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Inside

Other News from the Horn ..	7-10
E&E RPCVs Group News	
New web site	11
Great new slide set	12
Books for PCVs	13
More books for PCVs	14
New email benefits	14
Book notes	15
E&E RPCVs library	15
Book review	16
Internet treasures	16
Friends	17-
Lost & Found	17
Deaths	17
The Kessler File	18
Memories of India	
McCanse	19-21
For your information	21
Steering Committee	22
Contacts of interest	22

BORDER CONFLICT BETWEEN FRIENDS

Eritrea and Ethiopia battle for territory

THE HEARTBREAKING NEWS OF fighting on the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea is detailed:

- ▶ 5/6/98 The Eritrean side said the crisis was triggered on 6 May "by an unprovoked Ethiopian armed attack on Eritrean troops in southwestern Eritrea." Ethiopia claims that Eritrea moved into Ethiopian territory in that region.
- ▶ 5/12/98 Ethiopia claimed Eritrean occupation of the Badme triangle (also called the Yirga triangle) in Tigray Region. Clashes took place on four fronts at Badme, Zala Ambessa, Aigena and Bure. Ethiopia claimed it repulsed the attacks on all fronts. Many claims and counterclaims were made but could not be confirmed. *EReg 7/98*
- ▶ 5/12/98 Unconfirmed reports in Asmara said an incident took place at Shiraro, 60 km (37 miles), from Berente involving Ethiopian parachutists and Eritrean tanks.

Ethiopian soldiers were reported killed. *EForum*

- ▶ 5/12/98 The National Bank of Ethiopia banned the use of the Eritrean port of Asseb for Ethiopian exports and imports. Djibouti would be the only port served by banks and insurers. Air links to Eritrea were cancelled by Ethiopian Airlines. *EReg 6/98*

- ▶ 5/13/98 Ethiopia's Council of Ministers reported that Eritrea had occupied some parts of northwestern Ethiopia after armed clashes with local police and military forces. The Council demanded that Eritrea withdraw immediately. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi had previously denied that there were any border disputes with Eritrea, saying that a joint committee had been formed to outline the borders and settle any issues. Eritrea denied the claims and accused Ethiopia of being the aggressor. *EReg 6/98*



▶ 5/13/98 Ethiopia Airlines suspends flights to Asmara. *EForum*

▶ Ethiopia's defence force presently stands at between 60,000 and 70,000 soldiers.

▶ 5/13/98 In Asmara there was a surge of food-buying based on rumors that commercial traffic with Ethiopia might be halted. Eritrea's port of Massawa is a vital transit point for Ethiopian exports.

▶ 5/14/98 The Government of Eritrea denies that it has violated the borders with Ethiopia, as Ethiopia has asserted. Eritrea called for a total demilitarization of the areas claimed by either side, and agreed to an independent inspection by a third party. President Isaias accused Ethiopia of inventing a new 1997 map sponsored by GTZ, a German NGO. He claims that areas of Eritrea territory have been incorporated into Tigray Administrative Region, and that Ethiopian troops have forcibly occupied and remain inside Eritrean territory at Badme and Adi Murug. He also stated that Ethiopia has stopped flights to Eritrea and has halted exports through the port of Asseb. He denied any responsibility for these events. *ErProf*

▶ 5/15/98 The President of Djibouti visits Addis Ababa to try to mediate in the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

▶ 5/16–18/98 U.S. Under-secretary of State for Africa Susan Rice shuttled between Eritrea and Ethiopia in an effort to mediate a quick resolution to the border dispute. Rice met with the heads of state from both countries as well as with the visiting president of Djibouti.

Leaders from Rwanda and Uganda also held talks to mediate the conflict.

▶ 5/15–17/98 Thousands of Eritrean troops in civilian trucks were taking up positions (in Shelalo, 28 km (17 miles) west of Badme) (into the area south of Tokombia, a town on the Gash river) the



disputed territory, a 400 square km triangle of land on the west of their border. Tanks, armored personnel carriers, loaded ammunition and petrol trucks moved to the area as well.

On Saturday 5/16 at Tokombia 15 trucks, each carrying 50 or 60 Eritrean soldiers, were seen heading south towards the border. At Shelalo, five tanks and several armored personnel carriers were being moved to new positions.

▶ 5/17/98 Reporters on a tour of the area saw ample evidence of military deployment towards the border town of Badme, where Eritrean and Ethiopian troops first clashed on May 6. Eritrea has admitted its army had engaged Ethiopian forces, but insists it has merely retaken land which its neighbor grabbed six months earlier.

Eritrea claims the Ethiopians have occupied a village three kilometers (two miles) inside Eritrea, and have set up a civil administration there as part of an attempt to claim Eritrean territory.

Ethiopia said on Sunday that 20 people

had been killed, 20 wounded and 370 people displaced during the invasion by Eritrea in the Badme and Sheraro districts.

The Ethiopian News Agency said Eritrean troops had ransacked health centres and schools in the district, adding that a number of civil servants in the region had been kidnapped.

Ethiopia has threatened to make a "firm response" unless the Eritrean forces unconditionally withdraw from the territory.

▶ 5/17/98 Ethiopia announced that five Ethiopian civilians were killed by the Eritrean forces in recent clashes in Badme and Sheraro districts in northwestern Ethiopia. They also reported that Eritrean troops have destroyed a health post, an elementary school and a building hosting the office of Badme district administration.

▶ 5/17/98 Ethiopian media organs have given details asserting that Eritrea sent two divisions and a mechanized brigade to occupy the country's northwestern border areas on May 12.

▶ 5/18/98 Organization of African Unity Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim offered Monday to help settle the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

▶ 5/19/98 Reports from Ethiopia and Eritrea say both sides are massing troops in their disputed border territory, despite international efforts at mediation.

▶ 5/21/98 Meles Zenawi at a press conference blamed the conflict on changes in economic relationships between the two countries following the introduction of the Eritrean nakfa, and Ethiopia's insistence that the birr and nakfa trade using the US Dollar. This caused the nakfa to be devalued to 3 to 1 birr. (Eritrea then doubled its tariffs at its ports. Ethiopia then stopped trading



through Eritrean ports). Both sides had been using boundary agreements made by Emperor Menelik and various colonial powers until Ethiopia printed a new map in 1997 with new borders between Eritrea and the Tigray/Afar regions. Ethiopia has deported Eritreans, businessmen and the leaders of the Eritrean EPLF in Ethiopia. Eritrea has likewise deported Ethiopians. *EReg 7/98*

► 5/21/98 In the growing initiatives to peacefully end the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute, the Libyan leader, Col. Moammar Kadhafi, has had telephone conversations with the leaders of the two countries.

► 5/25/98 The Ethiopian National Congress has condemned the Ethiopian government for its secret actions with the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front and the victimization of the peoples of the Afar and Tigray regions. The ENC urged Western governments to stop their continuing support of the TPLF and EPLF regimes of Ethiopia and Eritrea. *EReg 7/98*

► 5/25/98 Italy offered to provide relevant information that could help clarify the controversial situation. "We are ready and willing to furnish maps and other relevant information, if necessary, to help facilitate mediation in the border dispute," the Italian embassy's second secretary stated.

Mediation efforts have so far been unsuccessful, with Addis Ababa insisting that for any mediation to take place, Eritrea should unconditionally pull out its troops from the areas it has invaded in Ethiopia's northwestern territory.

► 5/25/98 The Eritrean Foreign Ministry Tuesday complained that Ethiopia has ordered its state shipping lines to cease calling at the Eritrean ports of Massawa and Asseb.

► 5/27/98 President Isais and OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim met to share views on peacefully resolving the conflict with Ethiopia. *ErProf*

► 5/27/98 The president of Eritrea has insisted that the border between his country and Ethiopia was clearly demarcated through three treaties made between Italy, Britain and Ethiopia. "The entire borderline between Eritrea and Ethiopia was demarcated through three separate international treaties made between Italy, Britain and Ethiopia (bilateral and trilateral) on July 10, 1900; May 15, 1902 and May 16, 1906 respectively," he said in a television interview. "The fact of the matter is that Eritrea has not violated international boundaries to occupy Ethiopian territory. In reality, it is Ethiopian forces that still remain inside Eritrean territory. It is absurd to talk about Eritrean forces pulling out of Ethiopian territory and to stipulate withdrawal as a precondition for the resumption of negotiations."

► 5/28/98 Ethiopia has renewed its warning of dire consequences if Eritrea persists in its refusal to withdraw its troops from the northwestern territory, which they have occupied since 12 May.

► 6/1/98 Egypt has offered to help mediate in the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

► 6/1/98 The Eritrean president says withdrawal from disputed land is morally unacceptable and "unthinkable."

Ethiopia has insisted that Eritrea withdraw its troops from what it considers Ethiopian territory before talks can begin. Eritrea has refused to withdraw, asserting that its soldiers had never crossed what it says is the border. Eritrea has also said its troops in Badme only took back land the Ethiopians had occupied last year. For more than nine months, Eritrean officials said, Ethiopian officials in Tigray have tried to extend their influence northward by sending settlers into the Eritrean territory and setting up administrations.

► 5/31-6/1/98 The border was quiet following two days of intermittent

clashes reported to have taken place in the vicinity of Alitena, close to Assimba mountain, in the central area of the common border and in the vicinity of the Addis Ababa-Asmara highway near the border town of Zala Ambessa, some 35 km north of the town of Adigrat.

► 6/2/98 Mediation efforts by the Djibouti, the United States, and Rwanda as well as the Organization of African Unity and the Sahelian-Saharan Group have so far failed to defuse the conflict.

► 6/2/98 Moammar Kadhafi suggested the sending of troops from the six-nation Sahelian-Saharan Group to the disputed border area between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The group includes Libya, Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Sudan.

► 6/3/98 The governments of both Ethiopia and Eritrea issued statements blaming the other for the conflict.

► 6/3/98 Reuters reported "a full-scale battle" in the border town of Zala Ambessa, about 160 KM (100) miles southwest of Asmara. Eritrea reported that the Ethiopian army unleashed an attack on Eritrean positions in the Ambesete Geleba (southern Eritrea) area just west of the border town of Zala Ambessa, about 60 miles southeast of this capital.

Eritrea said the clash was the fifth occasion in the last week that Ethiopian troops had attacked Eritrean positions along the border. Three of these attacks were said to have taken place in the region around Badme last week. The most recent occurred on Sunday near the town of Alitena, about 15 miles east of Wednesday's fighting.

In Sunday's (5/31) clash, Ethiopian officials say Eritrean troops crossed the border and fought Ethiopian militiamen at the town of Dal Geda. The militia later withdrew. Ethiopian troops then engaged the Eritreans and pushed them back into Eritrea, these officials said.



Eritrea's version of the clash near Alitena is radically different. Eritrean military officials deny invading Ethiopia and maintain it was the Ethiopian troops who penetrated nearly 12 miles into Eritrean territory.

- ▶ 6/3/98 Pope John Paul call for peace in the Ethiopia/Eritrea dispute.
- ▶ 6/4/98 The U.S. State Department advised Americans living in Eritrea to consider leaving, and warned Americans living near the Ethiopian border to leave as soon as possible based on reports that Ethiopian troops had crossed into Eritrea. All U.S. government employees in Eritrea were reassigned to Asmara, and those at the end of their tour of duty or who could not conduct their business were leaving the country.
- ▶ 6/4/98 The Ethiopian prime minister accepted a peace plan proposed by the United States and Rwanda that would end the escalating border war. There was no immediate response from the Eritrean side. As a first step, the proposal calls for the unilateral withdrawal of Eritrean forces from the disputed border town of Badme as well as the deployment of an observer force to that area, the return of the previous civilian administration and an investigation of the rival claims.

▶ 6/5/98 Eritrean planes bombed Mekele hitting an Ethiopian Airlines plane and 48 persons, including 10 school children were killed in a cluster bomb which hit a primary school. *EReg 7/98* One 135 were wounded in the attack. Eritrean plane was shot down and the pilot captured.

▶ 6/5/98 Ethiopian planes bombed an Eritrean air force complex near the Asmara Airport and another attack to the southeast of the city. *EReg 7/98*

One Ethiopia plane was reported to have been shot down. On the ground, it was reported that 1 was killed, 4 injured.

▶ 6/5/98 The US State Department ordered the evacuation of all nonessential staff from the embassy in Asmara. The UK evacuated some 120 British citizens to Cairo.

▶ 6/5/98 Heavy fighting is reported in the Alitena region. Each country has accused the other in the launching of the latest offensive.

▶ 6/5/98 Ethiopia has told Eritrea to immediately cut the size of its embassy in Addis Ababa to three. Other diplomats have seven days to leave the country.



▶ 6/5/98 Both sides are now building up their armed presence on three fronts along the 630-mile-long border.

▶ 6/6/98 Fighting continued on the ground around the Ethiopian border town of Zala Ambessa and its vicinity, some 160 kms north of Mekele. It was reported that villages between Adigrat (15 mi south of Zala Ambessa) and Zala Ambessa were being pounded.

▶ 6/6/98 In a second attack on the Asmara Airport one or two Ethiopian pilots were shot down. *EReg 7/98*

▶ 6/6/98 Ethiopia suspends air raids on Asmara for 13 hours to allow the evacuation of foreign nationals.

▶ 6/6/98 The 194 evacuees included 129 Americans, many of them

U.S government workers or Peace Corps volunteers arrived in Frankfurt. Some reported that said Eritreans started heading for the border with Ethiopia four weeks ago.

▶ 6/6/98 United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged Ethiopia and Eritrea to stop fighting immediately.

▶ 6/8/98 Efforts continue at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting at Ouagadougou to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

▶ 6/8/98 President Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea has called for direct talks with Ethiopia regarding their common border dispute.

▶ 6/9/98 Isais Afewerki, in a BBC interview, claimed the bombing of Mekele was in self defense after Ethiopia had attacked first with air raids. He was quoted as saying "war does not have civilized rules." He said civilians were also killed in the air attack on Asmara. *EReg 7/98*

▶ 6/9/98 Each side accused the other of launching an attack around the town of Zala Ambessa, which was captured by Eritrean troops last week. Heavy casualties were reported.

▶ 6/9/98 It was learned that Ethiopia had begun to require visas for Eritreans entering its territory last week.

▶ 6/9/98 Ethiopia alleges that Eritrea has expelled 3,000 Ethiopians from the country. Eritrea denies the claim.

▶ 6/10/98 Eritrean forces attacked Ethiopia's biggest border post during a dawn raid in the Badme-Shiraro front at Erde Mattios, which lies outside the so-called Yirga triangle. Eritrea says it only retook area which had been occupied by Ethiopia forces since 6 May.

▶ 6/10/98 OAU calls for Eritrea to accept the US/Rwanda peace proposal and withdraw from the Badme area.

▶ 6/11/98 Eritrean troops attacked Ethiopian positions on the Road to



Asseb, 60 km's from the port. Ethiopia had recently switched from using Asseb to export coffee to the use of Djibouti. *EReg 7/98*

- ▶ 6/11/98 Eritrea cluster bombed Adigrat which is a logistics base of the Ethiopian army. Civilian targets included a cement factory, a pharmaceutical factory and a grain storage facility. Four were killed and thirty were injured. *EReg 7/98* 4 are killed 30 civilians are wounded.
- ▶ 6/12/98 Ethiopia says its policy toward 550,000 Eritrean residing in Ethiopia "remains intact" and that they may "continue to live and work peacefully in Ethiopia." However, those in leadership position in sensitive post must take a one month's leave." Leaders of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front must leave.
- ▶ 6/12/98 Ethiopia asked the Red Cross to intervene on the behalf of Ethiopia under detention in Eritrean prisons. They reported: 3000 expelled from Asmara — 2000 of whom were herded to other parts of Eritrea, 1000 evicted from Asseb.
- ▶ President Clinton called the two leaders and they agreed to stop air strikes. *EReg 7/98*
- ▶ 6/12/98 US Ambassador to Ethiopia, David Shinn stated in an interview with the Addis Tribune, "All countries in the Horn of Africa need to demonstrate that they are politically stable and free of conflict if they expect to obtain additional foreign investment. Should Ethiopia, for example, become involved in a prolonged internal conflict or conflict with its neighbors, I fear it would be very difficult to attract any new American investment here." *EReg 7/98*
- ▶ 6/12/98 Ethiopia and Eritrea ask Tunisia to mediate conflict.
- ▶ 6/14/98 Eritrea accepted President Clinton's proposal for a ban on the use of air strikes by both sides. Eritrea

claimed it did not start the air war. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on June 19th accused Ethiopia of continuing to escalate the war. *ErProf*

- ▶ 6/14/98 President Isaias Afwerki, in an interview for radio and TV in regard to Ethiopia's demand that Eritrea withdraw first before new borders can be drawn stated, "They want us to pull out of the 'occupied territory'. This does not lead anywhere except to further misunderstanding. This is against our basic principle of not using the logic of force. The only solution is to define the borderline and mark it on the ground. Anything else is simply a waster of time and energy and will only help to complicate the situation further."
- ▶ 6/14/98 Eritrea's proposals for solving the crisis are based on: 1.) the demarcation of the entire boundary between the two countries on the basis of borders established by colonial treaties. 2.) the demilitarization of the entire border area pending demarcation. 3.) the establishment of appropriate ad hoc arrangements for administration in populated demilitarized areas... *ErProf*
- ▶ 6/14/98 Eritrea says Ethiopia has arrested hundreds of Eritreans over the previous 2 days.
- ▶ 6/14/98 Ethiopia says more than 10,000 Eritrean soldiers were killed or wounded during the previous week. No statement on their own casualties.
- ▶ 6/15/98 The Ethiopian Commissioner of Disaster Prevention and Preparedness appealed to NGO's for relief supplies for the estimated 143,000 displaced persons near the border. In Ethiopia, the war effort is robbing all regions of their resources for development activities. *EReg 7/98*
- ▶ 6/15/98 No fighting has been reported for the previous several days.
- ▶ 6/16/98 The Ethiopian authorities have ordered Eritreans living in the country to surrender any fire arms in their possessions to police.

- ▶ 6/18/98 African leaders mediating in the Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict secured concessions from the Ethiopian government that it will agree to a cessation of hostilities and seek a negotiated settlement as soon as Eritrea agrees to withdraw from the disputed territory.
- ▶ 6/18/98 Ethiopia disclosed that it was holding 100 Eritrean conscripts in the town of Fiche, 100 kms northwest of Addis Ababa "for national security reasons," and accused Asmara of seizing four times as many Ethiopians.
- ▶ 6/18/98 In his remarks to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Ambassador-Designate to Eritrea William Clarke stated that he is "deeply disturbed by the border dispute." Among his comments: "Eritrea holds a special place in the hearts of the many Americans who lived there with the U.S. military when we had a base at Kagnev Station; who served in the Peace Corps; and who worked with USAID."
- ▶ 6/19/98 Ethiopia has moved strong reinforcements toward Badme this week.
- ▶ 6/19/98 There is no progress in the peace talks conducted by representatives of the OAU. Eritrea refuses Ethiopia's precondition for direct negotiation that Eritrea troops pull back for the disputed areas. It stated that it would only pull back if the disputed area was held as a "no-man's land."
- ▶ 6/19/98 Eritrea accused Ethiopia of escalating the war by blocking commercial flights into the Eritrean capital, Asmara.
- ▶ 6/19/98 There are renewed skirmishes around Zala Ambessa.
- ▶ 6/20/98 Ethiopia cancelled commercial flights to Tigray. — they had been suspended following the Eritrea air raid on Makelle and resumed after a 6/15 agreement to halt air strikes — saying they expect Eritrea to

▶



break the agreement. Eritrea says Ethiopia already has.

▶ 6/20/98 Eritreans around the world are contributing to Eritrea's efforts to defend itself. *ErProf*

▶ 6/20/98 Newly appointed Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Church, Abune Filipos, urged an immediate end to all hostilities. *ErProf*

▶ 6/20/98 The Foreign Affairs Ministry denied Ethiopia's assertion that Eritrea had expelled 3,000 Ethiopians. In fact it states that 800 Eritreans have been deported by Ethiopia. *ErProf*

▶ 6/24/98 The combatants exchanged a brief round of heavy artillery fire at Zala Ambessa.

▶ 6/26/98 The United Nations Security Council has demanded an immediate end to the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and called on both sides to seek a peaceful solution and urged both sides to cooperate with the OAU's efforts.

▶ 6/26/98 Eritrea complains to UN about treatment of Eritreans detainees in Ethiopia.

▶ 6/26/98 The International Red Cross visited hundreds of civilian internees at Fiche. They have begun to provide supplies to the wounded and displaced on both sides of the border.

▶ 7/20/98 A knowledgeable Ethiopian source said there still has been no resolution of the crisis. Both leaders are trying to satisfy their constituencies and are trying to save face. Ethiopia renounced the U.S./Rwandan Peace Plan, saying that Eritrea has to withdraw first and demilitarize the border. Eritrea's economy is suffering very badly from the loss of Ethiopia's food sources and exports. There are now long lines for food. Ethiopians are stunned that the leaders of these two countries could be fighting so soon when they were so close previously.

▶ 7/26/98 The Clinton administration will suspend sales of weapons and war material to Ethiopia and Eritrea. It is expected that they will continue to receive all the war materials they need from China, Bulgaria and Ukraine.

▶ 7/26/98 Hundreds of thousands of women throughout Ethiopia staged peace rallies, and called for an end to the border dispute.

▶ 7/28/98 Eritrea sent a letter of complaint to Amnesty International which had expressed concern about humane treatment of Ethiopia detainees and the deportation of Ethiopians. Eritrea complained of Ethiopia's detention of more than 1000 youths in a concentration camp in Fitcha, including 82 exchange students.

▶ 7/28/98 Sudan said it beat back an Eritrean offensive on their common border where they said the Eritreans had conducted a huge military buildup.

▶ 7/29/98 There has been no fighting since the OAU team visited Addis Ababa and Asmara in late June.

▶ 7/29/98 The OAU finalizing its report on the border conflict, is Rwanda, which brokered a joint initiative with the United States, has withdrawn from the OAU mission after Eritrea had voiced concern over President Bizumungu's involvement with the US, sources said this week. "Eritrea wanted to ensure there were no impediments to the arbitration initiatives currently going on and President Bizumungu did a good thing of pulling out of the OAU initiative," one source said. Eritrean President Issais Afwerki is quoted as having said his country was seeking a settlement of the conflict with Ethiopia within an exclusively African context.

▶ 7/29/98 Academic leaders from the US and Europe have sent a letter to the Human Rights Watch Academic Freedom Committee calling on Ethiopia to free 82 Eritrean exchange students being detained.

▶ 7/30/98 According to Amnesty International, 3 journalists were arrested 7/13 in Addis Ababa because of an article critical of the government detaining and deporting Eritreans.

▶ 8/1/98 The OAU opened talks in Burkina Faso to address the border dispute. The foreign minister of both Eritrea and Ethiopia will participate. On 8/3 the OAU will present its report.

▶ 8/2/98 According to its Industry and Trade Minister, Eritrea supports Moammar Kadhafi's proposed peace plan which calls for an end of hostilities, the stationing of troops from the Community of Sahelian-Saharan States — Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, Niger and Sudan — in the disputed zones, and the acceptance of arbitration by the Hague-based International Court of Justice.

▶ 8/2/98 The OAU talks have produced no compromises. Eritrea's Foreign Affairs Minister proposed the creation of a demilitarized zone patrolled by UN and neutral African forces. 

Sources: See "Sources" at the end of "Other News from the Horn"

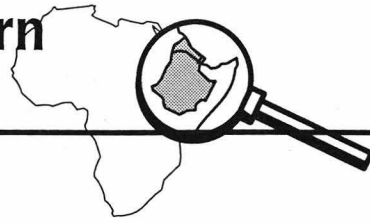
From the editor: I am interested in finding a map(s) that shows every little town in Ethiopia and Eritrea. If you can refer me to a resource where I might find one, I would appreciate it immensely. Thanks.
Marian

And the Eritrea PCVs?

Following the evacuation from Asmara, of the 49 PCVs in Eritrea: 13 second year and 1 third year PCV COSed, 32 first year PCVs COSed (many interested in re-enrolling if PC opens again in Eritrea) and 3 first year PCVs transferred (2 to Tanzania and 1 to Benin).

Other News from the Horn

compiled by John Barnes (66-68)



- ▶ 2/10/98 A two-day conference held at Duke University from Feb. 10-11 on the topic "Media and Development in Ethiopia" was chaired by President Jimmy Carter.
- ▶ 3/15/98 US Ambassador David Shinn inaugurated the Gomera Peasant Association Grain mill in the Gurage Zone. The Gomera Peasant Association obtained a grant of US \$ 10,590 from the Ambassador's Special Self-Help Fund to purchase the grain mill machinery.
- ▶ 3/19/98 *Tibeb*, a magazine for women entrepreneurs was launched in Addis Ababa.
- ▶ 3/30/98 The U.S. commits to provide \$9.9M to Ethiopia for the purchase of wheat, likely to arrive in August.
- ▶ 3/31/98 200 Falasha were resettled in Israel to bring the total of recently resettled Falasha to 1,500. *EReg 5/98*
- ▶ Ethiopia's population now stands at a little over 58.65 million, up from 55.6 million four years ago, the country's Central Statistical Authority says. The population of Addis Ababa is now a little over 2.43 million. At the current rate of 3 percent annual growth, the Ethiopian population is projected to reach 94.25 million by the year 2010.
- ▶ It is estimated that there are 200,000 homeless in Addis Ababa.
- ▶ Twelve percent of the Ethiopian population, about 7 million people, have mental illness, according to the Psychiatric Department head of the Armed Forces General Hospital in Addis Ababa. There are 11 psychiatric doctors

in Ethiopia - one for every 5 million people.

- ▶ 3/30/98 President Isaias Afwerki stated on the subject of self-reliance, "We learned the hard way that our own sense of purpose, our own unity, our own organized capabilities were the only things that we could count on to succeed." "We are not rich; we do not have many resources; we are affected by things we cannot control. But we prefer to face our problems ourselves. This is difficult for people; it takes a long time, but in the long term, success can only come from inside us."

On foreign aid, "It is not that we do not need the money, but we do not want the dependence. Aid subsidizes but corrupts the government, blocks innovative solutions to problems, so that people do not seek out and use their own resources." *Time Magazine*

- ▶ 4/3/98 The BBC reported that Swiss authorities approved the return of US\$ 8 million to Ethiopia which was allegedly put into private accounts by former Deputy Prime Minister Tamrat Layne. The Ethiopian High Court had ordered the accounts frozen in October, 1997. *EReg 5/98*
- ▶ 4/5/98 Four armed soldiers robbed eight foreign tourists and confiscated their two vehicles which were the property of a travel agency. This robbery occurred 7 km from Woito, and 156 km south of Arba Minch. *EReg 6/98*
- ▶ 4/9/98 The U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa reported that four new aircraft are to be delivered to Debre Zeit. Ethiopian crews will be trained to fly and maintain the C130B Hercules

aircraft. France will provide for military staff training. *EReg 5/98*

- ▶ 4/13/98 A malaria epidemic has been reported in the southern portion of Ethiopia.
- ▶ 4/14/98 Reporters sans Frontieres reported that two more editors have been arrested in Addis Ababa.
- ▶ 4/17/98 Dr. Idris Ibrahim Abaq passed away at age 49. He was a lecturer at the University of France in Paris. He planned to organize a cultural and linguistic center in Eritrea. *ErProf*
- ▶ 4/17/98 Lufthansa plans to fly larger planes to Asmara when the airport is upgraded. Currently there are 3 flights per week. *ErProf*
- ▶ 4/17/98 The National Development Campaign will focus on agricultural and public works projects involving 61,000 volunteer trainees who will begin their assignments on April 29th in all regions. The campaign lasts one month and then the people are to take over and maintain what has been achieved. More than 15 million nakfa is to be collected from the people for the campaign. *ErProf*
- ▶ 4/21/98 Ethiopian Fatuma Roba successfully defended her title in the Boston Marathon.
- ▶ 4/23/98 Open heart surgery was performed by Swiss doctors and Eritrean counterparts on five patients at Halibet Hospital in Asmara. The operations were the first of their kind in the horn of Africa. *ErProf*
- ▶ 4/23/98 President Isaias Afwerki and President Bill Clinton held talks at the White House in Washington. The ▶



new African Trade and Partnership proposal was discussed. The Eritrean president also met with National Security Advisor Samuel Berger, Acting Sec. of State, Strob Talbot, the Deputy Secretary for Political Affairs, Thomas Pickering, and Dr. Susan Rice, in charge of African Affairs at the State Department.

He also met with the President of the World Bank, and the Deputy Chief of the IMF. At a dinner in honor of President Isais the Director of the Corporate Council on Africa urged US entrepreneurs to invest in Eritrea. *ErProf*

▶ 4/26/98 W/ro Mulumebet Imeru, the first Ethiopian woman to become a pilot, passed away in Berkeley, California. She was 77. At 15 she aspired to become a pilot because of reading about a female French pilot. She petitioned Emperor Haile Selassie in 1935 to be allowed to take an aeronautics course. *ERev 4-6/98*

▶ 4/29/98 Eritrea's President Isaias Afewerki met with President Bill Clinton at the White House.

▶ 4/29/98 Thousands of Tigrayan members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church protested the leadership of Patriarch Paulos in Mekele. They denounced his style of leadership which they claimed was characterized by nepotism, extravagance, material and spiritual corruption, violation of church regulations and ignoring the Holy Synod's decisions. *EReg 6/98*

▶ 4/29/98 Former Deputy Prime Minister Tamrat Layne complained that he was slapped and threatened after asking for medicines, to have visits from friends and to receive paint and brushes to do painting while in prison. *EReg 6/98*

▶ 4/98 The Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS) in

collaboration with the UK-based BirdLife International has published a book entitled *IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS OF ETHIOPIA: A FIRST INVENTORY*. For further information, contact EWNHS at P.O. Box 13303, Addis Ababa.

▶ 4/98 It was announced that Ethiopia would open four new universities at the start of the 1998/99 school year: Awassa Univerisity — which will include will incorporate Awassa agricultural college, Dilla teachers' college and the Wondo-Guenet forestry college; Amhara University at Bahr Dar — which will include existing polytechnic institute and teachers' college; Oromiya Univerisity at Jimma — which will incorporate the health science institute at Jimma; and Tigre University at Makale which will include University College of Makale and the business college.

Addis Ababa University plans to expand its research activities and will increase its post graduate study programs.

▶ 4/98 A senior Ethiopian diplomat was killed in Nairobi.

▶ 4/98 Dr Richard Pankhurst has called for the preservation of a castle and church at Danqaz, north-east of Lake Tana, which was the capital of Ethiopia in the early 1600s, and the 18th C. church of Bahrey Gemb, some thirty kilometres south of Gondar, just off the highway to Bahr Dar.

▶ 4/98 The Committee to Protect Journalists reported that at least 16 journalists were in jail at the end of the 1997 making it one of the world's worst offenders of press freedom.

▶ 4/98 Delegations from Libya and China came to Eritrea for working visits. China agreed to help construct a 200 bed hospital in Asmara. The delegation planned to hold talks about fisheries. Fisheries is one of the sectors having significant growth potential in the future. *ErProf*

▶ 4/98 The new Eritrean currency, the nakfa will be exchanged on the basis of market determined rates. *ErProf*

▶ 5/2/98 The All Amhara People's Organization strongly denounced a recent statement made in New Orleans to American businessmen and industrialists by the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr. David Shinn, to the effect that the present government in Ethiopia is "democratic". Mr. Shinn had reportedly asserted that the "democratic" government of Ethiopia has removed the recurrent famines and American investors seeking markets for their produce should visit Ethiopia. *EForum*

▶ 5/5/98 The Ethiopian government is said to have sent undercover agents to Nairobi to try and apprehend the persons responsible for the murder of Ato Assefa Gebre Selassie, the former 1st secretary at the Ethiopian Embassy in Nairobi. *EForum*

▶ 5/5/98 The 57th anniversary of the victory over Italy in 1941 was celebrated in Addis Ababa at Miazia 27 Square with many veterans present. *ERev 4-6/98*

▶ 5/6-8/98 Eritrean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ato Haile Woldensae met with officials of IGAD ministers about the South Sudan conflict. *ErProf*

▶ 5/7/98 *Toby*, the popular weekly newspaper and monthly magazine, has resumed publication after its editors were jailed and its offices were burned in January. The editors were still in jail, however, because the file with their bail application had disappeared. Six other staff members of the publishing company were released on bail. *EReg 6/98*

▶ 5/8/98 President Isaias Afwerki presided over graduation ceremonies for the first group of pilots, ground technicians and other trainees from the Eritrean Air Force. *ErProf*



► 5/9/98 UN Secretary General, Mr. Koffi Annan visited Eritrea as part of a tour of eight African Nations. Discussions centered on the roll of the UN in promoting African aspirations. His schedule included a visit to Massawa. *ErProf*

► 5/9/98 Dawit Kebede, editor of the Amharic weekly, "Fiameta" was detained for two days at Bole airport without any food and was threatened with longer detainment. He had written an article about corruption among officials of the Southern Ethiopia Region. With him was Canadian journalist Jane Kokan who had her video cassettes confiscated. She had filmed a report on the drought situation and food aid to Tigray and Wollo regions. She had been wrestled and dragged and punched while taking a picture of the Trinity Cathedral in Addis Ababa by a security guard. *EReg 6/98*

5/2/98 A UN High Commissioner for Refugees bulletin reported that Ethiopia is among ten top countries of the world accommodating refugees from other countries. The breakdown: 57,507 Sudanese, 233,558 Somalis, 8,671 Kenyans and 3,000 Djiboutians. Other refugees receiving aid from the UNHCR and residing in Ethiopia are from Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda and Yemen.

► 5/12-13/98 In a state visit, President Isaias Afwerki expressed a desire to increase trade and development with Saudi Arabia. *ErProf*

► 5/14/98 Three Ethiopian Air force officers applied for political asylum in Washington D.C. after deciding not to return to Ethiopia after their training was completed. *ERev 4-6/98*

► 5/17-21/98 A conference was held in Addis Ababa which was aimed at paving the way to the establishment of a federal governmental human rights group.

► 5/20/98 Professor Asrat Woldeyes was 70 years old. He has been in prison since June, 1994, accused of "inciting war". As the leader of the All Amhara Peoples Organization, the party exposed many examples of human rights abuses and became very popular. He was sentenced to five years in prison. Many who testified against him have been previously threatened to give damaging testimony. He is currently a patient at the Black Lion Hospital suffering from diabetes, the loss of vision caused by a stroke and chronic heart disease. *EReg 6/98*

► 5/24/98 Eritrea celebrated the 7th anniversary of Liberation Day in honor of the heroes who defeated the Derg army of Ethiopia in 1991. In an address in Asmara Stadium, President Isaias stressed the futility of using force to resolve the crisis with Ethiopia. He stated that "we Eritreans shall never relinquish what belongs to us nor claim what belongs to others", and pledged to work to resolve the crisis through peaceful, legal means. *ErProf*

► 5/30/98 An Eritrean delegation returned from a 10-day visit to China to discuss bilateral relations and future cooperation in agriculture and industry. *ErProf*

► 5/98 Professor Ashenafi Kebede, renowned composer and ethnomusicologist, passed away at 60 years of age in Tallahassee, Florida. He studied music at the Haile Selassie I Elementary School in Addis Ababa, and at the Harer Teachers Training Institute. He taught music at Haile Selassie University. He earned his BA Degree in music in 1962 from the University of Rochester, Eastman School of Music. He founded St. Yared Music School and became its director. He received his masters and doctors degrees in ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University. He held teaching positions at Queens College and the City University of New York. Most recently Ato

Ashenafi was a professor of music and the Director of the Center for African American Culture, at Florida State University. He was a world renowned musicologist. *ERev 4-6/98*

► North Korea denied that Colonial Mengistu Haile Marian, the former Chairman of the Derg, has been granted political asylum in North Korea from Harare, Zimbabwe. *EReg 5/98*

► The Ethiopian Privatization Agency approved 3,710 petitions for the return of illegally confiscated property, including 11 factories, 11 hotels, and 70 residential houses. Of the 13,823 application, 10,113 were denied because of the lack of adequate evidence. *EReg 5/98*

► In visits to Addis Ababa, Representatives, Charles Rangel, Payne and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright praised the "new leaders of Africa" for their "good governance." The African Trade and Opportunity Act (ATOA) passed the US House of Representatives 238-186 and now awaits Senate passage. Some of the major parts are the elimination of quotas of African textiles, a free trade area and open markets with African countries, a \$500 million infrastructure fund, and a \$150 million equity fund. Oxfam, and international NGO, urged President Clinton to focus on education of the African people, its greatest resource, as the most important investment the US can make toward African trade development. 44 million African primary school aged children do not go to school, and the number is rising! Massive debts of African countries totalling 223 billion rob the future of African children. Oxfam believes that debt relief should be part of the IMF, World Bank and Paris Club strategies for African development. The National Summit on Africa plans to hold a series of eight regional meetings on African issues around the United States. The first regional meeting is scheduled in Atlanta from May 6-10th. *EReg 5/98* ►



▶ The cutting of the telephone lines of the Ethiopian Teachers Association have caused an investigation by Education International representative, Mr. Emanuel Fatuma, who held talks with government officials. Members of the delegation also were allowed a visit with Dr. Taye Wolde Semayit, former President of the ETA, who has been held in prison for three years on charges of conspiracy against the State of Ethiopia. *EReg 5/98*

▶ The World Food Program has requested food for 800,000 Ethiopians facing acute food shortages. Japan has pledged US\$ 880,000. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization, Ethiopia needs 420,000 tons to feed an estimated 5.3 million people. Crops were severely reduced by inadequate rains at the beginning of the 1997 season and too much rain during the harvest season. *EReg 5/98*

▶ 5/98 Ethiopia established a new Human Rights Commission and hosted an International Conference on Human Rights attended by representatives of 65 countries. Reverend Jesse Jackson attended as the US Representative on Democracy in Africa. Organizations which have been critical to the government of Ethiopia were banned. *ERev 4-6/98*

▶ 6/4/98 Twice weekly Ethiopian Airlines flights are scheduled to begin between Addis and Washington.

▶ 6/4/98 Ethiopian Airlines started two weekly direct flights from Addis Ababa to Washington DC on Tuesdays and Thursdays. *ERev 4-6/98*

▶ 6/7/98 Ato Tesfaye Taddese, a member of the Legal Committee of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), was attacked in Addis Ababa by two men upon his return home. He died of knife and machete wounds. He was dismissed from his job as legal council to the Administration of Rental Houses, but was reinstated. *EReg 7/98*

▶ Abune Filipos has been consecrated the first Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Church at a ceremony in Cairo. *ErProf*

▶ China has donated medical equipment worth 3 million nakfa to the Ministry of Health. *ErProf*

▶ 6/20/98 Martyr's Day was celebrated in Agordat at the National level, and also in Asmara and all regions. The day is to honor the 370 victims of the "Black Sunday" terror in Agordat in March, 1975. *ErProf*

▶ 6/20/98 United States Ambassador Robert Houdek announced the signing of a US\$ 5million loan for the purchase of grain for Eritrea. *ErProf*

▶ 6/20/98 Eritrea, after 7 years of independence, has many obstacles to overcome in education. Only 22.4% of children aged 7-11 were attending school. This is in spite of enrollment increases of 47 % from 93,087 students in 1991 to 136943 students in 1997. The enrollments increased 70% for middle school students and 47% for secondary school students. The number of primary school teachers has increased 51%, middle school teachers 30%, and secondary school teachers 24%. Primary school teachers must have completed a one year course at the Asmara Teachers Training Institute. Middle school teachers are required to complete a two year course at the University of Asmara, and secondary school teachers must have a four year degree from the University. Females trail males in the numbers of female elementary school teachers (36%), middle school teachers (19%), and secondary school teachers (11%). The Ministry of Education has undertaken a vigorous program to ensure that unqualified teachers become qualified. *ErProf*

▶ 6/20/98 In the agricultural sector, 80% of the Eritrean population are farmers. *ErProf*

▶ 7/1-4/98 The Ethiopian Sports Federation of North American held its 15th annual Ethiopian soccer tournament and cultural activities in Atlanta.  

Sources: Please note that any item not having a source notation was from EForum .

Sources of material compiled by John Barnes (Addis Ababa 66-68)

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

ErProf = Eritrea Profile newspaper
PO Box 247
Asmara Eritrea
Phone:11-41-14 or 12-77 48x92
Fax 291-1-12-48-47
Published weekly by the Ministry of Information

Sources of material forwarded by Richard Crepeau (Dessie 63-65) and compiled by the editor.

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

Group News

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs has a great new web site

Thanks to Dennis Ekberg



Dennis Ekberg

Over the past many months Dennis Ekberg (Ghion 62-64) has labored to design and implement a web site for ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs. You can see his glorious product at <http://www.geocities.com/~eerpcv>

And talk about features!

There are innumerable features at the web site, including buttons for :

- Announcements: new items of interest plus the current weather in Addis Ababa and a link to get more information.
- Links to the home pages of RPCVs who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- Listing of books about Ethiopia and Eritrea that have been featured in *The Herald*.
- Information about Ethiopia and Eritrea plus links to many other sites that feature these countries.
- A listing of all the materials that are in the E&E RPCVs library that can be borrowed by members at no

cost. These include in-depth articles, Peace Corps publications including three collections of essays about the Peace Corps experience edited by John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64), and video tapes.

- A photo album — and you are invited to submit your favorite photos.
- How to search for RPCVs.
- Listing on the Steering Committee and how to contact them.
- A guest book – why don't you leave a message for Dennis and tell him what a great job he did — and is still doing.

And there are plans to add more features as time goes by.

Dennis welcomes you comments and suggestions and there is a link so that you can send him email from the site. If you have a ideas for materials that you feel should be added, please volunteer to help research and prepare the material as it is quite a bit of work just to get it up onto the site. 

[http://
www.geocities.com/
~eerpcv](http://www.geocities.com/~eerpcv)

Group News

A terrific addition to our library

TO BUILD A TUKUL

by Mike Santarelli (Gura 70-73)

When you traveled across Ethiopia and Eritrea, did you ever wonder how those round, thatch-roofed, tukuls that dot the countryside are actually made? How they split the fallen trees into logs for the walls? How they raise the tall, heavy center pole? How the roof is made so it doesn't leak?




Mike Santarelli's tukul

In 1970, when I was 24, I lived with the Gurage for two years as a rural development Peace Corps Volunteer in Gura which is about 5 kilometers walk from the nearest road town of Endibir on the Jimma road. Due to the chronic housing shortage at the time, it was decided that I should have a tukul built. Hearing that the Gurage were master crafts people who had the reputation for building the strongest, most durable tukuls — said to stand for 30 years in spite of the fact that not a single nail was used — I decided to ask them to build my tukul. I then document the building of the tukul. I photographed the step by step process with my 35 mm Nikon camera and during the 10 month construction period from November 24, 1970 through October 7, 1971, I shot over 200 photos.

After returning to the U.S., I prepared a slide-by-slide narrative to accompany 137 selected slides and have put them into a slide set entitled: "The Construction of an Ethiopian Tukul: How the Gurage of Southwest Shoa Province, Ethiopia Build Their Homes," and copyrighted it in 1995.

I am contemplating producing a book on tukul construction, and am planning to return to my village to assess the current condition of my tukul.

"The Construction of an Ethiopian Tukul" slide set can be purchased from Mike for \$115. Contact him at: PO Box 988, Lakeport CA 95453; phone: 707/263-6854; email: Laura@pacific.net

* E&E RPCVs has purchased a set of "The Construction of an Ethiopian Tukul" slides and they **CAN BE BORROWED BY MEMBERS** for their own entertainment and edification or to use for a presentation to a civic or educational group. Contact our librarian, Joe Ciuffini, if you would like to borrow this slide set. 



Group News

E&E RPCVs gives a gift of history and culture books

Joe Tenn delivers for the PCVs in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Thanks to the long-suffering efforts of Joe Tenn (Addis Ababa 62–64), ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs has given books about Africa, Ethiopia and Eritrea to the Peace Corps Volunteers serving in Ethiopia and Eritrea for their resource library. The wonders of email made it possible for Joe to work closely with Peace Corps staff members in the two countries, enabling them to choose books from listing of available titles, provided to them by Joe, that they thought would be of interest to the PCVs. The following books have been sent to the PCVs so far. Other titles will be sent when they become available to Amazon.com, which was very helpful in obtaining some very difficult to obtain titles.

For Ethiopia PCVs:

AFRICAN REFUGEES: REFLECTIONS ON THE AFRICAN REFUGEE PROBLEM by Giam Kibreab

A TASTE OF AFRICA: THE AFRICAN COOKBOOK by Tibereh Inquai

TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY AFRICA: TOWARDS A NEW VISION OF SELF-SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT by Ann Seidman, Frederick Anang, editor

CONFRONTING THE AIDS EPIDEMIC: CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON HIV/AIDS EDUCATION edited by Davidson C. Umeh

FOREIGN AID AFTER THE COLD WAR: THE DYNAMICS OF MULTIPOLAR ECONOMIC COMPETITION by Rubin Patterson

NEW ENGLISHES: A WEST AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE edited by Ayo Bamgbose

RETHINKING AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT: TOWARD A FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND ECOLOGICAL HARMONY by Lual A. Deng

GENDERED VISIONS: THE ART OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICANA WOMEN ARTISTS edited by Salah M. Hassan

THE ETHIOPIAN BORDERLANDS: ESSAYS IN REGIONAL HISTORY FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY by Richard Pankhurst

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF ETHIOPIA by Richard Pankhurst

SILENCE IS NOT GOLDEN: A CRITICAL ANTHOLOGY OF ETHIOPIAN LITERATURE edited by Tadesse Adera

RIDING THE WHIRLWIND: AN ETHIOPIAN STORY OF LOVE AND REVOLUTION by Bereket Habte Selassie

ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA: FROM CONFLICT TO COOPERATION by Amare Tekle

THE POLITICS OF EMPIRE: ETHIOPIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES 1941–1974 by Harold G. Marcus

HAILE SELASSIE I: THE FORMATIVE YEARS 1892–1936 by Harold G. Marcus

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MENELIK II: ETHIOPIA 1844–1913 by Harold G. Marcus

ETHIOPIC AN AFRICAN WRITING SYSTEM: ITS HISTORY AND PRINCIPLES by Ayele Bekerie

A MODERN TRANSLATION OF THE KEBRA NAGAST: THE GLORY OF KINGS edited by Miguel F. Brooks

CONSTITUTION FOR A NATION OF NATIONS: THE ETHIOPIAN PROSPECT by Fasil Nahum

OROMO NATIONALISM AND THE ETHIOPIAN DISCOURSE: THE SEARCH FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY edited by Asafa Jalata

WOMEN'S RITES VERSUS WOMEN'S RIGHTS: A STUDY OF CIRCUMCISION AMONG THE KETU YORUBA OF SOUTH WESTERN NIGERIA by Emmanuel Babatunde and Niara Sudarkasa

For Eritrea PCVs

CHALLENGING RURAL POVERTY: EXPERIENCES IN INSTITUTION-BUILDING AND POPULAR PARTICIPATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN AFRICA edited by G. Kiros Fassil

POWER AND NEED IN AFRICA: BASIC HUMAN NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES by Ben Wisner

THE RASTA COOKBOOK: VEGETARIAN CUISINE EATEN WITH THE SALT OF THE EARTH edited by Laura Osborne

NEW DIMENSIONS IN AFRICAN HISTORY: THE LONDON LECTURES OF DR. YOSEF BEN-JOCHANNAN AND DR. JOHN HENRIK CLARKE edited by John Clarke

THE MAKING OF A RACIST STATE: BRITISH IMPERIALISM AND THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA 1875–1910 by Bernard Makhosezwe Magubane

ROOTS OF BLACK MUSIC: THE VOCAL, INSTRUMENTAL AND DANCE HERITAGE OF AFRICA AND BLACK AMERICA by Ashenafi Kebede

BLACKS BEFORE AMERICA by Mark Hyman

NEVER AGAIN (AFRICA WOMEN WRITERS SERIES) by Flora Nwapa

ONE IS ENOUGH (AFRICA WOMEN WRITERS SERIES) by Flora Nwapa

WOMEN ARE DIFFERENT (AFRICA WOMEN WRITERS SERIES) by Flora Nwapa

WIVES AT WAR AND OTHER STORIES (AFRICA WOMEN WRITERS SERIES) by Flora Nwapa

JACOBUS ELIZA JOHANNES CAPITEIN, 1717–1747: A CRITICAL STUDY OF AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY AFRICAN by Kwesi Kwaa Prah

THE MISSING MILLIONS: WHY AND HOW AFRICA IS UNDERDEVELOPED by Kinfe Abraham

THE AFRICAN ORIGIN OF MODERN JUDAISM: FROM HEBREWS TO JEWS by Jose V. Malcioln

FLIGHT FROM THE DEVIL: SIX SLAVE NARRATIVES edited by William Loren Katz

SISTERHOOD, FEMINISMS AND POWER: FROM AFRICA TO THE DIASPORA edited by Obioma Nnaemeka

CONFRONTING THE AIDS EPIDEMIC: CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON HIV/AIDS EDUCATION edited by Davidson C. Umeh


SHAKESPEARE IN AFRICA (& OTHER VENUES: IMPORT & THE APPROPRIATION OF CULTURE by Lemuel A. Johnson

WOMANISM AND AFRICAN CONSCIOUSNESS by Mary E. Modupe Kolawole

AFRICA: AFRICA WORLD PRESS GUIDE TO EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FROM AND ABOUT AFRICA compiled by Worldviews

SUFFERING STRONG: THE JOURNAL OF A WESTERNER IN ETHIOPIA, THE SUDAN, ERITREA AND CHAD by Nicholas Mottern

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF ETHIOPIA by Richard Pankhurst

RAS ALULA AND THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA: A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY: ETHIOPIA & ERITREA 1875–1897 by Haggai Erlich 

Group News



THE BOOK LOCKER PROJECT

For one year now, ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs has been shipping books to the PCVs in Ethiopia and Eritrea for their leisure reading. The shipping of these books — which E&E RPCVs receives free from friends of John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62–64) in the publishing world — is handled by John. Following an initial shipment of 900 pounds of books ranging from good literature to pulp fiction, John has been sending an average of 10 books per weeks to each country. Recently we received the following letter:

Dear ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs —

I wanted to write an express my gratitude for the excellent books you've been sending our way! I was going through and reorganizing the IRC [Resource Center] this morning when I came across the two boxes of new books. When I asked Bob (our APCD) who they were from, he informed me that you were the culprit.

Really, it is so wonderful to have enjoyable reading material to take to site and share with Ethiopia friends. They are always eager to see what the crazy *ferenji* will bring back from Addis. I think, especially this time, they will be quite enthralled! (I've snagged the copies of *7 TATTOOS* and *TIMOTHY LEARY — FLASHBACKS*.)

In any case, thanks SO much for the donation. Peace Corps Ethiopia is thrilled and I'm sure that these books will be shared with people throughout the country

Sincerely,
Sue Kerver, PCV

NEW BENEFITS FOR E&E RPCV MEMBERS WITH EMAIL

Fuller news from the Horn

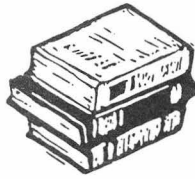
If you would like to receive via email the full articles that are the sources for the brief summaries that appear in "News from the Horn" from internet sites, Dick Crepeau (Dessie 63–65) will be glad to share with you the items that he finds on the web of interest regarding Ethiopia and Eritrea. (There are times when Dick might send you several articles in a day.) If you would like Dick to forward the articles he finds to you, send a brief message to that effect to him at: crepeau@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu

email notices

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs is beginning a service to send out OCCASIONAL notices that we feel would be of interest to our members. These notices will be of a timely nature and will relate to group news, Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Peace Corps, and RPCVs from Ethiopia and Eritrea. These notices will be sent to every RPCV on the database for whom we have an email address. If you DO NOT want to receive these OCCASIONAL notices, please drop a brief note to that effect to mhbeil@servtech.com and your email address will be removed from the e-mailing list. 

SEND YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS TO
E&E RPCVs
YOU NEVER KNOW
WHEN YOU MIGHT GET
A SURPRISE MESSAGE
FROM AN OLD FRIEND!

Send it to mhbeil@servtech.com



BOOK NOTES

▶ **ERIC TORGENSEN** (64–66) has just had published *DEAR FRIEND: RANER MARIA RILKE AND PAULA MODERSOHN-BECKER* (Northwestern University Press, \$29.95). Eric also had his poem "A Vacation" published in the May 1998 issue of *RPCV Writers & Readers*.

▶ **LINDA VERLEE WILLIAMS** has had another in a series of mysteries published—under the name Linda Grant—*VAMPIRE BYTES: A CRIME NOVEL WITH CATHERINE SAYLER* (Scribner, \$22.00)

▶ New is *ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE: THE PEACE CORPS AND THE SPIRIT OF THE 1960S* by Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman (Harvard University Press, \$27.95) which Sargent


Shriver has called "inspiring" and Eloquent."

▶ **HARRIS WOFFORD** (Country Director 62–64) has an essay in *STONE SOUP FOR THE WORLD: LIFE-CHANGING STORIES OF KINDNESS & COURAGEOUS ACT OF SERVICE* (Conari Press, \$15.95) entitled "Kennedy and the Peace Corps."

? E&E RPCVs has received a copy of this book. Would you like to review it for *The Herald*? Contact the editor.

New books of interest from amazon.com

▶ *THE PILLAGE OF SUSTAINABILITY IN ERITREA, 1600'S–PRESENT* by Niaz Murtaza, \$59.95, Greenwood Publishing Group, ISBN: 0313306338

▶ *TO FIGHT AND LEARN: THE PRAXIS AND PROMISE OF LITERACY IN ERITREA'S INDEPENDENCE WAR* by Leslie Gottesman, \$79.95 -- Our Price: \$79.95, Red Sea Press, ISBN: 1569020671 

the e&e rpcv library


ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs has a growing library of materials including books, pamphlets, articles, videos, and slides that may be of interest to you. Items can be borrowed by members for no charge by contacting Joe Ciuffini (Harar 64–66), 188 Cabot St, Newton MA 02158, phone: 617/244-0463, email: jmciuffini@aol.com. To learn what is in the library, visit our web site at www.geocities.com/~eerpcv or if you do not have access to the web, a copy of the listing of materials is available from Joe.

If you have materials that other RPCVs might enjoy and you would like to donate them to the library, send them to Joe and we will let the our members know of their availability.

New materials in the library

- ▶ Article: "Volunteerland's best export: Going on 37, Peace Corps retains its youth and idealism" by Dick Lipez (Debre Marcos, Addis Ababa 62–64), *The Boston Sunday Globe* 2/8/98.
- ▶ Article: "Ethiopia: A Rights Violator? Foes Say Foreign Aid Props Up System of Widespread Abuses" by Stephen Buckley, *Washington Post* 4/13/98
- ▶ Article: "For Ethiopians, Church a Home Far From Home: Orthodox Christian Community Keeps Tradition Alive in D.C. Area" by Bill Broadway, *Washington Post* 5/2/98 Five Ethiopia Orthodox churches serve an estimated 45–50,000 Ethiopians in the DC area.
- ▶ Article: "In Ethiopia Itself, Foundation of the Faith is Eroding" by Stephen Buckley, *Washington Post* 5/2/98.

Membership decline in Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Ethiopia.

- ▶ Article: "Border Dispute in Horn of Africa Threatens War" by James C. McKinley Jr., *New York Times* 6/1/98
- ▶ Article: "When Friends Fall Out: Despite Historic Ties, Ethiopia and Eritrea Gird for War" by Karl Vick, *Washington Post* 6/24/98
- ▶ Article: "George Dunne, 92, Priest and Ecumenist, Dies" by Eric Pace, *The New York Times* 7/14/98. Fr. Dunne was director of the Ethiopia I training program.
- ▶ Slide set: "The Construction of an Ethiopian Tukul: How the Gurage of Southwest Shoa Province, Ethiopia Build Their Homes," photos and commentary by Mike Santarelli (Gura 70–73) 



BOOK REVIEWS

My Name Is . . .*

A Cross-Cultural Resource Book, Grades 1-2-3 & Up

by the Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association

illustrated by Pam Dixon (Colombia 1976-79)

116 pages

\$15.00

Reviewed by Susan Neyer (Philippines 1962-65)

MY NAME IS . . . was written and published by a group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in the Philadelphia area supported by a mini-grant from the Agency for International Development through the National Peace Corps Association. The book is a collection of short stories which describe the daily lives of children, ages six to nine, in countries throughout the developing world. The stories, composed by the RPCVs, are written in the first person as if each child is the one telling about his or her life. Each story is accompanied by a line drawing illustrating some aspect of the child's life, as well as a few activities and often a vocabulary list. The book is divided into sections by geographic region, each of which contains a map of the region as well as a map of each country covered.

There are eighteen countries featured in the book, eight of which are in Africa. Five of the countries have stories about more than one child, enabling US students to make comparisons between different children in a country, as well as comparisons to their own lives.

The stories are written in simple language which should be fairly easy for primary level students to relate to.

* Available from our librarian.

When a foreign word is introduced in a story, the meaning is explained and a pronunciation guide is given. While common threads run through all of the stories — rising early, daily chores, family and foods — there is enough variety to invite comparisons across countries. The activities for each story, while usually very simple and often limited, give some opportunities for various grade levels, ranging from coloring an accompanying picture to discussing issues, researching customs and constructing models.

A teacher might use this book to put a human face on the study of a particular country or region. Used on its own, this book can give a feel for the lives of children in primarily rural areas in developing countries. To give a clearer picture of each country and its people, the stories would need to be supplemented with photos, slides, books and other materials. The stories could be particularly meaningful when brought to life during a presentation by an RPCV from one or more of the countries. RPCVs making a presentation to an elementary classroom may also find this book to be a valuable resource.

The book is produced in a 3-ring binder format, making it easy to take out picture and story pages for reproduction. However, due to the small size of the print used for the stories, they may

be more appropriate to reproduce for older students only. Indeed, the stories could probably be used at least up through fifth grade, but would need to be accompanied by more challenging activities. If a revision of this book is ever considered, I would like to see more suggested resources such as books for each of the countries and a wider variety of activities.

Susan Neyer was a Spanish bilingual and ESL teacher in grades K-5 for many years. She is currently editor of National Peace Corps Association's Global TeachNet newsletter.

Reprinted with permission from RPCV Writers & Readers, July 1998

EDITOR'S NOTES: *Although there is not a section in MY NAME IS . . . about Ethiopia or Eritrea, those of you who are interested in making presentations about Peace Corps Countries in U.S. elementary schools may find this book to be very helpful. The countries featured are: Benin Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Swaziland, Fiji, Nepal, Thailand, Tonga, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Hungary, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru.*

If you would like to volunteer to prepare a section about either of our countries, in the event that another edition of this book will be produced, contact: Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association, PO Box 42542, Philadelphia PA 19101.

www.internet treasures/e&e

- ▶ **LINDA VERLEE WILLIAMS** (66-68) who writes mysteries has a web page at: <http://www.wenet.net/~lgrant/>
- ▶ The weekly *Addis Tribune* is at: <http://AddisTribune.EthiopiaOnline.Net>
- ▶ The *Ethiopian Register* home page is: <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/~mammo1/etr2.html>

- ▶ You can register for the National Peace Corps Association Emergency Response Network (ERN) — an on-line database of RPCVs willing to be matched with private and government agencies for short-term disaster response, refugee assistance, development and election monitoring assignments at www.siteconnect.com/RPCV/ERN.

F R I E N D S

► **VINCENT COWHIG** (Deder 64–66) writes: “The reports of my death in the newsletter are, to say the least, premature. A few of my friends read the notice and called to pay respects to my widow! I’m not sure how to respond when they sound disappointed.

“All kidding aside, I’m sure it was my father’s death 2 years ago that must have confused people — we have the same name.

“All I know is, I hope real death is more restful than these last years have been.”

EDITORS NOTE: My apologies for the error to both Vin and his friends.

Deaths

E&E RPCVs has learned that **VERNON FULCHER** (65–67) died several years ago from cancer.

ASHENAFI KEBEDE, former Peace Corps training staff member who taught Amharic and Ethiopian music for the Ethiopia I group, died on Friday May 8, 1998.

THE REV. GEORGE H. DUNNE, director of the training program for Ethiopia I at Georgetown University, died June 30th at the age of 92. In an obituary* in the New York Time (7/14/98), Rev. Paul Locatelli, president of Santa Clara University said: “He was basically a prophetic voice for social justice long before his time.”

Consul General **JULIAN BARTLEY** (Western Samoa 67–69) and his 20-year old son, Jay, were among those killed in the Nairobi Embassy bombing.

► The son of **STEVE** and **EVELYN (ASHKENAZE) BUFF** (Addis Ababa 64–66) has recently completed Peace Corps service in Nicaragua.

► **JON EBLING** (Debre Marcos, Dira Dawa 62–64; Staff /Addis Ababa 67–69) has retired from Chico State University and will teach only in the spring terms for the next five years.

► In late August, **JOHN REX (DEBRE BERHAN 62–64)** leaves, first for London and then Calcutta — to be there until February of 1999.


► This past spring, **CYNTHIA TSE KIMBERLIN** (Asmara 62–64) was in London to present a paper at the 5th International Symposium and Festival on the art music of two Ethiopians, Ashenafi Kebede and Ezra Abate Iman.

► **CHARLOTTE WILSON HETH** (Ambo 62–64) is featured in a Peace Corps recruiting booklet entitled “Experiencing the World as a Peace Corps Volunteer.”* In the full-page article, Charlotte, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the assistant director for public programs at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, tells how her Peace Corps experience opened her eyes to possibilities in her own culture.

► On May 17th there was an “Ethiopian Cultural Journey” in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Among the presenters were **PATRICIA BAILEY BERKELY** (Addis Ababa 63–65) showing slides of “The Mediaeval Churches of Lalibela,” and **JOHN** and **LIZ BARNES** (Addis Ababa 66–68). **JOE CIUFFINI** (Harar 64–66) organized the sharing of slides, pictures and artifacts.

► “Volunteerland’s best export: Going on 37, Peace Corps retains its youth and idealism”* by **DICK LIPEZ** (Debre

Marcos, Addis Ababa 62–64) was published in The Boston Sunday Globe 2/8/98.

► **CRAIG JOHNSON** (Adwa 68–69) has been working to set up an internet training center in Asmara. 

LOST & FOUND

When a query is received about an Ethiopia or Eritrea RPCV, that query is sent directly to the 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.

Eugene Mitchell (Asmara 64–66) writes: I am trying to find Marcia Perkins, Haile Selassie I Secondary School in Asmara 1964–66. Last seen in Miami, Florida during the 1970s.

I am also trying to find Habtu Gherzhghier, of Asmara. Last seen in New York City during the 1970s. If you can help Gene, contact him at: PO Box 6334, St. Croix, USVI 00823-6334; wphone: 340/778-0123; hphone: 340/778-2345; email: Fdunwod@teacher.uvi.edu

Kathleen Coskran (Dilla 65–67) is looking for **DOUG ROBERTS** and **DICK ?**, Ethi VIs who trained at UCLA and were in Dilla. Contact her at: 152 Bank Street, SE, Minneapolis MN 55414

* Can be borrowed from the librarian.

THE KESSLER FILE

It just doesn't fit!

Bby Laurie Kessler (Adi Teclesan 1964–66)

BEING EVACUATED FROM ERITREA doesn't fit. It doesn't fit into anyone's scheme of things about Eritrea, which ever since liberation has been a stellar example of internal peace and unity and has had remarkable friendly relations with its former adversary, Ethiopia.

Personal foreboding

But in a personal sense, being evacuated was the climax of several months of events and preoccupation that seem now to have been foreshadowing.

In early March my step father learned that he had cancer in three places and we were on standby for a quick trip to California. In the end, we were able to arrange a two week visit for me and three for Wayne. The time became a reunion for us with our two kids, my mother and stepfather and provided an opportunity to say good-bye, which I hadn't had when my own father had died suddenly.

Then there was the death of a Baha'i woman friend in Eritrea, the hospitalization of a friend in Uganda with malaria, and our hosting and helping to arrange a medical evacuation of one of my colleagues. Added to these was the news of India, and then Pakistan testing nuclear bombs. (It was reported that the Indians at the university celebrated with a party!)

Signs of coming trouble

The National Development Campaign, new this year, was initiated on May 1 with the call-back of the first four batches of military trainees since Liberation to do agricultural and reforestation work. This left our English department without a secretary and took

Nathan Ghebremicael just after he re-sat the national exam to enter the university and Rahel Sahle, a sports reporter for the local newspaper whose arrangements to study in California were just coming together. (On Jun 1 other batches of trainees were to take over, but by then nearly everyone — including fighters demobilized before Liberation — was assigned to military duty.)

On May 6 the border clash with Ethiopia took shape over the Badume triangle. It was serious enough that the former U.S. ambassador to Eritrea and several others flew to Asmara to facilitate negotiations on May 16. (Wayne was on the same plane.) Ethiopia Airlines stopped service to Asmara, so two expected visitors couldn't come to celebrate Liberation Day on May 24th. Friends from England weren't able to obtain bookings to visit in July.

Before Liberation Day, the Peace Corps Volunteers from the southern most and distant posts were evacuated to Asmara. Why could this be necessary? Was it premature? We discussed it in detail with PCVs Jeff Shannon, who was serving his third year in Adi Teclesan where we had been stationed as PCVs, and Sara Solberg, who was from our home town in California.

Liberation Day was festive with colored lights, flags and decorations in shop windows; but with so many people away on duty and the tension at the border, it seemed less festive than before.

Soon after Liberation Day, PCVs were brought in from towns a close as Mendefera. What was happening?

Many activities carried on as usual, but N'FETN Enterprises' (Wayne's business) activities were slowing down noticeably as investors wanted to wait to see what would become of the border dispute. On May 28, Wayne wrote to N'FETN partner Leo Cecchini (Asmara 62–64): Almost everything is out of joint over this border squabble: call-ups of national service people, remobilization of demobilized fighters, trade, travel and communications disruptions, meetings and decisions being put off, and conversations about rumors, rumors, and more rumors. It's hard enough to carry on without all of this added to the confusion of development. We and most of the Eritreans are optimistic and relatively calm, but we're getting weary of all this."

The Countdown

Which brings us to the final week before departure, which now could be known as countdown, though at the time we were NOT counting down.

It was a typical week, except that I was marking exams most of the time, and the final evacuation of PCVs from their sites distracted us.

On Thursday, June 4th, all American citizens were called to a meeting by the American embassy and advised to leave the country. We were told that a charter flight would be organized, probably on Sunday. In fact, it happened on Friday evening for all PCVs and other non-essential American government employees. The decision to evacuate seemed quite sudden at first and then quite judicious, because just hours before the

Continued on page 23

MEMORIES OF INDIA McCANSE

by Susan Hundt Bergan (Bahar Dar 66-68)



India McCause in Ethiopia, 1967

LATE THIS SPRING, while sorting through correspondence, I came upon a letter from my friend India written in April, 1997. In that letter she reflected on how much she had enjoyed our recent visit with her in Tucson. She remarked on how marvelous it was to

spend time with my daughter, Kate, so close in age to her own granddaughters. She enclosed a recipe, in exchange for the one I had sent her in my previous letter.

I treasure that letter, the recipe, and my many other mementoes of India, but dearest to me are the memories of the times we shared. India died in her sleep last November, in Tucson, two weeks after having had a heart attack. She was 77 years old, and a learner, a doer and lover of life to the end. She celebrated her 75th birthday walking in the mountains of Peru. The week she suffered the heart attack she had

planned to attend a Spanish language immersion course, continuing the study of Spanish she had begun when she moved from Kansas City to Tucson in 1989.

First meeting

I met India McCause in 1966 when I was 22 years old and a newly arrived Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia. She was 46, an Associate Peace Corps Director who had just arrived in country from a Peace Corps staff position in Washington, D.C. I had been assigned to Atse Sertse Dingel Meleg Seged Secondary School in Bahar Dar. India was not my area representative (The legendary John Coyne took care of the volunteers on the Gondar Road.); I met her through Morris Baker (1966-68), another PCV at my school. Morris and a handful of other trainees from the Utah program en route from the U.S. to Ethiopia, had airplane problems that left them stranded in Cairo, while the rest of the trainees went on to Ethiopia. India

▷

chose to stay behind with them. That week in Cairo turned into an excellent adventure and the first chapter in a lifelong friendship between Morris and India.

India became a central figure in my friendship group and made our occasional visits to Addis Ababa merry ones. Parties at her house featured marvelous food, the latest albums from home, dik dik's in the living room and the conviction that nobody in the world was having as much fun as we were. India had a gift for friendship and an ability to focus her attention on the person with whom she was speaking. Being with her made us feel witty, sparkling, clever and gorgeous. I was awed by India. She was so stylish, so self-assured, so energetic and adventurous. I had not encountered anyone quite like her, a mother and a widow who was willing to leave the familiar behind and take her chances on a job in a remote African nation.

The friendship continues

After returning to the States, I found a job at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., working for an ornithologist. India had returned to Washington to live and we naturally gravitated toward each other because of the Peace Corps experience we had shared. She was as generous to me in her hospitality in Washington as she had been in Ethiopia. I enjoyed many interesting and lively social events at her Georgetown apartment. I remember with some amusement engaging in passionate debates on the Vietnam War with a couple of India's much-decorated military friends. As I recall, India sat back, sipped her Scotch and chuckled.

A desperately needed friendship

Of the times we shared in Washington, however, I remember most vividly and appreciate most keenly the generosity

she showed to me when I desperately needed it. On the night of January 31, 1971, I was due to leave Washington for Madison, Wisconsin, and graduate school. At midnight my boyfriend, Hal, and I were packing my things into his car for the long drive to Madison when two gunmen approached, shot Hal and ran off with his wallet. Tearing through the black Washington night in the ambulance with Hal, who lay bleeding on the stretcher, my life started to shift and reform around me. Within 24 hours I had decided I was going to stay with Hal and cast my lot with his. However, I had given up my apartment and literally had nowhere to go. India, who had sat with me for hours in the hospital's intensive care unit early that first morning, offered me a place to stay and clothes from her own wardrobe to replace some of mine that had been stolen from the car that night. I stayed at India's apartment for six weeks, until Hal was released from the hospital.

Hal and I were married in Wisconsin six weeks after he was released from the hospital. I wore the antique diamond and pearl earrings India had given me, my "something old."

In January of 1972 we moved to Chicago. India's Christmas card in 1972 came from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, where she had rented a house for 6 months. Her note concluded: "I've got lots of room. Come visit!" On a blustery day in March we bundled up our 7 month-old Lars and joined India for a week of Caribbean sun and water. During that week Lars ate a lot of sand, we gaped at flamboyant fish through our snorkeling masks and India introduced us to black beans and rice and peanut butter and banana sandwiches. A favorite image of that trip is gazing to shore from my raft some distance out in the bay and seeing India and Lars together on the beach, digging in the sand, their heads bent to the task.

In 1975 we moved to Madison, where I finally started graduate school, an

endeavor quite compatible with caring for Lars and his younger sister, Kate. India visited us there in 1978 in conjunction with her job with Kansas City Public Television.

Renewing the ties

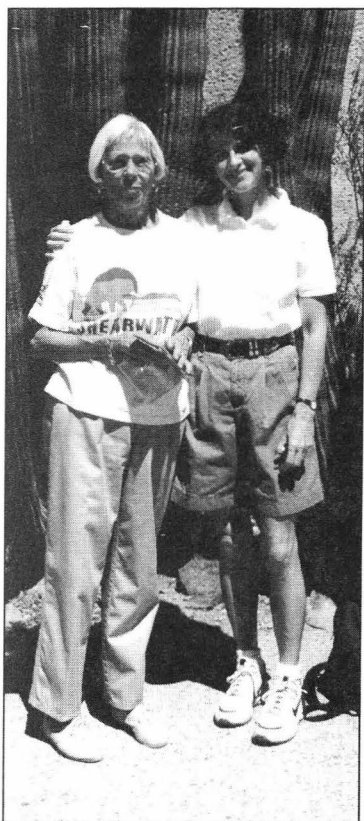
In the years that followed, we wrote to each other, and called occasionally. There were a few years when letters at Christmas and reports from mutual friends were all the news we had of each other. Then, about five years ago, I received a postcard from Zimbabwe, where India had gone on safari. That cheetah postcard and the exuberant message brought back to me how much I enjoyed India, the good times we had shared, and I resolved to reconnect with her. I wrote to her and we began to correspond regularly again. I tried but failed to organize a reunion of the old Ethiopia group at the National Peace Corps Association meeting in Austin in 1995. India, in her Christmas letters, invited us several times over to escape from the Midwestern winter and visit her at her new home in Tucson.

Finally, in March of 1997, Hal, Kate and I went to Tucson for a four day weekend. Morris Baker joined us from Dallas. It was a charmed weekend. Morris, India and I told all our favorite Peace Corps/Ethiopia stories (which Kate and Hal kindly indulged), shared information about mutual friends and acquaintances and reflected that a long and faithful friendship can be one of the richest fruits of the Peace Corps experience. We viewed the vintage Ethiopia slides I had brought from home and India showed us photographs from her recent safari to Zimbabwe. India brought us up to date on her son Lynn and daughter-in-law Ginny; her three grandchildren and new great-granddaughter.

The five of us had a grand time together, but for me, the sweetest time was after the men had left to go back to their jobs and India, Kate and I were by ourselves

for a couple of days. India took us to the Desert Museum, one of her favorite places, where we spent the good part of a day learning

about the regional desert ecology and marveling at the variety of spines the cactus family had devised. Back home, we sat in the walled garden under the ramada and dined on the fresh, piquant southwestern food India had cooked for us. We sipped our wine and talked on and on as the shadows moved on the garden walls. India told us of the sadness of losing her younger sister, and the burden that great old age had become to her mother before her death. I noted the



India and Susan Hundt Bergan, Tucson, March, 1997

rapport and affection that was so evident between India and Kate. Sitting quietly, listening to their conversation about Kate's semester in Spain and India's granddaughter Meredith's year in Zimbabwe, I suddenly realized that Kate was the age I had been when I first met India thirty-one years before, in Addis Ababa and that I was already older than India had been when we first met. Ruminating on these things, I felt so happy to be there, so complete, that I wished we three women could settle in together and experience the turning of the seasons, waiting for the miraculous sight of the desert in bloom.


Between the time we returned from Tucson in April of 1997 and her sudden death in mid-November, India and I corresponded regularly. So did India and Kate, but they corresponded in

Spanish, and more often. The last time I spoke with India, the week she became ill, we talked about organizing a reunion of the old Peace Corps gang.

The reunion we talked about never occurred, of course, and I regret that, because it would have been fascinating and so much fun. I regret, too, the fallow times of our friendship, which can never be recovered. But I will forever be grateful for that last visit, which was so rich and brought so many things full circle. Perhaps India knew that we would not see each other again. Before we left Tucson, she gave me two pieces of her Ethiopian gold jewelry, a lion charm and a ring.

A missed spirit


When I think about India, which I do often, I hear her husky, rich, almost raucous laugh. I hear her say, "Morris, I think you're neat!"

I remember the dull jangle of her gold bracelets, heavy with charms that told the story of her life. I miss her open-armed embrace of life, her adventure-some spirit and her passionate love of the African landscape and wildlife. The example she showed me of a vigorous, generous, inquisitive older woman will accompany me into my later years. She will always be a star in my firmament and a special link in my prayer chain. Sometimes I feel India's spirit and I smile and know that we will meet again. 

FYI

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

► There will be a "National Summit on Africa" in November of 1999 in Washington D.C.. During 1998 and early 1999 there will be regional summits in eight locations around the U.S. For more information, contact: The National Summit on Africa, The Ennis W. Cosby International House, 1218 16th St NW, Washington DC 20036; 800-934-3418, web site: 222.africasummit.org.

► **LARRY SIMMONS** (Nazareth 62-64) has ferreted out this information that may be helpful: Surface mail to Ethiopia — \$11.40 for 11 lb (which is the limit); UPS Air Special 10 kg box: \$170 for 22 lb (Addis Ababa address only); UPS Air Special 25 kg box: \$290 for 55 lb (Addis Ababa address only). 

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Want
to join this
fine group?

Would you like to be the "Reconnect" coordinator for E&ERPCVs? You would be responsible for responding to inquiries from recent RPCVs from Ethiopia and Eritrea about our group, re-entry, career issues — just about anything. This effort is a project of and is supported by the National Peace Corps Association and is headed up by Nedra Klee Hartzell, Reconnect coordinator. Contact Nedra for more information about the job at: Rpcvrcnct@aol.com or (202-526-4859). Contact Marian Beil if you would like to volunteer for the job.

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email: rpcvmem@aol.com
website: www.rpcv.org

It just doesn't fit!

Continued from page 18

flight was to depart, the Asmara airport was targeted by two raids by Ethiopian MiGs.

We were glad to be staying, but then after Saturday morning's raid on the airport, our departure seemed a possibility. After a tense day of mundane preparations, we flew out that night on one of two C130 military planes — an experience just like the movies! 

More of Laurie and Wayne's evacuation experiences will be told in the summer issue of WorldView, the magazine of the National Peace Corps Association.

RPCVs Laurie and Wayne Kessler have lived in Asmara since 1995, where Laurie teaches ESL at the university and other sites and Wayne is E&E RPCVs' enCORPS representative while developing business opportunities in the private sector. Laurie keeps us up-to-date on life there.



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THE HERALD

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

Contributing editor — John Barnes (66-68)

Those who have shared articles, ideas and efforts — Donald Beil (Somalia 64-66), 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), Cynthia Tse Kimberlin (Asmara 62-64), Frances Anderson Scura (Addis Ababa 1967-68). *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 digitally — via email or on disk (labeled as to software and computer used and with a hard copy). Any articles are most welcomed.

Photo submissions are also welcomed. They should be clear, with images large enough to be easily discerned. All photos will be returned.

\$40 Annual Dues (which include \$25 National Peace Corps Association membership dues)

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Please send to:

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Decoding the mailing label

The date on the upper right-hand corner of your mailing label indicates when your membership in ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs (E&E RPCVs) expires.

If it says "Expired," your membership has expired during the last three months. We hope that you will reup. A membership form can be found on the previous page.

If it says "Your name . . ." that means your name can be found somewhere in this newsletter. If you are an RPCV or were PC/staff we hope you will consider joining E&E RPCVs.

If it says "Trial #19" we thought you might be interested in seeing what E&E RPCVs does and in seeing our newsletter. Perhaps you'd like to join us?

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.

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