

THE CARE OF YOUR

Airstream

TRAVEL TRAILER



WALLY BYAM

AIRSTREAM
TRAILERS, INC.

1755 NORTH MAIN STREET, LOS ANGELES 31, CALIFORNIA
108 CHURCH ST., JACKSON CENTER, OHIO



NOW THAT YOU OWN AN AIRSTREAM . . .

Our congratulations to you. We know that you love to travel. So as one fellow traveler to another, we salute you. We think your Airstream is the finest travel trailer anywhere in the world today. We at the factory spend our entire time and effort in an endeavor to make Airstream "The World's Finest Travel Trailer" and to keep it that way.

But even so we have only designed half of it. You and the other owners have designed the other half. The thousands and thousands of Airstream enthusiasts, folks just like yourself, have suggested changes, have ordered little special features for themselves. Some have bought an Airstream, used it for awhile, thought up new floor plans and new arrangements. Many of these new arrangements have been incorporated in the current models. So you now have in your Airstream the sum total of experience of these thousands of Airstream owners before you, who have undoubtedly traveled many hundreds of thousands of miles and lived many years in them.

All the Airstream owners across the country and around the world welcome you into their ranks. You will be tooted at on the highway when you pass. You are now "one of the gang."



NOW FOR PRACTICAL CARE

CARE OF BRAKES

For the first hundred miles your brakes may squeak and make a peculiar noise. People may even stop you on the street and say, "Mr., your brakes are dragging." Pay no attention to them. Electric brakes do that for the first hundred miles or so until they wear in. There is nothing you can do about it. To our knowledge, there is no cure. The big thing to remember is that they do come on when you pull back on the brake control lever and that they are safe.

You will soon learn to tow your trailer without using the brakes too much. You will roll to a stop and use your brakes only for the final stop. In going down long hills, use the gears of your car. In any instance, always use your trailer brakes in conjunction with your automobile brakes. It is much easier to apply the trailer brakes than the automobile brakes, so many people use the trailer brakes almost exclusively, which wears out the brake linings far too soon, and is just not a good practice.

The chances are not even one in a hundred that you will ever need service on your electric brakes, but if you do there are service stations scattered throughout the country. The brake manufacturers have their own guarantee and their own service. You can find them in the yellow pages of the phone book. Your brakes are either Warner Electric or Kelsey-Hayes.



LUG NUTS

For the first fifty miles or so check the lug nuts on your trailer wheels at least once or twice. They are apt to become loose until the wheels set in thoroughly to the hub. Trailer lug nuts have a greater tendency to loosen than automobile lug nuts. We recommend that you check your lug nuts at least once a week whenever you are traveling by trailer just to be dead sure that they are always tight.

JACK PADS

In some of our models there is a little plate on the undercarriage just back of the wheel. Sometimes it is painted red. This is where you can put your jack. On other models there are no such pads indicated but you can always find a firm place, which indicates the longitudinal members of the frame, to place your jack. It is always right behind the rear spring hanger. Many people use the bumper for a jack pad, however this is difficult to do, so some people use a scissor jack to jack up the wheel from the axle itself. For ordinary stabilizing usage, just to keep the trailer from wobbling around when you are using it to live in, a couple of jacks on each corner of the rear bumper will usually be sufficient.



TIRE PRESSURE

We recommend tire pressures of 35 lbs. for the smaller models, and 40 to 45 lbs. for the larger models when the tires are cold. Check your tire pressure often enough to maintain it at this figure. It is best for you to carry a little tire pressure gauge with you. If you keep your tires at just about the right pressure, your chances of having difficulty with them are very remote. If you have puncture proof tubes and you notice that you have a slow drop in pressure, you know that you have a slow leak tube. The thing to do is to look your tire over carefully and pull out the nail or whatever it is that is causing the slow leak. The tire will then heal itself.

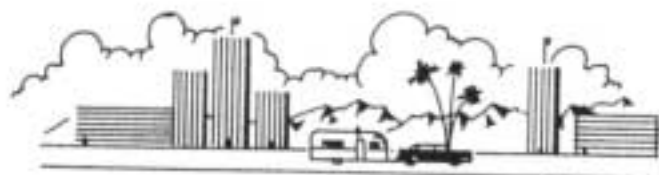
HITCHING

In hitching the trailer to your car, be sure that the hitch lever is up when you set the trailer on the ball of the car. Then remember to latch it down tightly at once. Learn to do this the first thing, so that you will not forget it. If you want to have a sure fire test of whether or not the socket of your trailer is sitting tightly on the ball of the car, you can screw down on the jack of the wheel and see if you can lift the trailer off the hitch ball. If it will not come off and starts lifting the car instead you know that you are on tight. On all trailers there is a little series of holes on the hitch lever in which you can put a bolt or padlock. Although it is not absolutely necessary

to use such a bolt or padlock, we recommend it. The chances of your trailer ever coming off the ball after it has once been latched down tightly are so remote that they can be practically discounted. Most cases where the trailer has come unhooked from the car are caused by the operator forgetting to latch the hitch lever down. Get into the habit of latching the ball and socket mechanism immediately after you set the trailer onto your car. It is easy to forget. Failure to latch it down might cause an accident.

LUBRICATION

You can have your spring shackles lubricated once a season or every 5,000 miles whichever is more convenient. It won't hurt to do the same to your wheel bearings. We have known wheel bearings, however, to go for ten years without any attention whatsoever and still not be in bad condition. We do not recommend oiling the spring leaves.



CLEANING

The question most often asked by the new buyer is, "How can we keep our trailer as bright and shiny looking as it is now?" The answer is "You can't." We have tried all kinds of preparations and are still trying them, but we have yet to find a really satisfactory one for cleaning aluminum. We have tried polishing with buffer wheels and the effect has not been good. We have tried spraying on various preparations but have found that they peel off after about a year.

We recommend washing the trailer with the following: Plenty of good detergent such as Tide, Vel, Fab, Cleer, etc. in a bucket of very hot water to which has been added 2 cups of kerosene. The kerosene cuts the road film, and the detergent does not leave streaks when it dries, as soap does. For any stained spots we have used Bon Ami or Old Dutch Cleanser successfully, though you should not use them too strenuously. After we get the trailer as clean as we can, we coat with ordinary Glass Wax. However you can do like most Airstream owners do—just forget the whole thing. Your trailer won't look as good three months from now as it does now, but it will look as good thirty years from now as it does after three months. It will always look as good as any airplane. So why worry? But, if you are just the scrubbing kind, try Vel, Bon Ami and Glass Wax. At least it's good exercise. We also find plain ordinary clear water does a pretty good job.

Many people ask about having the trailer at the seashore, "Doesn't the salt air effect the metal?" The answer is, "Not to any serious degree." We have had one at the seashore for years on end with no damage. The trans-

CLEANING, Continued

Atlantic airliners, spending half their flying hours over the ocean, do not put any special preparation on the surface of their metal. Remember that Airstream uses the same Alclad Aluminum that is used by the trans-Atlantic airliners, by the fighter planes and the Army and Navy transports. That means that the exterior is clad in pure aluminum to better withstand corrosion. Many trailers do not use this extra quality. We, at Airstream, feel that it is absolutely essential. Another reason why Airstreams last so long.

NOW FOR THE INSIDE

STOVE

In our opinion, no one makes a really good stove with an oven and broiler for a travel trailer. They just can't stand the vibration. The grates and sometimes the burners jump out of position. Most trailerites take them out at the beginning of their trip, wrap them in newspapers and put them in the oven. Sometimes you can wire them down, but it's quite a job and hard to clean under them when they are so wired. The real reason for all this difficulty is that these stoves were designed for trailers that were not to be moved so much or for small apartments. When a better stove is made, we will use it. We are continually on the lookout for one.

WALLS and WOODWORK

The inside walls and woodwork are sprayed with the very latest and best synthetic resin enamels. You can wash them all you want to with any ordinary household cleaners without harm. If you want to hang pictures on the wall or put up little gadgets here and there, you can do it anywhere by boring a #30 hole with a small hand or electric drill and then using a #8 sheet metal screw in this hole. An assortment of sheet metal screws will be found in the galley drawer.

As the purchaser of a new Airstream, you are entitled to a complimentary copy of "Fifth Avenue on Wheels". This 124 page profusely illustrated volume tells you just about everything there is to know about trailering in general and Airstream trailers in particular. Sign your name and address to the enclosed card and fill in the questions which will help us make decisions about where to spend our money on advertising. Mail it to us, and your copy of "Fifth Avenue on Wheels" will be sent to you at once postpaid. If you want to write us about your trailer for any reason, always mention the serial number.

So happy trailering, and remember the Airstream creed, "Don't ever let your wheels stop rolling for more than thirty days at a time". In your travels and ours, unquestionably our trails will cross and when they do, please give us the opportunity of shaking your hand. As an Airstream owner, you are the most important person in our lives.

Very sincerely yours,

AIRSTREAM TRAILERS, INC.

Get this valuable . . .



124 PAGE
BOOK

Free!



FILL OUT AND RETURN
THIS CARD

A book by Wally Byam, chock full of interesting and helpful Trailer Travel Information.

**IMPORTANT
MAIL TODAY**

Upon receiving this card, properly filled out, we will forward to you a free copy of "FIFTH AVENUE ON WHEELS"



A WORD ABOUT OUR GUARANTEE

It means just what it says!
Regardless of which plant your trailer came from, Los Angeles or Jackson Center, Ohio, either plant will stand behind the guarantee.
BUT you must come to the plant for guarantee service, AND you must be able to prove original ownership. We are sure you will understand that we must have this protection.

DATE 12-1-54

SERIAL NO. 22100