TIDES High: 1:15 a.m. Low: 7:09 p.m. GLOUCESTER DAILY TIMES Mostly sunny, 70s Details, page A10

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Gloucester, Mass., Friday, August 2, 1985

So long, VWs

By SEAN MURPHY Times staff

Only the empty shells of 70 Volkswagen Beetles remain scattered about the automobile graveyard that stretches out behind the Linsky's Auto Parts building on Sargent Street.

Gone are the engines and transmissions, the doors, hoods and trunk covers, the tires, windshields and seats - leaving only these carcasses lying about under the hot noonday sun.

A ravaging pack of Californians cannibalized these VWs, covering themselves in dirt and grease to strip away every salvagable part for shipment to San Diego.

"There's a profit to be made." said James Lucca, who's directing a crew of four packing 43,000 pounds of VW parts into an 18wheel tractor-trailer.

Lucca grew up in Woburn and went to California 10 years ago to make his fortune. A mechanic by hobby and then by trade, Lucca opened the VW Oasis in San Diego



Members of the Volkswagen scavenger crew are, from left to right, James Lucca, Javieir Pino, Mac Innis, Steven Lux and Marc Johnson.

to take advantage of Californians' fondness for the classic VW bug, which hasn't been manufactured since 1979.

"You see a VW bug in every fifth or sixth driveway," said Lucca. "They're popular on the West Coast because they're so easy to get through traffic in and because they're cheap to own.

to come by," said Lucca.

On the East Coast, VWs never gained as much popularity, Lucca said, because the bodies rusted out so quickly from road salt. Besides, the heating systems weren't so swift in the dead of winter, he said.

"Out here people are practically giving away VWs," said Lucca, who figured three weeks on the East Coast could make a year on "Trouble is, parts are real hard the West Coast a lot more profitable.

Lucca said he stripped about 30 VWs at Woburn Auto Body. Then, "I heard about this place in Gloucester, where there's hundreds of VWs."

Lucca called Peter Linsky and learned about 100 VWs were crushed a couple of months ago.

"It made me cringe to think of all those good parts being crushed

VW page A11

Inside

Eight members of the House Ways and Means Committee. accompanied by staff and reporters, toured the 172-year-old Salem Jail yesterday on a "factfinding tour" expected to lead to a bill calling for state takeover of county correctional facilities; page A11.

Police in three states arrested 36 people vesterday and seek 14 more while cracking what they believe is a multimillion dollar cocaine ring.

More than 100 police officers from Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Jersey seized a pound and a half of cocaine. worth \$500,000, as well as weapons and cash; page D4.

Congress approved a budget for next fiscal year that takes a

small bite out of the federal deficit, but nearly everyone from President Reagan on down - is saying more must be done: page D1.

As many as 60 million American adults are functionally illiterate and cannot even read the front page of the newspaper, a recent study shows.

The startling claim, made in a

study to Congress Thursday. stands in sharp contrast to a U.S. Census Bureau finding that more than 99 percent of Americans are literate; page D1.

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VW parts headed to Calif.

Continued from page 1

for scrap metal," said Lucca.

But Linsky invited Lucca's crew

And he and Lucca worked out a mutually beneficial arrangement.

"He (Lucca) told me he can get

\$350 for a drive train (motor and transmission) out there," said Linsky. "If I ever asked for that here, they'd laugh at me."

To help sweeten the deal for Linsky, Lucca traded some Olds-

mobile Cutlass bumpers he hap

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"Those bumpers are really variable out here," said Linsky.
"Hey, it could be the beginning of the great business relationship."