

Camping Trailer Handbook



50¢

Many people have been asking, "What's going to happen to the joys of family camping now that gasoline is in shorter supply and we've all been encouraged to conserve our country's energy? Would it be wise to buy a camping vehicle now? How much could we expect to use it?"

My answer, speaking both as an outdoorsman and a representative of the recreational vehicle industry, is this. First, I predict that *some* of us will be making some changes in our camping patterns in order to continue our outdoor adventures. However, I firmly believe that even if our gas should be rationed, *no one can ration our fun!* Fortunately, camping fun doesn't depend upon going hundreds and hundreds of miles away from home. *Wherever* we live, we're all just minutes away from the fun and feel of the great outdoors. There are campsites we can reach on a tank of gas or a few gallons. We can observe "the New Campers' Rules of the Road" that say: Go 50-50. That means we'll limit our on-the-road travel to no more than 50 miles from home (100-mile round trips) and drive no faster than 50 miles per hour. It may reassure you to learn that towing a Coleman camping trailer at 50 mph uses less fuel than the tow vehicle alone at the higher, 70 mph, speed some of us formerly used. On 100-mile-round-trip road tests only an additional six-tenths of a gallon of gas was used for a 1970 Chevrolet Wagon traveling at 50 to pull a Coleman Yorktown—our largest model—compared to pulling no trailer at all!


Only six-tenths of a gallon more!

Now, when it comes to analyzing our country's *total* energy shortage, of which gasoline constitutes only a small fraction, the Recreational Vehicle Institute points out some important facts. When you "turn off your house and turn on RVcationing" you actually improve the situation. A family out camping uses less than one-fourth the amount of energy it uses at home. And saves on gasoline consumption too, by using only one vehicle instead of the two or more the family normally would be using.

Fortunately, Coleman has long been concerned about gasoline consumption. All of our models are built with less weight than conventional trailers and with low profiles for less wind drag and better gasoline mileage. Campers appreciate this...*now* more than ever.

For three quarters of a century, we at Coleman have been helping to make it easier for everyone to enjoy the outdoors. Perhaps this little handbook will help, too, whether you're camping 50 miles from home or right in your own backyard!

Sheldon Coleman
Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer
The Coleman Company, Inc.



The Fun and Feel of the Great Outdoors

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Coleman

Camping Trailer Handbook

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Choosing an RV

Getting off the ground, and up on wheels? Then a camping trailer sure appeals!

So you've finally decided to buy a recreational vehicle—great! Now to decide on what type—a truck camper, travel trailer, motor home, or fold-out camping trailer.

Start by deciding priorities, deciding what you *really* want from your RV. Are you gung-ho to experience the fun and the feel of the great outdoors? Without giving up all the comforts of home? And without giving up your life savings? Want to go anywhere, even in wilderness areas?

If all the answers are “yes,” then a fold-out camping trailer could very well be the ideal choice to “set yourself free”! For a number of reasons. First, it's economical. Both in initial cost and upkeep. It's the least expensive kind of RV on the market. You'll invest somewhere between \$500 and, at the very most, under \$2000. For this one-time investment your camping trailer can be a source of family fun for years to come. Fun going cross-country...fun on quick weekend trips to hideouts that are close in actual miles yet worlds away in spirit.

Another savings: gasoline. Camping trailers weigh less and have less wind drag than any other type of RV. Models with extra-low profile will provide even better



gas mileage, in addition to giving you visibility through your rear-view mirror.

Along with economy, there's convenience. You can detach your trailer from your car at a campsite, giving you a stable and fixed living area. When you go for extra groceries, there's no worry that your spot will be taken when you return.

Although the word economical is often applied to camping trailers, it shouldn't be considered synonymous with low quality or cheapness. Actually, due to expensive materials, additional strength requirements of the lift systems, and the cost of sliding mechanisms and fold down features, the total cost to produce a camping trailer are more per square foot than for any other RV except motor

homes. It's true that cheaply made trailers are sold on the market today, but the majority are reasonably priced and well equipped. Along with being waterproof and bugproof, they can be bright, gaily decorated, and thoroughly comfortable. Here are some of the interior features you'll find:

Sleeping capacity of up to 8 people. Full-sized models often have dinettes that convert to double beds. You can even get a queen-sized bed with a 4-inch foam mattress and 36 inches of head room. Dollar for dollar and foot for foot no other RV offers more sleeping capacity than a camping trailer!

Fully equipped kitchens. Full-sized models have a 2- or 3-burner cooktop range, sink, self-contained water supply, counter space, cabinet storage, and ice box.

Comfort and beauty. Wood-grained and color-coordinated interiors, cushioned vinyl floors, ceiling lights, tie-back drapes, roof vents, and plenty of window space are interior features that add beauty and comfort.

And there are lots more advantages to owning a full-sized camping trailer:

Quick set-up. Erecting almost any camping trailer takes no more than 6 minutes and requires little exertion.

Campground hook-ups. Electrical hook-up, city water hook-up, and a fill-spout for the built-in water tank are standard on most full-sized campers.

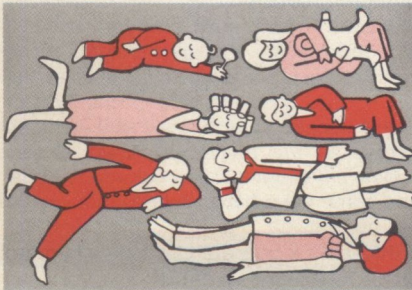
Durability. Most of the major manufacturers build their trailers to last, with features such as aluminum bodies, heat and rust resistant paint, and sturdy leaf-spring suspension.

You can get all of these features for a price much lower than you'd pay for any other kind of RV. And you get *more floor and window space* than many other RVs provide. For example, an 11-foot camping trailer will measure as much as 21 feet in length when opened up. That means that you can enjoy living space comparable to that of a 21-foot solid-side travel trailer—but without the towing problems. And some camping trailers measuring only 13 feet overall when closed for towing will sprawl to as much as 23 feet in length when set up.

Most of the camping trailers today have walls or sides made of canvas. Condensation of moisture inside is rare since good quality canvas "breathes." (Condensation is a major problem in many hard-wall RV designs.) The canvas shuts out the rain, the hot sun, and the cold, but lets in the night sounds of crickets, birds, and gentle breeze. It lets you be a part of everything that's pleasant in nature. You enjoy the fun and feel of the great outdoors in a way that no hard-side RV can match—and you still have indoor-type protection. The best of both worlds—step inside!

But Which Camping Trailer?

**What do you want in a camping rig?
Beds for eight...a galley that's big?
The lightest weight...or a neat flip-top?
Just set your standards before you shop!**



There are so many styles, makes, and models of camping trailers on the market today that it would probably take months to examine them all. However, you can be a careful shopper and find your favorite by using a simple method of elimination. The first step is to figure out what your basic camping needs will be. Will your camping trailer be used only for hunting and fishing trips, or will it be a "home on wheels" for a family camping adventure? How many people will you need to sleep? Do you plan on cooking in your trailer or running to the nearest hamburger stand? And, of course, how

much money do you want to spend? These are just a few examples of questions to ask yourself.

Once you have established your basic needs, you can narrow down the field considerably and specify price range, sleeping capacity, and the amount of luxury you want.

The next step is to start looking at design features that will add up to comfortable and practical living, both on the road and at campsite.

EXTERIOR FEATURES

- Easy access to storage area inside the trailer when the unit is closed. Coleman models have removable iceboxes that can be loaded in your kitchen or taken outside at the campsite.
- A strong steel frame with cross members for off-pavement towing, and leaf spring suspension for good towing and tracking. Coleman trailers also feature wide track design for extra towing ease.
- Four stabilizer jacks that flip down for leveling the trailer in any terrain. Standard on all Coleman full size trailers.

- Sturdy entrance step below trailer door. Coleman features an access door built into the closed trailer that converts to a step when it's in the down or open position.

- Utility connections including city water hookup, 115v and 12v electrical hookup and fill spout for built-in water tank.

- Light weight and low towing profile give you the advantages of less wind drag, better gas mileage, and ample visibility through a rear view mirror.

- An aluminum body coated with non-corrosive and heat resistant paint, for durability and beauty.

- A spare tire mount on rear of trailer, and optional spare tire.

HOW IT SETS UP

If all of the exterior features on the camping trailer suit your needs, then have an RV dealer show you how the unit is erected. It should go up easily and quickly. Many of the full-sized campers have a cranking system to erect the top, and some are elevated by raising hinged poles at each corner. Some models have two different cranking positions, one that raises the top quickly, and the other that's slower but much easier to crank. The wing or bunk beds of the trailer will usually flip over or pull out. If they pull out, make sure that the process is smooth and easy. Check on the support bars that fit between the bed and the trailer body. These should be attached to the trailer in some manner and self-storing. If not,

they're remarkably easy to lose. Also, observe how the door is erected. A one-piece door that slides down from the roof is a good feature because it is sturdy and relatively bug-proof.

INTERIOR FEATURES

- Plenty of cabinet storage, with doors and drawers that fasten securely. (A good door latch will stay shut even on the bumpiest roads.)

- Sink, stove, and counter space at a comfortable working height. (The counter space should be next to the stove, not on the opposite side of the trailer.)

- A dinette area that will seat as many people as the trailer will sleep. (Many trailers have dinettes that convert to beds, and some even have dinettes that can be set up outside. This is a good feature, particularly if you are camping where no picnic tables are available.)

- Large beds for comfortable sleeping. Camping trailer beds generally are larger than beds in other types of RVs. (The Coleman Yorktown has a queen-sized bed!)

- Ample head room over the wing beds so you can sit up without bumping the canvas.

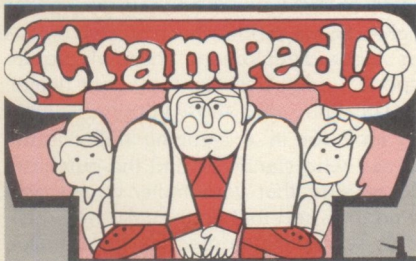
- Thick, high density foam mattresses and cushions. (Check this carefully. Some mattresses are thick, but will flatten out to almost nothing under pressure.)

- 12v ceiling lights that can be operated off a campsite electrical hookup or a car battery. (For good vision, there

should be one light at each end of the trailer.)

- A color-coordinated interior with window drapes for privacy.

- 12v power converter to transform 115v AC into 12v DC for running the ceiling lights.



- Plenty of window space for 4-way ventilation, and strong, bug-proof screening over the windows. Coleman features close mesh nylon screening that even gnats can't get through. Four-way vision at the campsite allows full appreciation of the outdoors.

- Vinyl-covered floor for durability and easy cleaning.

- A removable cooler that can be used horizontally or vertically, and is accessible when the trailer is closed for towing. Coleman makes a cooler that can be used three different ways: as a chest-type cooler that fits inside the closed-up trailer, and as a vertical chest with either left-hand or right-hand door. This cooler is also removable so it can be loaded in your kitchen at home.

If your price range directs you to the less expensive models of full-sized campers, then you probably won't find all of the features listed here. Any camping trailer you buy, however, should have all of the basics you want and need, plus good quality and workmanship. (A tough sportsman, for example, may not give a hoot about color-coordinated interiors, but would insist on plenty of window space for view and ventilation.) Set up your own priorities and you're likely to choose wisely.

Relatively new on the market today are the flip-tops or swing-over models. These are small, light-weight trailers that can be towed behind even the smallest economy cars. They are erected by swinging the top of the trailer over to the ground. As the top goes over, a tent-cover pops up. Inside is a large bed and a living area. The main advantages of this type of trailer are its low initial cost, easy towing for good gas mileage, and simple erection.

Once you've selected a camping trailer, you'll need to get a hitch installed. A Class 1 boat hitch is usually best for towing camping trailers. With a tongue or hitch weight capacity of 200 pounds, it should handle even the largest models. It simply bolts onto your car frame, and costs around \$20 to \$35, depending on make of car. Your dealer usually will have his own hitch installation facilities, or work in conjunction with a company that installs them for him. If so, the dealer may include the cost of the hitch in the total



price. However, if you choose to have yours installed on your own, you'll find

What's a Converter?

This is a standard item on many camping trailers, but a question mark to many first-time campers. The purpose of a converter is to transform 115 volt AC current to 12 volt DC current for your overhead interior lights. To use it, simply plug it into a campsite electrical hookup and switch on your lights. The converter plate will be located inside the trailer and will contain the following: a receptacle for plugging in appliances (toasters, irons), a reset button or fuse in case the circuit overloads, and a place to connect an auxiliary cord that will run your trailer lights off your car battery if electric campground hookups are not available. In

this service in the yellow pages of your phone directory under "Trailer Hitches."

In all cases, make sure that the size of the ball matches the coupler on your trailer. Standard sizes are 1½ inches or 2 inches. You'll also need to install an electrical plug that extends from your car trunk so that you can hook up your trailer lights. Some models have electric brakes as standard equipment. These will require special wiring best done by your dealer.

The final, and most important, thing to look for in a camping trailer is the dealer who stands behind the purchase. Make sure that your trailer comes with warranty, and that your dealer has a reliable service department. A good trailer, backed up by a good dealer, is an unbeatable combination!

that case, the other end of the auxiliary cord plugs into your car cigarette lighter or a battery mounted on the tongue.

Gas Bottle Refills

If you're a new owner of a camping trailer, you may not know where to get your gas bottle filled. Look in the yellow pages under "Liquified Petroleum Gas" or check with the dealer who sold the trailer. When you have to get more gas, detach your bottle from the trailer and take it to the LP dealer. He will either give you a new full bottle, or refill your old one. When you've replaced the bottle on the trailer, check for leaks by applying a liquified soap on all fittings and watching for bubbles.

Optional Add-Ons

Accessories add to your camping fun. Get them now...or one by one!

Coleman Camping Trailers include many standard features which are “extras” on other brands.

Before you buy a camping trailer, take a close look at the optional accessories available for it. In general, the more there are, the better. You may not want to buy any of these extras at first, but they should be available within a reasonable period of time in case you want them in the future.

The most important are the spare tire and bumper. We recommend buying these when you buy your trailer, to guard against backing accidents and flat tires. Many camping trailers come with brackets for mounting them on the rear of the trailer.

There are other accessories not so necessary but certainly desirable for camping fun:

- **Canopy**—Many camping trailers offer an optional canvas canopy that attaches directly to the roof section. It extends over the door-side of the trailer, providing a covered patio. (Coleman canopies install on either side.)

- **Boat and Luggage Rack**—The top of a camping trailer is an ideal place to carry extra gear. Choose a rack that is



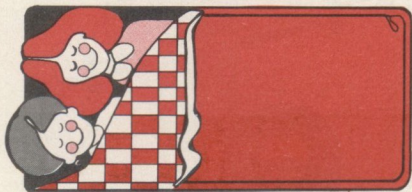
versatile, allowing you to carry a light-weight boat, luggage, or bicycles.

- **Add-A-Room or Screened Patio**—If you need extra living space now or in the future, make sure this accessory is offered. It is usually a canvas tent with fully screened sides, and should be attachable to the trailer. Some screened rooms are made without a floor so that they can be placed over a picnic table. Coleman's model is also free standing so it can be used as a tent without the camper.

- **Outside Cooking Stove**—Cooking outdoors is desired by many campers, and an optional campstove is the ac-

cessory that makes it possible. It should have at least two burners, and a place to mount it on the outside of the trailer. For versatility, the stove should connect with the gas bottle or an independent LP source, allowing you to use it anywhere.

- **Vanity**—This usually consists of a pendant back plate with a mirror, paper towel rack, cup dispenser, shelf, and a toothbrush holder.



- **Sleeping Bags**—Probably the best accessory you can buy. Space-saving as well as labor-saving! Several camping trailer manufacturers make sleeping bags especially tailored to fit their trailers.

- **Heater**—A “must” for cool weather camping. Make sure the heater you buy operates on LP gas and has an adequate BTU capacity to keep the trailer comfortable. For full-sized models, 9000 BTUs is just about right.

- **12 Volt Auxiliary Power Cord**—If your camping trailer has ceiling lights, this optional power cord should be offered. It plugs into your car’s cigarette lighter and operates the trailer dome lights

off your car’s battery or a battery mounted on the tongue. If you ever plan on staying in a campground without electrical hookups, this accessory is a necessity.

- **Privacy or Dividing Curtains**—These can be hung in front of the wing beds or in the middle of the trailer. They provide sleeping privacy and create a dressing room. If you choose to hang these over the wing beds, see that your trailer has at least two windows inside of the closed-off area. This will provide plenty of ventilation for sleepers.

- **12V-115V Refrigerator**—Operates on 115 volt park service, or a tongue-mounted battery. A good installation kit includes a battery case, mounting bracket, wiring, connectors, and a dual battery charger, which is installed under the tow vehicle hood to keep both RV battery and car battery charged.

NOTE: Camping trailer manufacturers offer accessories that are styled and fitted for their own trailers. For example, privacy curtains from one kind of trailer will rarely fit correctly in a different make. So before you buy, make sure that all of the accessories you may want in the future are available for the trailer you’re considering now. Next Christmas, or the year after, some of these accessory items will make ideal family gifts!

Types of Campgrounds

Thousands of campgrounds...

how can you choose?

To avoid disappointment, study these clues!

Today's camper has a choice of around 21,000 campgrounds and 450,000 individual campsites, from primitive to ultra-modern environments. You'll find many beautiful spots just right for you!

Campsites close to home extend the use of your camper in all seasons—for those short weekend campouts and holidays—and save fuel costs.

There are four types: campsites located in national parks, national forests, state parks and forests, and private campgrounds, each with its specific advantages.

The main purpose of a *national park* is to preserve some aspect of nature that's particularly beautiful or unique. The National Park Service maintains approximately 570 public camping areas in its parks, most with excellent facilities, including eating places and tourist information centers. Even with all these, overcrowding has become a major problem during the peak season, with such favorites as Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks often turning away campers and oversized vehicles.

If you plan to visit a national park, the best time is during the off season, per-



haps in September or March when the weather's pleasant and crowds smaller. If you must go during the summer peak, make reservations in a nearby private campground and drive over to the park each day.

Your cost will depend upon the kind of permit you purchase—an annual passport to all parks (around \$10), a short term permit (around \$3), or a daily use permit (50¢ to \$1). Camping and trailer sites usually run from \$1 to \$3. There are set rates for picnic sites, bathhouse use, and boat rental; varied rates for guided tours, parking, firewood, swimming, etc. For specific data, write to Public Inquiries, National Park Service, U.S. De-

partment of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, or the superintendent at a specific park.

Learn to recognize Park Service signs:



Firearms



Hunting



Automobiles



Pedestrian Crossing



Pets on Leash



Amphitheater



Fish Hatchery



Deer Viewing



Bear Viewing



Horse Trail



Food Service



Grocery Store



Trucks



Tunnel



Lookout Tower



Diving



Restrooms



Fishing



Lighthouse



Falling Rocks



Dam



First Aid



Telephone



Hiking Trail



Drinking Water



Information



Ranger Station



Trail Bike Trail



Bicycle Trail



Showers



Surfing



Scuba Diving



Swimming



Viewing Area



Sleeping Shelter



Campground



Picnic Shelter



Trailer Sites



Playground



Campfires



Trail Shelter



Picnic Area

Winter
Recreation AreaRecreation
Vehicle TrailTrailer
Sanitary Station

Downhill Skiing



Ski Jumping



Sledding



Ice Skating



Ski Bobsleding



Snowmobiling



Marina



Launching Ramp



Motor Boating



Sailboating



Row Boating



Water Skiing

In **national forests** the campgrounds are usually simple, containing toilets, fireplaces, and picnic tables. These forests are government-owned tracts of land from which timber is harvested. Unlike national parks, no additional attractions are built within the forest to draw people. They simply contain campsites with the necessary facilities (usually free), so that campers can enjoy the natural environment. Overcrowding is not a real problem, and there are over 150 forests from which to choose. Acreages are so large that there's plenty of room for everybody.

State parks and forests often have large lakes or fast flowing streams and have been developed into complete recreation areas. Most state campsites could be rated as fair to excellent, and are often less crowded than the national campgrounds. The lesser known ones usually have many sites available even during

peak season. However, there may be undesirable ones as well, so check up on unfamiliar ones before visiting them.

When you enter a state park or forest without advance information about it, you can usually find out about fees and regulations by watching for signs or a central building. If you don't see either, then it's probably safe to assume that you can camp without charge, although there is often confusion about this. Each state's fish and game department will provide you with information about these sites upon request.

Privately owned campgrounds charge a fee for camping—anywhere from 50¢ up depending on additional charges for hookups and special features—but they do offer one major advantage over public grounds. Most of them accept reservations, usually requiring only a small deposit. You'll travel more carefree, es-

pecially during the peak season, knowing you have a definite place to park your trailer each night.

Most private campgrounds also offer more facilities and activities than public campgrounds. These range from hot water showers to tennis courts, nature tours, air-conditioned recreation halls, or entire parks built around a central theme. These theme parks, like the Jellystone Campgrounds in various states, are usually full of attractions to delight the children. Many are complete destination camping resorts where you'll stay and play instead of simply overnighting.

There are also nationwide chains of private campgrounds. KOA (Kampgrounds of America), the largest franchised organization of this type in the world, advertises that all KOA campgrounds have at least the following facilities (with many offering additional attractions): clean rest rooms, free hot showers, laundry facilities, groceries and souvenirs, and utility hookups. They also run a reservation service that allows you to reserve a site in another KOA, by making a small deposit.

Regardless of what kind of campground you choose, make sure that you check it out in a guidebook or directory and know what to expect in accommodations. Vacations are too precious to waste even a minute in a place that disappoints you. Not when there are thousands of sites in beautiful surroundings where you'll glory in the fun and feel of the great outdoors!



Campgrounds Directories

***Learn about campgrounds in advance...
Then choosing won't be left to chance.***

A campgrounds guide or directory is a necessary tool to most campers, particularly to those traveling unfamiliar areas. Use it to pick a campground before starting a trip, or while on the road. The best of these guides will tell you everything you need to know about any specific campground—where it is, what kind of facilities it has, and what kind of recreation it offers, plus the rating given by objective campgrounds inspectors.

A complete up-to-date directory takes a lot of the guesswork out of camping. Here are names and addresses of some of the most widely used camping guides.

Woodall's Trailing Parks and Campgrounds Directory, 500 Hyacinth Pl., Highland Park, Ill. 60035.

Rand McNally Travel Trailer Guide, Barcam Publishing Co., Box F, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif. 90274.

Rand McNally Guidebook to Campgrounds, P.O. Box 7600, Chicago, Ill. 60680.

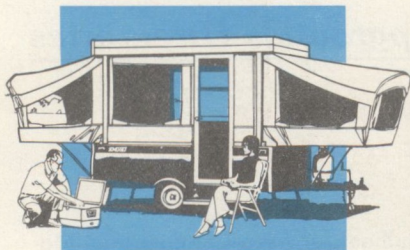
Campground Atlas of the United States and Canada, Alpine Geographical Press, Box 246, Station A, Champaign, Ill. 61824.

Recreational Vehicle Park Guide, Travel Trailer Div., 20 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60606.

Handbook of Auto Camping and Motorist's Guide to Public Campgrounds, Harper & Row, 49 E. 33rd St., New York, N.Y. 10016.

National Forest Vacations, U.S. Government Printing Office, Division of Public Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402.





SOMERSET. The least expensive full-sized camper on the market! Sleeps six adults. Fully equipped galley, 115 volt electrical hookup.



VALLEY FORGE. Lowest priced deluxe camper! Sleeps six on 4" thick mattresses. Three-section galley, built-in 10-gallon water supply.



SET YOUR
to the fun, the feel of

Do it now, in a Coleman Yorktown (shown above, out where the fun is!). It opens out 23' long, yet costs only a fraction of a "hardside" camper of that length. Sleeps seven, and features a 75" queensize bed! Long dinette sets up indoors or outdoors with ease. As with all Coleman models, you get the



COLEMAN CAMPING

The Coleman Company, Inc., Can



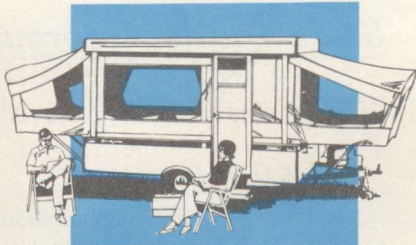
SELF FREE

the great outdoors!

lowest (47") towing height of all comparable campers—for better gas mileage and rear visibility! Other exclusives: 36" headroom over the wing beds so you can sit up; locking access door that swings down to become a sturdy step; one-piece door to keep kids in and bugs out. Many seasons of fun ahead!

G TRAILERS *the camper's camper*

mping Trailer Division, Somerset, Pa. 15501



BRANDYWINE. More floor space, more cabinet storage, and it sleeps six or seven! Extra large dinette space converts into wide third double bed.



BRANDYWINE II. Big-family fun! You can feed and sleep eight people. Double dinettes convert into two double beds. The two wing beds are 51" wide and a full 6' long.



MINUTEMAN Flip-Top Camper. Tows behind a small economy car! Fits economy budgets, too. In 60 seconds you have 40 sq. ft. of floor space plus a bed 5'4" x 7'2".

State Tourist Information

***Each state has attractions...go see every sight!
For free information, here's where to write:***

Need camping information about a specific state? And would you like to know the special attractions of that state and what type of campgrounds are nearby?

We've compiled a list of places to write for free information. Usually they also will answer any specific questions you have. Since most of these departments handle a wide variety of requests, make sure to specify that you want camping information as well as tourist promotional literature or maps.

Alabama: Bureau of Publicity & Information, Room 403, State Highway Building, Montgomery, AL 36104.

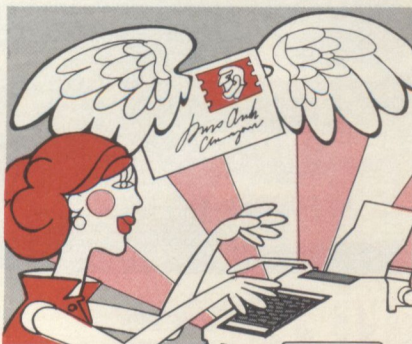
Alaska: Division of Lands, Department of Natural Resources, 334 Sixth Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Arizona: State Parks Board, Room 431, Capitol Building, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Arkansas: Publicity & Parks Commission, State Capitol Building, Little Rock, AR 72201.

California: Division of Beaches & Parks, P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, CA 95811.

Colorado: Colorado Game, Fish & Parks Department, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.



Connecticut: State Park & Forest Commission, Hartford, CT 06115.

Delaware: State Park Commission, 3300 Faulkland Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.

Florida: Development Commission, 107 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

Georgia: Department of State Parks, 7 Hunter Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30334.

Hawaii: Hawaii Visitors Bureau, 2270 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815.

Idaho: Department of Commerce & Development, Room 108, State House, Boise, ID 83707.

Illinois: Department of Conservation, 102 State Office Building, Springfield, IL 62706.

Indiana: Tourist Division, Department of Commerce, Room 334, State House, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Iowa: State Conservation Commission, East 7th and Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309.

Kansas: Park & Resources Authority, 801 Harrison Street, Topeka, KS 66612.

Kentucky: Department of Public Information, Advertising and Travel Production, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Louisiana: Tourist Development Commission, P.O. Box 44291, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

Maine: Department of Economic Development, State House, Augusta, ME 04330, or Forestry Department, State House, Augusta, ME 04330.

Maryland: Department of Forests & Parks, State Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21404.

Massachusetts: Department of Natural Resources, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02202, or Department of Commerce & Development, 150 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114.

Michigan: Division of Conservation, Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing, MI 48926.

Minnesota: Vacation Information Center, Department of Business Development, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Mississippi: Travel Department, Agricultural & Industrial Board, 1504 State Office Building, Jackson, MS 39201.

Missouri: Division of Commerce & Industrial Development, 803 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

Montana: Recreations & Parks Division, Fish & Game Department, Helena, MT 59601.

Nebraska: Game, Forestation & Parks Commission, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509.

Nevada: Department of Economic Development, Tourism-Travel Division, Carson City, NV 89701.

New Hampshire: Division of Economic Development, P.O. Box 856, Concord, NH 03301.

New Jersey: Department of Conservation & Economic Development, 520 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08609.

New Mexico: Department of Development, 113 Washington Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

New York: Travel Bureau, Department of Commerce, 112 State Street, Albany, NY 12207.

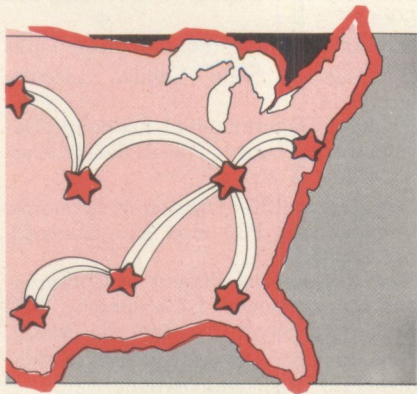
North Carolina: Travel & Promotion Division, Department of Conservation & Development, Raleigh, NC 27602.

North Dakota: Travel Department, State Capitol Building, Bismarck, ND 58501.

Ohio: Division of Parks & Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, 913 Ohio, Departments Building, Columbus, OH 43215.

Oklahoma: Industrial Development and Park Department, 500 Will Rogers Memorial Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

Oregon: State Highway Division, Travel Information Section, 101 State Highway Building, Salem, OR 97310.



Pennsylvania: Department of Forests & Waters, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

Rhode Island: R.I. Development Council, Roger Williams Building, Hayes Street, Providence, RI 02908.

South Carolina: Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, P.O. Box 1358, Columbia, SC 29202.

South Dakota: Department of Highways, Travel Section, Pierre, SD 57501.

Tennessee: Division of State Parks, Tennessee Department of Conservation,

2611 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203.

Texas: Travel & Information Division, Texas Highway Department, P.O. Box 5064, Austin, TX 78703.

Utah: Utah Travel Council, Council Hall, Capitol Hill, Salt Lake City, UT 84114.

Vermont: Department of Forest & Parks, Montpelier, VT 05602.

Virginia: State Travel Service, Department of Conservation & Economic Development, 911 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Washington: State Parks & Recreation Commission, 522 S. Franklin, Olympia, WA 98501.

West Virginia: Department of Commerce, Travel Development Division, Room B-553, 1900 Washington Street, East Charleston, WV 25305.

Wisconsin: Conservation Department, Box 450, Madison, WI 53701.

Wyoming: Wyoming Travel Commission, 2320 Capitol Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001.

National Forests: U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

National Parks: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

Canada: Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa, Canada.

What to Pack

Choose simple gear. From the checklist here:

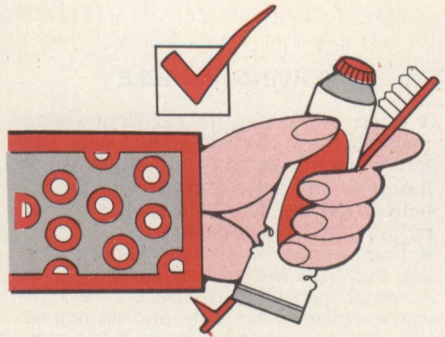
Rookie campers often overload their trailers with heaps of cumbersome, unnecessary gear, yet end up forgetting a tiny, but necessary, item like a toothbrush.

The best way to avoid this same predicament is to use a checklist. Not a mile-long notation of each specific item, but a short list that shows only general categories.

Most gear will remain in your camper for each trip; therefore, after the first few campouts your planning will be much easier.

Here's our list...adapt it to your family's needs by deciding what kind, size, and number of each to take along.

- ☐ Kitchen Utensils
- ☐ Food Supplies
- ☐ Cleaning Equipment/Trash Bags
- ☐ Soap, Shaving Kits, Toothbrushes, etc.
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Bedding for each camper
(Sleeping Bags preferable)
- ☐ Clothing to suit location
- ☐ Toys, Games and Books
(to fit age level)



- ☐ Sport and Recreation Equipment
- ☐ Lightweight Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ Tool Kit containing:
 - Standard Slot Screwdriver
 - Standard Phillips Screwdriver
 - 6" or 8" Crescent Wrench
- ☐ Lantern and Fuel

Car & Trailer in Shape

Do-It-Yourself Maintenance Checks

TOWING VEHICLE

- Keep the battery in excellent shape: maintain the proper water level, keep battery posts free of corrosion and securely fastened; and periodically make sure the battery voltage is at the level specified by the vehicle manufacturer.
- Tires should be checked before, during, and after vacation or camping trips. A visual inspection of the tires will reveal excessive wear, cuts, and sometimes very low tire pressure. Keep a tire pressure gauge just for your vehicles, and check the tires for proper inflation as recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.
- Such items as wheel bearings, brakes, radiator hoses, shock absorbers, transmission, and differential should be checked by a qualified serviceman at intervals recommended in the vehicle's owner's or service manual.
- Maintain a light coat of grease on the ball hitch. This will eliminate ball squeaks or noises caused during towing.

CAMPING TRAILER

- Tires should be checked before, during, and after vacation or camping trips, at the same time you check your car's tires. Make sure the wheel lugs are securely tightened. Generally a camping trailer's tires require much higher tire pressures than your car.

- Camping trailers equipped with brakes should be checked once a year for brake adjustment and wear, or when you feel a fading of stopping power.
- The coupler mechanism, safety chains, and electrical hookup should be visually inspected for wear and corrosion.
- Stabilizer jacks should be greased lightly at least twice a year. After vacation or camping trips, they should be checked for caked-on mud or brush that might have been picked up at campsites.
- If your camping trailer is canvas rather than hard-sided, do not store the camping trailer when the canvas is wet. If the canvas must be stored wet, set it up to dry as soon as possible.
- Painted surfaces can be kept like new with an occasional washing and waxing.
- Keep your water system clean. Consult your owner's manual for the best means of flushing the system.
- The top raising mechanism should be lubricated once a season.
- Use paraffin to lubricate the metal zippers that open and close the clear vinyl windows and canvas window coverings.
- After tracking rough terrain, check for possible LP gas leaks before lighting your gas range.
- With the use of your camping trailer owner's or service manual and these tips, make up a checklist covering points of inspection, service required, and frequency. Then keep the list handy!

How Tricky Is Towing?

***Read these pointers on how to tow,
Then practice a bit before you go!***

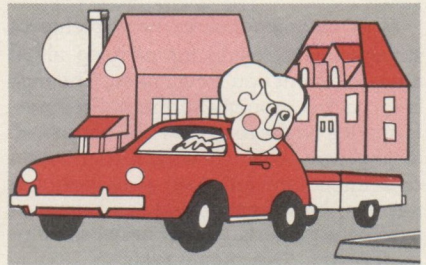
Even if you've towed trailers before, you'll want to get the feel of maneuvering any new outfit. So practice starts, stops, parking, braking, and turning, perhaps in a deserted parking lot.

(As for getting the feel of setting up camp with a new trailer, a "dry run" or practice session in your yard is a good idea. It's more fun for all and faster if everyone learns how to lend a hand. Get out your owner's manual and follow the procedure for raising the top and stabilizing the trailer. Also, read how to hook up to utilities even though you can't practice it in your yard. Knowing that all can go smoothly will make you more confident when you pull into unfamiliar surroundings at your first campground.)

When driving around town, always check the traffic clearance before pulling out from the curb or shoulder into the main flow.

For turns, pull past your turn or intersection sufficiently before turning so as not to run into the curb or obstructions. The longer your camping trailer, the wider you must swing for clearance. Most new owners are surprised at how well the camping trailer tracks and how little additional maneuvering space is required. At times you may forget it's behind you.

During parking or backing, remember that the rear of the camping trailer moves



opposite to the rear of the towing vehicle. Start by simply placing your hand on the bottom of the steering wheel, then moving your hand left (wheel turning right) will move the trailer to the left, and vice versa.

On the road, maintain your distance from other vehicles: the total length of your towing vehicle and camping trailer combined for each 10 miles an hour of speed.

When approaching a downhill grade, downshift, letting the engine compression act as a brake. Should you need added braking, apply your brakes as required.

Approaching an uphill grade, the answer is still the same, downshift. This keeps from lugging down your engine which may otherwise overheat from laboring in a higher gear.

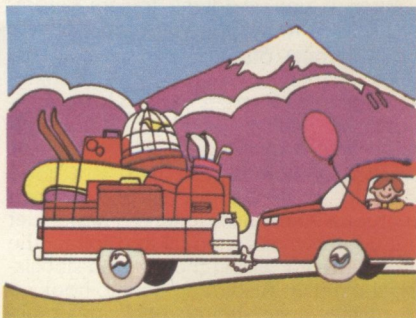
Loading up

Distribute the weight...it's smoother going, For better mileage, safer towing!

Most camping trailers have plenty of storage space inside for carrying all of the equipment you'll ever need. The trick is to pack it properly so the trailer's performance on the road won't be hampered in any way. Uneven weight distribution or overloading can cause sway, poor gas mileage, braking problems, and damage to expensive parts. Avoid these problems by following two simple rules.

First, pack your trailer with the heaviest items slightly in front of the axle. This puts more weight in the hitch area, which helps to prevent trailer sway. Avoid placing heavy items on the sides or the back unless you place items of comparable weight on the opposite sides. Even weight distribution on the sides and a slightly forward center of gravity will mean smoother towing.

The second rule is to stay within the gross vehicle weight (GVW) specified for your trailer. This figure is stamped on a plate attached to the trailer by the manufacturer. It states the maximum number of pounds that your unit can weigh when *fully* loaded. That means the combined weight of the unit and all of the gear you intend to pack in it. How do you deter-



mine how close you are to this GVW rating? The best way is to weigh your loaded trailer on truck or public scales. If you're over the limit, start taking out the least important items. It's a good idea to stay 50 pounds *under* the GVW rating, in case you want to add any extra weight on your trip. With the proper amount and distribution of weight, your trailer will give excellent road performance.

Don't be afraid to experiment with weight distribution if you think your trailer isn't towing properly. Some items can weigh much more than you think they do, and you may be overloading one area without realizing it. By a process

of towing and then shifting some weight, you'll soon have the trailer back in balance.

Another packing idea: place things like clothing, books, and shaving kits into a big duffel bag rather than suitcases. A duffel bag can be molded or shaped to fit the area you want to pack it in.

For a trip requiring a night at the home of friends or relatives, pack a separate bag containing everything needed for the stop. Keep this bag in your trunk.

Also, remember to put things you'll need while traveling near the door of the trailer. If you have a trailer with a cooler that's accessible while the unit is closed, make sure it isn't covered up with other items. It's a good idea to pack the rain gear near the door, in case you get trapped in a sudden squall.

When everything's the way you want it, take a picture of the fully packed trailer. Next time around, this picture will be a reliable packing guide.

Tips on Picking a Campsite

DO:

Find a level spot that gets some breeze or wind. You'll improve ventilation in your trailer and keep bugs away.

Try to find a site with trees on the southwest side. They provide shade in the afternoon when the sun can get unpleasantly hot.

Camp on high ground, not in river or creek beds where flash floods can prove a danger.

Locate your trailer reasonably near toilet and water facilities. If you're using campground water and electrical hookups, make sure these are working and safe.

DON'T:

Pick a site near a busy road or boat dock. Late arriving campers and early fishermen can cause you to lose sleep.

Pick a site near standing water or a swampy area. These are obvious breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Choose a spot with trees on the east side... they block the early morning sun.

Park near any tree that has large dead branches that may blow down on your trailer.

REMEMBER:

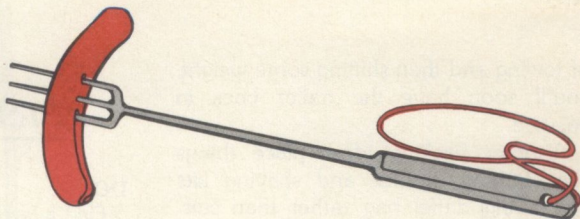
Being "on wheels" is a great asset — you can always move, if you wish, to a better spot.

It's a big, wide, wonderful world!



Camp Cooking

Quick chow? Here's how!



“We’re starved! When’s the food coming?”

Sounds familiar, doesn’t it? Especially if you’re the camp cook who must satisfy appetites grown to giant proportions in the great outdoors. Chances are, you’ve already learned the important differences about cooking in a home kitchen and in a trailer kitchen. But, for the novices, here are a few pointers.

First, your camping trailer kitchen is sure to be a good deal more compact. So, you’ll avoid stocking bulky items. Also, you’ll request *very firmly* that children and others stay out of the kitchen area while meals are being prepared. It’s too easy to bump pots and pans off the stove. Besides, you’ll need all the elbow room you can get.

Another difference is your attitude toward camp cooking. Usually, it’s a take-it-easy approach. No matter how much you ordinarily extend yourself to cook elaborately you’ll keep the effort minimal at camp. You’re there to have fun like the rest of the family, not as a galley slave. Keep the cooking simple and ex-

tremely hearty, as everyone’s hungrier at camp.

THE PERMANENTLY STOCKED KITCHEN

A good suggestion for your trailer kitchen is to keep your cabinets permanently stocked with non-perishable food-stuffs. This includes seasonings, sauces, canned foods, dried foods, and whatever else you can think of. Do *not* take these items from your home kitchen, even if it means duplicating a lot of what you already have. Instead, buy goods especially for your trailer and stock them in the cabinets. Replenish right after each trip instead of when you plan another trip. This way, when an unexpected opportunity for “a quick getaway” presents itself, your trailer will be ready in record time. With an already-equipped kitchen, all you need to purchase are the perishable items.

Take advantage of local supermarket foods that are lightweight, nourishing, tasty, easily prepared, moderately priced, and keep for months without refrigeration. Include pancake mixes; quick-cook-

ing oatmeal; dehydrated packaged soups in lots of flavors; instant mixes for mashed potatoes and potato salad, and for gravy, spaghetti casseroles, quick sauces, and desserts; no-refrig salami sticks; boxes of pre-cooked baked beans that weigh only 9 ounces and cook to a quart and a half in 30 minutes; lightweight bread-type crackers; and pre-sweetened fruit flavored drinks.



Camping trailer cooking utensils can be permanently stocked, too. Start out with a set of four or five pots and pans that fit inside of each other (a nesting set) and have bails instead of handles for safety. The only pan with a handle might be a cast iron or Teflon frying pan.

For eating utensils, try a combination of paper plates and styrofoam cups, with the regular stainless steel forks, knives, and spoons. Yes, you'll have to wash your cutlery, but so often the plastic pieces are flimsy and difficult to eat with. Paper and foam dishes not only save on space and weight but also on clean-up work. Many campers prefer to set their paper plates on plastic or basket-type holders for firm support.

For leftovers, transfer food from glass jars into plastic containers with seal-tight lids. Most other kitchen utensils can be similar to those you use at home.

RECIPES THAT MAKE IT EASY

5-minute Chinese Tuna

1 can cream of mushroom soup

$\frac{1}{3}$ can milk

2 $6\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. cans tuna

1 chopped onion

1 tbsp. soy sauce

No. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ can Chinese noodles

Combine all ingredients except soy sauce and Chinese noodles in a pan and heat to the boiling point. (If you prefer the onions well cooked, simmer about 15 minutes.) Add soy sauce.

Serve on Chinese noodles. (Serves 5.)

Corned Beef and Noodles

While you are boiling a 12-ounce package of egg noodles, blend together in a saucepan $\frac{3}{4}$ cup catsup, 2 tsp.

Worcestershire sauce, a dash of Tabasco, 2 tbsp. vinegar, 1 cup water, 1 tbsp. minced onion (or instant onion if you must). Simmer about 5 minutes.

Open two 12-ounce cans corned beef and break up. Add to sauce and simmer about 15 minutes. Serve over hot drained noodles. Or the corned beef can be added to a medium white sauce and served over rice, mashed potatoes, or hot biscuits.

Tomato Rarebit

1 can tomato soup
1/3 can milk
1/2 lb. (approx.) American cheese (sliced
or cut up)

1 egg

Heat tomato soup, milk and cheese until cheese is melted. Beat egg, stir slowly into the cooking mixture and cook for one minute. Serve over toast or crackers. (Serves 5.)

Camper's Spag-Beef Maindish

1 lb. ground beef
1 tsp. (approx.) salt
27-oz. can spaghetti in tomato sauce
Cook ground beef in 1/2 to 1 cup of water, crumbling as it cooks, until done. Pour off water and grease. Salt to taste (usually about 1 tsp.) and add can of spaghetti. Heat to boiling point. (Serves 5.)

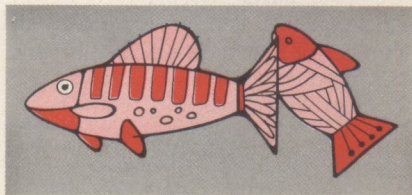
Sausage Salad

Thinly slice 2 smoked sausage links. Fry 2 or 3 slices of bacon and crumble coarsely. Pare, core and slice 3 medium apples. Cut about 8 ounces Swiss cheese into tiny cubes. Add to these and combine 1/2 cup peas or garbanzos (chick peas). For dressing, blend together 2 tbsp. salad oil, 2 tbsp. lemon juice, 1 tbsp. sugar, 1/2 tsp. prepared mustard. Pour over salad ingredients and toss lightly. Serve on lettuce, if available, or serve directly from bowl.

Pan Cornbread

1 cup yellow cornmeal
1/2 cup white flour
2 tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. baking powder

Mix all ingredients. Slowly add just enough water for a fairly thick and lumpless batter. Let it stand a bit while you grease the skillet. If you want small cakes, drop spoonfuls of batter into the hot pan and cook until done. If you want one big johnnycake, pour a half-inch of the mixture into a hot greased pan and cook until done. Run a clean stick or toothpick into the middle of the cornbread; if the stick comes out clean, the bread is done.



Panfish Breakfast

Thin filets of fish (bluegill or green sunfish if possible)
Cracker crumbs
Flour
3 eggs
Mix equal amounts of cracker crumbs and flour together and spread out on plate. Break eggs into shallow bowl and

beat thoroughly. Heat $\frac{1}{2}$ inch mixture of cooking oil and margarine in frying pan. Dip fish filets in egg, then roll in flour and cracker crumb mixture, then place in frying pan. Cook until brown and flaky. Salt, pepper, and eat and eat.

Quick Donuts

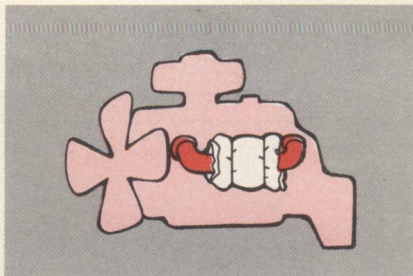
Open a can of ready-to-bake biscuits and cut or tear out center holes in each one. Fry in hot shortening until light brown, turning once. Fry the hole cutouts, too. Drain on paper towels, and then shake donuts in sack of powdered sugar.

Skillet Ginger Cookies

1 box gingerbread mix
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins, if desired
Prepare mix, using only HALF the water suggested on the package. Stir in raisins. Heat the skillet over a low flame and grease lightly. Drop the batter from a spoon, and cook as you would pancakes, turning the cookies as the edges set.

No-Fuss Fudge

2 cups chocolate chips
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sweetened condensed milk
dash of salt
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup chopped nuts
Melt chocolate over hot water; stir in remaining ingredients. Pour into buttered pan, cool, and cut into squares.



What's Cooking With Your Car's Engine?

It could be a roast! When you're going to be on the road much of the day, you can have a roast ready when you get to your destination. Wrap roast (seasoned to taste) in double thickness of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Use a wire to tie it onto the manifold under your car's hood. A 5-pound beef roast cooks in 4 hours. After 3 hours, open up and put in potatoes and carrots if you wish. A flat roast is best because it will conform to the contour of the manifold.

Creamy Dried Beef

4 oz. dried beef (or smoked dried beef)
1 can cream of mushroom soup
 $\frac{1}{2}$ can water or milk
Tear meat into small pieces and combine with soup and water. Heat, stirring often. Serve piping hot over toast, rolls, or biscuits. For variation, sauté chopped green peppers in butter and add to mixture. Another time, add cooked green peas or green beans.



A Pinch of This A Pinch of That

Forget to bring measuring cups in your camping trailer kitchen? Here's a handy "finger table:"

2 finger pinch — $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon

3 finger pinch — $\frac{1}{3}$ teaspoon

4 finger pinch — 1 teaspoon

1 fistful — $\frac{1}{4}$ cup

1 finger gob — $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon

2 finger gob — 1 teaspoon

3 finger gob — 1 tablespoon

(Sure helps if you've tested these at home to be sure your finger pinches aren't too small or too generous!)

French Toast Sandwiches

Make sandwiches with filling of cheese, sliced chicken, chopped chicken or ham, and seasoning—with or without mayonnaise. Press the slices of bread firmly together. Beat 1 egg slightly, add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup milk, and dip the sandwiches into the mixture. Sauté in butter, then garnish with crisp bacon and serve.

Sloppy Joes

1 lb. hamburger

$\frac{1}{2}$ medium onion

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt

2 tbsp. catsup

1 tbsp. vinegar

1 can chicken gumbo soup

$\frac{1}{2}$ can water

Combine hamburger, onion, and salt in skillet and brown for 10 minutes.

Add remaining ingredients and simmer slowly for 45 minutes. Serve on buns. (Serves 4-6.)

Hearty Camping Chili

2 lbs. ground beef

1 cup chopped onion

1 cup chopped green pepper

1 cup diced celery

2 1-lb. cans kidney beans (drained)

2 1-lb. cans whole tomatoes

1 6-oz. can tomato paste

2 tsp. garlic powder (if desired)

2 tsp. chili powder

2 tsp. salt

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. pepper

Brown ground beef, onion, green pepper, and celery in large skillet. Add beans and remaining ingredients.

(If thin chili is desired, do not drain beans—use complete with liquid.)

Cover and simmer $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours.

(Serves 10 to 12.)

Green Beans, Creole Style

Cook $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped onion in 1 tbsp. butter till tender, but not brown. Add

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup chili sauce, $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. salt, and a 1-lb. can green beans, drained. Heat through; stir often. (Serves 4.)

Dry Hot Chocolate Mix

1 lb. instant cocoa mix
1 6-8 oz. jar of dry cream substitute
1 8-qt. box (or 9 cups) of dry milk
 $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup powdered sugar

Mix ingredients thoroughly.

This amount fits in a 3-lb. coffee can (with the plastic lid). Ideal for storing in your permanently stocked camping trailer kitchen. Use $\frac{1}{3}$ cup mix to one cup hot water.

Skillet Chops 'n Sauce

Season pork chops with salt and pepper, then brown in a skillet, pouring off grease as you fry. Add 1 tsp. dry rice and 1 slice onion for each chop. Pour on 1 can of tomato sauce that's been diluted with 1 can of water. Keep the burner low and cook slowly about an hour.



It's Ice! It's A Fruit Drink!

At home, fill up gallon milk jugs with fruit drink or instant ade and freeze them. When you get ready to leave for camping, take these jugs instead of ice in your refrigerator. They'll keep your food cold, and become a cool, refreshing drink when thawed.

Naturally this is just a beginning... you'll want to experiment and adapt home menus that are quick to fix. Also, look in your favorite camping and recreational vehicle magazines for new recipes and on the newsstands for paperback books devoted entirely to this type of cooking for trailering or outdoor life.

Sleeping Bag Storage Trick

Sleeping bags can take up a lot of packing space in your trailer when rolled-up. If you have a full-sized trailer with pull-out beds, however, there's no need to pack them this way. Just leave the bags laid out flat on the wing beds when you crank down the trailer. Makes good use of the narrow space between the trailer roof and the bed, and saves that other valuable space.

Learn Emergency Procedures

Teach the basics of artificial respiration techniques to every adult and youth over 12 in your camping party. Your local Red Cross probably will supply you with printed instructions (and drawings) that you can tape to the inside of your camping trailer kitchen cabinets or stow in your boating gear for quick reference.

If camping, hunting, or fishing in primitive areas, become familiar with survival procedures and the care and treatment of insect and animal bites and poisonous plant reactions.



WATER SAFETY TIPS

- Never swim alone, and don't over-exert yourself in the water. When children are swimming, make sure an adult is present. Don't dive into unknown places. To avoid cramps, don't swim until 30 minutes after eating a meal.

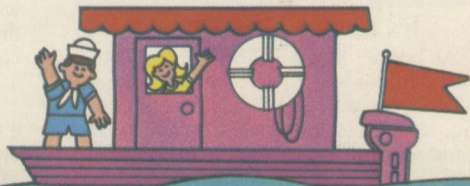
- When water skiing, keep a safe distance from fishermen and swimmers. The wake of your boat can sometimes capsize smaller craft or ruin a good fishing hole. Remember that boats don't have brakes like a car, and stopping them takes longer than you think.

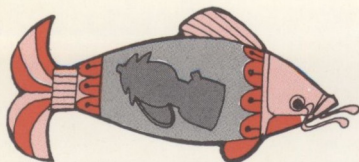
- Make sure there is a flotation cushion or life jacket for every person in a boat.

- Never stand up in a small boat or a canoe.

- Don't get caught on big water in a storm or high winds. Wind can create waves on a big lake that are large enough to capsize a 16-foot boat. A good rule: when thunderheads gather, head your boat for shore.

- Carry spare gas for your out-board motor but try not to fill small cans completely. Gasoline expands in the hot sun and can overflow, creating a fire hazard. Never smoke while fueling.

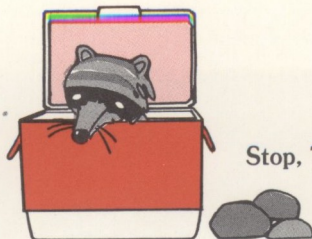




Okay, Fishermen, Can You Top This?

A camper was fishing for flathead catfish one evening and had the good fortune to net an enormous 75-pounder. Next morning, when a friend inquired about it he was told that a lantern was found in the fish's stomach when it was dressed. But he refused to believe it. "I'm not that gullible. Come on, you haven't been telling the truth...there must be more to this story that you haven't told us."

Eventually, the fisherman admitted there was more to the story but it must be kept in strict confidence. "Matter of fact," he confessed, "the whole truth is that the lantern was still lit when I removed it!"



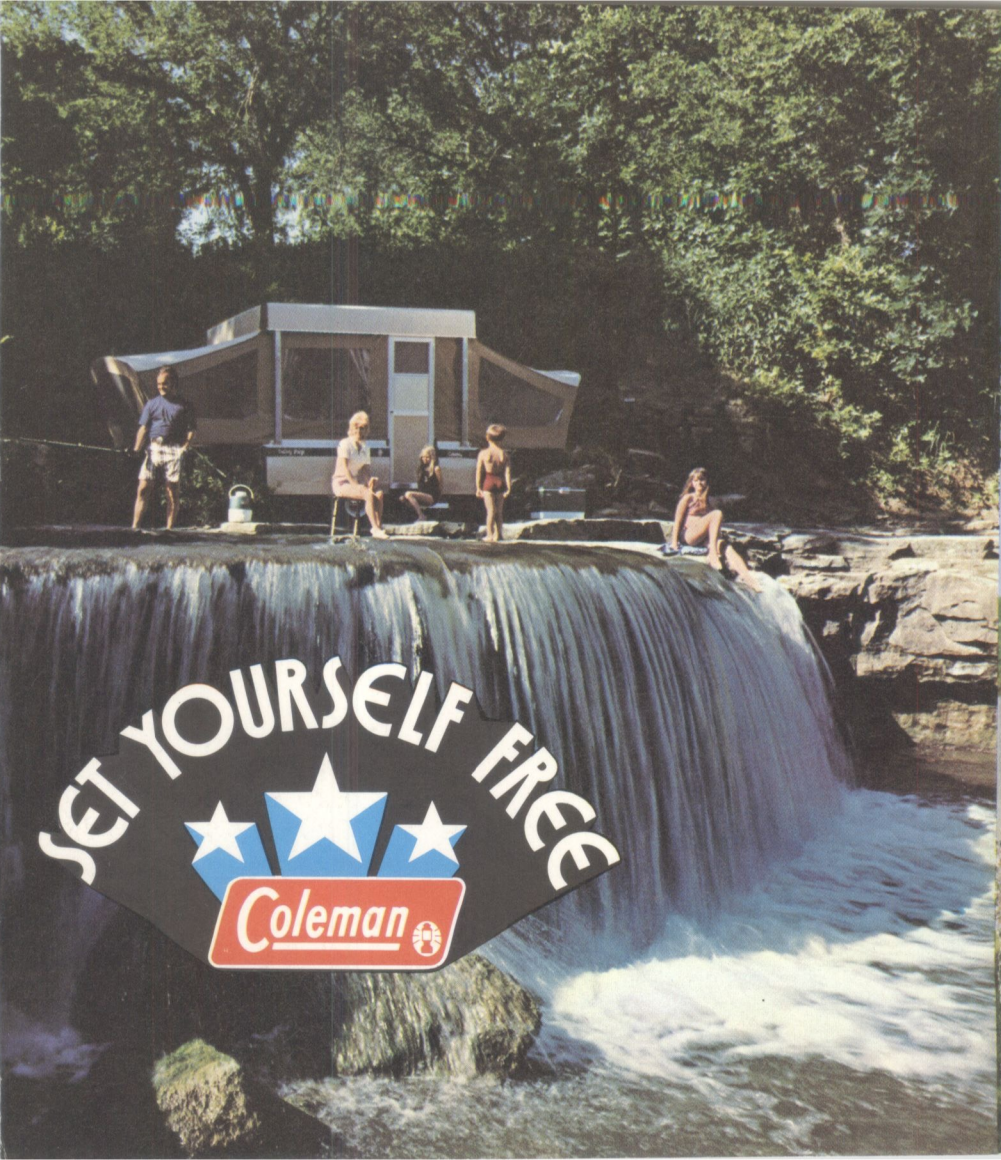
Stop, Thief!

Raccoons are probably the most cunning food stealers in the world. One camper left his chest cooler outside overnight with several large rocks on top of it to keep animals out. However, during the night he awoke to discover a raid underway. One raccoon was on top of the cooler handing down the rocks to his buddy who, in turn, was handing them to another little "masked bandit!"


Using The Ol' Noodle Can Backfire!

"Noodling" for catfish refers to catching catfish by hand—an illegal method. The noodler slides his hand through the water next to a riverbank where catfish lie to keep cool. When he feels a fish, he slides his hand up the fish's belly to its head in a slow, smooth motion, then grabs the fish through the gills and jerks it out of the water.

One man in Kansas was engaged in this sneaky sport when he got noodled back by a pair of fangs—belonging to a copperhead snake! His cry for help brought a nearby game warden...first aid...and a fine.



SET YOURSELF FREE


Coleman 