

Graybill Tells of Pennsylvanians' People-to-People Tour

By J. Homer Graybill
A Special Report

Note: Mr. J. Homer Graybill is a farmer and community leader from Manheim RD3. He is a director of the Lancaster Production Credit Association and the Manheim Farm Show. He has served as director of Agway in Lancaster County, the County Poultry Association, Agricultural Extension Association and the Soil Conservation Service. He is a past director of the Pa. Flying Farmers Association and holds a private pilots license.

On Saturday October 31, 1970, a group of 34 people from Pennsylvania, most of whom were farmers, left on a people-to-people good will tour.

This movement was inaugurated by the late President Eisenhower to promote greater understanding on a people-to-people basis, involving individuals and groups rather than officials and institutions. President Nixon is honorary Chairman.

Irvin Graybill Jr., Stevens RD1, Miss Faye Kiener, 135 S Charlotte St., Manheim, and I were the Lancaster County members of the delegation. Mr. and Mrs. Enos B. Heisey, Lebanon, were host leader, and assistant leader respectively.

Irvin Graybill is a dairy farmer who is a member of the Pa. Holstein Association, the Pa. Young Farmers Association and Agway Inc. He operates a dairy store and is a 4-H club leader. Miss Kiener is a former 4-H club member and has an avocational interest in agriculture.

Heisey is field manager, public relations for Agway Inc. and as such covers eleven of the northeast states in the interest of public relations. He is a member of the Pa. Association of Farmer Cooperatives, Pa. State Council of Farm Organizations, Pa. Livestock and Allied Industries Association and 1970 chairman of Pa. Farm-City Week Committee and State Rural Areas Development Committee.

We had a wonderful trip, everything went according to our schedule. We had nineteen flights in all. We traveled about 25,000 miles.

We left Kennedy International Airport October 31 at 9:30 p.m. We arrived in Lisbon, Portugal, at 9:05 a.m. European time. We



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spent the next day, after a very short night, touring Lisbon until 11:10 p.m. when we departed for Johannesburg, South Africa.

About midnight, we stopped at the Cape Verde Islands to refuel (approximately 15,000 gallons). The Islands are about 400 miles out in the Atlantic.

We spent several days in and around Johannesburg. On Monday night we had dinner in an outstanding restaurant which was high above the city and it revolved as we ate our dinner.

On November 5th we flew to Kruger National Park, in two DC3 planes. We toured the Park

for two days and saw many wild animals and birds.

I got acquainted with some of the bus drivers. We had Volkswagen buses. When we flew back to Johannesburg, one of the drivers was on the DC3, so I went and talked with him. He told me he is a pilot, and I told him I also am. I asked if I could ride in the co-pilot seat and he said, sure.

He introduced me to the pilots and the co-pilot gave me his seat, and said I could take over. What a thrill I had the controls for about one hour.

On November 6th we toured Cape Town and the surrounding area. We took the Cable Car ascent to the top of Table Rock Mountain. Here we had a beautiful view of the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans running together. Here at Noon you shadow points to the South, instead of the North like at home.

From here we started a 750-mile bus tour of the farm lands, mountains, jungles and the beautiful beaches along the Indian Ocean. This trip ended at Port Elizabeth. Some of the group took a swim in the Indian Ocean. I forgot my suit, so I had to settle for a dip in the hotel pool.

From Cape Town to Port Elizabeth was the only part of the trip that we did not fly. Here we visited agricultural operations and the Zulu Reservation. Here I got some very in-

teresting pictures of the natives. We then visited an Ostrich farm where we had the opportunity to ride one of the hundreds that were there.

On November 10th we departed Port Elizabeth and arrived at Durban November 11th. We toured the city and country. We went back to Johannesburg, changed planes and arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, November 13th. Here we visited some tea and coffee plantations at Limuru, Kenya's best agricultural area.

Also on the 13th we flew six chartered 401 Cassnas (six passenger) to the Ngoongora Crater, in Tanzania. Here again I was in the front seat and got the feeling of fly-ing.

This crater is the largest extinct crater on earth. The walls of the crater are over 2,000 feet high and are very steep, and surround 102 square miles of level floor with a large lake and tens of thousands of flamingos and many other kinds of birds. There were over 10,000 wildebeests, 5,000 zebras, and gazelles by the hundreds, lions, rhinos, and numerous hippos, elephants, and hyenas, and I

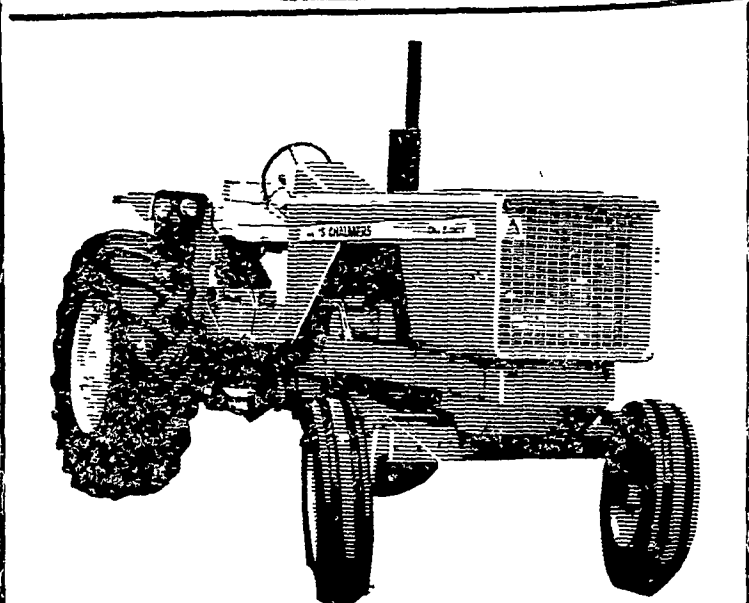
have very good pictures to prove it.

We had a picnic lunch here and the monkeys stole the bananas and the kite birds took chicken out of some of the ladies' hands and also some blood. These birds have a four-foot wing span.

We left the crater at 4 p.m. for Nairobi. On the flight back we flew by a very high crater. This crater was in the clouds in the morning, but now on the way back there were no clouds and we circled it three times very close and again I got some very good pictures. This was a real adventure.

On November 16th we departed Nairobi and arrived at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at 10:10 a.m. We crossed the equator at 9:15 a.m. for which we each got a certificate with our name and date on it. Mine is dated on my birthday.

We had a banquet that night at the hotel. Some of the Embassy officials were there. My roommate, John Gible, and I were asked to sit at the speaker's table. After the dinner everyone got up and sang. (Continued on Page 25)



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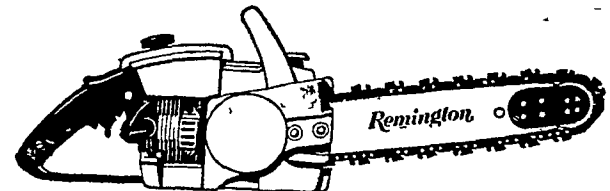
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