

The HERALD

Winter 1991-92 — Number 5

A publication of Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs, an affiliate of the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

GOING BACK TO ETHIOPIA

by Phil Lilienthal (1965-67)

I WON'T KEEP YOU WAITING for the climax - our return to Ethiopia in January 25 years after PCV service with our three children (ages 18-24) was one of the highlights of our lives.

We were in Addis for 10 of our 11 days. We spent one day in Gondar. The purpose of the trip was purely personal. Although we contacted Harris Wofford, Paul Tsongas, and Peace Corps/Washington to ask if we could do any volunteer work for them, no one saw a need. We met with 2 PCW Africa region scouts while we were there.

Addis is big, crowded, exhilarating, and depressing. The civil war has brought a flood of refugees and the city of 500,000 now squeezes in some 4 million people. If you want matches, double AA batteries, or toilet paper you can purchase them at any stoplight in town. Likewise, a formidable number of beggars — blind, mutilated, disabled — will greet your car or cab at a stop.

The air was fouled with diesel fuel on every principal road. We stayed in a house on the old airport road and had to

drive several miles just to get back to the Ras Hotel area, Masqal (Revolutionary) Square, or the Piazza. It was always crowded.

Visiting our old house and neighborhood was a "you can go home again" feeling. Our landlord's family was living in "our" house and it hadn't changed. They invited us in for tej and were only slightly less surprised and delighted than we were at our being there. Our closest Ethiopian friends were still living next door, albeit in a new home, and were just coming home from work when we saw them. The reunion was far greater than the friendship had ever been, and we all saw far more into the visit than just renewing old ties. The old neighborhood was virtually unchanged except that the rocky road has been paved. It was still a lovely area. Compared with the Piazza it was bucolic. The streets are lined with taxis - rates have hardly risen but the numbers have reproduced in Malthusian fashion. Vendors line the streets selling flowers, leftover Desert Storm rations (don't laugh - the M & M's were still fresh!), plastic shoes, and anything else that might have recently become available across some border. Churchill Road looks the same with furniture shops and funeral accessories. The big Russian sculpture at the bottom may last as a memory of another time.

The eucalyptus looked more plentiful than ever. The people - despite the hardships, their disappointment in the lack of program by the new government to settle things, the widespread feeling

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that they would leave if they could afford to - were warm, hospitable, and very engaging. When met with a little resurrected and still halting Amharic even the beggars would grin and banter back rather than stay stuck in their begging ritual.

When Andy (24) was in the market buying a shirt, he wanted to see how it looked in a mirror. The shopkeeper asked if he were Russian. When he said no, he was American, he got a big grin and an invitation to enter. There is a feeling toward Americans that seemed to be a warmth directed toward old friends or prodigal sons. There is a fervent hope that aid will be forthcoming in any form - technicians, PCVs, infrastructure loans - anything that will get the economy moving again.

Food was not in short supply in Addis, the only lines we saw were waiting for kerosene or propane gas (we weren't sure which). Gasoline is rationed but this doesn't seem to be a major problem since most roads outside of Addis are still subject to *shiftas*. Many of these are former Ethiopian military who often apologize as they rob passengers in cars or buses, that they have no money or work.

We visited the Hilton to take showers (the hot water heater in our house broke

the day we arrived and was not repaired by the time we left) and we ate once in the China Bar, which is still quite good, though expensive.

We were very lucky to have been put in touch (by ex-AID friend, Ray Cohen) with the American Association for Ethiopian Jews. A former PCV, La Dena (Robichaud) Schnapper (Awasa 1963-65) is heading the program in Addis and proved to be an indispensable contact. Tirelessly, she got us housed, oriented and gave us some productive time with the Ethiopian Jews transition in Addis.

WE TREASURED OUR TIME back there and could have stayed for another two years. The biggest thrill was our pride in "authorship" of three children whose values and enjoyment paralleled ours. We were finally able to share with them what we had been talking about all these years - and our children created it as their own.

Phil is an attorney in Reston, Virginia with the firm of Larson, Lilienthal & Morris. He also runs a boys' camp in Maine and a camp for teens in Hawaii.

Lynn runs a day care center for 220 children in Reston.

News from the Horn

12.16.91 A fire raged for days in Bare in southeastern Ethiopia (along the Somalia border) which left 50,000 people homeless.

1.13.92 The growing numbers and power of Muslim fundamentalists in Ethiopia have generated fears among Ethiopian Christians. Although church lands were confiscated by the Mengistu regime, the churches remained opened and served large congregations. Church leaders were seen as sympathetic to the Mengistu Government.

It is now said that the new Meles Government is not sympathetic to the church and is accommodating to the Islamic fundamentalists.

It is estimated that the population is 50% Christian and 50% Muslim (with most of the Muslims being Oromos, the largest ethnic group on Ethiopia).

1.10.92 The Government economic plan, announced in December, called for privatization of trading, but continued state control of other aspects of the economy, including agriculture, banking, insurance companies, transportation and communications. Because of the lack of dramatic economic reform (which would signal the government's move away from its Marxist roots), this plan is expected jeopardize a two-year, \$500 million package requested from the World Bank.

The central government in Ethiopia is being dismantled into self-governing regions based on ethnicity. It is said that this change has the potential to lead to civil war. President Meles Zenawi feels that the election of regional assemblies scheduled for April will derail separatist efforts.

There is an especially strong push for Oromo nationalism which has triggered fighting over a large area of southern



The logistics of getting there

The Lilienthals easily obtained visas to travel to Ethiopia through the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington. (Currently, the highest ranking official at the embassy is the *chargé d'affaires*.)

Their flight plan took them to Athens, then Cairo. In Cairo, they boarded an Ethiopian Airlines plane for a 1:00 AM(!) departure to Addis. At 8:00 AM they were in "the new flower."

and central Ethiopia between the Tigrean national army and the Oromos. The fighting has adversely affected agricultural production in these areas.

1.19.92 The new government of Meles Zenawi has encouraged the families of those who disappeared during the "red terror" campaigns of the former Mengistu era to learn the facts about their relatives. The records of the Mengistu security have been opened and many have discovered the whereabouts of the remains of their loved ones. In Debre Zeit, where a large mass grave has been found, 25 people disappeared and their remains are believed to be among those found.

Although no exact count has been made, thousands are believed to have been murdered during Mengistu's reign of terror.

Although some are accusing Meles of using the discoveries for propaganda, the families of those victims have welcomed the opportunity to know and to mourn.

2.14.92 Crews began digging in an effort to find the bodies of Emperor Haile Selassie and other former government officials who died during the Mengistu regime.

2.16.92 The remains of Emperor Haile Selassie were found in a secret grave on the grounds of the Imperial Palace, beneath the office of Lieut. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam. Tests will be conducted to confirm identity and establish cause of death. The remains of 50 Imperial officials were also found. There will be a formal reburial of the Emperor on July 23, the 100th anniversary of his birth.

2.24.92 Farmers have been allowed to return to their homes. During the

Mengistu regime they were forced to move to cooperative agricultural settlements which were formerly land holdings of the royal family, the church, and the wealthy.

There is now, however, a new land distribution plan. EVERYONE is entitled to a lifelong lease on a parcel of land, which, in many cases, results in farmers having smaller parcels of land than in the recent past.

Ethiopia's hope, to be able to feed itself within 10 years, is connected inexorably to maintaining peace. (For this year the government has requested a million tons of food assistance from foreign countries and aid organizations.) But in addition to the need for peace is the need for help in improving the productivity of the land and in improving agricultural techniques. This year the government has requested a \$80 million loan to import fertilizer.

2.25.92 In Eritrea, former guerrillas have been reassigned to build roads and housing in rural areas.

READ ALL ABOUT IT ! ETHIOPIAN NEWSPAPER IN U.S.A.

THE ETHIOPIAN MIRROR, a newspaper published every two months has appeared on the west coast with news directly from Ethiopia. The January/February issue had as its lead story an interview with President Meles Zenawi, which appeared courtesy off the Amharic Daily Addis Zemen. Also featured was an interview with Foreign Minister S. Mesfin, an article about Aster Aweke (who the New York Times calls the Donna Summer of Ethiopia), and several pages of recent news about

Ethiopia. Also advertising in the paper are several travel agents with discount flights to Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Anyone seeking to subscribe should write:

Ethiopian Mirror
P.O. Box 6881
Beverly Hills, California 90212
Telephone: 310-289-1092
FAX 310-289-8740

Biweekly newsletter published

Tamene Asmare has just begun publishing "The Ethiopian" a biweekly newsletter which will cover news of Ethiopia and Eritrea. Subscriptions are \$62.00 for 24 issues. For additional information, write:

Tamene Asmare
P. O. Box 221104
Chantilly VA 22021

(Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs subscribes to this newsletter. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BORROW ANY ISSUES, WRITE TO THE HERALD.

In the February 15 issue: reports of growing religious and ethnic tensions throughout the country and the continued difficulty encountered by relief agencies in delivering food to those in need.

In the March 1 issue: one article describes tensions between the ruling Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front and the Oromo Liberation Front; another reports on the visit to Eritrea by an Israeli delegation led by Israel's Ambassador to Ethiopia. It includes a lengthy discussion of the complex political activity involving Eritrea's quest to obtain recognition in the world community.)

News from the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

from the December-January Group Leaders' Digest

NATION COUNCIL BOARD SETS NEW DIRECTION

The NCRPCV board of directors held a retreat in October to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the organization and reevaluate its mission, goals, and programs, especially in light of the dire financial situation.

New mission statement written

The Board revised the mission statement of the National Council to read: "The mission of the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers is to build a national network of Peace Corps alumni to carry out the third goal of Peace Corps — bringing the world back home."

Goals were defined and prioritized

The directors outlined five program goals:

1. to be the alumni association for the people who have served the Peace Corps;
2. to coordinate the network of Peace Corps alumni organizations;
3. to educate the American public about other countries;
4. to promote policies consistent with the experience of Peace Corps people; and
5. to ensure the continued success of the Peace Corps.

Priority goals for solicitation of funds this year will be numbers 1, 3 and 4.

Short term plans determined

Some of the most difficult decision making centered around operations for the next six months in view of the financial situation.

While final invoices and some payments and bounced checks from the 30th Anniversary Conference and Celebration are still not in, the projected balance for the conference is now between zero and a \$10,000 deficit. All of the National Council's fund raising efforts for the past year were focused on the conference, consequently the organization continued to have a deficit of \$40,000-45,000.

With input from Lyn Gray, outgoing Executive Director, it was decided that the Executive Director position should remain vacant for at least two months,* in order to test the funding potential of the three priority areas and to free funds for more administrative/clerical staff support for the membership and group liaison operations. During the subsequent 2 months, the paid staff in the National Council office was directed to carry out the following functions, in some cases with volunteer help from board and members:

1. Provide group liaison services, provide lists of RPCVs and rebate membership dues to groups, produce Group Leaders Digest, provide sample copies of group incorporation papers, 501(c) (3) tax exemption papers, newsletters, etc.
2. Provide membership services including: credit card, health insurance and travel program benefits,

distribution of "Hotline," updating names and addresses of RPCVs, dues collection and renewal mailings.

3. Publish WorldView magazine to members on a quarterly schedule.
4. Complete the four-month study, being conducted with funds from the MacArthur Foundation, to assess needs and potential and make recommendations on computer system upgrades or conversion for a resource data bank of RPCVs.
5. Recruit RPCVs (with funds provided by a Peace Corps contract), to help with two priority Peace Corps programs: World Wise Schools and recruitment of volunteers with scarce skills and from minority groups.

In addition the Development Education program was to be phased out as it currently exists.

Other areas of National Council activity were put on hold including: dealing with legislative issues, responding to calls and letters about Peace Corps activities, providing resources to screen or send RPCVs to do short-term overseas development or disaster work, contracting with A.I.D. to match foreign students with RPCV groups, coordinating input for the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil next summer.

New officers elected

Following the retreat, the Board elected six officers. New members of the Executive Committee are Doug Siglin, President; Steve Frye, Vice-President; Dick Murphy, Secretary; Miriam Aiken, Treasurer; Steve Werner (as immediate past president)

* See next article for update.

to serve on the Executive Committee; and Kevin O'Donnell and Susan Meyer completing the Executive Committee.

New president Doug Siglin (Zaire 1978-81) was planning chairman for the hugely successful 25th Anniversary celebration on the Mall. He said, "The new National Council is going to be better focused, more service-oriented, and more involved in legislative advocacy on behalf of RPCVs.

"When the National Council was founded, there were only a few scattered RPCV groups around the US. Today—partly because of the 25th Anniversary celebrations—there are 106 active groups affiliated with the National Council. The nature of the RPCV network has changed dramatically, and the nature of the National Council must change, too. Our funds are tight, but we have an important role in encouraging RPCV groups to form and grow stronger, in helping them with their programs, and in facilitating the sharing of information. Equally important, I believe, we have to be their eyes, ears and voice in Washington."

Siglin and the other officers are soliciting new memberships as well as ideas and help from RPCV groups and from individual RPCVs. Suggestions should be mailed to the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, 2119 S Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20008-4011.

New Executive Director accepts position

Charles "Chic" F. Dambach has been appointed to the position of Executive Director of the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. He served as a Volunteer in Colombia from 1967 to 1969.

Chic has 20 years of experience in the management of non-profit organizations. He and his wife and family will be moving to Washington from North Carolina. He will take over the position in May.

Nominate someone you know for the 1992 Shriver Award

(from the December-January Group Leaders' Digest)

The Shriver Award honors Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have made sustained and distinguished contributions to humanitarian causes in developing countries or here at home. Each year at the Annual Conference of the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, an RPCV who has best carried on in the Peace Corps tradition of service to humanity is honored at a special Awards Ceremony.

This year's conference, hosted by the Ozark RPCVs, will be held in Fayetteville, Arkansas July 8—10, 1991. (See page 9 for more details about the conference.)

If you know RPCVs who have devoted themselves to meritorious humanitarian work and are deserving of public recognition, please send for a Shriver Award Nomination Form and additional information from:

Arlene Goldberg, Chairperson
Shriver Award Committee
266 Garibaldi Ave., #5
Lodi, NJ 07644
(201)473-5311

Note: The deadline for final materials to be received by the committee is April 1, 1992.



Put some excitement in your life. Work on the Paul Tsongas campaign.

CONCERNED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT?

Help RPCVs define a position which represents their unique perspective!

Join the RPCVs for Environment and Sustainable Development

We need experts and concerned individuals.

Send \$15 to:

RPCV-ESD
Box 246
Orange City, Iowa 51041

We will send you our first newsletter, a questionnaire for members, and the first draft of our Policy Statement.

F R I E N D S

Leo Cecchini (62-64) called from Windhoek, Namibia and **Frank Grossmann** (62-64) wrote from France to find out if the Ethi 1s are having a get together to mark the group's 30TH anniversary. Anyone out there to take up the gauntlet?

John Coyne (62-64) contemplates fatherhood and its opportunities for growth in an article in the March 1992 issue of Child Magazine.

Andy Lilienthal, son of **Phil and Lynn Lilienthal** (65-67) is going into Peace Corps training for Honduras in April. Andy was born in Addis in 1967.

St. Martin's Press has just published another mystery by **Dick Lipez** (62-64). Entitled *THIRD MAN OUT*, it appears under Lipez's pseudonym of Richard Stevenson.

Mike McCaskey (65-67) was one RPCV to participate in the National Geography

Awareness Week sponsored jointly by the Peace Corps and the National Geographic Society. Along with Gilbert M. Grosvenor, the President of the National Geographic Society, and two of his Chicago Bears football players (quarterback Jim Harbaugh and middle linebacker Mike Singletary), McCaskey presented a geography lesson to 4th, 5th and 6th graders in Des Plaines, Illinois. Mike donned his shamma, and told the students about life in Ethiopia.

Recently, Mike was appointed to be a member of the Peace Corps National Advisory Council.

Samuel Taddesse (Ethiopia staff 60s) has a newsletter — *3RD WORLD UPDATE DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES*. In his December edition he describes conditions he observed in Ethiopia during a visit there in October. He also suggests the democratic framework that should be established in Ethiopia and

makes recommendations of how the U. S. Government can aid in the education of Ethiopians on democratic principles and democratic governance. Samuel also asks for supporters to urge the U. S. Government to withhold all financial aid from Ethiopia "until a democratic government based on individual civil and human rights and freedoms is established and is operating." For more information write:

The Committee of Concerned Ethiopia-Americans
903 Farley Court
Vienna VA 22180

James Quirin (65-67), an Associate Professor of History at Fisk University, has a book coming out in July, 1992. *THE EVOLUTION OF THE ETHIOPIAN JEWS: A HISTORY OF THE BETA ISRAEL (FALASHA) TO 1920* is a "thorough, scholarly study of the Beta Israel that traces the historical development of the Ethiopian Jews from their controversial and problematic origins to the early twentieth century." The book is being published by Pennsylvania State University Press.

According to the Friends of Ethiopia Newsletter, Dr. Charles Schaefer of the University of Chicago's Committee on African and African-American Studies is seeking information from **Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Ethiopia in the Bale Mountains fisheries program** regarding that program. He hopes to write a history of the program. If you can help, write him at:

Dr. Charles Schaefer
1313 South 17th Street
Moorhead MN 56560

Would you like a copy of Senator **Harris Wofford's** (Ethiopia country director, 62-64) remarks to the National Press Club entitled "Eyes on the Prize: Reflections on a Pennsylvania Campaign" which were given December 2? If yes, write The Herald.

LOST & FOUND

- Teffera Ghebrekristos of Eritrea is currently in California visiting **Wayne and Laurel Kessler** (64-66). His father and the Kesslers taught together in Adi Teclesan, when Teffera was a youngster. Since then, he has married, had four children, and has played on the Ethiopia National Soccer Team. The Kesslers are looking for a way for Teffera to gain an international soccer coaching certificate through

a college or university. Please call 916/223-4292 if you have.

Since the Kesslers and Teffera's family have stayed in touch all these years, you might say no one was ever "lost," but indeed they are now "found."

- Kebede Gonfa, who is now living in San Francisco, would like to hear from **Dempster and Kay Boyd**. He can be reached at 714-989-6659. Can you help?

FYI . . .

- Of interest is a book published in 1991 by the University of Illinois Press — *A SONG OF LONGING: AN ETHIOPIAN JOURNEY* by ethnomusicologist Kay Kaufman Shelemay. In 1973 she travelled to Ethiopia to do research for her doctoral dissertation on the music of the Beta Israel (Flashes). The book tells of her experiences in that time of revolution.

- Colombia RPCV Bob Colombo is seeking information about the painting Norman Rockwell did of an Ethiopia Peace Corps Volunteer for a project for the Friends of Colombia group. Can you help? Call him at 301-654-3682.

- This from the newsletter of the Peace Corps MISTA Alumni of Colorado (Denver):

HORN OF AFRICA MEETING
A group of people from the Horn of Africa countries (or who have lived or worked there), meet informally for breakfast at the Queen of Sheba Restaurant, 7225 East Colfax Avenue. There are no lectures, dues or expectations — except to make new friends, learn from one another and pay for your breakfast (around \$5.00). For more information, call Ron Larson w: 980-0070 or h: 526-9629.

- We may have found common ground in the current music scene that both you and your teenage children will enjoy. Aster Aweke, who sings in Amharic and has been influenced by Aretha Franklin and Billie Holiday (talk about great combination!), has a album in the number 4 spot on *Billboard's* World music chart entitled KABU. According to Time magazine, "KABU gets its power from Aweke's vocals, which soar above a lush weave of Ethiopian folk melodies and American jazz and pop, evoking sunny images of love and life in her rural homeland."

Continued on page 10

VOLUNTEER AGAIN FOR ETHIOPIA

by John Coyne (62-64)

Well informed sources within the Peace Corps agency have reported that the Ethiopian government would like to have the Peace Corps return to the country, especially as secondary school teachers.

The ETHIOPIAN HERALD has also learned that new funding for the Peace Corps is being directed toward emerging democracies in Eastern Europe, and not to such countries as Ethiopia. In fact, most future AID monies will go to Eastern Europe.

As former Ethiopian volunteers, we might be able to mount an "emergency program" for Ethiopia with RPCVs returning for short term teacher training programs and other types of intensive courses that would help train desperately needed Ethiopian teachers. What is needed immediately is a show of support by former Volunteers for this type of project, and projects like it.

A program such as this — with ten to twenty former Peace Corps teachers going this summer for one or two months — could be paid for through emergency funding available from the State Department, A.I. D. and the Peace Corps, as well as Ethiopia. We know the country.

Ethiopia, and the Peace Corps, has an important ally in Senator Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania, the first Peace Corps director in Ethiopia, who has stated many times that the Peace Corps should return to that country.

We need to write letters to Senator Wofford asking him to support such a special volunteer program. We need to write the Peace Corps to tell the agency that experienced teachers are ready to return to Ethiopia and volunteer again.

We know how to teach in Ethiopia. And we know how to live as Volunteers.

If you want to see the Peace Corps return to Ethiopia, and/or if you wish to volunteer yourself, please send letters in support of this ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs Project to:

Elaine L. Chao
Director
Peace Corps
1990 K Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20526

Timothy Towell
Regional Director, Africa
Peace Corps
1990 K. Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20526

Senator Harris Wofford
U. S. Senate
283 Russell Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Write that you want the Peace Corps to return to Ethiopia. Write that you support the Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs Volunteer Project. Write even if you can't go now. Flood the Washington offices with your mail and your ideas. If you teach, have your students write. If you have a family, have your children write. Let's create a grassroots movement for a return of Peace Corps Volunteers to Ethiopia.

If you are willing to help coordinate this effort, if you are willing to walk the halls of the Peace Corps agency in Washington to lobby for this project, and if you have suggestions for additional funding or projects for Ethiopia, please write:

John Coyne
99 Reed Avenue
Pelham Manor, New York 10803

F r o m o u r m a i l

Using Peace Corps power

WOW! A Returned Peace Corps Volunteer from Ethiopia running for the presidency of the United States! How exciting it is to follow Paul Tsongas in his bid for the presidency. He's one of us! An RPCV trying for the highest office in the land. Just warms my heart.

I'm an RPCV from that same Ethiopia I bunch. Paul and I were never close, personal friends. Yet, I know and believe in him. I know the type of person he is. I know his values. I know his determination. I know of his hard work in Ghion. He did good things for Ethiopians. He lived up to Peace Corps ideals. He's intelligent and cares about the future of this country.

In Washington, D.C. in August, 1991, a newly-organized Ethiopia and Eritrea Returned Peace Corps Volunteer group pledged support for Harris Wofford and Paul Tsongas and any other RPCV who would act favorably toward Ethiopia. It's time to make good on this commitment. Paul needs us. He needs us now. He needs active workers. He needs cash. He needs support in every state where he campaigns. Let's unleash that Peace Corps power! Get out and work for Paul! Don't wait for Harry or Sally or Joe. Go do something: send a check, pick up the phone and convert a friend, get a bumper sticker, buttonhole a local.

My husband and I shall support, work for, and actively campaign for Paul. We are dyed-in-the-wool Republicans. On March 3 we'll go to a precinct caucus to make sure his name is on the ballot. Other Ethiopian RPCVs, Carol and Kent Richert, will do the same in another Richland precinct.....Let's go for Paul!

To send money or to contact the Tsongas campaign, call or write

The Tsongas Campaign
2 Oliver Street
Box 4504
Boston, Mass. 02101-4504
(617-422-0100)

Frances Fisher LaCroix (62-64)

Looking for work in Ethiopia

Thank you so much for The Herald. For years I've wanted some connection to Ethiopia and old PCVs and the newsletter is wonderful.

I'd really like to work in Ethiopia again and had hoped to get information on agencies with staff in Ethiopia at the job fair held during the 30th Anniversary celebration in Washington. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend and all that the Peace Corps/RPCV office sent me were the names of the companies/agencies but no addresses. I'm wondering if you might have any information on such agencies and if it would make an appropriate article (or just a list) in The Herald. Or could you perhaps put in a request that such agencies notify The Herald of their work in Ethiopia and Eritrea and when they are looking for staff?

Also, do you know of any person or agency/Ministry in Ethiopia that could be contacted about working there?

I will, of course, be pursuing this on my own but I don't want to overlook any possible source of help.

Kathleen Moore (65-67)

Can anyone help The Herald obtain the type of information that Kathleen is seeking?

A letter to you from Ed.

Did you think I was dead? I'm sorry it's been a while since the last newsletter. The usual excuses of pressing deadlines and tough prioritizing. None-the-less, I shall try my best to maintain my commitment to publish four issues a year.

There are some areas where I could use some help, however.

I need you all (but especially someone living in the Washington area) to be our clipping service and send me all articles on Ethiopia and Eritrea that appear in your newspapers.

Have you noticed that the FRIENDS column is heavy with news of Ethi 1s — I need help in obtaining news about those from other groups. News to share about individuals, announcements of planned group reunions, articles on issues of interest — anything you would enjoy reading in the Herald, I would like to publish. Send it all to me at the address on the return label of the newsletter. Please help to make this a newsletter for all Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs.

My thanks to those who have already come forward to lend support, and to you, for I know you will, too.

Marian Haley Beil (62-64)
Editor, The Herald

Do you have plans for July 9 to 11 yet?

Fayetteville — pretty close to a lot of places



"Our National Resources and the Peace Corps Experience" is the theme of the annual RPCV conference which will be held July 9 to 11. The Ozark RPCVs will host the gathering in Fayetteville, Arkansas. As with every RPCV conference, there will be speakers, entertainment, things to buy from around the world, projects to become committed to, and continual opportunities to socialize with old friends and new from that great pool of kindred spirits we call the Peace Corps community.

For information about the Fayetteville area, historic sites, scenic parks and tourist facilities, contact :

Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce
123 West Mountain
P. O. Box 4216
Fayetteville AR 72702-4216

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs would like to know if you are planning to go to the Fayetteville conference. If you are, we will work to organize a special event.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

Co-chairs of Steering Committee

Karen Blanchard (66-68)
RFD 3, Box 142
Putney VT 05346
w:802/257-7751

Frances LaCroix (62-64)
202 Orchard Way
Richland WA 99352
509/627-0430

The Herald

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Frances Fisher LaCroix (62-64)
Phil Lilienthal (65-67)

Please let us hear from all of the groups.

Printed on recycled paper

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs membership

Name _____

Address _____

City, state, zip, country _____

Name when in the Peace Corps if different from above _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

Dates of Peace Corps—Ethiopia or Eritrea service and city/town of service _____

Group # and type of project _____

Other Peace Corps service - as staff or Volunteer - and years _____

\$35 Annual Dues (which include \$20 National Council membership)

\$15 If you are already a member of the National Council

Make your check payable to:
Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

I would like work on _____

for Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs.

Please send to:

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs
c/o Marian Haley Beil
330 Brooklawn Drive
Rochester, NY 14618

PEACE CORPS UPDATE

☎ 800/424-8580

- In December, the Peace Corps announced plans to send 500 Volunteers to the former Soviet republics. At that time Ukraine and Armenia had already formally requested Volunteers and requests from Russia and Kazakhstan were expected shortly.

Business executives with at least five years of experience are the top priority for those recruiting for these countries.

The Peace Corps already has Volunteers serving in the "eastern block" countries of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania. As one of her first acts following confirmation, Peace Corps Director Elaine Chao announced that Volunteers would be sent to the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Volunteers are expected to arrive there this summer. Also this summer Volunteers will begin to serve in Albania, where they will teach English.

Some Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and some Democratic members of Congress have criticized these moves fearing that they would siphon funds away from the Third World countries

traditionally served by Peace Corps Volunteers. In response to such criticism, Director Chao stated that new funds would be used for these new programs.

- Did you see the news segment recently on ABC news about all the young Americans — artists and others — who are having a tough time finding employment in the U. S. because of the hard economic times, so they are flocking to Prague, Czechoslovakia? There they are finding work and the good life — comparable to the American ex-patriot life in Paris during the 20s. Then, did you stop and wonder why there are Peace Corps Volunteers currently serving in Czechoslovakia?

- Prospective Peace Corps Volunteers are being sought with specialty skills in the areas of education, health, industrial arts, agriculture, forestry and the environment.

- The Peace Corps publishes a periodic report "Peace Corps of the United States Report." To receive it, write them at Room 9300, 1990 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526.

FYI

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- The Ethiopian Youth Pen Parenting Association is seeking support for its project to provide care and education to destitute children in all parts of Ethiopia who have been left parentless as a result of the war, the chronic drought, and the famine. According to Meheret Fikre, Project Coordinator, there are 150,000 orphans in the country's relief centers and hundreds of thousands of parentless children outside the camps. Donors are requested to offer monthly support to a child that will provide for living expenses and school tuition. For more information write:

Ethiopian Youth Pen Parenting Assn.
4930 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland CA 94609
(415) 652-2644

- Abraham Oluma is seeking financial support for an agricultural development project sponsored by the Oromo Relief Association. During March he and a team will travel to Ethiopia to evaluate the agricultural needs in Oromo areas. The goal of the project is to provide support for agricultural development for 300 families.

For more information, contact:

Abraham Oluma
871 22nd Avenue S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

c/o Marian Haley Beil
330 Brooklawn Drive
Rochester NY 14618-2925

Address correction requested