

The HERALD

Early Spring through Indian Summer 1992 — Numbers 6 & 7

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

RETURN TO ERITREA

by Wayne Kessler (1964-66)

A JUMBLED RUSH OF EMOTIONS, sight, sounds, and smells enveloped me as I stumbled off the plane in Asmara, Eritrea. Yes, another RPCV going back! It was exhilarating! Eritrea was the first home for my wife and me, and the two years there changed us a lot. I didn't know what to expect. Were our friends alive? Was "our" village destroyed? Would I be welcomed? Be in danger? Find food and lodging? What I found was a place so peaceful, so positive, so friendly that it was like being in a fabulous dream for the five weeks of my stay.

The Head of the Department of Information assured me that I could go anywhere, anytime, take any photos, and meet any people I wanted without specific written permission, much to the surprise of my Eritrean friends who had just not gotten used to this freedom after 30 years of oppression and control. I felt perfectly safe in walking anywhere at any time because there were virtually no accounts of thieves, pickpockets, or muggers, and the people were friendly and helpful.

I stayed in Asmara, with a teaching colleague from our assignments in Adi

Teclesan, on the Keren road. Throughout these past 27 years we had been able to correspond, and his son had been visiting us in California since November (1991). I also visited Woki, Adi Na'amen, Teclesan, and Massawa. Almost everywhere I met former students or colleagues, or other people I had known before. At least four times I was called to on the street, "Mr. Wayne, is that you?"

Asmara is amazingly the same as it was over 25 years ago. There are some new high-rise buildings, a few new suburbs, some stop lights, but it still looks so familiar. The streets are still swept (daily!) by old men; the old pensioners are there (as well as newer hotels), and you can eat at the St. George Restaurant or the Keren Hotel (formerly Menghetti's), or drink coffee or beer or Coca Cola from antique bottles at the Royal Bar. You can ride the *same* crowded buses, but now they are on time and the crowds are polite.

Eritrea is a newly independent country, even though the official referendum will be held another year from now, and then international recognition can follow. The provisional government and almost all the people are thinking and acting as an independent country, and several European countries are regarding it as such, also.

Nearly 80% of the people are subsisting on international food aid, which is largely distributed on a work-for-food basis. The lasting effects of the war and failure of the long rains have left Eritrea
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barren and almost devoid of plant life. Farmers are working the fields by hand because most of the oxen have died. There are a few scrawny sheep, which I often saw eating scraps of paper in the dust. Because there are no bushes, there are almost no goats. Food comes in through the World Food Program of the United Nations, the International Red Cross, and the Eritrean Relief Association. It consists primarily of wheat, oil, sugar, and powdered milk.

The EPLF (Eritrean People's Liberation Front) is in complete control, with the sincere support of the people, who are loyal, patient, and grateful for the EPLF's struggle and victory. In turn, the EPLF recognizes the support it received from the rural population and its needs to attain a better life.

The units of the EPLF have been asked to stay in voluntary service for two years to help the country with the transition from war to independence. They receive food and housing, free bus rides, and adult education classes for their work as department heads, secretaries, doctors, messengers, food distributors, tree planters, whatever. The leaders, having fought the Ethiopian Marxist government for 18 years, are pragmatic men and women. Their policies and plans are based on experience and the needs of the country, rather than on borrowed political philosophy. They are not what I expected; they are not young uneducated radical fighters who have just won a war and now are faced with running a government. Having built and operated schools, hospitals, factories, and a strong organization, they are ready for the challenges of independence.

After traveling around, meeting many leaders, greeting friends and former colleagues, sharing food and coffee with the Patriots (what we called the former EPLF fighters), and understanding the desperate condition of Eritrea, I believe that it is one of the most deserving countries in the world. Why?

1. Because there is immense humanitarian need after years of war and drought. Food, water, and medicines are basics.
2. Because Eritrea needs to resettle over 130,000 returning refugees, and the cost for this is staggering.
3. Because the struggle against the Derg of Marxist Ethiopia was just, and the policies for self-reliance and reconstruction are pragmatic, fair, and primarily concerned with improving the life of the rural population.
4. Because the position of women in the struggle and in the present leadership is unique for Africa and almost unheard-of in history. (Up to 30% of the fighting force was women; they were accepted on their ability and were platoon or battalion leaders and now are in major leadership positions.)
5. Because examples of EPLF policies promise appropriate approaches to current needs. The provisional government is working toward improving cooperation with Ethiopia and has taken a definite non-vindictive stance.

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS AND wants help now. It has no money, as an independent currency has not been established. The country needs money, materials, and some advisors, rather than people to do the work for them. Until official recognition takes place, it will have to rely on NGOs (non-government organizations), the tens of thousands of expatriate Eritreans living in the U.S., Canada, Germany, Italy, and Saudi Arabia, and *maybe* on RPCVs. Here are some suggestions:

1. Go back to Eritrea, see the place, get reacquainted with old friends, and tell the story of this emerging country on return to the U.S.
2. When going to Eritrea, make some time to volunteer —
 - developing curriculum.
 - training teachers in short courses.

- consulting in many areas.
- setting up computer programs and training people in their use.
- lecturing as a guest at the university.
- working in the Department of Information on photo or video production.

3. In this country:
 - send new or used equipment, such as photocopiers, computers, fax machines, books.
 - raise money for medical and food aid and consult Grassroots International or Eritrean Relief Committee or village development committees (I have requests from three of these).
 - write to the Peace Corps and U.S. government leaders to encourage early cooperation with Eritrea.
 - learn about Eritrea and help to educate people here about the newest country in Africa.

You may contact me for a copy of the letter from the Head of the Department of Education requesting short term help in curriculum and teacher training or for the requests from village development committees (Woki, Adi Na'amen, Adi Teclesan); please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Wayne Kessler, 1291 Harpole Road, Redding, CA 96002; 916/223-4292. I have many photographs from this trip, slides to portray the formation of a new country and prints to pair with pictures from Peace Corps days. I was able to find many of the same families and locations, and I even happened on a visual duplicate of the annual saint's day in a village, however, this time it was the dedication of a monument to its 32 martyrs. I welcome suggestions on how I might exhibit or publish these photographs.

My wife is an ESL specialist and is searching for funding sources that would enable her to volunteer as a teacher trainer for several months. ◀

ETHIOPIAN LONG DIVISION

5 August, 1992

by David Arnold (64-66)

THE TAXI OF CHOICE IN post-Marxist Ethiopia is a short-bodied pickup truck with an aluminum canopy, hard benches and a broken, swinging door where the conductor hangs out with his devalued paper currency clenched in his fist, and it offers a restricted view of the capital city of this Old Testament African empire.

Squinting over my friend's shoulder through the scarred, dirty sliding windows, I saw the gray and empty bleachers on Revolutionary Square where Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam used to address Ethiopian crowds. We stopped and a passenger ducked beneath the conductor's arm. My friend, Mengesha, greeted the newcomer, a former classmate at Addis Ababa University who lectures in economics at the Junior College of Commerce. Mengesha said I was his former secondary school teacher, a Peace Corps Volunteer from the 1960s.

"Oh, Paul Tsongas was my teacher," the instructor boasted.

In my return to liberated Ethiopia, I found that the long traditional Amharic greeting retains its grace. During my visit I embellished the custom by identifying my Peace Corps teaching experience in Hararghe Province. I also hoped to distinguish myself from the handful of white tourists trekking up Churchill Road with backpacks and mini-cams in search of the Jubilee Palace or Lenin's fallen statue. The response I got from Ethiopia's 30-

some things was a chorus of American names that invoked visions of scrubbed young western faces with crewcuts, repp ties on frayed white collars and chalk dust on their hand-washed and wrinkled trousers. Those name exchanges were my visa to Ethiopia's modern tragedy, a ticket to a nation whose governance, borders, national language, even the name of the capital city are in serious doubt.

The disassembling of two Ethiopia's — the thin veneer of a people's socialist republic and the deeper roots of the feudal empire that led to it — is a parable of nation-dividing that's typical on the 1990's globe. Addis is patrolled by bushy-haired Tigray liberators looking benign and helpful as boy scouts with their Kalishnikovs slung like school books. But most city residents are looking over their shoulders, wondering if the floundering provisional government introduced by their conquering cousins from the north offers any worse than the bloody terrors and flawed intentions of a fallen Marxist army officer, or the dread infirmities of the remembered monarchy that is their history.

AS THE TIGRAY LIBERATORS preside over the ethnic subdivision from Addis, angry Oromos exercise a new political voice in the city and automatic weapons in the countryside. And dismayed Amharas who never before knew what it was like to be second-class citizens are looking for exit visas. The old empire is being divided between ethnic winners and losers.

The last quarter-century of disappointments for Ethiopia left me wondering if

our lesson plans from the '60s were wrong. Could anyone hear those civics lessons over the din of the weaver birds outside the classroom window and above the thunder of the afternoon rains drumming the corrugated metal roofs?

For many years, occasional stories of bloodshed came out of Hararghe and the mountain town where my wife and I once taught. We then wondered, not what did our students learn, but were they alive. What happened to the crowded rows of earnest young Ethiopians who bowed their heads and scribbled notes into those fibrous, faded notebooks with the portraits of the Emperor, his empress and two princes on the covers?

Dejazmach Wolde Gabriel aba Seitan Secondary School and our white-washed home behind the school are in a war zone. The trip from the eastern desert into the Chercher Mountains is not recommended. The first week in July three passengers were killed when the train was stopped by shiftas, or by rebels. Fifty people a day were dying of starvation in a neighboring town. Ethiopia is being left to the survivors, those who adapt and respond by instinct, wit or guns. Forgotten are the outdated texts of *OLD WORLD PAST & PRESENT* or the agreement of subject and verb. Ethiopia is applying principles of long division to its population of more than 64 ethnic groups. It is not a time of reunion.

Physically, Addis Ababa is the same as it was in 1964, a mountain city of poverty and power surrounded in early morning by cloud-wrapped eucalyptus. The

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emotions have frayed, however, and the people are paralyzed with fear and suspicion. They cautiously mourn the future over thick, sugared coffee in the community centers of Addis' system of kebeles.

BUT ERITREA TO THE NORTH breathes the fresh air of freedom and anticipated independence. Officials and fighters of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front tell me their promised plebiscite is only a formality, because the 3.5 million people voted with 30 years of warfare to end Ethiopia's colonial regime. Eritrea has become a quiet haven of political hope on the Horn of Africa, a rural semi-desert landscape resonant with the promise of a new nation. In this way, Eritrea is like the Ethiopia we left 26 years ago. At a glitzy new restaurant on the edge of Asmara, the charmed Italianate capital of Eritrea, the EPLFs cultural minister bought dinner for several EPLF correspondents and myself. "Norman Singer taught me law," Alemseghed Tesfai told me as we drove down darkened boulevards to dinner. "He had a wonderful sense of humor."

The next morning I sat before the director of Eritrea's television station. He wore the plastic sandals of an EPLF fighter and a leather jacket. When in the sixth-grade in Asmara, the director had two Peace Corps teachers. "Their names were Mr. Harger and Mr. James," the television director told me. But he thinks now of the future, and how to run the 140-watt transmitter the fighters liberated from Ethiopia's departed occupation forces. "It is the only thing we took from the Dergue regime," he said with a proud smile.

Driving down the mountains from Asmara to the bombed-out seaport of Massawa, my companions were three sandaled fighters: Mekonnen, Hannah and Hannah's husband, Mengistab, a bearded giant who is the first law teacher at the recently reopened

University of Asmara. Mengistab studied law at the Patrice Lumumba Peace & Friendship University in Moscow, and recalls the earlier science lessons of William Olsen in Adi Ugri. "He was a very good teacher," Mengistab said in a kind voice. Then Mengistab pointed to a mountaintop where a few short years ago he and some EPLF troops manhandled a howitzer into position and shelled an armored division of the Dergue on the road we were driving. Ethiopia's Russian-made tanks are twisted wreckage littering the Entean landscape like empty beer cans.

The fighters remembered their Peace Corps teachers' names, but offered little more. They have spent their adult lives as guerrillas, and are trying to create a nation. Mengistab's memory of his Peace Corps teacher is clouded by a shortened experience: Olsen was attacked and killed by a crocodile while swimming in the Baro River in southern Ethiopia in 1964.

My fellow travelers were native-born Eritreans and fighters over the age of 21, yet none had ever before seen their treasured city by the Red Sea. Across a narrow land bridge to the island seaport, we passed the twisted wreckage of two EPLF tanks, iron heroes of the war wearing a cowry-shell greeting. "We Are For Peace Democracy and Stability." Mengistab and Hannah walked around the tanks and described the struggle to take the sea port. They spoke with the power of a culture with genuine heroes, many of them friends who died for their country. "The fall of the Soviet Union began here," Hannah said. "One day in Addis, Mengesha and I ate lunch in a graceful old wooden hotel behind the Emperor's empty Jubilee Palace. Members of court used to stay here, Mengesha said." Mengesha was one of Asbe Teferi's many proud native sons, eager to fulfill the promise of greater service in Ethiopia's nation-building. As a civil servant, he has worked as a lawyer for half a dozen Ethiopian government corporations. ver

Over beer served in unlabeled bottles, we discussed his former classmates in eighth-grade social studies. I tried to recall them one by one. They all appeared bright and beautiful, and very small, only a few years younger than their teachers.

I gave names, and Mengesha answered in his drawling midwestern English, "Oh, yeah," and told stories of disenchantment, departure and probable deaths. Only the successes were certain; the tragedies were bound up in rumors.

Girma is executive chef at the five-star Hilton up the hill from where we drank our unmarked beers and his culinary smile blooms from a Hilton ad in an airline magazine. Yirgidu, the beautiful, and wide-eyed girl who used to walk with a clubfoot, and was in an Addis hospital bed when we left in 1966. She walks well now, said Mengesha, and is a schoolteacher in Asbe Teferi. Debrework is a biologist who ran an AIDS prevention project in Addis, and is assistant head of the Institute for Health Research. Daniel Negussie, the glib prankster and school yard poet who played the role of Puck in the school production of "Midsummer Night's Dream" produces educational materials for government secondary schools in Hararghe Province.

But the list of those who fell apart in Ethiopia's tragedies is longer and, curiously, more detailed. Perhaps that is the nature of rumor.

Alemayehu attended the private General Wingate School on government scholarship along with Mengesha. He was of slight build and hushed voice, recognized by his peers as a "gentle." Alemayehu was exceptionally bright and went on to the London School of Economics. He returned to Addis before he finished his doctorate, and was arrested by the Dergue for photographing the palace. The Dergue accused him of being a C.I.A. agent. After his torture and release, he became a popular

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physics teacher in Wollega Province. Politically rehabilitated, he was sent to the German Democratic Republic to finish his degree but at German reunification, he quickly defected to London.

Asfaw hailed from Kuni, a village of shops in the morning mist above our school. He joined the Air Force but ran afoul of the Dergue for suspected sympathy to the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party. After the Air Force and after jail, he sent Mengesha a postcard from London with no return address. "I don't know how he did it," Mengesha marveled.

Hiywete remains a mystery. From Asbe Teferi she went to a Seventh Day Adventist bible college, the university and then Alemaya University. In the first year of the revolution, some say she became a leader of the People's Revolutionary Front and died in prison.

Others say she went to the United States. In Ethiopia, death and America are equally remote.

Finally, there is Mahdi Hamid. The proud Mahdi. For some slight I have forgotten, he refused to speak to me for a year. After we left, his story takes on two versions, both beginning with his departure by way of Mogadishu to broadcast anti-Ethiopian propaganda in Amharic and Oromo over Somali radio.

I did not know Mahdi was Oromo, which we then called Galla. He appeared more Arab, like the many merchants in our town. But our Chercher Mountains were a seedbed for the Oromo Liberation Front's later military operations. One version of Mahdi's life is that he is now leading a non-political life somewhere in Canada. The other story is less precise but places him somewhere within Ethiopia, possibly involved in the fighting that threatens to end Ethiopia itself.

The names in our Dejazmach Wolde Gabriel aba Seitan grade books were Ethiopian two decades ago. Now they are distinguishably Somali, Oromo, Afar and Amhara. Ethnicity is now pronounced.

Whoever taught them the lessons of survival, the students of Ethiopia have applied the principles well. They have endured red and white terrors, a civil war and a liberation. Whether they will choose to remain together as a nation has not been decided. ◀

A journalist on a Fulbright lecturing grant in Nairobi, David Arnold spent two weeks in Addis and a week in Asmara conducting workshops on interviewing, writing and reporting ethics for reporters and editors of the Ethiopian News Agency and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front. He and his wife, Courtney, taught in Asbe Teferi, Ethiopia from 1964-1966.

International Suffering Index

The Population Crisis Committee rated 141 countries on the following criteria: life expectancy, food availability, access to clean water, infant immunization, secondary school enrollment, per-capita GNP, inflation, communications technology, political freedom and civil rights. The higher the score, the worse the conditions, with the worst possible score being 100. Countries where PCVs are currently serving are listed in **Bold**; where there have been PCVs in the past, in *Italics*.

93 Mozambique
92 Somalia
89 Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan
88 Zaire
87 Laos
86 Guinea, Angola
85 Ethiopia, Uganda
84 Cambodia, Sierra Leone
82 Chad, Guinea-Bissau
81 Ghana, Burma
79 Malawi
77 Cameroon, Mauritania
76 Rwanda, Vietnam, Liberia

75 Burundi, Kenya, Madagascar, Yemen
74 Cote d' Ivoire
73 Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic
71 Tanzania, Togo
70 Lesotho, Mali, Niger, Nigeria
69 Guatemala, Nepal
68 Bangladesh, Bolivia, Zambia
67 Pakistan
66 Nicaragua, Papua-New Guinea, Senegal, Swaziland, Zimbabwe
65 Iraq
64 Gambia, Congo, El Salvador, Indonesia, Syria
63 Comoros, India, Paraguay, Peru
62 Benin, Honduras
61 Lebanon, China, Guyana, South Africa
59 Egypt, Morocco
58 Ecuador, Sri Lanka
57 Botswana
56 Iran
55 Suriname
54 Algeria, Thailand
53 Dominican Republic, Mexico, Tunisia, Turkey
51 Libya, Colombia, Venezuela
50 Brazil, Oman, Philippines
49 Solomon Islands
47 Albania
45 Vanuatu
44 Jamaica, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Yugoslavia (former)
43 Mongolia

41 Jordan
40 Malaysia, Mauritius
39 Argentina
38 Cuba, Panama
37 Chile, Uruguay, North Korea
34 Costa Rica, South Korea, United Arab Emirates
33 Poland
32 Bulgaria, Hungary, Qatar
31 Soviet Union (former)
29 Bahrain, Hong Kong, Trinidad and Tobago
28 Kuwait, Singapore
25 Czechoslovakia, Portugal, Taiwan
21 Israel
19 Greece
16 United Kingdom
12 Italy
11 Barbados, Ireland, Spain, Sweden
8 Finland, New Zealand
7 France, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg
6 Austria, Germany
5 United States
4 Australia, Norway
3 Canada, Switzerland
2 Belgium, Netherlands
1 Denmark

PCVs have also served in: Belize, Cape Verdi, Cook Is, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Kiribati, Malta, Marshall Is, Micronesia, Namibia, Sao Tome & Principe, Tonga, Tuvalu, W. Samoa, Windward and Leeward Is, and Yemen.

News from the Horn

- **FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE** Muslim eastern part of Ethiopia between troops of the ruling EPRDF (Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front) and several Oromo groups seeking to force the EPRDF troops from Oromia and to establish Islamic leadership in the region. One of the Oromo groups is reported to have received arms from an Iranian backed Muslim fundamentalist organization headquartered in Khartoum. There is fighting in Harer Zuria, Habro, Gode, Jijiga and Wobera. In mid-July the main power carriers from Koka Dam were destroyed causing a week-long break in electricity and water supplies to Dire Dawa, Harer, Jijiga and Arba Minch. There are continued charges and counter charges made placing blame for continued fighting and other acts of violence between ethnic groups.

The fighting in these areas has also affected food shipments to the starving in Somalia. Shiftas are robbing storage areas in Ethiopia and food convoys and the OLF is mining convoy routes.

- **PRESIDENT MELES ZENAWI** has begun a campaign to rid the government of workers who are unproductive. On the flip side, there has been criticism that Meles' government supports a program of job hiring based on ethnic background rather than competence.

- **VOTER REGISTRATION IN** Eritrea has begun for the independence referendum to be held next April. Leaders have promised that democracy will follow the vote and the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front will dissolve.

- **REGIONAL (KEBELE) ELECTIONS** held in June were based on a unique experiment, says *THE WASHINGTON POST*. "The government carved up its country into ethnic regions and actively encouraged parties to form along tribal lines. . .

Only by allowing ethnically based voting can different groups feel they are being fairly represented and therefore lose interest in advocating separatism." There were widespread claims of voter fraud and less that a third of the expected voters participated.

Many of the Oromos, who make up 30 to 40 percent of Ethiopia's population, boycotted the elections. Prior to the elections, the OLF (Oromo Liberation Front) withdrew from the election process as well as from the Transitional Government. It was charged that Oromo candidates were terrorized and imprisoned, supporters were imprisoned or deprived the right to register and that the EPRDF is not living up to the agreements of the Transitional Government Charter. Many Oromos favor an independent Oromo state.

- **WITH THE BREAK AWAY FROM** the Transitional Government by the Oromos, along with the Eritrean separatist policy, the agreement reached in the U.S. sponsored London conference has been killed. Recently, the U. S. State Department has met with exiled Ethiopian opposition groups to aid in their return to Ethiopia and the political system there.

- **ABUNA PAULOS, WHO HOLDS** a Doctorate of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary and a degree from Yale, was installed as Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Addis Ababa in July. He takes on this role as the church tries to recover from 17 years of the Mengistu regime and begins to address the challenge of fundamentalist Islam from the Sudan. Since 1959, when for the first time an Ethiopian was chosen to be the head of the Ethiopian Church rather than an Egyptian, the Government has made that choice. This time, however, Abuna Paulos was selected by his peers. It is said that the fact that he and President Meles Zenawi

are both Tigreans from Adwa makes the choice one that is politically realistic.

- **ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES AN-**nounced earlier this year that it had a operating profit for the third year in a row. One of the reasons the airline has thrived is because the government has not meddled in its affairs. It is entirely staffed by Ethiopians trained in Ethiopia. Its training program is so successful that pilots and technicians from other African nations are also being trained by EAL.

- **THE UNITED STATES AMBASSA-**dor to Ethiopia is Mark Baas, who had been serving as U. S. charge d'affaires in Addis Ababa at the time of his appointment. The Ethiopian Ambassador to the United States, appointed by the Transitional Government, is Berhane G. Christos.

- **IN NATIONAL PARKS AND** forests eastern and southern Ethiopia forests and wildlife have fallen prey to burning-off practices by people desiring land to grow grass for cattle. In addition, wildlife are being killed off with automatic weapons sold by formers according to *WILDLIFE CONSERVATION* magazine.

- **STARVATION CONTINUES TO BE** a major crisis. Because of a near doubling of the population of Addis Ababa due to an influx of displaced persons, there are 20,000 starving in Addis alone.

- **IN MAY, THE DAWN-TO-DUSK** curfew that had been in effect nation wide since 1974! was lifted by President Meles Zenawi.

- **A COMMISSION HAS BEEN** formed to draft a new national constitution during the next six months. ◀

PEACE CORPS UPDATE

☎ 800/424-8580

- **Peace Corps Director Elaine L. Chao** has announced that she will leave the Peace Corps on November 16th to become President of the United Way of America. Ms. Chao was confirmed as PC Director in December, 1991.

- **Peace Corps Deputy Director Barbara Zartman** has already begun to campaign for the position of Director. Ms. Zartman, who began serving as Deputy under Paul Coverdell in 1989 and who is not a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, came to the Peace Corps following rolls as Chairwoman of the Monroe County (Rochester NY) Republican Committee and manager of the 1988 Bush campaign in NY. (See related article in National Council news.)

- **This from Peace Corps Director Elaine Chao** — Peace Corps has met with the Transitional Government of Ethiopia in Washington to explore the possibilities of a Peace Corps return. In January, Peace Corps Africa Regional Director Timothy Towell visited Addis Ababa for the same purpose. The next step will include programming visits. (I already know 10 people who want to be Country Director. *Ed.*)

- **In July, 26 PCVs began service** in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. These Volunteers, who will "assist in the development of a market economy and in privatization efforts" are the first of many scheduled to go to the Balkans, Russia, Ukraine and other Independent States. It is planned that there will be at least 250 Volunteers in those countries by the end of the year.

- **The Peace Corps has established a partnership** with the U. S. Department of Commerce. According to the Peace Corps, projects developed under this agreement will provide an opportunity for both the Peace Corps and the Department of Commerce to expand

their range of experience, insight and global knowledge.

- **From RPCV WRITERS & READERS newsletter:** "Al Kamen (Dominican Republic 67-69), now a WASHINGTON POST reporter, wrote in an April 24th article for the paper that the Peace Corps was being torn up by an Internal Report from its Acting Inspector General. Kamen wrote that 'Senior Peace Corps officials have been accused by agency investigators and two members of Congress of trying to alter and suppress an internal report that sharply criticized personnel practices.' The IG report stated that the Peace Corps personnel office had 'an established reputation for inefficiency and for unfair and manipulative personnel practices,' a 'rigged' selection process and 'the worst kind of bureaucracy.' Among other items, Kamen cited how three senior aides for former director Paul Coverdell, all of whom had worked for him in his Atlanta insurance business or when he was in the state legislature, were paid more than they should have been under Peace Corps regulations." It was also

reported that PC officials asked to have the report watered down, suggesting that they might not recommend a standard extension of tour-of-duty to the IG report writer.

- **Currently Peace Corps needs Volunteers** with the following skills: math, science and industrial arts teachers; crop extensionists; highly skilled foresters; degreed nutritionists, engineers, health workers.

- **Attention E&E RPCVs paid members:** Included with this newsletter is a questionnaire for you to complete if you can help the Peace Corps with recruiting or the World Wise Schools program.

- **The Peace Corps Gifts in Kind Program** which provides equipment to PCVs to support their program activities is currently seeking personal computers, sporting equipment, typewriters, camping equipment, microscopes, gardening tools, VCRs, TVs, tape recorders, and medical supplies as well as financial support. All donations are tax deductible. Can you help? Contact them at 800-424-8580x2227. ◀

LOST & FOUND

- Fesshaie Yohannes, formerly of Asmara, was visited recently in Boston by his mother Meaza Tewolde. She is anxious to find old Peace Corps friends Norman (a lawyer) and his wife Julie (a teacher) who were in Asmara around 1963. If you can help make this connection, contact him at 103 Norway Street, #25, Boston MA 02115, phone 617-536-8692.

- Rusty Miller Rich (62-64) is looking for Yilma Tadesse from Addis Ababa. He was an instructor at her training program at Georgetown. She is also looking for Menkirr Essayas from Tigray. Write her at: 26 Leighton Road, Wellesley, MA 02181 if you can help.

Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs – group news

A message from the Co-chairs

Tenystillin!

When *THE HERALD* arrives, I quickly grab a cup of tea, and sit down with great enthusiasm to catch up on the "happenings." It's a real "high!" Marian Haley Beil does a fine job of keeping us connected and re-connected. We all are most grateful for her professional efforts.

However, this sedentary approach to Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs is no longer adequate. In spite of our best efforts, Ethiopia has regressed. The infrastructure is damaged. Food production capacity is non-existent. Groups are being denied basic human rights. Forests are denuded and schools are inoperative. We were all over there. So, it's time to do something again. What are we going to do? How will we accomplish it? Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs could be a sizable lobbying group; we can have clout in numbers. We need to pull together again, and contribute to the recovery of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

At the national RPCV conference (Summer, 1991) in Washington DC, our group decided to focus on:

- lobbying efforts for a more favorable U. S. policy toward Ethiopia and Eritrea.

- support of conservation projects in Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- short-term assistance programs staffed by RPCVs and in-country counterparts.

At this point we need to take action and implement one or all of the above. This, admittedly, is difficult without face-to-face or committee-type dialogue. Yet, we must move forward for anything to happen.

Thus, we propose that E & E RPCVs identify and support one or two non-governmental groups that are active and effective in rebuilding efforts or that are supporting Ethiopians and Eritreans now, such as:

- "Books for Ethiopians" – operated by an Ethiopian living in California, which has shipped over 100,000 surplus text books to Ethiopia.
- Reforestation programs – as suggested by Dell Hood (62-64).
- In-country relief agencies such as Oromo RA or Tigrean RA.

What do you want us to do now? How can we accomplish it? And what commitment will you make to carry it out? What will you do?

Life is more than a fifteen minute

reading of the Herald, pleasurable as that is. We need to show continued devotion and dedication to Ethiopia and Eritrea by implementing a charitable plan. Action is needed Now! Please call write or phone a member of the E & E RPCVs Steering Committee and give your ideas or support. There is one located near you!

Fran Fisher LaCroix (62-64)
with Karen Blanchard (66-68)
Co-chairs, Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

P. S. Please check your newsletter mailing label to make sure you are a member of E & E RPCVs. If there is no date on the label you are not a member, if the date has passed, your membership has expired. See the form on the next to the last page of this newsletter to join up. Newsletters, membership and connected-ness cost money!

The Double Issue - or "Why is this Herald Numbers 6 and 7?"

You may have noticed two things about *The Herald* — you haven't received one in a while, and this issue is a double issue. They really are related. Recently I have been working — for pay — at a rather intensive pace and simply have not had the time to produce an issue of the newsletter. But while I wasn't doing a newsletter, the material was still piling up, enough so that there was really material for TWO newsletters!

Elsewhere in the newsletter I have asked for help, and I continue to urge you to send in material that you feel is will be of interest. Hopefully, I will be able to keep to a more regular schedule — "with a little help from my friends."

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs organized for the following reasons:

- to allow Ethiopia and Eritrean RPCVs to re-connect on a personal and professional level.
- to assist RPCVs to reconnect with Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- to provide people-to-people development projects.
- to carry out the third goal of the Peace Corps "to bring the world back home."
- to be educated to the new reality of Ethiopia and Eritrea and the diversity within.

Executive Director calls for RPCV Director for Peace Corps

Chic Dambach, Executive Director of the National Council has taken up the cause started a year ago by our own John Coyne, and has called for the next Director of the Peace Corps to be a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. With the announced resignation of Director Elaine Chao (see Peace Corps Update, p. 6), Chic has begun to put together a list of qualified of Republican and Democratic RPCV candidates for the position.

Primary qualifications are:

- Peace Corps Volunteer experience
- Professional international development experience
- Major agency or corporation management experience
- Commitment to the Peace Corps and the position
- Appointability

If you have any recommendations, write:

Chic Dambach
National Council of RPCVs
2119 S Street, NW
Washington DC 20008-4011

***THE HERALD* wins awards**

At the 1992 annual RPCV Conference held in Fayetteville in July, it was announced that this newsletter – *THE HERALD* – was the top winner in the 1992 National Council Newsletter Competition for newsletters produced by country-of-service RPCV groups. *THE HERALD* won First Prize for writing and content, and First prize for design and layout.

SEE YOU JULY 1 TO 5, 1993 IN BERKELEY!

1993 RPCV conference scoop

The Northern California Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, in conjunction with the National Council of RPCVs, has already been making plans for the 1993 annual RPCV conference to be held July 1 through 5 at the University of California at Berkeley and the San Francisco Bay Area. Mark you calendar now.

NORCAL has prepared a preliminary schedule which includes time for country of service groups to meet, an all-day community volunteer opportunity "Volunteer Day," a "Walk/Run for Peace, and an International Fair.

On page 14 of this newsletter is a brief conference description and a form to send in NOW to get on the NORCAL conference mailing list early.

E & E RPCVs will have a special program

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs is hoping for a large turn-out of its members (because so many live in California!) and has begun to make plans of its own for the event. We need some people in the Bay area to step forward and take on some planning and arranging responsibilities to facilitate our gathering. To help, please contact:

Frances LaCroix
202 West Orchard Way
Richland WA 99352
509/627-6488

Plan a reunion for your group

We would like to encourage you to organize a reunion for your group as well. Contact Frances LaCroix so that we can help you get organized, and, also, so that we can publicize your efforts in *The Herald*.

The Presidential candidates discuss foreign affairs

As subscribers to the RPCV/CARE Network, E & E RPCVs has received a copy of responses from the Presidential candidates to a questionnaire prepared by RPCV/CARE on foreign aid policy issues. The questions focus on: the U.S. relationship with the developing world, development and humanitarian aid, Peace Corps funding, the U. S. role in a changing world, national security, and the U. S. foreign aid program. If you would like a copy of these responses, write to:

E & E RPCVs
330 Brooklawn Drive
Rochester NY 14618

How about giving a talk about Ethiopia and Eritrea?

The National Council has distributed a "Speakers Bureau Kit" to each affiliated group to assist us in "bringing the world back home." It includes hints for individuals on giving presentations and useful information and resources. For groups there is information to aid in setting up and maintaining a Speakers Bureau, plus a sampling of other types of projects being conducted by other RPCV groups. If you would like to borrow the kit (which is actually a 3-ring binder) or if you would like to get a Speakers Bureau going for E & E RPCVs, write to Frances LaCroix, 202 West Orchard Way, Richland WA 99352.

F R I E N D S

In April **Neil Boyer** (62-64) was married to Johanna Misy. You can send your congratulations to them at : 702 Twin Holly Lane, Silver Spring MD 20910.

At the business meeting of the 1992 RPCV Conference **Mark Lewis Brecker** (64-66) proposed a resolution that Volunteers who use tobacco should not be sent overseas because of their role model status and because it is a proven health risk. A committee was formed to refine the proposal or modify it to encourage non-use of tobacco.

John Coe (62-66) has become the Director of the Wyoming Arts Council. The Council word to enhance Wyoming's quality of life and its long-term cultural and economic strength by encouraging excellence, access, diversity and utility in the arts.

From *RPCV WRITERS & READERS* — **Kathleen Johnson Coskran** (65-67) will be spending the Month of January at the Edna St. Vincent Milay Colony in Austerlitz, New York as a visiting writer.

When you saw Deratu Tulu win the first Gold Medal at the Olympics for a woman from Ethiopia, in the 10,000 m, did you fantasize that perhaps you might have taught her mother or father? (This was the first time in 12 years that Ethiopia — and its great runners have competed in an Olympics.)

Patti Garamendi (66-68) is running for Congress from Stocton, California.

E&E RPCVs offers its condolences to **David Hartmann** (66-68) on the death of his young son earlier this year.

Barry Hillenbrand (63-65) has moved from the Time-Life News Service in Tokyo to T-LNS/London.

Dell Hood's (62-64) wife called – Dell has just begun the job of his dreams. He has just begun a two year tour as Public Affairs Officer , the top in-country position in the USIS, in Addis Ababa. If you'd like to write to the Hoods their address is : American Embassy–Addis Ababa, Department of State, Washington DC 20521-2030.

The newsletter of the Chicago Area RPCVs has reported that Dick Leff, husband of **MaryAnn Melzl Leff** (70-72) died recently. He had been a PCV in the Philippines from 1968 to 70 and was a founding member of CARPCV.

Mike McCaskey (65-67) has formed an organization named PC2 which will gather used computers and printers in the Chicago area. The equipment will then be reconditioned and converted for local power requirements and sent to Peace Corps programs in Eastern Europe and the Independent States. Mike has already made a delivery to Poland.

Dave Gurr (62-64) called to report that **Don Romaine** (staff 60's) had died of a stroke August 9th.

Les Rottner (64-65) is playing trumpet on a cruise ship to Europe for 8 months.

Seen at the Democratic National Convention: **Ray Donaldson, Barbara Fontaine** and **Paul Reagan** (all 62-64), all **Tsongas** delegates, and **John Garamendi** (66-68), chair of the California delegation – and on TV frequently in that role.

Getting sick of reading about Ethi Is? Send in some news about yourself.

H E L P

The Editor of *THE HERALD* seeks help. She is looking for someone to prepare the "News from the Horn" section of the newsletter on a quarterly basis. All source materials will be provided. What is needed is some time for reading, and writing ability. Bonus — you'll become an authority on current events in The Horn. Contact:

Marian Haley Beil
330 Brooklawn Drive
Rochester NY 14618.

Teeny reunion in Amherst

by Dick Lipez (62-64)

A small group of Ethiopia I RPCVs marked the 30th anniversary of their departure for Ethiopia with an August 15 happy get-together in Amherst, Massachusetts. Andrea Wright organized the event, which featured injera and wat and other good food, a slide show, and dozens of anecdotes refined over the years into high art.

Present, in addition to Andy, were: Carolyn Allen Behr, Ron Bell, June Clifton, Camilla Chickering Moore, Dick Horrigan, Barbara Fontaine, Dick Lipez, Jim Merrill, Rusty Miller, Toby Page, Jack Prebis and Paul Reagan, as well as a number of family members and great and good friends.

BOOK NOTES by Dick Lipez (62-64)

The Red Sea Press (15 Industry Court, Trenton NJ 08638) specializes in books about the Horn of Africa. Many of them promote Eritrean independence. A catalog is available from the publisher.

Among recent titles are:

ERITREA: EVEN THE STONES ARE BURNING by Roy Pateman

BEYOND CONFLICT IN THE HORN: THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE, RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT IN ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA, ERITREA & SUDAN edited by M. Doornbas, L. Cliffe, A. Ahmed and J. Markakis

WOMAN AND THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION by Amrit Wilson

THE INVENTION OF ETHIOPIA by Bonnie Holcomb & Sisai Ibssa

A PAINFUL SEASON AND A STUBBORN HOPE: THE ODYSSEY OF AN ERITREAN MOTHER by Abebe Tesfagiorgis

ERITREA: REVOLUTION AT DUSK with photos and text by Robert Papstein.

Red Sea Press is distributing **John Cohen's** (64-66) book *INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT*.

John Coyne (62-64) has had several book reviews published in the *Washington Post* recently.

VOLUNTEERING IN ETHIOPIA: A PEACE CORPS ODYSSEY by James W. Skelton, Jr. (70-72) was published in 1991 by Beaumont Books, P. O. Box 551, Westminster CO 80030

In June HarperCollins published **E. Fuller Torrey's** (Staff 64-66) *FREUDIAN FRAUD: THE MALIGNANT EFFECT OF FREUD'S THEORY ON AMERICAN THOUGHT AND CULTURE*.

Harris Wofford's (Director 62-64) book *OF KENNEDYS AND KINGS: MAKING SENSE OF THE SIXTIES*, which was first published in 1980, will be released in paperback by the University of Pittsburgh Press in October.

REVIEW

THE SIGN AND THE SEAL: THE QUEST FOR THE LOST ARK OF THE COVENANT by Graham Hancock, Crown, 515 pp., \$22.00

In this immensely readable true-life detective story, British journalist and historian Graham Hancock sometimes comes off a little bit cracked. Momentarily rendered gaga by his aching desire to catch a glimpse of an undraped *tabot*, he rips a curtain aside in a Gondar Holy of Holies and has to be wrestled to the floor by priests, one of whom tells Hancock, "You are a very bad man."

This is a writer with moral blind spots the size of Entoto. His reputation as a Mengistu apologist was such that when Hancock hooked up with the TPLF in 1990 for a trip to rebel-held Axum, he feared the TPLF was going to take him up into the mountains and shoot him. Instead, the rebels were entirely hospitable and Hancock got to within a few feet of the sanctuary he is convinced contains the lost Ark of the Covenant.

Hancock's impressive scholarly and actual gumshoe-style detective work led him to conclude that while the Ark does reside in Ethiopia — as Ethiopian legend and the Kebre Negast assert — it wasn't brought there by Menelik I. Hancock, in fact, joins the debunkers and claims then-primitive Ethiopia had no monarchy at the time of Solomon (970-931 BC), and the Queen of Sheba was probably from Southern Arabia.

After a two-year quest — retold in minute detail in this book — Hancock came up with a theory less romantic than the Menelik legend but more plausible and just as compelling in its own way. In the 7th century BC, Manesseh, an Israeli king, lost faith in Yahweh and regressed to idol worship. In the turmoil, Levite guards secreted the Ark out of the Holy of Holies and fled south. The Ark remained for 200 years in a Jewish temple near Aswan (Hancock

visited the German archaeological dig at the site), until an anti-Jewish Egyptian king forced the Hebrews further south and east along trade routes into Ethiopia.

These Jews intermixed with the indigenous Agaw peoples — becoming the Falasha — and the great Jewish relic was kept on an island in Lake Tana until the Christianized Axumites overran the Jews of western Ethiopia and moved the Ark to Axum. The strong Jewish element in Ethiopian Christian ritual comes from these ancient interminglings.

Hancock tries to stay objective a lot of the time, but his narrative is the most fun when he speculates imaginatively on the Ark's magical effects on people. From the time Moses had the Ark built out of acacia wood and gold to contain the tablets (meteorites, Hancock thinks) on which God's finger wrote the Ten Commandments, the Ark could levitate, shoot fire, and cause plagues among the Hebrews' enemies. After laying out evidence that Moses learned sorcery at the Egyptian court where he grew up, Hancock wonders if maybe Moses didn't concoct this "magical" box both to intimidate enemies and to keep his own rowdy people in line. An Axumite legend says it was the Ark's magical powers that raised the stelae there.

Another fascinating section of the book is Hancock's investigation into the Knights Templars and their interest in the Ark. These 14th century warrior- and builder-monks, who inspired the Holy Grail romances, traveled to Ethiopia, Hancock believes, in search of the Ark — and, during a lengthy sojourn, built the churches at Lalibela. The Templars' distinctive crosses adorn the rock-hewn churches to this day.

Reading this amazing book is like taking a trip back to Ethiopia with a brilliant and slightly loony guide who sometimes makes you nervous, but who you can't stop listening to for so much as a minute.

From our mail

In the last edition of THE HERALD, John Coyne called on readers to support a return of the Peace Corps to Ethiopia and Eritrea, and to consider going back themselves for short term projects. He urged readers to write to the Peace Corps and to Senator Harris Wofford to start a ground swell of support for such an effort.

The following is a copy of one of the letters sent to Senator Wofford in this regard.

Dear Senator Wofford:

Greetings, Harris: I just received my most recent issue of *The Herald*, the newsletter of the Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs. It is hard to believe that it was 30 years ago that I received the telegram telling me of my selection as a Peace Corps Volunteer for Ethiopia. *The Herald* renewed the call for volunteers to go to Ethiopia. Yes, Peace Corps

Volunteers should be sent to Ethiopia. I ask that you support such a program. I know I would be happy to go again.

However, I would like to put forward an idea that I have discussed with several Ethiopians since the reunion of the Ethiopia I's last summer, dealing with the problem of restoring Ethiopia. Many of our students (i.e., those we taught in Ethiopia in 1962-1964), have become American citizens. There are about 200 Ethiopian medical doctors living between Maine and Virginia. There are comparable numbers of Ethiopian nurses, engineers and skilled bureaucrats. What is needed is a program that will allow the Ethiopians to return home, impart their skills, and then return to America. Those that could probably help most are Ethiopian-Americans. Many of the Ethiopians have lived here for more than 15 years. They, and their children, are now Americans.

Many would like to return for a volunteer stint, but do not want to move back to the old country, lose their homes, or give up their American citizenship. Can a program be designed that would support the return of ethnic citizens to their homeland to teach their skills and then return to America? The program could apply not only to Ethiopia, but Poland, Nicaragua, Cambodia, etc.

While it is a good idea to send former Volunteers or new Peace Corps Volunteers to foreign countries, it would be even better if we could use the skills of those who are already trained, speak the language and know about the culture. There must be technical projects of both a short and long duration that could benefit from such participation. Please look into establishing such a program. I feel that it would be money well spent.

Dennis Ekberg (62-64)

FYI . . .

• RPCV group **Friends of Colombia and the Horn of Africa Relief Committee** (another RPCV organization) have obtained exclusive rights to market prints of four paintings done by Norman Rockwell in the 60s which salute the Peace Corps. The subjects are: President Kennedy surrounded by Volunteers (including Linda Bergthold 62-64), an agricultural Volunteer (Mark Clausen 62-64) working with Ethiopian farmers saluting Africa programs, a Peace Corps teacher in India saluting programs in Asia and a community action Volunteer in Colombia saluting the Latin American programs.

The prints are available for a contribution of \$50, with the funds to be used to address unmet needs in the developing world. For more information write to:

Friends of Colombia
P. O. Box 15292
Chevy Chase MD 20825

• **Kathleen Moore** (65-66) sent a notice she had come across in a local (Minneapolis) education newsletter which reported the First Oromo Studies Association Conference on "Reclaiming the Past and Charting the Future," held during August at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. Topics included Oromo culture and related issues in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, with preconference seminar topics being on women's and educational issues. The contact person was: Dr. Ismail Abdullahi, University of southern Mississippi, Southern Station Box 8888, Hattiesburg MS 39406.

The notice also told of an August meeting and celebration of Oromo

culture by the Congress of the Union of Oromo in North America. Contact person: Abraham Abaye, Union of Oromo in North America, Minnesota Chapter, P. O. Box 14301, Minneapolis MN 55454.

• **Alter-Cine'** has produced four films shot in Eritrea. The *HORN OF AFRICA TRILOGY* was photographed from 1985 to 1991 and focuses on the dominant crises of the times, and *WINNING THE PEACE* is the first documentary shot in Eritrea after the liberation and looks at the challenges of reconstruction. The films are not cheap, but perhaps a group of people would be interested. Contact:

Alter-Cine'
5371 Esplanade
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H2T2Z8

... what you can do for your (Peace Corps) country

- *This just in from Wayne Kessler (see cover story).*

On my recent trip to Eritrea, I visited five elementary and secondary schools and the University of Asmara. All of them had been looted by the Ethiopian army so that virtually no textbooks were left and the libraries were empty. I saw teachers without reference books, students without textbooks. The teachers faced 70 students for four hours with few notes and no books or papers. All they had was a piece of chalk to use on the blackboard.

In California, discarded textbooks are taken to landfills. But, in Shasta County we have begun a collection of these discarded books so as to fill a shipping container (7'x7'x20') and send it to Eritrea. Students and teachers at donating schools will have an opportunity to send letters with the books to start correspondence between schools here and there.

The Education Office of Hamasien Division has agreed to receive and distribute the books. Here, we have the support of the County Superintendent of Schools, local RPCVs, and the Eritrean Relief Committee.

We need:

- more sponsors
- monetary donations
- advice on low-cost shipping (through helping agencies?)

Please call me at 916/223-4292 or 916/223/4707 (which has an answering machine).

- The Eritrean Relief Committee, Inc. is an independent, non-profit relief and development organization that assists Eritrean victims of drought, famine, and war in the Sudan and in Eritrea. It works through an indigenous non-governmental agency named the Eritrean Relief Association, which is headquartered in Khartoum, Sudan, and delivers supplies across the border from Port Sudan into

Eritrea. ERC has volunteer branches in 34 cities throughout the U. S. Contributions are tax-deductible. ERC also publishes a newsletter. For more information write:

Eritrean Relief Committee
475 Riverside Drive, Rm. 907
New York NY 10115

The Eritrean Relief Association is strengthening its offices around Eritrea and needs new and used computer equipment — both Mac and IBM/compatibles. Macs must be SE or above to handle software prepared for local languages; IBMs, XT, AT, 286, 386 486. If you can help, call the ERC at 212-870-2727.

- Tillers International (founded by Richard Roosenberg — RPCV, Benin), whose defining line is "Basic Technologies for Self-Reliant Rural Development" has begun the Partners in Eritrean Development Project to support agricultural development and education in Eritrea. Funds donated for the project will be restricted to "collection and shipment of books to Eritrea, training of Eritreans in Kalamazoo, sending Tillers publications to Eritrea or sending staff or volunteers to Eritrea to assist with training, research, or development there." Among those on the organizing committee is Warren Fritz (63-65). For more information contact:

Tillers
5239 South 24th Street
Kalamazoo MI 49002
Attn: Eritrea Project
616/344-3233

- Earlier this year the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, Inc. held a fundraiser in that city. Proceeds were primarily for the organization's Reception and Placement Service which works with refugees during their first crucial month in the U.S. If you would like to make a donation, write them at 4750 North Sheridan, Suite 249, Chicago IL 60640.

- *This from Rusty Miller Rich (62-64)*

Celebrating the Ethiopian New Year with fellow RPCVs Joseph Ciuffini (Harar 64-66) and his wife, Doane Perry (Uganda 66-69) and his wife, and Mekonnen Meshesha and his wife Sheila Nutt was a great welcome to the Boston area. We feasted on authentic injera and watt and the home of Mekonnen and Sheila.

While visiting with Mekonnen, I learned that he is head of the Ethiopian Family Center in Boston. The Center helps Ethiopian refugees: settle in the area, find housing and jobs, deal with family and school problems, and cope with adjusting to an unfamiliar culture, and by providing TESOL tutors for home study.

The Center wants to expand its classes including crafts classes, and aid Ethiopian women by starting a catering business for Ethiopian food.

In addition, the Center would like to organize short-term contracts — from 2 weeks to 6 months — to bring experts to Ethiopia to work in the areas of health, education, engineering, human services, and management. The Center has full Ethiopian government cooperation for this human service endeavor.

Mekonnen's hope is to tap the resources of RPCVs. If you wish to lend your expertise, your support, or your assistance in helping Ethiopian refugees in the Boston area, or in helping to rebuild Ethiopia, please contact:

Mekonnen Meshesha
Ethiopian Family Center
114 Clarendon Street
Boston MA 02116
617/424-9305

or

Rusty Miller Rich
26 Leighton Road
Wellesley MA 02101
617/237-6156



RPCV '93, Annual Conference

UC BERKELEY & the San Francisco Bay Area
July 1 - 5, 1993

The Northern California Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers is pleased to invite RPCV's, their family and friends to the place where dreams of global peace are not forgotten--on the lively campus of the University of California at Berkeley.

THE PROGRAM

Saving our Global Village, its People, its Environment, is the urgent and very compelling theme for 1993. Emphasis for our RPCV Annual Conference will be on the renewal of goals and reconnecting, with a practical how-to-get-involved guideline to take back to our own communities. Through caring and sharing, RPCV's can once again make an impact and further evolution from ME to WE. The 1993 Conference will also be a time for reuniting with friends, exploring opportunities at a Career Fair, and enjoying an International Bazaar with irresistible entertainment.

THE PLACE

The SAN FRANCISCO BAY Area has been voted the # 1 tourist destination in the world, not only for its numerous attractions and its naturally air-conditioned climate, but also for its involvement with deeply felt concerns. Berkeley and the Bay Area is a giant community of international mini-villages where people of very different cultures live and work together in creative harmony. It is a watershed, physically with its spectacular yet fragile environment, and spiritually as a prototype of the turning point toward the larger global village that needs our urgent attention.

P.S. It's fun and exciting, too!



RPCV '93 MAILING LIST. We welcome your interest and participation, and want to alert you to special *early bird* airfares and other good deals as we develop them. To receive this information, please complete and mail, phone, or FAX the coupon below to:

George Ramstad, RPCV 93 Registration **TEL: 510 934-3592 [message]**
1026 Elsinore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602 **FAX: 415 397-2397**

RPCV '93 - MAILING LIST.
 Please mail to George Ramstad, RPCV Registration, 1026 Elsinore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602.
 Also put me on the special RPCV '93 Mailing List. I am particularly interested in:

REUNIONS: Host Country _____ Years _____ CAREER FAIR
 EXHIBITS AIRFARES PRE-and-POST ACTIVITIES
 HOTELS: BERKELEY or SAN FRANCISCO

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 RES TEL: (____) _____ BUS TEL (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

Wondering what happens to your \$15 dues?

To date, dues have been used:

- to photocopy and mail *THE HERALD*.
- for subscriptions to two newsletters and RPCV/CARE (a legislative alert network) which are news sources for *THE HERALD*.
- for payment of the affiliation fee to the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.
- to pay small bank charges necessary for maintenance of a checking account.

Pending the decisions of the Steering Committee which will plot the direction of Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs, the balance will remain in the bank.

Printed on recycled paper

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs Steering Committee

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The Herald

Editing, design & production — Marian Haley Beil (62-64)
Contributing — Dick Lipez (62-64), Wayne Kessler (64-66), David Arnold (64-66), John Coyne (62-64), Frances Fisher LaCroix (62-64), Rusty Miller Rich (62-64), Russ Scoville (62-64)

THE HERALD wishes to thank the contributors for their efforts. They are greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Ray Capozzi (62-64) who contributed the printing of the newsletter.

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

Keep The Good Feeling!

The Boston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are selling "Bringing the World Back Home" T-shirts and sweat shirts as a Third Goal Projects fund raiser

ALL 1961-91 PEACE CORPS
HOST COUNTRIES ARE LISTED ON
THE BACK OF THE SHIRTS

Send This Form And Your Check Payable To:
Boston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
P.O. Box 364, Brighton, MA 02135



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Sm _____ Md _____ L _____ XL _____

ADULT T-SHIRT QUANTITY _____

2-4 _____ 6-8 _____ 10-12 _____ 14-16 _____

CHILD T-SHIRT QUANTITY _____

Sm _____ Md _____ L _____ XL _____

ADULT SWEAT SHIRT QUANTITY _____

T-SHIRT QUANTITY _____ x \$10.00 = _____
SWEAT SHIRT QUANTITY _____ x \$15.00 = _____

SUBTOTAL _____

POSTAGE \$3.00

GRAND TOTAL _____

**\$1.00 of the price of each shirt
ordered with this ad will go to
ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs**

The pre-shrunk 100%
cotton T-shirts and the
50% cotton sweat shirts
are blue. The world, the
dove, and the words are white.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

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

Address correction requested