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## Camping & Travel

By Hank Andrews



## Westward Ho!

"THE miles were long and some of them rough. It cost more than we figured. But I would do it again in a minute."

That is how a friend, Seymour Raiz, a Cleveland newspaperman, described a camping trip he made to the West last summer.

Many of us who live in the East or Midwest dream of a trip to the West with its charm and great history and great mountains and deserts. I have camped out that way many times and plan to do it again, the Good Lord willing and the rivers don't run too high.

But I would like to tell you about the trip my friend made. It was his first junket to the West and some of his experiences might be worth heeding. Also, he is very thorough and he budgeted and planned considerably.

In all, he and his family of wife and three children traveled 7000 miles on a four-week sightseeing safari.

"We had dreamed about taking a month's holiday to see the country ever since we began camping five years ago," he said. "Last winter we made the big decision to go."

"We planned, developed a tentative list of where we hoped to visit, then refined it all into a specific route. We asked questions of friends who had made similar trips. And don't discount

the value of such advice. I also joined the American Automobile Association for its invaluable trip tickets and the security of its road service. From the auto club I got maps, books, trip routes and literature.

"I also invested considerable money preparing our four-year-old station wagon for the strenuous task of pulling our tent-camper across the country. It was a solid investment since the only car trouble on the trip involved a tire replacement."

My friend's goal was to see as much as possible of the West in four weeks, traveling from Ohio there and back. His route took him to Colorado, then south to New Mexico, then west again to Arizona (to see the Grand Canyon) and Las Vegas and then south to San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico.

From Mexico they traveled north, much of the time along fabled State Route 1, which snakes along the mountains bordering the Pacific Ocean. They then went to San Francisco and then headed for Salt Lake City where they sadly realized they were running out of time. So they passed up Yellowstone Park and Mount Rushmore to another day.

It is fair to point out that they did not see too much of the West because there just is a lot to see out that way. As to the driving, Raiz said:

"We spent \$299.48 for fuel. Our prediction was that it would be \$300. Price of gas ranged from 52.9¢ a gallon in Nebraska to 70.9¢ in Wells, Nevada. Here is a tip: In many western states there are gas stations with self-service pumps. You save considerable money by using them."

"Major turnpike costs were \$20.50. Additional tolls and parking were \$15.15."

"The new national speed limit of 55 mph was just fine with us. Pulling a camper, we didn't want to drive much faster, and we weren't run down by too many trucks or other vehicles."

"Some of the driving was hard. My neck and back were tight and weary during the first three and last four days of our trip. Those were pure travel days, averaging about 450 miles each."

"The other difficult drives were in the mountains and desert areas. My knuckles grew white negotiating some of those mountain curves in Colorado

(Continued on page 27)



Some people take only a tent while on vacation. It can be carried in the car while the boat can be pulled on a trailer behind the car.

MARCH, 1976



Cooperative Smelt—Wildcrafting—Mountain Pack Dog

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