

A Snazzy Jaguar

One of the catchy television commercials on the airwaves today features a sleek Jaguar dashing through an art gallery or beside a crowded swimming pool, causing those who see him to ponder about going ahead and buying a new automobile by the same name. Would you like to own a Jaguar XJS convertible? Who wouldn't? In many people's eyes, a snazzy Jaguar is something they dream for a lifetime about getting, and for which they are willing to pay the steep price tag in the \$60,000-plus range.

Marvin Jacobs, a San Francisco lawyer, bought his dream Jaguar, only to find that it didn't exactly make his life complete. *USA Today* reported in an article on state "lemon laws" that over the next three-and-a-half years Jacobs had to take his car to the shop a grand total of 26 times. Once the car stalled on the Golden Gate Bridge during rush hour, causing a five-mile backup.

When California's lemon law finally forced Jaguar to buy back the sour car, Jacobs said unloading it was "the best thing that ever happened to me in my entire adult life."

Problems that create such frustration could happen with any make or model of automobile, of course, or -- for that matter -- any item of great value that we fervently desire to own. Material possessions -- the things we so often dream of buying -- can carry a much higher price tag than we anticipate.

If the events of 9-11 and the war against terrorism that ensued have taught us anything, it is how precious relationships are. They are far more valuable than "stuff." We realize that everyday in the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles, and in the work of Life Care at Home.

--Beecher Hunter