

**CADET SLOUCH** by Jim Earle



"I can't get over how nice they've been to us with all this opposition to coeducation!"

**— Sound Off —**

(Editor's Note: This is another in the series of letters from Africa by James E. Ray, who is one of four Aggies engaged in Peace Corps-type activities abroad this summer.)

Dear Friends:  
The trip out of Nairobi to Kampala on Tuesday the 25th was full of interest to an excited and eager group of Cross-roads. We were up early enough to see a beautiful sunrise over the lush green and yellow foliage. This was our second consecutive sunrise of great beauty though vastly different from the one over the desert at Cairo. We very soon became familiar with the East African bus lines. Our special bus from the Limaru Conference Center got lost several times. We visited the railway station and the local bus service depot before we got to the right place to catch the bus for Kampala. The scenery for the most part along the route was not at all unlike scenery in the U. S. There were a few unusual trees, plants, flowers, etc., but I guess we were expecting some sort of total change. Banana trees and coffee trees, some maize and sorghum dominate the agricultural part of the landscape and an interesting and beautiful sight is the multi-colored flowers blooming high in trees. I guess the magnolia tree is the nearest U. S. comparison.

Even more interesting from the ground than from the air the preceding day is the geologically famous Rift Valley. From an area of thickly vegetated hill country we suddenly began a very mountainous descent of several thousand feet into a relatively flat valley some 20 to 30 miles wide, which had only the short, typically African, flat topped trees dotting a gently rolling grassland. Several varieties of deer and antelope provided our first view of African game—many were quite near the road. Though we did pass near an old volcano crater, the western edge of the Rift Valley was very gradual as compared with the steep and mountainous appearance of the eastern escarpment. The landscape became more and more hilly and continued hilly all the way to Kampala. On the bus with us were many Africans and their farm produce and animals. Also, we were surprised at the high percentage of Asians—mostly Indians and Pakistanis—on the bus and in the towns. The Asians are the merchants and traders of East Africa to a large extent. All of the people on the bus were very curious but friendly and they offered us peanuts and bananas. The bus made many, many stops along the road. Service stations and rest rooms are unheard of, but people are polite enough to turn their backs or go behind any available foliage.

When we arrived in Kampala two hours late, we were informed that the Youth Wing of the Uganda People's Congress got tired of waiting with their rotten eggs and had left. But two newspaper articles were waiting in the local papers denouncing us as spies, neo-colonialists, and hypocrites (because of the racial situation in the U.S.). Wednesday, however, we learned that this group is right wing, radical, and irresponsible and that most people heartily welcomed the spirit in which we came. This was thoroughly evident as the day wore on as we visited various government ministers, the USIS and U. S. Embassy, a welcoming committee from Kisizi (and Kagesi District), a session of the

National Assembly and several other people and places of interest. Also two articles reporting the Youth Wing group and welcoming and explaining our presence appeared in the newspapers. Wednesday night Ambassador Deming had a reception and cocktail party for us and those Ugandans who had studied in the U. S., including many people in the government (two ministers). It was a most interesting and informative session. We learned a lot about historical and current events in Uganda. Afterwards, we concluded the evening at the "White Nile" listening and dancing to Congolese and East African music.

**Folk Music, Weekly Dance On Tap Soon**

The regular Monday night dance and a pair of back-to-back hootenannies are among activities the Memorial Student Center Summer Directorate has planned in the near future to help student forget about the current Texas heat wave.

A stereo record hop will be held Monday at 8:00 p.m. in the MSC Ballroom. Featured will be a \$5.00 door prize.

Admission is 75 cents stag, \$1.25 per couple, and stag girls may enter free.

After a few weeks layoff local folk music buffs are scheduled to stage a hootenanny in the MSC Ballroom at 3:00 p.m. Aug. 4 and another in the Grove at night on Aug. 10.

A spokesman said the Ballroom will be arranged differently from the way it was for earlier performances. A makeshift stage will be placed in the center of the floor and the audience will sit in chairs and on the floor in a circle around singers and musicians.

The spokesman also emphasized that these hootenannies are not held just for the scheduled performers. He asked that anyone who can play or sing or both feel free to join in.

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