

# Coleman Camping Trailers

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE



# UNIT PARTS CHECK LIST MODELS 280/281/282/290

Included below is a unit parts check list covering the model trailer that you purchased:

QTY.	DESCRIPTION	290	280	281	282
2	Mattress 72" x 51" x 3"	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Flat Cushions 40" x 20¼" x 3"	✓	✓	✓	--
2	Flat Cushions 40" x 16-5/8" x 3"	✓	✓	✓	
1	Flat Cushion 72" x 26-3/4" x 3"	✓	--	--	--
1	Folding Cushion 72" x 15¼" x 3"	✓	--	--	--
1	Dinette Table	✓	✓	✓	--
2	Bench Seat Backs	✓	✓	✓	--
3	Canvas Sections	✓	✓	✓	✓
1	Coleman Cooler #5257-709	✓	✓	--	--
1	Gas Bottle Assy. 1-20 lb. LP Gas Bottle 1 LP Regulator 2 Hold-Down Bolts 1 Flexible Gas Hose	✓	✓	--	--
2	Hub Caps	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	3-Gal. Plastic Water Bottles	✓	✓	--	--
1	Tongue Jack w/Wheel & Crank	✓	✓	✓	O
1	Pigtail	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Keys	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Kitchen Unit	✓	✓	--	--
	Crank & Stabilizer Jack Handle	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Safety Chains and S Hooks	✓	✓	✓	✓
1	Instruction Manual and Warranty	✓	✓	✓	✓
	O Optional ✓ Included -- Not-included				

# SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE

To get the most enjoyment from your new Coleman Camping Trailer, it is important that you take the time to carefully go over your equipment, learn to know and understand its use, find out how each part functions, and learn how to care properly for the unit.

Included with these instructions should be the following:

1. Manufacturer's statement of origin.
2. Tire warranty.
3. Unit parts list.
4. Trailer warranty card.

If any of these are missing, please contact your Coleman Camping Trailer dealer.

## Warranty Card:

Please read the entire warranty and the section immediately below the warranty. The warranty registration card, should be filled out with your name and return address on the reverse side. It is important that this card be mailed to The Coleman Company, Inc., 250 North St. Francis Street, Wichita, Kansas, 67201, as promptly as possible after the date of purchase.

The next two sections cover set-up and take-down instructions followed by a section for familiarizing yourself with the parts, accessories and maintenance of your trailer. While reading the next three sections, it is suggested that you check the equipment in your trailer against your unit parts check list on page 2 to make sure that your trailer contains the appropriate equipment.

## I SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to going camping, you should familiarize yourself completely with the operation and construction of your new Coleman Camping Trailer. We suggest that you set up the trailer slowly the first several times in order that you do not damage the equipment in any way. These instructions cover the Models 290, 280, 281 and 282 which operate essentially the same way except where noted.

1. Select a level campsite, preferably not soft or sandy ground.
2. Back the trailer into the position of use as it may be easier to move by car than by hand.
3. Disconnect the pigtail, unfasten the trailer hitch and remove the safety chains.
4. Rotate the tongue jack into position by releasing the pin catch on the tongue and rotating the jack 90° clockwise. Make sure the pin locks the jack in the down position.
5. Raise the tongue off the ball-hitch using the tongue jack.
6. Open the access door by inserting the key in the lock and turning the key counterclockwise 90°. The pushbutton and handle will pop out. Rotate the handle counterclockwise 90° to open the door.  
**NOTE:** Keys will stay in the lock while its unlocked — this will keep them from becoming lost.
7. Pull on the handle and the access door will swing down into place as a step.
8. Remove the stabilizer crank handle tool from the kitchen unit drawer (#290) or the cabinet drawer (#280, 281).
9. Set the leveling stabilizers.
  - a. First, level the trailer with the tongue jack. (Tongue jack optional on Model 282.)
  - b. Locked under each of the four corners of the trailer is a leveling stabilizer. Reach under the corner and firmly grasp the stabilizer, push it away from you about ½" and then

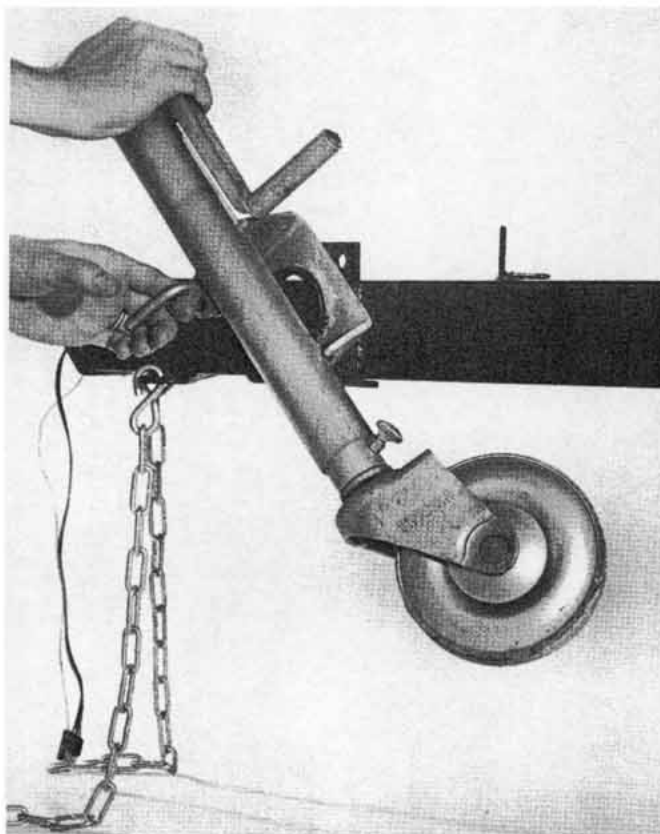


Figure 1

pull downward toward yourself until it locks in position. Should the stabilizer become stuck, gentle tapping should free it.

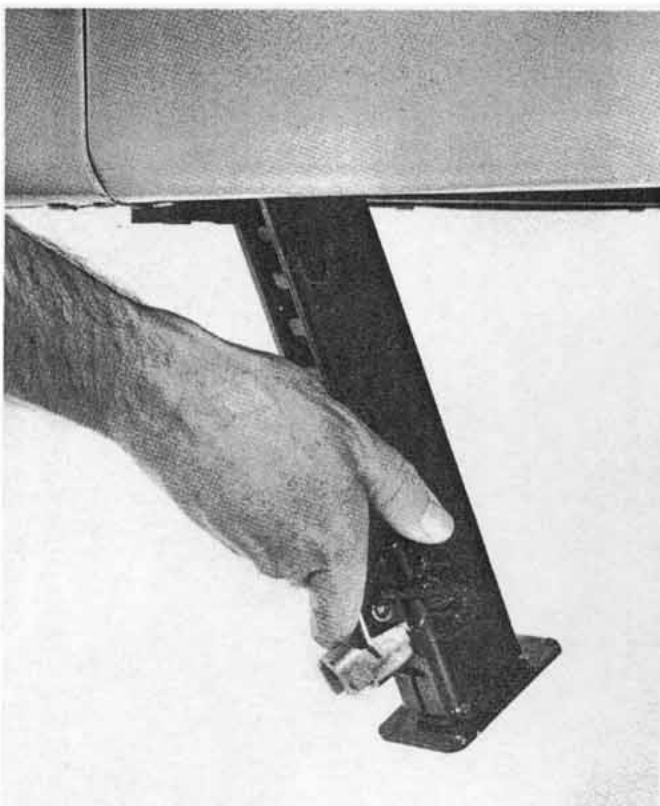


Figure 2

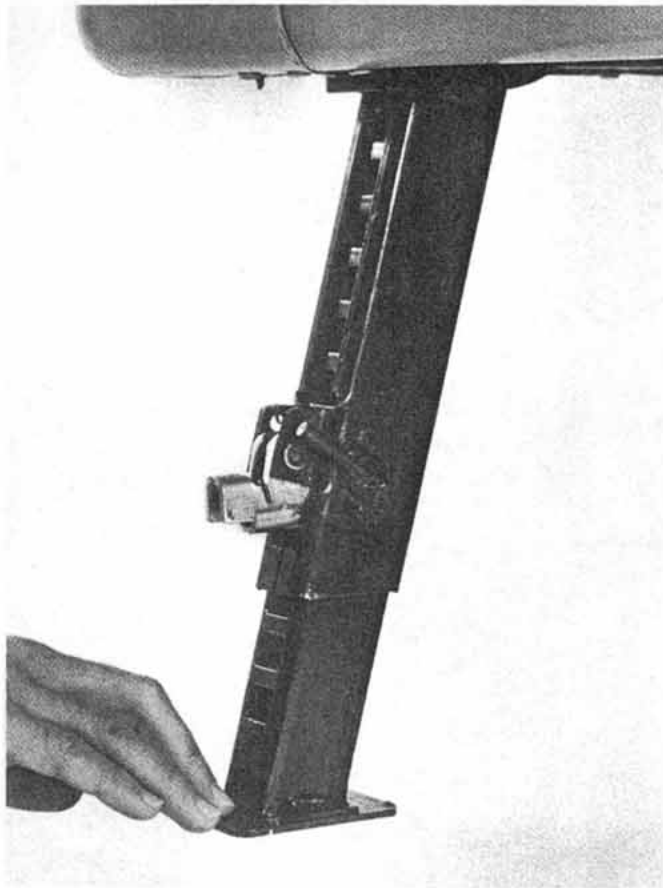


Figure 3

- c. Notice that each stabilizer has a telescopic leg within the outer leg. Pull the inner leg downward until it touches the ground.

**NOTE:** If you are camping on soft or sandy ground, you may wish to put flat stones or pieces of wood under the stabilizers for additional support.

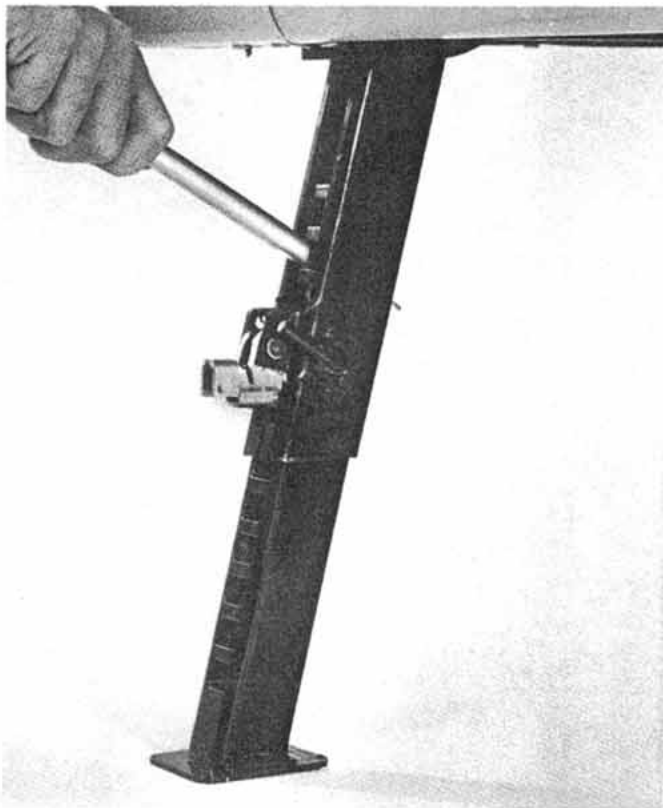


Figure 4

- d. Use crank and stabilizer jack handle and raise each stabilizer one notch by inserting the tool with a downward thrust into the rectangular hole in the back of the stabilizer leg. Push down on the tool handle and the stabilizer will raise one notch. Repeat this process for each leg as needed. If the trailer is still not stable or level, raise the appropriate stabilizer one notch with the crank handle.

**NOTE:** The stabilizers are not intended to support the entire weight of the trailer, but rather work in conjunction with the wheels, so do not raise them any more than is necessary to level the trailer.

10. Loosen all four top latches by pulling out and up on the lower portion of the latch and disengage the hook.

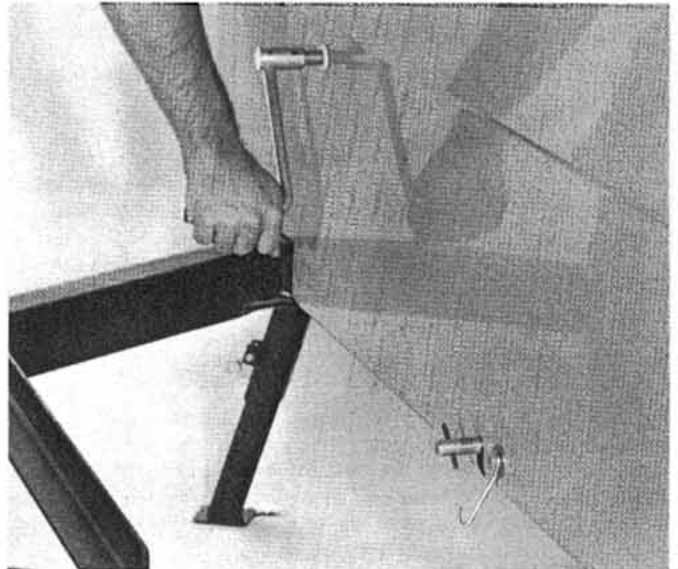


Figure 5

11. Raise the trailer top by attaching the crank tool to either crankshaft at the tongue end of the trailer. The center crankshaft has a catch which must be disengaged before raising the top. It is the easiest to turn but requires more turns to lift the top. (Approx. 85 turns.) The off-center crankshaft requires fewer turns. (Approx. 35 turns.) Stop cranking when the top is all the way up or the canvas is reasonably taut, whichever occurs first. **RE-ENGAGE THE CRANKSHAFT STOP LOCATED ON THE CENTER CRANKSHAFT WHILE STILL HOLDING ON TO THE CRANK TOOL.**

- 12a. Pull out the front bed until it hits the bed stop. Then release the two bed supports found underneath the bed.

- 12b. From the underside of the bed, lift up slightly and place the support tube over the peg located on the tongue. Repeat for the other support.

**CAUTION:** NEVER PUT ANY WEIGHT ON THE BEDS WHILE THEY ARE EXTENDED WITHOUT FIRST ATTACHING THE SUPPORTS, OTHERWISE THIS WILL DAMAGE THE BED BRACKETS.

- 13a. Unfold the canvas off of the front bed so that it hangs over the edge of the bed.

- 13b. Push the front bed bow into position so that it supports the canvas over the bed.

- 13c. Insert the straight end of the bed bow support in the hole in the bed bow. Insert the bent end over the peg found in the roof support brace. Adjust support as necessary by twisting the two parts and locking in the desired position.

- 14a. Make sure the canvas fits around the outside of the bed. At each end of the bed and at the outer bedside, three shock cords, (elastic ropes), and flaps will be found.

- 14b. Stretch the shock cords, one at a time, around the nearest two knobs on the underside of the bed.

- 15a. Pull out the rear bed until it hits the bed stop. Then release the two bed supports found underneath the bed.



Figure 6

- 15b.** Guide the free end of each support over the steel peg found on the side of the nearest stabilizer.
- 15c.** Lift the bed slightly and slide the support into the notch in the bracket on the underneath side of the bed. Repeat for the other support.
- 16a.** Repeat 13a thru 14a for the rear bed.
- 16b.** At one end of the bed, take the shock cord and loop it around the bed support leg and hook the S-hook into the eyelet in the canvas.
- 16c.** Stretch the shock cord and fit it around the nearest two knobs on the underside of the bed.
- 16d.** Repeat 16b and 16c for the other side of the bed.
- 16e.** For the outer bedside, stretch the shock cord around the two knobs provided on the underneath side of the bed.
- 17a.** Set the cooler into place by snapping it into the nylon cooler mounts located on the cabinet top.
- 17b.** (290 Model only.) Place the hinged cushion on the gauchio bed in a backrest position. Slide the extended bed inward to make a bench seat.
- 18a.** Swing the screen door down into place by supporting the door, (attached to the roof), with one hand while you release the supporting clamps on either side of the door frame.
- 18b.** The door must be lifted up 1" to 2" in order for it to clear the threshold and slide down into the channel within the threshold.
- 18c.** Unlock latch on screen door by reaching around the frame on the left side.
- 18d.** Press the canvas weatherseal on either side of the door, into the weatherseal attached to the door.
- 18e.** Snap the (6) canvas weatherflaps, one on each side of the door and one at each corner of the trailer body.

**NOTE:** If the canvas has never been wet before, you may help pre-shrink it by wetting it with a garden hose. In spite of being pre-shrunk at the factory, quality canvas will shrink somewhat after the first wetting. Allowances for shrinkage have been made so that the canvas will actually fit better after it has been wetted and dried a couple of times. Do not touch the inside surface of the canvas while it is wet as this will temporarily break down the water repelling surface effect and allow leakage of water wherever the canvas has been touched.

**CAUTION:** THE CANVAS SHOULD NEVER BE STORED WET FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME SINCE IT MAY MILDEW. IF THE CANVAS MUST BE STORED WET, SET IT OUT TO DRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

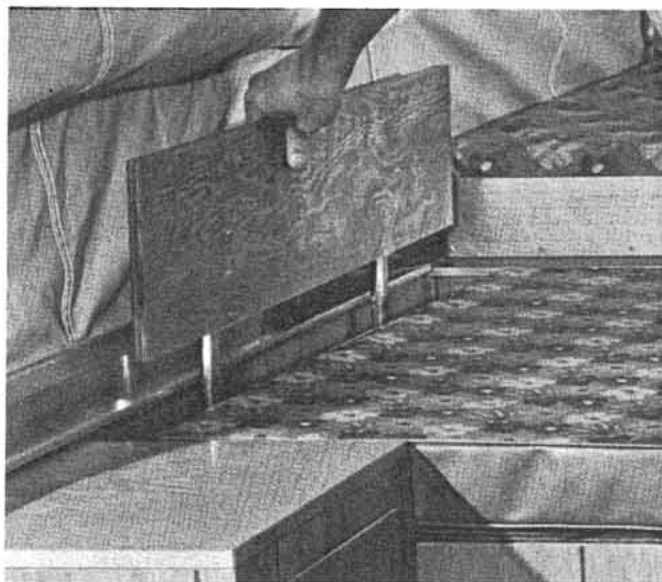


Figure 7

- 19a.** Remove the cushions from the top of the dinette table and then lift the dinette bench backs from the slots\* on each side of the trailer. Install the bench backs in the tubes found in the storage slots\*. Put the seat back cushions in place. \*(Under the dinette seat cushions.)
- 19b.** Lift the formica dinette table off of its rests between the two bench seats. Unfasten the elastic rope which holds the legs in place.
- 19c.** Extend the legs completely so that both supports lock into position.
- 19d.** Check the table to make sure the legs are locked and the table is sturdy.

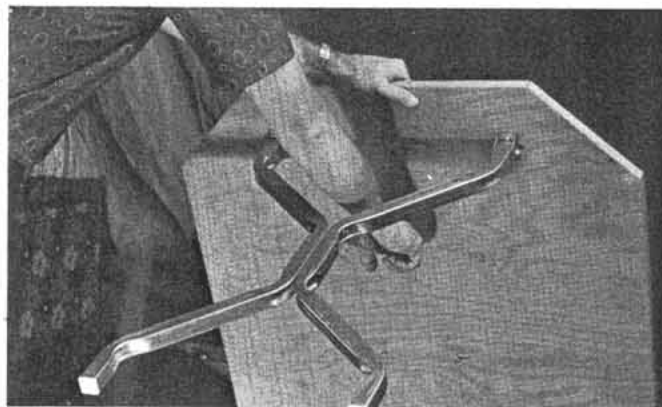


Figure 8

- 20a.** Set up the kitchen unit by raising the chrome handle at the front of the unit, rotating it 90° counterclockwise, lifting up and releasing the chrome handle.
- 20b.** The unit will hit a stop and a click will be heard when it locks into position.
- 20c.** Check to make sure the kitchen unit is locked in place by applying firm pressure on the unit top.
- 20d.** If your dishbasin is equipped with a drain, make sure the drain tube is in place.
- 21a.** Check to make sure both burners on the kitchen unit are turned off.
- 21b.** Open the valve on the LP gas bottle all the way by rotating the handle in a counterclockwise direction.





Figure 9



Figure 10

- 21c.** Turn on one LP burner and hold a lighted match near the burner.

**NOTE:** Initially, it will take 20-40 seconds for the gas to flow from the bottle to the burner and for the burner to light.

## II TAKE-DOWN INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make sure the LP-burners are turned off. Turn off the LP gas by turning the valve on the bottle clockwise until it seats.
2. Lower the kitchen unit by lifting the chrome handle at the front of the unit, rotating it 90° counterclockwise, pushing down, and releasing the chrome handle.
- 3a. Take down the dinette by applying pressure to the leg lock braces.
- 3b. Fold down each leg and stretch the elastic rope over both legs to hold them in place.
- 3c. Place the table on its rests located on the side of each dinette bench.
- 3d. Remove the bench backs and slide them into their respective slots.  
(#290 Model only), remove the hinged cushion from the back rest position.
- 3e. Remove the bench back cushions and place them on top of the dinette table.

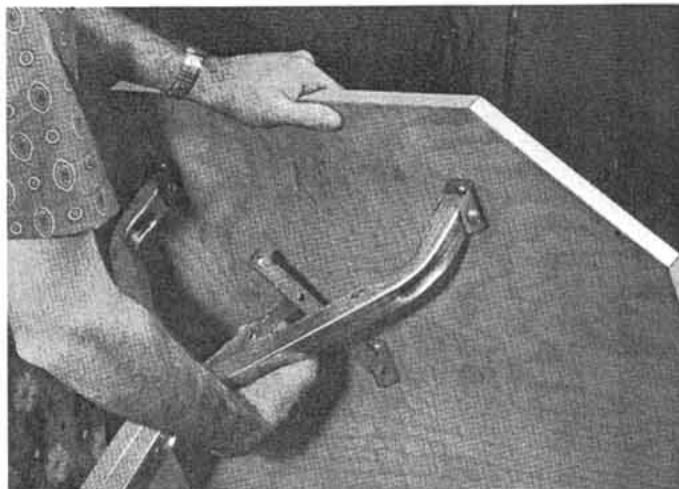


Figure 11

- 4a. Pull the canvas weatherstripping from the weatherstripping on the door frame.
- 4b. Unsnap the six weatherflaps and LOCK the screen door.
- 4c. Lift the door up out of the threshold channel, then, swing it up into the roof and engage both supporting latches.



Figure 12

5. Zip all of the windows into place. The optional vinyl window should be unsnapped, folded carefully, and stored separately.
6. Snap the cooler into position on the floor of the trailer.
- 7a. Disengage the stretched shock cords from the bottom of the rear bed, one at a time.
- 7b. Carefully unhook the S hook from the eyelet at each end of the rear bed.
- 7c. Push the rear bed bow canvas support in toward the trailer so that it lays flat on the bed.
- 7d. Push the canvas onto the bed in an orderly manner so that it is not gathered in any one place and there is no canvas under the bed bow.
- 7e. Collapse one rear bed support by lifting the corner of the bed slightly and removing the end of the support off the stabilizer mount. Snap the support into its holder under the bed. Repeat the process for the other bed support.



Figure 13

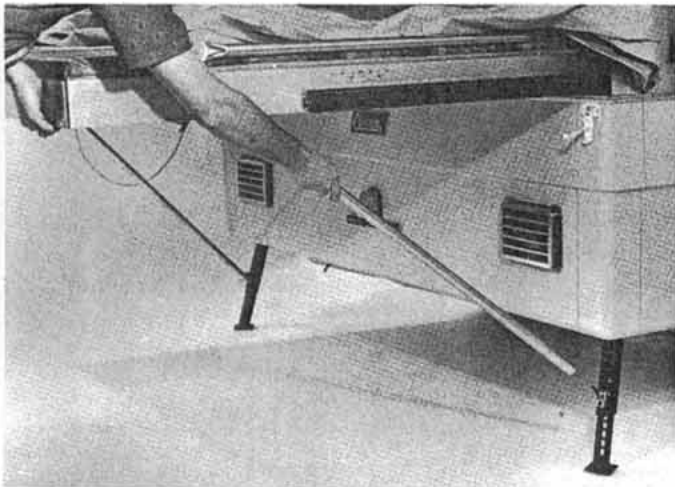


Figure 14

- 7f. Push the bed into the trailer until it is all the way in and hits the bed stop.
8. Lift the access door into position and turn the handle clockwise 90° to hold the door in place.  
**NOTE:** Do this first because the front bed will not slide in completely as long as the access door is down.
- 9a. Repeat steps 7a through 7d for the front bed.
- 9b. Collapse one front bed support by pushing upward while you move the free end of the support tube off its peg on the tongue. Snap the tube into its holder underneath the bed.
- 9c. Repeat 9b for the other front bed support.
- 9d. Push the front bed into the trailer until it is all the way in and it hits the bed stop.

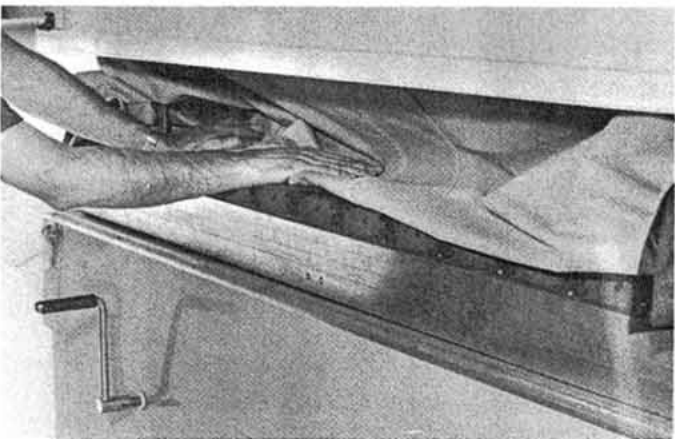


Figure 15

- 10a. Attach the crank to the off-center crankshaft, disengage the crankshaft stop, and rotate the crank counterclockwise until the roof is approximately 8" off the trailer.
- 10b. Push in any canvas which may have worked its way out between the roof and the trailer.
- 10c. Once the canvas is cleared, crank the top the rest of the way down and latch the four roof latches.
11. Make sure the tongue jack is locked in position and lowered to where the wheel touches the ground.
- 12a. Using the crank handle tool, place it in the ratchet on the front stabilizer and lift upward slowly. This releases the stabilizer and the corner of the trailer should drop somewhat.

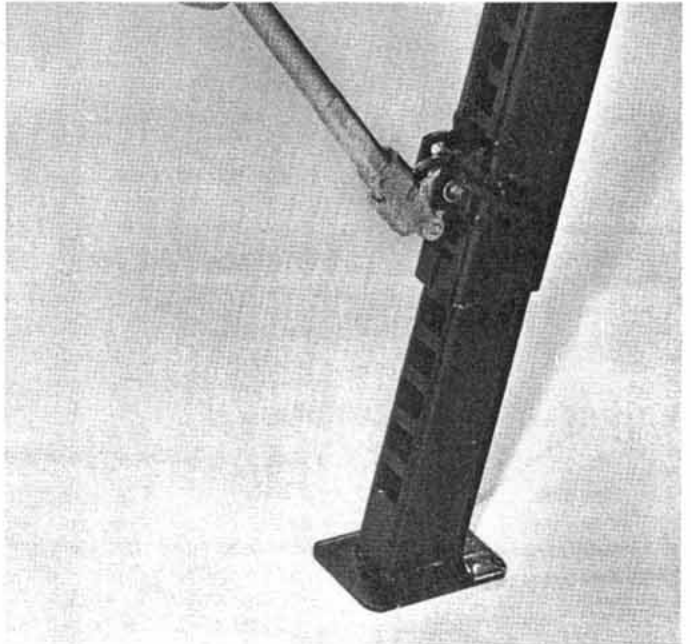


Figure 16

- 12b. While the ratchet is in the disengaged position, grasp the telescopic portion of the stabilizer and push it up into the outer portion of the stabilizer. Engage the ratchet.
- 12c. Pull down on the outer portion of the stabilizer about 1/2" and push it back and up under the trailer until it locks into position.
- 12d. Repeat 12a-12c for the other three stabilizers.
13. Open the access door and put the crank handle tool in the nearest drawer. The tool may alternately be stored in the car trunk or some other convenient place.
- 14a. Lift the access door into position and turn the handle clockwise 90° to lock the door in place.
- 14b. Push the handle pushbutton in flush with the side of the access door and rotate the key clockwise 90° to lock it.
- 15a. Make sure the tongue jack has lifted the tongue above the height of the trailer hitch ball on your car.
- 15b. Back your car close to the trailer and set the brake.
- 15c. Using the tongue jack, lower the tongue onto the ball hitch and lock it on by pressing the ball hitch lever down. Lift the tongue to make sure it is locked on the ball.
- 15d. Rotate the tongue jack\* out of position by pulling out on the locking pin and rotating the jack 90° counterclockwise until the pin engages and holds the jack in position. \*Tongue jack optional on Model 282.
- 15e. Attach the safety chains so that they "criss-cross" underneath the ball. Hook the S hooks.
- 15f. Connect the pigtail to the trailer lights.
16. Check to see that the brake lights and turn signals on the trailer are functioning properly.

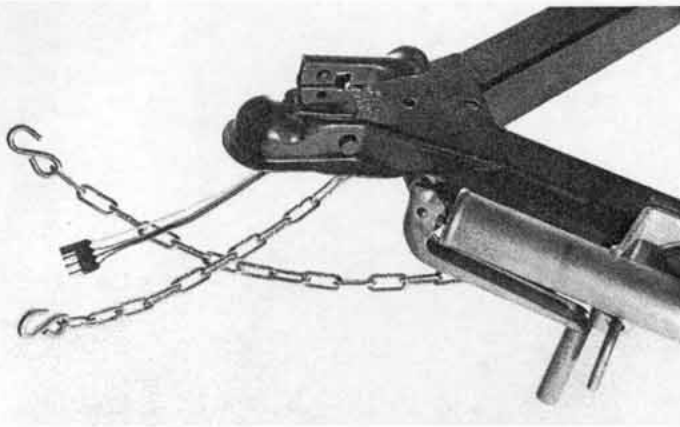


Figure 17

## III ACCESSORY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

### 1. TIRES and TIRE CHANGING:

	# 290	# 280, # 281, # 282
Tire Size	20 x 8.00	5.30 x 4.50
Recommended Inflation	35 psi	55 psi
Maximum load/tire	900 pounds	915 pounds
Rim Size (4 lug bolts)	10"	12"

#### Tire Warranty:

The tires on your Coleman Camping Trailer are not warranted by The Coleman Company. Instead, they are warranted by the individual tire manufacturer. If you require warranty service, contact the tire manufacturer's nearest dealer.

#### Tire Changing:

Disconnect the trailer from the car following set-up instructions #3, 4 and 5. Block the inflated tire to keep the trailer from rolling. Lower the rear stabilizer on the side of the trailer that has the flat tire, (re. set-up instruction #9b, c). Jack the rear stabilizer as high as it will go; then, by cranking the tongue jack, the flat tire may be lifted off the ground and changed.

#### LP Gas:

To change an empty LP gas bottle, turn off the LP at both burners. Close the valve on the bottle by turning it clockwise. Disconnect the regulator from the LP bottle. Unbolt both hold-down bolts and remove the empty bottle. Carefully place the full bottle on the tongue bracket and secure it with the two bolts. Re-connect the regulator and turn on the gas. Check to see that the bottle is securely mounted; then, check for leaks by using a soap suds solution on all fittings. If a leak is detected, turn off the LP at the bottle valve and fix the leaking connection.

**CAUTION:** DO NOT SMOKE WHILE CHANGING BOTTLES AND EXTINGUISH ALL SURROUNDING OPEN FLAMES.

#### Loading:

Load your trailer in such a way that the weight will be evenly distributed on each side. There should be a little more weight in the front of the trailer than in the back — enough to give a tongue weight of approximately 100 lbs., Maximum load weight is 400 lbs.

**CAUTION:** NEVER PUT ANY WEIGHT ON THE TRAILER TOP WHETHER IT IS UP OR DOWN. THE ROOF IS NOT DESIGNED TO SUPPORT A LOAD OF ANY KIND.

#### Canvas:

The canvas should always be dry when it is stored for extended periods of time. Insect repellants and other aerosols should not be sprayed directly on the canvas. When washing dirt off, use a mild non-detergent soap so that the water repellant will not be washed off.

#### OPTIONS:

##### Heater:

This is an optional feature available through your dealer. Refer to the individual operating instructions accompanying the heater unit.

##### Privacy Curtain:

A durable fabric curtain on 1/4" shock cord which may be hooked on both sides of the trailer to conceal the bed.

##### Gravel Guards:

##### Electric Top Lift:

Operates on 12 volt battery and can be plugged in car cigarette lighter.

##### Canopy:

Provides a useful "front porch" shaded area and protected entry.

##### Chemical Toilet:

This is an optional feature available through your dealer. Individual units may vary in their operation so refer to the specific operating instructions which are furnished with the unit.

##### Tires:

Oversize tires, 20-800x10, are available for all #280 series campers. These are provided by your dealer for heavy duty use and will also give a smoother ride.

##### Electric Brakes:

This option is available through your dealer on all #280 series campers and is useful for mountain driving or other heavy duty service.



### Window Care:

The clear vinyl window is available as an option for all models of the Coleman Campnig Trailer. It snaps in and out for easy trouble-free use.

### To Clean Window:

Use a soft, damp, lint-free cloth. Never use abrasive scouring powders or detergents containing bleach. For hard to remove spots, a little hand soap and water may be used sparingly.

### To Store:

The vinyl window should be unsnapped, folded, and stored in a cool, dry place. Care must be exercised to avoid sharp bends in the vinyl when it is being folded; otherwise, the window may become permanently wrinkled or even cracked.

### Operating Reminders:

Before each trip, the following check list should be followed:

1. Check with the dealer or state to see if a license is required in your area for your trailer.
2. Check the water and gas connections for leaks.
3. Check the water and gas supply.
4. Make sure the gas supply is turned off at the gas bottle.
5. Check to see that the tire lug bolts are tight.
6. Check the tires for proper inflation and condition.
7. Check the brake lights and turn signals.
8. Check all the canvas snaps and fasteners.
9. Carry a spare trailer tire in the trunk of your car.

### Maintenance Reminders:

The following items should be regularly checked to increase the useful life of your equipment.

1. Have the wheel bearings checked every 2,000 miles or at least once a season, whichever occurs first.

2. Check the tires for pressure and condition.
3. Lubricate the four corner stabilizers and the tongue crank jack as needed with a light grease.
4. Periodically, coat the ball hitch of your car with a light grease.
5. Check the condition of both safety chains and the ball hitch lock.
6. Check the turn, stop and tail lights to make sure they are working.
7. Check the weather seals to avoid excess moisture.
8. Inspect the canvas for tears and mildew.
9. Lubricate the water pump occasionally with mineral oil.
10. Lubricate the zippers with a light coat of paraffin.
11. Pry up button in the middle of floor toward the front of your trailer and lubricate with grease or oil once a season. This will assure smoother top raising mechanism.

### Storage:

The storage of your unit during the season requires no special care, however, if your unit is going to be stored for longer periods of time without use or stored outdoors in extreme weather conditions, you will find some of the following suggestions helpful.

1. Never store the unit with wet or damp canvas. For extended storage, remove the canvas from the trailer and store in a warm, dry place.
2. Close off the gas supply at the gas bottle and bleed the gas line.
3. Empty the water supply and bleed all water lines.
4. Inflate the tires to their recommended capacity.
5. Store the camper with the tongue lower than the tail light end of the trailer to allow for water run-off.
6. Protect the trailer from the weather with a tarpaulin.

## THIS WARRANTY IS VOID IF THE FOLLOWING DETAILS ARE VIOLATED

To assure longer life, better performance and the validity of this warranty, the following conditions must be observed:

1. Set up of the trailer must be in accordance with the operating instructions as provided by the Company.
2. Maintenance of the trailer must be in accordance with the maintenance instructions as furnished by the Company, especially:
  - (a) Maintenance of proper recommended tire pressure;
  - (b) Repacking of wheel bearings at recommended intervals;
  - (c) Regular inspection of all gas and water lines and connections;
  - (d) Proper use of hitch and safety chains;
  - (e) Load according to recommended weight limits;
  - (f) Balance loads according to manufacturer's recommendation;
  - (g) Dry canvas or any fabrics prior to storing them.

Acceptance of this warranty obligates the purchaser to faithfully perform these terms. If the above terms on the recommendation of the manufacturer for operation and maintenance are disregarded, this warranty becomes inoperative.

Purchaser must fill out and return the warranty registration card within thirty (30) days after date of purchase to make this warranty valid.

# WARRANTY

This Certificate of Warranty is issued to \_\_\_\_\_

and covers Coleman Camping Trailer, Model No. \_\_\_\_\_

Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ Purchased from \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Because of the high standards of material and workmanship that go into every Coleman product, Coleman Company, Inc., warrants this unit to the original purchaser to January 1, 1969 to be free of defect in material and workmanship. The Company's obligation under this warranty shall be limited to furnishing replacement parts or at its option repair of any part or parts which inspection by the Company prove to be defective in material or workmanship.

There is no charge by the Company for any equipment or components furnished under this warranty. They will be shipped F.O.B. factory, and the Company will not be responsible for any transportation, labor or service charges. All such charges must be paid by the purchaser.

Any defect in the unit may be serviced at any Coleman trailer dealer and should be brought to the attention of the dealer from whom it was purchased.

This warranty is expressly in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied, and we neither assume or authorize any person to assume for us any other obligation or liability in connection with such trailers. This warranty does not apply, and no warranty, either expressed or implied, shall be applied: (a) Outside the boundaries of the United States and Canada; (b) To damage resulting from accident, alterations, improper set-up, misuse, abuse or use of the trailer other than for which it was intended; or (c) If the serial number affixed to the unit by the manufacturer shall be removed, obliterated or defaced.

(Terms above are part of this agreement.)

**COLEMAN COMPANY, INC.**  
250 NORTH ST. FRANCIS  
WICHITA, KANSAS 67201

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dealer's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

**DEALER: Fill out this section and give to purchaser. PURCHASER: Fill out attached card, tear off and mail.**

**The Coleman Company, Inc.**  
WICHITA, KANSAS 67201