

# Memoirs of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Southern Africa: An Unforgettable Journey (1975-1977)



In the mid-1970s, inspired by a desire to make a meaningful contribution to the world, I embarked on a life-changing adventure as a Peace Corps volunteer in Southern Africa. Little did I know that my two-year journey would shape me profoundly, leaving an enduring legacy in my heart. This memoir captures the vivid memories of my time in the remote villages of Botswana and Zimbabwe, where I encountered extraordinary people, faced challenges head-on, and gained invaluable life lessons.

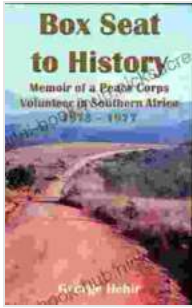
## Box Seat to History: Memoir of a Peace Corps

**Volunteer in Southern Africa 1975-1977** by George Hehir

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2032 KB



Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 608 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported



## **Arrival in Botswana**

Stepping off the plane in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, I was immediately struck by the warmth and friendliness of the people. I was assigned to a small village called Serowe, where I would live and work for the next two years. As I settled into my modest accommodation, I couldn't help but feel a sense of excitement mingled with trepidation.

## **Teaching in Rural Schools**

My primary assignment was to teach English and mathematics at the local secondary school. The classrooms were simple, often with dirt floors and thatched roofs. Despite the limited resources, the students were eager to learn and embraced every opportunity to engage with me. I spent countless hours preparing lessons, marking papers, and mentoring students who faced academic challenges.

## **Community Involvement**

Beyond my teaching duties, I immersed myself in the community. I joined a local dance group, attended traditional ceremonies, and participated in village meetings. I learned about the Setswana language, culture, and

history. The villagers welcomed me with open arms and showed me the true meaning of community spirit.

## **Encountering Wildlife**

Botswana is renowned for its abundant wildlife. I had the privilege of witnessing these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat. I went on game drives, where I saw elephants, lions, giraffes, and zebras roaming freely. I also spent time in the Okavango Delta, a vast and breathtaking wetland ecosystem that is home to a diverse array of birds, fish, and animals.

## **Challenges and Rewards**

Living in a remote village came with its share of challenges. The heat was often oppressive, and access to basic amenities such as running water and electricity was limited. I also faced cultural differences and language barriers. However, these challenges were outweighed by the rewards of my experience. I learned to adapt to a new culture, to appreciate the simple things in life, and to find joy in the unexpected.

## **Moving to Zimbabwe**

After a year in Botswana, I was transferred to Zimbabwe, then known as Rhodesia. I continued to teach in a rural secondary school, this time in a small town called Murewa. The political climate in Zimbabwe was tense, and I witnessed firsthand the struggle for independence. Despite the challenges, I remained committed to my work and formed lasting friendships with my Zimbabwean colleagues and students.

## **Return Home**

In 1977, after two years of service, I returned to the United States. The transition was bittersweet. I missed the people and places I had come to love in Southern Africa, but I was also eager to share my experiences and contribute to my own community.

## **Legacy of My Peace Corps Service**

The impact of my Peace Corps experience extended far beyond my two years of service. I gained an invaluable global perspective, a deep appreciation for other cultures, and a lifelong commitment to making a difference in the world. I have since worked in various roles related to international development, always carrying the lessons I learned in Southern Africa with me.

My time as a Peace Corps volunteer in Southern Africa was a defining chapter in my life. It was a journey filled with challenges, rewards, and unforgettable experiences. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to have served and learned alongside the extraordinary people of Botswana and Zimbabwe. Their resilience, kindness, and spirit continue to inspire me to this day.

The Peace Corps is an incredible organization that provides young Americans with the chance to make a meaningful contribution to the world while fostering global understanding. I highly encourage anyone who is seeking an immersive and transformative experience to consider applying.

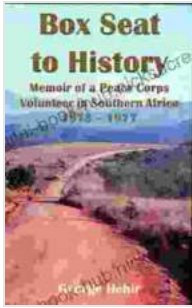
### **Box Seat to History: Memoir of a Peace Corps**

**Volunteer in Southern Africa 1975-1977** by George Hehir

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

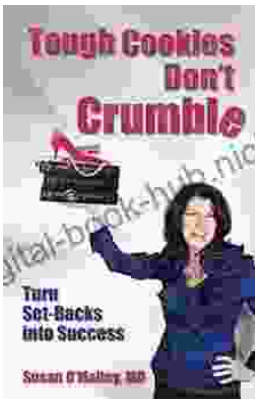
File size : 2032 KB



Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 608 pages  
Lending : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported

FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK



## Tough Cookies Don't Crumble: The Unbreakable Spirit of Those Who Overcome Adversity

Life is full of challenges. We all face them, in one form or another. But for some people, the challenges are so great that they seem insurmountable. They may come in...



## The California-Born Diners, Burger Joints, and Fast Food Restaurants That Changed the World

California is known for many things, but its fast food scene is one of its most iconic. From In-N-Out to McDonald's, some of the most well-known fast food...