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2590 AIRSTREAMS ATTEND 8TH INTERNATIONAL RALLY AT LARAMIE, WYO.

LARAMIE, Wyo. -- The Wally Byam Caravan Club International again outdid even itself as 2590 Airstream families attended the 8th International Rally here June 29 to July 5.

The Rally surpassed even last year's 7th International at Princeton, N.J., which attracted 2015 Airstream and had the New York World's Fair to stimulate interest. It was, of course, the largest trailer rally ever held in the U.S.

An estimated 8000 individual members of the WBCC were treated to the Rally's full schedule of activities. Among them, as guest of honor, was Lynda Bird Johnson, 21-year-old daughter of the President. Miss Johnson and her party comprise a three-trailer caravan which is presently touring the West in connection with the President's "See America First" program promoting domestic tourism.

The rally went like clockwork and was a sensation in this western city. The trailers began arriving in Laramie early in June from every state in the union and every province in Canada. They began filling their rally site on the grounds of the University of Wyoming June 22.

Scheduled pre-rally activities began the evening of June 24 with a mass "Hi Neighbor" square dance and gradually built in intensity

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as more and more of the trailers arrived.

The 8th International Rally of the Wally Byam Caravan Club officially began June 29 at a special Opening Ceremony. In attendance and welcoming the trailerists to Wyoming were the state's governor, Clifford P. Hansen; Russ Keck, mayor of Laramie; and many other state and local officials.

The rally provided literally hundreds of individual activities for the Caravan Club members. There were many kinds of dances, some of them in costume; various talent shows and exhibitions of arts and crafts; a full-fledged youth program for all ages; the showing of several 16mm travel movies; lecture and reading programs; dramatic presentations both by individuals and Club units; religious services, Catholic and Interdenominational, at the site; "sidewalk cafes" (meals eaten together in the central area) and many many others.

An extremely popular activity during the rally was the selection of the Wally Byam Caravan Club's "Teen Queen," the daughter or granddaughter with the best combination of beauty, talent and other qualities. For the third year in a row the Club's judges picked a Texas girl.

She is Jeannie Glenn, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Glenn, 119 Cabiness, Baytown, Texas.

X Professional entertainment was hired to appear before several gatherings of the Wally Byam Caravanners and their guests from Laramie. Songstress Virginia Sellers and xylophonist-comic Roger Ray topped the bill.

Highlight of the trailer rally came on July 4 with the appearance of the President's daughter in the long and colorful parade. Riding atop the back seat of a convertible, she waved happily to the thousands of trailerists and local citizens who had gathered for the occasion.

Later, Miss Johnson spoke briefly and met many of the Caravan Club members at a special reception in her honor.

Miss Johnson's trailer caravan was made available by the Wally Byam Foundation, a separate, non-profit organization formed to promote national and international understanding through the use of travel trailers. The Foundation is partly supported by contributions from members of the Wally Byam Caravan Club.

The parade was a large success in its own right. Many of the Club's 84 local units entered elaborate floats depicting local themes and ideas. Constructed in some secrecy, the floats were brought to the rally site in pieces aboard the trailers. They also included such things as horses and wagons rented locally.

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Immediately following the parade, Andrew J. Charles, chairman of the board of Airstream Inc., manufacturer of the particular make of travel trailers involved in the rally, spoke briefly on Wally Byam.

Byam, who died in 1962, is generally credited throughout the trailer industry with having developed the modern concept of self-contained trailers and with having personally generated the idea of group trailer travel in "caravans," particularly to foreign countries. Byam would have been 67 on this July 4. The Inter-

national Rallies were first started seven years ago to honor the trailer pioneer.

Although the 8th International Rally was primarily designed to provide fun and fellowship for the trailerists, there was a considerable amount of Club business. Many proposals relating to the year-round activities of the Caravan Club were considered and voted upon.

Elected as International officers for the 1965-6 term were Clarence Mathes, St. Paul, Minn., International president; Richard Paschke, Union Lake, Mich., first vice president; Ray Haycraft, Roswell, Ga., second vice president; Henry Geisert, Ogallala, Neb., third vice president; Lloyd Goodwin, Bluejacket, Okla., treasurer; and Margaret Zimpelmann, Santa Ana, Calif., recording secretary. Vic Raney, Anchorage, Alaska, is past International president. *H.B.S. — Int. Trustee*

The Wally Byam Caravan Club International Inc. -- its official name -- is a voluntary, independent organization for owners of Airstream travel trailers. Although it is sponsored by Airstream Inc. it is democratically controlled by its own elected officers, whose decisions are implemented by an executive director, Joe McCrory. McCrory, whose headquarters are in Bakersfield, Calif., is assisted by Helen Byam Schwamborn, a cousin of Wally Byam, national secretary.

The 8th International Rally of the Wally Byam Caravan Club had a tremendous impact upon the town of Laramie. Estimates of increased business -- in food, automobile supplies, gift and souvenir purchases and the like -- are running as high as \$1 million.

Characteristically, the Wally Byam Caravanners made substantial donations to local service, religious and welfare organizations. The Club purchased \$4000 worth of circus tickets from the Laramie Shriners.

Outright gifts included \$1456 to the Cathedral Home for Orphans, Laramie; \$500, Mental Health Clinic; \$100, Laramie Library; \$50 Lutheran Sunday School for Retarded Children; \$30 (from an individual Caravanner), Laramie Ministerial Association; and \$10 (also an individual donation) Laramie Council of Churches.

The Caravan Club arranged two one-year scholarships at the University of Wyoming, one to the Arts and Sciences Department and one to the Athletic Division.

Scholarships 3 — \$850.00