

Life Begins in a MOBILE HOME



By B. E. LOVELL

Who lives in mobile homes? People, of course. But what kind of people? The butcher, the baker or the candlestick maker?

Just for kicks, let's look around the trailer park—oh, excuse me! Mobile home park, I mean—where I live.

There is a mathematician, who works with those giant electronic computers at Hughes Aircraft, and is attending school at UCLA for his master's degree.

Then there is an ex-FBI agent, who incidentally just bought a new 50-foot Great Lakes from our good friends at Martin Trailer Sales in Lomita.

And a TV actor, who is also a contractor.

A potter—that's the man who makes those crazy pottery dishes—from back New England way, who was introduced to trailer life by his

mother-in-law, when he came out to California.

Quite a number of people and occupations, isn't it? But I'm just beginning. And—mind you—I didn't make an effort to dig these particular people and occupations up, just to make an interesting column. These people just come to mind as I sit here typing away.

In addition to the above, there are several carpenters, a model maker, a retired engineer from Wisconsin, and a nurse who is also a widow with two children.

All of these people live in trailers.

And all of them live in the same park as I do.

If I wanted to go a bit further afield, I could also add that the publisher of one of L. A.'s two major papers, not to mention the publisher of one of Laguna Beach's two papers, also live in trailers.

The list could go on and on and on—for people from every walk of life now are finding that Life Begins in a Mobile Home.

Life begins, Drudgery ends. The sun shines bright On us all right.

We can come, And we can go. Which you can't From that old rancho!

writes Whitey, the Poet, who adds that he used to be Beat, but since moving into a trailer, he's just Tired.

CALIFORNIA HEARING

An all-day public hearing concerning proposed amendments to the Trailer Park Act was recently held by the California Division of Housing at the State Building in Los Angeles. Approximately 65 industry figures attended. A similar hearing was conducted in Sacramento.

Purpose of the hearing was to hear comments and recommendations from the industry on the amendments, chiefly affecting the erection of awnings, cabanas, and other prefabricated structures in parks.

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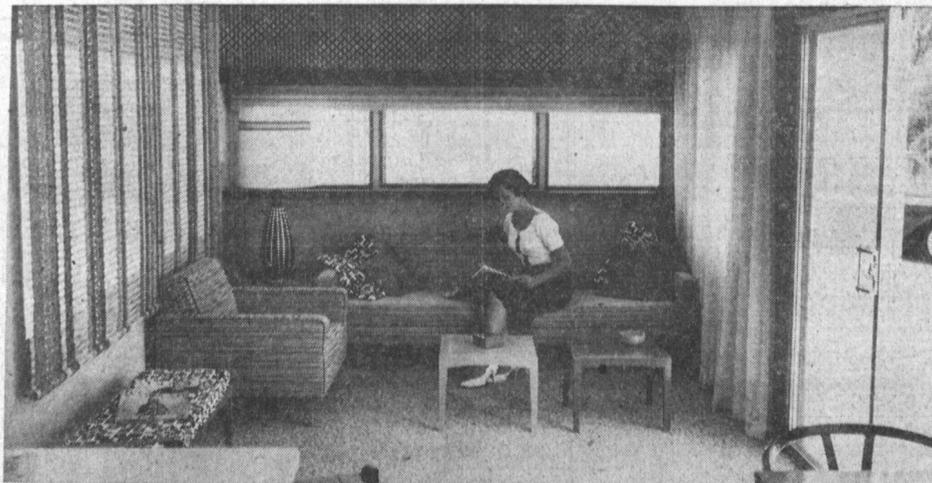
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TODAY'S TRAILERS, DELUXE, TAILORED FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

Trailer Decorating in Upswing Says TCA

The nation's top interior decorators are no longer surprised to get a telephone call with the request: "Will you decorate my trailer for me?"

In the past two years mobile home purchasers who have paid between \$4500 and \$12,009 for a home on wheels want the decorating scheme of their own choice.

Today's living rooms in trailers average 10-feet wide by 17-feet in length. Choice fabrics for draperies, rugs from India or Morocco, and custom-designed shutters are selected long before the trailer shell rolls off the assembly line.

Modern, provincial, Oriental, even French antique decors have been used in trailers

Manufacturers have difficulty today rolling out standard products, although most have a standard line which gets consumer approval. But more and more, the consumer insists on visiting the manufacturer's factory, inspecting floor plans and color schemes. Many western dealers fly the potential customer to the manufacturer so he can select exactly what he wants.

Proving very popular with the female element is the "all-electric" kitchen, in production less than a year. All large mobile homes now offer full baths, with showers and all the facilities ordinarily found in large permanent homes.

Built-in ovens and washers and dryers are becoming standard furnishings

Louvered windows from floor to ceiling can be seen in most models.

Deluxe trailers feature real fireplaces

Although the 50-foot mobile home is now the best seller, some buyers are demanding 60 and 70 foot long models with two and three bedrooms. Many of the units expand to 16 feet in width, a simple operation done in a matter of minutes.

Air conditioning and central heating is becoming a matter of course in construction

Walls which disappear can make a room extra large for a party. Wall units between the kitchen and living room often house a built-in television set which can be seen from either room.

Seventy-pound freexer compartments are also being installed in kitchens, taking less space than an ordinary kitchen chair.

In other words, a modern mobile home has all the comfort and safety of a permanent house. Last year one mobile home was sold in the nation for every eight permanent housing starts. The reasons are above.

Torrance Camper Group Heads for Calgary

After a 9 a.m. Sunday breakfast at the Masonic Lodge, at which an estimated 120 camp coach owners are expected to be on hand to bid them Godspeed, 20 members of a Torrance camper club, Vagabondia Explorers, will head north through Oregon, Washington and British Columbia to Calgary, Canada, to attend the annual Dominion Day stampede.

Immediately before leaving, however, the group will gather in wagon-train style at the Del Amo Shopping Center for pictures and a last-minute check of equipment.

Anyone wishing to see the departure of this modern day caravan should be at the Del Amo Shopping Center around 10 a. m. Sunday.

The group will have a wagonmaster, who will make major decisions for the group's welfare, and each coach will carry some major tool or piece of equipment which might be needed by the group as a whole.

Each of the departing camp coaches will be self-sustaining with complete facilities for eating and sleeping, stoves and even refrigerators, as well as an electrical system for lights.

Clarence Schnick of Alhambra will act as wagonmaster as far as Calgary. At that point half of the coaches will return to Southern California while the balance, under Wagonmaster Hy Walker, will make an extended tour across Canada to Nova Scotia and then south to Washington, D. C., before returning to California.



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G.I. Transportation Allowance

The current issue of the Air Force Times reports that members of the House Armed Services Committee received more mail in support of legislation liberalizing servicemen's mobile home allowances than they did on the Eisenhower ban against dependents traveling to overseas stations. This is the present situation. The bill which will be the basis for consideration of this subject is H.R. 2732 by Congressman Melvin Price (D., Ill.) a member of the Armed Services Committee. Because this is a new administration, the Committee felt compelled to refer the bill to the Defense Department for a report. The delay that this might cause is, of course, unfortunate. MDNA's Washington Counsel, in a letter dated February 27, 1961, to the Secretary of Defense requested that this report be expedited. The Secretary of Defense was advised that H.R. 2732 is identical to the draft supplied the House Armed Services Committee in 1960 by the Dept. of Defense and the Bureau of the Budget as representing a reasonable solution to the problem of servicemen's mobile home allowances. Both the department and the Budget Bureau conceded the inequity of existing law and regulations which limited the reimbursement for commercial hauling of mobile homes to 20c per mile when the actual cost was approximately 34c per mile. It is expected that, because of the background of this legislation, the report of the House Armed Services Committee will be expedited. MDNA is also advised that there is likelihood of a major revision of servicemen's quarters and subsistence allowances, and that the Dept. of Defense may offer such a bill soon for consideration of the Congress. If so, such a bill would be a convenient vehicle on which to attach the mobile home amendment.

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