

# THE AIRSTREAM STORY

1978

BUCKEYE AIRSTREAM

SERVICE & SALES, INC.

BOX #13 ETNA, OHIO 43018

861-6359

EAST ON I-70 TO RT. 310

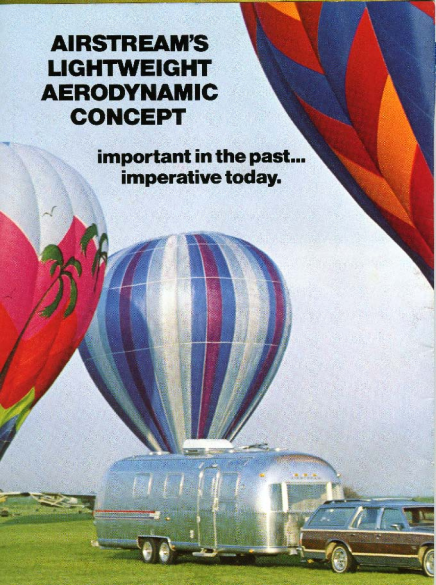
NORTH ON RT. 310 TO RT. 40

WEST ON RT. 310 & RT. 40



# **AIRSTREAM'S LIGHTWEIGHT AERODYNAMIC CONCEPT**

**important in the past...  
imperative today.**





The late Wally Byam, pioneer trailer traveler, founder of Airstream

*"In the heart of these words is an entire life's dream.  
To those of you who find in the promise of these  
words, your promise, I bequeath this creed...  
my dream belongs to you."* WALLY BYAM

## THE WALLY BYAM CREED

To place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home.

To provide a more satisfying, meaningful way of travel that offers complete travel independence, wherever and whenever you choose to go or stay.

To keep alive and make an enduring promise of high adventure in faraway lands... of rediscovering old places and new interests.

To open a whole world of new experiences... a new dimension in enjoyment where travel adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions.

To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun and personal expression. To lead caravans wherever the four winds blow... over twinkling boulevards, across trackless deserts... to the traveled and untraveled corners of the earth.

To play some part in promoting international goodwill and understanding among the peoples of the world through person-to-person contact.

To refine and perfect our product by continuous travel-testing over the highways and byways of the world.

To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end... and thus make your travel dreams come true.









**AIRSTREAM**  
right for the cars of the thirties -  
right for the cars of the seventies.





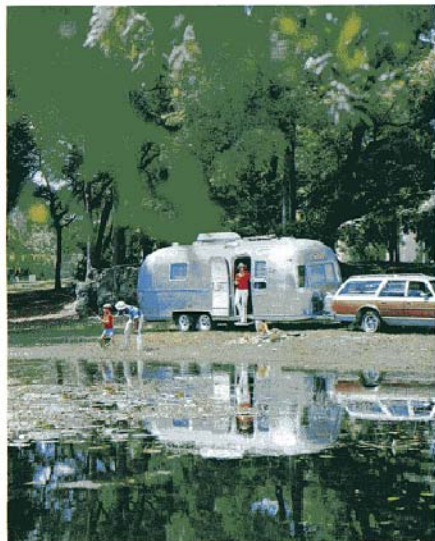
Over forty-five years ago a man named Wally Byam pioneered the recreational vehicle industry when he introduced the first streamlined travel trailer . . . the all-aluminum Airstream. It was a revelation. The cars of the thirties were light, simple cars yet they traveled easily with an Airstream behind to faraway places around the world where no trailer had ever been before. Today's cars are becoming lighter again and fuel economy has become a major factor. Over the years the Airstream principle of integrating lightness and strength with aerodynamics has never changed. This is why the Airstream was right for the cars of the thirties and this is also why it is so right for the cars of the seventies. The Airstream concept was important in the thirties . . . today it is *imperative*. Back in the thirties an Airstream represented a lifetime investment. It was considered the ultimate in travel trailer quality, luxury and prestige. This is just as true of the Airstream of today. Every improvement, every refinement is the direct result of travel testing. There is no planned obsolescence. Today as then, an Airstream is something of a small miracle . . . a rolling stateroom that permits the traveler to go anywhere he cares to go and wherever he decides to stop, provides the most complete and luxurious living accommodations. And everything works whether hooked up or not. No other means of travel — certainly no other travel trailer offers you such a practical means of discovering the world around you. You can park in the middle of nowhere and live in complete comfort without refueling or regretting. To achieve such a high degree of sophistication is no easy task. It requires constant improving and refining. It is the final result of dedicated Airstream management, far-sighted engineering, and millions of miles of travel-testing over every conceivable road condition all over the world. The open road is our laboratory. Today our ultimate objective remains the same . . . to provide you with a travel trailer that is light enough, strong enough and aerodynamic so that it can be easily towed by a standard sedan of the seventies with sensible economy. The all-new Airstream for 1978 is now lighter and stronger. It is easier to tow today than it has ever been before. The 1978 Airstream is here to make all your travel dreams practical, achievable, enjoyable.



**AIRSTREAM'S WAY OF LIFE**  
rewarding in the past...more meaningful today

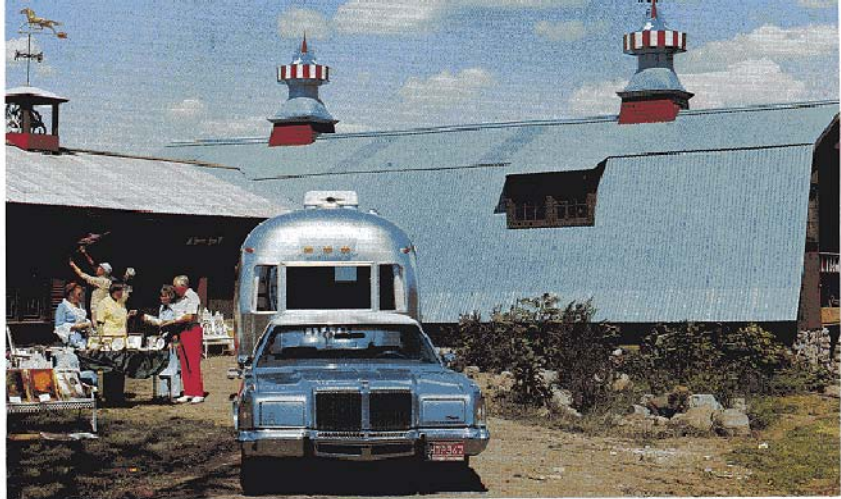






When you own a Airstream travel trailer you become a free spirit. You are free to travel to all those wonderful places you've only dreamed about. You are free to come and go whenever and wherever you please; free to stay where no one else can stay because there are no facilities. The virgin forest, the song of the river, the private world of the wildlife is yours and yours alone. With an Airstream you are free to go anywhere, anytime. Your Airstream is totally self-contained. This means that you can enjoy civilized comfort totally independent of outside sources. Without hooking up to anything you can enjoy hot and cold running water under pressure, heat, lights, and refrigeration. An Airstream becomes your luxury condominium wherever you decide you want it. Your accommodations include a luxurious living room with a view, contemporary kitchen, comfortable bedroom and a complete bathroom. If a beach house appeals to you, simply find a stretch of frothy seashore and place it at your doorstep. Or perhaps you prefer America's towering mountain ranges embedded with shimmering lakes and rushing rivers. Maybe your fascination is the drama of open prairies, silent old ghost towns, Indian villages or the subtle statement of the desert in bloom. You can head north to Alaska and a new adventure; south to colorful Mexico and on to South America. You can run away from sleet and snow and play in the sunshine rather than suffer the ravages of another merciless winter. You can even ship your Airstream to Europe and begin your lifetime adventure there. It's being done right now by hundreds of other people just like you. And what a way to travel. The ordinary tourist who stays in hotels observes his environment... the Airstreamer lives it. And wherever you go, here or abroad, your Airstream behind you is your assurance of first class accommodations that are always at your disposal. You enjoy your own food, relax in your own living room, sleep in your own comfortable bed. All this convenience and your car is always available whenever you want it! An Airstream behind your car permits you to live and travel at your own leisurely pace. You go where you want, when you want. Your mood is your only itinerary; your own personal whim and fancy are your only guides. You are never concerned with advance hotel reservations that you thought were being held for you. You are never the victim of questionable 'highway' meals. Everything you can possibly need from a bracing shower to a home-cooked meal, is right there with you. Have you reached a stage in your life where you want to develop new interests, make some new friends, put more meaning into each day? Become part of the friendly Airstream family. Share in the good times of a big Airstream Rally or join the Wally Byam Caravanners in their endless search for adventure. Life is a mysterious thing. It can slip past us in an instant; it is uncertain and unpredictable. This is why the Airstream way of life is more important to you now than at any other time in your life. Go Airstream now and embark upon a brand new life with brand new meaning!





**AIRSTREAM'S FAMOUS TOWABILITY**  
**superior in the past...unrivalled today.**

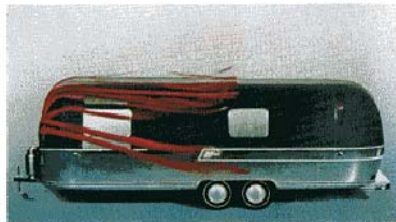
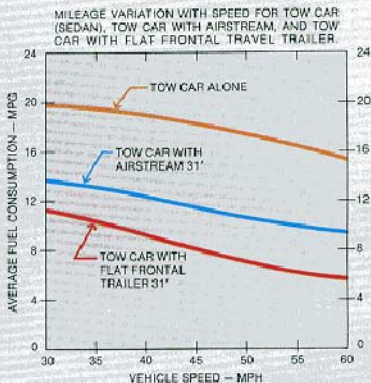
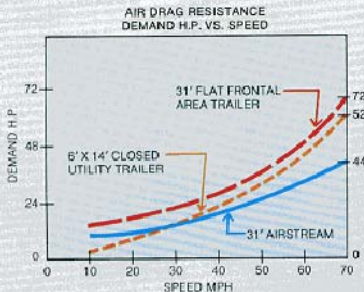




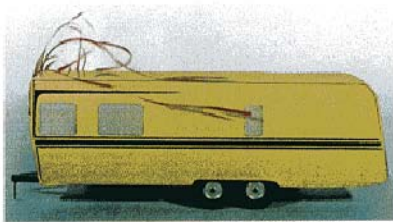
# AIRSTREAM TOWS EASIER, SAVES FUEL

The shape of a trailer determines fuel consumption more than any other single factor. The Air Drag Resistance graph below shows that at 55 mph a square-type trailer requires 45 horsepower to overcome air drag while the aerodynamic Airstream requires only 30 horsepower. The chart at right compares mileage for a sedan alone, a sedan towing an Airstream and a sedan towing a square-type trailer. There is a dramatic difference in fuel consumption. For example, an

Airstream traveling a distance of 1000 miles consumes 47 gallons less fuel than the same car pulling a flat frontal trailer. A significant savings!



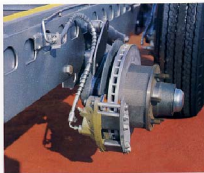
Airstream's aerodynamic shape is a major factor in both ease of towing and fuel economy. Notice how the air flows freely over, under and around all sides. Airstreams are less affected by crosswinds.



The traditional square front trailer presents a large flat area to the wind. Air cannot slip by as smoothly. The square trailer wastes large amounts of fuel and reacts more severely in crosswinds.

The Airstream of the early thirties was the easiest towing travel trailer of its time. Roads weren't as good then as they are today and yet we traveled everywhere. Remember... in those days many countries had no paved roads at all. The road-handling characteristics of the 1978 Airstream are still unrivaled today. The reason is simple; no other travel trailer has been so extensively travel tested over good roads, bad roads, *no roads*. And the more we travel in our own product, the more we are able to improve it. How is the superior towing capability achieved? The secret of Airstream's famous towability lies in three important factors; shape, weight distribution and running gear.

First let us consider shape. Study the Airstream configuration. The Airstream maintains an aerodynamic design, truly streamlined with no flat areas or protrusions. This means minimum resistance as you tow it along. When you get behind the wheel for the first time, you will naturally expect to feel a heavy weight behind you. But the truth is, you won't. There is no pulling sensation, no sense of dragging. The reason for this, of course, is Airstream's streamline shape. Remember two important points: Air drag increases with speed and fuel consumption increases in relation to the horsepower requirement. If you tow a square-type trailer, it requires roughly 45 horsepower at



55 mph to overcome air resistance. If you drive a typical camper or square-type motorhome, you will require about 60 horsepower to overcome drag. With an Airstream, the air drag requirement is only 30 horsepower at 55 mph. Thus it requires one and a half times more horsepower and 29% more gasoline to pull a smaller square-type trailer. It requires twice as much horsepower and 49% more fuel to drive a truck-mounted vehicle or square-type motorhome than a large Airstream. In fact, at 40 mph a 31-foot Airstream weighing 4850 lbs. is easier to tow and uses less fuel than a little 6 x 14 closed utility type trailer weighing 1800 lbs.

The second factor in towability is weight distribution. Proper weight distribution is essential if good road-handling characteristics are to be achieved. Basically, the lighter the body and the heavier the undercarriage of any vehicle, the lower the center of gravity. A low center of gravity means greater stability at all speeds and less affect by high crosswinds. Airstream's ideal low center of gravity contributes substantially to Airstream's extraordinary stability both while travelling and when braking. Do not overlook this vital factor. Compare the weight distribution of an Airstream of any size with any other recreational vehicle. You will discover that 66% of an Airstream's total weight is concentrated at the floor line, providing for an extremely low vertical center of gravity. Airstream's all-aluminum lightweight body is bolted and riveted to the rugged steel chassis. Heavy fixtures, such as the refrigerator, are mounted on the floor and also bolted to the chassis. The 50-gallon water tank on the 1978 Airstream is mounted between the axles resulting in a much lighter and more constant hitch weight. This is a major factor when the water tank is filled. This system of weight distribution (we call it "balanced ride") results in a recreational vehicle with remarkable road-handling characteristics at any speed. Take an Airstream into the mountains with plenty of tight, hairpin turns. Again, you realize there is no feeling of pulling or being pushed excessively. No swaying, no swerving, no jerking. Every move your car makes, the Airstream makes. Long curves, sharp switch-back turns, steep grades up or down, and on the level...



car and Airstream move smoothly, effortlessly together as one. No other travel trailer you can name can turn in this kind of performance.

Now let us turn our attention to the *running gear*. Airstream's running gear is the Super Dura-Torque axle. We developed this exceptional running gear as a direct result of the African Caravan when our ordinary axles were snapping like matchsticks. We made some important modifications based on our experience on the Round the World Caravan and we continue to make new improvements. The Super Dura-Torque axle provides Airstream with the most reliable independent wheel suspension in our industry. It contributes in large measure to Airstream's famous lateral stability. We couldn't have possibly gotten a Caravan of forty-four trailers through Cambodia and northern Thailand without it. The Dura-Torque replaced conventional springs with special polyisoprene torsion bars. This means road clearance is substantially increased; there is nothing hanging below the axle. You Airstream can easily cut a trail across terrain with potholes, ruts and rocks that no other trailer should attempt. Airstream's independent wheel suspension absorbs substantially more road vibration than conventional axles. This is why you will find the Airstream more stable and infinitely smoother riding under every type of towing situation you will encounter. Shocks from uneven road surfaces... washboards, bumps, and chuckholes... are effectively absorbed by the super resilient torsion bars. All this means exceptionally easy towing characteristics on any road beyond where the road ends. In addition to the Dura-Torque axle, Airstream's wide wheel stance stabilizes the trailer even more. Airstream wheels stand 80-inches from center-of-tread to center-of-tread. Compare this to only 63-inches apart for the average pickup truck and 65.3 inches for the typical motorhome. All things considered, Airstream's Dura-Torque axle provides you with the most thoroughly travel-tested running gear for travel trailers in the world.

Inasmuch as slowing and stopping your trailer is a normal part of towing, the dependability of the braking system is



vital. Once again Airstream offers you the most important safety improvement in history...the remarkable Excelsa-Vac power disc brakes. This dramatic improvement is offered exclusively by Airstream. No other recreational vehicle has it.

And just why are these new brakes so important to you? Because they provide you with four important benefits: greater safety, substantially longer brake life, self-adjustment and a new dimension in towing confidence. By virtue of a miniature computer in the controller, the Excelsa-Vac power disc brakes are engaged to the exact same degree as the tow car brakes. Car brakes and trailer brakes are in perfect synchronization *electronically*. The net result is a quick, smooth, comfortable stop without the tendency to swerve, skid or fishtail. The new power disc brakes never fade due to overheating and will never need adjustment. To fully appreciate the new Excelsa-Vac disc brakes, you should know exactly how the system works:

Airstream's power disc brakes operate on a combination of hydraulic, electrical and vacuum systems. When you apply the brakes, the miniature computer in the controller mounted on the dash, senses hydraulic pressure in the

car and instantly converts it to an electrical signal which in turn sends another signal to the vacuum system in the trailer and activates the brakes. *All this happens in a thousandth of a second!* The trailer brakes respond in direct relationship with the car brakes. That is to say, if you touch your brake pedal lightly, the trailer brakes engage lightly. If you brake hard, the trailer brakes hard. Your stop is electronically measured and activated instantly.

Because all systems are instantly synchronized, you stop straight and smooth every time. Excelsa-Vac power disc brakes bring you to a sure, straight, comfortable stop. No swerving, no rocking, no jerking effect. You travel with new security, a new feeling of confidence you've never experienced before. And here's a dramatic fact...an Airstream equipped with Excelsa-Vac power disc brakes can stop within a shorter distance than required by the Federal Motor Vehicle Standard for a car alone! The table below explains:

## STOPPING DISTANCE CHART

Speed MPH (Deceleration)	Stopping Distance — Ft. Car Alone FMVSS*	Stopping Distance — Ft. Car and Airstream equipped with disc brakes
20-0	None	19.8
30-0	51.0	54.0
40-0	91.0	86.5
60-0	194.0	172.6

\*Stopping distance required for car alone by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 105-75.



Remember, when you are towing a 1978 Airstream equipped with Excelsa-Vac power disc brakes, you are traveling with the most advanced travel trailer braking system in the world...safer, smoother and longer lasting.

You have a standing invitation to try any of the above road tests yourself at any Airstream dealer.

Consider and compare Airstream's superior road-handling characteristics before you choose your recreational vehicle. Any travel trailer allows you to drive in the familiar comfort of your car; it allows you to unhitch and use your car whenever you like...an Airstream simply lets you do it more conveniently, more comfortably, more economically. No other travel trailer — no other recreational vehicle can provide this degree of safety, comfort and economy.

**AIRSTREAM'S QUALITY CONSTRUCTION**  
**exceptional in the past...unsurpassed today.**



# AIRSTREAM...LIGHTNESS WITH STRENGTH

Since its very beginning Airstream has had a reputation for being both *lighter* and *stronger* than other types of travel trailers. Every improvement we have made since then has been consistent with Airstream's strength-to-weight principle. The Airstream body begins with a special heat-treated, aluminum alloy. Airstream is the only travel trailer manufacturer using this special load-bearing aluminum. It looks like ordinary aluminum, however it has many times the tensile strength of common aluminum. It has a remarkable strength-to-weight ratio and it has superior resistance to fatigue. Airstream's concentrated strength comes not from weight, but from engineered contouring where tensional, shearing and torsional stresses act in balanced support. The photographs below clearly demonstrate this principle. While one man can chin himself on an end sec-

tion, the other man easily lifts the entire assembly. In fact, the entire body of an Airstream is so light, two men can lift it and hold it. Without too much effort, the young lady is holding all the aluminum ribs that will go into a 27-foot Airstream. These contoured stretch-formed aluminum ribs are amazingly strong. Together with longitudinal stringers that run the entire length of the trailer, they will support the fuselage. Airstream's exclusive Aerostress chassis is made from special high strength alloy steel rolled to our own specifications. Notice that the rugged beams are flanged and perforated for extra strength with extra lightness. The Aerostress chassis supports every part of the Airstream floor. The big aluminum bumper is bolted directly to the main beam of the chassis. The 1978 Airstream chassis offers greater strength-to-weight ratio than ever before.



Super strong end sections.



Super lightweight body.



Husky steel chassis.



All ribs for a 27-footer.





Water test.



Complete insulation.



Riveting interior skin.



Enclosed underbelly.



Riveting exterior skin.



Perma-Tech furniture.



One-piece window frame.

## AIRSTREAM QUALITY ENGINEERING

Before the interior skin is installed, each Airstream is subjected to this water tightness test. A cloudburst pours one and one-half inches of wind-driven rainfall per minute for a period of seven minutes. This test meets MIL-S-52059 which is the rain test for the military. The entire body of an Airstream is insulated . . . top, sides, under the floor and over the wheel housings. We use a 2 1/4 inch matlress of aerocore fiberglas which is impervious to flame, water, vermin or settling. We have tested this insulating material in the freezing temperatures of Nepal and the scorching deserts of the Egyptian Sudan and have never found anything as effective. Notice that the entire underbelly of the Airstream is enclosed. This protects the underside while it contributes significantly to the aerodynamic characteristic. Load-bearing aluminum ends are riveted into place on special jigs for optimum tolerance. After the exterior skin and insulation is in place, a second aluminum skin is riveted on the inside. The second skin has a vinyl-laminated decorative surface and becomes the finished interior wall. This type of quality

construction is slow and painstaking. But if indeed our product is intended to travel anywhere in the world, there can be no shortcuts. Window frames in an Airstream are one-piece, extruded aluminum with no seams. Consequently Airstream windows offer maximum protection against leaks. Optional double-pane Nitro-Therm windows may be installed. The space between the two panes of glass is filled with dry nitrogen to provide superior window insulation. Another Airstream exclusive is Perma-Tech furniture. Perma-Tech furniture is so light, it reduces weight substantially and yet so strong, it will long out-last conventional type wood furniture. High pressure laminated vinyl panels faithfully reproduce rich wood grains. They are assembled on aluminum framing and anchored with friction fasteners which won't work loose as do screws or nails. Unlike wood you never have to polish Perma-Tech furniture. It is incredibly resistant to scratching and fading. A damp cloth keeps this remarkable furniture new looking mile after mile, year in and year out!

## AIRSTREAM RUNNING GEAR



Heavy duty shock absorbers.



Dura-Torque axle, normal.



Dura-Torque axle, compressed.

Airstream's development of the Super Dura-Torque axle must be considered a major contribution to trailering. The Super Dura-Torque axle is standard equipment on every Airstream model. It is without question the most successful running gear yet developed for long range, trouble-free towing. The Dura-Torque axle is an independent wheel suspension system that contributes materially to Airstream's ease of towing. It eliminates conventional springs along with 148 obsolete parts that are a constant concern if not regularly lubricated and serviced. The Dura-Torque axle never requires lubricating. The old fashioned metal springs have been replaced by polyisophene torsion bars. When you travel over potholes or over bumps on the road, the impact and shock is efficiently absorbed by the super resilient torsion bars inside the Dura-Torque axle. The photos on this page show clearly just how the Dura-Torque axle works. When one of the independently suspended wheels hits a bump or chuckhole, the inner steel shaft (shown in blue) rotates, and the shock is instantly absorbed by the polyisophene bars (shown in black). Individual hydraulic shock absorbers are mounted at each wheel to reduce rebound. This is why an Airstream tows so much smoother and easier. Airstream's Dura-Torque axle is the most thoroughly travel-tested running gear in the travel trailer industry. You will appreciate the dramatic difference everytime you go out in your Airstream. An added advantage of the independent wheel suspension is that in the event of a flat tire, you can remove the entire wheel and travel safely to the next service station. Airstream's exclusive aluminum forged wheels (optional) carry the highest load rating in the recreational vehicle industry. They're light in weight but super strong. No hubcaps to remove or lose. No scratching or rusting. In addition, your lug bolts are always visible and readily accessible for periodic checking. Airstream engineers are continually looking for new ways to improve the quality of our product. The Super Dura-Torque axle is one of the most important contributions to your trailering enjoyment.



Dura-Torque axle in action.

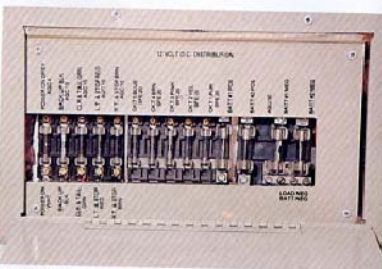


# AIRSTREAM HEATING, ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING

Airstream's electrical, heating and plumbing systems comply with American National Standards Institute Specification 119.2, the national standard for all recreational vehicles and recognized in all states. The electrical system is made up of a 12-volt D/C system and a 110-volt, 60-cycle A/C system. All motors (except air conditioner) all lights and all other components including the central control panel, operate on the 12-volt system. The 12-volt wiring harness exclusively designed for Airstream features molded and sealed quick disconnects for the attachment to all appliances thus providing a reliable connection that is easily serviced. A Univolt converter is installed to convert 110-volt city power to a 12-volt D/C power when desired. A rotationally molded polyethylene container houses the Univolt system to minimize noise and heat transfer. Convenient outlets are installed throughout the trailer for 110-volt appliances. The converter charges the batteries while the trailer is plugged in and an inherent voltage regulator protects the batteries from overcharging. The 12-volt electrical system is protected by a master fuse panel with coded receptacles for all circuits. The 110-volt system is protected by 20-amp re-set circuit breaker with a ground fault interruptor for the bathroom and exterior outlets. Fresh water plumbing consists of all copper tubing. A built-in pressure regulator prevents excessive pressure while hooked-up to city water. A polyethylene tank provides 50 gallons of usable fresh water. A 12-volt demand pump delivers up to 3 gallons of water per minute to all trailer outlets at 25 p.s.i. Water pump switches are conveniently located at the central control panel and in the bathroom. An optional water purifier with separate spigot is available. Airstream features two rotationally molded linear polyethylene holding tanks. One holds waste water from sinks and shower while the other holds solid waste. They are both monitored by the central control panel. Airstream's heating system is forced air with a sealed combustion chamber vented to the outside. An efficient ducting system together with the Univolt fan, distribute heat throughout the trailer as well as around water and holding tanks for all weather travel.



Wiring harness.



Fuse box.



Univolt housing.



Dual holding tanks.



Heater duct system.



**AIRSTREAM'S**  
**TRAVEL/LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS**  
elegant in the past...more luxurious today.





Entertainment center.



Digital clock.



Under lounge storage.



Magazine rack/Chair storage.



Credenza table closed.



Credenza table open.



Credenza table extended.

## AIRSTREAM'S LUXURIOUS LIVING AREA

The 1978 Airstream living area is luxurious, comfortable and practical. Large windows offer a magnificent view and all are fitted with custom, easy care, easy slide draperies that always stay neatly in place. The optional entertainment center is the ultimate in travel/living luxury. It is equipped with a total matched component sound system designed specifically for the Airstream travel trailer. It includes AM/FM multiplex radio with separate amplifier, tape deck, and four full frequency range speakers. This sophisticated sound system will fill your trailer with pleasant, undistorted theater quality music for your listening pleasure. Special tape storage is nearby. The entertainment center can even be equipped with color television for relaxed viewing with friends. The big comfortable swivel chair is offered as an option. The credenza table hides against the wall when not needed and is ready for use in an instant. And it is so simple and easy to operate. The support mechanism

keeps the table solid and stable. The hinged extension will increase seating capacity in a matter of seconds. This means you have a table for all occasions... a small table which is more convenient for cards, and snacks and a larger table for hobby projects or dining with friends. For all its comfort, however, we haven't neglected to make the living area practical as well as beautiful. A digital clock above the main window displays the time of day. Storage space has been increased because we know you need it when you travel. You will find deep, roomy roof lockers as well as a good amount of drawer space under the convertible front lounge. A convenient magazine rack is located nearby as is a small compartment for folding chair storage. Even the end table provides storage underneath. A handsome table lamp for the living area is optional. Whether entertaining or relaxing, the 1978 living area is a room where you will enjoy the optimum in on-the-road comfort and luxury!



# AIRSTREAM KITCHEN

The Airstream kitchen for 1978 is a joy to travel with. You can prepare every favorite gourmet delight on the gleaming Magic Chef range equipped with four burners, and a roomy oven. A spice rack is near at hand. You will find ample counter space for easy and convenient food preparation. A flip out shelf that snaps up level with the drainboard adds extra counter space when you need it. Double stainless steel sinks are standard with optional removable sink covers. A water purifier may be ordered. The Dometic gas/ electric refrigerator and freezer compartment are more than adequate for extended traveling. Refrigerators vary in size depending on the model you choose. The storage area in the 1978 Airstream kitchen is more than ample for long range traveling. Plumbing has been arranged under the sink to provide more under-the-sink storage. Some models offer 3 roomy drawers near the sink, others feature four. Now, the Airstream pantry for 1978 is something everyone would like to have at home. The large double pantry is as tall as the refrigerator. As you open the double doors, you will see three shelves that are wide and deep and tall

enough to store an abundance of package goods and those large, awkward items such as a turkey roaster, waffle iron, toaster, etc. The top of the pantry features a roomy cupboard with a convenient tambour door. It is just the right size for the optional microwave oven. A super sturdy built-in slide-out shelf is an added convenience. Roof lockers are equipped with convenient tambour roll-away doors. In 1978 the optional Central Control Panel located in the galley roof locker is more compact which means extra roof locker storage is now available. But more important, the Central Control Panel makes trailering superbly convenient — and only Airstream offers it! Now you simply press one button and instantly get an accurate reading on fresh water level, sewage holding tank level, waste water tank level plus the condition of your battery. The new solid state Central Control Panel is more accurate than ever. It is free of electrolysis, requires very little voltage and is not affected by voltage changes. Like everything else, the 1978 Airstream kitchen is designed for the traveler who demands the ultimate in convenience and reliability.



New roomy pantry.



Big under-sink storage.



Spice rack.



More storage area.



New Central Control Panel.



Contemporary galley.

# AIRSTREAM'S DREAMY BEDROOM

The Airstream bedroom for 1978 is designed to be neat and attractive by day and superbly comfortable by night. Some rear bath models feature the bedroom in the center, while center bath models place the bedroom at the rear of the trailer. You can choose from double bed or twin bed models. You'll love the all-new 5th Avenue Lounge for 1978. During the day it is a sturdy comfortable sofa. It converts instantly into the dreamiest bed you have ever experienced. With two fingers simply lift the front edge and the lounge automatically rolls out flat, ready for use. Bedding is stored behind. There are no bolsters, no cracks or seams. All Airstream mattresses are polyurethane foam 6 inches thick for deep sleep comfort. Putting the bed away is just as simple. Lift and roll the bed quickly and easily to its daytime position. Layouts with double bed pull-out lounges offer the convenience of a large vanity equipped with plenty of drawers. The lightweight drawers can be loaded in the house, stacked and replaced in the vanity. They are smooth plastic that is easy to clean and never snag clothing. The vanity is flanked on either side by big 'his' and 'hers' wardrobes. Center bath models offer a big 54-inch fixed double bed in the rear bedroom with convenient nightstands on either side. Or, you can order twin beds with a vanity between. All bedrooms feature a thermostat for all weather comfort. The main ceiling fixture is a combination light and vent with easy to operate controls. As you open the vent, the ceiling fan automatically comes on. One knob gives you three degrees of lighting... subdued... medium... and bright. You can select the lighting you want and the amount of energy you draw. A convenient reading light is located near the bed. All drapery and bedspread fabrics are first quality materials chosen by our decorators for their texture and beauty as well as their long life over extended travel. Wall-to-wall carpeting is luxurious nylon shag.



Lightweight drawers loaded indoors.



Drawers set into place.



Thermostat.



Light/vent fixture.



New 5th Avenue Lounge.



A touch of the hand...



and the bed is ready.

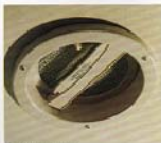




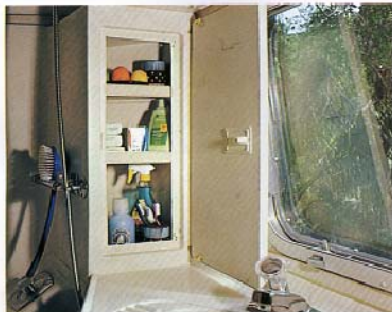
Roomy tub with shower over.



Extra storage.



Ceiling fan.



Practical medicine cabinet.



A bathroom fit for a princess.

## AIRSTREAM'S BEAUTIFUL BATHROOM

Only one word can begin to describe Airstream's new Hollywood bathroom for 1978... beautiful. It is fully equipped with every convenience you would expect... bathtub, sink and toilet. The entire room is sculptured from durable space-age plastic to form an ultra contemporary bathroom that is easy to maintain and stays new looking indefinitely. The ample bathtub is ideal for long, luxurious soaking. A molded bench for sitting runs the length of the tub for added comfort and convenience. Above the tub you will find a water saver, telephone-type shower fixture for a bracing shower no matter where you happen to be. A folding shower curtain keeps splashes in and the rest of the bathroom clean and dry. The sink is molded into the vanity counter and accented by gleaming, first quality fixtures. The toilet is the famous Thetford, travel-tested for total reliability all over the world. A silent but powerful exhaust fan (optional) is mounted in the ceiling. A large vanity mirror extends the entire width of the bathroom. It is dramatized by 3-position lighting fixtures on either side. Adequate storage can be found everywhere in this new bathroom which includes a good size medicine cabinet and a roomy roof locker behind the side mirror. The 1978 Airstream bathroom was designed to provide you with luxury, comfort and convenience no matter how far you travel.

# AIRSTREAM OPTIONS

A number of optional features are available at extra cost. Many more convenience options are available that are not pictured. See your Airstream dealer for specific details. Airstream's exclusive Vista-View skylight windows allow extra light into the trailer by day and moonlight by night. The double paned windows are filled with nitrogen. This Nitro-Therm feature means no fogging, no leaking. Vista-View windows are also treated with 3-M Scotchint to repel over 80 percent of the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays and bright glare. Airline type shades close the skylights when desired. The all-new entertainment center for 1978 is equipped with a total matched component sound system designed specifically for Airstream. It includes AM/FM multiplex radio with separate amplifier, tape deck, and four full frequency range speakers. Special tape storage is nearby and color television may be added. A window on the main door is available. It allows more light into the trailer while it permits you to see out the door without the need to open it. Airstream's exclusive Bay Breeze air conditioner is highly efficient and provides ample cooling comfort for even the largest Airstreams. A heat strip feature on the Bay Breeze air conditioner permits you to heat the trailer with the same switch. This means you can take the chill off the morning without using the furnace. The 12-volt Jac-Power-Pac eliminates hand cranking. Touch a switch and the trailer is automatically raised or lowered.



Dramatic Vista-View windows.



Entertainment center.



Convenient main door window.



Air conditioner.



Power raise and lower mechanism.



# STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

## BASIC CONSTRUCTION:

- Patented Air-Flow contoured shape
- Exclusive Aero-Stress high-strength steel undercarriage
- Extruded aluminum bumper
- Dual-Torque torsion bar axles
- Shock absorbers on all wheels
- Tandem wheels on all models
- Automatic break-away control
- 15" Truck-type extra strength wheels with 7.00 x 15 nylon tubeless tires; C-rated
- Hand riveted semi-monocoque shell of heat treated structural alloy aluminum
- Exterior protective acrylic coating
- Ribs of stretch-formed structural alloy aluminum
- Interior walls of wear-resistant vinyl covered aluminum
- One-piece stretch-formed extruded aluminum window frames riveted to body
- Exclusive contoured Jet-Seal opening-type Merculite safety glass windows
- Super strength front window (Merculite safety glass)
- Corrosion-proof screens in all windows
- Exclusive touch-control fold-away aluminum entrance step
- Univolt convenience light in rear service area and side trunk area
- Awning rail
- Double-walled fiberglass insulated wheel wells
- 2 1/4 inch aircraft type fiberglass insulation
- Adjustable, no-draft aluminum roof vents

## ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT:

- A.N.S.I., D.O.H. and C.S.A. (optional) and N.E.C. Code-approved wiring system
- Detachable single-plug weatherproof car-trailer connector (includes 12 volt charge line)
- Two-bulb, corrosion-proof 180° visibility exterior clearance and running lights (installed in conformance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 108)
- Backup lights
- Built-in 110 volt service line
- Extra-capacity 195 ampere hour 12 volt battery in built-in, sealed and vented battery compartment
- 120 volt exterior patio outlet
- Exclusive exterior electrical duplex outlet
- Three-position Univolt ceiling lights combined with ceiling vents
- Exclusive, one knob variable position ceiling vents

- Exclusive ferro resonant Univolt to convert 110 volt city power to 12 volt direct current power and automatically charge battery
- Over load safety fuse coded panel in Univolt wiring system
- Circuit breakers on 110 volt wiring system
- Interior light switch at door
- Switch center in bathroom

## PLUMBING:

- A.N.S.I., D.O.H. and C.S.A. (optional) Code-approved plumbing system
- High volume water pressure regulator in water inlet line
- Lockable, flush water fill
- Univolt demand pump (capacity 3 gallons per minute)
- 55 Gallon polyethylene water tank between axles
- Swing faucet at double galley sinks
- Stainless steel galley sinks
- Exclusive all thermo-formed bathroom with bathtub in 25-foot Caravanmer, 28 and 31-foot models. Stall shower in 23, 25, and 31-foot center bath models
- Built-in medicine cabinet and mirror
- Panoramic roof lockers with mirror doors in full bath models
- Large pullman lavatory
- Clothes hamper and bag (Full bath only)
- Make-up lighting
- Water-over "telephone" shower head
- Mechanical seat, flush toilet
- Polyethylene holding tanks of approximately one week capacity
- Drainage drop-out cover cap
- Drainage drop-out elbow for connecting sewer hose
- Built-in sewer hose carrier

## GAS EQUIPMENT:

- A.N.S.I., D.O.H. and C.S.A. (optional) Code-approved gas system
- All gas equipment U.L. or A.G.A. and C.S.A. approved for use in travel trailers
- Double 7 gallon gas bottles
- Sealed, outside vented, forced air gas space heater (input ratings: 23' 8 start and 25' Tridwinds, 22,000 B.T.U.; 28' Ambassador and 31' Sovereign of the Road, 30,000 B.T.U.)
- Automatic heater thermostat
- Automatic igniter for space heater
- Univolt blower and circulating ducts

- Gas/ electric combination refrigerator: 6 cubic foot in 23' 8 start, 25' Tridwinds. All other models, 10 cubic foot
- Gas range with oven and broiler
- Range vent hood
- Adjustable exhaust vent
- "Super 6" water heater on all models
- Built-in igniter on gas water heater

## FURNISHINGS:

- Exclusive all new Perma-Tech II furniture construction featuring heat-treated, color-anodized aluminum framework with textured high-pressure laminate panels
- Lightweight warp-free honeycomb core doors
- Tambour cabinet and roof locker doors
- Posi-Lok latches on all cabinet doors
- Bed drawers of lightweight high-impact styrene
- Lightweight injection molded galley and vanity drawers
- Silverware drawer
- Credenza fold-away table in all models
- Six inch foam filled mattresses in bedroom with zippered covers
- Nylon plush carpeting
- All upholstery treated with SCOTCHGARD repeller to resist soiling
- Folding chair storage area in 28' and 31'
- All draperies fade resistant
- All draperies lined
- High cube galley storage
- Decorative-styled, washable vinyl window shades at galley and bathroom windows
- Tambour spice rack
- Full length mirror
- Galley flip-up shelf (except 23' side lounge)
- Slide-away bathroom door
- Four color schemes
- Bedroom vinyl folding door in 25', 28' and 31' models
- Exclusive "leather touch" on piece 5th Avenue lounge

## DIMENSIONS:

- Outside floor width ... 7'8"
- Outside height from ground ... 8'10"
- Inside height (floor to ceiling) ... 6'7"
- Ground clearance ... 16" to underbelly, 12.24" to axle tube
- Recommended hitch ball height ... 19 1/2"

All prices and specifications are subject to change without notice. Standard specifications and prices may vary outside the U.S. to meet local regulations.





# AIRSTREAM FLOOR PLANS

All Airstream models are completely self-contained so that living conveniences are available whether or not your trailer is hooked up to a source of electricity and water and a sewer outlet. All Airstream models may be ordered in the Land Yacht series or the International Land Yacht series. The Land Yacht series comes equipped with automatic water system (including Univolt marine water pump and 50-gallon polyethylene water tank); Univolt electrical system to provide power at all times to all interior lights and fans (in addition to the 110-volt wiring for convenience outlets); built-in 105 ampere 12-volt battery; a battery charger with protective inherent voltage regulator; back-up lights; two 7-gallon gas bottles; a sealed unit space heater with circulating fan and heater ducts; combination gas/electric refrigerator; 6-gallon gas water heater; a modern bathroom; marine-type toilet; two 12-volt outlets; TV jacks; and polyethylene holding tanks for the toilet and wash water. The International Land Yacht series provides still a greater degree of comfort, convenience and luxury with the additional features of: Solardome; water purifier with individual faucet;

automatic gas regulator; entrance light; central control system; stove exhaust fan; bath exhaust fan; living area exhaust fan; digital clock; bedspreads; and sink covers with cutting boards. The 28-foot Ambassador and 31-foot Sovereign of the Road models are available with either side or front lounges in the living room at no extra charge. The 28-foot double bed Ambassador model and all 31-foot Sovereign of the Road models may have installed the optional "L" front lounges at extra charge. All models, except the 23-foot Safari and 25-foot Caravanner, may have a front dinette installed at extra charge. Front room cocktail chairs and microwave ovens as pictured in the models are optional at extra charge. All hitch weights and total weights quoted are for the standard models, fully equipped, ready for delivery... as verified by the Transportation Research Center of Ohio. Not included is the weight of water or butane or personal belongings carried in the trailer. Optional equipment installed on and in the trailer also contributes weight. As examples: An air conditioner weighs 157 lbs.; a TV antenna weighs 8 lbs.; an entertainment center weighs 20 lbs.; etc.

*THE 1978 AIRSTREAM FLEET OFFERS YOU 10 EXCITING MODELS TO GIVE YOU TOTAL TRAVEL PLEASURE!*



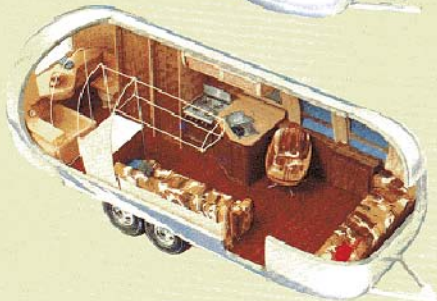
## 23 FT. SAFARI

Double bed model with side lounge shown with optional front room divider curtain.

Hitch Wt. 500 lbs.

Total Wt. 3905 lbs.

(Also available with front lounge)



## 25 FT. CARAVANNER

Salon model

Hitch Wt. 580 lbs.

Total Wt. 4380 lbs.



#### 25 FT. TRADE WIND

Twin bed model  
Hitch Wt. 670 lbs.  
Total Wt. 4005 lbs.



#### 25 FT. TRADE WIND

Double bed model  
Hitch Wt. 610 lbs.  
Total Wt. 3975 lbs.  
(Also available with fixed  
48" double bed in bedroom)



#### 28 FT. AMBASSADOR

Twin bed model with  
side lounge in living room.  
Hitch Wt. 550 lbs.  
Total Wt. 4630 lbs.



#### 28 FT. AMBASSADOR

Double bed model with  
front lounge in living room.  
Hitch Wt. 575 lbs.  
Total Wt. 4690 lbs.  
(Also available with fixed  
48" double bed in bedroom)





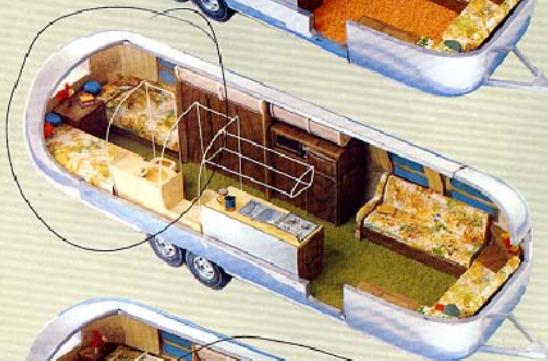
**31 FT. SOVEREIGN OF THE ROAD  
REAR BATH**

Twin bed model with  
front lounge in living room.  
Hitch Wt. 555 lbs.  
Total Wt. 4780 lbs.



**31 FT. SOVEREIGN OF THE ROAD  
REAR BATH**

Double bed model with optional  
"L" lounges in living room.  
Hitch Wt. 580 lbs.  
Total Wt. 4850 lbs.  
(Also available with fixed  
48" double bed in bedroom)



**31 FT. SOVEREIGN OF THE ROAD  
CENTER BATH**

Twin bed model with optional  
"L" lounges in living room.  
Hitch Wt. 545 lbs.  
Total Wt. 4810 lbs.



**31 FT. SOVEREIGN OF THE ROAD  
CENTER BATH**

Double bed model with  
side lounges in living room.  
Hitch Wt. 545 lbs.  
Total Wt. 4800 lbs.  
(Also available with  
pull-out lounge in bedroom)



**GO AIRSTREAM 1978 AND ENJOY  
THESE SIX EXTRA BENEFITS!**



# 1. WALLY BYAM CARAVANS, CLUBS & RALLIES

As an Airstream owner, you become eligible for membership and enjoy the many privileges and advantages of belonging to the most famous group of worldwide travelers...the Wally Byam Caravans and Wally Byam Caravan Clubs. Come along with us and explore the ancient temples of Tikal hidden in the jungles of Guatemala...discover the French Riviera...wander through romantic Venice...search for adventure in the Canadian wilderness. To date, approximately 35,000 Caravanners have traveled in their Airstreams on 115 Caravans through 120 countries and 5 continents...a distance of over 9 million miles! This year, don't settle for just reading about travel adventure...be there! Join a Wally Byam Caravan...share in the fun, friendship and high adventure that lies just beyond the next curve in the road. Wherever these emissaries of good will travel, curious natives, government officials and often royalty welcome them warmly. You've heard many thrilling stories about their exciting experiences through Mexico, Central America and Europe; and how Wally Byam personally led 40 Airstreams on a never-before attempted 12,000 mile trek from Capetown, South Africa to Cairo, Egypt. The Caravanners met Pygmies, Watusis and nomads. In Ethiopia, they were hosted by Emperor Haile Selassie! You've read in national magazines about the most spectacular of all Caravans...the 1964-65 Around the World Caravan that left Singapore and covered 34,000 miles through Cambodia, Thailand, India, the Bible Countries, Scandinavia and Europe! For over a year 105 Caravanners lived a fairytale adventure.

They met strange natives and snake charmers...they were hosted by the Maharajah of Benares who met them with his prize elephants festooned in royal trappings...they were guests of honor at the Sacred Thread Ceremony and presented to His Royal Majesty, King Mahendra of Nepal! The local rallies are a perfect opportunity to "discover" new and interesting places not too far from home. They are usually short, weekend or week-long trips filled with all the excitement of early covered wagon days...blazing campfires, square dances and pot lucks. When you own an Airstream there is always some place to go, always something to do. In addition to the big International Rallies, there are numerous national rallies held each year. There are 159 Club chapters in the continental U.S., 6 in Canada and one in Mexico, offering a wide variety of fun activities every month. Last year there were over 1400 meetings and get-togethers, including ten post-rally Caravans to interesting places within the U.S. Whatever your preference, Caravan or Rally, you can be sure each will be memorable in its own way...packed with unforgettable experiences and adventurous moments. Wally Byam Caravanners and Club members are a congenial group of mature men and women...a warm and wonderful source of new friends and fellowship. Now live excitingly yourself — go with them. No other organization offers you such an extensive professional travel program. Hitch up an Airstream and take your place among this happy group of travelers who are ever ready to set out on their perennial search for adventure!



## 2. CARAVANNER INSURANCE

As an Airstream owner, you are eligible to take advantage of our cost, broad coverage insurance offered by the Caravaner Travel Trailer Plan. This remarkable plan not only provides you with broad coverage but offers outstanding claim-handling services. The reason is simple; Caravaner Insurance is offered by the manufacturer of the product and the entire national dealer network is there to help you in the event of a claim. Caravaner Insurance claim service is unequalled throughout the industry. Airstreams are the only things we insure. And we know our product. You can be sure of fast, satisfactory and friendly claims service. With Caravaner Insurance you travel with confidence. Wherever you go... U.S.A. ... Canada ... Mexico ... you'll enjoy complete protection and immediate service.

Not available to residents of New York, Alaska, Hawaii and Canada.

## 3. CERTIFIED PERFORMANCE CHECK-OUT

Certified Performance Check-Out is a plan that maximizes the reliability of every working part in your Airstream. Here's what CPC will do for you: Before leaving the factory, each and every vital part of an Airstream is tested for performance. Each test is signed and certified by the inspector. When the trailer arrives on the dealer's lot, all of these vital parts are tested and certified once more. Then, when you take delivery, a factory-trained trailer expert will personally give you a complete check-out. He shows you how everything in your trailer operates. Your dealer also provides you with a complete owner's manual. But CPC doesn't stop here. After 1,000 miles or 60 days (whichever occurs first) you can pull into any Airstream dealer for still another thorough free checkup. CPC is just one more step in our endless search for complete customer satisfaction.

## 4. HIGHER RESALE VALUE

At Airstream we never stop testing our product; we travel it, we live in it. We never stop organizing Caravans and exciting activities. We are continually looking for new ways to improve both the product and the service. No wonder Airstream is the most wanted travel trailer in the world! Since 1934 Airstreams have built an enviable reputation as good travelers; as an Airstreamer, you can expect a warm welcome wherever you go, here in America or anywhere in the world. It is this kind of prestige that keeps the value of your Airstream up and depreciation low. A good example of this is the Caravaner Insurance Company's depreciation table which allows you to depreciate your Airstream at a lower rate than other travel trailers. The fact is, no other travel trailer maintains such a high

value after purchase. When you buy an Airstream, you are making a sound investment that pays big dividends in pleasure.

## 5. CERTIFIED SERVICE CENTERS

The question most frequently asked after the purchase of a travel trailer is, "Where can I get service?" We at Airstream have long believed that after sale service is part of what you're buying when you buy a travel trailer. Therefore, in addition to our two factories, we provide you with a national network of Certified Service Centers. Airstream Certified Service Centers cover every state in the continental United States. Here you will find capable, factory-trained personnel certified to perform all guarantee work, major and minor repairs. Every Certified Service Center is qualified in all phases of Airstream maintenance and each is recognized as an official service agent by the manufacturers of Airstream components. This means complete, and competent service work on any part of your Airstream and everything in it. We are proud to say that Airstream is the first manufacturer to recognize this need and the first to establish Certified Service Centers. Reliable service is available wherever you go!

## 6. AIRSTREAM LIMITED WARRANTY

When you buy a new Airstream Travel Trailer from an authorized dealer, Airstream warrants to you that, except for *seals and batteries*, it will pay for the repair or replacement of any part of your trailer or any component equipment installed by the factory that is defective in material or workmanship. This warranty extends for a period of two (2) years from the date of original purchase.

All that we require is that you use your trailer in a normal manner and properly maintain and service all component parts requiring scheduled maintenance and that all repairs and replacements be made by an Airstream factory or Certified Dealer Service Center. Any warranty defect will be corrected without cost upon return of the trailer, or defective part, to any Airstream factory or Certified Dealer Service Center.

All warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, whether written or oral, express or implied, shall extend only for a period of two (2) years from the date of original purchase. There are no other warranties which extend beyond those described on the face hereof and expressly excludes conditions resulting from normal wear, accident, abuse, exposure or overload. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you. For additional information regarding your Airstream Warranty, refer to the material entitled "Explanation of Airstream Warranty" provided by your dealer.



**AIRSTREAM**  
pioneer of the lightweight aerodynamic trailer



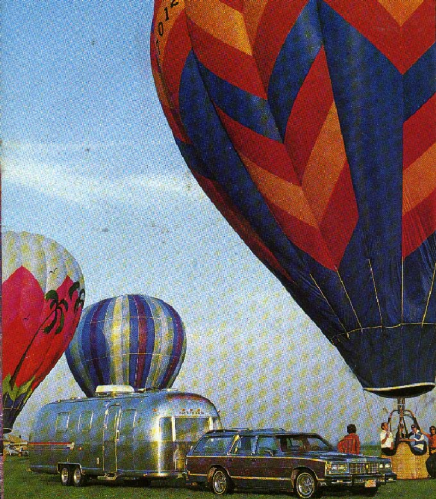
# THE AIRSTREAM DREAM

**worth waiting for in the past...worth fulfillment today.**

Somewhere just over the road lies a new world you've never seen before... a sweet birdsong you've never heard before. When will you see it, when will you hear it? Somewhere there are new friends waiting to fill your heart with joy and your days with meaning. When will you join them? When will you decide to take delivery of your Airstream and renew your interest in places, people and things? You can't put it off too long because life is such a fragile thing. It could change tomorrow morning. You can't wait until the world 'normalizes' because it never will. The country was over-taxed and overworked when we were born. The country will be over-taxed and overworked when we leave here. You alone can make the decision; you alone can recapture the very thrill of living. This is the only life you'll ever have... go Airstream now... and live it to the fullest!







**the leader in the past...still the leader today.**



**AIRSTREAM**

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