

# THE Caravanner

A PAPER PUBLISHED  
BY AND FOR THOSE  
WITH A SPIRIT OF  
TRAVEL-ADVENTURE



VOL. 16 — NO. 4

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1970

## 3 SOUTH-BOUND TOURS NOW FORMING

### *Airstream Caravan Destinations: Acapulco, W. Mexico and Yucatan*

By Helen Byam Schwamborn

Wally Byam Caravanners will have a choice of routes and dates in planning their visit to Mexico this fall and winter. Three tours have been scheduled, each going

a different route and each lasting for about six weeks.

The caravan to the **Riviera of the West — Acapulco** — will rendezvous in McAllen, Texas Nov. 1, and return to McAllen Dec. 11. Caravanners on this tour will travel through northern deserts, over tropic wonderlands and alongside a shining ocean.

Enroute to Acapulco, the Caravanners will visit Guaymas, where the fishermen in the group will try their luck, and Mazatlan, where the craft lovers will find the ultimate in arts and crafts. They will stroll through a series of adobe thatched-roof huts with artisans from all over Mexico creating every kind of handicraft.

The Airstreamers will have several days in Guadalajara. From there they will enjoy short excursions to places like Lake Chapala, Mexico's largest natural lake, and the sleepy village of Ajijic, home of artists, writers and craftsmen.

Patzcuaro, Indian for "place of delight" is on the itinerary. Caravanners will find this 16th century village, perched on a slope overlooking a mile-high lake, a great place to do some early Christmas shopping. The corner

### *Airstream Plays Host Oct. 23 At Victorville*

A "World of Adventure" awaits Airstream owners attending the Airstream Rally in Victorville, Calif., Oct. 23-25.

Victorville is located in the High Desert country 150 miles northeast and 4,000 feet higher from Los Angeles. The world of the high desert is especially beautiful in October. The days are warm and bright, the nights cool and crisp and star-studded. The air day or night is clean, clear and dry.

Life in the high desert is informal and flavored with western hospitality. It is a world of jeeps

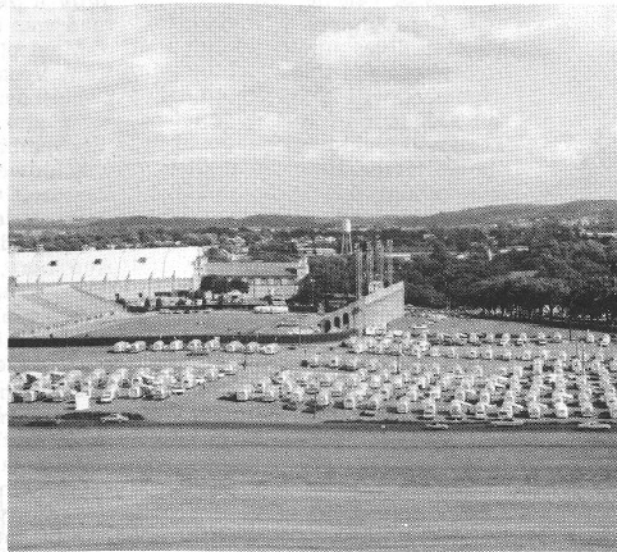


WBCC's Record-Breaking 13th International Rally at Hershey, Pa. (See Story on Page 3)

## European Tour To Visit 17 Nations



Welcoming First Impression of Hershey Rally



A Tiny Fraction of the Massive Formation



WBCC Unit Officers Form a Row of Their Own

# HERSHEY

## WBCC's 13th International Attracts 3,402 Airstream Families — an All Time Record



Club's Square Dancers Had Full Schedule of Events

By O. C. Michelmann  
Photos by Frank Wilber

All previous attendance records were shattered at the 13th International rally of the Wally Byam Caravan Club. Some 10,000 persons in 3,402 Airstream travel trailers came to build a "silver city" for a week's stay at Hershey, Pa., June 29 to July 5.

The 1966 Cadillac, Mich. rally, with 2,828 trailers, had formerly been the largest ever held on this continent.

The repeat visit to Hershey, after nine years, resulted in renewed friendships and new ones among club members and also among those at Hershey.

Alex Christiansen, of Lacey, Wash. was elected 1970-1971 international president to lead the 22,000 registered member families of the club. He succeeds Paul Chamberlain, Scottsdale, Ariz.

The Hershey community gave the 10,000 reunion visitors a rousing welcome. James E. Bobb, president of Hershey Estates, warmly welcomed the visitors to Pennsylvania and to Hershey. Charles Wohlgenuth, agricultural-business division director, extended greet-

Troop, Boy Scouts of America, mounted the United States, Canada and Mexico national banners, while the respective countries' national anthems were being played by the Hershey school band.

On "Pennsylvania Day," June 30, Lieutenant Governor Raymond J. Broderick brought the state's formal welcome to the commonwealth. To this, President Chamberlain responded. Also on the rostrum were William T. Schmidt, secretary of commerce; Leland H. Bull, secretary of agriculture; Miss Margaret Walker, WBCC "Miss Pennsylvania of 1970"; and "Pete" Wambach, area radio personality, master of ceremonies.

Packing the stadium stands, WBCCI members and visiting friends witnessed a Pennsylvania talent program featuring the Carlisle High School marching band, a mini-version of the awe-inspiring mounted horse and motorcycle State Police Patrol rodeo and heard a vocal presentation by the "Sing Out Lebanon" group.

Fun and fellowship prevailed throughout the week. With more than 100 committees there was

crowning of the Teen Queen. Miss Carol Ann Drieling 19, Troy, Ohio was chosen for the 1970-1971 term.

The four-hour Hobby show attendance far exceeded that of previous rallies. Noticeable was the increase in those collecting unusual items, and in the art and handicraft sections. For drivers particularly there were Airstream seminars, also a special panel on towing.

"Free-wheelers" (single adults) enjoyed their usual and customary meeting and special luncheon.

Just prior to the 4th of July parade, Vice Commander John W. Etter, Hershey Post, American Legion, presented President Chamberlain with a certificate commending the WBCCI membership on its display of the American flag. The two-hour, Independence Day parade, staged in the stadium oval, included 19 floats. North California Unit's float won first prize. Along its sides were 13 mammoth nuggets of golden memories, the number 13 symbolizing the Hershey rally.

For the week's visitors, Hershey also offered a museum of distinc-



### Club's Square Dancers Had Full Schedule of Events



Ohio's Carol Ann Drieling Is Crowned Teen Queen

The Hershey community gave the 10,000 reunion visitors a rousing welcome. James E. Bobb, president of Hershey Estates, warmly welcomed the visitors to Pennsylvania and to Hershey. Charles Wohlgemuth, agricultural-business division director, extended greetings to all assembled, as he had in 1961. Dr. John Hershey, president, Milton Hershey School, told of his school for teen-age boys, made possible by its founder, the late Milton Hershey, who also built the community known as "Chocolate Town, USA." President Chamberlain ably responded to the welcome.

The "Pennsylvania Dutch" motif of the rally was first evidenced at the typical "barn front" main gate, complete with hex signs, as trailers entered the parking areas. Adding vivid color to the opening Monday morning program at the Hershey stadium was the spectacular array of flags aligned on each side of the speakers' platform. They were the emblems of various international offices, regional, state and local WBCCI units.

The flag-raising ceremony was under the direction of Lieut. Col. Truman Humes, USAF. Hershey

spiring mounted horse and motorcycle State Police Patrol rodeo and heard a vocal presentation by the "Sing Out Lebanon" group.

Fun and fellowship prevailed throughout the week. With more than 100 committees there was something of interest in amusement, entertainment and play for all. Committee workers served for the plain joy of it.

Varied facilities included a 17,000-seat stadium, sports arena, high school auditorium and gym, ballroom, an Olympic-sized swimming pool and golf courses. Square dancing and ballroom spaces were ample. Swimming and handicraft helped keep some 1500 youngsters busily occupied.

Contests, tournaments and other competitive events included an amateur hour, art, bridge, chess, fashion show, flower arrangements, golf, gopher-hole decorating, horse-shoe-pitching, Jarts, parades (pet and 4th of July), pet show, Pennsylvania Dutch costume evening, photographic exhibitions, skits and the highly-featured Teen Queen selection.

As at past WBCCI rallies, the week's top highlight was the

California Unit's float won first prize. Along its sides were 13 mammoth nuggets of golden memories, the number 13 symbolizing the Hershey rally.

For the week's visitors, Hershey also offered a museum of distinction in Americana, its rose gardens and arboretum, a playground with dozens of rides for children and an elevated monorail train to the guided tours through the chocolate factory.

With Joe Feeney as master of ceremonies and tenor soloist, Lawrence Welk entertainers, including also an accordionist and a dance team, presented a "hit" evening program. As Joe sang "Danny Boy," to the delight of a packed Sports Arena, he moved through the audience carrying a small boy.

Among the youngest of rally visitors was five-weeks-old Kathryn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Moen, Lake Geneva, Wisc. Among senior citizens were the "Galavantin' Grandmas," Denzel West of Columbus, Ohio and guests Bess Gross and Fern Poisson, all widows and over 70.

(Continued on Page 6)



Local Dignitaries Attend Opening Ceremonies



Jack Benny Was an Honored Guest at the Rally



Unit Presidents March on With State Flags

plain loading. What makes it of special interest is that few of the press members had any previous exposure to travel trailers. At the end of the week-long tour they returned as seasoned veterans of trailer living and towing, confirmed enthusiasts of this sort of touring and of Airstreams in particular.

The week was organized by Don Payne, manager of the Las Vegas News Bureau, and sponsored jointly by his bureau and the Central Nevada Development Agency. Airstream furnished the four new trailers, while the Chevrolet Motor Division provided four new Impala Custom coupes. Airstream added one further generous touch, the aid and company of Mr. and Mrs. Don Webster, who towed their personal 31-foot trailer. Webster, a consultant for Airstream, acted as general instructor for the novice trailerites.

The press group included newspaper writers from the Pacific coast, magazine staff members and a television film crew from Sacramento. This latter team spent their week shooting news features of local characters for their "The Good Life" show, and wound up featuring the Websters as living the good life in an Airstream.

Junket director Payne designed the tour so that the press was exposed to more than central Nevada's unique scenery. At each stop local residents—mostly "old-timers" with a great sense of history—were invited for dinner and refreshments, followed by talk sessions around the campfire.

Central Nevada, as the junketeers quickly discovered, is well covered with small towns rich in mining history, and populated for the most part by citizens firmly convinced that the price of gold and silver will increase so that it will once more be economic to mine what remains of Nevada's mineral wealth. And they have convincing arguments that there is still plenty of gold (and silver) in them thar hills.

For example, on the second day the group stopped in Goldfield to take a look at Martin Duffy's mine, the Florence. Duffy, who arrived in Goldfield as a youngster in 1904, when the population was

100,000, was dug from the Florence. Since then, nothing. Duffy admits that even if the ore is located the price of gold would have to increase to at least \$70 an ounce to make it worth mining.

Perhaps the most curious aspect of Nevada's nearly dormant mining industry is the secretiveness discovered by the newsmen on the tour. In Round Mountain, another old-timer and licensed gold smelter, Eddie Critchfield, demonstrated his placer mill. Clearly, it was operating on a regular basis, but when pressed for details of exactly who his customers were he became very vague and spoke of past glories.

Gold was not the only attraction for the press traveling in their Airstreams. They discovered that trout fishing, although little known, is good in Nevada. Ponds were fished (successfully) on the Kielhack Ranch near Round Mountain, in Kingston Creek near Austin, in the Eagle Valley Reservoir about 200 miles north of Las Vegas, and in some amazingly beautiful meadow streams on the Eureka Ranch, some 80 miles from Ely.

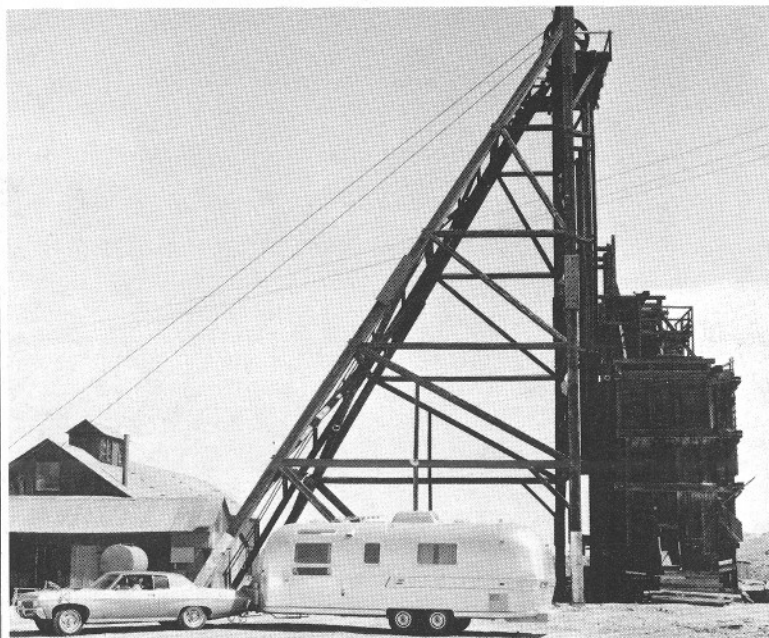
It was on the 550,000-acre

lition was dug from the Florence. Since then, nothing. Duffy admits that even if the ore is located the price of gold would have to increase to at least \$70 an ounce to make it worth mining.

Because it has been relatively few tourists, Ophir is in better shape than most of Nevada's ghost towns. Its crumbling remnants typify life at the turn of the century when mining was king. Collectors still find antique medicine and liquor bottles, colored by the sun and age.

The trip proved several things: that central Nevada, considered by most people to be either barren range land or inhospitable mountains, has a lot to offer, from new vacation home developments, excellent fishing, rockhounding, and friendly people to fascinating old small towns, all mixed with a delightful high-altitude climate that is quite temperate in summer.

Of equal importance, it showed a group of novices how easy and flexible completely self-contained trailer living can be—especially in an Airstream.



Headframe of Still Operable Florence Mine in Goldfield



## ● Hershey

(Cont'd from Page 3)

Largest WBCCI family at the International rally was one of 12 persons. Robert and Frances Newcomb, Edgewood, Md. came with six daughters (ages 1 to 21) and four sons (7 to 16).

A travel log of 250,000 miles—that's what Ray and Pearl Lind, Grosse Point Woods, Mich. have built up since he retired at age 65 in 1957. Trips have included Alaska, across Canada, all continental states, Mexico and Panama—the last two places with Wally Byam Caravans. They have attended 12 WBCC International rallies.

The Hershey rallyist with highly unusual occupational experience was Robert M. Tracey, Baltimore, Md. Privately, Bob is his own crew (except for co-pilot, Mary, his wife) when traveling about via their Airstream. His work-a-day job is as Engineman Tracey on Penn Central's New York-Washington Metroliner.

Recent passengers on the high-speed train were the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Going forward, from his Metroclub car to the train's head-end, and looking over Engineman Tracey's shoulder, the duke watched the speedometer hit 115 mph. When Tracey asked, "Does England have anything like this?" the duke replied, "There

is nothing to compare with this in England."

Accompanied by two small kittens and a dog, recently-wed Mark and Nancy Diehl, Orefield, Pa. came to Hershey via their ATT (Airstream travel trailer). With them, each couple in a similar trailer, they found Dr. and Mrs. Peter Coste, Springfield, Pa., the bride's parents; and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Diehl, Sr., the groom's parents.

Thirteen persons who had traveled with the late Wally Byam, breakfasted together as a newly formed "Friends of Wally's" group.

Breakfasts and mid-day lunches were many, each group prompted by like interests. Typical was that a breakfast for 85 telephone people, mostly retired. Represented were 13 Bell-operating telephone companies, AT&T headquarters, Bell Labs, Long Lines, Western Electric and independent, inter-connecting companies. The group named Walter E. Blomgren of Minneapolis its "telephone breakfast" chairman for the 1971 WBCC rally.

Church services in the sports arena, well-attended, opened rally week's final day. Flag-lowering ceremonies, presentation of awards, closing ceremonies and ballroom dancing closed the rally program.

Farewells, spontaneously, were of one expression: "Til we meet again, happy trailering!"