

ARGOSY'S STORY

Scott and Icyl Mulligan

My first experience with an Airstream was a 1950's vintage 24' model used in mineral exploration projects in the southwest. Having appreciated the Airstream qualities, I naturally went looking for a second used Airstream, shopping at Valley Trailer Sales in Sacramento. They had several, but most were 32 feet or so in length and more upscale than desired. The dealer mentioned that he had a brand new 28 foot Argosy, described as a painted Airstream that someone had special ordered, but with the customer changing their minds buying a longer Airstream. Since the Argosy had been on their lot for months, the dealer was anxious to sell. It was the right size, and more fancy than originally wanted, but it was love at first sight, Argosy has been with us ever since..

Argosy officially was purchased on September 25, 1975, with the only dealer change being the trade of the stereo for the bunk bed so my three boys had their own beds. (Argosy has surround sound, but no stereo system for it yet) That done, it was on the road for vacations, weekends, square dances trips and work; throughout the years it has been used as living quarters in the field, most recently by Scott, while working at a mine out of Valmy, Nevada, that is until the insulated Bronze line and the water pipes froze up inside the heated coach. (Way below zero) Since then Argosy has been used to store assorted items and grandchildren's Christmas presents.

Argosy was manufactured in Santa Fe Springs California in February 1975, when Airstream/Argosy was part of the Beatrice Foods conglomerate. I have not seen an Argosy exactly like ours, since they differed within the model year and from year to year as they were used to test different amenities prior to incorporating them into future Airstreams. Argosys described as "painted Airstreams", do differ slightly from Airstreams in that they have galvanized steel crowns (less likely to be damaged by attack tree limbs). Our Argosy does not have the overhead Vista windows, some Argosys do, but again ours was special ordered. We do have a TV antenna which has never been used, and air conditioning which seems to work OK.

I still have the original 1975 Argosy owners Manual and the product literature for both the Argosy and the Airstream for 1975.

Over the past two years we have been in the progress of repairing and rehabilitating Argosy to make her road worthy and usable again. Scott has replaced nearly all the copper tubing of the water system to repair freezing damage, and has replaced the hot water heater. The curtains (original) were all sun rotted into shreds, so I made patterns for the curtains and made new curtains all around by recycling our bedroom and our dining room drapes. Scott cut panels of the mylar bubble insulation for each of the windows, so the curtains will not suffer sun rot again, and it insulates against the sun and cold. Scott has repaired the brakes and has started on the job of repainting. The paint did not adhere well on the steel crowns on the Argosy while the paint on the aluminum held up remarkably well. We hope to find someone who does aircraft type painting and the facilities to do it.. Argosy has new propane tanks and new tires, new brakes and such, but other than that it is all original. It really looks much like it did brand new, only the carpet is a little faded and it has a few small dents and such. She is still a classic lady.