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ANNOTATIONS OF RV SOURCES WITH COMMENTS

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ABSTRACT

These annotations are a selection of writings that represent different viewpoints in regard to RVing. One common thread through these articles is a cultural approach to viewing the future of the travel trailer industry.

Key Words: Popular Culture RVing, Annotations, RVing Future, Macro Perspective

INTRODUCTION

In order to obtain a macro perspective, individuals who have a significant perspective of the industry and have written extensively on RVing, their publications were reviewed with comments by content experts. There has been a plethora of materials written and only a selected few were reviewed. These publications studied were only a sample to give perspective about the future of RVing and the influences.

1. Commemorating 100 Years of the RV

Jim Morrison

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/commemorating-100-years-of-the-rv-56915006/>

Summary

Nomading is a lifestyle

Romance and adventure

Recreational Vehicle Industry Association, about 8.2 million households now own RVs

One of the first RVs was Pierce-Arrow's Touring Landau, which debuted at Madison Square Garden in 1910

David Woodworth, a vintage RVer, had an extensive collection of vehicles and sold them to the RV Museum. He re-accounted that there was a campground in Denver that had 800 campsites, a nine-hole golf course, a hair salon and a movie theater in 1922

Tin Can Tourists developed Lifestyle

Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone and naturalist John Burroughs took annual camping trips from 1913 to 1924. This helped popularize RVing in those years

Freedom

Silence

Peace of mind

Away from home no worries

Crash 29 and war depressed demand

One of the first RV was Pierce-Arrow's Touring Landau

Trailer Works and Auto-Kamp Trailers also rolled off the assembly line beginning in 1910.

After war RVing became popular

Winnebago began mass-producing

Comfort/Home away from Home

Future

This article illustrated the great sophistication in the RVs and the impact of the economy in terms of affordability. The base needs for RVing are still there and it is the job of the manufactures to meet the changing desires of the new social order. The demand may be even greater through the future years because of the increased stress upon society.

2. From Stagecoach to Motorcoach, a History of RVs in the USA

Meghan O'Dea

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/history-of-recreational-vehicles>

<https://www.budgettravel.com/article/from-stagecoach-to-motorcoach-a-history-of-rvs-in-the-usa>

Summary

Museum visitors need to get a complete understanding of RVs and their influence

Stagecoach first nomadic travel

Tourist visited attraction using train cars

Wealthy begin to take car trips and modified vehicles for exotic locations/maybe prestige/comfort

The era of the affordable automobile and more moderate income individuals increased visits to national parks and more locations. Invention of vehicle that could be towed by affordable cars increased RVing.

Development of highway system added freedom and access

Depression and World War II changed the nature of the camping experiences

After the war, demand in popularity increased, became accepted through popular culture as a vehicle of personal expression

New highway system allowed for comfortable travel with highway amenities and attractions

20 years of experiences allowed RVing to be an integral family institution, especially in the US culture

Modern era is an increased demand for RVs and the incorporation of the experience into the cultural perspective of the United States. Because of the increased demand manufacturers and many outdoor companies have become directly involved and change the nature of the equipment. There is a spectrum of equipment that is available from the very cost-effective to the very luxurious.

Future

The nature of this presentation is the understanding of RVing from popular culture perspective. Historical events are interpreted in terms of the cultural phenomena. This provides an understanding based upon how RVing is perceived from influences that have a cultural impact upon society. The primary perspective is how and why RVing has become an institution in US

society. The examination of the cultural from television and movies is explored as an element that represents the acceptance of RVing as a lifestyle.

3. From Horse-Drawn Carriages to Cars to Motorhomes: RVs Throughout History

Emmalee Rice

<https://toystoragenation.com/2023/07/10/from-horse-drawn-carriages-to-cars-to-motorhomes-rvs-throughout-history/>

Summary

Travel long distances reasonable cost

Different styles in the beginning from very rustic to luxury

customization of their own vehicles in the beginning

Manufactures help standardize vehicles and made them easier to handle, store, and traveled during the early 20s

Demand grew and the result was greater sophistication and style especially during the 30s and 40s

After war, comfort and convenience were the important elements to meet the new demands

Today the primary element of design is home away from home

Adventure while being comfortable

Bonding with family and friends

Freedom, including a nomadic lifestyle is an important element

Future

Lifestyle is one of the factors that will drive demand in the future. RVing is part of the American dream that allows for a changing lifestyle. The change in lifestyle may be away from well-known destinations to places that offer individualization and authentic experiences. Smaller destinations that are well known may be a way to get away from large crowds. Change in the RV life style is very rapid and individuals who have responsibility for design of equipment and development of destinations will have a difficult time keeping up with the diversity of demands.

4. Why Are Searches For 'Trailer Park Near Me' Erupting?

Tyler Durent

<https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/why-are-searches-trailer-park-near-me-erupting>

Summary

Notes demand for affordable housing

Cost and inflation are the problem

Future

RVing lifestyle may help to meet housing needs

5. This 86-Year-Old Camper Was Built By a Car Company To Be The Most Durable Trailer Ever Constructed

Mercedes Streeter

<https://www.theautopian.com/this-86-year-old-camper-was-built-by-a-car-company-to-be-the-most-durable-trailer-ever-constructed/>

Summary

The most famous examples from the 1930s were the riveted aluminum Bowlus Road Chief, which made its first appearance in 1934, and the Airstream Clipper, which arrived in 1936. Lesser-known examples were the steel Hunt Housecar streamliner motorhome (1937), and the steel-bodied 1935 Kumfort.

Pierce-Arrow Travelodge, which began in 1936, was built to sustain the company. Its emphasis was quality.

Future

These trailers were built for quality in the past. The initial thought was developing a product that had luxury for the wealthy client. These products were a reflection of manufactures trying to meet the needs of a special population. This raises the question about quality of RVs today and the issue of design for a particular population.

6. Variety of Sources Presenting the Issue of Van Life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4sDf1BNw84>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQqeEr6bzd4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfq1RzIxqI0>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/279152876888783772/>

<https://bearfoottheory.com/solo-female-van-life-safety-tips/>

<https://www.instagram.com/thehappycampergirl/?hl=en>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@abigailmartiin/video/7230152565277674794>

<https://www.autoevolution.com/news/handcrafted-camper-van-conversion-looks-like-a-rustic-welcoming-homestead-226880.html>

Summary

Incorporated in the references was a diversity of approaches to the adaptation of RVing based upon a modification of vans. The most important aspect of this movement is the youth component and the adaptations to a nomad life style. The interesting part of most of the sources was the dedication to adventure and a carefree life.

Future

This illustrates the diversity of lifestyle and desire for solo travel. It was once thought that solo travel was not appropriate for women. There are individuals who are seeking a nomad lifestyle, especially in their youth. The populations that are seeking RVing experience have a spectrum of needs that are fulfilled through this interesting medium.

7. Variety of presentations about the history of RVing.

<https://rvshare.com/blog/rv-history/>

<https://downtownautobody.com/history-recreational-vehicle/>

Summary

A Condensed history of RVing was presented from vehicle types and eras. The primary emphasis is on the changing nature of the audience and how the RVing movement developed based upon a need for housing to recreation and a travel lifestyle.

Future

The emphasis was on architecture and the development of RVs to meet the needs of the population served. This design in today's society must reflect the popular culture images related to RVing.

Bibliography

1. Recreational Vehicles: A World History 1872–1939

Andrew Woodmansey (Pen and Sword Books, 2022)

Summary

This is a comprehensive book that explores the early history of RVing. One of the purposes is to make individuals aware of the RV pioneers. Those who have knowledge have to be used to develop a complete understanding of the early part of this movement. Research indicates that there is a record of RVing from the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Another aspect that is unique to this manuscript is the exploration of the international component of RVing. There were six countries that were investigated: the UK, France, United States, Germany, Austria, and New Zealand. This type of information allowed for the comparison among the different designs by country and the differences in the leisure cultures.

The book is filled with pictures to document the history and development of RVing. These are photographic essays they give a sense of the RV and how it has been adapted to a leisure life beyond their original purposes.

Future

This was an excellent resource because it presents an overview of the changes that has occurred with RVing/Camping through the years up to the previous world war. It emphasizes that RVing has been an important socialization tool not only to the United States, but other Western countries. Important element seems to be the leisure culture and its influence. This has been a causal element for the development of the RVing movement.

The focus is upon the leisure culture and less upon economic issues. This raises a question about the economic status of the participants and how this economic status has changed through the years. Curiosity and individualization of programs will be desired future.