



# The *Caravanner*

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MAY, 1957

24

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

A NEWSPAPER  
PUBLISHED BY  
AND FOR THOSE  
WITH A "BIT OF THE  
GYPSY" IN THEM

# ALL ABOARD FOR EASTERN CANADA, OREGON TRAIL, SOUTH AMERICA!

## Oregon Trail Tour In July

The spirit of the old pioneers will be riding alongside 20th Century-style "covered wagons" when the first Oregon Trail Caravan rolls in mid-July from Independence, Mo., along the old emigrant trail to Astoria, Oregon.

Sponsored by the Ohio plant of

Airstream Trailers, Inc., with

Ohio President Andy Charles

as Wagon Master, the wagon train

of shiny modern trailers will give

the Caravanners and their chil-

dren a graphic picture of what it

must have been like for our grand-

fathers to have gone West a hun-

dred years ago.

Each night for 6 weeks the

Caravan will camp under West-

ern stars out in the grasslands

which in days of old were black

A SIGHT TO REMEMBER: Here is a portion of the great assemblage of Airstreams for the start of the 1957 Wally Byam Caravan to Mexico at Juarez, just south of the border. Caravan parked here in the ball park to ready itself for its great adventure, the symmetrical lines of the gleaming outfits a tribute to driving and parking skill of the trailer owners and the volunteer parking committee.



## 'Greatest Wagon Wheel'

The beautiful New England country will be the official rendezvous and the friendly Caravanners of the Northeast the official hosts, when the grand 1957 Wally Byam Eastern Canadian Caravan gets underway June 24-July 5, a two-month vacation adventure no Caravanner, veteran or newcomer, will want to miss.

Two years have passed since the last Eastern Canadian Caravan—which blazed the trail and laid the groundwork for what promises to be a gala Old World tour through New World Country — a visit to England, Scotland and France rolled into one without buying a trans-Atlantic ticket.

ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME

Enthusiastic letters have been

received by Wally and his staff from Canadian Government officials and the scores of friends the Caravan made on its 1955 tour, and all are extending the biggest possible welcome to the 1957 Caravan through the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario.

There'll be nothing missing from this tour — from the finest

(Continued on page 3)

## SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR IN OCTOBER!

By Wally Byam

The next big "first" for the Wally Byam Caravan will be a tour of South America. We know this for certain now. There are more people interested in this South American tour than any other tour abroad that we are presently planning.

**A SIGHT TO REMEMBER:** Here is a portion of the great assemblage of Airstreams for the start of the 1957 Wally Byam Caravan to Mexico at Juarez, just south of the border. Caravan parked here in the ball park to ready itself for its great adventure, the symmetrical lines of the gleaming outfits a tribute to driving and parking skill of the trailer owners and the volunteer parking committee.



# Greatest Wagon Wheel!

## Sensation In Mexico As Caravan Tours Country

"Hurry, hurry, hurry!" went the familiar call, and promptly at 8 a.m., January 10, 1957, the long, gleaming line of trailers left the El Paso bivouac area. With brief gusts of rain and a brilliant Texas sun alternately washing them down and drying them again, the shiny outfits rolled down Highway 85 to the border at Juarez on the first lap of the 1957 U. S. tourist season's greatest adventure.

Another Wally Byam Caravan had started — 216 trailers from 38 states and Canada, with 450 people of all ages and all walks of life. Before them lay 7000 miles of touring Mexico, from the highlands of the north to the sunny beaches of Acapulco, from the jungles of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to the

They were all "tourists," yes—but there was much to distinguishing them from other American travelers abroad. Many of them were of an age when most "ordinary"

(Continued on page 6)

## CARAVAN ON TV!

Caravanners, trailering enthusiasts and just plain armchair adventurers will soon have the chance to enjoy a Wally Byam Caravan right in their living rooms — on the television screen. In the Los Angeles area, Jack Douglas will present a full hour film of the 1957 Wally Byam Caravan to Mexico on his popular "I Search for Adventure" show, Channel 13, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 6, at 7 p.m. The show will be called, "The Silver Caravan," "BOLD JOURNEY."

Thereafter, the show will go on the ABC TELEVISION NETWORK ON THE "BOLD JOURNEY" PROGRAM, seen Monday nights on some '55 ABC STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE NATION. Thus, viewers in Los Angeles will be interested in

ern stars out in the grassland which in days of old were black with buffalo, or un'ner murmur pine, or by rustling streams. The Caravanners will visit Indian encampments, fish in beau-

(Continued on page 2)

home. LEAVE IN OCTOBER. All this means that we must leave New Orleans in late October. (Continued on page 3)

of South America. We know this for certain now. There are more people interested in this South American tour than any other tour abroad that we are presently planning. The South American tour must take part in the Carnival just before Lent and then sail for home.

## First All-American Caravan Is Rolling!

When this issue of the CARAVANNER reaches you, history will be in the making — Caravanning history, that is. The first All-American Wally Byam Caravan is now under way, and a gala affair it is, too. Officially known as the Kentucky Derby-Indianapolis Speedway Caravan, it will be the first large Caravan to tour the United States, and is bound to have a most salutary effect on trailer travel in general in this country. The full, wonderful story of this great event will be reported in the next issue of THE CARAVANNER.

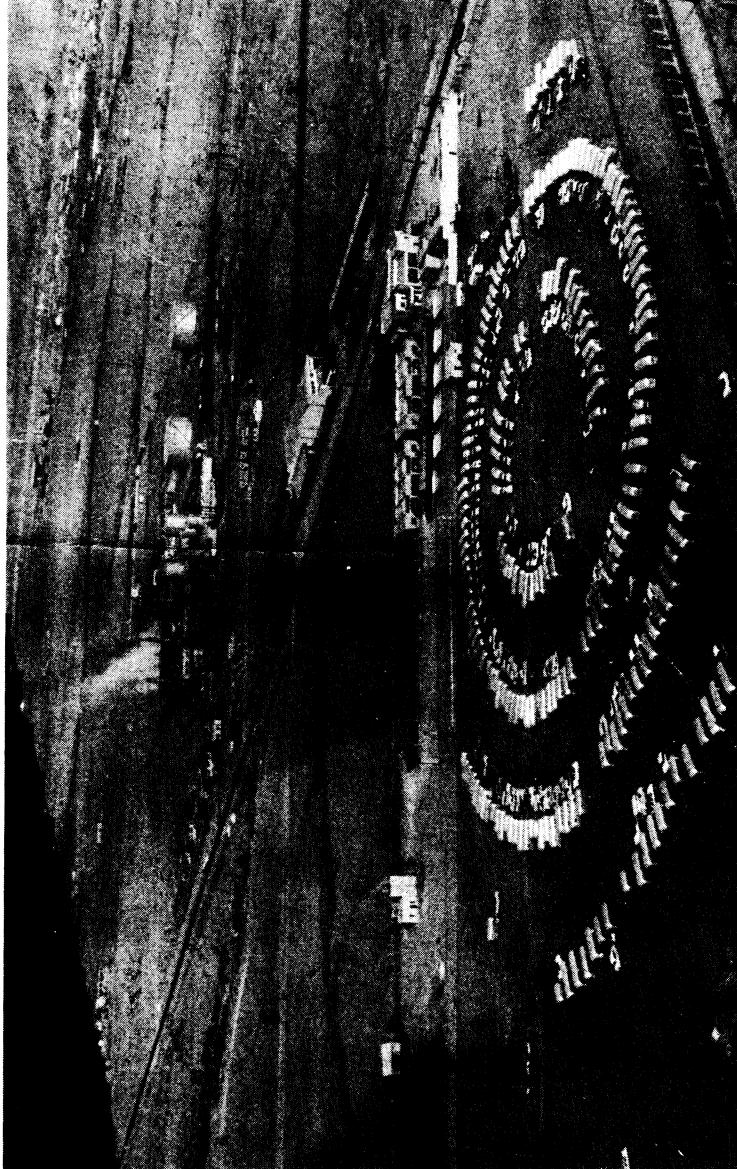
Kick off for the Kentucky Derby Caravan was held in Las Vegas, April 13, with four days (Continued on page 3)

## Good News for Our Readers!

Wally Byam has just announced that because of the growing popularity of THE CARAVANNER and the ever-increasing activity of the Caravans themselves, your newspaper will from now on be published FOUR TIMES A YEAR!

Next issue will be in July, with important news of new Caravans, particularly details of the wonderful tour of South America announced on Page One in this issue. Watch for it. And keep sending us news items, letters, pictures — anything you think other trailer people will be interested in.

Photo by First WORLD'S GREATEST WAGON WHEEL! Here is an amazing aerial view of the great 1957 Wally Byam Caravan to Mexico, photographed from a Cessna 180 in Chihuahua. The pilot of the plane was so fascinated by the sight he circled over the trailers so long he almost ran out of gas!

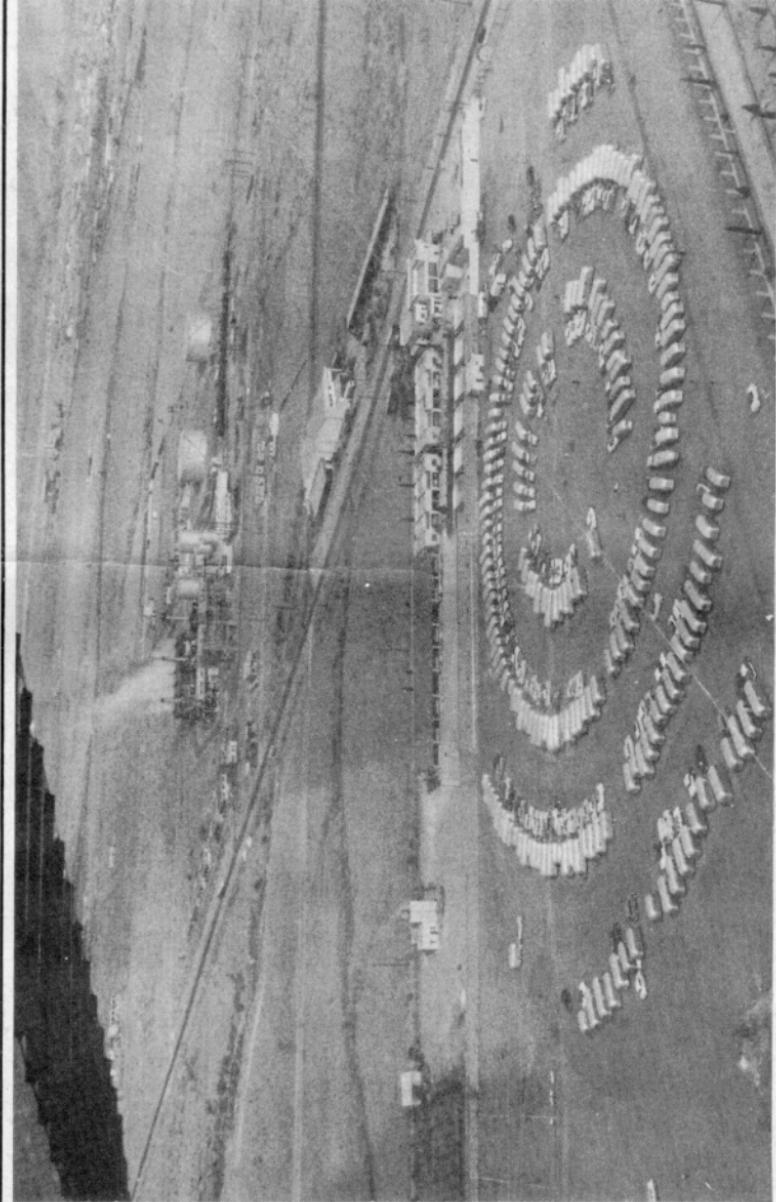


**JOIN THE WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB!**

from which mail will be forwarded when you are traveling.

of an age when most "ordinary" warded when you are traveling.

(Continued on page 6)



WORLD'S GREATEST WAGON WHEEL! Here is an amazing aerial view of the great 1957 Wally Byam Caravan to Mexico, photographed from a Cessna 180 in Chihuahua. The pilot of the plane was so fascinated by the sight he circled over the trailers so long he almost ran out of gas!

Photo by Furst

**THE WALLY BYAM CARAVAN**

## THE CARAVANNER

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By WALLY BYAM

Phone: University 8-1751

**THE CARAVANNER** welcomes contributions of news items, photographs and letters. Address mail to Airstream Trailers, Inc., 12804 E. Firestone, Norwalk Calif.

## MEETING TIME

### AN EDITORIAL

#### Fight to Recover Our Liberties

By WALLY BYAM

When the oldtimers among us first began trailering in these United States, there were public parking places, or camp grounds as we called them in those days, in practically every hamlet and village throughout the country. Those were the days soon after the first World War when Americans first learned that they were rolling on wheels and could get there and back in a hurry in a "Tin Lizzie" with all the family's camping gear and have a lot of fun doing it. Couples, families and groups went out on long vacations traveling across and around all of the states, pitching their tents at night and seeing all of their own country as they had never done before.

Nothing did so much to weld America together as these trips with everyone visiting neighbors across the country or across the country. Then trailers came into being, and the same practices continued — only more so.

#### FEW CAMP GROUNDS LEFT

But somewhere along the way these public camp grounds slowly slipped by the board. There are still a few left in the western and northern states, but practically none in the East. Moreover, a whole body of anti-camping legislation has sprung up, making it difficult to move in many sections of the country. True, some trailer parks have been added, but there are not nearly enough of them, nor in the right places, and many of them do not want short-time stoppers.

## •Oregon Trail

(Continued from page 1)  
tiful mountain streams, sing around camp fires, enjoy music and square dancing.

### ACROSS GREAT PLAINS

Like the west-bound emigrants of old, the modern wagon train will proceed westward to Kansas City, from there around Topeka to historic Fort Kearney, Neb., across the great plains to Julesburg, past Chimney Rock and Scotts Bluff. The Caravanners will visit Fort Laramie and Fort Casper, travel through South Pass, see the famed landmarks of Independence Rock and Devil's Gate and old Fort Bridger, where mountain men in the early West met and where today there is a wonderful museum of early frontier life.

### SCENIC OUTING

From Fort Hall in Idaho the trail will lead to Fort Boise and on to the headwaters of the Columbia River at Walla Walla, Wash — then along the beautiful scenic route down the mighty Columbia all the way to Astoria on the Pacific.

It will be a vacation Caravan no one — and least of all the children, around whom the Caravan is being organized — will ever forget. Certainly the kids' study of the old west will have much greater meaning for them when they get back to school and can tell their teachers and classmates about their wonderful experience.

Write to ANDY CHARLES, WAGON MASTER, JACKSON CENTER, OHIO, for applications. HURRY, HURRY — it's going to be great!

## WHY CARAVANS?

By HELEN BYAM SCHWAMBORN

Why Caravans?

A question asked everywhere these days — in Europe, in Central America, in Canada, in the U. S. Not only the local people want to know but trailerites everywhere. So, why Caravans?

Principally, our aims in organizing the now world-famed Wally Byam Caravan tours are two-fold: create goodwill for our country and the ever-growing army of trailerites, and to teach our Airstream owners how to use their trailers.

Those who have been on Wally Byam Caravans know how much fun it is. They know Wally's talent for finding the most interesting places to see — and the most interesting way to see them. They know the joys of the closeknit community of Caravanners, of making true and lifelong friends. They know the nostalgic feeling of just thinking of "Meeting Time," and the stimulation of Wally's "Bull Sessions." They know the quiet contentment of evenings around a blazing bonfire, singing the old songs — and learning new ones — and swap-

ping yarns. They know the anticipation of "out-of-this-world" pot-luck suppers as only the lady Caravanners know how to prepare them. They know the gaiety of the fish fries and hamburger roasts on beaches or amid the towering trees of a national forest. We could go on and on — but to know what a Wally Byam Caravan is really like, you just have to go — there just aren't enough lyrical words to express it all.

If you are interested in any of the great tours planned by the Wally Byam Caravan — no matter where — please write. There is a tremendous amount of advance work to be done on all the quiet contentment of Caravans, and the sooner we know your hopes and ideas and plans, the more efficiently we can "hit the road."

## What to Bring on a Caravan

Oldtimers from previous Caravanners all know what to bring. So this advice is strictly for newcomers:

1. Two 50-foot light cords.
2. A bucket (or two) to put under your sink or sewer drain for short stops where there's no sewer connection and where we cannot "gopher hole" (a hole for the drain).
3. Some blocks to chock wheels and level the trailer.
4. A shovel.
5. Fire extinguisher.
6. Gasoline for extra gas.
7. Water can
8. 50-foot water hose; sewer hose; brass hose "Y."
9. Tow chain or tow rope—just in case.
10. Kerosene, or gasoline, lantern, a good flashlight, some candles.
11. Good tires.
12. Finally—if you have color slides or movies, bring them. We all like to see others' pictures.

# CARAVAN MAIL BOX

## EUROPEAN EXAMPLE

Such is not the case in Europe. In practically every hamlet and city in Europe there is a public parking site. Sometimes it is in the very center of the town. Motorists, truckers and Caravanners can stay overnight or a day or two, not only allowed but welcomed by the police. Usually there are toilets, a source of water and a place for garbage disposal. The trailer traveler need never worry — he knows there is such a place in every town. In addition to this, in most towns in Europe there is a "camping" (pronounced cam-peeng) area in the outskirts where facilities are provided for tenters as well as trailers at very nominal fees. Some of these places have shower baths, usually cold, all have toilets and drinking water. This condition exists in practically every country in Europe, but is especially pronounced in Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Belgium and France.

### TIME FOR ACTION

We Americans who think we come from the land of the free and flaunt the Statue of Liberty to prove it have slipped way, way back in the last twenty years. It is about time that trailer travelers were standing up on their hind legs, gathering together and putting up a fight to get these rights and privileges back. It will come easy in some places; in fact, we will actually be welcomed. But in other states it is going to be a tooth and toenail battle, and the quicker we get ready and get going on it, the better off we'll be. It's one of those things that must be done by groups, where united we stand and divided we fall. The Wally Byam Caravan clubs have already taken up the battle. Other associations will undoubtedly join them.

I think, personally, that this is the most important matter facing travel trailerites today. We should get permission to park in roadside parks. We should induce the national government to provide parking facilities in national parks. We should induce state governments to allow us to use state parks and provide more parking areas. We should induce every town and village to hark back to the old days and provide a parking place for travelers. We should induce and encourage more trailer parks to allow short-time visits. And we should encourage the establishment of more vacation-type trailer parks. We should induce state motor patrols to allow us to park off the highway but on the public domain during the night, rather than have us driving while sleepy.

Success can be ours, but we've got to fight to win it. And it's not going to be an easy fight. Let's get going!

## 'MERRY CHRISTMAS'

Dear Mr. Charles:

Merry Christmas to you and all your fine people at the Jackson Center plant. Just want to tell you again how pleased we are with our Airstream. It gave us no trouble at all on our year's trip to the Far West, over high mountains and in many out-of-the-way places. We didn't have a flat tire on the whole trip. We even took it on the precipitous coastal mountain drive along California Highway 1 between Morro Bay and Monterey. Touring via Airstream is the only way to travel!

JACK & GLADYS LYITTLE  
232 N. George Mason Drive  
Arlington, Virginia  
\* \* \*

### MOST EFFICIENT

Dear Mr. Charles:

Your men took good care of our minor repairs in a most efficient and friendly manner, and seemed willing to do anything to make us happy. Also your charges for the chargeable items were most reasonable. Many thanks. Just thought you'd like to know.

Sincerely,

E. R. ROMAINE, D.D.S.  
1710 David Broderick Tower  
Detroit 26, Mich.  
\* \* \*

### 12 BELOW ZERO

Dear Mr. Manchester:

In answer to your letter about the picture of my Airstream in the north woods of Wisconsin, I was parked up there ten days deer hunting. The weather was ten and twelve below zero, and the snow was 16 inches deep.

No, my trailer is not modern, but the Panel Ray heater with thermostat keeps the temperature even at all times.

I am looking forward to coming out to the plant this summer after a new 22-ft. modern Airstream.

C. F. GIBSON  
Rt. 1  
Madison 4, Wis.

## 'IN HIGH GEAR'

Dear Mr. Brown:

We have certainly been enjoying our Airstream. Before we bought it, we had a 2-wheel trailer 15 feet long. The 26-ft. Airstream pulls nicer, takes less gas, and we made Box Spring grade and Jackrabbit in high. We don't even use an assist type hitch.

Best wishes,

MR. & MRS. A. C. KOOIMAN,

Box 508,  
Earp, Calif.

\* \* \*

### EUROPEAN CARAVANNERS

Dear Helen:

We will always bless Wally for taking us into going on the European Caravan. We have nothing but pleasant memories of the trip. We figure on seeing you all again soon. Just like meeting Joe Kaufman in New York at the corner of 5th and 33rd. No surprise, although it was in Perpignan, France, that we last saw each other. He said, "Hi, Tom," in that sleepy voice, and I said, "Hello, Joe," and it was just as if we'd had breakfast together that morning.

TOM FENNER  
2953 Bryant St.  
South Burnaby, B.C., Canada

\* \* \*  
CAREFREE JAUNT  
\* \* \*

DELIGHTED

The Caravanner:

We want to be among the rest who are with our Airstream. All through the summer from May to October we hardly missed a weekend of going on a glorious carefree jaunt. Our trailer attracts a lot of attention wherever we go and we have sent a number of people to you because we know they will be just as thrilled with an Airstream as we are.

MR. & MRS. ED ROUSSEY  
1510 Newlands  
Burlingame, Calif.

(More letters on page 8)

## 771 MILES

Dear Helen:

I just returned from a 7,771 mile trip to Florida and back— just myself and a woman friend NO MEN—and we were the sensation of the trailer parks. Two women pulling a trailer across the whole U.S.A. I set the male sex back on their heels a little when I voiced my opinion that any woman who can drive a car can tow an Airstream, and any woman who can plug in her electric iron can connect lights, and any woman who can connect her hose to water the lawn, can connect all there is to connect on a trailer.

The men have been making a "beeg deal" out of it long enough!

However, my husband accompanies me on all other trips —and he foots the bills.

MRS. JOHN O. CLEMONS  
5895 Lime Ave.  
Long Beach, Calif.

(The Clemons are planning on going to Eastern Canada with the Caravan)

Dear Mr. Costello:

Just a note (which I hope you will publish in the CARAVANNER) to advise how satisfied and happy we are with our Airstream. All through the summer from May to October we hardly missed a weekend of going on a glorious carefree jaunt. Our trailer attracts a lot of attention wherever we go and we have sent a number of people to you because we know they will be just as thrilled with an Airstream as we are.

LEON & ALICE INGRAHAM  
Stanton, Mich.



the Belle Haven Inn Park. van to spend Easter Sunday and national Speed Classic. After that gala event, the Wally Byam Caravan leaves Indianaapolis to spend five days as guests of the Midwestern Unit of the

two days of Florida sightseeing attend services in its beautiful brand new churches.

**BLUE GRASS COUNTRY** From Louisville and the Kentucky Derby, the Caravan was to meander through the Blue Grass state, stopping at Lincoln's Birthplace, spending several days exploring Mammoth Cave Nation al Park, Cumberland Falls — the Niagara of the South — Cumberland Gap, where Daniel Boone from first saw Kentucky. There were Holland who scouted us in also to be visits to the famous

luxurious new ferry for Havana. **RED CARPET TREATMENT** Our advance scout, Ben Kemperman (the young man from Holland who scouted us in Europe), had been in Cuba for a week alerting the Cuban Tourist Department, the press and the Government. The red carpet rolled out for us has never been topped and seldom equalled by any reception anywhere in the world. A motorcycle patrol met the boat. Beautiful Spanish señoritas loaded each Caravanner with samples of Cuban rum, "cerveza," literature and fresh fruit — even a couple of dozen paper cups for immediate handling of the refreshments. Then behind screaming sirens winding through the narrow streets of old Havana, we were escorted to the playground of the Jose Marti School on the famous waterfront boulevard, the "Malecon." Here followed four days of breath-taking sightseeing, day life and night life in a tropical paradise. We saw it all.

To top our stay on our first trip to Havana, one noon word went through the camp like lightning that we were to be honored by a visit from President Batista himself. We didn't know whether the rumor was true or not, but we made preparations anyway, most of the Caravanners decking themselves out in their best bibs and tuckers. By the middle of the afternoon, armed guards began to appear on all rooftops in the neighborhood. A squad of armed soldiers parked themselves at the front gate, another squad began to patrol the grounds. Mysterious black cars parked hither and yon on back streets — unquestionably something big was going to happen.

At about 5:30 a parade entered

(Continued from page 1)

the playground of the Bay of Fundy, twice daily, attracting thousands of visitors every year. Also at Moncton is the famed Magnetic Hill, where cars back up hill without power.

## ● Don't Miss Canadian Caravan!

From Moncton, the Caravan will travel to Nova Scotia, Canada's ocean playground. The Caravanners will see the shores of Minas Basin, where, at Cobiquid Bay during July and August, occur the highest tides in the world — anywhere from 45 to 90 feet! — anywhere from 45 to 90 feet!

The Caravan will enter Nova Scotia at Amherst, where we'll be welcomed by real bagpipe players in full regalia. From here to Kentville, where the Caravanners will be hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Palmer, on their 375-acre estate right in the heart of the famous Land of Evangeline. The Caravanners were the guests of the Palmers also two years ago, and they've never forgotten their wonderful hospitality and friendliness.

**FAIRYLAND VALLEY** From here through the beautiful Annapolis Valley to Digby, home port of the largest scallop fleet in the world and a favorite summer resort; Port Royal Habitation, first permanent European settlement north of the Gulf of Mexico; to Yarmouth, where the Caravan will spend several days exploring, resting, fishing. One of the 1955 Caravanners' most treasured memories of Canada

was the stay at Yarmouth on the beautiful estate of the Kenneys. Next stop, Antigonish, where the great Canadian forest meets the sea, a region noted the tourist world over for its magnificent

Lunenburg, home port of the marine scenery and its excellent fishing. Then across the Canso Causeway which connects Cape Breton to the mainland of Nova Scotia — called the Highroad to the Highlands. Here you'll find kindly and hospitable folk who can still speak the soft Gaelic language. St. Ann's here is the only Gaelic college in America

Antigonish blends Highland dancing away with handsome hooked rugs and woven tartans you'll treasure all your life.

**The most spectacular drive** in eastern Canada, Cabot Trail, through Cape Breton Highlands National Park, magnificent scenery climbing from sea level to hundreds of feet above the ocean, with breath-taking views wherever you look, is also on the schedule.

**FAMOUS LOBSTER REGION** Lovers of lobster and clams will have a field day in New Glasgow, last stop in beautiful Nova Scotia. This town has long stretches of sandy beach abounding in clams, and a giant clam bake festival is in store for the Caravan.

**"ORDER OF GOOD TIME"** By the way — the Caravanners are forever a part of this delightful province, because back in 1955 they were made members of the first social club organized in America more (Continued on page 6)

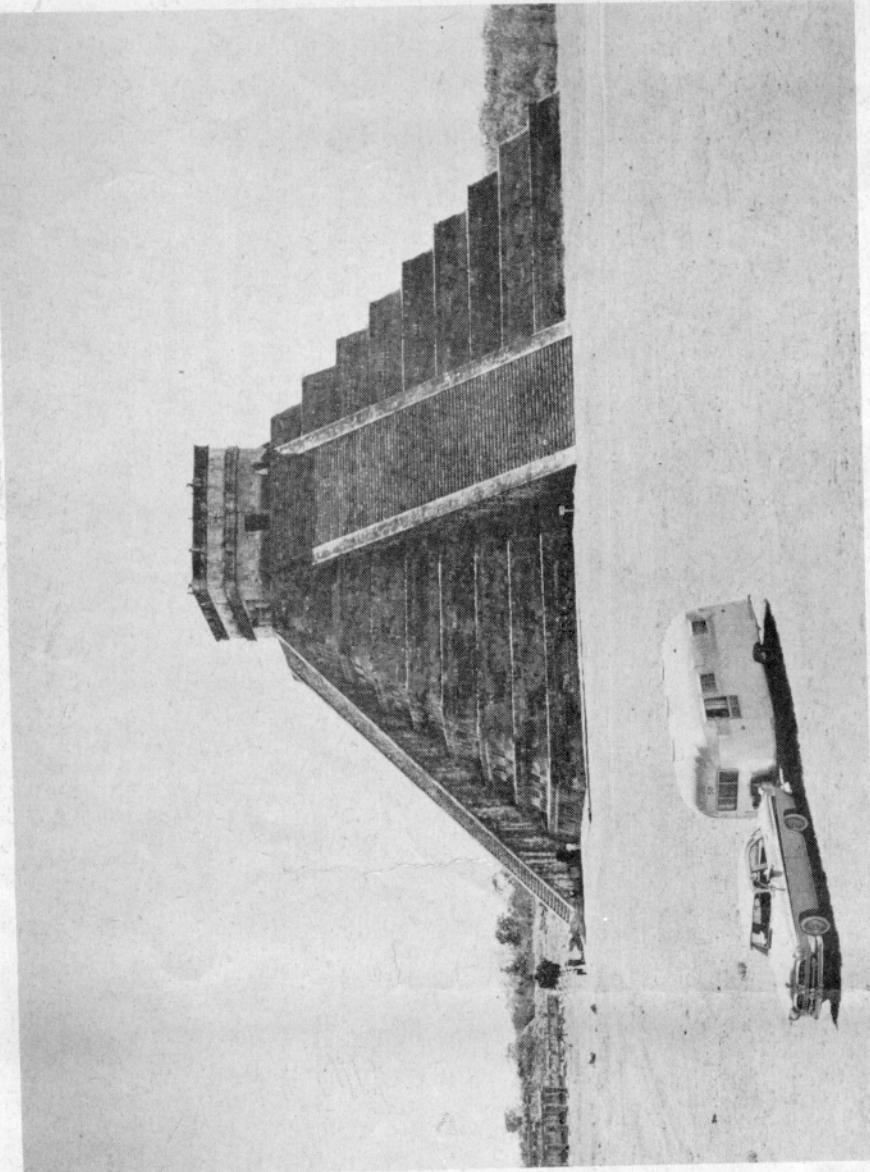
# HIGHLIGHTS OF MEXICAN CARAVAN



PARKING FEE: Here at Juarez, Paul Harshman of the parking committee collects funds for the various campsites. Parking fees were paid out of a common fund to which everyone contributed his share.



A NEW AIRSTREAM RECORD: Here's the first trailer ever to visit the fabulous Mayan ruins at Chichen Itza, in Yucatan. "Piloted" by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Mousley of San Bernardino, California, the Airstream was placed on a flatcar and taken on the rugged 27-hour ride by railroad through dense jungle before it reached a road for the rest of the journey through the heartland of the ancient Mayan empire. Mexican authorities say a road will be cut through the jungle within two years so that the Caravan as a whole will be able to visit this most incredible land of jungles and ruined cities, but meanwhile the glory of another "first" belongs to this Airstream.



All Photos by PETER TOWNSEND FURST



**PARKING FEE:** Here at Juarez, Paul Harshman of the parking committee collects funds for the various campsites. Parking fees were paid out of a common fund to which everyone contributed his share.



**WELCOME:** Native Mexican dancers entertained the Caravanners in this hall at luncheon given in their honor by Chihuahua merchants and service clubs.



Always popular with Caravanners at Guanajuato is the famed "mummy monastery," where hundreds of late Guanajuatans are stacked along the walls. Mummies are actually accidental — soil of cemetery has chemicals which prevent decomposition.

All Photos by PETER TOWNSEND FURST

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**SIGHTSEERS!** Here are the Caravanners massed in the courtyard of the historic Governor's Palace of Zacatecas, where a formal reception was held in their honor.

