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THE RIGHT WAY TO GROW TOMATOES

By Karen DeWitt (Ghion 66-68)

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I'D FORGOTTEN THAT I HAD EVEN taken the Peace Corps recruitment test until that long-distance call came on a cold January day in 1965. Then, standing in a battered wooden telephone booth in my dormitory at Miami University of Ohio, I heard someone say, "Congratulations. You've been accepted."

Suddenly, graduate school, job, the ordinary future that stretched before me and my classmates disappeared, replaced by adventure, excitement and the unknown — literally the unknown, for I hadn't even asked what country I'd been stationed in. Didn't know, didn't care, didn't matter.

Suddenly, I was to be part of an adventure for my generation. I was to become a Kennedy kid, one of those thousands of young people whom President John F. Kennedy had asked to dedicate two years of their lives to work for freedom in Africa, Latin American or Asia. It was a heady invitation, asking "not what your country could do for you, but what you could do for your country." Here was something I could do.

According to the television commercials, the Peace Corps involved scrambling up hills and swinging across ravines in Marine-style training, laughing with exotically dressed peoples, speaking in strange tongues, teaching, drilling wells, living in mud houses. Hey — now that was me!

The first letter from Peace Corps told me I was going to be sent to Turkey. Great. I'd never been to Turkey. A second letter corrected the first; I was going to India. Cool. A third letter said East Africa, Ethiopia to be specific. Wonderful. I found Ethiopia on a map, then sought out the sole Ethiopian student on campus. He was amused by my enthusiasm. Only a short while ago I hadn't known he existed. Now I was fumbling around in his language, ravenous for information about his culture and customs.

The Peace Corps did a great job of training me. Eighteen months after that telephone call, with three months of living and teaching in the "culturally different" East Los Angeles barrio and a month of in-country training under my

belt, I was a teacher of English. And thanks to months of language training, I arrived in the highland village of Ghion armed with considerable Amharic, Ethiopia's national language, though that never prevented me from saying the Amharic word for "yellow" when I meant "only."

I HAD EXPECTED, IN MY ARROGANCE and ignorance, that I would give more than I got. I didn't. And my life has been the richer for it. I learned things profound and mundane: that a real "free-range" chicken is a tough bird to fry; that you get a heap of liver from a freshly slaughtered cow; that growing tomatoes in a frame is far superior to staking them, as I'd always been taught; that Africa is mighty cold at 8,000 feet above sea level; and that I had a gift for teaching.

As a student I was less successful. In an effort to quit smoking, I decided to learn to spin cotton. A deft Ethiopian woman named Conjeet tried for months to teach me, but never quite succeeded. Holding her spindle — what looked like an old-fashioned wooden baby rattle — in one hand, and darting it in and out of a puff of cotton, Conjeet spun threads as fine as any I'd ever pulled from a commercial spool. It looked so easy. I spun rope, I spun twine, I spun cord, I spun cable, but I never produced that fine thread of Conjeet's. Her friends would come night after night to watch the *ferengi* spin, giggling at my efforts. They were sure I'd never get a husband. "You spin like a man," laughed Conjeet. And so, instead of the sheer white shawl worn by Ethiopian women, the weaver wove a *gabi*, a heavy men's wrap, from my threads. I wore it until it was ruined in the sea trunk I sent back home.

I had great admiration for much that I met with in Ethiopia. But I never tried to become Ethiopian because there was always some aspect of the culture that

didn't suit me: I was an incurable American.

Shortly after my arrival in Ghion, my neighbor, Ato Getachew, a big landlord in the area, invited me to a meal and did something that horrified me. He picked among the bones from the stew we had eaten and with the hauteur of a king, offered one to his son. The boy shuffled forward, eyes lowered, his left hand politely holding the wrist of his outstretched right hand. The boy then scuttled back to his corner to gnaw on the bone like a dog. This was a perfectly acceptable way to treat a child by traditional Ethiopian standards, but I didn't like it.

HOWEVER, I DID ENCOUNTER Third World justice in a very satisfactory form on an Ethiopian bus. Buses were always crowded and in order to make a second run back to the capital before nightfall, the buses on my route often doubled up passengers from one bus to another at a village halfway to Ghion. The little Russian buses had a capacity of 30 passengers, but there were often twice as many people crammed aboard. Women and children were the first to suffer. Ousted from their seats, they ended up on the floor as men jammed into their places. I'd seen this many times, but on this day I shouted to the driver that this was unjust, illegal and unsafe. He laughed. Frustrated, I told him that he could do what he like but the farmer who sat beside me and I were going to be the sole occupants of our seat. At that moment a well-filled-out man of status, a *teliq sew*, clam-

bered onto the bus — the last to board. He surveyed the bus, shoved the poor farmer away and took his seat. I told the *teliq sew* he couldn't do that. He laughed at me and said he was a lawyer from Addis Ababa, and using an intimate form of Amharic reserved for children and servants, he told me to keep my place.

I let my great granny's Irish temper get the best of me. I told him a good many things about himself and then I suggested he get up. He laughed again. I then stabbed the tip of my umbrella into his thigh.

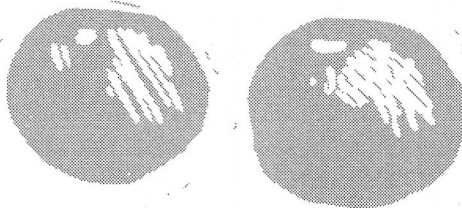
He got up. And he stayed up. The poor farmer, far from thankful for the return of his seat, moved to its far edge, as far away from the crazy *ferengi* as possible.

Until the bus pulled into Ghion, the lawyer lectured the passengers on the evils of the Peace Corps Volunteers, the low morals of American women, the bad examples we were to his country's woman and children, and how we had no jobs in the United States and had come to Ethiopia to eat meat every day. He was going to have me put into jail, he announced.

When the bus reached Ghion, the lawyer leaped off, grabbed my arm and told me that I was going to the police station. I shook him off. He grabbed again. Right there in the middle of Ghion's main thoroughfare the lawyer and I began to fight, me slashing away at him with my umbrella, like some mad black Mary Poppins. It was night — the hour of the evening stroll — and we attracted a crowd, many of whom were students from my school. Eventually we attracted the police.

Lawyer, police, crowd and I went off to the police station. After much discussion, the police jailed the Addis lawyer. He wasn't from the town. I was.

The Amharic world I heard most often during my time in Ethiopia was *ferengi*



—foreign woman. Whether spoken affectionately or harshly, the word reminded you that you were in the country but not of it. No matter that you were fluent in the local language, ate only local food, were godparent to a villager's child and buddy to the local moonshiner, you were still the foreigner. But that wasn't true that night. I was the *Yesalem Guad* [Peace Corps Volunteer] from Ghion. I belonged there.

The next day, my students wanted to know how I dared to do what I had done. I was a woman; he was a man. True, I was a teacher — a position with status — but he was a lawyer. I lived in a little provincial village. He was from the capital. I was young then, so I used the incident to give a lesson in democracy, the principles of social equality and respect for the individual within the community, regardless of status and clout.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I DID my students a favor or not. I don't know if the experience wasn't more valuable to me. I don't even know, now, if I acted with the best motives — standing up against injustice — or whether I wasn't just an ignorant, arrogant American annoyed at being inconvenienced.

What I do know is that the experience made me adventurous for more. For more cultures, more countries, more languages, more roads and vistas, more scents, sounds and experience beyond those of my own country. My years in the Peace Corps gave me a perspective from which to understand different attitudes toward time, to appreciate that there is more than one right way to grow tomatoes.

Karen DeWitt is a Washington correspondent for The New York Times.

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ERITREA: THE MUSTARD-SEED NATION

by John Rude (Tessenei & Adi Ugri, Eritrea 62–64)



In 1994 the Thirst for Learning Foundation decided that one of the best ways to help Eritrean schools rebuild would be to introduce Eritrea to Americans tourists, and let them experience firsthand the uniqueness of the country. John Rude, who serves as secretary to the foundation, led the foundation's first group of professionals, retirees and people returning for nostalgic reasons (including Peg Adlum, Adi Ugri, Eritrea 65–67) October of 1996. The itinerary included Asmara, Keren, Mendefera, Filfil, Massawa, Axum, Lalibela — and points in between. The travelers loved the dramatic Rift Valley contrasts and snorkeling in the Red Sea, but the people of Eritrea clearly made the deepest impression. Here is John's report, originally published in the Oregon Peace Worker.

HAVING VISITED ERITREA TWICE since it gained independence in 1991, I knew that the eight guests on my two-week tour last October would encounter many surprises. I urged them to suppress the impulse to concentrate on Eritrea's needs; instead, I wanted them to think about what Americans could learn from Eritrea. Here, in summary, are the lessons gleaned from these group discussions and private conversations:

Psychology Although Eritreans are among the poorest people in the world, with a per-capita annual income of \$150, they struck the American visitors as basically contented. Traumatic memories of war and the relentless pressures to enter the consumption-oriented modern age have been buffered by strong family ties and love of country. Virtually every Eritrean lost a family member in the war. Their response has been to focus on building

a new nation, worthy of the 100,000 lives which bought their freedom.

Religion Despite the very real threat of religious fundamentalism beyond Eritrea's borders, Eritreans have somehow managed to forge strong traditions of mutual respect between Orthodox Christians, Muslims and animists. They have had a long time to learn tolerance; Christianity was probably introduced in 300 AD, and Islam arrived a little more than three centuries later, while Mohammed was still alive.

Citizens' Participation After two years of gathering feedback from over a million citizens, Eritrea's Constitutional Commission recently issued the first draft of the nation's "bottom-up" Constitution. Since the early years of the EPLF's consolidation of power, the power of the popular will has been respected. Details of the Constitution are being reviewed and debated in town meetings by over one-sixth of Eritrea's 3.5 million population, worldwide, before it is finally promulgated later this year.

Government As a small nation, Eritrea has opted for simplicity. There are six administrative zones, but the national assembly, supported by traditional village leaders, runs the country. The Constitution calls for a unicameral legislature, elected by proportional representation, rather than the "winner-take-all" system used in the U.S. The franchise is extended to all citizens over age 18. In the last national election, a referendum on separation from Ethiopia, 97.6% of Eritrea's citizens voted. Competing political parties will eventually be allowed, but they haven't been formed yet. No parties will be permit-

ted which base their programs on religion or ethnicity.

Food Production Like its neighbor Ethiopia, Eritrea has suffered frequent and prolonged droughts. But in the five years since independence the country has restored farm production to 70% of its self-sufficient capacity. One of the most impressive sights in Eritrea are terraces built everywhere to "harvest" the seasonal rainfalls, diverting water into cisterns and dams, thus permitting year-round irrigation in some areas. With the help of Israeli desert-agriculture experts, Eritrea is developing farm exports for Europe: ornamental flowers, bananas, papayas and citrus fruits.

Land Use In the aftermath of successive colonial regimes, Eritrea suffered from a complex gridlock of claims regarding land ownership. The new government has resolved these claims by assuming ownership of all land, granting usufruct rights to villages, companies or individuals based on their capacity to produce. In effect, the government is using "rent control" to prevent speculation and inflationary spirals that have caused many developing countries to assume burdensome debts and "structural readjustments" mandated by the World Bank.

Ethnic Harmony Eritreans speak nine languages and comprise more than a dozen ethnic groups with distinct cultures and customs. Theoretically, the potential for Rwanda-style conflict is as great there as anywhere. The new Constitution, however, protects the rights of minorities and women, preserving traditional practices of mutual respect among ethnic groups. No single language has been selected as a "national language"; instead, most Eritreans learn several of their own languages, as well as English. All youths are required to spend six months of their two-year national service in a part of Eritrea they have never visited, to learn unfamiliar customs and serve people different from themselves.

Economic Development Eritrea is one of the few African nations which hasn't sacrificed its independence to meet the World Bank's "restructuring" requirements. The country is repairing its roads, telecommunications and other infrastructure on a pay-as-you-go basis. While this slows development, it also prevents uneven, hyper-inflationary growth within overpopulated cities, and distributes population (and economic capacity) evenly throughout the country. Eritrea carefully balances its use of multilateral aid from rich countries of the North. It has turned down substantial grants and loans from several countries (including the U.S.) on the grounds that large projects engender large obligations.

Conflict Resolution Despite the olive branch featured on its flag, Eritrea has assumed a "Don't Tread On Me" stance with its aggressive neighbors. Eritrea was the first government in the region to openly declare hostility toward the NIF "Jihad" movement in Sudan, or to take concrete steps to support the SPLA. All Eritrean youths (men and women) receive military training. While the Sudanese accuse Eritrea of military incursions, it is unlikely that Eritrea would risk the lives of 300,000 Eritrean refugees within Sudan. When conflicts can be settled peacefully, Eritrea has shown its willingness to go out on a limb. A dispute with Yemen over ownership of strategic islands in the Red Sea is being settled by international arbitration, using a formula suggested by the Eritreans as soon as the conflict broke out over a year ago.

Self-Reliance The pride and confidence that we saw in the faces of individual Eritreans was also reflected in the nation's attempt to rebuild a 72-mile stretch of railroad from the Red Sea port of Massawa up to the capital city of Asmara, located on the edge of a 7,000 foot escarpment. The original engineering miracle was built by the Italians in the 1930s, but all that remained after thirty years of war was a rail-bed and countless ruined bridges and tunnels. An Italian firm submitted a bid for

reconstruction of the vital commercial link - \$200 million, more than 10% of the nation's GNP. As the government recovered from its shock, old Eritreans in their 70s and 80s who had worked on the railroad came forth, saying: "Let us repair it." The old workers rebuilt their forges, trained young Eritreans to convert old rails and cars into new rolling stock, and began the slow climb up the escarpment. The project isn't finished yet, but when it is completed in another two years, the total cost will be less than \$5 million.

THE TRAVELERS WHO JOINED OUR tour understood that many aspects of Eritrea's bold ventures in self-reliance are not transferable to overdeveloped societies such as our own. But some of the intangible qualities of this remarkable country can be "caught," we concluded. Our travelers observed that in Eritrea, happiness seems to be based on an adventurous, loving, contributing spirit, rather than material progress. They asked: Why can't we, like the Eritreans, forge simple, sustainable lives out of faith and sacrifice, without damaging the planet or each other?

Other African countries need to carefully examine Eritrea's positive example, but the implications of this tiny experiment go far beyond a single nation or continent, into the recesses of the human soul. "If you have the faith of a grain of mustard seed, you will say unto this mountain, 'Remove hence to a yonder place.' And it shall move." (Matthew 17:20)

NOTE: Thirst for Learning is sponsoring another tour led by artist Betty LaDuke, mother of Green Party Vice-Presidential candidate Winona LaDuke scheduled for October 18–November 1, 1997. Anyone interested in the tour can contact John at (503) 581-0522, or view his Web page at www.open.org/tfl/eritrea which includes a tentative daily itinerary for the tour and links to other sites relating to Eritrea. John's E-mail address is: <johnrude@open.org>

The Village of DeeCee

by LaDena Schnapper (Dessie, Awassa 63-66)

Visitors to the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the Peace Corps at the Natural history Museum in Washington, DC, June 22, 1996 were treated to an unusual "virtual" experience of Ethiopia. A large room in the Museum was transformed into the Village of DeeCee (no, not Dessie, although I wish it could have been that) in the *araja* of Washington. I quite literally dismantled my very Ethiopianized apartment, involved community organizations and invited my Ethiopia friends to create the "most exciting" (as many guests described it) country display.

In one corner we assembled a colorful Ethiopian home decorated with basketry, children's dolls, embroidery, silver work and art pieces highlighting the Queen of Sheba. Waizero Mulu spent the whole day conducting the coffee ceremony* for her guests while Waizero Amelia explained the various foods displayed on the *mossebs*. The Axum, Kokeb and Spring Corner restaurants provided the food.

Atos Mamo, Aklilu and Workeneh "graduated" students in the *kes tamari bait*, another corner filled with books, maps, pictures and posters (thanks to

the Ethiopian Embassy), a stamp display (courtesy of Dlip), Amharic dictionaries and a blackboard of the *fedel*. Young visitors were fascinated and eager to learn to write their name in Amharic using paper and crayons that had been provided. To "pass," the children had to show their Amharic written name to Ethiopians in the room who were surprised to be able to read it.

Over fifty items from local markets, the Merkato, Addisu Gabaya and Tana, were neatly stacked on little pieces of paper on the ground ala Ethiopia in our *Kedame gebaya* (Saturday market). Waizero Genet demonstrated the bartering system as she described the many spices, *teff*, *koba itan*, stick toothbrushes and *Habasha lebs*.

The most popular corner of the village was the *mesheta bait* (evening pub) that came replete with art work of music and dance; musical instruments from the Center for Ethiopia Arts and Culture, *berchuma* (wooden stools from my friend Andy), and some *brilees* and bottles of *tedj*. Eight shows of Ethiopian dancing provided by artists Ashenafi and Genet and drumming by Shaday convinced the visitors they really could

move their shoulders in the *iskesta*.

I had the Norman Rockwell print of Mark Clausen (Dessie 62-64), (which incidentally was painted in a field just down the road from my house in Dessie) as THEN and the pictures that Larry Trouba, Peace Corps Ethiopia Desk Officer, gave me of current Volunteers in Ethiopia as NOW. Voice of America interviewed us and CNN had a short clip of the dancers.

Talk about a full circle for me! Ato Malaku, who was the Dessie Education officer 35 years ago in Dessie, and his wife, Waizero Alemshai showed up. Judy Smith (63-65) assisted. Other RPCVs stopped by. It was a fantastic day! Thanks to all who joined our village and to Marian [Haley Beil] who initially sent me information about the need for volunteers.

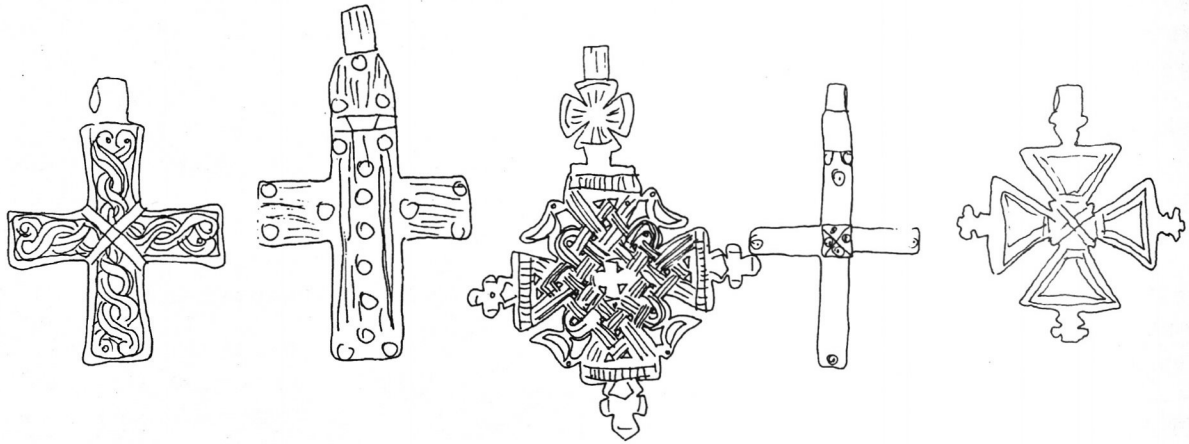
LaDena certainly did us proud and E&E RPCVs thanks her and all the many others who helped to make the PC/Ethiopia exhibit a wonderful success.

** The coffee ceremony is described by LaDena on the Web at:*

www.cais.com/nacoej/24.html

FIVE METAL CROSSES

by Ellen Shively (Asmara, Eritrea 68–70)



On a break from the RPCV conference in Berkeley in 1993, I glimpsed a jewelry vendor displaying a string of Ethiopia coptic crosses. These were not the simple crossed bars seen in western churches, but authentic, lattice-woven silver crosses worn by almost every infant, child, woman and priest I had seen during my time as a PCV in Ethiopia. The thin replicas in front of me were eight dollars a piece or two for fifteen. Light of weight and strikingly similar, I realized that they were cheap reproductions made for a mass market. Sadness overwhelmed me as I thought of the Ethiopian people so enmeshed in their religious beliefs and bereft of material comforts.

My thoughts went back to my own small collection of crosses . . . the first was from a grateful mother whose child we had wrapped in wet sheets to reduce a fever of unknown cause. We had interrupted the heat radiating from the small body at least temporarily. But without proper medication, I doubted the temperature would stay down.

A second cross came into my possession during a bus trip to Tigre Province. A woman dressed in rough homespun cotton brought a chicken coop on board. At the end of the six-hour ride, she still had her two hens plus two eggs and a U.S. five dollar bill — I had a wound that would later become infected and for which I would be later hospitalized and her cross tied around my neck with homespun yarn.

The third cross was from a lame shepherd boy who was playing a folk melody on a reed flute in a remote mountain meadow. He was shy and not familiar with *ferenjjs*, but the exchange of my sweater for his cross was cordial. The drought and civil war were very intense in that region in later years — perhaps the boy's lameness spared him from the fighting.

My other two crosses were from hard-won bargaining in the Mercato.

As I organized my few mementos years later, I attached each of these crosses to a woven basket base sold to me by a student from the Cunama tribe. Their

baskets were woven tight enough to carry water.

The one that got away was owned by a priest walking on the main street of Asmara — a lovely city with wide streets lined with royal palms and sidewalks. The barefoot priest admonished me to “watch your money” as he noticed the Ethi dollars stuffed inside my *korabasha*, a stringed purse hanging around my neck. Try as I did, he would not part with the hand-held cross used to bless the faithful.

So, that is why I was saddened to see the crosses at the vendor's stall — pricey and easily obtained.

We have met again across time and the seas, but how we have changed.

Ellen Shively taught at the Itegue Menen Hospital Dresser School in Asmara. She is currently the president of the San Diego Peace Corps Association (SDPCA) that will host this summer's RPCV conference.

This article is reprinted from the SDPCA newsletter.

Professor Mesfin of EHRCO speaks to Friends of Ethiopia/ Eritrea*

by LaDena Schnapper (Dessie; Awassa 63-66)

"How can you quantify a life?" Professor Mesfin Woldemariam asked the guests at the July 25th program sponsored by the Washington, DC based organization Friends of Ethiopia/Eritrea.* During the program entitled "The Human Rights Situation in Ethiopia and the Role of the U.S. Government," the Chairman of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) suggested that the audience ask a mother who lost a son under the Dergue and a mother who lost a son under the present regime which government was better. He related stories of extrajudicial killing, torture, disappearance and illegal detentions from EHRCO's new book, a compilation of nine reports documenting hundreds of cases of violation. "Ethiopia had all the laws it needs; in fact, the *ye hig amaelak* (God's law) has existed for centuries. What is needed is implementation."

The U.S. has responded to Ethiopia's material need, but has neglected its

spiritual needs," he continued. The Western response to violation is one of "accommodation verging on justification Because tensions are not seen — only conflicts are," nothing is being done. "Now is the time to act," he challenged the group.

Guests at the program included FEE members, metropolitan DC Ethiopian community members and the representatives from the Embassy of Ethiopia who provided a book, *FEDERAL ETHIOPIA AT CROSSROADS*, refuting EHRCO, Amnesty International and the American Association for the International Commission of Jurists reports.

For further information on EHRCO write: P.O. Box 5142, Springfield VA 22150

For "Human Rights files pertaining to Ethiopia" see on the Internet: <http://truman.cs.missouri.edu/~aya>

In an effort to obtain a copy of *FEDERAL ETHIOPIA AT CROSSROADS*, E&E RPCVs contacted the Ethiopian Embassy. An employee there said that the book was published by the International Transparency Commission on Africa (ITCO), an affiliate of HADAD International Lobby. She said that ITCO has offices in Addis, Stockholm and New York, however, a phone number could not be found for the organization in New York.

* Friends of Ethiopia/Eritrea is *not* an organization of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers although many RPCVs are members. It has no relationship to Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs (E&E RPCVs). Friends of Ethiopia/Eritrea presents speakers in the Washington, DC area. For more information, contact them at PO Box 65684, Washington DC 20035-6784.

Harar and Sudan featured at Boston art show

MICHAEL PRICE (Bale, Goba; Addis Ababa 64-66), **SUSAN SLATTERY CZERNIKA** (Harar; Asmara, Eritrea 64-66), **PAT BAILEY BERKLEY** (Addis Ababa 63-65), **JOSEPH CIUFFINI** (Harar 64-66), **JOHN BARNES** (Addis Ababa 66-68), and **RUSTY MILLER RICH** (62-64) pooled their resources of music and photos of Harar for an art show and program held in April at the

International Institute of Boston curated by Mike Price. Featured was Abdelaziz Mohamed, a Sudanese artist who displayed his paintings of Harar. Abdelaziz had spent two years in the Harar area while a refugee from Sudan. The event also included a film, a speaker and a presentation of an Ethiopian coffee ceremony. — *John Barnes*

www.amazon.com

This online bookstore is not to be missed.

Their service is great: After ordering and Eritrea travel book I received 1) confirmation of the order, 2) a note of price increase with option to cancel, 3) a note to say they had followed up with the publisher because there was a long delay in delivery, and 4) notification that the book was sent and the shipping would be upgraded at no cost because of the delay.

They have tons of features like ability to find books by topics eg. Ethiopia, Eritrea, top picks for the day, *NY Times* best sellers, options for authors to include bios, options for readers to submit reviews, etc., etc., etc. But of special interest should be the "Eyes" feature. With "Eyes" you can register topics of interest and amazon.com will notify you when they receive new books on these topics. Since I have registered my interests as Ethiopia and Eritrea in the fall I have received notices about thirteen new books. See the "Book Notes" for the titles.

www.ethiolist.com

This pro-Amhara site has articles of news, history (including a recent multi-part history of Ethiopia by Richard Pankhurst), culture and editorials from Ethiopia. It is updated frequently. It describes itself as "A forum for news, free expression of ideas, opinions and comments."

To subscribe to EthioForum, send e-mail to <Ethiolist-request@ethiolist.com> and in the body of your mail type : JOIN EthioForum

www.nicom.com/ ~ethiopia

This is the site of the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington.

www.lonelyplanet.com

Lonely Planet Publishers has guide books and phrase books from around the world — and much, much more. See about *ETHIOPIAN AMHARIC PHRASES* in the "Book Notes" section.

www.wp.com/ JOHNSCOTT/

John Scott Porterfield (71-73) invites all to visit his web site which is a work-in-progress. In it he has links to sites on topics as diverse as chili peppers, brewing, poison control in Singapore and the Peace Corps.

www.servtech.com/ public/mhbeil/

This is the site for *RPCV Writers & Readers*, a newsletter published by John Coyne and Marian Haley Beil to promote and encourage Peace Corps writers. Included at the site is: a bibliography of 884 books by 281 Peace Corps writers — some with links to Amazon.com for easy ordering; a listing of the best books about the Peace Corps experience; a summary of the current issue of *RPCV Writers & Readers*; and other items of interest including links to other sites.

www.open.org/tfl/eritrea

This Thirst for Learning Foundation site includes a tentative daily itinerary for two tours to Eritrea planned for later this year and links to other sites relating to Eritrea.

[1/3/97 Reuters reported: Ethiopia introduced its first domestic connection to the internet the head of the state-owned service said. Previously access to the internet was only available from Ethiopia through costly calls to a service provider abroad.]

www.peacecorps.gov

The Peace Corps site — to volunteer, for essays, program info, host country profiles, etc.

www.xs4all.nl/~bartski/ Ethiopia.html

This is a site in Dutch about biking in Ethiopia. It was once in English. If you can find the English version, let us know where it is!

www.columbia.edu/cu/ libraries/indiv/area/Africa/

This Columbia University African Studies site has links by organization, region, and topic, and connects to libraries and bibliographies, including information about Ethiopia and Eritrea.

www.cais.com/nacoej/ 24.html

LaDena Schnapper (Dessie, Awassa 63-66) described the traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony.

www.ethiopia.org

This is the site of United Front Ethiopia. Included are audio clips of Radio Voice of United & Free Ethiopia, and human rights reports.

THANKS . . .

to John Barnes for many things, but most recently for responding to our quest for a copy of an old training manual for Amharic. Seems the new country director in Ethiopia heard that there had been an excellent language training in the olden days.

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs group news

During the past several months our group has had some changes in personnel.

LEO CECCHINI (Asmara 62-64) who ably headed up the our enCORPS program — and who had the idea for it in the first place — has resigned from that position because of the demands on his time of his fledgling international business.

Leo gave many hours to enCORPS, the RPCVs of Ethiopia and Eritrea and to those countries. Working closely with Wayne Kessler in Asmara, Leo was able to place two RPCVs, Dave Gurr and Robert Hovde, into short-term contract positions in Asmara. He explored possibilities with organizations in Washington and New York, made hundreds of phone calls, had meetings with many — all in the effort to place more of you eager, talented people into positions that would take advantage of your skills and aid our second homes. It has been a very hard fight. Trying to break into a business - and development is a business — where we are regarded as outsiders has been tough. Our gratitude to Leo is great.

Taking up the gauntlet of enCORPS are Steering Committee member Nancy Horn (66-68), a professional in development for many years with wonderful knowledge and terrific insights; and **DAVE GURR** (62-64) — yes, one of our enCORPS inaugural participants — a specialist in planning and economic development who worked with Leo on several of his enCORPS efforts. Nancy and Dave will continue to explore possibilities to place enCORPS participants into substantive short-term contract positions in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Don't hesitate to contact them with your offers of contacts, help and questions. (See page 28 for how to.)

Steering Committee member **ROBERT HAMILTON** (Barhar Dar 65-67) also

resigned. Robert helped us put some meat on the bones of enCORPS, developed the concept of an enCORPS Development Fund, worked with Wayne Kessler — our Asmara representative — prior to Wayne's departure for Eritrea to establish operational procedures, and was a great deal-maker at the Austin conference when it seemed like the committee had hit a stone wall. Thanks, Robert.

GLORIA GIESEKE CURTIS (Asmara 63-65), who joined the Steering Committee at the 35th anniversary celebration, is now the chair dealing with funding requests.

At this pivotal point in the existence of the group we have some needs:

HELP WANTED

Steering committee chair

The Steering Committee is seeking a new Chair(wo)man. Marian Beil has announced that she is resigning from the position as soon as another volunteer comes forward. It is time for some new blood and some new energy in this organization and this position is the place to start.

Duties include overseeing the activities of E&E RPCVs and its Steering Committee, leading annual meetings and maintaining contacts with the National Peace Corps Association. Contact Marian if you would like to learn more. She will gladly work with a replacement to make the transition as easy as possible.

Development fund manager

The Steering Committee is searching for a volunteer to work 5-10 hours per week to coordinate development activities and projects for the enCORPS Development Fund. Candidates should have experience with fund raising, grant

writing techniques and 501(c)(3) application procedures.

Web page designer

E&E RPCVs is looking for a volunteer to design, implement and maintain a web page for the group. The NPCA has a location within their web site for groups. If interested contact Marian Beil (address on net-to-the-last page). To visit other RPCV group pages see <<http://www.rpcv.org/groups.html>>. There are lots of great things that can be done.

Librarian

Over the past several years ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs has accumulated books and videos that are available to be borrowed by its members. Needed is a person to keep the collection, handle the sending-out and making-sure-it's-returned process, and developing a list of items available that can be posted on our web site (See, I told you there can be neat things on our web site!)

Books person

E&E RPCVs has received several requests for donations of specialized books for in-country. We need a person to handle all aspects of these and any other similar requests.

World Wise Schools coordinator/liaison

The Peace Corps' World Wise Schools program matches school classes in the U.S. with PCVs in the field to develop an exchange of letters, art, ideas, and cultural understanding. Our group is not currently involved with this project — but it should be. You can be the person to make it happen.

Contact Marian (see page 28 for how) if you would like to volunteer for any of these positions - or for something that would be good and we haven't even thought of it.

At the Peace Corps

Communicate!

The Peace Corps seems to have adopted a new policy of Communicate, Communicate, Communicate. Consequently, we have received the following publications and video tapes from the agency. All are available for loan. Just contact Marian Haley Beil (see next tot the last page for address, phone numbers and email address).

► *REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERISM.* In April the Peace Corps convened a conference of representatives from 36 volunteer organizations from 26 countries at Georgetown University. This 100 page report includes summaries of the conference sessions plus information about each of the 36 participating organizations.

► *Selected Speeches from The Peace Corps 35th Anniversary Celebration.* This 29 page booklet includes copies of the speeches by Ambassador Madeleine Albright, Congressman Sam Farr (Colombia), Mark Gearan (Peace Corps Director), Loret Miller Ruppe (Former Peace Corps Director, Sargent Shriver (Former Peace Corps Director, Ted Sorensen (Former Special Council to President John F. Kennedy and PCV parent), and Harris Wofford (Ethiopian Country Director 62-64, CEO of the Corporation for National Service). It's not the same as being there but each is good reading.

► *Remarks by President William J. Clinton on the 35th Anniversary of the Peace Corps.* This three-page brochure contains the President's remarks made to PCV departing for Ghana 35 years after the first group of PCV went to Ghana.

► *The Loret Miller Ruppe Memorial Lecture* — guest speaker Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke (Country director, Morocco 1970-72) on "The Best Job I Ever Had." Includes a welcome and

introduction of the speaker by Mark Gearan, and remarks by Senator Christopher Dodd (Dominican Republic 1966-68). 12 pages.

► *Remarks by Mark D. Gearan, Director of the Peace Corps, at the National Press Club, December 16, 1996.* 5 pages.

► *Survey of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, December 1996.* in early 1996 a sampling of RPCVs were surveyed by the Peace Corps about their experiences during and after Peace Corps service. Includes methodology, results, and the survey. 48 pages.



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

From a Peace Corps report on early termination by PCVs and trainees dated May 10, 1996*: Of the 27 who began training for service in Eritrea in 1995 all were sworn in as Volunteers and all continued to serve; of the 26 for Ethiopia, 2 terminated during training and 8 had early terminated.

► A video entitled *The Peace Corps at Thirty-five: The Power of an Idea*, 1996 has been produced by the Peace Corps and the NPCA. This 28 minute collage of ads for the Peace Corps through the years interspersed with brief news spots of the same periods includes a brief interview with Woody Jewett (66-69).

► An 8 1/4 minute version of *The Peace Corps at Thirty-five* is also available.

► A video *State of the Agency*, by Peace Corps Director Mark D. Gearan. Prepared for Volunteers and staff overseas. Summarizes PC accomplishments over the past year and its plans for new Peace Corps initiatives. 15 minutes.

► A video *Destination: Paraguay*, produced by the World-Wise Schools project of the Peace Corps, in which viewers gain insights into rural and urban life in Paraguay and Peace Corps activities there. Designed to be used by teachers, a cover sheet includes recommended activities for before and after viewing. Approximately 15 minutes.

► *Destination: Kyrgyzstan*, the newest addition to the award-winning video series produced by Peace Corps' World Wise Schools, comes with a 74-page study guide which includes teaching activities for grades 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. Approximately 21 minutes.

► A video *To Touch the World: The Peace Corps Experience*, produced by the World-Wise Schools project of the Peace Corps, in which viewers gain insights into the uniqueness of the Peace Corps as a development organization as a tool to promote cross cultural understanding. In the video, viewers are taken to the home of RPCV Thurman Matheison who tells teenage friends of his Peace Corps experience in Cameroon. Designed to be used by teachers, a cover sheet includes recom-

mended activities for before and after viewing.

Crisis Corps announced

During his address to the National Press Club on December 16th, Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan announced that the Peace Corps is forming a Crisis Corps in which RPCVs and experienced PCVs would provide emergency help in natural disasters and humanitarian crises when it is safe to do so for periods up to six months. For more information call: 1-800-424-8580 ext. 2295.

The search is on

Peace Corps is searching for another set of RPCVs to feature in their next round of "Profiles" communications and recruitment materials. They need your assistance to get a quality and diverse cast. Profiles highlights RPCVs who have honed their personal and professional skills while in service and are now using these enhanced skills in their careers and service to their communities. No celebrities: just noteworthy neighbors in the community.

The emphasis is on RPCVs in CA, TX or NY (because Peace Corps has offices there and it will keep costs down).

You can fax or email the nominees name, address, phone numbers, a brief description of what he/she is doing now, and when and where they served as PCVs, and their assignment, to Steve Maroon at 202-606-446 9 (fax). Email to <smaroon@peacecorps.gov>. Please let them know you saw it on NPCA-L.

Resources for new RPCVs

For recently returned Peace Corps Volunteers, there are several excellent resources available to help make the transition to life in the United States. In November, the Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Services Center put extensive career and readjustment information on-line at <http://www.peacecorps.gov>. Also, the National Peace Corps Association has signed a contract with the Peace Corps for the "Reconnect" program which helps RPCVs make the transition back home.

The on-line career center, named TRACK, can be found at <http://www.peacecorps.gov> under the section "RPCVs Only." It provides many of the materials available at the Career Center in Washington, DC. The main menu items are: Job Searches & Career Planning; Graduate Schools and Credit for Service; RPCV-Special Issues; Returning to the U.S.; Returned Volunteer Services (RVS); Materials & Manuals to order from RVS HOTLINE!; The RPCV Bulletin; Employers: How to Hire RPCVs.

Historic suit

8/1/96—Washington Post: The Peace Corps has agreed to pay \$250,000 to a Vienna [VA] man to settle a sexual harassment lawsuit in what may be the largest payment ever in the U.S. government to a man who accused his female boss of making sexual advances toward him.

REFLECTIONS ON LORET RUPPE

by Rusty Miller Rich (*Dira Dawa* 62-64)

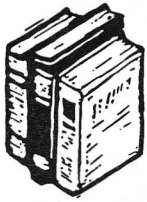
Loret Miller Ruppe, who died in August, 1996, was the longest serving and single most influential Peace Corps director since Sargent Shriver. Appointed in 1981, she served for eight critical years during the Reagan administration. Although she was a Republican appointee, Loret became a strong spokesperson for the Peace Corps, and she removed partisanship completely from the organization. It was her strong

voice of advocacy that defended against massive budget cuts to the agency. Her emphasis on international development revitalized the organization. A strong advocate for the Peace Corps and the Peace Corps ideals, she emphasized the need for specialized skills and inaugurated short term relief work programs. She began the college Leadership through Peace program which focuses on environmental and women's issues.

I met Loret several times in the early '80s in Michigan when a group of RPCVs were trying to get an RPCV group started. Married to a former Michigan congressman, she loved to return to the state to talk about the Peace Corps. Loret was the embodiment

of the ideal Peace Corps Volunteer, constantly ebullient, always enthusiastic. Ever a willing listener, she was always receptive to our suggestions for improving the Peace Corps, and would keep us up to date on the latest political machinations. She was always gracious, full of energy and willing to make useful suggestions when asked.

I heard Loret speak at the 35th anniversary celebration and talked to her afterward. Although extremely thin from chemotherapy, her powerful voice and enthusiasm for the Peace Corps were still in evidence. "The Peace Corps must always signify America's pulling together for peace." Six months later, the voice was stilled.



BOOK NOTES

► **DENNIS EKBERG** (Ghion 62–64) saw a need for a directory of resources for senior citizens in his new community and went into action. He obtained funding, coordinated the project, developed the information and saw the project through to completion. The *1996 SENIOR RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY (OR)* is now in its second printing of 10,000 copies thanks to Dennis's efforts.

► Horse & Buggy Press has published a beautiful book of poems and drawings by **DAVID WILEY** (Assella 62–64) entitled *THE FACE OF CREATION*. In the introduction to the book, Jeff Kellerman says about the poetry: "The mastery of the language is such that we are moved by its music. The music gives life and strength to the words, and the words themselves provide the notes of the music. That's poetry."

This \$10.00 book is available from The Paper Plant, PO Box 543, Raleigh NC 27602.

► You might want to check out *The Journal of African Travel-Writing* a new publication that is published twice a year. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year. Current single issues, back issues and sample copies are \$6.00. The first 96-page issue includes, among others, an article by Eileen Drew (Zaire 79–81), one on Beryl Markham's *WEST WITH THE NIGHT* and another entitled "In Search of Ethiopianism." Issue two, to be published in March, will have articles by three RPCVs plus an intro by **JOHN COYNE** (Addis Ababa 62–64).

Interested in submitting? They "are interested in scholarly articles, personal narratives, fiction, poetry, reviews, mixed media (text & graphics), and

related literary artifacts." No manuscript will be returned nor query answered unless accompanied by a SASE.

Contact them at: PO Box 346, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Visit their web-site at: <www.unc.edu/~ottotwo>.

► E&E RPCVs has obtained travel book *GUIDE TO ERITREA* by Edward Paice, The Golbe Pequot Press, 1996.* If you would like to review this book for *The Herald*, contact Marian Haley Beil.

► We have all been waiting 30 plus years for this!!! It is the *ETHIOPIAN AMHARIC PHRASEBOOK** published by Lonely Planet Publications of Australia, and Oakland, CA. This small pocket guide contains 200 pages packed with grammar and cultural notes, and is organized by subject area (such as greeting people, getting around town, ordering food at restaurants, and shopping). The phrases are written in English and in Amharic script — perfect if you return to Ethiopia for a visit. Did you know that there is no word in Amharic for "No"? Alternatives are *yellem* (there isn't, it's not there), *aydellem* (it's not/it isn't), *minim yellem* (nothing), and *gid yellem* (never mind). All this for only \$5.95!! (Maybe this is why Ethiopians never turn down an invitation, even if they can't come or can only come late.)

Joe Ciuffini is to be praised for finding this gem in Cambridge's Harvard Square.— *John Barnes*

(The book can be ordered on the Internet at <lonelyplanet.com/prop/pri-usa.htm#phrase>. It is also available at The Globe Corner Bookstore in Boston, 800-358-6013 or <www.gcb.com/catalog/>. It's the book you all wished you'd had when you were Volunteers! Ed.)

► The Africa World Press, Inc. & The Red Sea Press, Inc. Spring 1997 catalog* is 100+ pages of books the publisher, Kassahub Checole, hopes will raise the

essential questions about African and African American social, political and cultural issues for its readers. Included is *THE LAST CAMEL: TRUE STORIES* about Somalia by **JEANNE D'HAEM** (Somalia 68–70), a collection of stories about the people who lived in Arabsiyo in northern Somalia and the American woman who came to live among them. [200 pages, \$69.95 cloth, \$18.95 paper.]

AWP & RSP: 11 Princess Road, Suite D, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, 609/844-9583, fax: 609/844-0198, email: <AfricaWpress@nyo.com>

► In 1994 Lynx House Press published a book of poems entitled *GOOD TRUE STORIES* by **ERIC TORGERSEN** (64–66). It is available from Small Press Distribution, 1814 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94702. [\$9.95]

► *ON HEART'S EDGE: A STORY OF LOVE AND ADVENTURE IN AFRICA* by Marty and Hugh Downey with **STEPHEN FOEHR** (Debaark 65–66) tells of the Downey's life work in Eritrea — building medical facilities, working with refugees, being forced into the Sudan during the war for independence then trying to reestablish their work as the "smallest NGO" in Eritrea following the country's independence was won. [Mikeren Publication, PO Box 745994, Arvada, CO 80006. \$11.95, 150 pages.]

► *GHOST OF A CHANCE: A MEMOIR* by Peter Duchin was cowritten by **CHARLIE MICHENER** (62–64). Michener is an editor at *The New Yorker*. [Random House, \$27.50, 380 pages.]

► **RICHARD LIPEZ** (Debre Marcos, Addis Ababa 62–64) has published another of his Donald Strachey mysteries — *CHAIN OF FOOLS* under the pseudonym of Richard Stevenson. [St. Martin's Press, \$20.95, 208 pages.]



► PRESERVING ASMARA'S ARCHITECTURE

A small group of American in Asmara have been working on a project photographing the building of architectural interest that make Asmara the unique town it is today. Asmara city planners have drawn up plans indicating areas of the city that are , in a few short years, under consideration for demolition and "renovation." In an effort to modernize Asmara, many historical buildings and those considered to be of design interest and worth may soon be replaced by higher, newer, perhaps more commodious buildings.

Recording the design, art form, details and architecture of these buildings have progressed over the last five months. The results are lovely. There seems to be a fair amount of interest within the Asmara community that this is an important undertaking. When we exhibited the photographs we had taken so far, most who attended were amazed at what they say. The pictures were displayed without captions and it became a guessing game as to what they were seeing, could they remember where they had seen such a building or detail, etc. and many had no idea these buildings existed in Asmara even though they walked by these buildings day after day. This exhibit has had a very positive affect for the photographer. Doors have been opened to areas of the city that were either off limits to the public or were private dwellings and unknown to us. This exhibit also made the community more aware of the architectural gem that is Asmara, the diversity of its architecture that exists intact, untouched and unchanged. Another photo exhibit with different photographs is being planned for sometime next month.

It was suggested that I write to you as editor of the RPCV's newsletter by Laurie Kessler who lives in Asmara. I wonder if there might be interest among your subscribers in helping to fund a "coffee-table" type book of these

photographs. We cannot change the tide of modernization, or chain ourselves to the beautiful edifices that dot the Asmara landscape preventing demolition, but we can forever hold in our minds eye and hands beautiful colored photographs of aspects of this city as a reminder of what was. The book we have in mind is not meant to be an academic exercise but one that gives impact in its colorful presentation of form and line.

There is a Finnish photo/journalist who will be in Asmara for the nest two years. Although we hope his picture taking will be wrapped up within the next few months, the fact that he is a resident of Asmara means that he can take and retake a picture until it is just the way it should be. This photo/journalist has worked for the Associated Press for the last ten years in London. There are three others who, although they are no longer taking photographs, act as a support and critic. It's a group that works well together an in a few short months has accomplished much.

I have recently moved back to the Washington, are, and have been asked to gather quotes from publishers around the country that might do a beautiful book for us at a reasonable price. The photos from the last two exhibits will be sent to me with the hope the Eritrean community will host a fund raiser to help with this project. We are looking for subscribers from the Eritrean community here and abroad as well as those Americans who might have served in Eritrea.

If you think such a book as I have described is something you or your members might be interested in and may be willing to assist in helping to fund a portion of the cost for its publication, I would love to hear from you. When the photos arrive I'd be happy to contact you. Perhaps you have an organization that might be willing to host such a exhibit to help raise funds in the new York area. Everyone involved in

this project will be mentioned in the list of contributors. I'm open to all suggestions and can be reached at 703-534-4761 in the Northern Virginia area. I can also be reached at the following fax number: 301-320-6345.

Sincerely
Mary Houdek
2030 Rhode Island Avenue
McLean, Virginia 22101

[Mary is the wife of the former U.S. Ambassador to Eritrea.]

► Mary Houdek also writes: "*ERITREA AT A GLANCE* has the very latest and up-to-date information on government rules and regulations, where to stay and eat, bike and hiking trips, tours, cultural dos and don'ts, shopping tips, city maps and more. The information compiled in *ERITREA AT A GLANCE* was gathered by volunteers living and working in Eritrea. It has proven to be a very handy guide to have if one is making a home here, doing business here, or simply here for a brief visit. This handy sized book is written in English, with 53 clearly reproduced black-and-white photographs and four easy to read city maps. Reference books are listed as well as useful words and phrases in Tigrinya and Arabic. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be used to support cultural activities in Eritrea. [The International Guidebook Committee, PO Box 5016 Asmara Eritrea; fax 00291-1-126571, \$20.00 US includes postage, 220 pages]"

► If you would like to review books for The Herald please contact Marian Haley Beil.

► *A CATALOGUE OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS AND FILM FOOTAGE ON ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA** compiled by Chris Prouty for The Institute of Ethiopian Studies in Addis Ababa, 1996 can be ordered from ESPAM, 1514 34th St, NW, Washington, DC 20007. [111-pages, \$8.00 + \$3.00 shipping]
*To borrow a copy of this item, contact E&E RPCVs at address on back page.



Book review

Eritrea and Neighbours in the "New World Order"

by Tesfatsion Medhanie, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Bremen, Germany

Lit Verlag Publisher (Bremer Afrika Studien; 15)

Reviewed by John Barnes

Written by a Tigrean National, this book begins with the disintegration of relations between the Sudan and Eritrea in early 1994. Eritrea's role in the "New World Order" is of vital interest to the United States and Israel as a Christian country on the Red Sea. The Soviet threat had been replaced by the threat of Islamic Fundamentalism, particularly by Sudan whose government is controlled by the National Islamic Front.

Using carefully documented footnotes Ato Tesfatsion shows that in 1990 the U.S. changed its position to acceptance of Eritrean independence after politicians met with Isayas Afeworki, the EPLF leader, whose leadership was considered to be Christian and non-Marxist. In May, 1991, the London Peace Talks engineered by Herman Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State, set up the provisional Tigre-led government of Ethiopia, and gave the US blessing to the EPLF to govern Eritrea. However the US insisted on a 2-year postponement of a referendum on Eritrean independence.

In late 1992 Israel established relations with Eritrea for security reasons. Its aim was to protect the Red Sea by establishing military bases on the Dahlak islands near Massawa. In early 1993 Isayas Afeworki and the head of internal security went to Israel for malaria treatment and returned with Israel's

blessing for the EPLF. Monopoly of power by the EPLF would be allowed in order to control the ELF and other Islamic political groups within Eritrea. Opposition forces were totally excluded by design. Ato Tesfatsion argues that the EPLF must reconcile itself to a goal of political democracy in Eritrea in order to decrease the political unrest and the militancy of other groups. It must also do this before it can legitimately deal with the Sudan in a cooperative way. The inclusion of Moslems must be allowed unless they are to resent the use of their country again as a US or Israeli base. Peace will not exist as long as the present EPLF government monopolizes power.

Note: All of the above are ideas of Ato Tesfatsion, and not those of John Barnes or *The Herald*.

Recent books about Ethiopia and Eritrea

found by John Barnes

► *ONE HOUSE: THE BATTLE OF ADWA 1896 — 100 YEARS*, edited by Pamela S. Brown and Fassil Yirgu; Nyala Publishing, 1250 W. Addison Street, Chicago, IL 60631-3840; 160 pages; \$37.00 + \$5.00 shipping

This is an elegant "coffee table" book featuring many drawings, poetry, paintings, maps and postage stamps. There are three eloquent essays: including historian Richard Pankhurst, and Donald Levine writing about "The Battle of Adwa as an 'Historic' Event."

► *A HISTORY OF ETHIOPIA* by Harold Marcus; East African Press, P.O. Box 98499, Atlanta, GA 30359; 261 pages; \$16.95 + \$3.00 shipping (paperback)

Harold Marcus is a historian who also has written books on Emperors Menelik

and Haile Selassie. He writes very succinctly. "Marcus argues that the idea of the greater Ethiopian nation will always cause the state to reunify despite its current disintegration. A readable and up-to-date overview of a long and complex history." from the *Library Journal*

► *GREATER ETHIOPIA—THE EVOLUTION OF A MULTIETHNIC SOCIETY* by Donald Levine, who wrote "Wax and Gold"; East African Press, P.O. Box 98499, Atlanta, GA 30359; 229 pages; \$16.95 (paperback)

► *ETHIOPIA IN CHANGE* edited by Abebe Zegeye and Siegfried Pausewang; East African Press, P.O. Box 98499, Atlanta, GA 30359; 332 pages; \$22.95 (paperback)

► *A SOCIAL HISTORY OF ETHIOPIA* by Richard Pankhurst; East African Press, P.O. Box 98499, Atlanta, GA 30359; 371 pages; \$16.95 (paperback)

► *THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MENELIK II* by Harold G. Marcus; East African Press, P.O. Box 98499, Atlanta, GA 30359; 298 pages; \$16.95 + \$3.00 shipping (paperback)

► *HAILE SELASSIE I, THE FORMATIVE YEARS* by Harold G. Marcus; East African Press, P.O. Box 98499, Atlanta, GA 30359; 242 pages; \$16.95 + \$3.00 shipping (paperback)

► *LONG WALK TO FREEDOM: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF NELSON MANDELA*; East African Press, P.O. Box 98499, Atlanta, GA 30359; 638 pages; \$16.95 + \$3.00 shipping (paperback)

► *TASTE OF ETHIOPIA* (A cook book for the exotic food lover with a listing of Washington Area spice stores and Ethiopian restaurants.); Merkato Market, 2116 18th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; \$19.95



▶ *EXOTIC ETHIOPIAN COOKING* by Daniel Jote Mesfin; Ethiopian Cookbook Enterprises, 3800 Powell Lane, Suite 404, Falls Church, VA 22041; 317 pages; \$16.99 including shipping;

New books available from amazon.com

▶ *ETHIOPIA PHOTOGRAPHED: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE TAKEN BETWEEN 1867 AND 1935* by Richard Pankhurst & Denis Gerard; Kegan Paul Intl; 12/96; price unknown (hardcover).

▶ *WHAT IS YOUR NAME: BOOK OF ERITREAN AND ETHIOPIAN NAMES* by Zeray Habte-Sillasie; Africa World Press; \$29.95 (hardcover); \$9.95 (paperback).

▶ *BEYOND SURVIVAL : THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OF AGRICULTURE & DEVELOPMENT IN POST-INDEPENDENT ERITREA* by Tesfa G. Gebremedhin; Red Sea Press; 12/96 \$59.95 (hardcover); \$18.95 (paperback).

▶ *HISTORY OF THE ETHIOPIAN BORDERLANDS* by Richard Pankhurst; Red Sea Press; \$18.95 (paperback).

▶ *COMPANY OF ADVENTURERS* (The Resnick Library of African Adventure) by John Boyes, John Boyles; Alexander Books; List: \$16.95 -- Amazon.com Price: \$15.26 (paperback).

▶ *LEGACY OF BITTERNESS : ETHIOPIA AND FASCIST ITALY* by Alberto Sbacchi; Africa World Press; \$69.95 (hardcover).

▶ *LUCY AND HER TIMES* (The W5 Series) by Pascal G. Picq, Nicole Verrechia; Henry Holt & Co; List: \$19.95 -- Amazon.com Price: \$17.96 (hardcover).

▶ *TO JERUSALEM : THE BEGINNINGS OF THE ALIYAH OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL IN 1980 AND THEIR ABSORPTION INTO ISRAELI SOCIETY* by Shemuel Yilmah; Gefen Books; (hardcover).

▶ *WOMAN BETWEEN TWO WORLDS : PORTRAIT OF AN ETHIOPIAN RURAL LEADER* by Judith V. Olmstead; Univ of Illinois Press; (hardcover).

▶ *LEGACY OF BITTERNESS ETHIOPIA AND FASCIST ITALY, 1935-1941: ETHIOPIA AND FASCIST ITALY* by Alberto Sbacchi; Red Sea Press; List: \$19.95 -- Amazon.com Price: \$17.96 (paperback).

▶ *THE LION'S WHISKERS AND OTHER ETHIOPIAN TALES* by Brent K. Ashabranner; Linnet Books; \$19.95 (hardcover)

Brent Ashabranner is a former Deputy Director of the Peace Corps and has published dozens of books over the years, many of them for children. This revised edition of Ethiopian folktales may remind PCVs from the '60s of a similarly titled book.

▶ *ONLY A PIGEON* by Jane Kurtz, Christopher Kurtz, Earl B. Lewis; Simon & Schuster; List: \$16.00 -- Amazon.com Price: \$14.40.

"Ondu-ahlem carefully trains his pigeons and prepares them for the day when he and other Ethiopian boys test the homing instinct and loyalty of the precious birds."

▶ *RAS ALULA AND THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA - A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY : A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY: ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA 1875-1897* by Haggai Erlich; Red Sea Press; 3/97; \$59.95 (hardcover)

▶ *TROUBLE* by Jane Kurtz, Durga Bernhard; [Eritrea folktales] Gulliver Books; List: \$15.00 -- Amazon.com Price: \$13.50 (hardcover).

▶ *ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA : THE FEDERAL EXPERIENCE* by Tekeste Negash; Transaction Publishers

▶ *LIJ EYASU AND HAILE SELASSIE : WINNING OUT THE MYTH* by W.A.J. Semerjibashian; Red Sea Press; \$59.95 (hardcover).

▶ *ERITREA: EVEN THE STONES ARE BURNING* by Roy Pateman; Red Sea Press; List: \$14.95 -- Amazon.com Price: \$13.45 (paperback).