

A Quick Look at Exciting Africa

By Justine Weatherford
 "It's very big, it's full of contrasts, many cities are very modern and very lovely, the animals are exciting and some need to be eliminated as they are overgrazing and leading to erosion", are a few comments from Barbara and O. W. Cutsforth who recently returned from a five-week's tour of Africa.

Seventeen persons made this tour—five couples and seven singles. The average age of the travelers was "about 60". They

clocked 28,000 air miles and 3,455 land miles for a total mileage of 31,444. They happened to hit Africa during its dry season. They found that U.S. money is going down in value rapidly and felt very lucky to get about \$14.00 for their \$20.00 traveler's checks. In Nairobi they only got \$6.50 for \$10.00 checks.

New York to Johannesburg. From Portland they flew via Sea-Tac to Kennedy Airport and only saw ground a few places as they sped east at about 35,000



Photo National Geographic

feet. From Kennedy they flew south to Rio De Janeiro where they enjoyed looking about the city of many hills, of beautiful buildings, and fabulous beaches. They arrived one day after a great fiesta and saw workmen taking down the decorations. A visit to the Sterns gem factory was educational. They rode cable cars up the famous mountains and were sorry that clouds cut off some of the spectacular views. Their Trans-Atlantic flight to Johannesburg was quiet and smooth. This city is a concrete

jungle of 20 and 30 story buildings with much construction taking place. Their 26-story hotel was very English. Gold mining is the big thing there—76 percent of the world's gold is mined near by. Many slag mounds dot the area; these used to stand barren, but now they are using new chemicals in the processing and vegetation is able to grow much sooner than it would naturally return to these heaps of mine discard.

Around South Africa Rev. Dr. Billy Graham happened to be conducting a campaign in South Africa while they were there. He insisted that the apartheid be set aside for his meetings, but the

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Cutsforths found strict segregation and complete control by whites through this vast region. They toured in a large air-conditioned bus across great plains, through huge fields of corn at various stages of development and through miles of hand-planted eucalyptus trees. Barbara learned that when early Dutch settlers arrived there were no people and no trees there. As gold was discovered and mines dug they needed timbers—so decided to grow eucalyptus. They brought black slaves from areas to the north to labor for them—and established the master-slave system that pre-dated the present apartheid. The small Kingdom of Swaziland proved fascinating. Its 76-year-old king is given a lovely new wife as a tribute each year. He has many, many children, but only four of his sons are considered possible heirs to the throne. Some of the princes were employed at the Holiday Inn where the tourists stayed. Cattle are the measure of wealth and are used as bride barter there. One of the tourists had London flu and Barbara caught it. It swept through the entire group, but O. W. didn't get it until later on.

Kimberly And Durban

More than 90 percent of the world's diamonds are mined at Kimberly. The group saw Kimberly's "Big Hole", and visited a working diamond mine where they viewed the extraction process.

Durban, on the east coast, is a great port city of 600,000. It is very modern and has a lovely beach that is brighter and better than Coney Island. O. W. counted 60 ships loading and unloading in the harbor. He says there is terrific business activity there.

GOING NORTH

The great national parks or game reserves of the central-east section were high spots as they traveled northward. They saw millions of animals, especially impala and antelope, including one rare sable antelope which was a big thrill. They now traveled by V.W. mini-bus. Victoria Falls was awesome. Presently none of its tremendous power is being harnessed. One of the reasons it is not being used is that the falls is right at the border between Zambia and Rhodesia. Barbara says the spray and the roar from the great falls is unforgettable. Zambia was closed to the tourists, and there are many political and governmental problems still not settled in the south-central region of Africa.

Orville Worries

In the Nairobi area they traveled for a half day through wildbeasts, saw millions of zebra, and saw a lake that was covered with brilliant pink flamingo. Orville thinks that the protection of some of the grazing animals should stop as the country is being overgrazed.

They stayed at a lovely lodge just 25 miles from Kilimanjaro. The lodge was surrounded by contented lions. It is at 3500 ft. elevation. The nearby mountain, Africa's highest, rises 19,340 ft.

Orville ran up a good-sized 'phone bill trying to talk with Ex-State Treasurer Bob Straub, but was unable to get a good connection.

North of the Union of South Africa the countries are controlled by Blacks and some of them are managing very well. Many of the most successful business men are descendants of Indians the British brought there as bonded workmen years back. These imported workers from India were trained by the English, and after three year's labor were given the option of going back to India or of staying in Africa. Many sent for their families and worked on to become independent and successful.

Beautiful People

Ethiopia was an especially appealing country. O. W. was sad about the barren land, the horrible effect of poor farming methods and over-grazing. They were impressed by the careful use of every foot of tillable ground. Both Cutsforths declare that the Ethiopians are very beautiful people. O. W. was interested in reading the historical accounts of the Queen of Sheba and her visit to King Solomon. These people are delicate, refined, smaller, and quite different in appearance from the Bantu peoples of the south. Barb. says that walking has much to do with their grace and good looks. All over Africa people are walking constantly—they think nothing of walking 15 to 30 miles. Women carry many things on their heads and often have babies on their backs or in their arms, too. Women do most of the work everywhere in rural Africa. Most of the continent's expanse is rural and agricultural.

Coming Home

From Ethiopia they flew to Paris via Rome. They enjoyed flying across the Alps but couldn't see the Matterhorn. At Paris they left the Ethiopian Airline and transferred to a London-bound plane. After a look about London and nearby sites in a rented car which O. W. drove through heavy traffic on strange roads—they took off for the U.S.A. via the polar route to Seattle. They were able to see the icy landscape quite well.

Barbara has written a complete day-by-day journal of this trip that would certainly be helpful and interesting for any person planning to go to Africa. The slides that they took will be processed soon and will really bring Africa to Morrow County. Several souvenirs and various booklets which they shipped from Africa by boat should also arrive in the near future. These veteran travelers rate this recent trip as their most exciting travel adventure.

Kinzua

Mr. and Mrs. Bill McMinn and family were business visitors to The Dalles Sunday.

Mrs. Don Stanton of Camp Five underwent major surgery Friday at St. Anthony's hospital in Pendleton. Mr. Stanton spent the weekend there and reports she is recuperating very well.

J. E. Wall brought Mrs. Wall home this weekend from Providence Hospital in Portland where she has been a patient for the past month. They were accompanied to Kinzua by Mrs. Wall's sister, Mrs. Isabelle Maroney of Minneapolis, Minn.

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