



MAN! @!  
WHAT KINDOVA!  
GODDAM TRUCK  
IS THIS E@TRUCK  
MAN!

SAN RAFAEL

SAN FRANCISCO  
CABLE CAR

CEO PICK-UP

TER AND

I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE  
A RARE SPECIES  
BEGINNING WITH PAX!!!

\$!!!  
@2002  
\$!!!

PINE STREET

COMMISSIONED BY CHRIS M.

# ENFLASH

July '75

PERTINENT STOP PRESS

31.7.75

1. London Office is pleased to welcome Wally Jones, flying in from Joburg tomorrow (1 August) for the general meeting.

DON'T FORGET TO TIGHTEN YOUR U BOLTS !



SOUTH AMERICA

Buenos Aires-Caracas, 10 April

1 Vehicle

Approximate EDA Caracas, 31 July

Bruce Davidson

Well done Bruce. A well run trip, through a few fuel and vehicle problems. A visit to our San Francisco office should prove to be an interesting and enlightening experience, before heading for Vancouver and your well earned rest.

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EO California (Inc)

Our new San Francisco office is being run by Alison Bennett and the workshop by Chris More, with the help of newcomer James Carlyle. James has a good working knowledge of the area - welcome James.

Chris recently flew over to San Francisco from London after returning from Africa. He is busy now with vehicle preparations for the Los Angeles-Caracas, Caracas-Buenos Aires trip.

A Few Words from Alison Bennett on Chris' Arrival

Standing at the airport I confess that I only know his name and I wonder aloud how I shall decide who to accost. A moment or two's hesitation after seeing about 200 people stream by, a little encouragement and I run after this bearded guy that's covering the airport lobby at a tremendous rate with that indefinable EO 'air' about him. Contact is made! We drive into town, fix Chris up in a hotel, and James, Chris and I meet over drinks.

Since then Chris learnt a new angle to that well-coined phrase 'Not so much a vehicle - more a way of life'. This vehicle operation has him reacting strongly to the emotions which are conjured up by thoughts of days literally zooming by, money trickling in and streaming out, the curious shortage of parts and equipment which we take for granted in England and Joburg, and sleepless nights.

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Early July Telegram to Jonesy in SF from London

- You can leave your heart in San Francisco  
but get your ass to Australia ! JJW -

-6. JUL. 1975 0



ENCOUNTER OVERLAND of California

Letter received from Tony Jones, San Francisco, early July

At last there is enough that's constructive to tell you about. I'll begin at the beginning but try to be brief.

I spent three days in Los Angeles visiting both the University of California L.A. (UCLA) and University of Southern California, also Sara Senejo of "Going Places". None of it dynamic and the universities actually in the process of graduation etc. Sara Sonejo of "Going Places" has been badly let down by Kimbla who (as you know) have committed themselves to Worldtrek of New York.

I also visited a second-hand truck yard specialising in 4 x 4 and 6 x 6 etc. I was able to inspect these essentially military vehicles and it was very clear to me that these vehicles emphasised the toughness and short-comings of our Bedfords ... not, I'm sure, what we need in South America.

My plan was to quickly get an impression of both LA and SF and was prepared to return to LA if SF did not justify much time.

San Francisco must be one of the most pleasant and stimulating cities. It's exciting in a very modern way and there is a great air of optimism and confidence, and a mood that for the most part believes that things can be done. One senses the size of America and the ambitions that brought people here to the west and the courage that built huge and beautiful bridges across the bay.

One also quickly senses the American market place -- business here seems much more directly and bluntly concerned with money making and this attitude is present even in the briefest encounter. One creditable example are banks which don't mess around and will do business without hesitation and few questions. However it is perhaps due to this 'go-getting' business attitude that lawyers themselves are such big business here, their main job it seems is to advise what you can get away with and how !

The beginning of strict federal and state legislation exists to guard against the 'fly-by-night' travel agent, and California particularly is consumer conscious.

Alongside exploring various possibilities for office and/or representation here I checked out all the various truck manufacturers and have the details of all GMC, Ford, International and Dodge in the size bracket.

There is little doubt that the choice becomes reduced to GMC and Ford. (International are consistently not well thought of and without much South American presence and Dodge are making it well known that they are stopping production of their entire middle range.)

Ford is my choice and separate to this are some details and the reasons for this preference and my recommended specifications.

However since this 'decision' some two weeks ago we have found ourselves in an M-Type situation (i.e. can't find any). This seems ridiculous considering they have been made for at least six years and are quite popular. ENFLASH doesn't really have the space at this stage to discuss this more, but the facts are we haven't found the answer.

Prices here are not unreasonable despite the way in which the £ here has fallen (despite the fact that the \$ is still falling against the stronger currencies). And I believe we can equip vehicles here (tents, etc) for no more and probably better, than we can in UK.

Several offers came our way with a view to promoting EO. None of them convinced me - or anything like - that one or several of them could be inspired to do the job for us. In the end - i.e. travel agent. It reminds me very much of what I have sometimes said about 'getting something going by talking a travel agent into letting us have a corner of his office'. Thus we have had no out-lay at this stage - not even a typewriter. Facilities such as photocopy and telex are **there**. The people are really nice although their business is hardly complimentary to ours except that they seem switched on and right on hand for the connecting travel.

In terms of location it reminds me unmistakably of EO in Joburg, we're right down town and on the 4th floor. The agreement at the moment is only until 30th September. Rent is pretty nominal and they hold a small security from us.

Consumer protection has meant various discussions with attorneys and the British Consulate General who have been helpful. (Vice Consul knows us from a spell in N. Nigeria!) One immediate result was the formation of EO of California (Inc). Another will be the setting up of a trust account for clients deposits and the fact that we are advised to carry almost all costs until the trip actually leaves.

Another delay is proving to be permission to advertise in the better newspapers.

All in all a satisfactory though not brilliant start, the main notes of optimism being steady progress and reasonable costs ; the reasons for concern being no purchased vehicles yet and the fact that we still do not have any real returns by which to judge promotional response.

The time to put emphasis on the campus is not until October.

Footnote : Two somewhat opposed but strongly held feelings are perhaps worth expressing.

1. It is not unlikely that with a need to put greater emphasis outside Africa and outside UK, America will prove almost essential to EO's health ;
2. In spite of good vibrations here, don't think I'm not concerned about 'Americans' in large proportions. As if to emphasise this, the point has been made that we are now setting about appealing to the American at home (i.e. we're going to him, not he to us), and we are going to have to find ways of getting the right message across to the right types. I think San Francisco is the place to do this.

Love to all, Cheers, Tony.

PS : EO of California looks forward to being a regular contributor to ENFLASH !

ASIA

Kathmandu-London, 6 May

1 Vehicle

Arrived London, 18 July

Tony Barnes

Tony is now having a break on his return to London from a successful Asia trip. He will be around here till late September when he will be taking 1 truck, with Tony Alston, on another London-Kathmandu.

London-Kathmandu, 13 May

1 Vehicle

Arrived Kathmandu, 27 July

Ian Way  
Janine Thomson

Thanks for a job well done Ian and hope your trip back is also successful. The only hold ups on this trip were avalanches in Kashmir and Nepal owing to monsoon rains, causing a delay of two days. The main work to be done on his truck is fixing the cab roof which proved to be very porous.

Janine is now preparing her entry to Australia via Singapore. Hope all goes well for you JCT. ALJ has just returned to London after some pretty heavy ground work with agents there.

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Expansion - Australia

From the middle of next month EO is to work more closely in Australia with both TrailFinders and Sundowners. My visit to Sydney was to make progress with these agreements.

There is plenty of scope for spreading the EO word around Australia - Sydney and Melbourne in particular. At present this is certainly not happening as we have lacked any kind of dynamic representation - even more than we realised.

EO has not put adequate emphasis on an Australian market and has not played a full part in the support (literature, follow-up, correspondence, etc) so essential to that or any other market.

This is going to change and Sydney will become the fourth centre at which a little EO office exists. This one is in Trail Finders at 15 Hunter Street, Sydney.

Janine is now in Kathmandu and will be in Sydney about 20 August, via Malaysia and Indonesia, and she and I will be working there throughout most of September together.

By that time we hope to report signs of significant improvement. Look out for more news of EO Australia in August ENFLASH.

Cheers, Tony

AFRICA

Trans Africa Southbound, 19 July

1 Vehicle

Approximate EDA Lusaka, 29 July

Fred Glaser

Fred has been having lots of trouble with broken front springs and hopefully things have been working well enough to get him back to Joburg where he is due in about 8 or 9 days, after Lusaka. In Juba he met a delegation of Sudanese from the Ministry of Tourism - a few words from Fred follow.

Trans Africa Southbound, 24 March

1 Vehicle

Approximate EDA Joburg, 1 August

Bob Sheldon

Bob's coming to the end of a really rough trip through southern Sudan and has spent a bit of time on the coast in East Africa. Last we heard he had met Bill at Vic Falls and feeling far more comfortable for his drive into Joburg.

Trans Africa Northbound, 22 July

1 Vehicle

Approximate EDA Lusaka, 28 July

Bill Wallace

No news from Bill as yet, but we hear he left Joburg on time and looking in good shape.

Trans Africa Northbound, 25 February

2 Vehicles

Arrived London, 2 July

Steve Nicholls  
Chris More

Good to see Steve and Chris looking well on their arrival in London after a successful trip. Steve is now spending some time in Wren Park before doing trans Africa in August, and Chris is in San Francisco preparing the vehicle for the November South America trip.

Trans Africa Northbound, 25 March

2 Vehicles

Arrived London, 19 July

Ray Wolfe,  
Steve Kelly &  
Richard Sasse

Another EO trip well done with drivers, group and vehicles in reasonably good shape. Good to see you all again Ray, Steve & Rich.

Excerpt from Fred Glaser's letter, Nairobi 10.7.75

We arrived well on Monday morning in Nairobi and the first night I wanted to stay at City Park but it was overcrowded.

It took us exactly 19 days from Bangui as the roads after Obo were dry. Before Juba we had to empty the trailer as the chassis-bar (with the trailer hook on) got badly cracked, on top of which I broke the left front spring. All could be fixed in one day in Juba, but the springs turned out to be very difficult to remove. We had to cut the bolt and the spare one I had was too short - so we had to weld up one bolt !

The other front spring which was welded in Tam : I was really under the impression they would last, and nobody from here has a clue about mechanics. This is no excuse ! I know how much they can take. The new spare spring is flat again already.

In Juba I met a whole delegation of Sudanese from the Ministry of Tourism in Khartoum and I was invited for supper and drinks and they knew somehow of our Ndjemena story. How, they didn't tell me. Anyway they can be contacted next time and they can help. Please find one of their cards enclosed.

We never got stuck (except for 5 minutes in one river bed), but Trans Africa Expeditions who were half a day ahead managed to get stuck for a few hours ! As a permit I used the copy you sent me and they actually never asked for it anywhere, but I used it to advantage by showing it at all police posts where they put their stamp on it and consequently never wanted to see the passports (except at border posts).

By the way, I have a lot of (really heavy) smoke coming from the exhaust and Sehmi reckons it's a valve. Anyway I changed the injector pump and will carry on like this. FG

Excerpt from Fred's letter, Marangu 19.7.75

After leaving Nairobi and Nakuru we entered Masai-Mara and camped at Klein's camp where we also had lions around the tents, but nobody was worried and all remained in the tents (some only with the fly-sheet up)!

At the Simba Camp in Ngorong, the Masai attacked a German and hurt him in a fight, while we were drinking at the lodge, but left three of us behind. When the German arrived at the lodge we rushed back to camp where everybody started making jokes and nobody has shown any fear ! (e.g. one said : "I wonder why the Masai didn't ask the German in what currency he wants the money , and in case of shillings, to prove legal change'.")

Anyway the police didn't turn up and we all had a peaceful night and a good sleep, even though it was a bit cold.

Tip for Game Parks : If you have a little present at the gate, they will book some as children for half price.



From Bob Sheldon's En Route Report, Nairobi, 28.6.75

Route from Bangui to Nairobi full of problems. It took me 23 days of very hard driving - the roads are unbelievable. Overgrown forest tracks, very deep water courses, ruts, stones, boulders, broken bridges. Vast amounts of rivers, waddies and trenches to cross. None, or very little food stuffs, no fuel till Lodwar in North Kenya.

Everything can go wrong, many things did. Everybody had to work very hard in sometimes atrocious conditions. After heavy rains this route is a nightmare.

Sudan is starving and you need a police escort to buy bread in Kappeta. Most places have nothing to offer at all. Water is also a problem during the wet season, you can go up to 2 or 3 days without a fresh supply.

Weather : very wet, very hot. Camped in torrential rain alot. RS

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Our general annual meeting will be held on 1 August in the Royal Overseas League conference hall, starting at 10 a.m. and finishing at 6 p.m. - after that - one helluva big grog up - which no doubt those unable to attend will hear about over the next few months!

Wish everyone who will not be here for the 1st was, in fact, going to be here - we'll think of you during the celebrations.

Notes on the meeting will be forthcoming to all EO staff.

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Welcome to EO newcomers who are currently at Wren Park. They are :

Roger Bull, Dave Pinkerton, Tony Alston and Pierre Terranero.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fred's letter, Marangu 19.7.75 (cont'd)

Customs and Immigration at Seronera are new now (new building) and I could in no way get around paying a tax of 12% for the food. The customs officer first asked me the value of the food and I only realised what it was for after say Shs 2,000/-. He showed me the law book and it was absolutely legal. So I had to pay 240/-. So warn the next group to say : no food, or little food on board !

Dear EO

Last year I left London on April 20 on your trans-Africa trip. The whole affair was rather ill-fated from the first minor breakdown as we travelled between London and Dover, to the wreck in Zaire, and ending with being towed into Johannesburg one month late.

I have finally decided that your whole operation is screwy, unstable, madcap, unbelievable. Since, however, all of those adjectives seem to fit my life-style, I am considering putting my life and wanderlust in your hands once again.

Please send current information on the South American trip to me and my friend.

The day when you provide sound mechanical transportation, a driver who isn't a little nuts, and fewer sardines in the daily diet is the day I will travel another way.

Sincerely as always, Sharon Gabel. Missouri, USA.

PS : Received your correspondence concerning being an 'Introductory Representative'. My 5% commission could be deducted from the price of this adventure or you may use it to supply my daily 'all American' ration of peanut butter.

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#### Coup d'etat in Nigeria 30.7.75

Announcements on Lagos Radio said that General Gowon had been replaced as Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces by Brigadier Muritala Rugai Mohammed. This was accomplished whilst General Gowon was attending a summit meeting in Uganda.

The city is under dusk-to-dawn curfew but - 'quiet and business-like as usual'.

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### **Amin plan for mock invasion of South Africa**

Kampala, July 23.—President Amin, who today toured the Uganda-Tanzania border to watch military manoeuvres, said that there would be a mock invasion of Rhodesia and South Africa on August 1.

He will watch the exercise with the heads of state attending the Organization of African Unity summit conference. The invasion scenario calls for aircraft to bomb and strafe an island on Lake Victoria before the landing of troops.

After watching today's manoeuvres, the Ugandan President said his country had excellent relations with all its neighbours.  
—Reuter. **TIMES LONDON**

	1976												1975.			
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER				
ASIA EASTBOUND			1					28	41	28						
ASIA WESTBOUND								16	15							
AFRICA SOUTHBOUND		4						37			37	38				
AFRICA NORTHBOUND	13	9	2						33							
AMERICA SOUTHBOUND														21		
SIKKIM ASSAM														8	6	

### MONTHLY BOOKINGS

1976/75 FROM MAY 1ST

Monthly

	E.O.L.	E.O.J.	T.F.L. 14%	T.F.L. 7%	T.F.A.	S.S.R.	CELEMB	CAN - TRKX	WEST CAN	GOING PLACES	CANCELS & SOURCE	TOTAL
LONDON - Khart	1		1			1					T.F. (1)	2
Khart - LONDON					3	1					T.F.A. 1	3
LONDON - Jo'burg	10		5	1		2			2		T.F.A. 10 5 3 1	15
Jo'burg - LONDON						1				2		3
CARACAS -B.A.									2			2
	8		100% 2			100% 2		100% 1				13
Cancellations												
<b>TOTAL.</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(7)</b>	

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