Travel Down the Wally Byam Highway

Around the World Caravan Background Notes

by Dale Schwamborn #00002

The stars twinkled in the evening sky as a young Wally Byam rolled out his sleeping gear for the night. It had been a warm day, the sheep had settled in and he was satisfied, that as adolescent, this met the expectations that his grandfather James Biswell had entrusted to him.

Throughout Wally's life, this love in being close to nature never diminished.

Camping is probably, in part, a segment for the master plan, leading to the spark igniting Wally's Airstream.

He provided the Airstream for those wanting to travel and to leave the mundane behind.

For himself, it is the miles hiking through the silent Sierra Nevada. Setting up a tent above the tree line, hiking over the highest trail passes in the Continental United States and just relaxing away from ties, suits and telephones.

Wally had dogs, early on when I knew him it was Skipper and Robin. Later on it was Chica and Penny. Very close to his heart are the burros, Pike and Jenny.

At home, Wally had a complete wall filled with cabinets storing his camping gear, and Airstream necessities. Pike and Jenny stayed with one of Wally's friend's at a ranch in San Marcos, CA.



Wally with his burros and camping gear.



Caravanners in the Calgary Stampede Parade

Is it possible that as a youth, he became the consummate shepherd? When he developed the Airstream, Wally Byam Caravans, his flock, now Airstreams and Caravanners, were always guarded with caring and a watchful eye.

This passion for the outdoors carries over to the freedom an Airstream gives the owner, to follow the compass to new adventures.

After several trips south of the border to Mexico and Central America, Wally Byam decided it was time to go north of the border to Canada. The summer of 1954 saw the Airstream Wally Byam Western Canadian Caravan cross the border.

The Calgary Stampede was on the schedule for Caravanners. This world renowned event is one of many "treats" for the group.

Everybody loves a parade especially Wally Byam. As a child in Baker City, Oregon, he looked forward to their Fourth of July parades. Wally, born on July 4, felt the parades were a special event celebrating his own birthday. As he grew older, he learned that the Fourth was a celebration of American Independence.

This love of parades promoted Wally to have a few Caravanners enter their Airstream rigs into the Calgary Stampede parade. The first vehicle is Don Waters, Wally's advance scout for the tour. Behind Dan's rig is #1, Wally and Stella's Airstream.

If you look real close to the left, you will see Wally Byam walking alongside the Airstreams in his western wear and beret.

There is nothing like a parade, Wally Byam and an Airstream.