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BUT NO POSTCARDS

By John Coyne (62-64)

At the RPCV conference in San Diego this past summer John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64) was tapped to be the first to speak when the conference convened. With the following words he set the tone for a great conference.

IN OCTOBER OF 1960 WHEN JOHN F. Kennedy was campaigning for the presidency, he spoke after midnight on the campus of the University of Michigan and mentioned the idea of a Peace Corps. I was one of the first students to be swept up by his challenge to go to Asia, Africa, and Latin America and contribute part of our lives to our country.

I had never thought of leaving my country before. I would never have thought of leaving my state. Now I wanted to be part of the New Frontier. I wanted to do something for my country.

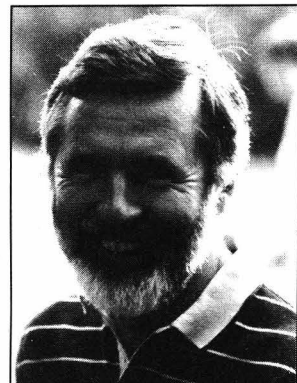
In the summer of '62, I went to Washington to train with the first group of Volunteers to Ethiopia. Towards the end of training we went to meet President Kennedy in the Rose Garden.

After a few words of welcome, he stepped down to shake hands and wish us well. And as he turned to leave he

stopped and asked us to write, to tell him how it was going. And then he grinned and added, "But no postcards,"

referring to the famous postcard sent to a friend at home by a woman Volunteer in Nigeria in 1961. It was a postcard that spoke honestly about conditions in Africa and almost brought an end to the Peace Corps before Volunteers had a chance to prove their worth. Kennedy's postcard reference showed not only his ironic wit, but also his full awareness of what his new initiative, the Peace Corps, was doing around the world.

Those of us who left the White House lawn and went into Africa are older now



John Coyne

than Kennedy was on that summer afternoon. Time and tragedy have touched us all. But fate has an odd way of balancing the scales.

The Peace Corps was not considered the bold new stroke of the New Frontier. Yet it is the Peace Corps that is the shining memory of those thousand days of Camelot.

Our service overseas was often silent and often went unheralded. Some of the bridges we built did not stand, a few of the schools where we taught are now closed, and many of the people we organized did not stay together. We were seldom as successful as we had hoped.

But the Peace Corps took us out of America and taught us to be citizens of

the world. Because of the Peace Corps, all of us are forever changed.


And we were not the only ones changed.

In the mountains of Ethiopia after John F. Kennedy's death I stopped my Land Rover to pick up an old man and give him a lift across the high plateau. On the side door he read the Peace Corps name, written in Amharic script as *Yesalaam Guad*. It meant Messenger of Peace.

I nodded and told him, yes, *Yesalaam Guad*. Kennedy's Peace Corps. He asked me then if I had known President Kennedy, and I told him how I had once shaken his hand on the White House lawn.

For a moment he looked out across the flat brown land at the distant acacia trees and small tukul villages we were passing, and then he grinned and seized my hand and shook it, shouting over the roar of the Land Rover engine, "*Yesalaam Guad. Yesalaam Guad.*"

He was shaking the hand that had shaken the hand of John F. Kennedy.

We two, there on the highlands of Africa, as far away as one could possibly be from Washington and the White House Rose Garden, shared a moment, were connected by the death of a martyred president and his enduring legacy, the Peace Corps. 



- I shall definitely be at the Summer of '98 reunion/conference barring a catastrophe.
- I hope to be able to come.
- I'm not sure if I can attend, but please keep me informed just in case.
- I can't come but keep me informed.
- I definitely can't come, and don't want to hear anything more about it.

PLEASE complete and return to:

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone & fax & email _____

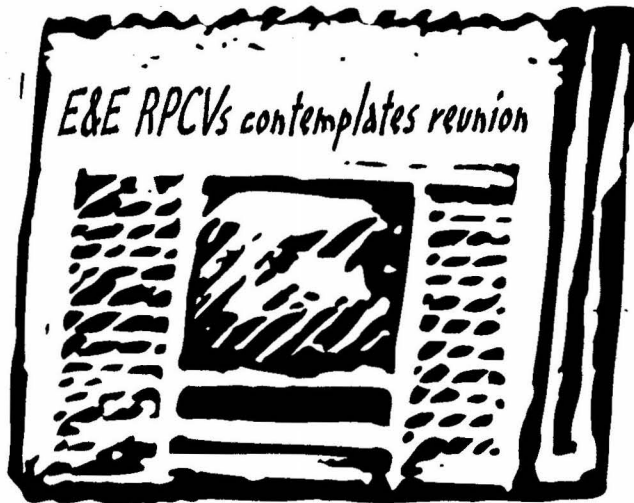
Town/city of assignment _____ Years of service _____

I would like to help by _____

I would like to be the coordinator for my training group _____ Which group? _____

Let me recommend the following as a speaker _____

I'd like to see included in the event _____



During the San Diego RPCV conference it was announced by the National Peace Corps Association that there would not be a national RPCV conference next year, but that the organization would — for economic reasons — go to a schedule of alternating regional conferences one year with national conferences on alternate years.

With that in mind, the Steering Committee of ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs discussed hosting a gathering during the summer of 1998 for all returned Volunteers who have served in Ethiopia and Eritrea. **The decision to hold the event will be based on the size of the response of those interested in attending.**

Upon hearing of this proposal, C. J. CASTAGNARO (Harar; Debre Zeit; Addis Ababa 65–66, 67–69) and

CAROL RANDALL (Harar 73–74) volunteered to chair the effort. Because C.J. and Carol live in the LA area, that is where the event would take place.

The committee's *tentative* plans for the event include:


- Speakers on current happenings in Ethiopia and Eritrea and other topics of interest.
- Efforts to facilitate the organizing of mini-reunions of training groups by working with group organizers, through aid in scheduling special activities, etc.
- Plenty of time to socialize with old friends.
- Holding the event on a college campus in order to keep basic costs reasonable.

- Holding the event the first weekend in August.

This will be a major undertaking and we will need you to respond to the questionnaire at left as soon as possible so that planning can begin. **(Even if you don't expect to attend, please return the form so that we can be assured that we have complete and up-to-date information on you.)**

The reunion/conference will also require a great deal of work and it is hoped that you will **volunteer** to help in the preparations for the event or during the event itself — or better yet, both!

This is a very exciting prospect and we hope that many will be interested in attending.

And let us begin the "Thank you's" with a salute to C.J. and Carol. 



Coming Home to the Peace Corps

ALMAZ SULLIVAN, 24, USED TO spend her busy days tutoring children in Philadelphia's inner city, working a full-time job in a business-management development program at Cigna Corporation and attending evening classes at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Management Program.



Almaz Sullivan

She spent her nights dreaming of faces and places in Ethiopia, where she longed to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Almaz's adoptive father Richard Sullivan was also 24-years old in the turbulent sixties when he went to Ethiopia as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Today, Sullivan is Director of Texas IC Institute, an endowed program devoted to understanding the processes of economic wealth creation and distribution. He is also the father of Almaz and Tadesse Sullivan, Ethiopian children he adopted as a single father in 1975.

Almaz says she wants to follow in her father's footsteps, not because she wants

to imitate him, but because she shares his social values.

"He's my favorite person in the whole world," she bubbles. "If that's your mentor and your idol and everything rolled into one, you can't say that's not important to you. We talk every day, and we always have. Always. It's hard to imagine that he's not my (biological) father. Most everything he's done I find truly amazing. I don't do things because he's done them. I do things because I want to, and I'm amazed he's done them."

Sullivan's Peace Corps experience would change his life and the lives of Tadesse and Almaz and countless Ethiopians Sullivan has taught, sponsored, and encouraged. He has committed his professional life to the classrooms of Ethiopia and the United States as evangelist for global concerns and humanitarian values. Formerly the Dean of Carnegie Mellon University, Sullivan is now active in establishing alliances between the University of Texas and universities all over the world.

Richard Sullivan arrived in Ethiopia more than a quarter of a century ago. He stayed for six years. He might have

stayed forever, if not for the famine and then the Communist regime, he says.

"I would see a queue, with individuals dying in line while they were waiting for water. I saw women with dead children on their backs, not realizing the infant was dead."

It was into this world of civil war and drought that Almaz and Tadesse were born. Their mother was Sullivan's maid and their father his house guard.

Around 1973, when it looked as if the university would never reopen, Sullivan decided he had to leave, that there was nothing to do in Ethiopia under the Communists.

"They begged me to take two of their four children to the States. They were very poor. Things were just falling apart at that time, crumbling in a way that no one in America can understand. People were dying in the streets; people were getting shot; it was really a disaster, an unbelievable turmoil where life doesn't have any value. There was no hope; there was nothing left. I knew these children, and it broke my heart to turn my back on them."

It took three years of fighting bureaucracy and endless paperwork to get Almaz and Tadesse to the United States. He still fumes at an encounter with a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service official in San Antonio, who told him that Ethiopian children could never compete in the United States. The adoption was finally approved with the help of U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentson.

In 1978, Sullivan married his wife Selena, but Tadesse and Almaz were

initially brought to the United States to a single-parent household. Things weren't always smooth. Tadesse, now 25, who plans to establish his own import-export business with Ethiopia later this year, once decided that he was going to walk back home to Africa. English was difficult; the food was strange; and even though it might have been easier, Richard Sullivan never let the two children forget home.

"Things never changed," says Almaz. "My natural father was always my father, and my natural mother was always my mother, and Richard was my second father, always. I don't know. Maybe he was my first father or maybe they're co-fathers, but it's always been like that. My brother and I are just so Ethiopian. Personally, I think he (Richard) was so young, he couldn't possibly have realized how difficult it would be. It's a lot more difficult once you get started."


Like Richard Sullivan, Almaz believes in doing something because you have to. Unlike her father at 24, she's travelled around the world, studied in Spain, and taught in Prague. And two years ago she returned with Tadesse to Addis Ababa. The sheets on the beds were those her adoptive father had left behind; she recognized the pattern from an old pillowcase in the closet at home. She spent her days with her mother and small sister, who was about the age Almaz was when she left Ethiopia. She found the experience of just being and sharing and caring to be almost overwhelming; even though she could no longer speak the language, she felt immediately accepted.

Almaz's plan is to hone her teaching skills in the Peace Corps and then return to the United States to get her MBA. "I want to focus on becoming a better teacher and perfecting my presentation skills," she says. While she was willing to go into Peace Corps anywhere in the world, she dreamed of returning to Ethiopia to relearn her language and speak to her mother. "My mother's not young, she's not going to learn English," she observes.

For a long time, Almaz felt uncomfortable about not being quite white, not being quite Ethiopian. Now she sees it as an advantage in helping to transform society.

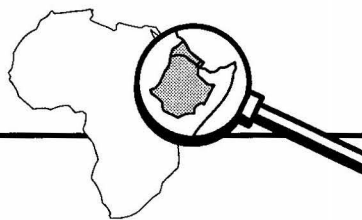
"I'm proud of her, as you might imagine, given all the trials and tribulations," says Richard Sullivan. "I didn't encourage her (to go into the Peace Corps), but I didn't discourage it either. If the Peace Corps is what she wants, and it's going to create value for her, that's wonderful and I am ecstatic."

The above article is reprinted with permission from the July 1997 issue of *At Home in the World*, a recruitment newsletter published by the Peace Corps New York Area Office.

ALMAZ SULLIVAN IS NOW serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer teacher in the town of Aleta Wendo, Sidama Zone, Southern Ethiopian People's Region. Her principal calls her a "role model for the school". 

News from the Horn

compiled by John Barnes (66-68)



- ▶ 2/24/97 Over 1,300 farmers from Gojjam province protested a new land distribution system in which they stand to lose an average of 10-14 timmads of farmland while retaining only 4 timmads. Authorities kept promising their petitions would be heard by Ato Meles Zenawi's office. Many farmers were arrested before they reached Addis Ababa. *EReg 4/97*
 - ▶ 2/97 A cache of almost 3,000 tools was found in Gona (Afar Regional State) The find is believed to be the oldest known objects made by human ancestors, dating back to over 2.5 million years ago. The tools are sharp flakes of stone used for scraping, cutting or chopping. Scientists are not certain which human ancestor species is responsible. *ENews*
 - ▶ 2/14/97 The government ordered that former army members were to be reenlisted into the Army in eastern Shoa and Jimma regions. This decision is believed to try to combat rebel activities. *ERev 4/97*
 - ▶ 2/20/97 Haile Gebre-Selassie won the 5,000 meter race in the DN Games in Stockholm. His time of 12 minutes, 59.04 seconds, set a world record which he had also held, of 13:10.98. *ERev 4/97*
 - ▶ 3/97 The Ethiopian Ambassador to the U.S., Berhane Gebre Christos, stated that cooperation with the U.S. is increasing. *ENews*
 - ▶ 3/97 The Ethiopian government has released over 50 Red Terror suspects after detention for almost five years without being charged because there was "no incriminating evidence against them." Charges have been filed against 5,198, of whom 2,952 were charged in absentia. *EReg 4/97*
 - ▶ 3/97 The Paris Club of Creditor Nations has agreed on a 67% debt relief for Ethiopia. Four years ago Ethiopia's debt was reduced by 50%. *ENews*
 - ▶ 3/4/97 The Zone Education Bureau in Shashamene has issued a directive that children may learn in the languages they choose in the next academic year. Thousands of non-Oromo parents protested the use of the Oromo language as the principal language of instruction. *EReg 6/97*
 - ▶ 3/4/97 Eritrean Port authorities met with Ethiopian businessmen in Addis Ababa to voice their concerns over diminishing use of Asseb as a port. Djibouti is the favored port because of its efficiency and customs duties, rather than Asseb and Massawa. *ERev 4/97*
 - ▶ 3/7/97 Tenants of houses owned by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church presented their grievances to Bishop Paulos due to rent increases of from 1,500 to 2,300% due to go into effect April 8, 1997. Their appeal was turned down. *ERev 4/97*
 - ▶ 3/9/97 An ancient gold cross was stolen from the famous rock-hewn Medhane Alem Church in Lalibela. The cross is estimated to be over 800 years old. *EReg 5/97*
 - ▶ 3/16/97 Dube Jilo won the Rome Marathon in 2 hours, 13 minutes and 3 seconds, beating defending champion Moges Taye, also from Ethiopia. *ERev 4/97*
 - ▶ 3/18/97 The Ministry of Education issued a press release stating that a student council will be set up in each junior and senior secondary school. Opponents view these associations as similar in purpose to the Derg's Revolutionary Ethiopian Youth Association which became a means of controlling students and was used as a device to recruit party cadres. *EReg 4/97*
 - ▶ 3/21/97 500 students of Addis Ababa University publicly protested at Siddist Kilo in support of the Amhara farmers who were protesting against losing their farmland in Gojam province. Police blocked the road to Arat Kilo and attacked the demonstrators. Some 200 students were detained until they signed an apology under duress. 171 students signed; 27 students refused to sign. On March 31st, 24 of these signed after being held in detention for 12 days. Fourteen were still in prison even after signing. Several detainees came out of detention with severe bruises and fractured skulls. The students had applied on March 18th for a permit to demonstrate but had received no answer from the Addis Ababa Administration. *EReg 5/97*
 - ▶ 3/24/97 The Society of Ethiopians Established in Diaspora (SEED) honored Dr. W. M. Akalou, former Dean of Faculty of Arts and staff member of HSI University. Currently a professor at Texas Southern University, he is also a published writer.
- Also honored was Ato Tesfaye Lemma, founder of the Center for Ethiopian Arts and Culture in Washington D.C. In Ethiopia he founded the National Orchestra of Ethiopia and served as



Head of Ethiopian Musical Studies at Yared Music School in Addis Ababa. *EReg 5/97*

- ▶ 4/97 Talks between the Oromo Liberation Front and the Government have started in Germany. The OLF has denied claims that it wants to set up an Islamic state within Ethiopia. *ERev 5-6/97*
- ▶ 4/97 An Ethiopian delegation of six economic experts attended the World Bank meetings from April 26th - 29th in Washington, D.C. They also met with U.S. Aid and the State Department, the Corporate Council on Africa, and non-governmental organizations to promote trade and investment in Ethiopia. *ENews*
- ▶ 4/24/97 The Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU) has been formally reorganized with new members and a new constitution favorable to the government. The High Court upheld the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs' cancellation of the prior CETU association's certificate. Former CETU president Dawi Ibrahim fled for exile abroad. *EReg 6/97*
- ▶ 5/97 The Corporate Council on Africa has awarded Prime Minister Meles Zenawi its "Good Governance Award." Deputy Prime Minister D. Kassu Yilala accepted the award in Washington, D.C. *ENews*
- ▶ 5/3/97 The Committee to Protect Journalists states that for the fourth consecutive year, Ethiopia had more journalists in prison than in any other African country. 104 documented imprisonments of journalists have been reported in the past four years. *ERev 5-6/97*
- ▶ 5/8/97 Ato Assefa Maru, a member of the Executive Committees of the Ethiopian Teachers Association, and the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, was ambushed by a group of policemen in a vehicle and shot by a policeman in another vehicle as he walked to his

office. He was accused of fleeing from authorities and of being a member of the illegal Ethiopian Unity Patriots Front. His home was searched along with the offices of the ETA. *EReg 6/97*

- ▶ 5/16/97 In Belgium Fred van Leeuwen, General Secretary of Education International (which represents 275 national education unions), expressed the revulsion of Education International leaders, members and staff at the murder of Ato Assefa Maru and the continued harassment and attempts to destroy the Ethiopian Teachers' Association. *EForum*
 - ▶ 5/16/97 Martin Hill of Amnesty International reported: According to our information, Assefa Maru, 37, a former history teacher, was shot dead by police near his home in Addis Ababa on 8 May 1997. Police said he was killed trying to escape arrest on suspicion of involvement with a clandestine violent opposition group, named as the "Ethiopian Unity Patriots Front." Eyewitnesses reportedly said that Assefa Maru was shot dead without warning while walking to work at the ETA office. His office was later surrounded and searched by armed police. *EForum*
- Assefa Maru, 37, was also an executive committee member of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO). He was an apparently nonviolent opponent of the government, targeted because of his work for the ETA. He had been a political prisoner for five years under the Dergue government. *EForum*
- ▶ 5/16/97 Three officials of the former government appeared before the First Criminal Bench of the Federal High Court accused of killing around 24 people in Wollo region with poison gas in the late 1970s. *EForum*
 - ▶ 5/20/97 Sectarian disturbances were reported at Arba Minch between supporters of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Many people were killed

and injured during a four-day spiritual conference held for 90,000 followers of the evangelical church. Last year there were riots in Addis Ababa during a similar conference held at Meskel square. *EForum*

- ▶ 5/21/97 Thousands of shopkeepers in Addis Ababa went on strike to protest exorbitant rent hikes (as high as 40,000%) on all shopping premises owned by the Addis Ababa city administration that was imposed eight months ago. Shopkeepers in the Merkato, Piazza, Arat Kilo among others took part. Following several days of ultimatums and refusals, a minimum of one thousand shopkeepers faced eviction and their shops were sealed, and 84 people, whom were described as the organizers of the strike were taken to prison. It was later announced that those who admit they were forced to participate in the strike can apologize and be pardoned. *EForum*
- ▶ 5/27/97 Following the murder of Bahtawi (hermit) Fekade-Selassie Tesfaye at St. Estifanos Church on January 9, 1997 the police detained several bahtawis while ignoring eyewitness accounts of the killers. Five times the police have refused to release the bahtawis following the courts setting bail. *EForum*
- ▶ 5/27/97 One day prior to celebrations of the 6th anniversary of rule by the Tigrean Peoples Liberation Front, many political opposition groups held demonstrations to inform the world of the repressive tactics of the Ethiopian Government. Protests occurred in Washington, DC, Minneapolis, Stockholm, London, Bonn Stuttgart, Tel Aviv, Melbourne, Geneva, Athens, Oslo, Amsterdam, and Ottawa Canada. The scheduled protest in Addis Ababa was postponed because a permit was refused. *EReg 7/97*
- ▶ 5/28/97 A public holiday was declared by the Tigrean Peoples Liberation Front-led government due to



the 6th anniversary of its seizure of power from the Mengistu regime. *EReg 6/97*

On the same day a large protest rally was planned by shopkeepers who lost their businesses due to new laws increasing rents by the Addis Ababa administration. The antigovernment protest is being organized by the AAPO and CAFPDE worldwide. *EReg 6/97*

▶ 5/28/97 Prime Minister Meles Zenawi warned opposition groups to work within the constitution in achieving their goals. He said that the approach they are using to achieve their "antidemocratic objectives is by violating the peaceful and democratic forums available to them, and by openly declaring war, or by appearing to be peaceful but clandestinely resorting to violence or cooperating with those who are practically engaged in violence." He said it is futile to expect these groups to make a positive contribution to the democratic process in Ethiopia. *EReg 7/97*

▶ 5/30/97 It was reported that Ethiopia's export earnings in 1995/96 fell by 9% primarily because of the decline in coffee prices on the world market. *EForum*

▶ 5/30/97 There is a shortage of judges in Ethiopia causing a daunting backlog — the Federal High Courts have an accumulation of 64,072 cases. That court is fully occupied at present with the hearing of 2,658 cases involving former Derg members and their accomplices. *EForum*

▶ 5/30/97 Three persons were killed with and six wounded when a bomb went off Friday in Yabelo. Police reported that the man who detonated the bomb and his wife and son were killed in the blast. *EForum*

▶ 5/31/97 Ethiopia's famous long-distance runner, Haile Gebre Selassie won the 10,000 meter race in Hengelo, Netherlands, with a time of 8 minutes,

1.08 seconds, breaking the world record. He just missed by 1.08 seconds in winning a million dollar prize! *EReg 7/97*

▶ 6/97 Thirty judges are to be appointed to speed the ongoing trial of former Derg officials on the Mengistu Haile-Mariam regime. 5,198 officials have been charged with crimes. *ENews*

▶ 6/97 The controlling shareholder of the new private Wegagen bank is the Endowment Fund for the Rehabilitation of Tigray (EFFORT), which is controlled by the TPLF. It is predicted that the Wegagen Bank will replace the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia as the dominant bank by seizing the CBE's offices, and funds. The policy of ethnicization has spread to the banking industry and to the raising of investment funds for various region states. *EReg 8/97*

▶ 6/97 The Ethiopian government has barred its officials from traveling to England because they were searched when passing through British airports. The government has delayed its endorsement of the new British Ambassador to Ethiopia. The government ordered a BBC correspondent, Mrs. Alice Martin, to leave the country following her reports of human rights abuses. *EReg 8/97*

▶ 6/97 The Ethiopian government has sent a delegation of officials to the U.S. and Canada to invite capital investment in Ethiopia. At many cities there have been large protests asking that the government live up to its rhetoric on individual freedom and human rights declarations. The delegation was not willing to respond to such questions. *EReg 8/97*

▶ 6/97 The Ethiopian birr depreciated against the US dollar. For the week of June 16-21 it took 6.80 birr to equal one US dollar. A few weeks before 6.65 birr equalled one US dollar. The demand for foreign exchange and increased imports may be causes. *EBir 7-9/97*

▶ 6/12/97 The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) called the government's May sealing of business premises, revoking of licenses and detention of businessmen illegal and a violation of human rights. The case of 200 of those shops is still under review and 29 licenses have already been cancelled. 84 persons who are thought to have coordinated the strike were detained and will not be pardoned. *EForum*

▶ 6/12/97 There were reports of heavy fighting between the forces from the Ethiopian government and militia-men loyal to the Islamic fundamentalist group of Al-Itihad Al-Islam along the Somali border region of Gedo and the towns of Bulo Hawo and Luq. *Ethiolist*

▶ 6/13/97 A French news agency has appealed to Eritrea's president for the release of its correspondent Ruth Simon, an Eritrean, who's been held since April 25 without charges, the day after she reported that Afeworki said that Eritrean soldiers were fighting alongside Sudanese rebels in neighboring Sudan. The following day, Afeworki's party denied Eritrean involvement in Sudan. The Eritrean Foreign Ministry said that Simon's case is being dealt with under a press law that says any journalist misinforming the public is liable for the damage caused by the reporting. *Ethiolist*

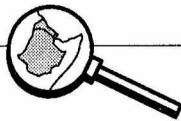
▶ 6/14/97 The Ethiopian cabinet approved a lower spending budget for 1997/1998. *EBir 7-9/97*

▶ 6/17/97 Ethiopia and Eritrea have decided to close the Assab oil refinery on the Red Sea in August and to start importing refined products as a cost-cutting measure.

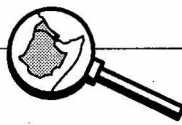
▶ 6/17/97 Because of its need for 400,000 trained construction workers for implementation of the five year development program, Ethiopia will open 25 training centers.




- ▶ 6/17/97 A representative from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) said today that desertification is threatening nearly 70 percent of Ethiopia's land. The general manager of Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia said Ethiopia has already approved a countrywide conservation strategy whose main focus is combating land degradation.
- ▶ 6/21/97 Three codefendants in the case of Professor Asrat Woldeyes testified that government security forces tortured them until they gave false confessions which incriminated them as well as the leaders of the All Amhara Political Organization. *EReg 8/97*
- ▶ 7/97 Over the past 9 months, Ethiopia earned \$330 million from the export of coffee and other products such as skins, oilseeds, and grains. This is an increase of \$46 million over a similar period the prior year. *ENews*
- ▶ 7/97 A new \$226 million Finchaa Sugar Refinery was to become operational in July. Its capacity is 100,000 tons per year. It will also export ethanol alcohol. *EBir 7-9/97*
- ▶ 7/97 Forests now cover only 2.7 of the land of Ethiopia. *EBir 7-9/97*
- ▶ 7/97 Alitalia resumed flights between Rome and Addis Ababa after a five year break. *EBir 7-9/97*
- ▶ 7/11/97 A Ge'ez Word Processing Software known as EthioSoft Aboogida was introduced. *EForum*
- ▶ 7/14/97 The Eritrean government issued an announcement of plans to have its own currency - the nakfa. Eritreans will be required to turn in their birr for nakfa. The exchange rate is to be 1 to 1. The collected birr is to be turned over to Ethiopia. Some merchants believe the nakfa's value will be very low. The birr has also been losing value recently. *EReg 9/97*
- ▶ 7/16/97 The Ethiopian government replaced five top management officials of Ethiopia Airlines. The new head of the airline, Birsat Nigatu, has 24 years of experience with the organization. He replaces Ahmed Kellow who was appointed three years ago by the government. It was reported that the outgoing team had lost the support of EAL employees. *EForum*
- ▶ 7/25/97 The Eritrean government announced that the exchange rate of the new Eritrean national currency, the nakfa, with the Ethiopian birr will be 1:1. Both currencies will be used in Eritrea for an unspecified period of time. However, Eritreans who own more than 5,000 birr have been instructed to trade them in it for nakfa. *EForum*
- ▶ 8/97 Relations between Britain and Ethiopian have taken a turn for the worse following the murder of Ato Assefa Maru of the Ethiopian Teachers Association and a human rights activist. The vehicles used in the shooting attack were land rovers donated by the British government. Britain has reportedly suspended its aid to Ethiopia. Britain also denied an entry visa to Patriarch Abune Paulos. Ethiopian government officials were reportedly subjected to searches at the London airport. Official travel to Britain has been curtailed by the Ethiopian government. The British consulate in London advised its citizens that travel to Ethiopia is risky following several bomb attacks in Addis Ababa and kidnappings in rural areas. *ERev 7-8/97*
- ▶ 8/97 The Afar Revolutionary Democratic Union Front (ARDUF) has signed a peace treaty with representatives of the Ethiopian government and local officials in the Afar Region. *EReg 9/97*
- ▶ 8/97 Talks were also held in Germany with the Oromo Liberation Front, but no agreement had been reached. *EReg 9/97*
- ▶ 8/97 Members of the Ethiopian Journalists Association have complained that the organization has failed to protect their rights. Complaints include unfair dismissals, and discrimination in work assignments. *EReg 9/97*
- ▶ 8/2/97 Ethiopians in the DC area were invited to a meeting held at the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington at which visiting Ethiopian government representatives were to discuss developments in Ethiopia. When questions from the floor were not limited to economic matters but addressed a variety of human rights issues, members of the audience were attacked and beaten. One person was taken by ambulance to a hospital and treated for several broken bones. *EForum*
- ▶ 8/2/97 The previously mentioned visiting Ethiopian government representatives were visiting in the U.S under the sponsorship of the USIS. Their appearances in Ottawa, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Seattle, Washington, DC and Boston generated a variety of demonstrations by Ethiopians living in the U.S. and Canada protesting that "the TPLF [Tigrayan Peoples Liberation Front — the ruling party in Ethiopia]/EPRDF [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front — political organization established by the TPLF] ethnic apartheid regime arrests and assassinates political, civic and religious leaders, harasses and detains journalists, dismantles labor unions and civic association, disperses student protests and arrests and tortures protest participants, takes away land from peasants and gives it to its supporters." *ERev 7-8/97*
- ▶ 8/16/97 In an article entitled "sham Federalism" *The Economist* of this date examined with a critical eye the governing-by-ethnicity policies of the Ethiopian government.
- ▶ 8/16/97 Miruts Yifter, a double gold medalist at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, has left Ethiopia to seek asylum in Canada. *EForum*



- ▶ 8/16/97 Over 3.5 million people are facing food shortages in Amhara, Oromia and Somali regional states mainly due to crop failure during the last small rains season. There is also serious drought caused by El Niño in Tigray, North Shoa, Wollo and Southern Ethiopia National State. In another area of Tigray torrential rains destroyed crops and killed farm animals on 9/5/97.
- ▶ 8/19/97 An international airport has opened in Arba Minch. *EForum*
- ▶ 8/21/97 State Department spokesman James P. Rubin, issued a statement that "The United States regrets the lost opportunities for dialogue" caused by the demonstration against visiting Ethiopian government officials in Boston. *EForum*
- ▶ 8/21/97 Police say they have seized cannabis weighing over 37 kgs. from monasteries in East Gojjam Zone. For 14 years 12 celibates were engaged in the production and sale of the drug
- ▶ 8/21/97 Ethiopians in Atlanta protested President Jimmy Carter's planned trip to Ethiopia on the 23rd to examine agricultural improvements there supported by the Carter Center and to attend a conference on food security in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ▶ 9/5/97 In Ethiopia attention is being brought to the issue of violence against women including wife beating, genital mutilation, rape, child prostitution and incest, through media coverage and workshops including at a workshop organized by the Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association in Addis Ababa where calls were made for laws to protect women.
- ▶ 9/12/97 Eight were killed and two injured in North Wollo when two people struck a bomb found on the ground. Three of the killed were children as were the two injured. *Ethiolist*
- ▶ 9/19/97 "Former President Jimmy Carter, recovered from a spider bite he got three weeks ago in Addis Ababa, is interviewed on "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer" tonight. Mr Carter will talk about his new project to promote agricultural self-sufficiency in Ethiopia, which he hopes will serve as a model for all of Africa." *Washington Post*
- ▶ 9/26/97 Hannah Tesfaye was named Miss Addis Ababa at a competition held at the Hilton Hotel. *Ethiolist*
- ▶ 9/26/97 An archaeologist, a restoration expert and an engineer left for Rome to discuss the details for the return of the Axum Obelisk. *Ethiolist*
- ▶ 9/97 During the third week of September it was disclosed that 261 elected members of executive committees of the Addis Ababa Administration (the local governing organization) were relieved of their posts because of incompetence and corruption. Similar dismissals took place in Oromia recently involving over 200 people. *Ethiolist*
- ▶ 10/3/97 Drought-hit Ethiopia will introduce countrywide power rationing from next week to offset water shortages in dams with hydroelectric power stations, the Electric Energy Corporation said. The measures would remain in place indefinitely. *Reuter*
- ▶ 10/8/98 The USIS announced that a new private university — The American University of Ethiopia will open in 1998, finance by an Ethiopian, a Jordanian and Cal. State University at Stanislaus. The university, which will follow American educational approaches, will be located north of Addis Ababa. Its first courses will be in business management, accounting and finance. *Africa News*
- ▶ 10/10–12/97 The United Front of Ethiopians will hold a nationwide conference in Atlanta to form an Ethiopian Congress made up of delegates from various opposition parties. *ERev 7–8/97*
- ▶ 10/10/97 The Ethiopian government began to circulate new currency notes because 1) symbols on the current currency notes do not reflect the current government principles and 2) because of potential problems that may arise with the introduction of the Eritrea nakfa, 3) the current notes had proved to be easily forged by photocopying. *Africa News*
- ▶ 10/17/97 Three officials of Ethiopia's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission said that current food supplies are sufficient to deal with the expected famine.
- ▶ 10/97 Voices are being heard that question Ethiopian government and Jimmy Carter's statements that Ethiopia is producing enough grain for self-sufficiency as well as export while the reports of pending famine increase.
- ▶ 11/5–16/97 The Addis Ababa International Trade Fair will be held to introduce both foreign and local visitors to the many opportunities available in Ethiopia. For information call the Ethiopian Trade and Economic Affairs Office at (202) 452-1272; Fax: (202) 223-0137 in Washington. *ENews*
- ▶ The Ministry of Agriculture will start an animal resources development extension program by the end of 1997. The goal is to increase productivity, quality and yields of livestock. *ENews*
- ▶ Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, as part of his 6-month progress report to parliament, stated that a top government priority is food security and stable prices of grains. *ENews*
- ▶ Several mining companies have agreed to pursue petroleum exploration and development in Ethiopia, as a result of a conference of Petroleum Geologists in Dallas. *ENews*



- ▶ There are now five private banks in Ethiopia. The latest to begin operations are the Wegagen Bank and the Horn Int'l Bank. *ENews*
- ▶ Norway has given Ethiopia a grant of \$5.4 million for power supply improvements. 850 distribution transformers will improve electricity service for Addis Ababa, Nazareth, Dire Dawa, and Bahar Dar. *ENews*
- ▶ Two representatives of the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington, D.C spoke about Ethiopia's successes over the past six years at a Town Hall meeting in Denver. Denver and Axum, Ethiopia have formed a sister-city relationship. *ENews*
- ▶ Ethiopian Ambassador to the U.S., Berhane Gebre-Christos addressed the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. *ENews*
- ▶ Bole Int'l Airport is to be renovated with a loan from the African Development Fund. The project is expected to cost \$30 million and is to be completed in early 1999. It will double runway capacity and allow Boeing 747's to land. Japan has agreed to allow Ethiopian Airlines to operate flights between Ethiopia and Japan. *ENews*
- ▶ Ethiopia's output of maize increased by 50% over the past two years, according to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. The plan is to produce maize for export. A trial export program has been tried in hopes that grain can be exported each year. *ENews*
- ▶ U.S. Ambassador David Shinn praised the governmental structure of Ethiopia after visits to the regional states of Tigray, Amhara and Oromia. *ENews*
- ▶ Non-governmental organizations are involved in 86 projects totalling \$40 million. *ENews*
- ▶ A U.S. Trade Exhibition was held in Addis Ababa in May in which approximately 35 U.S. firms were represented. The goal was to attract foreign investment. *ENews*
- ▶ Kuwait and Ethiopia signed an agreement for direct air services between the two countries. *ENews*
- ▶ 20,000 Ethiopian refugees will return to Ethiopia from Sudan. *ENews*
- ▶ In Ethiopia, a Federal Human Rights Commission is to be established by the end of 1997. *ENews*
- ▶ Ethiopian Minister and Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, Mr. Newai Gebre-Ab testified in support of the U.S. House "African Growth and Opportunity Act," a bill which aims to facilitate social and economic development in sub-Saharan countries. *ENews*
- ▶ Since its establishment four years ago the Ethiopian Investment Authority has approved 3,186 investment projects with an estimated capital of \$3.4 billion birr. 39% are in manufacturing, 29% in agriculture, 10% in hotel and tourism, 9% in real estate development and 12% in other service activities. *ENews*
- ▶ 750 Ethiopian refugees returned from Sudan after 8-12 years. The Ethiopian Relief Organization assisted the refugees in Gondar with \$30 for transportation, food and other necessities. *ENews*
- ▶ Ethiopia exported a record 133,765 tons of coffee worth \$410 million from July, 1996 - June 1997, an increase of 102,000 tons over the previous year. *ENews*
- ▶ Ethiopia and Uganda signed an economic cooperation agreement recently. *ENews*
- ▶ Ethiopia is part of an African peacekeeping force called the African Crisis Response Initiative trained by US military trainers. Other participating countries are Malawi, Mali, Senegal and Uganda. *ENews*
- ▶ A Saudi Arabian Prince met with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi about investment interests in Ethiopia. *ENews*
- ▶ Officials of the Amhara and Tigray regional states pledged to assist the Afar regional government in the areas of health, education, agricultural projects. Training will be provided. *ENews*
- ▶ A campaign to vaccinate 8.5 million children for Polio prevention will begin in November and December. 51,000 people will assist at 25,847 centers throughout the country. The goal is to eradicate the disease within the next 4 years. *ENews*
- ▶ A \$30 million grant from the UN Population Fund is being used to include sex education in the formal school curricula. Population Affairs offices have been established in each region with specialized training for agents. *ENews* 

ERev = *Ethiopian Review* (1 yr/\$29)
PO Box 98499
Atlanta GA 30359

EReg = *Ethiopian Register* (1 yr/\$35)
PO Box 580
St. Joseph MN 56374

EthNews = *News from Ethiopia* (free)
Embassy of Ethiopia, 2134
Kalorama Rd NW, Washington DC
20008 (free)

EBir = *Ethiopian BIR* (1 yr/\$15)
PO Box 2334
Westfield NJ 07090

EForum = News from the Internet site
<http://www.ethiolist.com/>
with special thanks to Richard
Crepeau (Dessie 63-65)

Ethiolist = Internet site <http://www.ethiolist.com/>

Africa News = Internet site

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs group news

HELP OFFERED — AND GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

There have been several generous offers to take on jobs for our group that were advertized in the last *Herald*.

Web master

DENNIS EKBERG (Ghion 62–64) added to his already impressive commitment to volunteer work by coming forward to take on the development of a website for E&E RPCVs. He has been working diligently on the site

World Wise Schools coordinator AND Librarian

JOE CIUFFINI (Harar 64–66) has graciously accepted responsibility for both of these tasks. From now on, Joe is the man to contact to borrow materials mentioned in *The Herald* (past and future — and present) that are available for members' use. Joe will also coordinate efforts to encourage you to "Bring the World Back Home" — the Third Goal of the Peace Corps — particularly to the students of this country through the World Wise Schools program. (To contact Joe see the last page.)

Book Project manager

JOE TENN (Addis Ababa 62–64) will coordinate responses to requests for books for Ethiopia, Eritrea and for PCVs serving there. Contact Joe if you can make a donation or would like to help him in any way with this effort.

HELP WANTED

Steering committee chair

The Steering Committee is seeking a

new Chair(wo)man. Marian Beil is still hoping that someone will step up to take over this position and bring some new excitement to the effort.

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 and handling correspondence. 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 news summarizer

The Herald editor is searching for someone to summarize news about Ethiopia and Eritrea that appears at several sites on the Web to be included in the "News from the Horn" section of the newsletter. These summaries would compliment the information prepared by John Barnes who uses print media sources.

Book reviewer

Someone to review *A SONG OF LONGING: AN ETHIOPIAN JOURNEY* by Kay Kaufman Shelemay — the story of a musicologist who goes to Ethiopia to do research on the music of the Beta Israel (Falasha) in 1973.

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

E&E RPCVs MADE SOME WAVES AT THE CONFERENCE

At the RPCV conference in San Diego ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs proposed a policy recommendation at the Annual General Meeting.

Proposed: NPCA national conferences be held annually and have Countries of Service as a primary focus.

This proposal was made because it was rumored that in the future there would only be a national RPCV conference held every other year because of disappointing registration numbers. The Steering Committee of E&E RPCVs felt that the annual conferences are vital to country-of-service groups like ours in that they provide the only opportunity for members of these groups to gather, socialize, have country updates and discuss group business. Additionally, it was felt that there would be greater attendance at the conferences if there was an emphasis on countries of service and special efforts were made by the conference organizers to help country-of-service groups to organize programs and promote the conference with their members.

Action: The motion was divided and the first part of the motion — that NPCA conferences be held annually — was tabled.

Action: The second part — that NPCA conferences have a Country of Service focus — was amended to read the NPCA conferences have countries of service as a primary focus. The motion, as amended, was carried at the AGM.

Action: The board of the NPCA approved the motion.

WE CAN HELP WITH BOOKS

Requests for books

E&E RPCVs has received the following requests for books from Peace Corps/Ethiopia. If you can donate any books that meet the requirements, or can help in any way, please contact our Book Coordinator Joe Tenn.

Nonfiction books about Ethiopia and Africa for PCVs

"An on-going complaint [among PCVs here] is that while we have many Peace Corps-generated books on education, appropriate technology, etc. in our library, yet we have very few books on Ethiopia or on Africa in general. Budgetary constraints limit what we can buy aside from appropriate local language dictionaries. We would appreciate any help your group can offer in building up a decent resource library.

Bob Schmidt
Associate Director"

[Bob Schmidt has sent E&E RPCVs a wish list of books from the Red Sea Catalog and Amazon. E&E RPCVs expects to purchase some from the list. You are also invited to help the next generation of PCVs by making a financial gift that can be used to purchase books from the wish list.

Donations of books from your own library that you would like to share are also welcomed.

E&E RPCVs also welcomes recommendations from you of books about Ethiopia and Africa that you think should be read by the PCVs. Please communicate with Joe if you can help in any way.]

Easy fiction books for students

"As I am sure you are aware, resources for schools in Ethiopia are few and far between. This is especially true in regards to books in English for school libraries. Traditionally, donors send old textbooks or "educational" books which often don't do much to excite a young reader.

We are looking for donations of books of fiction — books geared toward generating an interest in reading for pleasure and for opening young minds to what the written word has to offer in English. The donation also needs to take into account the English level of most Ethiopia high school students at present, which, unfortunately, is fairly low. It would be better to err on the side of simplicity than complexity. Regardless, any books you send, we can easily find a productive home for.

An example of the kinds of books I am thinking about would be *TOM SAWYER*, books of African folk tales, *TREASURE ISLAND* and the like. I would be more than happy to accept this donation through the pouch so that mailing costs would only be to Washington DC. In



Bookplate we put in each book sent to Ethiopia or Eritrea.

terms of volume, I can handle anything you would have to offer and please keep in mind that I will have to divide everything you send by 33 so that each PCV's school gets treated equally.

Thank you for any and all assistance you or the RPCVs might be able to render in this regard. I can assure you that it will be very much appreciated.

Lis A. Doane
Country Director"

Books on their way The booklocker concept has been resurrected

On Friday, September 26, over nine hundred pounds of donated books and audio tapes were shipped in 18 boxes to Ethiopia and Eritrea. These new books of fiction and nonfiction will go into the libraries for Volunteers in those countries and are meant to provide pleasure reading for the PCVs. The books were collected by Steering Committee member John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64), who, with the help of Peace Corps Associated Director Patti Garamendi (Metu, Illubabor 66-68), who directs the Office of Private Sector Cooperation, arranged for the books to be shipped to Addis Ababa and Asmara. Expenses incurred in the collection of the books were paid by ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs.

Additional books will be sent to Ethiopia and Asmara as they are collected by John in New York.

Smaller shipments of books that were sent previously by E&E RPCVs for the PCVs in these two countries never arrived. Hopefully *someone* is reading them.



San Diego post mortem

The San Diego conference was great fun for E&E RPCVs. Thanks to Ginny Sherwood who arranged for our traditional dinner at a restaurant that, some said, served the best injera and wat they'd had in this country. More than 30 RPCVs, family and friends — including Peace Corps Deputy Director Chuck Baquet (Somalia 65-67) — enjoyed a casual and often boisterous evening.

At the country update newly returned PCV **BARBARA REICHARDT** told of life in Ethiopia today. **LAURIE** and **WAYNE KESSLER**, who were back in this country for a visit, told of their life in Asmara and of happenings in Eritrea.

Who was there

Courtney and David Arnold (Asbe Teferi 64-66)

Morris Baker (Bahar Dar 66-68)

Marian Haley Beil (Debre Berhan 62-64)

Susan Hundt Bergan (Bahar Dar 66-68)

Mark Lewis Brecker (Asmara 64-66)

C. J. Castagnaro (Harar, Debre Zeit, Addis Ababa 64-66, 67-69)

Joe Ciuffini (Harar 64-66)

Jim Cook (Addis Ababa 62-64)

John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64)

Gloria Gieseke Curtis (Asmara 63-65)

John Greene (Gore, Illubabor 64-66)

Charles (Sam) Greer (Addis Ababa 66-68)

Ginger Kayton-Hajoglou (Dembi Dollo 72-74)

Laurie & Wayne Kessler (Adi Teclesan 64-66)

Bryan McClure (Gursum, Dira Dawa, Alemayu, Addis Ababa 66-69)

Doug and Sue Mcleod (Addis Ababa 66-68)

Kris Pelton (Addis Ababa 66-68)

Carol Randall (Harar 73-74)

Barbara Reichardt (Dessie 95-96)

John Rude (Tessenei/Mendefera 62-64)

Jim Solomon (Massawa, Jimma 63-65)

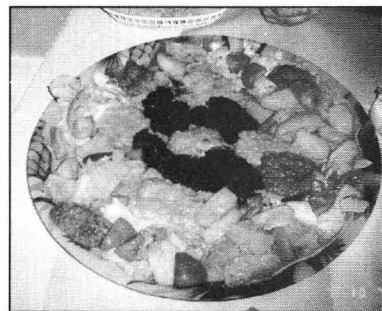
▶ Several RPCVs from Ethiopia and Eritrea played vital parts in the wonderfully successful RPCV conference at San Diego this past summer. **ELLEN SHIVLEY** (Asmara 68-70), who is President of the hosting San Diego Peace Corps Association greeted the attendees with welcoming remarks at the Opening Ceremony, was Chair of the conference workshops and arranged some of the entertainment. **MARILEA SWENSON** (71-73) was the conference treasurer. **PATTI GARAMENDI** (Metu, Illubabor 66-68), Director of Private Sector Cooperation and International Volunteerism at the Peace Corps introduced her husband **JOHN** (Metu, Illubabor 66-68), deputy director of the U.S. Department of the Interior, who gave the keynote address on "The Global Environmental Challenge for the New Millennium."



Barbara Reichardt speaks at the country update.



C.J. Castagnaro



The great vegetarian wat platter.



Sam Greer, Morris Baker and Susan Hundt Bergan

Also participating were those presenting workshops: **JOHN COYNE** ["Publishing Your Peace Corps Experience" and "Peace Corps - the Second Time Around"], **MARIAN HALEY BEIL** ["Publishing Your Peace Corps Experience" and "Newsletter Editors Workshop"], and **DAVID ARNOLD** ["Newsletter Editors Workshop"].

► *The Herald* received the first place award for design of a country-of-service group newsletter at the San Diego RPCV conference.


► The speeches and workshops at the conference were taped and copies are available from Innovative Resources & Recordings Inc., 2300 W 17th St, Wilmington DE 19806, 888/44SOURCE, 302/777-1118, fax 302/777-1119. Refer to Conf.#9717. Of special note was the wonderful closing

address by Gordon Radley (Malawi 68-70), President of Lucasfilm, Ltd. - ask for SU20.

E&E RPCVs has in its library two of those tapes which are available to be borrowed: "Publishing Your Peace Corps Experience" and "Newsletter Editors Workshop." Contact the librarian if you are interested in borrowing either of these audio tapes.

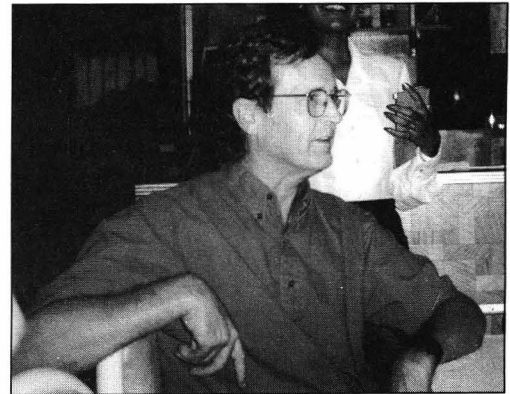
► David Schweidenback (Ecuador 77-80) received the Sargent Shriver Award for Humanitarian Service for creating Pedals for Progress (PFP), a nonprofit corporation which has

collected and repaired more than 18,000 used bicycles and \$4 million in new spare bike parts and shipped them to 11 Third World countries. PFP also has provided training in-country in bicycle repair. Among the recipient countries — Eritrea, which received 1,514 bikes through mid-1997. The US Department of Defense supported this gift by donating the shipping costs.

If you would like to support this award-winning program or learn how you can get involved with the bike collection, contact: Pedals for Progress, 86 East Main Street, High Bridge NJ 08829-2510; 908-638-4811; pdls4prgrss@worldnet.att.net 



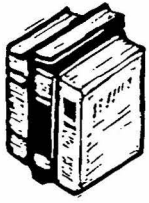
Wayne and Laurie Kessler



Bryan McClure



Kris Pelton and Carol Randall



BOOK NOTES

day East Africa land-use and wildlife problems, no mystery writer is better than Karin McQuillan" (Senegal 71).

The spring issue of *3/1/61*, the newsletter of the National Peace Corps Association, featured **KATHLEEN COSKRAN** (Addis Ababa; Dilla 65-67) and the publication of an anthology of travel stories written by women, *TANZANIA OF TUESDAY: WRITING BY AMERICAN WOMEN ABROAD* [New Rivers Press, \$19.95, 356 pages], which she co-edited. This anthology includes several essays by RPCVs.

► The following RPCVs from Ethiopia and Eritrea are published writers who have books listed in the Bibliography of Peace Corps Writers at the *RPCV Writers & Readers* web site <www.servtech.com/public/mhbeil/>. Why not visit and see their accomplishments — and buy a book!

John M. Cohen (64-66)

Kathleen Johnson Coskran (Addis Ababa; Dilla 65-67)

John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64; Staff/E 65-67, PC/W 93-)

Phil Damon (Addis Ababa 63-65)

Mark Dintenfass (Addis Ababa 64-66)

Stephen J. Foehr (Debaark 65)

Henry Klein (74-76)

John J. Kulczycki (Debre Zeit 63-65)

James Lerager (1968-69)

Richard S. Lipez (Debre Marcos, Addis Ababa 62-64)

Christian Messenger (Nazareth 65-67)

Charles Michener (Addis Ababa 62-64)

Carolyn Ann Mulford (Dessie 62-64)

James A. Quirin (65-67)

William Seraile (Makele 63-65)

James W. Skelton (Makele, Addis Ababa 70-72)

Mildred D. Taylor (Yirgalem 65-67)

Frances Nolting Temple

Maria Thomas (71-73)

Eric Torgersen (64-66)

E. Fuller Torrey, M.D. (Staff 64-66)

Paul Tsongas (Ghion 62-64)

David P. Wiley (Assella 62-64)

Harris Wofford (Country Director 62-64; PC/W 64-66)

John A. Woods (Jimma 65-68)

► John Barnes has donated to E&E RPCVs a copy of *UNRAVELING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN ETHIOPIA: PROCEEDINGS OF A HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK OBSERVANCE AND ELECTRONIC MAIL CONFERENCE 3-8 MARCH, 1997* published by The International Solidarity Committee for Ethiopia Prisoners of Conscience (ISCEPC). Included are articles about prisoners of conscience, poems, papers and a Keynote Address: "Human Rights in Post-Derg Ethiopia: Atrocities and Injustices" by Ted Vestal (Staff 1964-66) 92 pages. The book can be borrowed by contacting Librarian Joe Ciuffini, or a copy can be purchased for \$10 from ISCEPC, PO Box 53022, Medford MA 02153.

New books if interest from amazon.com

► *HALFWAY HEAVEN: DIARY OF A HARVARD MURDER* by Melanie Thernstrom Hardcover, 320 pages, Doubleday ISBN: 0385487452 List: \$23.95 ~ Our Price: \$14.37 ~ You Save: \$9.58 (40%)

The author investigated the murder of a Harvard student by her Ethiopian roommate. A portion of the book was previously published in *The New Yorker*.

► *THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, 1974-91: FROM A MONARCHICAL AUTOCRACY TO A MILITARY OLIGARCHY* by Teferra Haile-Selassie; Kegan Paul Intl. Publishers; hardcover; List Price: currently unknown; ISBN: 0710305656

► *THE ETHIOPIAN BORDERLANDS: ESSAYS IN REGIONAL HISTORY FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY* by Richard Pankhurst; Red Sea Press; \$59.95 hardcover; ISBN: 0932415180

► **DENNIS EKBERG** (Ghion 62-64) has completed the *SENIOR RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY* (Oregon) 1997-1998 and raised funds to print 8,000 copies of the 66-page book. This is the second edition of the directory. Several years ago, Dennis saw the need for such a document in his new community and made it happen. If you are looking for a valuable project to do for your community, we have a copy of the directory you can borrow for inspiration.*

► Some tidbits from *RPCV Writers & Readers*:

OUT OF THE SHADOWS: CONFRONTING AMERICA'S MENTAL ILLNESS CRISIS [JOHN WILEY & SONS, \$27.95, 244 PAGES] by **E. FULLER TORREY** (staff 64-66) received a favorable review in the January 18th *New York Times Book Review*. "Like all polemics," writes reviewer Daniel J. Kevles, "*OUT OF THE SHADOWS* should be read with caution, but its analyses deserve serious attention."

CAROLYN MULFORD (Dessie 62-64) received the Washington Independent Writers 1997 Philip M. Stern Award for her "outstanding service to writers and the writing profession." Mulford is the author of the young-adult book *ELIZABETH DOLE: PUBLIC SERVANT*.

RICHARD LIPEZ (Debre Marcos, Addis Ababa 62-64) wrote the Africa section for *CRIMES OF THE SCENE: A MYSTERY NOVEL GUIDE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLER*, by Nina King, out from St. Martin's in April. Lipez is a mystery reviewer for the *Washington Post Book World*, where King is editor. Among the books Lipez recommends for mystery-fan visitors to Africa are those by an RPCV: "For sophisticated understanding of present-

▶ *AGAINST ALL ODDS : A CHRONICLE OF THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION WITH A NEW AFTERWORD ON THE POSTWAR TRANSITION* by Dan Connell, Red Sea Press; \$14.95 paperback; ISBN: 1569020469

▶ *PEOPLES OF THE [OMO] RIVER VALLEY* by Robert Low, Rosen Publishing Group; \$13.95 hardcover; ISBN: 0823922952


▶ *YOHANNES IV OF ETHIOPIA : A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY* by Zewde Gabre-Sellassie, Zewde Gabre-Sellassie, Red Sea Press; \$69.95 hardcover ISBN: 1569020426; \$19.95 paperback ISBN: 1569020434.

▶ *A FAMILY FROM ETHIOPIA* (Families Around the World) by Julia Waterlow, Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers; hardcover; list: \$24.98 CHILD BOOKS/ AGES 4-8; ISBN: 0817249001

▶ *MAI WEINI: A SMALL VILLAGE IN THE HIGHLANDS OF ERITREA* by Kjetil Tronvoll, Red Sea Press; Paperback; List: \$21.95 - Amazon Price: \$17.56 ISBN: 1569020590

▶ *PEASANT REVOLUTION IN ETHIOPIA : THE TIGRAY PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT 1975-1991* by John Young, Cambridge University Press; \$59.95 hardcover ISBN: 0521591988

▶ *TWENTY YEARS TO NOWHERE; PROPERTY RIGHTS, LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION IN ETHIOPIA* by Yeraswork Admassie, Red Sea Press; list: \$21.95, amazon price: \$17.56, paperback; ISBN: 1569020612

▶ *HISTORICAL ETHIOPIA; A BOOK OF SOURCES AND A GUIDE TO HISTORICAL SITES* by Stuart Munro-Hay, Red Sea Press; list: \$24.95 amazon price: \$19.96, paperback; ISBN: 1569020701 

▶ *ART THAT HEALS: THE IMAGE AS MEDICINE IN ETHIOPIA* by Jacques Mercier, International Book Import Service, Inc; list: \$49.95, amazon price 34.97, hardcover; ISBN: 3791316060

Book review

Pack your bags, let's go to Eritrea

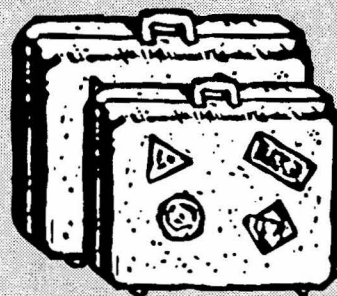
Guide to Eritrea*

by Edward Paice, 2nd Edition, The Globe Pequot Press Inc., 1996, 182 pages.

Reviewed by Jan Clymer (Finete Selam, Gojjam 1972-74)


In January 1973, I fulfilled the first year PCV's rite of passage by joining my buddies for the Historical Tour beginning in Addis and proceeding to some of Ethiopia's most fascinating spots. Asmara was a prime destination, not only for the hamburgers, french fries and malts at Kagnew Army Base, but also to see wide, palm-lined avenues, the Italian gold jewelry and to experience the European "feel" of an East African city. During that trip we dutifully took a bus down to Massawa, and what a treat, to actually see the Red Sea after hearing about it in Sunday School as a child. In 1974, a second Eritrean jaunt to Assab and Massawa widened my Eritrean experience, and in a 1987 return to Ethiopia, no side trip to Eritrea was allowed.

In 1997, I still have the enchantment and want to return and promptly volunteered to review *GUIDE TO ERITREA* for *The Herald*. Edward Paice's book is well organized and begins by offering Background Information and History and then proceeds with chapters outlining Practical Information and Health and Safety. This basic information is essential for the first time visitor and useful for the return visitor. Chapters Five through Twelve offer specific destination information beginning



with Asmara and continuing to Massawa, The Dahlak Islands, Denkalia, Assab, Keren, Nacfa, and the Western and Southern Lowlands. Each of these destination chapters is organized with general information and then offers where to stay (upper range, mid range, budget), where to eat, things to do, and includes detailed maps along with magnificent pictures. Finally, Paice offers an Appendix, Further Reading, Measurements and Conversions and an Index.

On page 47, the author lists Some Suggested Itineraries ranging from a five-day tour to an eight-day tour to one for 10 days or more. He whets the reader's appetite and you'll find yourself calculating how much time off from work you'll need and how much money you'll need.

Ethiopian Airlines, Lufthansa and Egyptair offer flights from Europe with Egyptair, the cheapest, and Ethiopian Airlines direct flights comfortably the quickest. Pack your bags and bring *GUIDE TO ERITREA* for it provides excellent information and perspective on the world's newest nation. 

* To borrow, contact our librarian Joe Ciuffini.

F R I E N D S

► Had a call from Doug Lawson. He is the 34-year-old son of **JOHN LAWSON** (62–64) and **SUE LAWSON** (62–64). Doug was the second baby born to PCVs in Ethiopia [Herb and Sue Siegal's son, Thomas, was first by three months]. Doug is hoping to go back to his home of birth and make a documentary. He reports that his mother volunteered again and was a PCV in Kenya in the early '90s.

► **DICK HOWRIGAN's** (Jimma, Addis Ababa 62–64) son, Jimmy, is serving as a PCV in Senegal in a agriculture extension project. Dick — always the hustler — is raising funds to purchase a generator for a pump for the water system in Jimmy's town. He has received support from the Green Mountain RPCVs, the Rotary and Ben & Jerry's. Later this fall, Dick and his wife will visit Jimmy and deliver their booty.

Dick was a State Legislator in Vermont for a while and during his term was instrumental in having the state adopt a law that gives RPCVs who teach in the state credit towards retirement for their time in Peace Corps service.

► Now, whose is the least likely name you'd expect to see in an Ann Landers column? Is **HARRIS WOFFORD** (Country Director 62–64) near the top of your list? But it was there. Harris wrote in praise of the Foster Grandparent program and to encourage people to volunteer for this "national strategy for dealing with the growing number of young people whose parents are unable to give them love, instill confidence or teach them skills to determine right from wrong." If you are interested call 800/424/8867.

► John Barnes writes from Boston: Friends of Professor John Hathaway Spencer held a 90th Birthday Celebra-

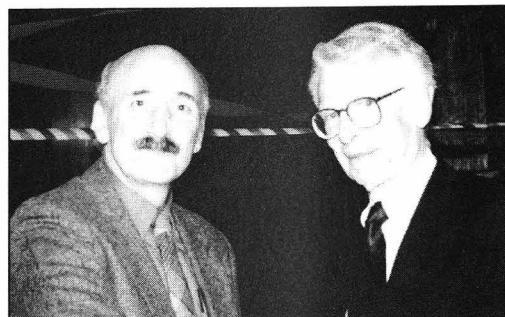
tion on September 27th (the Meskel Holiday), at the International Institute in Boston. The occasion was attended by approximately 50 Ethiopians and 10 Americans. It was their way of saying "Thank You Very Much" for his 30+ years of service in Ethiopia as the Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs beginning in the 1930s. Professor Spencer played a major role in Ethiopian post-WWII politics and national reconstruction. He helped negotiate with Great Britain to keep Ethiopia a unified country, and with the UN in regards to the Federation of Eritrea. He was a close confidant of Emperor Haile Sellasie. He also helped write the Ethiopian constitution.

At his birthday celebration Professor Spencer spoke briefly about personal stories from his book, *ETHIOPIA AT BAY* and about the current deteriorating conditions in Ethiopia. Mr. Spencer cut his birthday cake and was presented with a beautiful hand-painted Ethiopian scene on cowhide. He and his wife live in Connecticut.

Peace Corps Volunteers who had served in Ethiopia who attended the event were **JOE (Harar 64–66) and GRETCHEN CIUFFINI, JOHN and LIZ BARNES** (Addis Ababa 66–68), **THEODORE** (staff 64–66) and **PAT VESTEL and MICHAEL PRICE** (Bale, Goba; Addis Ababa 64–66).

Michael, who is Cultural Arts Director at the International Institute, was able to arrange for the use of the institute for the event, and Ethiopian staff members, Gennet and Aweke, did a superb job. John Barnes was privileged to be asked to perform some Ethiopian songs, and showed slides of Ethiopia in the mid-

1960s. Many Ethiopians spoke of fond memories when viewing the slides which included the celebrations of Meskel, Timket, and Fasika, and the cities of Addis Abeba, Axum, Gondar and Harrar.



Joe Ciuffini and Ted Vestal



Professor John Hathaway Spencer and Mrs. Hathaway

► **JOE ADAIRE** (Lekempte, Ambo 62–64) and his wife Mary Liz continue as professional travelogue producers. They recently presented and narrated their film "Germany, Wunderbar!" sponsored by the Kalamazoo (MI) Kiwanis Club for that community.

Human rights focus of newsletter

Boston RPCVs among group looking at Ethiopia's record

In Boston, RPCVs who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea have joined with Ethiopians living in that area to form ETHIOPIANS AND AMERICANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA. Their purpose: to gather, write and share information about the human rights condition in Ethiopia. The group hopes to inform the American public about the conditions in Ethiopia, that the US government has helped support with tax dollars, through the publication of a newsletter addressing specific issues and citing additional references.

The first issue of their newsletter addresses the recent historical background of the human rights issues in Ethiopia today.

If you would like to help in this effort or would like to receive more information, contact:

Ethiopia and Americans for Human Rights in Ethiopia
P.O. Box 938
N. Cambridge MA 02140



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► This from the TV Column by John Carmody in *The Washington Post* 9/19/97 "Veteran print journalist **KAREN DEWITT** (Ghion 66-68) has been named senior editor of ABC's 'Nightline' starting October 27." For the past seven years Karen has been a Washington-based reporter for *The New York Times*. She previously spent eight years with *USA Today*, and wrote for *The Washington Post's* Style section in the mid-70s.

► **RICHARD** and **PAT WISSLER CREPEAU** (Dessie 63-65) are spending the fall term in Russia at the Language Institute in Nizhny Novgorod where both are teaching.

► **DICK LIPEZ** (Debre Marcos, Addis Ababa 62-64) travelled to Zimbabwe this fall. One of his visits — with **SALLY COLLIER CAIOLA** (Addis Ababa 62-64) who is Peace Corps Country Director there.

► **LaDENA SCHNAPPER** (Dessie, Awassa 63-66) has been named Program Coordinator for the Washington-based organization Friends of Ethiopia & Eritrea.

► The *Los Angeles Times* called the family of **JOHN** and **PATTI GARAMENDI** (Metu, Illubabor 66-68) "a prime contender" to be the Peace Corps recruitment poster family. Their son John, Jr. and his wife are Volunteers in Paraguay. Their daughter Christina was serving in Ecuador when she contracted Guillain-Barre syndrome which temporarily paralyzed her and she was unable to walk for a year. She is now attending nursing school and hopes to be a PCV again. John and Patti's youngest, 11-year-old Ashley is in a Peace Corps Club at school.

LOST & FOUND

When a query is received about an Ethiopia or Eritrea RPCV, the request is sent directly to that RPCV if we have his/her current address. We publish queries in The Herald for RPCVs for whom we have no current information. Can you help? Please respond to the contact person listed. ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs would also appreciate learning the addresses of lost RPCVs.

I am writing this letter to request information about the whereabouts of a Peace Corps Volunteer by the name of Susanne Flyr who served as a nurse in Ras Seyoum Hospital at Makelle, Tigray Province in 1967-68.

We had a very close family contact at that time and a short time correspondence after her departure which was interrupted due to a change of address.

We would like to renew the family contact now and request assistance in getting her address.

Hoping to get a favorable reply.

Mesfin Haile Selassie
(For the family of Haile Selassie Gebray)
PO Box 33164
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

BACK IN ASMARA

by Laurie Kessler (Adi Teclesan, Eritrea 1964-66)

AFTER 8 WEEKS IN CALIFORNIA — including three days at the NPCA conference seeing many of you and by luck meeting and introducing a just-barely-returned Eritrea I RPCV still in slack-jawed re-entry shock — and 2 weeks in France, England, and Wales, Wayne and I are in Asmara getting back to “old” routines. We are living in the same old house, have the same old phone/fax number and post office address, but a new e-mail address:

<wayne@NFETN.gemel.com.er>.

Our rent has gone down along with rents in general because a 1200-apartment complex has been completed, and all units have been sold, and some of these are now for rent at competitive rates. Imagine 30 5-story, pastel colored buildings with no elevators! Luckily, the ceilings are lower than in most buildings here.

While away, Wayne never ceased work as general manager of N'FETN Enterprises (the business he founded with several others), meeting with two partners in California and Leo Cecchini (Asmara 62-64) in London, but since returning to Asmara the pace has picked up and there has been a change in direction. Until land can be obtained for raising poultry and making animal feed — the initial plans for the business — work is being directed to establishing village grinding mills and arranging to assemble these mills in Asmara, as the first step in an effort to bring in appropriate agricultural tools and machines. The idea is to create a demand that will lead to the assembly and manufacture of these items here. Thanks to John Rude, (Tessenei, Eritrea; Adi Ugri, Eritrea 62-64), N'FETN is

ready to submit a grant application for \$65,000 to make a quick start on its plans and activities, and is looking for foundations and organizations that would support small business development in Eritrea. Any suggestions?

I'm teaching for a third year at the University of Asmara, specializing in oral English since I'm one of only two native speakers in the Department of English. Four new instructors are expected from India. My routine includes a constant flow of eager students, crazy scheduling processes, and compatible colleagues. New will be a temporary job editing a technical report on land degradation in Eritrea.

Our social lives feature gatherings with RPCVs from PC, USIS (the new director is a RPCV from Western Samoa) and NGO staffs — perhaps we should organize a group? — and a continuing friendship with the Eritrea I volunteer who extended for a third year to serve in Adi Teclesan (our site when we were Volunteers. Maybe there's something about Adi Teclesan ???) We attended the swearing-in of 39 Eritrea III PCVs at which they sang the national anthem in Tigrinya; we hope to get to know many of them. We continue to have sudden drop-in international “teas.” Just the other night, a Ugandan friend started things off. After a short visit, he was joined by our Eritrean friend, Mebrahtom, followed soon by two Canadians. We ate dinner late that night.

THE ERITREAN GOVERNMENT has been making some changes. Notices have been given to two NGOs — World Vision and ACORD — to cease operations. The apparent


reason is government reluctance for NGOs to be implementers of projects. It seems that the policy is to close out all NGOs and work with bilateral government agencies. If World Vision closes down, there will be serious consequences for the project started by enCORPS/World Vision/USAID and implemented by the National Union of Eritrean Women to provide micro-credit for women entrepreneurs. The project has not yet reached sustainability, meaning it will be unable to continue its training and to make additional credit available, so the 450 businesses already started will have great difficulty surviving. And this also may mean a loss of businesses in which N'FETN might invest.

In another change, the UN Volunteer programme (reported on in the previous *Herald*) is no longer providing lecturers for the University of Asmara. This function is now administered by the UN Development Programme which has not been recruiting lecturers from the USA.

Also, the government no longer welcomes private volunteers, such as our son, Colin, 1993-94 and myself in 1993 and 1994, and such as several others we have know here recently. We don't yet understand the implications for enCORPS but will report when we do.

We are still patiently waiting for the introduction of the Eritrean currency, the nakfa, for the implementation of the new Constitution, for the resolution of the land distribution policy, and for the first full census.

And FINALLY, the internet is coming!

Stay tuned . . . 

The pleasures of keeping the database

ANN AND JENNIE

The following e-mail exchanges will give you a sense of why I've enjoyed maintaining the E&E RPCVs database all these years. Ed

To: Marian Beil
From: Joe Ciuffini

This is from the NPCA - Announcements page.

Ann Browder was a Peace Corps volunteer and doctor in Ethiopia in the early to mid 1960s. She died of breast cancer in 1994. Her only child, Jennie, is spending this year in an education abroad program in Niger. Jennie would like to visit Ethiopia at Christmas time and see persons/places related to her mother. Any information about where Ann was and persons who knew her in Ethiopia would be greatly appreciated. Jennie does not currently have e-mail access but I will mail or fax to her any information I receive. Thank you. For more information contact: Peter Alexander: palex@wolffenet.com

Don't know if you have/had her in the listing or were associated with her during service. (She was not with us, 64-66 . That was Fuller Torey .)

To: Peter Alexander
From: Marian Beil

A friend brought to my attention your request for information about Ethiopia Peace Corps Volunteer Ann Browder. I am the chair of the group ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers) and have maintained a database on them since 1987. I also publish a newsletter for the group. I am currently working on an issue of the newsletter

and shall include in it a copy of your message seeking information. If you would send me your mailing address I would like to include that as well. Astonishingly, everyone is not yet on the net and this might increase the chances that you will receive a response.

Ann was stationed in the city of Dessie (Wollo province) from 1963 to 1966. I shall be glad to send a postcard with your message to those whom I know were stationed in Dessie as well, if you would like. The number is about 45.

In 1987 when I began the database I produced a directory/update about Ethiopia RPCVs. I have remembered to this day Ann's submission and would like you to relay it to Jennie.

"Taught as Asst. Prof. at NJ College of medicine in Newark (1966-72) in the departments of medicine and community medicine. Newark would have been a shock to anyone!

"I then went as Assoc. Prof. to teach (1972-75) in the Univ. of Washington with the same double appointment. The time as Acting Director of Provincial Health for Wollo made me so interested in preventive medicine. I even went and got my master's in public health at Columbia, thinking that somewhere there must be answers. (There were a few.)

"And that's the end of my linear trajectory! I married, a brief year (1975), at the end of which my beloved Jennie was born. I brought her as an infant back to the island home of friends from university meeting (in Seattle) and time has moved around us since in the circle of seasons. I love it here and have truly found my home.

"When Jennie was younger, I worked as a county ditch digger and a teacher's aide (French my specialty), cleaned for folks and delivered mail. Two years ago I started working again as a doctor, commuting 2-3 days a week in the mailboat to a neighboring island to participate in a family practice. I like it the best of any medical work I have done.

"The days between I am back in the absorption of life here. We are less than 100 people in 5 square miles, no electricity or telephones, no stores. I hew wood and haul water, garden, bike about on my errands, work in the community organizations, enjoy Jennie who is now 5 feet tall and lovely.

"I am daily grateful for this life."

To: Marian Beil
From: Peter Alexander

Thank you for your prompt and moving response to my inquiry about Ann. I will send a copy to Jennie.

My family and I also lived on the Island in the 80s. Ann was a special friend and the most numinous person I have ever known. I read Ann's 1987 contribution to the database with tears in my eyes: it sounds so much like her. I am glad that she has



touched you, too. My spouse, Carmela, was the primary care giver during the last month's of Ann's illness. Carmela, Jennie, and a few other friends were with Ann when she died. Jennie is a strong young woman with very little emotional support from her few living family members. Jennie is like a daughter to us.

It would be wonderful if you would include my request in the newsletter and send postcards to the Dessie RPCVs. My mailing address is:

Peter Alexander
630 Henderson Road
Wapato, WA 98951.

We left the island when our sons got too old for the one room school. Now I'm in charge of the mathematics program at Heritage College, a small liberal arts college on the Yakama Indian Nation Reservation in central Washington state.

Thank you again for your caring and support

To: Marian Beil
From: Peter Alexander

Thank you for sending postcards to Dessie PCVs in support of Ann's daughter Jennie. Yesterday I received a copy of the postcard and three wonderful e-mails from Volunteers who worked with Ann. It is wonderful to have Ann again with us in this way and to help Jennie. Carmela and I are deeply moved; certainly Jennie will be also. Of course Jennie will also have the factual information she was seeking. I faxed the emails to Jennie and will share any responses with the PCVs. I sent Jennie your original response as soon as it arrived. Since Jennie writes via traditional mail, we will not hear for some time.

Gratefully.

[I have received an additional two email messages for Jennie that I have forwarded to Peter. Ed]

From the NPCA

Dues increased for NPCA

The Board of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) has voted to increase its annual dues by \$5.00 following an endorsement of the proposal by a majority of the members attending the Annual General Meeting in San Diego. This means that as an affiliate group, ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs will collect \$40 for the joint membership — \$15 for E&E RPCVs and \$25 for the NPCA. This increase goes into effect on January 1, 1998. So, to save \$5, renew/join now at the current rate.

At the Peace Corps


In Ethiopia

Last December the Peace Corps/Ethiopia Gender and Development Committee sponsored a two day Young Women's Mentoring Project in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Each of 24 girls from rural areas were paired with a professional Ethiopia woman, who served as a mentor and who provided the girl an opportunity to spend a day at her work place and a night at her home.

During the second day the girls heard an address by the Minister of Education who told of how her 11th grade Peace Corps teacher had brought the only female professor at Addis Ababa University to her class to talk to female students. That professor later became a mentor to the young woman who would become a minister.

Finally the Ethiopia Women's Lawyer's Association facilitated a series of participatory activities addressing issues of career planning and the importance of obtaining a good education.


Provide a waystation like the olden days

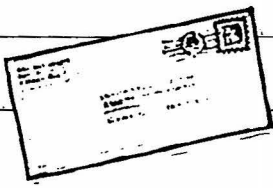
Remember when you travelled as a PCV you usually stayed with a Volunteer in the town you visited? Well, the NPCA authorized the establishment of a National RPCV Hospitality Network which would develop a directory of RPCVs who would open their homes to other traveling RPCVs in the U.S. Hosts register stating such things as how many they can host, whether breakfast would be available, reimbursement desired, and more. If you would like more information, or would like to participate in the Network as a host or guest, contact: Alan Burriss, National Hospitality Network, PO Box 1971, Santa Fe NM 87504; phone — 505/983-7342; burrusnmpc@aol.com 

Crisis Corps

The Peace Corps' Crisis Corps responds to natural disasters and humanitarian crisis by placing PCVs at the end of their service or RPCVs in assignments of up to 6 months. If you would like more information, call 800-424-8580 ext. 2295. In September seven Crisis Corps Volunteers went to the Czech Republic to help with flood relief.

Mark your calendar for 3/3/98

World Wise Schools Day is Tuesday March, 3 1998. On this day Peace Corps encourages RPCVs nationwide to visit classrooms in their area to help educate the youth of America about peoples, cultures and countries around the world. If you are interested in receiving more information about this great way to "Bring the world back home!" contact our WWS Coordinator Joe Ciuffini. 



From our mail

To: Marian Beil

From: Lis A. Doane, Country Director,
Peace Corps/Ethiopia

Date: July 1, 1997

As was discussed in our telephone conversation of June 5, enclosed please find a letter regarding the recent comments published in *The Herald* concerning Ambassador David Shinn and attributed to the Volunteers in the PC/Ethiopia program.

As I mentioned in our discussion, I am assuming that you will be publishing this letter in the next edition of *The Herald*. You can also expect to receive a letter from a PCV representative along the same lines, which we would also expect to see published.

I have expended a great deal of time and energy dealing with this issue, which I can assure you which would have been much better spent on programming, Volunteer support and/or the development concerns of Ethiopia. As an Ethiopia RPCV, who I am assuming has a great fondness for your host country, I would greatly appreciate it if, in the future, you would carefully consider the potential consequences of what you choose to put in print.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Dear Herald,

During my two years as the Country Director of the Peace Corps/Ethiopia program, I have greatly enjoyed your publication finding it to be both informative and entertaining. As a result, I was extremely dismayed to open your most recent issue, i.e. Spring 1997, and find on the bottom of page 16 several lines of very inappropriate comments

regarding the American Ambassador to Ethiopia, David Shinn, which were attributed to the Peace Corps Volunteers in my program.

As I greatly doubted both the veracity of the story itself, as well as the source, I immediately telephoned *The Herald's* Editor, Ms. Marion Beil on the 5th of June to obtain more information. In the course of that conversation, Ms. Beil admitted to me that she had not gained the information directly from a PC/Ethiopia Volunteer, but rather from someone who was allegedly quoting a PCV in Ethiopia. To say that I was shocked is an understatement.

Printing innuendo and rumor, based on second hand information, and attributing it to the "PCVs in Ethiopia" cannot be considered responsible journalism. The PC/Ethiopia PCVs are outraged by the comments and have asked me to seek a retraction. Ambassador Shinn has been an unflinching supporter of the Peace Corps program in Ethiopia, giving freely of his time and support on a regular basis. It is a tribute to the Ambassador that he takes the time to visit Volunteers at their sites and these visits are greatly appreciated both by the Volunteers and by the members of their communities.

I am appalled that on a page of your publication entitled "Friends" that you would imply that a man who has devoted virtually his entire career to assisting the people of the African continent is a "racist." Ambassador Shinn is a consummate professional who goes out of his way to gain an understanding of the countries and cultures in which he works. The staff and Volunteers of the Peace Corps/Ethiopia program are extremely privileged to be working with Ambassador

Shinn and stand behind the work he has accomplished here in Ethiopia.

Due to the foregoing, I would ask both that there be a retraction of the comments made concerning Ambassador Shinn and that *The Herald* publish a public apology addressed to the Ambassador.

The Peace Corps/Ethiopia program and its Volunteers have been embarrassed by having these outrageous comments falsely attributed to them. In the future, we would hope that *The Herald* would refrain from attributing anything to the PC/Ethiopia program or its Volunteers that does not come directly from a primary source, who is willing to submit that information under their own name.

Thank you very much for your anticipated cooperation in this regard.

Yours truly
Lis A. Doane

Dear Lis,

Marian Haley Beil forwarded your letter, plus letters from Elaine Roman, Seamus Dowling, Colleen Desmond and Ambassador Shinn. These are the only letters that you have generated which Marian has received.

As a member of the group that puts out *The Herald* I want you to know that Ms. Beil did not generate or control the content of the article of concern to you in the recent issue. If you have any more questions regarding that piece, please contact me and I will forward them to the individual(s) involved.

We plan to publish the letters we have received regarding the article in the next edition of the newsletter which will be published in the near future.



In researching the item, I have found out that it is not an "innuendo and rumor" as you suggested, but comes, Lis, from an R-2 PCV who stands by his account. This individual is now writing a longer piece that he will be submitting to the newsletter. He will give it to us, he says, once he leaves the Peace Corps.

I was amused by your fax to Ms. Beil that you have had to extend "a great deal of time and energy dealing with this issue."

You should have been around in the Sixties. As an APCD I had 100 Volunteers spread out over a 1000 miles on the Gondar and Dessie roads. I saw all the Volunteers once a month for two years, spending an average of 24-26 days a month on the road. I also opened up 26 new elementary schools on these two roads (built by Swedish Vols), found housing for the PCVs, plus outfitted the houses. I developed the Dresser program at the hospitals in Dessie, Debre Berhan and Debre Tabor. And I ran the first in-country training program in the country between my first and second year, and a mini-training session over Christmas in Asmara during my first year. All this and correspondence with HQ, RPCVs, HCNs, and parents, plus writing articles for the old *Volunteer Magazine*, and doing all the other chores that come the way of an APCD.

But you might not have the staff to help you. We had over 600 Vols when I was in country and an APCD staff of six.

Sincerely,
John Coyne

To: Marian Beil
From: Lis Doane
Date: July 2, 1997

This is the first of several letters you can expect to receive from Volunteers concerning the comments published in

The Herald regarding Ambassador Shinn and attributed to the "PCVs in Ethiopia."

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

To whom it May Concern:

I recently read the Spring 1997 — Number 16 edition of *The Herald* and was shocked and appalled by what I read on page 16 about U.S. Ambassador David Shinn in Ethiopia. The Ambassador does not embarrass Peace Corps Volunteers and he is not a racist.

Ambassador Shinn has gone far beyond the call of duty in Ethiopia, especially with Peace Corps Volunteers. His generosity and commitment to Ethiopia is undeniable. He has gone out of his way to support volunteers by taking the time to visit us at our sites. As a Peace Corps Volunteer I can tell you these visits are truly appreciated.

The Herald is a publication that is usually enjoyed by PCVs and RPCVs alike but when such poor journalism is practised it only hinders the publication's future success. More importantly, this time, it was done at the expense of a truly dedicated ambassador. As a PCV in Ethiopia I would expect *The Herald* to write a formal apology to Ambassador Shinn immediately.

Sincerely,
Elaine Roman

To: Marian Beil
From: Lis Doane
Date: July 3, 1997

This is the first of several letters you can expect to receive from Volunteers concerning the comments published in *The Herald* regarding Ambassador Shinn and attributed to the "PCVs in Ethiopia."

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

To the Editor:

By way of introduction, my name is Seamus Dowling. I currently serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.

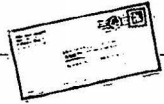
I write with reference to your item about U.S. Ambassador David Shinn in the FRIENDS section of the spring, 1997 edition of *The Herald*. In it, you claim that "The PCVs in Ethiopia are embarrassed by our own U.S. Ambassador David Shinn." Notwithstanding the falseness of your statement, I resent your attempt to speak — in blanket form no less — for the Volunteers in this program. To my knowledge, which is derived from speaking with Volunteers in this country (a practice I suggest you try in the future), most volunteers in this program are impressed with Ambassador Shinn's efforts to travel throughout Ethiopia in order to better understand this very complex country. Ambassador Shinn has visited my town, my house, and has shared meals with my Ethiopia counterparts. I assure that he did not behave as if he were in — to use your unfortunate words — "Disney's Jungle World." Nor did he arrive in my town looking like a "... Great White Hunter ..."

You should be ashamed of this slipshod piece, which stands as a stark example of uninformed journalism. I suggest that you apologize not only to Ambassador Shinn, but to the PCVs of Ethiopia.

Sincerely,
Seamus A. Dowling

To: The Herald

I am currently serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia and have recently passed my one year mark. During this past year, I've had the pleasure and honor of meeting our esteemed Ambassador David Shinn on numerous occasions. For this reason, I feel compelled to compose this letter.



In your Spring 1997 issue, in the FRIENDS section, you wrote an undeserved and what I consider libellous paragraph regarding Ambassador Shinn being an embarrassment to the PCVs in Ethiopia. Not only was I appalled at those words, I was also deeply resentful to have discovered that this information was not obtained by a first hand source. This is not what I consider to be a legitimate form of journalism in the least. Shame on you.

Ambassador Shinn is the epitome of professionalism and has shown PCVs in this country nothing but kindness. He is honest with incredible integrity as well as being a personable man who I have found to be easy to approach. As for being an embarrassment, that is most definitely an unwarranted statement.

I certainly believe it would behoove you to write a note of apology as well as a retraction in your next issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Colleen M. Desmond
Nazareth, Ethiopia

Dear Elaine Roman [Seamus A. Dowling] [Colleen M. Desmond]

Marian Haley Beil forwarded you letter to me.

As a member of the group that puts out *The Herald* I want you to know that Ms. Beil did not generate or control the content of the article of concern to you in the recent issue. If you have any more questions regarding that piece, please contact me and I will forward them to the individual(s) involved. The item that appeared came from an R-2 PCV now serving in Ethiopia.

We plan to publish the letters we have received regarding the article in the next edition of the newsletter which will be published in the near future.

Thank you for your comments and great support of Ambassador Shinn.

With warm regards,
John Coyne

Dear Ms Beil:

I was saddened to read at the bottom of page 16 in the Spring 1997 edition of *The Herald* the malicious comments about my person. For the record, I have never in my life worn a "pith" helmet. During my extensive travels around Ethiopia, including visits to PCVs, I have never worn shorts. It is true that I sometimes wear a tailored safari suit to the hottest parts of Ethiopia. I would not that many of my Ethiopian interlocutors wear similar safari suits. But I am truly outraged you would imply that my inaccurately-reported wearing apparel suggests I am racist. Your remarks border on libel, if they are not out right libelous.

I hope you have the courage to print this response in the next issue of *The Herald*.

Sincerely,

David Shinn, Ambassador

Dear Ambassador Shinn

Marian Haley Beil forwarded you letter to me this morning.

As a member of the group that puts out *The Herald* I want you to know that Ms. Beil did not generate or control the content of the article of concern to you in the recent issue. If you have any more questions regarding that piece, please contact me and I will forward them to the individual(s) involved. The item that appeared came from an R-2 PCV now serving in Ethiopia.

Thank you for your comments and understanding with regard to the item in *The Herald* and we apologize for the distress that it has caused you. We plan to make amends when we publish the letters from you, Lis Doane, and three

PCVs regarding the article in the next edition of the newsletter which will be published in the near future.

I was a Peace Corps Volunteer with the first group to Ethiopia in 1962 and later was an Associate Peace Corps Director in Ethiopia. I was last in the country in 1970 but maintain many friendships with Ethiopians and Americans who have lived in the country. In fact, I just returned from a Peace Corps conference in San Diego where I had dinner with Chuck Baquet, an old friend, who knows you very well.

Did you have a chance to meet Kathleen and Chuck Coskran who recently visited Ethiopia as guests of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi? Chuck and Kathy were Volunteers when I was on the Peace Corps staff and Chuck taught Meles at the Lab School. Meles credits Chuck with giving him a "world view" in Chuck's history class. Both the President of Eritrea and the Prime Minister were taught by PCVs. The influence of Volunteers is impressive.

With warm regards,
John Coyne



FYI...

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

► Jon Kalb, whom some met at the Austin conference at **BOB SWAFFAR**'s get-together, who was in Ethiopia while some of us were serving there, and who is currently doing research on Ethiopia, writes: Do you have any idea of sources of information covering "current events" from 1977-1991, particularly ones that cover daily and political changes? I also have special interest in the Awash Valley and the Afar region. I know of the books by the Ottaways, John Harbeson, Tivuneh [sp?], etc., but any suggestions would be appreciated over the next year. Contact Jon at: 2207 Sunny Slope, Austin TX 78703, (512) 478-8519, <J.E.Kalb@mail.utexas.edu>

► If you have college or university teaching experience and are interested in returning to Ethiopia or Eritrea, you should consider The Fulbright Scholar Program. For the 98-99 school year — for which the application deadline has passed — there were lecturing positions in all fields at Asmara University for which a Ph.D. was required. In Ethiopia candidates with the rank of associate or full professor and substantial teaching and research experience were preferred for positions in agriculture at Alemaya University of Agriculture, Dire Dawa, contemporary American and European literature, economics and law at Addis Ababa University and geology or engineering at Makelle University College.

Write for more information on programs for the 1999-00 school year, contact:

USIA Fulbright Senior Scholar Program
Council for International Exchange of Scholars

2007 Tilden St, NW Suite 5M
Washington DC 20008-3009

► Positions for those in the medical field **with teaching experience** are available at the College of Health Science, University of Asmara. For one semester or more. Local salary - transportation possible if a 1 year commitment is made. Areas include: nursing tutor (BS in nursing req.), nursing fundamentals (MA req.), medical sciences (PhD in biochem), clinical chemistry (MD or PhD in clinical chemistry req.), lab technician (BA/BS req.), environmental health technician (any degree). Contact: Dr. Assefaw Tekeste, fax 291-1-162236, email <assefaw@chs.punchdown.asmara.org>

► Water, water — RPCVs for Environment and Development are helping to prepare a publication on water, water resources, working on water with Peaceable Kingdom International, a small nonprofit organization working on water issues. If you have a story/information you would like to share, contact Katy Hansen, PO Box 256 orange City IA 51041, 712-737-2700, katywhansen@igc.apc.org

Also interested in information about water — most especially rivers — is Susan Neyer (Philippines), who is looking for material from RPCVs to share with the Bay Area Global Education Project in San Francisco which is preparing a unit on rivers. Send legends, stories, songs, pictures, and information about your river such as:

- Length, tributaries
- Countries/regions traversed
- Source and mouth
- Importance to the region
- Cities along the river
- How people use it
- Flooding and effects
- Historical role/importance


- How humans have altered the river

Send what you have to: Susan Neyer, 1701 Lilac Drive, Walnut Creek CA 94595, phone/fax 510-933-4490, email SusanNeyer@aol.com

► **JOHN RUDE**'s (Tessenei & Adi Ugri, Eritrea 62-64) Vision Tours, sponsored by the Thirst for Learning Foundation, go to Eritrea each May and October for two weeks. If you'd like more information contact John at 503/581-0522; fax 503/585-3727 or email <johnrude@open.org> Also visit the web site <www.open.org/tfl/eritrea>

► Teclu Tesfazghi is seeking a scholarship from a small college for the study of public policy and administration for a 40-year-old married Eritrean friend who would like to earn a AA and then return to Eritrea and complete his bachelors via correspondence. To contact Teclu: 3695 LaDonna Ave, Palo Alto CA 94306.

► If you are interested in international employment you may want to take a look at *International Career Employment Opportunities*, a bi-weekly tabloid-size newspaper listing hundreds of position worldwide offered by government and private organizations. Call: 804-984-6444, e-mail: iceo@mindspring.com; write ICEO, 1088 Middle River Road, Stanardsville VA 22973. \$29/4 issues

► The Kaffa Development Association (KDA) in the US is focusing its efforts on library support for the Kafa Zone of Ethiopia. They are soliciting donations to finance the shipment of books to that region. If you would like to help, contact: Gabe Yeshe, President, KDA, PO Box 300185 Denver CP 80203-0185; phone/fax: 303-331-0316; e-mail: larcon@csn.net 


► Want to see how **BILL ALFORD** (67) looks these days? Bill, a physician in Denver, has a web site at <www.tde.com/~dralford> that includes a personal page — with photos, a professional page, and “Dr. Bill’s Cyberclinic” where he has posted copies of patient-information handouts on topics such as diet, halitosis, acne, . . .

► **JOHN SCOTT PORTERFIELD** (71–73) did an interview for *Outbreak* [as in epidemic] about his Peace Corps service that can be read at <<http://www.outbreak.org/cgi-unreg/dynaserve.exe/jsp.html#bio>>

► Abebe Kebede, Phd, who was a student of many Peace Corps Volunteers between 1963 and 1973 in Assella now teaches at North Carolina A&T State University and is trying to start a distance education program in Ethiopia. If you are interested in this project please visit the following website. “I can

use a lot of help,” Abebe says. <<http://www.physics.ncat.edu/~michael/edla/>> Abebe can be reached at gutaye@ncat.edu

► To find out the current weather and a three day forecast for Addis visit <www.weather.com/weather/in/cities/ET_Addis_Ababa.html>

► **DAVE SLEETER** (Debre Berhan; Bure 68–70) writes: Try out <<ftp://ftp.rpi.edu/pub/languages/ethiopia/gifs>> demekt@RPI.EDU did this material, but the GIF files are the ones I wish I had had a camera for. 

THE HERALD

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

Contributing editor — John Barnes (66–68)

Those who have shared articles, ideas and efforts — Donald Beil (Somalia 64-66), Noah Beil, Jan Clymer (Finete Selam, Gojjam 1972–74), Ed Corboy (Staff 62–64), John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62–64), Joe Ciuffini (Harar 64–66), Richard Crepeau (Dessie 63–65), Dick Howrigan (Jimma, Addis Ababa 62–64), Ellen Shively (Asmara 68–70). *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.

Photo submissions are also welcomed. They need to be clear, and the images large enough to be easily seen. All photos will be returned.



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What's with my membership?

The date on the upper right hand corner of your mailing label indicates when your membership in ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs expires. If that date has passed or will happen shortly, we hope that you will reup. A membership form can be found on page 27.

Married couples — I have arbitrarily selected one of you to receive the newsletter to save duplication. Please don't feel left out if your name isn't on the label.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

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