



WITHERED AND WEATHERED is this former trolley car depot, on Ann Arbor Trail, west of Newburgh. Tall weeds and wild flowers obscure the building which lies in wait for the days when speedy mass transport may again come to Observerland. (Evert photo)

From Wagon Wheels To Whitewalls

What does the suburban housewife with four kids and a dog in a station wagon have in common with the pioneer mother who got jounced along in her family's covered wagon down a muddy dirty road?

Not much, perhaps, but the simple and impatient desire to get from one place to another in as short a time as possible.

Americans, being a restless people, have always been on the move. In the past we trekked across unsettled territories in search of a better life, and today we are retracing the pioneers' wagon wheels in camper vehicles and station wagons in a quest for recreation, novelty and a way to fill up our two week summer vacations.

THE FIRST AMERICANS, the Indians, traveled on foot in search of fertile hunting ground. Their trails were simple dirty paths, but so well situated that many of our modern roads directly follow their directions.

Michigan Avenue, Grand River and Ann Arbor Trail were once all well traveled Indian paths in the middle of dense woodland.

Then came the pioneers in covered wagons which lumbered precariously over these narrow trails. The trip from Detroit to the Livonia area could take as long as three days back in the 1830s; wagons often fell into ruts or got stuck in the mud. Many pioneers used oxen rather than horses to pull their huge loads; they needed all the muscle they could muster!

"CORDUROY" ROADS, which were covered with long wooden planks, represented something of an improvement. Plymouth and Grand River were two such local

roads and were operated as toll roads with stations placed at appropriate intervals.

They made for loud and bumpy traveling, but they did speed things up somewhat. Soon stage coaches were heard rumbling over the wooden planks carrying new settlers to virgin territory in the wilds of Michigan.

It was recorded that two four-horse coaches went daily along the old Farmington route and were able to accommodate 24 passengers. It was not unusual to see nine or so extra passengers riding on top of the coach. Everyone was on the move!

The coming of the streetcar in 1898 was a boon and a blessing to local residents who were often snow and mud bound. A network of stations was set up through the present Observer area.

The advent of Henry Ford's cheap and convenient Model T changed our transportation methods drastically. Soon the entire nation was set on wheels and things haven't been the same since.

In 1925 the Detroit Union Railway took its last gasping breath and died. It simply wasn't used much anymore — passengers had abandoned it for the car, and trucks were now carrying much of the freight that had once been the sole property of the old trolley cars.

NOBODY SEEMED to mind much. The automobile seemed the perfect answer to everyone's problems.

But today, we have begun to scratch our heads and wonder if there mightn't be alternative forms of transportation to meet the smog ridden and rush hour mad entanglements of 1973.



Buy a Pool NOW and SAVE!

The Best Pool Deal of the year is on right NOW!

ONE OF AMERICA'S LARGEST ABOVE-GROUND POOL MANUFACTURERS



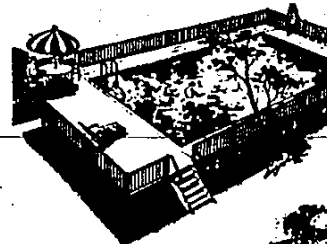
SEE THE FABULOUS **MARK III** ON DISPLAY... FULL SIZE WATER-FILLED... IN OUR HEATED INDOOR SHOWROOM

23660 GRAND RIVER ... 3 BLOCKS EAST OF TELEGRAPH.

OPEN MON. THRU FRI. 10-9 p.m., SAT. 9-8 p.m., SUN. 12-6 p.m.

LIMITED INTRODUCTORY OFFER

SAVE! \$500 to \$1,000



DEAL DIRECT WITH THE MANUFACTURER
Limited Offer OUR FAMOUS 1973 POOLS AT LOW-1972 WINTER PRICES!

BLUE DOLPHIN
ALL ALUMINUM POOLS
Rectangular, Octagon and Oval



SEE THE WORLD OF

Fanta-Sea



AND COMPARE!

FOR FREE HOME SURVEY CALL COLLECT ANY HOUR — ANY DAY
255-4510
In Windsor Call 735-3811

FOR FREE BROCHURE WRITE:
FANTA-SEA SWIM CENTER
23660 GRAND RIVER
Detroit, Michigan 48219

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Phone _____ Zip _____