

MORE NEWS FROM ALLIANCE

went in style. Before leaving Ugholo we brought ALLIANCE alongside a small wharf at the village. There we brought the TV set and video machine out on the side deck and had a film evening. We had about 60-70 people and showed "Jewel of the Nile". This went down very well and all in all we felt rather sad that our trip was coming to an end.

After clearing Customs at Munda where I had to type the forms up for the Officer as they were all out of them, we took off for Misima. There we were allowed to re-enter PNG for 72 hours until the weather cleared. Unfortunately it had rained for about 10 days so Misima was a quagmire. When the weather cleared we sailed to Bagaman Island in the Louiseades and we waited for the right weather conditions.

We arrived back in Cairns on 20th August 88 and after clearing Customs, hired a car and headed for the nearest Pizza Hut. All the time we had been away we had talked about a pizza but more particularly, a lovely crisp salad. The waitress must have thought we were little pigs the way we loaded up our plates with lettuce and tomatoes.

We thoroughly enjoyed our cruising of PNG and the Solomons and if any one would like more information about the area, we will be only too pleased to help. After a short visit to Adelaide late in October, we will then fly back to Gladstone and start sailing ALLIANCE home to Adelaide. We have decided that a little shore leave is in order. We have been living on board for 4 years and would now like to have a break and catch up with family grandchildren and friends.

Look forward to seeing you all.

MYRA WRIGHT

AROUND THE WORLD IN EXPEDITUS CONTINUED

The options on departing the east coast of the USA are to leave in early summer and take a northern route across the Atlantic, or to leave in late autumn/early winter and head for the Caribbean. Since one generally leaves the Caribbean in spring time/early summer to avoid the hurricane season, it then means a stay in the States is destined to be either 6, 12, 18 months etc. We elected to spend a full year in the States, and spent our time travelling 25000 miles all the way around the country in a VW campervan. It was a great time and we found it immensely stimulating and rewarding. Our sailing was now giving us other things to do rather than being an end in itself, and after all it would have been a pity to just visit a few ports on the east coast and not see anything of the interior.

We visited many of the famous parks and attractions and had difficulty in deciding what was best. So many things had appeal - the awe inspiring redwoods, spectacular tetons, the deep red canyons and cliff dwellings at Canyon de Chelly, colourful Navajo indians, and so much else. Visiting friends we had made while in Arabia and making new and sincere friends also made our travels rewarding.

Finally we returned to Annapolis and did some work on EXPEDITUS in preparation for her trip back to Australia. There was antifouling, topsides repainting, fluoro replacement, a proper mount for the satnav antenna, self tailers for winches, and the numerous other little jobs you can always find to do. We left White Rocks Marina (they gave us 3 weeks free at the marina berth after relaunching) and proceeded South down the Chesapeake Bay with day trips of 25 to 40 miles. Each night we stopped at anchor in some delightful spot, using this period to get our sea legs, get shipshape, and psyched up for the Atlantic crossing to the Azores. The first hurricane of the season had already come North from the Caribbean, and we wanted to get out and away before the

hurricane frequency increased.

It was a fast trip to the Azores taking only 19 days, and we had 3 gales to help us on our way. In one, the motion was so bad that we felt that we were holding a "poltergeists" party! However the gales gave us 3 runs of 170 miles per day which was a record for us. Our mainsail blew out once and we glued it together with contact cement and some hand stitching on the patches.

The green patchwork of farms on Faial Island was our first view of the Azores, and then the towering peak of Pico (7000 ft) behind it and in the clear air above a band of clouds.

We stopped for 1 month in the luxury of a new marina at Horta on Faial (introductory offer - first 30 days free) and followed the tradition of painting our boat's name on the seawall. The old harbour wall is a mile long and totally covered in designs and names, and by now the new seawall must also be filling up fast. The artwork of some yachties was tremendous. With 3 "Last of the Summer Wine" men from another yacht, we hired a tiny car and toured the island. We took delight in the smell of wildflowers and mint underfoot as we walked across fields hedged with hydrangeas. When we had first sailed past the western end of the island, we couldn't understand why the lighthouse was $\frac{1}{2}$ mile inland and hidden behind a hill, but in visiting the place by car, we saw that the lighthouse was covered in ash and the hill was all new ground that had been thrust up out of the ocean by volcanic activity. One of the charming memories of that day was seeing milk urns being delivered by truck, motorbike, pushbike, horse, and donkey! Gay teamed up with Anne, a single hander, and spent another day touring the countryside on horse back. Anne had somehow been reported missing on her trip from Bermuda, and was besieged by the press on her arrival in the Azores. The press were there to cover the honeymoon of Andrew and Fergie.

We caught a ferry over to Pico Island and had a bus trip around. The volcanic rock was so prolific that there was hardly any soil. The rocks were stacked into dry walls to frame small plots of grapes and other fruits and vegetables.

Back on Faial, we joined in with the sea-week festivities which featured folk dancing, live and broadcast music, arts and crafts shows, triathlon, bike racing, wind surfing and yachting events. There were also numerous food and drink stalls to keep people satisfied. EXPEDITUS went in her first ever yacht races coming 16/30 in a 6 mile around the buoys race, and 4/20 in a 17 mile single handed race. The islanders are most receptive to visiting yachts, and they put on a couple of receptions for visiting and participating yachts including plenty of red wine and barbecued tuna. A firework display was the finale of the week's activities.

An easy sail of 6 days and we were in Madiera which was even greener than the Azores and with more colour and variety in the flowers. Once again with some other yachties, we hired a car to see some more of the island. One highlight was a walk along a levada. These are channels approximately 500mm wide and deep that bring the spring water down from the mountains to villages at lower levels. It was a most pleasant walk following the easy gradient of the levada although in places it cut across a cliff face which got our adrenalin running. It was all very pretty with waterfalls, mist in the valleys, springs, mosses and ferns, and many wildflowers. Another beautiful sight for us was to see cloud spilling through a gap in the mountains. A veritable river of white cotton wool flowing through into the clear air on the lee side of the island.

Two more days at sea and we were at Palma Island in the Canaries. Palma was greener than most other islands in

AROUND THE WORLD IN EXPEDITUS CONTINUED

the Canaries and had far less tourists. We had a great time there, touring one end of the island by bus, and meeting Connie who took us on a grand tour to see the rest of the island. Connie was a dutch girl who had settled on the island. We loved her house, situated on a high cliff overlooking the sea and with a view across the bay to the town of La Palma. She invited us to a christening party for a Spanish family where we met some of the locals and enjoyed a genuine Spanish paella. We also went caving with her and a speliologist from the University of Tenerife, who had discovered several new insects in the caves. It was fun sliding around on our stomachs, examining his insect traps and looking at the various volcanic formations in the caves.

Had it not been for a beachside bar with loud speakers blaring out music all night long, we would have stayed longer on Palma. As it was, we left for Gomera and Tenerife for Gay to catch a plane back to visit family in England. We arrived in Tenerife in time to see a fabulous firework display for the blessing of the fleet. This is quite a sensation when everything is let off from the beach and you are at anchor only a few metres away.

To be continued.

MIKE LEWIS