

PEACE CORPS



T I M E S

WINTER 1995

For Some Volunteers,
Joining Peace Corps is a

Family
Affair

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Sharpening Our Edge

First off, I want to say thanks for all your letters that came in about the last issue of *Peace Corps Times*. A number of you responded to the redesign, some with questions about recycling (which we address on page 4) and even more suggestions for future articles. Keep 'em coming—we enjoy hearing from you. We especially like the photos!

We are facing a number of new challenges now, particularly related to the budget. This isn't something specific to Peace Corps, it's happening throughout the entire federal government, and it's a good opportunity for us to take a hard look at how we operate and make changes in the way we do things. Some offices within Peace Corps haven't waited for directives to do this—I think you'll enjoy reading about how Property and Supply (page 37) has streamlined its services, getting you things like vaccines and mosquito nets as quickly as possible. It's a perfect example of what we're trying to do across the board at Peace Corps.

We can be proud of many successes. Thanks to our good reputation at home and abroad, even more people want to join Peace Corps. Last year, we fielded about 3,500 Trainees. This year, we expect 4,000. And to improve the quality of the Volunteer experience, we've put in place procedures to improve language and cross cultural training for Volunteers, and have revitalized training for country directors, APCDs, administrative officers, and recruiters. At home, we're committed to forging a closer relationship with the returned Volunteer community (which you will become a part of when you return home), and now former Volunteers we'd lost touch with from the '60s and '70's and '80s are banging down the door to help us tell the world what a difference Peace Corps makes in promoting international peace and understanding. So get that scrapbook started—we'll be counting on you to make a few presentations of your own!

I look forward to hearing from you,



Carol Bellamy
Director

P.S. The photo is of me and a goat Volunteers in Niger presented to me!



PEACE CORPS TIMES

PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR

Carol Bellamy

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Celia Fischer

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sarah Bott

MANAGING EDITOR

Patricia Cunningham

LAYOUT

Louis Welton

CONTRIBUTORS

Shannon Marshall
Stacy Notaras
Jessica Sandham

COPY EDITORS

Peaches Joyal
Elizabeth McAlee

PRINTING

Rose Green

The PEACE CORPS TIMES is a quarterly publication of the Peace Corps. Views expressed in the PEACE CORPS TIMES are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Peace Corps. The Director has determined that publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget, U.S. Government. Inquiries and letters should be sent to: PEACE CORPS TIMES, 1990 K Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20526, or sbott@usa.peace.gov.

PEACE CORPS

T I M E S

A quarterly publication for Peace Corps
Volunteers serving worldwide

WINTER 1995

PAGE 38

PAGE 16

PAGE 6

PAGE 26

Departments

From the Director 2

Letters to the Editor 4

Notes From Around the World ... 6

Volunteer finds lost bell in Estonia, Peace Corps compilation album in the works, the first sign language dictionary in Mongolia, and more.

FieldBook 24

Take care of your tootsies—when your feet are out of service so are you; Think you're pretty smart at geography? Take our test; Some tips on getting through tough moments without blowing your stack; and How to take better pictures.

Tapestry 28

What's all the hype about ecotourism, anyway? Belize Youth Corps teaches environmental awareness and more. New publications from ICE.

Program Updates 34

American Diversity, Congressional Relations, Property and Supply, and Returned Volunteer Services.

RPCV Profile 38

Gordon Radley, President of LucasFilm, Ltd., has a Jedi's commitment to his own "Peace Corps family."

Life After Peace Corps 41

Do you have what it takes to go into business for yourself?

Reviews 42

Artist Harriet Lesser and Peace Corps comic books (that's right).

Plus, Your Contributions!

To Catch a Thief, Stranger in a Strange Land, and Oh Africa!

Features

It's a Family Affair 10

BY JOHN COYNE— *Your mother was a Volunteer? Your sister? Your uncle? For some Volunteers, joining the Peace Corps seems genetically predetermined.*

Some Coffee With Your Sugar? 14

BY LAURA BAYNE— *Say goodbye to Big Macs and buffalo wings and hello to bat-on-a-stick and fried termites. Julia Child, you just don't know what you're missing!*

Colleagues, Mentors, Friends 16

BY PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM— *Counterparts are there to work alongside Volunteers and sustain development after they depart. But after two years they become much more than just co-workers.*

The Greening of Central Europe 20

BY KRISTIN WENBERG— *Open pit coal mines and aversion to western-style reform are just a couple of the challenges facing Volunteers in what environmentalists are calling one of the most polluted areas on earth.*

ON THE COVER—Susan Snelson and her son Gene enjoy a reunion—can you guess which one was the Volunteer?

Letters

Recycled? PCV Doubts It

I'M WRITING IN RESPONSE TO YOUR request that people comment on the new design of *Peace Corps Times*. It looks great but I doubt it's printed on recycled paper like the old issues. That's nice if it's in color, is on lighter paper stock, and is a vastly improved production cycle, but I prefer the old black and white version because it's on recycled paper.

PCV Ally Joye
Antsirabe, Madagascar

Editor's Response: Glad you think the content has improved. As for the recycling issue, Rose Green, head honcho for all Peace Corps printing, says we shouldn't be deceived by the glossy look—the new Peace Corps Times is in fact printed on paper with at least 50% recycled waste, the same as the old Peace Corps Times. And we are saving considerably on mailing expenses, because this paper is much lighter (the magazine now weighs almost half of what it used to).

Proud PCV Parents

MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE JUST returned from the most unique experience of our lives—a visit to our son, Eric, who is assigned to the village of La Montana in Chaletenango, El Salvador. During our two-week stay with him, we visited the Peace Corps office in San Salvador where we picked up a copy of the *Peace Corps Times*. We've both read it from cover to cover, thoroughly enjoying the various articles submitted by Volunteers around the world. While we note that this publication has been designed for distribution to Peace Corps Volunteers, we wonder how and if it is possible for parents of Volunteers to purchase an

annual subscription; perhaps former Volunteers might like to subscribe to this publication. This is a wonderful way to "stay in touch" with the goings on of Peace Corps.

Ann B. Comstock
Port Jefferson Station, NY



TEFL PCV Elisa Levy with her proud students in Moldova.

Editor's Response: Since the magazine is not available outside of the Peace Corps community, why not get yourself a "subscription" by having your son send the Times back to you. That way you can also save them for him in the family library.

Santa Doesn't Belong

I WAS SHOCKED TO FIND THE ARTICLE "Santa Visits Micronesia" in the Fall issue of *Peace Corps Times*. Miss Bailey doesn't realize that after she has returned "stateside," the children at her site will want all those things plus more. Not only has she created a truly colossal headache for successive Volunteers, but she may have created a dependency attitude that some of the children could carry for life and pass on to their own children.

As PCVs, isn't it our task to help people in other countries to stand on

their own? The only groups that should be handing out citations to her are the U.S. Toy Retailers Association and the U.S. Postal Service.

PCV Michael Marc Aurele
Bohol, Philippines

Displaced Hut

IMAGINE MY SURPRISE TO SEE A PHOTO of my house from the Republic of Marshall Islands with the article about Pohnpei entitled "Santa Visits Micronesia." The house is a traditional Marshallese hut, exclusive to the Marshall Islands in that many of the materials and techniques have been developed in an isolated country. I am very disappointed that your magazine did not take the time to see the apparent differences in housing between the two countries of the Marshall Islands and Pohnpei. For those of us Volunteers in the field, the differences are quite apparent. I hope they will be to you.

PCV Jennifer Lechien
Marshall Islands

Wanna See Our Picture on the Cover

SING TO THE TUNE OF "ON THE COVER OF THE ROLLING STONE"

Well, we're PCVs
Who love plants and trees
So we plant everywhere we go
We plant orange and banana trees
And don't forget the old mango
We help people plant
For ecological reasons
And money they can make from limes
So the people get richer
And we wanna see our picture
On the cover of the *Peace Corps Times*!
Gonna see my picture on the cover

Gonna send five copies to my mother
Gonna see me planting trees
On the cover of the *Peace Corps Times*!
We joined Peace Corps to do our part
Of the work that needs to be done
We work all week and work real hard
But we also like to have some fun
We help people help themselves
And help them make a few dimes
But it's worth more than gold
Just to have our story told
On the cover of the *Peace Corps Times*!

PCV Doug Ross
The Gambia

Non-Political Stance

I HOPE YOU'LL PUBLISH SOME NEWS about the political crisis Lesotho has been going through. Although the King has recently agreed to give the government back to the democratically elected prime minister, most people here feel that the problems are not over. Most of the Volunteers here were convinced we would be evacuated. I'm very relieved and glad to say we're still here. Lesotho is a wonderful place and I'm proud to say the Basotho managed to get through this crisis with very little violence.

PCV Kristin Holsen
Lesotho

Editor's Response: The Peace Corps Times adopts a non-political stance on in-country conflicts. As Peace Corps and individual Volunteers are seen and respected as being outside the political arena, editorializing on political conflict in a Peace Corps country could impair the effectiveness of Peace Corps and Volunteers worldwide.

More Peace Corps Pets

YOU FORGOT A VERY IMPORTANT PET in your article "Peace Corps Pets." *El Conejo*, my rabbit! My co-worker, after hearing me gripe about missing my dog and needing a pet, presented me with a cute, cuddly bunny. Little

did I realize I'd have to fight everyone off as she grew! Here in Chile, rabbit is a delicacy and everyone is dying to rabbit-sit for me when I go on vacation, but that glint in their eyes scares me.

PCV Michelle "Mimi" Molina
Santo Domingo, Chile



Rob Neus with "attack sheep"
Baahito, his pet in Paraguay.

I'D LIKE TO ADD MY SHEEP BAAHITO to your "Peace Corps Pets" department. Although she came with the house she is the best pet you could want: she doesn't make any noise, cuts the lawn and produces only little non-offensive pellets (nothing to lose your tevas in). And she will head butt intruders—the world's first "attack sheep."

PCV Rob Neus
Itagua, Paraguay

Desperately Seeking a Career

I FOUND YOUR ARTICLE "WRITING Your Resume" very informative and encouraging. As my second year of service in Niger winds down, I have been contemplating what to do with my life after the Peace Corps. I am seeking a job which can further develop my international perspective and cross-cultural skills. My question to you is how does someone with my skills research correlating job markets? I would like

to start brainstorming now before my COS date creeps up on me.

Vanessa K Gray
Goure, Niger

Editor's Response: The Returned Volunteer Career Services office is just what you're looking for. Flip to page 36 and read all about it!

Give Me Some Information

IN THE FALL ISSUE OF PEACE CORPS TIMES, you printed a story from the folk tales of St. Lucia, *Give Me Some More Sense* by Jacintha A. Lee. However you give no indication of where or how to buy that book. How can I get a copy of this book? My granddaughter is a Peace Corps baby, her father married a St. Lucian while he was a PCV there. Her first birthday is coming up and I want that book for her.

PCV Donna Sarvay
Czech Republic

Editor's Response: We suggest you go straight to the source! The author, Jacintha A. Lee is an APCD on St. Lucia in the Eastern Caribbean. Contact the country desk.

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. All black and white and color photos (up to 8x12 inches) are acceptable; however, we regret 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.

NOTES

FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Peace Corps Goes to the Olympics

While the world's fastest sprinters and most agile gymnasts are reveling in the thrill of victory or suffering the agony of defeat at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, representatives of Peace Corps will be participating as members of the Olympic Volunteer Force. Returned Volunteers and other members of the Peace Corps community will serve as interpreters and guides, work at information booths, and otherwise assist athletes and visitors from over 200 nations. Volunteer assignments may last anywhere from 10 days to six weeks. For more information contact Dan Nowell at Peace Corps' Atlanta recruiting office: 101 Marietta Street., NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30323.

Now, That's A Good Sign!

PCV Linda Ball is PRODUCING THE FIRST MONGOL SIGN LANGUAGE Dictionary for the approximately 8,000 deaf and hearing impaired in Mongolia. There has never been a cohesive shared language among the deaf as

Mongolia

sign language is not widely accepted in teaching there. Most of

Mongolia's deaf community rely on lip-reading, finger-spelling or "home sign" to communicate.

"The dictionary will be a wonderful resource for instructors and for the thousands of deaf and hard of hearing individuals,"

Linda said. She's creating the dictionary through a Peace Corps Partnership grant from the American School in Dubai, UAE, and Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. "Having an accepted language among them will foster pride and a solidarity that will allow them to seek opportunities and rights that they are currently denied."



A Hand Up

VOLUNTEERS IN PARAGUAY ARE making quite a name for themselves with the Shelter Promotion pro-

Paraguay

gram, *Nande Roga*, "Our House." The

program is designed to help low income families obtain loans from cooperatives for home improvements, such as new bathrooms, kitchens, or the installation of running water and electricity. "During the first three years of the project, 21 cooperatives have participated in *Nande Roga*, thus helping 1,083 families, representing a total number of 5,181 people," said PCV Mark Landon. The total amount of loans granted has exceeded 1.5 million dollars and cooperatives report a 100% repayment rate on existing *Nande Roga* loans.

PHOTO IN THE GLOBE

Moldovan PCVs ham it up during their "Immersion in English" camp and form a human pyramid.

MALAWI

MORE THAN JUST A TOKEN

PCVS IN MALAWI ARE ON the front lines in the world-wide battle against the AIDS virus, making a stunning effort to save lives. To combat the spread of the disease, PCV Thérèse Ann Ryan has focused her attention on raising awareness. Her local program has become a nationwide AIDS awareness campaign in Malawi. The campaign promotes a visual reminder of AIDS—the red ribbon—and encourages open discussion of the virus' effects. More than 12% of the current Malawian population of nine million are HIV positive and the rate of the virus' spread in Malawi is the highest in Africa. "The real success of the campaign was in hearing more people openly discuss AIDS in their immediate community," said Thérèse. "The red ribbon campaign has helped make it more acceptable to publicly acknowledge AIDS."

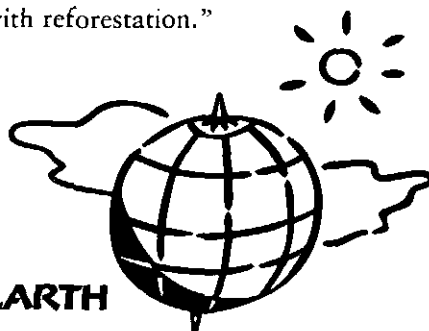


Eco-Friendly Cooking

ACROSS GUATEMALA, THE majority of families still depend upon the wood fire to cook their daily meals—though it poses serious health risks to users and requires excessive amounts of wood. In response, PCV Susana Kaye Lein has introduced to her village the *Chefina Mejorada*, or the Wood-Saving Cook Stove.



Developed in the mid-80's, the brick-and-clay stove requires half the firewood of an open fire, and an attached chimney moves smoke away from the user's lungs and eyes. "Having built more than 20 *Chefina Mejoradas* over the past few years, I've seen the need arise for few repairs, and they've been made quite easily by the family itself," said Susana. "There is no one solution to any problem. Developing healthier and wood-saving means of cooking must be combined with reforestation."



EXPO EARTH

EACH YEAR IN GRACIAS, HONDURAS, A LARGE FESTIVAL, *DIA DE LEMPIRA*, honors an Indian chief who died at the hands of the invading conquistadors. The celebration attracts thousands of Hondurans to Gracias to partake of the festivities. Michael Ketover, an industrious agriculture PVC in La Iguala, seized a unique opportunity and organized an agricultural exposition to coincide with the festival. With the help of other PCVs, he designed demonstrations to show the effects of erosion, burning, insect pests, etc. Farmer leaders served as guides and walked the public through the demonstrations and explained them. More than 500 people took the tour over the three-day festival. For those who could not make it to Gracias, Michael organized a radio talk show so people with agricultural questions could call in. Most contributions were donated locally from citizens and other development organizations.

HONDURAS

For Whom The Bell Tolls

THANKS TO THE TREASURE-SEEKING SKILLS OF ESTONIA PCV Douglas Wells, the people of Hiiumaa were able to ring in the new year as they had in the years before Soviet occupation—with the bell of the Enmaste Church. Fearful that the bronze bell would be melted down and made into mortar shells, the townspeople buried it underground 50 years ago. Douglas located the bell with the help of a metal detector and in the process endeared himself not only to the people of Hiiumaa, but to the nation of Estonia as well. President Lennart Meri recognized Douglas' good deed, calling the discovery of the bell a miracle. "Let the bell toll peace, faithfulness, and love all over Estonia," said the President.

ESTONIA



99 BOTTLES OF BEER IN THE WALL

NAMIBIA PCV Maurice Zide HAS discovered one of the more creative uses of recyclable waste. The Secondary Education Volunteer noticed an abundance of discarded beer bottles in his village.

Instead of tossing them into the trash heap, he decided to construct a house, using the excess bottles set in cement to build walls. Maurice's students assisted him with the construction. "The diameter of the house is eight meters," said Maurice, "for which I have used more than 5,000 beer bottles!"

Country Directors 'Wowed'

VOLUNTEERS IN NIGER SHOWED COUNTRY DIRECTORS A THING OR TWO ON field visits during the Africa Region Country Directors Conference in Niamey. In Torodi, CDs were shown the medical center, a soil restoration and live fencing project, and met local students. In Gotheve, Volunteers exhibited a "woodless house" construction site and two dispensaries. Women's groups were the focus in Bellevara, where CDs toured several garden projects and learned about the rural credit system. In Kouré, interaction between villagers and the local environment held the spotlight, and a few lucky CDs even caught a glimpse of the giraffes. Newly appointed Senegal CD Patrick Berry commented that he felt more assured by having met colleagues "with whom I can consult on programming and training issues."

NIGER

TEACHING TOLERANCE

PCV Dyna Goff EXTENDED HER service for a third year for the chance to teach English at a new secondary school for Gypsy children in Pecs, Hungary.

The Gandhi Foundation Secondary School provides Gypsy students with a place to study and learn without the pressures and prejudices of the Hungarian school system. Currently 55 students, most of whom are in their teens, live at the school during the week, where they're given special attention for their studies, an environment in which they can concentrate, and lots of encouragement. The local

community in Pecs has begun to accept the Gandhi school children, and the local school is seen as a positive example of the Gypsy community to the majority population in Hungary. "If this school is successful in its goals," said Dyna, "discrimination will decrease, they will start seeing educated, respon-

sible young Gypsy people coming out of this school and going on to higher education."



GOT A RADIO PROGRAM?
Are you the Larry King of Lesotho?
Peace Corps Times wants to hear from radio show hosts of all kinds for a special feature in the works. Write to us by July 1st!

GABON

Peace Corps' Greatest Hits?



VOLUNTEERS OFTEN TOTE guitars with them to assignments, writing songs as educational tools or simply as a means to pass the time. PCVs in Gabon, Stacey Krantz and Lizabeth Henrikson, want to capture this musical tradition and preserve it. They are compiling a cassette tape of original music by Volunteers. "We began composing songs of our own, with lyrics inspired by the lives of women and the cycles of subsistence farming here in Gabon," said Stacey. "From this, we became interested in knowing, or better yet, hearing, other musical efforts by Volunteers and RPCVs throughout the world." For more info, write the two c/o PC Gabon.

Watch Out Wall Street!

DESPITE ENTREPRENEURIAL TENDENCIES, WOMEN IN FIJI HAVE BEEN KEPT out of the traditionally male-dominated business arena. When PCV Mary Lou Snowden, a business development Volunteer, went to work with the Department of Women and Culture, she was amazed by the number of women frustrated by their inability to get loans or any of the advisory business services available to men. So she got down to business. Officials at the DWC tapped into Mary Lou's skills and together they developed a program that now provides loans and business services for these women. So far, 90 of the new entrepreneurs have already taken advantage of the service!

NIGER

MAKING ART HISTORY

ZIMBABWE PCV Tom Chambers IS MAKING ART HISTORY. AN ART Conservator and Curator for the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, he is currently researching and classifying the National Gallery's permanent collection to produce a catalogue—the first ever since the gallery's inception in 1957. The permanent collection comprises almost six thousand pieces of artwork and artifacts. When word of Tom's work got back to the African Archives and Museums Project in New York City, they decided to help out by funding a computerized database of the museum's collection—which will make Tom's job a whole lot easier.

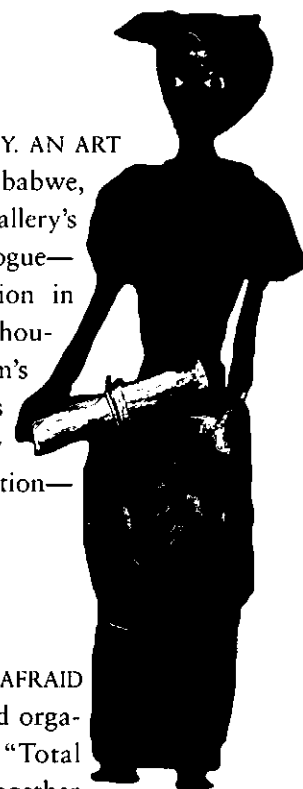
ZIMBABWE

Dive Right In!

YOU CAN'T ACCUSE VOLUNTEERS IN MOLDOVA OF BEING AFRAID to get their feet wet. Ten Moldovan PCVs developed and organized an intensive two-week English camp. The "Total Immersion in English Camp" brought together

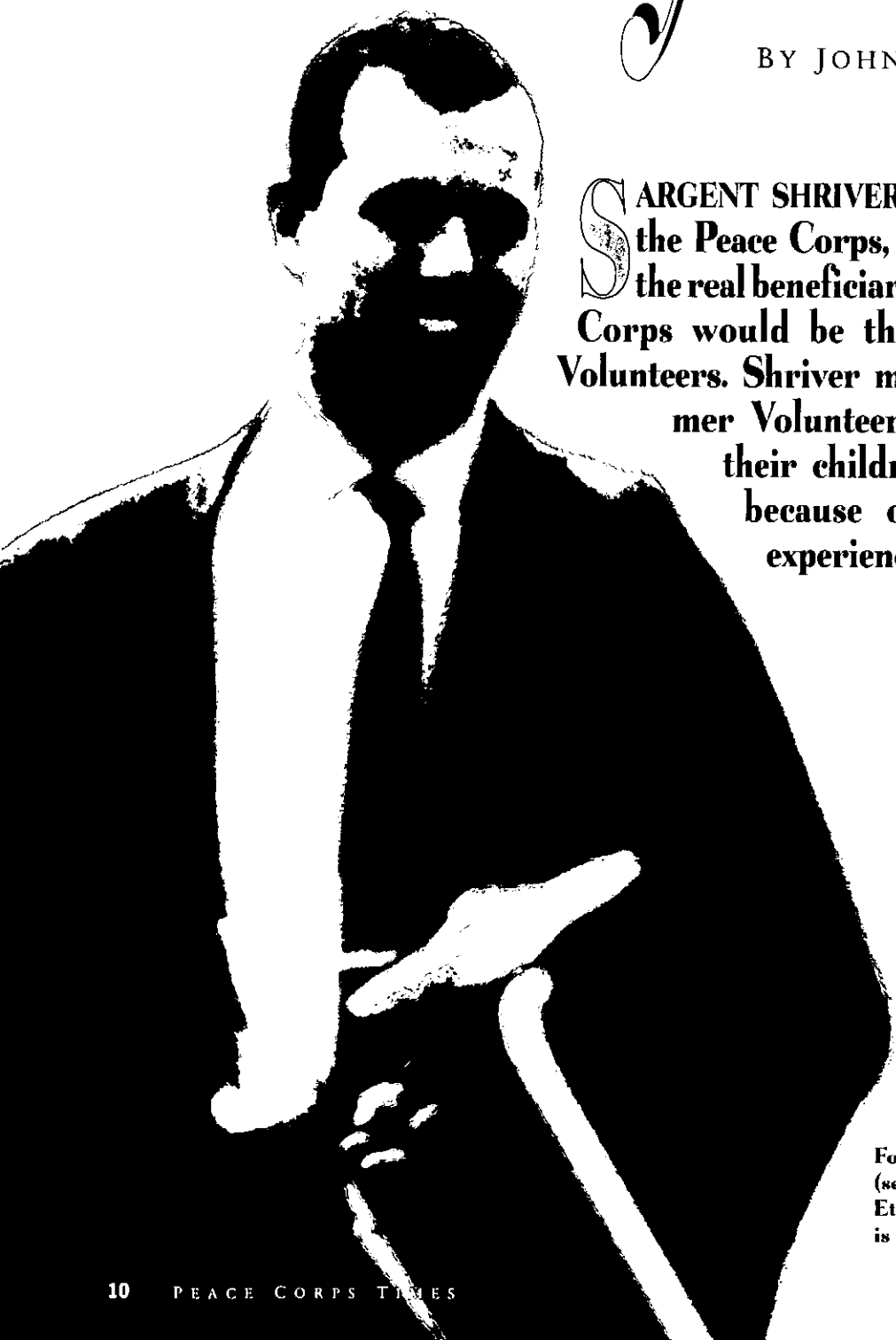
MOLDOVA

Volunteers Lyle Greer, Rich Kimball, Eilen Hearty, Mark Doran, Mikki Mehan, Shirley Ray, Tom Neimeyer, Katie Gernie, Mary Sinden and Barbi Brittell, as well as 18 university students and 68 pupils from grades 9-12. The PCV's dual objectives were to enhance their own teaching skills while giving nationals a crash course in speaking English. The camp also featured programs in ecology, health and sports, as well as debate, journalism, solar ovens and drama. "Evenings were spent around a campfire singing, and disco and country & western dancing," said Shirley Ray. The camp was such a hit that next year they expect twice the number of students.




It's a Family Affair

BY JOHN COYNE



SARGENT SHRIVER, FIRST DIRECTOR OF the Peace Corps, liked to say that the real beneficiaries of the Peace Corps would be the children of Volunteers. Shriver meant that former Volunteers would raise their children differently because of the experience.



For the Lilienthals, (seen above departing Ethiopia) Peace Corps is in the genes.

Little did Shriver realize, back in the early 60s, that for many families Peace Corps service itself would become a legacy. Someday the kids may inherit the family business, the attic antiques, even the homestead, but first, maybe, they'd join the Peace Corps.

Peace Corps has found over the years that it is former Volunteers who make the best recruiters, and they are especially successful at recruiting other family members. Having a member of one's own family not only recommend the Peace Corps but also tell stories and show slides makes the whole experience very up close and personal.

While no statistics are kept, Dennis Finney, a Peace Corps management analyst estimates that at least 5% of current PCVs are the relatives of former Volunteers. They are Volunteers like Trudy Odber, now a TEFL teacher at the University of Veszprem in Hungary, whose granddaughter, Laura Whitehurst, is currently serving in Botswana. Donna Sarvey, another TEFL teacher, is in her third year as a Volunteer in Liberec, Czech Republic. She joined after hearing about her son's Peace Corps experience in the Eastern Caribbean during the mid-80s. Florence and Brad Henry, now in Ukraine, joined after visiting their daughter in Niger. Mike and Marilyn Hopper, who were introduced to the notion of a Peace Corps by John F. Kennedy, felt compelled to finally join after their son's successful tour in Sierra Leone. They are now serving in Albania. Carrie Messenger, an English teacher in Moldova, is the daughter of Janet Graveline and Christian Messenger, who first met when they were Volunteers in Nazareth, Ethiopia. Katherine and Richard Kosenberg took their children with them to Kenya in 1970 when they joined the Peace Corps and now their son Karl is a PCV in Gabon. Andy Lilienthal, who finished his tour in Honduras last November, was born into the Peace Corps while his parents

were Volunteers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

My Child, The Peace Corps Volunteer

"I always knew that I'd grow up and join the Peace Corps," said Matt Wright, who served in the Philippines from 1984 to 1986. His parents had been with one of the

and stories to tell about their experience in Ethiopia, they also had him.

"I wanted to join for a mix of reasons," said Andy, who finished his two years in Honduras last November. "One was that my parents had had such a wonderful time as Volunteers. But I also wanted to live in a foreign country, in a rural location. Yes, I was born in Africa, and yes, my parents were Volunteers, but I wanted my own



Jim Scott Jr. takes a break from tree planting with neighborhood children in The Gambia; his father Jim Scott Sr. was a PCV in British Guiana.

first groups to go overseas as Volunteers, in 1964, also to the Philippines. Another second generation Volunteer, Ari Kaufman, wasn't quite so certain. "I was a Peace Corps baby and the last thing on my mind was becoming a Volunteer," explained Ari, a Volunteer in Sri Lanka whose father served in the Dominican in 1963. "But it just kind of ran down the family tree."

Peace Corps experience."

A former Outward Bound worker with a degree in international relations, Andy knew that it would be much more difficult to get into Peace Corps than it was when his parents joined. "What I didn't realize was that more than 25 years later, my Peace Corps assignment would be a lot tougher than theirs."

Andy's not just boasting. Many

WE ARE A PEACE CORPS FAMILY. IN TIME, WE'LL have a fourth generation filling out a peace corps application." —Ginny Kirkwood

For Andy Lilienthal, the Peace Corps was a kind of destiny. His parents Lynn and Phil, Volunteers in the 60s, had more than just photographs

people view the Peace Corps assignments of today as tougher than in former generations. Rigorous qualifications and stricter performance stan-

dards make Volunteers more accountable for the job they are doing.

Host countries today are asking for more skilled and better prepared Volunteers, and living conditions in many of the newly-formed nations where Peace Corps Volunteers are serving are much more arduous. Volunteers are often stationed by themselves in isolated locations, which was not the case in the early days, when Volunteers were usually assigned in groups. And in the developing world the weather today can be cold, not hot.

In the 1960s and 70s, Africa, Asia and Latin America—the geographic areas that made up most of the developing world—were warm-weather countries. Many of the new Peace Corps countries include newly emerging democracies in Eastern Europe where the winter weather is severe and the living conditions harsh.

For Andy Liliethan's parents in the 1960s, Peace Corps living was easy. Phil, his father, a lawyer, worked for the Ethiopian Department of Justice and his mother, Lynn, trained as a social worker, was employed by the Ministry of Health. They lived in the capital city, as did 100 of their fellow PCVs. Their house had electricity, a telephone, indoor plumbing, and running water.

In 1992 Andy was sent to the village of Belen in Honduras, miles from electricity, telephone service, plumbing, or public transportation. Far from the capital, he lived alone, and did his own cooking and housekeeping while teaching subsistence farmers about soil conservation, natural fertilizers and crop preservation.

"I didn't miss the comforts and opportunities that my parents had as Volunteers" said Andy. "I think I did a good job and was well liked by the people in my village. That was good enough for me."

Former Volunteers Janet Graveline Messenger and Christian Messenger realized how tough Peace Corps assignments had become last year after they saw their daughter Carrie off to the Republic of Moldova in Eastern Europe.



Megan O'Donnell was the first child of a Peace Corps Director to serve as a Volunteer; (above) with father, former Director Kevin O'Donnell.

Because of the limited airflights into the country, Carrie's winter clothes, which her parents mailed in July, did not reach Straseni, where she is stationed by herself, until mid-December, well after winter had begun in Eastern Europe. The school where she teaches has no heat, and in the home of her host family, she shares not only a bedroom but a bed with one of her host family daughters because only half of

Looking back on her own overseas experience, Janet summed up, "I am surprised at how much I learned in Ethiopia about people and the world. These were lessons that have influenced my whole life. I hope that this will also be true for my daughter."

Another parent who marvels at the achievements of his child is Jim Scott, a PCV in British Guiana in the late 60s. His son Jim Jr. is currently a Volunteer in The Gambia, West Africa.

"I lived in the capital city," said Jim Scott Sr., "my son lives in a remote village. I was a teacher at a technical school, and he is out there at the border of The Gambia and Senegal planting trees and doing his bit to hold back the desert. He has a tough life.

"But the truth is that all Volunteers work hard," Jim Sr. continued. "I taught an outrageous schedule at the technical school. My son is working long hours at the edge of the desert. The U.S. taxpayers really get their money's worth from the hard work of Peace Corps Volunteers."

Scott Sr. joined the Peace Corps in 1966 because, he said, "I was caught up in the spirit of this great new adventure. I really wanted to do something worthy. I wanted to travel and live in a foreign country. I had never done any of those

66 THE LAST THING ON MY MIND WAS BECOMING A Volunteer, but it just kind of ran down the family tree."
—Ari Kaufman

the house's rooms are heated.

Recalling her own years as a Volunteer in Ethiopia, Janet Messenger said, "We lived in a land of great warmth, and among beautiful people who were always welcoming. Our daughter has found a people whose attitude can be skeptical. But Carrie understands the hardships that the Moldovans have endured and she understands what they are struggling with just to survive. Also, she has found in her teaching what is most important: her students adore her. What really matters is having a classroom of students who want to learn."

things as a young man."

He says these were not the reasons his son joined. "Because of my career in international business, my son had lived in Europe, traveled to Africa, been around the world. He didn't need the Peace Corps to get out of America. He joined for other reasons. He majored in geology at college and wanted to explore the African geologic features. Jim is a much more serious person than I am, more intent on learning everything that he can. He also has this great desire to give to others. Peace Corps gave him that opportunity."

Following in Your Children's Footsteps

Not every Peace Corps family has children following in parents' footsteps. In more than a few cases there is a role reversal, with parents copying kids.

Florence and Brad Henry, now PCVs in Ukraine, decided to join after visiting their daughter Lisa who served in Niger. "I had traveled internationally on business for my company, but visiting Lisa was the best time I ever had." So after 20 years as general counsel for the Mennen cosmetics company, Henry quit his job and is teaching business and English in Kiev; his wife Florence is a primary school teacher. "Our role here is much different than Lisa's assignment," said Brad, "but it is just as important as my daughter's work in West Africa."

Susan Snelson, whose son, Gene, was an environmental volunteer in the late 80s, finished her tour in Poland in February of last year. An owner of a travel business in Midland, Texas, she found her own job in Poland, helping in the development of rural tourism. "The people who really enjoy the Peace Corps—and I was one of them—make their own jobs. I worked in the historical areas outside of Warsaw establishing tours and starting bed-and-breakfast businesses. And I finished up my two years by writing a manual on how to develop tourism in the whole country, a manual that was supported financially by the Polish government, Peace Corps, and Delta Airlines."

Though she visited her son Gene in Niger while he was a Volunteer, Susan said his experience had little to do with her joining the Peace Corps.

"I believe in world peace," Susan explained. "And it is only through business that people learn they must work together if they want peace. Religion and politics keep people apart, but our economies are global. It is important for Peace Corps to be involved in business projects throughout the world. If you learn to do business together, you learn to live together."

Don't Forget Us!

It isn't just former Volunteers who are sending their children off to service, Peace Corps staff is doing it as well.

Kevin and Ellen O'Donnell took their eight children with them to Korea when Kevin opened the Peace Corps program there in 1966. Later, from 1971-72, Kevin was the Peace Corps Director. In 1984 Megan O'Donnell, his youngest daughter, was the first child of a Peace Corps Director to serve in the Peace Corps. She spent nearly four years in Nepal as a PCV.

Loretta, the daughter of Loret Miller Ruppe, Peace Corps Director from 1980 to 1989, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal from 1985-87. Carolyn Dowling, an administrative officer at Peace Corps, will see her daughter Anne off to Togo in June.

Patti and John Garamendi served in Ethiopia during the mid-60s, and Patti is now in charge of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection for Peace Corps. Her daughter Christina will go overseas as a health extension agent this summer. Son John Jr. and his fiancée Colleen Denny plan to begin their married life together as Volunteers.

What's Next?

In 1966 Ruth Pearsall went to meet her daughter PCV Ginny who was finishing a tour in Turkey. After COSing, Ruth traveled overland with Ginny, from Turkey to Thailand, visiting other PCVs.

This first-hand view of Peace Corps life led Ruth to join in 1973 and go to Malaysia as a guidance counselor. Years later, in 1978, a third-generation Pearsall, Ruth's grandson, Craig Hendix, went to Thailand.

Ginny Pearsall Kirkwood doesn't take credit for talking her mother into joining Peace Corps. "My mother and father were always involved in international activities when I was growing up. I learned at their knee about the world, and about service to others."

In 1990, Ginny went back into Peace Corps, this time as the Country Director to Thailand. Now out of the Peace Corps, she thinks that in the future there will be more Kirkwoods ready to join. "We are a Peace Corps family. In time, I'm sure, we'll have a fourth generation filling out a Peace Corps application. We'll just have to give them time to grow up."

Present At The Creation

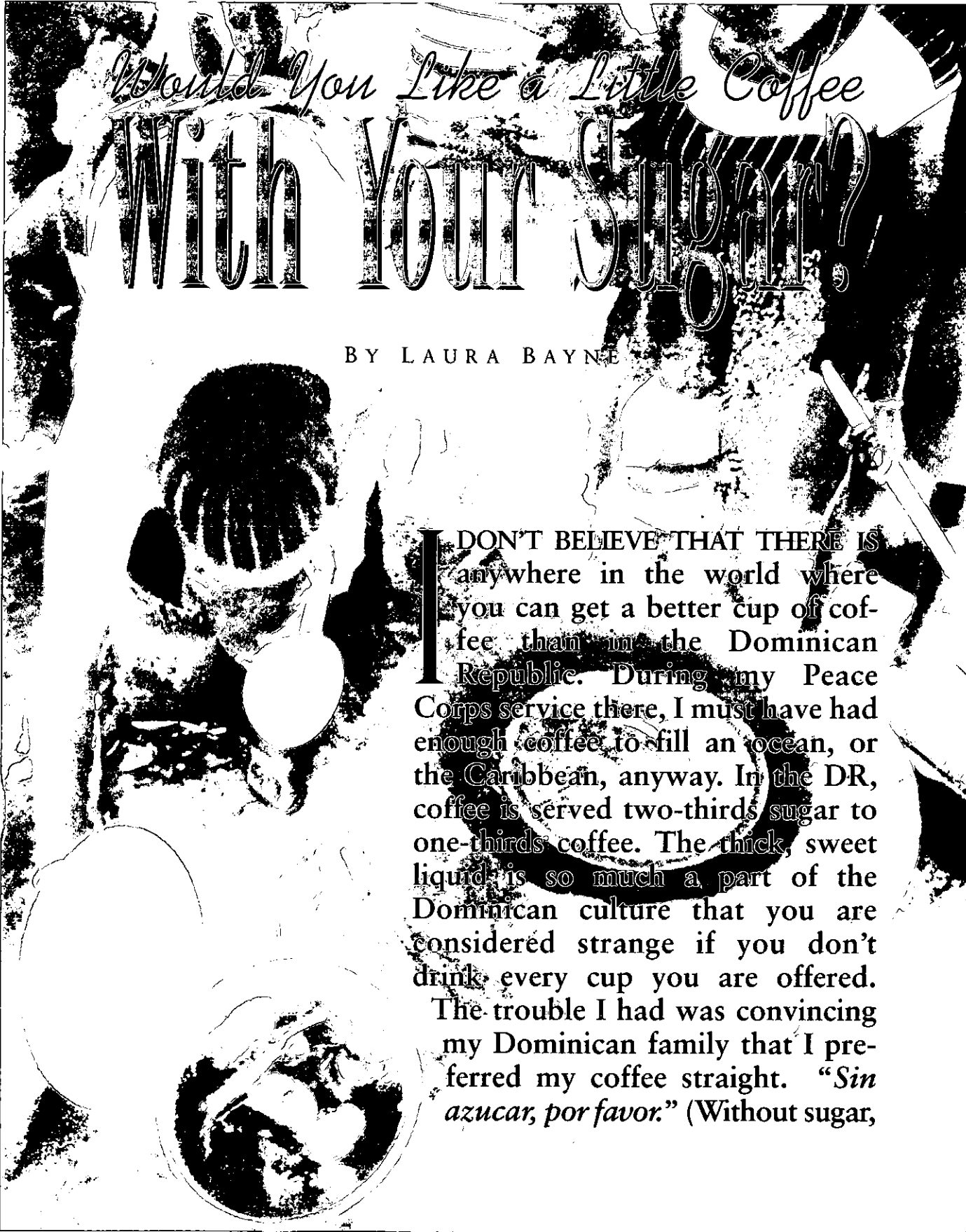
Mike and Marilyn Hopper were college students at the University of Michigan in 1960 when John F. Kennedy, in one of his final campaign appearances, spoke to 10,000 students and talked for the first time about the idea of an international service corps. They cheered Kennedy for his idea, which eventually became the Peace Corps, but it was their son Michael who first decided to join.

"When we heard Kennedy talk that night, we were all psyched, but we weren't able to join because of family commitments. When our son Michael came home from the Peace Corps in 1992, after having a marvelous experience in Sierra Leone, we decided to take another look at the Peace Corps. Was it right for us, now that we were in our fifties?"

Mike and Marilyn went into Peace Corps training last summer and are now serving in Tirana, Albania. Marilyn is teaching English and Michael is coordinating an advanced business program.

It took them 34 years, but the Hoppers, like so many mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, as well as aunts, uncles and cousins are finally answering the call to service and making Peace Corps a family affair. □

John Coyne, former Volunteer in Ethiopia, is the editor of several books on Peace Corps including To Touch the World: The Peace Corps Experience. He works in Volunteer Recruitment and Selection.



Would You Like a Little Coffee With Your Sugar?

BY LAURA BAYNE

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THERE IS anywhere in the world where you can get a better cup of coffee than in the Dominican Republic. During my Peace Corps service there, I must have had enough coffee to fill an ocean, or the Caribbean, anyway. In the DR, coffee is served two-thirds sugar to one-thirds coffee. The thick, sweet liquid is so much a part of the Dominican culture that you are considered strange if you don't drink every cup you are offered. The trouble I had was convincing my Dominican family that I preferred my coffee straight. "*Sin azucar, por favor.*" (Without sugar,

please.) "But, Laura, it is no good without sugar. Just try it." This conversation went on everyday for two years. And everyday for two years I had a little coffee with my sugar.

Food and drink are definitely an important part of the Peace Corps experience and are often the centerpiece of the host country culture. Though most Volunteers are eager to immerse themselves in all aspects of their host country, (including the fried pork rinds garnished with pig hair) most can't help feeling daunted by that strange plate before them. What follows is a list of some Volunteers' more outlandish gastronomic samplings.

"Bats over white rice in Thailand."

—Patricia Sanchez, Togo

"One afternoon, my Guinean 'mother' took me aside and told me she had made me a special dish. She said she had even had to hide it from the children so they wouldn't eat it. Imagining she had whipped up some sort of dessert, I enthusiastically followed her inside. After handing me a spoon, she set the pot down in front of me. Then with a big smile, she pulled off the pot cover to reveal a large, boiled cow nose. I knew I couldn't let her down, so I tried to act excited and choked down a couple of bites. The old 'I'm full' act was unsuccessful until the kids came in and I convinced her to allow me to share this treat with them."

—Annaliese Simmons, Guinea

Fermented weeds, live baby crabs, ant eggs, fried grasshoppers, crushed water bugs and pepper paste.

—Margaret Becker, Thailand

"My counterpart and his wife had me over for iguana stew, complete with pre-lain iguana eggs. The meat of the lizard tasted like a cross between some sort of small game squirrel and tuna."

—Curtis Wahl, Honduras

**"Fried slugs"
—Neil Bacon,
Honduras**

"I think I've eaten just about every part of a goat. Ever had goat head soup?"

—Jay Womack, Kenya

"Mouse-on-a-stick (braised)."

—Terry Brill, Senegal

"While walking down the street of many a Thai city, I liked to purchase a bag of whole crickets, roasted in oil and salted. The salty crunchy taste makes a nice snack."

—Nicholas Wootton, Thailand

"Raw grasshoppers and fried termites"

—Allison Lee, Cameroon

"I was conducting a pre-service training in Gabon and one of the trainees was a woman, aged 87. During the village live-in, she was given a stew of some sort for dinner one evening. Practicing her French, she asked her hosts what type of stew it was. It was very spicy and seemed to have small bones in it. She was told it was 'le zard.' She came to class the next day seeking the translation. The entire training class cut short their breakfast after learning she'd been eating lizard stew."

—Angela Churchill

"While eating a plate of rice and sauce with meat, I found an extremely large cow tooth. No, I didn't eat it. Should have kept it though."

—James Maddry, Sierra Leone

"Goat intestine, forest rat and camel meat were favorites!"

—Tom Peirce, Togo



Hands On: PCV Andrea Thurman digs into a plate of rice with friends

"Green, squishy caterpillars (with spiny backs) mixed with shredded leaves cooked in palm oil."

—Brook Finn, Central African Republic

"Cutting grass chili and rice washed down with a freshly tapped palm wine. A 'cutting grass,' in Sierra Leone, is a large herbivorous roach that feeds on grass stalks and leaves."

—Michael Griffin, Sierra Leone

No matter which corner of the globe you live in, eating and sharing meals is a common bond. Though the local cuisine is easier to stomach in some parts of the world than others, one thing is certain: sharing a meal can bring you and your host-country family and friends closer together than any other cross-cultural experience. With that in mind, *Bon Appetit!*

Laura Bayne, a former Volunteer in the Dominican Republic, works in the Office of Communications.

Colleagues, Mentors, Friends



Counterparts are more than just co-workers

BY PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM

VOLUNTEERS USUALLY ARRIVE AT THEIR posts not knowing what to expect from their counterparts. Most find themselves asking questions like, "Will we

work well together? Will they want nothing to do with me and tack a 'village idiot' sign on my back?" While the answer can be yes to all of these, the truth is, more often than not, that Volunteers build enduring relationships with their counterparts—ones that uniquely shape their Peace Corps experience.

Originally conceived as a way to formalize the transfer of technology and leave host countries with self-sustaining methods of development, the counterpart system has gone beyond its initial aims and

become something close to the Peace Corps ideal: people of different worlds, transcending their cultural differences and working side-by-side towards the fulfillment of a common goal. Whether digging and stocking fish ponds together, running a rural health clinic, or building a market economy infrastructure, in counterparts Volunteers find trusted colleagues, mentors, and friends.

"I was pleasantly surprised by the way the relationship developed," said Margie Legowski, a former Volunteer in Sri

Lanka, of her counterpart Nadira Ibrahim. "There was real collaboration. She was incredibly special. I also found it humbling because she was very skilled as a teacher."

During Margie's tour, she and Nadira became quite a team, not only working together at an English teacher training program, but volunteering at a local children's home as well. Nadira also enlisted Margie to serve as a leader of a "girl guide" troop, similar to the Brownies. "I mentioned to her that I used to be a Girl Scout and all of a sudden I was a girl guide leader!"

Nadira quickly gained Margie's admiration, displaying skill and perseverance as she executed her teaching duties in

the face of great adversity—a Sri Lankan civil war. “There were days when we didn’t know if we had school, we didn’t know if we had eighty students or one student because the buses were on strike. And there were posters all over saying if you went to work, because it was a government program, you were a traitor, and if you didn’t go to work, the government would consider you a traitor. People were in real awkward positions, and she was just incredibly strong and managed to keep a lot of this educational continuity going in the face of great fear and chaos.”

Kiko Lattu, a former Health Volunteer in Rwanda, shared a similar experience with her counterpart Bonifride Uwimana, a social worker. “We just clicked from the first day. It was as complimentary a relationship as could ever come to be,” explained Kiko. “We both managed the nutrition center in a rural health center. Professionally, we were a dynamic team. She came up with an educational discussion in response to questions that arose in monitoring sessions, and I’d do illustrations on the chalkboard or plan skits to involve the women in finding creative solutions.”

Bonifride often surprised Kiko—as well as neighboring villagers—with unabashed acts of spirit and confidence, and became a type of role model during Kiko’s time in Rwanda. “I remember renovating rabbit hutches in the dusty vocational boys’ school in the late afternoons,” recalled Kiko, “and watching Bonifride walk in, pick-up a saw and ask where to begin, completely unheard of behavior for a Rwandan woman. The boys jeering from the windows nearly fell over in surprise. But if Bonifride did it, it must be okay.”

Kimberly Kuehn was initially not so lucky.

She found herself feeling some of the usual curiosity about her counterpart during Training. While on a site visit, the former Volunteer in Guatemala thought it might be a good time to meet her counterpart and alleviate her anxieties. “My first counterpart was assigned to me on the spur of the moment,” she said. “When I went to visit my site during Training, I asked who my counterpart would be. The supervisor thought for a bit and then

called over one of the office workers. I soon determined that I had been assigned the office ‘goof off,’ to put it mildly.”

Kimberly quickly requested another counterpart. She soon found herself working alongside Mario Lara—a man cut from a completely different cloth than her first counterpart.

“He was a shining light in the dark for me,” said Kim.

Mario took Kim under his wing, simplifying his Spanish when he spoke so that she could more easily understand him and

provide the novice Volunteer with essential professional training, enabling them to not only master the tools and *techs* of the trade, but execute their projects with a greater degree of success, not to mention a rather respectable amount of finesse. “I had many counterparts and I thought all of them were more prepared to do the job than I was,” said Terry Brill, a former Education Volunteer in Senegal. “From them I learned how to creatively provide change to a rather inflexible education system.”



A dynamic team:
Kiko Lattu, with
her counterpart
Bonifride
Uwimana (right)
and Elizabeth
Aldasoro (opposite page)
Margie Lebowitz
with counterpart
Nadia Ibrahim.

SHE MADE MY PCV EXPERIENCE ALIVE and pulled me into the community, opening doors I wouldn’t have been welcome to enter otherwise. —**Kiko Lattu**

frequently acting as an interpreter in cross-cultural interactions. Despite the fact that Mario was a couple years older than Kimberly, he showed her the utmost respect and was eager to acquire all the training and technical expertise she could offer.

“We worked as a team, both of us coming up with ideas about how best to reach the local people, and carrying out those ideas,” explained Kim. “We celebrated each other’s success and commiserated with each other on our setbacks.”

Experienced professionals in their fields who are often well established by the time the new PCV arrives, counterparts can

Terry often spent weekends with his counterparts, going to soccer games, and learning to make Senegalese tea as well as the national dish—*ceeb ujen* (rice and fish)—from counterpart Moustafa Diop’s wife. “His wife spent five hours teaching me to make this dish” said Terry. “Moustafa was amazed! He said, ‘You learned how to make the national dish and I, a Senegalese, still don’t know how!’”

Jorge Sotomayor, an Environmental Education Volunteer in Chile, also admitted to being a little unsure about his ability to perform his assignment. “I owe my counterpart Ana Maria all the techniques I learned about how to do my job, and how

to work with the people whose profession it is," said Jorge.

Indeed, Health Volunteers in Morocco were so impressed by the professional proficiency of their counterparts that they now honor their hardworking colleagues in a section of their newsletter, "Counterparts That Care." In a recent issue, Volunteer Sonia Peter wrote of her counterpart Rebecca Dhahi, a nurse in Taglefe. "While she is often-times overburdened by her duties between work and family, she manages to work effectively and efficiently and is very well respected in the community. Often she will be up two or three nights in a row delivering babies and still put in a full day of work in between."

Volunteers aren't the only ones who

school and its activities. I became that partner and was privileged to watch as her leadership skills grew stronger and stronger. It was no surprise to me that, five years after I left, she was elected mayor of the town. Maria is still one of the people I admire most—educator, leader, mother, grandmother, friend."

Counterparts are also admired for their mastery of the fine art of damage control.

The transition from idealistic, sure-footed American to hesitant and rather overwhelmed neophyte can leave a Volunteer feeling a little lost in the woods. There are languages to master, cultural customs to adapt to, etiquette to acquire, and a number of other behaviors to...well, just plain *avoid*. Many Volunteers find that counterparts are key in helping them

role of real-world mentors who guide Volunteers through unique life lessons, enriching not only their Peace Corps experience but their lives as well.

"Bonifride made sure I had neat 'first time' opportunities, like helping to deliver a baby on my own birthday," said Kiko. "She made my PCV experience alive and pulled me into the community—opening doors that I wouldn't have been welcome to enter otherwise."

Of course, not all counterparts are a sunny commingling of Florence Nightingale and Jimmy Carter. A few head for the hills the day the new Volunteer arrives (and sporadically toss stones). Some counterparts will resist an outsider, or circumstances may arise that prevent Volunteers from establishing a relationship with their counterpart—and sometimes those circumstances are, let's just say, *irredeemable*, as in the case of a rather unfortunate Volunteer in Santo Domingo.

"When I lived in Palanda, I took a group of cattlemen to courses in Santo Domingo," the PCV reported. "One of the cattlemen died of cholera and some in the town blamed me because I was still new. After you've killed your counterpart, you can only go up from there."

Rare cases aside, however, when asked about counterparts, overall Volunteers won't cite the transfer of technology or the merits of self-sustaining development. Most will say that the counterpart system made it a little easier to find what they had been looking for when they joined the Peace Corps—fellowship, friendship.

"Most importantly to me, Rebia has become a very close friend," noted Sonia Peter. "When work is slow, she has a plethora of good jokes to help the time pass."

"I consider Nadira my friend as well as my counterpart," added Margie Legowski. "She was incredibly special. This was a woman who had an open mind and a real gift for making people feel welcome. It's hard to develop that kind of a relationship in any culture. I didn't expect to develop it with my counterpart." ■

Patricia Cunningham works in the Office of Communications.

I WOULD ALWAYS RUN AN IDEA BY HIM TO make sure I wasn't stepping on any toes. He was very good at reminding me about protocol." —Yvette Malcioln

benefit from the counterpart system—the rewards are mutual. And from their newfound American colleagues, counterparts gain invaluable guidance and much needed encouragement—the stuff of the heart of the Peace Corps mission.

"Bonifride taught me patience and how to really work with the community," noted Kiko. "I encouraged her to go back to school, marry for love and plan longer term than just the pressing needs of being the eldest of her sibling brood of eight."

Former Volunteer in Brazil, Betsy Davis' counterpart Maria America Murici Teixeira found in Betsy the professional support that allowed the primary school director to achieve her dreams for her students, her school, and her community.

"I have seen the impact Peace Corps can have on people's lives by providing a little support," said Betsy. "My counterpart wanted a partner to work with her in developing community support for the

keep that sure-foot out of their mouths. Both guide and sympathetic listener, counterparts explain a Volunteer's role to the community, help prevent those embarrassing cultural mishaps, and they ease Volunteers over the inevitable rough water.

"My counterpart was great at explaining people's possible reactions to things from a cultural perspective," Yvette Malcioln, a former Volunteer in Ghana, said of her counterpart Lawrence Kpodo, headmaster of a secondary school. "I would always run an idea by him to make sure I wasn't stepping on any toes unknowingly. He was very good at reminding me about protocol, like telling the chief about any major plans in order to get his blessing before going to the rest of the village."

For a few Volunteers, however, counterparts do more than just provide them with tips on how best to accomplish their projects or survive in their host country without insulting the locals; to some they take on the

**PEACE CORPS
TIMES IS DOING
A STORY ON
SPORTS AND
GAMES IN OUR
HOST COUNTRIES
If you've learned
something new to
play for recreation
or exercise, write
and tell us about it!**

Volunteers Write:

Stranger in a Strange Land

BAD LUCK, NO FISH, ALL THIS WEEK. Oh, I was spoiled—fried yellow fin and barracuda week after week. Not now, I can only eat corned beef so often and I've run out of ways to disguise its flavor. "Do you want to go spear fishing with me tonight?" Mosie asks. Well this is no ordinary offer. How often have I seen women participate in any kind of fishing? Never. The land is a woman's domain, the ocean, mans. It took me a millisecond to respond, "Yes." Spear fishing is done mostly at night and requires a fair amount of hardware: masks, snorkels, fins, a waterproof flashlight, wire or something to string fish on and a *made* (pronounced "marre") spear. There are spear "guns", but as far as I'm concerned, the 3 pronged *made* is the real man's way to spear fish.

The sun went down and I pulled on a T-shirt and a pair of shorts. There were a few moments where I gaped at my legs, not having seen them, or the sunlight in almost two years. Who needs a flashlight when your thighs glow in the dark? Mosie and I plodded down to the lagoon with our gear. Mosie wanted to use a raft, worried about my swimming, I reassured him and proved myself by keeping up with him the whole time despite being at a disadvantage (no fins for me). I took my washtub for the fish, something about holding a line of bleeding fish made me uncomfortable. Mosie's never seen "Jaws." The air was cool but the water was warm, no shock, and salty which made everything hyper buoyant. There were some minor difficulties dealing with an old snorkel and mask that leaked and a wayward tub that bobbed on the waves and threat-

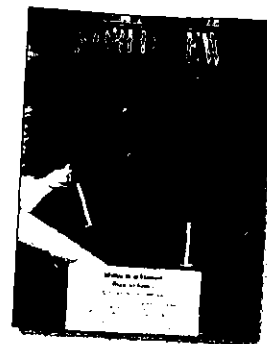


ened to return home to dry land. Having dealt with these things, we swam out to the reef. Mosie held the flashlight so I swam mostly in the dark. I became aware that there was no moon and looked up at the sky, the stars sharp pinpoints of light unobscured by smog. The stars are more numerous and seem closer. This close to the equator and with the water reflecting the blackness of the sky, it felt as if we were floating through outer space. Mosie began diving as we reached

the first coral, I was more than content to hold the tub and watch and not hold the *made*, particularly after I saw how long one must stay underwater to spot, track, spear a fish (Mosie was nauseous later). It was fascinating to watch the beam of the flashlight swing around as if on its own since Mosie was not illuminated. Then he would spot a fish, the beam would swing around and as if out of nowhere he would appear backlit below me. More than

once I was startled to realize he had been right under or directly in front of me and I had not seen him, watching him suspended in this warm, amniotic water he looked like an embryo from outer space, huge mushroom clouds of air emerging from his mouth. I hung on to the tub, bobbing in the water and watched as he tracked fish which I would not see in the murkiness, then come up with a small jewel-colored reef fish on the end of the *made*. We had intended to catch a few fish but this is a contagious sport. When we had enough for us, we fished for the cats.

Kym Miller recently completed her service as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Marshall Islands in the summer of 1994. She was assigned to Namdrik Elementary School as a part of the Primary Education Project.



FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO WORLDVIEW!

WHEN YOU'RE A VOLUNTEER, YOU GET the *Peace Corps Times*. When you return home, you can get *WorldView*, the quarterly magazine of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA).

WorldView is edited by returned volunteers. The stories are about the places where you served. The news is about the events you will miss. The articles are written by returned volunteers and others who care about what's going on in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific Rim, and among the emerging governments of eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. *WorldView* is for Americans keeping in touch with the developing world. It offers reporting, opinion, narrative, photography and news briefs about more than 45 countries, the islands, villages and oases far from U.S. shores. Travel stories and book reviews. *WorldView* offers America a rare and thoughtful view of the traditions and ambitions of faraway people caught up in change.

NPCA offers returned Volunteers a one year free membership. In addition to *WorldView*, you'll receive a quarterly newsletter about other RPCVs in the United States dedicated to community service and to teaching America about the developing world. You can attend regional and national conferences and find out about local and country of service RPCV groups. Some of them offer returning volunteers one-year free memberships, too. You will also have the opportunity to join affordable health and insurance plans and get discounted long-distance telephone service and guaranteed low-cost airfares.

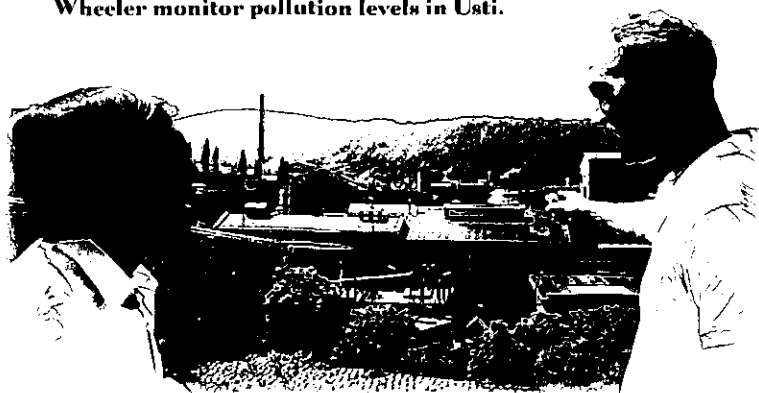
You'll be in good company in the NPCA—there are over 140,000 returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Continue to be a part of Peace Corps—join NPCA. 1900 L Street, NW, Suite 205, Washington DC 20036-5002.

The GREENING *of Central Europe*

The unique challenges facing Volunteers in Central Europe

BY KRISTIN WENNBORG

Volunteers Chris Stark (right) and Ty Wheeler monitor pollution levels in Usti.



THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO REACH Peace Corps Volunteer Margo Banner. You can phone her during business hours or send a fax to the non-profit where she works. You can drive to her flat through the belching smokestacks and twisting rusty pipes that make up Chemopetrol, the largest chemical factory in the Czech Republic.

Or you can pass through the rubble of Libkovice, an 800-year-old village recently razed to make way for an ever-expanding open-pit coal mine. The huge gaping wound in the earth lurks just a few hundreds yards away from the shell of the St. Nicholas church, one of Libkovice's few remaining buildings. To most people—especially prospective environmental Volunteers—phones, faxes and heavy industry don't sound like Peace Corps at all. Game preserves in Africa or the rain forests of Central America might be more like it. But welcome to the former Soviet Bloc, where Westernization of the cultures and familiar landscapes set a seductive, yet deceptive, backdrop to the vast environmental challenges facing Peace Corps Volunteers in this region.

Right now, almost 100 environmental Volunteers are working in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. For many of them, hiking in the Tatras or sporting business wear as they walk down quaint cobblestone streets is the norm. But they tell you not to be deceived by the Old World charm, fast food outlets, or the prevalence of the English language. In fact, you don't have to scratch too far

below the surface to find a strange world where the continued fallout from the life and death of communism makes for Peace Corps environmental programs like no other.

The Soviet model of industry—production at any cost—created obvious long-term environmental problems. But 40 years of totalitarian rule left other, more subtle legacies. For one, good information is sometimes still guarded like a state secret. Bruce Abrams, a Volunteer working for a regional office of Hungary's Ministry of the Environment, is encouraging his agency to teach small communities how to identify environmental problems and bring in expertise to help solve them. But it hasn't been easy.

"The information flow has been dammed up for years because it wasn't in anyone's best interests to share information, so many mayors don't even know that the regional environmental center exists," he explained. "When I tell my agency that we should work with mayors because we have this environmental information that they can use, they say the mayors should pay for the information. I counter with 'you're being paid by the taxpayers money to get that information, so it should be funneled back.' Then I get these bewildered looks and I go into my Civics 101 thing. But I have to be careful because this not America, and there's a fine line to walk when you start commenting on 'how civil society works' because it's still their civil society, and not mine."

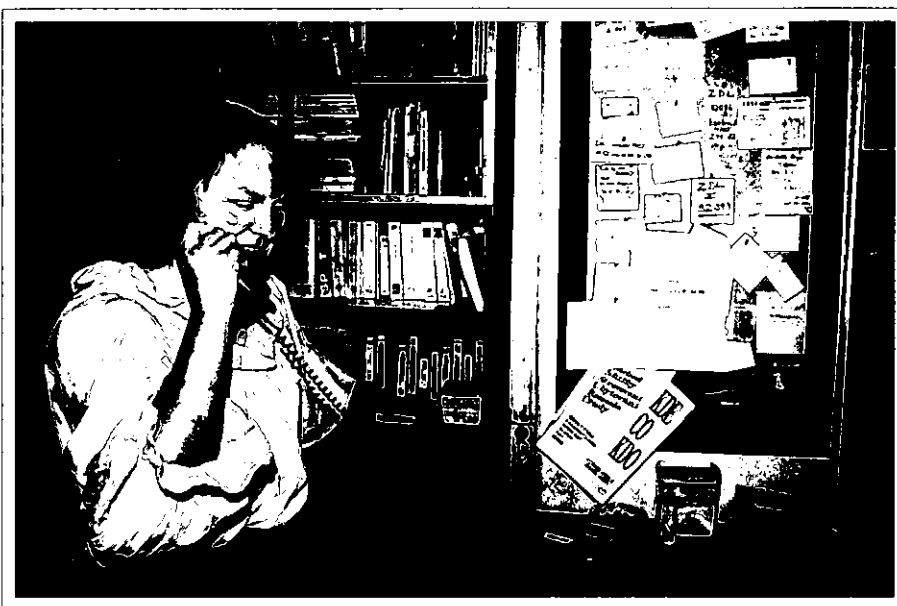
Then there's a lack of environmental awareness on the part of the general population. True, the environmental movement was a major catalyst in the fight for freedom, but many now say that environmental protest was simply a conduit to channel rage and frustration. These days, most citizens are simply trying to keep up with the changes brought by a free-market economy. One Volunteer in Hungary did a survey in his town to find out what people thought were the most pressing environmental issues facing their community. The number one

answer was noise pollution from the new disco, despite the fact that the town's rotting garbage landfill regularly ignited from spontaneous methane fires.

It's not that ignorance is rampant. The levels of education in these countries is among the highest in the world. Shirleen Rodriguez, a Volunteer working with the environmental group Pcola in Eastern Slovakia, said, "I think people here are very smart, but a lot of these ideas about environmental protection are new ideas. I just don't

24-year-old Volunteer working for the Kiskunsag National Park in Hungary. "I think the most valuable thing I can contribute here is a unique perspective on situations where you're always under the constant stress of trying to get things done under budget constraints, when it's hard to see different ways around problems."

Indeed, now that free market economies exist, money is the bottom line. Millions of jobs are tied to polluting factories and outdated nuclear power plants, strip-mining and clear



Margó Banner gets the word out about safer environmental practices at the Libkovec NGO she works for.

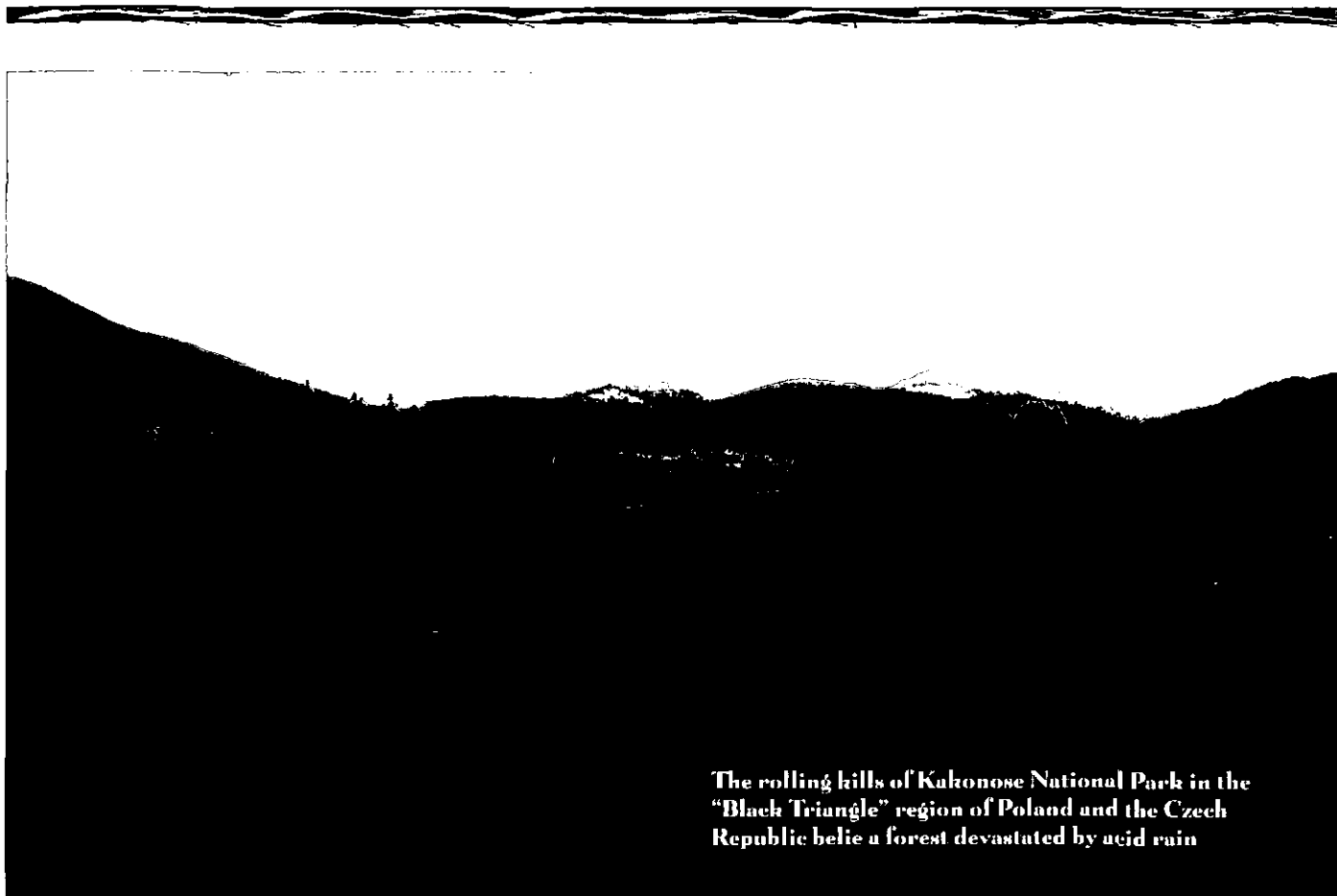
think they have a good grasp of how polluted things really are."

In fact, most of the Volunteers work with counterparts who are highly educated specialists in their field. This, coupled with the fact that age equals respect in this part of the world, makes it harder for younger, less-experienced Volunteers to make their mark. For some, simply communicating another side to an issue is an achievement in what can be an otherwise frustrating experience.

"My colleagues here are extremely well educated and they know a lot more about conservation than I do because they've been working in the field for years," said Matt Killebrew, a

cutting, and tourists flocking to once-forbidden territory. The commonly held belief that free market forces will automatically give birth to a better environment is complicated by the fact that many polluting industries are still owned by the state.

And governments don't make it easy for fledgling non-government organizations (NGOs) to fight for the environment either. Common tactics like lobbying, litigation and direct mail campaigns are hampered in many countries by ambiguous new environmental laws and postal systems that don't give non-profits a break. But where NGOs need help the most is with developing effective organization-



The rolling hills of Karkonosze National Park in the "Black Triangle" region of Poland and the Czech Republic belie a forest devastated by acid rain

al and management skills.

"They're highly enthusiastic, but hopelessly romantic about environmental activism," said Volunteer Margo Banner, who works with the NGO Green House Litvinov in the notorious "Black Triangle" area of northern Czech Republic. "You're most likely to encounter people who are building the world's largest pile of toy guns or planning a bicycle rally, but who have no concept of how to set priorities, fundraise, work with the media, or build membership."

Where they can be very effective is in building public awareness and participation. But it's a long road to getting citizens to truly understand the environmental problems surrounding them and motivating them to take an active role in solving these problems. "The area in which NGOs have made an impact is with public education, especially for youth," said Margo. "It will probably

take years to develop democracy, but these early years are critical in shaping a system where participation means more than simply voting."

The national park systems are also starting to encourage public involvement in nature and wildlife preservation by implementing environmental education programs. In the Low Tatras National Park in Slovakia, Volunteer Doug Hoff is working on a sustainable tourism project that involves closing off roads and trails that cut through animal habitats, and then building new trails and a picnic shelter, restoring shepherds' cottages

and preserving an old forestry dam, all marked with new information panels. Hungary Volunteer Matt Killebrew has written a brochure outlining an interactive self-guided tour to encourage school kids, tourists and the local community to visit the nature sanctuary housing the park's headquarters in Kecskemet.

In the end, once they look beyond the medieval castles and smokestacks, environmental Volunteers here still ask themselves the timeless Peace Corps question: Am I really making a difference?

"If you want to feel good about what you're doing, look at the long-term," suggested Slovakia environmental volunteer Steve Shipe, who also served as a Volunteer in St. Kitts in the mid-1980s. "The view that I've adopted is that I'm not thinking that I have to accomplish everything here in two years or I'll be a failure. That's helped me a lot."

"So many things have to change here, and you need people out there making people aware of alternatives," said Shirleen Rodriguez. "Whether change happens at a grassroots level is something I think about a lot. I think that's where we as environmental Volunteers can really effect real change." ☐

Kristin Wennberg works in the Office of Communications.

DID YOU KNOW?

17% of all
Volunteers work in
environmental pro-
grams.

A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ARE MADE OF...

Been wondering about the company you keep? Here's a profile of Volunteer statistics.

Note: these statistics reflect the Volunteer population at large, and not of individual countries.

GENERAL

Women	53%
Men	47%
Minorities	12%
Seniors (50+)	8%

AGE

20s	74%
30s	13%
40s	5%
50s	4%
60s	3%

MARITAL STATUS

Single	92%
Married	7%

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Bachelor's Degree	74%
Graduate Degree	17%
Graduate Study	5%
3 Years College	1%
AA Degree	*
Technical School Graduate ..	*
1-2 Years College	*

SKILL SECTOR

Education	39%
Environment	17%
Health	15%
Business	14%
Agriculture	11%
Other	3%

* percent less than one is not reported

Compiled by the Office of Planning and Policy Analysis, January 1995.

Volunteers Write:

To Catch a Thief

It was a Sunday afternoon and as I returned to my house I noticed how empty the street was. Interesting, I thought. The family I was living with was at the beach so I had the house to myself. I settled in, got a glass of water, played with the dogs a bit, and then headed up to my room on the second floor.

Of course the heat in Leon, Nicaragua, is horrendous, so, as usual, I opened the door to my balcony. Immediately I noticed the man curled up at the foot of the door. As quietly as possible, I shut the door and locked it, all the time wondering if it was the family's long lost nephew who had fallen to the mercy of the bottle. Without time to ponder the situation, I decided to get out of the house. At the same time, the thief was doing a pretty good job at jimmying the lock on the window with the help of a mirror.

I went next door to Dona Rosa's house and asked her to call the police. Dona Rosa came running over and began to beat on the house screaming, "Ladron! Ladron! Thief! Thief! We're calling the police!" Her ranting went on for awhile before I thought to ask, "Dona Rosa, do you have a telephone?" Without pause, she screamed, "Of course not!"

Frustrated I went to the in-laws a block away. They were not home either. However, I noticed a little old lady across the street had her door open, so I thought I'd give her a try. Yes! She had a telephone. After several tries, I finally got through to the police station; and in just about perfect Spanish, I explained the situation. The woman who answered listened patiently, and, putting the phone aside, said to her fellow worker, "There's a foreigner on the phone, says her house is being robbed. What do we do?"

After about 15 minutes the police arrived. The thief was still stuck inside

because I had double bolted the door. His only other method of escape was the balcony. But by this time Dona Rosa had attracted quite a number of onlookers. The police went running in as I directed them to the second floor. The thief had already spread himself out on the floor, knowing that he was a goner. The police then invited me up to my room to inspect my belongings. "Don't worry about the thief, he won't hurt you," they said. Well, of course not, he had two AK-47s pointed at his head. Nevertheless, I really didn't want to meet him.

Meanwhile, a large crowd had formed outside my house. There were many sets of eyes peering in from all doors and windows. And, being a small business Volunteer, I was even a bit impressed by the young entrepreneur who had come to sell hot dogs and sodas to the hot and hungry crowd in front of my house!

I offered the police officer my rocking chair and a glass of water, a customary thing to do. He inquired, didn't I have any fruit juice that I could offer? No, I explained, and we continued to await the arrival of the other officers and the thief. My family arrived home and the head officer explained the situation and said the thief would go to jail until his trial came about. The matter was settled. Only one thing was left undone: the police had no picture of the criminal. So one officer asked me if they could use my camera to take a photo. "It's in the thief's backpack with the rest of your stuff," they informed me. Reluctantly, I gave them my camera. None of them knew how to use my camera, so I had to take the photo. "Just point and shoot," I explained.

Well I never heard another thing from the police or the judge. But for all the trouble, at least I have a photo of my very own criminal!

Ann Paglee is a Volunteer in Nicaragua.

FieldBook

Tips for Making the Most of Your Tour

Take Care of Your Tootsies.

FEET. MOST OF US HAVE THEM, BUT FEW of us care for them unless we absolutely have to. It's not that we don't love them, we just tend not to think about them unless they give us reason to. But this can be a dangerous practice, because when your feet are out of service so are you.

Most Volunteer-related foot traumas are best treated with preventive medicine. In fact, supportive shoes and common sense can prevent everything from ringworm to frostbite.

Fungal infections (such as athlete's foot and ringworm) are more prone to people in tropical regions but can actually occur in any part of the world. All it takes is a dark, warm, moist area (such as shoes) and the fungus can thrive. If your feet begin to itch severely, or you experience a burning sensation, wash them in warm soapy water immediately. Be sure to dry them thoroughly and apply powder if possible. You should also try to change your socks as often as you can and wash them in hot soapy water to kill the bacteria. If the itching persists or fissures open and "weep," see a doctor as soon as possible.

On the other end of the weather spectrum is frostbite, and your toes are on its top five most desired list. As the temperature falls and the wind rises, your feet grow more and more imperiled. And if you have been smoking or drinking, your body is even less prepared to

fight off the cold. The best thing to do is wear loose, dry clothing and try not to sweat too much. This may sound odd but as the perspiration on your skin cools it makes your body cool as well, and the tight clothing prevents blood from circulating to warm you.



If you do get frostbite or even suspect you may be developing it, go inside immediately and run warm water over your feet for 20-30 minutes. If this is not an option, wrap your feet in wool and get inside a sleeping bag—being sure to keep

them as dry as possible until help arrives. If you have no other options, walk to safety because walking on frozen feet is better than staying outside and losing them.

While weeping fissures and frozen toes may seem a little removed for many Volunteers, blisters do not. They can occur on anyone in any country and you've probably had a few already. The most important thing to remember is not to pop them! Blisters are nature's band-aid and the little balloon of skin is there for a reason. Instead, try to cushion the blister until it goes down and wear the most comfortable, broken-in shoes you can find. Thick cotton socks will also help avoid that pesky moisture problem. And, as always, if the blister won't go away or green gunk appears, see your medical officer as soon as possible.

By Lisa Payne

Paint the Walls Red



Has the phrase "bare essentials" taken on new meaning in your home? Getting bored looking at the same four walls? Well, why not liven the place up!

Get a hold of an old bed sheet or large piece of paper and some paints. Rally up a bunch of your buddies and *voila*, hold all calls from the Louvre. Toss it over the table, the bed, the window—make an imaginary door or wall if that suits your fancy. Or simply sketch a border on the paper and invite guests to scribble.

Your imagination is more pliant than your meager budget. Enjoy the surroundings while you can. By the time you get back to the States you're going to miss that little place you called home.

Geo-Quiz Challenge

Are you a Geo-whiz, or a Geo-fizz?

THINK YOU'RE PRETTY WORLDLY, EH? WELL THE PEACE CORPS TIMES challenges you to test out your geography awareness on the following mind benders.

- 1 Most of the earth's available freshwater is beneath the surface of the earth. What is the term for this freshwater?
- 2 The rand, a unit of money that takes its name from a gold-mining region in Africa, is the official currency of what country?
- 3 What is the term for the molten rock that flows from a volcano—"lava" or "granite?"
- 4 What country is made up of 7,000 islands?
- 5 What country is famous for its "Blue Mountain Coffee?"
- 6 Maletsanyane Falls, the longest free-falling falls in Africa is located in what country?
- 7 What Caribbean island has its very own "drive-in" volcano?
- 8 What two African nations were never colonized?
- 9 Author Arthur C. Clarke used artistic license to reposition this country to straddle the equator.
- 10 What is the ratio of people to livestock in Mongolia?
- 11 Approximately how many different languages are spoken in Papua New Guinea?

Sources: New York Times (Education Life, October 7, 1994, page 35), the 1994 National Geographic (spelling) Bee, Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Volunteers, and staff.

Answers: 1. groundwater, 2. South Africa, 3. lava, 4. Philippines, 5. Jamaica, 6. Lesotho, 7. St. Lucia, 8. Liberia and Ethiopia, 9. Sri Lanka, 10. 1:1.25, 11. 813.

Managing Your Anger

BLOWN YOUR STACK RECENTLY? Flipped out in a way that might, er, be inappropriate? Maybe you're thinking, "I wish I hadn't gone off like that."

Maybe it's that the mail didn't come on time, or didn't come at all, or that someone helped themselves to your care package from home. Maybe it's that the kids chanting "foreigner, foreigner" in your language of choice in the street is really getting on your nerves. Or maybe it's that no matter how hard you try, the people you're working with just don't seem to do things the way you think they should by now.

Let's face it, being a Volunteer can be frustrating. Most Peace Corps Volunteers live in environments that are full of stresses that they are not used to back home, even if it's just because life is very different, every day for two years. The trick is to be smart about your anger, to deal with it in a way that makes you feel good, rather than bad, about the way you express yourself when something happens that sets your blood boiling. That's not to say that

but he just gave me a two foot long stick and said, '*Aaume paTak, yo prayog gar-nus*' (next time use this)."

Poor anger management skills are something that many people share. When annoyed or threatened, we tend to engage in self-talk that increases anger such as "nobody talks to me like that without paying for it!" This may lead to a response that amounts to an outburst or attack, which only further fuels the anger response.

"I so much wanted to walk down the road without someone noticing me," said Valerie Bedard, a former Volunteer in Malawi. "I was constantly being pointed out when I would be walking down the road. Little kids would come running and yelling at the top of their lungs '*Azungu! Azungu!*' which means 'foreigner.'"

Bedard turned to technology. "I finally just put my headphones on and blasted my

usual anger responses. For instance, at the first signs of losing it, say words like "chill out dude." Then take a few deep breaths or think of something unrelated or calming (like a dip in the old swimmin' hole back home) to help cool things off.

"I coped to a significant extent by making films, particularly shooting the full moon at night, a series of black-and-white bits with multiple exposures that I called 'Racism,'" reports Alan Saul, a former Volunteer in the Central African Republic.

"I also hung out on some rocks above town and played music."

Another technique is to try to replace hot thoughts with neutral or silly thoughts. For instance, the next time you are attacked by someone who can really press your buttons, imagine a cream pie splatted in his/her face. Spend some time determining which tools for neutralizing anger work best for you.

Anger management is basically a set of skills, and they are bound to fail occasionally. As you become more proficient at using anger-management tools, you will

find that situations that had previously spiralled out of control can now be anticipated and short-circuited.

So the next time you're standing by the side of the road waiting for the bus, and waiting, and waiting, think of something funny, like your country director having to do your job for a day!

By Sarah Bott

"I so much wanted to walk down the road without someone noticing me"

— Valerie Bedard, Malawi

every time you get mad from now on you'll be Pysch 101 textbook perfect about dealing with it, but you can start practicing some anger-management skills that will help you now and for the rest of your life.

"The anger I felt was a constant source of frustration to me," said Howard Wiener, a former Volunteer in Nepal. "One time I lost control of myself when a sixth grade student was making fun of my language and I screamed at him. Despite the fact that this is accepted behavior for a Nepali teacher, I was literally almost paralyzed with regret that day. I tried to explain how I was feeling and why to the head sir,

music as I walked down the road."

Another Volunteer tells how a friend dealt with the same problem: "He had a t-shirt made with *nasarra* (white person) printed on the front in case anyone should not be clear as to who he was. A good approach I thought!"

Probably the most versatile anger management tool is relaxation, which can be useful in interrupting



Photography: Looking Good in Prints

WHETHER YOU'RE AN experienced photographer who knows the difference between an aperture and a range finder or you just got a new "point and shoot" camera before you went overseas, there are a few tried and true tips to taking good pictures that benefit everyone trying to capture a special moment on film. You may not realize

now how much you will value photographs of your Peace Corps years later in life. If you hook up with World Wise Schools and do a talk slide show at a school you will certainly want to show lots of photos. The better the photos, the more impressed your parents and friends will be and the more they'll understand what it is that you were doing "over there." Pictures of your construction project, school kids, and overseas friends are destined to improve if you are mindful of these common errors people make, according to *National Geographic Traveler*, November, 1994.

LENS NOT CLEAN

It's the one thing that most often ruins an otherwise good picture. Dust, dirt, fingerprints, a film of grease—all can cause flare, mistiness, loss of contrast and crispness, and thin color. The simple cure: Carry lens tissue and lens cleaner, and use them.

LENS OBSTRUCTED

Be careful not to get your finger, lens strap, or other obstruction in front of the lens when you shoot. Users can become so absorbed in what they are photographing that they don't even noticed that blurred, ugly shape at the corner or along an edge—until the prints are made.

BATTERY FAILURE

It happens surprisingly often, say the folks at Kodak. Use fresh batteries. Wipe off contacts if they become dirty or show signs of corrosion. And always carry a spare or two.

FAULTY FILM

Color film may produce poor hues or contrast if it's left unused too long, inside or outside a camera, or has been exposed to undue heat and humidity. If possible, store fresh film in a cool, dry place, use it before the expiration date stamped on the box, and process it promptly.

SCRATCHED FILM

Protect your camera from dust, dirt, and especially sand. "It only takes a tiny speck of sand on your platen to produce a bad scratch," *National Geographic Traveler* warns. They suggest protecting your camera with a sealable plastic bag.

BACKLIGHTING PROBLEMS

Failure to adjust for backlighting is a common problem, particularly with pictures of people's faces outdoors on a bright day. "When people shoot into the sun or bright light they're likely to get silhouettes when they don't want them," say the folks at *National Geographic Traveler*. "They wonder why faces are so dark while the background is so beautiful." To correct, use the camera's backlighting compensation setting or use fill-in flash, or make a close-up exposure reading of the person's face, lock it in, and then step back to recompose and shoot.

RED EYE

When light from a flash bounces directly from someone's retinas back into the camera lens, it causes those ghoulish blood-red eyes that often spoil a picture. If you're not in a setting where there is electricity to turn up the lights, tell the subject not to look at the camera.

BAD FLASH EXPOSURE

Automatic flash systems are very versatile, but they have their limits. Subjects too far away will be underexposed; subjects too close will be overexposed. Stay within the range of distances recommended in the instruction manual. Avoid light-colored items in the foreground, such as a white tablecloth or lampshade: They'll record as blank, washed-out, distracting shapes.

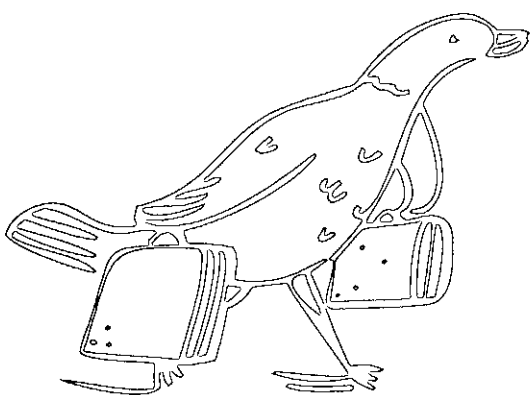
SUBJECT OUT OF FOCUS

Today's auto-focusing systems provide incredible speed and accuracy. Unfortunately, people don't always use them properly. Says *National Geographic Traveler*, "The camera focuses only on the little framed area in the center of the viewfinder." With most such cameras, you want to focus on an off-center subject: first aim the focusing zone at the subject, hold the shutter button part way down to lock in the focus, and then recompose.

Many cameras are so automatic people figure all they've got to do is point and press the shutter release. For best quality photos, don't rely on "automatic" settings all the time. Avoid bad photos by educating yourself a little bit about photography—you'll find that it will pay off every time you go for a visual record of your experiences.

TAPESTRY

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND INFORMATION



What's the Big Deal about Ecotourism?

JOHN SHORES, AN OTAPS
ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST,
TALKS TO TAPESTRY

TAPESTRY is produced by the Office of Training and Program Support (OTAPS) for Peace Corps Volunteers and staff. OTAPS provides technical support to Peace Corps programs throughout the world through a wide range of quality programming, training and technical information services. Compiled and edited by Information Collection and Exchange (ICE), a division of OTAPS, **TAPESTRY** is designed to present some item of interest for every PCV working in any country or project.

OTAPS DIRECTOR Howard Anderson
ICE DIRECTOR David Wolfe
TAPESTRY EDITOR Judy Benjamin

Q: It seems that everywhere we turn these days, we're finding the word "ecotourism" in print, on television, and on the radio. Just what is ecotourism? What does it have to do with Volunteers?

A: Ecotourism is shorthand for "environmentally-sound, nature-based tourism." Reports indicate that nature-based travel represents the fastest growing subsector of the tourism market. And tourism of all kinds is the fastest growing sector of the world economy—we're talking \$50 billion dollars annually. Nature-based travel accounts for only a small percentage of that total, but even one percent would translate into \$500 million. If we could ensure that a significant portion of that were true ecotourism, it would be a tremendous contribution to preserving our national environment.

Q: What is ecotourism trying to achieve?

A: While mass tourism is an economic enterprise with a profit motive driving it, ecotourism has a broader, almost altruistic motive. The fundamental idea of eco-

tourism is to increase the appreciation for wild and natural areas like national parks. Studies suggest that areas that are appreciated and valued are less likely to be destroyed or converted to other uses. In other words, if a national park creates an income stream for local communities through tourism dollars, then perhaps these local communities will also act to conserve the resources of the park. Members of the travel industry would have an incentive to contribute to the maintenance of the park or reserve, and the visiting public would have an incentive to support efforts to see these areas protected.

Q: You sound skeptical. Why?

A: The biggest problem with ecotourism is that it's the current fad and everyone wants to be on the bandwagon. It seems as if every enterprise in the travel industry has found some way to emblazon the word "ecotourism" on its facilities and services. Too many times the term is being used to publicize tours the industry has

Continued on page 32

Youth as Resources, not Risks

BY T. J. DELAHANTY

PEACE CORPS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT Program is promoting positive youth development. Even though Volunteers may be working with youth considered "at risk," PCVs are not focusing on the problems these young people pose, but on their potential for positive growth and achievement.

Initiating youth corps programs is one way to try to reach this goal. A youth corps program involves youth in work projects that address community needs while providing on-the-job training and life skills' development.

These programs can take on many forms and incorporate a variety of work projects depending on the needs of the youth and the community to be served. "Youth Corps Programs" (see page 31) describes the elements Peace Corps believes they need to promote positive youth development.

Peace Corps first became involved in this program through the Belize Youth Conservation Corps (BYCC), developed in Belize with the help of Volunteers. Three key components of the Belize Corps make it a model for Peace Corps' youth development initiative:

It allows the participants to build competencies, develop self-esteem, and a commitment to others.

The first BYCC project brought 40 youth from all over the country to do conservation in the world's only jaguar reserve. The participants were divided into work crews, which were led by a Volunteer crew supervisor and a park warden who provided technical expertise.

In the two weeks they spent with BYCC, they designed and maintained trails, built footbridges, and benches and made signs. In the process, they gained a first-hand appreciation of the environment, while learning skills to help make them employable and responsible citizens.

It incorporates leadership development



Members of Belize Youth Conservation Corps do their part to conserve the world's only jaguar preserve—right in their own back yard.

into its program and gives its participants a sense of belonging.

The BYCC created a community structure that allowed the crew members to be a part of the decision-making process. It gave the crew members a sense of ownership and belonging, which made them feel good about themselves.

Each day the crews met before the work began and again at lunch to appoint a crew chief and discuss safety and responsibilities. At the end of the day, they met again to review the work and to discuss problems and conflicts that may have occurred. In the evenings, everyone gathered for community meetings to plan their activities, watch and listen to any special presentations or skits the youth had prepared, and to discuss issues that concerned them all. Staff respected the crews' opinions and decisions reflected the young people's views.

It provides a supportive environment for participants to learn valuable skills.

From their work experience, crew members could feel, for example, that it was safe to fail, while at the same time

understand from their supervisors the importance of learning from mistakes. Crew supervisors were trained and encouraged to take advantage of "teachable moments" to incorporate work situations into "lessons learned" about the job and about the environment.

The Belize Youth Conservation Corps is just one example of a program that develops the positive attributes of youth to help them become resources for their communities. The key elements of the corps can be incorporated into any project to address the needs of youth. If a project can give youth a sense of belonging and allow them to build competencies, to develop leadership, and contribute to their own growth and their families' and communities' welfare, we will be helping young people become successful adults. We will no longer perceive youth as a problem, but as a resource—and we will be making a difference. ■

T. J. Delahanty, a former Volunteer in Belize, is an Associate Peace Corps Director in Guyana.

New Publications from ICE

IF YOU'VE BEEN IN YOUR IN-Country Resource Center (IRC) recently, you may have seen some of the new ICE publications on a list your IRC Manager printed from IRC Network News, ICE's electronic newsletter. That list supplements our latest edition of The Whole ICE Catalog. Since the newsletter appeared, however, ICE has added a few more titles. Keep these in mind when you consider what materials to order.

ED180

Appropriate Media for Training and Development.

Jonathan Zeitlyn.

(TOOL Publications) 1992 124 pp. [ICE Class. No. G0104]

A handbook presenting ideas and techniques to educate and communicate with people in developing countries. Discusses the planning and design of training materials, as well as the uses of different types of media, their advantages and disadvantages. Includes a variety of drawings and other graphics.

ED182

Teaching Makes a Difference.

Carol Cummings.

(Teaching, Inc.) 1990 224 pp. [ICE Class. No. G0102]

DISTRIBUTION TO PEACE CORPS IN-COUNTRY RESOURCE CENTERS ONLY

Manual for teachers to increase their instructional skills. Stresses the importance of clarifying teaching objectives, to have teachers focus on both the tasks and skills to be learned and the levels of learning. Also considers how to monitor and adjust instructional techniques and offers practical suggestions for teachers to apply these learn-

ing principles: retention, motivation, active participation and mental set. Includes a list of references.

HE254

The Health of Women.

Edited by Marge Koblinsky, Judith Timyan & Jill Gay.

(Westview Press) 1993 290 pp. [ICE Class. No. F4000]

Reviews factors that affect women's health, including low socio-economic status, poor nutrition, pregnancies, and diseases. Emphasizes preventive measures to curb the rate of women's unnecessary deaths. Each chapter provides policy analysis, strategies, recommendations and references.

R0089

Pesticide Safety for Farmworkers.

(EPA/Peace Corps ICE) 1994 26 pp. [ICE Class. No. A1103]

An English-Spanish manual providing basic information to educate farmworkers about pesticide poisoning, appropriate first aid, safety measures, and pesticide labeling. Material is presented in drawings with explanatory text.

R0091

An English-Spanish Glossary of Terminology Used in Forestry, Range, Wildlife, Fishery, Soils, and Botany.

Alvin Leroy Medina.

(USDA Forest Service/Peace Corps ICE) 1994 54 pp. [ICE Class. No. E0109]

Presents the Spanish-English equivalent translations of scientific and management terms commonly used in the disciplines listed in the title. A good companion booklet to R0017, "Glossary of Environmental Terms:

Spanish/English, English/Spanish."

SB152

Basic Economics: The Transition from Plan to Market.

Arne Jon Isachsen and Carl Hamilton.

(Alma Litera) 1992 278 pp. [ICE Class No. J0100]

Written by two Scandinavian economists, it explains the workings of a market economy. Although originally intended for beginners' courses in economics and business administration, the examples presented make the book accessible to a much wider audience than is typical of a standard textbook on economics.

TR062

Workshop Design for the Training of Trainers.

A. Graeme Frelick.

(WASH) 1991 163 pp. [ICE Class. No. T0623]

DISTRIBUTION TO PEACE CORPS IN-COUNTRY RESOURCE CENTERS ONLY

A training guide designed for skilled trainers responsible for training extension or district-level field workers involved in water and sanitation or other public health activities. The two-week workshop (can be modified to one-week) enables participants to experience and analyze the full range of adult education techniques. Complements the subject matter training guides developed by the WASH project.

WS113

Just Stir Gently: The Way to Mix Hygiene Education with Water Supply and Sanitation.

Marieke T. Boot.

(IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre) 1991 171 pp. [ICE Class. No. F0900]

Promotes hygiene education by relaying information on conditions and practices that help to prevent water and sanitation diseases. Provides examples on integrating traditional beliefs with "germ theory of disease" and strong guidance on project monitoring and evaluation. Presents sample lesson plans.

WS115

The Worth of Water: Technical Briefs of Health, Water and Sanitation.

Introduction by John Pickford.

(Intermediate Technology Publications) 1991
132 pp. [ICE Class. No. C1210]

DISTRIBUTION TO PEACE CORPS IN-COUNTRY RESOURCE CENTERS ONLY

A compilation of the "Technical Briefs" that have appeared in the periodical *Waterlines*, providing a concise survey of appropriate technologies in the water/sanitation field. The "how-to" information and accompanying drawings are especially useful for PCVs looking for new ideas for water/sanitation projects or secondary activities.



WS116

Partners for Progress: An Approach to Sustainable Piped Water Supplies.

(IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre).
1991 140 pp. [ICE Class. No. C1210]

DISTRIBUTION TO PEACE CORPS IN-COUNTRY RESOURCE CENTERS ONLY

Provides an overview of piped water supply projects, with a strong emphasis on community participation. Covers such issues as choosing the right system; involving the community in the planning; and designing, constructing, operating and maintaining it. Useful for PCVs working in related projects.

Youth Corps Programs

YOUTH CORPS PROGRAMS involve young people, working under close adult supervision in crews of no more than 12 members each, in projects that meet community needs. These programs not only bring real benefits to the community, they also bring attention to the Corps, provide a sense of accomplishment in work well done, and offer opportunities for personal development for the Corps member. Corps programs can be short-term or long-term, involve conservation or social service, be residential or nonresidential, in rural or urban areas, but nevertheless must share these essential elements:

Environmental Awareness

Corps programs use experiential learning techniques to incorporate environmental education into project work and demonstrate the relationship between the two. Emphasis is placed on conservation of local natural resources and their sustainable use.

Education

Corps programs provide educational activities based on individual needs. By keeping journals and receiving remedial tutoring, Corps members can improve their reading and writing skills.

Life Skills Training

Corps programs use the concept of community to develop a sense of belonging for Corps members and provide opportunities through work for the development of leadership skills, decision-making, problem-solving

and interpersonal communication. Complementary activities deal with such issues as family planning, drug dependency, and sexually-transmitted diseases.

Community Service

Corps programs foster a sense of community with a common bond of service through work projects that clearly benefit the community. The Corps is a place where young people can feel they belong, where individual and collective responsibility is expected.

Work Ethic

Corps programs emphasize that staff by discussion and example instill in Corps members a work ethic. This means learning such values as dependability, responsibility, self-discipline, and working well with others while adhering to enforced rules and regulations.

Job and Safety Skills

Corps programs include a basic regimen of training in safety and technical skills that apply to the particular job. These can include CPR and first aid, water safety, basic fire training, and the proper use of job-related tools.

Employability Training

Corps programs provide Corps members training in skills needed to obtain work after they complete the project. These skills may include opening and managing a bank account, basic budgeting, and conducting a job search, filling out an application, and being interviewed for a job.

Continued from page 28

simply repackaged. Instead of supporting local businesses and ensuring that significant profits from the tourist attraction remain in the region, most of the profits from the travel industry end up in the pockets of people in the developed countries. And the tourism/travel industry is not really the environmentally benign "industry without smokestacks" that its proponents once claimed. In fact, plenty of negative economic, social, and environmental impacts are associated with the travel industry.

Q: What are some of the negative impacts you've seen?

A: The social disruptions are obvious and commonplace. How would you feel if a camera were stuck in your face every time you walked to the market? Also, some of the social impacts can be truly serious: a sudden increase in disposable income can lead to alcoholism and drug dependency among people not used to a cash economy. Economic impacts are sometimes surprising. In most cases, tourism brings some money into the local economy, but most of the wages in the hospitality sector are low and many of the high-value capital goods are imported. Often the net result is local inflation. Environmental impacts are often serious. A great increase in the number of visitors may be *damaging to fragile environments*, especially for coral reefs or high-mountain habitats, and may disrupt normal behavior patterns of local fauna. Tourists often expect luxurious accommodations. Their demands for water may tax a predominantly arid environment. Their demand for heat may threaten local firewood resources. Tourists unfortunately do much more than what the slogan reminds us: "Take only photographs and leave only footprints."

Q: Where do Volunteers fit in?

A: Many of our Volunteers are some of the world's most adventurous ecotourists—and I'd like to believe they are some of the most culturally and environmentally sensitive, too. So for starters, Volunteers can be trend setters and good examples to other tourists. But they can play a more substantive role. Volunteers can work with their communities and counterparts to ensure that all parties are aware of the opportunities and the pitfalls when contemplating tourism developments.

Q: Is this work primarily for Environment Volunteers?

A: Work on ecotourism can be part of any Volunteer's activities. My own experience with ecotourism started with my helping countries design and develop national parks and protected areas, and many of the Environment Volunteers are already doing much the same work. At the same time, Environment Volunteers can have a major role to play in an issue that should concern Business Volunteers as well, the "greening" of commercial enterprises to make them aware of their impact on the environment. Business Volunteers can also get involved in ecotourism by helping government and nonprofit organizations develop sound business plans for any services or facilities they intend to develop with a tourism slant.

Health and Sanitation Volunteers can contribute their expertise to the design of facilities for visitors and for workers. Education Volunteers will find their services needed in response to the demand for new kinds of specialized training in addition to the obvious English classes for hospitality-industry employees. Agriculture Volunteers can play a role in developing local production of fruits, vegetables, and other farm products for special markets catering to tourist interests, and similar roles can be found for just about every group of Volunteers.

Q: How can a Volunteer get involved in

ecotourism and who will support them?

A: My first advice is to discuss your ideas with your Associate Director. Then contact the environment sector in OTAPS for assistance in getting projects started and in dealing with specific problems and issues that arise along the way. We work closely with the other sectors and divisions in OTAPS to coordinate our support efforts. You also can get in touch with OTAPS' ICE if you need more information or answers to specific questions.

Q: Why should Peace Corps Volunteers get involved in ecotourism?

A: Steering and guiding development so that it is as positive as possible should be a building block of every Volunteer's activities. Ecotourism is an ideal tool to use in protecting natural areas while meeting the social needs of local people.

Ecotourism developer Stanley Selengut described it this way:

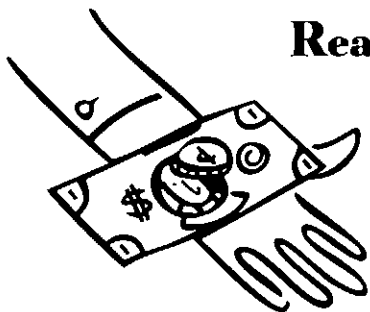
"Ecotourism is the most creative area of the tourism industry because you examine all of the local resources (human and natural) and provide an environmentally-sound development framework for integrating all of these components into a sustainable, self-supporting enterprise."

One of the motivations behind Peace Corps service is the desire to leave the world a better place than we found it. Ecotourism lets you try your hand at integrating all of the elements of sustainable development at the same time that you balance community needs with environmental protection. It's an opportunity few people back in the States will have. If you're interested in ecotourism activities or in receiving more information about this area should contact John in care of OTAPS/Environment or e-mail him at jshores@capaccess.org ☐

John Shores is a biodiversity and ecotourism specialist at Peace Corps.

What will you do with your...

Readjustment Allowance?



Does money burn a hole in your pocket or are you prudent with a buck? What are you planning to do with your allowance? Go back to school? Buy a car? Pay off loans? Travel around the world? These former Volunteers tell how they spent their hard earned dough overseas:

"I bought a round the world pass from Pan Am. It was a fabulous experience and helped me get ready to be back in the USA."

—Pinckney Steiner, Thailand

"I used my readjustment allowance to fly back to Manila and get married and to fly my wife and myself back to the US. I think that the last bit of it went for the deposit on our first apartment (in Chicago)."

—Mike Robotham, Philippines

"I traveled through South America, but after having most of it stolen, cutting my adventure short. I wish I had bought travelers cheques!"

—Laura Bayne, Dominican Republic

"I bought a 1956 Willy's Utility Wagon in Honduras for the drive back to the US."

—Andrew Fontanez, Honduras

"I put it toward first year of law school—I started the very week I COSed."

—Carol Bellamy, Guatemala

"I stayed on in Thailand for an extra six weeks, financed my job search, moved to Minnesota, and paid some of my school loans. What I wish I had done was backpack across another continent, like Africa."

—Bethe Lewis, Thailand

"I moved to Washington, bought a professional-ish wardrobe for work, caught up on a ton of movies, ate great Mexican and Thai food, and bought a new Walkman as the red dust of Benin, West Africa had pushed an untimely death on my old one."

—Caroline Slade, Benin

"I put it in a bank and used it until I found a job. (I wish now I had bought stock in Microsoft... or bet someone that within twenty-some years Nelson Mandela would be President of South Africa and Peace Corps would be in Russia.)"

—Dick Banks, Korea

"I traveled to Japan and then back to Thailand for about six months after COS. I then used the rest of the money to hook up with my Peace Corps buddies for Mardi Gras when I returned home. The money was then gone, poof!"

—Jennifer Ostermeier, Thailand

Volunteers Write:

Oh, Africa!

Oh Africa! In a few short months I will be leaving you, and already I am full of mixed feelings. And years from now, I wonder what will I remember most? Will it be the early morning coolness, the midday siesta in the shade, and open-air bucket baths in the late afternoon? Or the oppressive mid-day heat; the mefloquin dreams; or the flies, mosquitoes, and blister beetles? Will memories of clean swept yards, women pulling water at the well, and browsing throughout the marketplace endure against those of lack of privacy, harassment by venders, and living with the constant threat of illness, injury, or death?

What will I recall? The soft sand on the floor of my hut between my toes, an ocean swim, a cool night sleeping under the stars? Or the hot *harmattan* winds, the constant sweating, or being squeezed between two *ceeb* mamas on public transport? Will I prefer to remember women making music as they work, village chants, the sound of rain on my grass roof, or the barking of baboons in the night? The approach of an African rainstorm, the villagers chanting under an eclipse to call the moon back? I think that I shall keep all memories of you, every one.

Steven Herbert is a Volunteer in Senegal.

Achieving Equality

Challenging ourselves to improve the status quo

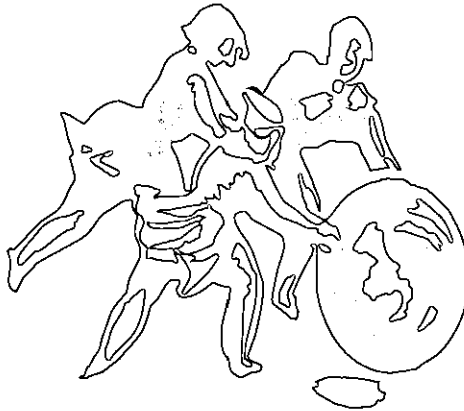
BY PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM

PEACE CORPS LIKES TO BOAST THAT it looks like America. Well, with 29% minority representation in Peace Corps' domestic and overseas

staff and 12% minority Volunteers worldwide, Peace Corps is now presenting a face to the world that is more representative of the uniquely diverse American composition than ever before. Yet, never satisfied with the status quo, Peace Corps is constantly striving to achieve greater diversity within its ranks and out in the field. We know we can do better and we are taking steps to insure that we do.

Over the years, Peace Corps has undertaken a number of initiatives to achieve greater diversity, and one of these was the creation of the American Diversity program. Formed to identify and address minority concerns throughout the Agency, the American Diversity program fosters better understanding of, and appreciation for, ethnic differences, and works to prevent discrimination within the Agency. American Diversity allows Peace Corps to focus its resources not only on safeguarding against discrimination prohibited by law but identifying any form of discrimination that prevents Volunteers and staff members from working to their fullest ability.

"In addition to observing the rules



and regulations of the federal government, we are open to affirming everybody's contributions to the workplace," said Mabel Dobarro, Director of the American Diversity program. "We take this *very* seriously."

Much of the work of the American Diversity program involves awareness training for Peace Corps Volunteers and staff. In the States, *every* new employee receives information of Peace Corps' policies on equal opportunity, sexual harassment, and diversity awareness. Also receiving awareness training are those who service Volunteers in-country.

Diversity awareness training helps people understand their role in an ever-changing work environment. The challenge, Mabel said, is in reassessing the ways we do business in a workplace that is now more ethnically diverse than ever.

"In one way or another, we are all different," said Mabel. "Whether it's ethnic group, educational background, social status, faith, national origin, sex, age, or other. And we all have different ways of doing things. American Diversity tries to give individuals an understanding and valuing of people's differences."

A great deal of this involves creating an atmosphere where potential conflicts or complaints can be quickly addressed and resolved. To achieve this aim, American Diversity counsels individuals who are experiencing problems. "We try to resolve issues dealing with diversity problems through communication. Though we have differences, we all have good ideas and our differences may in fact contribute to working more efficiently."

In the past four years, there has been a steady increase in the number of minorities overseas, and we continue to have a good record of minority employment—higher than that of the national civilian labor force (which has 22.1% minority representation).

Peace Corps is also concerned with ensuring not only that ethnic groups are adequately represented at Peace Corps, but that they also gain access to upper-echelon jobs, ones beyond the so called glass ceiling. According to Mabel, "The bottom line is that we are trying to ensure that we provide access as well as opportunity to everyone." □

Patricia Cunningham works in the Office of Communications.

A Voice on the Hill

Making the case for Volunteers

BY JOAN TIMONEY

PEACE CORPS' CONGRESSIONAL Relations Office manages the Agency's communications with Congress. Of all the federal agencies

one could represent on Capitol Hill, I'd choose Peace Corps any day. That's in part because I am an RPCV (Senegal) and in part because Peace Corps is an agency that enjoys broad bipartisan support. It's nice to start from such a strong base.

It is also very helpful to have RPCVs from *both* parties serving in Congress. There are currently seven: Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut (Dominican Republic), Congressmen Sam Farr of California (Colombia), Tony Hall of Ohio (Thailand), Tom Petri of Wisconsin (Somalia), Chris Shays of Connecticut (Fiji), Mike Ward of Kentucky (The Gambia), and Jim Walsh of New York (Nepal).

In addition to these RPCVs, we are very lucky to have the support and guidance of former Peace Corps Director Paul Coverdell who is serving his third year in the Senate, as well as former staff member Senator Jay Rockefeller and former Advisory Council member Senator Arlen Specter.

Not a bad alumni association!

So, what exactly does the

Congressional Relations Office do?

Our office's most important responsibility is securing an appropriate level of funding for Peace Corps programs. There are four committees which determine our budgetary fate. In the House, it's the International Relations and Appropriations Committees; in the Senate, it's the Foreign Relations and Appropriations Committees. I spend a good deal of time phoning and meeting with the staff of these committees. We also try to get Director Bellamy in to see the Committee Members once a year.

Earlier this month, we sent to Capitol Hill the document that justifies Peace Corps' budget request for fiscal year 1996. The President has asked Congress to approve a Peace Corps budget of \$234 million. The Agency's annual budget document explains how we plan to spend that money. We provide general information about Peace Corps' mission and specific information on all 94 country programs to the Committees that oversee Peace Corps. Over the next several months, Director Bellamy will be explaining and defending this plan before those four commit-

tees.

The budget recommendation of \$234 million is essentially a freeze of the previous year's level. With everything trending toward cuts, we have to make the argument that a full investment in Peace Corps is in America's interest, is supported by the American people, and yields real benefits to the communities you serve and to you, the Volunteers. If you have project information or anecdotes that can help buttress our case, please pass them on to me.

You may have read, too, that Senator McConnell, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee with responsibility for foreign aid, proposed an overhaul of the foreign assistance structure that would place Peace Corps under the State Department. When he formally submitted the bill just a few weeks ago, that provision had been deleted. Senator McConnell, who has always been a good supporter of Peace Corps, explained he made the change in deference to Senator Coverdell's "considerable expertise and strong views" on the subject. Other Members of Congress may introduce their own legislation to restructure foreign assistance, but we do not expect any of those to recommend changes in Peace Corps' independent status.

That's the view from the Congressional Relations Office. Peace Corps is only as good as the Volunteers, and it is your commitment and achievements that allow us to enjoy strong support on the Hill. ■

Joan Timoney, former Volunteer in Senegal, is the Director of Congressional Relations.

What's Next for You?

RVCS can help you make the transition.

BY MONA MELANSON AND SUSAN MUSICH

SUPPOSE YOU'RE NOT QUITE SURE what you're going to do after Peace Corps. Maybe you've got a job waiting for you back home, or

perhaps graduate school is more what you had in mind. If you're like most Volunteers, though, that road ahead is full of options and you're not quite sure of the best route.

Take heart, you're not alone! Returned Volunteer Career Services (RVCS) may be able to help you make the transition from Peace Corps Volunteer to—well, that's up to you!

One of the best resources we have to offer is *Hotline*, a bulletin of career, educational, and re-entry information and opportunities for RPCVs. *Hotline* contains announcements from employers and educational institutions all over the country who are interested in hiring RPCVs or enrolling them in graduate school and other programs. You will begin to receive *Hotline* free for two years approximately six to eight weeks after your close of service (COS). Look for copies now in your ICE Library at post.

RVCS maintains a Career Center at Peace Corps Headquarters equipped with telephones, typewriters, personal computers, and job and housing bulletin boards. It is a resource for returned Volunteers who are looking for a job, an apartment, or even some new friends mainly in the DC area.

RVCS sponsors popular career information sessions ("Brown Bag" Workshops) that can help you write a resume, complete a Federal job application, and familiarize yourself with the latest library resources.

The Career Center also provides the DISCOVER system, a career planning and information computer program that may help you decide on career paths to explore further. DISCOVER also contains current information on all U.S. college educational programs.

Although RVCS can't find you a job, we can help you identify and highlight skills that employers find valuable. Your cross-cultural skills may help to open many doors.

You may also have experience in training and conducting needs assessments that will be useful techniques in your job search. We often act as a broker between RPCVs and employers. Our staff contacts prospective RPCV employers on behalf of the Peace Corps community, not specific persons.

RVCS also publishes career information manuals, including *Natural Resource Careers*, *Careers in Agriculture*, *Foreign Language and*

EFL/ESL Careers, *Continuing Education Guide*, *Career Information Consultants*, *Health Careers*, and a new *Business Careers Manual*. We also provide a Senior Volunteer Resource Information kit.

You don't need to come to Headquarters to take advantage of RVCS, though. We have a toll free number (800-424-8580), extension 2284, and respond to career and readjustment related inquiries by mail as well as over the phone. Due to heavy demand, please call 2-3 weeks in advance to schedule a half hour telephone or in-person counseling session.

RVCS collaborates with Peace Corps recruiting offices to provide career information to RPCVs in other parts of the U.S. The Boston, Chicago, Seattle, and San Francisco Area Offices have a computer and laser printer available for use equipped with word-processing software and the DISCOVER system. By the time you return home, even more recruiting offices may have computers so call the nearest one and check.

Peace Corps and the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) are collaborating to conduct Training of Trainers (TOTs) for RPCV group facilitators to present RECONNECT, a re-entry and job search workshop throughout the U.S. They will provide local employment information. The NPCA is conducting 10 regional leadership conferences which include RECONNECT TOTs in 1995.

RVCS co-sponsors a Career Fair, in conjunction with the National Peace Corps Association, at the NPCA's annual conference. During August 2-6, 1995 it will be hosted in Austin, Texas by all the Texas RPCV Groups. If you are home by then, come see us there! ☐

Mona Melanson, a former Volunteer in Thailand, is the Director of RVCS. Susan Musich, a former Volunteer in the Philippines and Costa Rica is a Career Counselor.

Overseas Support

Keeping you supplied is no routine operation!

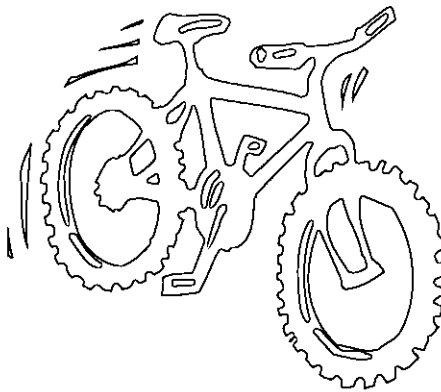
BY BURTON REIST

DID YOU EVER WONDER HOW YOU got that bike? Or where the doctor who prescribed your vaccines got her supplies?

One of the most important jobs at Peace Corps is keeping you, the Volunteers, supplied with the things you need to survive—and it's quite a task. Making sure that 6,500 Volunteers in 93 countries have everything from water filters, to eyeglasses, to antibiotics is an enormous undertaking. "We send three tons of stuff to our Volunteers around the world every month," said Joe DiBenedetto, Director of Property and Supply.

Joe, Debbie "DGall" Gallagher, and their crew of ten coordinate over 50 suppliers worldwide with each of our overseas posts. Their operation is like a combination of L.L. Bean and the U.S. Postal Service—they produce catalogues that you, your admin officers and medical officers (PCMOs) use to order what you need, and in an emergency they have to be able to get supplies to posts in a matter of days.

Not every order is an emergency, though, well, at least not initially. Sometimes assignments that appear routine turn out to be much more difficult than expected. For instance, when Peace Corps entered countries in Eastern Europe, office equipment was needed for 220 volt connections. In



the U.S. we use 110 volt. Finding fax machines, copiers and computers for the new offices (items not readily available in the host countries) turned out to be virtually impossible. This had to be done in addition to rounding up the *two tons* of general supplies it takes to get Peace Corps started in a new country.

Stocking medical supplies is an important, indeed critical, function of Property and Supply. Many vendors are unreliable, and some drugs can be difficult to get. For example, a recent shortage of Primaquine (an anti-malarial drug many Volunteers must

take when they leave their posts for the U.S.) made it hard for PCMOs to safely approve travel. An exhaustive worldwide search for vendors turned up sufficient supply for all overseas posts.

Yet, rising to the challenges presented by posts, no matter how hard or frustrating, is always rewarding. "We remind ourselves that the Volunteers are relying on us, and that their well-being depends upon the job we do," DGall explained.

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our operation. By surveying posts for feedback on the job they're doing Property and Supply learned it was a hassle for Volunteers to prepare the mosquito netting they were receiving (they had to be dipped in chemical solutions that are hard to work with). So, Property and Supply staff searched for a vendor who manufactured pre-treated mosquito nets. These are now available to posts who order them.

Many recent changes have made Property and Supply more responsive to the needs of the overseas posts and have saved Peace Corps and the U.S. Government a lot of money. This is an ongoing effort. Each day the crew looks for new ways to further this process of continuous improvement.

So, the next time you get on your bike, take the pills the PCMO said you must have to go on a trip, or hang mosquito netting so you don't get eaten alive, remember those folks who are working to make sure you have the supplies you need. And if you have any suggestions, or ideas for improvement, tell your country staff—or better yet, get word directly to Joe, DGall, and their crew. They want to hear from you. ☐

Burton Reist works in the office of the Associate Director for Management, of which Property and Supply is part.

Gordon Radley

*While he manages the business at Lucasfilm, Ltd.,
"The Force" of family is with him.*

BY CELIA FISCHER

ny) and Industrial Light and Magic (*very* special effects).

It's not a *working* ranch...although there are horses and cattle. But amid the vineyards and ponds, inside the farm houses and barns, a fertile idea factory thrives.

Somewhere in here, Lucas is scripting a new *Star Wars* trilogy, the first of which may be released in 1998.

And this is where Gordon Radley, President, orchestrates the business of Lucasfilm.

Check the brakes. More hairpin turns ahead.



Not far from Gordon's desk and straight from *The Empire Strikes Back*, sits Yoda, the Jedi Master, so lifelike you can almost hear him: "A Jedi must have the deepest commitment, the most serious mind." It's *apropos*. Gordon possesses a cognizance, a seriousness, both disarming and intoxicating. This corporate ranch-hand wears jeans. Classical music drifts through the air. "The Force" he emanates is calm, yet full of energy. His stories soar at warp speed, each word carrying the distinct crackle of his old neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. Like the roots of a Banyan tree, his family, job, and Peace Corps experience twist through his life.

In the 60s, Sargent Shriver called them "the Peace Corps family." After all, each

of Merle and Albert Radley's children had served during the initial decade of Peace Corps: Larry (Colombia 1), Elena (Colombia 13) and Gordon (Malawi 14).

Gordon's mother, Merle (now Merle Radley Katz) said "an accident of timing," put the family in the middle of Peace Corps' kickoff in 1961. Larry, 22 and fresh from journalism school, was one of the first seven Americans selected for service.

A media feeding frenzy surrounded Larry, his parents, Merle and Albert, sister Elena and brother Gordon. Albert and Merle worked for World Book Encyclopedia (Elena calls them "the original look-it-up people"). World Book owned *The Chicago Sun-Times*. They got the story, then the Tribune had to run it and the talk shows started...

"Larry was the first person from Chicago to join, so he was in every paper and on every talk show. People were in the house, following Larry as he prepared to leave," Merle said. "It was a little nuts."

Larry went to training at Rutgers, writing articles for the Chicago press. He planned to write about the *whole* experience in Colombia when he came home.

But he never came home.

On Easter Sunday, 1962, after seven months in-country, Larry, and fellow PCV David Crozier, boarded a plane with 38 Colombians. They were returning to

It's been raining in California for three weeks. Brakes checked for the drive ahead. Wipers work.

Even through the downpour and twisting hairpin turns of Lucas Valley Road, the Marin County view is spectacular: curvaceous hills, strained, rushing streams, cattle grazing on ranchlands. The unadorned driveway of Skywalker Ranch, corporate headquarters of Lucasfilm, Ltd., could be missed surrounded by this natural splendor.

But, abracadabra, the wooden gate opens. The guard politely presents a map and an understatement: "Welcome to Skywalker Ranch. Be careful driving, we've had a little rain." This is *not* Hollywood, where you might find studio lots or the stereotypical characters from *The Player*.

Nonetheless, Skywalker Ranch is an entertainment industry *tour de force*. Here, filmmaker and owner George Lucas (*American Graffiti*, *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*) also houses Skywalker Sound and oversees LucasArts (the interactive compa-

their site from Bahia di Salano, a beautiful beach on the Pacific, to Quibdo, the capital of Choco. The plane smashed into a mountainside. Everyone on board perished. They were the first two PCV deaths.

On May 9, a letter was penned to the Radleys. "Your son served in the finest traditions of our country. He understood the job that was to be done and set about it quietly and effectively. The people of Armenia, Colombia, will long remember the North American who came to their small village to help. His nation, too, will remember his dedication and his work. The Peace Corps stands as a monument to Larry." Signed, "John Kennedy."



About a year after Larry's death, Elena applied. Her parents learned this through Shriver's letter telling them how pleased he was by her acceptance. "We were just very proud of her," Merle said. "A lot of our friends thought we were crazy to let our daughter go off to Colombia, first because our son had been killed there, also because no women served in Peace Corps at first. It was a thing for men to do. We thought *everyone* would want their kids to do it. I guess we were just different."

Elena went to Bogota to help train teachers to use educational TV programming that other PCVs were helping to produce.

"But in typical Peace Corps fashion," Elena said, "when we were ready, classes were not in session, and would not be for a month."

Back in training, she had learned the Laubach Literacy method ("each one teach one"). Inspired to start working immediately, she approached one of the larger populations of illiterates in Bogota: the maximum security penitentiary.

Soon prisoners were teaching each other in a cellblock Elena had dedicated for classes. Elena secured other improvements for the jail: donated uniforms (there were none), cups and spoons (prisoners were eating from ponchos with their hands). She found TVs for the prison, too. What did they watch? Elementary programming produced by PCVs.

Seduced by the romantic, adventurous experiences of his siblings, Gordon chose

Peace Corps after graduating from Amherst College in 1968.

He landed in Ndamera (*da-mara*), in southern Malawi. Alone. His promised housing as yet unbuilt. Ah, the romance! The adventure!

Construction of his mud-brick hut took the villagers three months. Gordon began his project, establishing "Under Five" clinics, a place to teach mothers preventative health measures and child nutrition.



After moving into his hut, Gordon initially spent his time off reading, writing letters, keeping a journal. Knowing he was isolating himself, he couldn't make the leap to socialize. Finding his language skills inadequate, he avoided any awkward or embarrassing situations.

Gordon continued his work through the oppressive, scorching, 130 degree days. The 100 degree nights were another thing. Air like a wet blanket. Mosquitoes so thick he wiped them from his arms. The netting over his bed, "blocked any hint of a breeze. You *couldn't* sleep."

So, out in the night air, sleepless Ndamerans would dance the traditional dances of their ancestors.

"There might be drums, or an *ulimba* (like a xylophone) or a penny whistle band or all of these playing somewhere outside

of my house," Gordon said. He'd go outside and watch. Eventually he danced. He would dance alone, or alone in a group. He didn't need a partner like back in the States, and he learned to dance as one with the villagers. Through dance, Gordon connected with his village, achieving a level of cultural intimacy neither he, nor they, expected.

He grew from a curiosity to a family member. Word of his "connection" spread quickly from Ndamera.

"I'd go 100 miles away and it had spread that this white man had become an integral part of their traditional experience," Gordon said.

Maybe it was his "*mankwala*," which means "medicine," sort of. But *mankwala* gives power, enhances characteristics. Or if a woman keeps her husband faithful, "she has good *mankwala*."

As Gordon learned the traditional dancing, the villagers said he reminded them of Malawi's "number one dancer." And that dancer had a secret, unshared *mankwala*, preserving his abilities to dance

better and longer than anyone else.

Secret until Gordon was about to leave Malawi. The dancer had heard of Gordon and came to Ndamera to check him out. Two days before Gordon left the village, the dancer took Gordon aside, told him to strip naked and cut incisions into Gordon's ankles, knees and hips. Into those cuts, they rubbed a mixture of roots and herbs — the



Gordon's sister, Elena worked in a Bogotá prison.

secret *mankwala*.

So, along with his unfathomable experience, Gordon took a little of Malawi home: *mankwala*, a ten-piece drum set, and a small but significant tribal facial design that decorates his right cheekbone, just beside his eye.

"I was marked by this experience, not just emotionally but physically marked. Whatever would happen in my life, I would carry this experience with me on my face. The world would have to see it, whenever they saw me. It is as much a

part of me and how I contact the world as anything can be."



So he left his beloved Ndamera. Three weeks later he was buried in the stacks at Harvard Law School. When finished, his Harvard classmates headed to silk stocking firms in the East — Gordon went to Los Angeles for "four or five years" of entertainment law.

And he was almost complacent doing it, too, when the urge for freedom overwhelmed him one day, like a recurring virus he couldn't shake.

"I didn't take a leave of absence, I quit," Gordon said. "I wanted to be without contexts. I was totally free to explore and see what would happen." He traversed the States in a van, then reduced his life from the van to an over-the-shoulder bag, trotting off to the South Pacific and Southeast Asia. His three years "out there" included five months as a Peace Corps training director in Western Samoa.

Then he came back to California, where Elena was living, too. After a job at 20th Century Fox in Los Angeles, he joined Lucasfilm as deputy general counsel. That was 1985. In the next nine years, he stayed with Lucas, though often changing roles: vice president of business affairs and general counsel; then added responsibilities of chief financial officer; then vice president of the business group. By 1992, he was chief operating officer.

In that job, he executed a corporate restructuring, helping position Lucasfilm to fully realize the advantages of "the digital future" for the entertainment business, guided by the legendary foresight of George Lucas. Lucas companies actualized new technologies like "morphing" (as in Michael Jackson's *Black or White* video) and "digital matting" (as in *Forrest Gump*).

Gordon then became President of Lucasfilm. His day now revolves as much around corporate strategic vision and deals with Japanese equipment manufacturers, or helping to plan the most cost-effective way to finance 6 1/2 hours of footage to become the next *Star Wars* trilogy, as it might involve coordinating with his col-

leagues at LucasArts as they develop another "Rebel Assault" (the best selling entertainment CD-ROM of all time) or a follow-up to "X-Wing" (the top-selling PC game of 1993).

"Our intent is to continue to be a premiere company in this new future," Gordon said. "Making that happen is a day-to-day challenge."

Elena (now Elena Radley Rozenman) faces different daily challenges in Israel, teaching entrepreneurial skills to women.



Gordon Radley in Ndamera in 1969

"My work often feels like Peace Corps," she said. "I'm trying to create an equal rights situation like America's, in employment and business."

She lives in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, crossroads of too often hostile cultural extremes.

"I work very hard, somewhere on a personal level, to find ways to create a common ground," she said.

And Elena has her own family, too: son, Noam, 14; and daughter, Shira, who is 17 and preparing for service in the Israeli army. Her oldest son, Lior, is 26. In Hebrew, Lior means "light unto me." In English, it would be "Larry."



Gordon traveled to Malawi last year, with his nephew, Lior. There was no way to phone ahead to Ndamera,

so at first the villagers were a bit jarred by the sight of him.

"Then there was just joy," Gordon said. "It was wonderful to realize that I have family in this far, distant place that mean as much to me as any family I have here in America."

He also realized he'd been part of a Peace Corps success: Under Five clinics are in every nook and cranny of Malawi, a complete part of the country's health experience.

"Peace Corps," he said, "can and often does work on every level."

Merle said Gordon's experience molded him into a highly principled man who "gives people confidence that the world is okay." That started at home.

"We were always interested in different kinds of people," she said. "Always had them in and out of our house." And, even through the loss of Larry, she knows that Peace Corps shaped and enlarged their lives. Gordon agrees.

"When I make decisions, it's my whole person making them," he said, "including a person who spent two years in Peace Corps," which he called "the finest governmental institution created in my lifetime. It provides perspective, and the most critical business acumen anyone can have — the ability to understand another's point of view.

"With every one-on-one encounter between a volunteer and a villager, the world becomes a smaller place. It may be one of our best hopes for peace," he said.

These days, Skywalker Ranch is Gordon's "little village." That's why he likes it. "We're all striving toward a common endeavor. That creates a tremendous sense of mission and identity."



Abracadabra, the gate closed.

Around the hairpin turns, driving away in the rain, it would barely be surprising to see the ghost of Obi-Wan Kenobi, another Jedi sage: "Many of the truths we cling to depend greatly on our own point of view." ■

Celia Fischer is the Director of the Office of Communications.

Starting a Business

Do you have what it takes to “make it” on your own?

BY SARAH BOTT

WHEN JAZZ KOBES FIRST SAW the beautiful rainbow-colored pokow baskets in the small marketplace of her

Peace Corps village in western Ethiopia, she thought, “If I could somehow get these back to the States I could make a killing.”

Two years later, after finishing her tour, and researching the import/export business, Jazz pulled together a small loan of \$10,000 from friends, family and a friendly bank, then flew back to Ethiopia and began buying the local crafts from the women of the small villages located through the western highlands. Jazz’s good eye for beautiful crafts paid off. On her first trip to New York City, the crafts buyer at Bloomingdales wrote Jazz a check for \$50,000 and this entrepreneurial ex-Volunteer was in business. Her company, *The Artist is African*, now two years later grosses over half a million dollars a year and Jazz imports arts and crafts from 23 countries in Africa.

Who says PCVs don’t know how to make money?

Quite a few former Peace Corps Volunteers have “made it” in their own businesses, including some real whoppers: Priscilla Wrubel (Liberia 1963-65) is co-founder of *The Nature Company*, a retail chain that sells products found and cultivated in developing countries. Ann and Michael Moore (Togo 1962-

64) are the creators and former CEOs of *Snugli Company*, which manufactures a chest knapsack for carrying babies. Bronwyn Hughes and Aaron Barlow, who met as PCVs in Togo in 1988, decided to combine their entrepreneurial talents and literary interests, and last year opened *Shakespeare’s Sister*—a cafe, gift shop, and book store in Brooklyn, New York.

But that’s just the short list, the Small Business Administration (SBA) tells us that half-million Americans open their own businesses every year. Unfortunately, they tell us, thousands close each year, too. SBA research indicates that many business failures could be avoided by better planning. They publish a checklist designed to help potential entrepreneurs analyze their personal and professional traits and examine why they really want to go into business in the first place. The more “Yes” answers you have to the questions below, the more likely you have what it takes to make it in the business world.

Are you a self-starter? Successful business owners are always trying to make things happen; they don’t wait around for the phone to ring, or to be told what to do next.

Do you like to make your own decisions? Procrastination is the main obstacle to good decision-making. In a successful business, important decisions are made on a daily basis, not put off.

Do you enjoy competition? In the business world, it is survival of the fittest. Tomorrow’s winners are those who don’t mind going head to head with the competition.

Do you have willpower and self-discipline? When you’re your own boss, it’s vital that you be able to motivate yourself. You won’t have someone else looking over your shoulder to urge you along.

Do you plan ahead? Probably the most important element necessary for any business venture is planning. Going into business with detailed plans increases the likelihood that your business will succeed.

Do you get things done on time? If you don’t, it could mean you’re a little disorganized. Good organizational skills and time management are crucial to business success.

Can you take advice from others? Nobody knows it all and nobody has the time or money to make every mistake on their own. Being open to the wisdom and experience of others is the hallmark of a leader.

If starting a business sounds like something you think you might like to do, there are many resources for you to check out, including the *Business Careers Manual* put out by Returned Volunteer Career Services (RCVS). You can order this manual just before you COS and have it delivered to your home of record. This guide contains more detailed information on the SBA as well as a bibliography that can be very helpful if you’re even *thinking* of starting a business. ☐

Sarah Bott is the Editor of Peace Corps Times.

REVIEWS

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



“Tales from the Heart”

ZAP! BANG! POW! OUR INTREPID HERO SAVES THE day again! Remember the good old days when you were a kid? How you spent countless hours lounging on the living room couch, neglecting chores and your parent's pleading just so you could read one more adventure of Superman, Wonder Woman, or Archie. Later in life those simple pleasures were replaced with more profound ones like studying for the GRE and flipping burgers at the local fast food joint to pay for college.

Don't you wish you could kick back and enjoy some more of those carefree comic-book moments? Well, thanks to one of your partners in crime (pun intended), you can!

Meet Cathy Grant, a naive new PCV, featured in the comic book series “Tales From the Heart.” Cathy Grant is actually the creation (some say alter ego) of former Volunteer Cindy Goff. The series chronicles Cathy's long journey from Minnesota to the Central African Republic. Along the way, she meets and befriends several people who will share her adventures as Peace Corps Volunteers. Cathy learns to ride a motorcycle (barely), speak the language (she thinks), and stands face to face with a silver back gorilla. After losing her furniture to a mango tree, and nearly losing her roommate to bedbugs, she wonders if this “African experience” was really such a good idea.

“Tales from the Heart” creator Cindy Goff maintains she is nothing like the character “Cathy Grant”—though that they both share the same initials, they both hail from Minneapolis, both wear glasses, both majored in Political Science and French in college, both lived in Africa for two years, etc.

Together with a talented team of writers and illustrators that includes Dan Vado, Rafeel Nieves, and Seitu

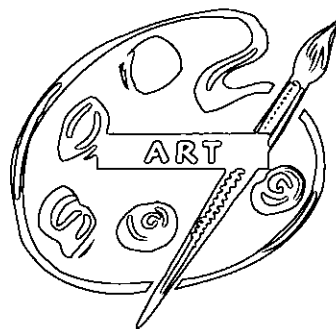
Hayden, Cindy created eight separate issues of Volunteer adventures. The comic books aren't just funnies, though. Slash and burn agriculture, maps of Africa, and glossaries of Sango (language of the Central African Republic) terms give the adventures a twist of interest and reality that may have been missing from your early comic-book literature reviews.

“Development comics” might not have the appeal of the slapstick Archie and Jughead (or maybe not the agent), and unfortunately they were discontinued after eight issues. For more information, contact Slave Labor Graphics at 983 S. Bascomb Ave. San Jose, CA 95125.



Storyteller Without Words

How artist, teacher and curator Harriet Lesser communicates her vision of life on canvas.



FROM THE VAST WILDERNESS of Alaska to the wild hills of Rwanda, artist, teacher, curator, and former Volunteer Harriet Lesser tells her tales of life through the medium of canvas.

"My inspiration has to do with the way I see," Lesser explained. "Some people when they walk into a room see furniture. I like to figure out the stories. I want people to find the story in my paintings and relate it in some way to them."

Lesser entered the Peace Corps in 1963. While a Volunteer in Nigeria she met artists who translated stories into pictures. "They weren't illustrations," she said. "They were simply pictures that literally told the story without words."

The Nigerian artists had such impact on her that she leapt into the world of visual arts where she has since used

vibrant colors and stark lines to narrate poignant tales.

Her latest series of paintings, entitled "Alaska," tells of the evolving relationship between humankind and nature. Inspired by an Alaskan fishing trip, it conveys the notion that everything from a cement truck to a piece of rope is somehow inevitably reclaimed by nature. One painting, "Two Silver Salmon in a Boat" suggests that human attempts to "save" nature actually impede its progress—the salmon will die after spawning despite any heroic efforts to free them.

Lesser described her work as "representational," saying it alters itself according to beholder. "It looks very real, but when you look at it a little closer there are elements in it that are abstract," she said. Using mixed media, including oil and acrylic paints, Lesser takes advantage of her near-sightedness to form lay-

ers of focus to her paintings. Objects, people, and animals lurk between the threads of canvas, adding even more detail to her visual fables.

Other memorable Lesser works include a series of at least 50 paintings all featuring a blanket Lesser purchased from a trader while a Volunteer in Nigeria and a series of Gorilla paintings, which were inspired by her stay with Diane Fossey in the hills of Kigali, Rwanda. Strikingly, Lesser described her experience in the now civil war torn nation as tranquil. "At that time Rwanda was very small, very calm, and beautiful," she said. "Much different than it is now."

Lesser's art has been shown in galleries in India, Brussels, Paris and Oklahoma. These days Lesser spends only about two days a week in the studio. She works as curator for the Sumner School Museum and Archives, a historical gallery and archives center for the public schools of Washington, D.C., where she makes her home. She also teaches art at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, and is a former teacher and founding member of the Fillmore Arts Center, a public Washington art education institute.

Lesser finds helping others to expand their artistic talent constantly invigorating. "I'm a better painter because I teach, and I'm probably a better teacher because I paint," she said.

Despite the many canvases bearing Harriet Lesser's signature and adorning the walls of galleries, she insists she is not finished telling her story of nature and the evolution of life.

"Life changes," she said. "It is cyclical. It may not be beautiful in the traditional sense, but it really brings out what it means to be alive." ■



"Two Silver Salmon in a Boat"

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.

