

The HERALD

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A SHARED EXPERIENCE

by Gary Bergthold (Addis Abeba 62-64)

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IN MAY I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY to visit our son Eric at his Peace Corps site in a remote boarding school eight kilometers past Nacfa in Northern Eritrea. I had last visited Asmara thirty-two years ago while my wife Linda and I were on vacation from our Peace Corps teaching jobs in Addis Abeba. This time my trip was a “slight” detour on my way to the Ukraine where I taught Ukrainian physicians a course on clinical training skills.

As I flew in from Frankfurt I felt curious about how Eritrea had changed during its many years of struggle for independence and its five years of freedom. I was also excited to see Eric after a year of absence, and I was also a bit apprehensive. Would my visit upset my son’s routine? How was he coping in his difficult location? How would Eritreans react to a former Volunteer from *Ethiopia*?

My concerns about acceptance by Eritreans were immediately dispelled on my taxi ride from the airport to Asmara. My taxi driver, Tesfaye, driving a familiar 60s vintage blue Fiat with original shock absorbers, took me to the

home of Wayne and Laurie Kessler. I told the driver about my questionable past and that my son was now teaching in Nacfa. He enthusiastically thanked me for loaning my son to work in Nacfa, a city considered sacred for its role during the long struggle with Ethiopia. As for Ethiopia, he said, “They are our brothers. It was the Derg, not the Ethiopian people.” That and the huge housing construction project we were passing were my first indication that Eritreans had put the war behind them and were working on their future. He then asked me a question nearly every middle-aged Eritrean asked. “Do you know Mr. Michael (or Miss Betty)? He was my Peace Corps teacher.”

I stayed for several days with the Kesslers at the “enCORPS guest house” and enjoyed swapping Peace Corps stories and learning about the many projects with which they are involved. While I was there Wayne received a shipment of three thousand baby chicks, so on the next visit I’ll expect to eat more tender *doro wat*. The Kessler’s huge

A SHARED EXPERIENCE

Continued from page 1

network of friends made it possible to meet and talk to many fascinating people in Asmara.

Asmara has changed very little. It was fun to visit again the beautiful cathedral on Liberty Street, changed from Haile Selassie I Boulevard, and drink cappuccino at the Empero Bar and eat lasagna at the Castello. New is the quiet pride and determination of the people and the signs in every shop window proclaiming "Congratulations to Free Eritrea! Five Years of Independence."

ERIC CAME TO SEE ME IN Asmara on a school holiday — a ten hour trip on top of a firewood-laden lorry. We had a great reunion and quickly caught up with family news and answers to my many questions. The next day we met several Volunteers at what appears to be their favorite Asmara hangout — the Pizzeria Napoli. Their enthusiasm and energy reminded me of ourselves in our Peace Corps years but I think they are much more experienced and sophisticated about their work than we innocents were. I was especially impressed by a couple of about our age, Jim and Billie Cairns, who had been Volunteers in India in the 60s but were now back in the Peace Corps teaching and advising on curriculum development. They made me wonder — could I do it again?

After a few days in Asmara I rented a Toyota Land Cruiser and left for Nacfa with Eric, Wayne and several other friends. Even in a new car the trip took us seven bone-jarring hours through Keren and Afabet and across miles of rocky river beds. The hills were much more barren than I remembered, as years of wood cutting, war, drought, and goat grazing have taken their toll. Otherwise, the countryside has changed

very little. Farmers still plow their rocky fields with single blade plows pulled by oxen or stubborn donkeys and pray for a little rain to sprout their *tef* seeds. One change, however, is that most of the hills have been terraced by students and former fighters, to reduce the erosion and encourage the trees that are being planted in the national reforestation program.

Nacfa was flattened by bombs during the struggle. Only the shrapnel-scarred minaret still stands from the original city. It is now a frontier-style town made up largely of tin-sided shops and roofless buildings scarred from the bombing. A few new government buildings and a three-story newly built hotel stand on the hill on the edge of town, symbolizing hope for the future. Nacfa will always be famous because it will soon lend its name to the new currency of Eritrea.

THE REVOLUTIONARY SCHOOL OF Tsabra where Eric teaches is eight kilometers past Nacfa up a narrow rocky gorge. Its location made it virtually impregnable and it was the location of an underground hospital and school that functioned throughout the war. The setting of the school in a small valley is starkly beautiful but the creature comforts for the teachers and seven hundred boarding students are meager. Electricity is generated a few hours each evening, powering lights for studying and a big screen TV which receives CNN by satellite. I was again struck by the mix of ancient and modern technologies that mingle in apparent harmony throughout Eritrea.

Eric is thriving. His daily diet of lentils and *injera*, plus jogging past herds of goats and camels have made him fit and trim. I loved seeing him talking and

laughing with fellow teachers and students, and teaching punctuation and the use of the passive voice to his ninth grade classes. The classrooms looked exactly as they did in '63 — forty students packed three or four to a bench, small windows that don't let in enough light, and chalk that crumbles in your hand as you write on the scarred blackboards. The handsome students strain to understand the questions of the foreign visitor and their answers reveal the pride they have in their young country, the incredible hardships they have overcome, and their determination to build a better future.

Eric is struggling with the same issues we faced as Peace Corps teachers. Should he teach students to think or to pass the examinations? Should he focus only on those who seem eager to learn or try to give equal attention to the students who do the minimum to pass the exams? He is also challenged by the same questions students ask about obscure points of grammar that reveal the teacher's poor training in the rules of grammar.

As Eric finds his own answers to the issues he is facing, I can see him grow in maturity and strength. I admire the positive spirit with which he has made a difficult living situation pleasant and enjoyable. I felt a closeness and depth of communication with him that goes far beyond merely swapping Peace Corps stories. We now share an experience that had shaped my life and is now doing the same for him. I'm grateful that I was able to relive a week of the experience and measure the continuity and change in my life and his.

Gary Bergthold is an independent management consultant whose clients include many international organizations. Since serving in the Peace Corps, Gary has worked in thirty-five countries.

JUNE 1996 - AFTER 15 MONTHS IN ERITREA

by Laurie Kessler (*Adi Teclesan 64-66*)

BIRDSONG, MUEZZINS CALLING from mosques, church bells, roosters wake us early every day. I slip out to the bakery around the corner for hot rolls while Wayne makes tea and pours last night's boiled water into bottles. When I leave for the one-mile walk to the University of Asmara to teach English, Wayne is gaining a bit of news from the BBC, or his business partner (our friend and colleague from Peace Corps days) may have stopped in to consult on their 3,000 chicks.

He spends his days making, keeping, or rescheduling appointments with people in government about opportunities for enCORPS personnel, with NGOs about various project ideas (several of which are *happening*), and with new business partners about an investment company that's in the works.

At the university, I may be advising a fourth year student on his senior essay, composing an exam, reading compositions and figuring out various procedures and policies — the usual stuff. Among my colleagues are a former student from PC time; he's now in England to earn a Ph.D., so it can be said that I'm taking his place at the university!

One of us makes a trip to the post office, always hoping for mail from our

kids and our friends, and to our favorite produce shops for melons, mangos, and a good variety of vegetables and other fruits. Nearly everywhere we go, we meet people we know, and even after 15 months, it is not uncommon for former students to greet us.

So, what are we really doing here? We're not going back to relive our Peace Corps experience, nor are we coming full circle in the sense that this

FOR US IT'S A CONTINUATION

is where my career in ESL started. For us it's a continuation of our life-style in California (yes, really!): my teaching, and Wayne's and my committees, appointments, telephone calls, drop-in visitors, and projects. It's also a continuation of what we started in the Peace Corps: teaching raising poultry, developing project, and friendships. The friends among our former colleagues and students have helped us a great deal

in settling in to Eritrea and causing it to feel like home.

But, if it's so similar, how is it different? In California, we were swamped with impersonal news and information; here, we're lucky to find out about plans for a national holiday or a street closure for bicycle races, because news is passed from person to person and rumors abound. As in California, but not in Peace Corps, we have a refrigerator, a hot shower, running water, electric light, telephone and fax. This time we have grown kids back home and elderly relatives. We buy our own medical insurance and have no travel allowance. These are tangible differences from our decades-ago Peace Corps experience.

Here's another difference that involves the current PCVs rather than us: their relatives come to visit them — as Gary Bergthold (*Addis Ababa 62-64*) visited his son, Eric, here last month. We would never have thought of that back in our time, and we would never have guessed that we'd be here continuing our work, that our son would spend a year of service here, and that our daughter would be accepted into the Peace Corps. We did, however, know that our daughter's middle name would be Meherette — that was a promise made long ago.

35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – WASHINGTON DC –

FEBRUARY 29 TO MARCH 3 IT WAS GREAT

A commentary featuring Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs with quotes from Carolyn Mulford (Dessie 62–64).*

Thursday evening — Readings sponsored by *RPCV Writers and Readers at Borders* had cofounders John Coyne (Addis Abeba 62–64) and Marian Haley Beil (Debre Berhan 62–64) giving some opening remarks.

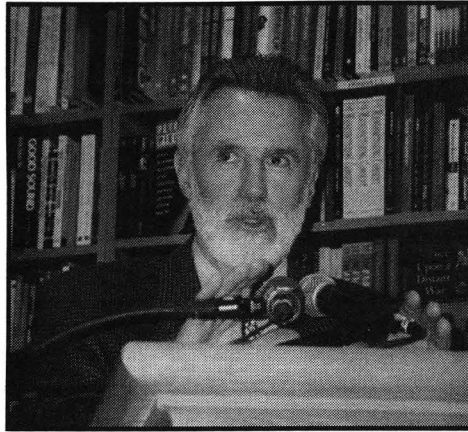
“The most moving was Maureen Orth’s (Colombia) account of returning to Medellin — not high on anyone’s tourist list these last few drug-dangerous year — after 20 years to visit a school she helped build. The villagers named it after her. It still bears her name, and her old friends hadn’t forgotten her.”

Among the speakers was Harris Wofford (Country Director 62–64); among the more than 200 in the audience were Karen DeWitt (Ghion 66–68), Neil Boyer (Addis Abeba 62–64), Jim Solomon (Massawa, Jimma 63–65), Woody Jewett (Aggaro 66–69), Steve & Evelyn Buff (Addis Abeba 64–66), Martha and Ken Stauffer (Makele 62–64) and Jim Born (Senafe 62–64).

On Friday, the Volunteer Day activities were kicked off with welcoming remarks by National Service Director Harris Wofford. Harris then joined Bill and Maggie Donohoe (Dire Dawa 62–64) and RPCVs from around the world to clean-up and fix-up at sites around the city.

In the afternoon, the E&E RPCVs Steering Committee met. See page 16 for the minutes of that meeting.

Friday evening was the gala benefit dinner and thanks to John Coyne’s schmoozing E&E RPCVs had four tables



John Coyne speaks on the importance of Peace Corps writers.

Martha Haley Scott

of 10 each. It was a grand evening with lots of biggies from the 60s. In the crowd was George McGovern. Ted Sorensen spoke charmingly of “his favorite President and his favorite Peace Corps Volunteer (his daughter, currently serving).” Loret Ruppe (PC Director 81–89), as always, was thrilling to hear — her love of the Peace Corps is so infectious one is ready to sign-up again after hearing her. Sargent Shriver (PC Director 61–66), an equally infectious personality with energy to share, was the main speaker introduced by Harris. The evening was emceed by Donna Shalala (Iran 62–64).



Ed Corboy (staff 62–64), Paul Reagan and Neil Boyer (both 62–64) at Gala not looking gala.

Martha Haley Scott



Barbara Buckingham, Ginna Coon and Emily Cotter Richardson (all 64–66) at the Gala Benefit Dinner

Barbara Buckingham

After the gala, some with energy returned to the hospitality room—which hosted gatherings regularly throughout the weekend—for another opportunity to visit.

“Saturday morning . . . the keynoter was Madeleine Albright . . . (who) paid us the compliment of giving a real speech, starting with citing the Peace Corps as a living legacy of the New Frontier.”



Martha Haley Scott

Bill & Maggie Donohoe (62–64) join Mark Lewis Brecker (64–66) and others in the hospitality room.

Saturday afternoon E&E RPCVs had a great turnout for the update with about 80 people coming to the Red Sea to find that the restaurant had scheduled one—yes, that’s one—waitress for the group. Thanks to the undying Peace Corps spirit of many, lead by Joe Ciuffini (Harar 64–66), we served the meal, the drinks . . . while that lone waitress smiled graciously in disbelief.

The speakers for the country update included: Leo Cecchini (Asmara 62–64) on enCORPS, Gloria Gieseke Curtis (Asmara 63–65) on the Ethi II reunion trip, Patti Garamendi (Metu 66–68) on Peace Corps in Ethiopia and Eritrea today, Dave Gurr (Addis Abeba 62–64) on his enCORPS experience in Asmara, Almaz Sullivan (adopted Ethiopian daughter of Robert Sullivan (68–70) on her upcoming service as a PCV in Ethiopia, LaDena Schnapper on the Center for Ethiopian Arts and Culture in Washington and . . .

“. . . Willet Weeks (Dilla, Addis Abeba 69–71) (who) returned from Addis recently after spending five years heading Save the Children in the Horn of Africa. . . thinks the people will find their future, but he can’t see how. The resources are painfully stretched, and people have many incompatible views.”

All were terrific to hear. PC Associate Director Patti Garamendi (Metu 66–68) also presented Marian Haley Beil with a certificate recognizing her efforts on behalf of E&E RPCVs. We only wished that we’d had more time to listen and to visit.

Some people (but unfortunately not all, because of time) at the luncheon had the opportunity to write messages to their PC friends. (See “Reconnecting with friends” starting on page 6.) If you would like to send a similar message, it will be published in the next *Herald*. Let’s get this reconnecting thing really cooking. Make sure to include an email address if you have one—the Internet sure makes correspondence painless.

Missed at our gathering was *New York Times* Washington correspondent Karen DeWitt who was moderator of a “Reporters Panel.”

Then on to Saturday evening and the World Music Concert hosted and emceed by Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi (Metu 66–68) at the Department of the Interior Auditorium. It was a very lively event—we were dancing in the aisles by the time the first band was into its second song. On the bill was John Barnes

(Addis Abeba 66–68) who performed several Ethiopian songs on the clarinet which he had transcribed from various pentatonic scales.

For those who had energy left on Sunday morning, we gathered on the Mall near the “castle” of the Smithsonian at 9 am to march to the Capitol behind the 130 flags of the nations where Peace Corps has served. Carrying the Ethiopian flag was Joe Ciuffini and the Eritrean flag, Jim Solomon. It was blowing like a gale and very cold but no one seemed to mind (too much). It was a great throng. On the steps of the Capitol we heard David Williams (Addis Abeba 62–64) sing the *Star Spangled Banner* and RPCVs representing the four decades of PC spoke about their experiences. Missed was Paul Tsongas (Ghion 62–64) who was to represent the 60s, but because of ill health was unable to attend.

So that’s what you missed. For those of you on the West Coast—or wherever—in 1997 we’ll meet in San Diego.

* To receive a full copy of Carolyn Mulford’s commentary on the 35th, contact E&E RPCVs.

Reconnecting with friends

Hello all — I just left PC/Washington staff — 6 years as of November of '95. Looking for work!! Our group has a pretty good network — where is Bob Mullane, Mike Sekins?

JANE QUINLAN
(Assella, Addis Abeba 69-71)
603 Sligo Avenue #409
Silver Spring MD 20910
301-565-9521

I do long-term care policy for the state of Maryland. I'm looking for change.

EVELYN ASHKENAZE BUFF
(Addis Abeba 64-66)

I'm working at Peace Corps — Office of Inspector General as an evaluator!

STEVE BUFF
(Addis Abeba 64-66)
6112 Fence Post Court
Columbia MD 21044
410 -740-5583
email: sbuff@clark.net

I'm recently retired as an Associate Professor of Music from Longwood College in Virginia. I would like to hear from any Jimma Volunteers of IIs, IIIs, or IVs.

FRIEDA E. MYERS
(Jimma 64-66)
503 Beech Street
Farmville, VA 23901

I'm currently with Digital Equipment Corporation.

JOE CIUFFINI
(Harrar 64-66)
188 Cabot Street
Newton, MA 02158
email: JMCIUFFINI@aol.com
or CIUFFINI@EVER.ENET.DEC.COM

I am currently Deputy Inspector General at the Peace Corps!!

CHARLES SMITH
(64-66)
3004 Bonview Lane
Silver Spring MD 20906
301-460-4106

I'm a program officer for Americorp/VISTA at the Corporation for National Service. My wife of near 30 years is Peru VII. My daughter, Alexandra, is preparing for the Episcopal priesthood and my son, Jonathan, is studying Somatic Psychology.

DAVE GURR
(Addis Abeba 62-64)



John Garamendi and Dan Close (both 66-68)

For the last thirteen years I've been teaching in a Haitian Bilingual Program, grades 5 to 8 in Cambridge Mass. ESL FOREVER!

PAT BAILEY BERKLEY
Addis Abeba (63-65)
183 Babcock Street
Brookline, MA 02146

I have a management training, organizational development practice with TRG (Training Resources Group) — a 26 person firm with 10 RPCVs — work extensively in developing countries. I have a 6 1/2 month old daughter.

JOHN PETTIT
(Debre Tabor 66-68)
2905 Pierpont Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

I'm an administrator in a state recycling program — Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

SUSAN HUNDT BERGAN
(Bahar Dar 66-68)
714 Parman Terrace
Madison, WI 53711

Deputy Secretary of U.S. Department of the Interior.

JOHN GARAMENDI
(Mettu 66-68)

Associate Director of Volunteer Recruitment, Selection & Placement at Peace Corps.

PATTI GARAMENDI
(Mettu 66-68)

14216 Hwy 160
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Currently a member of City Council in Reading, Pennsylvania.

EMILY COTTER RICHARDSON
(Harrar 64-66)
1512 Eckert Ave.
Reading, PA 19602

I'm currently Professor of Art Education at Kutztown (PA) University.

ELDON KATTER
(Harar 62-64)

email: katter@Kutztown.edu

I am an Elementary Math Resource teacher in the Kutztown (PA) Area School District.

ADRIENNE KATTER
(Harar 62-64)

464 East Walnut Street
Kutztown, PA 19530-1223
610-683-9287
fax: 610-683-8229

I'm now working for USDA as a plant geneticist/horticulturist.

RICHARD L. BELL
(Dessie, Woldya, Goba 69-73)
8 Meadows Court
Charlestown, WV 25414
h: 304-728-6331
w: 304 725-3451
email: rbell@asrr.arsusda.gov

I'm with the Foundation for Hospice and Homecare.

EV BARNES
(Addis Abeba 73-74)
143 12th Street SE
Washington DC 20003
202-544-4053
fax: 202-546-3141
email: evbarnes@ichange.com

Great to see Ellen (Newmyer Sullivan) and Charlie (Fischer) at the 35th. Looking for a job in Asheville, NC. Help!

NINIAN BEALL
(Soddo 68-69)
4375 Gillburg Rd.
Kittrell, NC 27544
919-430-0399

Charlie Fischer, Ninian Beall & I are here @ DC mtg. [My husband] Mark (Chad 68-70) and I would love to hear from old Peace Corps friends. I'm at Lansing Community College doing community services work; Mark is still working in child care stuff as director of state 4-C.

ELLEN NEWMYER SULLIVAN
424 Everett Drive
Lansing MI 48915-1106
517-484-7417
email: es1181@lois.lansing.cc.mi.us

Echo from Ellen: Xs, where are you? Would like to hear from/about you. Married to Marilyn for 23 years; 3 children. Federal Probation Officer and adjunct criminal justice instructor.

CHARLES FISCHER
14 Pinehurst Dr
Cranbury NJ 08512
h: 609-443-4879
w: 201-645-6242

Presently employed by USPHS on 2 year detail to OFOA/USAID.

KENNETH J. SECORD
w: 703 875-1546

Where are all the rural development and water workers? Hello everyone.

MARY MYERS-BRUCKENSTEIN
(Addis Abeba 68-70)
516-928-5998

BRYAN MCCLURE
PO Box 937
Bonsall CA 92003
619-728-6883



John and Liz Barnes (both 66-68)

Let's stay in touch. Would like to hear from anyone who knows about "my" town of Shashamane in southern Shoa province.

KATHY BECKMAN
(Shashamane 66-68)
9015 Saffron Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20901
301-588-0754
email: KBeckman1@aol.com

Greetings to all ATP Volunteers! I'm looking ahead to volunteering again after leaving corporate life in three years.

SARAH (PENTICO) SAMUEL
(Ambo 66-68)
903 Farley Court
Vienna VA 22180

Still in the Washington area and ready to welcome visitors. I've been free-lancing for the last fourteen years and would be pleased to share experiences with those interested in writing and editing.

CAROLYN MULFORD
(Dessie 62-64)
508 Silver Spring Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-495-3189
AOL:CAMcoach

After Peace Corps service I attended law school. Worked as Housing Administrative Law Judge — currently in private practice — tax & investment.

ROBERT HY KORAL
(Addis Abeba 68-71)
2425 Kings Hwy
Brooklyn NY 11229

Immigration lawyer since 1985 — first with International Institute of New Jersey, then in my own practice. I have done Ethiopian political asylum cases.

STEVE TRAYLOR
(Gondar/Deder 68-70)
20 Nassau Street, Suite 204
Princeton NJ 08540

Looking to make contact with the 65-67 group. Looking to restore contact with a former Ethiopian student of mine: Feleke Ayele. I am a high school teacher in NJ looking to get a PC speaker to visit my school.

ED ENGELBART
(Addis Abeba 65-67)
92 Hopper Ave
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444
201-834-6384

Would like to contact two of my former students: Ayele Mamo, Dept of Agriculture, Addis Abeba and Mengesh Lemma, Commercial Bank, Nazareth.

BESSIE L. FULTZ
(Dilla 64-67)

Ethiopia impacted our lives & those of 2 girls (26, 24) forever . . . heart still there. Still in touch with one boy who lived with us (now at Tulane in MPH!); looking for others to go on a prayer journey in 1997. Marg, Mary, Larry, Bill, John, Frieder, where are you? Great to see Bessie for 1st time in 30 years. We opened Dilla together!

TERRY GRAHAM

— mobilizer in missions primarily to CIS

DAVE GRAHAM

— pediatrician/therapist in behavioral pediatrics; director of Christian Counseling Service; consult/therapy in therapeutic foster care.

(Dilla, Jimma 64-66)
3317 Sharp Ct
Glenwood MD 21738
410-442-1262
fax: 410-442-5992
email: 76473,1100

USEPA, Office of Pesticide Programs,
rodenticides

JIM GOODYEAR

(Holetta, Jimma 71-75)
2350 S Nash St
Arlington VA 22202
h: 703-553-6395
o: 703-305-7726

A hearty hello to Ethi 7s.

FRANK DREJER

(Gursum 67-70)

Work with severely mentally ill adult survivors of childhood abuse in a community mental health center.

DEE. W. MCCLURG

(Addis Abeba 71-74)
1105-11 Rivermet Ave
Fort Wayne, IN 46805
219-424-2002

Teach in the gifted/talented program in the public school in Buffalo, grades 5 to 8.

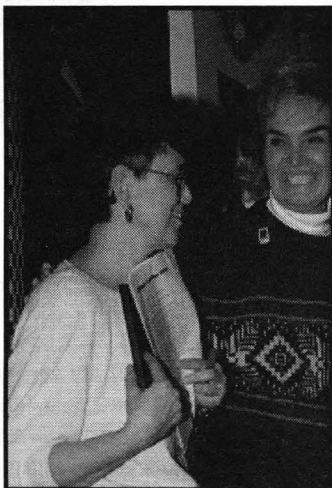
VIRGINIA (GINNA) COON

(Deder 64-66)
26 Chassin Ave
Amherst NY 14226

Traveled back to Ethiopia in 94. Encourage all to do so if you can. Work now as an industrial hygienist. When I returned in '72 had to go back to school to get into public health. My experience in the smallpox eradication program changed my life forever. Would like to talk, write, or exchange email/messages. Especially would like to get in contact with other Ethiopians Xs.

TIM WILLIAMS

(Agaro, Jimma, Lekempti 68-72)
6413 Mellon Wine Way
Columbia MD 21044
email: twwillia@clark.net



Patti Garamendi (66-68) presents certificate of appreciation to Marian Haley Beil (62-64)

John Barnes

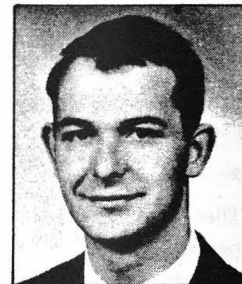
Been in Washington for three years. I'm now program director for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic in Washington, D.C.

COURTNEY ARNOLD

(Asbe Teferi 64-66)
3326 19th Street NW
Washington DC 20010
202-328-7428
w: 202-244-8990
fax: 202-244-1346

Remembering William Olson

by Edward Engelbart
(Addis Abeba 65-67)



William H. Olson

While reading the Fall/Winter 1995 *Herald*, I took note of two things: the notice of the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the U.S. Peace Corps and the "Lost & Found" comments of Zaid Tekeste, a student in Decamhare in 1973-74, who recalled a MALE PC TEACHER WITH A BEARD who repeatedly used the phrase "crocodiles sometimes attack people" as part of his teaching. It inadvertently and painfully reminded me of the tragic death of William H. Olson, a member of my UCLA training and overseas PCV group in Ethiopia, who was killed by a crocodile while swimming in the Gambela River on April 13, 1966. While we celebrate the former, it is fitting that we also remember him and this tragedy that befell one of our own nearly thirty years ago — particularly for those of us who have enjoyed these thirty additional years of life.

I remember months after the accident hitching a death-defying pickup truck ride with an Italian resident of Ethiopia who said he was with a party of men who hunted down and killed the crocodile so as to retrieve the remains from the animal. It was this "chance" encounter — as so often happened in a PCV's experience — that more than anything focused my memory on Bill's death all these years.

From *The Economist* - October 14, 1995

► Eritrea President Issaias Afwerki told *The Economist* "We are out to see that this (Islamic) government (of Sudan) is not there any more. We are not trying to pressure them to talk to us or to behave in a more constructive way. We will give weapons to anyone committed to overthrowing them." President Afwerki accuses Sudan of trying to destabilize the whole region. With 450,000 Eritrean refugees still in Sudan, he fears infiltration of armed Islamic fundamentalists into Eritrea.

► Ethiopia is concerned about the smuggling of an estimated 1,200 tons of Harer coffee through Djibouti which would mean the loss of \$4.7 million. Since 1991 Ethiopia has increased its payments to coffee producers to cut smuggling. Ethiopia is Africa's third largest producer of coffee after Uganda and Ivory Coast, earning \$300 million in 1994-1995.

► Ethiopia earned over 3 billion birr (\$480 million) from exports from July 1994, to July 1995, an increase of 1.3 billion birr over the previous year, but short of the 4.1 billion birr target. Low coffee and livestock export were listed as the cause.

From the *Ethiopian Review*, November, 1995

► October 11, 1995 The trial of more than 70 former officials of the former Mengistu regime has been postponed until the special prosecutor can bring specific charges against each defendant.

► October 19, 1995 Prime Minister Meles Zenawi met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of Defense William Perry and President Bill Clinton. Concern over Sudan was a major topic of discussion. Ato Meles was in New York to attend the 50th anniversary celebration of the United Nations.

► October 20, 1995 - The U.S. Embassy in Addis Abeba reported that the

director and deputy director of USAID in Eritrea have been expelled on October 16. They were reportedly accused of interfering in the internal affairs of Eritrea. The director of the U.N. World Food Program was also expelled from Eritrea.

From the *Ethiopian Register* - November, 1995

► Dr. Aklilu Lemma has been elected the first Chairman in the area of Youth and Development in Africa which was established at Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health by UNESCO.

There are three major projects under way. One is evaluating HIV/AIDS-control activities in Uganda. The Save the Girl-Child provides girls with education and counseling through community centers. The third program, called Window of Hope for Safeguarding Youth from AIDS, will focus on teaching youth, ages 5 to 15, about behavior and ethical values that can protect them from HIV. The projects will start in Ethiopia and Uganda and hopefully expand into other African countries.

From the *Ethiopian Review* - November & December, 1995

Ethiopian runner Haile Gebre Selassie set three world records in the summer of 1995 in the 2,000, 5,000 and 10,000 meter running events. He was named Ethiopian of the Year in the December, 1995 *Ethiopian Review*. He and several other track athletes will be competing in the Atlanta Summer Olympics from July 19 through August 4 for the Ethiopian Olympic Committee.

► November 23, 1995 President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of Sudan blamed the U.S. for carrying out a campaign by some of its neighbors to isolate Sudan. "The U.S. and its allies have succeed in tempting these countries against Sudan due to its Islamic

orientation." The U.S. has put Sudan on a list of countries which sponsor terrorism. Sudan denies this. Eritrea and Uganda have broken off diplomatic relations with Sudan.

► November 16, 1995 An agreement between Sudan and Ethiopia will repatriate up to 60,000 Ethiopian refugees from Sudan between November and May, 1996. In the past 4 years 967,000 Ethiopian refugees have been repatriated.

► In a move to privatize state-owned enterprises, the Coca Cola plant was purchased by a group of Ethiopian businessmen for \$10 million birr, and the Pepsi Cola plant was purchased for \$16.6 million birr.

From *Ethiopian Register* - December, 1995

► Authorities in Djibouti have expelled Ethiopian refugees, particularly those who have businesses such as bars, hotels and restaurants, claiming they were spreading alcoholism and prostitution. The pressure has come from the Islamic purists who want Djibouti to become an Islamic state like Iran. Over 1,000 Ethiopians have returned to Dire Dawa. There are an estimated 80,000 Ethiopian refugees. Djibouti's president made a distinction between political and economic refugees and said Djibouti cannot continue to give refuge to economic refugees of Ethiopia.

From the *Ethiopian Review* - January, 1996

► November 26, 1995 Minister of Education, Gennet Zewde, disclosed a plan to cut three faculties from Alemaya Agricultural University. The Faculty of Agricultural Economics will move to the Amhara Region, the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering will move to the Tigre Region, and the Faculty of Forestry will be merged into the Southern University together with the Awassa Agricultural College.

News from the Horn *(continued)*

From the Ethiopian Register - January, 1996

▶ December 5-6, 1995 Addis Abeba University students staged a hunger strike and boycotted classes because of several campus issues. A meeting was arranged between the Academic Vice President, the Minister of Education, Gennet Zewde, and the students. The main grievances involved the perceived lack of assistance by the Dean of Students over facilities such as library services, dormitories, health services, the high student attrition rate due to courses being phased out and other changes in regulations and a deterioration of the quality and quantity of cafeteria food. They demanded that the Academic Vice President and the Dean of Students be removed from office.

The Academic Vice President blamed budgetary limits, but the Minister of Education stated that the budget was adequate and the fault was with an inefficient university administration. The students were allowed to elect a 15-member committee to address their problems. The next day it was announced by the government that the university president, vice-president and VP for business and development had been removed and replacements appointed. The appointments were reportedly made the day the students elected their committee. Weysero Gennet threatened to take "legal action" against the officers responsible for the student's grievances. Sources sight these events to show that the government had made its decision long before the demonstration.

The new president is Dr. Mogese Ashenafi, a member of the Biology Department. Dr. Hailu Ayele, Dean of the Faculty of Technology, is the new Academic Vice President.

▶ November 9-11, 1995 Government authorities, without notice, bulldozed 501 homes in Abu Chefe

section of Addis Abeba. Officials claimed the homes were illegally built without securing the proper permits. Many residents claim they bought the land during the time of the Derg and were fined for not paying property taxes on time. Some residents said that on Nov. 9 they received a summons ordering them to produce proof of legal ownership. When they appeared the officials were not in their offices. Three hours later bulldozers and a hundred armed police pulled down the houses leaving 4,000 residents homeless. People who protested were beaten and chained.

From the Ethiopian Register - February, 1996

▶ Tension mounts in the Afar Region. The government's political party, the Afar Peoples Democratic Organization (APDO) has been trying to take control of the Afar Liberation Front Party (ALFP) and the Sultan of Afar. The APDO is accused of manipulating the November 24 local district council elections in which it won the majority of the seats. The Sultan's home in Asayita was raided on November 8, 1995. After an armed struggle in which several guards were killed a number of arms were disclosed in the houses. The Sultan and his sons were away at the time.

The APDO held a "Peace, Development, and Democracy Conference Dec. 21-29 passing a resolution calling on "an illegally armed people" to surrender their weapons to the TPLF army.

▶ The Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU) has called on the Ethiopian government to respect the international conventions protecting the rights of workers and from interfering in the internal affairs of CETU. The Ministry of Labor had canceled CETU's registration certificate declaring it to be an illegal organization. There is a court battle going on to reverse this decision.

▶ In Ethiopia's Somali Region, the Educational Bureau and Civil Service Bureau have dismissed 2,287 teachers who had no qualifications. The Ethiopian Teachers Association has protested that well-trained, experienced teachers were being dismissed and replaced by high school dropouts on the pretext that the former did not speak the local language. Now the harmful effects of provincial ethnic policies are beginning to be realized.

▶ January 8, 1996 US military experts visited military headquarters of the Ground Forces and Engineering Corps, and the police training camp in Kolfe. US military have also been training government soldiers at the Holeta Military School in the handling and detonation of explosives. A land mine exploded at an irrigation project site in Gode, Somali Region, killing four and wounding five members of the Ministry of Water Resources on January 5, 1996. This is the fourth such attack and a total of thirty project workers have died.

▶ January 18, 1996 - A bomb exploded at 8:10 p.m. in the hallway of the Ghion Hotel killing several and wounding many more. Several diplomats of the OAU were dining nearby at the time.

▶ January 23, 1996 Dr. Taye Walde Semayat, President of the Ethiopian Teacher's Association was once again denied a visa to the United States. His purpose was to solicit support for the ETA whose assets were confiscated by the TPF in retaliation for its refusal to implement the policy of separate development or "killills".

▶ A military buildup is occurring in Gojam and Gondar. Soviet Missile batteries and missile-guided radar equipment has been moved to Bahar Dar. A modern runway capable of serving international flights is being

built at Azezo, south of Gondar and new roads are being built in the area "to facilitate economic development". It is believed this activity is to combat the aggressive Sudanese Islamic government. President Omar al-Bashir has stated that Ethiopia and Eritrea leaders have betrayed Sudan and will be taught an unforgettable lesson. (Eth. Register, Jan. 1996).

► TPLF authorities are also forcing youths in areas of Wollega, Arsi, Western and Eastern Shoa including Ambo into the army. Each Peasant Association is to supply ten youths for military training. Tamrat Layne, Defense Minister, says this campaign is necessary to balance the ethnic mix of the defense force. Youths are fleeing to avoid conscription. Parents are being pressured to produce their sons and are asked to make financial contributions to the army.

► Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has asked the UN Security Council to assist in forcing Sudan to hand over the three Egyptians allegedly involved in the attempt on Hosni Mubarak in Addis Abeba in June, 1995.

► December 26, 1995 The Ethiopian Electric Light and Power Authority has been rationing electric power to Addis Abeba and four other regions on a shift basis because of low water levels in the Koka and Melka-Waken hydro-electric dams. Water supplies in Addis are also affected even in the best hotels.

► December 28, 1995 Eritrea handed over 185 Yemeni soldiers which were captured in a three-day battle for control of the two Hanish islands in the Red Sea. Yemen demands that Eritrea withdraw its forces before talks begin. Eritrea refuses. Arab countries including Sudan support Yemen and condemn Eritrea's seizure of the islands. Ethiopia and Egypt have tried to mediate the dispute.

► **From *The New York Times International section* - Sunday, December 31, 1996**

In a story called "Ethiopia Deals with Legacy of Kings and Colonels" by Donatella Lorch. Former Emperor Haile Selassie still does not have a final resting place. His coffin lies in a crypt of the Bhata Church in Addis Abeba next to the tomb of Emperor Menelik II. It is behind glass in an apparent closet draped in maroon, gold-brocaded velvet with his picture nearby. The government, 20 years after his death is not willing to give him an official funeral and national day of mourning. The Mengistu regime of 17 years tried to blot out Ethiopia's historical heritage and myths and the ceremonies and beliefs of the Orthodox Church. The current government is continuing this devaluation of historical Ethiopia. In its place is a federal system divided along ethnic lines.

For the 95% of the 56 million Ethiopians who are subsistence farmers life goes on as it always has with life based on the rich past history and the numerous holidays of the Orthodox Church. Life in Lalibella, the heart of Orthodox Christianity since the 12th century and the location of 11 hand carved rock churches, has not changed. *

From *The Boston Globe* - February 15, 1996

► February 15, 1996 An article entitled, "Ethiopian Jews — still outsiders in land of Zion" by Ethan Bronner, relates the difficulties of the 55,000 "Beta Israel" Falashas who migrated to Israel in two separate rescue operations in 1984 and 1991.

Since arriving Ethiopians have benefited from numerous welfare programs and mortgage plans. But Ethiopians feel left out with no sense of belonging or purpose in the highly competitive society. There are many culture differ-

ences as the Israelis are assertive and abrupt people who share their feelings; Ethiopians speak in long slow and intricate ways and don't openly talk about their emotions. Israeli programs to put Ethiopian toddlers in school are seen by Ethiopian parents as taking their children away. The traditions of the Ethiopian immigrants have been questioned. Hit particularly hard are the Ethiopian youth who are dropping out of Israeli schools at an alarming rate. Only 7 percent finish high school. They are becoming street children and problems for society. Ethiopians were also placed in special education programs for the retarded because they didn't speak Hebrew. Meanwhile the army is turning away Ethiopian recruits.

The Beta Israel trace their Judaism from the tribe of Dan through the assertion of a 16th century Egyptian rabbi. But a professor of African history at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, wrote a book on the Ethiopian Jews stating their practices derive from early Christianity. The Hebrews demanded that all Ethiopians agree to a symbolic ritual conversion to the true Judaism. Most refused, leaving tension between the rabbis and the community.

The latest scandal is that blood given by Ethiopians has been secretly discarded by officials because officials point out that of 1,500 HIV-positive Israelis, one-third are Ethiopian. *

From the *Ethiopian Review* — February, 1996

► January 10 Sudan asked the U.N. Security Council to call an urgent meeting accusing Ethiopia of invading its eastern borders. On January 16 the Ethiopian government denied that its troops had occupied border towns in Sudan. It charged that the charges were to divert attention from the real Security Council resolution (passed on January

* To borrow a copy of the article, contact E&E RPCVs.

News from the Horn *(continued)*

31) calling on Sudan to extradite three men wanted by Ethiopia for the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Mubarak.

▶ January 16 The World Bank reported that creditors had agreed to write off up to \$250 million of Ethiopia's \$270 million commercial bank debt. Of great concern is Ethiopia's \$4 billion external debt much of which was for military equipment. (Reuters)

▶ January 25 Germany will give Ethiopia a grant of approximately \$34 million which will be used to purchase and transport fertilizers for agricultural development. (Xinhua News Agency)

▶ January 22-24 Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi made an official visit to France to meet with French President Jacques Chirac on bilateral relations and international issues. The two countries also resolved to work for a peaceful solution to the dispute between Eritrea and Yemen over the Hanish Islands which France is mediating.

From the *Ethiopian Review* — March, 1996

▶ January 13 B. K. Anderson, a Texas contractor who as an engineer and haulage contractor in Sudan in the 70s and 80s became close to the Eritrean Liberation Front, has signed a contract for a \$210 million resort on one of the Dahlak Islands in the Red Sea near Massawa. The huge resort would have two casinos, a golf course, holiday village, marina and five-star hotel with 200 rooms. The aim is to lure rich Saudis from the other places they go to have fun. The Eritrean government is prepared to provide security from strict Islamic Fundamentalists who are against this resort. This prospective resort may be behind Eritrea's invasion of the Hanish islands in December since an Italian investor was reportedly building a tourist facility there. (The Economist)

▶ February 7 Vincent Kern, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, met with the Ethiopian House of Representatives Defense Committee. He expressed a desire to contribute to the consolidation of peace in the Horn of Africa. Some analysts believe Kern's mission was to determine Ethiopia's preparedness in possible military operations against Sudan.

▶ February 8 Two state-owned Amharic publications were closed due to the high cost of newsprint. *Yezareitu* and *Sendequ* were closed down. The price of the Amharic daily *Addis Zemen* and *The Ethiopian Herald* were raised to .50 birr.

▶ February 12 Canyon Resources Africa Ltd., a subsidiary of a Colorado mining company, has agreed to a joint venture with JCI Limited to finance gold exploration in the Adola Gold Belt of southern Ethiopia in the Meleka Abeba area. (Business Wire)

▶ February 13 The trial of former Dergue officials under Mengistu resumed after a five month break and adjourned again after a 17-minute session. Staff shortages and an excessive work load were given as reasons to delay the trial. The trial will resume April 4.

▶ February 14 Ato Hayelom Araya, Chief of Operations at the Ministry of Defense was shot and killed after an argument with Jemil Yasin, an Eritrean. Ato Hayelom was a longtime TPLF military commander.

▶ February 15 All US diplomats left Sudan in protest of that country's support of terrorist groups. For seven years Sudan has been under Islamic Fundamentalist leadership. (Douglas Jehl, Int'l Herald Tribune)

▶ February 18 Approximately 200,000 demonstrators gathered in Meskel Square to protest the government's plan to hold the main events for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Adwa in Adwa rather than in Addis Abeba.

From the *Ethiopian Register* — March, 1996

▶ January, 1996 The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), in its ninth report, shows that the TPLF controlled Ethiopian government's violation of human rights continues unabated.

▶ January 24, 1996 The Afar National Liberation Front (ANLF) accused the TPLF-sponsored Afar People's Democratic Organization (APDO) of being more concerned with protecting its power and promoting party rivalry than with solving the peoples problems. In recent elections the APDO holds 783 seats while the ANLF holds 312 seats, the Afar Liberation Front Party (ALFP) holds 236 seats, the APDM, 33 seats, and the ANDM 34 seats.

▶ January 27, 1996 German President Roman Herzog met with Ethiopian opposition groups at the German Embassy in Addis Abeba. The meeting focused on the need for building a multiparty system and on solving some of the problems facing the Ethiopian opposition.

▶ January, 1996 The American Embassy, for a second time, denied a visa to Ato Taye Wolde Semait, President of the Ethiopian Teachers Association, to present a paper at the Midwest Social Science Symposium in Chicago from February 10-15. The rejection is believed to be a result of the Ethiopian Teachers Association's criticism of the Peace Corps Mission in Ethiopia.

▶ January 28, 1996 The government ordered that members of district "Peace

and Stability Committees" turn in their weapons. These committees were set up when the EPRDF overthrew the Mengistu regime "to keep law and order" as well as to track down dissidents. Now the former PSC members refuse to return their weapons saying they need them to defend themselves against those seeking revenge for their support of the TPLF/EPRDF interim government.

► February 6, 1996 A Regional Court upheld the early ruling of the Zone Court in favor of approximately 40 Addis Abeba University professors who were dismissed in April, 1993. The Court held that the professors had a legally valid employment contract which also required a 6-month advance notice prior to dismissal. The court awarded the professors their six-month salary in place of the six month notice and a three month salary as compensation. They were not reinstated.

From the *Ethiopian Review* — April, 1996

► March 1, 1996 Over 250,000 people took part in the 100th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Adwa in Meskel Square in Addis Abeba. Hundreds of Oromo horsemen and marchers wearing the traditional warrior outfits were in the parade. (A plan to reenact the battle was dropped because of lack of funds and because not enough Europeans volunteered to play the Italians!)

Also symposiums and cultural shows were held in Addis Abeba and Adwa. An Adwa Victory Square and an Adwa Victory Memorial Monument were unveiled near Asmara Road in Addis Abeba.

► March 11, 1996 David H. Shinn was named by President Clinton as Ambassador to Ethiopia. The Senate must confirm the nomination. Mr. Shinn

was formerly the director of East African Affairs at the State Department.

► March 14, 1996 The Committee to Protect Journalists in Washington, D.C. ranked Ethiopia as the country with the second highest number of imprisoned journalists. At the end of 1995, 31 journalists were in prison in Ethiopia.

► March 18, 1996 The head office of the Ethiopian Teacher's Association (ETA) was ransacked and sealed by government security forces. Documents and personal notebooks of Dr. Taye Wolde Semayat, ETA's chairman, were seized. At the time he was on a work visit in Europe.

► The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is putting increased pressure on the Ethiopian government to release Mamo Wolde from prison. He has been in prison without a trial since mid-1992. Wolde won the 1968 Olympic gold medal for the marathon in Mexico City. Letters to the Special Prosecutor's Office and the Ethiopian Athletic Federation have received no response. (Reuters World Service, March 12, 1996)

► The Ethiopian defense ministry is selling the country's 16 naval ships as it no longer has access to the sea.

From *The New York Times*

► January 3, 1996 In spite of the biggest crop yield in a decade, Ethiopia faces famine caused by a combination of "degraded lands, poor road networks, a high birth rate, disease and an agricultural base destroyed by years of civil war and Government policies."*

► March 4, 1996 Distance runner Haile Gebrselassie, who set five world records since July of 1995 is carrying the hopes of Ethiopia to the Atlanta Olympics. His life is detailed in a long article.*

► April 23, 1996 The trial of 46 leaders of the Derg has resumed while the families of victims continue to mourn. The trial is held only two days per week and it is estimated that it could go on for years.*

► May 4, 1996 Demobilized women fighters in Eritrea are finding it hard to get the respect and equality that they had during the war. Many who fought had little education and upon their return to civilian life are unable to find work with responsibilities commensurate with their war experience and frequently they are expected to return to traditional subservient roles. *

► May 19, 1996 Rather than use foreign contractors, the Eritrean government is rebuilding the 73-mile railroad line between Asmara and Massawa that was destroyed during the war of independence. Former fighters and retired railroad men are working for as little as \$2 a day to rebuild the track and bring to working order 6 60-year-old engines that have been idle for 20 years.*

From *Newsweek*

► February 26, 1996 A rosy picture of Eritrea and its economic future are the subject of "Eritrea: Back from the Ruins."*

From *USA Today*

► June 18, 1996 *Our World*, a sixteen-page paid supplement to the newspaper reports on the economic development in Ethiopia.*

* To borrow a copy of the article, contact E&E RPCVs.

Eritrea trip report

by Nyle Kardatzke (Adi Ugri 62-64)

In December of 1994, Nyle Kardatzke travelled to Eritrea. He has shared some of his notes from that trip with us.

The hectic pressures of modern life have overtaken me since my return from Eritrea. The trip went very smoothly, and Eritrea is a safe, peaceful, friendly place to visit. In several ways it is a more peaceful and coherent place than it was in 1962-64.

On this visit, I was in Eritrea for two weeks. While there I visited Adi Ugri, Adi Quala, Kodofelassie, Enda Abona monastery, Nefasit, Ghinda, Decamare and Massawa. In Asmara I stayed at the Hotel Diana, where I paid \$4.80 per night.

My host was Isaac Joseph, with whom I taught in 1962-64 and with whom I have corresponded ever since. He works for the Relief and Rehabilitation Agency of the Eritrean Orthodox Church, and his agency generously allowed him to travel with me to the places named. Berhane Zerai, Mentegbesh Ghebrehiwot and Berhe Tesfamariam, three of my former students, were also most generous with their hospitality. As I expected, my visit there seemed somewhat like "returning from the dead," because a whole

lifetime had passed since I had left in 1964, and so much had changed. Young 6th, 8th and 9th grade boys and girls now have grey hair and grown-up children of their own, have fought a 30 year war for independence, and are in many instances holding key positions in the new economy and government of Eritrea. I saw more than 20 of my former students, and I met some other very prominent graduates of Adi Ugri's St. George School, as it is now called again. St. George must have been one of the best schools in the country, judging from the feats of character and intellect of our students.

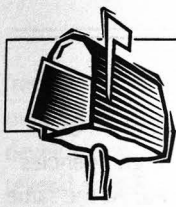
Eritrea is rapidly rebuilding from the long war with Ethiopia. This is especially evident on the Massawa and Adi Ugri roads and in war-torn places like Massawa. Many parts of Eritrea have changed very little in 30 years, because the war prevented most new construction and even normal upkeep.

The "fighters," as the independence war veterans are known, make an unforgettable impression. They are all relatively young, from late 20s to no more than mid-50s. Every fighter I met or saw on the street had a curious calmness and gravity. Most had narrowly escaped death more than once; all had lost friends in the war; and all had seen final victory against the most impossible odds. Even when smiling and making social small talk, the fighters I met had a quality of seriousness that I had never seen before.

If you are planning a visit to Eritrea in the near future, be assured that I found it very safe and hospitable. The war came to a full stop a couple of years ago, and visitors are freer to move about Asmara and the whole country than was the case 30 years ago, and even that was a time of relative peace. Eritrea is a very inexpensive place to visit, once you get there. Very good meals in local restaurants can be had for \$3-\$4 US, and hotel rooms can be as cheap as \$3.00 per night. The weather is, if anything, even more pleasant than I remembered, especially in Adi Ugri. If you can stay for two weeks or more, you will surely meet a number of people you knew before, and you will sense that you are just beginning to learn about this unique, heroic little country.

Among the notes I took were reminders of travel tips that would be useful to someone else making this trip. If you are thinking of going to Eritrea I shall be happy to share these with you.

Happy traveling and happy memories to you.



Note from a former Peace Corps doctor

In March 1966, I returned to visit Addis Abeba where I was a Peace Corps physician from 1964 to 1966. I found the city and surrounding countryside remarkably unchanged except for the growth of the city. I visited Amanuel Mental Hospital, the only psychiatric hospital in the country, and which I knew well during my early stay. It is now staffed with seven Ethiopian psychiatrists. My predominant impression was of a remarkably dedicated staff making do with remarkably minimal resources. For example, the Director, Dr. Menilik Desta, returned to Ethiopia to fund the hospital following his training in England despite having been imprisoned for 15 months by the Mengistu regime. He could be earning 20 to 30 times his present salary if he had remained in England or come to America.

The Stanley Foundation, with which I am associated, has given the hospital \$10,000 which has been used to open an outpatient pharmacy. Dr. Tedla Giorgis, a clinical psychologist in Washington, D.C., has started an organization called Friends of Amanuel Hospital which is arranging for donations of psychiatric books, journals, funds, and other resources to the hospital. Any returned PCVs who have an interest in helping should contact Tedla at the Commission on Mental Health Services, 1536 U Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 (tel. 202-673-2064). I would also be happy to send my report on conditions at the hospital to anyone who is interested.

E. Fuller Torrey, M.D.
NIMH Neuroscience Research Center
at St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Washington, DC 20032

Note from a former roommate

I feel some kudos are in order for Marian Haley Beil for her years of service as editor of *The Herald*.

She is, and has been, the bridge of communication to keep us informed about Ethi/Eritrean Volunteers past and present. And the country news is more complete than in the news magazines.

She begs and cajoles news from us, writing, editing and designing it with minimal help. The result is a professional quality newsletter which has received recognition from the NPCA.

In addition, she answers many queries for information on lost souls, and continually updates addresses. E&E RPCVs probably has the best database of Volunteers of any country-of service group.

No small feat, Marian! I am grateful for your hard work and devotion, *The Herald* makes my day!

Fran Fisher LaCroix
(Debre Berhan 62-64)

Notes from a house builder

Learning about the John F. Kennedy Library "Peace Corps Collection" prompted me to assemble my slides showing how an Ethiopian tukul is constructed. While living in the bush with the Gurage, I built, or had built, a tukul, during the course of my two year stay. Since I was told that the Gurage build the best houses in Ethiopia, all by hand and using no nails, I decided to photograph the step by step process. The construction took almost a year, and not just because all the materials

had to be hand crafted or grown. Aside from weather considerations, work was constantly stopped by the required attendance at tribal funerals, of which there were at least three a week, on average. I remember one three week period in which all I did was go to funerals! Work was also slowed by the Gurage belief that if construction took place while the moon was either waxing or waning, basically anytime it appeared in the night sky, "worms" (most likely termites) would enter the wood and the house would collapse in no time. So that took another 15 days out of the work month. But after a long year or so, the Gurage women smeared diluted cow dung on the earthen floor (to control the chiggers) and I began occupying the tukul in 1971.

Wanting to share this experience with others, I culled my many shots down to 137 slides that *had* to be included. I wrote a narrative describing each slide showing the step-by-step process of process of construction and mailed it off to the JFK library and the copyright office in May 1995. I received the copyright later that year and finally received the deed for my slides signed by the Archivist of the United States in March of this year. The full 137 slide set entitled: "Construction of an Ethiopia Tukul: How the Gurage of Ethiopia make their homes," (with narrative), is now a part of the Peace Corps Collection and available to anyone interested.

Michael Santarelli
(70-73)

[To learn more about the Peace Corps Collection write: Stephen Plotkin, *The Peace Corps Collection*, John F. Kennedy Library, Columbia Point, Boston, MA 02125.]

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN WASHINGTON

Minutes by Susan Hundt Bergan

Members of the ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs (E&E RPCVs) Steering Committee who had come to Washington for the 35th Anniversary celebrations met at 2 pm, March 1, 1996, in their hospitality room at the Lombardy Hotel. It was their first meeting since the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) conference in Austin, Texas, in August, 1995. Steering Committee members present at the March meeting were: Marian Haley Beil, Susan Hundt Bergan, Leo Ceccini, John Coyne, Nancy Horn and Jim Solomon. Absent were: Robert Hamilton, Wayne Kessler and Chuck Kreiman. Also present at the meeting was Gloria Curtis (63-65).

Chair Marian Haley Beil opened the meeting with housekeeping details that included distributing tickets to committee members for the V.I.P. reception to precede the benefit dinner that evening. Marian noted that four tables (seating 10 attendees each) had been reserved for Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs at the benefit. (Thanks for our good showing are due to the tireless arm-twisting efforts of John Coyne in selling tickets to the event). She also reviewed E&E RPCVs plans for the Country of Service Update to be held on Saturday, March 2, at the Red Sea Restaurant and for Sunday, March 3, March of Flags on the Capitol Mall.

Financial Report: The financial report provided by Marian showed that Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs have \$3,700 on hand. Expenses since the last report (provided at the Austin meeting) included mailing *The Herald* to all names on our mailing list; sending a reminder notice about the 35th Anniversary event to E&E RPCVs in the Washington, D.C. area; and costs for providing a hospitality room at The Lombardy

Hotel for E & E RPCVs attending the 35th Anniversary events.

Bylaws: Marian provided the long and tortuous history of efforts to develop bylaws for our group. This project has been handed to Robert Hamilton and Susan Hundt Bergan for, hopefully, a quick and successful completion.

Book Locker Project for RPCVs: John Coyne reported that, with the financial assistance of *Glamour* magazine, about 1,000 books, mostly fiction, have been sent to Ethiopia and Eritrea for the use of the new PCVs there. The books will be kept at the PC resource libraries in Addis Abeba and Asmara. John has been able to acquire new books free from publishers but because Peace Corps will not send non-textbooks to the field, paying for postage is a challenge. Suggestions for possible assistance with shipping our books included the Rotary Club, and the African Studies Association (limited to textbooks). Gloria Curtis noted that, from her recent trip to Ethiopia and Eritrea, she is aware that the new PCVs especially need reference books and curriculum development materials. In addition, the Eritrean government has expressed interest in specific kinds of textbooks. Nancy Horn cautioned that it's important to be aware that customs must be paid on books, of whatever kind, arriving in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Other Projects for PCV Support: Jim Solomon reported that he is putting together a list of the new PCVs in Ethiopia and Eritrea and the towns where they are serving. He is encouraging Volunteers in the field to apply for a Peace Corps World Wise Schools project which will match a Volunteer's school with a supporting class or school in the U.S. Jim will coordinate the matching of American sponsors with Volunteers and their schools.

enCorps: Leo Cecchini, Director of enCorps, distributed a summary — based on a longer report provided by Wayne Kessler — of enCorps first year of activity. Wayne has successfully

brought enCorps to the attention of all relevant domestic and foreign agencies and organizations in Eritrea. At the same time, Leo has met with many of those agencies at their headquarters in the U.S.

As reported in the Fall/Winter issue of *The Herald*, four enCorps members, David Gurr, Robert Hovde, Wayne Kessler and John Rude, served as instructors in a workshop conducted by the Eritrean Institute of Management and funded by USAID. enCorps has also joined World Vision and the National Union of Eritrean Women in a project funded by USAID to encourage the development of small, women-owned businesses in Eritrea. Wayne is designing and assisting with a project, funded by Catholic Relief Services, to train disabled freedom fighters to raise poultry. The training will take place at the Ministry of Education's training center in Asmara.

Finally, Leo summarized a number of potential additional projects with which enCorps may become involved. The stumbling block to enCorps' involvement is usually funding. It is Wayne's view that if enCorps put up its own money for projects, we could readily place more enCorps volunteers in the field. Leo noted that the enCorps investment fund, which Robert Hamilton is developing, may provide an additional source of funding. The use of this money will be under the control of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee concluded, after discussion, that enCorps should focus on supporting inexpensive and targeted micro-projects, such as urban gardening or poultry raising, primarily through providing personnel and technical assistance. Fund-raising per se should not be our focus.

Nancy Horn, who now works for USAID in Washington, provided a larger context for thinking about the role and possibilities for enCorps. Nancy provided a summary of the current goals and strategic objectives for the

'reengineered' USAID, whose overarching mission is sustainable development. Nancy sketched out several scenarios under which enCorps could become involved in USAID projects, one of them being registering as a PVO (Private Volunteer Organization) and submitting a proposal for funding. (Bylaws are necessary before an organization can register as a PVO.) Nancy agreed to keep the Steering Committee abreast of developments specifically affecting Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Review of Stipend to Wayne Kessler:

The Steering Committee currently provides a monthly stipend of \$125, with a \$25 transmittal fee, to Wayne Kessler to serve as the enCorps representative in Eritrea. The members felt that it is important to receive regular reports from Wayne of his activities, including efforts to identify new opportunities for enCorps. The Steering Committee voted unanimously to continue providing the stipend and to review the funding arrangement every six months.

New Business: In response to a question from Jim Solomon, Marian clarified that the enCorps participant database has not been updated since the original survey and there are no plans to do so in the near future. The information solicited in that survey was requested for long range availability and thus there is no need to repeatedly resurvey. Also, there is no relationship between the NPCA's Emergency Response database and ours.

Jim announced that he was recently elected to the board of NORCAL (Northern California Peace corps Association). By unanimous consent, Gloria Curtis was added to the Steering Committee and Wayne Kessler was made an ex officio member.

Next Meeting: The Steering Committee will meet via conference call in six months. If you have any topics that you would like to have the committee discuss, please contact one of the members noted on page 24.



The Haben Band

The Haben ("Pride") Band is made up of a distinctive team of 8 disabled men and a blind woman from Eritrea whose injuries were sustained during the thirty year war for Eritrean independence. The band, which represents the Eritrean War Disabled Fighters Association — an NGO based in Asmara, hopes to foster and create opportunities for self-reliance for disabled fighters, and to aid them in bridging the gap from social dependence to effective and productive participation in society.

The Haben Band offers a rare opportunity to enjoy Eritrean folk music and culture. It will be performing in the following cities as part of its North American tour:

Los Angeles on June 29
Columbus, Ohio on July 13
Boston on July 20
Toronto on July 27
Ottawa on August 3

If you would like more information about their performance, call 202-682-4148.



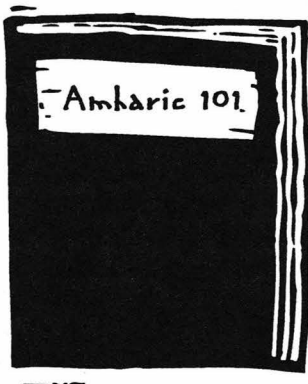
At the Peace Corps

- ▶ Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan had his 15 minutes of Whitewater fame when he testified before the Senate Whitewater Committee on February 15th that he didn't think that the notes he had taken during White House meetings to deal with the crisis were relevant to the inquiry and then later they were misplaced, he said.
- ▶ On March 2 Mr. Gearan had an op-ed piece in *The Washington Post* countering an op-ed article by a Richard Haass published February 15th in *The Post* that stated that Peace Corps Volunteers should be used for intelligence gathering by the U.S. Government. In his rebuttal, Mr. Gearan said that the suggestion was "both dangerous and cynical . . . to actually carry this out would place the lives of volunteers in serious danger."*
- ▶ Peace Corps World Wise Schools and Office of Domestic Programs are presenting an international festival at

* To borrow a copy of the article, contact E&E RPCVs.

the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History on Saturday, June 22 from 10:30am-4:00pm. E&E RPCVs **LADENA SCHNAPPER** (Dessie, Awassa 63-66) has volunteered her efforts to the project, so there should be great representation of Ethiopia and Eritrea at the festival.

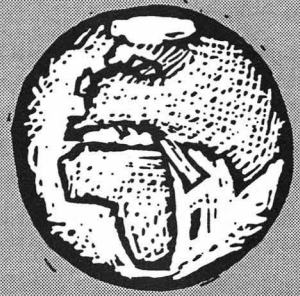
The Peace Corps is seeking candidates to become a United Nations Volunteer to work as a demographer with Addis Ababa University. Duties: working in association with the Program Coordinator of the Demographic Training and Research Center (DTRC), teach courses in demography/population at the graduate and undergraduate level; participate in DTRC research, guide and supervise students' theses research, and participate in short-term in-service training activities. Qualifications: Ph.D. in demography or related discipline, at least 2 years related professional experience, work experience in a developing country. Upper age limit is 65. US citizens call the UNV office at Peace Corps: 1-800-424-8580 or 202-606-3370, fax 202-606-3024. All other nationalities contact the UN Development Program at 202-331-90130, fax 202-331-9363.



Attention: Ethi I's

Ethiopia Peace Corps Director Lis Doane writes: "Could you check to see if anyone has a copy of any of their old Amharic language materials from the original program. We have heard that they were good and would love to get our hands on a copy."

Can you help? Contact E&E RPCVs.



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

The *Washington Post* (6/4/96) reported that in spite of bipartisan support in the Congress for the Peace Corps, the agency will have to cut existing programs over the next two years due to budget constraints as reported in *The Herald* #14. Some existing programs may however enjoy expansion over that same period of time: Haiti, China, Ghana, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Tonga Vanuatu and the Philippines.

Programs set for definite expansion include: Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

(Kind of makes you wonder where Africa fits in Peace Corps long range planning.)



BOOK NOTES

► **DICK LIPEZ'S** (Debre Markos, Addis Abeba 62-64) *SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM* was published in November (St. Martin's Press, 1995) [183 pp., \$19.95]. *SHOCK* is the fifth in a series of mysteries Lipez has written under the pseudonym of Richard Stevenson. In the March, 1996 issue of *RPCV Writers & Readers*, reviewer John Rex (Debre Berhan 62-64) said of *SHOCK*: "As we move from captured moment to unexpected plot twist, we are treated to superb wordsmithing and marvelous metaphors."

► *LONG TIME COMING: A BLACK ATHLETE'S COMING-OF-AGE IN AMERICA* was written by Chet Walker with **CHRISTIAN MESSENGER** (66-68) (Grove Press, 1995) [258 pp., \$22.00].

► **JOHN WOODS** (Jimma 65-68) has had another book published with James Cortada. It is *QUALITRENDS: 7 QUALITY SECRETS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE* (McGraw-Hill, 1996) [100 pp., \$9.95 paperback]. The book is a short, down-to-earth introduction to some modern principles of management and their relevance for individuals in any type of organization.

In February, John spoke on quality management issues at the Central American Quality Congress in El Salvador.

► **MILDRED TAYLOR** (65-67) has published *THE WELL: DAVID'S STORY* (Dial, 1995) [96 pp., \$14.95], a young adult novel set in Mississippi at the turn of the century. *THE WELL* features the same characters that appeared in Milly's 1977 Newberry Award winning *ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY*.

► *JOURNEY OF PURPOSE: REFLECTION ON THE PRESIDENCY, MULTICULTURALISM, AND THIRD PARTIES* was published by Paul Tsongas (Ghion 62-64) (Yale University Press, 1995) [114 pp., \$16.00].

► The Peace Corps has just published a second collection of essays about the Peace Corps experience by 25 PCVs and RPCVs entitled *AT HOME IN THE WORLD: THE PEACE CORPS STORY*, edited by **JOHN COYNE** (Addis Abeba 62-64). The book includes an introduction by **PATTI GARAMENDI** (Metu 66-68), Peace Corps Associate Director for Volunteer Recruitment & Selection and an essay, "Teaching Hope," by **JOHN RUDE** (Tessenei, Adi Ugri 62-64).

To obtain a free copy of the book, call 800-424-8580 and when the recorded voice begins to drone punch in 1 — this will connect you to your nearest PC recruiting office. They will be able to send you a copy.

► A new children's book for ages 8 to 12 has been published that tells the story of a young Falasha boy and his family as they experience the airlift to Israel. Entitled *WHEN I LEFT MY VILLAGE*, the book by Maxine Rose Schur with Illustrations by Brian Pinkney is available from Dial for \$14.99.

ETHIOPIA RPCVS COAUTHOR BOOKS BY JOHN COYNE

CHARLES MICHENER (Addis Abeba 1962-64) helped Peter Duchin, the last society band-leader, write *GHOST OF A CHANCE: A MEMOIR*, published this month by Random House. In *The New York Times Book Review* on Sunday, June 16th, reviewer, George W.S. Trow, writes, "Charles Michener's prose dances well with Mr. Duchin's story; when the story rises, Mr. Michener, an editor and music critic, rises with it." Michener is now an editor at *The New Yorker*.

Another Ethiopia RPCV writer, **STEPHEN FOEHR** (Debaark 1964-66) worked with Marty and Hugh Downey to produce *ON HEART'S EDGE: A STORY OF*

LOVE AND ADVENTURE IN AFRICA. This is the story of how the Downeys created Lalmba, the "World's Smallest International Relief Agency" in Keren, Eritrea.

What began as an orphanage in 1963 developed later into a hospital. During the war, the orphanage and hospital were confiscated by the Ethiopia army and the Downeys were expelled by the Ethiopia government because of their humanitarian work. In 1995, Lalmba officially returned to Eritrea and is one of the few NGOs (non-government organizations) to operate in Eritrea as an indigenous organization. They have now renovated and refurbished a

building in Asmara as a new school for medical technology. In 1995 the Downeys were co-recipients (with former president Jimmy Carter) of the 1995 Windstar Foundation Award. Copies of their book can be ordered from: Mikerem Publications, P. O. Box 745994, Arvada, Colorado 80006 (\$11.95+\$3.50 s&h). Revenues from this book go directly to support the work of Lalmba.

Meanwhile, Stephen Foehr is putting a Web site on the Internet this month. It will be a reference service to active, ecologically sound vacations. The Internet address is: www.actionstrips.com.

F R I E N D S

► **ROBERT RUSSELL** (Massawa 64–66) is an active member of the North Texas Peace Corps Association co-managing the group's membership database.

► **DICK OBERMANN** (Adwa 68–69) persuaded the *Erie, PA, Morning News* to publish a notice of the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Adowa in its Friday, March 1, 1996 list of "This day in history." The notice was in fact dubbed "Today's Highlight in History" in the article. It read: "One hundred years ago, the Battle of Adowa began in Ethiopia between the forces of Emperor Menelik II and Italian troops sent to enforce Italy's claim to colonial rule. The result was a crushing defeat for Italy, which later agreed to recognize Ethiopian independence."

[Ten items later in the same listing it was noted that on March 1, 1961 "President Kennedy established the Peace Corps."]

► In February, **WAYNE KESSLER** (64–66) had a photo exhibit at USIS in Asmara. Wayne was also featured in an article in the February 17 issue of *Eritrea Profile*.

► Mary Corboy, daughter of **ED AND JOAN CORBOY** (staff 62–64) is the subject of a painting by Andrew Wyeth entitled "The Liberal." The painting was part of "Andrew Wyeth: Autobiography," an exhibit at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City.

► **RICHARD HOLBROOKE**, who retired earlier this year as head of the

negotiating team for the Bosnian/Serb peace, was Peace Corps Director in Morocco from 1969 to 1971.

► **JOHN RUDE** (62–64) had an article published in the February/March 1996 issue of *The Humanist* about the Internet discussions about the Eritrean constitution entitled "Birth of a Nation in Cyberspace."

► **TED VESTAL** (staff 64–66) is back in the U.S. from Japan at Oklahoma State University. He presented a paper at the Battle of Adowa Centenary Conference at Michigan State University the weekend of March 1 entitled "Reflections on the Battle of Adowa and Its Significance for Today."*

* To borrow a copy of the paper, contact E&E RPCVs.

A LIFE OF CONSEQUENCE

by Kathleen Moore (Emdeber 65–67)

Just living moment to moment in Emdeber took such concentrated effort that very ordinary events became memorable.

Drinking a glass of water, for example, was not something I did hastily without thinking. Standing by the back door looking out at the garden, the garden that my students and landlord said would never grow because the seeds were planted by a woman, I held the glass under the tiny spigot of the water filter while it slowly filled with liquid, the color from pale orange to deep rust-red depending on how long it had been

since the filter was cleaned. I waited while the sediment in the water settled to the bottom of the glass, looking out the back door at the sky or the hills in the distance, thinking about how to teach the passive voice to the ninth grade English class.

Finally, I could sip the water, slowly so as not to stir up the little pile of whatever that was lying on the bottom, and when I got close to it I went out to the garden and poured the remaining drops on a struggling carrot plant. I knew, not in my mind but in my bones and blood, that everything here was connected: the

garden, the students, the river, and drinking a glass of water. In this life, every action required thought and intention and had consequences. Yet I had become accustomed to the complex routines of living in my grass house and did not want a life that would require less of me.

"A Life of Consequence" is excerpted from a novel written by Kathleen about her Peace Corps service.



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?

▶ While on the Ethiopia II reunion trip, John Schafer (Debre Markos 63-65) met a former student who would like to contact **BILL BAUM-GARTNER** (Debre Markos). If you can help, contact John at 1693 Charles Avenue, Arcata CA 95521.

▶ Gloria Gieseke Curtis (63-65) writes that fellow Denver resident Yigzaw Ambaye is seeking his teachers from the Debark school in Gondar 1972-73: **ROY JOHANNES MAYER** or Meyer (from Hawaii?) and **DON McCOY** (or McCough) from San Francisco. Please call Yigzaw at 303-333-4885.



Do you have an email address? If so, why not get it added to the list maintained by the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). At last count the list had over a thousand names of RPCVs, and grows everyday. If you're on the World Wide Web, visit the

Reconnect on the Internet

NPCA site at <http://www.vita.org/npc> and follow the links to add your email address to the list. It will appear immediately. The list can be searched by name, by country of service, etc. (If you've got an email address, but are not on the Web, sent me e-mail at mhbeil@servtech.com, and I will be happy to get you added to the NPCA site.)

While you're on the Internet, be sure to visit the Peace Corps Crossroads site at <http://pages.prodigy.com/goto/links.htm>. It's got everything Peace Corps. It's an

independent site, not associated with the Peace Corps, with links to RPCV country of service groups, sites associated with countries where Volunteers served (for example NomadNet, a mostly Somalia-related site), etc. Not to be missed.

Finally, be sure to stop at the *RPCV Writers & Readers* newsletter site at <http://www.servtech.com/public/mhbeil>. This site includes information about the newsletter, a complete (nearing 1,000 titles) bibliography of books by Peace Corps writers and books about the Peace Corps, late breaking news . . .

FYI...

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

► **From John Barnes —**

The December 6, 1995 issue of *Sports Illustrated** contains a feature story about Mamo Wolde, the Ethiopian who won the gold medal for the marathon at the 1968 Olympic games in Mexico City. He has been held in An Addis Abeba prison for three years without being formally charged and without legal assistance. He will be charged with a crime committed during the time he served as a Derg Revolutionary Guard under Mengistu Haile Mariam. Observers say he did not commit the shooting for which he is accused. The author of the *SI* article, Kenny Moore, who had run with Mamo, went to Addis to investigate. He met Mamo's wife and was eventually allowed to briefly meet a very thin Mamo Wolde in prison. The crime for which Mamo is accused is not bailable, however letters urging a speedy trial and/or arguing for his release should be written to: Ato Abraham Tsegaye, Special Prosecutor P. O. Box 6842, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

Professor Richard Pankhurst, former Director of the Ethiopian Studies Institutes of Addis Abeba University, has been negotiating with the Italians for the return of the giant Aksum Obelisk which was taken from Ethiopia to Rome on October 3, 1935. The Italians have agreed several times to return the obelisk but a dispute over who pays for the shipping has caused decades of delays. To send a letter of support, write to: Professor Richard Pankhurst, Aksum Obelisk Return Committee, P. O. Box 1896, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

Ato Ashenafi Kebede, Director of the Ethiopian Research Council, invites contributions to a joint project with Bridge to Africa to purchase, transport and install two 12-foot windmills in Ethiopia at Akaki. The windmills are designed to alleviate power and water shortages in the country. Donations can be made to: Water for Those Who Thirst: Ethiopia, c/o Center for African American Culture, Florida State University, 210 South Woodward, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2097; phone: 904-644-3252

► The Embassy of Ethiopia publishes a monthly newsletter — *News from Ethiopia*. For more information, write: Embassy of Ethiopia, 2134 Kalorama Road, NW, Washington DC 20008

► The Ethiopian Bir (Business & Industry Report), a bimonthly publication of business, science and the arts is available for a subscription rate of \$15.00 annually. Send a check or money order to: Ethiopian Bir, A Publication of Ethiopian American Heritage, Inc., P. O. Box 2334, Westfield, NJ 07090. Or fax: 908-789-2950.

► Shortly before she left for her Peace Corps service, Linda Ball's (Mongolia 93-95) mother died of breast cancer. Linda promised herself that someday she would do something to fight this disease. From September 16 to November 2 Linda will be bicycling across the US to raise funds for the Susan G. Komen Foundation for the fight against breast cancer. If you would like to make a donation to support this effort contact: Linda Ball, 3569 Blue Jay Way #201, Eagan, MN 55123; phone: 612-683-0720.

► Kwasi Bosompem has written *CONFESSIONS OF A NEGLECTED AFRICAN DAUGHTER* which tells the story of a young Ghanaian woman who seeks to find her place in modern society through education. A Peace Corps Volunteer helps her to realize her dream. To order send \$9.95 to PRDC Publishing, PO Box 3369, Woodmoor Branch, Silver Spring MD 20918.

Several RPCVs have begun an effort to create a Peace Corps Memorial Grove on the Mall in Washington to memorialize and honor the spirit of American volunteerism as shown by those who served in the Peace Corps. The proposed grove would include trees of the states and territories of the PCVs and trees of the countries where PCVs have served. You can support this concept by writing to your congressional representatives, the PC Director, the President. Send a copy plus your comments or notes of your willingness to help make this memorial a reality to: Peace Corps Memorial Committee, c/o FOC, PO Box 15292, Chevy Chase MD 20825

► *The New York Times* restaurant reviewer Eric Asimov said that the Meskerem, on 47th Street near 10th Avenue in New York "demonstrate(s) how good Ethiopian food can be.

► In the March 3 edition of *The Boston Sunday Globe* there was an article by 17-year-old African-American Lawrence Randolph from Dorchester, Massachusetts. In it he told of the warmth he found in the people of Eritrea when he visited there last summer. "Eritreans connect. When they talk to one another, they stand close, often touching. Touching is easy and natural here, whether it is giving someone three kisses on alternating cheeks, butting

shoulders, holding hands or walking down the street with arms wrapped around each other's waists."*

▶ RPCV Dan Anisman (Sierra Leone 82-83) is asking RPCVs to contact request their Congressional representatives to look into the *problems of service-disabled Peace Corps Volunteers obtaining health insurance*. If you do write, please send a copy of your letter and any response you receive to : Dan Anisman, 1911 Stanley Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20851; phone 301-231-7728.

▶ RPCV Michael Arnott (Philippines 79-81) is working to establish a Journal of Sustainable development and Education. The biannual publication will use case studies to examine the why, how to and results of development

projects. If you are interested in obtaining more information, contact: Michael Arnott, 61 Slade street, Belmont MA 02178; phone: 617-484-5068.

▶ RPCV Mark Keegan (Liberia 81-84) has produced the Human Rights Watch award winning film "The Word Universe." The film tells of an American who travels to West Africa in search of a Liberian refugee friend. "What we find on this journey — amidst the guns and blood, and between surf and forest — will change the way we look at Africa, the world and the human species." The 91-minute video is available for \$19.95 +\$3.00 s&h. Contact: Mark Keegan, 310 Riverside Drive #1605, New York NY 10025-4106; phone 212-662-5442.

▶ The organization Friends of Ethiopia & Eritrea published the 32-page *The Battle of Adwa in the American Press*, a compilation of news dispatches about the battle as reported in *The New York Herald Tribune* and *The New York Times* (transcribed by Paul Henze).*

* To borrow a copy of any article, contact E&E RPCVs.



ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs membership

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City, state, zip, country _____

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THE HERALD

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

Contributing editor — John Barnes (66-68)

Those who have shared articles, ideas and efforts — Gary Bergthold (62-64), Carolyn Behr (62-64), Donald Beil (Somalia 64-66), Susan Hundt Bergan (66-68), Ed Corboy (staff 62-64), John Coyne (62-64), Edward Engelbart (65-67), Dean Harper, Nyle Kardatzke (62-64), Laurie Kessler (64-66), Kathleen Moore (65-67), Carolyn Mulford (62-64), E. Fuller Torrey, M.D. (staff 64-66). *THE HERALD* wishes to thank them all. They are **greatly** appreciated.

If you would like to submit an article for publication, it would be appreciated if it is submitted on disk (labeled as to software and computer used) as well as hard copy. Any articles would be most welcomed.

As you can see, we now have the capacity to print photos, consequently any photo submissions would also be welcomed. They need to be clear, and the images large enough to be easily seen. All photos will be returned.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

c/o Marian Haley Beil
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