 1962 with a trip to Mexico in January. We were gone for about three months while we traveled all over Mexico. One month was spent in Acapulco where I learned to water ski in what was then a very quiet and isolated little town. Another Another caravan came in before we left and they stayed in the same park that we were in. It was like a huge family reunion. My grandparents knew most of the people there. I can t remember all of the names but I do remember Lund with Airstream 26, MacDonald in Airstream 24 and Riley in Airstream 9.

Later, I attended several trailer rallies with my grandparents. Once or twice in Palm Springs and once in Las Vegas. I was only 16 when we went to Las Vegas and too young to go into the casinos. The Costello s (Airstream 100) were there and wanted to go nightclubbing so I was the babysitter for their two young children.

My grandparents were close friends with Wally Byam and enthusiastic Airstreamers. He drove a big Cadillac to pull Number 3 but he eventually switched to International Travelalls. In Mac s later years they made many independent trips to visit relatives in Texas, South Dakota and Canada. He died in 1969 and Ni a McCoy sold their Number 3. She lived in a trailer park in Rubidoux (just outside of Riverside) for many years.

With fond memories of Airstream Caravans and Number 3,
Ni a Devor

VAC Announcements *for places to go and people to see*

THE FLORIDA STATE RALLY

When: Feb. 21-25, 2001
Where: In Sarasota, Florida, at the Fairgrounds

Description: The Vintage Club members will park together in the Vintage Area, parking area "F" which is the gravel area out in front. We will have Open House for visitors on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 1-3 P. M. Refer members to page 11 of the December 2000 issue of the Blue Beret for information about the rally and page 63 for the signup coupon. See you down the road.

Contact: Contact Bob Herman
BobBonHerm8556@aol.com

2nd Annual Vintage Airstream Club California, Spring 2001 Rally

When: April 18-23 (5 nights), 2001
Where: Bass Lake Recreation Resort
Description: Last years rally was held at this beautiful location. There is so much to see and do in the Yosemite area we decided to return in the spring. April is the ideal time to visit Yosemite to see the falls. Some of the activities will include a caravan to Yosemite to view the falls, a Sierra Tour led by a retired Forrest Service Ranger. Dinning at the beautiful Wawona Lodge and a BBQ dinner prepared by the Fresno County Sheriff and Rescue Team.
Hosts: John and Rosalyn Skadden and Tom and Corinne Reed
Reg. fee: \$20.00 per night for parking. Rally fee \$34.00 per person. Rally fee includes tours, a breakfast hosted by the campground. BBQ dinner, arrival night sandwiches, a rally t-shirt and rally plaque.
Contact: Tom Reed at 909-735-3920, e-mail: tereed@pacbell.net
Send Check to: Payable to Tom Reed, mail to 1038 Meadowview Ct., Corona ,Calif 92880

Reg. form: Name _____ address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
phone _____ email _____ trailer year _____ length _____
number in party _____ children _____ pets _____ trailer name/model _____
Arrival Date _____ Total nights _____ Handicap parking _____
circle shirt sizes, per person _____ (S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)
add. shirts \$12 each
Parking Fee at \$20 a night _____
Rally Fee at \$34 a person _____
Total _____

VAC Announcements *for places to go and people to see*

REGION 10 Northwest Rally, the first gathering, "Majestic Mt. Baker"

When: August 16th - 19th, 2001

Where: The rally will be located near Bellingham, Wash., at the scenic Deming Log Show Grounds, an easy approx. 8 mile drive off I-5 down the Mt. Baker Highway.

Description: This is Thursday through noon Sunday. Since a number of VAC members are Tin Can Tourist members as well this will be a joint rally of both clubs. This is an excellent opportunity for all that live in the northwest part of the States or the southwest part of Canada to get together for great times and trailer talk. (Others are invited as well!)

The rally grounds are nicely wooded with many cedar trees and plenty of open grassy fields. There are around 35 water & power hookups available at \$10.00 per night (First come first served.) and unlimited dry camping at \$5.00 per night. There is a restroom building (but no showers) and a RV dump is available. There are a number of antiques logging equipment displays on the grounds as well.

There will be no rally fee this first year, each will be on their own to cover their expenses. We plan on a pizza feast for one night with all interested contributing towards dinner. Another night could be a potluck if so desired. For this first year we don't have access to any of the covered buildings so all that have screen rooms or covers and folding tables please bring them with you.

There will be a "car pool" trip to Mt. Baker ski area (& above providing the road is open.) Along the way we will be stopping at Everybody's Store. This is a small, old time country store that has gone "exotic" with many different and interesting articles from around the world. They are selling "online" as well. Nooksack Falls will be another stop along the way. This is a very scenic falls and has a large old-fashioned wooden water line that is above ground running through the trees near by. On our way back down the mountain we will stop for an afternoon ice cream treat in Glacier at Graham's Country Store. Yummie in the tummy!

Traveling down rural, country roads amongst picturesque dairy farms to beautiful Lynden, Wash., can be another car pool tour. This is a very charming "Dutch" town that has a number of antique & gift shops to browse through at your leisure. The area around the rally site has many different things to see and do. Tubing on the nearby Nooksack River or swimming in one of the local lakes is an option if one so desires. Or a visit to the nearby Nooksack Casino if one desires a "little action." Those that are interested in attending this first annual Majestic Mt. Baker rally please contact your VAC Region Reps.

Contact: Patrick & Joanne Ewing, email: pre52@gte.net
or call (360) 988-8407.



1930 MODEL A AND THE 1961 BAMBI THAT IS FLYING THE "COLORS." THIS WAS TAKEN LAST FALL AT A HERITAGE RALLY IN LYNDEN, WA. PHOTOGRAPH BY PATRICK EWING



VAC Announcements *for places to go and people to see*

REGION 7 The 1st Gathering of the Region 7 Vintage Airstream Club

When: May 31, 2001 to June 3, 2001 at the Badger State Rally

Where: Viroqua County Fairgrounds, Viroqua, WI

Description: Historic Airstreams Visit Historic Viroqua, WI! This year's Badger State Rally, hosted by the Indianhead Wisconsin Unit invites the VAC members to join them for a weekend of fun, fellowship and history. Viroqua is a very historic town nestled in the un-glaciated Hidden Valley district of the state. The scheduled tours will take us from local industry to following Black Hawks run from the Union Army to the Mississippi River with a lunch served at Black Hawk Park on the river. Viroqua is known for its Norwegian food, quaint shops and arts community.

Vintage activities planned include an open house that will be publicized in the local newspapers and group parking. Water and limited electric will be made available; the rally fees have not yet been determined.

Contact: Kathy Ciokiewicz, President, Indianhead WI Unit, email: Airscreame@aol.com or Ed Emerick Region 7 VAC Representative, email: eeemer59728@aol.com or 920-954-1585 for more information.

Region 11 Activities and goals.

"We love our silver bullets
And we treat them all with care
They've passed their silver anniversary
Which makes them interesting and rare.
We may not be too 'spiffy'
We may have silver in our hair
But we're into fun and fellowship
No 'newer models' can compare."

Region 11 includes:
AZ,CO,TX,NM,WY & parts of MT.

-Alice Stephenson, Region 11 Rep

Region 11 includes AZ, CO, TX, NM, WY & parts of MT. Our activities are widely varied, but the common thread is AIRSTREAM INTEREST. The Vintage Airstream IntraClub is eager to provide communication between VAC members, new owners of Vintage Airstreams and owners of Airstream units who wish to learn more about the history and uniqueness of the older rigs.

VAC Region 11 goals for 2001 are as follows:

- 1) Identify Vintage Airstream owners in your group functions/caravans/rallies. Recognize them and have them tell a bit about their vintage experience.
- 2) Park the Vintage owners together at gatherings.
- 3) Hold Open House events at each gathering to celebrate the vintage adventure and educate other members in the uniqueness of vintage units.
- 4) Utilize the WBCCI VAC website at www.wbcci.org to keep up on happenings and join the discussion group.
- 5) E-mail me about your events and new adventures.

IDENTIFY YOURSELF---EDUCATE OTHERS--AND ENJOY THE NEW YEAR.

Alice Stephenson, email: anjsteph@worldnet.att.net

VAC Announcements *for places to go and people to see*

Wanted: Chairman of the Concours de' Elegance

When: The time is now

Where: Viroqua County Fairgrounds, Viroqua, WI

Description: Noland Vogt, our First Vice President and Chairman of the Concours de' Elegance, is looking for someone who would like to take on the responsibility of the Concours' Steward. I'm really hunting for someone that would/could take over from Bill Scott, so that the VAC would have some consistent head for this spot. Otherwise it will change each year. Not the best solution.

Assuming that no one steps forward - it looks like it's me for 2001.

Contact: Noland Vogt,
650.364.7458
Noland@flash.net

Wanted: Wagon leader for the Wagon Wheels 2002, Rapid City

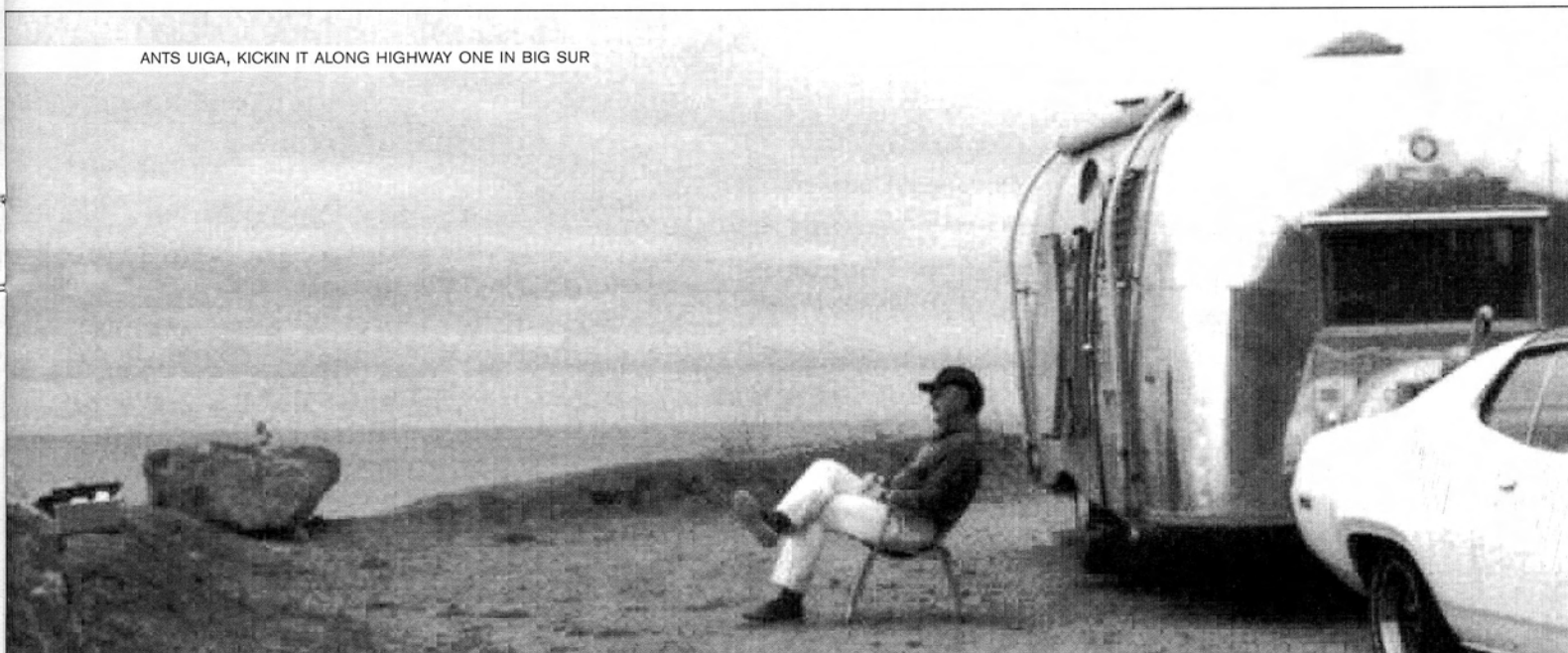
Another item that should be mentioned in the VA is that we are trying to find someone that would organize and head up the Wagon Wheels for 2002 -Rapid City area. Someone that is familiar with the surrounding country -Nebraska, Colorado, etc. That would be a help to that/those volunteer(s).

Contact: Noland Vogt,
650.364.7458
Noland@flash.net



I'm starting to organize a VAC rally in the Three Rivers area of California just after the Fall Region XII rally in Tulare this year. Anyone interested in getting involved and helping this VAC rally come together, contact me at the above.

ANTS UIGA, KICKIN IT ALONG HIGHWAY ONE IN BIG SUR



VAC REGION REPRESENTATIVES

Want to get in touch with VAC region representatives to see what they got going on?

Well here is the list of contact info.

You never know when you ll be a thousand miles from nowhere and want to find an Airstream caravan...

REGION 1

ME-NH-VT-MA-RI-CT-NB-NS-NF-PEI-PQ

Bard Fuller #5406
36 Panorama Drive
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REGION 3

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dkalet@juno.com

REGION 4

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Berea, OH 44107-2623
schrmnns@bright.net

REGION 5

IL-IN-KY

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Tel.# 815-877-2607

REGION 6

TN-AL-MS-AK-LA-FL (CT ZONE PORTION)

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REGION 7

WI-MN-ND-SD-MB

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Appleton, WI 54911
EEMER59728@AOL.COM

REGION 8

IA-MO-NE-KS

NO REPRESENTATIVE (could be you! move to one of these states, polish it up, hook it up, set a date and location, put a announcement in this newsletter and get your VAC events rolling)

REGION 9

OK-TX (except MT ZONE)

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REGION 10

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pre52@gte.net

REGION 11

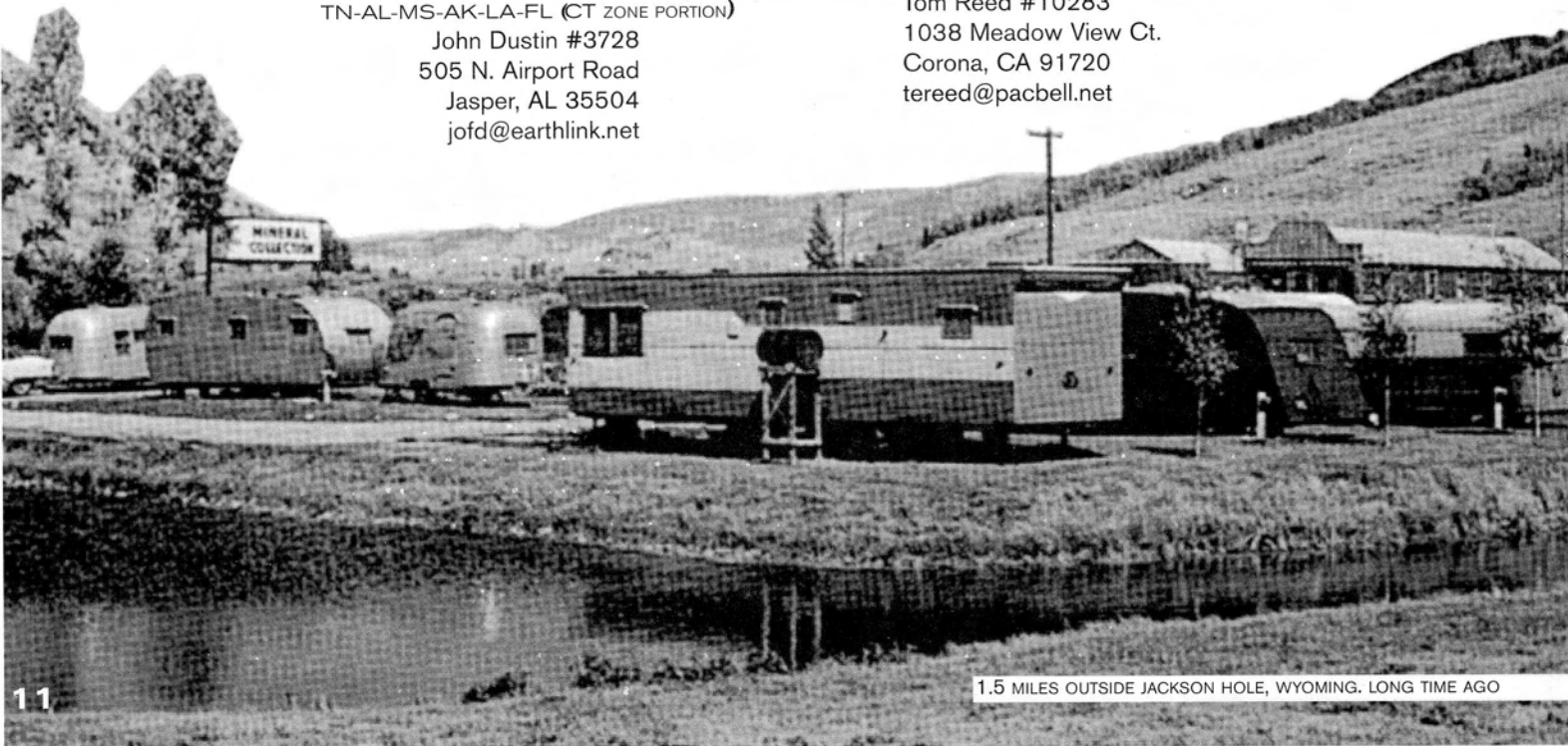
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REGION 12

CALIFORNIA-NV

Tom Reed #10283
1038 Meadow View Ct.
Corona, CA 91720
tereed@pacbell.net



A STREAMER WITH A PERSONALITY

by DON ALEXANDER



Rebuilding a 1960 Airstream has many challenges. Some I never expected. The trailer has been modified several times. Some of the changes were very well done, others were not.

One of the first changes that I felt necessary was the refrigerator. The original refrigerator reportedly worked kinda ok, but not real good. You may have already guessed, it didn't work at all. The entire heat transfer section above the burner had crystallized and collapsed in a pile of rubble. Replacement refrigerators are taller than the hole left from the original. This presented somewhat of a challenge. With the original and new refrigerators sitting next to each other and tape measure in hand, I confidently went to work. I measured, and planned, and sketched, and measured again. The numbers wouldn't add up . . .

THIS INSTALLATION SEEMED TO BE FIGHTING ME EVERY INCH. NOT YET RETIRED, I OFTEN WORK ON THE AIRSTREAM IN THE EVENINGS; THIS PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED TO MY DIFFICULTY WITH THE FRIDGE. ON THE THIRD NIGHT OF NO PROGRESS, I WENT INTO THE TRAILER, AND SAT DOWN ON THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF THE GAPING HOLE, THAT USED TO BE A REFRIGERATOR. HERE I AM, IN THE DARK; THE INTERIOR IS ILLUMINATED BY A SINGLE TROUBLE LIGHT. HARSH SHADOWS ARE CAST IN EVERY DIRECTION. THE WORK AREA IS EITHER BLINDINGLY BRIGHT, OR TOO DARK TO SEE. BY THIS TIME, I'M WONDERING ABOUT MY ABILITIES TO HANDLE THIS RESTORATION.



The next evening went wonderfully different. The plans just fell into place. Why was it so hard before? Just open this up a little, a raised floor here, twelve volts from over there! Saturday came, and by noon it was done! The '60 had a new fridge, and I had new confidence. The weeks are rushing by now; I live for the two hours each night, and the weekends. Yes the glorious weekends. One week it's the plumbing in the bath, another weekend is devoted to a new water heater. The horseshoe dinette took two. None of the projects are a challenge anymore. Yes, I still talk to myself. I also talk to the trailer. It helps me get organized. This has been a fantastic spring and summer.

Inside one of the cabinets, glued to the door is the first year registration card. What a find! I never had any intention to remove it. A piece of history. Almost as good as the guaranteed for life certificate that is glued in another cabinet. If this old trailer could only talk. The stories it must have! The places it's been. The people it's known. If only..

Several weeks ago I got in contact with the original owners. I am not too good at meeting new people, but I felt compelled to learn about this streamer, it's life. Mrs. Green told me that she and her husband purchased the trailer new in 1960. They took their vacations in the summer while the kids were out of school. Later, with the kids in college, they traveled longer and farther. They drove coast to coast, oh, three or four times. Mrs. Green talked and talked about that old silver trailer. Some of her stories were sad, like the time they had two flat tires crossing the Rockies. Most of the stories were of the good times. I guess we all want to remember the good times. She always spoke with a smile and a twinkle in her eye. After a couple hours of stories, Mrs. Green said: You know, my George passed away in that old silver trailer. This almost made me fall off my chair, but she kept on smiling, she clearly enjoyed recalling her life with George and the trailer adventures. Mrs. Green continues: George was a hobbyist. He would spend hours puttering around, in, and under his freedom boat. He died one Sunday afternoon while taking a nap. He never woke up. A heart attack. George often took a nap in the trailer after he worked on it. He was very content puttering around. I know he died happy. After that, even though I also loved the trailer, I sold it. I knew George would not want me to sit in the trailer and cry. You know, I always felt so close to George when I would sit in that old silver trailer.

I now have a greater respect for the '60. Or as Mrs. Green called it: The old silver trailer. My ease and enjoyment with restoring it is understood now. It's George. I know he has been with me while I work on it. He fought me at first. I was just another owner that could not love his trailer. The refrigerator was the battlefield. After I asked what we could do to make it work, everything fell into place. George had been with me long before his wife told me of him. Haunted you say? I don't like that word. Possessed? No. My Airstream is with spirit ...

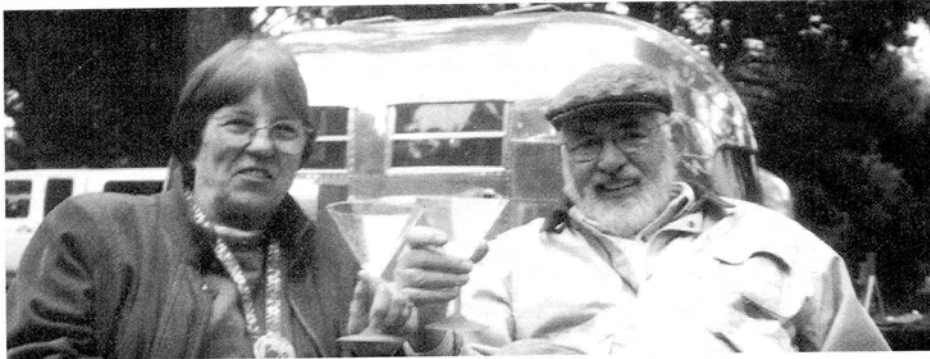
TIRED, AND DISGUSTED, I STARTED TO MUMBLE TO MYSELF, TALKING TO THE TRAILER. "ALL RIGHT, I GIVE UP, HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS WORK?" I FELL ASLEEP. A FEW MOMENTS LATER I AWOKE AND WENT TO BED.



I am glad to say my Airstream has personality. Does yours?

Scenes from the **OLEMA RALLY** Point Reyes, California, 2000

This was a great setting and a great turnout



Words from the

NORTHEAST

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, November, 2000

John Gilliland and Harley Muse of the Washington DC Unit hosted the 3rd Annual VAC Northeast Gathering at the KOA in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia from November 2-5, 2000. There were representatives from Canada (3) and from Connecticut (1), Maryland (7), New Hampshire (1) New Jersey (3) New York (4), North Carolina (2), Ohio (1), Pennsylvania (5), Rhode Island (1), Virginia (3), and West Virginia (1). Total attendance over the course of the weekend was 80 people, including 15 children with 35 trailers and two families without their trailers who stayed in the cabins on site.

Messrs. Gilliland and Muse tried their best to be at the campsite before all arrivals, arriving themselves on Thursday at Noon, only to find three registrant families already there, one having arrived the night before. It has been said "you can't outrun a "Streamer when there's a rally on tap". Arrivals continued throughout the day on Thursday from all over. Enthusiasm ran high and everyone agreed that the weather was a major factor in the large turnout. We had a special request in for excellent weather and the trees still had a bit of color in them as both the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers ran cold. The only complaint expressed by many was that it wasn't quite cold enough to eliminate the gnats, but they were tolerated and seemed to go their own way once the campfires were lit.

Some highlights of the weekend's activities were the arrival of several vintage trailers and their also vintage tow vehicles. Participants gathered as Sue & Hunt Jones arrived with their '61 Globetrotter towed with their '55 GMC pickup (both shined like new pennies). The Weimers arrived from Punsutawney, PA towing their '63 Globetrotter with a vintage Chrysler Town & Country having left Phil behind as it isn't quite Groundhog Day yet. They said he'd gone back into hibernation for the winter. Arriving early Sunday morning just as some were pulling out was an unexpected treat as Stuart Natof drove up in his '48 Cadillac, pulling attention away from the '55 GMC. Stuart wasn't towing his trailer, but just drove up for the day to see what was happening. He and his wife Margaret had just gotten back from a trip to Ireland the day before.

Participants spent their days on Friday and Saturday touring the towns of Harper's Ferry and Bolivar locally, starting with visits to the National Park Headquarters to being their tours of the historic area of Harper's Ferry. Other sites in the local area that were visited by some were the historic towns of Shepherdstown and Charles Town in West Virginia and Sharpsburg, Maryland which is the site of the Civil War battle generally referred to as Antietam. Several visited the racetrack in Charles Town where there is a casino as well as regularly scheduled thoroughbred racing. The waters of the Potomac and Shenandoah being too cold, there was no participation in the white water rafting activities that take place even though the waters are colder now.

The Washington DC Unit held its annual business meeting on Saturday morning early so that participants could partake of the many aforementioned activities. Activities for 2001 were discussed and planned. Keep an eye on the 2001 Edition of the WBCCI Directory and future issues of the Blue Beret and Vintage Advantage for the schedule of upcoming WDCU events.

A formal Open House (as has been held at previous VAC events) was abandoned in favor of what turned out to be a very informal one in that we found ourselves hosting many visitors throughout the weekend who stopped by to see the Gathering, to ask questions and get ideas and solutions to their own problems. There were several sessions of riveting, wiring, plumbing going on and generally something for everyone. There was talk also of Winterizing methods. In this section of the country that is a vitally important topic and several did their winterizing before leaving the site on their journeys home.

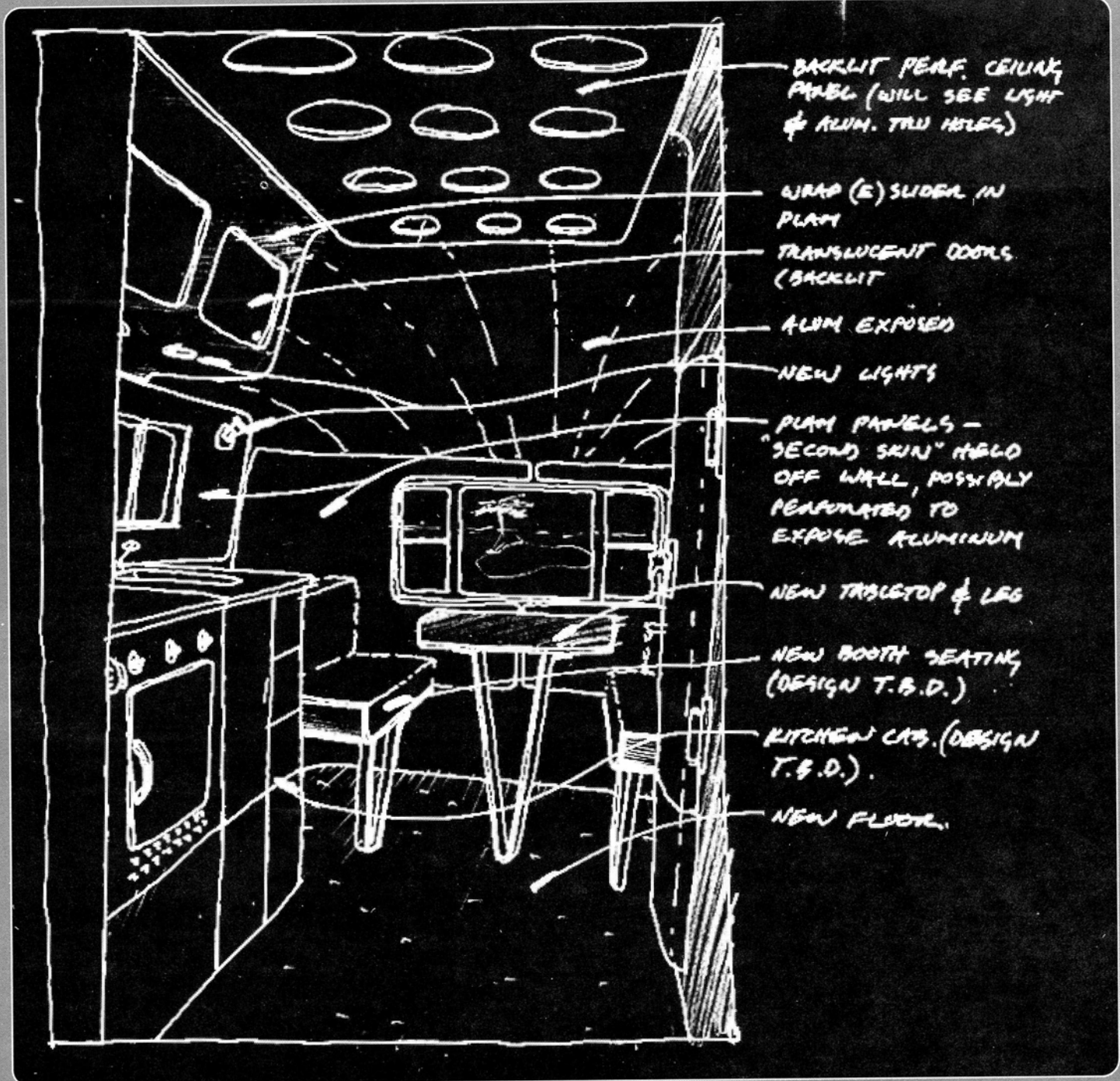
The weekend was a roaring success everyone agreed and we all look forward to next year's Northeast Fall Gathering which has been set for a location on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. WDCUers Margaret Natof and her sister Gail McClelland have agreed to host next year's event and are in the process of selecting a site as this is being written. Keep an eye on future issues of the Vintage Advantage for announcements regarding the 4th Annual VAC Northeast Gathering in 2001. In the meantime, safe travels and pleasant journeys!

Harley C. Muse, WBCCI #7566
Corresponding Secretary
Washington DC Unit

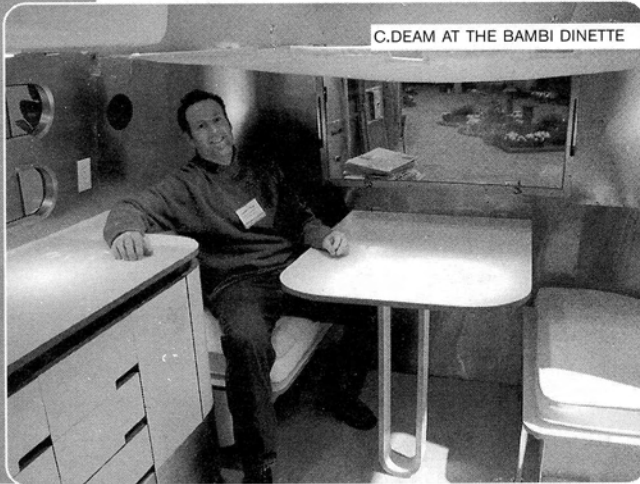
IF YOU GOTTA HAVE A NEW ONE, LOOK NO FURTHER.

The New Bambi 16

AIRSTREAM EXAMINES THEIR COMPACT TRAILER THROUGH A FRESH NEW LENS



At the International Rally in Bismarck, North Dakota 2000, many of us saw the first prototype interior built into a 1954 Airstream Wanderer. Now Airstream, Inc. along with Architect Christopher Deam have created a very new interior for the smallest trailer in the current line. I had an opportunity to talk with Chris about the many design issues that came up along the way.



C.DEAM AT THE BAMBI DINETTE

(As many of you know, when you start this process, it is very difficult to stop.)

Bryan_ What is your background and how does it influence your work, what's your thinking?

Chris_ I am an Architect, furniture designer and I teach at CCAC). I have a tendency to look at interiors as seamless "wholes", where the boundary between furniture and architecture becomes blurred. My reputation is based on doing very detail intensive and compressed work. I guess you could say that I am a flamboyant anal-retentive.

Bryan_How did this all get rolling (literally for you?)

Chris_ I was originally asked by Inside Design, a design talent management company in NYC, to create a trade show exhibit for Wilsonart (a plastic laminate company). To show plastic laminate in a fresh new way I redid the interior of a 1954 Airstream Wanderer using their products and just rolled the whole damn thing into a convention center. When the public and press saw that trailer it was so well received that it caught the attention of Airstream and here we are today with a new Bambi interior prototype ready to go into production.

B_What was going through your head upon knowing that your design was going to go into production for Airstream Inc.?

C_ Basically I just wanted to make a trailer that I personally would enjoy, use and spend a lot of time. The process was really enjoyable, because I just let my mind wander and make up all these great trips that I would take in this Bambi and how I would want to use it (look for surf racks on a future model). I also of course knew that I was going to have to balance all the concerns of function, form, material, and production.

B_Chris, how did it get from trade show booth, to Airstream rally?

C_ Wade Thompson, the president of Thor (Airstream's parent company), actually came to the show in New York to see the trailer. He was so excited that he invited us to take it to the International rally in Bismarck, ND, in July 2000 to test reactions to it. After that rally, Airstream was very eager to create this new model as quickly as possible in order to get it on the market it seemed..



AT THE AIRSTREAM FACTORY

The New Bambi 16

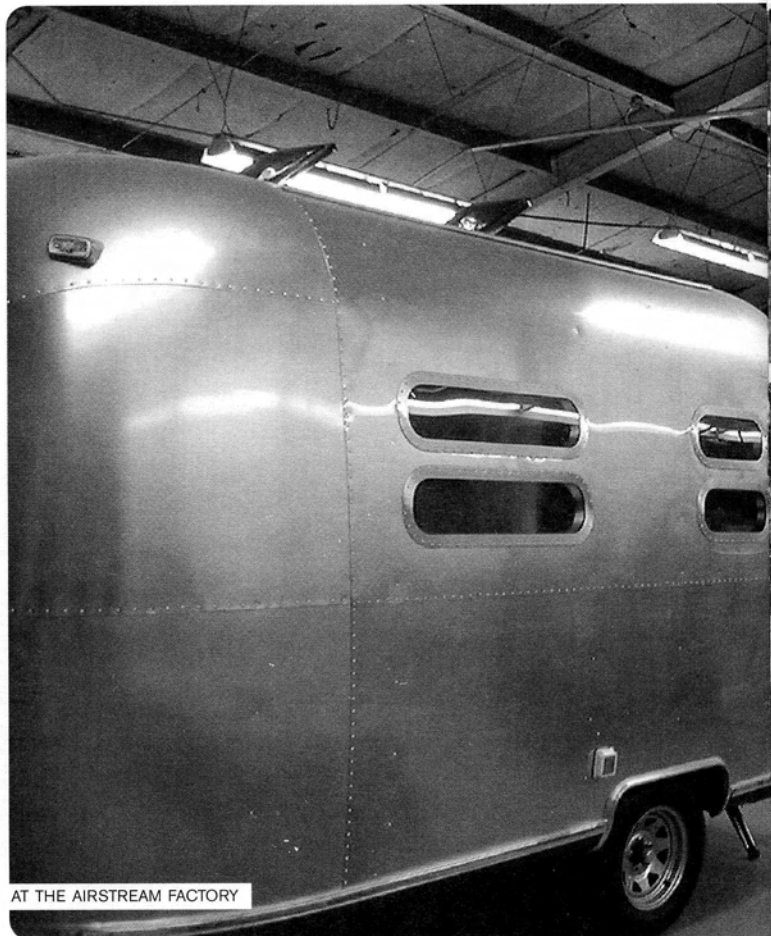
B_ What was unique about designing the inside of a trailer in relation to previous projects of yours?

C_ The unique thing in designing the interior of an Airstream is that you don't have any obvious place to stop and start materials because of its shape. Also, in this 16' Bambi its essentially one undifferentiated space that should have distinct zones of use, so it was a real challenge to make the interior seem integrated with the shell and at the same time fluid.

B_ The first production line Airstream was the 1936 Clipper, named after the aluminum skinned airplane, the Pan Am Clipper, the first Trans Atlantic passenger airplane. Later on, Airstream used the term "land yacht" to describe the detailing of the trailer. Did Airstream want you to look at Bambi historically or from a clean slate?

C_ Airstream didn't give me any historical info on the Bambi. The thinking on this project was to look at it with fresh eyes and see what an interior could be in its most idealized form. Somewhere along the way the interiors got out of sync with what the whole idea of Airstream is about, independence and mobility, and it was my job to come up with an interior that could connect people back to those ideas.

B_ Were there individuals whose experiences or feedback, like previous customers exist?



AT THE AIRSTREAM FACTORY



AT THE TRADESHOW IN KENTUCKY

C_ I got a huge amount of help from the people at Airstream when we got to the point of looking at things like "how do you make a dinette fold down into a bed?" "How can the head really be on the opposite side of the coach from the clean-out" and things like that. But in the beginning, they just gave me three directives; its got to be light, its got to be affordable, and its got to have storage. Those are the things that their customers have been asking for over the years.

SPACE ISSUES

B_ Having to use space so efficiently in this 16 foot trailer, the smallest in Airstream current line, what would be the major difference in your design if you got to design a trailer that was twice as long...?

C_ I don't think I would change my thinking at all with a bigger trailer. I would just like to provide a bed that doesn't have to be made up or taken down every day. I think trailers have gotten bigger because they have gotten less efficient. There is no reason for them to be as large as they've gotten (I'm talking about the plastic Roadhogs you see on the freeway these days). If you look at my 16' Bambi, it has the largest kitchen counter of any RV out there of any size. I also think there is a more pleasant psychology to efficiency.



BAMBI KITCHEN

B_ What if anything does the 16' Bambi lack? Not in terms of equipment, but the experience?

C_ Having to take the bed up and down is the only thing that I could see, but you gain exceptional mobility and maneuverability. You can go into the smaller more remote campgrounds with a trailer this size.

B_ What is the biggest improvement that this new model has in relation to the older Bambi?

C_ The thing I like best is that I've been able to make this trailer seem much larger than it actually is, by emphasizing long horizontal lines, exposing the aluminum on the interior, and flipping the floor plan, you gain a feeling of expansiveness that you don't have in the other trailers.

The New Bambi 16

B_ What were the best elements of the Bambi you wanted to keep or work with?

C_ I really wanted to emphasize the craftsmanship of the aluminum shell, so I left off the vinyl on the interior which helps to bounce light around and remind you that you are in an Airstream and not a piece of plastic junk. I also left off the trim railing around the waist of the exterior, that way you can really see the rounded shape better and all the rivets they use. I think they got the nickname "squarestream" unfairly because of that trim rail. The shape is still very nice, but your eye just couldn't see it with that breaking up the geometry. B_ What were the worst elements that you wanted to design out of the Bambi...?

C_ Two things; the lighting and your grandmother's kitchen. I took out all the fluorescent overhead lights so that it doesn't feel like a dentist office anymore, and replaced them with low voltage halogens. I also placed them so that they light the surfaces that you use instead of dead air. You can create some pretty dramatic moods with this new set-up. The country kitchen and interior style they've been using is such a nostalgic view, looking backwards, in my opinion has no business in an Airstream. Airstreams were conceived as modern, forward looking efficient mobile vehicles.

B_ What was Airstream's goal with the reintroduction of this particular model?

C_ They really wanted to re-energize the market and attract a whole new generation of Airstream enthusiasts and they saw a smaller entry-level trailer as the way to do that.

B_ Any audiences in particular?

C_ I think mostly boomers, younger active outdoor types, people like surfers, campers, mountain bikers, and maybe older people that want a more manageable sized trailer. In general this trailer will address those people who hold a higher standard for design and function and are willing to pay for it.

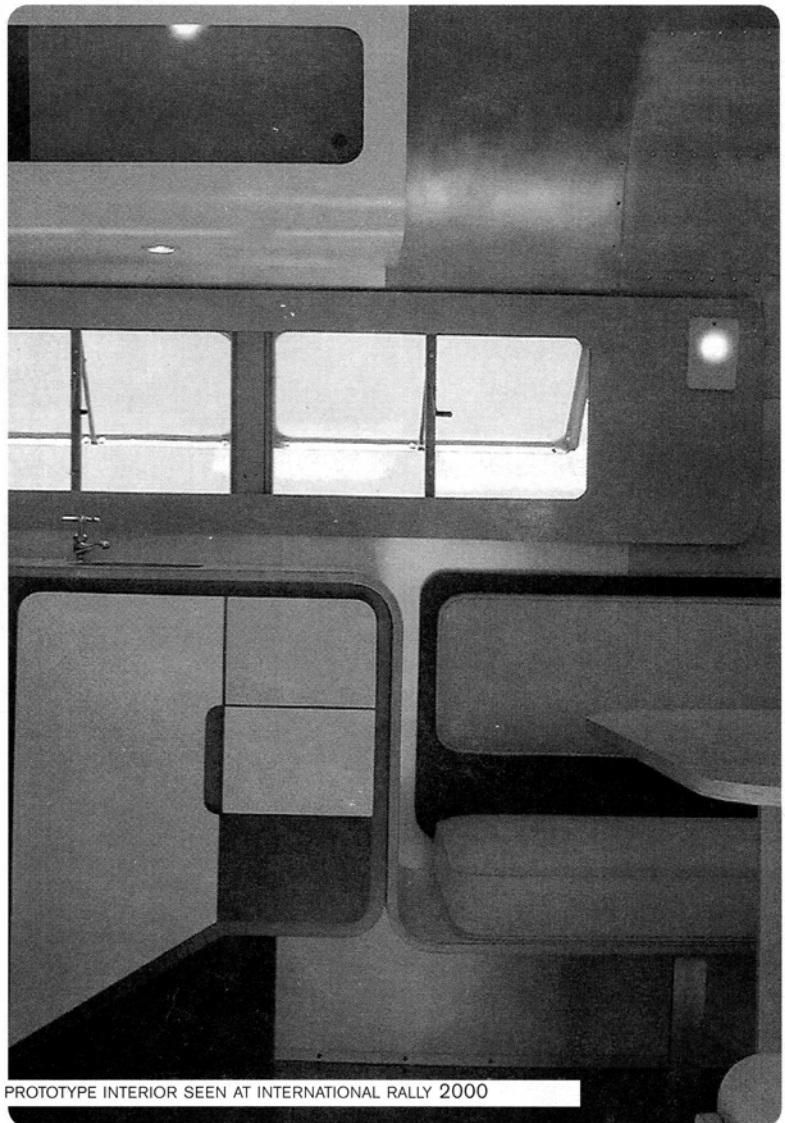
Use

B_ What was the optimal type of use for this new trailer? Short term, weekend, cross-country.

C_ I think a family of four for a week, a couple for a month or an individual indefinitely.



AT THE AIRSTREAM FACTORY, INSTALLING CABINETS



PROTOTYPE INTERIOR SEEN AT INTERNATIONAL RALLY 2000

B_ What is the general response so far from dealers?

C_ Dealers are pretty conservative; They are a little concerned about this trailer because it is not for the typical audience that they are used to dealing with and they will need to develop new ways of reaching the Bambi's potential audience (think website). But overall they see it as having huge potential, its just how do you tap into it?

Lets Get Technical

B_ What is the weight of the new one? Is this trailer lighter than the original Bambi?

C_ 2,800 lbs. dry, 3,300 lbs. fully loaded, 300 lbs. at the hitch. It's probably quite a bit heavier than the old ones, they didn't have the code restrictions back then that we have now.

B_ What is the width of the body... the inside dimension? The body length?

C_ Inside the coach is 7'6" x 12'6"

B_ And the bumper to hitch?

C_ 16'0"

B_ What type of tow cars will be able to handle the Bambi?

C_ Most SUV's, minivans, and larger station wagons will be able to pull this thing. From what I understand you just need something of equal or greater weight to the trailer.

Design Decisions

B_ What are the materials that are new in the interior? Their advantages? What are some of the feelings this interior evokes for you?

C_ I used a lot of plastic laminate because it's actually a warm material in contrast to the exposed aluminum. The laminate is also an easy way to get color into the trailer, and it's phenomenally durable and easy to clean. The feeling I was trying to achieve is one that is uncluttered, clean, modern, and that could transport you away from your everyday life. I see this trailer as

striking a balance between taking convenience with you, and leaving your aesthetic baggage behind.

B_ What floor configurations and options are Airstream considering, or options you think would make sense?

C_ When we get closer to production I think we will look at two front-end configurations (dinette or L-couch) and maybe 3 interior color options.

B_ Your lighting is a major improvement, less interrogation, overhead style, more mood. You spoke of lighting surfaces instead of space, can you elaborate? What is actually the difference?

C_ The way I laid it out you can actually create distinct zones in a small space, for example with the hanging pendant lamp over the dinette you can turn off all the other lights and feel like you are in a little room created just with light. The old overhead style of lighting lit everything equally and that's incredibly inefficient as well as totally unsexy. This will be a real pimp-wagon. (Translation: pimp-wagon = comfortable trailer)

B_ Electricity: are there new features or modern systems built into this unit? Phone lines? dsl? Solar?

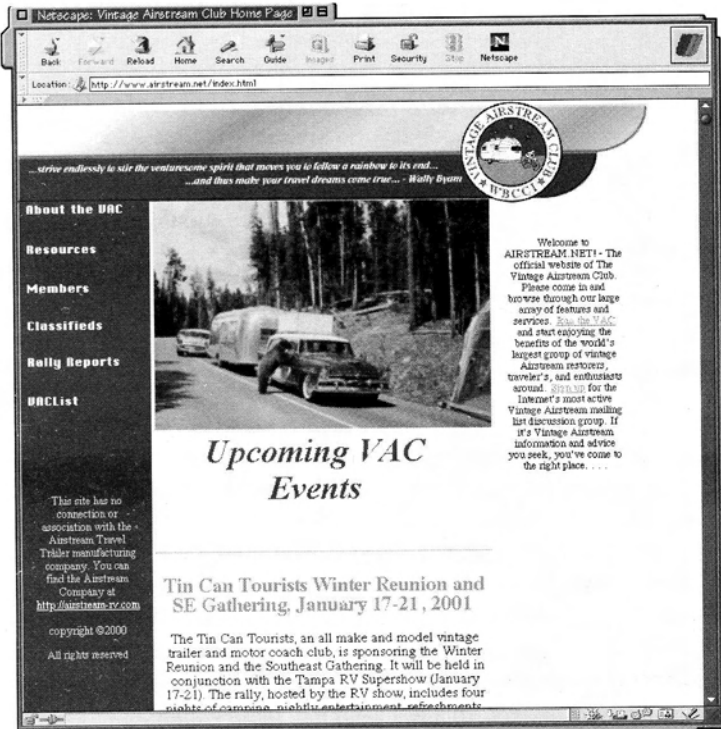
C_ The systems are basically the same as their other new trailers: low voltage electrical, integrated phone lines, cable, heater, stereo, water heater, wet bath etc. Solar will be offered as an option.

B_ What is the biggest improvement that this new model has in relation to the older Bambi?

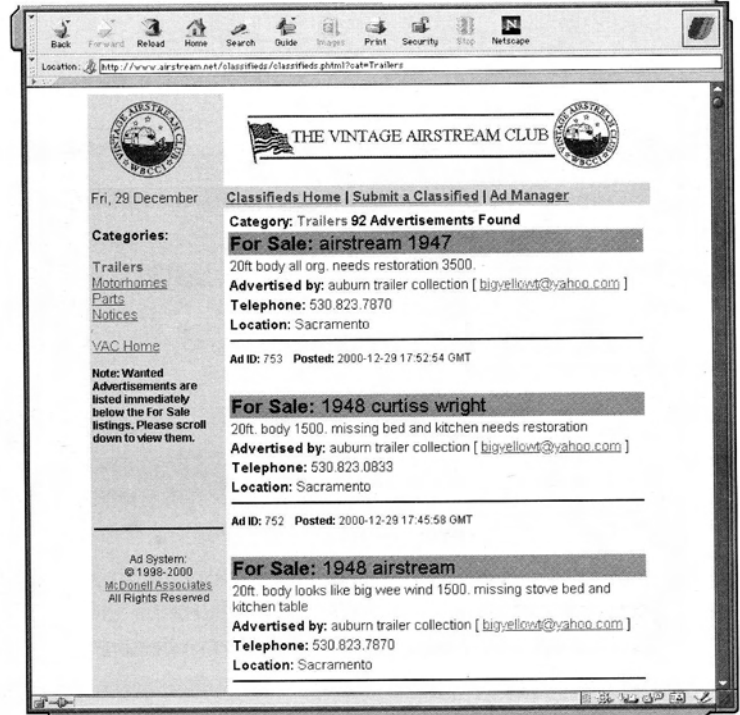
C_ More storage and counter space and your kids won't be embarrassed to have this thing parked in their driveway.

B_ Well. . . umm, actually those kids are pretty excited to borrow their parents old ones too! (see "damn the puller man") This is a very bold new direction and I know that all Airstreamers will watch this design development closely. Many iMac using, Volkswagen Bug drivers will be considering their space options for this stylish new Bambi . . .

INTRODUCTION TO THE VAC WEBSITE



VAC HOMEPAGE



VAC CLASSIFIEDS

The Vintage Airstream Club maintains a website on the Internet dedicated solely to topics about Vintage Airstreams and their owners. The focus of the site is the restoration and maintenance related to the owning of vintage Airstreams. The site embraces the concepts behind the Vintage Airstream Club in particular and the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI) in general, and provides coverage of VAC rallies and events.

The real-time nature of the Internet allows the site content to be continually updated and will be the most current information available. Because of this, the VAC website is where you will find the "VAC Classifieds" (Want Ads) - a place to sell and buy Airstream trailers, parts and services. The "Upcoming Events" section on the Home Page is where you can find up-to-date details on planned VAC rallies.

THE SITE IS DIVIDED INTO 7 MAIN AREAS:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Home Page | VAC Information |
| VAC Resources | VAC Members Area |
| VAC Classifieds | VAC Rallies |
| VAC List | |

The Home Page is the pretty much the "front door" to the website and is where you will find a "table of contents" with access to the other 6 sections. Here is also where you will find the current listing of upcoming VAC rallies and events.

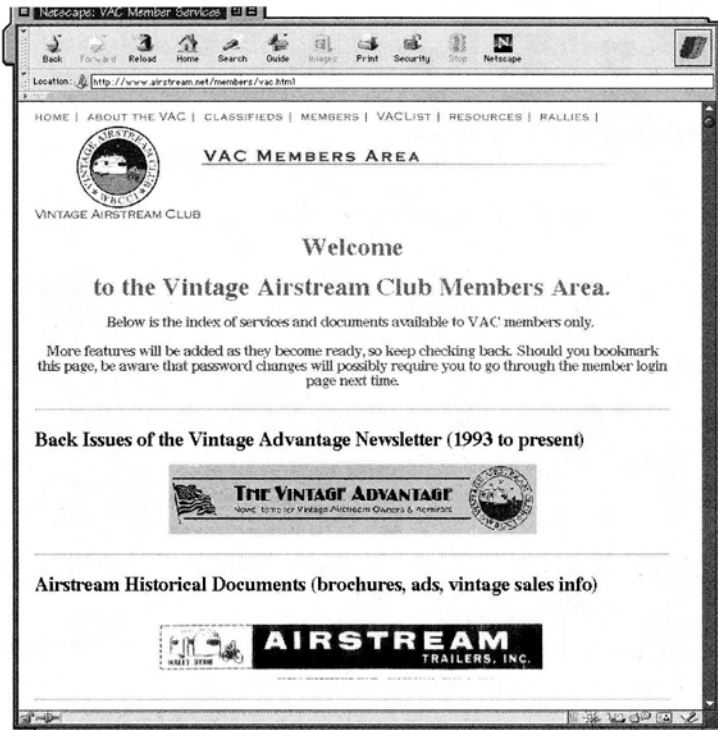
"About the VAC" is the Information section with a brief VAC history and an invitation for potential new members to join, including an online application.

"Resources" are just that, valuable information archived for easy access. Here you will find:

- **AIRSTREAM READING** - The VAC bookshelf of titles relating to Airstreams and vintage travel.
- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** - Answers prepared by Bud Cooper related to Airstream Restoration
- **VAC OFFICERS & CONTACTS** - Want to know who your regional rep is, or where to get those cool Blue & Gold VAC flags? This section has the names & contact information for the VAC officers, appointed Board Members, regional representatives, and many more.
- **AIRSTREAM LINKS** - Other websites of Airstreaming interest
- **AIRSTREAM PHOTOS** - Vintage advertising, publicity and Caravan photos courtesy of the Airstream Company Collection.
- **AIRSTREAM VIDEO'S** - Listing of currently available commercial video's with Airstream as the topic.

"VAC Members" is one of the benefits of belonging to the Vintage Airstream Club. This is seen as an area with great growth potential and of the greatest value to the club. In the password accessed Members Area you will find:

- Historical Airstream brochures, advertisements & documents.
- Vintage trailer and appliance manuals for downloading or reading



MEMBERS PAGE

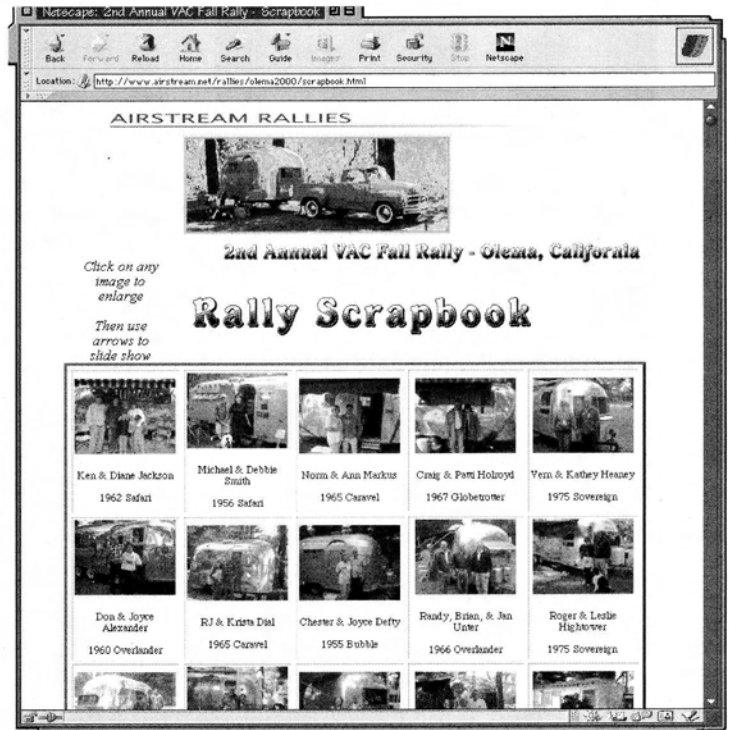
- Back issues of this Vintage Advantage Newsletter, dating from 1993 and the club founding up to the present
- Free custom "Airstream.net" e-mail addresses. Keep the same "yourchoice@airstream.net" e-mail address regardless of your current or future Internet Service Provider (ISP) assigned address.
- A soon to be completed model listing of Vintage Airstream trailers from the 1930's to the mid 1970's.

The member section is open to all VAC members in good standing. The current password will be published in each issue of the Vintage Advantage newsletter.

"Classifieds" is where the Classified Ad trailer section of the Vintage Advantage moved to. Here are the "Want Ads" and "For Sales" of the club. Advantages are instant free posting of your ad and the ability to immediately remove your ad once you sell or buy your item. Many non VAC members post trailers for sale on the site - an additional bonus source of vintage trailers.

"Rallies" contain reports and photographs of people and their trailers from the VAC rallies that occur throughout the US each year.

The VAC website can be found at: www.airstream.net and requires Netscape 4.0 or Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher to view. VAC Website "Members Area" Password Use this password to access the Members only section of the



VAC RALLY PAGE

VAC website at: www.airstream.net/members/login.html

Access to:

- Historical Airstream related documents and manuals for viewing or downloading
- Back issues of the Vintage Advantage newsletter.
- Your own free custom airstream e-mail address (yourchoice@airstream.net)
- Vintage Airstream model listings

THE CURRENT PASSWORD IS: **safari**

All lower case letters. The password will change at the time each Vintage Advantage newsletter is published. There will be a 30 day overlapping grace period with the old password.



BELIZE

Part 1 in the Belize Caravan Series
Wagonmaster Logbook
Chris Yelland, Wagonmaster
WBCCI #3205



In the summer of 2000, I received a phone call from Bud Cooper, founder of the Vintage Airstream Club, asking my opinion about a caravan to Belize. That's where the ball started rolling! I outlined an itinerary that would follow the Gulf Coast of Mexico then cut across the bottom of the Yucatan peninsula into Belize. The focus of this tour was to spend time in the English-speaking, central American country of Belize. While I made preparations and hammered out a proposal for the VAC, Bud started contacting people he thought may be interested in joining us on this tour. In addition to this, the VAC Discussion list talked about the trip in their chat room. In preparation for this trip, I created a website: <http://belizecaravan.homestead.com> for people to get details on the tour. As we approached departure date, more people started joining up and we ended up with the following tour members.

TOUR LEADER: Chris Yelland TEXAS

Bud & Bettye Cooper, TEXAS

Bill & Jimmie Cotton, OKLAHOMA

Jim & Mary Smith, FLORIDA

Herb & Faye Spivey, MISSISSIPPI

Haywood & Faye Overcash, NORTH CAROLINA

Gary & Sandi Danio, NORTH CAROLINA

Andy & Regine Carey, WASHINGTON

Ken & Petey Faber, MICHIGAN

Mike & Betty Ivy, GEORGIA

Betty Zimmerman, MARYLAND

WE ALL MET IN MCALLEN ON NOVEMBER 1ST AND WERE READY TO START OUR ADVENTURE.

Day 1 – Wednesday November 1, 2000.

McAllen, Texas – Rendezvous

After ten years of leading RV Caravans, the first days of Rendezvous do not get any less hectic. In fact, this particular tour involves a lot of last minute running around because we only have one day of official rendezvous. We already took half the caravan members to the Mexico border for paperwork and permits.

Nine o'clock general meeting where we all get to know each other and go over all the details of "South-of-the-border" travel. Break for lunch then we are off to the border. One unit (the Ivy's) could not get their paperwork processed because of different names on the paperwork, so they needed a copy of their marriage certificate ... which hopefully can be faxed down to the office. Other than that, everything went smoothly and we returned before the five o'clock Driver's Meeting.

The Drivers Meeting is a get-together we have the evening before each travel day. It is here where we discuss the next days travel route, driving conditions, and activities along the way. The Ivy's daughter faxed a copy of the marriage certificate and we will try again to get the paperwork in the morning.

Back to the house for last minute items and then grocery shopping at midnight. To bed at two o'clock in the morning.

Day 2 – Thursday November 2, 2000
McAllen, Texas

Five-thirty wake-up call! Seven am departure to border. All these shiny Airstreams lined up in front of Paradise Park in Pharr, Texas was a sight indeed! It rained last night so the road is a little wet this morning, but the skies are clearing nicely for our departure. Stopped at the border to get our paperwork for the Iy's. Turns out that we did not need the faxed copy of the marriage certificate after all. Different border – different rules, I guess. Anyway, the important thing is we got the documents and we were off and running in no time.

Jim Smith broke down about seventy miles south of the border (clutch problem, I think). We delayed the group until he was towed into the town of San Fernando. Stopped at a large PEMEX Truck stop and gas station, the group pulled out 4.5 hours later. We missed the museum in Jimenez and arrived at camp, just before dark this evening. Circled the wagons (Wally Byam Style)! Meeting in the thatch-roofed palapa.

The scenery today was compared to the African plains by unit number eight, the Carey's, who have traveled there. The day ended with beautiful sunset views from our silver circle.

Day 3 – Friday November 3, 2000
Soto La Marina, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Bud Cooper and Bill Cotton left camp early to fuel up at the Pemex Gas Station in town. We passed them about 15 minutes later in town. At our first break, Bill caught up with us, but no Bud! We waited a total of one hour longer before arriving in Tampico for Bud to catch up, but he never did. After we crossed the bridge in Tampico, we stopped for lunch to wait longer for Bud, but still no sign. I went to call the highway Patrol office from the toll booth, and found out there were no reported accidents on the highway, so that is good news.

We decided to continue to an emergency camp location in Tampico Alto, about 10 miles away. On the way we passed a military checkpoint, where I once again asked the official on duty to keep his eye on the lookout for Bud. Upon arrival in Tampico Alto, I spotted a Green Angel driving in the opposite direction and flagged him down. I told him to be on the lookout and gave him Buds unit number, and description.

Called the office and had Amelia come in tomorrow (Saturday) to wait for word from Bud. All our fellow tour members were worried about Bud and Bettye. We all parked around the main plaza (city square) and next to the church for the evening. Noisy kids around until about 10:30 p.m., then all quiet in town.

Day 4 – Saturday November 4, 2000
Tampico Alto, Veracruz, Mexico.

ROUGH ROADS! Left camp at 7a.m. and stopped at a cheese shop called El Vale (Value) where we bought homemade string cheese right from the dairy located in back of the store. They are also near completion of a new Pemex Gas Station here. We also stopped at the fruit stands just south of Tampico Alto where the vendors were selling jicama, tangerines, pineapple, bananas and oranges. When we arrived in the city of Poza Rica (Rich Well) we found an incredible amount of traffic. By the way, Poza Rica is the city where Mexico found the first oil reserves, starting their largest state-owned industry – PEMEX (PEtroleos MEXicanos).

After a bit I realized the reason there was so much traffic is because this is still part of the "Day of the Dead" many people celebrate the holiday here. This was further proven by the lack of parking at the El Tajin Ruins. Guess What? BUD IS HERE! Apparently he waited for us at the gas station, and after several hours, when we did not show up, he continued down the road, that's why we missed him in Tampico last night. The important thing is that we are all back together again.

El Tajin means "Lightning and Thunder" in the local Totonaca Indian language. Discovered in 1758 by a Spanish colonial official, Diego Ruiz, El Tajin was an ancient settlement of the Totonaca Indians. The site is composed of a series of richly decorated public squares and pyramids. The city contains one of Mexico's most unique pre-Columbian buildings, the 60-foot high Temple of the Niches. Its 365 recessed niches are thought to be tied to the 365 days in the solar calendar year.

In 1804, a Jesuit scholar used this temple as a basis for comparing Mesoamerican temples and Egyptian pyramids. In 1836, artist Carlos Nebel published a depiction of the building that lured artistic visitors to the site for the next century. In 1938, archaeological excavations at El Tajin revealed that this temple stood at the heart of the largest and most important ancient city in northeastern Mexico.

El Tajin was clearly a center of great importance, and it had a broad impact on surrounding areas. Another unique aspect at El Tajin is the ancient Mesoamerican ball game. Whereas most archaeological sites have only one ball court, there were at least thirteen at El Tajin.

The Belize Caravan

Research indicates that the city originated in the first century AD and reached a modest size between 300 and 600 AD. From 600 to 900 AD, it expanded rapidly, but in a final phase, from 900 to 1100 AD, the largest buildings were constructed and then suddenly destroyed. Today the city is in the keeping of the Totonacs, who jealously protect its secrets. Excavations have proceeded at a very slow pace, and today you can still only visit 30 percent of the city as the rest still waits, covered by jungle vegetation.

As we left the ruins, the famous voladores pole dancers were ready to perform. This dance is now performed around the world and has its origins right here in the Poza Rica/Papantla region of Veracruz. These 5 men have been performing the flying pole dance for years and their brightly colored costumes of red velvet with small mirrors glisten in the sunlight. Four men climb a 60 foot pole, and as the fifth man dances on top, playing a flute and drum, the other four spiral down, hanging upside down! This dance is performed to bring the summer rains for growing crops. Since the Totonaca people have always been an agrarian community, this dance is very important to their culture.

In order to keep this unique tradition alive, on December 20, 1975, the Totonaca Pole Dancers formed a union "la Unión de Danzantes y Voladores," which, today, comprises over 700 members in the region and has formed a school to keep this unique tradition alive. In 1985, the group chose a day to commemorate this tradition: the day of Corpus Christi, also known as the Day of the Flyer. On this day, the town of Papantla fills with festivities, music, color and pride. At the school of the Voladores and Dancers Union, the traditional dances are taught to children. On Tuesday the teachers arrive to practice with the youngsters who range in age from eight to fifteen years old. To be a "volador" all you need is desire and ability to learn the techniques. "You need honor and Totonaca blood, says Matias Moreno Bernabe, general secretary of the union. The dance groups must be comprised of Totonaca, because, as he puts it, "the (civilized people) Mestizos, really don't appreciate the dance. They perform it, but in a different manner."

The pole that holds the Voladores during their descent and where the fifth member performs his musical dance can reach a height of 30 meters. In the school, the children practice on a 15 meter-high pole, which is increased according to the ability and progress of the individual student.

After visiting the ruins and witnessing the Voladores, at 3:00 p.m., we continued to our beachfront campground – Neptuno's RV Park. We arrived just before dark and got everyone parked. Since this is a Mexican holiday, there were Mexican travelers in RV's and tents at the park. This is a small but clean park with restaurant and pool, right on the beach. The hookups were less than perfect (reversed polarity electric, low water pressure and no hot water in the showers) but that did not seem to matter to anybody. Remember, we are on a VAC Caravan, and Vintage Airstreamers don't need all the facilities that other RV'ers can't live without!

Day 5 – Sunday November 5, 2000 Nautla, Veracruz, Mexico.

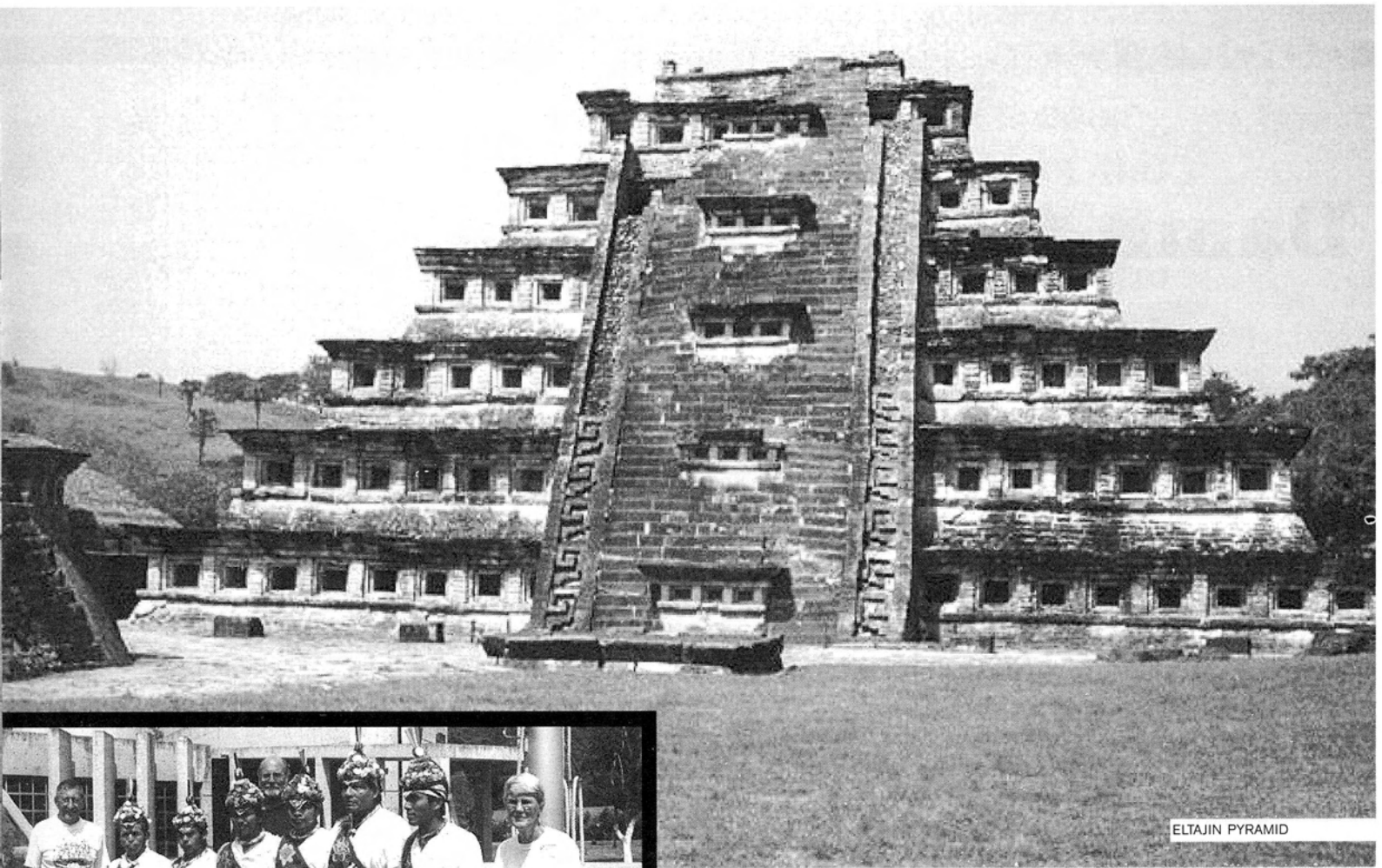
This morning was a easy start at 10:00 a.m. We had our drivers meeting at 9:00 a.m. Uneventful drive to Veracruz. Lunch at Mozomboa where half the group did not get their lunch served in time and we left without them into Veracruz. I gave very good directions to the second half on how to find the park, and we bid farewell and got back on the road again! Arrived at our camp, "Balneario Mocambo" at 2:45 p.m. This campground is operated by the Mexican Government: Desarrollo Integral de la Familia – DIF (Integral Family Development). The DIF is a government agency that administers social assistance programs throughout Mexico and is run almost entirely by women. One of the few government commissions run by women in this typically "men-ruled" country.

The camp is located right on the beach ... with sites situated under the shade of **swaying** palm trees and Australian Pines. The beaches at Mocambo are some of the most expensive property on Mexico's Gulf Coast ... many hotels and resorts are building properties on these beaches and the only reason the Balneario Mocambo has withstood all the area development is because it is government owned.

When we arrived most of the beachfront sites were occupied by another caravan (headed for the Yucatan). Shortly after we parked everyone, I went out in front of the hotel to wait for the second wave of units and they we already pulling into camp. The second wave was being led into camp by unit number eight, the Carey's in their 1999 Airstream Safari. Andy and Regine can be assured that they have been accepted into this group of vintage enthusiasts when the VAC'ers let themselves be led in by a "new Airstream".

Many of us went to dinner across the street at the Villa Rica Restaurant – excellent seafood! After dinner we walked to the boulevard to catch buses for downtown ... where we enjoyed watching the local color in the "Zocalo" (central plaza). Veracruz is a city rich in history and tradition ... one of the most important traditions all over Mexico is the Zocalo, or Parque Central (Central Park) where the townsfolk come out to see and be seen in the evenings. Here, in Veracruz, this is definitely no exception! Every night of the week, people come down to see musical presentations and enjoy a "cerveza" at one of the many sidewalk cafes that line the north side of the square.

Mariachis, marimbas, sailors, call girls, clowns, and vendors selling everything from Cuban cigars, to wooden ship models to straw hats all converge on the Zocalo after dark. Quite an experience.



ELTAJIN PYRAMID



Damn the Puller Man

Teaching and doing are two entirely different things. My parents are wonderful people. They taught me well. Perhaps you've met them? Bud and Bettye Cooper? As I was saying, they taught me well. More than just the basics like wiping my feet, eating my vegetables, saying please and thank you, or not to put peas up my nose. These lessons have certainly served me well over the years although they occasionally have to be retaught by my wife. My parents also formed my moral character and how to make responsible decisions using good judgement. I learned that who you hang around with is often a reflection on you and that it is all too easy to fall in with the wrong crowd. I was warned about drug pushers and pot but they never warned me about the pullers and their pot luck.

Why didn't they listen to their own words? My parents retired and I expected them to settle down in over stuffed Lazyboys in front of the glow of a TV, to the click of knitting needles and the remote control. Well, it all started innocently enough. At first it was just weekends. They'd travel a few hours away somewhere in the state with their Airstream trailer and rendezvous with other Airstream pullers. It seemed harmless enough but I learned that sometimes the group would get together for an informal meal where everyone would bring a dish to pass. They call this pot luck. My parents were soon hooked and moved on to harder things.

They began disappearing for weeks at a time traveling all over North America and Mexico, meeting up with Airstream gang members as they went. They even went so far as to found their own gang called the Vintage Airstream Club which now has members world wide.

I have tried everything to lure them back to a quiet, respectable life in front of the TV. I put a bird feeder outside their window, bought them the complete history of Lawrence Welk on VHS and a subscription to Reader's Digest. What else could someone of their age want? I've even painted their house aluminum and sprinkled it liberally with pop rivets but to no avail.

They've dragged me down with them. I had to join the pullers in order to get the occasional glimpse of them. I now have a 1974 Airstream with the number 26018 tattooed in red across its forehead and hang with the Washington D.C. Unit.

The latest rumor from the street reports that they were last seen heading south for Belize with a group of fourteen other Vintage Airstream pullers. If you see them, send them home. They are good parents. I only wish that they would have warned me about the pullers and their pot lucks.

By Richard Cooper #26018

Leon Funeral Home in Pharr.



**ANTHONY "BIG TONY"
GRABOSKI**

McAlLEN — Anthony "Big Tony" Graboski, 84, died September 18, 2000. Mr. Graboski was born in Timmins, Ontario, Canada on May 29, 1916. He played ice hockey for the Hershey Bears in Pennsylvania, the Sidney Millionaires in Nova Scotia, Canada, and in the NHL for the Montreal Canadiens until 1943 when he was called to serve in the U.S. Army during WW II in the China-Burma Theatre. Afterward, he attended Hershey Junior College for two years and finally built his own business in Toronto, Ontario, Canada which he owned for 25 years. He and his wife retired to the Rio Grande Valley in 1980.

Tony loved to travel and visited more than 50 countries, spanning 5 continents. One phase of this travel was the Wally Byam Caravan to Africa, Asia and Europe in 1959-60. He also made many trips to Australia, which he loved the most. He traveled up and down Valley highways, introducing himself as Tony Boloney Macaroni Spaghetti W/Cheese, and showing coin tricks to the children.

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Tony is survived by his wife of 62 years, Gladys; one daughter, Toni Nadene (Art) Ruiz of McAllen; one son, Michael Anthony (Marsha) Graboski of McAllen; two grandsons, Steven (Gina) Ruiz of Kerrville, and John (Debbie) Ruiz of Miami, Fla.; six great-grandchildren, Steven Michael Ruiz II of McAllen, Jennifer, Julie and Sammy Jo Ruiz of Kerrville, and Andrew and Nicole Ruiz of Miami, Fla.; one brother, Joseph Graboski of Sillery, Quebec; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held in Paradise Park Rec Hall, 100 E. Hackberry, McAllen, on Sunday, September 24, 2000, at 1

A phone call from Tony's daughter in McAllen Texas, alerted me to the death of one of our stalwarts.

Anthony Big Tony Graboski died September 18, 2000, in McAllen Texas. He was 84. Tony, a former professional hockey player, drove the biggest trailer, a 30 footer, on the Capetown -to-Cairo caravan in 1959-60. He loved to travel and had visited more than 50 countries on five continents.

Tony is survived by his wife of 62 years, Gladys, a daughter Toni, (Mrs. Arthur Ruiz) and a son Michael, all of McAllen, and all of whom were on the caravan. Tony's application to join the caravan was at first rejected because of his over-size trailer. But Tony pleaded so eloquently, that Wally at last recanted, and he was invited to join. Tony and his family carried their share of the work, the fun, and the agony, surviving to the end. Art Ruiz, professional caravan driver and mechanic, is given highest grades in Wally's book. Art married the Graboski daughter (Toni) while on the caravan. Tony and his extended family were recently featured in a South Texas Unit rally entitled, The Caravan from Hell, which traced the ups and downs of the caravan as it wound its way through ten countries of Africa.

Bud Cooper

VAC Membership Report

Happy New Year to everyone. My name is Linda Moore and I have taken over the responsibility of Membership Director since September 1, 2000 from Dick Mumma. Dick has been an inspiration and great help in transitioning this responsibility as smoothly as possible.

My husband and I have been members of the VAC and the Washington DC Unit in the WBCCI since March of 1999. During this past year we have had a wonderful time travelling and meeting new people. We both like to get involved and contribute wherever we can. When I was asked if I would like to take on the membership job, I thought it was time to really get involved. It is a big job and I will be trying to fill Dick's shoes for a long time. I look forward to working with the VAC.

Enough about me, now the membership news:

The last edition of the Vintage Advantage was sent out in October 2000. In that issue, the labels were printed with incorrect expiration dates on them. We still don't know what happened but the label reflects a month/day but no year. Many of you thought that the /0000 meant 2000 but it really doesn't say any year. So what happened was that the sharp eagle eyed VACers who noted this misprint ended up sending in dues for the second time this year thinking that their membership was past due for this year. If this is the case in your situation, your additional payment has been credited to the next year that you owe.

MEMBERSHIP (as of 01/07/01)

Current members paid to 7/31/01 or beyond:	1063
Past due members paid to 7/31/00	455 >(If you are in this category, please send your dues now. This will be the last edition you will receive.)
Total Members	1518
166 of the current members are new.	

One observation that I have noted since September is that many of our fellow VACers are not receiving the full benefits of being Airstreamers. That is that many of you have not joined up with the WBCCI. If you don't know how to join the WBCCI you can fill out a membership application on the internet. Connect to www.wbcci.org, fill out the application, click "Submit" then send \$55.00 to:

Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc.

PO Box 612, Jackson Center, OH 45334

Or call (937) 596-5211 for more information.

Listed below are some of the advantages of belonging to the WBCCI.

- Free Overnight Parking (provided by members nationwide)
- Campground Discounts
- Ten Issues of "Blue Beret" (the official WBCCI magazine featuring activities and RV topics)
- Annual Directory of members and activities
- Reduced Parking Fees and Activity Prices at volunteer-led caravans and rallies
- Low-cost Overseas Caravans
- Member Intraclubs (share specialized interests, lifestyles and avocations)
- Youth Activities (for children and grandchildren)
- Local Units (additional activities and fellowship)
- Caravans and Rallies (national, regional and special events)
- RV Insurance Discounts (by Foremost Insurance)
- Medical Air Evacuation Insurance Discounts (from SkyMed)
- Towing Systems (offered by Hensley Mfg., Inc.)

> continues next page

You can also find a VAC membership application on the internet by connecting to the VAC website at www.airstream.net. Go to the "About the VAC" and click on "Send in your application". Print and fill out the application and send to me with a check for \$10 made out to "VAC".

Send to: Linda Moore
PO Box 4173
Windham, NH 03087

Or, contact me about membership at 1.603.881.5299
or by email at moorelinda@airstream.net



Important notice for YOU, the reader

Membership classifications:

MEMBER: Members of the WBCCI who own a vintage Airstream trailer 25 years or older. This is the dues paying voting membership. A VAC member may hold office or be appointed to a position.

ASSOCIATE: WBCCI members who do not qualify by owning a vintage Airstream trailer but wish for mutually beneficial reasons to belong. Associate members pay dues and have all the benefits of a regular member, except that they do not vote and they may not be elected to office or park their trailer in the Vintage area at the annual WBCCI International Rally. VAC associates may be appointed to a position.

HONORARY MEMBER: Membership bestowed upon VAC benefactors provided they are WBCCI members. This is a non-dues paying and a non-voting membership.

FRIEND: Any person 18 years old or older who has an interest in Vintage Airstream trailers and wishes to receive the VAC newsletter (The Vintage Advantage). Trailer ownership is not a requirement. This category is for non-WBCCI members who want a subscription to the newsletter only. It is the hope of the VAC that the Friends subscribers will be introduced to the WBCCI through the VA and then join the WBCCI so that they may be full VAC members.

Happy Travels....Linda (#15116)

Treasurers Report

For the reporting period of 8/11/00 to 12/31/00

Beginning:	\$ 8,730.39
Income:	\$ 4,108.42
Expenses:	<\$ 3,378.32>
Ending Balance:	\$ 9,460.49

Classified Ads

COMMERCIAL

MEMORABILIA:

Three-dimensional pewter vintage camper key chain, perfect for the trailerite or collector. RV is a replica of a 21ft. 1953 Airstream Flying Cloud travel trailer. Available for \$12.99 plus \$2.00 S+H (US), payable by check or money order.

See us on the web at: <http://users.rcn.com/jnpdesign/TRH>

Allow six weeks for delivery. TRH Enterprises, 5860 Scaggs Road, Owings, MD 20736.

ROUTE 66 HISTORIC RV TOUR:

Chicago to L.A. on the most famous highway in the world. Join our group of fellow vintage RV enthusiasts for a fun filled trip. Adventuretours (VAC member owned).

Call 800.455.8687 www.adventuretrek.com

NEW VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CLUB FLAGS:

The new version of the 2x3ft. dark blue nylon flag now has the Vintage club logo printed on both sides with the words VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CLUB also printed on both sides. Send \$25.00 to Robert Herman, 2092 Culbreath Rd. C12, Brooksville, FL 34602

TO PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE VINTAGE ADVANTAGE

Commercial Advertiser must be a VAC Member

Please submit your ad with (\$25) payment to:

Linda Moore
PO Box 4173
Windham, NH 03087

Or, contact me about membership at 1.603.881.5299

or by email at moorelinda@airstream.net

Payment MUST accompany the ads to be considered for publication.

Upon approval, ads will then be forwarded onto the Editor.

(COMMERCIAL AD GUIDELINES)

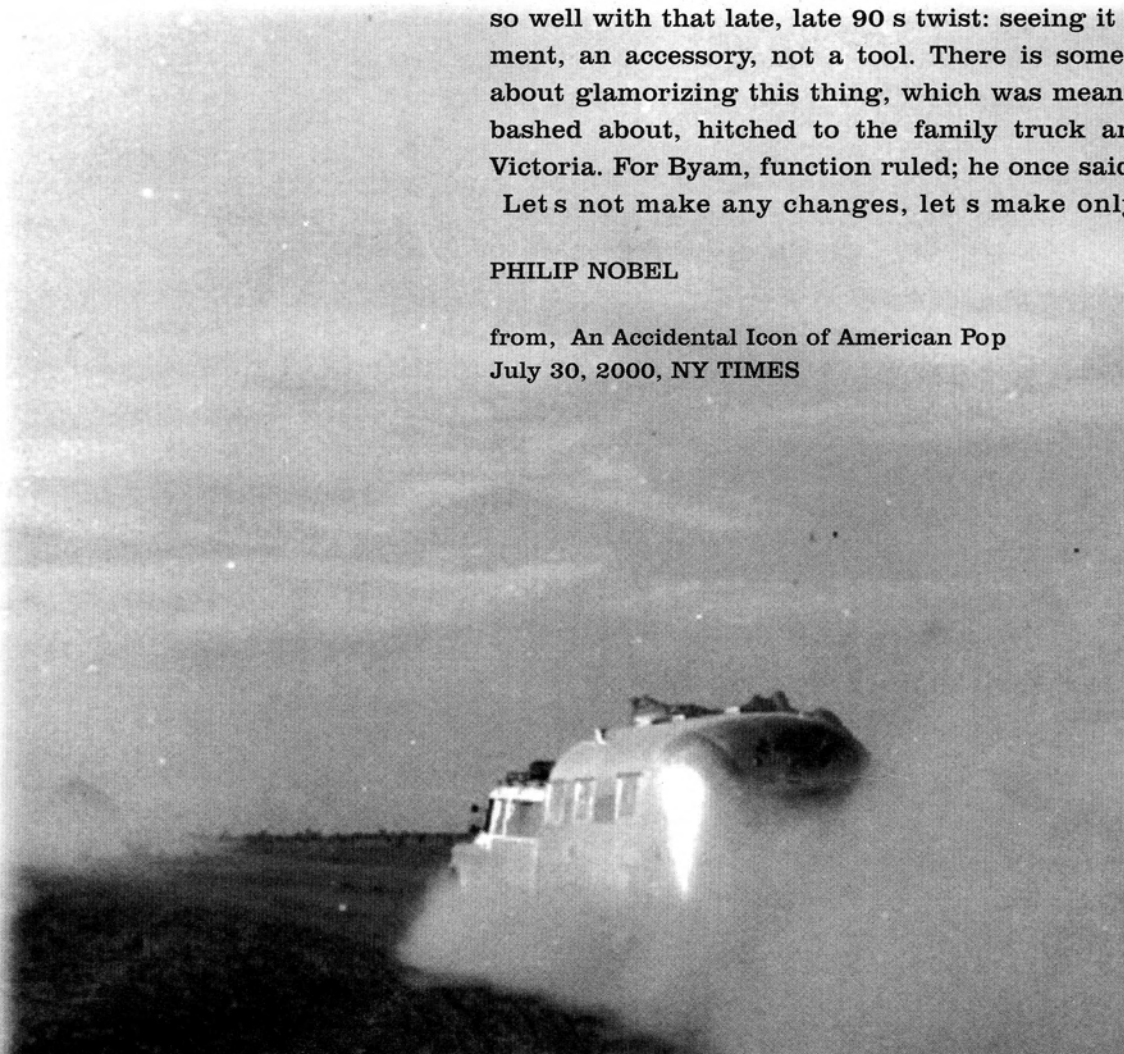
- 1 Only advertisements deemed of direct interest to the VAC membership shall be accepted.
2. All commercial advertisements in the VAC cost \$25 per issue.
3. Commercial ads will be placed only in the classified advertisement section of the VA.
4. Commercial Advertiser must be a VAC Member. 5. WBCCI members receive 20% discounted rate

until next issue:

What happens to a design when it goes from popular to Pop? The Airstream can survive a gloss of nostalgia, but it may not fare so well with that late, late 90 s twist: seeing it as a fashion statement, an accessory, not a tool. There is something unfortunate about glamorizing this thing, which was meant to be used, to be bashed about, hitched to the family truck and towed to Lake Victoria. For Byam, function ruled; he once said of the Airstream, Let s not make any changes, let s make only improvements.

PHILIP NOBEL

from, *An Accidental Icon of American Pop*
July 30, 2000, NY TIMES



www.airstream.net
membership application
The Vintage Airstream Club
a WBCCI Intraclub

Please Print

Date _____

Last Name _____ First Name (his) _____ (hers) _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____ WBCCI # _____ Unit Number & Name _____

Trailer Year _____ Length _____ Model _____ Serial Number _____

Hobbies & Interests (His + Hers) _____

Occupation (now or before retiring) _____

Winter address & Telephone number _____ email _____

- Please check one:**
- Member** (own a vintage Airstream & belong to WBCCI)
 - Associate Member** (do not own a vintage Airstream but belong to WBCCI)
 - Friend** (I am interested in vintage Airstreams but do not belong to the WBCCI)

Send this application, along with your dues payment of \$10.00 to:

Linda Moore, Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 4173, Windham, NH 03087
(603) 881-5299, email: MooreLinda@prodigy.net

Note: If you are not a WBCCI member, we will be happy to assist you with the application.

Caution: JOINING THIS CLUB COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE



The Vintage Airstream Club

Vintage Advantage Newsletter
Membership Chairman
Linda Moore
P.O. Box 4173
Windham, NH 03087
(603) 881-5299

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