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PRESS RELEASE

MARCH 3, 1960.

DAMASCUS--- March 3-- The internationally -famed Wally Byam "Caravan" of 130 Americans driving 45 pick-up trucks pulling house trailers is scheduled to arrive in Damascus during the week end.

The widely-known tourist " trailer" group is en route by land to Trieste after having left Capetown, South Africa, on July 14, 1959. They drove in caravan style through Africa to Alexandria of the Egyptian Region, UAR, and thence by boat to Beirut. They arrive in Damascus during the week end from Beirut.

The general composition of the 130 persons is of elderly, retired business and professional men including farmers, engineers, doctors and lawyers, their wives and some children.

The average age of the group is 67 years. There are five doctors, one of whom is 87 years old.

Their four-wheel drive International pick-up trucks are fully equipped. Most of them are equipped with winches.

The leader of the group, Wally Byam, stated that arrangements for fuel, food and other necessities are made locally.

Mr. Byam has in the past organized similar trailer trips to Central America and Europe. These trips have been " extremely successful"

During their entire trip thus far through a large number of countries, the members of the group have lived, cooked and slept in their modern house trailers, which are their travelling homes.

This novel method of tourism has attracted wide attention throughout the world, as attested to by the many letters which Mr. Byam says he has received.

He emphasized that the group was strictly "tourist" and out to enjoy that part of the world they were visiting .

"Trailer" travel is a mode which has become increasingly popular in the United States and in many other countries. In country less rigorous than that which the Wally Byam caravan has been following currently, the normal mode of transportation is for the family " trailer" to be pulled by an ordinary automobile. The special four-wheel vehicles are necessary for the Wally Byam caravan because of the uncertain land conditions encountered, especially throughout Africa.

"Trailers" normally are completely self-sufficient, containing living room, sleeping quarters, kitchen and toilet facilities. Some of the more elaborate and larger types even contain such modern conveniences as showers.

The Wally Byam caravan will remain at Damascus approximately four days camping just below Muhajereen Park.

From Damascus it travels north through Turkey to Trieste, the end of the journey.

AEC Report C

By **FRANK CAREY**

Associated Press Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Atomic Energy Commission reports great benefits already have come to man from radio-active isotopes—including some usually identified with much-feared H-bombs and fallout.

But the AEC said only the surface has been scratched of their potential service to the world.

In a voluminous report, the AEC summarized the first 15 years of practical use of these

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76 Oldsters End Safari

CAIRO (UPI) — The leader of 76 Americans who traveled 14,000 miles by caravan through Africa said he and his followers were "just eternal tourists."

Wally Byam of Los Angeles and his trekking companions, whose average age was 67, went the distance from Capetown, South Africa, to this United Arab Republic capital in just short of seven months.

Byam said the Caravan was planned on paper at its headquarters in Bakersfield, Calif. He said most of the information used in the planning came from a pamphlet published in South Africa.

"It showed us mile by mile how to go from Capetown to Cairo and we just followed the book," he said.

"The caravan's motto," Byam said was "have ants—will travel."

Mrs. Duncan Monroe, wife of an 86-year-old physician who was the oldest member of the party, said "traveling and living on wheels have kept him young."

The Monroes live at Sterling, Colo., in the summer and at a trailer park in Bradenton, Fla., during the winter. Monroe retired after practicing his specialty, heart and lung diseases, in Alton, Ill., for 52 years.

Planning African Tour? Safari Family Has Tips

By CHARLES P. ARNOT

North American Newspaper Alliance

CAIRO—If you're planning to tour Darkest Africa by house trailer, be sure to take along plenty of "spares"—and plenty of money.

That's the free-of-charge tip offered by the Douglasses of Encinitas, Calif., who have just "rolled, bounced and skidded" the length of the African continent—13,000 miles in the past seven months.

The Douglas family—Dad Leon, 61, Mom Catherine, and their two lean and handsome sons, Ron, 17, and Barry, 16—pulled into Cairo about a month behind their original schedule.

Thirty of the initial caravan of 41 house trailers which left Capetown last July 13 were still pushing northward somewhere along the Nile river in southern Egypt when the Douglasses reached here.

The unique all-American caravan—numbering 104 persons at the start—split up in Kenya about 7,500 miles along the northward route because some of the travelers wanted to go through Ethiopia and others chose to head north along the Nile through the Sudan.

Though there were 21 teenagers and children in the original party, the caravan probably was the "oldest" ever to make the arduous journey through jungles and over mountains.

Average Age 67

The average age was 67, including 87-year-old Dr. Duncan B. Monroe, formerly of Alton, Ill., who now has homes in Bradenton, Fla., and Sterling Colo. His wife has been doing the driving.

Considering their advanced ages and the rigors of the trip, the adventurous trailer tourists have survived the journey. We made it, but it was tough

so far without any casualties, or even a serious illness.

One trailer was almost demolished in an accident outside Durban, South Africa—and there have been other troubles aplenty.

When Ron and Barry Douglas advise others considering the long African trip to pack along plenty of "spares," they know what they are talking about.

"What kind of spares? Everything," Ron advises. "At one time or another we ran out of spare parts for just about everything in our rig. The water tanks in our trailer broke. The sink began to cave in. The stove didn't work right."

22 Miles a Day

"And be sure to reinforce your trailer before starting on any African trip. Those roads are murder. At one point in Ethiopia, we could average only 22 miles a day for 12 days, on us, and on all our equipment."

The reinforced aluminum trailers are towed by three-quarter ton trucks equipped with four-wheel drive. Each trailer provides comfortable accommodations for four persons, including a small sink and toilette and foam rubber mattresses.

The initial outlay, for truck and trailer, was \$8,500. Then came a charge of \$3,000 for sea passage from New York to Capetown.

After that expenses mounted higher than originally estimated. That's why the Douglas family recommends taking along "plenty of money." Douglas, a retired California manufacturer, figures the whole journey will have cost at least \$25,000 before they get back home . . . Maybe more.

"We figured on about \$600 a month travel costs, but that hasn't nearly covered it," Mrs. Douglas, an attractive gray-haired woman, reports. "We were told that transportation would cost us \$10 a day, but in most places we couldn't even buy our gasoline for that. Everything in the Belgian Congo is terribly expensive."

On the whole, the group emerged with the impression that Africa is "much more civilized" than they originally imagined. And generally they encountered friendly white settlers and helpful African Natives.

Tie Up At River

The Douglas family's worst experience came on the leg of their trip from Nairobi, Kenya, through the Sudan. First they had to wait a month in Kenya for a Nile river barge big enough to carry their truck and trailer.

"Then when we finally reached Wadi Halfa in northern Sudan, they tried to stick us in every possible way," Ron reports. "They even charged us \$45 to drive 100 yards over a certain road, claiming it was



Marvelous MARDI GRAS

Join the West Coast's finest Mardi Gras tour, departing February 21 from Seattle and Portland! Travel on a special train with all-lightweight, streamlined Pullman cars! No change of trains! Enjoy scenic beauty from Vista Dome cars!

Attend the Mardi Gras Ball in New Orleans, the Confederate Ball and Tableau in Natchez. See the Mardi Gras Parade from reserved seats.

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Spend 15 days visiting Salt Lake City, Colorado Springs, Denver, Chicago, Memphis, New Orleans, Natchez, Dallas, Fort Worth, Albuquerque.

80 Retirees on African Caravan

By ROBERT PETERSON

A FEW MONTHS AGO I wrote about some 80 retirees who embarked from New York on what I called the greatest retirement adventure of all time—a trailer caravan through Africa.

In the ensuing weeks, so many readers have written demanding to be kept informed of the caravan's progress that I'm glad to pass along a letter from Wally Byam, 63, whose nimble brain conceived this fantastic junket.

"In spite of all the dire predictions of folks back home," he writes, "we actually reached Africa intact with our 41 trailers and trucks. A fine camp site was waiting for us at the edge of Capetown, with plenty of water and electricity.

"Capetown looks as modern as New York or Chicago, and the scenery leaves us breathless. It's even more spectacular than my home state of California. The countryside is a panorama of sweeping green valleys, magnificent mountains, and flowers and shrubs so big and rich in color they look like sculptured plastic.

"The mayor threw a cocktail party for us on arrival and gave us a plaque commemorating this first trailer caravan of Africa. Wherever we go, people gather round to look at us. We can't get over the friendliness of the people—both white and colored. They're a 'giving' instead of a 'taking' people and there's never a hint that they're trying to get something from us.

"I'm convinced that making friends for America is relatively easy—all we've got to do is get out and mingle with people. I think it's a sin for folks to stay mired down in one spot. If we stay at home, how are we ever going to show people of other lands that we're genuinely friendly?

"The folks here are terribly interested in America, and vie for the privilege of doing things for us. One family insisted on taking us to see a whaling factory where the workers cut up four whales, just so we could see how it's done. Another family arranged a deer hunt, and then prepared a fine barbecue of venison. And some natives took a group of us out 25 miles into



PETERSON

the ocean in a primitive clunker boat with five men rowing on each side. No life preservers or ship-to-shore radio, but, boy, did we catch salmon!

"The first leg of our caravan after leaving Capetown was a 257 mile run to Mossel Bay. Since then we've hit Knysna, Umtatta, and Kimberley with its diamond mines. The roads have been surprisingly good. After each day's trek we pull into a camp site and put our trailers in a circle reminiscent of covered wagon days. Then we sit around a huge bonfire and revel in good talk and companionship.

"Most of us are past 60—including our 86-year-old physician, Dr. D. D. Monroe of Sterling, Colo.—but the stimulation of this new continent is so heady that everyone feels fresh springs of vigor."

* * *

THIS CARAVAN is a splendid example of what is meant by enriching the later years. Let's hope it will encourage folks everywhere to stash away some greenbacks and set their sights for the great adventures which can await them in retirement.

If you would like a free booklet "Trailer Life in Retirement," write to this column in care of the N. Y. Journal-American, 220 South st., N. Y. 15, N. Y., enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

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Some Tips For Trailer Tourists In Africa

Encinitas Family Suggests Carrying A Surplus Of Spare Parts And Extra Cash

By CHARLES P. ARNOT
North American Newspaper Alliance

CAIRO—If you're planning to tour Darkest Africa by house trailer, be sure to take along plenty of "spares" — and plenty of money.

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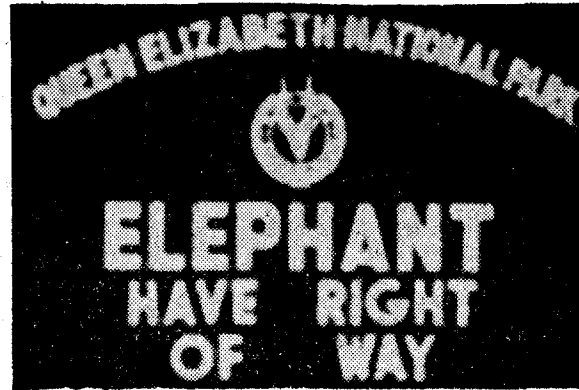
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—Associated Press

A HEALTHY SIGN: Elephants aren't the least bit inclined to yield the right of way in Africa, so in Uganda, it's man who yields.

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The Douglasses plan to travel from Egypt to Lebanon, Syria and Turkey, then on into Greece and Northern Europe. It is dad's and mom's plan to put Ron and Barry in school in Germany

next year, so they can make up for the year of school they missed (except for the one extension course each has been taking by mail from the University of California).

Ron and Barry agree it's been worth missing a year of school.

"A trip across Africa is an education in itself," says Ron.

Knowing what they do today about roads, delays and high costs, would the Douglasses family start out on such a bold venture again?

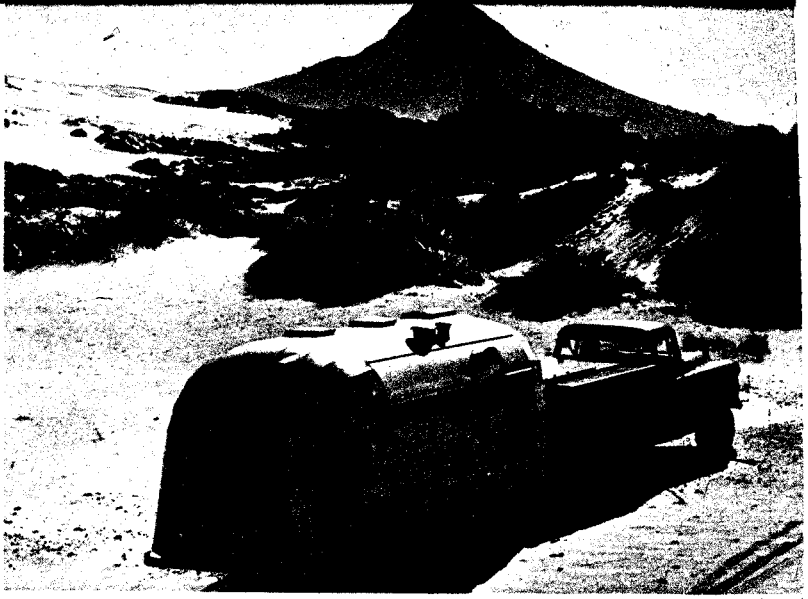
After a moment's hesitation, Ron puts it in his best diplomatic fashion:

"We wouldn't want to do it again this way, but I think we'd all like to do it again."

Standing outside their travel-scarred house trailer in the shadow of Egypt's famous pyramids, the other Douglasses nod their agreement.

SAVE SAIL MATSON FROM 15% HAWAII

Now's the time to vacation in Hawaii returning to California aboard a Matson liner, at 15% lower eastbound fares! You'll



AFRICAN VISTA—A trailer stops by the road in the Cape Colony. The countryside here was likened to "a combination of North Dakota and Texas."



Left—POSE—A Transvaal villager provides caravan members with a shot for their photo albums.



Right—HIGH SPOT—A safari family views Victoria Falls, which one tripper called "the most tremendous thing we have seen."



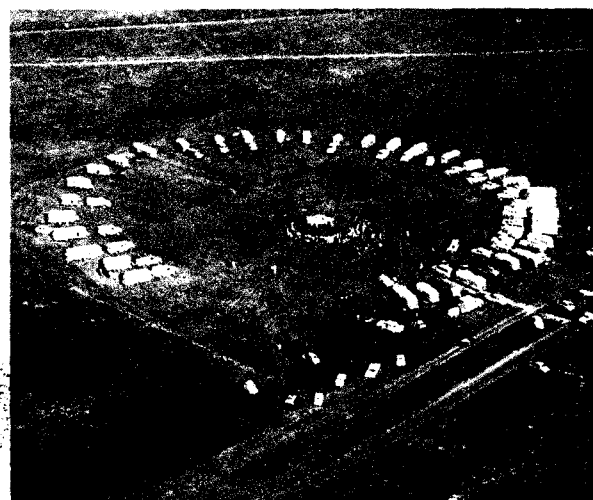
WAY STOP—In the Belgian Congo a pygmy is shown his image in a mirror held by Stella Byam, wife of trip leader Wally Byam, right.

Photographs by PETE TURNER

NY Times

By Trailer

A party of 104 Americans, ranging in age from 6 to 87, with the average age 67, is now more than 8,000 miles out of Capetown on a trailer safari that will eventually end in Scandinavia. Led by a retired Los Angeles lawyer, Wally Byam, the group consists of couples, some with their children, from twenty-seven states. Traveling in forty-one trailers and accompanied by a mechanic, they plan to reach Cairo by Christmas, then proceed to northern Europe by way of Turkey and Greece. Shown here are scenes of the journey so far.



WILD LIFE—A startled giraffe gallops past one of the caravan's trailers in the Wankie National Park, Rhodesia.

Left—
ENCAMPMENT—The caravan beds down for the night near Durban, South Africa, in a great circle reminiscent of America's wagon-train days.