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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moon In Cairo



Life In Addis Ababa

How would you like to live in Ethiopia, in a town called Addis Ababa, with a climate ranging from 60 to 90 degrees the year round—and have a kinsman of Haile Selassie for a landlord? For particulars of such a life we have the account of Robert and Helen Moon, son and daughter-in-law of the Fred Moons, 598 Homewood avenue.

Robert is a pilot for the Ethiopian Air Lines. When the air-minded Moons left Highland Park on October 20 last, aboard a transport constellation plane, it took them just 45 minutes to reach Boston. Other stops enroute were Gander (Newfoundland), the Azores, Lisbon, Madrid, Rome and

Athens. They arrived at Cairo after 37 hours of travel from New York. To coin a phrase: "It's a small world!"

A great help in preparing them for their future home was the briefing they received from a fellow passenger aboard plane, a young man in government service, returning to his native Cairo.

Several days were spent in that city, and the above photograph was taken there, with their TWA guide, with the historic pyramids and the Sphinx in the background. They found the city quite interesting, but were acutely conscious of the honking of automobile horns in the downtown districts, owing to the slowness of pedestrians, who have to be almost shoved off the streets.

On October 28 they arrived in Addis Ababa. Although Ethiopia extends to 10 degrees north of the Equator, with a tremendous range of temperatures, the high altitude of Addis gives it a very healthful climate, with temperatures ranging from 60 to 90 degrees the year round.

The winter in Addis, June 15 to September 30, is really a heavy rainy season, during which time the raincoat, rain hat, boots and umbrella are necessities. The heavy rainfall is very welcome in Ethiopia, for, except for the "little rains" in March, the weather is rainless, and almost perfect, with a practically cloudless sky.

The Moons find transportation in Addis difficult without their cars, which they are expecting soon. There are no street cars and few taxis. Most transportation is by one-horse, two-wheeled garies.

The natives of Addis live simply, are crudely dressed and barefoot. Their homes are little round huts called "tukuls". The best homes were built by Italians during their occupation, who also taught them to build square "tukuls". A surprising number of natives speak Italian fluently, although they have little love for the race, having been badly treated by some of them during their occupation. Quite a few Italian business men live here.

While Addis has a population of about 150,000, it is quite "small townish", not so modern as Cairo, but much cleaner. One can cover the business section in a short time. Two specially clean stores are patronized by Americans, one managed by a Greek and one by a Swede. Canned goods are ex-

pensive, due to transportation costs, as most freight is airborne. There is one railroad and the freight cars are smaller than American ones.

Robert reports that as of May 23, last, they are rotating pilots on the "Convairs", and he has made his second trip to Nairobi, the best of the three cities reached by the Convairs—the other two being Cairo and Karachi.

Nairobi, about 720 miles straight south of Addis and 60 miles south of the equator, in Kenyon Colony, is most like a city in the States. It has super markets, a Woolworth store, up-to-date movies, good restaurants and night clubs. The airlines import fresh butter, bacon and sausage—seldom available in Addis—from there.

Another place the pilots have reached is Aden, where they report reasonable food prices. For instance, T-bone steaks cost 15c. The weather in Aden is so hot that camels are used for work instead of horses. Building methods are quite crude.

In Addis many modern conveniences are available. Electric refrigerators, short wave radios, etc. Ball games from America are heard, about 8 hours late, the Voice of America, and much Russian propaganda. They feel puzzled that anyone could believe the preposterous tales of the Russian propagandists. Robert plays baseball and basketball with EAL versus Canadian teachers (presumably male).

On April 13 one thousand Ethiopians left the country Korea-bound. Emperor Haile Selassie was on hand to give them their colors.

The Moons find their maid, Anna, quite useful in interpreting native customs. At one time a long funeral procession passed their apartment. Presently the procession stopped and the mourners alighted from their cars, passing around the hearse, jumping and swaying. Puzzled by this development, Mrs. Moon questioned Anna. "They are crying," Anna explained.

Addis has plenty of African atmosphere. Big game is found fairly close to the city. It consists of lions, leopards, elephants, rhinoceroses, hyenas, crocodiles, wild boar and all kinds of deer, as well as game—ducks, geese, partridges, etc. Ethiopia has truly been called the "hunter's paradise".

—R. B. O.

Tuberculosis Association Of Lake County

At the last meeting of the board of directors of the Lake County Tuberculosis Association Dr. Theodore S. Proxmire was reelected president for another year.

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1951

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