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Inside:

Frame Replacement

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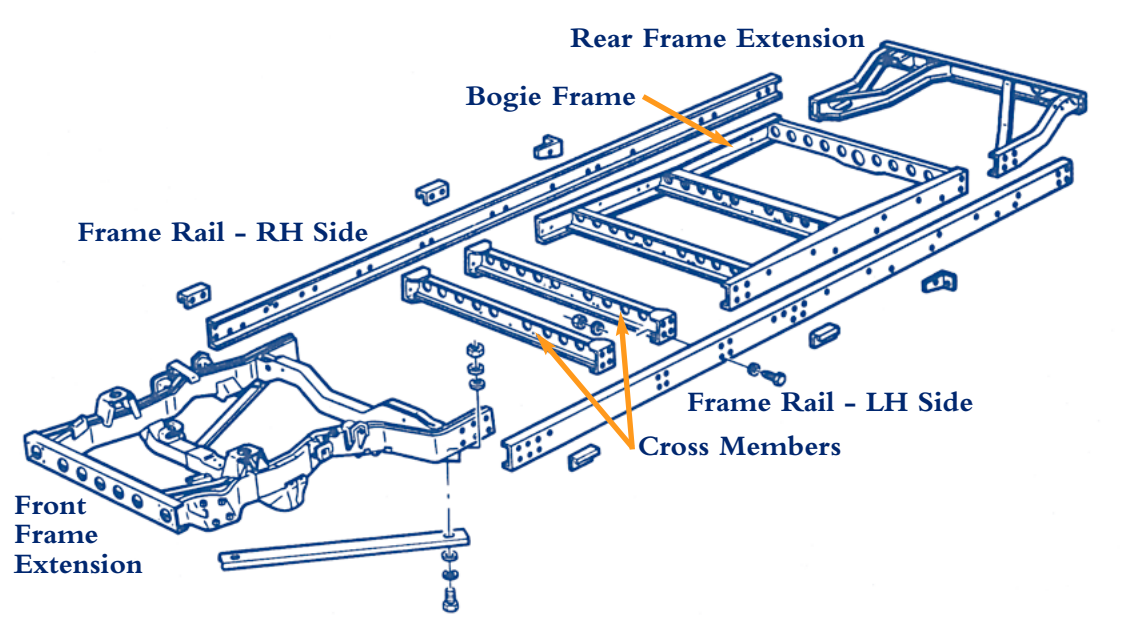
In the last several years we have encountered more and more GMC Motorhomes with badly deteriorated frames that are in need of replacement. Age alone has taken its toll, but the worst culprit is the extreme conditions some of these motorhomes have been subjected to, both on the road and in storage. Motorhomes that have been driven during the winter months in the Midwest and the East, and those that have lived on the Gulf Coast near the ocean usually have more problems than motorhomes that have spent their life in the West, Southwest and some parts of the Southeast.

Motorhomes that have been stored in damp buildings without a vapor barrier between the coach and the floor, or have been left in a field or back yard where grass and weeds have been allowed to grow up under them are also good candidates for rusted frames. Anyone considering the purchase of a GMC Motorhome should pay particular attention to the condition of the frame, because it is very expensive to replace.

It is very unusual to find the front frame extension deteriorated badly enough to require replacement, but we have observed several coaches that have needed that portion of the frame replaced. Most of the time, the areas on the front frame that are rusted can be removed and repaired by a skilled welder. The single cross members that are located in the front area of the frame very seldom need replacing. Normally, they can be sandblasted, painted, and reused in the new frame.



The frame sections that most often need to be replaced are the right and left side rails, the bogie cross members and reinforcements, and the rear frame extension. These sections tend to deteriorate because they are sandwiched together with one section bolted inside another section. Moisture is trapped between the two sections, and rust begins to form.

When inspecting a frame for rust, special attention should be given to the areas where the bogie

Continued on Pages 3 and 4