

THE HERALD

Winter 1999–2000 — Number 21, Part 2

A publication of Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs, an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association

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I AM TIRED — WE NEED A NEW EDITOR

by Marian Haley Beil (Debre Berhan 62–64)

After 10 years of editing *The Herald* I am burned-out. Each issue takes me longer and longer to get out — and I apologize for that. The material to review, summarize, and excerpt is mountainous. The hundreds of emails — no exaggeration — overwhelming. It seems that there is always the next issue hanging over my head. And it is now time for someone else to take over the publication of the newsletter.

There has been wonderful help — most notably John Barnes who prepares the summaries of the print news for the “News from the Horn.” John has been wonderful in his constancy. He has stayed committed to the task. He is always on the lookout for additional materials to prepare that he feels will be of interest to our members. And, he is a pleasure to work with. Thank you, John, for all of that.

Others have submitted stories, sent copies of articles of interest, shared

photos, done book reviews, written pieces on request. Thank you all.

The newsletter is extremely important to the group. It keeps us connected and informed. It enables all of you to know what is happening in our countries of Ethiopia and Eritrea. It helps generate excitement for our get-togethers. It salutes the efforts of those who have volunteered their time and talent to E&E RPCVs and the people of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Won't you consider taking over the editor/publisher's job? You can make an important contribution to our group — and perhaps several people will come forward who will share in the work.

I need someone to come forward and assume editorial and publishing responsibilities. Please contact me at: mhbeil@servtech.com
(You really do need email for the job!)

At the Peace Corps

Change in leadership at the Peace Corps

Gearan leaves the Peace Corps

On June 1, 1999 Director Mark Gearan announced that he was leaving the Peace Corps to become President of Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. Mark's tenure has been one of accomplishment, including leading the fight for funding to expand the Peace Corps to 10,000 Volunteers and establishing the Crisis Corps that sends experienced Volunteers and Returned Volunteers to work in crisis situations caused by natural disasters as well as those that are man-made.

Mark has been a great friend to the Returned Volunteer community, providing services, supporting national conferences, visiting groups throughout the country and always joining in on the conga-lines whenever the beat picked up in a performance of ethnic music at any gathering.

We will miss him and wish him all the best.

And a new director is named — finally

The following appeared in the weekly news update from the on-line news service Humanitarian Times of September 10:

"NEW PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR WILL BE LATIN AMERICAN SPECIALIST Mark Schneider, a long-term USAID coordinator of aid & relief to Central & South America. Despite Clinton's plan to expand the Peace Corps to over 10,000 volunteers, Congress is now preparing funding for fewer, closer to 7,000."

This appointment had been rumored to be in the works for some time and was also reported in a column by Al Kamen in *The Washington Post*.

Schneider served as a PCV in El Salvador (66-68). Consequently, this announcement should come as good news



Peace Corps Director
Mark Schneider

to many RPCVs who feel that the agency should be headed by a returned Volunteer. Their rationale — imagine the VA not being lead by a veteran!!

As of early November the

appointment had not been announced by the White House, but rumor said it was still alive.

► December — President Clinton utilized his "recess appointment" rights, and named Mark Schneider to the post of Peace Corps Director during the Congressional Christmas break.

► January 7 — Mark Schneider was sworn in as the second RPCV Peace Corps Director.

[go to the Peace Corps web site — www.peacecorps.gov— for the formal announcement of the appointment and a copy of Schneider's statement made during his swearing in.]

Talk about Y2K jitters

The Peace Corps urged Volunteers serving in Belize, Madagascar, Moldova, Mozambique, Slovakia, Zambia and Zimbabwe to return to their homes in the U.S. for the 2000 rollover.

Those in Jamaica, Nepal and Papua New Guinea were to be relocated. This in preparation for possible serious computer problems that could cut off food supplies, electricity, transportation and telephone service.

All Volunteers were provided with an preparation check list and emergency action plan. Some in areas where extreme weather was possible at that time of year were given sleeping bags, food, medical supplies and extra clothing.

Peace Corps Day 2000

from the Peace Corps

Join the 10,000 RPCVs expected to bring their spirit of service to schools across the nation on March 7, 2000. No matter how long ago you were a Volunteer, students are curious to learn about your host country's culture, customs, and languages. Take part in this special day and encourage young people to make a difference in the lives of others.

"Bring the world back home!" Contact Peace Corps TODAY to get a brochure with which to order a presentation kit that has tips on preparing your presentation, a poster with four folk tales, PC fact sheet, bookmarks to give the students, a sample press release, World Wise Schools info and how to locate a classroom in your community.

For more information and a brochure:

Call (800) 424-8580 press 2, then ext. 1961 (24 hours a day)

Send name and mailing address to: pcday@peacecorps.gov

Visit our website at www.peacecorps.gov (select Peace Corps Day from the menu)

Peace Corps Stamp unveiled

Press release and art from the Peace Corps

Washington, D.C., June 23, 1999 — At the Peace Corps' "Next Generation" celebration tonight at Georgetown University, a new stamp honoring the Peace Corps was unveiled. It is one of 15 new postage stamps that will be issued in September to commemorate the 1960s as part of the U.S. Postal Service's "Celebrate the Century" series.

"The Peace Corps stamp is a commemoration of the hard work and the ethic of service exhibited by the more than 152,000 Americans who have joined the Peace Corps since 1961," said Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan. "The stamp will go a long way in helping us raise awareness of our efforts to expand the number of volunteers to 10,000 by the year 2003."

Chosen by a public vote as one of the "most significant people, places, events, and trends" of the 1960s, the Peace Corps joins other honorees including Man Walks on the Moon, "I Have a Dream," The Vietnam War, The Beatles, Woodstock, Star Trek, Ford Mustang, and the Peace Symbol.

The stamp itself is a re-creation of a Norman Rockwell painting from his series on the Peace Corps completed during the 1960s. The painting is of a Peace Corps volunteer [MARC CLAUSEN (Dessie 62-65)] in Ethiopia, one of the countries Rockwell visited.



The 1960s stamps, including the Peace Corps stamp, will be issued together on a commemorative sheet and will be available for purchase in mid-September 1999. For more information, visit the Postal Service Web site at www.usps.com.

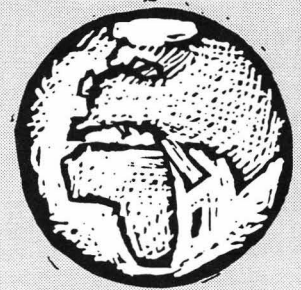
Be a career consultant to an RPCV

Returned Volunteer Services (RVS) at the Peace Corps, is in the process of updating the 2000 edition of the Career Information Consultants (CIC) directory. The CIC directory lists hundreds of career professionals willing to assist RPCVs with information about their particular career field. Consultants assist on a volunteer basis and cannot be reimbursed for expenses. If you would like to help out fellow RPCVs in their career pursuits, contact Elvira May at emay@peacecorps.gov. The deadline for responses is April 21, 2000.

Budget report

The appropriations bill for FY2000 signed by President Clinton in November allotted \$244 million to the Peace Corps — far short of the President's requested \$270 million that would have the Peace Corps on track to have 10,000 Volunteers in the field by 2003.

If you may recall, three years ago there was an effort to have the budget increased to over time to make it possible to have "10,000 by 2000." Unfortunately, the Congress has seen fit to cut every request that has come its way for this tiny program that has nationwide support, forcing the agency to just feel good that they are able to keep the status quo of 7,000 Volunteers overseas.



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

The Peace Corps program in Uganda was suspended in June.

In March Volunteers were moved from Macedonia as a result of the military action in Kosovo. In September the program was reopened.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

GROUP NEWS

Nancy Horn steps down from Steering Committee

Nancy Horn (Addis Ababa 66-68) has resigned from her positions as a member of the E&E RPCVs Steering Committee and co-executive director of project, enCORPS. Nancy moved to Zimbabwe in September to lead a brand new Southern Africa Microfinance Training Center. She will continue to be an employee of Opportunity International. During July and August, Nancy traveled to Zimbabwe to set up operations, and then returned to the US to pack up.

Nancy has served E&E RPCVs since 1994, and her efforts, knowledge, wisdom and warmth are already being missed.

Thank you, Nancy, for your fine contributions to our group, and for your friendship.

Do you want to be a member of the Steering Committee?

With Nancy's resignation, there is now a position open on the E&E RPCVs Steering Committee.

This is a dynamic group that has already completed some outstanding projects and continues to work on others. If you have energy, ideas and a strong belief in the power of Returned Volunteers, please consider applying for this position.

Candidate requirements:

- ▶ Must be a paying member of E&E RPCVs.
- ▶ Must be willing to take on tasks — not just give opinions on issues.
- ▶ Must have email. Because of the nature of our group — being spread

out all over the country. This is an absolute necessity as the Steering Committee does most of its communicating using this medium.

- ▶ Must be willing to attend annual meetings of the Steering Committee — usually held at national conferences. They are now held every two years. For off years a meeting site will be decided upon by the committee.
- ▶ Must be willing to pay all personal expenses to attend meetings including conference registration, travel, housing and food — as has been the case for all committee members since the founding of the organization.

Contact Marian Haley Beil if interested.

Two E&E RPCV members on the NPCA Board

In the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) general election held this summer, **LEO CECCHINI** (Asmara 62-64) was elected to a three-year term on the NPCA Board of Directors. Leo was elected as a Country-of-Service Representative (that's the kind of group E&E RPCVs is).

Then in August, at the Presidents' Forum held during NPCA conference in St. Paul, **JIM SOLOMON** (Massawa, Jimma 63-65), who is the president of NorCal [Northern California] Peace Corps Association, was elected to be the Presidents' Forum Coordinator for the next two years. As part of the duties of that position, Jim now is also a member of the NPCA Board.

Both Leo and Jim are members of the E&E RPCVs Steering Committee. Congratulations, gentlemen.

Wanted: Update Manager

The Steering Committee of E&E RPCVs has voted to launch a service to provide weekly email updates of news about Ethiopia and Eritrea.

A volunteer is needed to act as manager of the effort. Duties will include preparing brief summaries of news that comes from various sites on the web, sending out the weekly update to those for whom we have email addresses and forwarding any email address changes to the database manager. (These summaries will also become part of the "News from the Horn" for The Herald.)

This is a great way for you to develop an in-depth knowledge of current events in Ethiopia and Eritrea while performing a service for your fellow RPCVs. If you are interested in volunteering for this job, please contact Marian Haley Beil.

Thank you

Our thanks to the following who recently have made gifts to ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs:

Mark Lewis Brecker (Asmara 64-66)

Frances Williams Davidson (Addis Ababa, Debre Marcos 65-67)

Clare Shea (Debre Marcos 65-67)

Jon Triesault (Senafe, Eritrea; Addis Ababa 66-68)

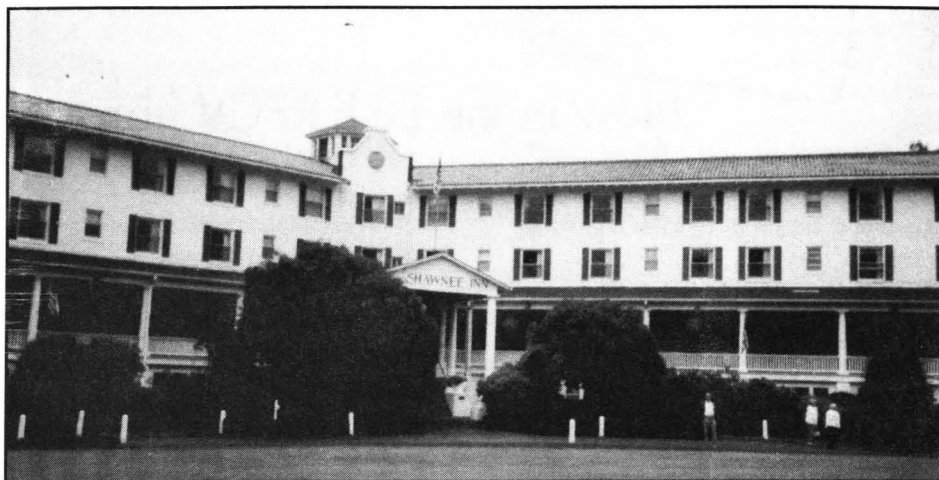
GROUP NEWS**The St. Paul Conference, August 1999**

Thanks to the efforts of Steering Committee member C.J. Castagnaro, E&E RPCVs had great attendance at the NPCA RPCV conference at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. In fact, there were more registrants from E&E RPCVs than from any other group. Forty-seven to be exact.

Thanks to Steve Chesebrough (Asmara 62-64) and Chuck Coskran (Addis Ababa 65-67) who made all arrangements for our update meeting as well as for the wonderful ethnic dinner.

At a presentation entitled "RPCVs and the Path to Peace" open to all conference attendees, Steering Committee member and leader of E&E RPCVs' Peace Initiative team, Leo Cecchini (Asmara 62-64), told of our group's efforts in trying to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea. John Garamendi (Metu, Illubabor 66-68) spoke of the efforts to achieve the same goal made by a team of five he led on a mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea. These two then spoke further on their efforts at our group's "Country Update" session and entertained questions from the many in attendance.

To see photos from the conference, go to our web site at: www.geocities.com/~eerpcv



The Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort

E&E RPCVs is getting together on the shores of the Delaware in August

From Sunday, August 13 to Tuesday, August 15, E&E RPCVs is having a "gathering" — we hesitate to call it a reunion as it will be much more casual than our BIG reunion at UCLA in 1998. It will be held at The Shawnee Inn at Shawnee-on-Delaware, PA — a resort on the Delaware River with (inhale deeply and see if you can say all of these in one breath): 27 holes of golf, indoor ice skating at the NHL sized rink, tennis on lighted courts, basketball, shuffleboard, bocci ball, volleyball, canoeing, rafting, tubing, bike riding, miniature golf, hiking, horseback riding, golf driving range, indoor and outdoor swimming, game room, planned activities, professional theater, shopping at the Crossing Outlets and more...

E&E RPCVs has been given special rates — \$90 PER ROOM (1 or 2 persons) per night, including full breakfast.

If you would like to get a sense of the place, visit their website at www.shawneeinn.com

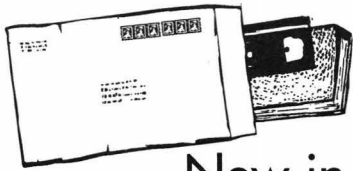
The Inn is centrally located and very handy to many in the Northeast. Some mileage to the inn: Pittsburgh — 315 miles, Boston, MA — 300 miles; Philadelphia — 100 miles; New York, NY — 75 miles; Washington, DC — 200 miles.

If you would like to help in any way in the preparations, contact our Reunion Chair C.J. Castagnaro, 3642 North Garey #1, Pomona CA 91767-1100, 909/392-9734, cjsmithc@earthlink.net

There will be a mailing later in the year with more details, but mark your calendar now for the dates and grab an opportunity to relax and get together with old friends.

Might want to begin putting together a foursome or two!

GROUP NEWS



New in the E&E RPCV library

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs has a growing library of materials including books, booklets, articles, videos, audio tapes, maps, and slides that may be of interest to you.

Items can be borrowed by members for no charge by contacting our librarian, Joe Ciuffini (Harar 64-66), 188 Cabot St, Newton MA 02158, phone: 617/244-0463, email: jmcicuffini@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.

► **Primers with depth and balance**

Wayne Kessler (Adi Teclesan 64-66) wrote: "There is an RPCV from The Gambia (90-92) named Marc Michaelson who is a Institute of Current World Affairs (ICWA) Fellow living and writing in Addis. He is currently visiting Eritrea for the third time. He writes monthly *ICWA LETTERS: Sub-Saharan Africa* that are published by the ICWA. He writes well and gives a sensitive account of the problems of both countries."

E&E RPCVs has added these 12-page newsletters, that include maps and photos, to its library and they are highly recommended to those interested in an in-depth, lucid, current look at Ethiopia and Eritrea and their conflict.

MM-1 "Religious Threads: An Airport, A Mini-Bus and Epiphany," February,

1998. First impressions of Addis; a trip to Debre Zeit; Timket celebration

MM-► "Deportations: Personalized Escalation of the Ethiopian-Eritrean Border Conflict" September, 1998. Personal stories of Eritreans who were deported from Ethiopia when the war broke out; the long-term impact of the deportations.

MM-4 "The Eritrean-Ethiopian Border Conflict: Part 1- Events" October, 1998. The facts of the war to that date from both perspectives.

MM-5 "The Eritrean-Ethiopian Border Conflict: Part 2- Explanations" November, 1998. What are the causes of the war - from both perspectives.

MM-6 "An Excursion to Asmara (via Djibouti, of course)" December, 1998. First impressions of Djibouti and Asmara; Eritrea and its government.

MM-7 "Recognizing Somaliland" January, 1999. The "invisible state" of the Republic of Somaliland - the northern portion of Somalia that broke away and established itself as a nation, in contrast to the no-government south.

MM-8 "Assab: Surviving Trying Times in Port" January, 1999. A close look at the Eritrean city whose port is idle, whose population is diminished with the departure of many Ethiopians who lived there, whose future is tenuous and yet its residents of both nationalities "manage to stay largely above the fray."

MM-9 "Peace Fails, War Resumes-Why?" February, 1999. Vitriolic propaganda, huge arms build-up, renewed fighting. Some suggestions for mediators.

MM-10 "Glimpses of a Fellow's Life" March 1999. Classic letter home; a look at life with the family with whom he shares a compound.

MM-11 "Condoms, Konso, and Colobus Monkeys" May, 1999. On the road in southern Ethiopia with some condom salesmen.

MM-12 "Value-Added Recycling" June 1999. A tour of Addis' merkato that includes visits with ingenious recyclers who produce stoves from oil cans, lanterns from tin cans and sandals (*barbaso*) from tires.

[For more information about the Institute of Current World Affairs and its fellows program: email: ICWA@valley.net; website: www.icwa.org; phone: 603-643-5548; fax: 603-643-9599.]

► **Articles**

- "King Menelik of Ethiopia" by W.T. Stead from the *Cosmopolitan Magazine* of July, 1903 (not a typo, 1903) Pictures (engraved) and text make for a delightful article. (8 pages)

- Section of a book, *THREE TICKETS TO TIMBUKTU* (listed with the Library of Congress as *THREE PASSPORTS TO ADVENTURE*) by Halla Linker, Doubleday, 1961. The Linker family travels. They stopped in Ethiopia and these two chapters relate their visit with the Emperor, etc. (20 pages)

- Report entitled "Women in Ethiopia", by the National Office of Population, dated August, 1999. Among the findings: "Harmful practices such as early marriage, female genital mutilation, harmful practices during pregnancy and

GROUP NEWS

childbirth contribute to the poor health of women. High fertility exacerbates the health situation. With a total fertility of nearly eight children per woman, women face a chance of about 1 in 8 to dies from maternal causes. However, a conducive policy environment is being created for women in Ethiopia today. The constitution has guaranteed them equal rights with men Efforts are being made to incorporate gender issues in various development programmes". (50 pages) [from Frances Scurra via John Barnes]

- "A deadly family feud: Conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia reveals a continent's tensions" and "Hope held hostage: Eritrea's future is mired in bloodshed of Ethiopian conflict" by John Donnelly, from the Boston Globe, late August, based on travel he did in Eritrea. Has mention of E&E RPCVs member Wayne Kessler. [Sent by Mike McCaskey and John Barnes]

- "Postal Service gives Ontario teacher stamp of approval" *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* (9/24/99); "The man on a stamp" *Claremont Courier* (9/25/99); "Posting history" *The Los Angeles Times*. Interviews and background on Marc Clausen and his appearance on the Peace Corps stamp based on an illustration by Norman Rockwell. [Sent by C] Castagnaro]

- "Africa's Great Rift" by Curt Stager, Photographs by Chris Johns, *National Geographic*, May 1990. 40 pages informative article with many wonderful photos — many from Ethiopia.

- "Djibouti, Tiny New Nation on Africa's Horn," Picture Story by Marion Kaplan, *National Geographic*, October 1978. 17 pages. Did you visit there? With some interesting historic maps.

- "Ethiopia — Revolution in an Ancient Empire," article and photos by Robert

Caputo. *National Geographic*, May 1983, 30 pages. More great photos and text.

- "Eritrea: Region in Rebellion" photographs and text by Anthony Suau, *National Geographic*, September 1985, 22 pages. The life of the rebels and the cause for which they fought.

- "Sidelined on Human Rights: America Bows Out" by Kenneth Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, *Foreign Affairs* March/April 1998, 5 pages.

- "Africa's New Bloc" by Dan Connell and Frank Smyth, *Foreign Affairs* March/April 1998, 14 pages.

- "Wherever That Town Is, Someone Will Die for It" by Ian Fisher, *The New York Times*, Sunday, March 14, 1999, page 16. It includes a summary of the major treaties that have been referenced in the setting of the boundary between Ethiopia and Eritrea and discussion of how each side interprets them.

► Booklets

- *Women's Studies Catalogue* printed for the Africa World Press and The Red Sea Press.

- *IES Bulletin: A Quarterly Publication of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University*, Issue Nos. 15 & 16. Sent by the American Friends of the IES, who are working to preserve the culture of Ethiopia including art and artifacts, historic structures, language. For more information, and to support their efforts contact Martha Henze, PO Box 65684 Washington DC 20035-5684.

► Books

- *THE BJORKLAND LEGACY (A SERIES ..) PHILANTH AT 25* This tome was a gift to every Peace Corps Volunteer and Staff in 1995 by the author, Betty Ladd Halliwell, Ph.D., Pribiloff Press, 1995. I

suggest that you read this for yourself rather than adopt a reviewers take. [Donated by Joe Ciuffini]

- *BJORKLUND'S DAUGHTER* by Betty Ladd Halliwell, Ph.D., Pribiloff Press, 1995. [Donated by Joe Ciuffini]

- *MAKING A DIFFERENCE: THE PEACE CORPS AT TWENTY-FIVE* edited by Milton Viorst with a Foreword by President Ronald Regan, NY: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1986. [Donated by Joe Ciuffini]

- *THE ROAD FROM HERE: LIBERALISM AND REALITIES IN THE 1980'S* by Paul Tsongas (Ghion 62-64), Knopf, 1981. [Donated by Joe Ciuffini]

- *THE PEACE CORPS: KINDLERS OF THE SPARK* by Edna McGuire , Macmillan, 1966. This is a good "first book" about the Peace Corps and readable from the middle school through adult. In retrospect, life was simple then.

- *TO ASMARA* by Thomas Keneally, Warner Books, 1989, paperback. Signed by the author in 1995. [Donated by C]. Castagnaro.]

- *PERFECT QUESTIONS, PERFECT ANSWERS: CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN HIS DIVINE GRACE, A. C. BHAKTIVDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA AND BOB COHEN, A PEACE CORPS WORKER IN INDIA*, by Bob Cohen (India 71-72), NY: Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 1977.

- *MUD STOVES & STRAWBERRY JAM: A PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCE* by Sally Morrissey (Guatemala 83-85), The Royal Paul Press, 1994. Guatemalan experiences, insights and appreciations.

- *THE WORLD OF CHILD 6 BILLION* a presentation kit to provide support for giving talks about basic world issues linked to population such as air and water quality, nutrition, housing, education, and health care. Includes slides for a presentation. (2 copies provided by the National Peace Corps Assoc.)

MORE ►

GROUP NEWS

► **Magazines**

- Peace Corps *Volunteer* magazine

Volume 1 #7, May, 1963

Volume 1, #12, October, 1963

Volume 2, #3, January, 1964

Volume 2, #4 February, 1964

► **Maps** (If interested, Badime is on Ethiopian maps and not on the Eritrean map.)

- Ethiopia/Eritrea/Djibouti (1:2,500 000) Cartographia, 1996; 27" x 35" with inserts of Addis, Local Fauna, Awash National Park and shading for topology.

- Ethiopia (1:2,000,000) International Travel, 1998; 27" x 39" with inserts of pictures and brief history and lines and shading for topology.

- Eritrea (1:9,000,000) International Travel, 1997; 27" x 39" with inserts of pictures and brief history and lines and shading for topology.

► **Video**

- Ethiopian Tourism Commission (1 hour 40 minutes). This is a collage of various dances from the different areas of Ethiopia. Tends to be tedious when you can't get out on the floor and dance! [Donated by Joe Ciuffini]

- Ethiopian Tourist Video done by a British Production company (probably for a travel office). The narration is clean and generally accurate but the video quality is not great. (I suspect that the conversion between the European video format and the US format is the source of the problem. On the other hand, this is a copy done by Ethio-Sound in Washington, DC and it may be many generations old.) [Donated by Joe Ciuffini]

New at

Location: <http://www.geocities.com/~eerpcv>

► In an effort to facilitate reconnecting with old friends, E&E RPCVs has posted at our website a listing of every RPCV on our database listed by training group — click on the "E & E Training Groups" button. With each RPCV name is an indicator that tells if we have current contact information (address, phone, email) for the person or not. Check the list. If you'd like to reconnect, contact the database manager (email shown) for the contact information.

If you have corrections, additions, or contact information that will increase the accuracy of the listing, please send it to the database manager.

► **MICHAEL SANTARELLI's** moving "Amongst the Gurage"—the telling of his return to Gura after 27 years. An excerpt appears in this issue of *The Herald* beginning on page 15.

"Amongst the Gurage" is the first in a new feature at our site called "Our Stories." If you have a story about your Peace Corps service you would like to share through our site, send it to webmaster Dennis Ekberg at dekberg@teleport.com

► The *Addis Tribune* has been running a wonderful series of articles, "Travels in Ethiopia," by John Graham (jgraham@telecom.net.et) that the *Tribune* has posted on the internet. The articles take you all over Ethiopia and are quite detailed, providing history as well as description of sites and retelling

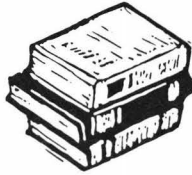
of experiences along the way. RPCVs should find them to be a fabulous tour of places they have been — in some cases, many years ago. (Those who lived in Harar should be especially pleased, as Graham describes that city as "The most pleasant city to visit in Ethiopia.")

You can find links to all of these articles at our site: click on the "Ethiopia Info" button and you will find a link listed there to a page with the titles of all of the article and their links.

► **JOE CIUFFINI** writes: "One of the Ethiopian members of the EEDN (Ethiopian Electronic Distribution Network) asked me for a copy of a short article I had done on books about Ethiopia. In fact, she was interested in children's books, so . . . I wrote two pieces.

The first, a general article on how to find books on the net, how to search, library help, etc. The second is a listing of books for children about Ethiopia — to read to a non-reader, for a first reader, juvenile, etc." This is a great resource to use for gifts, and to use for presentations in schools — Great for a Peace Corps Day presentation! (It's March 7 this year, you know.)

These two items are now posted at the E&E RPCV web site: on the home page click on the "Ethiopia Info" button. You will see both articles in the listings on that page.



BOOK NOTES

► **JOHN WOODS** (Jimma 65-68) writes: I went there to hear Abraham Varghese read from his book *The Tennis Partner*. He is Indian and was born and raised in Addis Ababa. He now is a doctor practicing in El Paso, Texas and wrote about his friendship with another young doctor who died of drug addiction, apparently more common among physicians than we might expect.

► For 10 years, the newsletter **RPCV Writers & Readers** promoted, encouraged and recognized Peace Corps writers. The 6 issues each year contained book reviews, interviews, essays, news items, notices of writing opportunities and a listing of newly published books. In November, 1998 publication of the newsletter was halted because of a diminishing subscription base. The newsletter is now back - on the web with a new name - PeaceCorpsWriters.org. Editor **JOHN COYNE** (Addis Ababa 62-64) and site designer **MARIAN HALEY BEIL** invite you to visit and discover the literature spawned by the Peace Corps experience.

► **ERIC TORGERSEN's** (64-66) *Dear Friend: Ranier Maria Rilke and Paula Modersohn* Northwestern University Press, 1998, \$29.95 276 pages was reviewed in the July, 1999 issue of PeaceCorpsWriters.org. (Look for the title under "Reviews" in the Site Index.)

► **KATHLEEN COSKRAN** (Addis Ababa, Dilla 65-67), **JOHN COYNE** and **KATHLEEN MOORE** (Emdeber 64-66) were among the RPCV authors who read from their works at the 1999 RPCV conference in St. Paul in August. Coskran read "Sun" from *LIVING ON THE EDGE: FICTION BY PEACE CORPS WRITERS*

[Curbstone Press, 1999]; Coyne read from his in-the-works *CHICAGO CLUB* and Moore read "Returning" from *AN INN NEAR KYOTO: WRITING BY AMERICAN WOMEN ABROAD* [New Rivers Press, 1998] as well as "Shint Betch" which appears on the next page.

► See about **JOE CIUFFINI's** articles on how to search for books by subject and a listing of children's books about Ethiopia in "New at <http://www.geocities.com/~eerpcv>." (page 8)

► **RICHARD LIPEZ'** (Debre Marcos, Addis Ababa 62-64) most recent book is *STRACHEY'S FOLLY: A DONALD STRACHEY MYSTERY* by Richard Stevenson, St. Martin's Press, \$22.95, 216 pages.

New books of interest available from amazon.com with subjects including Ethiopia or Eritrea

► *THE PARADOX OF AFRICA'S POVERTY: THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS - THE CASE OF ETHIOPIA* by Tirfe Mammo, Red Sea Press, 321 pages; \$79.95 hardcover (June 1999) ISBN: 1569020485; \$21.95 paperback (March 1999) ISBN: 1569020493

► *ESCAPE* by Mona Dunckel, Mary Ann Lumm (Illustrator), Bob Jones University

Press; \$6.49 Hardcover (January 1999), ISBN: 1579240682

► *HELIODORUS: AN ETHIOPIAN ROMANCE* translated by Moses Hadas \$17.95 paperback - 277 pages (March 1999) University of Pennsylvania Press; ISBN: 0812216725

► *FIRE FROM THE ASHES: A CHRONICLE OF THE REVOLUTION IN TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA, 1975-1995* by Jenny Hammond \$29.95 paperback - 348 pages (June 1999) Red Sea Press; ISBN: 1569020876

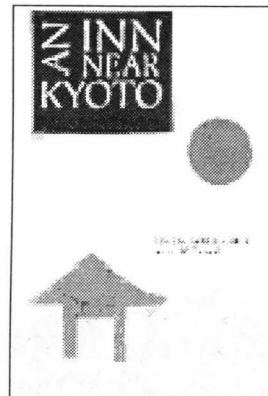
► *ETHIOPIA (FESTIVALS OF THE WORLD)* by Elizabeth Berg, (Juvenile literature) Gareth Stevens Pub., \$21.27; ISBN: 0836820320

► *THE MOON IS BREAD* by Naomi Shemuel (subject-Ethiopian Jews); Gefen Books, October 1999; \$14.95; 192 pages; ISBN: 9652292125

► *CREATION SECRETS OF THE DOGON SHAMAN, THE STAR SIRIUS AND THE NEW AGE PROPHECIES* by Anthony K. Andoh; \$27.95; North Scale Inst Pub; December 1999; 160 pages; ISBN: 0916299619

► *GREATER ETHIOPIA* by Donald N. Levine; \$18.00; University of Chicago Press; September 1999; 230 pages; ISBN: 0226475611

► *FIRE IN THE NIGHT: WINGATE OF BURMA, ETHIOPIA, AND ZION* by John Bierman, Colin Smith (Random House, 2000), \$29.95, hardcover, 352 pages ISBN: 0375500618



Living on the Edge Fiction by Peace Corps Writers

Edited by John Coyne

(Addis Ababa 1962–64)

Curbstone Press, \$17.95

May, 1999

317 pages

Contributors: Mark Brazaitis (Guatemala 1991–93), **KATHLEEN**

COSKRAN (Ethiopia 1965–67), **John**

Coyne, Eileen Drew (Zaire 1979–

81), Leslie Simmonds Ekstrom

(Nigeria 1963–65), John Givens

(Korea 1967–69), Marla Kay

Houghteling (Sierra Leone 1968–70),

Mark Jacobs (Paraguay 1968–70),

Karl Luntta (Botswana 1977–80),

Terry Marshall (Philippines 1965–

67), Marnie Mueller (Ecuador 1963–

65)), George Packer (Togo 1982–

83), Joan Richter (Kenya staff spouse

1965–67), Norman Rush (Botswana

staff 1978–83), Bob Shacochis (East

Caribbean 1975), Melanie Sumner

(Senegal 1988–90), Paul Theroux

(Malawi 1963–65)

Curbstone Press, \$17.95

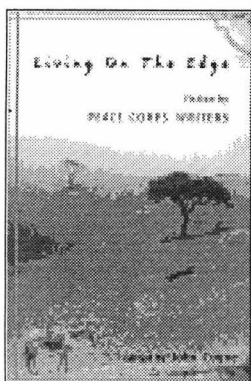
Reviewed by *Patricia Crepeau (Dessie 63–65)*

People join the Peace Corps for many different reasons. The most obvious ones are to provide help, to travel and/or to experience another culture. But sometimes the reasons for volunteering are unclear, even to the volunteers themselves. Several stories in John Coyne's anthology *Living on the Edge: Fiction by Peace Corps Writers* explore these subconscious motivations.

In "White Lies," Paul Theroux examines the idea of re-creating the self. Jerry Benda lives a double life — a charming and respected teacher during the week and a paramour on the weekend. Lies,

deception and impatience compound and ultimately result in a hygienic twist of fate, which leaves him with painful boils and in psychological turmoil.

Independence and self-discovery are the themes in Mark Jacobs' "The Egg Queen Rises." While living in Paraguay, a young, pregnant volunteer quits the



Peace Corps and, together with a local woman, starts an egg business. The locals kill her chickens and sabotage her motorcycle because she is taking business away from them. As she struggles to outwit the

authorities who want to deport her, she comes to the realization of why she is in Paraguay.

The volunteer in John Givens' "On the Wheel of Wandering On" makes a very different kind of discovery. In the peaceful and spectacular scenery of a remote area of Korea, she discovers that she has no desire to help anyone and spends her time peacefully in a Buddhist nunnery.

Due to cross-cultural differences, volunteers often have pondered the consequences of even their well-meaning intentions. Kathleen Coskran explores this dilemma in "Sun." A local woman and her teenage daughter befriend an unhappy American photographer. The daughter, "swathed in chiffon from ankle to chin bone," desires a miniskirt. Although the American has no "mini" to share, she does give the girl small gifts — cosmetics, a Beatles tape. These small, seemingly innocent gifts result in tragic consequences.

The cross-cultural mores of sex are explored in Joan Richter's "The Ones Left Behind." In this tragic tale, Tetu, on the advice of his white employer, goes with his wife to a clinic and receives birth control information that leads to catastrophe.

A more comic look at sex and cross-cultural differences occurs in Norman Rush's "Alone in Africa." In this comedy of errors, a civil servant is left to fend for himself while his wife is on holiday. The attempt of a young neighborhood girl to seduce him is short-circuited by the arrival of his nosey next-door neighbor.

Two of the 17 stories deal with the always-present swarm of young, African boys who want to serve as guides for foreigners.

In Melanie Sumner's "The Guide," a young white woman on holiday in a remote region of Senegal decides to visit some cliffs. A young boy assigns himself as her guide. She continually attempts to shun him, but he is insistent and follows her up into the caves. Angered by her rejection, he takes his revenge.

In "On Sundays There Might Be Americans" by Leslie Simmonds Ekstrom, a young African boy travels from his village to a distant market each Sunday. He hopes to attach himself to an American because "Americans would pay 10 to 20 times what anything was worth, and then they'd give you a tip so foolish you could buy food and a pair of sandals on the same day. Even when his resourcefulness is fruitless, he consoles himself that "Americans come every Sunday."

One of the book's most delightful stories is Terry Marshall's "American Model," set in the Solomon Islands. A teenage girl meets Robert Kincaid of the fictional *THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY*. "He is rugged, like Clint Eastwood in the



cinema," she muses. When Kincaid poses the young girl as a model for his *National Geographic* photographs, no cultural bridges are built, only customs broken and gossip aroused.

As Coyne point out in the introduction, Peace Corps volunteers "don't just pass through foreign countries, They unpack their belongings, they settle down, they set about to do a job. And they write." In these beautifully crafted stories what they write will not only take you to faraway places, but will give you a glimpse of the American Peace Corps' submersion into a variety of different cultures.

This review appeared in the July, 25, 1999 issue of the Orlando Sentinel under the title "Peace Corps Workers Also Write" and is reprinted here with the permission of the reviewer.

Ethiopia Reaches Her Hand Unto God

Imperial Ethiopia's Unique Symbols, Structures and Rôle in the Modern World

By Gregory R. Copley

With a Foreword by His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie
Published by Defense & Foreign Affairs, Part of the International Strategic Studies Association
P.O.Box 20407
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Paperback \$28.50
Hardback \$45.00, 247 pages

Reviewed by John Coyne

Gregory Copley, who is Australian, served as strategic advisor to Haile Selassie I's son Asfa Wossen, crowned Amha Selassie I in exile. Prince Ermias

Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, a nephew of the crown prince, wrote the foreword to this curious book that details the ribbons and medallions worn by the late Emperor.

In 70-plus black-and-white and color photographs, Copley explains the significance of each of the royal ribbons. It is, the author says, the most complete documentation of the decorations, ranks and orders His Majesty was awarded throughout his lengthy tenure as Ethiopia's head of state.

For those of us who lived in the Empire, and viewed the royal family from afar, this book offers an explanation of the titles, seals, shields, crests, medallions, decorations and symbols of state of the late, great King of Kings.

The book also includes a biography of Haile Selassie I.

Copley is a supporter of the tradition of kings in Ethiopia, the royal line of David in particular. He argues for the restoration of the monarchy, and in the last chapter Copley makes the point that the royal family should have a place in the current government of the country. (In the book, he also states that Haile Selassie's bones were discovered in Ethiopia, but British scientists have since released DNA evidence proving the bones were not Selassie's.)

The book's bio states that Copley founded in 1982, with Dr. Stefan T. Possony, the International Strategic Studies Association, a worldwide NGO for professionals involved in strategic policy. Copley has edited, since 1976, the regularly-published "Defense & Foreign Affairs Handbook," a 1,500 page book, plus encyclopaedia, which has detailed chapters on every country, colony and territory in the world.

Whatever Copley's political beliefs, or dreams of restoring the royal family to the Ethiopian throne, his book does give anyone, with even the slightly interest in the royal family, the last word in the "Imperial Ethiopia's unique symbols, structures and role in the modern world." Where else will we find the significance of terms like Ras and Dejazmatch described, as well as appendices that outline the descent of the Ethiopian crown from the Prophet Mohammed to the Haile Selassie's grandson.

ETHIOPIA REACHES HER HAND UNTO GOD is a necessary reference to those studying the Horn of Africa. For the rest of us, the book is both a trip down memory lane, and a quick explanation of all those titles (and medals) that the little man wore with such grace and dignity.



A "must-see"

Endurance

A movie produced by Walt Disney
83 minutes

Reviewed by John Barnes

This movie is the story of Ethiopia's long distance runner, Haile Gebre Selassie, who won the Olympic gold medal in Atlanta for the 10,000 meter event. This is a must-see movie for returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Ethiopia because 90% of the film shows many of the uniquely Ethiopian events interwoven into Haile's family life that we vividly remember, even after all these years. Examples are baking injera, the daily trek for water, bargaining for an ox at the market, plowing scenes with oxen, harvesting scenes and family life inside a tukul. One of the few breaks from the daily routine of hard work was when the men and boys were able to attend an Oromo horse-riding festival and were singing songs to praise God during the harvesting of grain. The women are always working to support the men and the children. The solidifying presence of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is felt during services of baptism, and during a heart-wrenching family funeral service. Prayer becomes a part of daily life when life is lived on a day-to-day subsistence level. Haile would run 6 miles to school - only to be physically punished when he arrived late. The dark, overcrowded classroom scene is certain to bring back many memories.

Haile and his family members play themselves which causes the dialogue to be stilted at times, but this is not our concern. There is a confrontational drama when Haile tells his father and brothers of his decision to leave the family farm to pursue his dream of a track career in the big city of Addis

Ababa. An arranged date with a young lady in Addis is amusing because of its woodenness, but we are focusing on the beautiful scenes in the background, trying to recognize those places - especially in Addis Ababa-where Haile goes to live with a brother and to train with a track team. The worn steps of Seba Dereja,, Entoto Mountain, Churchill Road, the Mercato, the new hotels, the former Jubilee Palace and even those blue Fiat taxis which are still on the streets - these scenes, part of our memories for the past 30 years, have been retrieved for us in a 90-minute flashback parade of what Ethiopian life was to those of us who were lucky enough to have served there in a grand time of relative peace and national unity.

A cultural experience

Adwa

An African Victory

Filmmaker Haile Gerima
95 minutes

Reviewed by Phil Lilienthal
(Addis Ababa 65-67)

Editor's note: Recently E&E RPCVs sent an email notice to those living in the DC area about the U.S. premier of "Adwa," a film by Haile Gerima, the filmmaker, who was born in Gondar and has been making films in the U.S. for 20 years."

I don't imagine that the "Adwa" will have a long or wide run, but going to it is a cultural experience. It's as if we were transported to be among the best and the brightest in Addis Ababa (no crowds could have formed that big in any other place). Despite the rain and the single ticket seller at the box office (whose shift changed 5 minutes before

the movie went on and the new person had to do a re-count of all the money), the mood of the crowd was festive and the reception of the film was superb.

Haile Gerima, as is his fashion, was there after the film to comment and handle questions in a patient and loving way.

The restored Lincoln Theatre was a beautiful showcase for this film about an Ethiopian epic.

The only thing absent at the 6:30 pm show on Sunday night were recognizable Ethi RPCVs.

[Editor's note: Other films to watch for:

▶ *Tumult* by Yemane I Demissie (Girgir, 1997, 117 min. Set in 1960 in Ethiopia during an aborted coup d'etat against Haile Selassie, *Tumult* was shot in southern California and features performances by members of the LA Ethiopian community.

▶ *The Dream Becomes Reality* by Eva Egensteiner, 1995, on video. Eritrean women veterans of the liberation war reflect on women's status in contemporary Eritrean society.

▶ Premiered at "Africana Cinema" during the Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York was *Little Brother, Little Sister*, by Belinda Mason [55 min. (Australia)]. In it a middle-class Australian family with one biological child and one adopted child from Papua New Guinea embarks on a journey to Ethiopia to welcome two orphaned children into the fold. The video traces the story, from the family's first encounter with the weary Ethiopian orphans to the children's gradual transition to new parents, language, and culture.]



SHINT BETOCH (Bathrooms)

by Kathleen M. Moore (1964-66)

WHEN WE GOT SICK IN Emdeber, it was always the same thing, dysentery. It became a way of life, going to the *shint-bet* (outhouse) all the time, wondering if you were really sick and if you should do anything about it, wondering if you'd ever be "normal" again and not remembering what "normal" was.

Going to the bathroom was something that took a lot of our time and attention. It wasn't too bad if you were at any of the volunteers' homes because at least there was a place to go. Jack's was the most primitive, just a shallow hole in his yard with a board over it. In the rainy season when the earth turned to mud, it was easy to lose your footing and almost slip into the hole. None of us ever did. At least, none of us ever admitted we did.

David and Nancy's outhouse was a bit unpleasant during the rainy season, also. They had a regular outhouse building, a two-seater with toilet seats on it, all the comforts of home. When it rained, however, the hole filled with water from some underground source and smelled awful. David had thought it possible to dig a well on his compound when they had first arrived and he paid some Guragi men a great deal of money to keep digging deeper and deeper, convinced they would hit water if they just went deep enough or dug in the right spot. He had three very deep and very dry holes in his front yard before he gave up and told them to stop. None of those holes ever got a drop of water in them during the rainy season.

Only their *shint-bet* hole filled almost to the brim every day for three months.

Phil had a decorator *shint-bet*. A Picasso print hung at sitting down eye level; a magazine rack was filled with erudite periodicals; his telescope was set up for night time stargazing during those long and lonely hours spent in the *shint-bet* instead of in bed.

On weekends, I shared my *shint-bet* with a chicken or a rooster, purchased by my boys at the Friday market but not destined for supper until Sunday. We couldn't kill it ahead of time or it would spoil and we couldn't let it run around the compound or the hyenas would get it at night. So the boys tied a long string to one of its legs and the other end around the center post of the *shint-bet*. Once it realized it couldn't get away, the bird would perch contentedly on my closed toilet seat until its time had come. I never watched the boys cut the heads off. After being so intimate with it, I couldn't bear to see it killed.

One weekend, the rain was especially hard and my dysentery was trying to keep up with it. I got up about three in the morning and rushed for the outhouse, not taking the time to grab my flashlight, just sliding over the half-stone half-mud path. I barely had time to sit down on what I thought was my open toilet seat. What I actually sat on was my sleeping rooster, nestled snugly on the rim of the hole. Shocked into awareness, he tried to fly, to bite me and to crow all at the same time. Having forgotten about the rooster, I was more than startled by the move-

ment and noise emanating from my toilet seat. I leaped into the air, screamed at the top of my lungs, and raced out of there, my pajamas around my ankles. The boys sleeping in their little hut just outside my fence woke up as did my landlord's entire family. There they stood in the moonlight around my compound door, asking me what had happened, was I all right, and to open the door and let them in. When I regained my composure and my pajama bottoms, I had to open the door and stand there while they searched the compound for hyenas or other living spirits capable of frightening me so. Finding only the rooster in the outhouse, they laughed mercilessly and I knew that next morning every student would have heard the story before I even got to school.

Those were the good places to go to the bathroom. There was only one other *shint-bet* in Emdeber and no one used it. It was a large, round outhouse in back of the school close to the woods. Since there were no windows, it was dark and smelly inside, the only light being close to the door. The littlest children were afraid to go very far inside so they crouched by the doorway and did what they had to do. The other children would not go in for fear of stepping in the little piles near the door. So the students and the teachers went out in the woods. We Peace Corps waited till lunch time and then ran for home and our own *shint-bets*.

Traveling and visiting were serious problems. There simply were no *shint-*

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*bet*s at all and often not even a skinny eucalyptus tree to hide behind. Ethiopian women wore full-skirted dresses and crouched at the side of the road talking to each other, their dresses hiding whatever else they might be doing. I couldn't bring myself to do that. When we visited a great Sheik in a nearby village for his annual festival and there were thousands of people everywhere, I could find no place to go where I wouldn't be seen. I had chosen that one time to wear my red jeans since it just didn't seem practical to wear a dress to walk that distance and stay over night. It was a big mistake. The jeans caused quite a stir as we walked toward the village. Travelers coming from places other than Emdeber, where they hadn't seen white people since the Italian invasion, stared and stared at me trying to figure out if I was wand or set (man or woman). Finally, one woman couldn't stand it anymore and came over and touched my breasts. Satisfied, she told everyone and they lost interest in me.

But once there, where to go? I waited as long as I could and then asked Mulugeta, what could I do? He spoke to the Sheik who offered me the use of his generator shed. I felt a little awkward about it. Didn't someone have to come in there once in a while to turn the generator on or off? And wouldn't they be offended to find it had been used as a bathroom? No, no, I was assured, this was quite all right. Since there seemed no other alternative, I asked Mulugeta to stand by the door and not let anyone come near while I was in there. Foolishly, I trusted him. I should have known that a man would not fully appreciate my modesty about this perfectly ordinary bodily function. He saw an old friend and left his post to go and talk with him, unbeknownst to me. While I crouched in a rather uncomfortable position, my red jeans around my

ankles and my white behind fully exposed, an Ethiopian man walked in, stood stock still and stared at me, his mouth open in wonder. My face turned as red as my jeans but at the moment there was nothing I could do. I never forgave Mulugeta for abandoning me there and I didn't go to the bathroom again until we got back to Emdeber.

Strange as it may seem, love can sometimes get involved with this process of elimination. There was certainly love at work when David and Jack and Phil made the throne for Abba's outhouse when the Bishop came to visit. Some doctor had to love his work to discover my urinary track

This kind of love gets mixed up with everything and changes the meaning and the value of what we do.

infection and end the excruciating pain I was suffering. The villagers had to love us not to laugh themselves silly at the deep holes we had dug behind our houses and then had little houses built over those holes! If we ever thought anything they did was odd, we only had to remember our outhouses to get an inkling of how bizarre we must have seemed to them. But they loved us anyway.

Dysentery and its related hardships were so common among us that when we asked each other, "How are you?" we got a lengthy recital of the day's

activities in the *shint-bet*. WE listened and laughed and commiserated with one another. Only love would do that. Not sentimental, romantic love but hard-nosed, daily-grind, responsible love. Love that changes diapers and empties bedpans. Love that risks ridicule by telling your landlord over and over to dig a hole away from the crops and keep it covered. Love that will put a drop of urine on a microscope slide and force a reluctant student to look at it. This kind of love gets mixed up with everything and changes the meaning and the value of what we do. A place like Emdeber puts everything in perspective. You come away knowing what matters and what doesn't.

Kathleen read Shint Betoeh during the sessions "Peace Corps Writers Read from Their Works: at the 1999 National Peace Corps Association Conference in St. Paul. It is printed here with her permission.



MY TUKUL 27 YEARS LATER

by Michael Santarelli (Gura 70–73)

In the Summer, 1998 issue of The Herald, there was an article — “To Build a Tukul” — by Michael Santarelli telling of the building of a Gurage tukul that was his home as a PCV and how he had photographed the building process. In 1998 Mike prepared a set of 137 slides with commentary as an historical record. At our reunion at UCLA in August of 1998 Michael presented the slide set — with delightful supplementary comments.

In January, 1999, he returned to Ethiopia and his town and to his family and friends there. He subsequently wrote a lengthy essay about that emotional visit, the incredibly warm reception he received and an update on his tukul. The following is an excerpt from the essay about the tukul. To read the full essay — and you really should — go to our website

DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF 1999, I traveled from my home in northern California to the empire of Ethiopia where I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer with the Gurage people of southwest Shoa Province from 1970 to 1972. My intent was to return to Gofrer, a small village within a larger territory called Gura, where I lived and worked as a rural development/agricultural extension agent initiating various projects designed to relieve the chronic hunger in the area. Since I hadn't communicated with anyone in my village since the day I left twenty-seven years ago, my visit was totally unex-

pected by my old friends, nor did I know what to expect. The only thing I did know was that, for more years than I wanted to count, I yearned to return to Ethiopia to see how my old Gurage friends and “family” were doing?

And what of my home there?

I was also very curious about something else. I was eager to know if the traditional Gurage *tukul*, or native hut, that Abagaaz and the villagers built for me in 1971 was still standing after all those years, like they said it would be.

Because I had heard that the Gurage were master builders who hand-crafted the strongest, most durable *tukuls* in all of Ethiopia, typically lasting 30 to 50 years even though not a single nail is used, I documented the step-by-step, ten-month long construction of my *tukul* using my newly purchased Nikkormat 35mm camera. I shot over 200 slides that recorded the intricate process of building by hand, using locally available native materials, a circular *tukul* with a conical shaped, thatched roof measuring 34 feet in diameter, 110 feet in circumference, and 30 feet in height on the inside! The split log wall rose over nine feet and circled a 35-foot tall eucalyptus center pole, which measured 15 inches in diameter at the base. This center pole held a dozen large pole trusses, which, in turn, supported the frame for the eight-inch thick thatch roof.

The whole *tukul* was laboriously hand crafted. The process started with chopping down and trimming mature eucalyptus trees in a distant forest, quartering them, splitting them apart with wooden wedge, mallet and pry poles and transporting them to the site. Next was harvesting and preparing the *ensete* rope and bamboo to be used for weaving the walls and roof together. Then came the long period of construction. Had I not insisted on a strong, thick, hand-milled front door as well as four innovative wood shutter type windows which required metal hinges, there would not have been a single nail used throughout the process! Finally, the interior wall crevices were filled with a mud/straw mixture and the earthen floor scrubbed clean with fresh diluted cow dung to keep the chiggers from boring into bare feet. Then it was complete.

In October, 1971, I moved into this round Gurage pyramid and lived there, with Sahle and Teru Nesh, during my second year of village life. So was my *tukul* still standing?

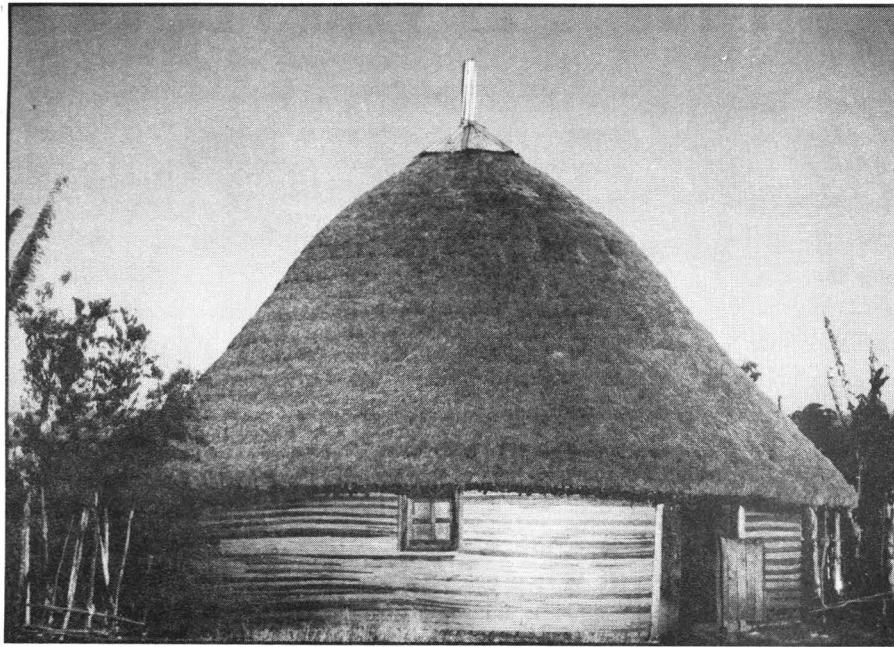
My tukul

I then continued on to Gofrer where I found Abagaaz taking advantage of the morning coolness by working in the *ensete* plantation. It was the transplanting season and he was busy prying up a two-year-old *ensete* with a traditional

MORE ►



two-pronged digging stick. He tested my memory by shouting a Gurage greeting to which I responded with the correct Gurage reply, much to the delight of all around. I wanted to help work the *ensete* but Abagaaz wouldn't have it, preferring instead to see me go into the *koro-koro* house for coffee.



Michael's tukul — 1999

I nodded compliance but turned, instead, towards my *tukul*, which I hadn't examined yet. There it was, thirty yards

away, standing straight and tall and looking great! In fact, as I thought the day before, it looked almost new! The roof thatch was thick and full — yet to be weathered, while the exterior circular wall was clear and unseasoned. That seemed a bit odd, but not as odd as the shimmering reflection coming off the top of the roof!

Walking closer for a better look, I blinked when I saw a layer of custom cut sheets of shiny corrugated tin fabricated around, over and upon the apex of the roof and center pole! That is, the exterior portion of the center pole and the first three feet of thatch were covered with . . . with . . . with metal . . . with tin! To say that I was somewhat taken aback by this new look would be a gross understatement. Even though I figured this architectural innovation was done to prolong the life of the roof by preventing monsoon rain and wind from causing havoc to the grass near the center pole interface, it was still a shocking sight. Undoubtedly,

this slight, but to my mind significant, modification altered the original construction to a certain extent, and, as far as I could tell, made my *tukul* the only one of its kind! After a long, long, wistful skyward gaze, I got over it and continued my inspection.

Approaching the entrance, I noticed that my old solid wooden door had been replaced with a thinner "Dutch" door of lesser quality. I was about to poke my hatted head through the upper portion when my attention was distracted by some small shining objects sparkling on the outside wall. Bending down to get a closer look, I was startled and sick to see that those small shiny objects were none other than tiny nail heads! I couldn't believe it! Stepping back, as if to avoid the strike of a deadly serpent, I saw that the original exterior 13-foot vertical split timbers used to build the *tukul* wall, were fastened together, not with traditional hand twisted *ensete* rope tied around thin eucalyptus saplings, as before, but with 2 inch by 2

inch trim wood that was, oh my God, nailed on! Aaaaaahhhhhh....!!!! I thought I'd never live to see the day! Whereas before there might have been a dozen nails to hold the hinges, now there were hundreds, if not thousands, of six penny nails hammered deep into the heart and soul of my 28 year old *tukul*!

Rocked, I pushed open the bottom half of the Dutch door and fell inside. As my eyes adjusted

to the darkness, other unexpected modifications came into view. Most prominent was a solid eight-foot tall wooden plank wall with door and window cutouts, running the full width of the *tukul*. Although it was considered as customary in Gurage interior designing, in my *tukul*, it looked like a formidable fence with a gate! This wooden barrier replaced my previous design of two separate plywood walls running from the side walls to four feet on either side of the center pole that allowed easy egress and ingress into my bedroom/kitchen area. Now this new wall-to-wall wall, set just behind the center pole, served to split the *tukul*, more or less, in half!

Curious as to what was on the other side, I ventured through the tiny cut out door and was dismayed to see half a dozen empty cattle stalls littered with straw and dung! Resting outside the stalls were tethered two young calves busy chewing their cud and wondering who the heck I was. In addition to the confused calves was Abagaaz's mule



standing and crapping right where my bed used to be, while away in the manger were three sheep baying to be let loose and a dozen chickens dining on fleas! My *tukul* was a barn!

Staggering back into the side hopefully still reserved for human occupation, I noticed that the earthen floor was covered with large dirty brown straw mats and wondered whether Agaki still smeared diluted cow dung around? My weary body slumped onto a wooden stool and I saw that even this side was a little different now as the upper half of the interior mud wall was painted with a henna type coloring that made the *tukul* feel like a prehistoric cave. As I sat staring at the changes, my dazed eyes focussed on a wisp of white smoke drifting aimlessly from the floor hearth up towards the center pole.

Ahhh . . . the center pole! I had almost forgotten! I jumped up and went over to this monstrous wireless telephone pole and searched for the everlasting proof that this was indeed, regardless of the unexpected alterations, my *tukul*. And there it was, two feet above my head, carved deep and wide and resembling a crude airplane standing straight up with a circle around it, the trademark of the 1960's: a Peace Symbol!

I gently ran my hands over this universal symbol of peace as if to verify that I had completed a circle of my own, then sat back down to reflect on that period of time when I occupied this *tukul* and was part of the Gurage so long ago. My steady gaze upon each little area of the *tukul* brought back warm vivid memories of the people and the life I lived and loved. Looking up into the dark handwoven ceiling, now cluttered with dusty cobwebs, brought back stirring recollections of how the entire village strained to raise the center pole, then

whooped it up when it stood! That was a day to remember!

My random thoughts ended when Abagaaz stuck his head into the *tukul* and asked if I was dreaming?


"It sure feels like a dream." I replied.

Abagaaz pushed open the Dutch door and rested his perspiring body next to mine. As he wiped the sweat from his brow, I briefly mentioned the noticeable changes to the *tukul*. He looked around, nodding in agreement, then began chronicling the history of the *tukul*. I sat in rapture as Abagaaz began his narration by explaining that soon after I left an angry court case loser from another village tried to burn down the *tukul* during the night. The dogs had provided enough warning for Abagaaz to load his revolver and fire a warning shot that scared off the arsonist just as he was setting fire to part of that year's *t'ef* crop. Fearing the arsonist's return, Abagaaz removed the thatch and kept the roof open for two rainy seasons, during which time the *ensete* rope began to loosen its tight bind around the eucalyptus saplings holding the wall. When the arson threat had passed, the *tukul* was re-roofed in its "as-is" condition and that thatch held up until just last year when another roof was then sorely needed. However, due to the shortage of good quality thatch and skilled roofers, the cost of replacing the roof had become exorbitant causing Abagaaz and Buzu Nesh to debate whether the expense could be justified. After all, it was used mostly as a barn! But when the issue came up during a family discussion, Abagaaz said, everyone, even the children, wanted to save this *tukul* because it was Ato Mikhails!

So the new roof was ordered. But not before the outer lateral eucalyptus

saplings were replaced with two by two trim wood hammered on with the spurious nails. I grimaced when Abagaaz mentioned that four-letter word — nail, and had to ask why wasn't the traditional *ensete* rope used to tie it all together . . . like before? Abagaaz replied, matter-of-factly, that the cost of locating and harvesting strong *ensete*, then fabricating it into rope before hauling it to the site to be laboriously woven into the wall was comparable, if not more, then the price of nails. And, he added with a sly grin, nails will last longer. Quite happy that the *tukul* was restored in the first place, I couldn't argue.

When questioned about the *koro-koro* up on the center pole and roof, Abagaaz confirmed my suspicions by saying it was to provide a buffer against the ravages of monsoon wind and rain and thwart the nesting ambitions of pesky birds. Sure, it was an added expense, he admitted, but since the expense of building a *tukul* today had risen to the equivalent of 2000 US dollars, it was cost effective. That surprised me because back then, my *tukul* was built for only \$400.

Then I asked Abagaaz why the mule and cattle were living in my bedroom, and he just laughed. 

Go to www.geocities.com/~eerpcv to read Michael's "Amongst the Gurage."

► **DIANE DAILEY BAUER** (64–66) is organizing an **ETHIOPIA III** reunion in Palm Springs, CA for the end of February. For more information contact Diane at: 165 Madison St, Dedham MA 02026, 781/461-5750. — *from Mark Brecker*

► In June, **JOHN GARAMENDI** (Metu, Illubabor 66–68) led a delegation made up of Charles “Chic” Dambach, the President of the Museum Trustees Past President of the National Peace Corps Association; **MIKE MCCASKEY** (Fiche 65–67), the Chairman of the Chicago Bears NFL franchise; Hon. **WILLIAM CANBY** (PC/E staff 62–64), a U.S. Federal Appellate Court Judge, based in Phoenix; and **MELVIN FOOTE** (73–75), the Executive Director of the Constituency for Africa, that traveled to Eritrea and Ethiopia on a mission to find a path to peace. The team met with Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi as well as with other government officials, religious leaders and others in both countries.

In a report on the mission, Garamendi stated: “The team was warmly received in both countries. The work and sacrifice of the 3,250 American Peace Corps volunteers who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea between 1963 and 1998 created a foundation upon which the team was able to conduct its mission. The top leadership of both countries were taught by US Peace Corps Volunteers, and to this day the leaders speak of their teachers with great respect and fondness.

The report’s conclusion states: The RPCV team will continue its work until peace is achieved and it will then lend its support to interna-

tional and internal domestic efforts to build the economies and to achieve social and political advancements in both countries.

► **MARC CLAUSEN** (Dessie 62–65) has the honor of appearing on the US Postal Service stamp commemorating the Peace Corps — one of a set of 15 saluting unforgettable events which happened during the 1960s.

According to a front page article in the *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin** (9/24/99), a spokesman for the USPS astonishingly stated that it was not Clausen depicted on the stamp — “You have to be dead 10 years” to appear on a stamp, and also astonishingly, asserted that Norman Rockwell’s painting of Marc was not used for the stamp. “Maybe the illustrator drew from Rockwell, by we did not use a Rockwell picture,” David Mazer was quoted as saying. Perhaps the USPS didn’t want to pay royalties to the Rockwell estate! The Los Angeles Times later reported that the USPS subsequently retracted the denials.

In the *Bulletin* article, one in the *Claremont (CA) Courier** (9/25/99) and another in the *Los Angeles Times*, Marc told of his experience with Rockwell and his reaction to appearing on the stamp. — *articles sent by C J Castagnaro*

► **LARRY AND KAY SIMMONS** (Nazareth 62–64) are in Mekelle, Ethiopia for a year. Larry is teaching engineering on a Fulbright Grant at Mekelle University.

Kay writes: We are enjoying our work in Mekelle. Larry is teaching 4th year engineering students at Mekelle University College. I am volunteering at the secondary school near our apartment. The

* Can be borrowed from E&E RPCVs library.

border dispute has really slowed the development process here. Many half-built buildings stand deserted due to the high cost of building materials and monies diverted to the needed military build up.

The schools are very crowded and some classes have 120 students crammed into them. It is very difficult to make an impact on such large classes. I have been teaching two ninth grade classes but will start working with 11th graders next week on conversational English. The administration has decided native speakers should work with the 9th grade since many of them are having a hard time communicating with me. Ninth grade is when they switch to all subjects except native language and Amharic being taught in English and many of the ninth grade students are struggling with most all their subjects. The numbers in the classes make it impossible to help or even find out those who don’t understand.

The climate here is very pleasant and we are enjoying all the sunshine and blue skies. The temperatures are moderate and we seldom have to wear even a sweater or pull up the blanket at night. There is lots of food available in the market and shops, and we are staying well. The fleas are still alive and well in Ethiopia and one of the few small annoyances we have to put up with.

We hope to be able to visit our Peace Corps assignment town, Nazareth, during the break time in February. We have heard from many that it is a very large nice town now. We will be returning home to portland at the end of July.

Our email address here is mekelle.university@telecom.net.et (indicate message for Larry Simmons, Industrial Engineering).

- ▶ Our webmaster **DENNIS EKBERG** (Ghion 62–64) is a busy fellow — in addition to designing and maintaining the E&E RPCVS site he has just published a new edition of the Senior Resource Directory for his Oregon county, is teaching eight computer classes at a senior center and is revising textbooks for those courses. Who said retirement meant stopping work?
- ▶ **JIM SOLOMON** (Massawa, Jimma 63–65) is the president of NorCal (the Northern Calif. Peace Corps Association), the second largest RPCV group in the country. His term will last for a year, coinciding with his last of his five years serving on the board of that organization.
- ▶ **TOM WINTERS** (Addis Ababa 67–69) is in Asmara on a two-year contract to work in the new language lab at the Eritrean Institute of Management.
- ▶ The Association of Eritrean Professionals and Academics for Development (AEPAD) honored **JOHN RUDE** (Tessenei; Adi Ugri 62–64) as its “Citizen of the Year” (first and only non-Eritrean so designated) for “outstanding service to AEPAD and its objectives to assist in the economic reconstruction and development in Eritrea.” The honor was given in Washington, D.C. on August 15, 1998 at AEPAD’s annual conference. Eritrean Ambassador to the U.S. Semere Russom presented the award.

John is working (with several Eritreans) on a documentary about Eritrea. It will be produced and directed by William Gazecki, who

produced “Waco: Rules of Engagement,” which won the Distinguished Documentary Achievement by the International Documentary Association, and was nominated for Best Feature Length Documentary Film by the 1997 Academy Awards.

- ▶ In Cambridge, MA, **JOHN BARNES** (Addis Ababa 66–68) participated in a local cable TV show July 28th playing some Ethiopian songs on the clarinet and discussing the various scales.
- ▶ The Detroit Free Press reported in an article* of 10/6/99 that **SARAH DONOHOE** (Ethiopia reentry) is teaching in a rather unique setting. She is “on the road” traveling with the Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey circus teaching the 20 children of the circus performers and other staff. “It’s a wonderfully rewarding job. I did the public school thing, but staying in one place is just not my thing,” Sarah is quoted as saying.
- ▶ *Pacific Waves*, the newsletter of San Diego Peace Corps Association published a series of reports of **ELLEN SHIVELY**’s (Asmara 68–70) travels in China last fall.
- ▶ **DAVID WILLIAMS** (Addis Ababa 62–64) played the part of Sciarrone in Opera International’s Washington, D.C. production of Puccini’s *Tosca* in August.



JOAN and ED CORBOY (staff 62–64) meet President Clinton at the White House. Joan was there representing R.I.D. (Remove Intoxicated Drivers) at a press conference in support of .08 legislation to reduce the legal blood-alcohol limit. (Unfortunately the legislation didn’t pass.)

Official White House Photo

- ▶ **JOHN REX** (Debre Berhan 62–64) was called to be the minister of The Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Society of Jacksonville, Florida.
- ▶ In an article about the 1999 RPCV conference, **JIM SOLOMON** (Massawa, Jimma 63–65) was quoted in the St Paul *Pioneer Press* 8/14/99: Peace Corps service is such an intense experience that it shapes you for the rest of your life . . . And it leads you to seek out people with the same experience.”
- ▶ In “Peace Corps inexpensive, yet priceless,” a column in the 5/5/99 *USAToday* extolling the continuing virtues of the Peace Corps, writer Walter Shapiro said: At a time when headlines bring a numbing onslaught of bad news — Kosovo, Littleton and now death-dealing tornadoes — it is worth pausing to

MORE ▶

appreciate small glories like the Peace Corps." Further in the article: "Eric Travis, a volunteer from Tallahassee, Fla., working on nutrition projects in Gambia, is following in the footsteps of his father [BOB TRAVIS (Assella, Addis Ababa 62-64)], who was one of the Peace Corps' original black recruits in 1962. "I worked very hard to get into the Peace Corps, says the Florida State graduate, who complains about the program's "lack of recruitment of minorities."

- ▶ **DICK STRINGER** (Mekele 62-64), **ADRIENNE** and **ELDON KATTER** (Harar 62-64) and **EMILY COTTER RICHARDSON** (Harar 64-66) were featured in an article, "Peace Corps shining example of '60s idealism," in the Reading, Pa. *Eagle/Times*. Each told of their work and fond memories of service.
- ▶ **C J Smith Castagnaro** (Harar; Debre Zeit; Addis Ababa 64-66, 67-69), co-chair of our very successful reunion at UCLA in 1998, is serving on the committee to plan the 40th Anniversary of the Peace Corps Celebration to be held in Washington in 2001.
- ▶ **DARRYL HAYNES** (Merababaye 69-71) and **KAREN VISKOCHIL** (Addis Ababa 69-71) have begun to make contact with their fellow Ethi 11s in preparation for the Peace Corps' 40th Anniversary Celebration that will be in DC during the summer of 2001. Contact Darryl at 636 North Lakeside Dr, Andover KS 67002, phone: 316/733-0782; email: haynesdlks@aol.com

Let their efforts be an inspiration to you to do the same for your group!

- ▶ Colleen Desmond (Ethiopia) had an article in the Peace Corps publication *The Exchange: Peace Corps Women in Development Newsletter*, [Winter 1999, vol 30] describing a successful mentoring program for girls conducted by the Ethiopia Gender and Development committee (created by Ethiopia PCVs) and the Forum of African Women Educationalists.

- ▶ **PAUL REAGAN** (Nazareth 62-64) conducted a video-taped interview with **LEO CECCHINI** about E&E RPCVs' peace initiative and enCORPS that was shown on Paul's local public access TV in eastern New York state.

Deaths

- ▶ **CONRAD WILE HIRSH**, 57, formerly of Houston, died Oct. 7 in Nairobi, Kenya, after battling brain cancer for which he received treatment in London.

Through his Remote River Expeditions, Conrad led adventure trips down many of Africa's wildest, least-traveled rivers, principally in Ethiopia and Tanzania. He was also an authority on Madagascar, where he pioneered river exploration in the early 1980's. He lived most of the past 35 years in Africa, beginning with two years in the Peace Corps teaching math at Haile Selassie University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1964-66, a post he later filled as a civilian, 1968-77. While affiliated with Sobek Travel beginning in 1970's, he took part in first descents of many remote African rivers, such as the Tekeze, Omo and Awash. In 1977 he moved to Nairobi where, when not trekking over mountains or rafting down rivers, he often assisted noted wildlife expert Cynthia Moss in research on the African elephant. Conrad was fluent in Amharic, Swahili and French and enjoyed bringing

his clients impromptu interactions with remote tribespeople. Graduated from St. John's School, 1959; degrees in math from Reed College and Stanford University. Immediate family includes parents, Albert and Mildred Hirsh, Overland Park, KS; brothers Ethan Hirsh, Kansas City, MO, and Oliver Hirsh, Klippinge, Denmark; and son, Yohannes Beyene Wolde, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Memorial gifts will support the Amboseli Elephant Research Project. Checks payable to African Wildlife Foundation may be sent to Conrad Hirsh Fund, P.O. Box 13571, Kansas City, MO 64199-3571.

[You can read the text of "A Celebration of the Life of Conrad Hirsh (Addis Ababa 64-66), December 5, 1999 at the home of Conrad's friend Cynthia Moss in Kenya" at the E&E RPCVs web site at www.geocities.com/~eerpcv/]

- ▶ We have also received notice of the deaths of **WILBUR DUTTON**, and **LEN NUVOLONI** (Yorbameda 69-71).

LOST & FOUND

When a query is received about an Ethiopia or Eritrea RPCV, it is sent directly to the RPCV if we have his/her current address. We only publish queries 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 looking for my former Peace Corps teachers from 1961 to 1965 . . . in Mekelle [including] **MS. JEMI**. They were very special to me and my family. They were not only my high school teachers, they were also friends. Please help me. I have been living in the U.S. for 23 years. They are always in my heart. Asfaw Berhane, 8419 Orion Ave. #3, North Hills, CA 91343.
- ▶ Yacob is looking for a Peace Corps Volunteer named **DORIS**. It has been over 25 years now since Yacob saw her last. He tried to recall her last name sounds like **SONDERLAND/SUNDELAND**. He is definitely sure about her **FIRST NAME**. He further recalled she was originally from New Jersey. She was teaching biology at Menilik II Hospital Nursing School. She had financially assisted Yacob during his junior school years. When she left Ethiopia in 74/75, she had given him her mailing address which he misplaced and was unable to keep in touch. He said she was in Ethiopia from 1973 to time when Zemecha started (sending university and high school students to rural Ethiopia). Contact Yacob through his friend YIHUN BELAY at ybelay@sprint.ca
- ▶ Anne Peters is trying to reconnect with **KATHY CASH**. Contact her at: Anne Peters Head, InfoSvcs, Inst of Ed, U of London, 20 Bedford Way London WC1H 0AL ENGLAND; a.peters@ioe.ac.uk
- ▶ Samuel Yohannes would like to contact **BARBARA NEWMAN** (Dembi Dolo). Write him: c/o Christine Tesfaye, 12602 Venice Blvd, #101, Los Angeles CA 90066.
- ▶ Helping out some former students, Joe Ciuffini is looking for: **JIM WILCOX, JOHN TIMMONS** and **Ms. Harrison** (?) Asbe Tefari 63-66?, **DALE R. ANDERSEN** (66-68) Write Joe at JMCIUFFINI@aol.com if you can help make this reconnection.
- ▶ John Coyne is looking for **BARBARA BROWN** (Addis Ababa (67-69). Write John at jcoyne@peacecorps.gov.
- ▶ Anne Peters (66-68) would like to reconnect with **KATHY CASH** (Emdeber 66-68). To contact Anne with help: Head of Information Services, Institute of Education, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, WC1H 0AL. tel: 0171 6126052 fax: 0171 612 6093 email: a.peters@ioe.ac.uk
- ▶ Not looking for a person, but for information: John Yanello is looking for info about a dam being built in northern Tigre that he read about a year or so ago. To contact him: 121 - 72 St., Brooklyn NY 11209; (718) 680-3775; drwhy@erols.com
- ▶ Mulatu Mekonnen is looking for **MR SMITH**. Mr. Smith, who played the guitar, worked in Leilit Romanework Junior Secondary School, around 1972-74. This was in Gamo Goffa Province, Goffa district and the town was **Felege Neway** (SAWLA). Mr. Smith had a basketball playing friend named Mr. Coty (sp.?) who used to teach mostly math. Mr. Smith taught English and Mulatu remembers him teaching the students "Alice's Restaurant" by Arlo Guthrie. [NOTE: E&E RPCVs contacted Brad Coady (Felege Neway 68-71) and received a very thoughtful response., but, unfortunately, he was not able to solve the mystery of the elusive Mr. Smith.] Mulata can be contacted through: Paul Wilson, 155 Woodycrest Ave. Toronto CANADA M4J 3B8 at kgk.paw@sympatico.ca
- ▶ Mehari Bebere, now taking a certificate course in archeology at the University of Asmara, is looking for PCV teachers he knew in **NAZERET** in 1966 and 1967 at Atse Gelaudious High School: **MRS. MARGARET**, English and **MR. TORONTO**, science. Write to him at: Avenue Menze 143, Asmara, Eritrea.

Ambassador to lead NPCA

E&E RPCVs Dane Smith is our new leader

The following is an excerpt from a press release from the NPCA:

Washington, D.C.- The chairman of the board of directors of the National Peace Corps Association announced today (6/8/99) that Dane Smith, the U.S. ambassador to Senegal, has been selected as the new president and chief executive officer of this 20-year-old organization of more than 16,000 returned volunteers, former staff, and friends of the Peace Corps.

Smith will end his foreign service career when he leaves his current post in Dakar in late summer to assume leadership of NPCA operations at its Washington headquarters.

"Peace Corps has been a major part of my family for more than 35 years," said Smith. He and his wife, Judith, served as Peace Corps volunteers in Asmara, Eritrea from 1963 to 1965. Two of their children have also served as Peace Corps volunteers, one in Cameroon and the other in Paraguay. Smith has been an NPCA member for many years and, while serving as U.S. special envoy to Liberia, worked closely with the Friends of Liberia, an NPCA affiliate, to resolve conflicts arising from a lengthy civil war and to bring needed medical services and relief supplies to Liberian refugees in neighboring African countries.

"I look forward to working with the NPCA to strengthen support for the Peace Corps mission and the contribution of return Peace Corps volunteers to community and international service."




Dane Smith

...
"Dane understands what the NPCA is all about," said Roland Johnson, the

NPCA's board chairman. "Our members care deeply about building their local communities and the well-being of the people they served as Peace Corps

volunteers over the years. We're confident that with Dane's long and distinguished foreign service career, he will enable us to bring home to our U.S. friends and neighbors the reality and promise of the thousands of communities in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East where we lived and worked. Dane's heart and soul is in this kind of work."

Smith began his foreign service career in 1966 and has served in a variety of overseas posts, mostly in Africa. He was deputy chief of mission in Sudan and Botswana, and served as ambassador to Guinea from 1990 to 1993, and as special envoy for Liberia from 1994 to 1996. He has been ambassador to Senegal for three years. While envoy to Liberia, he also served as the State Department's director for West Africa. In previous State Department assignments he was director of economic policy for Africa, and chief of the food policy division. Smith is a graduate of Harvard University, and received a doctorate in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. 

Boston happenings

On October 31, the Ethiopian dance troupe called Dimbulka gave a wonderful and unifying performance of the many types of ethnic dances of Ethiopia in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Among the attendees were Joe Ciuffinni and John and Liz Barnes. Dancers from the Washington DC area performed the dances of the Amhara, Tigre, Wolaita, Gurrage, Oromo, and Adare ethnic groups in full native dress. The Greek-American Club was packed with a capacity crowd who warmly received the dancers and enjoyed a comedian as well. — from John Barnes

The Mercato

FOR SALE:

White dress-length shamma + natala cloth with pink border @ 3.5"-wide

White dress-length shamma + natala cloth with multi-color border (red, yellow, white @ 5"-wide and turquoise on a green ground

Harar cloth, two pieces each 45"x88", white with multi-colored (gold, red, green and blue) 7.5"-wide border

White-on-white twin-bed-sized cover and pillow with wide hand-crocheted embellishment and fringe.

If interested in any of the above, contact: C J Castagnaro, phone: 909/392-9734; email: cjsmithc@pocketmail.com. All proceeds will be donated to E&E RPCVs relief projects.

Do you have souvenirs from Ethiopia or Eritrea you are ready to part with? Advertise in The Herald!

THE KESSLER FILE

Life with the war

by Laurie Kessler (Adi Teclesan 1964–66)

RPCVs Laurie and Wayne Kessler have lived in Asmara since 1995, where Laurie teaches English and Wayne is E&E RPCVs' enCORPS representative while developing business opportunities in the private sector.

March 9, 1999

Five who returned

When the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea got fierce in June [1998], five Eritrea RPCVs were evacuated from Eritrea. Despite the uncertainty of the situation, they subsequently returned. They are **JIM** and **BILLIE CAIRNS** (Asmara 95–97, India 61–63), **JEFF SHANNON** (Adi Teclesanm 95–98), and **WAYNE** and **LAURIE KESSLER** (Adi Teclesan 64–66).

Jim & Billie

Jim had been recruited as an consultant to the Pavoni Technical Institute in early 1998, having served with Wayne on an informal advisory committee for the institute during his Peace Corps service. After the evacuation, he returned in November 1998 to complete his consultancy. Billie returned, as well, and signed up for Tigrinya lessons and volunteered as an English teacher.

Jeff

Jeff had just learned he had been accepted for a fourth year of Peace Corps service when he had to evacuate with all PCVs serving at that time. Committed to four years, he returned, independently, in September 1998 to teach English in Asmara and develop

curriculum at the Pavoni Technical Institute. He located the four students who had lived with him in Adi Teclesan during his last semester there. They are now in high school in Asmara and sharing a house again with Jeff.

Laurie

After seven months in California helping her just-widowed mother, Laurie returned in January, 1999 to her activities in the Baha'i community and to teaching English at the University of Asmara.

Wayne

Wayne returned as soon as it was possible to Eritrea. As country representative of enCORPS — E&E RPCVs' program to find short term projects for its RPCVs in the two countries, Wayne is always on the lookout for placements. He continues his volunteer collaboration with the Pavoni Social Center and as general manager of N'FETN Enterprises (with seven partners — one RPCV Ethiopia (Leo Cecchini), one Eritrean former PC staff, one colleague from Adi Teclesan time, and two former students among them).

Why did we return?

Here we are back in Eritrea and war has broken out. Why did we return, and how does the border war affect us? We all cite unfinished business as the basis of our decisions to return — no opportunity to make closure before evacuation, projects unfinished, work to do, friendships to maintain.

Personal connections were a major factor in our decision to return — that seemingly arbitrary assignment to Eritrea by Peace Corps pointing out that, wherever on the planet we go, we are likely to find good friends. Among them, Jeff's family of four boys, Jim and Billie's colleagues, our former and current students and business contacts. And, for all of us, Padre Agostino of the Pavoni Social Center, an Italian Catholic priest whose organization established an orphanage and food distribution programs during the Derg years and managed to save a marvelous library, now open to the public. The Pavoni Technical Institute is employing Jim and Jeff in a current project.

We also cite features of life in Eritrea that amaze and amuse us for why we returned: courtesy and respect among people with consequent lack of bother of foreigners (*gasha*, the word for visitor, also means guest), lack of violence and corruption, fabulous weather, thousands of workers and students commuting by bicycle, Eritrea's vision for the future and the excitement of witnessing the establishment of this new country.

Life under a cloud

But for weeks Eritrea and Ethiopia have been engaged in fighting at the border. A settlement based on the OAU proposal looks possible but uncertain as now Ethiopia is hesitating. What is it like to be in a country at war? It's confusing, worrying, and tense — so tense that Jim and Billie took a month's leave and are due back at the first of April.

Much of life appears normal. Buildings are being refurbished and streets paved, people stroll along Liberation Avenue in the evenings, and the University started on time. But the backyard neighbor kids play war games with makeshift "guns," tiny model jet fighter planes are for sale at a nearby shop, mud-camouflaged vehicles traverse the city, deportees from Ethiopia are being processed by the International Red Cross, the Pavoni Social Center is



l.-r. Wayne Kessler, Laurie Kessler, Jeff Shannon, Billie Cairns, Jim Cairns

prepared to be a hospital and sits empty as yet, the *Eritrea Profile* carries many stories and photos relating to the conflict, women are turning in their gold jewelry to aid the war effort, and the schools delayed the start of the second semester by a week. Whenever there is news of the border on the national radio, people congregate in cars or wherever a radio is, and it's an intrusion to be a customer in a shop during such a broadcast. In early February the sound of every airplane flight made people anxious, but now it is commonplace. Only one evening were we all startled way beyond simple anxiety by a series of three sonic booms. The first sounded like nearby rolling thunder, but the others were so near and such loud, single booms that everyone ran outside in wonderment and fear, while birds were knocked from their roosts and windows broke all over town.

Many of our friends and virtually every family have someone at the border to worry about. But there will be no mourning until the situation is settled and the casualties are announced. Heavy fighting continues.

March 17

This week 290 students were called to service from the University Monday, and on Tuesday morning the students refused to attend class (again, as they did two weeks ago) until they got to meet with the UofA president. This time, I'm not sure what they wanted, although last time they said

they couldn't study and wanted to go to the front to help their sisters and brothers. Most of them have had no military training. It's not too easy to teach when they are understandably very distracted.

April 21

Now it's time to let you know that both Billie and Jim are back, having arrived April 5. Their plan is to stay in Eritrea so Jim can complete his consultancy and to witness the graduation from PTI of its first class in June.

June 3

Billie and Jim left on May 22, largely a reaction to the bombing of Massawa the week

before (which probably was intended to disable the port, but which didn't). Jim had accomplished most of his work, but of course he and Billie won't be here for the PTI graduation on June 26. Jeff will complete his contract in August. Before you asked about his four boys; he collected them from Adi Teclesan and their villages and has provided a home for them in Asmara while they attend high school. At the end of the semester, they'll disperse, and Jeff will stay with us.

Wayne is now very involved in project writing through the British Council (mostly for women's progress) and in obtaining assistance for camps of war-displaced. Water purification systems are so important. I'll have some responsibilities at the University for part of the summer because students who were taken into military service part way through the semester have been released and will complete their course

work before September. I also will do some writing of our experiences here and other stuff. We hope to stay another year and to know about that within this month.

June 12

from Wayne: Yesterday we (Jeff, Jenny Litzow, Lauuie and I, all RPCV's) met and ate a late supper with the peace seeking team headed by John Garamendi. They were well received by the Eritreans — close to three hours with the President, front page coverage in the newspapers, TV and radio news coverage of the meetings and the press conference. This PR will put a little more pressure on Ethiopia to do the same. [Team member] Chic Dambach credited the peace efforts of E&E RPCVs Leo [Cecchini] and Dave [Gurr] at the press conference. He made a strong point that people who served in the Peace Corps here are deeply concerned and committed to do whatever they can to move the peace process along and that enCORPS is currently working in Eritrea. And, that was before I outlined our initial work with the war displaced refugees. The team realizes that a real task lies in Addis. As the peace team was here discussing peace, Ethiopian forces were attacking the border. Yesterday, the Ethiopians reportedly lost another 2,000 young men, several tanks, and a helicopter gunship in this UNKNOWN WAR.

As I write, the Eritrean jets are flying — which means that the fighting is continuing. Newspaper headlines: TPLF unleashes new offensive, sustains heavy losses and President Isaias meets with Peace Corps team. Isaias reaffirms Eritrea's readiness to implement the OAU peace framework and to sit down

and negotiate without preconditions at any time. We'll see what comes out of Addis. The decision is theirs.

June 20

The Kessler File is long in the writing, because things change . . . You might add to "Five Who Returned" the "Five Who Dropped By" — The Garamendi peace team, that is — and Jenny Litzow, one who came to visit. Some of the details are in Wayne's note about our evening with the five, but more is due on Jenny. She was an Eritrea II (96–98), teaching English in Tserona (near the border). She has just completed her first year of medical school and is here for three weeks doing a project related to that; she has been an observer at the health clinic that provides weekly visits by a doctor to the Dedda River Camp of Saho people displaced from the border, and she is currently observing at the children's hospital in Asmara. She's staying with us, so we are having fun meeting her friends and helping her to make connections for the medical work.


December

We expect to leave Eritrea next summer and return to the U.S. Shambani beckons, but we'd like to share our experiences before "going out to pasture" as Wayne puts it. We have started investigating academic and NGO possibilities. Wayne might go to the U.S. in February or March to follow up on whatever leads we find.

In the meantime, we've been recruited! The Board of the Asmara International Community School, where our son Colin taught for several months in 1997, asked me to be interim director between January and June: I've accepted and have started the understudy phase with

the outgoing director. What a challenge! It has only 41 students, fewer than in my classes at the university, which has been awfully frustrating this semester. I'm ready for change.

The United Nations Development Programme has contracted with Wayne for a six-week emergency needs assessment of the war displaced, rural deported, and drought victims. Now he's doubly busy with that and his responsibilities to the Pavoni Social Centre.

Living in a country at war affecting everything and everyone, we earnestly hope for **peace between Eritrea and Ethiopia!** 

NOTE: Read Jeff Shannon's "Report on Assessment Trip to camps for War Displaced in Gash-Barka" on page 20 of Part 1 of this issue of *The Herald*.

The following notices have been received by E&E RPCVs. They do not constitute endorsements.

► *from John Rude:* You can help the displaced and deported in Eritrea by making a tax-deductible donation to the Eritrean Development Foundation, 1111 14th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005. For more about the Foundation, see www.eridf.org.

► *from Joe Ciuffini:* Stamps and Postal History information is available through the Ethiopian Philatelic Society. I am the librarian for that Society and can send a brief description of the club and a copy of the most recent newsletter, *Menelik's Journal*. Unsurprisingly, this is a non-political group. Contact information for Joe on page 30.

► *from John Barnes:* If you are looking to help an Ethiopian child directly with educational and spiritual support, Compassion International is able to help you. For \$24 per month the child is supported through local churches and Christian fellowships which provide a wide range of developmental activities and projects. Children are grouped by project and individual attention is given to each child. You will receive a picture, along with a brief description of your child and the project he/she will be part of. You can send letters through Compassion who will translate them. Your address is never given to the child. Sponsors then receive letters from their children through Compassion which are translated. Supporters can also visit their child if they desire. In Ethiopia alone, more than 26,000 children are sponsored.

Brochures are available from Compassion International, Colorado Springs, CO 80997. The web site is at www.compassion.com The phone number is (800) 336-7676. You can also send an E-mail to John Barnes for information at jbarnes@quik.com

► **CHRIS O'CONNOR** (Gore, Illubabor; Gojjam/Keffa 66-71, 73-76) was the winner of the "Translate the Amharic invitation to the 1999 RPCV conference in St. Paul." He was not able to attend to collect the prize of a Ethiopian-style dance with C J Castagnaro, and asked for a prize of giving "public prominence" to materials he has sent* about:

- Catholic Relief Services' Small Enterprise Development Program that makes small loans to society's most needy members and gives them responsibilities for managing these funds. For more information contact: Catholic Relief Services, 209 West Fayette Street, Baltimore MD 21201-3443; phone: 410/625-2220 or 800/235-2772; on the web www.catholicrelief.org.

- There are more than 80,000 children (40% female) studying at 252 Catholic schools in Ethiopia. The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) has a program entitled the "Needy Child Program" that enables sponsors to support individual children to provide for shelter, clothing and food and in some cases to make it possible for them to attend school. The cost is \$20 per month and the sponsor receives reports about and

letters from the child. For more information, contact the CNEWA at, 1011 First Avenue, New York NY 10022-4195; phone: 212/826-1480.

► This from Alice Gosak Gary (Harar 64-67): An effort is being made by former students of Medhane Alem Comprehensive Secondary School in Hararto raise funds to send textbooks to the school. Working through Books for Africa, they would need \$7000.00 to provide each of the students with texts in basic subjects. I hope that some of the RPCVs who taught at Medhane Alem will join the effort. You can send check, money order or questions to: CHFSTA, P.O. BOX 33955, Seattle, WA 98133-0955. Make checks payable to "City of Harar Former Students and Teachers Association."

► Victims of War (V.O.W.) is a nonprofit organization concerned about the children who have lost their parents in the war in northern Ethiopia. Founded by a Ethiopian family residing in San Diego, V.O.W.'s immediate objective is to obtain funds to build an orphanage, a preschool and a clinic. For more information, or to make a contribution to this effort, contact: Tsehai Abate, V.O.W., PO Box 91944, La Mesa CA 91944, phone: 619/460-8290.

► American Friends of the Institute of Ethiopia Studies (AFIES) supports the continuing efforts of the Institute (IES) to preserve cultural objects in Ethiopia and to stimulate interest in Ethiopia's heritage through new educational projects. Your tax deductible donations

* Can be borrowed from E&E RPCVs library.

are welcomed. To receive selected article from the *IES Bulletin* and occasional issues of "Report from Addis," send a donation to cover mailing costs. For more information, contact: Martha Henze, President, AFIES, PO Box 65684, Washington DC 20035-5684. A sample copy of the *IES Bulletin*, Dec 1998 can be borrowed from the E&E RPCVs library.

► The North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ) is seeking donations to support their efforts to provide food and shelter to Ethiopian Jews still in Ethiopia awaiting their move to Israel, as well as to support educational programs for Ethiopian Jews living in Israel. Contact NACOEJ, 132 Nassau st, 4th Fl., NY NY 10038, phone: 212/233/5200, fax: 212/233-5243, email: NACOEJ@aol.com, website: www.circus.org/nacoej.

► For those of you living in the Northeast, the *New York Times* (2/24/99) raved about an Eritrean restaurant in New Haven called the Caffe Adulis. "But it is the subtlety and complexity of Eritrea's cooking, which [chef and owner, with his two brothers] Ficre Ghebreyesus interprets as the spirit moves him, that makes Caffe Adulis so distinctive." They have a website at www.caffeadulis.com showing their menu (with prices) and directions to get to the restaurant. For those who are internetless, call 203/777-5081.

► Not having information but looking for it: **JOHN YANELLO** (ADI UGRI 68-70) is looking for info about a dam being built in northern Tigre that he read about a year or so ago. To contact him: 121 - 72 St., Brooklyn NY 11209; (718) 680-3775; drwhy@erols.com

On the Web

► The RPCV Market opened its virtual doors for business at the NPCA's national conference in St. Paul in August, 1999. The online store, located at www.rpcv.com, features RPCV group merchandise, arts & crafts from cooperatives and artisans in countries where RPCVs served, regional specialties like foods and clothing from around the world, and unique Peace Corps memorabilia.

Many returned volunteers live in cities with vibrant international communities and active RPCV groups, but for those who don't, finding international products and RPCV group merchandise can be difficult. The RPCV Market offers a safe and convenient way to purchase these items, all from the comfort of your home. Merchandise can be purchased securely online with a credit card and shipped directly to the buyer's home.

The RPCV Market is owned and operated by Sage Software Consulting, Inc., a Twin Cities based firm specializing in e-commerce solutions for small business. The RPCV Market is Sage's "demo" store. Sage representatives use it to help small business owners understand the process and scope of building and managing an online store. Sage's owners run the RPCV Market as a functioning store for two reasons: they believe that they can better serve small business clients through their experience as online store owners, and they have a deep commitment to the growth and development of the RPCV community.

The RPCV Market is actively seeking relationships with RPCV groups and wholesale distributors of unique

international products. The store currently carries RPCV group items from the RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison Chapter, NORCAL, and Minnesota RPCVs, and we're in the process of setting up relationships with several more groups. Non-group merchandise includes regional clothing, foods, artwork, and a variety of specialty products. RPCV Market originals include reprints of several Peace Corps ads from the 60's (avail. early October), Peace Corps stamp lapel pins, and an RPCV Market t-shirt.

The RPCV Market is in no way affiliated with or endorsed by Peace Corps, the NPCA, or any returned volunteer groups affiliated with the NPCA. The RPCV Market is a for-profit business which donates 10% of net annual profits to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (www.ifrc.org). For more information about the RPCV Market, or to explore an opportunity to market your product on the internet, call Randy Merideth (Gabon 87-91) or Kevin Burns (Paraguay 91-95) at 1-888-457-0000, or write to info@rpcv.com.

► **PeaceGallery.org** presents images from around the world as seen through the cameras of Peace Corps Volunteers. The Peace Gallery grew out of a desire to provide positive coverage of our global community. Most often the only information we see and hear is centered around disease, disaster, and war. There is nothing about the world I saw during my Peace Corps service in Ghana - family, friendship, rich culture, and capable people. Although the images show the amazing diversity on our planet, they also show how similar we are to each other. In looking through the

MORE ►

gallery, marvel at the differences, but also see the similarities. After spending two years in the Peace Corps, one realizes it is how close we all are that is truly amazing.

You can search the collection by key word. e.g. Recently, a search for "children" yielded 16 photos. All of the images on this site are copyright free for educational use. We want you to use our images! How can you put them in your own materials and presentations? No need to worry, we have outlined the steps - from saving the image off the web to altering it to meet your needs.

Interested in helping build The Peace Gallery? Images from any year or country are welcome. Images from countries you visited during your service are also welcome. [There are no photos of Ethiopia or Eritrea. ed.] We can scan photographs, slides, and negatives. Send two to five photos to The Peace Gallery, they will be returned within three weeks of receiving them. You will have to sign a short legal statement before we can post images to The Peace Gallery. Your name will accompany the images in the Gallery (unless you don't want it to) and you are asked to write a brief description for each image included in the Gallery. Please visit the site for full instructions for mailing photographs.

from Wayne Breslyn (Ghana 92-94)
wbreslyn@peacegallery.org

► The Humanitarian Times is an independent, not-for-profit email news program created to help aid professionals as well as those interested in learning more about the international crises & their remedies. An update is sent weekly. For a free subscription send email to HumanitarianTimes@rcn.com

► **SUSAN HECK** (Addis Ababa 67-69) writes :

As you work for population control and education enterprises, consider clicking on the site below. It's real.

[http://](http://www.thehungersite.com)

www.thehungersite.com — the Hunger Site at the U.N. is a really neat website! All you do is click a button and somewhere in the world some hungry person gets a meal to eat at no cost to you. The food is paid for by corporate sponsors. All you do is go to the site and click. But, you're only allowed one click per day so spread the word to others.

JOE TENN (Addis Ababa 62-64) and **CLARE SHEA** (Debre Marcos 65-67) also wrote to recommend this site saying: "You can donate food this way ONCE EACH DAY. Sounds like a good way to start your day, huh???"

► VisAfric.com is an English-language Eritrean site with Eritrean news, community announcements (for events in North America), sports, etc.

The World Library Partnership (WLP) connects libraries in developing countries with partner libraries in the United States. Through cultural exchange projects, library partnerships bring communities together. Through fund-raisers, they provide some of the world's most impoverished libraries with desperately needed funds for books and supplies. Among their current partnerships: Holeta Comprehensive Secondary School, Ethiopia - Northern High School, NC. Go to <http://RTPnet.org/~wlp/partners.htm> for more information about support this effort and how to establish a partnership.

WLP also has a book entitled *LIBRARIES FOR ALL: HOW TO START AND RUN A SMALL LIBRARY* by Laura Wendell available online at their site.

► Financial Advisor **JAN CLYMER** (Finete Selam 72-74) has a web site at www.raymondjames.com/clymercapital

► Ethnomusicologist **CYNTHIA TSE KIMBERLIN** (Adi Ugri, Asmara 62-64) is the Executive Director of the Music Research Institute, which addresses the impact of music on contemporary problems and issues through theoretical, comparative and applied research. Their web site is at <http://members.aol.com/musicrsrchstn/main.html>. Publications produced by MRI are listed at the site.

► *Eye on Africa* is a print and online magazine that bills itself as "the leading U.S. independent source of political, economic, strategic intelligence and investigative reporting on sub-Saharan Africa." For more information, and to subscribe (\$250/yr. online subscription) go to www.EyeOnAfrica.com.

► Web site for the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry: www.circus.org/nacoej

► The Peace Corps Family Support Group web site states: "For many years family and friends of serving Peace Corps Volunteers have been frustrated at not being able to find information while their loved-ones are out of the country. To this end we decided to create this web page." The site includes information about every country where PCVs are serving, PC contact information, travel tips, tips to family and friends including suggestions on contents for CARE packages, and the "Buddy Program" where RPCVs can answer questions about service in their country. You are invited to participate.

From our mail



Take great pride in the work you did

The following letter was written after the return to the U.S. of a group of five RPCVs and a staff member who travelled to Asmara and Addis Ababa in a effort to find peace.

The Ethiopian religious leader looked at the five of us former volunteers and said, "I have been informed that in your early age you were Ethiopians."

We experienced similar sentiments in all of our meetings in Eritrea and in Ethiopia. Whether we were talking with shopkeepers, professors, community leaders, government officials or religious leaders, the message was clear and heartfelt - "We remember the Peace Corps volunteers who lived with us and we deeply appreciate your efforts."

I considered the five of us who traveled to Eritrea and Ethiopia in June, 1999 to be extensions of that earlier Peace Corps spirit. We were welcomed

because of 1,500 volunteers who taught in the schools, helped in medical clinics or assisted in building roads between 1962 and 1974. In Fact, both heads of state were taught by, and have fond memories of, their Peace Corps teachers. We were warmly received because of all the volunteers who had worked so hard with whatever resources were at hand.

The five members of our group included Bill Canby (staff Asmara, Addis Abeba, 1962-64), Chic Dambach (Columbia, 1967-69), Mel Foote (Asmara and Harrar, 1973-75), John Garimendi (Metu, 1966-68), and Mike McCaskey (Fiche, 1965-67). John Garimendi organized this group and secured funding from the Hewlitt Foundation. Our mission was to help both sides move whatever differences they had from the battlefield to a negotiating table.

While our mission is not yet successful, every Peace Corps volunteer who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea should know of the lasting legacy of their work. The appreciation and genuine affection of the people you served endures to this day. You can take great pride in the work you did.

Mike McCaskey (Fiche 65-67)

You are the man

In the Peace Corps *Volunteer* magazine Vol. 2, #3, there is a picture and a small blurb about a tin wind-up toy that reads as follows:

Meet "Travelling Sam, the Peace Corps Man" — he walks, he talks (well, almost: his mouth flaps up and down, and a bell rings), he carries a suitcase with a lot of non-Peace Corps labels. Spring

driven, he scoots around, on wheels, getting nowhere and occasionally falling on his face. He is an import and costs \$1, when you can find him.

This "toy" is now trading on the eBay online auction site at anywhere from \$75 to \$150! Imagine what a real Peace Corps man must be worth!

Joe Ciuffini (Harar 64-66)

A wee note

This is just a wee note to let you know that Julie Hensley, despite her entry in the Friends bit on page 22 of the Herald #20 was NOT in Ethiopia, but Eritrea. Eden is a small village making up a part of the somewhat larger village of Ellabored on the road to Keren.

*Jeff Shannon
(Adi Tekelesan, Eritrea 95-98)*

A national duty

A friend of mine shared with me the winter issue of *The Herald*, a publication of ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs (winter 1998-99, Part 2, pages 19-20.); I read it with keen interest. I believe it contains a lot of misinformation about people and events. I am sure the concerned individuals will address themselves to you in due time.

I am concerned and consider it my national duty to say a word or two when I find misconceptions about Ethiopian and their victory at Adwa. Michael Santarelli, (Gura 70-73) in his effort to review *ONE HOUSE: THE BATTLE OF ADWA 1896-1996*, writes "The battle of Adwa — a momentous historical event which marked the first time a non-white country defeated a European power."

MORE ►

CORRECTION

In the last issue of *The Herald* (Number 20, Part 2) on page 5, the listing of Hanna Kebede's talents erroneously included that of musician. Hanna writes: "I am not a musician, my aunt in Jerusalem who is a pianist and a composer of classical music is the one I came to represent at the reunion.

The editor apologizes for the error.

From our mail

continued from previous page

Was Italy a European power at the turn of the century? Was it the first time that the Ethiopian defeated the Italians? I leave that to Signor Santarelli to investigate and educate himself. My major concern here is to proudly remind him that Ethiopians are **BLACK**, not non-white, and the Battle of Adwa was a war of resistance against **white colonialism and RACISM** and is still part and parcel of the world movement of all black people against aggression.

Signor Volunteer may have a license to describe us Ethiopian by what we are, by what we are not or by what we are becoming. He has called us non-white. He may call us non-red, non-yellow, or even non-indigo if he does not want to call a spade a spade. But when it comes to History poetic license does not apply and the Ethiopian does not change his color, or the leopard his spots.

The second important point worth mentioning is that most historians depict the Battle of Adwa as a climax of conflict between Italy and Ethiopia. It appears to be so. For authors like Dr. Worku Ferede, it was a consequence of a long and protracted diplomatic warfare of geo-political importance between two Empires, two minds of leaders and two colors, the Empires of Ethiopia and Great Britain (Italy at that time was an underdog of the Axis powers.) See *MINILK AND ADWA 100 ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF ADWA, 1888-1988*, by Dr. Worku Ferede, Addis Ababa, 1988 (Amharic edition).

Finally, as a one-time pupil of Peace Corps Volunteers, I would like to note that the Peace Corps experience had its virtues and vices both for the Volunteers and the Ethiopian. The virtues we always cherish and the vices we forgive but not forget.

Lidj Dagmawi Teklemariam Abayire

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Send us your email address. Just in the recent past we've reconnected old friends, sent out a notice of the premiere of an Ethiopian movie and provided news updates. Don't miss out! Send to: mhbeil@servtech.com

THE HERALD

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Contributing editors — John Barnes (66–68), Richard Crepeau (Dessie 63–65).

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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 of interest to RPCVs who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea 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.



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Please send to:

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

DATES:

March 7 — Peace Corps Day.

Go into a school in your community and share your Peace Corps experience by speaking to students about the culture, customs and history of Ethiopia and Eritrea. To receive a presentation kit and more information, contact the Peace Corps at pccday@peacecorps.gov or call (800) 424-8580, press 2 then ext. 1961.

At our web site you can find a listing of children's books about Ethiopia that might be good to read to a class. Our library contents are listed at the site too — borrow a resource from there to help develop a presentation.

August 13-15 — ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs will have a social get-together at The Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. There will be numerous activities to choose from, a speaker or two and plenty of time to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

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

Address service requested

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.

Recently returned PCVs receive one year free membership and their label will have a date followed by "New RPCV" — the date being when the free membership expires.

If it says "Expired," your membership has expired since the publication of the previous issue of *The Herald*. We hope that you will reup. A membership form can be found on the next-to-the-last 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 #20" 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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