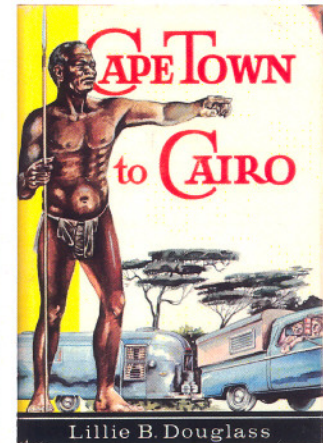
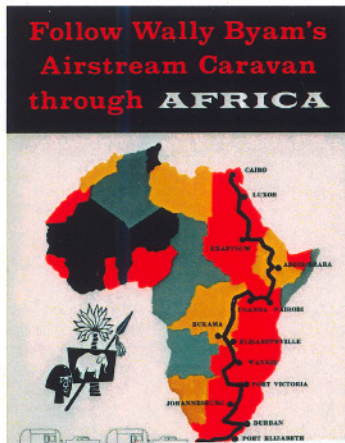


Observing and Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the African Caravan (1959-1960)

Looking back over time it is hard to believe that this is the Golden Anniversary of the most daring Wally Byam Caravan. The trip from Cape Town, South Africa to Cairo, Egypt still captures the imaginations of all who read or hear about it.



My participation on the Caravan was that of the Advance Scout. I met with government officials, checked the roads, approved campsites and located markets, post offices and other necessities for the Caravanner's.

We did and we went into the history books of Airstream and Caravan Travel. Only one man could ever accomplish this most unusual and difficult trip, that was Wally Byam, the founder and owner of Airstream.



This year I have had the pleasure of talking about the African Caravan on the Airfourms, Vintage Airstream Podcasts and several rallies.

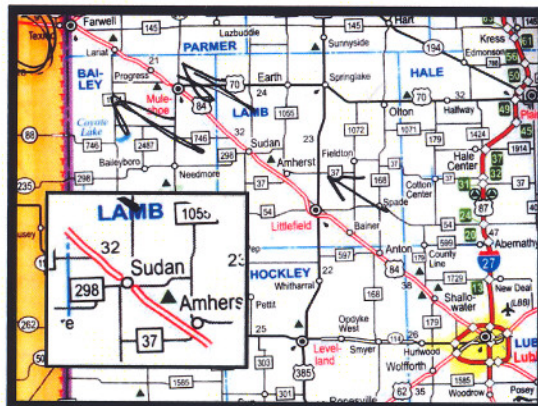
The beginning of these was at the Texas Vintage Rally in San Antonio, TX. There were two evenings of questions and answers. Plus there were many individual discussions. Africa was the center of attention.



More recently I joined the Washington D.C. unit for the Cherry Blossom Rally. We spent one evening talking about Africa, Wally, and my Mother.



Two of my on the road remembrances are traveling through the Sudan, yes the Sudan. Between Lubbock, TX and Clovis, NM there is a Sudan, TX. This was a good trek, no sand.



The second remembrance of Africa was a trip to Alexandria. There were no boats this time, taking us to Beirut, Lebanon. We were on Caravan through Alexandria, VA. This was a Washington D.C. Unit's mini-Caravan celebrating Caravanning and the Nation's Capitol.



A few weeks ago I went to Missoula, MT. This was a request by the Bretz RV group, and Airstream. The discussion period was pure Africa. One interesting group was that of students from the University of Montana.



These trips were the beginning of a very busy year.

Soon I will be flying to Pittsburgh, PA to join the Washington D.C. Unit as they Caravan to Madison, WI for the International Rally. I will join Frank Yensan, the Wagon Boss, and be the honorary Advance Scout. Rob Baker will be our Caravan Leader. There will be some great Happy Hour and Camp Fire sessions on the way.

We will have stops in Jackson Center, OH visiting the Mother Ship, as it is now known as. Then the RV Hall of Fame in Elkhart, IN, then a rendezvous with other Vintage groups. Then a grand parade of Vintage Airstreams into the Madison Rally Grounds.

Here is the Airforums address for the Madison Caravan.

<http://www.airforums.com/forums/f286/wdcu-caravan-to-madison-51231.html>

At the Rally, I will be talking, and remembering Wally Byam, Helen Byam Schwamborn, the African Caravan, other Caravans, and Airstream.

Join us at Jackson Center for a Caravan experience of modern times.

In September there will be two back-to-back observances of the 1959 African Caravan.

Steve Burrows, Soldiermedic, is putting together a weekend end rally with a trek from the Cape (Cape Girardeau, MO) to Cairo (Cairo, IL). I will be joining the group to talk. But the really great part will be seeing Steve, and other's that I have met this year. We all hope Dacia (Sugarfoot) will twist and shout and get the time off to join us. This rally will be September 11 to 13.

Check out this Airforums address.

<http://www.airforums.com/forums/f290/50th-anniversary-cape-town-to-cairo-caravan-and-rally-51366.html>



In the heart of Ohio you find "The Wilds", a 10,000-acre animal reservation protecting endangered species. Dan Bihary is organizing an African Caravan observation weekend at "The Wilds."

I will join the group for there camaraderie, and talk history.

The Rally will be September 18 to September 20.
Check out this Airforums thread.

<http://www.airforums.com/forums/f288/airsteams-in-the-wilds-49169.html>



Join in the Anniversary year of the Wally Byam Caravan to Africa. The agenda above is fun-packed with great groups of Airstream adventurers reliving 1959. Ya'all come and join us.

A particular thank you to Brad Norgaard, Phoenix, AZ. He recreated the African Scout Truck in miniature. For those that have seen the pictures you can't tell if it is or isn't the real McCoy.



Check this out.

<http://www.airforums.com/forums/f492/brad-norgaard-restores-the-scout-truck-a-must-view-for-all-airformers-50445.html>

One last platitude for the Engineering Department at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. Last Fall and in February I joined two classes to

judge their planned trip to Africa with Airstreams. The students had to plan routes, expenses, tow vehicles, and everything dealing with conducting an Airstream Caravan from Cape Town to Cairo. They did a really bang-up job in their presentations. They had groups of four and five.

You ask why an Engineering class might do this type of project? To familiarize themselves with globalization and what Professionals need to address today in the market place.



The ASU professors had seen last years History Detectives program about the Airstream that did or didn't go to Africa.



Enjoy the reason, enjoy the 50th season and celebrate our 1959 Caravan to Africa.

For intensive information regarding the African Caravan please go to the Sierra Nevada's website.

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/history/peewee/caravans/59-africa-caravan/59-africa-index.html>

Three rallies of note. The first one is the Four Corners Unit at Williams, AZ, the next is the 2009 Four Corners Unit rally at Cottonwood, AZ, and the last is the Bozeman International.



Pee Wee

Planning for the 50th Celebration of the African Caravan.

