

# The 8th International Rally: Another Brilliant Chapter in WBCC's History

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The 8th International Rally of the Wally Byam Caravan Club is over and another colorful chapter is added to the club's history. Another attendance record broken; it surpassed any other trailer rally ever held anywhere, anytime.

Approaching the rally from the hill, driving over the highway from Laramie, it was like a rippling silver lake reflecting the sun. Not until one was closer did the lake give way to shining Airstreams—2590 of them, all parked nearly in rows.

They were occupied by WBCC members who had driven from one part of the country to the other to meet for two weeks of friendship, fellowship and a program crammed with activities.

It is difficult to describe a gathering of this kind; no single report could do it justice. As one visitor said as he looked over the huge encampment, "I don't believe it." It was that exciting and unbelievable.

Never had the WBCC been more heartily welcomed. The words heard most often—spoken by the people of Laramie—were "What a wonderful group you have." By the WBCCers, "How could we be so lucky? This is the best." Everyone, Laramians and club members, are riched for having known each other. This is fellowship at the grass roots!

Although preparations had been going on in Laramie for a long time before the rally, it must have staggered the city to discover that the population had been increased by about 50 per cent. In fact, one of our club mathematicians came up with a 52 to 1 ratio between the population of the state and that of the rally, one member of the rally to every 52 residents of Wyoming.

Truck loads of groceries were brought in daily; trucks lined up waiting to be unloaded became a familiar sight. Whereas the supplies were formerly brought in from Cheyenne and Denver two and three times a week, now seven and eight trucks, and sometimes more, were arriving daily.

Every facility in town was strained to the bursting point, but happily everyone carried on. Long lines waited at every eating place three times a day—at this big rallies there is far too much going on for mama to waste time in the kitchen.

Breakfasts, luncheons and dinners were planned far in advance, and it wasn't unusual for

the International officers to be seen at two or three different breakfasts, luncheons and dinners on the same day, repeating the routine day after day.

Laramie's eating places filled to capacity, the grocery stores did a thriving business, as did the dairies, bakeries, drug stores, laundries, dry cleaning plants and every other business in town.

One dress shop owner is still reeling over a single sale that amounted to more than a thousand dollars.

The largest receptions, each planned for 7000 people, were those for Miss Lynda Bird Johnson, the president's daughter, and the new International officers of the WBCC. Following the 4th of July parade, Miss Johnson was honored at a reception given by the Wally Byam Foundation. Table appointments had been appropriately planned for her pleasure. Her monogram and the letters "USA," sculptured of ice about two feet high, flanked a magnificent floral arrangement at the head table.

The WBCC Teen Queens, and Miss Nebraska, the state queen who was a guest of one of the members, formed Miss Johnson's court. Miss Johnson with members of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation formed a receiving line to greet state, city and club officials.

Later, Miss Johnson spoke to the group from a dais which had been built especially for former President John F. Kennedy for his visit to Laramie about two months before his assassination.

An estimated 12,000 people lined the WBCC parade route July 4 to greet the honored guest, who arrived at the platform riding in a red convertible. She was met by Mrs. Carolyn Bennett Patterson, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Wally Byam Foundation, who introduced her to the WBCC International president and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Raney. Mrs. Raney presented Miss Johnson a lovely bouquet of red roses appropriately tied with wide, red, white and blue ribbon.

Miss Johnson viewed the entire parade, which took over two hours to pass the reviewing stand.

This annual parade always evokes extravagant praise from the spectators. Everything was assembled after the members reached the rally site. Some of the units had such elaborate floats that it was necessary to freight in the complex materials.

The parade is one of the com-

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