

The HERALD

Spring 1994 — Number 11

A publication of Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs, an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association

Introducing enCORPS

by Jack Prebis (62-64)

Inside

About enCORPS Director Leo Cecchini	2
A great response	3
News from the Horn	5
August 9, 1962	6
Updates	
The Twos	7
Joe Bell	7
Thirst for Learning	7
A Volunteer from another country	7
The Kessler File	8
Peace Corps update	9
The Atlanta conference	10
National Peace Corps Association	12
E&E RPCVs	12
For your information	13
Friends	14
Lost & found	14
A poem by Margaret Szumowski	15
From our mail	16-18
Steering Committee	19
To volunteer in Eritrea	20
Book Notes	20

BY NOW YOU SHOULD HAVE received Wayne Kessler's description of the new project we are working on. It was accompanied by a short questionnaire asking about your interest in returning to Ethiopia or Eritrea next year or later on a short-term assignment. Placements would take advantage of the professional and other skills you have gained since your original Peace Corps tour.

Our project, now titled enCORPS (with the subhead "Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Serving Again") is the one Leo Cecchini proposed in the Fall, 1993, No. 10 issue of THE HERALD. I'll briefly outline the project here and add to Wayne's letter:

enCORPS will be affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). This relationship will enable the NPCA to fulfill a desired goal to expand its efforts to the international sphere. It also will provide enCORPS with a certain level of administrative support.

The project will recruit skilled returned PCVs to work on development

programs in their countries of original service. Tours will vary in length, ranging from one to twelve months (in most cases), depending on country need and former Volunteers' availability.

In addition to working directly with host government agencies, returned Volunteers may:

- Support new or existing Peace Corps projects as trainers, technical advisors, project developers or evaluators.
- Develop other personnel resources, including host country expatriates, with sought-after skills in science, education, business development and other fields.
- Act as co-workers for private or public sector retirees or Federal employees on "sabbaticals" serving as a natural link with community and culture, helping those unfamiliar with the country get settled and be productive early in their assignments (avoiding "culture shock" to the extent possible).

Continued on page 2

Introducing enCORPS

continued from page 1

We intend that these undertakings will create lasting local capabilities. (In current AID parlance, it's called "sustainable development." We all know there's been too little of it in the past.) You know, too, that the needs abound — among them are teacher training, curriculum development, public health, housing, women's issues, water resources, and child development. Other potential programs are in small business development, reforestation, agriculture and personnel/civil service management. Many returned PCVs have the training and experience to do highly competent work in these and other areas of need.

We will launch this effort slowly. Eritrea is likely to be where we launch our first project. In fact, Wayne Kessler already has had informal discussions with the Ambassador and various ministry officials and they are quite receptive.

When the Peace Corps' Eritrean project moves ahead (see page 9), there are prospects for mutual support.

After evaluating the results of the first project, we intend to expand enCORPS. However, we intend to maintain a healthy respect for that major hurdle called funding. Because we feel it is important to pay returned Volunteers a reasonable stipend — \$2,550–\$3,000 per month is the target — to cover family and other obligations while away, we don't expect to operate on a shoestring. But that's the rub: we cannot depend on sustained Federal funding; priorities change too frequently. Foundation and corporate donors have limited attention spans, as well. For the early haul, however, we will pursue these sources.

We'll also look at other means of project support. For example, we

could provide the larger NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) with some of the skilled staff they need for their own pursuits. This approach would allow us to ride on the NGO's established in-country administrative mechanisms and reduce costs.

I've met with folks at various levels of the Peace Corps. They are enthusiastic, and see a number of possibilities for formal or informal collaboration. But, before enCORPS submits funding proposals to AID or any foundation or corporation, we need a much better-defined picture of priorities and interests in Eritrea, and Ethiopia as well. Thorough on-site discussions with ministry officials, AID staff, and other NGOs are an essential next step.

In July, following his return from Namibia, Leo Cecchini (see sidebar) will take up the duties as Director of enCORPS and will move forward with these discussions and the implementation of the program.

And for the other half of the equation — your replies to the questionnaire are very important. They will help us build a database through which we can match country needs with RPCV skills. Even if you are unable to take time from your current pursuits to "volunteer" again, we would very much appreciate getting your ideas on the enCORPS concept, as well as any suggestions on project operations.

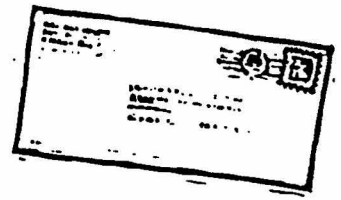
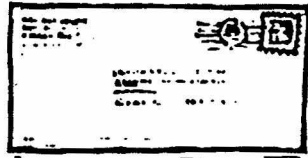
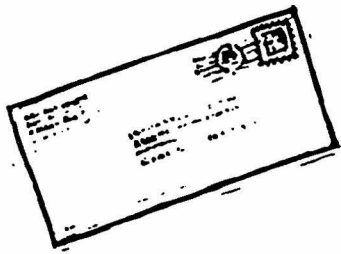
Jack Prebis (62-64, staff/Ethiopia 65-67) devoted considerable time following his retirement as chief financial officer of the Office of Personnel Management [formerly the Civil Service] in January to helping E & E RPCVs launch enCORPS.

About enCORPS Director Leo Cecchini

Leo (62–64) served as a diplomat with the U. S. foreign service for twenty-five years. Since retirement from the government, he has had success as managing director of an American joint venture in Turkey and currently his business activities include "establishing new black-owned companies in South Africa, bringing new foreign investors to Mozambique, doing financial viability and self sustaining analyses for development projects, establishing a joint venture with a South African research organization to provide strategic positioning for foreign entrants into the 'New South Africa,' and advising the Mauritian government on further development of its free port."

Leo writes from Namibia (where his wife is completing a tour of service with the State Department), "I look forward to making (enCORPS) a rewarding experience for former Volunteers who want to serve again. I'm sure you watched President Clinton's 'Global Town Meeting' on CNN where the subject of aid for Africa was discussed. 'Donor fatigue,' focus on domestic problems, and attention on Eastern Europe all act to reduce US aid to Africa. Perhaps enCORPS with its Peace Corps aura can help turn this situation around and maintain a steady flow of assistance to the most needy continent."

Come to the RPCV'94 Conference in Atlanta to meet Leo and learn more about enCORPS.



WE'VE HAD A GREAT RESPONSE ALREADY . . .

. . . but keep those cards and letters coming

To date, nearly 300 Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs have returned the survey postcard expressing their interest in working again in these countries as part of enCORPS. Both the enthusiasm and the skills represented present exciting possibilities for future programming. Many RPCVs included comments, questions and ideas that are valuable to our planning process. We would like to share many of these with you and, where necessary, respond in order to keep you as informed as possible.

We continue to welcome your comments, and if you find ideas here that you would like to help the Steering Committee explore please contact us. This is a program that can thrive with your help and encouragement.

→ I would very much be interested in participating in . . . possibly the continuation (of the project) of American schools adopting Eritrean schools to help with money, books, supplies . . . — Lewis Lennon (62-64)

→ I would suggest you consider a teacher and student exchange program. — Ed Engelbart (65-67)

→ There may be ways for some of us to be of assistance before and after in-country visits. It makes sense to set up

an Internet Bulletin Board to exchange needs, ideas and interests on an ongoing basis. — Scott Morgan (64-66)

→ Perhaps those of us who are restricted to our U.S. homes at this time could be tapped for a domestic support infrastructure. Perhaps something akin to the PC infrastructure in Washington. With telecomputing, we could be spread out & still work together. — Barbara Standley (66-67)

→ There were large, successful food-for-work tree planting projects around Makelle — Are such projects being considered? Is eucalyptus plantation work around villages still going on — I can see a need for fuel supply and building materials from well done plantations and agro forestry. — Bill Hasse (72-74)

While initial plans for enCORPS will focus on the development of projects in the areas of education and health, we have received responses from those with fine skills in such areas as agriculture, forestry and water resources and we hope that we will some how be able to enable these people to share their talents in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

→ With the U. S. drawdown in Europe have you requested help with obtaining materials for schools that are being no longer used [in closing dependent schools]? — Michael Brand (66-68)

→ You might contact respondents by phone. — Jon Ebling (62-64)

The postcard was meant to be an initial assessment tool only. When we get to the stage of looking for specific skills for specific projects, we will make direct contact with those who have indicated potential appropriate skills.

→ A great idea! but a small postcard to collect data? — Joseph Ciuffini (64-66)

See previous comment.

→ Help w/businesses can be done face-to-face then by fax. Ideas for development can be started and appraised by fax. This sounds like a good program but to get good results you'll need solid preparation, in-country training and lots & lots of follow-up. — Carl Dean (68-70)

→ Ethiopia and Eritrea both need restoration and preservation of native plant communities. Over-farming, -grazing, and -wood cutting can and have lead to tragedy. — James Hodapp (67-69)

→ There is much rebuilding to be done; scarce resources limit options. Commercial and industrial development should focus on comparative advantage for coffee, hides, food-stuff (including sugar). — Dave Gurr (62-64)

Continued on page 4

Great response

continued from page 3

→ How is this effort related to this July's visit by Volunteers to Ethiopia and Eritrea? Where's the coordination? — Sam Greer (66-68)

Joe Bell's plans for this summer are for a onetime, traveller paying, trip which will hopefully include an opportunity for service or site-evaluation (which would be of help to the Peace Corps as it plans its reentry into Ethiopia and Eritrea) for each traveller. enCORPS is being planned as a long term program that would send RPCVs to Ethiopia and Eritrea as professionals whose expenses would be fully paid via contracts obtained from agencies and organization such as USAID.

→ These kinds of interventions require careful preparation and start-up. Participants must have a handle on context, on linkages to before & after their presence, and on their "fit" to existing structures /activities/ individuals. In some ways, the shorter the assignment, the more important these concerns. Historical experience & good will alone don't cut it! — David Levine (64-66)

→ I would suggest a program of public school music similar to our programs in our own schools here in the U.S. — the fundamentals are basic and easy to learn, and choral performance is enjoyable to performers as well as listeners. — Olivie Lexine House Weeks

→ Make sure all of Ethiopia gets aid; not just Eritrea! — Frances Fisher LaCroix (62-64)

→ What about work in Ethiopia? This group represents that country as well. — Sue Hoyt Aiken (62-64)

Projects for both countries will be pursued with vigor. Our initial contacts have been with Eritrea because safety seems to be less of a concern there at this time and ministry

officials have expressed strong interest in our program.

→ I'd like to have the needs as closely defined as possible to ensure I really can help, can be effective. — Ted Thompson (64-66)

That certainly is our goal!

→ Suggest you approach RPCVs and foundations/USAID with proposal for matching funds/seed money. Focus should be on providing funds for volunteers currently in Eritrea to use on projects. — Donald Holm (65-67)

→ The arts should not be overlooked or considered a frill in the rebuilding of a country. They also are a substantial economic force. — James Heckman (73-75)

→ I'm active in Friends of Tanzania as well — would love to hear how this works out as a model that might be copied there. — John Hatch (71)

We certainly hope that other RPCV groups will be interested in similar programs. The Friends of Liberia has had success a similar project for several years (and won an award at the RPCV '93 Conference for their efforts). At RPCV '94 in Atlanta there will be a presentation on how groups can become NGOs (Non Government Organizations). Additionally, Leo Cecchini, enCORPS Director will be there to talk with any and all about our efforts.

→ Can my spouse (partner) travel with me? — many

If both members of a couple have skills that can be utilized in a project, they would certainly be considered for assignment. Because one of our goals in the design of the program is to be conservative in our expenditures in order to make very competitive bids for contracts, un-contracted spouses would not be supported.

→ What about taking children? — Stephen J. Foehr (65)

The costs to support dependents would be so great for short-term contracts (travel, medical, insurance, etc.) that we are not planning for accompanying dependents.

→ Interesting idea but remember "you can't ever go back" — what is the past is not the present. — Anne Gray Haynes

→ Can some kind of E-mail system be set up in Asmara for fast, cheap, and efficient communication and for continual updates regarding the situation in Eritrea.? — Cynthia Tse Kimberlin (62-65)

→ Have you looked at need for infrastructure assistance? technical education? — Gary Guazzo (62-64)

→ What about beginning the study of English in 5th grade? Roger Hartman, '66, began a "New Math" program in Ethiopia. Besides the basics, establish an art & music program for appreciation & development of indigenous culture. — Arthur Andersen (65-67)

→ Will the PC be restoring programs in Ethiopia? My 21 year old son is interested in possibly becoming a PCV. — John A. Woods (65-68)

According to current rumor, both Ethiopia and Eritrea (and Djibouti) will be receiving PCVs in 1995. Tell your son to contact the nearest PC recruiter. (For Madison, that would be in Minneapolis, phone 800-328-8282.

→ Will the committee study the new investment codes and inquire into private investment opportunities for both RPCVs and Ethiopians/Eritreans living abroad. Investment capital is extremely low in both countries at this time? — Bryan McClure (66-69)

→ Let's make sure we offer Eritreans what they need and can't do better themselves. — Norman Metzger

. . . and then there's our best rejection

Thank you for sending the request for information regarding my current status. I am currently unavailable for service in-country. My family status is such that it will be some time before I am able to serve in Ethiopia or Eritrea once again. My experience there was a tremendous one. It was the best job I have ever had. I was stationed in Adwa for my first eight months in a school agricultural project. I then was transferred to Jimma in the southwest where I built a small dam for a village water supply. I spent my final 20 months working in the Small Pox Eradication program in Wello province. I worked as far west as the Sudan and as easterly as the Danakil Depression near the Somalia border. I had amoebic dysentery four times, giardia five times, was bitten by a rabid baboon and had the entire rabies series, and finished off my tour with a severe bout of hepatitis. I wasn't bad at speaking Amharic, was survivable with Tigrean, and spoke some Gala. If I had it to do over again, I would probably boil my drinking water more than I did.

John Scott Porterfield (71-73)

News from the Horn

- Sadly, reports are coming in that there is potential for another catastrophic drought in late 1994 in parts of Ethiopia and Eritrea. The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa has reported that at least 10 million people face the threat of starvation in East Africa. In an article in the March 31, 1994 issue of *The Washington Post*, Jennifer Parmelee reported that 74 people died in February in Ethiopia due to starvation, and cholera deaths were on the increase. The drought, caused by poor or no rainfall plus infestations of locusts and other pests, has create a crisis in all of the Horn of Africa, including Kenya. Parmelee states "that even in a 'good year,' when bountiful rains produce a bumper crop, Ethiopia still needs close to 1 million tons of donated food to cover its 'structural

food deficit,' an amount only a little less than what was required during the great famine of 1984-85 that killed up to 1 million Ethiopians." The reason — a population explosion.

USAID has declared both Ethiopia and Eritrea to be in a "state of disaster"— official terminology which will hopefully generate an increase in funding.

- January 1, 1994 — Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki reported that Muslim militants crossed the border with the Sudan on December 16th in an attempt to overthrow the government and were repelled by the Eritrean military. Mr Afewerki said that there had been several similar attacks in the recent past.

Does the mailing label on this newsletter say "enCORPS" in the upper right?

If it does, this is a complimentary copy of THE HERALD sent to you because you expressed an interest in participating in enCORPS. If you would like to continue to receive THE HERALD you must join ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs. A membership form is on the inside of the back cover of this issue.

Ladies and gentlemen:

We are very glad to welcome you here to the White House.

This occasion gives me a particular sense of satisfaction to welcome 600 Americans from all parts of the country who have committed themselves to a great adventure, I think, for our country and more than our country, for really all people.

I think that by the end of this year we'll have more than 5,000 Peace Corpsmen, men and women of all ages, serving abroad in all parts of the world, in countries about which most Americans knew little 10 years ago, countries which we did not know existed 20 years ago.

This is an extraordinary action by this country, and I know that you are proud to take part in it. And I must say that it gives me the greatest satisfaction that it's taking place at this time.

I've been through the list of various areas to which you are going — Georgetown University, 307 secondary school teachers for Ethiopia. Perhaps those of you going to Ethiopia could hold up your hands. We have 2 medical doctors for Ethiopia included in that group. Now there are 11 teachers, nurses, auto mechanics, going to Afghanistan. Oh, they're not here today; they've *gone* to Afghanistan.

From George Washington University, 76 secondary and college teachers and agricultural extension workers for Nepal. Would they raise their hands? Very good.

University of Maryland, 48 secondary school teachers and agricultural workers for Turkey, and 36 teachers, at all levels, for British Honduras — you've got them sort of down at that end [indicating]. Nineteen secondary school teachers for Ecuador, 12 secondary school teachers for Venezuela.

And at Howard University, 29 rural development workers for Cyprus — is that better than going to British Honduras? I don't think it is — 22 English teachers for Togo, 20 medical doctors, nurses, and technicians for Togo, 9 fishermen for Togo, 7 English teachers for Niger, 6 English teachers for Senegal, 9 medical doctors, nurses, technicians for Sierra Leone — 613.

Well, I must say I wish that all Americans could hear that litany of countries that you're going to, your willingness to do it. And I hope that when you come back that we can persuade you to come and serve in the United States Government in other areas, particularly in the Foreign Service, in all of the areas, because I think the United States is so heavily involved in so many parts of the world. We are so in need of dedicated men and women of talent and experience, that I can think of no more significant recruiting ground than the Peace Corps for our future Foreign Service Officers, for those who represent our information services and aid agencies abroad. So I hope that you will regard this as the first installment in a long life of service in the most exciting career in the most exciting time, and that is serving this country in the sixties and the seventies. So we are very proud to have you here.

The White House belongs to all the people, but I think it particularly belongs to you.

NOTE: The trainees were introduced by Warren W. Wiggins, Associate Director for Program Development and Operations of the Peace Corps.

4 P.M. AUGUST 9, 1962

THE WHITE HOUSE

SOUTH LAWN

Remarks to a group of Peace Corps Trainees by President John F. Kennedy

UPDATES

THE TWOs

Planning continues for Ethiopia and Eritrea II Reunion '95

In March several members of the Ethiopia and Eritrea II Reunion Steering Committee met in Griffin, Georgia, to continue planning a reunion in Ethiopia and Eritrea tentatively scheduled for late July or early August of 1995. Response to a recent survey of Ethiopia and Eritrea II RPCVs was very positive, with several dozen individuals and families expressing strong interest in returning to Ethiopia and Eritrea for

the reunion. A second survey will be taken to determine more precisely how many RPCVs and family members will attend. Details are being developed regarding transportation and hotel costs, logistics and related matters. For more information, or to be placed on the information mailing list, contact Gloria Curtis, 6322 Allison St., Arvada CO 08884, (303) 422-3742.

The Joe Bell project

Joe Bell (69-71) writes that his plans to return to Ethiopia and Eritrea are set. He expects to depart at the end of June, and, following some stops along the way, to be in Addis the first week in July. Joe's itinerary in-country includes making the never-forgettable bus trip from Addis to Asmara. He plans to "do scoping and site analysis for future Peace Corps Volunteers." Joe will be taking with him a compact video cam [loaned by Karen Williams (69-71) who is a camerawoman with NBC] to record his trip. (Joe will make a presentation at RPCV '94 in Atlanta about his trip.)

Two other RPCVs, Andrew Martin (69-70) and Sam Greer (66-68), are also planning to make the trip to Ethiopia and Eritrea this summer.

Thirst for Learning

From a letter from Secretary John Rude (62-64):

"The first round of contributions enabled Thirst for Learning to make a contribution of \$3,000 to the Eritrean Ministry of Education, and to set up formal mechanisms for approving projects and transferring funds. The first funded project is a school clinic at Mendefera's St. George High School. TFL funds, matched by a government-funded nurse and electricity supplied by a wealthy Eritrean, now allow students to receive routine medical treatments and training in public health. . . . In response to the need of books, TFL is currently seeking an American publisher to print Eritrea's official textbooks."



A VOLUNTEER FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY

FROM A SIDEBAR IN *THE WASHINGTON Post* entitled "Spies and the CIA" accompanying an article about the current spy problem at the CIA —

"Edward Lee Howard, 42 grew up in New Mexico reading James Bond novels. He later became a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia and a CIA officer in 1981. Fired in 1983 for failing a polygraph test, he was accused in October 1985 of selling secrets to KGB agents in Austria. He turned up in the Soviet Union in 1986. There he lived in a brick dacha outside Moscow and a spacious apartment downtown. In 1992, he applied for a residence permit in Sweden but was turned down when police said he had continued to spy — even after the KGB's dissolution — for Russia."

The Kessler File

Every issue of THE HERALD seems to have a report about either Wayne or Laurie Kessler (64-66) and the good things they have been doing to help restore the educational system in Eritrea following the war. I felt they deserved a regular column in the newsletter. This time their son checks in with a letter to his parents on his activities since arriving in Eritrea this fall. Prepare for a blast from the past! Ed.

ERITREA 12/9/93

by Colin Kessler

FIRSTLY: HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Being with all of you is one of the few things that will be painful to miss. Having said that, it may be obvious to y'all that I'm having a terrific time here in Eritrea. The Eritrean people are almost without exception very friendly, the local food is delicious, the weather is pleasant, Asmara is very safe, the countryside is beautiful, and my work is very rewarding and exciting.

I am living here at the Teacher Training Institute in Asmara; this is also where I work. The institute is run by the vocational education branch of the Eritrean Government's Ministry of Ed. Middle school teachers, secondary school teachers, and school directors are trained here at various times; right now, we're training a fresh batch of primary school teachers-to be. I am sharing a spacious (even by western standards) house with another volunteer, Mark, from England. We each have our own rooms, there is a kitchen with a refrigerator, a bathroom with a flush toilet and a hot shower, and a large common room that we use for occasional dinner-parties and as our offices. Some other volunteers (from New Zealand, Britain, and the U. S.) and I have started a vegetable garden behind the house. Needless to say, I am very comfortable, and feel very much at-home.

I have been teaching for a month now. I have 197 students, divided into 5 classes to who I'm teaching the first-ever Introduction to Environmental Studies course. Because I am the first teacher in and the founder of the Env. Studies program here, I have had to develop my own curriculum myself from the ground-up. This has proven to be as rewarding as it is challenging; teachers here are highly valued as education is the government's highest priority, and I am additionally valued as an environmentalist (a nice change from the frequent defensiveness of Americans). Additionally, my students are mostly very intelligent and responsive. They also seem to like my teaching style.

As part of my course, I have developed and am coordinating an Eritrean Indigenous Tree Species seedling-nursery project. The idea is to produce a manual that can be distributed to primary schools, or primary school teachers. The manual will contain an index of some of Eritrea's tree species and a guide for the development of seedling nurseries in the schools. Currently my students are researching the trees for ecological characteristics and social benefits. In a week (or two) we will start planting the seeds of 5 different trees in our own pilot seedling nursery here at T. T. I. and the Ministry of Agriculture. This project is very exciting to me!

Recently I was asked by the head of the Vocational Training Department, Mr. Aynalem Marcos (who invited me here in the first place), to design a reforestation plan for the campus of a newly-constructed technical school for disabled fighters. I have only just started preparatory work on this, but I am nevertheless very excited and eager to visit the school. It is located in a beautiful town (which I've driven through) called Maihabar, which is near here. To me, this is a dream job; I'm very excited!!

On top of it all, I've started teaching English 3 evenings a week at a privately run school in Asmara — a paying job! Hopefully this income will enable me to climb both Mt. Kenya and Mt Kilimanjaro next summer. Otherwise, I get a modest 75 birr (U. S. \$10) stipend per month.

I've managed to visit the Merab River (on the Eritrea/Ethiopia border), Adi Quala, Mandefera, Decamare (site of the last, fiercest, and decisive battle in the war), Massawa (twice) on the coast, and Keren. I've been studying Tigrinya and am slowly learning to read and write, as well as speak it; hopefully I'll eventually achieve a margin of fluency. I've been taking a lot of photographs and have been writing in my journal quite a bit; when I get back to you all, I hope my scrapbook will be very complete.

THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR ERITREA HAS BEEN APPOINTED

At least he's an RPCV

The Peace Corps has selected the first Director to head up its program in Eritrea. He is Dennis King, who comes to this coveted position from the Carter Center in Atlanta. King holds degrees from Georgia State University and the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Cameroon and while with the Carter Center he worked in Ethiopia and Guyana.

During the last two weeks in June, King will head a programming team which will travel to Eritrea. The team will also include Sachiko Goode, Peace Corps desk officer for Ethiopia and Eritrea, and Dr. Aregai Teclé, Chairman of Thirst for Learning Foundation, (who many of you had an opportunity to meet at the RPCV conference in Berkeley in 1993).

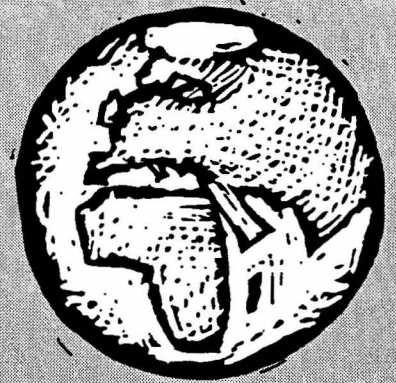
The new director is expected to arrive in Eritrea for permanent assignment in early September. The Peace Corps is currently planning to transfer in a small number of Volunteers from other countries as the first PCVs in Eritrea by the end of the year, and then add to that group with trainees specifically prepared for Eritrea, bringing to about 30 the number of PCVs posted there next year. Initial assignments will be primarily in the area of education.

You can help the Peace Corps grow

The House Appropriations Committee has recommended 1995 funding for the Peace Corps at \$219 million plus funding from a special allocation for the Soviet Union. This amounts to level funding from 1994. Write to the Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee to urge *them* to increase this amount to at least \$238 to enable the Peace Corps to expand to 8,000 Volunteers (half the number in the late 60s!).

Committee members include:

AZ Dennis DeConcini
CA Dianne Feinstein
FL Connie Mack
HI Daniel Inouye
IA Tom Harkin
KY Mitch McConnell
MD Barbara Mikulski
NJ Frank Lautenberg
NY Alfonso D'Amato
OK Don Nickles
PA Arlen Specter
TX Phil Gramm
VT Patrick Leahy, Chairman



Peace Corps programs - what's hot, what's not

OPENING:

Eritrea — the country director has been appointed and will be in-country.

Ethiopia — definite for 1995

South Africa — very likely, but no documents have been signed yet.

Cambodia — a distant possibility.

RECENTLY SUSPENDED:

Argentina, where there were programming difficulties.

Sierra Leone, where there is a general decline in order and services.

Yemen, where there is guerilla warfare.

COME TO THE ANNUAL RPCV CONFERENCE

Atlanta — July 28 and July 31

Mickey Feltus (62-64) has volunteered to be the coordinator for ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs at the annual conference in Atlanta July 28th to 30th. (Thanks, Mickey.)

The conference will feature speakers including Peace Corps Director Carol Bellamy, Solicitor General Drew Days III (Honduras 67-69) and, giving the send-off for Volunteer Day, Eli Segal, Director of the Corporation for National & Community Service. There will be six options to choose from if you would like to participate in Volunteer Day. Program topics will include "Changing Careers after 50" (and even if you're a little under 50 I'm sure you can attend), "How to get a job at Peace Corps," "Becoming a Non-Government Organization to Assist you Country of Service" (the panel will include Leo Cecchini), plus a variety of presentations focusing on diversity, the theme of the conference.

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs will have a booth at the Grand Bazaar (which will be open Friday noon to 9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) for meeting, and greeting and will be a message center for all Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs. Members of the Steering Committee and Leo Cecchini, the Director of enCORPS, will be at the booth to explain that program and explore how you might participate. (They will not be there during planned E&E RPCVs activities.) Be sure to stop by early and often.

The afternoon of Friday, July 29th there will be a meeting of ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs. The program will

include a brief business meeting, a discussion of enCORPS and a presentation by Joe Bell, who will have returned from Ethiopia and Eritrea just the day before.

That evening our group will have a social gathering to enable you to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones. To learn the specific times for these two group activities, come to the Grand Bazaar booth between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Friday.

A very generous invitation from Len Orzech (62-64)

"Denise and I would like to extend an invitation to E&E RPCVs to stop and stay at our home in Raleigh (actually closer to Durham) to/from the National Conference in Atlanta. We are only 15 miles from I-85, the route from the Northeast to Atlanta. The drive Raleigh/Atlanta is about 7 hours."

If you would like to call to plan a visit with the Orzechs, their phone number is: (919) 846-8777.

Put yourself in this picture!



THE 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of the National Peace Corps Association

REGISTRATION: Fill out a separate form for each person and mail to Atlanta now

Name _____
last first middle initial

Country of Service _____

Dates _____ Volunteer Staff Other: _____

street address _____

city _____ state _____ ZIP _____

day telephone _____ home telephone _____

profession _____ employer _____

school (if student) _____ major _____

vegetarian

Describe any physical and/or medical conditions requiring special arrangements:

In case of emergency contact: _____
name telephone

Childcare: no. of children _____ ages _____

Check optional activities in which you will participate:

Thursday

- Reconnect workshop
- Influence foreign policy workshop
- Special Interest Meeting: _____
topic/country
- Opening reception

Friday

- Special Interest Meeting: _____
topic/country

If you want to participate in Volunteer Day choose one of the following:

- Habitat for Humanity
- Our House
- World Map
- The Atlanta Project
- Health Education
- Project Open Hand
- Community Kitchen
- Smoking Needle
- Pollution Control

Jam: attend perform

Saturday

Dance

Mail this form with your payment before July 15 to:

AARPCV 1994 Conference
c/o Martha Harich
1164 DeLeon Court
Clarkston, GA 30021
tel: 404 296 5284

For other information, call Jill Diskan, NPCA, 202 293 RPCV,
or Susan Caster, AARPCVs, 404 753 2558.

FEES:

 check applicable fees and indicate quantity

REGULAR: postmarked by June 30

NPCA member * \$125

LATE: postmarked after June 15; at the conference
NPCA member* \$160

*RPCVs who are not members of the NPCA, please \$15

add \$15. Or, if you join the NPCA, indicate that you are \$35
paying \$35 for a year's membership in addition to
the NPCA member registration for the conference.

GUEST FEE: Spouse, family member, etc. \$95

OPTIONAL FEES:

Thursday

City Tour \$18

Stone Mountain \$10

Saturday

Barbecue: adults \$10

children (12 & under) \$5

Sunday

Walk/Run for Peace \$10

Official conference T-shirt \$12

Quantity _____ Sizes: _____

- Wear name tags received at conference as proof of payment.
- Returned volunteers enduring economic hardship may write for discount considerations.
- Refund Policy: Requests for full refund (less a \$20 handling fee) must be received before July 15. Refunds will be made after the conference.

Please calculate your total and choose payment method:

1. Check payable to AARPCV 1994 Conference in amount of:

\$ _____

2. Credit card: MASTER CARD VISA

Name _____

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Amount to be charged \$ _____

Signature _____

Housing

The Omni Hotel in downtown Atlanta is located in the CNN Center and is on the MARTA, the city's efficient public transit system. Accommodations are excellent and rates are reasonable. Country of service and reunion groups may want to rent hospitality suites for private parties. Call 800-THE-OMNI no later than June 29 to make reservations. Rates: \$69/night single or double; \$79/night, triple or quad. Room deposits are refundable up to July 15.

Transportation

WorldTak Travel will handle airline reservations at a group rate with guaranteed lowest fares. Call 800-243-1723.

Arrival details:

date _____ time _____ airline _____ flight no. _____

We will send instructions about how to get to your Atlanta accommodations with your registration confirmation.

July 28-31, 1994 in Atlanta, Georgia

News from the National Peace Corps Association

NPCA has moved

The National Peace Corps Association has moved its offices. The new address:

1900 L Street, NW, Suite 205
Washington DC 20036

Their phone number is 202-293-RPCV, and fax number is 202-293-7554.

They are now just down two blocks from the Peace Corps (at 1990 K Street). When in DC why not visit both.

NPCA projects underway

• ACTION has agreed to provide the National Peace Corps Association with a grant for \$50,000 to plan and develop an early childhood immunization program. This program is to be a model for additional NPCA sponsored service programs. Initial project sites include Peekskill, NY; El Paso, TX; Washington, DC; Kern County, CA and Seattle, WA.



- Re-Connect, a project to help recently returned Volunteers get jobs and connect with the RPCV community will focus on northern California, Cleveland, OH; Madison, WI; Connecticut and West Cascades, OR.
- A project to promote minority awareness of the opportunities associated with Peace Corps service will operate in northern California, Miami, FL; Washington, DC; San Antonio, TX and Chicago.

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA RPCVS/GROUP NEWS



THANK YOU, FRANCES

After serving as Chair of the Steering Committee of ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs since the organization began in 1991, Frances Fisher LaCroix (62-64) has stepped down from that post. We greatly appreciate her efforts in our start-up and during our "formative" years.

HELP NEEDED

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs is in need of a person (or persons) to take on the tasks of establishing the formalities of our organization. These include developing by-laws which can be presented to our membership for ratification and preparation of an application for nonprofit status. (The National Peace Corps Association can provide us with some guidance and sample documents for assistance with such tasks.) If you would be willing to take on either or both of these jobs, please contact Marian Haley Beil (address & phone inside back page).

FYI...

The following notices are reports of communications received by E&E RPCVs.
They do not constitute endorsements.

• Ethiopian /North American Chamber of Commerce being formed

Ethiopian, U.S. and Canadian business persons will meet in the Washington, D.C. area June 24–26 to establish the Ethiopian/North American Chamber of Commerce. Their goals 1) to promote and facilitate networking of North American and Ethiopian businesses; and 2) to promote the transfer of technology and business/management skills in order to aid the recovery of the Ethiopian economy. Business persons who support these goals are encouraged to become involved. The meeting dates are firm, but the exact location has not yet been determined. For more information contact Shlomo Bachrach [Staff 66–68], 318 South Citrus Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90036, (310) 201-2758.

• These publications are currently available from Human Rights Watch relating to Ethiopia and Eritrea. To place an order write to them at: 485 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10017-6104.

Freedom of Expression & Ethnic Discrimination in the Educational System: Past & Future (A501), 1/93. 9 pp., \$3.00.

Waiting for Justice: Shortcomings in Establishing the Rule of Law (A407), 5/92, 19 pp., \$3.00.

Evil Days: Thirty Years of War & Famine in Ethiopia (0383), 9/91, 416 pp., ISBN 1-56432-038-3, \$20.00.

Human Rights Crisis as Central Power Crumbles (A306), 4/91, 24 pp., \$3.00.

Mengistu's Empty "Democracy" (A305), 3/91, 14 pp., \$3.00.

200 Days in the Death of Asmara: Starvation as a Weapon (A232), 9/90, 15 pp., \$3.00.

Violent Suppression of Student Protest (A227), 8/90, 19 pp., \$3.00.

"Mengistu has Decided to Burn Us Like Wood": Bombing of Civilians & Civilian Targets by the Air Force (A226), 7/90, 27 pp., \$5.00.

• The following appeared in the *Kyoto Journal*, No. 24, 1993 as part of an article by Peter Riggs entitled "On Asia's Lucrative Sex Trade"

"Three years ago, at a U.S. Peace Corps regional conference in Manila, a group of women volunteers asked Peace Corps to take a stand on prostitution. Peace Corps reps are supposed to obey local laws, stay out of politics and drugs. . . but Peace Corps has always turned a blind eye to the male volunteers involvement in the lucrative sex trade, as long as it's away from their posts. Most of the male reps use the regional conferences as excuses to go whoring. The female reps demand provoked a firestorm. Bitches, spat one male volunteer, those bitches don't have any boyfriends at their worksites, so they think that *nobody* should be able to go out and have a good time. Male reps at the conference defended themselves by saying that they had *girlfriends* in Manila, and no one was going to tell them they couldn't see their girlfriends. Are you saying, asked the women, that if you pay someone to sleep with you, then she becomes your girlfriend? Aw, man, it's never so cut-and-dried, sure, she feels like your girlfriend, when you're moving through the rain-slicked neon city together. . ."

• The May 31, 1994 issue of *The Wall Street Journal* carried a page 1 article on Eritrea entitled "Postwar Promise: Africa's Newest Nation, Little Eritrea Emerges As an Oasis of Civility." Reporter Geraldine Brooks retold the usual history but also detailed why she felt the country has a bright future — an egalitarian society developed in the trenches, absence of corruption in the government ("You can't find anyone to bribe here," says a bemused American developer, Joseph Torrito . . .), a free-market economy, policies that prevent development of projects that will encourage rural migration and veterans of the war whose "sense of duty astonishes outsiders."

• Another front page article, this time in the March 31, 1994 issue of *The New York Times*, reports of the finding of "the first reasonably complete skull of the earliest recognized human ancestors after the split-off from the great apes" near the Awash River in northern Ethiopia in an area the *Times* refers to as "Ethiopia's arid badlands."

• The Southern Ethiopian Peoples Organization (SEPO) has sent Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs a paper entitled "Farewell to Arms" in which they call for peaceful negotiation rather than armed conflict to settle differences in Ethiopia and the establishment of a democratic dialog. For more information write: SEPO, PO Box 19125, Los Angeles CA 90019.

• *Focus on Africa* magazine ran an article entitled "It's Ours" by Max Bankole Jarrett detailing his visit to Eritrea as an observer during last May's independence referendum.

F R I E N D S

- The Peace Corps has announced that **WALTER MORRIS BAKER** (66-68) has been selected to be manager of its Dallas, Texas area recruiting office. Walter holds an MEd. from Harvard and a PhD. from Ohio State. He has previously held positions with the Peace Corps in Tunisia and Philipines.

- **BEULAH BARTLETT** (62-64) died recently. Beulah and her dear friend, Blythe Monroe were Ethiopia 1's most famous Volunteers. Following their retirement at the age of 65 from long teaching careers the "Two Bs" were among the earliest (and at that time considered to be among the most daring) Americans to hear that Peace Corps call. Their sweetness and professionalism had a wonderful effect on the group and they will long be remembered.

- **JOE CIUFFINI** (64-66) tends a "philatelic" library about Ethiopian and Eritrean stamps and postal history. He is always on the lookout for articles, etc. He will gladly reimburse you for photocopying and postage. If you can help, to contact him: 188 Cabot St, Newton MA 02158, 617-244-0463. On Internet its cpdw::ciuffini@dec.com

- On January 19, 1994 **MADILYN ENGVALL** (62-65) died from brain cancer. She was a science educator and coordinator of outreach at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. Memorial gifts may be made to the Hospice of Hampshire County, P.O. Box 1087, Northampton MA 01061; or to the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St., Amherst MA 01002-2597.

- **STEVE FARNHAM** (62-64) is running for state senate in Colorado.

- **DAVE GURR** (62-64) is the

Program Manager for ACTION for the early childhood immunization program grant that the National Peace Corps Association has received from that agency. This grant was reported in the last issue of The Herald. Dave has been with ACTION since 1977.

- Governor Mario Cuomo of New York recently appointed **LANGDON MARSH** (66-68) commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Langdon has been with the department on and off for about 20 years. According to the *Legislative Gazette* of February 28th, Governor Cuomo "has gotten it right." Fred LeBrun in the February 13th *Albany Times-Union* writes: "There's quite a paper trail on the easygoing Marsh's long, illustrious by sometimes bumpy career at EnCon, which shows him to be a man who did the right thing at the right time, every time. Including resigning, not once, but twice."

- **RUSTY MILLER RICH** (62-64) is hoping to be part of a delegation to Nicaragua in June. Called "the Baseball Delegation," participants will take baseball gloves. They will stay in a farming coop in Bocana di Paiwas.

- After many years in Saudi Arabia and visits to Kenya, Florida and New Zealand, **DARYLE AND DANNIE RUSSELL** (63-65) are off to Islamabad, Pakistan where Daryle will be the Superintendent of the International School of Islamabad.

- Did you know that **DAVID SEAL** (64-66) was on the Camp David negotiating team?

- **WILL SIEGAL** (62-64), a writer living in LA, has begin work on a "Peace Corps" novel set in Ethiopia. He reports that "it has been taking some rather strange twists and turns lately."

- The Pottstown (Pa.) *Mercury* reported on February 5th that Senator **HARRIS WOFFORD** had "nearly \$2 million ready for his 1994 re-election race." One potential Republican opponent had \$19,000; the other, \$116,000.

- A sad aspect of handling the enCORPS postcard mailing has been receiving notice of RPCVs who have recently died. They are **MARTHA GENTILI** (66-68), **MIMI RADMAN SANDS** (65-67), **CHARLES JONES** (62-64), and **LORRAINE BEAUCHESNE FIDLER** (68-70).

LOST & FOUND

When a query is received about an Ethiopia or Eritrea RPCV, the request is sent to that RPCV if we have his/her current address. Published are queries for RPCVs for whom we have no current information. Can you help?

Joel Schaffer (73-74) is looking for **Mary Stocksdale** (also 73-74). Joel and Mary both transferred to Liberia following their evacuation from Ethiopia. If you can help, contact Joel at 3843 Harvard Terrace, Skokie IL 60076, phone 708/675-8020.

Incident on the Gondar Road

by Margaret Szumowski (1963-75)

How many times we stopped
to let one of their cows go by.

We were on a bumpy road
crowded with peasants walking their donkeys,
prodding their cattle.

We were just getting past a crawl
and honking honking to let them know we were coming:
out of the blue an old man

walked into the path of our car and we hit him.
He fell down dead. Well, he wasn't dead,
of course not, just broke his leg.

We splinted it with eucalyptus,
hailed a truck took him to a clinic in Debre Berhan.
No one could have done more.

We didn't drive on
like some foreigners who are scared of peasants.
Marcia said his own people

would have left him there
under the feet of donkeys, his old bones
to heal crooked. The clinic was a joke,

empty cupboard, dirty sink.
We had to take him all the way to Addis Ababa.
He hadn't been to Addis since Mussolini invaded.

He remembered Mussolini
attacking the cavalry with tanks: he told us
Ethiopians defeated the Italians at Adowa.

Imagine that with their bony horses.
Anyway, you should have see the old man staring —
tall buildings, fast cars, women — he loved it all!

And we were out three hundred dollars:
they really socked it to us.
Because of that old man

we never did make it to the Blue Nile,
never did see the stone churches of Lalibella
nor the stelae touching the sky at Axum.

Continued pressure is probably needed

I was delighted to read the recent Fall Edition of THE HERALD, the newsletter of Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs. You and your readers might be interested to know that several Ethiopia RPCVs are resident in Addis Ababa where they are working with USAID and USIS. Both the Director of USIS, Dell Hood [62-64], and I [67-69] are RPCVs. My husband, Ron Bonner [67-69] our Education Officer, my Deputy, Walter North [73-75] and our Health Officer, Victor Barbiero, are the other RPCVs in the USAID Mission. All in all 4 of our 10 United State direct hire staff are RPCVs from Ethiopia — not a bad batting average. And others here are former PCVs from other countries.

We at USAID are working hard to put in place a program that will help a democratic Ethiopia to feed itself and to have smaller, better educated and healthier families. This is going to be a daunting task given the ravages of the Dergue era, Ethiopia's burgeoning population, the massive size of the structural food deficit and recurrent weather problems. A key ingredient to any success we might have is the active participation in our programs of Ethiopians who were educated by Peace Corps Volunteers. Interaction with these Ethiopians is a living testament to the positive difference that all of us made in the lives of so many Ethiopians. If the situation is indeed going to turn around much of the credit must go to that people to people, day by day, hands on human interchange typified by the Peace Corps experience in Ethiopia.

As you can imagine, when the fact of our background emerges in discussions with our Ethiopian colleagues, it

stimulates many happy reminiscences and questions. Once we get past the inevitable question, "Do you know Ms. X who taught in X in 19XX?," we are asked, "When will the Peace Corps return to Ethiopia?"

For the past few years, despite the best efforts of our Ambassador, it has been incredibly embarrassing and disappointing to have to tell people that there were no plans for the Peace Corps to return to Ethiopia. Fortunately, in the past few months there have been some signs that the Peace Corps Administration may finally be coming around. The recent visit of an assessment team and the appointment of people like Patti Garamendi [Associate Director for Recruiting and Selection, Ethiopia 66-68] and Chuck Baquet [Deputy Director, Somalia 66-68] to key positions on the Peace Corps staff augers well for a turn-around.

Nonetheless, continued pressure is probably needed to keep the ball rolling. For example, current thinking is that the Peace Corps might return in 1995 but the Ethiopians have asked for that schedule to be accelerated so that volunteers could arrive this summer. Anything that could be done to push the process forward would be very much welcomed by the Ethiopians.

Finally, I note that there is a possibility that several RPCVs may return to Ethiopia this summer. I would encourage any returnees to stop by our office to say hello. We would be glad to see you in Ethiopia and discuss ways that you might best help out.

All the best.

Sincerely,
Margaret Bonner (Dr.)
Director
USAID/Ethiopia

An update from an older PCV who was treated like an honored guest

My Peace Corps years in Ethiopia were 1973-75. I was there at the beginning of the Dergue and a few months after the military take-over.

My assignment was at the College for Teacher Education, a United Nation's project at Mexico Square.



Following my leaving Ethiopia I was a PCV in Chile, the Tongan Islands and Jamaica, all extremely interesting and rewarding but like most who have been to Ethiopia, I have been waiting to return.

During December, 1993, I did return as a guest of

Kotebe College for Teacher Education, the new name and site of the former

teachers college. When schools were reopened the college moved to Kotebe on the Asmara road and is now a boarding school with 1,000 students run by the Ministry of Education.

It was wonderful to find six faculty members who were my co-workers and I also had a reunion with one of the ALEM instructors who was my Amharic teacher during training. An additional reason for my trip was to meet Ethiopian staff and to get information about a project that I am

anticipating working with. Project Mercy was started by political refugees as a non-denominational charity to send clothing, etc. to The Sudan. Now that they have been allowed back, they are in the process of starting a school and health center in a small village near Butajira. The project moves slowly due to the difficulties of getting materials, etc. but if all goes as planned, I may return to work for a year or so, hopefully the last of the summer.

As one would expect, the attitude is very different than in 1975. I sensed a spirit of hope and getting on with life and especially the education of the children. The government schools are barely adequate and many are trying to get money to send the children to private schools.

There seems to be few guidelines for who can start a school — government permission is required but the main requirement seems to be a piece of land big enough to put up a building.

In Addis there is an attitude of wait and see. The self-appointed president promises to have general elections when a constitution has been formed. I sensed that many people were not too involved with politics and were working together, regardless of tribe; just relieved to have the fighting over and relieved that their children weren't taken into the military.

Although we were stopped for a "check" when driving to Debre Zeit, I was told it was to be sure no one was black-marketing coffee. There isn't restriction on traveling and people go to and from Eritrea.

I thought you might be interested in an update from an older PCV who was treated like an honored guest.

Good luck to enCORPS. Perhaps I will see you in Ethiopia. I tried to meet Margaret Bonner [(67-69), USAID director in Ethiopia] but believe she was on vacation as it was over the holidays. Several spoke of the good work that she is doing.

Sincerely,
Avis Johnson (73-75)

Disappointing that there is rarely any news of my co-volunteers

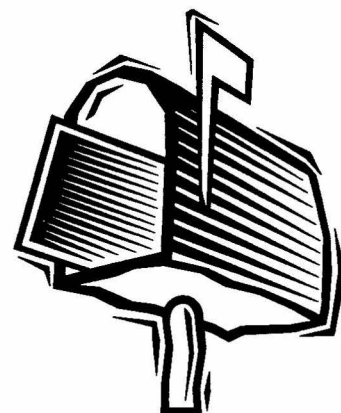
It is always interesting to know what others are doing today. Sometimes, it is rather disappointing that there is rarely any news of my co-volunteers in Ethiopia (1966-68); especially those who trained at Cambridge and served in Asmara.

As for myself I am presently a Benedictine monk living in a monastery in northwestern Arkansas. Because of that I am not able to get around to the reunions as I would like to do. But, I was able to get to the one in Fayetteville a few years ago.

Before entering the monastic life fifteen years ago, I was a teacher and librarian in Davenport, Iowa. Since being here I have studied theology in Rome for four years; have taught school and been a librarian; for three years I was the master of novices and am presently vocation director, guestmaster, and director of retreat. In my spare time I do some work with our development office.

I still correspond with a few of those who were in Ethiopia during my time Nick Maseo who served at the University in Addis died a few years ago.

Aaron (Chuck) Pirrera (66-68)



Regarding *enset*

Regarding *enset* article in the fall issue of THE HERALD [No. 10], a letter to Dr. Brandt.

Dear Dr. Brandt: I was interested to read in THE HERALD that the IRA [Institute for Agricultural Research] is sponsoring an *enset* workshop. To the list of *enset* virtues as a crop one should add a very important one: . Because one established it requires so little care, the *enset* grower has the time for non-agricultural pursuits. The principle ethnic people for whom *enset* is the main source of food are the Guragi, and not coincidentally the Guragi dominate (or did in 1973) the country bus services, the huge Addis Ababa market, and (as I recall) the transport of eucalyptus into the city. On a lowlier level, until the practice was outlawed, an Amhara wishing for someone to carry something he wouldn't dirty his hands with shouted "Gurage!" The cry was changed to "Coolie!" but it was still a Guragi who answered.

The Guragi entrepreneur shuttled between his land and family south of Addis Ababa, and his city pursuits. Very neat bit of anthropology cum

Continued on page 18

From our mail

Continued from page 17

geography and no doubt I am not telling you anything you don't know. But it was missed in the article.

As a PCV from 1971 to 1973 I worked as an editor for the IRA, with a Guragi counterpart. Under Dr. Dagnatchew Yirgou and Dr. Nasrat Fadda (FAO) we printed a lot of solid agricultural research data. I served as reporter for several country and inter-African conferences and wrote extensive reports. I have often wondered in the years since whether the IRA files survived the revolution and whether they are still being made use of. I wrote about this to an American (I forgot his name) who was proposing to do agricultural research in Ethiopia on some of the crops long studied by IRA/FAO stations throughout the country. I had the impression he thought he was pretty much starting from scratch. He expressed no interest. Perhaps you can relieve my mind.

Sincerely,
Don Pope (71-73)

An invitation to join

The Asmara Alumni Association is the "new" name of the Kagnew Station Annual Reunion that has been in existence for over 20 years. While most of our members are former Army, we also have dependents, Navy, Air force, State Department, Italians and Eritreans on our active roster of over 950. We publish a newsletter 4 times a year and have reunions on a yearly basis. This year it is Nashville on the 5th, 6th and 7th of August.

At the suggestion of a member, and several Eritrean relief groups, our Association has undertaken a school building project in Eritrea and we are actively seeking money from our members. The new government of Eritrea has stated that this school, grades K through 6, will be dedicated to all Americans who lived and worked in Eritrea, and a placard will be placed on the school stating such. At the present we have collected over \$1,000 towards this project.

Please pass our address on to your group.

They are welcome to join ours if they so desire, and if they would like to contribute towards the school, we (and the Eritrean children) would be most appreciative.

Very truly your,

Robert D. Wohlford, 1994 Chairman
(Asmara 59-63)
7415 Gresham Street
Springfield VA 22151-2910
703/256-3496; fax 703/941-6356



Ethiopian Commentator magazine available

About 20 PhDs from various disciplines and others contribute their time toward the publishing of the Ethiopia Commentator. None of us has a background in journalism; what we are committed to is simply cry out and speak from the heart on the horrors Ethiopia and Eritrea experienced under Mengistu. We also analyze the current metamorphosis in Democracy especially in Ethiopia, and present the overall state of the countries. Our magazine is published quarterly but effective next October, 1994, it will be published monthly.

We are very interested in the experiences and recommendations former Peace Corps Volunteers might have for Ethiopia and Eritrea. We would like them to write it up and share it with the rest of our readership. Moreover, the most senior authority in Ethiopia and Eritrea read our magazine, and what the former Peace Corps Volunteers have to say about what they saw in Ethiopia and Eritrea, both the strengths and weaknesses, could be valuable ideas that could potentially be adopted and could result in the transformation of the two countries. We really need to hear from former Peace Corps Volunteers.

The subscription rate for the Ethiopian Commentator for individuals is \$32.00.

Hailemariam Abebe
Managing Senior Editor and Publisher
Ethiopian Commentator
PO Box 1655
Portage MI 49081
616/373-1106, fax 616/373-1016

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs Steering Committee

Marian Haley Beil (62-64),
Newsletter Editor,
Acting Chair
4 Lodge Pole Road
Pittsford NY 14534-4550
716/223-1155, fax 716/223-1158

Susan Hundt Bergan (66-68)
7144 Parman Terrace
Madison WI 53711
608/264-6032

Leo Cecchini (62-64)
enCORPS Director
P. Bag 12029
Ausspannplatz
Windhoek Namibia
tel and fax: 264 61 228695

John Coyne (62-64)
99 Reed Avenue
Pelham Manor NY 10803
914/738-8212, fax 914/738-8211

Nancy Horn
704 Cherry Ln #107
East Lansing MI 48823-5509
517/355-7814

Wayne Kessler (64-66)
1291 Harpole RD
Redding CA 96002
916/223-4292

Paul Reagan (62-64)
P. O. Box 211
Staatsburg NY 12580
914/876-8705

Jim Solomon (63-65)
28484 Mission Blvd #304
Hayward CA 94544-4922
510/538-9889

THE HERALD

Editing, design & production — Marian Haley Beil (62-64)

Bulk mailing saint — Dennis Ekberg (62-64)

Those who have shared articles, ideas and efforts — John Coyne (62-64), Colin Kessler, Dick Lipez (62-64), Jack Prebis (62-64), Bob Matthai (63-65) Ted Thompson (64-66), Betty Zakarian (62-64) & Donald Beil (Somalia 64-66). *THE HERALD* wishes to thank them all. They are **greatly** appreciated.

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 Peace Corps Association membership)

\$15 If you are *currently* a paying member of the National Peace Corps Association

Make your check payable to:
Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

I would like work on

for Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs.

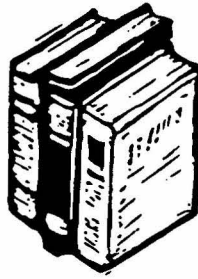
Please send to:

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs
c/o Marian Haley Beil
4 Lodge Pole Road
Pittsford NY 14534-4550

Would you like to volunteer do some ESL work in Eritrea this summer?

Laurie Kessler (64-66) will return to Asmara this summer to continue her work in ESL curriculum development and teacher training. If you would like to join her in these efforts she and her husband, Wayne (64-66), will be happy to help you in dealing with logistics and planning. (This independent effort is not part of enCORPS and each volunteer must pay for his/her own expenses.) Last summer Laurie recruited three ESL teachers to volunteer their time and expenses through an ESL teachers' newsletter. To contact Laurie for more information:

Laurie & Wayne Kessler
1291 Harpole Road
Redding CA 96002
916/223-4292



BOOK NOTES

GOING UP COUNTRY: TRAVEL ESSAYS BY PEACE CORPS WRITERS, edited by John Coyne (62-64) is now available at your local book store. Published by Scribners and costing \$21.00, *UP COUNTRY* has received positive reviews from *Kirkus Reviews*, *The Washington Post*, and *American Way* among others. Kathleen Coskran (65-67) is among the 13 featured essayists.

African Sun Publishing, whose motto is "Books for Peace and Democracy," has as a goal to help make Ethiopians more aware of their national history. For information on books they have available contact them at PO Box 21365, Oakland CA 94620, phone 510/658-0462.

On Wisconsin!

The University of Wisconsin/Madison is the leader in turning out Peace Corps Volunteers — 351 over the past seven years. Runners up: U of Minnesota, U of Washington, U of Michigan and UC/Santa Barbara.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

c/o Marian Haley Beil
4 Lodge Pole Road
Pittsford NY 14534-4550

Address correction requested

FIRST-CLASS MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID Rochester, NY Permit No. 912
