



Patriotic, in a big way

Once upon a time, there was a (relatively) small gray elephant standing chained in front of Tamaroff Buick-Opel on Telegraph south of Twelve Mile. Then, the statue of the symbol of the Opel was painted pink. But this apparently proved too much for motorists on Telegraph, even though the pink elephant look nice when topped with a layer of white snow, said Tamaroff sales manager Bill Tyson of Bloomfield Township. So owner Marvin Tamaroff and Tyson had the elephant painted in the traditional red, white and blue. Now, the elephant and 2,000 smaller stuffed brothers keep watch on the south-bound motorists. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

Read before you rent

Renting a car while on business or vacation is no longer the luxury of only a few executives or salespeople on expense accounts. Increasingly, others are discovering an easy and surprisingly inexpensive way to leave their worries—and their cars—at home.

There are small cars, large cars, and recreational vehicles of all styles geared to the varying needs of rental customers. Advertisements, therefore, may provide general information, but the customer must carefully read the specifics of the contract that is signed prior to renting a vehicle. The inexperienced customer may pay more than was budgeted, unless he takes the time to understand fully this contract.

SOME RENTAL companies are major coast-to-coast, even multi-national firms. Others are independent companies, some of which may be set up as part of another business such as an auto dealership or a service station.

Major companies often have "drop-off" privileges wherever they are located, usually at an extra charge. Some of the smaller companies may allow the car to be driven only in a certain area—city, state or region—and require it to be returned to its original location.

The customer must know what is needed for a particular kind of trip. They hesitate to ask questions in order to rent the right car for their needs. Rental rates are affected by such things as the type and size of the car, how long the car will be used, mileage driven, insurance, coverage, where

the car must be returned, and the time of week or, possibly, season of the year.

INSURANCE COVERAGE is generally included by most rental car companies, and provided at no extra charge. It ordinarily includes the standard liability, comprehensive and collision provisions normally available from an insurance company.

It covers the person who signs the contract as driver, but may not cover legally licensed family members of the renter. Companies will rent only to individuals with a valid driver's license, and most require additional identification. You should verify the company policy regarding minimum age requirements.

The most common deductible on collision insurance is \$100. For a small charge, you may buy insurance without a deductible. If you do not buy this "extra" insurance, the Better Business Bureau advises giving the car a thorough inspection before leaving the lot.

MAKE SURE any dent or scratch is noted on the contract. To be protected with a list of alleged "damages" upon returning the car may mar an otherwise pleasant trip.

Be sure, too, to look for clauses in the contract that avoid coverage if the car is left unlocked, or returned late, or subjected to other "unusual circumstances."

Several of the larger rental companies have their own credit cards, or they provide special plans for regular customers.

876 Oldsmobile

FORWARD 1975 Buick Wildcat, 4 door, 2.8 liter, 110,000 miles, \$12,900. Call 352-1000.

1973 DETA 88 Automatic, power steering, power brakes, radio, air, vinyl top, shop & race. WAS \$2,995. REDUCED TO \$2,795.

JACK DEMMER

FORD

37300 Michigan Ave.

(Law & Howard)

PA 1-2600

88 ROYAL 1971 1 door, 2.8 liter, 110,000 miles, \$12,900. Call 352-1000.

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876 Plymouth

PLYMOUTH 1975 Fury 1.4 door, 2.8 liter, 110,000 miles, \$12,900. Call 352-1000.

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880 Pontiac

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882 Thunderbird

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884 Volkswagen

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884 Volkswagen

VW SALE

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