

KAGNEWS



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Wednesday, 16 December 1959

Asmara, Eritrea, Ethiopia

K S WELCOMES THE WALLY BYAM CARAVAN

ASMARA, ERITREA...Yesterday afternoon around 3:00 PM, The Wally Byam Caravan Club rolled into Asmara and was greeted by Capt Cornetsky, Post Provost Marshal upon their arrival. Shortly afterward, Lt Col Robert C. Harris, Post Commander greeted Wally and his group along with the members of the U. S. Consulate and the USIS. Wally expressed his feelings that he was greatly thankful for what the U. S. Army had done for their stay here in Asmara.

The Wally Byam Caravan is a group of ordinary American tourists traveling together with their trailers. These people are from all over the United States, led by Mr. Wally Byam, and referred to as the Wally Byam Caravanners and the Wally Byam Caravan Club.

They are a group of congenial, happy people, traveling along together and operating as a mobile democracy.

On this particular trip, it is Wally's 27th caravan since he started caravanning in 1948. The Caravan started in Capetown and started northward through the Union of South Africa, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Belgian Congo, Uganda and Kenya and Ethiopia and Eritrea. From here, they will head for Khartoum and the Nile Valley. They will be staying here in Asmara for about four days and then heading for Khartoum, hoping to reach there before Christmas.

For those interested in seeing the group, their camp is located at the end of Avenue Haile Selassie, opposite the White Apartments. The group will welcome anyone who would like to see their trailers and talk to anyone about their trip. One thing they said was they were sure glad to see some Americans for a change.

RECEIVED WARMEST WELCOME IN ETHIOPIA

Wally Byam stated that he and his group had received their warmest welcome and hospitality in Ethiopia than on any of his other 27 caravans all over the world.

The caravans have been to such places as South America, Central America, Canada, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, all over the United States, up the Alaskan Highway to Alaska, all over Europe and now Africa.

Wally Byam stated that he and his group were very glad to have been given an audience with HIM Haile Selassie in his Throne Room. The next day, HIM Haile Selassie visited the camp and went through all the trailers and had coffee with many of (continued on page 2)

WARMEST RECEPTION (continued from page 1)

the caravanners.

Wally Byam, who is the manufacturer of the Airstream Trailers which all members of his caravan must have, will present HIM Haile Selassie with a gold colored trailer personally later next year. He asked if HIM Haile Selassie would like one and the reply was yes. Wally Byam is having one specially built.

WE HAVE NO PURPOSE

Wally Byam said it was hard to get across to some of the people they have met that this trip has no purpose in mind. The caravan is just a group of happy people, traveling together to see the country of Africa.

No one is being sponsored by anyone. All the caravanners are on their own so to speak. They all pay their own way.

The caravanners are from all walks of life and from 27 of the 50 States.

NO ROAD

During one stretch of their journey, the caravanners had to build their own road. This was from Mega to Adolla in Ethiopia. In many places, the men and women in the caravan turned out with shovels to repair the road so that they could pass. On several of these days, they traveled only 6 miles in 12 hours.

When they arrived in Addis Ababa, members of the caravan joked that they were going to charge the Imperial Highway Authority for building a new road from Mega to Adolla.

The caravan has nine engineers with them and they stated that some of the roads were a real engineering feat. The roads in places were excellent.

OLDEST 87 YOUNGEST 6

The caravan is not just made up of

elderly, retired folks. The youngest caravanner is a six year old girl with the oldest being 87.

The caravanners come from all walks of life. There are businessmen, engineers, doctors, mechanics and race car drivers plus many other walks of life. Most of the caravanners met for the first time in New York when they boarded the Africa Enterprise on their journey to Capetown. They made two stops while en route, one at the Ascension Islands where they were not allowed to leave the ship and at St. Helena where they spend a good half day. Their trailers came right over on the ship with them.

COST?

What is the cost of such a trip? Many newspapers in southern Africa stated that they were American millionaires. We found out that none of the caravanners are millionaires. They are just ordinary American people and families just touring Africa. Many stated that they would not have been able to do it without being in a caravan such as this.

Most of the caravanners have figured on a budget of \$20,000 for the entire trip not counting the cost of their trucks and trailers. The Airstream trailers cost around \$4,000 with the trucks about the same price. Most of the trailers are brand new although some are two to three years old. Their lengths range from 15 feet for the smallest to 30 feet for the largest. It cost them an average of \$3200 to ship the trailers to Capetown. Many of the caravanners said this was the highlight of their life. It's been a rugged trip but very educational.

NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN?

As for the children's schooling, their schools released them for a year stating that the trip would be more educational for them than staying in school. All of the children brought their school work with them.



The Caravanner

Caravanner

A PAPER
PUBLISHED BY
AND FOR THOSE
WITH A SPIRIT OF
TRAVEL - ADVENTURE

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FEBRUARY, 1960

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

HAILE SELASSIE ENTERTAINS CARAVAN

Cairo, Egypt

February 6, 1960

Because the impossible takes a little longer we arrived a little late but you can tell the world that the Wally Byam Caravan from Capetown to Cairo is history.

Wally Byam

**REGISTER NOW FOR
1960 CARAVAN TO
WESTERN CANADA**

This is the year for the Canada Caravan to roll west through the

The entire Wally Byam Caravan and all the Caravanners were received by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, in the throne room of the Imperial Palace at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Caravan received an official invitation to arrive at the Palace at 5:00 p.m. and immediately the protocol officer of the U.S. Embassy came over to tell us how to conduct ourselves, how to dress, when to get there, and offered to send busses for us so we would be on time. We were advised to

dress as if we were going to Sunday church in the best bibs and tuckers we had, and on the dark side. You should have seen the Caravanners when they got all dressed up—it was hard to believe they had been shoveling rocks and pulling their outfits out of the mud only a few days before.

We got in our busses and got out at the Imperial Palace. Right at the top of the steps going up to the Palace was a great big lion sitting on a pedestal—a live lion. Some of the Caravanners went up and stroked his ears and chucked him under the chin. We went in and waited in a beautiful room with crystal chandeliers until the Minister of the Imperial Court and the U.S. Ambassador came in, then we proceeded to the throne room.

Mr. Bliss, the U.S. Ambassador, and I (Wally Byam) led the way. As we entered the Throne Room there was a thick red carpet that ran right down to the end of the room, and Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, was standing there

while, then he said he would like to speak to some of the other people. Some of them couldn't seem to think of anything to say to an absolute ruler with such an impressive list of titles as The Elect of God, Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, King of Zion, Negusa Nagast (King of Kings) and Emperor of Ethiopia, but most of them really had something they wanted to ask him. We were there about an hour and a half and during that time I talked to Haile Selassie about the world situation and recommended that he put in a tourist department since Ethiopia had a lot of attractions that maybe they didn't realize, being so close to them. We talked about a lot of other things—a very pleasant conversation—until Mr. Bliss, our Ambassador, gave me the cue that it was time to leave. I shook hands and backed away, the other Caravanners began going up and shaking his hand and backing away, and slowly we all backed out of the



Caravanners were presented to the Emperor of Ethiopia by Wally Byam and U.S. Ambassador Bliss. Men bowed, ladies curtsied.

PIKE'S PEAK OR BUST

by Charlie Kiefer
National Wally Byam Caravan Clubs President

Every Caravanner with an ounce or more of "get up and go" should print and hang the above slogan on the wall of his Airstream. For if ever there was a

the magnitude that this one promises to be. But the way they have taken hold bodes well for a smooth running Rally. A lot of credit must be given to Wally



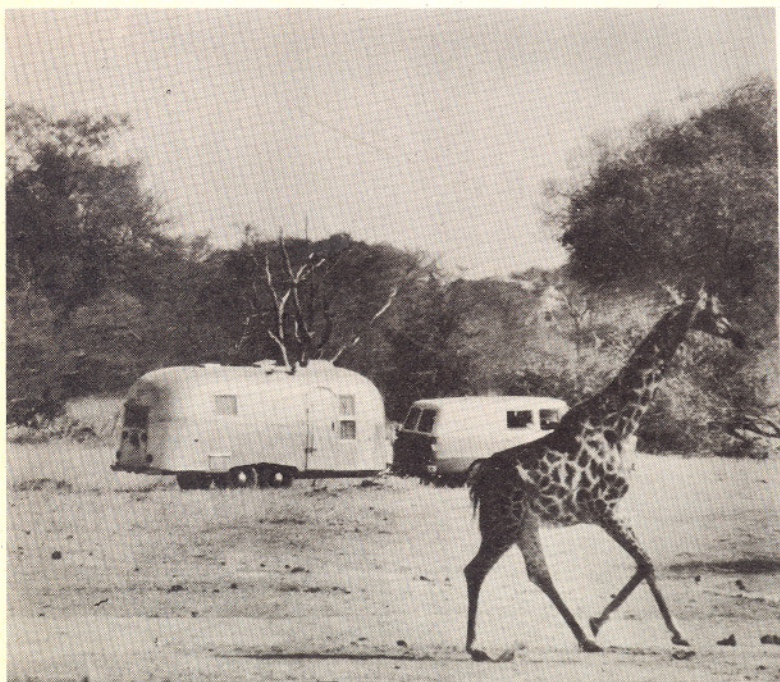
The Caravanner

A PAPER
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TRAVEL - ADVENTURE

VOL. 5 — NO. 5

DECEMBER, 1959

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA



Africa Caravanners found themselves sharing the road and their lunch stops with the animals in Kruger National Park.

AFRICA CARAVANNERS HUNT WITH CAMERAS

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK bounded by mountains on the east and west, and by rivers on the north and south. Wild animals are



¿ SE HABLA ESPAÑOL ? LEARN HOW ON THE 1960 CARAVAN TO MEXICO

This year's Caravan to Mexico will have a new feature. Classes in practical words and phrases for anyone who wants to learn. For those who think a little conversational Spanish would be fun to know, the time and place to learn is where you can get daily practise. You'll find your shopping expeditions much more interesting, and you'll have a new skill to show off when you get back home. Betty Taylor, who will be on the Mexico Caravan as Director of Activities, is already getting lesson sheets printed up and is taking a refresher course, so you can start right in at the border and be making friends in Spanish by the time you reach Guadalajara.

Other new features planned for the 1960 Winter Caravan to Mexico include a study of the local folk dances. If you buy yourself one of those wonderful gigantic Jalisco sombreros, and Charro or China Polbana outfit, depending on whether you are a "senor" or senora," Betty plans to have an expert show you how the Mexican

As those who have Caravanned to Mexico before know, there are many details to take up the hours of the day in the rendezvous camp. As in the past, arrangements have been made for the Caravanners to cross the border to the camp, and then to fill out the necessary papers. This system works well, both for the Mexican Border Officials and the Caravan. We do not tie up the parking space and cause traffic jams with our outfits, and there is no long waiting in line for the Caravanners. Customs and Immigration Officers come to the camp where you can fill out the forms in comfort. Insurance will also be handled at the rendezvous camp. So the days will be busy as the Caravan assembles. But we'd like to urge you to bring along your slides and movies, and any musical instruments you play, so we can plan some interesting evening entertainment during our stay in Nogales.

For the first time since 1955, a Wally Byam Caravan will park in Alamos, Sonora. One of the

and



The Caravanner

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AUGUST, 1959

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

CARAVAN TO EUROPE IN 1960



Last group of African Caravanners to sail to Capetown left New York on the S.S. African Enterprise. Wally and Stella were there to see them off.

AFRICA GROUP LEAVES FOR CAPETOWN . . .

The last unit of the 106 Caravanners who will adventure with Wally Byam through Africa.

true Caravan-style, will also experience hundreds of things never encountered by the average tour-

Halbritter, Harry and Eileen, Meads Trailer Park, 3880 Greenwood, San Diego, California.
Hamer, Darwin and Loretta, 317 Curtis

Wally's Cara-Value Plan Amazing Bargain Rates!

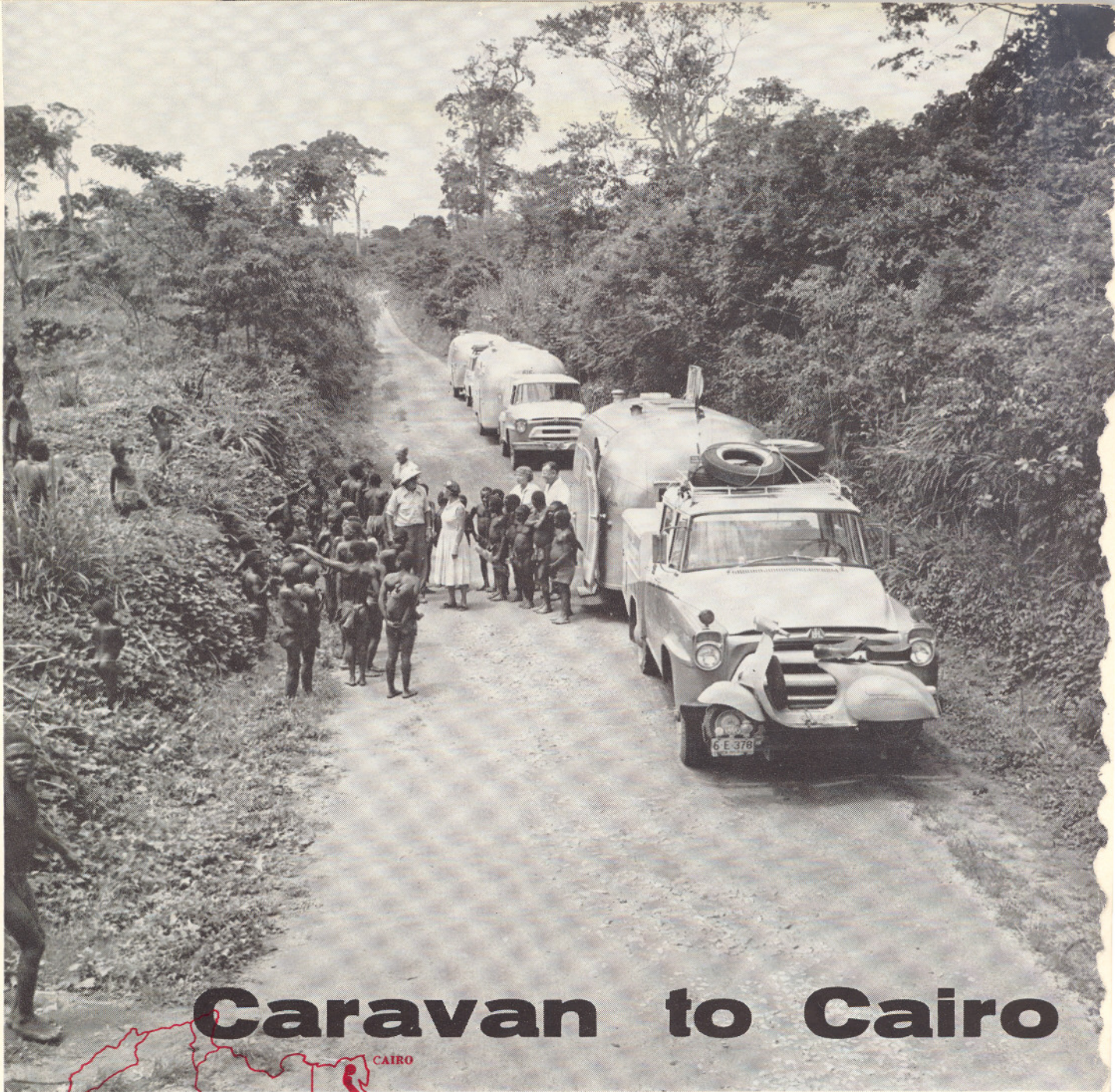
So many Caravanners have been besieging Wally with letters requesting information on the 1960 tour to Europe, that he is convinced this will be the all-time largest overseas Caravan . . . and this will make possible a special shipping arrangement that Wally has devised. He calls it the

Cara-value Plan! The wonderful news in all this is, that getting yourself and your Land Yacht Packet over to Europe will cost a great deal less than you would ever have believed possible. In fact, this innovation will result in a fantastic bargain rate for shipping each Packet (Land Yacht and automobile). Several steamship lines operating between New York and Rotterdam, Holland, are trying to out-bid each other for the franchise to transport the Caravan. However, to be sure that we get this rate, we must make a definite commitment with the winning company well in advance of our April, 1960, sailing date. If you are interested in joining this Wally Byam Caravan to Europe.

Woods. And we haven't even mentioned the Blue Danube. In Salzburg, Caravanners will visit Mozart's birthplace and make a side trip to Heilbrunn Castle. Innsbruck is the last stop in Austria, and one of the most beautiful.

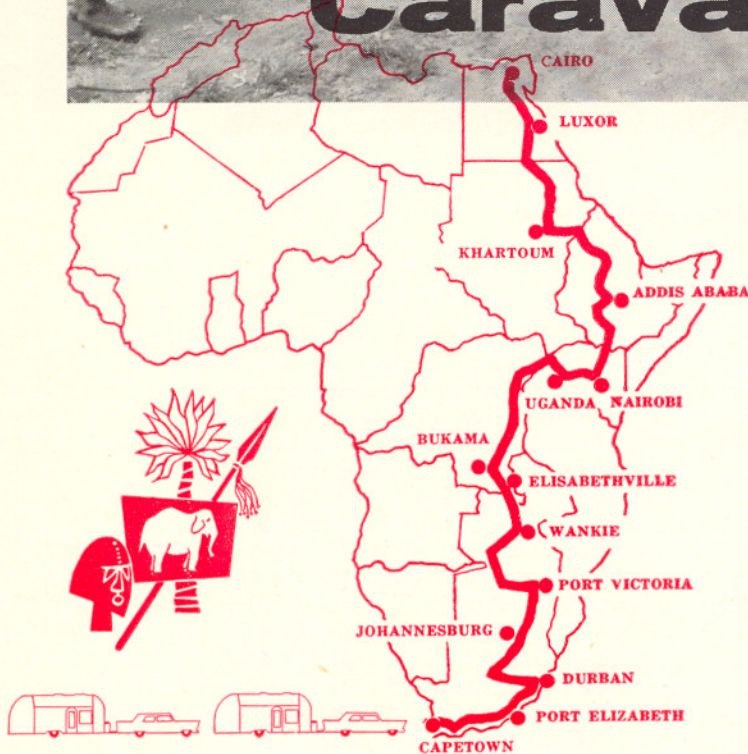
The Caravan will be in Oberammergau, Germany, on two days when the famous Passion Play is performed, so everyone will have a chance to attend. From this base camp trips can be made to Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain. Here we will visit fantastic Linderhof Castle, built by mad King Ludwig of Bavaria. Then to Munich, the beer capital

May 1960



Caravan to Cairo

by Allene Halbritter



BEING WHAT Wally Byam would call "veteran caravanners," it was no surprise to me, that when Wally started talking about going to Africa, the Halbritters would be going there too. And having traveled with Wally through the realization of other caravanning dreams, I never doubted that we would meet Haile Selassie, or park in the shadow of the Great Pyramid of Cheops at El Gizeh.

However, even as veterans, we couldn't anticipate all the adven-