

# Key to enjoying Outdoors: understanding

## Personal involvement makes it satisfying, exciting and serene

By **CHUCK ROBERTS**

Solitude, solace. Serenity and excitement. They're part of it, this Great Outdoors all around us. But involvement — or the lack of it — is the thief which steals from us an all important ingredient in enjoying the Great Outdoors: understanding.

The Great Outdoors has been written about. And photographed. And the pens of poets have laboriously recorded the thoughts and visions of their own experiences and those of others.

### Amazement and joy

They have toiled to exploit the grandiose sights witnessed by a handful of persons who fly high above the earth. And others who have finally, after much deliberation, found to their amazement and joy why they've been coming to the same trout stream and fishing the same stretch of water for 15 years.

### Outdoors country

We are an outdoors country. We carved from roads and buildings, schools and farmlands, National Parks and protected white water streams. And with it we've brought bumper-to-bumper fun for folks who want to look at a single flower just like the one they've been walking around at home for a long, hot summer.

It's just a flower. At home, that is. But in the Great Outdoors it can be something different. It can be 30 minutes of deliberation; minutes poignant with the thoughts of more than a simple flower which will in all probability be crushed by the firm foot of winter anyway.

### Special place

We have taken the Great Outdoors and have given back. We have constantly strived to better a great country and at the same time find a special place, however small, for ourselves. The Great Outdoors is part of that special place but it will never be included without involvement, without understanding.

Too many times we go fishing to catch a fish.

Camping to go camping. Motor touring to see yet another unseen place.

But what do we really see? What do we really understand? Too many times we go because . . . well, we're going. And too many times we go to prove something. Which may also be important in carving out that small, special place.

### What is outdoors?

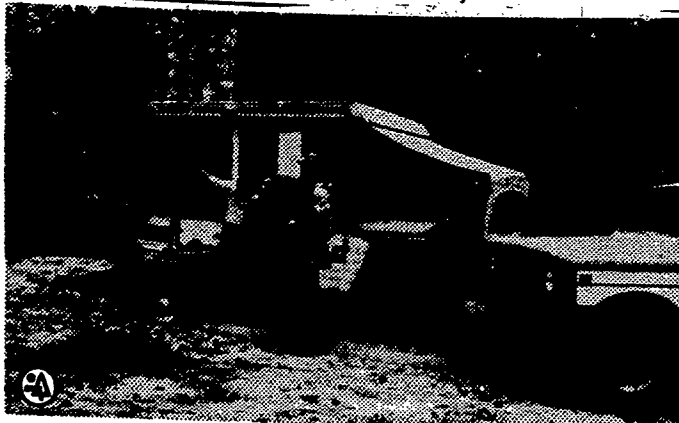
But what really is the Great Outdoors? Well . . . it's mountains and rivers, valleys and deserts. And, too, it's a small bird who watches you suspiciously and really doesn't care what your name is or what you've done or ever will do. And it's the flower we looked at earlier. A lot of things.

But what it really is for this modern-thinking, get-up-and-go country of ours is a supermarket of understanding which, when all has been said, needs only participation for it to be a part of that small, special place.

### Needs participators

But it needs participators: rough and rugged and strong of back. And families in a motorhome on forgotten roads. It needs people — young and old, weak and strong.

It doesn't care because the Great Outdoors is poised to give much to each. If we participate. If we only try to understand.



Warm, dry and eminently livable, this tent trailer by Coachmen Industries lets these hunters have a comfortable home base.

## Tent trailer provides portable hunting lodge

Whether you know it as a tent trailer, pop-up or-camping trailer, modern hunters are taking more of them into the field where these highly portable campers provide warm, dry, above-the-ground living quarters.

The camping trailer is not a new idea, but new design techniques and lightweight materials make it one of the most practical concepts in portable housing.

Generally, the unit is a single-axle trailer with box that erects into a tent that can sleep from two to eight people. The trailer becomes the floor of the shelter, keeping the campers up and off the ground.

### Floor plans

Most versions of the camping trailer have a solid aluminum roof and two large double beds that slide out to form commodious sleeping "wings" at each end of the unit. A typical floor plan includes a dinette which makes up into a double bed, and a galley that provides sink, gas range, ice box or L.P. gas refrigerator.

Other popular amenities are privacy curtains for the sleeping areas, a power converter that permits running the unit's DC appliances off a conventional AC line, a crank system so the camper can be set up and taken down at the turn of a handle, a portable toilet, and a host of other conveniences.

Of course the option that makes the camping trailer a hit with the deer hunters, bird hunters, and early spring fishermen, is a built-in gas furnace. These L.P. heaters warm up the tent quickly, and keep it that way for pennies.

### Stays dry

And while other canvas shelters always seem damp, the camping trailer stays dry since ventilating air can move below and around the entire unit.

For many outdoorsmen the primary advantage of the camping trailer is its "towability." Since the camper collapses to a height below that of the average tow vehicle, wind resistance and sway are not the problems they can be with larger trailers. What is more, the lower profile and light weight keep gas consumption to a minimum.

### Good storage

A hunter can stow a large amount of gear in his camping trailer. The better units are designed with all kinds of cupboards, nooks and crannies for belongings, plus the trailer bed itself usually provides several cubic feet of storage space even when the tent is folded down. Many models offer clever wardrobe closets that keep clothes on hangers during transit.

In most units there is access to storage areas without having to raise the tent. Hence, a hunter can pack his camping trailer once at the beginning of the season, and leave it packed and ready to go at a moment's notice.

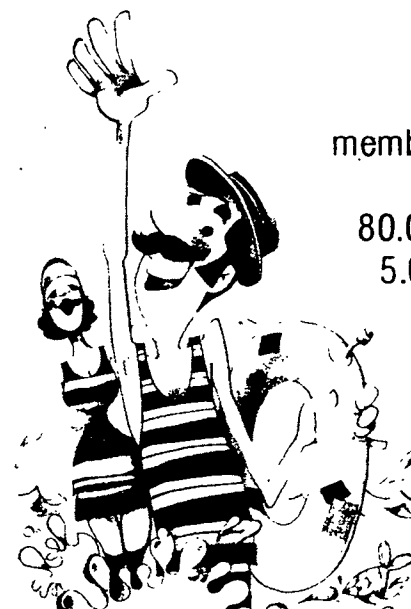
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## Indoors people find outdoors has something for everyone

You say you're an indoors person and you're perfectly willing to leave the Great Outdoors to the lions and tigers and bears. You don't fish or hunt. You're not fond of camping under the trees. You don't swim well enough to be confident in the water, and the idea of lying on a beach all day is ludicrous.

Okay, you're entitled to your own opinion — but don't think for a minute of that you're missing by your "not for me" attitude. The Great Outdoors has something for everyone. You don't have to be an elite sportsman to enjoy the offerings.

A shady walk in the woods will reveal myriads of new worlds — wildflowers to be admired and photographed, gnarled old trees to stroll down a beach

can be full of pleasure. It's a perfect chance to get in a lot of people-watching. But if you keep your eyes down, you may also see sand crabs bur-

rowing under before the next wave comes on shore, driftwood that has been washed up on shore and bleached white by the sun and wind.

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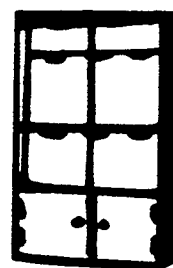
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