



Wally Byam's Caravan Club

BULLETIN

2204 LINDORA STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE WALLY BYAM CARAVAN TO AFRICA THE HOLY LAND AND EUROPE

Everything is practically all set. The ships are planned for, the governments of the countries we will visit know we are coming, and those of you who are really going are making your definite plans.

We are now ready to ask for cash deposits in order to cinch shipping reservations. There is a terrific amount of expense involved in getting a show like this on the road. Not only do guarantees have to be made for many, many things but administrative expenses are very high. This will be the most fabulous trip that we have ever cooked up. It will include six months in Africa, three months in the Holy Land and the Middle East and four to six months in Europe. Therefore, it is necessary that we have a clear understanding of the basic policies that have made the Wally Byam Caravans so successfully world famous.

The simple thought of the Wally Byam tours is given in the front page of the annual directory of members and their numbers--"the tours today are the same as they always have been, a group of congenial, happy people, traveling along together each paying his own expenses and operating as a mobile democracy".

For New Caravanners. How a Wally Byam Tour Operates.

The route to be followed is made long in advance after very thorough and painstaking studies. The day by day schedule and the daily run is set by the Wagon boss and the tour leader. It is subject to minor changes through local road information. The camp sites are usually arranged for by mail in advance but cinched by the advance scout or scouting committee. The wagon boss usually leaves at eight in the morning. Those who want to travel with him move out at the same time. Some people like the convoy and some do not. You take your choice. The only rule is that you must not pass the wagon boss nor travel ahead of him nor arrive at the parking site in any village or city ahead of him. The caboose (tow car) usually leaves about an hour after the wagon boss. If you want to be ahead of the tow car you must leave before he does. Other than these simple exceptions you travel your own way at your own pace by any route you elect.

There is a short divers' meeting every day. We move at a quarter to eight in the morning, at which time the Wagon Boss gives his recommendations of the best route to travel that day.

There is a Meeting Time, usually every day or at least two or three times a week. Every one brings their chairs and gathers around in a circle. The tour leader conducts the meeting. Votes are taken on subjects in question. Every one has an opportunity to talk all he wants to. Thus, all information becomes common property. When the caravan is visited in camp by important dignitaries, every one has a chance to meet them personally.

The work of the Caravan is done by Committees. The principal committees are Wagon, Parking and Caboose, Social and In-Camp Entertainment, "Kitty", Civic (butane, ice, etc.), Postmaster, Golden Rule, Medical and Secretarial.

Every one is on some committee or other. Committees may be rotated about every month or so, so that no one will get too tired of their job.

There is a small treasury fund called a "Kitty" which is handled by an elected treasurer called the "Kitty". In camp, he has a skunk flag flying from his antenna mast. Contributions to the "kitty" are voted at so much per trailer. Every one contributes to the "kitty" except the tow car driver. Possible funds paid out of the "kitty" are payment for a camp site, tips to camp site attendants, janitors, etc., an orchestra or entertainment, wood for a bonfire, police guards where they have to be paid--all things for the general good of the Caravan. Average "kitty" contributions are about \$5.00 a month. This depends on conditions, the need and the vote.

On nice days in camp we have "Sidewalk Cafe" about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. This custom started when the Caravan was in Paris and has held on ever since. You just bring your chairs and your coca-colas or such and sit around together and "shoot the bull"; tell where you found a good place to buy things, hear of where there is an especially good restaurant. Maybe somebody reads a poem, sings a song or plays a fiddle. We might have an interview by an interesting local personality.

Everyone gets to know everybody else real well through pot luck dinners, rubberneck bus tours together, dances and entertainments. We are usually continually being entertained by local tourist departments, chambers of commerce, etc. We meet more dignitaries abroad than we ever meet at home. Some towns heap so many gifts on us you would think Santa Claus had just descended. Sample bags and jars of coffee, crates of cherries, Edam cheeses, all kinds of key rings and pencils, canned goods from a local cannery, boxes of candy, all kinds of souvenirs, beer steins, wine glasses, and on and on and on.

There are plenty of rest days, days to do laundry or get it done, days to just sit or stay in bed until noon.

We try to set each day's run at not over 200 miles. Rarely more. Usually less. We usually arrive at our camp site by the middle of the afternoon.

WHAT WE EXPECT OF YOU

On this tour our little group will be living and traveling together for at least 6 months through Africa, 3 months in the Holy Land and from 4 to 6 months in Europe. It will be an exceedingly interesting journey with great gobs of unusual experiences. But, in the same breath, there will be hardships, none that are insurmountable nor downright dangerous, but some might be on the tiresome side, monotonous in places and with a faint tinge of danger.

Although the responsibility and the dollars and cents of this undertaking is great, the amount of physical energy I am expending and will continue to expend means a great deal more to me. Therefore, you can obviously see that on this tour we must reduce the possibility of personal misunderstandings, bickerings, arguments, dissention, etc., to the very minimum. No person is as important to me as the peace of mind of the entire organization. And, although the Golden Rule is the only rule of the Caravan, to be more specific, we have worked out a "Ten Commandments of the Caravan," which we hope will set forth our desires in a friendly and not autocratic manner.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF THE WALLY BYAM CARAVAN

- (1) THOU SHALT LOVE THY FELLOW CARAVANNERS AS THYSELF AND DO ALL IN THY POWER TO AID AND ASSIST THEM.

Since this Caravan is going into a rough country on an adventurous journey, we must all realize that each must rely on his neighbor. We all must be ready, willing and anxious to help each other in every way possible.

- (2) THOU SHALT CONDUCT THYSELF FOR THE GOOD OF THE CARAVAN AND NOT FOR THY SELFISH INTEREST.

This is a one for all and all for one Caravan. The whole of the Caravan is more important than any one individual. If any one Caravanner has special privileges, the same privileges should be available to all.

- (3) THOU SHALT ALWAYS CONDUCT THYSELVES AS LADIES AND GENTLEMEN FROM A CIVILIZED COUNTRY.

All of us---every individual one of us--- must realize that once traveling abroad that we are all Ambassadors of Good Will for America, and must conduct ourselves accordingly. At times, belligerent loud-mouthed American tourists harmed the reputation of Americans abroad. This must not happen.

- (4) THOSE IMBIBING IN INTOXICATING BEVERAGES SHALL CONDUCT THEMSELVES LIKE KENTUCKY GENTLEMEN (AND LADIES)

Much of the territory we will be traveling through will be Mohammedan country where liquor is expressly prohibited by religious mandate. Need more be said.

- (5) THOU SHALT NOT CRITICIZE THY HOST COUNTRY NOR ITS CITIZENS.

We must all realize that each of the countries we will be traveling through has its own long history of its culture and customs, and it is not up to us to criticize whether they are better or worse than our own.

- (6) THOU SHALT ALWAYS ABIDE BY THE MAJORITY VOTE.

Democracy is a distinguishing factor of America. We realize that the members of the Caravan are all rugged individualists, but where it is necessary for the good of the Caravan individualism must be subordinated to majority rule. If you are so constituted that you cannot abide by the majority vote we would rather that you not join on with us.

- (7) THOU SHALT IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE CARAVAN.

As a group of American tourists traveling together we are somebody. We get special attention, special receptions, special entertainment. WE ARE IMPORTANT. As a group we can get more than any of us can get singly, or in smaller groups. When you sign up with this caravan we expect you to become a wholehearted part of it. We do not want any small splinter groups operating as or within the Caravan.

- (8) THOU SHALT NEVER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES PASS THE WAGON BOSS UNLESS HE SPECIFICALLY GIVES YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.

The Wagon Boss travels at the head of the Caravan, sets the daily run, picks the daily route, arrives first at the parking site. We have had unpleasant instances in the past when a few Caravanners jumped ahead, met the city officials, gave misleading information to the press, stole the thunder of the Caravan, representing themselves as the Caravan and leaving no reception when the Caravan came in. This is obviously unfair. Thus the Wagon Boss. It is not necessary that you travel the same road as the Caravan or that you travel with the convoy. You can lag behind, set your own schedule or travel on adjacent roads on either side. You just can not be ahead of the Wagon Boss nor arrive in the parking site in any village or city ahead of him.

- (9) THOU SHALT NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES SPREAD RUMORS BUT RATHER BRING THEM UP AT MEETING WHERE THEY CAN BE PUBLICLY DISCUSSED.

You all know who distorted a message can become when it is passed from ear to ear. Bring it up at Meeting Time so that we can all benefit from it or check its true value.

- (10) THOU SHALT REALIZE THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CARAVAN AT ALL TIMES DESERVES THY WHOLEHEARTED CO-OPERATION.

Leading an adventurous group of this kind is a heavy responsibility. The leader must think first, last and always for the good of the Caravan. You must realize that he is devoting his ALL to the happiness and safety of the individuals who comprise it. Sometimes he might have to make quick decisions on his own which he will expect to be complied with until the whole matter can be brought out in meeting time.

You can readily understand that on an operation of this magnitude that there must be a great deal of advance planning. Without advance planning there could not be a successful tour. A schedule is made up showing when and where the Caravan will be and governmental and tourist officials are so notified. It is thus necessary that we adhere to our schedule. For these reasons changes in the schedule will not ordinarily be subject to vote.

So now we ask you for a \$100 deposit. This is non-refundable if the tour rolls. The rates quoted in our brochure are minimum rates on regular freight boats. The supply of such boats is limited. There is plenty of freight space for cars and trailers. So first come, first served. It is absolutely essential that you make your reservations through Caravan Headquarters if you are to be accepted on this tour. If you think you can get cheaper rates elsewhere write to Caravan Headquarters so we all can profit by the saving. Same goes for insurance. (see second "Commandment")

PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED RELEASE FOR WITH YOUR DEPOSIT.

It must be signed by every one in your party. We have a large insurance policy protecting us against suits and this card is an essential part of that policy.

There will of course be more bulletins issued as the need arises. Amongst other things we will forward your name to the tourist departments of the countries we will visit and our bet is that you will start getting beautifully illustrated literature by the basketful.

The Caravan Tour leader will at all times maintain contact with the outside world with a definite schedule of where the Caravan can be found day by day. Friends and relatives can contact Caravan Headquarters, 2204 Lindora Street, Bakersfield, California at any time for help in transmitting emergency messages.

Guess that does it. As soon as we find out how many are going we will let you know.

Wally Byam