



# Motorhome **TRAVELER**



DECEMBER, 1976

## NEW GMC CLUB CHAPTER ORGANIZED IN OHIO



Newly-elected "Country Club" officers and National Directors. Left to right: Marvin Grossman, Jim Dozer, Russell Hardy, Gloria & Mac McDonnell. Foreground: Barbara & Bill Sintz.



The Matterhorn Room at the Kings Island Inn, meeting place for the "Golden Harvest Organizational Rally."

### THE GOLDEN HARVEST RALLY OCT. 29-31, 1976

Despite a somewhat chilly and wet Saturday, 23 GMC motorhome owners hooked up at popular Kings Island Campgrounds 20 miles northeast of Cincinnati to form a new chapter and to have some fun doing it.

In addition to the 23 owners who attended the meeting, 33 owners voted by proxy.

The owners selected "Country Club" as the name of their new GMC chapter.

Elected were: President Marvin Grossman, Columbus; Vice-President Jim Dozer, Columbus; Secretary Barbara Sintz, Westerville; National Director George Nolan, Indianapolis; and Alternate National Director Russell Hardy, Dayton.

Stan Grueninger, Cincinnati GMC dealer, hosted the major rally and arranged festivities that included free passes to the Kings Island amusement area. Acles GMC, Dayton, and George Byers, Columbus, joined Grueninger in sponsoring a gourmet dinner Saturday evening at northern Cincinnati's shore bound Windjammer restaurant.



Aerial view of the popular Kings Island amusement area.

The dinner marked the end of "The Golden Harvest Rally," but the beginning of more Fun-tivities for GMC Country Club.

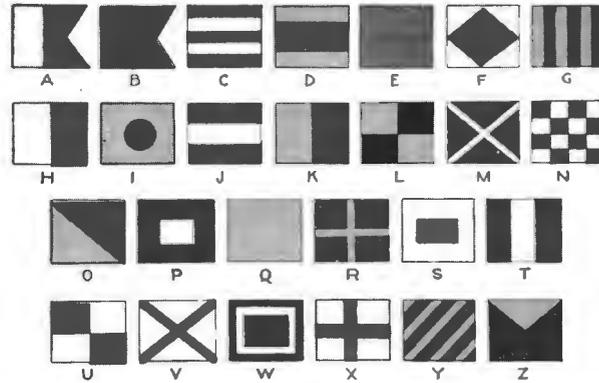
There's an "Ice Breaker Rally" planned for January 14-16, 1977 at the Carousel Inn in Columbus, Ohio. The Fun-tivities include a seminar on motorhomes by factory-trained personnel, a delicious luncheon, and a tour of the French Market for shopping New Orleans style. Contact Barbara Sintz/(614) 891-4189 for more details.



Gloria McDonnell, welcoming GMC motorhome owners into the family of families.

# WELCOME ABOARD, GMC ELEGANT CRUISERS, GMC FORTY NINERS, AND GMC NORTHERN STARS

The GMC family clubs welcome three new members: The Elegant Cruisers, organized November 6, 1976, at the "California Whing Ding" in Los Angeles, the Forty Niners, organized November 13th at the "California 49'er" in Plymouth, California, and the Northern Stars, organized November 20th at the "Wells-Fargo Expression Rally" in Fargo, North Dakota.



The International Code of Flags, shown here, is used to identify GMC club chapters.

## Elegant Cruisers

The GMC Motorhome Owners Club added another successful chapter to the records of motorhoming. For the first time, a GMC rally — the "California Whing Ding" — was held in conjunction with the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA).

The RVIA, the management of Dodger Stadium and the city of Los Angeles all cooperated in giving us permission to hold the rally at Dodger Stadium.

RVIA also hosted entrance tickets for all the ralliers, at no cost to the club, so that each motorhome owner could view the RV show held inside the stadium.

Saturday morning, 38 GMC motorhome owners hooked together on the parking lot of the stadium to form a new club chapter and to participate in all the rally fun-tivities. The owners selected "Elegant Cruisers" as the name of their new club.

Saturday evening, a record-breaking 165 owners and guests dined together. The evening's entertainment, the "Mugleston's" — a

family group of youngsters age 11-20 — received several standing ovations.

## Forty Niners

At the "California 49'er" Rally in Plymouth, California, 33 GMC motorhome owners formed another new GMC chapter, named the "Forty Niners."

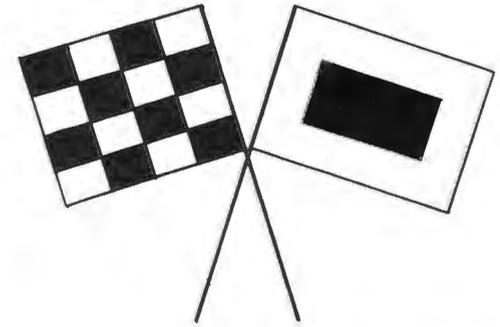
The owners elected officers: President and Alternate National Director V. G. Lambert; First Vice-President Jeanne Wright; Second Vice-President Donald Kuhn; Secretary Orine Pearson; Treasurer Sam P. Zivkovich; and National Director Bob Wright.

They were treated to a delicious dinner, courtesy of the Northern California GMC dealers.

And they made many new friends, people like themselves, who enjoy sharing the pleasures of motorhoming.

## Northern Stars

The Forty Niners were not the only



For instance, the official emblem of GMC Club — Northern Stars is the checker board "N" flag and the square in white "S" flag.

people who had much to celebrate this November. One week after their club chapter was formed, another was started.

This time, the setting was Fargo, North Dakota, where 16 GMC motorhome owners gathered at the Holiday Inn to organize a GMC club chapter in their area.

After considering some 30 suggestions, the "Wells-Fargo" ralliers named their club the Northern Stars.

They also elected officers: President Tom Hoepfer; Vice President Herb Lefor; Secretary Jan Softing; Treasurer Pam Lillehaugen; National Director Harley McDowell; and Alternate National Director Carl Wahlberg.

After the elections, Fargo's GMC motorhome dealer, Hall GMC, treated the owners to lunch. There, the owners made plans to meet again in early January for a dutch treat dinner.

November is a time for giving thanks. And the GMC Elegant Cruisers, GMC Forty Niners, and GMC Northern Stars are thankful they have joined with other GMC motorhomers for the purpose of good old fashioned family fun.



Saturday, November 6th, 38 GMC motorhome owners attended an organizational meeting at L.A.'s Dodger Stadium.

# Season's Greetings

Max Cramer, Maryann Grausam,  
Don Rooker, Mac & Gloria McDonnell



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Maryann,

A very special "thanks" to the whole crew who made the first national GMC rally in Nashville such a wonderful success.

The food was delicious! And the warm reception given to all was most appreciated.

Truly, southern hospitality flowed generously in that great Music City, U.S.A.

Sincerely,

GMC Owners

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smock

Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Dunn

Mr. & Mrs. Dale Stahlman

Dear Maryann,

We attended the Nashville rally and had a terrific time.

Now we're looking forward to the Tropical Repose.

Would it be possible to hold an organizational meeting during this rally? I believe you will find many people from Florida who are interested in getting their chapter rolling!

Again, thanks for making Nashville a smashing success. See you in Florida.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Blosser

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** And we'll see you at the organizational meeting which begins 10 a.m. Thursday, February 10, 1977 in Orlando, Florida.



Mac McDonnell explains the purpose and structure of the GMC clubs during the organizational meeting at Dodger Stadium.



The election of officers follows Mac's presentation. "Pappy" Reid is the new treasurer.



The meeting adjourns, and the owners, officers and guests meet under the tent for a delicious buffet.

**GMC** Motorhome  
**TRAVELER**

Vol. 1, No. 9 December 1976

Editor: Maryann Grausam

Published monthly as a service to GMC Motorhome owners by GMC Truck & Coach, 660 South Boulevard East, Room 210, Pontiac, Mich. 48053.

Contributions from readers are welcomed.



More than 200 GMC motorhome families roll into the KOA campground for the beginning of the first nationwide, all GMC rally in Nashville, Tennessee.



Thursday night Fun-Tivities include a champagne party with hors d'oeuvres and live country music by Lonnie Jones and the New Grass Express.

## GMC FAMILY ALBUM

### GRAND OLE OPRY RALLY



Friday Fun-Tivities begin at the lovely Silver Wings Restaurant with a Hillbilly Buffet that "stars" catfish, fried chicken, and, of course, black eyed peas.



Many Opry ralliers move from the dinner table to the dance floor, as Dick Dorney and his band play some contemporary Nashville songs.



Later Friday evening, the ralliers compete for prizes in the Best Country Western costume contest. Barney CIPHER of Hopwell Junction, New York, wins 1st Place in the Men's Division.



And Jan Greenberg of Wappinger Falls, New York, wins 1st Place in the Women's Division.



"Pop" Poppenheimer, supervisor of GMC Teen & Youth Clubs (left) looks on as the semi-finalists (foreground) in the Kid's Division display their country western attire.



Saturday Fun-Tivities include a trip to Opryland and to the Grand Ole Opry, with a lively performance by the Four Guys.

## OCT. 21, 22, 23 & 24 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



Saturday night features a Chuck Wagon Supper and a drawing, by campsite number, for one pair of fender skirts. Ruby Simms is the lucky winner.



Another winner, this time for 1st Place in the GMC Photo Contest, is James L. Kellerman of Houghton Lake, Michigan. Jim wins a Norcold propane stove.



GMC motorhomer Dan Bowers, GMC Service Coordinator Don Rooker, GMC-Great Lakers Secretary Ann Schipper, and GMC motorhomer B. Birch gather around the activities desk at the KOA campground.



The Grand Ole Opry Rally closes on a tuneful note as Stan Oster plays his accordion during Sunday church services.

## THRU THE WINDOWS Mac & Gloria McDonnell L-6006



This is the season of sharing. And so, we would like to share an experience with you, an experience that permitted us to look through the windows of another motorhome. Completed in 1923, this motorhome was built for John and Mary Chapman, two of the earliest "Motor Coaching" enthusiasts.

Our story begins at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. That's where we held our latest organizational rally for a new GMC Club, named the "Elegant Cruisers." Before leaving California, we decided to visit with Mary Chapman, the only living pioneer of motorhoming.

History suggests that the first motorhomes were built about 1920 for: Thomas A. Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and John Stanton Chapman. None of those men are with us today, but John Chapman's widow, 81-year-old Mary, is alive and well and, fortunately for us, receiving visitors in her California home.

Since Mary is the only survivor of those early days, you can imagine how thrilled we were to spend a few moments with her. She told us what the history books could never tell us.

John and Mary's motorhome — fondly dubbed the "Nomad" — was on the road from 1923 until the Chapmans retired from traveling in 1957. During that time, John and Mary visited 24 states, as well as Mexico.

Once, John and Mary decided to travel from California to New York. There, they would attend the Metropolitan Opera. But while they drove through New York City, they were stopped by an Irish policeman and reminded that, due to an ordinance, trucks were not permitted on the streets after 5 p.m. John attempted to explain, "This is not a truck, but rather, a home on wheels, with a motor."

The policeman could not understand that a vehicle containing a wood-burning

stove, a pull-out bed for two, a clothes closet, two wooden chairs, a pantry, Columbia roller window shades, a rug on the floor, a granite enameled potty with a lid, and a tailgate, which provided an extra bedroom when Mary's mother traveled with them, was truly a home on wheels. John and Mary were arrested. Later, they drove the motorhome to Amsterdam, N.Y., then took a taxi back to Manhattan . . . just in time for the start of the opera!

Mary Chapman's eyes twinkled and her lips were molded into a soft smile as she related her experiences to us. She said that in those early years, there were no interstate highways with multiple lanes, as we know them. Instead, the roads were mostly gravel, mud, dust, or cobble stone, with only a few miles of concrete in the major cities.

But it didn't matter how the roads were constructed. John and Mary loved to explore. They didn't keep their eyes on the roads. They looked, instead, at the scenes around them — at the mountains and deserts, the sunrises and sunsets. And they kept notes about what they saw.

John and Mary collaborated on 54 published books, all of which have since been given to the University of Oregon. These books are proof that traveling in a

home, with a motor, offers many beautiful rewards.

Mary Chapman can no longer travel, but she still has an active mind. She continues to write about her experiences, and she is a learned student of Greek Anthropology.

The "Nomad" has been restored by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller of Wapakoneta, Ohio, and it's still road-worthy, still operative. Mr. Miller is the first vice-president of the Family Motor Coach Association. He and his family treat the "Nomad" with the tender, loving care it so richly deserves.

John and Mary Chapman were not fully aware that one day, by some measure of their foresight, we would have our sleek, beautiful GMC motorhomes and that we would gather together as members of a GMC Club to enjoy their fascinating way of life.

Yes, this is the season of sharing. And though this may not be a Christmas story, we hope that it will bring the same warmth to you that it brought to us.

Merry Christmas everyone, and a most happy New Year.

Drive them safely, happy GMCeeing, and we'll see you down the road.

Mac & Gloria

## SERVICE TIPS

By Don Rooker  
Supervisor  
GMC Motorhome Service



**Q.** I have a 1976 GMC Glenbrook, equipped with bias tires. Can I substitute radial tires for the bias ones? If so, which make would you recommend?

**A.** Glad you asked that! I've been asked that question many times by GMC owners. And the answer is yes, if you have a 1976 or later model motorhome. You see, those motorhomes are equipped with wheel part no. 359402 which is designed to accept the loads imposed by radial-ply tires. Here is an easier way to see if your motorhome is designed for radial tires: check the inner rim of each wheel. If it is stamped with the word "radial", you're all set. If it is not

stamped with the word "radial", you can still install radial-ply tires if you purchase seven wheels of the correct part number (359402).

Now for your second question . . . GMC Engineering has evaluated various makes and designs of radial-ply tires especially tailored to the unique vehicle suspensions used on all GMC Motorhomes. The GENERAL JUMBO STEEL BELTED RADIAL TIRE or its equivalent is currently the only tire approved by GMC for optimum ride and handling characteristics. You can install other makes and designs on your motorhome; however, GMC assumes no responsibility for ride and handling characteristics.

**Special Note:** Under no circumstances should radial-ply tires be installed on the former style wheels. Nor should radial-ply and bias-ply tires be mixed. Use six tires of the same type.

Please address your service questions to:

Don Rooker  
c/o GMC Motorhome Owners Club  
660 South Boulevard East  
Room 210  
Pontiac, Michigan 48053

# GMC Tropical Repose FLORIDA SUNSHINE, HERE WE COME!

The GMC Tropical Repose Rally commences full swing in sunny Orlando, Florida on February 9, 1977.

This rally promises to be as successful as our "hoe-down" in Nashville, Tennessee, because everyone's invited to join in the fun and because our Florida motorhome owners will have a chance to form a new GMC club chapter.

Here's the schedule:

## Wed., Feb. 9

10 a.m.-8 p.m. Registration  
6-8 p.m. Weenie Roast

## Thurs., Feb. 10

8 a.m.-6 p.m. Registration  
8-9:30 a.m. Coffee & donuts  
9-9:30 a.m. Orientation

10 a.m.-12 noon & 2 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Buses available every hour on the hour to the lake Buena Vista Shopping Mall and to Disney World, or games & contests available on campgrounds.

5:30-6:30 p.m. Social Hour (In Tent)  
B.Y.O.B.  
Ice & Set-ups Furnished

6:30-8:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner (In Tent)  
You bring a dish and your own tableware, and we'll offer the main meat dish.

8:00 p.m. Live Entertainment

## Fri., Feb. 11

8-9:30 a.m. Coffee & donuts  
10 a.m.-Noon Seminar: How to Use Your Camera

10 a.m.-12 noon & 2 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Buses to shopping & local amusement areas or campground activities and games, including shuffle board, horse shoes, bingo and golf.

Evening FREE

## Sat., Feb. 12

8-9:30 a.m. Coffee & donuts

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Buses every hour to Sea World only

6-7 p.m. Social Hour (Luau Center)  
Cash Bar

7 p.m. Luau Dinner & Entertainment (Sea World's Luau Center)

## Sun., Feb. 13

8-9:30 a.m. Coffee & donuts

### DEPARTURE

P.S. There will be an organizational meeting Thursday, February 10th, at 10:00 a.m. to form a new GMC club chapter.

Registration fee includes full hookups at the campgrounds, food and entertainment listed above, and two free tickets to Disney World.



This photo, by James L. Kellerman, won 1st Place at the GMC Photo Contest in Nashville, Tennessee.

### ATTENTION: GMC SHUTTER BUGS

There will be a new GMC Photo Contest for the Tropical Repose, and all you GMC shutter bugs are urged to participate.

Prizes will be awarded for the best entries in two categories: Club Functions and Fun-tivities.

Any size color negative can be entered in this contest: 35mm, 120, 2 1/4 x 2 1/4, or 620. Photos will be returned to you.

Be sure to put your name and address on the back of each entry, along with a one sentence caption and the name of the category you wish to enter.

Deadline for entries is February 1, 1977. send photos to: "Photo Contest" c/o "The GMC Motorhome Traveler."

Continued on Back Page —

## GMC TROPICAL REPOSE REGISTRATION OUTDOOR RESORTS — ORLANDO, FLORIDA FEBRUARY 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 1977

Please complete the form and mail with check or money order made out to GMC Motorhome Owners Club. Your reservation will be confirmed.

GMC CLUB CHAPTER NAME (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HUSBAND \_\_\_\_\_ WIFE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Two Persons, one unit — \$125.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

One Person, one unit — \$80.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_) extra persons 13 or older — \$60.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_) children 4-12 years old — \$50.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing a check for: (Total) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO  
GMC MOTORHOME OWNERS CLUB  
NATIONAL DIRECTORS OFFICE  
660 South Boulevard East, Rm. 210  
Pontiac, Michigan 48053

Pre-registration must be received no later than January 15, 1977.

## GMC Fun-tivities

## Hear Ye Right Here Ez

**GMC CLUB — FRENCH RETURN  
(GMC Organizational Meeting)**

JANUARY 7, 8, 9, 1977  
River Boat Travel Park  
6232 Chev Menteur  
New Orleans, Louisiana

RSVP: M. J. McDonnell  
c/o Mr. Ed Bailey  
200 Wright Ave.  
Gretna, Louisiana 70053

**GMC TROPICAL REPOSE  
(GMC Organizational Meeting)**

FEBRUARY 9-13, 1977  
Outdoor Resorts  
Orlando, Florida

**Note: The organizational meeting  
begins at 10 a.m. Thursday,  
February 10, 1977.**

**FMCA 2ND WINTER  
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

March 4, 5, 6, 1977  
Convention Center  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Watch For More Details!

**GMC NORTHERN STARS  
(January Meeting)**

JANUARY 8, 1977  
Hall GMC  
 Fargo, North Dakota

CONTACT: Jan Softing  
RR 1  
Moorhead, Minnesota

**GMC FORTY NINERS  
(January Outing)**

JANUARY 28, 29, 30, 1977  
Holiday Inn Trav-L-Park  
Scotts Valley, California

CONTACT: James V. Pearson  
5321 Yosemite Boulevard  
Modesto, California 95351

**GMC SIX WHEELERS  
(Winter Dinner Meeting)**

FEBRUARY 4, 1977

CONTACT: Chick and  
Parker Wiggin  
1403 Glencoe Street  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187  
(312) 668-0560

**GMC Country Club  
(January Ice Breaker)**

JANUARY 14, 15, 16, 1976  
Carousel Inn  
4900 St. Clair Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio

CONTACT: Barbara Sintz  
5594 Natalie Court South  
Westerville, Ohio 43081

Do you have an item for sale or exchange that might interest other GMC motorhome owners? Would you like to announce a special occasion, say, a wedding? Send your "Crier & Flier" materials (including *pictures*) to:

"ANNEX"  
GMC Motorhome Traveler  
660 South Boulevard East  
Room 210  
Pontiac, Michigan 48053

**ATTENTION:  
GMC SHUTTER BUGS** — *Continued*

If you have a camera, but you haven't figured out the F-stop from the shutter speed, then you may want to attend a special seminar on "How To Use Your Camera." The seminar will be conducted by Cliff Brackett 11:00 a.m., February 11, at the Activity Hall, second floor in the campground.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this presentation, either with a short slide show or lecture, is welcome. Contact Cliff Brackett c/o "The GMC Motorhome Traveler" before February 1.

See you in Orlando!

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

