

African Traveler Tells of Game Reserves, French Somaliland

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles by Luke Lange, former Medford resident who is on an around the world cruise aboard the freighter, SS Friesland. Today's article concerns Kenya and a visit to the famous Tree Top hotel; and a visit to Djibuti, in Somaliland.)

By LUKE LANGE

Kenya lies between Ethiopia and Tanganyika on the east African coast. It is a British Protectorate and is now in the process of being given independence.

Many of the British have gone, and they are leaving as fast as they can train replacements.

Mombassa is the big port for the country, and Nairobi is the capital. The area from Mombassa to Nairobi to Kilimanjaro probably has more game than any other place in Africa.

Near Nairobi they have the famous Tree Top hotel. This place has rooms, bar and dining facilities built up in the air on sturdy concrete. It overlooks a water hole and at dawn and dusk every species of wildlife in Africa shows up for a drink. The construction is a replacement of the original, in the trees, because the Mau Maus, while on a rampage, burned the first one.

Furnishes Guide
This is the only reserve in Africa that furnishes the

guide with a big game gun. From the parking area to the tree top is a distance of about two hundred yards, and you are escorted there in safety. The present guide has been there two years, and has only had to kill one elephant to protect a tourist.

We rented a car in Mombassa and went to the Tsavo reserve. This reserve, next to Kruger park, is the largest in Africa, and consists of about 8,000 square miles. We were lucky to reach it this time of the month because it is ready to close down for the rainy season.

The port authorities gave me a permit to take a shot gun along for protection, but with strict orders not to shoot any animals or birds, especially lions, because they were getting scarce. I told the Englishman not to worry since I was not crazy enough to shoot a lion with a 20-gauge shot gun. He told me that most Americans he came in contact with in Africa were crazy enough to do anything.

Typical Englishman
He was a typical Englishman, and not too pleased with Americans. Apparently he had forgotten about the 50 destroyers we traded his country for a Navel base in Trinidad.

Our guide in the reserve was from the Masai tribe proudly dressed in a uniform. You can hardly drive a mile without seeing some kind of animal. They were all there. Zebra, rhino, wart hogs, etc.,

and herd after herd of elephants.

The first herd of elephants we saw was about 300 yards from the road and coming our way. I thought that by keeping the car in gear and all ready to go, one of us could get out and safely take a picture when they got real close, but the guide would hear none of this.

Stays With Rules
He stayed strictly with the rules and would not allow anyone out of the car. He had a healthy respect for the elephants and did not take any chances. He went on to tell us of the numerous accidents in the park to people passing through without guides and getting out of their cars.

The highway to Nairobi runs through part of the park, and while on the highway a guide is not needed so most of the accidents happen on the main road to people who don't seem to realize the animals are wild, even the protected.

We had not gone 10 miles

until it started to rain. In the tropics the water comes down in sheets and in a short time the narrow road was a mass of mud. The soil is red clay similar to the Eagle Point gumbo and gets slick. I stuck the car in a big mud hole and we all had to get out to push. There were six people including the guide, and all of them up to their knees in mud. Then a herd of elephants showed up.

Get In Car
We all got in the car and stayed absolutely quiet. The herd of about 50 passed by in single file and everyone of them had to stop and take a look. By the time they got out of sight we were a pretty scared bunch of people, and pushed the car out of the mud in jig time.

The guide, like all natives, was real proud of his uniform and he, like the rest of us, was covered with mud. He felt so bad I thought he was going to cry.

We stayed in a tourist lodge near Nairobi and drove the rest of the reserve the next

morning. The owner of the lodge had a large boxer dog and it was pretty badly scared up. A herd of marauding baboons had invaded the grounds the night before and the boxer tied into one of them. He killed the baboon by breaking its neck, but looked like he had a tough time doing it.

Cancel Hunting Trip
We were going into Nairobi to make arrangements to go hunting, but after seeing all the animals in the reserve and on the main road we decided to cancel.

After taking pictures of nearly every species from within a few feet to a hundred yards, we couldn't see where there would be any sport in hunting them with a gun. It just would not be a contest. You can drive about any direction and take your pick of rhino or elephant, climb out of the car crack him with a gun of large enough caliber to remove any element of danger and there really isn't any hunting to it.

But if anyone wishes to hunt in Africa, arrangements should be made at Mombassa or Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. This can be done by addressing a letter to the Government Tourist Agency Department.

French Run Djibuti
Our next stop in Africa is Djibuti, in Somaliland. The French run this port and it is their last foothold since giving up Algeria.

It is easy to see the French do not expect to be here much longer. The buildings are falling apart and so is equipment. They expect to give the place its independence shortly so they are just letting things wear out. It is hard to blame them for this attitude since they will not receive any compensation when they are kicked out. This might be the one place in Africa that would be just as well off under their management.

Have No Worries
The harbor is full of ships that cannot get unloaded, and the French authorities could not care less. Djibuti has one air conditioned bar and the Frenchmen spend part of the days and most of the nights there and really live things up. If they run France the same way they do their African territory, they could wind up losing it too.

for one thing. They sure have a good time for themselves and have no worries. The French also have been much easier to get acquainted with and are friendlier than the Dutch, English and Portuguese people we have met in Africa.

Before leaving any of the African ports, our ship is searched from one end to the other. The natives will do almost anything to get out of the country and given the least opportunity will hide out on any ship they can, no matter where it is going, but prefer one going to America if they can get on it.

When we arrived in Assab, Ethiopia, after a two-day run from Djibuti, one of our crew heard a tapping in Hatch No. 1, and we had a sure-enough Somali stow away. The hole was loaded with coffee, and would not have been opened until arrival in New York 30 days later if his signals had not been heard.

Creates Headache
A stow away creates quite a headache for the shipping company, and the captain was having a fit. He is a man without a country and it is up to the shipping company to get him home. Last year they had one from Zanzibar, and took him all the way to New York and flew him back to Africa from there at their own expense.

The Ethiopian custom officials were cooperative. The man was kept aboard until plane time the next morning and flown back to Djibuti. For a native making 80 cents a day, the man had a pretty nice week end, consisting of a two-day boat cruise and a plane ride, all expenses paid.

Assab is a small, dirty port town, and is the outlet for most of the coffee of Ethiopia, the country's largest crop. We met one bright little Ethiopian fellow, 14 years old, who guided us around the town and knew quite a bit of English. He had hidden on two different American boats and made it clear to Ellis Island both times. He had been flown back to Ethiopia both times, and was quite well traveled.

Liked Americans
He said he liked Americans better than anybody as the ship crews had treated him nice and taught him some English.

This town is full of Ethiopian Army men and they are getting ready for a hassle with Somaliland, their next door neighbor, over a piece of ground given away after the war by the United Nations.

Both countries claim it and both are preparing for trouble, so maybe this will be the next spot in Africa to

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MEDFORD TRIBUNE

SECTION C MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1962 PAGES 1 to 8



HARD TO BELIEVE—Mr. George Abshier, father of PFC Larry A. Abshier, 18, reported to have defected to Communist North Korea from his post, finds it hard to believe his son did so. Pyongyang radio reported the soldier defected because of his "humiliating life" in the Army. (UPI)

Oregon Laying Out Greenest Welcome For State Visitors

Oregon is laying out the greenest welcome mat in the U.S., Phil Hunt, coordinator of the "Oregon Welcome Program," said in an address here Tuesday at the Rogue Valley Country club.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Medford Rotary club, the Portland public relations representative explained the economic importance of the tourist business in the state, now Oregon's third most important industry.

The \$186 million "tab" paid by vacationists visiting Oregon means a hundred dollars to every man, woman and child of this state. Per capita statistics show that it brings \$7 million to Jackson County, yet with this area in the heart of a vast vacationland and with Crater Lake and the

Police Clear 97.1 Per Cent of Cases
The Medford city police department cleared 97.1 per cent of 2,928 cases reported during May, according to the monthly report.

This is slightly over the 94.2 per cent closed during the same month in 1961, when 2,346 cases were reported. Of the 125 major offenses investigated during May, 27.8 per cent were closed. These included aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft. This category is up substantially from May, 1961, when 83 major crimes were reported.

During the month, 3,668 parking meter and 434 traffic citations were issued.

Local Men Elected To Phi Beta Kappa

Elected to the Harvard chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at the opening of Commencement week there was David L. Mack, Gold Hill, and David B. Frohnmayer, Mack is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert A. Mack, and Frohnmayer's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Otto Frohnmayer, 1656 Spring St.

The two were among 87 undergraduate students elected to membership in the society.

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Nebergall's boneless Canned Beef **69c lb.**

Luscious Red Ripe **WATERMELON** 5 1/2 pound
Oh boy! Watch Dad and the kids go for this!

CORN ON THE COB Dozen **59c**

Big, green slicing CUCUMBERS **10c ea.**

Sunkist Juice ORANGES 3 DOZ **89c**

LETTUCE a must for salads. **10c lb.**

CELERY So tasty with cheese. **10c lb.**

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DRY CAT FOOD Little Friskies. **2-lb. Box 25c**

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SLICED CHEESE Borden's American, Pimiento or Swiss. 6-oz. Pkgs. **2 for 49c**

CORN OIL MARGARINE Coronet Lb. Pkgs. **2 for 45c**

SLICED PINEAPPLE In heavy syrup. Typhon No. 2 Cans. **4 for \$1.00**

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