

The HERALD

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AND THE PEOPLE GATHERED

A report from Atlanta

by Ellen Shively (68-70)

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BILLED AS A GATHERING OF THE people, in celebration of cultural diversity, the NPCA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia fulfilled its promise. Former Volunteers and friends came together from everywhere. A few current PCVs on mid-service leave came. We were in all shades of earth colors. Some were noticeable in striped Bermudas and sandals. A few wore crisp shirts and tailored slacks — MBAs recently returned from the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] they explained. “Oh yes!” I thought, “City boys . . . times change.”

ON THURSDAY, a variety of offerings kept us mingling and studying the agenda. I chose a workshop focusing on how RPCVs, as advocates, can help shape assistance programs. Given a thought-provoking questionnaire, we learned that only one percent of the budget goes toward foreign assistance, and that the U.S. ranks 19th in capital outlay for foreign aid. The ensuing discussion made it apparent the people will change their opinions when they are more informed on a topic. Then, a panel of activists explained the political process.

Old friends were reunited at a reception that evening. It was heart warming to see

faces light up in recognition after 20 or more years. PC Director Carol Bellamy introduced herself all around, looked at name tags and commented on current PC activities in the country represented.

ON FRIDAY, the “Volunteer Day” activities included prefabricating some house frames, preparing meals for the homeless, work on the Lap Quilt AIDS Project, or helping at the Carter Center for the disadvantaged. Of course, the World Map was popular with the children. I sorted a pile of health education posters to be distributed for outlying health centers.

AT 2 P.M., one could choose a meeting for those desiring a second go-round as a PCV, attend a reception for minorities to give ideas to the PC and NPCA, or listen to a Korea PCV read Asian poetry. I went to the environmental group discussing how to meet the needs of all people keeping in mind the fact that the most affluent quarter of the population uses 70% of the world’s resources.

The Peace Corps regional updates included an overview of Africa — a continent in transition [given by Africa Regional Director Sandy Robinson]. The problems of the Peace Corps reentering

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And the people gathered

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countries were said to be many and the first consideration is safety.

LATER THAT NIGHT, I was pleased that many Ethiopian Volunteers had retained their conversation skills in Amharic and/or Tigrinya as we shared a large plate of injera and wat. I sat next to two nurses who had started my Dresser School in Eritrea. Small world.

THE NEXT MORNING at the convening session, a native American drummer and dance troupe gave us a blessing. They spoke of the extraordinary "energy" in the room. I felt it too.

The speakers were each RPCVs or former staff. Drew Days is now the U.S. Solicitor General. He described what he does—and it is not to be confused with the "No Soliciting" signs his children put up at his appointment. Delano Lewis, also a lawyer and former trustee of the American Negro College Fund (among many other achievements), told a great yarn about visiting a Volunteer in Nigeria where he was country director. The Volunteer gave him directions to his house: He told him to ask anyone for directions to the jail, as he live just across the street. Well this Volunteer was very successful in his village, so when Del got off the train and asked for directions to the jail, a villager instructed him to first go to this Volunteer's house and he would find the jail across the street! Del strongly feels that there is a challenge to bring about change, and the way is through better communications. He pledged that National Public Radio, of which he is CEO, will do just that.

Carol Bellamy received a standing ovation. She said we are a government agency that works, and spoke of long range plans to redefine our roles. She reminded us that international development takes time and must be build on trust. She pledged to continue working with the NPCA. From a prayer, she quoted, "Oh lord, your sea is so vast and my boat is so small."

A wonderful validation of the spirit of the group occurred. After a presentation on the work of CARE in Rwanda, the North Carolina contingent gave them a \$1,000 check and issued a challenge for the audience to match that amount. An oversized brandy snifter was then passed among the rows. The D.C. group matched the N.C. group and the N.C. group doubled their donation. When the smoke cleared, the take was \$7,500.

THE NEXT OFFERING I attended was on culturally appropriate successful family planning. Will Alexander of World Watch described Kerala, a region in southeast India which stands out as

The conference taught me that you can't go back, but that there are still plenty of places to serve today.

an example of a people in control of their lives. Girls are educated with the boys, and men are included in family planning. While other regions have discouraging reproduction statistics, Kerala is maintaining a steady population. They found that when women determine their own fertility, the rate goes down.

THAT AFTERNOON, I listened to the experiences of a Fresno RPCV who had participated in the NPCA's Early Childhood Immunization Project. Five NPCA regional groups are currently involved in this national health initiative.

THE DAY ENDED with a BBQ at the Atlanta Zoo, with a delightful bonus of watching three elephants cavorting in their sinkhole at the end of another hot day.

EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, I enjoyed the 3-mile walk/run for peace to the Martin Luther King Memorial and

Ebenezer Church, home of the civil rights movement.

HAVING BEEN SO IMPRESSED with the MBAs, I then attended a presentation to hear about Peace Corps in formerly communist countries. The country director described the early months in Kazakhstan where the president of the country knew nothing about the PC program coming. A PCV high school teacher in Poland brought his counterpart and they described their efforts to change the curriculum and teaching methods. A Volunteer from Albania described his experiences, stating that so much work was needed in putting together the infrastructure that teaching classes was not yet possible.

One could also have attended the sessions on building solar cookers, electronic networking, information on the UN Conference on Women and Development in Beijing in 1995, and how to apply for PC staff positions. One wonders why this one wasn't standing-room-only after this conference.

LATER AT THE AWARDS BANQUET, we were told that [former Peace Corps Director] Loret Ruppe is very ill and post cards were provided to send her a note.

The Madison, Wisconsin group won the Loret Ruppe Award for their international calendars. U.S. Representative Tony Hall was the recipient of Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service for his long-term commitment to fighting world hunger, including a 22-day hunger strike to protest the elimination of the Select Committee on Hunger which inspired the World Bank Hunger Conference.

The conference taught me that you can't go back, but that there are still plenty of places to serve today. Long live Martin, Bobby and John.

Reprinted from the San Diego Peace Corps Association newsletter, Sept-Oct 1994, with permission of the author.

See "And more about the Atlanta conference" on page 15



TIMES HAVE CHANGED

From *Selamta*, the in-flight magazine of the Ethiopian Airlines, in a section entitled "Ethiopia Travel Facts":

"Taxis — The taxis are luxury Mercedes limousines. They are stationed outside all the major hotels and at the airport. They have fixed rates and a receipt is given for the fare."



THE TWOs

Ethiopia and Eritrea II Reunion Steering Committee has selected July 5, 1995 for their departure for Ethiopia. They expect up to 200 people to participate in the reunion. Plans are for the group to be in country for three weeks. The reunion is only for IIs and those IIs who extended and completed their service with the IIs. For more information, or to be placed on the information mailing list, contact Gloria Curtis, 6322 Allison St., Arvada CO 08884, (303) 422-3742.

ENCORPS — A STATUS REPORT

by Leo Cecchini (62-64), enCORPS Director

enCORPS was introduced to the Peace Corps community at the National Peace Corps Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia this past July to an enthusiastic audience. The principal reaction was "How do we get our country of service involved?" With this in mind ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs Steering Committee members have spent considerable time in several meetings with NPCA staff in Washington to see how we may work together to give enCORPS a broader platform from which to operate. The NPCA said it may be able to locate funding to use in structuring enCORPS and planning a pilot project.

In a parallel action, the Steering Committee is pursuing projects in Eritrea and Ethiopia so as to not lose momentum while waiting for the NPCA initiative to bear fruit. Our work in cultivating the USAID mission in Ethiopia has paid off in that the mission's director, Margaret Bonner (67-69), has asked for project proposals from enCORPS, a request reiterated by USAID's desk in Washington. Steering Committee member Nancy Horn (66-68) and Jasperdean Kobes (62-64), two E & E RPCVs who are very familiar with contracting with USAID, have been asked to prepare project proposals that we can present to the desk officer. With the mission pulling for acceptance, we have a very good chance at landing these initial contracts.

Laurie Kessler (64-66) has recently returned from a working visit to

Eritrea where she developed with the University of Asmara a project that would provide badly needed intensive English language training to new students entering the university. She is writing to USAID's Eritrean desk officer to determine the best way to present this enCORPS project for funding by that agency.

While making a round of visits in Washington to promote enCORPS and locate potential contracts, I was pleased to meet with Gebre Selassie Mehreteab who had been Eritrea's informal representative in Washington before independence. Gebre Selassie told me that he and many from the guerilla forces remembered me from when I was the soccer coach at HSI Secondary School in Asmara. Hopefully lessons learned on the playing field were important in the struggle for independence.

I asked Gebre Selassie, who is a strong supporter of enCORPS, to press Eritrea's representatives in the U.S. and elsewhere abroad, as well as government officials in Eritrea, to insist that foreign development agencies use enCORPS to implement their programs in Eritrea.

Later in October I will be meeting with staff at United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and other UN organizations to present enCORPS. We have been informed that the UNDP is "looking for new development assistance ideas" — e.g. enCORPS.

UPDATE

From Joe Bell's report on his trip to Ethiopia and Eritrea

Joe Bell (69-71) travelled in Ethiopia and Eritrea this past summer with Andrew Martin (69-70) and Charles Greer (66-68). While in Ethiopia they interviewed government and non-government officials, educators and T. C. MITS.* They also gathered information and data from various organizations which look at the needs and current status of the social, economic and educational conditions in Ethiopia.

These items have been bound together into a book along with Joe's 23-page report. The book is available for loan to members of E & E RPCVs. If interested send a note to Marian Haley Beil (address on outside of newsletter).

Excerpts from Joe's report follow:

- We also conferred with Steve Schultz of the U.S. Embassy, whose responsibilities included being Human Rights Officer. . . . Among the particulars, we were told that the Embassy has received a number of reports alleging multiple human rights abuses and deaths resulting therefrom. After his investigation, Mr. Schultz indicated that the vast majority could not be confirmed and only five instances of possible abuses were known to him. On that basis, he concluded that the provisional government was not systematically mistreating the Oromos or any other ethnic or regional group of people.
- The China Bar is still in operation, but not recommended.
- Interviews were videotaped with three teachers and three administrators including the Director of the Addis Technical School near Mexico Square

* The celebrated man in the street!

. . . . The consensus of those we spoke to was that their priority needs were in the fields of teaching English instructors and trades instructors.

- We interviewed . . . an Ethiopian from Kombolchia who found us near the Piazza. He was well educated, spoke good English and had ended a merchant marine and navy career when the civil war ended Ethiopia's navy. His story was one of survival against all odds and hopelessness at his own unemployment with no apparent job in sight at present. He was one of what were estimated to be hundreds of thousands of out of work former military living in the Addis Mercato area.

- Dr. Margaret Bonner (67-69) [head of USAID/Ethiopia] predicted what we later concluded was true: the economic and social conditions in the country are now much worse than in the 1960s.

- The ministry of Education estimates that gross enrollment rates at the primary level have fallen to 22% as of 1991-92 and more than 50% of the enrolled students drop out before completing third grade.

- The FAO reported in May 1994 that by the year 2000, Ethiopia's population is likely to reach 66.76 million. Worse, the current national diet is severely deficient, a cause of widespread malnutrition.

- Our sources emphasized the need for environmental projects to restore the forests, which now cover less than 3% of the country

- . . . the educational system is totally inadequate with high school and even university graduates unable to communicate in English.

- We were told that only 40% of junior and senior secondary teachers are qualified for their positions. The Ministry of Education apparently believes that distance learning can play a major role in teacher training, but the resources to initiate a nationwide program are not present. Major problems faced by the distance learning program, according to our contacts, are: shortage of trained staff, weak administrative support, poor physical facilities, obsolete equipment and general lack of funding.

- There is insufficient space here to discuss at length the intertwined problems of high birth rates (+3%), low agricultural productivity, environmental devastation and pollution, inadequate transportation and communication systems, nascent political and governmental structures, lingering poor nutrition and disease, that presently confront the new governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

- In sum, the needs are so urgent for rebuilding of the social and physical infrastructure, almost any initiative will be welcomed by the governments and especially the people. Due to the efforts of Peace Corps Volunteers in the 1960s, the U.S. is now generally held in high esteem by the populace and officials of both countries. We must not fail to live up to the expectations earlier Peace Corps Volunteers created.

The Steering Committee is extremely grateful to Joe, as well as Andy and Sam. The information and observations they brought back for us all are a great help in our efforts to develop enCORPS. Thank you gentlemen!

SUMMER 1994 IN ASMARA

by Laurie Kessler (64-66)

WHEN I RETURNED TO Asmara in July, it was so familiar that it seemed like

only a month since I had last been there, rather than 11 months — the streets, the buildings, the weather were the same. But I was met by my own son and daughter! Colin had been teaching environmental studies at the Teacher Training Institute (TTI), and Joyanna Meherette had been studying in France and was visiting Eritrea to meet the Mhret she was named for — a friend since Wayne's and my Peace Corps service, 1964-66.

It was great fun to see my offspring within another culture and with friends from decades back who considered all of us family, to observe Colin's facility in Tigrinya and the ease of both in getting around Asmara. We had a whirlwind week of invitations before Colin left to climb mountains in East Africa and Joyanna returned to California.

Then I was alone, resident at TTI, in Colin's room for six weeks — quite a different arrangement from last year's room at the home of friends from Peace Corps time. During the final three weeks, I stayed with three families and enjoyed companionship, home-cooked meals, clean toilets and warm water for bathing. My hosts answered my questions — Why do children call to me as I walk by? Are they friendly? And they answered their friends' and relatives' question about why was I in Eritrea and

why was I in their homes. They answered, "We've known her and her husband for 30 years, so she's family."

Last year I had been invited by the Minister of Education to work in the Curriculum Development Institute; this year my offer to volunteer went unanswered. I went anyway and was welcomed to two teaching assignments: one in an intensive English course for 30 female fighters, the other doing oral English with 75 technical school teachers. The fighters were spunky, having grown up in the egalitarian culture of the liberation movement; they enjoyed discussing everything: proving virginity before marriage, environmental degradation, solar cooking, raising children in war time and family planning. The technical teachers included some older than I and many others who recalled fondly their Peace Corps teachers. Using various cooperative learning techniques, we got into issues of development and appropriate technology. I challenged them to open the window shutters, turn off the lights and save energy. I also suggested that they imagine their schools as centers for the study of solar energy and biogas technology. The closing ceremonies for this course were video taped, and I saw myself on national TV!

Teaching and daily routines provided continuity, but I flash back to images: downtown Asmara with more cars and more visitors and with Boy Scouts and Girl Guides directing traffic at crosswalks; sheep, cattle and goats blocking

traffic; hundreds of nonpolluting bicycles and so many trucks and busses with disgusting black exhaust; the successful rainy season with greening hills and vegetable gardens; the ever-changing sky — brilliant blue, heavy thunder clouds, refreshing showers, wispy fog; colorful bougainvillea against equally colorful houses; the *muzzein* calling people to prayer and birds singing before sunrise; walking several kilometers daily; women in unlikely color combinations and men in plain dark suits; weekly activities at the Baha'i Center; waiting and waiting for unscheduled city buses and being the only white person on them; Nathan and Cedric (a son and a daughter in two different families), high school students who were planting trees and mending roads; hundreds of other young people leaving Asmara in trucks and buses — someone said, "Before, we were afraid when our sons and daughters left; now we are proud." And friends offering more *injera*, more *ziginy*; friends doing the coffee ceremony, prolonging our visits.

After a weekend in a village in England where cattle also hold up traffic, I'm back in California at my usual fall activities and preparing with Wayne for our return to Eritrea — together, next time! The sun rises farther to the south, the plants in the yard are bigger, but everything else is the same, and I'm already used to daily hot showers!

News from the Horn

with terrific help from John Barnes (66-68)

- Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi visited the US in August. President Clinton assured President Meles that US assistance to Ethiopia would continue. President Meles also met with numerous top US government officials and Congressmen. He was met by protestors at many of his stops.

While in Washington, President Meles met with approximately 25 African-American community representatives at the home of the Ethiopian Ambassador to the U.S. At the meeting, which was sponsored by the Constituency for Africa (CFA) — a Washington-based coalition of organizations with interest in Africa whose Executive Director is Melvin Foote (73-75) — the President addressed problems of foreign policy toward the region, ethnic conflict, and the challenges facing the emerging democracy in Ethiopia.

MEMBERS: If you would like a copy of a 3-page press release from the CFA with a summary of President Meles's presentation, write Marian Haley Beil at the address on the back of this newsletter.

- Ethiopia has sent 800 peacekeepers to Rwanda.

- In July, the Subcommittee for Africa of the House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on "Ethiopia: The Challenges Ahead." Chaired by Harry Johnston, the committee heard testimony from: Asst. Secy. of State for African Affairs George Moose; Asst. Admin. of the Bureau for Africa at AID John Hicks; Executive Dir. of Human Rights Watch/Africa Abdullahi An-Na'im; Professor Theodore Vestal (PC/Ethiopia staff mid-60s), Oklahoma State U; and Herman Cohen of Global Africa.

MEMBERS: E & E RPCVs has obtained a copy of the testimony from that hearing. If you would like to borrow it, write Marian Haley Beil at the address on the back of this newsletter.

- On June 5th there was an election held for the constituent assembly. Only President Meles Zenawi's Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front participated in the election, with none of the main opposition parties taking part.

- The Associated Press reported that 30,000 people were trapped by the flooding Awash River in northeastern Ethiopia on August 1st following heavy rains.

- There are two monthly magazines with articles on Ethiopia which may be of interest to members of E & E RPCVs.

Ethiopian Register
PO Box 36067
Los Angeles CA 90036-0067
Subscription rates: 6 mo, \$15 (+\$4 for 1st class); 1 year, \$27 (+\$8 for 1st class)

The Ethiopian Review
Subscription Department
PO Box 191220
Los Angeles CA 90099-3591
Subscription rates: 6 mo, \$18; 1 yr, \$29.

Topics for recent articles included: one party rule, rigged elections, human rights violations, and ethnic politics and polarization.

These magazines are also a source of available Ethiopia music cassettes and CDs by such singers as Aster Aweke, Alemayehu Eshete, Tilahun Gessesse an Girma Wolde Michael (who plays instrumental Ethiopian music on the soprano saxophone). Also Ethiopian restaurants in the Washington, DC and Los Angeles areas are advertised.

- The Ethiopian art exhibit "African Zion: The Sacred Art of Ethiopia" is an exhibit of more than 80 pieces from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church which is on tour through January, 1996 in the U.S. The oldest objects in the exhibit are coins dating from 324 AD and a series

of manuscripts from the sixth century. Up coming dates:

Thru 11/30/94: The Museum of African - American Life and Culture, Dallas.

12/23/94 - 2/26/95: The Dusable Museum of African American History, Chicago

3/20/95 - 5/15/95: The Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, MA.

6/7/95 - 8/2/95: The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA.

- John Barnes has sent a video tape for members of E & E RPCVs prepared by the BBC and narrated by Haile Girima which is called "Imperfect Journey." He recommends that any former Volunteers who plan to return to Ethiopia (as opposed to Eritrea) watch this film of 1 1/2 hours.

There are three parts:

1. The children of Ethiopia and their lack of hope.
2. The horrible atrocities inflicted on the people of Gondar by the Marxist Junta government of Mengistu Haile Mariam.
3. The present TPLF government which has the peoples of Ethiopia living in fear.

MEMBERS: You can borrow this tape by writing Marian Haley Beil at the address on the back of this newsletter.

- In March Professor Tilahun Yilma, DVM, PhD, of the University of California, Davis sent an eight-page letter to Irvin Hicks, then US Ambassador to Ethiopia detailing his observations and opinions on the political conditions in Ethiopia.

MEMBERS: You can write Marian Haley Beil for a copy of that letter.

- The new American Ambassador to Ethiopia is Irvin Hicks. The Ambassador to Eritrea is Robert G. Houdek. Both are longtime Foreign Service officers — in fact they both entered the service in 1962.

The Herald has received permission to reprint the following article from The New York Times which gives an incredibly full, balanced and sobering report of current conditions in Ethiopia. It is a must-read!

Hunger and Dissent Stalk a Struggling Ethiopia

October 26, 1994

by Donatella Lorch

Special to The New York Times

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, Oct. 22 — After two decades of war and famine, political oppression and mass killings, the recipe for restoring a shattered economy under a democratic government remains elusive here.

In the three years since rebel troops overthrew a Marxist regime and committed themselves to democratic rule, there have been measurable gains. The government of President Meles Zenawi has cooperated with the World Bank, devalued its currency and begun to open its markets. There is general stability and peace.

Inflation is down to single digits. There are 60 registered political parties. More than 120 newspapers are registered here in the capital, including many that yearn editorially for the days of the dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, who ruled in a campaign of terror until his overthrow by rebels. And Government officials say they remain committed to raising living standards.

But Ethiopia today is still the second-poorest African country after Mozambique, stalked perpetually by famine and so divided by political dissent that some critics fear it will slip back into violence, even civil war.

"The writing is on the wall, no doubt," said Nebiyu Samuel, head of the Ethiopian National Democratic Party, an opposition coalition that is included in the present transitional government. "All the factors, all the recipes are there for this country to go to pieces. The temptation is there every day for me to quit. None of us should be quitters. But the road is getting narrower and narrower."

Several thousand people died this year when rains came late and the harvest failed in the south, but by most measures this represented a kind of success. The Government and international relief agencies prevented a higher toll by rushing food to the stricken area. Yet even with good rains and successful harvests, the country will continue to require aid amounting to hundreds of thousands of tons of food a year, Western relief officials say.

In this desperately poor land of 50 million, where more than half live below poverty level and an estimated 20 million are unemployed, economic hardships have always defined most Ethiopians' existence.

After South Africa, Ethiopia is the second-largest recipient of United States foreign aid in sub-Saharan Africa. By May, the United States had provided more than \$135 million in economic assistance this year, of which about \$110 million was emergency food aid. The World Bank disbursed \$325 million this year, \$200 million more than in the previous year.

Because of the economic restructuring, Addis Ababa has been flooded with more than a million people since 1991, most of them unemployed and with no future as farmers in the countryside. More than 20,000 street children roam the city, and their numbers are expected to soar to 40,000 by the end of 1995.

In the countryside, about 60 percent of the children under 5 are malnourished, one of the highest rates in Africa. In such a context, bringing prosperity and multiparty democracy in the space of a few years is an extraordinarily difficult task.

"You can't apply Western logic to what is happening in Ethiopia said one diplomat. "The Western donors are expecting too much, too fast."

But there is dissatisfaction inside Ethiopia as well. Critics of the Government call the official tolerance of a political opposition a whitewash. They say the Government, controlled by the members of Tigrean ethnic minority in the ruling party, the Ethiopia People's Revolutionary Defense Front, has fulfilled only a few of its promises.

Diplomats and Ethiopians also say the Government has become increasingly autocratic and threatening as it tries to neutralize threats to its stability, moving its loyalists into top positions in the Ethiopia Orthodox Church, the university, the state airline, banks and industry.

"We have a cultural tendency towards extremism," said a senior Ethiopian official. "You can't introduce democracy by undemocratic means."

Many opposition parties have refused to take part in the country's first elections, to be held early next year. The other parties that remain in the present transitional government say they have little access to radio and television, which are controlled by the Government, and are not allowed to campaign freely in the provinces.

Several parties have organized military affiliates that have fought Government troops, particularly in the east. Officials officially dismissed this opposition as

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Hunger and Dissent

Continued from page 7

unorganized "bandit activity," but relief workers and diplomats say that in some instances the fighting was fierce enough that the Government used tanks.

Diplomats and United Nations officials say the Government has harassed and sporadically cracked down on the opposition and the press, which sometimes publishes irresponsible reports, and more than a dozen journalists have been arrested in the last few months. Scores of political demonstrators were arrested here in September; the Government accused them of inciting a riot.

"Freedom should entail responsibility," said Netsannet Asfaw, the presidential spokeswoman. "If they incite violence, religious and ethnic, they are taken to court. In the West, you accept only peaceful struggle. The same should apply here. How did governments deal with the Black Panthers or the I.R.A.?"

The political dissent is also fueled by factors beyond the Government's control. The opposition is deeply divided and many of the parties have made outrageously unrealistic demands in an effort to feed unrest. And some of the Government's moves, like giving any nationality the right to secede, have heightened ethnic tensions.

Another major source of tension is land, which was nationalized during the previous regime. The current Government has said it will not permit peasants to own the land they farm because of fears that they might be tempted to sell to speculators.

But Ethiopia's biggest hurdle to survival and political success is food production. The Government says it is overhauling

agriculture and hopes to be self-sufficient in food in a decade, but acknowledges that is optimistic.

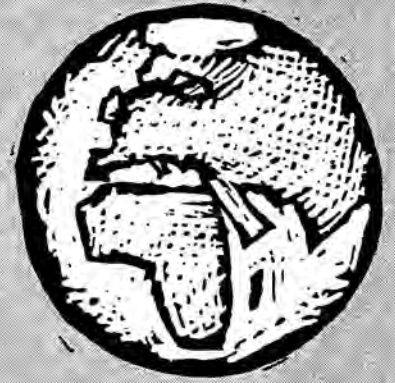
Barely eight months ago, for instance, millions of Ethiopians were on the brink of starvation as rains and crops failed in the south. With one million metric tons of food aid, the Government managed to bring help to 6.7 million people. Now the rains have been plentiful and the fields are lush, but the country will still need 700,000 to one million metric tons of food a year. If the temperamental rains fail, the situation will be disastrous.

Even with sufficient rain, food production is low because of severe land degradation, low use of fertilizers and lack of improved seeds. Ethiopia has the lowest per hectare production of grain in the world, officials say, and after years of war and drought, many farmers no longer even have oxen to till their fields.

"We're not making any progress at all," said a senior Western relief official. "The same amount is being imported as in 1984 for the famine where one million died. That's the kicker, that's the tragedy. You have a beautiful crop and you still need a million tons."

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- In the November 3, 1994 issue of *The New York Times* journalist Donatella Lorch had an article which tells of the wretched conditions in one of 19 refugee camps that ring Addis Ababa. The camps are inhabited by supporters of the Mengistu regime who were expelled from Eritrea.



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

OPENING:

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

Cambodia — a country agreement has been signed

Nui — country agreement signed (And what and where is it you ask? It's a little teeny island in the Tuvalu group east of the Solomon Islands in the west Pacific.)

Peace Corps reports that 3,190 people entered training for Ethiopia and Eritrea between 1962 and 1977. E & E RPCVs has 1,875 names of Volunteers on its database. Can you help us complete our list? Do you have your training funny book? a great memory?

THE NEW COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR ETHIOPIA HAS BEEN APPOINTED

At least he's an RPCV

The following is the Peace Corps release regarding this appointment.

October, 1994. Charles Teller will assume the duties of Country Director in Ethiopia. Dr. Teller comes to Peace Corps most recently from the Pragma Corporation in Virginia where he developed a new division and program which integrates agriculture, food, nutrition, rural development, environment, health and human resources. While at Pragma, Dr. Teller assessed the food and nutrition needs of food-insecure communities and nutritionally high-risk families.

Previously, Dr. Teller served as Director of the International Nutrition Unit of the Logistical Technical Services Corporation and the Office of international Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Teller's overseas

experience includes a position as Sociologist-Demographer for the World Health Organization's Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama in Guatemala City, Guatemala. His previous work in Ethiopia includes a position as Coordinator for a rapid field impact assessment for CARE/USA's food sector program and Technical Advisor of a nutrition program. Dr. Teller served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia (1965-67).

Dr. Teller received a Ph.D. in 1972 from Cornell University in Sociology, with emphasis on medical sociology and international population. Dr. Teller received an M.A. from Clark University in Geography.

(For more on Dr. Teller see Woody Jewett's report on page 10.)

King resigns as Country Director for Eritrea — non-RPCV appointed

Dennis King, who was appointed this spring to be the first Country Director for the Peace Corps program in Eritrea has resigned that post for personal reasons.

He will be replaced by Martin Shapiro, who has been serving on the Peace Corps staff in the Kyrgyz Republic as an Associate Director for Education for the past year and a half. He will leave that post in early December and return to

Washington for briefings prior to departure for Asmara. Shapiro has worked for Peace Corps since 1992 when he did TEFL training for the new program in Hungary. Following that he set up the TEFL program in Armenia. His experience with the Peace Corps includes new country development and inter-government relations. He came to the Peace Corps from a position as a professor at a university in Spain. He is not an RPCV.

Peace Corps Volunteers return to Ethiopia in 1995 — you could be one

Peace Corps has received requests for twenty education Volunteers to begin training in mid-June, 1995. They will include:

- Five Volunteers to work in primary education teacher training
- Fifteen to work in secondary education English teaching.

Final skill requirements are being worked out, but applicants with teaching experience are preferred. Married couples will be considered if both meet the assignment requirements. For more information, call 800-424-8580.

REMEMBER THE BOOK LOCKER?

Well Peace Corps doesn't give them out any more. Patti Garamendi (66-68), Associate Director for Volunteer Recruitment & Selection at Peace Corps remembers how valuable they were and would like to start a pilot project to raise funds to supply book lockers to the new PCVs going to Ethiopia and Eritrea. If you would like help, send your monetary gift to E&E RPCVs and label it "For book lockers."

If you have suggestions for books that should be included, send those along.

TELLER RECEIVES SEND-OFF

by Woody Jewett (66-69)

WASHINGTON, DC'S AWARD-winning *megubbet*, Meskerem Restaurant, was the scene Thursday, October 27, 1994 for a very special *melcom manged* party. The center of attention was Dr. Charles Teller, new Peace Corps Country Director for Ethiopia. (See previous page for the official Peace Corps bio on Dr. Teller.)

Fourteen friends of Ethiopia came together, many to meet Charles for the first time, and to offer him suggestions, drawing upon their experience in Ethiopia and elsewhere. Among the guests were Jack Prebis (62-64; staff 65-67), Courtney Arnold (64-66), David Arnold (64-66), LaVerle Berry (64-66), George Brezney (66-68), Woody Jewett (66-69), and Jane Quinlan (69-71). An old Ethiopia hand, and former colleague of Charles, Dennis Carlson, was on hand, as was his wife Beulah Downing (they returned this spring from Ethiopia where they had worked for Save the Children for eight years). Another special guest was Bill Carey (RPCV Bolivia), coordinator for the Peace Corps 20th and 25th anniversary celebrations, and Charles' roommate while they were in training for Peace Corps Bolivia in 1965.

Having just completed Peace Corps' new staff training, Charles was preparing to depart the States two days later for a Peace Corps regional conference in Niger, and then he was Ethiopia-bound to take up his post in Addis Ababa.

The following are impressions from the dinner guests at the event:

- Interesting group of middle-ages. It will be fun to meet with the young Volunteers.
- Peace Corps offers a possibility of some rays of hope where very few exist now. This will be especially true if person-to-person activities are emphasized.
- Housing is going to be incredibly tight — why not have new Volunteers board with families. Yes, they will lose some privacy but they will have an extraordinary cross-cultural experience and learn language really fast.
- Ethiopia could use lots of young BA grads — the old "BA Generalist" that has been the backbone of Peace Corps programs since the beginning. The needs there are so great. In many places, there simply is nothing. We can supply English teachers (geography, math, history) for secondary and junior secondary schools.
- It sounds like we are going back to do what we did before. Let's do it. Charles Teller talks as if he knows what should help. I wish I could go.
- Seeing old friends, catching up memories . . . I wish I could go back — so glad that Peace Corps is going back. I miss the wonderful people and am so happy that new Volunteers will have the wonderful experience of learning to love the country and the people. This experience will change their lives.

- Peace Corps has had a wide array of projects in Ethiopia from 1962 through the mid 1970s, with approximately 3,190 Volunteers serving. While the majority were teachers of English, geography and math, there were also major programs in nursing (teaching at health colleges); law (legal advisors to government ministries); smallpox eradication (immunizing people in rural parts of the country; and finally "Hides and Skins" (working with the local tanning industry). What other projects were there? Agriculture, youth programs, university teaching . . .
- This is all incredibly exciting — to return to Ethiopia with the resources of the new Peace Corps which has even evolved into a sophisticated development organization, with the same old spirit.
- I keep thinking that, if it's true that conditions are worse than twenty years ago, then that's quite unusual. But I still feel that Ethiopia has settled down at last after years of conflict and, so is poised for years of good growth.
- Charles Teller is enthusiastic, personable, knowledgeable about current Ethiopia and understands the tough job he faces. He was very interested in suggestions from the RPCVs including their thoughts on training and trainers, language and cultural interaction. He was a great success with the group.

Woody Jewett is a budget analyst at the Peace Corps.

So this is Paris

by Kathleen Coskran (65-67)

THE YEAR DETROIT BURNED, I taught English and algebra in Dilla, Ethiopia. There were four of us *ferenjjs* in Dilla that year. Doug, from Michigan, saved all the clippings from *The Christian Science Monitor* that his mother sent him about the riots and brought them out whenever a student asked him about his country.

He would unfold the dark pictures of burning buildings and say, "This is my home."

"He reads too much," Dick said. Dick didn't have time to read. He never missed a soccer, basketball, or volleyball game with the students or a chance to spend an hour at Negussie *Beit*, the only bar in Dilla with a refrigerator.

Our students called Claudie their mother because she stayed at school long after the sun went down to talk to them, help them with their homework, or give them advice. The day she bandaged Hamid's infected arm, he asked if she had ever been a Scout.

"Yes, I was," she said.

"I thought so, miss, because you are always prepared."

The 75 students in 7-A, my homeroom, were proud of me because I knew their names in alphabetical order and called the roll from memory every morning, Addiswork Bekele to Zeudi Memedin. They called us all the Peace Corps, with the emphasis on the final p.

We walked down to the post office after school on a clay road that sucked at our shoes in the rainy season and streaked our clothes with dust in the dry season. We passed kids shouting *ferenj*, foreigner, at us, stepped around sheep and goats crossing the main drag, stopped to admire the professional mourners in a funeral procession, paused so the water man rolling his massive barrel up the hill from the river wouldn't lose momentum. As the barrel rumbled past and

the mourners took up their ululations again, a six-year-old ran up, tagged Dick, and dashed back to his friends. Dick spread his arms wide and say, "So this is Paris."

ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY I explained my Irish heritage to 7-A and the importance of the day. Abraham, the biggest troublemaker in the school, raised his hand. "We should go outside, madam, to celebrate your holiday."

"No, that's not necessary," I said, but the students were already moving towards the door.

"Yes, yes, good idea," they said.

Tsegay Mekonnen, the class monitor, stood at the door to stop them. "No," he said. "It is her holy day. We must have five minutes of silent prayer." Not what I had in mind, but they all went back to their seats and bowed their heads.

The first time I saw Tsegay in action, he was stepping across a desk in the back of my room with a switch in his hand to hit another boy who was talking out of turn. It was my first day at Atse Dawit School.

"Hey, stop that. What do you think you're doing?" I said.

"No, madam. Is okay. He is the monitor."

Tsegay stood against the back wall with his arms laced across his blue shirt watching me advance on him. "I am monitor," he said when I reached him.

"Who says you are monitor?" I asked. I was familiar with the monitor system of class discipline, didn't like it, and didn't want it in my classroom.

Tsegay shrugged and the other students again confirmed that he was the class monitor. I said the monitor should be elected by the class and proceeded to explain the democratic process, the

Continued on page 12

So this is Paris

continued from page 11

duties of the monitor (no switches allowed), the responsibilities of the students to each other, to the monitor, and to their teachers, and then took nominations from the floors. They elected Ayelu Hailu.

Because not everybody was able to start school when they were six years old, the age range of my seventh graders was twelve to twenty-two. Ayelu was a slight twelve-year old, the smallest boy in the class, meek and overwhelmed by his sudden elevation to high office. The students snickered when I announced the election results. I insisted that they respect Ayelu, affirmed my confidence in him, and said that his word would be law regarding areas of discipline. Ayelu took a deep breath, realigned his shoulders, and strutted to the back of the room where he could keep an eye on everybody. I resumed the math lesson.

He lasted four days.

The second time around they elected Hamid. I was pleased. Most of the students had the chiseled features, slight frame, and red-brown skin of the highland Ethiopian, but Hamid's family had emigrated from the far west. He was an imposing figure, six-feet tall and pure black. But his service as monitor was a day shorter than Ayelu's and I didn't understand why he was unsuccessful until much later, when I heard him called the black one, and *shankalla*, slave.

I told 7-A that I was furious with them for electing two successive monitors whom they refused to respect.

"Tsegay is our monitor, madam," somebody said.

And so he was. He became an invaluable advisor for me, an inside operator. "Bekele is not sick, madam. He have

woman." Or "Kebede hates Hamid. Better move him." When I remember my class now, Tsegay's handsome face is always in the middle of the back row, his eyes roving over the rows of students. By the end of the year I had convinced him to give up the switch, but I noticed faint lines in his forehead and a weariness in his eyes when he confronted certain students.

WE HAD ELECTRICITY FROM 6 p.m. to 12 most nights. I planned lessons and graded papers when the lights were on, but I felt no obligation to my students when the lights went out at midnight. I sat up with a book pressed flat against the table, reading by candlelight in the dark kitchen. The only noise was the occasional cough of a hyena passing in the street and the sitz of insects flying into the flame. I blew the specks of their parts out of the fold as I turned the pages. I savored each word of those delicious books. I also read *Time* cover to cover every week, including the sports and business sections; I read the listings of books published on the flyleaf of Penguin library editions; I read the small print of ads in the English-language *Ethiopian Herald* weekly newspaper.

I even read *THE FANNY FARMER COOKBOOK* cover to cover. I knew nothing about cooking. I was raised by a mother who claimed that packaged foods were the most profound advance of the twentieth century. She relied heavily on frozen fish sticks, chicken pot pies, and canned asparagus. All her cookbooks had the word "jiffy" in the title.

There was no processed food in Dilla. We could dependably buy only onions, bananas, and meat at the Dilla market. Sometimes there was cabbage and carrots. Once there was eggplant. We could also get rice, but there were insects in it. You had to dump it on the table and pull the rice into a bowl in your lap while killing the bugs and

pushing them off to the side. Salt and spices were measured into cones of old newspaper, weighed, and sold. The egg man delivered his tiny eggs wrapped in banana leaves, thirty for a dollar Ethi. We bought oatmeal, canned margarine, tuna fish, powdered milk, and tins of vegetables when we went to Addis Ababa. The tuna fish and tinned vegetables were so precious that we allowed ourselves to eat them only on special occasions. In the end, we left two cans of beets, one of green beans, and one of corn for the next Volunteers. We wrote them a long letter, introducing them to our town, our kids, and our canned vegetables.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE FEMALE Ethiopian teacher at Atse Dawit School. I don't remember her name. Claudie and I called her the *Weizerite*, roughly equivalent to "miss." Once, before a staff meeting, in front of everybody, the *Weizerite* asked me how I expected to raise a family with such small breasts, so I didn't like her very much, but Claudie made friends with her. Claudie told her we wanted to learn to cook Ethiopian, so she came by one afternoon with eight newspaper cones of different spices and told us to grind each spice separately, then spread it in the sun to dry, then grind each spice separately again, then spread it in the sun to dry again, then grind it again, then dry it, then grind one more time. Then we were to mix it in such and such proportions, sauté the onions for two hours until all the water was out of them, then mix in the spices. "Meanwhile . . ." she said and started to chop a kilo of mutton into cubes the size of her thumb nail. I stopped listening. My heritage of jiffy cooking made me inadequate to the task, but Claudie wrote it all down. We never cooked anything with the *Weizerite's* spices. Our last week in Dilla, we sifted the spices into *birillas*, the bulb-shaped glasses used for drinking honey *tej*,

sealed them with wax, and took them home to America. They still line the top shelf of the highest cabinet in my kitchen.

EVEN THE MOST REMOTE TOWN in Ethiopia has one or two Italian men who married Ethiopian women after the second World War and stayed on to bake bread or make pasta. In Dilla, Montenari ran a small bar and had the only bakery. There had been a second Italian in town, who ran the generator, but he died shortly before we arrived, so Montenari was alone. One Friday, Doug and I stopped at his bar just before midnight. The place was empty, he was ready to close, but he still had coffee, so he poured us some, and himself some, and he sat with us. He spoke no English and only a little Amharic, and we spoke no Italian, so the three of us sat there in silence, this old Italian and two young Americans, drinking espresso in the middle of Ethiopia. At midnight, the lights went out. Montenari held his hand up and shook his head, insisting that we stay. He brought candles and more coffee. We sat with him a while longer and listened to the hyenas who began their eerie whoops as soon as the electricity shut off.

When we finally left Montenari alone and walked back to our houses in the dark, Doug took my hand. "Yes," he said, "Paris is like this."

IHAD A PARTY FOR THE 75 students in my homeroom the week before we left Dilla for good. I made popcorn and bought a stock of bananas for refreshments, but I was stumped when it came to entertainment. Music was out: Our radio reception was too poor and I had no record player. The house was small — two 12-foot by 12-foot rooms — but I thought the kids could mingle and talk, eat a banana, and extend the party out into the yard. But they wouldn't go outside. They filled

one room, two and three deep, crushed against the four walls. I tried to engage them in conversation, but they were politely monosyllabic. I distributed the popcorn and organized "Pin the Tail on the Donkey" in the other room, but the easy laughter and conversation from the classroom were silenced by the solemnity of the occasion. The party in my house had made them mute.

Finally, Tsegay said, "Madam, can we dance?"

"Yes, of course. But where and to what music?" There was a square yard of open floor at best.

"Don't worry, miss." Tsegay issued instructions to several of the students, took Addiswork's scarf, and stepped to the center of the room. Yakob found an empty patch of wall and drummed the mud plaster with the fingers and heel of his hand. Tsegay began moving in small circles in the middle of the room. The girls sang. Bekele clapped his hands in counterpoint to Yakob's drumming. Tsegay moved faster, holding the scarf taut between his hands, over his head, behind his back, then dropping an end, following it. Everybody sang, punctuating their songs with shouts and ululations.

They were of different tribes, different religions, but they knew what to do. When Tsegay finished, Addiswork took her scarf and stepped to the center of the room. Everybody sang and drummed as she began to move. My party was a success.

ON OUR LAST DAY, WE GOT UP early to take the first bus to Addis Ababa. When I opened the back door in the predawn light to go to the outhouse, I discovered Tsegay, Hamid, Zeudi, Ayelu, Mulugetta, Nasin, Zelalen waiting in the yard. Dozens of students had gathered in the dark so

they wouldn't miss our departure. They hovered around our two houses as we packed. They trailed us down the dirt roads of Dilla for the last time. They insisted on carrying our things to the bus. Tsegay presented me with a basket his mother made. "So her name will be known in your country," he said. We got on the bus and waved until we couldn't see them anymore.

The road out of Dilla is a steep climb and the bus slows almost to a stop by the last switchback. There is a point where the whole town is as visible as a map — four parallel streets, up from the river, bisected by paths, with the school at the high end and the bus park where clumps of our kids still waved at the low end. The four of us craned towards the windows for a last look. "So this was Paris," Dick said softly.

"This was better," I said.



After here Peace Corps service in Ethiopia, Kathleen Coskran spent two years in Kenya. Her book, THE HIGH PRICE OF EVERYTHING, winner of a Minnesota Book Award in 1988, includes stories set in both Ethiopia and Kenya. She currently teaches fiction writing at Hamline University and at the University of Minnesota. "So This Is Paris" is excerpted from a longer piece by the same name.

This essay is reprinted by permission from *RPCV Writers & Readers*, a newsletter founded in 1989 by John Coyne (62-64) and Marian Haley Beil (62-64) to promote the work of Peace Corps writers. For more information about *RPCV Writers & Readers* write Marian at the address on the cover of this newsletter.



Sink Story

by Margaret Szumowski (73-75)

Once during a revolution, the lion of Judah,
Emperor Haile Selassie, was deposed.
He was too rich, too arbitrary, too blind.
The new regime ordered more land, more food,
no hidden disasters
like the great famine in Wallo.
The Emperor was dispatched, tanks shook the streets,
landlords tore out their hair,
our sink was stolen.

The workman told Itifewerk, our maid,
that he was taking the sink away
so we could have hot water.
"I'll fix this old sink," he told her.

We wanted hot water,
but not having a sink
was inconvenient. We had to catch
the water as it rolled out —
in pails, in cans, it dripped
through cracks, seeped
through our fingers, finally
it stopped and we were without water
and thirsty like all the people
who never did have a sink anyway.

Our landlord, our balabate, was furious.
He said it was our maid's fault
for believing such a crazy story.
He gave us a new sink, but no water.

We left while the revolution
was still in progress
so we don't know what happened
to everyone else. Did they get their sinks?
Do they have water?
Is it hot?

On Death at Age 23

by John Scott Porterfield (71-73)

I have walked deep valleys filled with fog —
chilled with the sweat of nature on my breath —
I stood against the wind to feel the rain upon my face —
Sand storms whipped me —
The deserts I tread were like fire —
I slept in fields of grain where ancient kingdoms fell to
warriors armed with bronze —
I knew the love of copper skinned women —
I sipped their Honeywine —
From the mountain top, I touched the sun.
Let me die!



And more on the Atlanta Conference

- There were somewhere between 600 and 700 attendees at the Atlanta conference — including more than 25 from Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- Mickey Feltus arranged for our group to eat at the only Ethiopian restaurant in Atlanta at the time. He described it as “very authentic.” All who attended the dinner found the decor and ambiance less than elegant but the food was terrific and the company lively and terrific to see.

Thanks Mickey!

- At the Ethiopia and Eritrea country updates Joe Bell told of his trip to those countries which ended only the day before the conference. Joe spoke of how different life in Ethiopia is compared to those years when we served there as PCVs. He was emphatic in his urging that E & E RPCVs act as quickly as possible in our efforts to launch programs for Ethiopia for the needs are incredibly great. (See excerpts from Joe’s report on his trip on page 4.)
- The financial report for Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs was presented at the meeting. On page 16 is a copy of that financial report. If you should have any questions about it, contact Marian Haley Beil (address on outside of newsletter).
- At the awards banquet held on Sunday, it was announced that *The Herald* was the 1st place winner of the National Peace Corps Association’s 1994 newsletter award in the category for “country-of-service” groups. This is the second time that *The Herald* has been so recognized.
- Throughout the conference there was wonderful of entertainment by talented people from around the world including a terrific dance troupe from Africa called the Barefoot Ballet. If you

ever get a chance to see them don’t pass up the opportunity. The energy and excitement they generate will knock your socks off.

- Members of ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs painted those two countries on the giant world map which was prepared as a geography literacy project for “Volunteer Day.”
- The National Peace Corps Association is reevaluating its policy of having a national conference every year. Attendance at the last several has been disappointing and there is a new emphasis being placed by the NPCA on regional meetings which will take place throughout the year in various locations throughout the country.

Attendance certainly is a problem but the Association must address the needs of “country of service” groups like ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs. The national conference provides our primary opportunity to gather, exchange ideas, recharge our enthusiasm and have some fun with old friends. If you have some thoughts on the conferences write the NPCA, 1900 L St, NW #205, Washington DC 20036.

- But, in the mean time, it was announced that next year’s conference will be in Austin, Texas (we can only hope they build the conference around Austin’s most notorious RPCV, country/western singer, mystery writer and all-around bad boy Kinky Friedman) and in San Diego in 1996.
- For the first time the Peace Corps made its presence known at the conference thanks to Patti Garamendi (66–68), Associate Director for Volunteer Recruitment & Selection. They had a booth at the Grand Bazaar for information and recruiting, and they presented a workshop on volunteering for the Peace Corps a second time around.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Steering Committee held two formal meetings and many informal meetings during the Atlanta RPCV conference. In attendance were: Marian Haley Beil (62–64), Susan Hundt Bergan (66–68), Leo Cecchini (62–64), John Coyne (62–64), Nancy Horn (66–68), Wayne Kessler (64–66) and Jim Solomon (63–65).

A large portion of the committee’s discussion was devoted to developing ideas for enCORPS. With the guidance of enCORPS Director Leo Cecchini and committee member Nancy Horn, who has extensive experience in working with and for international aid organizations, the committee explored both potential and pitfalls. Because a formal relationship between enCORPS and the National Peace Corps Association was under consideration no concrete decisions were made other than to direct Leo to continue to promote enCORPS with appropriate organizations and explore all possible avenues of opportunity.

Recommendations were made to be considered for inclusion in the bylaws. [See “We have a volunteer” on page 16.]

The committee voted to change the group’s policy of sending one issue of *THE HERALD* each year to all on the mailing list (done to keep the database current). Because it has become very expensive to send the newsletter with its growing size some sort of smaller mailing will be sent. The newsletter is sent only to those who are paying members of E & E RPCVs.

By amicable agreement Marian Haley Beil was asked to serve as Chair of the Steering Committee.

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVS FINANCES

Cash Flow Report 6/17/93-7/20/93 as presented at the Atlanta conference

Previous Balance		\$3458.76
Income		
Uncashed check from 1993		29.95
Dues rebated from the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA)	\$3332.73	
Dues-includes "Rebates to NPCA"	2,356.68	
Rebates to NC	-840.00	
Total Income		4,879.36
Expenses		
Affiliation fees to NPCA for 1994	281.00	
Bank charges	134.25	
Donations	530.00	
enCORPS		
Photocopying	163.40	
Postage	356.54	
Other	101.64	
Total		621.58
Miscellaneous expenses	114.28	
Photo copying	36.04	
Postage	704.72	
Publications	32.60	
THE HERALD:		
Labels	27.00	
Photocopying	1,773.36	
Postage	400.00	
Return postage	15.23	
Shipping	61.23	
Total THE HERALD		2,276.82
Total Expenses		4,731.29
Total on hand-7/20/94		\$3,606.83

WE HAVE A VOLUNTEER!

Chuck Kreiman (68-70) has come forward to volunteer in response to the request in the last HERALD for someone to handle the writing of by-laws and establishing of the group as a non-profit. Chuck will be aided by Steering Committee member Jim Solomon.

Thanks, Chuck and Jim.



FIND SOME NEW BEST FRIENDS ON INTERNET

Overheard on Internet: "... trying to establish linkups with RPCVs from Ethiopia."

Already in on the conversation:

Tim Williams (68-72) at:
twillia@clark.net

Alan Olson (72-73) at:
awo@helix.nih.gov

Also on Internet is:

Joe Ciuffini (64-66) at:
cpdw::ciuffini@dec.com

F R I E N D S

- **KATHLEEN COSKRAN** (65–67) and **JOHN COYNE** (62–64) will present a program at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota on Peace Corps writers. The presentation will be Monday November 21, 1994 at 7:00 pm.

- **ABRAHAM DEMOZ**, a professor of linguistics at Northwestern University and specialist in Ethiopian and Semitic languages, died in Chicago on July 14, 1994 after a long battle with cancer. He had worked at several Peace Corps training programs and held fond memories of that experience. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Astair, and his two sons aged 26 and 13. Contributions in memory of Dr. Abraham can be made to the Demoz Scholarship Fund, Northwestern University, Department of Linguistics, 2016 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208-4090, Attn: S. Triforo.

- **BRUCE ENGLE** (62–64) had a busy summer: his son Mark graduated from high school and went off to The Evergreen State College to study environmental science, his daughter Sonia was married July 16th and he and his wife Ruth celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary.

- **TOM GALLAGHER** (62–64) is rejoining the U.S. foreign service after a break of almost 17 years to work as a social worker running mental health clinics in San Francisco. In February Tom leaves for Jordan for his first posting following three months of training in Washington.

- **ANN BROWDER LORENZ** (63–66) died recently — a victim of cancer.

- **LORET RUPPE**, a favorite former Peace Corps Director, was diagnosed with cancer in June. Following surgery she is improving steadily and was strong enough to attend a political fund raiser at the home of Sargent Shriver, another

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?

- Lakew Yezengau Keweu[?] is seeking Mark Scott and Penelope Rude who were Volunteers in late 60s or early 70s. If you have information, contact Kathy & Kent Glenzer, c/o CARE, PO Box 4710, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Mere Tse is looking for her former biology teacher in Adi Caieh in 1969. His name was David — she doesn't remember his surname. Please contact Cynthia Tse Kimberlin, PO Box 362, Point Richmond CA 94807 if you can offer some clues.
- Ali Kassim is looking for his teacher Miss S. Kelly who served in Assella in 1967, '68 and '69. He can be reached at 780 Beresford Circle #14, Stone Mountain GA 30083. (Ali made this request of an E & E RPCV member at the Atlanta conference which was held at the CNN/Omni where he works.
- Ghiray Ghebre Kristos is from Decamere (and works in a liquor store by that name!) on Mission Street in San Francisco. He is looking for his Peace Corps teachers: Madonna, 1962; Kathy, 1965–66, and Patricia, 1966. He can be reached at 1001 Valencia St, San Francisco CA 94110, phone 415 282 4464.

favorite former Peace Corps Director, for Senator Harris Wofford (Ethiopia Director 62–64) recently.

- Stephanie Scaramelli writes: "**LIBERT SCARAMELLI** (68–71) died April 28, 1994, at his winter home in Phoenix, Arizona. One of the biggest thrills in his life was the period he spent with the Peace Corps."

- Watch for **JIM SOLOMON** (63–65) on *Jeopardy* on December 7th. Jim writes: "It was quite exciting. Unfortunately Alex Trebek chose not to ask me about Peace Corps or Ethiopia and Eritrea."

Checking the competition

Launch party — In the face of near-certain defeat on health-care reform, the White House is planning a high-profile launch of President Clinton's national-service program, AmeriCorps. On Sept. 12, Clinton will lead 1,000 youths on the South Lawn in the service oath — and 9,000 more will participate in satellite hookups at 16 sites nationwide. Also planned: MTV-style commercials plugging service and AmeriCorps merchandise from T shirts to backpacks. Why the Super Bowl-style hype? National service is one major campaign promise Clinton has kept, and aides complain he hasn't received enough credit. — Newsweek 9/5/94

Enclosed is clipping from September 5, 1994 *Newsweek*. [See above.] Was there any discussion at Atlanta on how to combat this threat??

Depending on how Clinton plays it, it could over shadow P.C. *The Washington Post*, in an article last week, also made a big pitch for this program. I sense it is a play for rallying the troops to support Bill & Hill in '96. The "Volunteers" can be a instrument of pushing this administration — and I certainly use the word loosely. Our Senator from Pennsylvania should be up front taking kudos for his part, along with [Ted Kennedy] for getting this thru the Senate.

What is PC doing to combat this? Or is [Director Carol] Bellamy even interested in these happenings??

Ed Corboy (staff 62-64)

The Stroms learn you can go home again

On the cool evening of September 11, Peter and I stepped off an Ethiopian Airlines flight after 26 hours of travel and 15 1/2 hours in the air wondering if we could go home again. We'd been Peace Corps teachers in the city of Asmara, Eritrea 28 years ago and we were going back for the first time, not to Eritrea, the northern province of Ethiopia, but to the newly independent country of Eritrea. It was with much uncertainty that we went, as the country has been locked in a bitter war for independence since we left. In 1992 they gained their independence from Ethiopia, and this set the stage for peace and a new country.

Early the next morning, we began to walk the streets of this former Italian-settled city with our former Peace Corps friends from Hillsdale, Michigan, Kathleen and Eldon Murphy (64-66), trying to piece together our "snapshot" memories from the mid-1960s with the reality of a larger city today that looks much the same but our memories couldn't recall. We delivered letters for RPCVs Wayne and Laurie Kessler to the Ministry of Education and the university, and took some donated medical supplies to Planned Parenthood and the hospital. Slowly word began to get around that we were looking for our former 9th and 10th grade students.

We began to see former friends and students in joyous reunions for tea in our hotel lobby and in invitations to their homes. Their long war had produced devastating results. Many of our students had been killed, many of the population were maimed for life, and the utter devastation of the beautiful, hot costal city of Massawa brought back memories of photos we'd seen of Berlin and London after World War II.

One boy told us he survived by floating in the harbor with dead bodies. Another one of our gifted students spent 11 years as a prisoner of war.

There is much hope for these ambitious, energetic people. At a reception sponsored by the Asmara Alumni Association that we travelled with for the new President Isaias Afewerki and the new government ministers, a man came up to Pete, shook his hand and said "Mr. Strom, my homework is finished." The man was a former student who is now the Mayor of Asmara and the Minister of Health. We began to realize the impact we'd had. It closed the circle and brought closure to our experience. We discovered through our conversations that we'd trained the leaders for the new country, that we'd made a difference, that they'd remembered what we taught them because we cared about them as people.

The Peace Corps is a "good bang for the buck." We have a new country that has many friends for America in high places in the government and running the factories. We found out you can go home again — only it's better the second time around.

Karen Strom (65-67)

Pete Strom (65-67)



North Carolina RPCVs initiate challenge for Rwandan relief

When former Peace Corps Volunteers gathered in Atlanta this past July for the annual conference, the North Carolina Peace Corps Association (NCPCA) had something important to say. During the opening ceremonies, four members of the group announced a \$1,000 donation to CARE for its relief efforts with the Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire. They then challenged the 700 conference participants to contribute to the Rwandan relief effort and offered to match any contribution up to and additional \$1,000. Within twenty-four hours the donations had grown to well over \$7,000.

CARE officials who were in attendance at the conference were moved by the generous giving and members of the NCPCA were stunned by the size of the response.

"I was touched when I looked over at the North Carolina folks and saw tears streaming down their cheeks after they had finished counting the donations," said Ann Schrank of St. Paul Minnesota. Emotions were again at a peak when the group presented the donations to CARE during the closing ceremony on Sunday.

If you are interested in adding to the Peace Corps family's donation, please make your check out to "CARE" and mail it to:

Chic Dambach
National Peace Corps Association
1900 L Street NW, Suite 205
Washington DC 20036

Yours truly,
Reed Altman
NCPCA Steering Committee

Share your expertise and your recollections with the next generation

Dear Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs,

I am an undergraduate history major at Princeton University. I am preparing to write my senior thesis on educational Peace Corps efforts in Ethiopia during the early to mid-1960s. I would truly appreciate ideas or suggestions from ex-Volunteers. I would like to hear about your experiences and discuss whether or not you feel the programs were successful and why? If you have any information pertaining to this topic and/or would just like to talk, please contact Kristi Jelinek. My address is 233 Walker, Princeton University, Princeton NJ 08544. My telephone number is (609) 258-9472. Thank you for your help. I look forward to hearing from you and learning more about the Peace Corps as I would also like to become a participant.

Sincerely,
Kristi Jelinek

Your letter
could be
here!
All you
have to do
is write it.



From John Barnes's mail

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I received your letter dated July 13, 1994. Thank you for taking the time to share your views on the current situation in Ethiopia. The issues you raised in your letter are important ones. The answer to the unspoken question which you raised in your letter ("Don't the different agencies of the U.S. government talk to each other) is yes. Peace Corps works with other U.S. government agencies to effectively open and operate programs around the world. Our knowledge about countries where we do not have a presence is garnered from discussions with those agencies, sources on the ground in a particular country, organizations in the U.S. which focus on a particular country and people such as yourself — RPCVs who remain current on the situation in countries where they served.

I understand that there are political tensions in Ethiopia. A Peace Corps country assessment was done recently. While the assessment did indicate that there is a need for Peace Corps, it also provided a contextual history of the country. An exact date for the opening of an office was not set. The opening date depends on many things. Peace Corps has in the past and is now working in some difficult venues. However, security is important to us. The safety of our Volunteers and the integrity of our programs are high priorities. Please rest assured that we plan carefully for Peace Corps entry into any country. Political, economic and even ecological factors are considered.

Your observations are helpful as we look at our re-entry process. Again, thank you for your letter and insights.

Sincerely,
Carol Bellamy, Director
Peace Corps

Habitat for Humanity in Ethiopia

by Susan Hundt Bergan (66-68)

For RPCVs who want a chance to return to Ethiopia to visit but would also like to be of service during their stay, Habitat for Humanity International may be the answer.

Habitat for Humanity International opened an affiliate office in Addis Ababa in January, 1994, with the goal of constructing 60 houses in this first year of activity. In April, 1994, a second affiliate project was approved in the village of Wolayita. Affiliated projects are locally operated, independent, nonprofit organizations which are responsible for their own fund-raising, publicity, volunteer recruitment and staffing. The international Habitat headquarters offers advice and assistance to all projects. So far this year about 30 Habitat homes have been built by the two Ethiopian affiliates without any involvement from Habitat in America.

According to Habitat for Humanity's Associate Area Director for Africa, John Yeatman, Habitat houses are built using the biblical principal of no-profit and no-interest. Homeowners help with the building process and pay for the house without interest or profit added.

A two-week work trip to Ethiopia is being organized by Yeatman for late April, 1995. The work camp fee of \$3,500 covers the cost of international airfare, most meals, accommodations, ground transportation and an approximate 10% contribution to the construction fund in Ethiopia. The trip is in the formative stages at this point. Anyone

who is interested in getting further information or application material needs to contact:

John Yeatman
Habitat for Humanity International
Associate Area Director, Africa
121 Habitat Street
Americus GA 31709-3498
phone: (912) 924-6935, ext 513 or
fax: (912) 924-0577

Yeatman urges anyone interested in the Ethiopia work camp to get in touch with him soon. Those who sign up early will have the opportunity to work with him in designing the trip. The deadline for applying is December 31, 1994.

United Nations Volunteers recruited for faculty of the University of Asmara



The United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Programme is presently recruiting for the University of Asmara for these Lectureship posts: physics, accounting, civil engineering (sanitation), marine biology, public administration, criminal law and world history. Depending on qualifications and experience, responsibilities may include those of Associate Professor. Duties will include: teaching load of 12 to 15 credit hours a week; supervise students in their senior research paper; assist graduate students in identifying and working on research projects.

Requirements: accept assignment initially for one year, with possible extension to a second year; Ph.D. in subject field; three years of university level teaching and research; experience in cross-cultural interactions.

The Peace Corps, which cooperates with various UN agencies in administering the UNV Programme provides some financial support to the volunteers who participate in placements of a year or more and who are U.S. citizens. Benefits include: monthly living allowance* (which is higher than that allowed for Peace Corps Volunteers), housing allowance, in some cases a vehicle is made available, transportation to and from the US (paid by the Peace Corps), insurance and a \$200 readjustment allowance (which is the same as that for PCVs). UN volunteers may be accompanied by a dependent spouse and up to two dependent children under the age of 18. Both transportation and housing is provided for these dependents. There are no in-country support services provided to UN volunteers except those provided by the host organization (in this case the University of Asmara).

For more information contact:

Trish Heady, Coordinator
United Nations Volunteer Program
Peace Corps
1990 K St NW
Washington DC 20526
phone: 1-800-242-8580 (ext. 2243)
or 202-606 3370.

* The current monthly living allowance for Eritrea is equivalent to US\$744 at single rate, US\$996 at married rate (with one dependent), and US\$1,119 at married rate (with two dependents).

Back to the Future!

by Kathleen Moore (65-66)

Another opportunity to revisit Ethiopia and do something useful at the same time. Interested?

You may have heard of organizations such as Global Volunteers or Global Citizens Network that facilitate "working vacations" for Americans who want to really experience a country in a more intimate way than just as a tourist. A group of Ethiopian-Americans in Minneapolis/St. Paul are working on getting such a project started in Ethiopia.

We plan to send a ten person exploration team to Ethiopia at *Meskal* (September) 1995 to visit areas that might want to sponsor a project. The team will spend two to three weeks talking with local Ethiopians about potential projects and helping them to draft their proposal. At this time, two potential towns are Emdeber and Hosanna, both former Peace Corps sites. We are open to suggestions of other locales, also.

A village or small town interested in participating in the project must make a project proposal to the organization here in the United States. They may want to have a medical clinic built or a library or a community center. They may want someone to help their local teachers improve their English teaching skills. The important thing is the local people determine the project and be committed to working on it with the American visitors. Once the project is accepted, the organization here will set up "vacations" to Ethiopia for Americans who want to experience that unique country in a personal, hands-on way. The American tourists must pay their own way but their expenses are tax-deductible because they work on the project while there.

RPCVs and Ethiopians who are interested in being part of the "exploration" team are welcome to join us. You would have to pay your own air fare but it will be tax-deductible. Costs in-country will be kept to a minimum by staying in homes, using low cost transportation, etc. Besides the time you spend with us "exploring projects," you may extend your trip for as long as you like and visit any place you want in the country.

For more information, contact:

Kathleen Moore
4100 Third Ave South
Minneapolis MN 55409
Phone: 612 824 3735 (evenings)
612 348 8159 (days, M-F)

or

Daniel Abebe
Global Citizens Network
1931 Iglehart Ave
St. Paul MN 55401
Phone: 612 772 7692

And yet another choice

Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA) is an international people-to-people volunteer organization committed to strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing economic opportunities of cooperatives and agriculturally-based enterprises, and improving the environment of rural communities. VOCA volunteers work in developing countries [read that "Peace Corps countries"] including Ethiopia and Eritrea. Projects are carried out by U.S. specialists who serve on assignments that last from two to twelve weeks.

VOCA needs volunteers with experience and skills in:

- Business and cooperative development and management
- Livestock management
- Farm management
- Commodity processing
- Agricultural credit, finance
- Plant production, protection
- Food processing
- Agricultural extension
- Financial management
- Marketing, distribution
- Sustainable agriculture
- Conservation
- Forestry
- Natural resource management
- Vegetable and fruit production



VOCA and the requesting overseas organization pay all volunteer expenses, including travel, lodging and meals.

For more information contact:

VOCA
50 F Street, NW
Washington DC 20001
phone: 1-800-929-8622

There are also regional offices in Branford, Florida; Madison Wisconsin; Columbia, Missouri; Columbus, Ohio and Sacramento California. Call the Washington office for information to contact these offices.

See page 9 for information on the new Peace Corps program in Ethiopia if you want to be a PCV again.

FYI...

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

- This from Cynthia Tse Kimberlin — *SIDET: Forced Exile*, a 60-minute documentary film by Mekuria Productions, 81 Orchard St., Jamaica Plain MA 02130 can be purchased for \$295.00. (A preview video copy can be requested.

Produced and directed by Selam Mekuria and completed in 1991, this color 35 mm film was shot in May-June, 1990 on location in the city of Khartoum, and in the Tawawa and Um Gulja camps and the town of Gedaret, in south eastern Sudan. It profiles the personal odyssey of three Ethiopian/Eritrean women refugees in the Sudan. Coming from different backgrounds, they experience exile differently, revealing their unique strengths and weaknesses as they struggle to cope with precarious existence in a poor and frequently hostile land. Selam's idea for

"SIDET" grew out of her frustration with the inability of the mainstream media to cover these stories in a more accessible and personal way.

The film was funded by UNIFEM and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and was produced in association with and broadcast by Channel Four in England and WDR-Koln in Germany. It has won a number of awards including the Silver Apple in the category of "International Social Issues" in the 1993 National Educational Film and Video Festival; First Place in the 1992 National Black Programming Consortium's Prized Pieces; outstanding independent Film in the New England Film & Video Festival of 1992; and the 1991 Juror's Citation in the Black Maria Film and Video Festival.

- The Boston University School of Public Health has received a grant

through AmeriCorps to support a Health & Housing Fellows Program and RPCVs are invited to apply. Fellows will matriculate for an MPH while living and working in Massachusetts housing authorities as health change agents. Benefits: 8 credits of tuition scholarship (over 2 years), a living unit, a small salary, a transportation allowance, health insurance and a payback of \$4,700 toward educational expenses for each of the two years of service completed. For more information call or write: Elizabeth M Ollen, Boston University, School of Public Health, 80 East Concord St, A-407, Boston MA 02118; phone 617-638-4640.

- Edna's Tees is selling t-shirts with "Ethiopia's historical figures, people, landscapes and architectural marvels." Contact Getachew W. Selassie, PO Box 4339, Peabody MA 01960, phone 508 532 4397 for more information.

YOUR LETTERS CAN MAKE YOU IMMORTAL

The John F. Kennedy Library established the Peace Corps Collection [at the instigation of John Coyne (62-64)] to bring together materials created by Volunteers that record the Peace Corps experience. The intent of the Collection is to document Volunteer and staff interaction with the host country and its people, observations on these experiences, projects undertaken in the host country, and on-site staff and Volunteer training. These materials are available to anyone interested in accessing them, be they scholars, writers, perspective Volunteers or returned Volunteers.

To this end, the library is collecting the following types of documents: letters, diaries, journals, memoirs, manuscripts, photographs, slides, films, videotapes,

audiotapes, pamphlets, news clips, and drawings. Although these more "primary" materials are preferred, other materials, such as books and articles are acceptable. Because of space constraints, the Library will not accept artifacts acquired by a Volunteer out of personal taste or interest, although it will consider accepting artifacts or handicrafts that were produced as the direct result of a Volunteer's work. It is also not collecting books or other printed materials about host countries or by host country authors unless the subject matter was the Peace Corps or directly related to the work of a Volunteer or staff member.

Although original materials are preferred, the Library will accept photo-

copies. The donor may keep the copyright on donated materials should he/she have plans to publish them.

If you are interested in donating materials to the Peace Corps Collection write for full details to:

Stephen Plotkin
The Peace Corps Collection
John F. Kennedy Library
Columbia Point
Boston MA 02125

Do not send the materials you wish to donate until you have contacted the library and they have sent full instructions on the proper procedure for making such a donation.

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs Steering Committee

Marian Haley Beil (62-64),
Newsletter Editor, 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
c/o Beil
4 Lodge Pole Road
Pittsford NY 14634-4550
tel and fax: 212/286-0266

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

Nancy Horn (66-68)
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

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)

Those who have shared articles, ideas and efforts — David Arnold (64-66), John Barnes (66-68), Donald Beil (Somalia 64-66), Joe Bell (69-71), Susan Hundt Bergan (66-68), Leo Cecchini (62-64), Kathleen Coskran (65-67), John Coyne (62-64), Gloria Gieseke Curtis (63-65), Woody Jewett (), Laurie Kessler (64-66), Cynthia Tse Kimberlin (62-64), Kathleen Moore (1965-66), John Scott Porterfield (71-73), Ellen Shively (68-70), Jim Solomon (63-65), Margaret Szumowski (73-75), Ted Thompson (64-66), Genevieve Ott Wietecha (63-65). *THE HERALD* wishes to thank them all. They are **greatly** appreciated.

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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:

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