

Luncheon



Great Salt Lake

Rio Grande

SAM CAMPBELL PACIFIC NORTHWEST
TOUR

Enroute

from

Denver, Colorado

to

Salt Lake City, Utah

1 1 1

July 5-7, 1948

Via

ROYAL GORGE ROUTE

Souvenir Menu

Rio-Grande

THRU THE ROCKIES — NOT AROUND THEM

Luncheon

1 1 1

Fresh Vegetable Soup or Chilled V-8 Juice

Grilled Fillet of Sole, Lemon Butter

Individual Chicken Pie

Roast Leg of Lamb, Cumberland

Mashed Potatoes

Buttered New Peas

Assorted Bread

Hearts of Lettuce, 1000 Island Dressing

Ice Cream, Sweet Wafers

Fruit Jello, Whipped Cream Apple Cobbler

Coffee

Tea (Hot or Iced)

Milk

Buttermilk



THRU THE ROCKIES — NOT AROUND THEM

Desert Sea

Utah's Great Salt Lake, unique among the seas of the world—its temper and appearance ever changing with the season, the weather, the time of day—is at once sublime and bleak. Its restless blue-green waters partake of the beauty of sky and mountains, and of the desolation of the desert which surrounds its salt-encrusted shores.

It is America's "Dead Sea," the largest body of salt water on the American continents, but only a remnant of a much larger body of fresh water, called by geologists "Lake Bonneville," which long ago covered the entire eastern half of Utah's Great Basin. Bonneville's surface was approximately 1,000 feet above that of the present lake. Its waves, pounding incessantly for thousands of years upon its enclosing shores, carved out a shelf, in some places 1,500 feet wide, which today is plainly visible in many places on the mountains surrounding Salt Lake Valley.

Roughly, the present lake measures 75 miles in length by 50 miles in width, though its shoreline is constantly advancing and receding from year to year. In the last 90 years, since records have been kept, the water level has varied more than 18 feet. This has altered the shoreline as much as 15 miles in some places, and it is estimated that a ten-foot change in water level will cover or uncover 480 square miles of lake bed. It is now at nearly the lowest recorded level and the lake at present covers about 1,420 square miles. In 1873, while at its highest level, it covered an area of 2,250 square miles.

Great Salt Lake is noted more for its salinity than for its size, being six to eight times as salty as the ocean, and resulting in the buoyancy which enables bathers to loll at ease in its heavy waters without fear of sinking. Its 23 percent salt content has also resulted in some tall tales. Jim Bridger, famous "mountain man" and trapper, who is credited with discovery of the lake in 1824, was fond of telling one such story, which went something like this: In the winter of 1830 it snowed in Salt Lake Valley for seventy days and nights, covering the valley to a depth of 70 feet. All the buffalo in the region perished, but their carcasses were preserved in the snow. When spring came, Bridger tumbled them all into the lake and had enough pickled buffalo meat for himself and the entire Ute nation for many years.

Compared with other large lakes, there is comparatively little boating on Great Salt Lake. All boats ride high in its dense waters, and during a storm the lake is a surging mass of heavy waves. The few large boats that have in the past been launched upon it were soon wrecked. Now, only small sailing craft specially constructed for lake conditions, ride its waves, but they seldom venture far from shore when stormy weather threatens.

DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD