

West

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West RIDES THE "CALIFORNIAN"
TO LOS ANGELES

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West FINDS OUT WHY IT'S FUN TO SAVE MONEY ON THE "CALIFORNIAN"

MORE popular than the streamliners and the limiteds are Southern Pacific's twin economy trains to California—the *Californian* (Chicago-Los Angeles) and *San Francisco Challenger* (Chicago-San Francisco). To find the reason for this popularity, WEST sent two photographers—Jack Whisler and Seymour Snaer—to ride the *Californian*, talk to its passengers and photograph them in natural color living the friendly, informal life aboard this train.

First passengers WEST'S photographers met were those shown at left—Lloyd and Peggy Barham and Alline and Horace Shreve—snapped with Stewardess Frances Muffler just before they boarded their tourist sleeping car on the *Californian*. (Map shows route of *Californian* in red).

Asked why they took the *Californian*, Barham said, "To be honest with you, we did it mainly to save money. The tourist round trip fare from Chicago to California is \$74. Our lower berth cost \$8.95 each way. Peggy and I saved nearly \$50 by going tourist on the *Californian* instead of standard Pullman on some other train."



1. The Barhams were delighted to find that their tourist tickets entitled them to the free use of a big, shiny modern lounge car on the *Californian*. "As beautiful as any lounge car I've ever seen," said Peggy. This photo shows husband Lloyd offering a toast to a happy, comfortable trip.



2. Whisler wanted to get a picture of a tourist berth on the *Californian*, so attractive Frances Charles agreed to pose for him. Tourist berths on the *Californian* are exactly the same size as standard Pullman berths on other trains, but cost about half as much. "It's a very comfortable bed," said Frances.



3. Next morning the Barhams asked Frances if she'd like to play a few hands of bridge while speeding along through Kansas. Photographer Snaer volunteered to make a fourth. All were surprised to find that tourist sleeping car porters set up tables just like those in standard Pullmans.



4. At noon, the Shreves and Barhams debated whether to order the plate luncheon or a la carte. The girls decided to take no chances on gaining weight, chose the Salad Bowl (25c). Horace and Lloyd had the luncheon—salisbury steak, vegetable, potatoes, bread and butter, ice cream and coffee—all for 30c.



5. In Oklahoma, Whisler got this shot of a streamlined chair car on the *Californian*. "Those new cars are certainly swell," says Whisler. "The seats have cushions of foam rubber, the windows are about twice as big as ordinary ones and the chair car fare from Chicago to California is only \$39.50 one way and \$65 round trip. If that isn't a bargain, I don't know what is!"



6. Passengers make friends quickly on the *Californian*. The hours between Chicago and Los Angeles pass all too quickly. Here Nancy McKenna (seated with William Stahl, a college friend) is talking with train acquaintances. Whisler wanted to take a picture in the chair car ahead of this but Stewardess Muffler said, "That car is reserved for women and children."



7. These four chair car passengers found they could turn the seats around and thus enjoy a very cozy game of bridge. Said Bill Stahl, "This certainly beats those hard little bridge chairs with the stiff backs. I'd like to take one of these *Californian* seats home with me." Said Nancy, "I'd like to take this air-conditioning home with me! It's so clean and comfortable in here."



8. It's easy to see that Nancy and Bill don't find each other's company tiresome. Leaning back in their reclining chairs, they talk over college experiences and the fun they'll have in Los Angeles. (The pillows were furnished by the *Californian's* chair car porter, without charge.)



9. Traveling on a limited budget, Nancy and Bill were certainly thankful for the *Californian's* economy meals. For dinner they had chicken pot pie, vegetable, potatoes, dessert and coffee for 35c. "I don't see how they do it," said Bill. Nancy insisted upon paying her own check.

BREAKFAST 25¢	LUNCHEON 30¢	DINNER 35¢
Tomato Juice	Potted Breast of Lamb with Vegetables	Filet of Fresh Fish, Remoulade or
Dry or Cooked Cereal with Cream	Garden Peas Mashed Potato	Chicken Pot Pie, Family Style
Toast or Muffins	Bread and Butter	String Beans Hashed Browned Potatoes
Coffee (Cup)	Ice Cream with Cake	Dinner Roll
Milk	Coffee (Cup)	Peach Cobbler, Vanilla Sauce
Tea (Pot)	Milk	Coffee (Cup) Milk Tea (Pot)
	Tea (Pot)	

10. The Californian's diner serves a plate breakfast for 25c, luncheon for 30c, dinner for 35c—also low-priced a la carte items. Above are typical menus, changed daily. Passengers are offered a choice of at least two entrees. Total meal cost from Chicago to California (seven meals) is only \$2.05.



11. Before arriving at El Paso, the Shreves and Barhams decided to take the Carlsbad Caverns trip. Tour tickets cost them \$9.75 each (which included fare to Caverns and back, lunch en route, admission to Caverns, elevator fee). This big red streamlined stage met them at the El Paso station.



13. Colonel Thomas Boles, genial Superintendent of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, showed them the entrance to the largest caverns ever discovered. Then they walked down the easy, zig zag trail, through ever-widening rooms and passages to the Big Room, 750 feet beneath the surface.

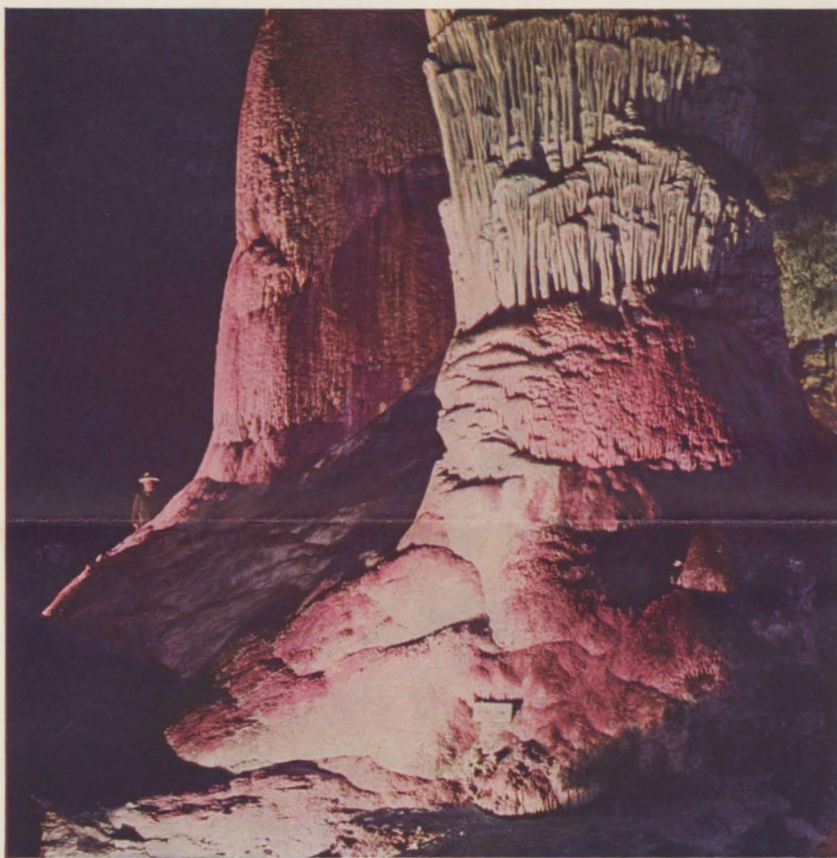


15. Back in El Paso that evening, the Shreves and Barhams decided to visit Mexico. So they walked across the Rio Grande on the International Bridge (toll 2c) to Juarez, a picturesque Mexican town. Here Whisler photographed them dickering for a *sarape* (native blanket).

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12. En route to the Caverns (3½ hours from El Paso) the paved highway followed the historic Butterfield Trail, passed Signal Peak, highest point in Texas. Though the day was warm, the Shreves and Barhams never noticed it because the stage was air-conditioned. They ate box lunches en route.



14. Awed by size of the stalagmites and stalactites, skillfully illuminated by hidden lights, Alline said it was just like being in fairyland. Here is the base of the Giant Dome, a stalagmite sixty feet high. Tour of the Caverns took three hours. They returned to the surface by elevator.



16. Next morning they boarded another *Californian* for the trip across Southern Arizona's vivid desert to Los Angeles. They saw forests of giant saguaro cactus and distant ranges of jagged mountains.