



MODERN GYPSIES CAMP AT LANSDOWNE.

Six hundred American visitors, in a caravan of more than 200 gleaming aluminum trailers, arrived in Ottawa yesterday and will be encamped at Lansdowne Park until Friday. The visit to the Capital is a highlight of their tour of Eastern Canada led by trailer manufacturer Wally Byam.

(Journal Photo by Dominion Wide)

WEDNESDAY,
JULY 15, 1959.

600 U.S. Visitors 'Camp' Here

A modern version of the wagon train is encamped in Ottawa today.

Six hundred Americans, with a yen to explore the historic sites of Canada, have invaded the Capital in a gleaming silver caravan of more than 200 trailers.

They are encamped on the spacious greens of Lansdowne Park and will be there until Friday, when they leave for Montreal and other points on a trip that will take them to the Maritimes, where they can

relive the expulsion of Evangeline and other Acadians.

Form Streets.

"Usually we camp like a covey of quail, ring on ring in a circle", says Ray Whaley, a retired insurance executive, who lives at Montgomery, Alabama. "But the grounds here afford us the luxury of also having streets, like what we jokingly call Slum avenue, where we live."

The Whaleys, Ray and his wife, Alma, are tall, white-haired, blue-eyed folk, with a ruddy complexion, typical of many others in the trailer camp who have been "on the road since early June".

Ottawa the Highlight.

"It's been interesting so far, but this visit to Ottawa is likely to be the highlight of our trip, with the Mounties, Houses of Parliament and what-have-you", said Mrs. Whaley, in a Southern accent, just dripping with the suggestion of Magnolias and mint juleps.

"I declare, the people in Canada are among the friendliest I ever met."

Majority of the group in the caravan are retired or semi-retired professional people—some with their own children, others with grandchildren.

Nearly every state is represented and everyone seems to be having a grand time, says Mrs. Betty Taylor, of Kokomo, Indiana, who is the unpaid leader of the tour.

Last night, the city's Tourist and Convention Committee turned out en masse to welcome the visitors, distributing silver spoons that were a memento of Princess Margaret's 1958 visit to the Capital.

my wife this time, because the people were so friendly."

The caravanners gathered at The Dells, Wisconsin, in June and then started their move east. They entered Canada at Sault Ste. Marie.

Their last stop before arriving at the capital was at Algonquin Park.

"We started from there around 8 o'clock this morning, with the first trailer reaching the city limits around 1.30 p.m.

We take our time travelling, so that all can enjoy the sights. The last trailer didn't arrive here until after 5 o'clock with, of course, frequent stopovers."

While travelling, the trailers are well-spaced so as not to block or hinder traffic wanting to pass on the highway.

Get Police Escort.

A police escort was waiting for the trailers at their Britannia Drive-In Theatre rendezvous and escorted them down Carling avenue and round the Driveway to Lansdowne.

There were shiny aluminum trailers parked for half a mile down Highway 17 from the theatre entrance.

Also parked on the road shoulder was Mayor Nelms' car, while His Worship wandered through the caravans and chatted with the travellers after greeting the wagon master and the tour leaders.

He spent half an hour there, then had to rush back to City Hall for a Board of Control meeting, still wearing the blue tam that is the Wally Byam caravan hallmark.

Drawn up in a ring at Lansdowne, the trailers read like a map of the United States, with licence plates from almost every corner of the Union.

The majority of the travellers are wealthy retired couples, owners of Cadillacs and Lincolns, with a smattering of station wagons.

In some centres, civic officials arrange for the travellers to use two-dollar bills so that a record can be kept of the money spent in that town.

Many Young Couples.

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Last night, the city's Tourist and Convention Committee turned over to the caravan to welcome the travellers, distributing silver spoons that were a memento of Princess Margaret's 1958 visit to the Capital.

Gerald Geldert, director of the tourist bureau, was among the welcoming committee and told *The Journal* that the stop-over in Ottawa would mean extra revenue for local businessmen.

Among the activities planned are guided trips to the Parliament buildings, boat trips along the Rideau Canal and Ottawa river and even a trip down to the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The caravan tours are the brainstorm of Wally Byam, an American who has made a comfortable living by manufacturing and selling trailers.

There are three tours under way at present, the one in Canada, one in Mexico and, of all places, one in Africa.

Each caravanner pays his own expenses, and contributes to the kitty which is used for camping facilities, hydro, water and what-have-you.

"It's no more expensive than living at home", say the Whaley's, who are the only representatives of the State of Alabama in the caravan. "We have everything in this trailer that we have in our permanent home, only on a smaller scale."

People So Friendly.

It's not the first visit for Mr. Whaley to Ottawa. He was here on the last tour, two years ago. "But I just had to bring

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Typical are the Eisens, Jack and Mary, and their sons, John, 13, and Eddie, nine, Californians who have been caravanning for the past three Summers.

In the Winter, Mr. Eisen plies his trade as a building contractor while his wife teaches school.

Their trailer, like all the others, is built of aluminum, and is 22 feet long. They hitch it to a "camp truck" where the boys and their pet pooch, Rusty, sleep.

Inside it looks like a cross between an airplane and ship's cabin with all the requisites from refrigerator and shower to ample cupboard space and four-burner stove. Many have TV sets.

The trailers range in cost from \$3,000 to \$6,000 and the campers pay their own way all down the line.

Most of them paint their names and the previous caravans they've been on, on the side of their trailers.

All told, there are some 19,000 disciples of the Wally Byam Caravan in the United States, with most of them on the road for three months of the year. They can pick up or drop off the caravan wherever they please.

KING CABINS

ROUTE NO. 3

Pages 23 to 36

Fi St R



DESIGN FOR HOLIDAY: A trailer caravan, 216 units with more than 500 travellers, parked at Brossard on the south shore, looked like this to airborne Gazette photographer Larry McInnis yesterday.

(Gazette Photo Service)

Folks Are Friendly But Picnic Areas Missed

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more than 500 travellers, parked at Brassard on the south | McInnis yesterday.

Folks Are Friendly But Picnic Areas Missed

A retired Texan sat on the front stoop of a trailer at Brassard on the south shore yesterday, swatting flies and talking about this travel schedule that should land him home in Wichita Falls in time for Christmas.

"Why, just by turning off the air conditioner at home, I saved \$60 a month. That's enough to buy gas for the car," said J. B. (Doc) Mooney, as he fanned himself with his wide-brimmed hat.

Before him, stretched across the field on the river's edge were 216 auto trailers.

The trailer caravan, on a tour of eastern Canada, is so large that it took two and one-half hours Saturday just to park side-by-side.

The main part of the caravan are retired couples, not all are in it doctors,

were a couple from California. They have been travelling by trailer since the first of the year.

"There are folks here from almost every state in the union," said the man from California. His wife agreed. "Doc' Mooney nodded.

Another couple, from Hubbard's Falls, Texas, sauntered past. "They're getting the Yankees-Chicago game real good on television at the service station down the road," said the man, who like Doc Mooney, had a wide-brimmed hat.

"Too bad we couldn't hook up our trailer to a power outlet," he said. "Then, we could relax and watch the game on our own set."

"They told me in Ontario to forget about looking for parks or picnic areas when we got to Quebec province. There just aren't any, they tell me," Doc Mooney said.

"I'd sure like to watch that ball game," said the other Texan as he walked away.

"And I'd like to buy a Sunday paper. I'm told there aren't any published in Canada," said the man from California.

No stranger to the highly mobile vacationers and their needs are fellow trailer-travellers Mr. and Mrs. Hildege Lussier, owners of the camping grounds on the south shore.

In the last 12 years Mr. Lussier estimates he has pulled his big trailer over about 40,000 miles of United States highways. Once the tourist season is over around here, they take to the open roads for four or five months.

No plans have yet been made for next winter. "It all depends on how much money we make and how much time we'll have," Mr. Lussier said. "And we might just do something different — maybe take a trip to Switzerland."

By Lauchie Chisholm and Joe Emery

began in convoy from Wisconsin lawyers, one family group of seven, school teachers and a clergyman who conducted service yesterday morning on the vice yesterday morning on the camp site.

A four-day stop was made at the exhibition grounds in Ottawa and, from here, the group will visit

Seated next to 'Doc' Mooney, a



(Gazette Photo Service)

FLOATING CANADIANA: Three students view one of 50 paintings by the noted Canadian artist, Albert Cloutier, R.C.A., which left Montreal for Kapuskasing, Ont., Goetz Pfaefflin and his brother Albricht, were sailing on the vessel for a vacation abroad. The paintings will be shown at Southampton and Bremerhaven, routes and at South Hampton and Bremerhaven,

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