

PEACE CORPS

T I M E S

NUMBER ONE 1996

Peace Corps Celebrates Our

35th

Anniversary



FROM THE DIRECTOR

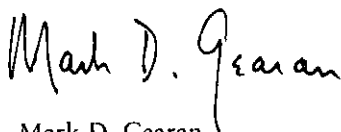
35 and Counting

More than 1,000 RPCVs, dignitaries, and friends of the Peace Corps came to Washington to celebrate the Peace Corps' 35th Anniversary over the weekend of March 1st. Secretary of Health and Human Services and RPCV Donna Shalala (Iran 1963-65), Theodore C. Sorensen (President Kennedy's Special Counsel), former Senator and Peace Corps staffer Harris Wofford (he now heads up AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program), Sargent Shriver and Loret Ruppe (two former Directors of the Peace Corps), U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright and many others spoke eloquently about the great contributions that Peace Corps Volunteers have made over the years in the developing world and here in our own country.

But the question everyone kept asking me had to do with you: "How are our Volunteers?" I had a quick and easy answer. I told them that all of you are terrific, hard working, and amazingly successful. Their question reaffirmed for me that our celebration was about more than the Peace Corps' past. It was also about what each of you is doing today and the contributions that you are making to the Peace Corps' future.

So, in case you felt a little removed from the 35th Anniversary celebration, I want you to know that even in your absence you were the center of attention. And for my part especially, you have my growing thanks for giving me the best answer to the question that matters most: "How are our Volunteers?"

Sincerely,



Mark D. Gearan
Director

P.S. The best part of my job is visiting you at your sites. I hope to see many of you in the months ahead as I make more trips overseas. In the meantime, I enjoy reading about your experiences, so keep writing me.



Director Gearan gets an enthusiastic high-five from a new friend in Paraguay.

PEACE CORPS TIMES

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The *Peace Corps Times* welcomes Volunteer submissions to *Notes From Around the World*, *Fieldbook*, *Reviews* and *Letters*. Accounts of Volunteer experiences, adventures, or general perceptions of life overseas will also be considered. Submissions cannot be returned. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, and length. Black and white and color photos (up to 8x12 inches) are acceptable. We regret, however, that we cannot return them. Please identify all photos clearly. Peace Corps reserves the right to use any writing, photos, and artwork in other publications.

Inquiries and letters should be sent to: *Peace Corps Times*, 1990 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20526, or pcunningham@peacecorps.gov.

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A quarterly publication for Peace Corps
Volunteers serving worldwide

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ON THE COVER—RPCVs converge on the Capitol to celebrate the 35th Anniversary with the March of Flags.
(Photo by John Jay Daly)

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Letters

Still In the Peace Works

I JUST FINISHED READING THE Number Two 1995 issue of the *Peace Corps Times*. I wish something like this had been available when I was a Volunteer; we were lucky if we got our copy of *Newsweek* a few times a year. But the thing that impressed me the most was to see that "Peace Works," the newsletter of Peace Corps Morocco, is still going.

I was a co-editor of the newsletter in 1981-82 with my roommate, and we didn't know if anyone would keep it going after we left. At first, it was an excuse to go to Rabat every month and also not to be scheduled to teach on Saturday mornings, but then it turned out to be a labor of love. We had to type it on ancient typewriters and reproduce it via mimeograph. Now, as I assist with the publication of the Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association's quarterly newsletter (using a personal computer and desktop publishing software), I remember all those weekends in Rabat typing and sweating over the mimeograph machine and wonder how we ever managed to get our newsletter copied and distributed!

Kathleen Trayte
Vice President, Philadelphia Area
Peace Corps Association

That's Not Where I Got It

THANK YOU TO ANDREW Fontanez for his article, "More Than an Apple a Day!" But the concluding sentence left me concerned. Who was his PCMO in Honduras? Last time I had my gamma-globulin shot I was not asked to roll up my shirt sleeves! GG shots in Gabon are taken in the derrière.

Silvan Nassoff
Gabon

Editor's response: The error was ours, not Andrew's.

Waiting for the Thrill to Kick In

WE JUST RECEIVED *PEACE CORPS Times* with its slick look and interesting articles. We enjoyed the very upbeat and positive tone of the magazine, yet found



Julie Bernstein and Roy Zimmermann.

it difficult to relate to.

Our working experience thus far has been filled with frustration and lots of waiting around. Both our jobs sounded excellent on paper, but so far both our offices are out of money. No money means no finishing up old projects or starting new ones.

Julie Bernstein and Roy
Zimmerman
Papua New Guinea

Too Cheap Tricks

I AM SADDENED THAT MY FIRST ever letter to an editor should have to be to *Peace Corps*. Your article "Cheap Tricks" (*Peace Corps Times* No. 2), along with several testimonials from PCVs (although two apparently were ashamed to sign their names), gave me a sickness in the pit of my stomach. Have we Americans really sunk to the level where lies are okay and even the norm

so long as we reach the intended goal? Don't call it cheap, just call it what it is: lies, plain and simple.

Jim Goll
Philippines

Fresher Than Just-Baked Bread

YOU EDIT A TRULY TOP-DRAWER magazine. When I was a Volunteer we didn't have a fancy, readable, graphically pleasing magazine to digest from headquarters. I really am impressed by your product. Keep it up. Your games article "It's Your Move" (*Peace Corps Times* No. 2) in the last issue was interesting and funny. A game where cheating's allowed if you don't get caught? I gotta play that. And the Kinky Friedman feature was a very nice piece of writing. I've read so many pieces on him—including one two months ago in the *International Herald Tribune*—that you have to make it fresher than just-baked bread to entertain me when it comes to this guy. Somehow, you did just that.

Just wanted to tell you I appreciate your work.

Mike Tidwell
RPCV Zaire

Pop Culture Overkill

I AM INTRIGUED BY *AAMA IN America: A Pilgrimage of the Heart* (Reviews, No. 2 1995). But I am also disheartened by the representation of America presented in the excerpt. Mickey Mouse is described as an "American deity. He's like the king of the mouse and animal caste."

I confess to knowing nothing of the languages of Nepal, but I find it hard to believe that there isn't some better way to describe Mickey Mouse. Are there no

Nepali words for "toy" or "advertisement"? Or perhaps "clown" or "entertainer"?

Then again, perhaps Mr. Coburn's rendition is disturbing rather for its accuracy. Fun has become our ultimate goal, so it would seem. And in America, entertainment is God.

Peat Kimsey
Botswana

Sticking Together to Stick It Out

IN THE NO. 2 1995 ISSUE OF *Peace Corps Times*, there was a note (*Notes From Around the World*) about the Survivor Advocacy Group (SAG) in Honduras. I would love to learn more about SAG and how we can implement it here in Chad. When you are feeling low or faced with crisis situations, you need a shoulder to lean on right then and there.

Erica Webb

Chad

Editor's Response: SAG is the brainchild of Honduras Volunteers, so your first stop for more info should be with them. You can write to SAG care of Peace Corps/Honduras at Cuerpo de Paz, Apartado 3158, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Here and Now

I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO receiving my copy of *Peace Corps Times*. I would enjoy reading more articles about the experiences of current Volunteers in the world.

Dorothy Mummert
Poland

Editor's response: We want to write more about current PCVs as much as you want to read about them. Volunteers can help us meet our challenge by writing newsy letters full of

information about their lives overseas.

Sign Us Up!

ON BEHALF OF CONNECTICUT



Lesotho PCV Christa Spieth and the women of Ha Rankala get a community library off the ground.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (CTRPCV), I am writing to request a subscription to *Peace Corps Times*. We are willing to pay for such a subscription, but our hope is that a subscription will be provided in return for adding *Peace Corps Times* to the mailing list of our newsletter, *Peaced Together*. I am aware that *Peace Corps Times* is usually available to PCVs only, but your excellent publication contains a wealth of information that would be of interest to CTRPCV. I hope that you will be able to honor this subscription request.

Bill Collier
Vice-President, CTRPCV

Editor's response: We'll be happy to. Peace Corps Times is sent out to Peace Corps Volunteers and all RPCV groups that send us reciprocal subscriptions of their newsletters.

Words of Wisdom

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO MY SON wrote the Peace Corps office in Honduras asking for stamps and coins. Denise Vermehren, a Chile staff mem-

ber, posted the note on the agency's world-wide electronic bulletin board and my son received 117 letters from 48 Peace Corps countries.

I was overwhelmed by the sensitivity and warmth expressed by so many of you. It has been almost 30 years since I

ended my tour in Honduras.

To say that my experience 30 years ago was a defining event of my life would be a gross understatement. It was the most difficult joy that I have ever experienced. I would not trade those two years for any other four that I have since enjoyed. I would do it again a thousand-fold. After my son Forrest gets to college, I will probably do it again. For those of you who are in the early throes of

"slogging through," do not lose heart. I promise you this: when it's over, you will leave with a humbled appreciation for having received far more than you were able to give. This experience will not only make your day, it will probably redefine your priorities and remake your life, to the world's benefit I might add.

For those of you who are about to complete your service, prepare yourself for the shock of return. It will appear that the world once so familiar has undergone a metamorphosis. It wasn't the world that changed while you were away; it was you. Things once important now pale. Old concepts, ideas, and perceptions have been erased and replaced with a newer, fresher vision. My only advice to you is: don't lose touch with the friends you have made; they will only become more important to you as the years pass.

Lester Lamm
Portland, OR

Editorial Policy:

Letters and photos are always welcome, but, for space reasons, we cannot print all that we receive. Preference will be given to letters that address the contents of the magazine. We request that letters be limited to 200 words, and we reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, and length.

NOTES

FROM AROUND THE WORLD



SOUTH AFRICA SIGNS ON TO PEACE CORPS

VICE PRESIDENT Al Gore AND SOUTH AFRICAN Deputy President Thabo Mbeki signed an agreement in December that will send Peace Corps Volunteers to South Africa by the end of 1996. "This is a partnership of historic significance," said Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan at the signing ceremony in South Africa. A Peace Corps assessment team is working with government officials, NGOs, and development organizations in South Africa now to determine Volunteer assignments. "They will determine what kind of assistance South

SOUTH AFRICA

Africa wants and where there is the greatest need," said Larry Trouba, Peace Corps' South Africa desk officer. "Peace Corps is going into South Africa with one project initially. It could be either education, health, or water sanitation. Those are standing out at the present time." The assessment team will also designate exactly where in South Africa Volunteers will work.

Although South Africa's economy is showing signs of recovery, the country faces daunting problems. Half of the black population (76 percent of the total population) is living in poverty. Unemployment is 46 percent nationally. South Africa also faces enormous challenges in education, with approximately 50 percent of the black population being illiterate. The Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) is the government's blueprint to address the socio-economic legacy of apartheid. The main objectives of the RDP include building schools and phasing in compulsory education; providing safe drinking water to 12 million people and adequate sanitation to 21 million people; extending health coverage and



Shake on it! Vice President Al Gore and South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki seal the deal. PCVs will head to South Africa this year.

encouraging primary health-care projects; constructing one million new homes; rapidly expanding the electricity network; creating 2.5 million jobs through public works and redistributing 30% of all arable land.

"There is some work in the RDP that may be appropriate for Volunteers and others that aren't. It's one of the tools we're using to determine what Volunteers in South Africa will be doing," said Trouba.

"Sending Volunteers to South Africa is a very important step for the Peace Corps and for the people of the United States," said Director Gearan. "By living and working at the grass roots level, Peace Corps Volunteers can help further strengthen the personal ties between Americans and South Africans."

ROAD TO NADIGAMVILA PAVED WITH COMMUNITY ELBOW GREASE

PCV Christopher Hammond TOOK one look at the pot-holed main road to the Sri Lankan village of Nadigamvila and saw his opportunity to help. After a project feasibility assessment revealed that the costs for the repairs would exceed

SRI LANKA

government funding, Chris worked as a key facilitator with community members and government agencies to come up with an alternative plan. He organized community work groups to pitch in and do the labor for free, and today, the villagers of Nadigamvila have a new road to make their travels a little easier.

First Lady Visits Volunteers

FIRST LADY Hillary Rodham Clinton, ATTENDING A REGIONAL SUMMIT of first ladies, joined Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan and more than 200 PCVs and Trainees in Asunción, Paraguay, this past October. At the *Quinta Ycuá Satí*, a local retreat house, Mrs. Clinton, Director Gearan, and Country Director Paul Kealey met with a small group of Maternal/Child Health and Youth Development Volunteers, including Elke Cumming and Jeffrey Arrigo. Addressing Volunteers, Mrs. Clinton said, "For nearly 35 years the Peace Corps has represented United States' commitment to social investment. It does not often receive the headlines that political action or economic progress does, but underneath both is the steady work done by Peace Corps Volunteers in partnership with the citizens of the countries in which they serve."

Presenting Mrs. Clinton with a soccer ball made at a local cooperative with the assistance of PCV Brant Campbell, Director Gearan added his compliments: "What you're doing here in Paraguay, and what your colleagues are doing in more than 90 countries around the planet today, is very important."



Paraguay Volunteers with the First Lady

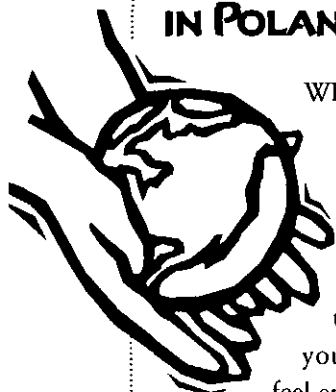
Banking on a Brighter Future

PCV Debra Boyer HAS HELPED MONGOLIA'S LARGEST BANK GAIN SOUND financial grounding as the country moves toward a market economy. Debra's analysis of the Agricultural Bank of Mongolia's government-directed lending practices demonstrated that without proper support from the government, the bank was on the verge of collapse. Information from her analysis was used in the bank director's negotiations with the government to gain more support, and resulted in a renegotiation of the bank's debt with more favorable rates and terms. Additionally, the Asian Development Bank agreed to give the bank more aid. "Perhaps my most important accomplishment is the beginning of the change of attitude," says Debra. "I see the director standing up to outside forces and fighting for what he sees as necessary for the bank and its customers. He is beginning to see the change in his role to a manager of a business who must think independently and act in the best interest of his shareholders and customers."

MONGOLIA

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A BOOST FOR KIDS IN POLAND



WITH AN UNEMPLOYMENT rate exceeding 35 percent, the city of Leczyca, Poland, can be a tough place for young people to feel enthusiastic about life's opportunities. PCV Sharon Barker, having met quite a few

POLAND

kids who had never visited a theater or museum, decided to organize a youth group. *Organizacja Młodych Ochotników* (Young Volunteer Group) boasts 32 members, girls and boys. They meet at least a few times a week to work on city projects—one of which is the "Boruta Newsletter," a monthly update on activities in Leczyca and school projects. Sharon and her group have organized rock concerts and an Earth Day clean-up as well as trips to Warsaw and to a model UN meeting in Hamburg.

PEACE CORPS TIMES WANTS
TO HEAR ABOUT YOU

Send news, stories and pictures
of your "Notes From Around the
World" to *Peace Corps Times*.

Patricia Cunningham,
Editor

Placing Girls in the Mainstream and Letting them Think

IN THE GHANAIAN SCHOOL WHERE PCV Lisa LaGrasse TEACHES physics and science, a mere 25 percent of the students are female. "Several other teachers and I noticed the disproportionate amount of girls in our classes and

GHANA

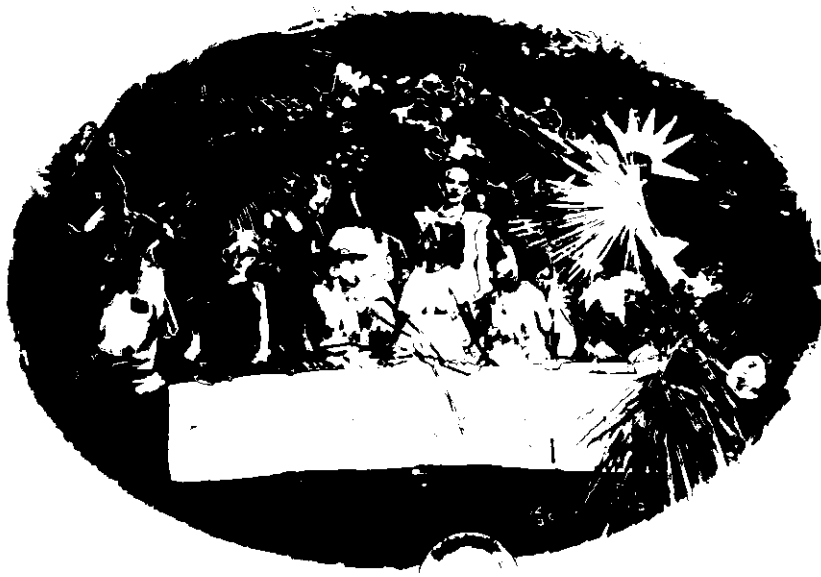
decided to focus on them." Lisa and her colleagues began organizing events to call attention to the contributions of Ghanaian women, beginning with Woman's Day, which brought secondary school students from neighboring villages to Lisa's village to hear four prominent Ghanaian women speak. Following on the heels of their success, Lisa and her fellow teachers hosted a panel of female university students who spoke about their achievements. The year's events culminated on Career Day, which featured guest speakers, including a female physician, pharmacist, and police officer.

Parading for Supplies

IT'S NO SECRET THAT PCVs ARE CLEVER WHEN IT COMES TO digging up funds for projects. When Kate Wallace needed money for a mural project for the preschool where she teaches in Moución, Jamaica, she decided to try her luck and entered a float in the Patronales Parade, the annual celebration of All Saints Day. "We designed and decorated the

JAMAICA

float, made the costumes, helped organize the mothers to assist us, and collected the plants," explains Kate. "We had 18 kids dressed as flowers and animals in a '*Jardin de los Niños* (garden of children)'." Kate and her crew (pictured below) won first prize and spent the prize money on paint for her mural project, as well as new school supplies.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, MARKETING!

AT FIRST, TOGO PCV Shawana Lee had some difficulty getting her project off the ground. "I had trouble getting students for my financial management training courses," says the small business Volunteer. So, she decided to go to them—via the

A Jewel in the Isle of Spice

ONE OF THE BEST-KEPT SECRETS OF GRENADA, the 75-foot-high Royal Mt. Carmel Falls, is no longer a

GRENADA

hidden treasure. After local villagers identified the falls as a possible tourist site, they contacted Grenada's ecotourism development office, and Yolande Joseph, the director of the program contacted PCV Sharon Johnson, a community development advisor at an NGO, for help. Working together with the villagers, they set up a community managed system for running the falls that protects the fragile island environment while it encourages tourism. Community members laid a trail and installed handrails, botanical labels, picnic tables, and a booth with a uniformed attendant who collects a one dollar fee. Over 2,500 visitors have traveled to view the falls since the trail opened. To keep up with the influx of visitors, nearby villagers have begun to set up stands along to road to sell handcrafted straw hats and baskets, homemade mauby and sea-moss juices and honey.



A Comet in Africa

WHEN Will Spargur, A PCV SCIENCE TEACHER IN SWAZILAND, heard that a planetarium in Peoria, Illinois, was making a very large scale reproduction of the solar system—with the planetarium representing the sun, and neighboring Illinois cities the planets—the space buff knew he had to participate. Jupiter or Neptune were out the question, as Spargur is stationed in Makhosini, Swaziland, but his village could represent a comet, which the museum sold as

SWAZILAND

plaques for \$50. Lacking funds, he penned a letter to the director of the planetarium and explained his situation. Wouldn't you know it? The planetarium's director, Sheldon Shafer, was a PCV himself in the early 1970s in India, and before long a plaque arrived from Peoria, compliments of Mr. Shafer.



Will Spargur and his students proudly display their "comet."

PCV Shawana Lee on the set.

television. In conjunction with TV Togo, Shawana is now broadcasting lessons on financial management to thousands of viewers on Saturday evenings. The show's become a prime time hit and Shawana is basking in the limelight of her newfound celebrity. "I now have requests in the dozens because I am a television personality," she explains. "When I am shopping at the *marché* or walking along to a *buvette*, I get many people stopping me saying 'Hey, I saw you on television. Can you teach me management?'"



Crisis Corps Helps Weather the Storms

LAST YEAR, WHEN HURRICANE LUIS STRUCK ANTIGUA AND Barbuda, it left a path of destruction in its wake: the homes of over 2,300 low-income families were either damaged or destroyed. Because they had no insurance or were grossly under-insured, many families on the islands didn't have the financial means to rebuild or repair their homes. Most were forced to live in crowded conditions with relatives and neighbors, or outside, exposed to the elements.

In response, eight Volunteers, who had completed their two-year tours in Peace Corps, re-enrolled, joined a PCV in Antigua and are now working with the people of Antigua to help them rebuild their homes. The Volunteers are also training young people in hurricane-resistant construction methods as

ANTIGUA AND
BARBUDA

part of Antigua's National Youth Skills Training Program. These Volunteers are the first to serve as part of the "Crisis Corps," a pilot project within the Peace Corps that will allow current and former Volunteers to use their technical, language and cross-cultural skills to assist people whose lives have been disrupted by natural disasters or humanitarian crises.



PCV Jeff Bryan helps Youth Skills Trainee Junior Lawrence construct hurricane-resistant homes in Antigua.

Saratov in Cyberspace

Robert Giovanne IS THE TYPE OF VOLUNTEER WHO SIMPLY CAN'T SIT still. He built and sold his first business, a specialty car wash, by the time he was 18 and, more recently, he owned and operated a restaurant in the States. While waiting to go to Russia with Peace Corps, he completed a Master's in Public Administration and got his pilot's license. So when he arrived at the Saratov Center for Business Development (CDC), you just knew he was going to concentrate on leaving his mark—and he is, helping develop Internet access for Saratov. Robert is currently working with local businesses and the state university on the finer points of "the net" and no doubt before long more people from Saratov will be web-surfing with the rest of the world.

RUSSIA

KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE AND SANITARY

PCV Colleen Marchwick IS implementing waste manage-

MOROCCO

ment strategies to break the chain of disease transmission in Morocco. Through her efforts, school latrines have been constructed at three rural primary schools. Colleen

works with local engineers and community leaders to develop a latrine design which best fits the financial, technical, and sewage constraints of each school. Colleen acts as foreman throughout most of the project, monitoring expenditures and construction, arranging transportation of materials, and supervising labor. She also devised

health education sessions that address the maintenance of the latrines and to explain the role they play in combatting the spread of disease.

A Stitch in Time Saves Lives

TONGA'S PRINCIPAL HOSPITAL CAN NOW BOAST THE FINEST emergency care system in the country, due in large part to the efforts of PCV Jeff Lahl. As part of his assignment, Jeff helped renovate and equip two ambulances, installed a radio communications system, and trained 12 nurses and health officers to be Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). The project was a massive under-

TONGA taking and received broad support from many sources, including the Nuku'alofa Rotary Club, the Australian High Commission, the U.S. Navy, and the LBJ Tropical Medical center in American Samoa. The Peace Corps Partnership Program also played a role, serving as a channel for funds donated to the project through the Barbara Eisinger Memorial, a fund established in memory of the former Volunteer in Tonga (1979-81) and Peace Corps staff member. As evidence of the national impact of this project, the Queen of Tonga personally awarded Jeff's first class of students with their diplomas in a special ceremony.



Tonga's new EMTs on the job.

A Trail Blazing Tribute

VOLUNTEERS IN SWAZILAND GATHERED AT THE MLAWULA Nature Reserve to blaze a trail in honor of fellow Volunteer Laura Stedman, who died a few weeks after COSing while swimming outside of Cape Town, South Africa. Swazi Volunteers (*pictured below*) thought it would be a most fitting memorial to Laura, a teacher who blazed her own trail at the Zandondo Secondary School where she taught math and science. "Laura lived life to the fullest and was an excellent Volunteer," said Swaziland Country Director Sally Collier. "She helped a teacher and students begin a literary magazine and science club and organized sports activities. She earned the respect of her students and her colleagues." Laura opted to live on a Swazi

SWAZILAND homestead with a Simelane family for the duration of her service. They called her "Lindiwe," which means "the one we were waiting for." The Laura Lindiwe Trail will course six-miles through the Mlawula reserve and serve as an enduring reminder of Laura's commitment to her community and her spirit of service and adventure.



PUTTING A NEW FACE ON NEPAL'S NATIONAL ZOO

IT MAY NOT BE YOUR AVERAGE fix-it job—transforming Nepal's central zoo from an out-of-date facility with too-small rusted cages to a modern, humane place that will educate its visitors—but to PCV David Lewis it has become a labor of love. "As a former elementary school teacher, I thought it would be a good opportunity to help tackle some of Nepal's biggest problems." In the past few months, the zoo project has grown to about one hundred volunteers, both Nepalis and

NEPAL international residents working together with the zoo staff—local high school and university students, volunteers from North and South America as well as the support of the U.S. Ambassador to Nepal. David and his team have even put together a slide show to introduce visitors to the zoo, developed educational programs, and trained over 30 tour guides.

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Path TO EMPOWERMENT



BY MELISSA JOHNS

THERE IS A THING CALLED 'CHAOS THEORY' THAT I HEARD EXPLAINED A WHILE BACK," EXPLAINS BETSY DAVIS, COORDINATOR OF PEACE CORPS' WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (WID) PROJECTS. "IF A BUTTERFLY FLAPS ITS WINGS, THE WINDS GENERATED EVENTUALLY MAKE A THUNDER STORM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE. WORKING WITH WID IS LIKE BUTTERFLY WINGS. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE WIND GOES, BUT IT GOES SOMEWHERE—I HAVE NO DOUBT."



PCV Michele Young in Botswana.

Davis has quite a tempest to generate. In many countries, women occupy the lower rungs of almost every social indicator: literacy, health care, and economic independence. According to United Nations' statistics, 70 percent of people living in poverty are women and children; two-thirds of the world's illiterate population are female. Peace Corps might be blowing the winds of change around the globe, and they are coming up against some stark social and economic realities.

"Women carry the burdens of the family, whether it is gardening with children on their backs, or carrying firewood and water from miles away. In the end, it is the women

who bear the responsibility worldwide," Davis declares from her Peace Corps headquarters office in Washington where she oversees the WID program.

Peace Corps created WID in 1975 to bring the needs of host country women fully into its development projects. Pursuant to the Percy Amendment passed by Congress the previous year, which mandated that American foreign aid programs devote more attention to women's concerns, Peace Corps built programs specifically to include women in community development. "We are integrating sensitivity to women's needs into all Peace Corps programs," says Davis.

That integration is stretching from staff to Volunteers to their counterparts in-country. Starting in the Central and South America region in 1994, gender and development training workshops gave Peace Corps representatives from Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, and Paraguay new skills for taking into account all members of the community, including women, before initiating community projects. These

representatives then returned to their respective countries to share their ideas. It's a grass-roots way to extend gender awareness.

"We are hoping to extend the gender sensitivity training throughout the world," Davis says. Pilot gender and development training for Volunteers in Africa will begin in 1996.

The foundation of WID's philosophy is that effective, sustainable development interventions will only occur when the needs and priorities of *all* community members are part of the process. As in any community development activity, the roles of its people and the effect of the project on its members of the community must be considered carefully before the project is implemented.

There is a delicate balance sought by the Volunteer who aims to heighten a woman's position in her society without imposing American cultural norms. Volunteers may recognize many problems in their host countries that resonate from their experiences in the United States, but the difficulty comes in recognizing that, for example, an effective response to domestic violence may be different in The Gambia, Turkmenistan, and the United States.

For most Volunteers, navigating the cultural divide is a process of trial and error. Success depends on the Volunteer's ability to shift approaches and learn from mistakes.

A beekeeping training program in Bolivia was going great, lots of participants and equal representation in the class of men and women. The day after discussing the proper beekeeper's garb, however, the women stopped coming to the class. The Volunteer thought they had lost interest, but follow up revealed that the beekeeper's suit violated Bolivian societal norms which prohibited women from wearing pants. A solution was found: the women put on the beekeeping garments first, and then wore their traditional skirts over them.

"In WID, a real issue that Volunteers have to struggle with is identifying how the host country women define their needs, not how the Volunteer defines them. That is a serious challenge that we continually face," Davis explains.

The tension between expanding host country women's role in development projects and respecting their societal customs requires that Volunteers hold a clear vision for their projects and exercise an extraordinary gift for diplomacy. The job of the Volunteer becomes that of a facilitator, not imposer.

"What WID should be about is helping host country women integrate themselves into the development of their community," says Davis.

A Volunteer wants to facilitate this integration but needs more than his own perspective of how to go about it. Or another Volunteer is getting ready to COS, and she doesn't want to watch her accomplishments with the girls in

EDUCATION

To include women in the education process is to improve the quality of their lives, the lives of their children, and the lives of people in their community.

Volunteers in Gabon sought to capitalize on the widespread belief that educating a female improves the health of her entire family; that is, infant mortality decreases and the nutritional level goes up. Volunteers raised local money for scholarships in 1990 for four promising female students; that number has grown dramatically to 112 scholarships awarded last year. Volunteers are excited about the success because monetary aid represents official recognition of the value in educating girls.

One problem that Volunteers discovered in Eastern Europe was giving girls equal time to study. The girls' duties at home usually outnumbered those of the boys, and they often could not devote the required study time for scholastic achievement. The Volunteers set up a study hall room at local schools where students can do their homework after classes let out for the day and before they go home to attend to chores.

In the Baltic Republics' Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) courses, Volunteers use a "gender-awareness" packet to guide them in their lessons and provide examples through language and activities that give girls equal attention. The packet includes gender-inclusive language, role-modeling, classroom culture, and techniques on integrating women's and girls' issues into lesson planning. Volunteers in Thailand also have given workshops for Thai primary school teachers about gender-biased dynamics in grade school classrooms.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

According to WID sources, women produce 80 percent of the household food in Africa, 65 percent in Asia/Pacific Islands, and 40 percent in Central and South America. Because they are the ones planting and harvesting the food, water, and firewood, women are major beneficiaries of Peace Corps resource management programs.

The Dominican Republic WID Committee brought together 100 Dominicans to learn about environmental issues on their island. Informational sessions and training groups prepared the women to return to their communities and teach what they learned about preserving environmental resources.

Last year, 88 members of a farming community in Belize attended Volunteer-sponsored "banana-house" workshops, which were held in response to local complaints about pesticide poisoning. The workshops focused on safety procedures for handling the chemicals such as wearing preventive clothing while using the pesticide, and instructions on how to read symptoms of, and treat, pesticide poisoning.

Volunteers in Morocco held a tree-planting and environmental education project for 180 local school children and teachers, involving them as "caretakers for the trees." They held solar oven demonstrations at large festivals, with four ovens being built alongside them by members of the community.

her village end with her service. Peace Corps answers these concerns with a sustainable, organized way to consolidate efforts for women-focused activities or gender-sensitivity training: WID committees in host countries.

Over 25 countries have set up their own WID committees, which can take any shape to pursue any goals. The purpose and structure of WID committees are designed according to the realities and needs of each country, and the projects are tailored on an individual community level. Common factors of WID committees worldwide, however, center in their answer to four basic questions: What do the women perceive as their needs? What are the roles that host country women play in Peace Corps projects? Are there gender differences that impede their participation? And how can Peace Corps build sustainability into the changing planning process?

Volunteers, with and without formal WID committees, are looking at these questions in their countries and designing their own method of integrating women into Peace Corps projects. In



Organizers of a women's workshop in Ecuador: (from left) Melissa Thundale, Monica Mueller, Tina Olson and Alusa

every sector and in every region of the world, Volunteers are finding a way to bring opportunity to the lives of women in their host communities.

With every victory seen now, more will occur down the road long after the Volunteer has returned home. A girl who attends a career day set up by the WID Committee in Poland may still choose a traditional path, but she may encourage her daughters to expand their horizons. The fact that the Volunteer never sees the daughters choose a different path, however, does



WID integrates women's needs into development projects; Botswana PCV Jan Taylor.

not lessen the impact of his or her work.

"The greatest impact that we can make is to have every Volunteer look at women and men together when creating their projects," Davis says.

"If every Volunteer would look at women's needs through women's eyes, and then did something about it, well, then that is the storm from the butterfly wings."

Melissa Johns is a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras.

HEALTH, WATER, AND SANITATION

Health, water, and sanitation Volunteers lay the human groundwork upon which other Peace Corps projects can operate. Intricately linked are a child's nutritional level

and his/her performance in school, as well as environmental degradation and clean water supplies. Volunteers have also joined the effort of fighting HIV transmission in the world's highest risk groups: women and youths.

Volunteers in Ecuador organized the first-ever national workshop on Women and HIV/AIDS. Twenty-five public and private agencies came together for an update on HIV/AIDS in Ecuador and went back to their communities with additional strategies for fighting the virus' transmission in

their areas.

PCV Jennifer Custer improved water treatment and sanitation processes in Honduras by training youth and women in sanitary techniques for daily living and encouraging them to share their knowledge with others in the community. Her work and impact has multiplied, and the women and youth have gained confidence and leadership abilities.

Women in Togo and Benin are being trained by Peace Corps Volunteers in health outreach programs. One of the most successful programs has been in the reduction of Guinea worm disease by 62 percent.

BUSINESS

Women entrepreneurs have been a significant target group in Peace Corps' business development projects. This approach is based on the belief that as mothers' incomes rise, they will invest new earnings in nutritious foods for their children and supplies for the home. (The same increase in fathers' incomes has not been shown to affect children's nutritional level.)

In Ghana, Volunteers have worked with the Cape Coast Women's Center to develop a credit union in the local women's center. The union gives out small loans to members, whose repayment rate is an impressive 100 percent. Not only is the start-up money provided, but if a member is at risk for default, her fellow members work with her to determine her problems and find solutions.

PCV Kathleen Bernhoft, in conjunction with more than 100 local women, helped form a cooperative for weaving silk in KhonKaen, Thailand. This group creates textile patterns and clothing designs, challenging established product lines for a share of the lucrative American market. This project is a direct result of last year's Peace Corps WID conference in Thailand.

PCV business advisors in Lithuania helped a women's group receive a \$6,000 grant from the Global Fund for Women. The group will use the money to open a women's center and sponsor further workshops and training for women entrepreneurs.

In Fiji, a business Volunteer is working to create a NGO that will provide sustainable social services and lend financial credit to local women. The WID committee has also organized workshops to train women to use recycled products to make toys.

PCV Lee Griffen works at a mohair-weaving business operated by women in Lesotho.





BY PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM

Radio Active

Peace Corps Volunteers Take to the Airwaves

When Samantha Fewox, Carla Galisin, Sam Setiff, and Shanna Taylor offered their services to a radio journalist in Vilnius, Lithuania, who was looking for a couple of native English speakers to help out with the weekly broadcast at the local station, they assumed they'd be doing dry readings of the local news or station announcements à la Walter Cronkite. Little did the four PCVs know, their short trip to the studio would lead to the formation of one of the most popular talk show teams in town.

"We went to the station to offer our 'reading' services and much to our surprise, they offered us our own program," recounts Galisin. "They thought our American perspectives would be interesting to their listeners. 'Our perspectives on what?' We asked. The response was: 'whatever you want.'"

The quartet came up with a name, (The Peace Corps Four), a theme song ("It's the End of the World as We Know It," by REM), and a mission ("To provide an entertaining and informative talk-show that provides our enlightening perspectives on subjects such as life in Lithuania, current events, and whatever else we feel like talking about").

The Peace Corps Four's venture into broadcasting was a little slow-going at first. After their first show, during which they completely exhausted their reserves of anecdotes on life in Lithuania, they realized they'd have to expand their programming somewhat. They re-did the format to include discussions on topics such as the death penalty and gender roles in the United States and in Lithuania, invited in members of the local community as guest speakers, added the popular song of the day and trivia questions. "We also have the Top 10 lists," notes Galisin. The show became a lively feature of life in Vilnius.

In the months that the group has been broadcasting, they say they've discovered the uses of radio as a tool for cultural exchange; for them, it's provided a "way in" to the community in Vilnius. Now, when they're traveling on the train or getting a bite to eat, local residents sometimes recognize their voices and don't hesitate to strike up a conversation with them. They've even received some fan mail.

But The Peace Corps Four aren't the only ones. Volunteers all over the globe take advantage of the local airwaves. And it isn't a new phenomenon either. Volunteers have been broadcasting since the first group served in Ghana in 1961. Whether powering up a battery-operated short-wave radio or broadcasting out of fully equipped private stations, Volunteers have been using radio as a means to disseminate news and information, to increase their own visibility and become a part of their new communities, and to have a little fun.

Probably the most valuable feature of radio, especially to Volunteers who are eager to accomplish ambitious project goals, is its breadth. Radio reaches practically all populations in all countries in a large variety of languages. The abundance of cheap transistor sets through rural areas guarantees coverage in most countries. "Radio broadcasting is often the only means for many people to receive the kind of information that can encourage social and economic change," says Penn Kemble, Deputy Director the U.S. Information Agency, which oversees broadcasting programs such as the "Voice of America."

With radio, Volunteers can inform or instruct segments of the popula-

tion they otherwise may never come in contact with, getting our information to the far side of the capital city and isolated areas as well.

"The very low cost and adequate reliability in all climates of miniature transistor radios mean that radio broadcasting should more and more be recognized as a particularly suitable medium for educational purposes," intoned M. Edgar Faure, of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) back in 1972, urging greater use of radio as a method of distributing instructional materials. By that time, a number of Peace Corps Volunteers had already discovered radio as a tool for development. Even today, with the ubiquitous presence of television and satellites, radio remains the most reliable and extensive form of communications. "The small, battery-run transistor radio has become the most important medium of communication in the fishing village on Sumatra



"We went to the station to offer our 'reading' services and much to our surprise, they offered us our own program," recounts Galisin.



just as much as in the Ashanti village in Ghana," explains Klaus Reiff in *Radio and Television for the Third World* (FES Publishers, 1972).

"It's the cheapest, most effective way to get the word out," says Roger

In the studio, the "Peace Corps Four": (from left) Shanna Taylor, Samantha Fewox, Sam Setliff and Carlo Galisin.

Fernandez, a former Mongolia Volunteer who had a news show that was broadcast throughout Mongolia, Southern Russia and North China. "In Mongolia, everyone had a radio, even the nomadic population and most radios were battery-powered so if the power went out, as was usually the case, people would still have access to news."

It is in the rural setting of developing countries where radio has become an important educational aid and has the greatest potential to assist human growth and development. "Through our radio show, we've been able to feature complex topics such as HIV/AIDS awareness, women's rights, and the importance of savings and credit systems—reflecting our work goals," says Jenna Rupp, a Volunteer in Mali, who, along with fellow Volunteer Betsy Kleiner, hosts a weekly radio talk show in the town of Niona. "Having our own radio show has been a fun challenge for us both. We can discuss cultural issues and differences between Americans and Malians. We even play music along with our speeches, running the gamut from The Cure to Patsy Kline."

The station that Jenna and Betsy broadcast from is far from state-of-the-art—it's powered by a car battery and runs with a second-hand cassette player and a microphone held together by scotch tape. Yet, Jenna says, "With each show, our visibility and the community awareness of us as Americans and Peace Corps Volunteers increase."

Pat Boye, a Health Officer at a Youth Resource Center in Katutura, Namibia, recently developed a participative drama about HIV/AIDS called "Johnny." The play was written, directed, and produced by the youth at the center. Local actors are now performing the play on radio and at local schools.

Steve Boyd Saum, a Volunteer in Ukraine, has taken advantage of the local radio station in the town of Luske and has begun to broadcast English lessons—reaching an audi-



Mongolia Volunteer Roger Fernandez with Abadam, a local fan.

"In Mongolia, everyone had a radio, even the nomadic population."

ence far more sizable than could fit in any classroom. "V Hostyakh u Stiva," or "Steve's Place," features an English lesson and new vocabulary words throughout, as well as music from Tom Waits, Lyle Lovett, and the Cowboy Junkies. "Radio allows me to reach a broad audience. It's an extension of teaching," writes Steve, who has been on the air since April. "When I do live call-in shows, I mostly answer questions about American culture and history. We used Bruce Springsteen's 'Philadelphia' to launch a whole line of questions about the city, the Declaration of Independence, and Thomas Jefferson."

As a Volunteer in Botswana, Paula Harris used radio to provide instruction in bookkeeping and commerce. "In a country of 1.4 million where the majority of people don't have access to television, radio is the primary way to get information," says Paula. "My show became a huge hit. It really guided them in their learning."

However, Volunteers aren't just working behind the mike at these local radio stations; in some cases, they're helping to launch them. With privatization initiatives spreading throughout Eastern and Central Europe, licenses for radio stations are now available to the general public. Stations that at one time were the sole province for state manufactured "news" are now up for grabs, and PCVs are helping would-be media moguls eager to take advantage of the "free" air.

In Armenia, Volunteer Dan Bolger helped a group of university students create that country's first independent FM radio station, Hi FM, by obtaining grants for studio and transmitting equipment. The station was officially established in September, 1994, and has since provided the city of Yerevan with music, news, and entertainment. Recent surveys indicate that the majority of radio listeners in Yerevan are tuning in to Hi FM more frequently than any other station. The success of the radio station has boosted interest in the broadcasting business in Armenia—since Hi FM went on the air more than 15 organizations have filed for radio licenses.

In the Czech Republic, Volunteer Hank Loeser is taking initiatives to help these young radio stations survive in increasingly competitive broadcasting markets. He recently established ASPSV, an association of independent Czech radio broadcasters. He also designed and implemented a training project to assist the association's members in surmounting economic and political challenges that threaten their station's existence. Hank has devised a "sister sta-

tions" exchange program between private Czech radio stations and their American counterparts to foster relationships that would enable Czech radio stations to get tips from U.S. broadcasters in areas of management, programming, marketing, and sales.

"Strong independent radio stations are important institutions of democracy," Hank explains. As a secondary project, the business Volunteer will head up the national broadcaster's trade association. Business Volunteers like Hank are also using the new crop

of stations to transmit their economic counsel and help get free market economies off the ground. "A significant proportion of business Volunteers have radio or television shows," says Helen Viksnins, a Peace Corps Central and Eastern Europe desk officer.

As Volunteers take to the airwaves, they're also providing listeners with entertainment, introducing them to new music, different views, and having their fair share of fun.

"I loved it," says Roger Fernandez. "It was fantastic. I think I accomplished

one of my goals as a Volunteer—getting involved in groups and special activities outside of my job as an English teacher in Mongolia—and that was important to me." □

Patricia Cunningham is the Editor of Peace Corps Times.

Volunteers Write:

Missing Nid



The concrete house my co-worker purchased for me to rent is in an unfinished housing area. On the other side of my narrow road, in shacks made of plywood and tin, live the workers who build the houses. Nid and her family lived in one of the tiniest of the shacks. When I came home from the office, she would greet me with a smile. Sometimes she would smile without showing her teeth, as she already had cavities—she was six.

Bringing fruit from the market became my routine, and Nid and I would eat oranges or other delicious Thai fruits. Nid's favorite was lum yai. Sometimes Ohn, her brother, would come with her. We would eat oranges and then play catch amid shrieks of laughter and the slip-slap of rubber sandal-clad feet.

I began giving the children in my neighborhood stickers I brought from the United States. Each time, Nid would want to go through all of the stickers before she'd choose one. She would do this everyday and always ended up choosing a butterfly. Then she started to ask me what every sticker was. That's when I realized she was not in school.

Early in the morning, I'd water my garden and suddenly Nid would be there helping me. She could weed the whole garden faster than I could one row. When I'd go to work and the other children would go to school, Nid would stay at home.

Since I was learning Thai, my co-worker had given me books for writing Thai letters. Soon Nid was coming over every day to learn and write the Thai alphabet. One day Nid's mother came to get her. She saw a photo I had of Nid and Ohn taking a bath in my dishpan. She

gestured that she would like to have it. I said, in my fractured Thai, that I had many photos of Nid that I would give her when the film was developed.

That day never came. Suddenly Nid and her family moved to another building project. I hope that someday Nid's mom will have the photo. I hope Nid is in school learning the Thai language and the unique culture of her beautiful country, Thailand.

Anne Marie Branon is a Volunteer in Thailand.





President John F. Kennedy with Sargent Shriver after signing the Peace Corps Act on September 22, 1961.

PEACE CORPS Celebrates a Landmark Birthday

BY NANCY CHARTRAND

Thirty five years ago the Soviets erected a wall dividing Germany into East and West. Thirty-five years ago Marilyn Monroe was the goddess of the silver screen. And 35 years ago the Peace Corps was born. Most of us have seen the footage of JFK sending off the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers from the White House. And then came the poster perfect footage of those Volunteers landing at their sites, all clean-cut and bright-eyed, toting their suitcases ready to change the world. Well, the world has changed since then, Volunteers have changed, and so has Peace Corps.

"It's a benefit
to participants,
it's a benefit
to our country."

—Sargent Shriver

The first Volunteers were truly caught up in the spirit of volunteerism Kennedy inspired. They were setting forth to fight hunger, poverty, and disease. They were what Peace Corps now calls "generalists" because of their liberal arts background and focus on community development. Their motivation to serve as Volunteers came from their motivation to help their neighbor, even if that neighbor was half-way around the world.

Like Peace Corps, Rich Wagner was born 35 years ago.

"My parents instilled a sense of public service in us kids, and Peace Corps was considered one of the noblest methods to serve," says Rich. From 1989-91, he was an urban planning Volunteer in Nepal and a small business Volunteer from 1992 to 1993 in Bulgaria. Today, he is still serving Peace Corps, as a recruiter in Seattle.

Many Volunteers no longer enter Peace Corps straight out of college. A number of Volunteers are coming straight out of careers and even

retirement.

Last winter, Robert and Marlene Mareth of Monet, Missouri, were approaching retirement age. This nurse-and-farmer team were expected by many to take it easy and enjoy their "golden" years, but instead the Mareths are serving as community service Volunteers in Papua New Guinea.

In the early days of Peace Corps, Volunteers worked to satisfy the most basic needs of host countries. They were building roads, constructing bridges, and immunizing children. In 1996, Volunteers are still fulfilling basic needs, but they also have ventured to help solve problems never imagined in 1961.

A disease called AIDS was unheard of when Peace Corps first established its health programs. Today, there are AIDS education programs in Thailand, Malawi, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic, to name only a few. Nearly 300 Volunteers teach HIV/AIDS education and prevention and have helped develop HIV/AIDS awareness messages.

Peace Corps is also at the forefront of protecting the planet's fragile environment. With expanding populations and the need to produce more food, developing nations face increased pressures on their diminishing natural resources. Whether Volunteers are educating nationals on how to preserve the breeding grounds of the Green Sea Turtle in Central America, or developing plans to combat environmental mismanagement in Central Europe, they are doing work that is not only vital to the survival of the people they serve, but their children, and their children's children.

At the end of 1961, there were several hundred Volunteers serving in 9 countries. Today, there are almost 7,000

Volunteers in 94 countries. Later this year, we will see Peace Corps return to Haiti and enter South Africa.

"It's the best public relations for the U.S.A. overseas in all countries, then, now, and in the future," proclaims Sargent Shriver, Peace Corps' first Director and one of its founders. "It's a benefit to participants, a benefit to our country—no negatives anywhere!"

Peace Corps is now involved in countries and programs JFK never envisioned when he challenged Americans to join this "grand and global alliance." There is no doubt he would be proud of Volunteers' work.

From 1961 to 1996, Peace Corps has changed with the times while maintaining its mission and integrity.

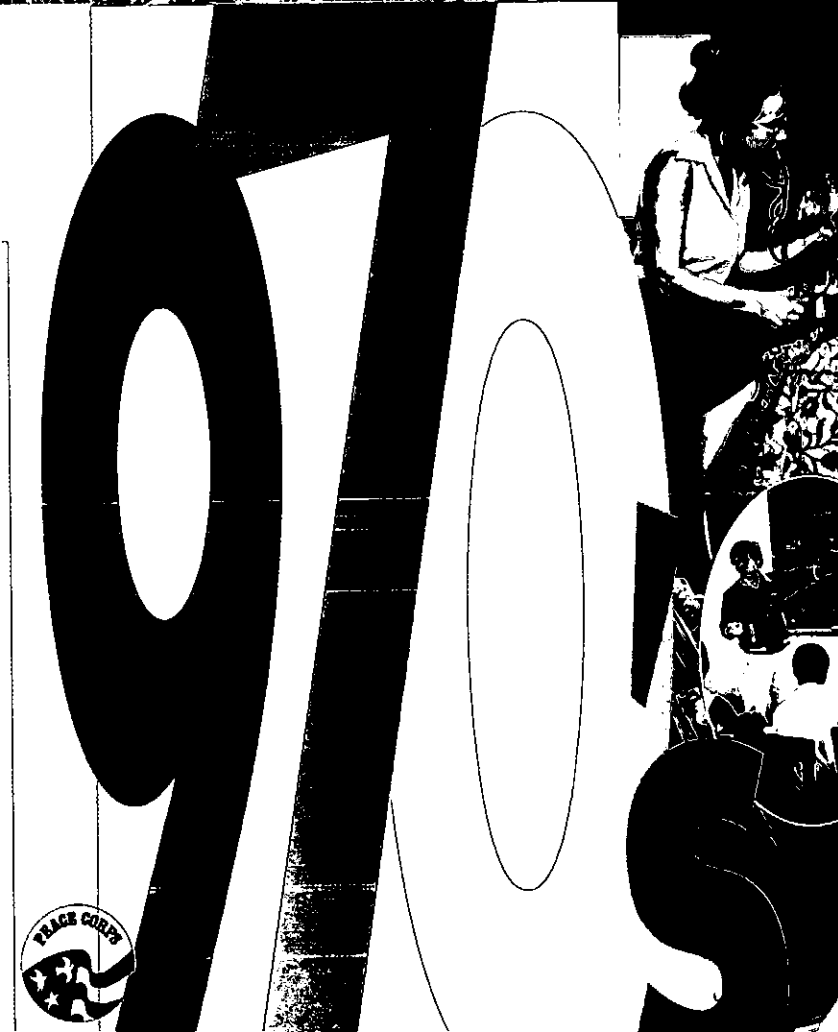
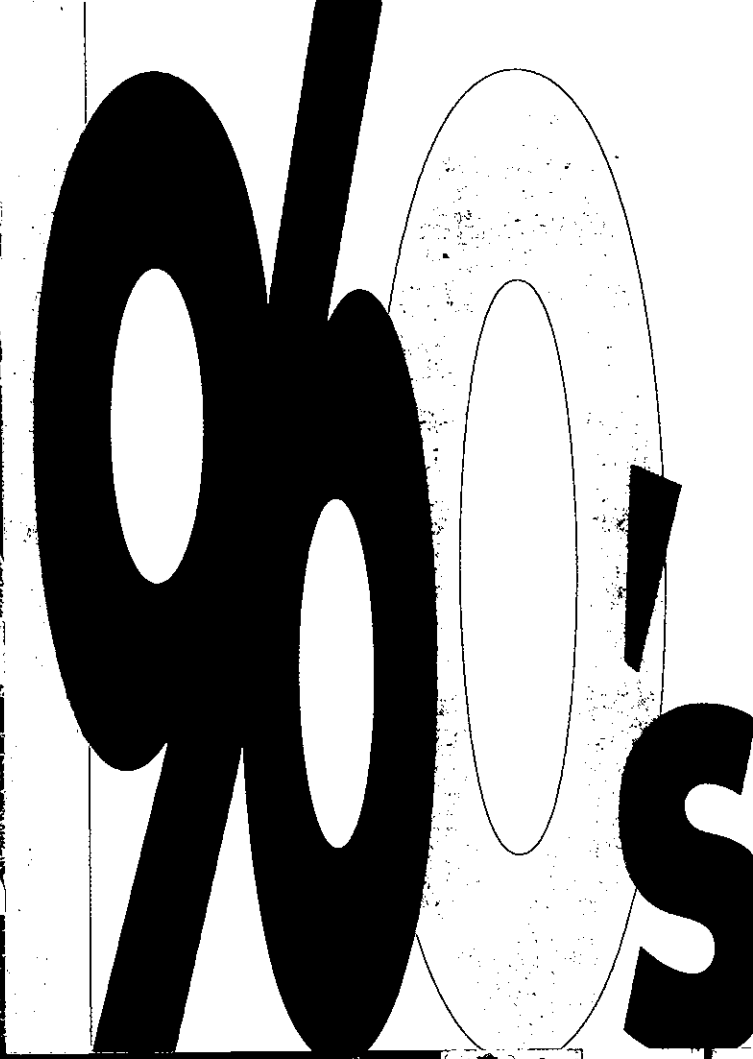
Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan puts it well:

"As we celebrate 35 years of achievement, let us remind ourselves that the collective acts of more than 140,000 Volunteers have advanced a still larger purpose: to change and improve the human condition. This is no small task, but it's what Peace Corps Volunteers do everyday." ☐

Nancy Chartrand is a Peace Corps Public Affairs Specialist in Seattle.



Caught up in the spirit of service: The first group of Volunteers as they depart for Ghana.





RO'S

RO'S





stories ♦ you tell

If only the folks back home could see this! How many times have you thought that? Has the adventure started yet? Or are you still waiting impatiently for that one big moment, that time when you say to yourself, "This is it—this is the story I'll tell over and over again when I get home." Well read on, friends. Here are some of those moments you're having.

—Compiled by Sarah Bott

ONE

The most interesting thing I've done was to co-organize, along with an education Volunteer, a summer camp with five Trainees as part of their internship experience. It was a week long camp with each day having a specific focus. After evaluating the community, five specific areas were agreed on: Sports, Environment, Help Your Neighbor, Culture, and Arts and Crafts. It was a successful and satisfying experience and we were all truly exhausted by the end of the week.

—Kelly Cullen
Jamaica



PCV Kelly Cullen and her neighbors in Kingston.

I work with crocodiles in the Dominican Republic, perhaps not your everyday Peace Corps experience, but after a while it seems normal. However, I had the chance to watch a nest of crocs hatching and that was definitely not ordinary.

We already knew where the nest was and had been keeping an eye on it for signs of hatching. We had buried a small temperature sensor inside the nest that we had to retrieve before the eggs hatched. When the time was near we went to collect our device.

The mother crocodile, a small eight-footer, was lying very near the nest, but scurried away to the lake when she saw us coming. We started to dig and unbeknownst to us, this was the cue for the young ones to hatch. We collected our sensor and then started rounding up the babies. There were only about four or five of them but the rest of the eggs looked like they were about to hatch. We

There the rest of the eggs hatched with a tiny tap and then a small snout furiously trying to free itself from its tiny prison. The eggs are slightly larger than a chicken egg but the newborn croc is about nine inches long. They emerge from their eggs fighting mad, too, glaring and snapping at everything.

After we took all of their measurements and marked each one, we released them in a nearby marsh far from any human disturbance to give them a better chance to survive.

—Wendy James
Dominican Republic

The most interesting thing I've done so far is to visit a monastery called Zeno Marcos located at the edge of our beautiful gorge. It's a two-hour hike into the gorge before you reach a small patch of paradise. They've constructed an enormous church (for Ethiopia) that resembles a small European cathedral. How they con-

structed it in such a remote location is beyond me.

As a test of faith they invited me to walk through a



very narrow cave full of cockroaches and moths. Legend has it that those who are sinners will be swallowed up by the cave walls. Without hesitation, I decided to give it a try.

My teaching colleague and I inched our way through the narrow passage at times, having to turn sideways to fit through the crevices. Luckily, since it was almost completely dark, I only felt the cockroaches as opposed to seeing them. After a journey of about ten minutes, I

emerged from the other side unscathed. I had survived my first true adventure in Ethiopia.

—Marc Nielson
Ethiopia

It was a cold drizzly Sunday afternoon in Armenia. Our bus bounced along as we casually made our way towards my northern site of Gyumri. After a weekend in the capital, Yerevan, I was tired and looking forward to a restful Sunday night in my quiet village of Haikavan. Happily, this was not to be. Just outside Gyumri, two black *Ladas*, Russian-style cars, overflowing with a group of happy, enthusiastic Armenians, pulled up alongside the bus, waving and shouting for the bus driver to pull over. The bus stopped. On jumped a spry 70-year-old gent asking for the release of "the American." I was transplanted into a *Lada* between two older women who accosted me with

TWO



PCV Marly Reed and her "friendly kidnappers."

hugs and kisses. Clumsy with my recently acquired language tools, I didn't understand who these people were, why and where they wanted to take me.



I was driven to a small home which was overflowing with lavish dinner preparations and an array of Armenian delicacies. I was seated as the honored guest and overwhelmed with gastronomic goodness. What followed was toasting, singing, and much dancing. I was transformed into a wrist-rotating, foot-shuffling dance fiend.

At one point, the toastmaster decided it was my turn. This wasn't easy considering I was still clueless as to the identity of my friendly kidnappers. I whipped up something along the lines of "To hospitality, cooperation, and friendship." Luckily for me, the Pre-Service Training language lesson on dinners and toasts was not forgotten. My language was jerky and very basic, but every time I made an attempt at communication, I was made to feel like a refined orator.

Playing the detective, I tried to figure out my hosts' identities, looking for clues, signs, anything. Later in

the evening, I was driven home (my kidnappers knew exactly where I lived). To this day I do not know who these friendly kidnappers were.

—Marly Reed
Armenia

Without a doubt my most interesting experience was

a bike trip around the island of Savaii. Approximately 104 miles all the way around, the trip took me five days to finish. The best part about the trip was that I left with no real plan and no accommodations. I went by myself because I felt that traveling alone allows for more freedom and spontaneity.

—Scott Harrington
Western Samoa

Upon arrival at post, I was often asked by my new Togolese friends what I had done before coming to Africa. I would answer rather sheepishly that I was an aspiring actor and had studied theater. "You can start a theater group!" they told me.

The local high school already had a fairly active group, but the elementary school program had ended in 1976. It seemed like a good place to start. The school director was as excited as the children, and from the 250 who showed up to take part, we chose 15. I told the young actors about my program, environmental protection, and we agreed to choose scenes based on environmental themes.

Two of the scenes are Togolese folk tales that have been given envi-

ronmental twists, and another, "The Green Ninja," is about an environmentally-minded Ninja who stops farmers from lighting brush fires.

Through Small Project Assistance (SPA) funding, we are able to purchase musical instruments, a cloth backdrop, some costumes, and even go on tour so that more than 1,000 people have seen the *Jeunes Acteurs De Kante*. (Young Actors of Kante).

—Bill Church
Togo

One of my students and I made a videotape to send to friends in America. We just walked around town here and filmed what we thought was interesting. We also visited an old hospital where there was a celebration taking place. After editing and seeing the final version I noticed something strange yet delightful. I saw myself speaking Czech, waving to people I'd met, interacting with real people and communicating. I thought, "Wow, I'm really learning something." There is some magic in all this.

—Daniel McMahon
Czech Republic

I've been in Kenya just over a year now and life here is my friendship with Peter Mbuvi, a 24-year old mechanic who never made it to university simply because his father didn't believe higher education was worth their heads of cattle. Supporting six brothers and sisters on \$140 a month while moving from one frustration to the next, Mbuvi has served as an inspiration and embodies the meaning of perseverance.

After losing parental support, he went on his own, putting himself through a two year polytechnic program with profits made from his brick-



baking business. He's since returned home to give his siblings the education and financial support he was denied growing up. In essence, he's foregoing his life so others won't know the same trying times he was forced into. Without any fostering and even after being scorned by his parents from opportunity, he's maintained a virtuous regard for others.

That's why the building with him of his new home was probably the best thing I could have ever done in Kenya. Being his friend and saying, "I admire what you're doing enough to lend a helping hand," is probably the best feeling I'll ever have. To me that grass-thatched, mud structure is more than just shelter from the rain. It symbolizes a friendship between two people and their nations, and represents all the reasons behind my volunteering.

—Christopher Vaughn
Kenya

Sarah Bott is the former Editor of Peace Corps Times.



PCV Scott Harrington with students in Western Samoa

Volunteers Write:

Getting an Ear Full

The other day I was riding in the back of a pick-up truck from my site to the nearest pueblo, about an hour's trip. This can be a really beautiful ride, especially in the morning with the fog and the mountains. But this time, as has happened in one way or another in the past, a man interrupted my bliss by ever so obviously staring at me. Everyone else's stare was forward, watching the potholes in the road; although I tried, I could not ignore this man. Finally, I turned and said "And what! What, do you want?" ("Y Que! Que Tu Quieres?")

I already had built up a small personal vendetta against this same man from the day before when he urged me to tell him why I don't "reproduce" and how God demands that all women fulfill their purpose by having children. If a woman is not physically able to have kids, she may be pardoned, he said. "And what about the men?" I asked. From here the argument didn't really go much further because I was very hungry for the plate of beans and rice that sat in front of me, and I didn't really think it was worth the energy to continue it.

But back on the truck, after a short while we had started to hit some of those potholes, and the man turns to the one next to me and says, "Take care of her," ("Cuidala") which I was in no mood to hear, especially from him. I couldn't hold it in and shot back at him, "You're not good for women." ("Tu no eres bueno para mujeres.") I think I hurt his pride.

The dilemma I'm feeling after one-and-a-half years in this country is balancing cultural sensitivity with my own thoughts and feelings. As uncomfortable as those last 20 minutes were in the truck—all the men were as silent as I ever heard them—I felt good, like I had released something that I needed to get out. Yet, I realize that it would be more beneficial to channel this anger into more positive outlets, such as women-related projects. We are not here to change the culture, even if it is something we don't like. But I do feel that most of us go through very different stages of dealing with machismo, and I just hope that suppression is not one of them.

There is a happy ending to my story. In the last couple of weeks, I have been fortunate to be working with a young *agronomo* (farmer) woman. We visit farmers' fields together. It's very empowering to finally be working with a woman in such a male-dominated occupation. Happily, I have found that she has a more progressive view of women, as one day I overheard her remark to another farmer, not too harshly, "*Tu no tienes que cuidarme. Yo puedo cuidarme, yo misma*," she said. "You don't have to take care of me. I can take care of myself."

Jennifer Plumb is a Volunteer in the Dominican Republic. Reprinted from "Gringo Grita," the Volunteer Newsletter of the Dominican Republic.



NE DAY, AFTER MONTHS AND MONTHS OF ANTICIPATION, YOU WALK TO THE MAILBOX AND THERE IT IS—YOUR INVITATION TO BECOME A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER. YOU RACE INTO THE HOUSE, PICK UP THE PHONE, AND CALL ALL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



Nepal PCV Tom Prol enjoys traditional Timar festivities with his host family.

home is where the

Holiday

BY ELIZABETH GALE GREENLEE

Just imagine, you're actually going to spend the next two years of your life overseas, far away from home and those you love. Slowly the excitement levels off (though not completely), and you begin think about all the wonderful events you'll miss: birthdays, weddings, the birth of your niece or nephew, the World Series! But the most painful thought is of not being home for the holidays. This naturally presents a special challenge to any Volunteer, but you eventually adjust. And why? Because living in a different culture means experiencing another peoples' lifestyle, and that includes their holidays and celebrations.

Derived from the words "holy day," holidays originated as festivals and rituals which acknowledged the mysteries of our existence, such as life and death among humans and cycles of nature. Some celebrations were based upon the solar year while others were held according to lunar cycles or phases of the moon. With the introduction of the Roman calendar, secular holidays—which have no religious significance—increased worldwide. Today, PCVs around the world witness, learn about and participate in hundreds of holidays ranging from actual holy days to those commemorating political victories or honoring cultural heroes.

Despite the numerous merry-making opportunities overseas, some Volunteers long to be home on certain days, especially Christmas. Since it's Christian-

based and not solely an American holiday, several PCV's celebrate Christmas just like they would in the States—well, maybe not exactly.

According to Erin Murray, a RPCV who served in Poland, there are vast differences between Christmas in Poland and in the United States. The Polish festivities start with a Christmas Eve vigil (called *Wigilia*), and a 13-course meatless dinner highlights the evening.

"Hay is placed under the tablecloth to honor the stable animals who were present at the birth of Christ," Murray explains. "An extra place is set in case a stranger is without a Christmas meal, which is symbolic of how there was no room in the inn for Mary and Joseph."

Though such an elaborate meal may seem lavish considering the religious significance of the day, food plays a major role in many celebrations. For example, RPCV Joseph Gencarelli, who served in Romania, recalls enjoying good fellowship and an array of traditional Romanian dishes during his first Christmas overseas.

"I had a host family while in training, and they invited me to their house," he says. Gencarelli remembers his host family having an evergreen tree, singing songs and even exchanging "little gifts." What did he receive that year? A tube of toothpaste.



Martha Nelson, who served in Jamaica, insists that the Yuletide season on the Caribbean island resembles American celebrations, minus the commercialization. "Jamaicans don't have all the 'hoopla' we have here," she says.

For Dave Boatwright, observances in Papua New Guinea, though somewhat familiar, proved to be quite an experience.

"They celebrate Christmas and sing American Christmas carols," he explains. "They're near the equator and here they are singing 'Dashing through the snow, in a one horse open sleigh.' They've never even seen snow!" Boatwright adds while laughing.

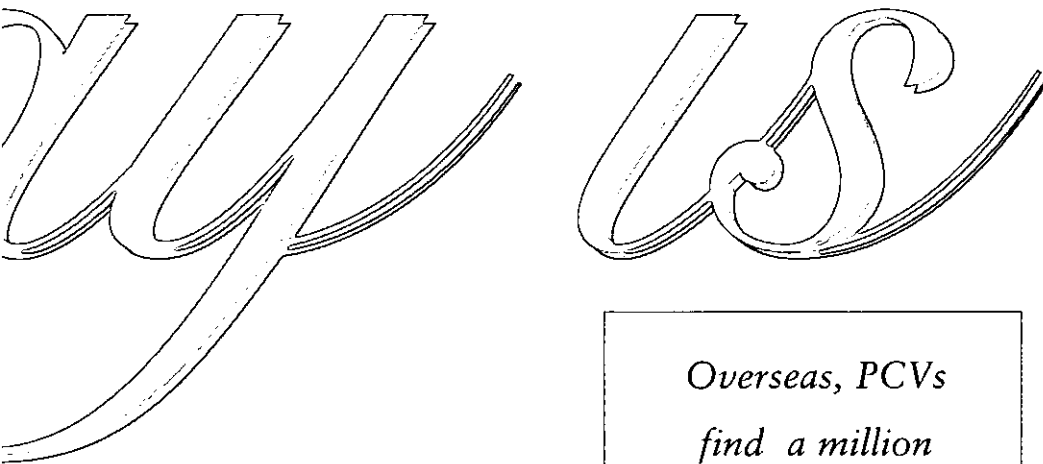
RPCV Mark Perkins points out that although Jesus' birth is commemorated in the Dominican Republic, *Día de Los Reyes* (King's Day) is the major holiday for children.

"Usually the only gifts kids receive [during Christmas], if at all, would be one set of new clothing," he explains.

But for *Día de Los Reyes*, which is celebrated on January 6, little ones anxiously place their shoes at the edge of their beds in hopes of receiving candy, cookies, and other goodies from the Magi. Perkins laid out his worn work boots and discovered a banana plant in them the next day!

Though Thanksgiving marks the Pilgrims' feast at Plymouth Colony, other cultures designate days to express gratitude for harvests, health, and prosperity.

Christian Cameroonians give thanks for the teachings of the missionaries on *Evamelunga* (the taking away of the burden of sin). Recognized on September 8th, the day's events include families attending choir concerts at small churches. And like many thanksgiving celebrations, a grandiose meal ends the day.



*Overseas, PCVs
find a million
reasons to celebrate*

They're singing 'dashing through the

—Dave Boatwright



Volunteer Gretel Abad (left) receives the blessing of "tika" on the festival of Dashain.

One holiday that's recognized practically worldwide is New Year's Day. Though not always observed on the same day, or even during the same season, every culture has a particular manner of bringing in the new year. Among the Chinese, *Ch'un Chieh* (Spring Festival) marks the beginning of the lunar year. Festivals characterized by lively parades of brightly colored dragons typically begin in February and last several days.

Adults in Ecuador observe *Año Viejo*, or "Old Year." Townspeople stuff old clothing to resemble a man, and a will (usually listing family faults and indiscretions) is written for the scarecrow-like character. Around midnight, someone publicly reads the will and burns it along with the figure, thereby symbolizing the end of an old life and the beginning of a new one.

Perhaps one of the most popular "new year" events is Carnival. Renowned in Europe and throughout the Americas, the fun generally begins on January 6th (the Christian day of Epiphany) and lasts until Ash Wednesday. In Oruno, Bolivian festivities go on for an entire week and include

offerings to Mother Earth. Extravagant processions leading to local Catholic services conclude the celebration. According to RPCV Angela Giorgianni, processions are integral to Easter practices in Guatemala. She explains, "The Catholic influence is so strong that they take the entire week and make carpets [decorated with symbolic pictures] which they lay along the streets." Crowds of men and women, many carrying

platforms with statues of Jesus or Mary, cross over the carpets during the ceremonies.

Other religious-oriented holidays include Sri Lanka's *Esala Perahera*, or "Arrival of the Tooth Relic." This 14-day fête, which allows adults to pay homage to what is believed to be a tooth of Buddha, includes nine nights where the sacred object is paraded around the town of Kandy.

In Muslim countries, Ramadan usually stands as the most important holiday. Christian Kelleher, who served as a Volunteer in Guinea, West Africa, notes that the day allows people to confirm their faith in their god.

"They don't do like we do here [in the States] and lose sight of the holiday," he says. "From sunrise to sunset, no one ate food nor drank any water." In order to experience the customs of the day, Kelleher fasted for a short time, and was even allowed to enter the mosque.

"That's unusual for non-Muslims, but because I'm male, it was easier for them to allow me in," he explains.

In addition to religious holidays, many countries have days to honor the dead or the spirits of those who have passed. Côte D'Ivoire's Kolo Dance, though actually a harvest celebration, bears striking resemblance to Halloween. Young boys dress in outfits of leaves and visit houses requesting treats in exchange for a song.

In Sierra Leone, people from various religious traditions participate in *Awoojah*, a feast honoring the spirits of the dead. Before the feast, families visit the cemeteries and pour libations over their relatives' graves. In performing this ritual, it's believed the spirits will help increase the family's fortune.

Africans aren't alone in paying respect to their ancestors. The Polish also honor their deceased during the Catholic holiday, *Wszystkich Swietych*, (All Saint's Day.) Erin Murray, who describes Polish holidays as being "serious and solemn," says, "On November 1st, families light candles around the graves, decorate the site with flowers and 'revisit' their loved ones who are gone."

But why wait until those special people have passed? In Bulgaria, the day of *Babia Den* honors elderly women, called *baba* who work as midwives. Due to the belief that some of the *baba*'s wisdom is passed on to the newborn child, flowers and other tokens of appreciation are brought to the women.



Czech dancers don customary attire for a festival in Roznov Radhostem.

...snow' and they've never seen snow!"

Papua New Guinea

The holiday is widely recognized as Grandmother's Day.

School-aged children in Cameroon also have their special day, *Le Fête de Jeunesse* (Children's Day). According to RPCV Willa Bragg, everyone celebrates it, but the kids definitely steal the show. "The children prepare weeks in advance. They have plays, dancing, and singing; it's an all-day party," she says.

In Romania, women have exclusive rights during the Ropotine/Repotini festival. During this "female-only" spring ceremony, women trade places with men and "pretend" to rule their households. They eat, drink and even punish their husbands for any past wrongdoing. How's that for challenging the "natural" role of women?

Speaking of nature, many rites are performed on a seasonal basis. After the first new moon of February, drums and chants may be heard in the West African country of Niger during the *Bianou* celebration. This ritual of the Tuareq nomads, held annually in the town of Agadés, marks the end of the winter season.

In northeastern Thailand, the *Bun Bang Fai* festival, which occurs in May, is observed in order to ensure good crops. And in Nepal, the harvest festival *Dashain* is observed after the end of the monsoon season.

"The holiday commemorates the slaying of a beast by the goddess Durga," says RPCV Gretel Abad. According to Abad, the Nepalese go to temples to sacrifice animals, and on the final day the red "rika" blessing, which is placed on the forehead, is passed from the older relatives to the very young.

In addition to ceremonies, which exude an aura of spiritual purpose, some secular holidays demand just as much attention. According to Dave

Boatwright, Independence Day in Papua New Guinea is marked by numerous celebrations including several athletic events. Likewise, Martha Nelson notes that in Jamaica, a country beaming with national pride, Independence Day is "always a four-day holiday." The Maroon festival, another local favorite, commemorates the day when the British government officially recognized the island's fugitive slaves as a free community.

important to the country. It gives [the citizens] an important sense of identity, celebrating the moment when they became free and autonomous in the modern era."

Ultimately, it doesn't matter where you find yourself as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Whether you live in a grass hut in the countryside or in one of the numerous urban centers across the globe, the experience of simply being in another country, among a different



**Festivals and rituals acknowledge the mysteries of our existence:
Ramadan fête in Bougouni, Mali.**

Albert J. Ament, who served in Madagascar, remarks that Malagasy Independence Day is also extremely jubilant. "The town will be crowded and festive, with more drinking than ever," he says.

The sound of fireworks and the site of youngsters toting paper lanterns reminded Ament of "our Halloween and fourth of July mixed together."

Reflecting on the significance of the holiday, he says, "This day, as all independence days in ex-colonies, is very

group of people, is bound to introduce you to new traditions and new ways of celebrating holidays, reminding us all that in every corner of the world lies precious reasons to celebrate. ■

Elizabeth Gale Greenlee is a Public Affairs Assistant in Peace Corps' Atlanta Regional Office.

FieldBook

Tips for Making the Most of Your Tour

Stocking the Library Shelf: Strategies for Book Donations

When looking for book donations, the suggestions in Peace Corps country manuals on this topic are a good place to start. Some of the organizations mentioned, however, are overwhelmed and you won't hear back or you'll get a "sorry" note. Be patient, you may have to solicit them a couple of times. It's worth a letter to the ones you think might help your particular site or projects. Get a "solicitation rap" for your letters. Describe your view of your country and the conditions from which these needs have generated. Then describe your site—what it looks like, the people, what they're like. (Don't write this after a lousy day!) And then describe what you could use. Be specific on the

level of materials you need. Ask for different things from different groups or friends.

I've had a number of responses to my "book donor" solicitations from a variety of sources. The biggest surprise was when I got three huge boxes of textbooks and novels from the RPCVs of Milwaukee. Another surprise was an Eagle Scout who, for his community service project, gathered a splendid set of English textbooks.

Another resource that has been a pleasant surprise is my alumni association. In response to a letter in the alumni bulletin, I've had a lot of support from college friends. One college acquaintance even wrote from Germany with an offer of financial journals. I haven't written to my high school newsletter yet, but I imagine if I did it would produce something. I received some teachers' copies of writing books from a college professor and some copies of his book on business communication, as well. Ask them to start a small book drive for you.

Churches that you, your parents or relatives belong to can be responsive to an interesting letter. Clubs and groups may also be willing to help out. How about teams? Fraternities? Sororities? A letter to the local newspaper can generate interest. Newsletters for an organization can be a good target for a letter.

Hopefully, you'll find a group of people who will become interested in a faraway place they hadn't thought about before. Good luck! It really feels great when someone responds.

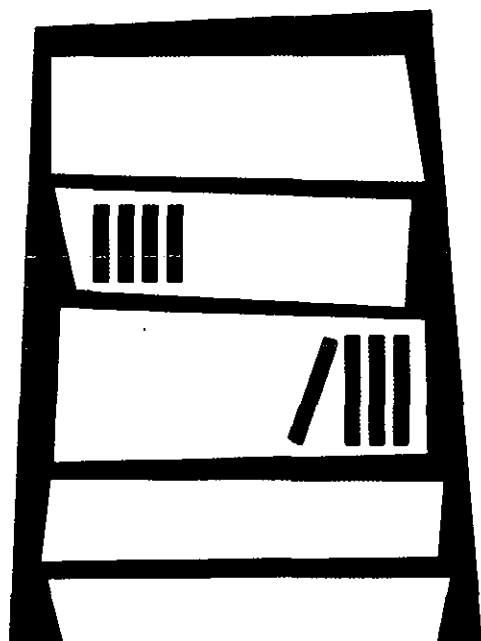
By Betsy Collins. Reprinted from the Mongolia Volunteer Newsletter



Rainy Day Fun

Appropriate Technology Man here to tell you about a great idea to convert an old Peace Corps memo into a fun, rainy day activity. Next time you face a rainy Saturday at home, take your oldest memo and cut a strip lengthwise less than an inch wide. Take this strip, give it a half twist and, bringing the edges together, tape them to make a loop. Now the fun begins! Take a red marker and color one side red and the other side green! *Wha-la!* You have a great decoration! It's called a Mobius strip.

Reprinted from the Chile Volunteer Newsletter.



Make Your Own Paper

The ultimate activity for you crafty types

A Personal Journey Into Paper Making

I was a Peace Corps forester in St. Lucia, West Indies. The Governor General was to inspect our rain forest location and my counterpart, and I needed a few things to show him. The question was: what? We decided the five year old plantations of blue mahoe, which we had been thinning for posts and small poles, would be best. We thought he might be interested to see that the inner bark of the blue mahoe could be pulled from the poles in beautiful long strips. The Carib Indians had used blue mahoe inner bark, and that of its close relative, seaside mahoe, for cordage for hundreds of years. Probably the Arawak Indians had before the Caribs. I never quite forgot the experience of stripping the bark from the blue mahoe poles.

During a recent trip to St. Lucia, I brought back three pounds of inner bark of blue mahoe to the States. Harold and Marjorie Alexander, experts in making paper by hand from agricultural

wastes in rural Minnesota, produced 30 wonderful sheets that go through my laser writer and make an absolutely stunning letter. In March, the Alexanders visited St. Lucia, gave a public lecture on hand papermaking, showed large sheets of poured paper made from blue mahoe, and met with several St. Lucians who are interested in getting an operation under way.

I've learned a great deal about hand papermaking in a short couple years. I'm excited about the potential for small scale papermaking to make a difference in the lives of people in developing countries. With training from experts and modest equipment investments, people can be making and selling paper from the rich variety of plant fibers found in almost every country.

—By Rolfe Leary. Reprinted from the RPCVs for Environment and Development Newsletter.

Recipe for Fresh Paper

1. Soak torn pieces of recycled paper at least ten hours in wash basin.
2. Take a handful of the softened paper pieces and place in a blender.
3. Fill the blender with water, leaving two inches at the top.
4. Blend at a low speed, gradually increase to the highest speed, for approximately five minutes.
5. Add optional sizing (wallpaper sizing or cornstarch) and dyes or flowers.
6. Pour pulp mixture into sink and add about ten times more water until it looks like cloudy or dirty water.
7. Line the mold (a wooden frame over which a screen has been stretched) upon the deckle (frame which fits around the edge of the mold) and scoop the mixture up from the bottom. Be careful to lift it slowly and horizontally.
8. After most of the water has drained, tilt slightly and carefully lift off the mold.
9. Turn the deckle paper side down on a smooth (no folds or wrinkles) cotton couching cloth.
10. Turn the deckle paper side down on a smooth (no folds or wrinkles) cotton couching cloth.
11. Sponge as much excess water from the screen as possible. If the paper seems thick, or a little rough, place a couching cloth on top and roll the rolling pin carefully but firmly over the paper.
12. Let it dry almost completely, and place the paper with the couching cloth still attached, one on top of each other between heavy pieces of wood or press boards, then set a cement block on top. Leave overnight. If the paper needs more smoothing, a hot-too-hot iron can work wonders.

By Merry Havens. Reprinted from "Kisko," the Volunteer Newsletter of Peace Corps Jamaica.

Super Crossword Challenge

Puzzler fans, put on your thinking caps!

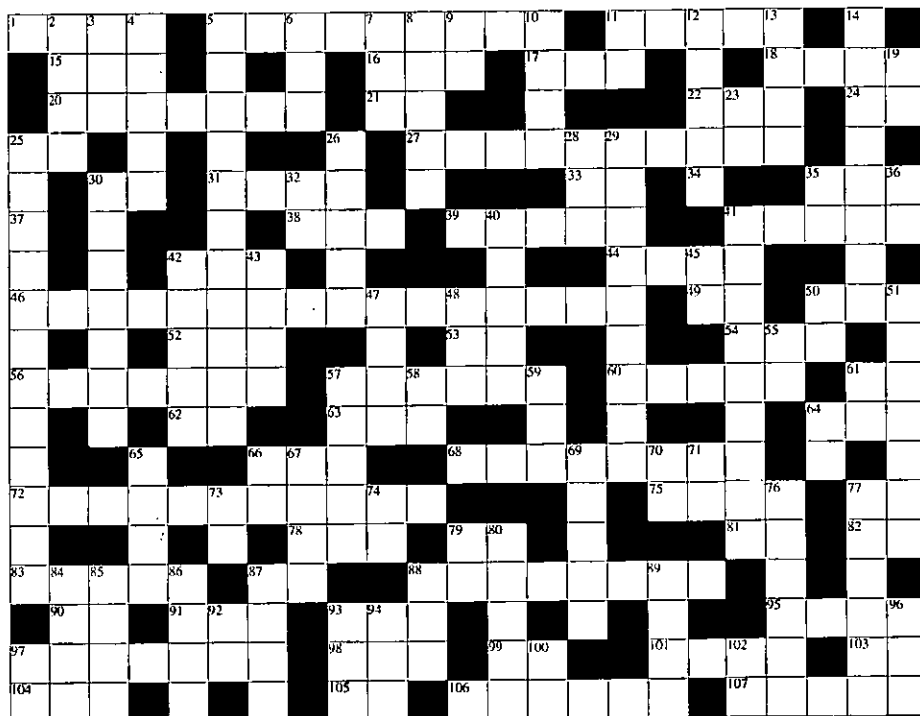
Across

1. African country inhabited by semi-nomadic tribes; also a man's name
5. African country made up of 10 major islands, all of volcanic origin
11. This sub-Saharan country's capital is Niamey
15. Frothy drink
16. Colonial insect
17. Energy and enthusiasm
18. Ore
20. Largest independent nation surrounded by South Africa
21. Compass direction
22. Unusually fitted or qualified
24. Indicates movement
25. Green light
27. Saharan country inhabited by nomadic Moors, also Latin name for Moors
30. Degree
31. Peace sign
33. Columbus is the capital
34. One
35. Tool for piercing holes
37. Ego
38. Also
39. Earth's protective layer
41. Largest country in Africa
42. Eggs
44. To mature
46. Frederick Forsyth's novel, *The Dogs of War* is set in this African country
49. Egyptian sun god
50. Vapor
52. Pronoun
53. Mail Route
54. Collection of living animals
56. Another name for Gamblers
57. English gold coin issued from 1663-1813
60. Formerly Dahomey
61. Jefferson City is the capital of this U.S. state
62. Second musical note
63. Cool drink
64. Airplane

66. Low point, reflux of the tide towards the sea
68. Mt. Kilimanjaro is located there
72. This country's name means mountain lion in Portuguese
75. Fade
77. Room, abbreviation
78. Finish
79. Denver is the capital
81. Title for medical professional
82. All of us
83. Overturn
87. Jackson is the capital
88. Former German, French and English colony
90. Baton Rouge is the capital
91. Ocean wave in Spanish
93. Gregor Mendel's favorite legume
95. Depression by a blow
97. This West African nation's capital city is Dakar
98. Rows a boat
99. Sound of laughter
101. Smeller
103. Wedding word "I..."
104. Small bundle
105. This individual was encouraged to "phone home"
106. Country where writer Paul Theroux served as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1963
107. Religion practiced widely in Africa and the Middle East

Down

2. A hat for angels
3. Same as 15 across
4. Work stations
5. Name which means Ivory Coast in French
6. An argument or evidence in affirmation
7. Mini bus
8. Foe
9. Highway or thoroughfare abbreviation
10. Always
11. Sante Fe is the capital
12. First country of service for Peace Corps, in 1961
13. Lovely metermaid



14. The Kalahari Desert location
19. Negative
23. Geometric Greek letter
25. African country with the longest war for independence, 1956-74
26. This country's capital is Nairobi
28. Charged particle
29. Anglophone West African country that is surrounded by Senegal
30. Small African country bordered by Rwanda, Zaire and Tanzania
32. Richmond is the capital
35. Anno Domini
36. Thoroughfare, abbr.
40. Formerly the Belgian Congo; place of the Grift Rift Valley
41. Country bordered by South Africa and the Indian Ocean
42. The one remaining
43. Appendages
45. Salem is the capital
47. Praise
48. Vessel
50. Japanese strategy game
51. Smallest country in Africa
55. Flick the switch
57. Albert Schweitzer founded his famous hospital here in 1913
58. Id est
59. Scottish for "own"
61. Augusta is the capital
64. Law degree
65. U.S. Great Lake
66. Elevated railroad, also an alphabet letter
67. Inhabitants of an apary
69. African horse
70. Compass direction
71. Des Moines is the capital
73. Ante meridiem
74. Bismark is the capital
76. Wears away
77. Country where Diane Fossey studied gorillas, and was replaced by Diane Duran
79. The 1849 Gold Rush state
80. American Indian Tribe, also a city
84. Entered in court
85. Plentiful in the Sahara
86. Francophone country whose name means "Carry out"
87. The ancient city of Timbuktu locale
88. This African country's initials spell out the U.S.'s favorite mode of transportation
89. Universality
92. Sixth note on the musical scale
93. Author of *The Raven*
94. Ingest
96. Male cat
97. Compass direction
100. Montgomery is the capital
102. "Yes" in Panama

Answers on page 35
(no peeking!)

Saving Your Readjustment Allowance: A Case for SAVINGS BONDS

Got big plans for life after Peace Corps? Maybe you're going to travel or go to grad school, or maybe you're just going to go on a big spending binge and buy all the goodies you've been missing since you went to live overseas. If saving for your future is what's on your mind, you might want to consider investing your readjustment allowance in savings bonds.

You can begin purchasing bonds at any time until one month before your Close-of-Service. Bonds are estimated to reach face value in about 12 years, depending upon interest rates. The maturation date of each individual bond is dependent upon the interest rate in effect at the time of its purchase.

There are only 50 and 100 dollar monthly allotments for savings bonds. Bond allotments are treated as any other withdrawal coming out of your readjustment allowance. In other words, you will have less money available to you at the end of your service if you buy savings bonds, but presumably more money after 12 years.

Bonds can be cashed before they mature, but they cannot be cashed until six months after their purchase date. If a bond is cashed after five years, but before its full maturation, the bond will earn full interest on the monthly allotment amount of the bond.

Here are some of the benefits of investing in savings bonds.

Interest Rates Are Better Than Ever. Savings Bonds held five years or longer

will earn 85 percent of the average yield on five year Treasury securities, with interest compounded semi-annually.

Big Tax Savings. U.S. Savings Bonds are exempt from all state and local income or personal property taxes.

Delayed Federal Taxes. No federal taxes to pay on interest until bonds are cashed or reach final maturity.

Cash on Demand. Liquidity is always on the investor's mind. Cash when you need it is one of the best benefits of U.S. savings bonds because of easy conversion at any time after six months from purchase. *Strengthening America.* Bonds serve to underwrite federal monetary needs and help fight inflation by supplying dollars that might otherwise be borrowed at much higher interest rates.

Current Minimum Rate. Should market rates drop sharply, the average yield on savings bonds is no less than 4 percent for bonds held five years or longer.

College Costs Made Easier. Accumulating U.S. savings bonds can, if certain guidelines are followed, render them totally tax free when they are cashed in for college use.

Reprinted in part from "El Clima," the Volunteer Newsletter of Peace Corps Ecuador.



Dealing with the Blues

A Survey on How PCVs Cope with the Doldrums

It's as unavoidable as an overcast day, and whether you're the get out of bed and go for the gusto type or the sensitive dreamer, you're going to deal with it at one point or another: a case of the blues. For Volunteers, those doleful feelings can be compounded by separation from loved ones as well as the stock pick-me-ups, such as a Saturday afternoon matinee, a long stroll with the family pet or a visit to the local shopping mall. Yet, somehow you manage to get through it. What's your strategy? *Peace Corps Times* wants to hear about the ways PCVs rescue themselves from the doldrums.

Super Crossword Challenge Answers

78. End	35. AD	79. CO	81. Dr	82. We	83. Upset	42. Other	41. Swaziland	40. Zaire	36. Ln	35. AD
37. I	Down	70. NW	69. Zebra	67. Bees	66. El	65. Erie	64. ID	61. ME	59. Ain	58. Ie
25. Co	20. Lesotho	18. Iron	17. Vim	16. Ant	15. Ale	11. Niger	5. Cape Verde	1. Chad	79. CO	81. Dr
27. NE	22. Apt	24. To	25. Co	27. NE	30. BS	31. Dove	33. OH	34. A	35. Awl	37. I
38. And	39. Ozone	41. Sudan	42. Ova	44. Crow	46. Equatorial	Guinea	49. Ka	50. Cas	52. Him	53. RR
54. Zoo	56. Badgers	57. Guinea	60. Benin	61. MO	62. Re	23. Pi	25. Guinea	96. Tom	94. Eat	93. Poe
92. La	89. Omni	88. CAR	87. Mali	86. Togo	85. Sand	84. Pica	80. Omaha	79. CA	77. Rwanda	76. Eros
74. ND	73. AM	71. IA	70. NW	69. Zebra	67. Bees	66. El	65. Erie	64. ID	61. ME	59. Ain
58. Ie	57. Gabon	55. On	54. Co	48. Um	47. Land	45. OR	43. Arms	42. Other	41. Swaziland	40. Zaire
36. Ln	35. AD	79. CO	81. Dr	82. We	83. Upset	42. Other	41. Swaziland	40. Zaire	36. Ln	35. AD

Continuing to Serve

For Donna Raynolds, Swaziland has some things in common with Cairo, Illinois

BY JUDY BABBITTS AND SARA DIAZ

SIX YEARS AGO PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER Donna Raynolds taught woodworking and technical drawing at a secondary school in Swaziland.

Today, as a Peace Corps Fellow, Donna is helping to revitalize a poor American city in Illinois.

She is one of approximately 350 returned Volunteers this year who are bringing their skills and experiences back home through the Fellows USA Program. Fellows make a two-year commitment to work in a challenging setting while studying at a university and, in return, universities offer scholarships and reduced cost tuition.

Donna is enrolled in the Fellows program at Western Illinois University and will earn her master's degree in geography with an emphasis in urban and rural planning. The Fellows program in Illinois is jointly sponsored by two universities: Western Illinois State and Illinois State University. Even though they are almost two-and-a-half hours apart, the two schools coordinate several joint activities for the 14 Fellows now enrolled there. Donna was in the first group, which started in June 1994. After taking courses on campus for a year to prepare for her community work, she is now living in Cairo, a small city in the southernmost tip of Illinois near the Kentucky border. Her primary responsibility is to help Cairo's residents renew their com-

munity, block by block.

The other first-year Fellows are working in small towns throughout the State helping residents implement their own community development plans. Like Donna, they are using the skills and approaches they learned during their Peace Corps service to empower rural Americans, much as they had done with villagers in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Among their projects are workshops on economic development, fostering the preservation of traditional downtown areas, organizing and developing a viable tourism committee, and initiating recycling activities.

Cairo has a population of only 5,000 but about 40 percent are below the poverty line. Many residents do not have the resources to repair their old homes, and have found it easier to move out rather than fix them up. Fires caused by faulty wiring have ravaged several of the dwellings, leaving many neighborhoods scarred by abandoned and uninhabitable buildings. Donna is coordinating the demolition or repair of more than 90 of these houses. She is also helping the residents form block clubs to improve their neighborhoods in other ways. Eventually, the residents

hope, the refurbished community will attract new industries and jobs.

Donna is not entirely on her own in helping Cairo's residents. Besides a dedicated group of community Volunteers, she has the advice and technical assistance of a corps of professors and community development experts back at Western Illinois and Illinois State waiting to help her. She has only to call them with her questions or ask that they make a visit to the community. Bob Hunt, one of the co-coordinators of the Fellows program, travels to Fellows' sites to visit the projects first-hand at least twice while they are enrolled in the program. Donna herself travels bi-monthly to a central location for two full days of sharing her community work with the other Fellows and participates in workshops on special topics that will be useful when she is back in Cairo. The Fellows program even has designed a "barter system" in which Fellows can work in each other's towns on a time exchange basis. With all this activity, Donna is as busy in Illinois as she was in Africa.

Her involvement in the community extends beyond her official responsibilities. At the public housing community for seniors where she lives rent-free as part of the city's contribution to her work, Donna has started a newsletter and a morning walking group with her neighbors.

Donna feels she draws on her Peace Corps experience. One of the most valuable lessons she learned as a Volunteer, she says, was how to approach a community: "to learn and listen before acting." This approach appears to be working as well in Cairo, Illinois, as it did in Africa. ☐

Judy Babbitts was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand. Sara Diaz was a Volunteer in Costa Rica.

Liaisons to Post

Your link to Peace Corps headquarters

BY MARA POSNER

I'M ON THE PHONE WITH THE MALIAN Embassy trying to set up an appointment for the new Ambassador to meet with the Peace Corps Director,

and the other line is ringing.

I ask apologetically, "Can you please hold?" Yikes, it's that crackling noise, definitely an overseas call. "This is Peace Corps/Niger, please hold for the Country Director." In ten minutes there is a debriefing with technical trainers. It's going to be a busy morning here at the "desk."

The seventh floor of 1990 K Street is where you'll find all this action in one of the four "regions" of the Peace Corps. Each of the regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Inter-America and ECAM) is divided into smaller units: an administrative unit, a programming and training unit, administrative support, and country desk units. I work at a country desk unit, usually referred to as the "desk." The desk is the direct link with the staff and Volunteers in the countries.

Each desk is responsible for serving as the liaison between Peace Corps/Washington and three to six Peace Corps host countries. Our jobs are in large part to facilitate: communicating with the country staff by phone, fax, e-mail, cable or letter; maintaining reference files for each country, putting together the country

information packets; participating in budget, project, training and program reviews for assigned countries; and answering inquiries from Invitees, parents, friends of Volunteers, RPCVs, and the general public. (Incidentally, at least *half* of the calls we receive from parents concern the fact that they haven't heard from their son or daughter in months—so write home!)

We also maintain contact with the State Department in times of political instability or crisis, meet with Volunteers who come into Washington, send out the diplomatic pouch, attend pre-departure orientations, and interview and facilitate the hiring of new staff for the country programs.

Perhaps the greatest thing about working at a desk are the opportunities to visit "our countries." Some of us have even done temporary assignments as an Associate Peace Corps Director (APCD) or as Acting Country Director. We

also have the opportunity to meet foreign dignitaries. My own brush with fame occurred in October 1993, when the President of Niger visited Peace Corps Headquarters.

I was to greet him and his entourage of ministers at the entrance to Peace Corps and accompany them up to the Director's office. I was so busy taking care of last minute details that I realized I didn't know what I was going to say (in French) while accompanying the President to the waiting Peace Corps delegation!

I won't say that I panicked as I saw him getting out of a black stretch limousine and approach me in his flowing white robes, but the two minutes I spent with him seemed never to end. Thankfully, the meeting went off very well. The president even gave the Niger desk a traditional Nigerian carpet, which we proudly display on the wall of our office. ■

Mara Posner was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali.



Desk Officer Mara Posner welcomes the President of Niger to headquarters.

First Contact

Staging is phase one of Peace Corps service

BY PHIL RHODES

AT A RECENT TRAINING WORKSHOP in Florida, we were halfway through the session when someone from the hotel

staff came in and told us we'd have to pack up and prepare to evacuate early the next morning—a hurricane was coming.

"Oh my god, a hurricane is coming!" I laughed at the intrusion. I'm from the midwest where hurricanes are not exactly common phenomenon—I'd never been in a hurricane. But then several of the Trainees stood up and told us what to expect, what we should do. We established a phone tree to wake each other up, got on the phone to change our flight reservations, and worked everything out. The Trainees got onto flights going to their host countries for pre-service training without incident, and I got back to Washington.

Not all staging sessions turn into an exercise in disaster evacuation, but they do afford Volunteers the opportunity to come together as a team for the first time. Anything can turn into a bonding experience if you handle it right. Peace Corps Volunteers learn that lesson well, and the first place they learn it is at staging.

People come to the Peace Corps as individuals. They've sold their houses, quit their jobs, said good-bye to family mem-

bers and friends, and boarded a plane to join the Peace Corps. They arrive in San Francisco or Miami or Washington, D.C., not en route to a business meeting or a vacation, but to join a group of people they've never met, to go overseas to do something they think will make the world a better place.

They emerge from staging as a member of a group that is going to stick together for the next two years in an experience that can, in some ways, be more intense than the first years of marriage or college.

Staging is the pre-departure orientation that all Trainees go through before leaving the States to begin their overseas pre-service training. It's part administrative, making sure all your paperwork is in order before you leave the country, and part orientation, introducing you to your peers and starting relationships that will often last a lifetime.

It's an important step toward really beginning your service. To the headquarters-based staging staff, there is nothing quite so satisfying as seeing a group of well-prepared Trainees get on the plane to head to their country of service to begin training—as a group.

Sometimes, however, the process of getting Trainees to their overseas destinations doesn't always run as smoothly as we'd like.

At a staging held in Philadelphia, the training group was on a bus en route to New York's John F. Kennedy Airport to depart to their country of service when the bus got lost in residential New York City. The bus was already more than an hour late when the bus driver reoriented himself and located the entrance ramp to the highway leading to the airport. But as soon as the bus got onto the ramp, it was stopped in a traffic jam caused by a stalled car.

Desperate times call for heroic acts. With their flight leaving within the hour, the training group sprang into action. Six of the Trainees rushed from the bus to the stalled car and heaved it out of the way. Immediately, the traffic began to move once again. The Trainees hopped back onto the bus as it entered the highway. They arrived just in time to check-in and make a mad dash to their plane.

Each year over 4,000 Trainees participate in one of approximately 120 staging events prior to their departure from the U.S.

No matter what sort of obstacles are thrown in the Trainees' way, they are finally part of a group of people that are all going through the same experience. For the first time, you are surrounded by people who aren't asking you questions like, "Why are you joining the Peace Corps when you could be earning a living back home?" and "How will you live?" At staging, you can finally let your hair down—you're *all* in this boat together.

Phil Rhodes was a Volunteer in Lesotho. Judy Frank, who contributed to this article, was a Volunteer in Costa Rica.

Volunteers Write:

Adventures on the Mbabane EXPRESS



I have always been a supporter—in theory and in practice—of public transportation. Of course, I must confess that the last time I traveled regularly on a bus was in college, six years ago, where sleek new buses shuttled students among the five colleges in our valley free of charge. Most of the time you were not only guaranteed one free seat but two. Not to mention the social opportunities.

But as I soon as I acquired my own set of wheels, I began to notice my prejudices about bus travel creep in. Chief among them was a general anxiety about not finding the right line or the right stop or having the right change. Most of this information was not written explicitly anywhere near the bus stop and was to be inferred. So I confess that as a college grad, I preferred to travel by foot or by car.

When I joined the Peace Corps several years later, I didn't give much thought to how I would get around. After all, I anticipated being rooted to a village only to surface two years later inspired by the travails of the local folk and enriched by our interactions. Perhaps by then I would shun the whole idea of the automobile as hopelessly bourgeois. I've been in Swaziland a year now, and I live in not so much a village as an urban jungle. Manzini is the largest city in the country. I find myself often dreaming of how much easier my life would be if I didn't have to rely on that darned bus.

Pan to the Manzini Bus Rank—a loud gravel lot jammed with people and 20 buses in all manner of shape, size, color, and road worthiness. Each bus is accompanied by a crier who often doubles as the conductor. In lieu of any unnecessary signage (in fact, there is none), the crier shouts his bus's destination, "MBABANE, MBABANE EXXPRESS!" And so

on. Buses pull into the rank, buses pull out of their slots. A master hand of some omnipotent child appears to be maneuvering the vehicles in a haphazard fashion, in and out and all around. Throw tiny rust-bucket taxis into the fray, and it's a marvel that these buses actually run on time.

Lucky for me, I almost always travel between Swaziland's two largest cities Mbabane and Manzini. This earns me a trip on the Express, rather than the dreaded All-Stop. What's the difference? Forty-five minutes versus three hours. Temporary inconvenience versus purgatory. A quick verification with the crier and at least one other passenger in the vehicle and I'm reassured that I am indeed on the Express. Time to board. Seats of three on one side, two on the other. Which to choose? Window seat is always preferable for two reasons: 1) There's a slight chance that you might have control over the air flow (more on this phenomenon later). 2) The bus will get crowded. It may not look like it now, but every available square centimeter will be occupied by flesh and baggage. It's no fun to be in the aisle seat at a time like that, particularly when the conductor can't reach the floor and travels by stepping from seat to seat (and on passengers) to collect his tickets and cash.

So I settle in for a good 20 minute wait. Why so long on a bus that leaves every half-hour? I would rather wait an hour to secure a seat than be left standing in the aisle, gripping for dear life onto the side handles that I can barely reach. I've done it once, never again. At least during the wait, the windows are likely to be open; some air does circulate.

Now that the driver has stepped into his box, the engine is revved and on cue all windows slam shut. Why?

It remains a deep mystery known only to Swazis why we must be hermetically sealed from within for the duration of any given bus ride.

We're on our way and soon enough I'm handed my ticket. Thump. Thump. Thump. A disconcerting sensation from below my feet. Two minutes of fretting convinces me there is nothing I can do. Taking stock of my situation, in the event of an emergency, I am comforted by the fact that I am cushioned on all sides by people.

Such are the glitches on this urban route. If I lived in a rural area, boy, would I have some stories to tell. You can take your chicken on board, but does it have to buy a ticket? We once saw a man walking through a bus rank with what looked like a bag strapped over his shoulder. It was a goat, upside down, legs tied together. This goat was soon seen strapped to the top of a bus leaving the rank. That must have been some ride.

Without even looking out the window, I sense that we have almost arrived at our destination. Suddenly, half the passengers are standing and are already moving toward the (closed!) door. This is when a good city upbringing comes in handy. Push and shove, push and shove. The object is to wedge your body in front of someone who has temporarily let down their guard, using any means necessary—hip, foot, elbow, bag. No one wants to be the last left on the bus.

As much as I fear these rides, they are something I will always remember about Africa, something I won't ever be able to re-create at home.

Wendy Putnam is a Volunteer in Swaziland.

Ann & Mike Moore

How two former Volunteers turned a feature of Togolese culture into the multimillion dollar Snugli Company

BY TOM WHITE



Snug as a bug: Ann Moore with daughter Mandela in an early Snugli prototype.

IN THEIR MINDS, FORMER PEACE CORPS Volunteers received far more than they gave to the countries in which they served. It is usually the friendships

made and the sights and sounds of cultures so unlike their own that affected them most. Host countries are frequently the source for the ideas and technologies that Returned Peace Corps Volunteers adopt to serve their lifestyles back in the States.

Ann and Mike Moore, both former Volunteers and inventors of the "Snugli," capitalized on mimicking cultural customs from their host country. The Snugli is an adaptation of the blankets women throughout Western Africa use to wrap their babies in order to carry them on their backs, a backpack-type device designed for carrying infants on a parent's back or chest. Now, 30 years later, Snuglis are known worldwide.

The Moore's home is chock-full of personal treasures—artifacts from their life in Africa and from other travels, a harpsichord and other Baroque style instruments representing the music they love so much, and thousands of plants bathed in nurturing sunlight from vast windows. It is as if Ann and Mike are alone in this idyllic paradise. And if the rest of the world were to vanish, these two would be just fine.

Ann is strongly reminiscent of Katherine Hepburn. Of slight build and

soothing manner, she makes everyone feel important and that she is privileged to make their acquaintance.

Mike is handsome and immediately likable. In spite of recently having undergone cancer surgery, he has an invigorating and appealing zest for life.

Their story began in June of 1962 at Howard University in Washington, D.C. They met there during their state-side training that preceded Volunteer service in Togo. Ann was a pediatric nurse assigned to a health education program, while Mike set his sights on teaching.

During that incredible time together, Ann and Mike created a bond that led them to the altar within six weeks. And 30 years later, they are still soul mates. In mock defense of their quick matrimony, Mike says, "If you were to calculate it out, because we were together in such an intensive way, it was equivalent to dating three years!"

After three months of French language and technical training and a few hectic weeks leading up to their wedding, they were newlyweds living together in Sokode, Togo.

While there, the Moores were struck by the tranquility of babies bound to their mothers' back in a blanket. The Moores

witnessed extraordinarily happy babies at peace with their mothers, whether they were in the pediatric unit of the hospital or in the hectic open air market.

"From those initial observations, Ann began to point out to me that even in the hustle and bustle of the marketplace,"

"From the beginning we connectedness between"

recalls Mike, "the babies held close to their mothers by these wraps were either sound asleep or peering around bright eyed and bushy tailed, looking at what was going on around them."

Adds Ann, "From the beginning, we were really impressed with the inner-connectedness between the mother and her baby, the security it brought the infant; but we weren't sure why it had that effect. Now, years later, studies show that babies who are carried like this have early vocalization because they hear and feel the vocal chords and vibrations in their mothers chest. It's physiologically wonderful, and it has the added benefit of letting the mother have her hands free."

Two years later in 1965, Ann and Mike finished their Peace Corps service

and returned to the States. That same year, their first child, Mandela (a.k.a. Mande) was born. The Moores named the child after Nelson Mandela, a figure little known outside of Africa at the time.

Ann designed what would become the prototype Snugli without any thought of it becoming a product or of starting a business. She simply designed the carrier because she wanted to have that same closeness, as well as the practical benefits the Togolese women had with their children.

At first, people reacted to the new device with varying degrees of curiosity and, sometimes, even anger. "For the first year of Mande's life, we would take her everywhere in that thing. When she'd fall asleep, her head would roll way back just like an African infant's," says Mike, now amused by it all. "People would frequently stop us to say 'What are you doing, you're hurting that baby's neck' because they had never seen anything like it before."

Just as many people, however, realized what a brilliant idea the Snugli was and stopped Ann on the street to ask where

approach to parenting was beginning to blossom in this country. The timing was perfect. No planning on our part," observes Ann.

In 1972, seven years after the Moores commenced this "hobby," the Snugli design had evolved into its final form and was patented. Then a couple of fortuitous events occurred that forced the Moores to make a decision about the product's potential future. First the carrier received a small-but-effective unsolicited plug in the *Whole Earth Catalog*. Secondly, *Consumer Reports* endorsed the Snugli as the best of the soft carriers and ran a two page feature article about the Moores and their story. Sales more than tripled from 700 to 2,500 a month, thrusting the Snugli to the forefront of sought-after consumer products. The Moores, finally realizing the potential enormity of their project, committed themselves to expand production of the carrier in a major way.

From the beginning, Ann had enlisted the help of her mother and other gifted seamstresses in the community in which she grew up to make the carriers. But now more seamstresses were needed to

exceeding \$7 million. An estimated million and a half babies had been carried in their Snuglis.

Speaking with justifiable pride, Ann mentions one of her favorite memories of running the business. "We got a Snugli back that had 21 names embroidered on it. It had been used by 21 different babies! It was so exciting. I wanted to send it to the Smithsonian!"

Soon thereafter, the couple turned their energies toward developing another product with an equally noble purpose. After a friend asked them to design a backpack to allow people who are oxygen-dependent to become more mobile, they started AirLift, a company that produces a number of oxygen carriers and other medical products. Giving due credit to mother nature and human ingenuity, the AirLift company has also been a very successful endeavor. ☐

Tom White, who served as a Volunteer in Botswana, is the former Director of the Press Office.

**were really impressed with the inner
the mother and her baby."** —Ann Moore, founder of Snugli Co.

they could purchase one of their own. Thus, Mike and Ann began taking orders for the soft baby carrier and sold 20 within one year. The Moores then began including cards in the carriers which guaranteed a person who referred the carrier to family or friends a 20% commission. This was the first real marketing the Moores had ever done.

The late sixties were an opportune time for the Snugli's debut. Child psychologists began questioning traditional child rearing methods. And the Snugli was a unique product designed to nurture a baby in a non-traditional way.

"The Snugli and the idea of carrying your infant close to you were part of the same continuum in which natural childbirth, breast-feeding, and this whole new

meet the ever-growing demand for the Snugli. The Moores built a factory in Evergreen, Colorado, and began full scale production.

For the next 14 years, the Moores built the Snugli into a multi-national product marketed throughout the United States, Canada, Western Europe and Japan. They were featured on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal* and on "The Today Show" as one of America's best entrepreneur teams.

Over 20 years later, in 1985, the Moores sold the company with gross sales



The Moores at home with the latest Snugli.

REVIEWS

BOOKS, MUSIC, AND OTHER ART OF THE PEACE CORPS WORLD



In the Halls of the United Nations

BY BETHE LEWIS

Fifty years after its creation, the United Nations' supporters contend that, with the end of the Cold War and the superpower rivalries that often paralyzed it, the UN has never been more important as a forum for resolving international disputes. Some foreign policy experts, however, believe that it is an overextended bureaucracy badly in need of reform. With this in mind, Stanley Meisler, a Peace Corps staffer from 1964-67, and now foreign affairs and UN correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, has taken on the daunting task of putting the UN's history in some perspective, and he accomplishes it well. In *United Nations: The First Fifty Years* (Atlantic Monthly Press), he captures and analyzes the crucial moments in the UN's fifty years and, in the process, educates us about this important institution.

Meisler's treatment of the UN is broad and thorough, moving from the first founding conference at Dumbarton Oaks to the UN's most recent role in the conflict in Bosnia. He begins with the late 1940s crisis when the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin refused to remove its troops from Iran after World War II, and closes with a discussion of President Clinton and the UN.

Meisler adds insight to his account by including interesting anecdotes on, and the personal reflections of, significant players in UN history. There are heroes, such as Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General from 1954 to 1961, who brought wisdom and foresight during some of the most intense moments of the Cold War. The UN also had its share of "villains," such as Kurt Waldheim, who was Secretary-General from 1971 to 1981, but was later found to have been associated with Nazi atrocities during World War II. Meisler also provides in-depth analysis of the many conflicts that have tested the UN's ability to promote international peace and stability—the Six-Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbors, the great East-West ideological struggles during the Cold

War, and the extensive role the UN played in events leading up to the Persian Gulf War.

The most entertaining parts of the book, however, are its "dinner-party" anecdotes. For instance, during the Iran crisis, Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet representative to the Security Council, asked that discussion of the issue be postponed for two weeks. After he was summarily voted down, Gromyko gathered up papers and walked out of the Council's meeting.

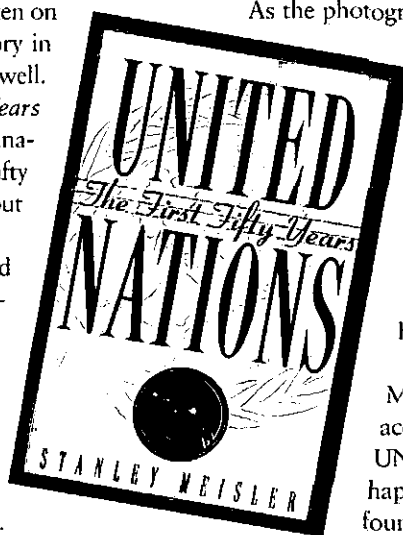
As the photographers rushed to catch the dramatic moment on film, the UN's Chief of Security grabbed

Gromyko and urgently whispered something in his ear. Was he begging Gromyko to stay? Was he being warned of a threat to his life? Not exactly. Gromyko was informed, diplomatically, of course, that his zipper had failed him. It was one of the few times Gromyko, who would later spend almost 30 years as the Soviet Union's stoic Foreign Minister, was seen grinning in public.

If the book has a shortcoming, it is that Meisler took on a larger task than can be accomplished in one book, and some of the UN's history falls to the wayside. He could perhaps have taken a closer look at how the UN's founders managed to avoid some of the mistakes and failures that doomed its predecessor, the League of Nations. The book also exhibits one of the criticisms often made of the UN: there's too much of the United States in it.

Meisler sums up the history of the UN astutely: "All in all, it could boast a distinguished and action-packed history. While talking part in some of the most tumultuous events of the century, the United Nations had served the world nobly and well for fifty years."

Bethe Lewis, a former Volunteer in Thailand, is a recruiter in the Washington, D.C. Regional Office.



They Don't Go Home Again

Expatriate PCVs call their host countries home

BY LISA ORKE

FOR SOME PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS, the novelty just doesn't wear off. Immersion in a foreign culture can be a long-lasting, gratifying challenge. For many, the two-

year assignment is just an appetizer to the smorgasbord of opportunities abroad. Whether one is trekking across the foothills of the Himalayas to train English teachers or helping build fish ponds in Africa, after completion of a two-year assignment, many PCVs continue their expatriate lifestyle.

Why would anyone prolong their separation from the amenities of the American lifestyle? Family and friends back home may simply attribute a loved one's decision to remain abroad as a result of poor nutrition and delusional thought patterns. To some PCVs, however, extending one's stay abroad can make a lot of sense. An RPCV from Gabon explains, "At the end of two years, I dreaded leaving—not because of what awaited me in the U.S., but because of what I would be throwing away. I could finally communicate fluently, I understood the cultural barriers, and I had established myself in the community. I loved being there and wanted to continue doing what I was doing."

RPCVs share a wide array of reasons for seeking an expatriate lifestyle, the lures of which depend largely upon the dynamics of their host country. An RPCV from the Marshall Islands



believes that some Volunteers extend after COS to continue their relaxed pace of life in the Pacific paradise.

Other RPCVs attribute their desire to live and work in their host countries to remaining with loved ones, commitment to their projects and host community and/or fear of returning to the conventions of American life.

Since 93 percent of Volunteers are single when they begin their assignment, it should be no surprise when folks back home begin receiving letters from PCVs confessing their new found loves. As a result, some Volunteers make arrangements to pursue their relationships in their host country as the end of their Peace Corps assignment approaches.

For others, choosing to remain abroad is linked to continued commitment to service in developing countries.

Recent statistics indicate that approximately 10 to 15 percent of PCVs extend their service with Peace Corps, either to finish a special project or train incoming Volunteers. The average length of extension is 14 months and roughly 1 in 12 Volunteers extend. Often there are more applications for extensions than the budget can support, so after COS, Volunteers are left to their own devices to arrange employment.

Returning to the day-to-day realities of American life can be a daunting prospect to PCVs on the verge of COSing. The idea of re-adapting to the hustle and bustle of the nine to five paper chase can be painfully challenging to returning Volunteers. Many are apprehensive about reuniting with friends and family who may seem hopelessly trapped in American cultural norms.

Yet, flexibility being the definitive trait of Volunteers, most make the adjustment to life in the States painlessly and remain committed to their host country by getting involved in programs like World Wise Schools and Peace Corps Partnership or joining an RPCV group or simply telling others of the new lands they encountered and the people by which they were enriched.

Regardless of whether an RPCV decides to "bring the world back home" and return to live in the States, or continue life abroad as an expatriate, he or she will serve as an invaluable resource and liaison between the United States and the developing world. ■

Lisa Orke works in Peace Corps' Minneapolis Regional Office.



PEACE CORPS MISSION

The Peace Corps was created to promote world peace and friendship.

Our goals are:

- To help the people of interested countries meet their needs for trained men and women;
- To help promote a better understanding of the American people on the part of the people served; and
- To promote a better understanding of other people on the part of the American people.