



the Sam Campbell Special

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1952

Congratulations to all the folks that helped make the 1952 WESTERN WONDERLANDS TOUR a wonderful success!

GOLDEN ECHOES

On the day the Sam Campbell Special Train returned to the North Western Terminal a red cap of 20 years service said, "This is the happiest group of people I ever saw come into this station!" Similar comments came from all along the line of travel.

The 1952 Western Wonderlands Tour had all the ingredients it takes to make a wonderful adventure. There were grand folks, gorgeous places, excitement, fun, friendliness, surprises, inspiring experiences, good weather, good food, good humor -- in total compounding a most beneficial event.

Nowadays the Dicksons and Campbells are feasting on the messages of appreciation pouring in from tour guests. These friendly letters and telegrams are highly prized by the tour officials. Giny says Sam reads them to his pet raccoons and porcupines, saying, "Now you see, you aren't the only nice things in this world; people are swell, too."

Pauline Strohmaier and Margaret Johnson had never met before they boarded the Sam Campbell Special. Each was hoping she would be assigned a roommate of about the same age and kindred interests. They were roomed together -- and discovered they were both born on the same day, in the same year, and liked the same things! They were known thenceforth as "The Twins."

Eddie Nelson, who with his nice family has been on the '50 and '52 tours, is famous for his screwy hats. No one ever knows what sort of a contraption he will mount on his noble dome. This year he ran into sharp competition. The above-mentioned Twins decided Eddie wasn't the only one who could go chapeau crazy and they came up with some Lulus. Climax was reached when they appeared in the lobby of the Many Glacier Hotel wearing lampshades! Eddie says, "I know when I'm whipped." Whenever tour guests saw some nutty thing moving around about 5½ feet from the ground, they didn't report a flying saucer -- they just looked underneath and there found Pauline, Margaret, or Eddie.

The Tour had to conduct itself for a while down in the Canyon Country. Roy, Tess, Sam and Giny started from Cedar City in a seven-passenger, nifty Chrysler -- so they could go scootin' along, leaving each place last and getting to the next place first. Folks were a bit envious of this luxurious transportation until the fancy pants car stalled in the midst of the desert. All buses went buzzing by emitting shouts and raspberries, but not a nidget of sympathy. The Officials sat in the desert sun four hours while buzzards circled overhead looking down drooling! Sam, who is supposed to know how to get along with nature, was just planning a dinner of cactus pulp and juniper juice when succor arrived. The next day the beautiful looking Chrysler quit again! No one envied the Officials their mode of transportation after that.

On each of the first two Sundays out, religious services were conducted in the lecture car. A veteran conductor remarked, "That's the first time I ever saw that done. Maybe it ain't a bad idea to take God along on a tour."

Another conductor came into the lounge car one of those happy evenings when everyone was singing, Sam leading with his guitar. He spoke in Sam's ear, "Good! -- If folks will only sing together we'll get rid of two-thirds the trouble in this world."

Veteran Campbellites had a thrilling surprise when they arrived at Grand Canyon. There was lovely Adeline Sauter as assistant manager of the gift shop. Adeline had taken over the job this season, but the secret was carefully kept. Adeline hugged and kissed everyone she could reach, including all of our party, and several other parties that got in line. She is one grand person and all were delighted to see her. She writes since our visit that the Campbellites are known there not only as the "eatin'est" folks, but as the "spendin'est" too. It seems that the day we raided the gift shop we broke their all time record for sales.

Everywhere in our Canyon experience was evidenced the thoughtfulness and cordiality of Pat Rogers, Manager of the Utah Parks, and Fred Warner, his assistant. Our folks will never forget the fine young people who served us as bus drivers, and hotel staffs, nor the efficient and pleasant managers at Zion, Grand and Bryce Lodges. They all added much to our happiness.

Many fine friendships were formed among tour guests as we journeyed from one beautiful area to another. It was fun to watch the young people get together. Barbara Nelson, Beth Knight, Mary and George Shuff (our lovable Canadian guests), and Pat Gibbons formed a fine teen age circle. George got a nickname the first time the group sat at dinner together. The dining car waiter brought in an armload of plates, and wasn't sure who was to get what. Looking at George he said, "I guess you-all is de trout, ain't you?" From then on George was the "Trout."

Meals were wonderful everywhere -- too wonderful. Waist lines got to bulging alarmingly. No doubt the meal most will remember, though, was the dinner served on the Union Pacific diner the evening we left Cedar City. They had roast beef, chicken and mountain trout on the same menu -- all prepared in a masterly way.

The group felt pretty tired after the day at Victoria. No one slept much the night before. But as the steamer "Chinook" approached Seattle on the return, there was a sight that made every one forget weariness. The city lights were sparkling like a million diamonds on the Pacific slopes, and over the horizon back of the city rose the full moon! There were tears of joy in the eyes of many spectators.

Folks on several of the buses saw ten mountain goats at Glacier National Park, just as we were crossing the pass. It was a rare sight. Later at Many Glacier Hotel fourteen mountain sheep were seen.

There were several birthday cakes served during the tour, much to the surprise of the birthdayers. The big surprise was on the Dickson's and Campbell's, however. At Glacier Park Hotel, our last evening in the west, the tour members had a big cake baked and lettered, "Congratulations to Campbells and Dicksons on their fifth successful tour." It took the Officials completely by surprise and delighted them no end.

The Chicago and North Western Railway had a surprise for the tour, too. On the last morning when the train was journeying from Minneapolis to Chicago, we were

assigned the beautiful 64 seat diner which only a few days before had been on General Eisenhower's train. It was wonderful equipment and party members were much pleased.

It was a wonderful, wonderful experience all through. A thousand precious memories should be listed here if we had space. And now the joy gathered on our 1952 Tour is being shared with families, friends and communities everywhere. It is not an overstatement to say that the world is a bit happier because 144 fine people joined in this good adventure. This is living at its best.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, WILL BE THE ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON IN CHICAGO.

Details will be given later -- just save the date!

TOOT! TOOT!

Mildred Knabe (Alaskan Tour) sent in a nice account of her trip to Hawaii last April. We hope to quote from it in the next Sam Campbell Special.

At the moment this is being written, Will and Eva Ruybert are in England. Helen Donahoy is in Finland. How folks do get around.

Remember Frank Saville and Mabel Nielsen on the Alaskan Trip? Well, they were married June 7. We cannot claim full credit for this romance, since they had not before the tour. However, we hope we helped complete the idea, anyway. Much happiness to you, Frank and Mabel, on this grand tour of yours.

Sweet and lovely Dorothy Hopp came down from Fairbanks, Alaska, to meet us at Victoria this year, and go on to Glacier Park. Her sister, Jessie, missed her first tour this year, and we all missed her.

WHAT'LL IT BE IN '53?

The Sam Campbell Tour is going to ALASKA!

A recent magazine article stated that there is no more wonderful travel experience in the world than the journey up the inside passage to Alaska. That is the opinion of the Campbells and Dicksons, too.

Tentative plans are complete. The Sam Campbell Special train will leave Chicago on Friday, June 19, 1953. It will stop at Jasper Park where the party will have two days and nights in that superlative Canadian Rocky paradise. At Vancouver they board the fine steamer "Kathleen" and then follows that wonderful 10-day cruise up the inside passage, with two days back in the Yukon. Stops will be made at Prince Rupert, Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Wrangell and Ocean Falls. The trips to the interior from Skagway will be Ben-My Chree, Whitehorse and a limited party will go down the Yukon River to Lake Barge and back.

Nearly fifty reservations have been received already. A number of folks who made the Alaskan trip in 1951 are going again. They will vary their journey by taking a different route from Skagway. All rates are not in yet, but it is likely the all-expense cost will be from \$625.00 up, depending on space occupied. **ALASKA, LOOK OUT -- WE'RE COMING BACK!**

In early autumn a folder will be issued giving full details. All Campbellites will receive them. In the meantime, tentative reservations can be made through Mr. R. L. Dickson, Tour Manager, 44 E. 37th Street, Indianapolis, 5, Indiana.

Thought-of-the Month

"I have seen what glories of climate, of summer mornings and evenings, or midnight sky! I have enjoyed the benefits of all this complex machinery of arts and civilization and its results of comfort! But the Good Power can easily provide me a million more."

Emerson