

GMC

Motorhome TRAVELER

APRIL—MAY 1976

Welcome Aboard, National Directors of GMC Motorhome Owners Club

Husband and Wife Team to Share Duties

The "Traveler" welcomes Mr. and Mrs. M. J. McDonell of Scottsdale, Arizona, as the newly appointed National Directors of the GMC Motorhome Owners Club. Their main activities, as Directors, range from helping to organize local and regional chapters to planning and officiating at GMC activities on the national level.

The McDonell's acquired their first motorhome nine years ago for the purpose of visiting friends across the country while rediscovering the beauty of America. Since then, they have gained many happy miles of motorhoming experience.

They bring to GMC a wealth of knowledge and experience ranging from the technical history of the industry to the organization of motorhome clubs, chapters and associations.



Mac and Gloria McDonell, newly appointed directors of the GMC Motorhome Owners Club.

As active members of the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA), Mac and Gloria have been instrumental in

the planning of a wide-range of club activities and in the gaining of new memberships. They are quite proud of the distinct, engraved watches presented to them by the FMCA for their high achievement in gaining memberships.

In their position, as National Directors, the McDonells' hope to bring GMC owners together in a family way for the enjoyment of motorhoming at its best. For a more personal introduction to the McDonells' in their role as National Directors, the next "Traveler" will present the first of their columns to be entitled: "THRU THE WINDOWS With 'Captain Bug' and 'Lady Bug'" (their CB handles).

Again, congratulations, best wishes and welcome aboard — to Mac and Gloria McDonell as National Directors of the GMC Motorhome Owners Club.



Mac McDonell, National Director, officiating at a recent meeting of the GMC Club Michigan Wolverines with Virgil Barbe, Wolverine President; Ann Schipper, Secretary.

69 GMC Motorhome Owners Attend — FMCA's 1st Winter National Convention

GMC Motorhomes from nineteen states rolled into Fiesta Park, at Harlingen, Texas, on those sun-kissed days of March 2, 3 and 4 to join other members of the Family Motor Coach Association, in the First Annual Winter National Convention.

They arrived from the East, West, North and South, and our Wagon Master, Richard Ash, parked sixty-nine GMC Motorhomes side-by-side, which set our first record for GMC coaching families to rally together for a single occasion.

Harlingen's proximity to the Mexican border provided an excellent setting for South of the Border tours, shopping and an indulgence into reminders of the Old West Cow Towns.

The scene of "Fun-tivities" sur-

rounded the rally with the stage setting including a western corral, containing prize steers, bales of hay, exhibits, supplies, seminars on technical subjects (generators, maintenance, water and sanitary systems, etc.)

GMC Motorhome's Service Representatives provided an opportunity for owners to meet the experts of our service team, and provide the owners with valued assistance when required — hats were off to Ron Frizzell and his capable crew.

Frank Gillman Motor Homes — Houston, had a "For Real Texas Steer Bar-B-Que" which fed 1,765 dinners to the FMCA families attending. A western band of Texas fame provided song and dance music until the clock struck midnight.

GMC Dealers of Texas hosted two great cocktail parties; other evening offered a special Mexican dinner to the family, cocktail parties, a Mexican folklore dance, a performance by Texas A & I Singers, Mexican Band, and a warm atmosphere for socializing, singing, dancing — greetings of the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce with a "Border Buttermilk" cocktail party.

Strangers met at Harlingen, Texas; they departed as friends.

Promises and bonds were made to meet again at Centreville, Michigan.

It's the 13th National Convention of Family Motor Coaching Association, and Rally Daze for all GMC motorhome clubs, and owners.

For friends to meet, old friends and new, then we can further set the course for fun-tivities of our GMC clubs.

See you there Amigos!



Harlingen Memories

Top Left: A fine beginning at Harlingen, Texas; 69 GMC Motorhomes parked side by side — you might call it GMC Avenue.

Top Right: Hey — who put that bale of alfalfa in front of the GMC corral?

Bottom Right: Sign of a fun-filled future for GMC'ers. After Harlingen, who can wait for the day when we all gather together for our own National Rally?



Dear Maryann . . .

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR GMC CARAVAN TRAVELS HARLINGEN RALLY

Everyone knows that a rally is great fun once you're there — but who says that getting there can't be half the fun? The "Traveler" thanks Mrs. Marilyn Fisher, a member of a recent GMC caravan, for the following story:

Dear Maryann:

It all began in January at the Funshine Rally in Miami. We all met because we owned GMC Motorhomes and from that our friendship grew.

After a trip to the Florida Keys, we all went our separate ways with the agreement that we would meet at Sam and Marilyn Fisher's rice farm in Welsh, Louisiana, and caravan to Harlingen, Texas, to the Winter FMCA Convention.

The Jones' left Nettles Island, Florida, enroute to Bonita Springs, Florida, to join the Limebaugh's and Stalman's and then to St. Petersburg, Florida, where they met the

Wilburs and all caravanned to the Fisher's rice farm in Louisiana. The Waaks' had been at the farm for two or three days when we arrived. We caused quite a stir of interest in the town of Welsh, as no one had ever seen so many GMC's traveling together. They were impressed with the different colors and the sleekness of our Motorhomes.

On a sunny day our caravan of six GMC Motorhomes began the 535 mile journey to Harlingen, Texas. On the road, we all kept in touch via our CB units. Outside of Beaumont, Texas, Raymond and Lena Nelson of Sulphur, Louisiana, joined us and below Houston, Texas, Elrey and Irene Doise of Eunice, Louisiana, also joined us. Our caravan was complete.

Upon arriving in Harlingen Fiesta Park, we were pleased to find that GMC had arranged for all GMC Motorhomes to park in a group prior to organizing a GMC Club.

All GMCer's were treated to a pleasurable shopping trip to Mexico and a delicious luncheon at the Country Club Inn in Brownsville, Texas.

Members of our caravan: Roland and Ruth Wilbur, Portland, Oregon; Vernon and Kitty Jones, Bel Air, Maryland; Pauline and David Limebaugh, Ypsilanti, Michigan; Floyd and Gene Waak, Cheyenne, Wyoming; Dale and Louis Stalman, Mercer, Pennsylvania; Raymond and Lena Nelson, Sulphur,

Louisiana; and Elrey and Irene Doise, Eunice, Louisiana.

Dear Readers:

Judging by the number of enthusiastic letters I have received about the first issue of the GMC Motorhome Traveler, you folks really like the "Traveler"! Nothing could have pleased me more than your warm response to this paper. Because I want to answer all letters personally, I hope you'll forgive me if your reply is a little delayed.

Since this is your paper, I hope that you will continue sending me your travel stories, recreational tips and favorite recipes. Most of all, I want the "Traveler" to be a paper that is: by you, for you and about you — the GMC Motorhome owner. Don't be shy, drop me a line.

You will also be pleased to know that we are planning an interesting and exciting program for the Centreville, Michigan, Rally. I hope you will be there so I can personally meet you all.

Sincerely,

Maryann Grausam
Editor

NOTE: If you have an answer to a reader's question or problem, please write to us. Also, when sending us stories of your travels, we'd really appreciate some black and white photos.

National Directors Plan for a GMC Teen Club

Plans are being made for a GMC teen club for the teens and pre-teens of GMC Motorhome Owners Club members. The idea was born out of the National Directors' belief that the younger club members would benefit from an organization they can call their own.

Although the teen club is still in the planning stages, it is hoped the club will provide the young people with an opportunity to plan and participate in their own events and lend a hand in the Fun-tivities at GMC Club Rallies. Ultimately, the teen club could plan an activity for everyone at the rallies.

Since it is going to be their club, it is felt that the young people should determine the name for the GMC teen club. A contest for naming the teen club has been proposed. Prizes and recognition will be given for the best entries.

More information on the GMC teen club and the "name" contest will be in the next issue of the "Traveler."

GMC Club Roving Clippers Organized at Harlingen, Texas March 4th — Harlingen was the site for organizing another GMC Motorhome Owners Club (ROVING CLIPPERS CLUB). Roving Clippers' Club voted Mr. Ed McElroy, National Director & President, Mr. Pop Poppenheimer, Treasurer, and Dorothy McElroy, Secretary.

Twenty-seven GMC Motorhome owners signed the club charter, and an undetermined number of proxies are still arriving by mail.

The GMC-Club Roving Clippers (their official charter name) will be a club at large, and this club has plans for events all across the U.S.A. Chapter Dues are \$10.00 per year, plus an initiation fee of \$10.00, which is the consideration voted by the membership for joining their club.

GMC Michigan Wolverines Announce First Rally — The executive and site committees have announced their plans for an exciting rally, at Groveland Oaks County Park, Holly, Michigan.

Three meetings have been held by the chapter, in Pontiac, Michigan, so now the time has come to put the Motorhomes over the highways, to gather together for what these clubs are intended . . . A GMC Club Fun-tivitie. Plan to attend, all GMC Motorhome Owners, the program is for the young, which tells us that none of us should miss the rally . . . it will be a time to meet other chapter members, those who are not yet members, and get into the swing of the GMC-Fun-tivities.

Set these dates down on your calendar, May 14-15-16, and make this rally a winner. Call Ann Schipper at (313) 681-9365 for further information.

Service Tips

BY RON FRIZZELL

SUPERVISOR

GMC MOTORHOME SERVICE

For many motorhome owners the coming of spring means the time to get your GMC out of winter storage and begin another enjoyable summer of motorhoming. Now is a good time to spend a few hours preparing your motorhome for summer use.



For those of you that have had your motorhome stored for the winter, the following checks should be made:

- One of the first checks is to be certain all lights are working. This includes back up lights, brake lights, running lights, etc.
- Check all chassis fluid levels including battery, power steering, brakes, engine oil and transmission as described in your Owner's Manual.
- Now is a good time to check your windshield wiper blades. Also, check all rubber hoses such as brake lines, air conditioning, power steering, and cooling hoses. Do not forget to check your windshield wiper lines.
- IMPORTANT - If your motorhome is equipped with the optional hot water heater preheat system, the heater hose lines between the engine and hot water heat should

be thoroughly inspected. We recommend heater hoses, including the preheat system, be replaced every twenty-four months or sooner if deterioration is evident.

- If your motorhome was stored outside with the roof air conditioner uncovered, check to make sure some little creature has not claimed it for a home.

Your GMC Motorhome dealer has been provided with detailed information on spring preparation and planned maintenance. He will be glad to make the inspections outlined above plus many others for you.

A few hours spent in preparation now will add greatly to your peace of mind and motorhome enjoyment this summer.

HAPPY MOTORHOMING

FMCA 13TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OUR GOAL: 450 GMC MOTORHOMES AT "SMALL TOWN U.S.A."

Everyone is invited to rally-round-the-flag in Centreville, Michigan, July 20-22, for the FMCA's Summer National Convention. The theme will be "Small Town U.S.A." The activities will spotlight some of the things that make living in a small town a warm and friendly experience. An old-fashioned fish fry and ice cream social are typical of the events planned for this rally.

GMC Motorhome Club Fun-tivities are no longer a dream. Clubs are being organized across the country, and those GMC owners who have already volunteered to assist will soon be contacted. We urge you to become involved by attending the Centreville Rally and discovering what we mean by "GMC Fun-tivities."

Our goal for the Centreville Rally is to have 450 GMC Motorhome families present for the Fun-tivities. We have requested space to accommodate 450 GMC Motorhomes so all of us may park

together. This rally will provide an opportunity for you to meet the GMC management, dealers, and service personnel, as well as the editor (Traveler) and your National Directors, Mac & Gloria McDonell.

If we achieve the goal of 450 GMC Motorhomes at Centreville, we will have attained a record which has never been accomplished by any group. That is, 450 Motorhomes with a single identity (GMC) in one place, at one time.

The FMCA has given us until June 15, 1976, to prove that we can fill the 450 spaces which they have set aside for us. We urge you to send in your pre-registration form to the FMCA so that we may reach our proposed goal before the deadline of June 15. If we all work together, the record will be ours!

Get behind this challenge, and 'come on down to Centreville, Michigan'
450 GMC Motorhomes Together
. Four Five Zero

GMC MOTORHOME CLUB PRE-REGISTRATION 13TH ANNUAL CONVENTION "SMALL TOWN U.S.A." CENTREVILLE, MICHIGAN

JULY 20, 21, 22, 1976

Please complete the form and mail with check for \$35.00 (non-member \$40.00). Your reservation will be confirmed.
F.M.C.A. MEMBER NO.

LAST NAME _____ HUSBAND _____ WIFE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Pre-registration MUST BE received no later than **June 15**, in order to be confirmed. Non pre-registered coaches may be parked in a remote parking area.
ESTIMATED ARRIVAL TIME _____ Reserve me a parking spot with the _____ CHAPTER GMC MOTORHOME CLUB

Pre-registration is required if you wish to park with your Chapter. Since chapter parking space is limited, such space will be assigned in order of receipt of pre-registrations. Chapter parking assignments will be cut off on June 15, 1976, or earlier if available space is filled. Only 1 host coach will be admitted to the grounds prior to NOON, JULY 17.

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE:

Member Family \$40.00 per coach
Non-member Family \$45.00 per coach

GATE REGISTRATION FEE:

Member Family \$35.00 per coach
Non-member Family \$40.00 per coach

Mail this completed registration form and your check or money order in the appropriate amount (made out to FMCA) to:

FMCA, P.O. BOX 44144, CINCINNATI, OHIO 48244

**GMC Truck & Coach Division
General Motors Corporation
660 South Boulevard East, Rm. 210
Pontiac, Michigan 48053**

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Country Western Folk Festival Rally Announced by GMC-Roving Clipper Club

Insight to a roaring beginning, the GMC-Roving Clipper Club, has announced their first Fun-tivities, and all GMC Motorhome Owners are invited to attend the Jimmy Roger's Country Western Folk Festival, to be held at Highland City Park, Meridian, Mississippi, the dates of May 26-28.

Arrival Day, May 26, will greet all of

us with a Cocktail Party at 6:00 p.m. and a good Ole Southern Bar-B-Que.

May 27, will be "Jimmy Roger's Festival Warm-Up Rally".

May 28, "Jimmy Roger's Festival Grand Finale," and the curtain will come down upon a memory that shall not be forgotten by any of us.

Mr. & Mrs. Roland Kimbrell, and Mr. Ham Sanders, who reside in Meridian, Mississippi, have given considerable planning to this rally, and have kept President, Ed McElroy advised of their plans. These folks live in Meridian, and they know all the highways to a good program.

GMC Motorhome Fun-tivities Schedule

GMC Wolverines

May 14-15-16
SPRING RALLY
GROVELAND OAKS COUNTY PARK
GRANGE HALL ROAD
HOLLY, MICHIGAN

GMC Roving Clippers Club

May 26-27-28
COUNTRY WESTERN FOLK FESTIVAL
HIGHLAND CITY PARK
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

Invitational — All Motorhome Owners and GMC Motorhome Clubs

July 20-21-22
FMCA 13TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
CENTREVILLE, MICHIGAN

Grand Ole Opry Rally

October 21-24
NASHVILLE KOA
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
NOTE: Details of this rally in next issue; RSVP to your editor if interested.

FMCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(MAJOR RALLIES ONLY)

Crawfish & Horserace Rally

April 29 - May 2
BLACKHAM COLISEUM
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

**NOTE: FOR REGIONAL
RALLIES, PLEASE, CONSULT
YOUR FAMILY MOTOR
COACHING MAGAZINE.**