Family Vacations

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that does not require sharp pencils or objects they can jab themselves with in transit.

Some children love counting games or rhyming ones —your local library and bookstore can show you what is available in the age groups of your children.

If you list your luggage and equipment in the order of first things to be used, you will find it easier to pack the initial case last in the storage space of the car. Before you start on a journey, check to see that you do not have loose objects on the back floor or any items to obscure the rear view window from the driver.

You will find your own methods of handling the baggage and the children as you get into the big trip. However, a check list you make out for each child and for the adults will help you to get everything in place by the time you lock the house and start on your journey.

Check your first aid kit and make sure it has fresh supplies and bottles and tubes that can be opened easily and closed tightly. Then put it out of the reach of the youngsters. Some wagons, like the Aspen, offer lockable storage compartments that are perfect for storing this type of item.

Invest in a cooler and a thermos bottle for beverages, but keep fresh milk and fruit juice rather than sweet sodas. Fill your picnic baskets with carrot sticks and celery and other nourishing food rather than junk bits that will only make children queasy. Candy should be reserved for after lunch or dinner as a "reward" for good behavior.

Mark on your map where you expect to use a laundromat and plan to reach that destination in the day time — soiled clothes can spoil many a trip. Also take along some plastic bags for refuse as well as for garments to launder - teach your children early to avoid littering. Plastic bags should also be stored securely out of the reach of small children.

Make plans for sightseeing, for trips to places of special interest to black Americans; to museums, amusement parks, zoos and animal farms, picnic grounds at national points of interest and state fairs. However, leave some time for flexibility. You might reach a town with a circus in progress and scrap your plans to join the fun there.

There's bound to be conflicting interests in the family group, especially with a disparity of ages. However, get the family in the habit of compromising these situations and that will carry over far beyond the vacation trip.

My own children have grown beyond the auto vacation stage, but the family still enjoys the scrap books and albums we have made of our own trips. There's the day we, like Balboa, discovered the Pacific Ocean and could not wait to go wading in its beautiful waters, to gather up shells and pebbles on the shore.

There's my son leading me up the gangplank of an old sailing ship as though he owned it. And, my daughter can be seen happily playing with a group of children she met in a picnic area, all of them oblivious to the fantastic scenery in the background.

And, all through those home-made, family books, are nooks and crannies of the country that we found — we really did discover America by car.

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Ceola Lee always takes the beautiful way around town... in her Chrysler Cordoba.

Meet Ceola Lee. She's a general manager of a family-owned mortuary business in Los Angeles. For her last birthday, she bought herself a brand new 1977 Chrysler Cordoba.

A few sets of tennis help keep Ceola looking young and attractive. You could also say the same thing for her Cordoba; friends say it's just her style!

A dark red delight is the interior of this '77 Cordoba. Velour seats with matching shag carpeting and dark red instrument panel treatment.

Ceola has a lot of company when she drives her Cordoba; like her nieces. And as a volunteer for her local NAACP and a driver for a Sickle Cell Anemia group, she's had a full carload of children going along for the ride.

She chose a Cordoba after a full day of testing other new cars, including a Buick Riviera and a Cadillac Seville. She thinks the ride and performance of her Cordoba are great. And would she buy another one? "Definitely!" Ceola Lee is delighted with her new Chrysler Cordoba.

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