

BULLETIN NO. 1 - WALLY BYAM'S CARAVAN TO MEXICO, 1957.

We are enclosing your application blank. Please fill it out and return to Marianne. There will be another Bulletin later giving details about the meeting place, insurance, etc.

With so many successful tours to Mexico behind us, the Mexican Government and the Mexican people are giving us even more cooperation than we had in the past. And we are planning farther ahead than usual to give them more time to prepare a very special welcome for the Caravan all along the way.

WHO MAY GO: These Caravans have become so popular in the last few years that we just can't take everybody who wants to go, although we'd like to. The only ~~solution we have found is to give Airstream owners first choice (since the Caravans are sponsored by Airstream)~~, and if we can take other trailers and still have a comfortable, manageable group, we will. If you don't have an Airstream, send in your application and we will let you know about a month before the Caravan leaves whether or not there will be room for you.

TOURIST CARD: Each person must have a tourist card which you can buy at the border or any Mexican consulate for \$3.00. You must be able to prove your American citizenship--birth certificate or voter's registration are best, but sometimes they will accept a driver's license. Tourist cards for Guatemala can be obtained in Mexico City.

PETS: You need a health certificate from a veterinarian stating the pet is in good health and has had a rabies vaccination. Check with us at the bivouac point about having the certificate stamped at the border. This costs another \$3.00.

VACCINATION: It is a ruling of the U. S. Government that all citizens returning from a foreign country must have a vaccination certificate showing they have been successfully vaccinated in the last two years. This can be a notarized statement from your own physician, but it is better to have an "International Yellow Card" available at the Health Dept. in most cities. If you do not have this proof, the U. S. Customs officials can either refuse entry or vaccinate you right on the spot.

COST: We have asked in open meeting what it costs for a trip to Mexico, and we have received estimates of from \$140 for a man, wife and child, to as high as \$640 for a single couple. Our own rule of thumb for travel in any country is that your gas and oil will not ordinarily cost you more than \$25 a week, and usually less. Your food expenses should not be any more than at home. It depends entirely on how you live. Eating out costs more than cooking meals in your trailer. Porter House steaks cost more than stews. Rum costs more than water. There is no charge for going on the Caravan, each person just pays his own way. We collect small amounts for a Kitty to pay group expenses. Everyone has a vote on these expenditures from the Kitty.

PARKING: Parking can cost from nothing to as much as a dollar a day. Sometimes 25¢ a trailer is collected for a contribution to a local charity, hospital or school where we park on public grounds and no fee is charged.

ROADS: We get all the advance information we can about any road we go over, and if there is any question whatsoever, we send our own scouts on ahead. These people return to the campsite and report what they have seen. A vote is then taken as to whether we want to go over this road.

YOUR CAR: Have it in as good condition as possible. If it is new, have it well broken in. Your tires should be in good shape and you should have a good spare. If you have room, you could carry an extra spare tire and tube (not necessarily a spare wheel). You should have a spare fan belt. If you have a spare fuel pump, you may have need for it. We have more trouble with fuel pumps than any other one thing. If your car has any tendency to get hot, have the cooling system cleaned out, as Mexico has mountains. Hi-test gas is not available everywhere, but you can get by with any of their gas. It's cheaper than in the U. S.

YOUR TRAILER: Any Airstream trailer can go over any road. Only in a few places will your trailer ever be hooked up to electricity or water from a hose. For lights you can use a butane light, or buy kerosene oil lamps in Mexico, or use a Coleman kerosene or gasoline lantern, or you can use your car battery by changing your present light bulbs to 12-volt bulbs. There is plenty of butane in Mexico. Ice will oftentimes be available, but we cannot guarantee it at every stop. A gas refrigerator is obviously best under these conditions. Some method must be found for handling water for both drinking and washing. Some of us use a pressure water system, some a water tank and pump, and some carry their water in milk cans, army water cans or similar containers.

WATER: At no place in Mexico should you drink the water from a tap or hydrant or pump. It is not that it is not clean. It is simply that we Americans do not have the necessary bugs to counteract the bugs in Mexican water. We have even heard that Mexicans get sick drinking our water. You must either boil all drinking water in Mexico, or buy well-branded bottled water or treat your drinking water with army halazone pills (which can be bought at any war surplus store and many drug stores). **DON'T DRINK THE WATER AS IS.** The Mexican beer, however, is weak, cheap and healthy. Be sure you have facilities for carrying your water. American plumbing does not go with you when you cross the border.

TOILET FACILITIES: Most of the toilets of Mexico available to trailer people you will not like. Here are some solutions: You can carry a chemical toilet in your trailer, most trailer supply companies have them. Both Airstream factories also have them. They are used universally in England and Europe. Some people put chemicals in them, clorox, lime or even cologne. At every parking site a pit is dug into which you can empty these containers, as well as your garbage, night buckets, etc. Another good solution is to buy the paper garbage bags. It sounds funny, but it works. In many places, we can dig what we call "gopher holes" under our trailers and use the trailer toilets.

GROCERIES: Practically all American groceries are available in Mexico. Some of them are higher priced, some are not. We do not make any recommendations, but we don't think you would go wrong if you bought enough groceries before you left to last a week or so. Don't carry these all in one place in your trailer. Scatter them around. Don't insult the Mexican Customs officials. Things hard to get or expensive in Mexico are good canned meat, American coffee and any and all types of paper supplies. In Mexico there are good canned vegetables, fruits, dried milk, canned milk and some canned fish. You should not drink milk anywhere in Mexico unless you are absolutely sure it is pasteurized, dried or canned.

EATING OUT: Some people eat out continually and never get sick. Others nibble just once and get that famous Mexican ailment. It depends entirely on your tummy and nobody knows the answer. If you do get diarrhea, called unofficially by many so-called comical names, there are some good remedies in Mexico. One is "Enterio-Vio-Forma," another is ordinary aureomycin available in Mexico without a prescription. ~~But take it with you if you want to. There are many others.~~ Ask your doctor. Better yet, in Mexico don't eat anything that you cannot peel, or boil, or that has not been cooked real well. On every Caravan there are usually several American physicians and excellent emergency hospital facilities. Heart trouble - forget it! The Caravan usually goes slow and changes altitude at such a slow rate that the high altitude usually doesn't affect people.

MONEY: It is best to carry it in \$20 American greenbacks or \$20 American Express travelers checks. These are the easiest traveler's checks to cash. If you run short of money in Mexico, you can have it wired to you to any city by any friend who will do it for you. In a very few instances you can cash personal checks, but I wouldn't depend on it.

NAMES & NUMBERS: Every trailer must have a name and number painted on it. If you have been on a previous Caravan, you keep that number. If not, one will be assigned when we meet. If you want the service of a sign painter, there will be one available at the bivouac point. The cost may run from 50¢ to \$2.

LANGUAGE: Forget it. Enough people speak English for you to get by, and we always have interpreters on the Caravan.

WEATHER: Ordinarily the season is dry during the winter and there is little or no rain. In the higher altitudes, it is usually nippy at night but we have never encountered snow. The days are usually warm and sunny.

CLOTHES: Caravanners should take at least one outfit to wear for "nice," principally evening parties. Beyond that, ordinary trailering clothes are adequate. Washing is a bit of a problem if you don't do it yourself. The best way is to hire some village women to do it for you. Cleaning can usually only be done adequately in Mexico City.

EQUIPMENT:

1. Tow chain.
2. Some sort of container in which you can boil water for drinking.
3. Container for carrying water for washing.
4. A Coleman or oil lantern or candles. Electricity is almost never available. Oil lamps, lanterns and candles are available all over Mexico at low prices.
5. Shovel. & *Axe*

PICTURES: Oftentimes in the evenings we have picture shows. We will carry our own 16-mm. movie projector and 35-mm. slide projector. If you have films for either of these sizes, or have your own 8-mm. projector, please bring all of these things. We are sure our other Caravanners would like to see your pictures.

MUSIC: We will carry our own public address system and record player. If you have good records, bring them. If you play any kind of instrument, bring that. We are often able to organize small orchestras.

GUNS: We don't know how you arrange to take them to Mexico.

FISHING TACKLE: Bring it. We will encounter some of the world's best ocean fishing.

FOLDING CHAIRS: By all means, bring one for each person. We use them at Meeting Time and on many other occasions.

BERETS: Berets, pennants, Caravan stickers, Caravan pins, etc. will all be for sale at the time you register at the meeting place. We hope everyone will wear a blue beret. It is our badge of international good will and helps assure us a warm welcome in foreign countries.

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry!!!

Get your applications in.

January 25, 1956

The Wally Byam Caravan Club is national in scope, and open to Airstream owners. The National membership dues are \$1.00 per member per year. From this National Club, smaller units may be organized, such as the Western Unit to which was issued its charter at a meeting at Palm Springs Rally, Nov. 13, 1955.

It has been decided that two large units should be organized, one east and one west of the Rockies. After these larger units have become established, local charters may be granted by the National Club, patterned after the larger units.

Membership in these units is limited to Airstream owners who are members of the National Club. The Western Unit annual dues are \$5.00 per trailer. Since we are ~~all mobile units, we invite members from all localities. Those wishing to join may~~ send their request and fee to J. Aubrey Lyon, (Treasurer), 2790 Lorain Road, San Marino, California.

On December 9, 10, and 11, twenty-seven trailers caravanned to Death Valley, where we completed the organization of the unit and held election of officers. Officers elected were:

Pres. - Jac Davis, 863 North Beverly Glen, Los Angeles, Calif.
Vice Pres. - F. E. "Pop" Riley, P. O. Box 8, Avondale, Ariz.
Secretary - Ruth Davis, 863 North Beverly Glen, Los Angeles, Calif.
Treasurer - J. Aubrey Lyon, 2790 Lorain Road, San Marino, Calif.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman: Alice Beatty, Rt. 4, Escondido, Calif.
Earl Eddins, 224 North Sunkist Avenue, West Covina, Calif.
John J. Lieb, 4922 West Boulevard, Los Angeles 43, Calif.
Joe Downes, 4960 Newport Avenue, San Diego 7, Calif.
Art Costello, 9733 Manzanar Avenue, Downey, Calif.

Committee Members Appointed:

Legislative - Earl Eddins and "Mac" McDonald
Program - Alice Beatty
Historian - Genevieve Eddins

There are other committee members to be appointed. Please let us know what your experience and qualifications are. We want everyone who is willing to take an active part in this club.

It was too bad that there were not more present at the Death Valley Rally, but we got off to an enthusiastic start anyway. Cooperation and good fellowship in the group is beyond all expectations. The Super Pot Luck was just what the word implies. A very inspirational church service was ably conducted by our good friend, Mrs. Sowash, in the open desert. Sightseeing tours and slide lectures by our friendly forest ranger were enjoyed by all. The lectures were held in the auditorium of the Furnace Creek Ranch, which was very graciously furnished by Oscar Christensen, manager.

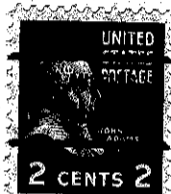
Officers and Board Members met at the beautiful ranch home of Louis and Alice Beatty in Escondido on Jan. 14, 15 and 16th to plan the caravan to the Colorado River. Business was combined with pleasure through several potluck dinners arranged by our gracious hostess.

One of our Board members, Earl Eddins, introduced the Mystery Man idea and it will be used at the Colorado River for the first time. You won't want to miss shaking hands with the Mystery Man and winning a valuable prize, to be donated by Mr. Eddins. We have high hopes for a large representation at this meeting, as plans for future scheduled trips will be made and important business transacted. Plans are being drawn for a Western Canada or a National Park Caravan or both, if sufficient interest is shown.

Those wishing to receive future Western Unit News Bulletins, please notify Secretary and give correct mailing address.

RUTH DAVIS, Western Unit Secretary.

AIRSTREAM TRAILERS, INC.
1755 NORTH MAIN STREET - CA. 4193
LOS ANGELES 31, CALIFORNIA



J. B. Harrison
9421 Vista Dr.
Spring Valley, Calif.

1957 WALLY BYAM CARAVAN TO MEXICO

The greatest of a long line of successful Mexican tours is about ready to roll. The officials and townspeople in every town along the way are getting out their best welcome mats for the 1957 Wally Byam Caravanners. So get ready for a fabulous cruise through this tourist wonderland!

ITINERARY:

Jan. 10-14: Assemble, get acquainted and organized into committees at Juarez, where all kinds of festivities will get the Caravan off to a flying start.

Jan 15:	Leave Juarez in the morning for Chihuahua.
Jan 15, 16:	Chihuahua, Chih. 236
Jan 17:	Parral, Chih. - 184
Jan 18, 19:	Durango, Dgo. - 235
Jan. 20, 21:	Zacatecas, Zac. - 183
Jan 22, 23:	Aguascalientes, Ags. - 81
Jan 24, 25, 26, 27:	Guanajuato, Gto. - 117
Jan 28, 29:	Lake Patzcuaro, Mich.
Jan 30:	Morelia, Mich. - 33
Jan 31, Feb 1:	Toluca, Mex. - 155
Feb 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7:	Mexico City, D.F. - 41
Feb 8, 9, 10:	Iguala, Gro. (side trip to Taxco) - 150 - 22
Feb 11 - 17:	Acapulco, Gro. - 138
Feb 18, 19:	Cuernavaca, Mor. 197
Feb 20, 21, 22:	Puebla, Pue. - 144
Feb 23:	Huajuapán de León, Oax. - 137
Feb 24, 25, 26:	Oaxaca, Oax. - 124
Feb 27, 28, Mar 1:	Tehuantepec, Oax. - 156

From here on the Itinerary will depend on road conditions which may vary from week to week. From Tehuantepec we will send our scout out to bring in information on the road to Guatemala and the road to Yucatan. Our belief is that a group of hardy souls will vote to go into Guatemala at least as far as Chichicastenango and possibly to Guatemala City, depending on road conditions. Another group will decide to cross the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to Quetzacoatl, then either ship their outfits on the Mexican railway to Merida in Yucatan or decide to go over the road to Merida. The large majority of the Caravan most likely will vote to go over the paved road from Tehuantepec to Quetzacoatl, then work north over the good road to Vera Cruz. We have an excellent campsite in Vera Cruz.

From Vera Cruz the Caravan will split up in three divisions. Those going direct to Laredo or Brownsville, those going back the central highway to El Paso, and those going up the West Coast to Nogales. A representative of the Wally Byam Caravan, or Wally Byam himself, will travel with the largest group. In any instance, the majority will arrive back in the U.S. about the middle of March.

Anyone can leave the Caravan anytime they want to, for their own happiness or to meet their own schedule.

ON ARRIVAL IN EL PASO: A representative of the Wally Byam Caravan will be stationed at the El Rancho Grande Trailer Park, which is several miles out of El Paso on the road to Los Angeles. We used to bivouac there, and we recommend it if you arrive before our campsite is open. This time we are bivouacking in Juarez to simplify the border crossing with so many trailers. Our official representative will give you full information on the easy border crossing and directions to the campsite.

We recommend that you arrive several days before Jan. 15. Our Juarez campsite will be operating beginning Jan. 10. The caravan secretary will be at this campsite, and you should sign in and transact all business, including insurance, with her here.

INSURANCE: Your regular American insurance does not cover you in Mexico. Therefore, you must have special policies for the trip. Heretofore, we have always had very excellent insurance from an American company, sold to us by an American insurance agent, Bob Raphael, and our experience has been very satisfactory. However, it has been suggested to us that it would be more in line with the spirit of good will of these Caravans if we had Mexican insurance. So we have asked our agents in Mexico to get us Mexican insurance, providing it meets with the same high standards of protection and service that we have had from the American company. We will have all this information for you when you sign in at Juarez.

Each Caravanner may have any insurance he wants, but those who purchase from whatever official company the Caravan does business with will have the added protection of having an insurance adjuster travel with the Caravan all the way and handle many situations such as contact with local police that are not ordinarily provided by standard insurance policies. Our advice is to hold off on your insurance until you arrive in Juarez and contact Caravan headquarters.

NECESSARY DOCUMENTS: 1) Smallpox vaccination certificate as mentioned in Bulletin #1, 2) Health certificate signed by a veterinary for pets (rabies shots for dogs) 3) Tourist card (see Bulletin #1), 4) Registration certificate for your car and your trailer--if you are not the legal owner, you should have notarized permission from the legal owner to take the vehicle into Mexico, 5) Guns-- we advise against taking them, but if you must, you can find out the procedure at a Mexican Consulate. Other than guns, the Mexican authorities will not bother you for anything that you have in your trailers.

MAIL: Our own Caravan mailman will collect the mail at each stop on the itinerary and distribute it. Have your mail addressed as follows:

Wally Byam's Caravan
Your name *J. B. HARRISON*
Lista de Correos
Town, State, Mexico

Everything should be sent airmail, and we recommend that you have only important mail forwarded to you in Mexico.

JACK RABBITS: "Jack Rabbits" (or those who jump out ahead of the Caravan) have always been a source of argument on previous tours. This practice confuses the parking committee, works havoc with our Mexican hosts, and at recent Meeting Times has been voted against by the majority as a practice that is against the interests of the Wally Byam Caravanners. Therefore, it is requested that no one pass the parking chairman or "Wagon Boss" on this tour unless it is a definite emergency. Those who for unusual reasons must travel faster than our schedule are requested to start out at least a week ahead of the Caravan and not become a part of it.

ADVERTISING SIGNS: We request that no member of the Caravan have any advertising on car or trailer. Such signs confuse our Mexican hosts into thinking that these good will tours have a mercenary angle. None of the official cars of the Caravan have any advertising on them whatsoever except the Wally Byam Caravan signs, so we request that if you have any signs on your cars, trailers or trucks advertising anything, you paint them out before crossing the border as a member of this Caravan.

RED CARPET: The Mexican Government has always been usually hospitable to the Wally Byam Caravan, and this year (if such a thing is possible) they are being more so than ever. The wearers of the famous Blue Beret have a personal and private key to all of Mexico and a big welcoming hand extended to them wherever they go. Everyone on these tours pays his own expenses and gets special privileges only because he is a member of the Wally Byam Caravan. But we want you to know that all of the information given to you in all the Bulletins is purely advisory. No member of the Caravan gets any commission from anyone for anything nor does the Mexican Government pay us anything for bringing the Caravan to Mexico.

Caravanning is a hobby and practically a religion with us. We hope and believe that you will feel the same and help us to build good will for the American way of life and the trailer way of traveling.

MEXICO CITY TOURS: Our agents in Mexico, Pancho Lona Tours, have as usual planned many wonderful tours for us in and around Mexico City. They have been our agents since the very first Caravan and do a fine job for us. You'll be hearing more details about these in Juarez.

PARKING: We have a definite schedule set up by the Mexican Tourist Dept. wherein we pay from 25¢ to \$1 per night for parking in Mexico. This money is either paid to the owner of the parking site or to a local charity recommended by the local authorities. We will most likely know in Juarez exactly what this will be from Juarez to Acapulco. We are recommending that in order to make it easier for the parking committee and the treasurer, each Caravanner pay his parking fees in advance from Juarez to Acapulco. This money will be paid to the treasurer (or Keeper of the Kitty) who will be elected in open meeting in Juarez. Outside of parking, the kitty expenses are trivial, principally for such things as for hiring an orchestra (inexpensive in Mexico) which has been voted on at open meetings, paying for guide services, police protection, etc.

ENTERTAINMENT: There are many opportunities for talented Caravanners to entertain the group when we are camped along the way. If you play an instrument, bring it. If you can put on any kind of act or have interesting movies or slides to show your fellow Caravanners, they love it and are a wonderful audience. Drop us a line if you can provide any entertainment. We'd like to know in advance so we can plan and have the necessary equipment, etc.

THIS FROM WALLY: "We have conducted many Caravan trips to Mexico but honestly and truthfully I think that this is going to be the best of them all. We are not only taking the cream of our best stops from previous Caravans, but we are adding many new sights and thrills that for various reasons we have been unable to offer previous Caravans. Guanajuato, for instance, never had a big enough campsite for us till this year. And with each Caravan, the Mexican Tourist Dept. has become more cognizant of how much these tours mean to Mexico, both in dollars and good will to the point where now they are really making this trip through Mexico outstandingly sensational. Though Art Costello, President of Airstream-California, is officially conducting this tour, I am riding along as a Caravanner to enjoy all the extra special fun that this tour will provide. You are lucky folks. DON'T MISS IT!"

--WALLY BYAM.

Comay 100 - 15th
 Chihuahua 115
 Chihuahua 116 - 233 - 15th - 16th
 Comay 94.5
 Parral 89.5 184 - 27th
 El Estero 106
 Durango 118.5 251.5 - 18th & 19th
 Durango 141
 Durango 37 - 178 - 20th & 21st
 Durango 80 - 80 - 22nd - 23rd
 Leon - 78
 Salas - 22 - 90
 Guanajuato - -

$$\frac{85}{15} = 5\frac{2}{3}$$