

beamed to your particular way of life.

in decorating for Mt. Vernon Friday beginning at 6:30 p.m.

PEOPLE, PARTIES

Caravanner Describes Adventures in Africa

"THIS IS A CULT of American millionaires touring around the world hunting for a nation to buy" was one of the comments Dale Schwamborn overheard when the Wally Byam Caravan with which he is traveling rolled into Johannesburg, South Africa. He and his companions and their trailers were subjected to the scrutiny of "people by the thousands who came out to examine the Yanks," he writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schwamborn, 2204 Lindora.

A late letter from Dale begins with an account of his stay in Durban, where International Harvester Co. had a Braai (a barbecue) for the caravan, and they had a trip to Sheme Festival where half-clad Zulus presented traditional dances all day and into the evening. Christian missionaries founded the festival to preserve some of the Zulu traditions, he said.

From Kruger National Park, he reports: The music down here in Kwela, played on a penny whistle by native musicians. The dance also is called the Kwela, and is far superior to that in the U.S. It is the same as our rock and roll, but with more rhythm and emotion. Ricky Nelson is pushing Elvis out of the limelight, but loyal Presley fans are awaiting the day of his discharge.

met recently at the home of Mrs. Ted Bennett.

The group also discussed plans for a Halloween party to be held at the California Highway Patrol Pistol Range for patrolmen, their wives and friends.

Mrs. Jean Bianchi, chairman for the spring fashion show, reported that plans are underway for the show. The event will be a benefit fete.

MRS. DUDLEY CALDWELL, ways and means chairman of Theta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, announced a successful card party held at Carnation Room last week.

Miss Sybil Hilton won high score at bridge with other high score prizes being awarded Miss Win Parker and Miss Ann Peterson. Draw prizes were also won by Mrs. Lowell Hulsebus and Mrs. Robert Bowman.

Table decorations made by Mrs. Ray Buckle and Mrs. Caldwell were colorful, edible, and seasonal.

Members of the committee who helped to make the project a suc-

light, but loyal Presley fans are awaiting the day of his discharge.

...

"Being advance men for the caravan we go ahead to make arrangements for the rest of our contingent and in every town we are asked the same question: 'How do you like our country?' My answer is that South Africa is very like home; mild winters, farming, similar scenery. But this is not what they want to hear. They want to talk about the political side of the Union, especially here in an all-Boer society of the Orange Free State. South Africa, with a future as great as any nation in the world, is hampered by a small group of narrow-minded bigots who prevent progress. . . . TV is in the Buck Rogers stage: they don't have it and don't know when they'll get it. . . ."

Dale writes of the big hole at Kimberly, the diamond mine dug by hand, a half mile in perimeter and more than 1,00 feet deep.

He describes availability of exotic fresh fruits, the natives amusing themselves each evening beating U.S. rhythms on their own drums, playing a jazz session of Kwela music for a group of native children, and the game the caravan has seen. The baboon, he says, can be fierce, and despite its similiarity to humans, "appears to be a monster from some horror movie, staring with narrow-set brown eyes and vicious fangs visible." The group has been lucky, he adds, in seeing that rarity, a leopard, and such a diversity of animals as a pride of about 30 lions, many giraffes, buffalo, hippos, baboons, zebra, warthogs, and elephants watering at the river.

Dale is eager to hear from hometown friends, according to his mother, who will supply mail stops to be made by the African caravan. She may be reached by phoning FA 4-9222.

* * *

The Bakerfield Californian
14 Thursday, Oct. 29, 1959

T 7 0 7 . . .

the kitchen sink

U.S. CITY ON WHEELS

"I GUESS we are curiosities," drawled Mrs. Guy Hawks of Kentucky, U.S.A., from the doorway of her "house."

The Hawks are on a trans-Africa caravan tour—with 42 other caravanners of the Wally Byam Club.

Together they form a complete city on wheels, with elected postmasters, doctors, bankers, policemen and mechanics.

The Hawks and two other American couples are now on their way back to Cape Town to meet the rest of the "caravan."

They have been acting as camping-ground scouts for the main party, due next week.

The 15-month trip will take them 15,000 miles from the Cape to Cairo, through the Holy Land to Turkey and Europe, where they'll see the Rome Olympics.



MRS. LOUISE HAWKS at her refrigerator, which is gas cooled. She thinks South African fruits and vegetables are "swell" but ostrich biltong tastes like "spoiled (bad) sardines".



with its three-month supply of gas stored in the tanks in the foreground.



MRS. HAWKS at her gas stove. She once prepared a meal inside while the caravan was moving. The caravans are lit by gas lights.

taken while at Jeffreys Bay

Everything — including the



MR. GUY HAWKS at the controls of his four-wheel drive truck. It has eight gears, an 80-gallon petrol tank, a two-way radio and a winch in front in case it is stuck.

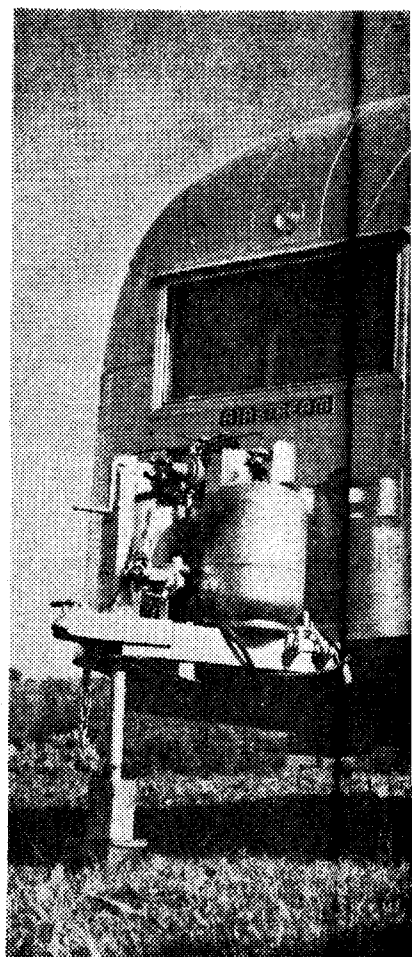


This couple are veteran caravanners. Most club members have met on previous trips.

WHERE MY CARAVAN HAS RESTED ...



One of the trucks at Jeffreys Bay. The aluminium caravans each cost about £1,500 and have showers, septic tanks and pressurised running water — hot and cold.



One of the caravans with its

taken while at Jeffrey's Bay

ing — including the kitchen sink

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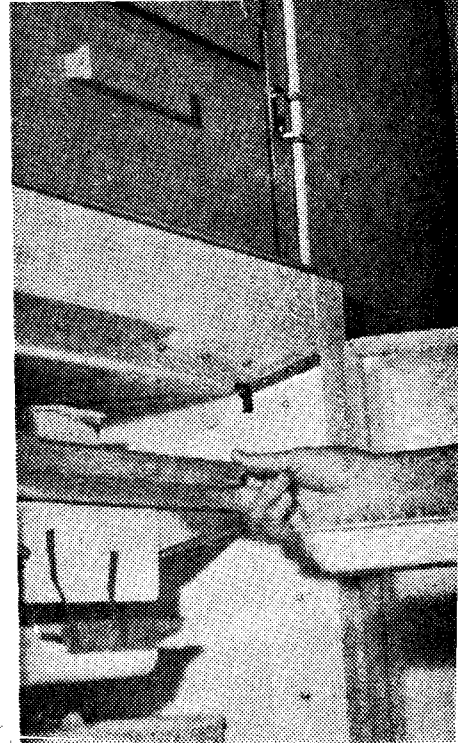
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MRS. LOUISE HAWKS at her South African fruits and vegetable stand. "sp"



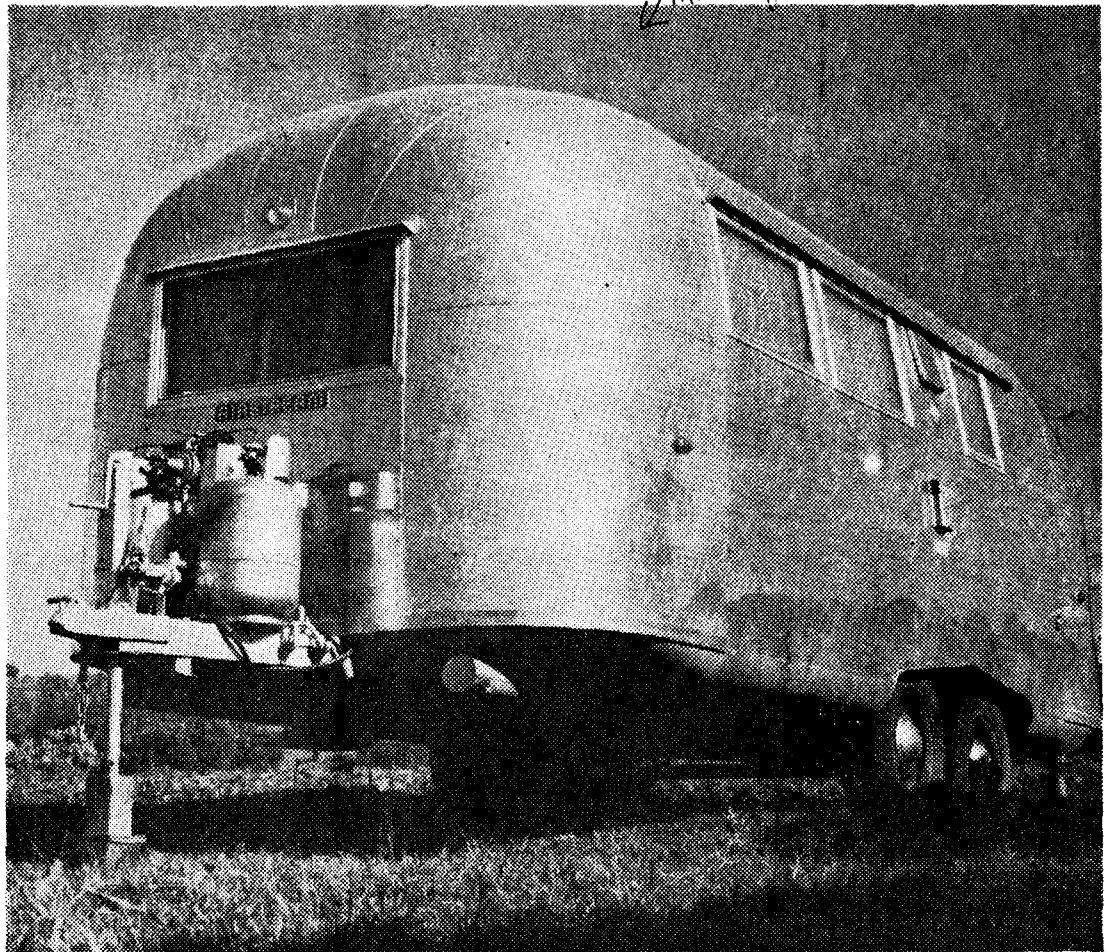
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ARAVAN ED ...

ours



um caravans each cost about surised running water — hot



One of the caravans with its three-month supply of gas stored in the tanks in the foreground.



MRS. VERNON McDONELL
... president, Bakersfield
Parent-Nursery Co-op

Enrollments Being Taken for Nursery

Enrollments are now being taken for Bakersfield Parent-Nursery, non-profit co-op, according to Mrs. Vernon McDonnell, president of the adult board. Interviews may be arranged and registration blanks had by calling Mrs. Edward Gonzales, director, at FA 2-4345.

School opens Sept. 15 at Heritage Park. The program features excursions, creative activity and the opportunity for the child under school age to learn attitudes such as sharing, taking turns and adjusting.

Drip-Drys Popular

Comfortable convertible blouses that drip-dry will carry over in fall wear. Many have roll-up sleeves that give a neat, relaxed air when matched with a slim skirt.

Dale Schwamborn Describes Travels by Trailer in Africa

From Durban, South Africa, Dale Schwamborn describes his travels with the Wally Byam Caravan in letters to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schwamborn, 2204 Lindora Ave. Byam is the young man's uncle. They are in caravan with trucks and Airstream trailers shipped to Capetown. The group of 104 persons is driving from Capetown through Africa and plans to be in the Holy Land for Christmas.

The caravan is now in Southern Rhodesia, his mother adds. She said Dale would like to hear from local friends, and she will supply addresses for mail stops to those who phone her at FA 4-9222.

Excerpts from Dale's letters follow:

"The voyage across the ocean was one huge party. Two-thirds of the passengers were caravaners and the other third a mixture of English men, South Africans and tourists. The weather was fine — really wonderful for swimming and a sun tan.

"Our first meal in Capetown was a luncheon potluck, given to the newly arrived caravaners by the ones who were already there.

"In Oudtshoorn, several of the caravaners rode ostriches at a mad gallop, ate ostrich drumsticks and had ostrich omelets.

"The Indian market is another sight to write about. It reminds me very much of the markets in Mexico. Here is where most of our food comes from. The roads are better than average and put some of the roads in Arizona and Mexico to shame. No matter whether you are in a city or out in the country, the natives are on the prowl. They are all walking to some destination, but where it is, no one knows.

"From Capetown to Durban the road stretches some 1,100 miles. This, like Capetown, is a very modern city. I went to the theater last night and saw Bing Crosby and Debbie Reynolds in Say One for Me.

"Something to see are the Zulu rickshas. Because of the weight and the way they run, it appears that the gaily clad Zulus are running in slow motion. On Sunday, the Zulus dress in costume and parade the streets. Very colorful city. No matter where you go, you will either see or hear Negroes walking down the streets strumming on a guitar. Today being Sunday, I saw a very interesting thing — a religious sect or cult called the Native Scientists wherein a group was meeting on a street corner and the head preacher or priest was dressed in black. The aids or subjects were dressed in white robes trimmed with blue sashes. I don't know whether this is pagan or Christian, but probably Christian since it is Sunday. They chanted and had several drums that they kept rhythm with.

"Early in the afternoon while taking on petrol a nice young man and his girl friend took a look at our rig. Later on, they stopped us uptown and we parked the ASC (African Scout Car) and they took us for a ride around the city. The boy is studying to become the equivalent of a CPA and the girl has a scholarship to come to the U.S.A. for a year.

"Could you send me some pictures of the house, campus, stadium, city," Dale asks his mother. "The people here are extremely curious to see what the U.S.A. looks like and especially our home town. Our American farmers would really like the land over here. It's very fertile and seemingly plenty of water," he concludes.

Bakersfield Man Leads African Trailer Trek

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A band of happy travelers is on its way to an 11,000-mile Capetown-to-Cairo African safari that has the experts flabbergasted and the U.S. government keeping its fingers crossed.

The travelers, who number about 150 and the oldest of whom is 87, are defying elephants, natives, revolutions, advice and a shortage of roads for their caravan of truck-hauled trailers.

State Department experts who know the territory to be covered say you couldn't pay them to make this trip, which is costing the intrepid group more than \$25,000 each and will last 18 months.

Riots Expected

The caravan is scheduled to leave Capetown July 14 and reach Cairo Dec. 4. If it is two or three months late getting there, it's all right with the travelers, who have been told to expect riots in Rhodesia, wild game in Uganda and violent storms almost anywhere.

They are undismayed by language barriers and hope to meet English-speaking Europeans everywhere but in Ethiopia. Here, they have agreed to take on police guards who will act as interpreters.

Halle Selassie's East African country, in fact, may be the source of the group's most serious troubles, State Department officials say. There just isn't a road along one stretch the caravan plans to travel. And there are natives who delight in ambushing anybody, especially their own policemen.

The caravan leader, 61-year-old Wally Byam, a retired manu-

facturer from Bakersfield, is reported to have told the State Department he'll work out the problem when he gets there. Byam has been leading similar caravans since 1950 and has traversed South America, Europe and all of the United States with his clients.

Warned of Rain

Byam also has been warned that in many places, roads simply dissolve during the rainy season. And the rainy season is usually about 10 months long.

State Department officials, at one time frankly skeptical about the caravan's future, appear to have been won over by Byam's drive and record of success.

What do the caravaners have going for them, besides Byam's knack for planning and organization?

They're all well-heeled, many of them millionaires, say the State Department officials.

Secondly, the group carries with it retired people from nearly every profession, including six doctors. The oldest traveler is Dr. Duncan Monroe of Boulder, Colo., who is 87. The youngest safari member is five years old. Twenty-one in the group are under 21 years of age and the entire group is about evenly divided between men and women, boys and girls.

Travelers will ride two-to-a-trailer.

They plan to visit gold and diamond mines, gorilla reserves, pygmy and giant Watsui tribes, Victoria Falls, and the pyramids outside Cairo. In August, 1960, the group plans to be on hand for the opening of the Olympic Games in Rome.

Africa Trailer Group Limps Into Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, Nov. 26 (AP)—Smelling of the bush, covered with red dust and with sores on their hands, Wally Byam's "lost tribe" of 90 Americans groaned into Addis Ababa today in 35 trucks and trailers—20 days after leaving Nairobi, Kenya.

The caravan chief Byam, of Los Angeles, is leading a

safari 11,000 miles from Capetown to the Mediterranean through Africa.

Most of the caravan's members—from 24 states—are elderly people with itchy feet. But 21 are from 6 to 19 years old, and there are more women than men.

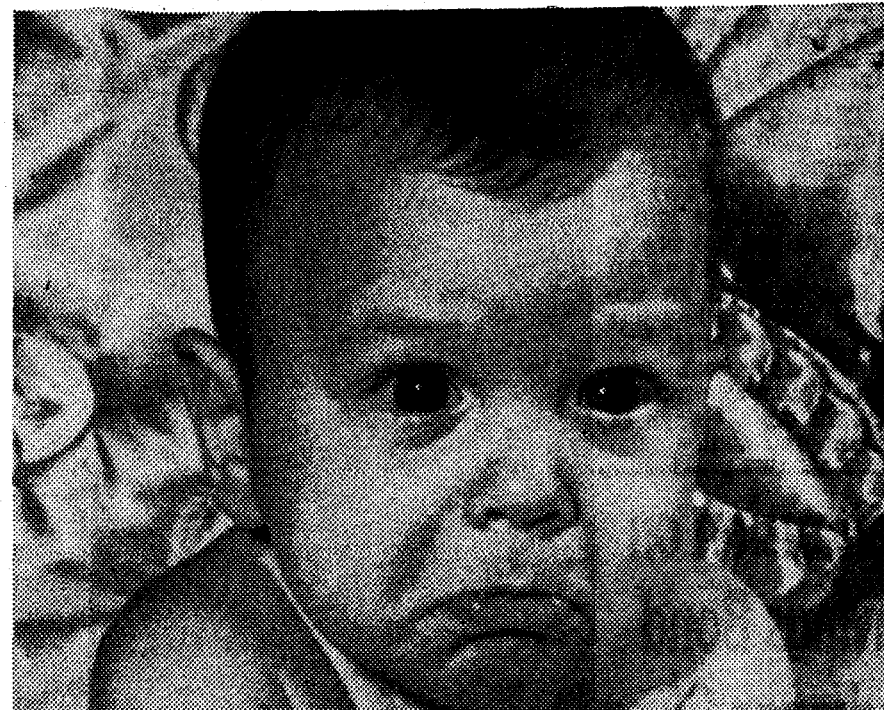
Broken axles and springs and burst tires slowed the caravan to as little as seven miles a day.

The caravan has now covered 10,000 miles from Capetown.

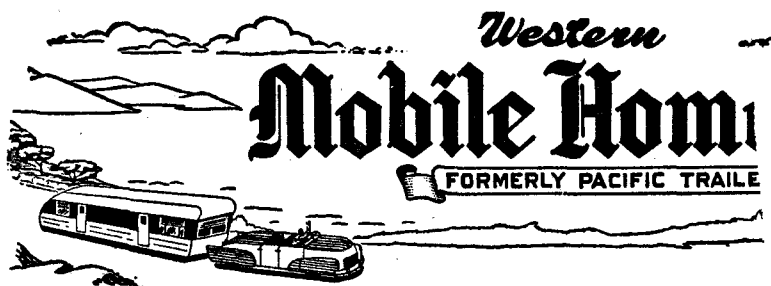
The adventurers are eager to push on to Cairo before Christmas. They expect to tackle the arid wastes of the Nubian Desert, where a five-man American-French expedition recently met disaster.

Boy Shoots Self While Cleaning Gun

SAN DIEGO, Nov. 26 (AP)—A 14-year-old Los Angeles boy underwent surgery to



VACATION IN
COMFORT IN A
TRAVEL TRAILER



Mr. Art Costello
Airstream Trailers, Inc.
12804 E. Firestone Blvd.
Norwalk, Calif. (TF) L

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VOL. VIII, No. 51 "Second-Class Mail Privileges Authorized At Long Beach, California"

2491 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, California -

EDWARD L. WILSON

Monday, June 15, 1959

(Continued to Page 8)

Village. This bit of creative drama should provide some creepy scalps for trailerists who will visit this area with Holiday on

TRAILER TALK

By BILL JAMES

Vacation time is here and the travel trailer rigs are rolling on highways across the nation. The fact was brought home to me last week at the meeting of the Long Beach Trailer Club while listening to members detailing plans for the summer.

A word of warning to trailerists pulling trailers in California. The speed limit still is 45 miles an hour, and is being rigidly enforced.

Trailer Coach Association has introduced a bill in the legislature to raise the speed limit to 50 miles an hour. The bill has received a "do pass" recommendation by the Senate Transportation committee over the opposition of the California Highway Patrol.

The CHP is expected to offer (Continued on Page 4)



BILL JAMES

Byam African Caravan Sails June 19

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Gleaming Airstream trailers of the Wally Byam caravan to Africa will sail June 19 from this port aboard the S.S. African Enterprise of the Farrell Lines to join other Byam caravanners already in Capetown, in the Union of South Africa.

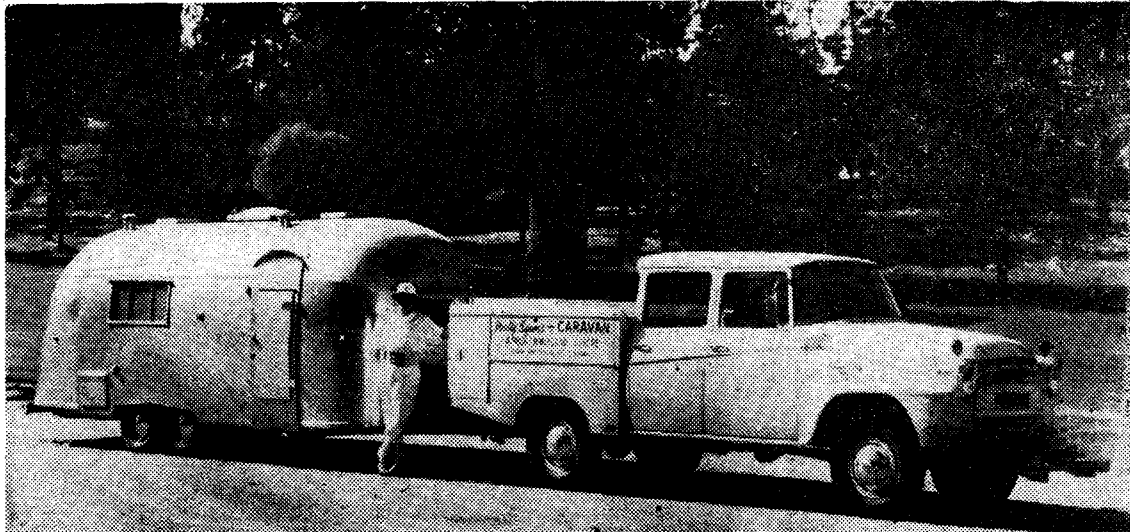
Led by Wally Byam, an internationally known globe trotter, the caravan will visit and stay in every conceivable spot of interest, not only in the Dark Continent but in the Holy Land, in Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia and in some 16 European countries before return-

ing to the United States.

Making up the roster of the caravan are 106 Americans ranging in age from 6 to 85. There are 41 trailers in the caravan housing 85 adults and 21 youngsters. Average age of the caravanners, excluding the youngsters, is 55.2 years.

Towing the trailers are 30 International 4-wheel-drive trucks; 2 Fords, 2 Land Rovers, 9 Chevrolets and 1 Dodge Power Wagon.

These itchy-footed Americans represent 25 states. Along with Byam and his gold plated Land Yacht, these adventurous trailerists will be the first in history ever to traverse the long, hard road from the tip of the Cape of Good Hope to the land of the pyramids.



AFRICAN LAND YACHT—Wally Byam, internationally known globe-trotter, and the Airstream Land Yacht he will take on the caravan to Africa and the Holy Land.

Plan Board Denies Proposal For New Park Near Seattle

By DAVE JAECH

SEATTLE, Wash.—Refusal of a proposal by Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Reeders for a new mobile home to be built on the south end of Lake Sammamish near Seattle, was announced recently by the King County Planning Commission.

No explanation was given for the County Commissioners' action to block the 100 space trailer park other than complying with the request of complaining neighbors.