

# AVION®

## TRAVEL TRAILER *Construction Story.*



*A lifetime guaranteed Avion is your  
finest travel investment. Here's why...*

## About AVION COACH CORPORATION...

In the beginning, back in 1955, Avion started from an idea of three men; Brothers Loren and Robert Cayo and their close friend Allen B. Grams were long-time trailer enthusiasts. Each had built several wood framed box-type travel trailers. Over the years they had purchased and used some commercial trailer models, too.

These men were restless perfectionists. As avid trailerists, they became dissatisfied with their units built in conventional construction. Even the commercial models fell short of their requirements in convenience, roadability and overall quality.

Was it possible to construct a travel trailer superior in every way to any on the market? They decided that it was . . . and their talents were well suited to meet the challenge.

At the time, Grams, a former Air Corps pilot, was a successful building contractor. He was thoroughly familiar with modern construction methods and fine workmanship . . . as well as with the principles of aircraft design. The Cayos operated metal fabricating businesses.

Pooling their technical know-how with their trailering experience, they took their ideas of a "dream" trailer to the drawing boards. They applied fresh, new thinking to the project, abandoning the conventional methods and materials used in trailer construction. The result was a design that satisfied their personal demands in comfort, towing ease and—above all—quality. After six months of work in their

shops and on the road, of experimentation and refinement, of testing and retesting, the first Avion was born.

Friends were so impressed with the new product that many wanted one of their own. Thus, a company was started.

Since that humble beginning, Avion has two factories—Benton Harbor, Michigan and San Jacinto, California. These plants employ hundreds of skilled craftsmen and engineers.

Today, with thousands of Avions on the road, the company has added a separate Service Center in Benton Harbor. With this solid background of success and experience, Avion stands ready to back up claims made about the superiority of its travel trailers.

Even now, the company engages in never-ending research to improve its products. Test units are on the highways constantly. Countless owners and Avion-sponsored Travelcades across the country have clocked millions of road miles in Avions. All have contributed to the betterment of Avion trailers. The company even has a special test laboratory for research and development of new ideas in materials and techniques.

This booklet gives you a picture tour of the step-by-step production of an Avion. It shows you why Avion is one of the few travel trailers in the world for which there is no completely acceptable substitute.

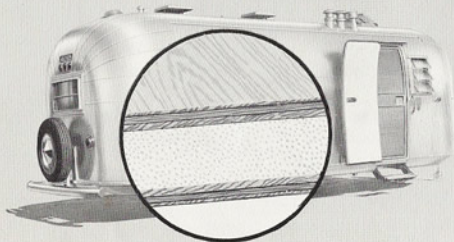
# *Inside Avion*

*The story of Avion quality construction*



## **1. Strength from the bottom up**

Among the hallmarks of Avion quality are excellent roadability, rigidity and maximum carrying capacity. To insure smooth towing and going, construction starts with a heavy-duty all steel chassis and axles. It is the only steel used in the lightweight Avion. Three box structural tubes, reinforced by C-channels bisecting the frame, are spaced to provide a solid foundation. Axles and springs, attached later, are designed to maintain a smooth flexing ride and support the weight load. A rugged 4" rear bumper, curved to fit Avion's contour, is welded to the structural tubes. It serves as a convenient storage for the sewer hose and as a warning to tailgaters.



## 2. Styrafoam sandwich panel floor insulates better

This Avion-developed floor provides  $2\frac{1}{4}$  times better insulation. It is of sandwich panel construction consisting of inch thick Styrafoam, sandwiched between sheets of plywood. Styrafoam is recognized as a superior insulating material. When laminated to plywood, it has unusual strength. This unique floor weighs less than standard  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch plywood trailer floors, reduces heat loss and provides better sound-proofing underfoot.

The floor is impact bolted to all cross members and channels. The edges are coated with a heavy-duty moisture sealer to protect against wood swelling.

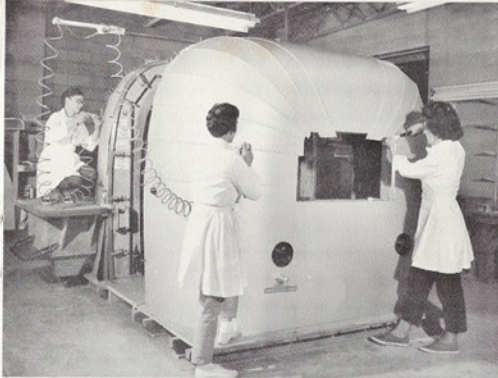


## 3. Quality tile for beauty and minimum upkeep

Careful attention to details are part and parcel of Avion construction. After the floor is down, seams and indentations are covered with wood filler and sanded smooth. Then a top-grade vinyl floor tile is carefully laid. This beautiful, work-free floor is extremely durable and requires little maintenance. For the lady traveler, these advantages provide more leisure time for seeing and doing.

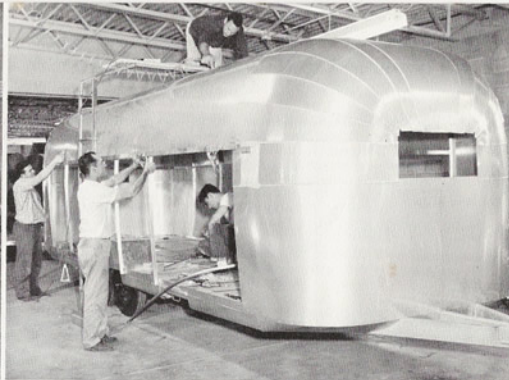
Before continuing construction, heavy kraft paper covers the floor to protect the finish.

The underside is completely covered with anodized aluminum sheets. It insures a smooth flow of air *under* as well as over your Avion for wind-resistant towing.



#### 4. Modern design . . . superior engineering

For your safety and protection, Avion's front and rear hulls are stronger. Hard-tempered anodized aluminum is formed on a jig. Each segment is beaded for rib-like strength and riveted. Few trailer manufacturers use this construction technique because it is expensive. They employ the stretch-formed process, requiring a softer aluminum that will stretch. In this process, aluminum behaves like a balloon stretched between your fingers. At the point of strain, it is thin and weak. On the other hand, the superior structural strength gained by Avion's method far outweighs the cheaper, shortcut process. As a result, Avion gives you more value for your investment at relatively the same purchase price.



#### 5. Jet-age construction

Extensive use of riveted anodized aluminum throughout your Avion makes it lightweight for easy towing, weather-resistant, maintenance-free and fire-proof. End hulls are attached to the chassis and cross-cabled for alignment. Aluminum ribs are secured to support the roof sheets. More aluminum roof sheets are fitted smoothly over the ribs and riveted in perfect alignment for strength and beauty. Next, window frames are positioned and all outside seams are sealed with a silver plastic coat to prevent leaks. Later, for maximum strength and rigidity, exterior aluminum end hulls are supported with molded Fiberglas interior end hulls.



## 6. Every inch insulated and protected

Before being insulated, your Avion is wired according to the strict Travel Trailer Code of Standards set by the Mobile Homes Manufacturers Association in conjunction with the approval of recognized testing authorities. The inside of the outer skin is sprayed with a rubber coat covering all seams and rivets to prevent water penetration. The spray also acts as a mastic for applying blankets of 1 1/4" plastic-treated Fiberglas insulation. Next, an inner skin of aluminum is riveted to the rib framework leaving ample air space between the insulation and inner skin. This air space prevents any inside condensation.



## 7. Interior walls are decorated for beauty and easy maintenance

After washing down the inside aluminum skin with an acid solution to remove any oily film, an expert painter sprays a chromate etch coat on the aluminum. This forms a bond for the second coat and the final third coat fleck finish. This can be washed the same as any interior finish and the lady of the house can keep it clean with a minimum of effort. To provide another home-like feature, Avion sound-deadens the roof. A special roof coating is applied to the exterior roof. This minimizes rain noise and insulates.



## 8. Quality cabinetry starts here

The only wood used in an Avion Travel Trailer is the sandwich panel floor, birch cabinets and wardrobes. This cabinet shop is a source of great pride at Avion. For nothing obviously speaks so impressively of Avion quality as does the interior woodwork. Here, skilled craftsmen in this precision-equipped woodworking shop create cabinetry that's a pleasure to use and a joy to view—wherever you travel.

While cabinets are being constructed, wiring of outlets and lights is completed in accordance with the M.H.M.A. Travel Trailer Code.

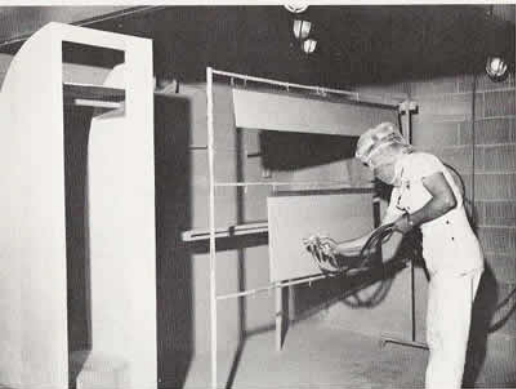
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## 9. Precision installation — another Avion hallmark

Carpenters fit the pre-built cabinets. Each is mortised, tenoned and glued. Even side panels are mortised into the frame. After thorough sanding, the cabinets are fastened to the walls. Several fittings and planing of parts insure a perfect contour match. Close tolerance eliminates vibration points that might loosen cabinets while traveling. Doors are then attached with piano hinges. Cabinet doors are hinged at the top to swing up. Strong magnetic catches on the ceiling hold them out of the way to allow use of both hands for storing or arranging. (Prevents head bumping on protruding door, too.)

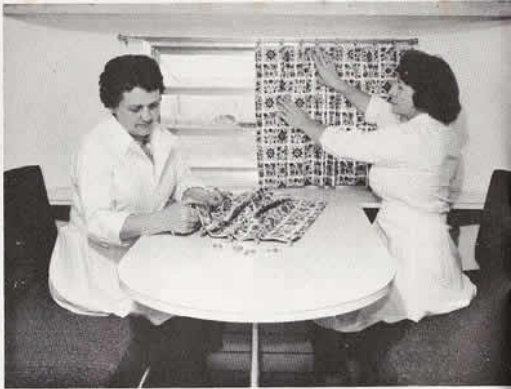




## 10. The finish of fine furniture

Modern spray application of the newest synthetic finishes provides long-wearing, glass-smooth surfaces to Avion's woodwork. Actually, this technique produces a finish comparable to that of fine furniture.

Avion's quality is also reflected in appliances. Each provides home-like convenience for the owner. Here again, for the safety of the owner, strict adherence to code approved installation, venting and draining is maintained.



## 11. Interior appointments get the decorator touch

Avion is ever mindful of decorator details, too. Tastefully selected draperies are hung. (Removable clips make them easy to take down and clean). Permanent beds are equipped with box springs and foam mattresses. Dinette seats or sofa foam cushions are zipper covered with color-matched Nylon fabric. A complete vacuum sweeping makes your Avion immediately liveable. Each inside appointment is designed to give the lady traveler a relaxing and convenient home away from home.





We're happy to have you join us on this picture tour of Avion construction. Again, we invite you to compare the construction details given here with those of similar-styled trailers.

Should you be in Benton Harbor, Michigan or San Jacinto, California where our plants are located, please visit us. We'll welcome the opportunity to give you a personal tour of our facilities.

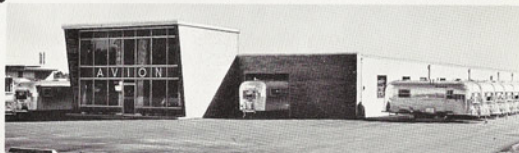
Meanwhile, your Avion dealer is prepared to answer further questions and give you a feature-by-feature trip through the Avions he has on display.

## **AVION** COACH CORPORATION

1300 E. EMPIRE AVENUE, BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN 49022

### 12. Thorough testing makes your Avion road-ready

Before delivery to your dealer, each Avion undergoes a series of grueling checkups. For example: A jolting 1200 volts are flashed through the 110 volt electrical system; water is shot through the plumbing system with pile-driving force; all appliances are checked; exterior anodized aluminum skin is washed. In all, over 25 nothing-left-to-chance details are performed. The result is an out-of-the-ordinary trailer, road-ready and rarin' to give a lifetime of travel pleasure.



39661 ESPLANADE AVENUE, SAN JACINTO, CALIFORNIA 92383

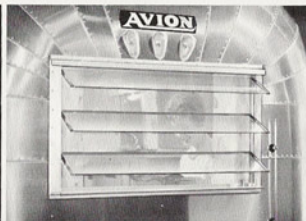


## Special features you'll like about your Avion...

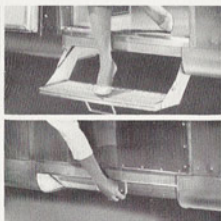
**ANODIZED ALUMINUM**—Exterior aluminum has an electro-chemical finish for greater strength, more permanent beauty and less maintenance. Non-glare surface is satin smooth, scratch resistant.



**NEW BATH FEATURES** — Extra cabinet gives more storage. Medicine chest mirror is adjustable. New oval sink bowl is smaller, helps conserve water when self-contained.



**AWNING-TYPE WINDOWS** —Larger than ever. They allow greater visibility looking out, more daylight inside. For safety, extend only  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " when fully open. Accommodate safety glass and storm windows (optional). One crank operates all louvers.



**DISAPPEARING STEP**—Pull it down for easy entry and exit. Push it up and it's out of the way—recessed above the under carriage for obstruction-free road clearance.



**NEW COMBINATION DOOR AND SCREEN** — Full-size hinged screen door swings open. Keeps insects outside. Latches easily to main door when desired. Provides more interior living space.



**MORE INTERIOR CONVENIENCE** — Roomier two-door cabinet over refrigerator adds still more stow-away space; permits better refrigerator ventilation. Swing-out TV shelf is optional.



**COMBINATION BUMPER AND SEWER HOSE CARRIER** — Heavy-duty tubular steel bumper stores flexible sewer hose, too. Continental tire mount (optional) saves tire storage space.

# Join the Club... be a Travelcader



*Symbol of Good Fellowship*

As an Avion owner, you can enjoy the privilege of Travelcades—thoroughly planned group tours that assure you of new friends, new fun and safe traveling.

Avion Travelcade Club Units are formed by state and regional groups. Officers and committees, elected by Avion owners, make arrangements for rallies. Nationally, the Avion Coach Corporation sponsors non-profit trailer tours to Mexico, Western or Eastern Canada and other interesting places. These are under the direction of Avion's Travelcade Director and Secretary. Tours are scouted and pre-arranged.

Avion owners also receive copies of *Travelcade News*, our monthly publication. In it you find information of past as well as pending Travelcades, news of other Travelcaders, experiences of many Avion owners, etc.

*For further details on Travelcades, ask your dealer or write*  
AVION TRAVELCADE CLUB  
Atten: Mabel Stadler,  
Secretary  
1300 E. Empire Avenue  
Benton Harbor, Michigan



# AVION<sup>®</sup>

LIFETIME GUARANTEED

Benton Harbor, Michigan    San Jacinto, California

