

## 20% OFF SALE

March 3-March 13

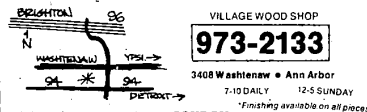
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COUPON

## Shrinking beds a cost-cutting device

By LEM MESEE

American Camping Association, Martinsville, Ind. 46151

Take along your trusty tape measure if you're looking at campers and recreational vehicles at the Outdorama this weekend and next week. The Michigan United Conservation Club show will be on at the W. Eight Mile. The reason is that the competitive camper manufacturing business is sometimes cutting corners in an effort to sell what appears to be a lot of sleeping space in a compact vehicle.

Measure the bed width. The better manufacturers make a double bed 52 inches wide. Their cheaper models, however, and the lower quality manufacturers have 46-inch beds. I was disturbed at a recent show to see 42- and 44-inch beds described as "double." That may be all right for the little kiddies, but no way can an adult couple be anything but cramped.

I looked at one pretty truck camper rig priced at nearly \$10,000 until I found that the bed length—the length minus you—was under five feet.

The name of the game appears to be to take a camper that used to be called a "four sleeper" and squeeze a multiplicity of narrow beds into it, thus labelling it a "seven sleeper" or "eight sleeper."

I won't suggest this is morally or ethically wrong. I only suggest you take along your tape measure, get a pamphlet and study the specifications carefully—more carefully than in years past.

THE AMERICAN Camping Association will hold a regional convention March 9-12 in the Hyatt Regency Dearborn. ACA is an organization for persons involved in private, agency and church organization camping.

Among speakers will be B. Eliot Waggoner, noted for his "Foxfire" publications; State Supreme Court Justice G. Mennen Williams; and Dr. Ralph Rabinovitch, child psychiatrist. Besides speeches and workshops, there will be an "idea mart" on crafts and pioneer arts.

You can register by writing to

How to get the best deal on a loan is the subject of a new brochure published this week by the Financial Institutions Bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce.

The pamphlet, "How to Shop for Credit," answers many of the questions frequently asked the bureau, including kinds of loans, interest, loan contracts, rebates, and loan insurance.

It explains the difference between "simple interest" loans and "add-on" loans, and lists legal maximums and typical interest rates for various types of credit.

Richard J. Frances, Commissioner of the Financial Institutions Bureau, said: "Borrowing money involves a number of decisions. People need to know what questions to ask and what they can expect from a financial institution when they apply for credit. We're issuing this new pamphlet to give people more information to consider before they sign a loan contract."

Copies of the brochure are available from the Consumer Affairs Division, Financial Institutions Bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce, 1st Floor, Law Building, Lansing, Mich. 48913; telephone (517) 473-4494 or (517) 473-4894.

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## Pamphlet explains credit, loans

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EMS Demonstration 7-12 Boat Show 14-20 Creative Council "Springtime Women" 31-Apr. 2

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