

PEACE CORPS TIMES

A Quarterly Publication for Peace Corps Volunteers Serving Worldwide

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*30th Anniversary
Keepsake Edition*



Peace Corps -- from '60's to the '90's

As the Peace Corps of the United States celebrates its 30th birthday, the time seems appropriate to reflect on how it has made the world a better place while looking ahead to its mission for the 1990s and beyond.

If I may begin at the beginning, I'm sure most of you know that the Peace Corps was started in 1961 by then President John F. Kennedy. What you may not know is that the Peace Corps was not an original idea of the senator from Massachusetts. In actuality, the concept and name "peace corps" were first suggested by Kennedy's chief rival for the Democratic nomination for president, Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota.



As early as 1957, Humphrey started talking to college graduates about a "youth peace corps" and he actually introduced a "peace corps" bill in the Senate in June, 1960. As so often happens in politics, Humphrey lost the battle for the nomination, but his idea for a peace corps was adopted by his opponent and became a major component of Kennedy's "New Frontier." You can credit Humphrey with originating the idea and Kennedy and his brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver, with making it a reality as the first Peace Corps director.

Today the Peace Corps is probably as popular and non-controversial as any government program has ever been. That was not the case, however, when Kennedy sent legislation to Congress to provide it with permanent status and funding.

Some dubbed it "Kennedy's Kiddie Korps." Former President Richard Nixon said the corps would be a "haven for draft dodgers." Former President Dwight Eisenhower called it a "juvenile experiment." U.S. Rep. John H. Rousselot opposed it as "an extension of socialism because it is controlled by the colleges." Others ridiculed it as a "children's crusade."

A respected career diplomat, Ellis O. Briggs, called the Peace Corps a movement "wrapped in a pinafore of publicity."

And, the Washington correspondent of the respected Times of India expressed this concern:

One also wonders whether American young men and tender young girls, reared in air-conditioned houses at a constant temperature, knowing little about the severities of nature (except when they pop in and out of cars or buses) will be able to suffer the Indian summer smilingly and, if they go into an Indian village, whether they will be able to sleep on unsprung beds under the canopy of the bejeweled sky or indoors in mud huts, without writing home about it.

But, in the end, the supporters of this bold new experiment prevailed. Those supporters, by the way, included the Republican senator from Connecticut who thought the Peace Corps "a sounder approach than our foreign aid program and

certainly...less expensive." That senator was Prescott Sheldon Bush, father of the current president of the United States.

By August of 1961, just six months after creation of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver kept his promise to the president of Ghana -- the first Peace Corps Volunteers were on their way to that West African nation. Within two years, 6,000 Volunteers were serving in 47 nations. The Peace Corps was well established -- but was still not without critics.

Respected commentator Eric Sevareid observed: *While the Corps has something to do with spot benefits in a few isolated places, whether in sanitizing drinking water or building culverts, its work has, and can have, very little to do with the fundamental investments, reorganizations and reforms upon which the true and long-term economic development of backward countries depends.*

And a few liberals, such as Professor Marshall Windmiller of San Francisco State College, argued that "the Peace Corps is highly political and ... is an instrument of American foreign policy ... (whose) essential role is to aid and abet American expansionism."

In spite of these criticisms, the Peace Corps has, for the most part, had an excellent image both here and in other countries. "From the front porches of the U.S.," said Time magazine in 1963, "the view of the Peace Corps is beautiful. The image is that of a battalion of cheery, crew-cut kids who two years ago hopped off their drugstore stools and hurried out around the world to wage peace."

In the 30 years since the Peace Corps got its start, more than 125,000 men and women have waged peace in more than 100 nations around the world. From Ghana to Guatemala, from Togo to Tuvalu and from Belize to Botswana, these Volunteers have made a difference to millions of people.

Measuring or quantifying the contributions of three decades of Peace Corps service is not easy. We do know that we are the world's largest teacher of English as a second language -- teaching more than five million people the language of commerce and international communication. We know that our Volunteers have made significant contributions to improving agricultural techniques and productivity. And we know that millions of adults and children have led healthier lives because our Volunteers taught nutrition, gave vaccinations and helped provide sources of potable drinking water.

In all likelihood, however, the real essence of Peace Corps' success may never be quantified. After all, one cannot quantify the long-term results of improved health and better nutrition. One cannot tabulate all of the benefits of education. One cannot place a value on happiness, friendship, handshakes and smiles.

As I have said in this column before, trying to quantify Peace Corps' contributions is probably as meaningless as trying to judge the value of an impressionist painting by the number of colors or dabs of paint. Like an artist, we know we have been successful because other people admire our work.

If that is the criterion, we can feel pretty good about Peace Corps as we enter the 1990s because our Volunteers are serving in more countries than at any other time in our history -- and there are more new countries requesting Peace Corps assistance than at any time since the early 1960s. In fact, in the 18 months from April, 1990 through September, 1991, Peace Corps will start programs in more new countries than in the previous 18 years -- including the first ever in Eastern

Europe and possibly the Soviet Union at some point.

While facing many of the same challenges as the crew-cut Volunteers of the 1960s, including hunger, disease and ignorance, the Volunteers of the 1990s also face a new generation of challenges such as reversing environmental deterioration and helping care for millions of homeless and neglected children.

Challenging environmental problems -- destruction of the world's rain forests, massive deforestation in Latin America and Africa, and devastating air and water pollution throughout Eastern and Central Europe -- are global concerns. In response, Peace Corps now has more persons working as natural resource professionals in other countries than any other environmental or conservation organization in the world.

The problems faced by children in the developing world also are staggering. It is estimated that there are nearly 100 million who are homeless, abandoned or neglected. Many are in desperate condition. In order to eat, they must resort to begging, stealing or prostitution. An alarming number turn to drugs to deaden the pain of hunger, loneliness and despair.

As frightening as this picture is, it has the potential for getting much worse. An estimated 50 percent of the developing world's population is under the age of 18 and half of all school-age children in the developing nations drop out before the fourth grade. The new generation of Peace Corps Volunteers is working to provide education, health care and job training for this vital segment of the developing world's population.

As you can tell, the core mission of Peace Corps remains the same as it has been since 1961 -- to help people in other countries build better lives for themselves and their families. But there is another Peace Corps mission which has received much too little attention during the last 30 years and which I believe is more important in the 1990s than ever before.

Here is how John Kennedy described this mission:

The benefits of the Peace Corps will not be limited to the countries in which it serves. Our own young men and women will be enriched by the experience of living and working in foreign lands. They will have acquired new skills and experience which will aid them in their future careers and add to our own country's supply of trained personnel and teachers. They will return better able to assume the responsibilities of American citizenship and with greater understanding of our global responsibilities.

The Peace Corps is literally the world's largest international university. Its alumni speak more than 200 languages and dialects. They understand how people live in many diverse cultures. Each year, 3,000 new alumni bring home to America this valuable international knowledge.

Our job in the the decade ahead is to put knowledge gained in Haiti to work in tough high schools in Harlem; to put the skills acquired in Poland to use in Peoria; to make the lessons learned in Malawi of value in Montgomery; to carry the torch of volunteerism from Thailand to an elementary school in Topeka. We want to make Peace Corps a full partner here at home in the United States.

Why is this so important? Because the world is becoming smaller with each passing day. We live at a time when computer networks can flash information from Tupelo to Tokyo in seconds and where FAX machines make it possible to move whole documents from New Haven to New Zealand in a few minutes.

We must learn that we don't have a corner on the world's knowledge -- and we must learn how to participate

in what is becoming a single worldwide economy. And Peace Corps can help.

We have started a program called World Wise Schools which links current volunteers to elementary and secondary schools in this country. And we are providing opportunities for returning Volunteers to receive scholarships to pursue master's degrees if they teach in inner-city and rural schools or work in other difficult situations.

The Peace Corps in the 1990s will work in more countries than ever before. It will attack new problems. It will continue to recruit older Volunteers who have wisdom and skills to share. It will work hard to recruit more minorities and more lower-income whites so that America's face abroad will be more reflective of America's face at home. And it will encourage the Volunteers to bring the knowledge they gain home to share with the rest of America.

The American men and women who have served as Volunteers in the Peace Corps of the United States have earned an important place in America's history. Their elegant accomplishments were described by President Bush in June as he gave a Rose Garden sendoff to the first Peace Corps Volunteers ever to serve in Poland and Hungary:

The United States Peace Corps built its reputation the old-fashioned way -- step by step, village by village, family by family -- bringing the world a bit closer together, one friendship at a time. For nearly 30 years it has drawn idealistic Americans from all walks of life -- and sent them to the far corners of the Earth. And for nearly 30 years, the men and women of America's Peace Corps have built bridges of understanding and good will between the people of the United States and the people of scores of other nations.

As the Peace Corps prepares to celebrate 30 years of waging peace, most of its critics have been silenced. Kennedy's Kiddie Korps is older now, and perhaps wiser -- but its remarkable Volunteers continue to heed the challenge of George Bernard Shaw, so often quoted by Robert F. Kennedy -- "to dream things that never were and say, 'Why not?'"



Paul D. Coverdell
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A Peace Corps parade of nations

Since President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps of the United States 30 years ago, more than 125,000 Americans have served in over 100 countries around the world. President Bush says: "From the time it was first launched in 1961, the Peace Corps has been a thrilling and ambitious undertaking, lofty in principal and yet in its day-to-day struggle with challenging circumstances around the world, as practical and down to earth as government ever gets."



President and Mrs. Bush visiting Peace Corps Volunteers in Africa when he served as vice president.

A college student from Downers Grove, Ill., who will graduate in May 1991, recently wrote to the Peace Corps that she was interested in joining.

"The Peace Corps has been reborn and I want to be part of it as it begins its fourth decade," she said.

As the Peace Corps of the United States of America marks its 30th birthday, the world is dramatically different from the world of March 1, 1961 when John F. Kennedy signed the presidential executive order launching the Peace Corps. At that time, the Berlin Wall was going up — symbol of a divided world; the telecommunications revolution was in its infancy; and few Americans, other than missionaries, knew what it was like to live and work in the remote villages of Africa, Asia or Latin America.

Today, chunks of the Berlin Wall are being sold as souvenirs in department stores of a united Germany; FAX machines transmit messages instantaneously from Topeka to Thailand; and more than 125,000 American Peace Corps Volunteers have returned to this country, bringing back with them invaluable information about people throughout the world from Afghanistan to Zaire.

In the three decades that have elapsed since Kennedy's call to "Let the word go forth," our nation has witnessed war, political assassinations, riots, the rise of the drug culture and increasing deterioration of our environment.

But we, as a nation, have also witnessed men walking on the moon; streamlining of communications and information management; amazing advances in medical technology; the end of the Cold War; and a world growing more compact with each passing day.

Change today is swift, and often traumatic — but with change comes opportunities. For the Peace Corps, the last decade of the 20th Century presents opportunities to renew friendships in countries where Volunteers previously served as well as to make new friends in faraway places where Peace Corps has never before been invited.

On the following pages, you will read about all of the more than 100 countries in which Peace Corps has served — a virtual parade of nations — as seen through the eyes of the Peace Corps Volunteers who have served or are serving now.

Afghanistan

1962-1979

"My Peace Corps experience opened my eyes to the world beyond our shores, and helped me to understand and respect the differences among various cultures and people. It also taught me that friendship and trust can develop between diverse peoples when a little effort is made in that direction." — PCV Leonard J. Oppenheim, Afghanistan, 1964-1966

Friendships that Leonard J. Oppenheim developed with Afghans during two years he spent in their country have continued to this day. Oppenheim, an attorney in New Jersey, helps edit the Afghanistan Forum, a bimonthly newsletter now in its 19th year. He also currently is the sponsor of an Afghan refugee family. The husband and wife were his newlywed next-door neighbors in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when he was a PCV.

Oppenheim tells the story of the time he and a companion were visiting Afghan refugee settlements in Pakistan a few years ago and stopped at a roadside bazaar to buy some chilled drinks from a vendor.

"Just as I was about to pay for the drinks," Oppenheim recalls, "a man pushed his way into the center of the crowd and shouted, 'Do not charge that man for those drinks. He is our guest. I know him.' I had never seen this fellow before, as far as I knew, and I asked him how he knew me. He said: 'When I was a little boy in Kandahar you were a teacher there. I used to see you riding your bicycle past my father's shop when you went to school. Now you are here with us again. You didn't forget us, and I haven't forgotten you.'"

Altogether, 1,739 Peace Corps Volunteers served in education and health programs in Afghanistan. In August of 1989, 25 years after training at a rural site in Vermont in 1964 for assignments in Afghanistan, 49 of the 56 members of that Peace Corps group held a reunion. Oppenheim was among them. They remembered a land with fertile plains, vast deserts and rugged mountains populated with fierce but friendly people to match the landscape.

Bahrain

1974-1979

"Bahrain was a melting pot of diverse cultures from both Eastern and Western societies compressed onto a tiny island in the Arabian Gulf. Economic classes varied from the megarich Arab nations to poor immigrants from other Third World countries. Our experience was very urban since the majority of the population of 350,000 lived in or near major urban areas. Our primary assignments were in health care, housing, education, agriculture and business. We had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a traditional Middle Eastern culture adapt and transcend into the 21st century." — PCV Robert Philip Walker, Bahrain, 1976-1978

Peace Corps Volunteer Bob Walker worked as an



PCV Evelyn Zwick in Afgan market in 1973.

architect with Bahrain's Ministry of Housing to design and oversee construction of low-cost housing for a national housing program. Now living in Texas, Walker is vice president of a firm specializing in health care facility development. He is in charge of design and construction activities.

Walker also is founder of a private non-profit organization known as Hearts & Hammers which brings together volunteers, material, equipment and funding to refurbish homes of low-income elderly families. From one home

On the cover

Peace Corps Volunteer Gretal Abad of Dublin, Ga., is seen in this picture by Bill Strassberger showing Nepalese farmer how to monitor growth of fish in his pond. A 1989 Emory University graduate, she is helping make protein available to residents in rural areas of Nepal.

painted by 24 volunteers the first year, the project has grown to include more than 1,000 homes last year. The goal this year is to complete more than 40 homes in the Dallas metropolitan area with the help of more than 1,200 volunteers.

Located in the Persian Gulf, Bahrain hosted 87 Peace Corps Volunteers over five years. While education and health were the primary program areas, the PCVs also worked in public health and nursing education. They taught English as a foreign language and provided vocational education instruction. They delivered social services and gave agricultural assistance. With the help of the Smithsonian Institution, American Volunteers also ventured outside the urban areas to explore environmental projects.

Bangladesh

1961-1965

"The people of Bangladesh struggle against forces of nature and lack of natural resources, yet most survive with grace and charm in spite of unbelievable odds. As volunteers, we learned to appreciate the indomitable spirit of the Bengalis against a backdrop of beauty that few westerners stayed long enough to appreciate." — PCV Thomas McMahon, Bangladesh, 1961-1963

Thomas M. McMahon, president of ENTECH Engineering Inc. in Reading, Pa., served in the first group of 29 Peace Corps Volunteers in Bangladesh (then East Pakistan). He taught school and later helped organize and administer a second Peace Corps group assigned to an irrigation and power project on the Ganges River.

Peace Corps Volunteers in Bangladesh numbered about 240 during the four years that the seven groups served in that country. During those early years, Peace Corps explored several different approaches to development in selecting volunteers. Among those sent were nurses, community development specialists, carpenters, bricklayers, mechanics, engineers, teachers, farmers and irrigation specialists. They served in all regions of the country.

One clinic set up in the 60s by Peace Corps Volunteers in community development con-

tinues in operation today and has grown to serve tens of thousands of refugees in the capital district area. Other programs with lasting impact included a par-boiled rice facility and dairy program at one of the village development academies.

Belize

1962-Present

"There's a Belizean Creole proverb that says a stone on the river bottom never knows when the sun is hot — meaning that you will never learn things if you are secluded from them. Our Peace Corps years were great learning years that have helped us to stay off the river bottom and keep active in social projects." — PCVs John and Barbara Anderson, Belize, 1981-1984

"I know I didn't save the world in Belize, but I learned a lot about myself and about how Americans are viewed by citizens of other countries. I am not sure how much math my students remember but I hope they remember me as an individual American with a sense of humor, who enjoyed working with them and taking them on field trips throughout Belize." — PCV Linda Borst, Belize, 1972-1974

John Anderson, an agricultural sales representative in Central Minnesota, and his wife, Barbara, a dietician who directs a federal Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, have taken the Belizean Creole adage about involvement to heart. They are both active in environmental causes and church activities.

The Andersons also were active in Belize when they served as Peace Corps Volunteers here. He was in a rural



PCV Cinda Wall gives tips on ways to improve cacao farming in Belize in 1988.

agriculture program. She was a dietician assigned to the Belizean Ministry of Health.

Linda Borst, who returned to Belize from 1982 to 1984 as a Peace Corps staff member and later became chief of staff of the Peace Corps Africa Region at its headquarters in Washington, is now head of the Mitigation and Natural Hazards Group of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"Peace Corps is very well known in Belize because many Belizeans have either been taught by a Peace Corps teacher or have relatives who were taught by a PCV," Borst says. "Whenever I would meet new people and the Belizeans found out I was a PCV, they would usually smile and say that they liked the Peace Corps people as we had 'good ways.' That was the nicest compliment anyone could pay us and one of the biggest accomplishments of PCVs around the world."

Formerly British Honduras, Belize has been host to more than 1,100 PCVs. The Volunteers have provided assistance in education, small business development, agriculture and conservation. Belize, which is just slightly larger than Massachusetts, is the only English-speaking country in Central America although Spanish and Mayan also are spoken. It features a spectacular 175-mile-long barrier reef along the Caribbean side of the country.

Benin

1968-Present

"I still feel humble about what I was able to give in return for such a rich experience, but I now realize teaching English was just part of the purpose. That's because my Dad still uses my letters from Benin in his humanities classes today. I take pride in knowing my 'lessons' are still alive and maybe some kids are learning that Benin is about people, culture and tradition—and not just its relative size to a state in our nation." — PCV Nicole A. Vanasse, Benin, 1976-1979

Today, Nikki Vanasse is director of promotions and publications for the Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network (C-SPAN) which brings the world closer through transmission of sessions of the U.S. Congress and British Parliament. When she left to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in West Africa in 1976, one of the few things she knew about Benin was it was about the size of Pennsylvania.

After arriving here, Vanasse quickly learned much more about Benin, formerly Dahomey, and the Beninese, a largely traditional people who nevertheless place a high value on progress and education. An English teacher, Vanasse tutored her students and conducted special workshops for teachers. She also gave cross-cultural training lessons for Peace Corps trainees who came after her.

Since 1968, more than 650 Americans like Vanasse have served in Benin, a small country located on the Bight of Benin. The initial Peace Corps program in Benin included projects such as animal traction, small grain storage and health education. Volunteers also worked as secondary school English teachers.

A decade ago, the government of Benin expressed renewed enthusiasm for having PCVs assist the Beninese in implementing the country's new development plan — particularly in the areas of education, reforestation and rural development. Today the Peace Corps' program emphasis in

Benin is on community development, water sanitation, forestry and education.

Bolivia

1962-1971

1990-Present

"Returning as ambassador to Bolivia, I have reflected often on my first Bolivian experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer. That experience helped me to appreciate a very complex culture that I could not have achieved in any other way." — PCV Robert S. Gelbard, Bolivia, 1964-1966

"Bolivia has a richness that belies the image of a country with the lowest per capita income in South America. I was in an agricultural group that was picked to be the first PCVs in rural community development in Bolivia." — PCV Ken Rustad, Bolivia, 1962-1964

Ken Rustad, president of Amigos de Bolivia and Peru and editor of the newsletter La Llama, lives in Farmington, N.M. He was a member of the Bolivia II group of Peace Corps Volunteers to go to this South American republic.

"By the second week in 'my village' we were digging a trench to build a subterranean irrigation diversion dam," Rustad recollects. "By the third week the project was hung up in the midst of a water rights dispute.

"I and my village became involved in lots of other projects with varying degrees of success," he said. "Many of the people immediately lost confidence in the dam project. My vital contribution was the confidence that things could get done in spite of bureaucratic entanglements. I saw my role as keeping their chosen project alive and extended.

"El Tajamar was completed about a year later by the people of Chilimarca. I wasn't there to see it and I could recite numerous personal success stories but I learned by experience how real community development is made up of building blocks of what the people accomplish with just a little help from their friends."

From 1962 through 1971, 1,549 Peace Corps Volunteers served in Bolivia. After nearly 16 years, the government of Bolivia made a formal request in late 1987 that the Peace Corps return to Bolivia. Volunteers went back to the country last year. The first group of returning PCVs was made up of experienced Volunteers who had been serving in other locales in Latin America. Shortly after their arrival, U.S. Ambassador Robert S. Gelbard -- who served as a Peace Corps Volunteer himself in Bolivia from 1964 to 1966 -- hosted a welcoming barbecue for them in La Paz.

Projects in which PCVs are active today are agriculture, small business promotion, natural resource development and fisheries.



Gelbard

Botswana

1966-Present



Botswana PCV Jan Taylor learns African way to sift flour using winnowing basket in 1987.

"My experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Botswana was one of the most influential parts of my life. I met my wife, who was also a Peace Corps Volunteer, there. I learned about a gentle people who taught me the importance of being sensitive to other ways of doing things. I am very lucky to come back from the experience feeling I actually made a lasting mark through providing many with the skills and tools to support themselves and their families." — PCV James J. Spindler, Botswana, 1982-1984

"I've learned during my tour that development is a long-time process, taking place over generations. The casual observer in Botswana may wonder if we really belong in such a prosperous country. But very little of this was here more than a generation ago. Appearances may be western, but underneath people still operate very much according to traditional culture. Learning to function effectively in this dynamic environment has proven to be one of the greatest challenges of my Peace Corps tour." — PCV Joseph T. Banas, Botswana, 1989-1991

James T. Spindler was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the village of Mahalapye in Botswana from July 1982 through September 1984. During that time, Spindler worked as the agricultural coordinator of the Mahalapye Development Trust concentrating on vegetable production, running a farm, doing some cooperative research, operating an agri-

cultural supply store, doing some teaching and assisting in formation of a farmers marketing association.

Today Spindler, who lives in the Milwaukee area, markets fertilizers manufactured from sewage sludge to retail, professional and agricultural markets. Last December he left the Milwaukee Sewerage District, where he was director of marketing, to join Enviro-Gro Technologies to serve as marketing manager. He is a past president of the Milwaukee Returned Peace Corps Volunteers group and president of the Friends of Botswana which he helped form.

Joseph T. Banas, who is scheduled to complete his service as a PCV in Botswana in May, was project officer and operations research analyst for the U.S. Army's Natick Research and Development Engineering Center in Massachusetts before joining the Peace Corps. Banas says that Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, has taken on an increasingly developed appearance with tall, modern office buildings, but past traditions still blend with present expansion.

"I don't regret for a second having been a Peace Corps Volunteer," he says.

Peace Corps continues to provide agricultural assistance by expanding its programming to include drought relief, horticulture, marketing and research as well as assigning some PCVs as agriculture teachers in secondary schools. Education and small enterprise development are other mainstays of the Peace Corps program here.

Brazil

1962-1981

"In Brazil, I witnessed the indomitable spirit of the ordinary people in the face of adversity and obstacles that most people in the U.S. cannot even imagine." —PCV Joan D. Ramos, Brazil, 1973-1975

Joan D. Ramos, a Seattle free-lance writer and social worker at a family service agency, is co-president of Friends of Brazil and editor of the *Jornal da Amizade*, the group's newsletter. When she was a Peace Corps Volunteer in this large South American nation, she worked in a community development program in which she specialized in nutrition education.

From 1962 to 1981, 4,220 PCVs served here in agriculture, business, education and health programs. Most, if not all, of Peace Corps' efforts in Brazil helped urban communities by assisting community leaders to decide which projects were the most important to their citizens. This led to Volunteers helping to form youth groups, build community centers, renovate houses, increase postal service, build a school for retarded children and train Brazilians in electrical work.

Volunteers who worked to improve Brazil's agricultural economy trained co-op managers, researchers and extension agents, organized vaccination campaigns, built latrines and wells, identified flora and fauna, and increased the public's awareness of conservation methods.

In the business sector, many industrialization projects were established providing thousands of jobs and financial benefits.

PCVs assigned to educational sectors trained primary school teachers in reading, art and recreation as well as devised an in-service training system for supervisors. Their contributions helped stem student drop-out rates.

Volunteers who were attached to health programs worked with therapists on rehabilitation programs for children who required special attention. They also established small medical posts and trained local staff.

Bulgaria

Summer 1991

As Bulgaria found itself swept up in the democratization movement taking place in Eastern Europe, Peace Corps Director Paul D. Coverdell led a Peace Corps delegation here in April of 1990 to discuss the possibility of beginning a Peace Corps program. It is the fourth country of the emerging democracies in that region to call on the Peace Corps for training assistance.

By September, seated in the historic Treaty Room of the U.S. State Department, Coverdell and Bulgarian Vice Foreign Minister Stefen Staikov were signing an agreement to send Peace Corps volunteers to the People's Republic of Bulgaria starting this year. Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev, who was in the United States on a state visit, was present for the brief ceremony. Coverdell called the event "a magic moment" in history and "the beginning of a long, rich relationship."

Under terms of the agreement, the first Peace Corps project here will involve teachers of English. In June of this year, 20 Peace Corps Volunteers will leave for Bulgaria to begin the first phase of the program. They will teach English and train English teachers at colleges and secondary schools throughout the country.

Since the Bulgarian Ministry of Education announced that the study of Russian would no longer be compulsory, students have rushed to take English classes. Less quantifiable, but of equal value, will be the enhanced level of



PCV Kathleen Healy attends to child at Yako hospital center in Upper Volta in 1974.

communication and mutual understanding between Americans and the Bulgarians — a traditional Peace Corps goal.

In 1992, the Peace Corps expects to send 20 additional PCVs to work on agricultural projects and/or in small business development to assist Bulgarian transformation to a market economy.

Burkina Faso

1967-1985

"My experience in what was then Upper Volta shaped my life as a young man, and continues to do so over 20 years later. Peace Corps experience at its best is a valuable gift both to the host and to the Volunteer that far exceeds the value of the projects undertaken." — PCV John Sneed, Burkina Faso, 1967-1969

John Sneed is coordinator of Telelearning at Catonsville Community College in Baltimore County, Maryland, where he tries to apply what he learned in the Peace Corps about education and change to adult learning. A member of the Upper Volta I class of Peace Corps Volunteers, Sneed was a well-digging PCV in the village of Sangha. He maintains his interest in and connection to the people of Burkina through Friends of Burkina Faso, an organization which he founded in 1986.

"The country of service groups that grew out of the 25th anniversary (of the Peace Corps) offer returned Volunteers a forum (for) maintaining contact with their country and (a way for them) continuing to serve," Sneed says.

Formerly Upper Volta, Burkina Faso is in West Africa. More than 1,000 Peace Corps Volunteers followed in the footsteps of the first ones there in November of 1967. Their main activities included projects in agricultural management, education, small enterprise development, village health, community reforestation and water management.

Because Burkina Faso continues to rank as one of the poorest countries in the world, its development efforts remain geared to meeting basic human needs of its ever growing population. While Peace Corps Volunteers no longer serve here, one American is working as a United Nations Volunteer in the country. The Peace Corps continues to oversee UNV members from the United States who are serving in 23 nations around the world.

Burundi

1983-Present

"The funny thing about being a Peace Corps Volunteer is that everyone thinks you're so nice trying to help other people. What they don't realize is that you gain a lot more than you could possibly give." -- PCV Jo Anne Cohn, Burundi, 1987-1989

Jo Anne Cohn represents a new trend in Peace Corps volunteerism. She is among a growing number of individuals who have made a mid-career break to serve overseas. Cohn worked in marketing, finance and quality control at Hewlett-Packard in California, but she left to join the Peace Corps after nearly 10 years in the business world.

Cohn was assigned to Bujumbura, Burundi, where she

worked in a school for children disabled by polio and helped to set up a highly successful women's embroidery cooperative.

Since returning to the United States, Cohn has established her own small street-side business in which she sells necklaces and bracelets from Kenya, silver pins and earrings from Thailand and Mali, green malachite jewelry from Zaire and jackets from Guatemala. Her tiny vendor stand in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., was featured not long ago in the Washington Post's Sunday magazine. She reinvests part of her profits in the countries she buys from to help small overseas entrepreneurs establish and expand their own small businesses.

PCVs in Burundi now work with groups of women who are involved in profit making ventures. Currently, Volunteers here also work in education, forestry, conservation and inland fisheries. In July of 1983, the first PCV in Burundi began work in a cattle tick control program. A group of 10 Peace Corps Trainees and a transfer PCV from Swaziland joined him in September of that year.



Oregon Volunteer Bev Kerlin pays call on Fulani neighbor and holds baby in Cameroon in 1979.

Cameroon

1962-Present

"Mount Cameroon is an active volcano rising 13,000 feet out of the equatorial sea. Lucky me to be stationed in the lovely mountainside, seat of government, Buea, where I brought the thing I love most to the Bueans — books." — PCV Mary-Ann Tirone Smith, Cameroon, 1965-1967

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, Mary-Ann Tirone Smith taught at a nursery school and organized West Cameroon's first public library. Today she teaches at Fairfield University in Connecticut and is a writer. She lives with her husband and two children in Ridgefield, Conn.

Smith says her second novel, "Lament for a Silver-Eyed Woman," was the first long fiction to come out of the Peace Corps. Her most recent book, "The Port of Missing Men," is now available in a paperback edition. She will have a short story included in an anthology of fiction and essays written by Peace Corps Volunteers called "Tales From the Center of the Earth" to be published this spring. Smith is a member of the writers' group PEN and a volunteer in their literacy program.

Peace Corps Volunteers first came to Cameroon at the request of the government when about 20 volunteers were posted in the Anglophone region of the country. The original emphasis was on education and rural development. Twenty-nine years later, Peace Corps/Cameroon has diversified into a wide range of activities. These include cooperative management and credit unions, aquaculture, primary school teacher training, teaching of math, science and English, vocational education, young farmer training, community health education, maternal and child care, and engineering.

Cape Verde

1988-Present

"I look back on my Peace Corps experience as two of the best years of my life. Despite a poor resource base and a series of recurrent droughts, Cape Verdeans have managed to compensate for their lack of material wealth through their intelligence, warmth and humor. In fact, it will surely

become one of the 'hot' tourist spots within a few years, due to the fact that it possesses some of the most beautiful, white, sandy beaches in the Atlantic Islands and year-round sunshine. That, coupled with Afro-Portuguese cuisine, some of the best music in all of West Africa, and hospitality to spare, make it an unforgettable place to visit." — PCV Lisa M. Audet, Cape Verde, 1988-1990

"I truly loved my experience in Cape Verde, foremost because I was part of a Peace Corps pioneer team. We were the first PCVs assigned to Cape Verde. Secondly, as a more 'mature' Volunteer (in age anyway) I found that my skills and experiences as a teacher gave me an edge in fitting in with my counterparts, a group of dedicated professionals who would be an asset to any country, developing or not." — PCV Dorothy Gantz, Cape Verde, 1988-1990

Lisa M. Audet and Dorothy Gantz were in the first



A Chadian drills holes for pump handle as PCV Ron Fiscus holds board steady.

group of Peace Corps Volunteers to ever serve in Cape Verde when they were sworn in on Oct. 8, 1988.

After three months of language and technical training in Guinea Bissau, Audet arrived in Mindelo, a city of about 60,000 on the island of São Vicente, where she headed the economic development sector of a low-income housing project. Her duties included administering a housing loan program, conducting economic studies and training small businessmen in management skills.

"My greatest sense of accomplishment came from helping a group of local carpenters from the project establish their own carpentry cooperative," Audet says.

Audet also became involved with a sister city program between Mindelo and New Bedford, Mass. She worked closely with the mayor of São Vicente on this project and accompanied a sister city mission from Mindelo to New Bedford.

The former PCV still is very much involved with Cape Verde through her work with the U.S.-Cape Verde Business

and Trade Council, a new tax-exempt trade association set up to promote trade and investment activities. The council's goal is to establish a model through which other African nations can attract foreign investment to address debt and unemployment problems.

Gantz currently is teaching seventh grade social studies and eighth grade American history in Little Rock, Ark.

"I work with the gifted and talented program," she says. "I'm also involved as part of a team that is writing curriculum for integrated education in the core areas of math, science, English and social studies to be put into effect for the 1991-92 school year."

A small Portuguese-speaking archipelago about 400 miles off the coast of Senegal in West Africa, Cape Verde is the only African nation to have a community living in the United States roughly the size of the current population in the islands. Peace Corps has sent English teacher trainers here along with PCVs who work in urban extension, community agriculture programs and community health.

Central African Republic

1972-Present

"I did not realize it at the time, but my decision to serve in the Peace Corps was probably the smartest thing I would ever do. I discovered a whole new world, learned two languages, launched my career in international health, developed an appreciation of other people and cultures and, not insignificantly, I met the most wonderful man in the world, also a Peace Corps Volunteer, who is now my husband." — PCV LaHoma Smith-Romocki, Central African Republic, 1980-1982

LaHoma Smith-Romocki's memorable experience as a health volunteer in the Central African Republic (CAR) is certainly evident in her career today. She is an information education and communication associate for a project called AIDS TECH with Family Health International in North Carolina.

Upon completion of her Peace Corps service, Smith-Romocki returned to the United States to seek a master's in public health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She then returned to Peace Corps and the Central African Republic as the associate director for health. After a three-year stint on the Peace Corps staff in the CAR, Smith-Romocki served as a health consultant for two years in Cameroon and worked for the North Carolina Department of Health before assuming her present position.

As an associate for AIDS TECH, Smith-Romocki provides technical assistance to national AIDS control programs in Africa and is helping implement AIDS prevention programs. The CAR is the first country to confront the threatening problem of AIDS, which is sweeping the African continent, by inviting Peace Corps Volunteers to assist in its national AIDS program.

As its name implies, the Central African Republic is located just about midpoint on the African continent. It is considered one of the least developed countries in the world, but it remains a land of natural beauty. Peace Corps in the



PCV Rick Bradshaw of Hawaii explains visual aids to CAR health agent Joel Doka in 1979.

CAR is continuing its long-standing efforts in rural development and education. The CAR also was one of the first target countries to adopt the Peace Corps' African Food Systems Initiative, designed to promote all phases of food production. Health Volunteers are also working to combat childhood communicable diseases under a project funded by the Centers for Disease Control, which offers rural training in oral rehydration therapy, treatment of malaria, vaccination techniques and other accepted child survival practices. Other programs here include education, fish culture, agricultural education and forestry.

Chad

1966-1979

1987-Present

"I've never left Chad." — PCV Ellen Brown, Chad, 1968-1970

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Ellen Brown stayed in Chad for three years after 1970 doing field work in village and family structure among the Sara Nar for her Ph.D. from

Cambridge University in anthropology. Her thesis became a book in French, "Nourrir les Gens, Nourrir les Haines." She has since worked as a consultant anthropologist for many African countries for World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization as well as various non-governmental organizations. Her work takes her to Chad several times a year.

"My greatest joy," she says, "is meeting former students who are now working in government, the private sector, and even for development agencies. It's a challenge, however, when they expect me to remember their names immediately since they were 12 to 14 years old and 5 feet tall in 1970, and have grown a lot."

Brown's husband, Jonathan, a PCV in Chad from 1968 to 1971, is currently a division chief in the World Bank's

Eastern Africa Department. He began his development experience raising chickens for a school poultry project. "I've spent the last 20 years working in more than 25 countries in Africa but never once have I been able to return to Chad," he says. "Someday I will."

Despite the civil strife in Chad for much of the time since the first PCVs came here in the mid-1960s, the Peace Corps has maintained a presence wherever it could. During the first 13 years that American Volunteers were in the country, Chad received assistance in education, wells construction and forestry. Those contributions were remembered over the eight years the Peace Corps was out of Chad and resulted in an invitation to return in 1987.

Today, PCVs serve in education, water resource management and forestry programs.

Chile

1961-1982

Spring/Summer 1991

"Chile is a country of beautiful extremes — majestic mountains, dry deserts, fertile valleys, remote waterway passages and mystical islands. Its people were welcoming and eager to receive Kennedy's Peace Corps; I was anxious to explore the world, discover new things about myself, and test my skills; it is the two most remembered years of my life." — PCV MaryEllen Craig, Chile, 1961-1963

MaryEllen Craig was one of 45 Peace Corps Volunteers to go to Chile in October of 1961 to work with the Institute of Rural Education. This was the fourth Peace Corps project to leave the United States and most of the volunteers had

been recruited directly from colleges and universities in Indiana.

The Volunteers' mission was to work within the structure of the Institute of Rural Education and to train people in the organization to carry on initiated programs after the PCVs left. Craig was a home economics graduate from Purdue University. Her assignments were working in the area of food service at the Institute's schools and teaching basic nutrition and food handling in the classroom. Later she worked with the rural population through the community workers trained by the Institute.

The work of the Chilean One group of PCVs in health, agriculture, nutrition and cooperatives contributed to the growth and success of this Chilean organization in working for rural development in Chile.

Since leaving the Peace Corps, Craig's career has taken a very different path from international development or foods and nutrition. Currently she is an attorney in general practice in Northern Virginia and is active in various community organizations.

After nearly a 10-year absence, Peace Corps plans to return to Chile this year. The first group of transfer PCVs is scheduled to arrive in spring. A group of Trainees are due by summer to work in forestry and small business development.

From 1961 to 1982, 2,025 Americans served in Chile as PCVs in agriculture, education and health projects.



Texan PCV Dorothy M. Hogg studies coastal rocks for barnacles in Chile in 1976.

China

1989 (Suspended)

China One, the first group of Peace Corps Trainees designated to go to the People's Republic of China, was undergoing intensive language and cross-cultural training at American University in Washington, D.C., when events in China brought a halt to this program.

After the Tiananmen Square incident erupted in Beijing, Peace Corps' sponsoring agency in China — the Chinese Education Association for International Exchange — decided it would be inappropriate at this time to have American Peace Corps Volunteers enter the country.

For 22 candidates for the pioneering program, the decision was a disappointing one. They had planned to teach English at various teacher training colleges and institutes in Sichuan Province. Letters had been exchanged in April 1989 between then U.S. Ambassador Winston Lord, on behalf of the Peace Corps, and Ge Shouqin, secretary general of the Chinese Education Association for International Exchange, setting the program in motion after years of discussions.

Peace Corps still hopes to establish a program in China at a future date. Meanwhile, a dozen U.S. citizens are serving in this nation of 1.1 billion people as United Nations Volunteers.

Colombia

1961-1981

"I remember the cold showers, the warm beer, the cold of the altiplano, the heat of the costa and the warmth of the people; but most of all I remember sharing in a great adventure—and it was the finest thing I have ever done." — PCV Mike Willson, Colombia, 1961-1963

"I grew up in East L.A. I still live here with my family and I work in the community. My Peace Corps experience helped me develop an interest in world affairs." — PCV Rudy Salinas, Colombia, 1962-1964

M. O. Willson, vice president and director of marketing for the KFC National Cooperative Advertising Program Inc. in Louisville, Ky., was a member of the Colombia I group of Peace Corps Volunteers to go to this South American republic. He worked in a rural community development program.

Former Peace Corps Volunteer Rudy Salinas, who today is the Central East District manager of the Los Angeles Red Cross, served in Colombia as a physical education instructor and volunteer leader. During the two years he was here, he networked with other PCVs involved in community action and public health programs.

"In many ways what I am doing now is a continuation of my Peace Corps service," Salinas says. "At the Red Cross,



In 1972, PCV Terry Johnson holds specimen while wife, Sherry, removes mist net in Colombia.

I am still trying to meet some of the needs of my community."

As the head of Red Cross operations in a metropolitan area of 1 million residents, Salinas is helping deliver a wide variety of services to a culturally diverse population that includes many nationalities.

"There are a lot of things people don't realize that the Red Cross does," he says.

Colombia opened its door to 4,840 Peace Corps Volunteers over a 20-year period. They worked to improve general living conditions in rural areas through vegetable gardens, nutrition classes, training nurses and nurses' aides, and in a variety of other ways. PCVs also helped farmers increase their vegetable, cattle, poultry and swine production. Small business owners were shown new methods of running their businesses and cooperatives.

In addition, Volunteers taught disabled youngsters through special education programs and developed a rehabilitation program for "street children" in Colombia.

Comoros

1988-Present

The Comoro Islands program is one of the newest for the Peace Corps. The first training group arrived in July of 1988. Volunteers here teach English as a foreign language in high schools and served as pedagogical advisors to Comorian teachers of English in junior high schools. One of the goals of the Peace Corps is to replace all Peace Corps Volunteers with qualified Comorian English teachers by the year 2000.

English education is a high priority in the Comoros, where the primary language of all students is French. Some key neighboring countries are Anglophone and English is essential to establish business relations.

The Comoros is one of the poorest countries in the world. It occupies a strategic position at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel between the east coast of Africa and Madagascar. It is a former French colony.

Congo

Summer 1991

"Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day, teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime." — Anonymous proverb

Winds of change have swept the globe over the last several months, opening doors for new and renewed relations between nations. This phenomenon has created a favorable atmosphere for the Peace Corps to expand its programs to include countries never before served by the agency.

Among the new Peace Corps entries will be The People's Republic of the Congo. It will welcome 15 Peace Corps Volunteers to work in fisheries starting in July. They will be sworn in at a ceremony in Brazzaville.

Peace Corp originally planned to enter The Congo in early 1979, but a coup in February of that year brought about a change in government and subsequently a cancellation of the Congo's request for Peace Corps Volunteers.

An agreement signed last April between the Congo and the Peace Corps paved the way for the first group of Volunteers to serve in this west central West African nation. While the first PCVs will train Congolese citizens in fisheries production and maintenance, future programs may also include health education and wildlife protection and management.

Peace Corps has a 25-year success record with fish culture programs in Africa. The current fisheries program in neighboring Zaire is the biggest and best Peace Corps program of its kind in the world and could be an important resource for the fish culture program in The Congo.

Cook Islands

1982-86

1988-Present

The first group of Peace Corps Volunteer candidates began training in March of 1982 after a Peace Corps agreement was signed with the government of the Cook Islands in

May of the previous year. Those initial PCVs were assigned to projects in vocational education, energy planning and small business enterprise.

Agricultural development has been given the first priority in the Cook Islands. Volunteers here are currently working as agriculture extensionists on three outer islands. This summer, PCVs also will start a new small business development program working with the Development Bank of the Cook Islands.

Some of the past accomplishments of PCVs in the agricultural arena have been diagnosing plant diseases and insect problems, promotion of horticultural development, fertilization, soil preparation, executing forestry development planning and presentation of environmental education programs.

Costa Rica

1963-Present

"The Costa Ricans took us into their homes and their hearts...We came in the name of the Peace Corps, but they showed us how important—and how possible—peace is in Central America." — PCV Jennifer Greer and Robert Gandy, Costa Rica 1988-1990

Jennifer Greer, a journalist, and her husband, Robert Gandy, a consulting forester, hoped they had something to offer when they left their established careers and went to Costa Rica to work in adult literacy and forestry extension. Now they're convinced they got more in return as Peace Corps Volunteers than they could have ever given.

"Basically, I taught literacy classes and Robert helped plant trees," she says. "Fortunately, we both had some good crops. In the process, we made friends with the entire town of 900 people. We celebrated the birth of their babies, danced at their weddings, and helped bury their dead. For many Ticos, we were the U.S."

Greer was among a group of PCVs who worked with the Costa Rican Education Ministry to spearhead a national campaign to combat functional illiteracy and to help raise the level of secondary education among Costa Ricans. Gandy and other forestry extensionists started nurseries, planted demonstration plots, formed forestry cooperatives and counseled small farmers in the use of sound forest management practices in a country that is rapidly losing all of its natural forests.

Today, Gandy and Greer, who are from Birmingham, Ala., are completing a six-month stint in Panama, where they have worked to help re-establish a Peace Corps presence there after a 20-year absence. Gandy was contracted to develop a natural resources program, which started with six extendee PCVs last November.

Environmental and education programs remain two areas of major focus for the Peace Corps in Costa Rica. Other programs include rural development, urban youth community services, agriculture and small enterprise development. While Costa Rica has one of the best educational systems and the highest standards of living in Latin America, many people here still live in poverty and Peace Corps continues to show ways for improvement.



Fields swirl behind PCV Valerie Barzetti, a Penn State agronomy graduate, in Costa Rica in 1980.

Côte d'Ivoire

1962-1981

"Living and working in the Ivory Coast was an exciting yet challenging experience. The Ivoiriens were incredibly dynamic, outgoing, animated and accustomed to enjoying life to the fullest... It was easy to establish strong, lasting friendships quickly and because Ivoirien tradition places great value on the immediate and extended family, they readily made me a part of their families, complete with traditional Ivoirien names. (Kouassi is one that comes to mind.)... My Peace Corps experience had a profound impact on my life, from my career to my perception of the world and its issues." — PCV Kurt A. Lonsway, Côte d'Ivoire and Tanzania, 1980-1983

"When I was sent to Korhogo, at the time a small northern town far from the bright lights of Abidjan, an Ivoirien told me, 'Korhogo est un trait d'union entre la ville et la brousse' — Korhogo is a hyphen between the city and the bush. On reflection, my job as a PCV teaching high school students was mostly about helping that generation bridge that 'hyphen' and make sense of the two worlds they were now being asked to operate in, as the first large group of school-educated young people. It was clear to me the

1990-Present

education of the school was to be integrated into the long tradition of the education of the village, and not to obliterate it." — PCV William Dant, Côte d'Ivoire, 1970-1972

As an agriculture engineer fresh out of college, Kurt Lonsway worked for the Ivoirien Ministry of Agriculture Center for Mechanizing Ivoirien Agriculture supervising a research farm located east of Bouake, the second largest city in what was then known as the Ivory Coast. During his free time, he worked as a research photographer at a leprosy center to document ongoing treatment and new leprosy treatment techniques.

When the Ivory Coast Peace Corps program unexpectedly shut down in 1981, Lonsway transferred to Tanzania and had to start training all over. He learned to speak a new language, Kiswahili, and was assigned as an agricultural engineer/mechanic with the Rift Valley Pilot Irrigation Project which was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). While serving in Tanzania, Lonsway met his wife, Jill Garber, who was serving as a forestry Volunteer.

Lonsway is now an environmental consultant for Dames & Moore International, a multinational earth and environ-

mental consulting engineering firm with offices worldwide.

William Dant, who now works for a large, multi-national student exchange organization, remembers a gratifying experience when he returned here seven years after finishing his tour as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

"Five minutes after arriving in Korhogo, I bumped into an old friend who knew several of my students," Dant recalls. "Over the weekend I spent visiting, I learned that many of my students had moved on to positions of responsibility as teachers, government workers, merchants; and almost all of the hundreds of expatriate 'technical assistants' were gone, having been replaced by Ivoiriens."

In addition to working with several different cultural exchange programs, Dant spent a stint on the Peace Corps staff in Morocco.

From 1962 until 1981, when Peace Corps closed its operations, more than 1,100 Americans served in the Ivory Coast (now Côte d'Ivoire). The program was reinstated last year. Peace Corps Volunteers are now helping develop demonstration centers for health education and child survival activities at local health centers and maternity wards.



PCV Christopher Hartzell teaches gardening in Gagnoa, Ivory Coast, in 1968.

Cyprus

1962-1964

"As a geologist, the Peace Corps experience shifted my professional emphasis to ground-water resources exploration, development and protection. From a social point of view, it has led me to the development of programs and housing for low-income families and rural farm labor. The Peace Corps' experience also set me on a path of 30 years of international technical assistance which, in fact, included preliminary specification of Peace Corps' water supply projects in Honduras and Zaire." — PCV William M. Turner, Cyprus, 1962-1964

In its short time, Peace Corps' programs on this Mediterranean island were quite successful, especially for the geologists, whose main assignment was to map the Karpas Peninsula. Completion of the map enabled other workers to begin their jobs in a national economic development plan.

Some of the 28 Peace Corps Volunteers who served here over a two-year period worked with the Cypriots in an egg marketing cooperative, teaching English, improving nursery production and demonstrating dairy machinery.

One of those PCVs, Bill Turner, has maintained a link with Cyprus over the last 26 years. In 1966, the government of Cyprus named him as a Cypriot counterpart for a United Nations development project and provided him with support

to finish the geological mapping of the western Paphos District which he began under the Peace Corps.

Turner, a resident of New Mexico, used his work for his doctoral dissertation. At the time, he and his wife, Regina, lived in Stroumbi in the Paphos District. She learned Greek from the village women as he travelled from village to village and on Sundays conducted seminars on water in the Greek and Turkish coffee shops of the area. From 1980 to 1981, the Turners — including their three sons — moved to Nicosia, where their closest friends included Savvas Tollas, the former secretary of the Peace Corps, along with his large extended family.

Czech and Slovak Republic

1990-Present

"Two Volunteers made short but moving speeches in both the Czech and Slovak languages to the delight of the host country audience. After which the Volunteers were called forward to be sworn in by the ambassador." — Country Director Steven Hanchey, Czechoslovakia, 1991

"At first I wasn't sure what to expect, this being a new, and completely different kind of Peace Corps assignment, but from the very beginning the reception we have received has been overwhelming. Forty-five years with no people-to-people contact between our two countries has left a big void in understanding but a tremendous reservoir of good will toward the United States....I think Peace Corps is a way of returning some of that feeling." — PCV Cynthia Hoff, Czechoslovakia, 1990-1991

Twenty-one new Peace Corps Volunteers were sworn in at U.S. Ambassador Shirley Temple Black's home in Prague on Jan. 23. The historic event took place one year after the ambassador met with Peace Corps Director Paul D. Coverdell in Washington to deliver an invitation from the

new government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic for American PCVs to help train English teachers.

In welcoming guests to the swearing-in ceremony, Ambassador Black noted her pleasure in renewing her ties to the Peace Corps, having previously served as ambassador in Ghana, the first country to accept a Peace Corps program after the Peace Corps started in 1961.

Two weeks after the first group of PCVs arrived here last November, President Bush became the first American president to visit the country, an event witnessed by the Volunteers, their Czechoslovak host families and more than a half million people in Wenceslas Square, the scene of the momentous events that led to a new, democratic government under the leadership of playwright and human rights activist Vaclav Havel.

"Seeing our president standing together with President Havel on Nov. 17 and sharing the joy of the occasion with my host families was an incredibly moving experience for me," recalls PCV Cynthia Hoff from Milton, N.H. "The welcome they gave President Bush was only a sample of the warmth and affection which I have felt here since my very first day."

Dominican Republic

1962-Present

"I may have done some good, but mostly I learned. I learned about the complexity of a culture that is close to us geographically, but far, far away from our understanding. I learned to speak Spanish, the language of our neighbors. I learned to teach others some of the skills most of us take for granted. I learned to organize people to help themselves. Most important, I learned that one person can make a telling difference in the lives of those around him." — PCV Christopher J. Dodd, Dominican Republic, 1966-1968

U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut learned a number of lessons as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic.

"The Peace Corps was intentionally designed to be the positive expression of the American spirit," Dodd wrote in the book "Making a Difference," which provided vignettes of the Peace Corps. "It taught me to reject cynicism and embrace idealism. It taught me that our personal choices cannot be separated from the political decisions of nations."

More than 2,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served



U.S. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd served two years as Peace Corps Volunteer in Dominican Republic.

over the last three decades in the Dominican Republic in such diverse programs as agriculture, urban and rural development, natural resource conservation, small enterprise development, health and teacher training. Even during the suspension of diplomatic relations in 1963 and the civil war of 1965, PCVs remained in the DR — testifying to the vibrant people-to-people bonds they have forged there. They also were highly commended by the Dominican people for assisting in relief efforts in the wake of hurricanes David and Frederick in 1979.

Eastern Caribbean

Anguilla	1967-Present
Antigua/Barbuda	1967-Present
Barbados	1961-1990
Dominica	1967-Present
Grenada 1963-79	1984-Present

Montserrat	1967-Present
St. Kitts/Nevis	1967-Present
St. Lucia	1961-Present
St. Vincent/Grenadines	1967-Present
Turks & Caicos Islands	1980-1985

"The mirage of exotic beauty, of vibrant calypso tunes, the people of many shades all in this sun-kissed, sea-washed volcanic island guided my experience. Beyond the colors, one begins to see there is much to be done in the Caribbean. I saw the struggle and the injustices, and we came as Peace Corps to work to teach them some of our skills, while they

taught us to slow down, live in the present and feel the rhythms of life. Sometimes I think they were the better teachers." — PCV Grace M. Spillane, St. Vincent, 1984-1986

Pastel-colored houses...bright-eyed kids...powdery

beaches...white hospital wards...warm trade winds...cold running water...pulverizing hurricanes...friendly handshakes...sugar cane fields...wooden school houses...music and dancing...starry nights.

Peace Corps Volunteers like Grace Spillane, who have served in both the Leeward and Windward islands of the Eastern Caribbean, can conjure up these images and more. While she was a PCV on St. Vincent, Spillane was involved in a national program to foster job skills and self sufficiency. She coordinated a Girl Guides project for young women ages 9 to 22 who had dropped out of school and were unemployed.

"Participants in the project earned an income and developed skills by creating craft items for sale in local shops," says Spillane, who now resides in Maine.

Currently, around 150 PCVs are working in agriculture, education, small enterprise development, health and nutrition, and community development programs.

The islands depend on food imports, which results in high food prices, so agriculture-oriented PCVs are working in the fields of horticulture and soil research, livestock and agricultural extension services, marketing and appropriate technology to alleviate this problem.

Other PCVs are helping upgrade the quality of educa-

tion in the islands by enhancing the skills of local teachers through teacher training, curriculum development and other means of support. Volunteers serving as small business and cooperative advisors are providing managerial and technical services to institutions offering credit to small enterprises.

PCVs in the health and nutrition program are involved in various nursing tasks, occupational therapy, physical therapy, medical and X-ray technology, and pharmaceuticals. Some work as nursing instructors and nutrition promoters.

In the area of community development, PCVs are working with youth, sports and recreation programs, and as librarians. Volunteers also are involved in forestry, fisheries and water/sanitation projects.

Originally, Peace Corps operations were centralized on Barbados. Several years ago, administration for the Eastern Caribbean was divided for the two island groups with offices in Antigua and Grenada. Recently, the operations were once again consolidated with Peace Corps headquarters placed on St. Lucia. The Turks and Caicos Islands, a five-year program concentrating on agriculture and marine resources development, was run from the Dominican Republic.

Ecuador

1962-Present

"Our two years with the Peace Corps in Ecuador left us with an intensely personal realization that even in seemingly the bleakest of conditions commitment and caring can effect positive change, that opportunity is truly the most important ingredient of success, and that gratifying reward for one's efforts can be as simple as a smile and a handshake." — PCVs Pat and Sue Sheridan, Ecuador, 1987-1988

Patrick and Susan Sheridan lived in Cuenca, a large city in the southern Sierras of Ecuador, where they were assigned to a small enterprise development program as Peace Corps Volunteers. Both came into the Peace Corps with business backgrounds. Taking a mid-career break, they spent two years helping people living in nearby mountain communities adapt traditional handi-



Dr. Claudio Malo Gonzalez shows Ecuadorian masks to Pat and Sue Sheridan.

crafts to modern market demands and export requirements.

While serving in Ecuador, the Sheridans expressed the hope that working with rural artisans could create better, healthier living conditions for the people by improving their income and life styles. With some traditional art forms being lost over time, the Peace Corps couple was able to inspire family members of all ages to work together on small-scale enterprises in which straw was dyed and woven into various art forms for export sale.

The Sheridans are now back in Texas. She is currently vice president of First City National Bank in its Austin branch. She started and heads the bank's international division. He is an international controller with Convex Computer in Richardson, Texas, with responsibilities for the Far East, Australia and South America.

Since 1962, more than 4,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Ecuador in projects that have been continually adapted to meet the changing needs of the country and its people. Current programs are in the areas of agriculture, rural and urban youth development, fisheries, forestry, health, rural infrastructure expansion and special education. Important initiatives are being undertaken now in urban youth development and environmental education. About 200 PCVs are presently serving here, about two-thirds of them in rural locations and a third in urban areas.

El Salvador

1962-1980

"The beauty of the countryside and the people of El Salvador made a lasting impression on me. As a Latino, I obtained a greater awareness of myself as I learned about the diversity of the Spanish language and the peoples of Latin America. I was overwhelmingly accepted by the people there and their kindness, humility and good humor made my stay there a wonderful learning experience. The present conflict there has been of great concern to me as I have lost friends to the violence. But I know that the Salvadorean people will survive and teach us that an unbreakable spirit cannot be broken by civil conflict." — PCV Raymond G. Prado, El Salvador, 1979-1980

Raymond G. Prado, an undergraduate academic counselor at the University of California/Los Angeles, was a Peace Corps Volunteer in El Salvador from January to October of 1979 in a school vegetable garden program. Assigned to work in a school in the eastern province of Usulután by the Salvadorean Ministry of Education, Prado was helping improve the nutritional lives of the people in the community where he served.

Prado's assignment was interrupted when the political situation in the country forced the Peace Corps to evacuate all PCVs starting in the fall of 1979. He transferred to Honduras, where he spent the remainder of his two-year tour.

Since returning from the Peace Corps, Prado has obtained a master's degree in Latin American studies from UCLA. He currently is in the process of researching his dissertation to complete his Ph.D. in Latin American history. His area of study, not surprisingly, is Central American history, focusing on the dynamics and the development of a balance of power in the area during the late 19th and early



In El Salvador in 1978, PCV Bob James explains cultivation to young student outside of Osicala.

20th centuries. While he is finishing his course work, he is acting as an academic counselor.

El Salvador, on the Pacific Coast of Central America, is the smallest country in the continental northern hemisphere — about 160 miles across at its widest point. Despite its size, it is a country of geographic diversity. Between two separate ranges of mountains, a plateau of fertile volcanic soil laced with rivers and valleys is where most Salvadorans live. Many of the 1,231 Peace Corps Volunteers who served here in agriculture, education and fisheries programs lived in rural communities where there was no running water and electricity was a sometimes thing.

Equatorial Guinea

1988-Present

"We were like the first Volunteers to touch African soil in 1961, yet in our first year here Volunteers formed cooperative-run stores, built roads, developed huge sustainable agricultural farms, started market renovation and water projects, received funding to build health centers and more. As we struggled to spread the Peace Corps name, we saw tangible results." — PCV Nicolette L. Pump, Equatorial Guinea, 1988-1991

Nicolette L. Pump was one of the first-ever Peace Corps Volunteers to serve in Equatorial Guinea. When her group was sworn in, then Peace Corps Director Lorett Miller Ruppe presented President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of

Equatorial Guinea letters from George Bush and Ronald Reagan expressing their desires for a successful Peace Corps program.

Pump, who only recently returned home to the Milwaukee area, is planning on going to graduate school, hoping to earn a dual degree in international public health and international public administration.

Equatorial Guinea is the only Spanish-speaking nation in Africa and is also unique in that it is both an island and continental country.

The first group of 10 trainees, plus one transfer PCV, arrived in this West African nation in September of 1988. Placement of these Volunteers followed years of exploratory talks with the government of Equatorial Guinea. Diplomatic notes concluding a country agreement were exchanged in November of 1987.

Volunteers have worked as cooperative educators on a project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development with pre-cooperative groups in rural village areas. PCVs assist with training cooperative leaders, members and village communities. Primarily they coordinate activities between farmers' pre-cooperatives and cooperative service centers. They also assist and train cooperative members in bookkeeping systems and recommend marketing techniques and new services employing cooperative concepts. Most of the activities focus on women's cooperatives.

Planning also is underway now to introduce programs in health, education and community development.

Ethiopia

1962-1977

"I ended up in a village in Ethiopia with five other Peace Corps Volunteers, and I didn't go anywhere on vacations, just stayed in the village. I broke away from the others and set up house by myself, with my students. I took the ten best kids in the school and lived with them, just a total immersion in their culture. And, you know, nothing I've ever done before or since has given me the same feeling." — PCV Paul Tsongas, Ethiopia, 1962-1964

Paul Tsongas, who had never been more far afield than New England and parts of the East Coast when he signed up for the Peace Corps, spent three years teaching math and science in Ghion, Ethiopia, after graduating from Yale Law School. In later years, he was elected to the U.S. Senate from Massachusetts.

Gerard T. Rice chronicled some of Tsongas's experiences in Ethiopia in his book "The Bold Experiment" about the Peace Corps launched by President John F. Kennedy.

"In Ethiopia," Rice wrote, "Paul Tsongas not only taught math but, with the help of his students, cut down trees and built foot-bridges over muddy streams and ditches. During his vacation he remained alone with his students to construct a school dormitory for the village of Ghion. An evaluation report noted that Tsongas, like many other Volunteers working

alone in isolated areas, had achieved 'a close relationship' with his hosts."

There were 2,908 Peace Corps Volunteers, including Tsongas, who served in this East African country in the fields of agriculture, business, education, health and urban development. They did everything from assist tribal women in marketing their home-made artifacts to teaching thousands of students a year English, carpentry, business trades and electronics.

Fiji

1968-Present

"These children had never owned a book before. They took these books like they were the most cherished thing in the world. They were given a book, and they would take it home and read it. They would cover them up to make sure nothing happened and they treated it like a treasure." —

PCV Christopher Shays, Fiji, 1968-1970

U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, a congressman from Connecticut, married his high school sweetheart, Betsy. Together, they joined the Peace Corps and went to Fiji, where they were assigned to a site in the middle of an island for two years.

The people referred to them as Europeans, but they quickly made an effort to blend in with the local community. After settling into the new culture, they wrote for and obtained donated textbooks and copies of National Geographic.

Shays recalls how the children were awestruck by the books and magazines.

"They looked at all the pages," he recalls. "Some of them were just learning English. They would look at the pictures and they would talk to all their friends. They didn't



PCV Susan Heck befriends street kids in Addis Ababa in 1968.

have television. And they would look at the pictures and ask questions."

Located about 1,000 miles north of New Zealand and about 1,400 miles east of Australia, Fiji consists of some 300 islands, about a third of which are inhabited. Two years after inviting the first Peace Corps Volunteers, the country gained its independence from Great Britain in 1970. More than 1,400 Americans have served in education, rural development, urban and health programs since the first group arrived in Fiji.

Gabon

1963-67

1973-Present

"My experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Gabon stripped my eyes of its parochial filter, and allowed me for the first time to see things in a truly global fashion. I have found that the longer I live in another culture, the more many-threaded and complex it turns out to be." — PCV Robert Riley, Gabon, 1979-1983

"Peace Corps/Gabon is the American image of the African jungle brought to life. Gabon is towering dense tropical rainforests covered with a steamy curtain of clouds, insects of all descriptions, poisonous snakes, roaming wild animals and the friendly Gabonese peoples, rich in tradition and culture, eking out a living from the forest and their small farms. Ten years later, I feel lucky to have lived and experienced such a place although I must admit I did not always feel that way when I was there. I emerged from Gabon with a lifetime full of incredible experiences, many new friends left behind and a new respect for the motivational power of the mud brick!" — PCV Dale Jensen, Gabon, 1977-1979

Robert Riley, administrative liaison officer for the Africa Region at Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, oversees the budgets for 35 host countries on the African continent. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, Riley supervised school construction projects in small and remote villages. The schools ranged from one building with two rooms to three buildings with three rooms each.

His last two years in Gabon as a PCV were spent being a Volunteer leader and logistics coordinator for school construction.

From 1983 to 1986, he was the administration officer on the Peace Corps staff in Gabon. The next two years were spent in Mali, where he held a similar position. He has been in his present position since 1989.

Prior to joining the Peace Corps' school construction program in Gabon, Dale Jensen served in Kenya with the Peace Corps as a secondary school teacher in the Harambee I program.

"In Gabon I helped build two three-classroom schools and three teachers' houses in small isolated villages in the Ogooué LoLo Province," he recalls. "The school construction program was rather loosely organized in those days, and Volunteers operated largely independent of 'management' in Libreville, the capital. This made for some interesting school designs, construction methods and work habits. However, in the end schools and houses got built in a difficult and challenging environment."

Jensen's construction experience led to an interest in



PCV Mark Mariotti, right, of New Jersey, served as science teacher in The Gambia in 1990.

engineering. He now works for a small firm in Hawaii called Makai Ocean Engineering. His wife, Madi Silverman, also is a former Peace Corps Volunteer who taught English in Gabon.

Like Riley and Jensen, the first group of PCVs to arrive here in 1963 worked in rural school construction. They were followed by Volunteers teaching English in secondary schools. Peace Corps left Gabon in 1967 as a result of strong French insistence at the time. An invitation to return was issued by the government of Gabon in 1973 and, a year later, Peace Corps Volunteers were again teaching English and building primary schools. Since 1977, the program has grown to include freshwater fish culture, secondary mathematics, physics and chemistry education, and university teaching. A health program also started last year.

The Gambia

1967-Present

"While I expected to face many challenges working in rural Gambia, I did not anticipate the love and caring that would be extended to me when I became a member of the Manneh family. As we came to know each other it only seemed natural to eat with the women each evening, gossip on the bantaba while waiting for the heat of the day to pass, and watch the many children struggle to grow up. In knowing them, I came to appreciate the difficulties of subsistence farming and how Gambians pulled together to get by and make a life for themselves. Through their eyes I also got a glimpse at my own country. I'll never forget the November morning when Luntang, my compound owner, came to my



Susan Caster, a PCV from Roswell, Ga., helps village woman in Tassor, Ghana, in 1980.

hut and said, 'What a wonderful place America is. Where else could a peanut farmer like me become president?' " — PCV Marty Pipp, The Gambia, 1979-1981

Memories of chatting on the bantaba, a 10-by-10-foot raised platform which served as an "outside bed," remain etched on the mind of Marty Pipp, deputy director of health education programs at University Research Corporation in Bethesda, Md.

Pipp was a health volunteer in the Peace Corps. Health remains one of the primary programs for Peace Corps Volunteers today. Nurse tutors, for example, are teaching basic nursing skills to students enrolled at nursing schools in Banjul, the capital of The Gambia, and in Mansakonko.

Other key current projects are education and forestry extension. The role of education PCVs is shifting. In addition to teaching math and science, they are involved in functional literacy and educational materials development.

In the forestry area, PCVs presently are working in nursery management and extension. These Volunteers are involved in beekeeping and improved wood stove production as secondary projects.

Seventeen PCVs were in the first group to arrive here in 1967. That number included five mechanics, three cooperative organizers, two carpenters, four construction specialists, two cattle marketing advisors and one electrical engineer. In late 1969, the second group arrived here and included the first education Volunteers.

Peace Corps' presence is amply justified in The Gambia. This West African nation is ranked by the United Nations as one of the least developed countries in the world. Smaller than Connecticut, it has been inhabited since ancient times.

Ghana

1961-Present

"The Ghana I group, numbering 50, had become 'one.'; there was an unspoken sense of being special ... They hadn't paused to absorb the daunting fact that they would be absolutely the first Volunteers (Tanganyika I had started and finished its training program earlier but would trail Ghana I to Africa by a few days)." — "Come As You Are: The Peace Corps Story" by Coates Redmon © 1986 Harcourt Brace Jovanovich*

Ghana was the first country in the world to welcome Peace Corps Volunteers. On Aug. 30, 1961, Peace Corps Volunteers stepped off the plane at Kotoka International Airport in Accra, this nation's capital, and they sang the Ghanaian national anthem in the Ghanaian language, Twi. More than any official speech or statement, this simple gesture of friendship and understanding signaled to Ghanaians and to the world, the fledgling Peace Corps' respect and concern for the first country it was to serve.

Since then, more than 2,500 PCVs have successfully and proudly served in this country. During the 1960s, the size of the Peace Corps program in Ghana reached 415 Volunteers, most of whom served as science and math teachers in Ghana's secondary schools. In 1983, because of political and economic difficulties, the number of American men and women serving here dropped below 100 for the first time in 22 years. Conditions quickly improved, however, and a core group of around 100 serves here at any one time.

The principal areas on which PCVs concentrate in Ghana are secondary education, teacher training, vocational training and employable skills, forestry, water sanitation and rural development. More than 50 tribal languages are spoken in this West African country of nearly 10 million. Peace Corps members can converse in many of these dialects.

*Tanganyika was to soon become Tanzania, the 22nd African nation to gain independence after World War II.

Guatemala

1963-Present

"Living and working in a country as beautiful and diverse as Guatemala gave me a greater appreciation for our global natural resources. My Peace Corps experience



Apprehensive youngsters watch as Ohio PCV Bob Furillo gingerly handles bees in Guatemala in 1990.

instilled in me the importance of international cooperation and understanding to meet the environmental challenges facing our planet. — PCV Tim Kasten, Guatemala, 1983-1985

Tim Kasten, a marine biologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency based in Washington, worked in agricultural extension in the Oriente region of Guatemala while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Located just south of Mexico, Guatemala is an environmental treasurehouse with lush rainforests, cool mountain highlands and rich coastal plain. One mountain range, the Sierra Madre, parallels the Pacific Ocean and includes a chain of active volcanoes. Another range, the Cuchumatanes, lacks the spectacle of live volcanoes but boasts the tallest

peak in Central America, 12,417-foot Zamel. Lake Atitlán is one of the most spectacular inland bodies of water in the world.

More than 2,000 American men and women have served as Peace Corps Volunteers here since 1963 including about 150 assigned there today. Volunteers have long provided community development assistance in rural and poor areas. They are currently specializing in agriculture, conservation, health and small business development.

Some PCVs are working in soil conservation in order to restore and preserve potentially valuable agricultural land and forest acreage from severe erosion. Conservation efforts include reforestation and resource management education. A small group of PCVs has been working in development of national parks and in wildlife management.

Guinea

1964-67

1969-71

1986-Present

"From rural Indiana to rural West Africa to rural Guinea and back, the determination and dedication of the farmer knows no difference or language, skills or technology to do the best and strive to do better." — PCV Richard Duttlinger, Guinea and Togo, 1965-1967

Richard Duttlinger, who spent from February 1965 to

November 1966 as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea, was assigned to the northern town of Telimele, where he worked with other PCVs.

"I was born and raised on a farm in Indiana and was often struck with the similarities between my background and the people I worked with in Guinea," he says.

Duttlinger's primary work was in a large poultry project that required extensive cooperation with other parts of the

country to provide both feed for the chickens and a market for the eggs. A major emphasis of the project was to provide breeding stock to upgrade the local chickens.

After leaving Guinea, Duttlinger went on to Togo, where he completed his Peace Corps service in December of 1967. When he came back home, Duttlinger attended Purdue University, enrolling in its international agriculture program. On the Purdue campus, he served as the Peace Corps recruiter and liaison.

Since then, Duttlinger has returned to farming. He produces corn and mint and raises cattle and buffalo on his 1,300-acre farm. His wife, Linda, is a professor at Purdue.

They have three sons. Presently, Duttlinger is the contact person for Friends of Guinea.

After being terminated twice previously because of political factors extraneous to Peace Corps, a program was re-established here in 1986. Several years ago, a small business assistance program was established. The program's purpose was to establish a process of providing financial and technical assistance to the landless poor in areas outside of Conakry who would normally not be eligible for credit from banking institutions. Volunteers also are working in rural health centers and setting up tree nurseries at the village level under a forestry program. Other PCVs are teaching English, math and science.

Guinea-Bissau

1988-Present

"We were first year country there which can be hard but also fantastic. Because there weren't very many westerners in the country, I expected hostility and it was just the opposite. The reception was incredible. They are open, non-judgmental people. I was a third-year Volunteer and I could have stayed forever." — PCV Mary Schmida, Guinea-Bissau, 1988-1990

Californian Mary Schmida, who was in the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers sworn in on Oct. 1, 1988, to serve in Guinea-Bissau, dreams of going back to this former Portuguese province of West Africa.

Schmida, who has a bachelor's degree in linguistics and plans to enroll as a graduate student so she can study teaching

English as a second language, taught English in a rural community in Guinea-Bissau her first two years as a PCV. Her last year she was teaching in the capital city, Bissau, but also helping write the national English curriculum for the country.

Following 527 years of Portuguese rule, Guinea-Bissau declared its independence on Sept. 24, 1973. It has since that time been struggling to create a national infrastructure to deal with the myriad problems left to it after the 13-year revolution for national independence. Most of the nation, located south of Senegal, consists of low, marshy terrain.

Peace Corps members focus on community agriculture, community health and education with emphasis on training English teachers.

Guyana

1967-1971

"The Peace Corps was clearly a defining experience of my life, forever making me aware of and sensitive to the world outside the sheltered existence of middle class America. I entered the Peace Corps with a sense of idealism and some grand visions that certainly became grounded in a harsher reality over time. But I left with an understanding and appreciation of a different culture, some life-long friendships and a feeling that I contributed in at least a small way to making some individual lives better." — PCV Robert Cohen, Guyana, 1968-1970

Robert Cohen, the Washington correspondent for The Star-Ledger of Newark, N.J., worked for two years as a high school teacher in a rural Guyanese community while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He still has indelible images of the time he spent here.

"For the most part, the people were friendly, sometimes just curious about this American white man, and (they) welcomed me and made me feel at home," Cohen recalls, adding, "But there were some varied experiences.

"After one week as a green but enthusiastic teacher, I found myself being taken to the cleaners by some adorable

but mischievous 12-year-old boys. When I went to explain my woes and seek advice from the wise old headmaster, he put his arm around me, suggested that time would show the way, and remarked, 'Boy, I'm not going to look a gift horse in the mouth.'

"A few weeks later, the Marxist candidate for prime minister campaigned in the community. He got up on top of his car, took out his bull horn, pointed to me — the only white face in the crowd — and accused me of being a CIA imperialist spy in their midst.

"I neither thought of myself as a gift horse nor as an imperialist, but the fact that my presence and that of the other PCVs was given such a varied interpretation in this newly independent nation meant we surely had to be on our toes and sensitive to all situations."

Peace Corps entered this South American country in 1966 after a long period of negotiations. With half of the country's population under 20 years of age, education was a primary role for the American Volunteers. After an absence of 20 years, discussions are now underway about resuming a Peace Corps program here.



Illinois Volunteer Jackie Macdonald helps boys and girls with their homework in Haiti in 1987.

Haiti

1982-87

"One of the most significant aspects of the Haitian people was their ability to laugh. As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Haiti, I was immersed in the most horrible, abject poverty, yet surrounding me were happy people, that loved to tell jokes 'bay blag' and laugh. They had such a strong spirit with bright eyes and bright smiles." — PCV Matthew E. Fitzgerald, Ecuador and Haiti, 1982-1985

Matthew E. Fitzgerald, a research assistant at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador from 1982 to 1983, then went to Haiti, where he stayed until 1985.

"Towards the end of my service in Haiti, I had an opportunity to help develop a marine fisheries project with the Haitian government and Peace Corps," Fitzgerald says looking back. "This entailed living and fishing with the fishermen of Haiti's northwest region. This is by far the most destitute region in Haiti and the zone from which the majority of the Haitian boat people left.

"These fishermen were absolutely remarkable," he says. "Their boats were built by hand and rigged with only locally available material, save the denim of their sails. They were skilled at tying and mending nets. Their ingenious fish traps yielded bountiful catches. The conch divers could free dive to 60 to 65 feet with ease while I struggled to get down to 40."

Fitzgerald remembers that lobster and red fish was iced and sent down to Port-au-Prince by "tap tap" (Haitian bus) and from there air freighted to Miami.

1990-Present

Peace Corps Volunteers returned to Haiti in early 1990 after a two-year absence caused by instability in the country. PCVs first arrived in this island nation in March 1983 and served until December 1987. Trainees in the returning Peace Corps group in January 1990 took their oath as PCVs in April and set to work in health care, health administration, teacher training and youth development. Later groups have worked in agriculture, agroforestry and small business development.

Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, was aptly named "high land" by its early Arawak Indian settlers. It is a beautiful, rugged land, dominated by mountains which cover nearly 80 percent of its landscape.

Honduras

1962-Present

"The last time I set foot in Central America was in 1979, but I still tell my Spanish-speaking friends that I am 'medio Hondureño.' " — PCV Michael S. Tulley, Honduras, 1977-1979

Michael Tulley has lived on a couple of other continents since he completed his Peace Corps service in Honduras as a track coach and volunteer leader in a community development program. He currently is personnel officer in Belgrade,

Yugoslavia, with the Foreign Service. Previously, he was with the U.S. State Department in Yaounde, Cameroon.

A few weeks before Tulley left Honduras as a PCV, there was a national grammar school sports championship that he participated in as an official.

"Every city and town where I had helped develop an athletics program sent representatives," he said. "Our goal, to help develop a sporting infrastructure outside the major cities — and incidentally, give kids a sport option other than futbol — was being achieved. I felt and feel pretty good about that."

After leaving the Peace Corps, Tulley worked for five years for Campbell Soup Co. in California and in Pennsylvania in personnel and labor relations. He received a master's degree in international management from Thunderbird in 1984 and joined the Foreign Service in 1986.

Honduras is a country of vast cultural, geographical and regional diversities. From its jungle lowlands to its western highlands, this Central American country has played host to one of the Peace Corps' largest Inter-America Region programs. One of the poorest countries in Latin America, Honduras has requested Peace Corps Volunteers to work in a wide variety of projects. Volunteers have served in urban, semi-urban and rural settings. Some of Peace Corps' most successful programs here have been in forestry, agriculture, rural health care, nutrition assistance, education and teacher training. Peace Corps' close partnership with the people of Honduras is now beginning its fourth decade.

Hungary

1990-Present

"I know my life will be infinitely enriched by the experience. I live and work in a culture so radically different from mine that each day will bring its own adventure. No, there are no mud huts. No, there is no malaria. But indeed, each day will bring its own adventure, if you look for it." — PCV Michael Porter, Hungary, 1990-1992

Michael Porter, 22, of Copley, Ohio, is a member of the initial group to go to Hungary, where Americans are teaching English in schools throughout the country, helping Hungarians reach beyond their borders by understanding the international language of commerce.

"I think it's time we ditched our preconceptions of what Peace Corps should be," Porter says. "You simply cannot compare this program with any other — to do so is pointless. All hype aside, remember that we are pioneers here."

In July of 1989, President Bush announced the historic decision to send Peace Corps Volunteers to Hungary while he was visiting Budapest. The first American men and women to serve there arrived in the summer of 1990.

The PCVs serving in the English education program are working in teacher

training colleges and universities, in secondary schools and in primary classrooms.

With the opening of a regional environmental center in Budapest to serve Eastern and Central Europe, Peace Corps Volunteers also will now be able to work in environmental management and education using the resources available through the center.

India

1961-1976

"My strongest feelings about India were not related to our work but to a bond that I perceived between our two countries. I remember traveling to a very small village well off the main road to visit a teacher. When I entered a thatched tea hut to wait for the return bus I saw a picture of Rama, Nehru and John F. Kennedy hanging from the support poles. Later, when an American landed on the moon, we were congratulated by Indians who seemed to be even more proud of the accomplishment than we were." — PCV Brian Hernon, India, 1969-1970

The first 24 Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in India in December of 1961. They were assigned to agricultural projects in the Punjab. Their initial efforts led to the signing in late 1962 of a formal intergovernmental agreement covering future operations in India.

During the years the Peace Corps was in India, 4,413 PCVs served there in agriculture, education, health and nutrition programs. President Carter's mother, "Miz Lillian," served as a nurse with the Peace Corps in India from 1966 to 1968.

Brian Hernon, of Philadelphia, who is a leader of



©1990/Photo by Paul S. Conklin

PCV David Billet of Los Angeles teaches English in Budapest suburb.



President Carter's mother, 'Miz Lillian,' served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in India in 1968.

Friends of India, says that "a number of other (Peace Corps) Volunteers "feel a strong link to India" still.

"My experience in India in the Peace Corps may not be typical of a lot of volunteers," Hernon says. "The science teachers workshops I was a part of were well organized and supported by an Indian state agency. Even today, I hear of teaching efforts in India along the lines where we had worked."

Volunteers here served in a wide range of development projects scattered across 15 states. The majority of these PCVs served in villages and small towns, working in various agricultural projects, nutrition, rural development and public health. Recently, preliminary discussions have been held about the possibility of PCVs returning to India someday.

Indonesia

1963-1965

"The older I get and the further distance in years from my service, the more incredible the experience seems. What amazes me as I reflect back is that in the midst of the political struggles during my service in Indonesia, my interpretation was in terms of universal ideologies — democracy versus communism — rather than in terms of a concern for my personal safety and well being." — PCV Judy Heinig Herriff, Indonesia, 1964-1965

Former Peace Corps Volunteer Judy Heinig Herriff, a



PCV Jacqueline Bender of Texas encourages good dental hygiene in Honduras in 1989.

limited licensed psychologist living in Michigan, arrived in Indonesia in the fall of 1964. She was among those Peace Corps Volunteers forced to leave Indonesia in the spring of 1965, when the program closed down, and she completed her service overseas in Thailand, coming home in 1966.

"I feel there is no better experience to help a person put his own beliefs and the policies of his nation into a clear focus," Herriff says of Peace Corps service.

Now there is a possibility for a second generation Peace Corps member in Herriff's family. Her daughter has applied to go overseas as a Volunteer.

Peace Corps' experience in Indonesia was brief, with just 47 PCVs serving there in the several years the program was in operation. In the field, the Volunteers were liked and respected. They worked with youth as instructors in both physical education and sports programs.

Efforts to expand the program using more technically oriented PCVs were ultimately unsuccessful.

Iran

1962-1976

"The Peace Corps made me a citizen of the world. It was an extraordinary education in humility and humanity. Iran was a country of great complexity and sophistication — particularly in the villages. And how they loved their children!" — PCV Donna E. Shalala, Iran, 1962-1964

Donna E. Shalala, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was one of 1,863 Peace Corps Volunteers to go to Iran, one of the first host countries on the Peace Corps' roster. The PCVs serving in this Persian country worked in education, engineering and agriculture programs.

During the 14 years that PCVs were in Iran, they taught English, vocational education, agriculture and architecture to more than 70,000 students. They also designed and built schools, parks and buildings, and introduced new agricultural methods.

As the years progressed, the country's needs and program emphasis shifted from urban to rural development. Volunteers assigned to vocational education were placed in small rural towns and villages where, because of increased industrialization and changing employment trends, the need for training became essential.

Jamaica

1962-Present

"When I think of Jamaica I think of a land that is full of pulsating life. It's evident in the sea, the green trees, in the smiles of the people and their animated conversation. And who can resist moving to the beats of the reggae rhythm?" -- PCV Lisa Wisse, Jamaica, 1984-1986

Lisa Wisse, who is living in Pennsylvania and raising a family, spent her two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica working as an occupational therapist in Lucea. A few short months after finishing her Peace Corps assignment, Wisse went with her husband to Malaysia, where they spent two years working in a Vietnamese refugee camp.



Missouri PCV Elaine Willoughby shares special moment in 1973 with a young Jamaican girl.

"I'm now a full-time mother," she says. Wisse has two daughters.

Since 1962, Peace Corps Volunteers have been working in the areas of health, agriculture and education. A small enterprise development sector was established in 1987. The following year a community services sector was created to work in youth development, provide services to the disabled and undertake urban/rural community development programs.

Behind the tourist facade here lies poverty, unemployment and illiteracy. To help fulfill Jamaica's national motto, "Out of Many, One People," Peace Corps Volunteers are carrying out the first mandate of the original Peace Corps Act by helping this island nation meet its needs for trained manpower.

Kenya

1965-Present

"In the 'bush,' Kenyans showed such a genial, innocent attachment to their way of life, that it was difficult to think of myself as part of a development effort. And this, then, was part of their lesson to me — that they may lack in material products, in physical comforts and even necessities, yet they

are spiritually and culturally rich beyond my previous experience. I envied them that. — PCV Steven C. Rothe, Kenya, 1976-1978

Located on the east coast of Africa, Kenya has played host to thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers like Steve Rothe, who taught biology at a rural government school and now is an environmental resource specialist with the U.S. Corps of Engineers in Omaha.

Young, middle aged and older volunteers representing the diversity of America have served in a variety of ways — bringing the “lessons” they have learned back home. A high priority has been placed on Kenya’s need for math, science

and English teachers. PCVs have participated in youth development and technical training. They have helped implement a multi-faceted program designed to help Kenya meet its goal of potable water for all Kenyans. Assistance has been provided to rapidly growing small towns. Other volunteers have taught basic accounting and management practices. Volunteers also have worked in a malaria research project in western Kenya.

One of the most beautiful and varied places on the African continent, Kenya is the site of one of the largest Peace Corps programs in Africa. In recent years, the number of PCVs serving in the country has fluctuated between 180 and 300 at any one time.

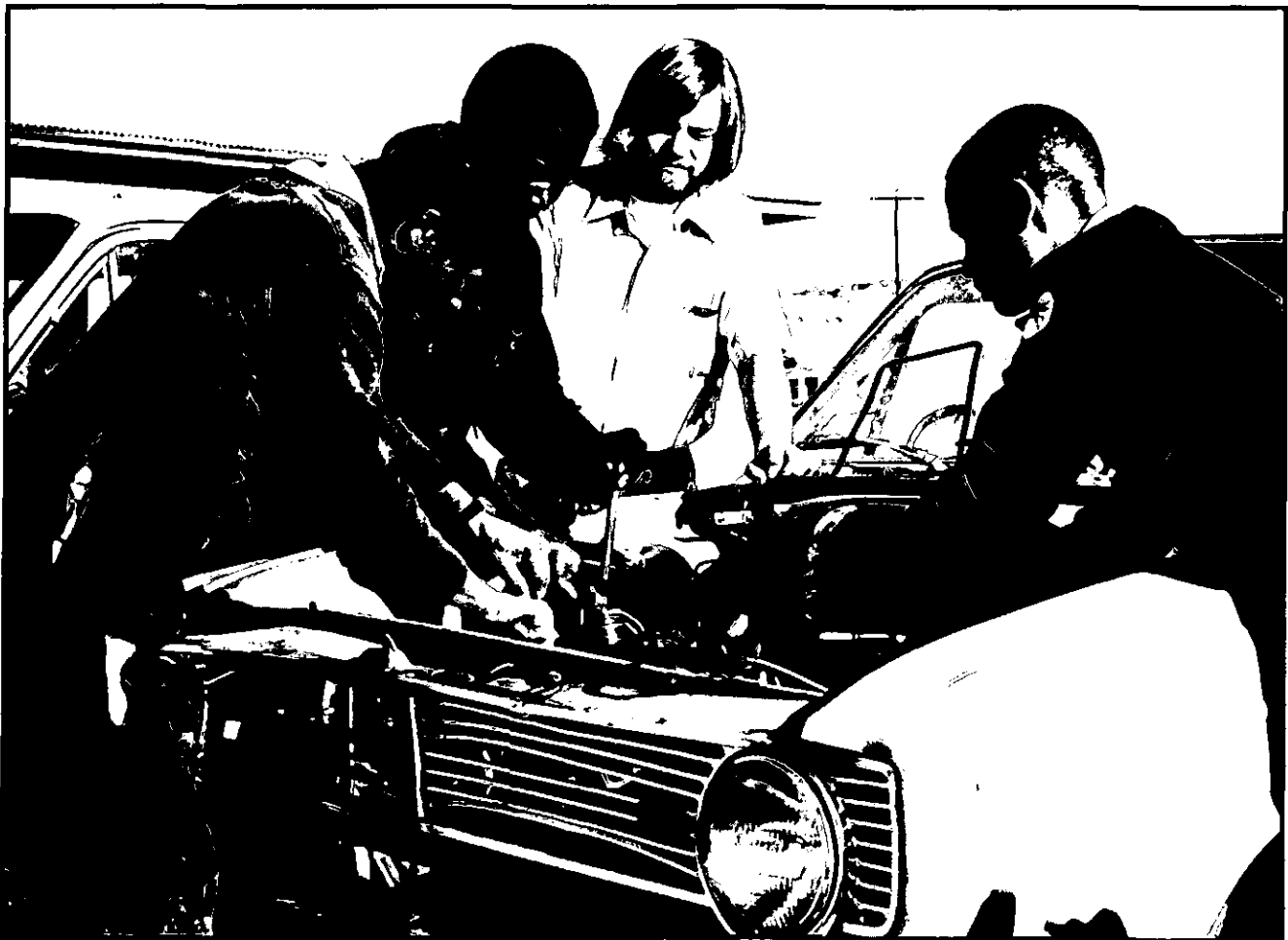
Kiribati

1973-Present

“Our lives and our minds were enormously impacted by our experience in Kiribati. Often, our thoughts return to Kiribati; to the life-long friendships forged between ourselves, the Kiribati people, the other Peace Corps Volunteers. Our senses relive the sights, sounds, and smells we came to cherish. We are forever changed by the people of that ‘tinynation’ who taught us to expand our consciousness to encompass a global perspective.” — PCVs Michael Herpel and Darcy Miller, Kiribati, 1979-1981

The residents on the rural islands of Kiribati are very much people of the sea. Traditional skills include fishing, cultivating babai, making and sailing canoes. Locally caught fish is the staple of the islanders’ diet, and the major export is copra — dried coconut meat, the source of coconut oil.

Until 1979 Kiribati was known as the Gilbert Islands, formerly a British colony. Local tradition claims the island chains were discovered by white-skinned, red-haired, red-bearded man who drifted ashore at Beru in a boat shaped like



PCV Jim Kelly of Issaquah, Wash., observes mechanics working on car in Maseru, Lesotho, in 1973.

a box, who took eight sisters as wives, and who had 23 children. The descendants of that stranger are now supposed to be scattered throughout the group of islands. Although the story has never been thoroughly investigated, it has been suggested that the red-bearded man may have been a survivor of a lost ship expedition in 1595.

On this small group of islands in the South Pacific, the Peace Corps originally developed programs in health, water supply, sanitation and construction. Michael Herpel and his wife, Darcy Miller, were among those working in a health and sanitation program. While maintaining Peace Corps' commitment to work in the rural areas of Kiribati, the programming emphasis has shifted to education — primary, secondary and vocational.

Herpel and Miller are living in Montana, where he is an artist and she is an assistant professor for special education at Carroll College in Helena.

Today 24 Peace Corps Volunteers are assigned to the outer island primary and secondary schools as English, science and math teachers. In the vocational education program, PCVs are involved in a variety of activities including formal classroom/workshop teaching, community workshops in appropriate technology areas and practical applications of skills within the training centers.



Health PCV Jean Mainer chats with Liberian children in 1979.

Laos

Summer 1991

A training group of 15 Peace Corps Volunteer candidates is expected to arrive here in June to establish the first-ever program in this ancient Asian land. Peace Corps Director Paul D. Coverdell set the stage for an historic agreement when he went to the Laotian capital of Vientiane last December. His visit was the highest level U.S.-Lao contact since the end of the war in Southeast Asia.

The Laotian government has asked that the initial emphasis of Peace Corps be primarily for language training so the pioneering PCVs here will be teaching English. Officials here have asked for assistance at teacher training colleges, government ministries and high schools.

Because of their desire for economic reform, the Laotians have also expressed a strong interest in obtaining help in training for small enterprise development — including the general areas of marketing, promoting foreign trade, statistics and management.

Lesotho

1967-Present

"I can still picture my village in Lesotho perfectly, with its small cafes, the post office, the bus stop. I remember

watching deep orange sunsets with my Basotho friends as we discussed local gossip; chasing tiny herdboys around in games of tag; and teaching students, who used candles for illumination while doing their homework, about the marvels of electric light bulbs." — PCV Thomas S. Wimber, Lesotho, 1985-1987

Thomas S. Wimber, who presently is a contract training officer for the Peace Corps, calls Colorado home but lives in the Washington area. He met his wife, Lori L. Wichhart, who works in the graduate advisor's office at American University's School of International Services, while they both were serving as Peace Corps Volunteers in Lesotho.

Wimber was a science teacher at Holy Cross High School in Mekaling, Lesotho, from January 1985 to December 1987.

"Peace Corps has garnered a lot of supporters over the past 22 years in Lesotho, while the Basotho have won a lot of friendships," he says. "To me it felt good to be there. Maybe it's simply a practical expression of the belief that we are all citizens of planet Earth and can live together."

Peace Corps was invited to Lesotho in 1967, one year after the country gained independence from Great Britain. A dramatically beautiful, mountainous country, Lesotho is the only country in the world completely surrounded by another country, the Republic of South Africa. Most of the nation's

(Continued on page 34)

Faces of the World

Best Photo Contest - Edited by Brian Liu



"Palm Sunday"

These three Honduran children in El Nispero, Santa Barbara, show off their Sunday best for PCV Herman Hinnenkamp.



"Brotherly love"

In Mali, Bwa Diallo eagerly accepts the responsibility of carrying his new baby brother. The display of brotherly affection inspired this photograph by California PCV Leah Newell.

"Dear Pittsburgh..."

School children in Sierra Leone correspond with fourth graders in Pennsylvania as part of a pen pal project initiated by PCV David O'Neill and his sister, who is a Pittsburgh elementary school teacher.





"Village women"

Two women from the village of Tengama in Papua New Guinea pause to pose for Kentucky PCV Kim Holsen, who serves with her husband in rural community development. The older woman on the right wears a traditional fiber necklace indicating she is in mourning. She chews on a betel nut in her left cheek.



"Bashful"

Manàma, a young woman from Banjul in The Gambia, shyly masks a smile with her hand as she carries freshly harvested bundles of rice along a scorched path. Bush fires ravage the area every dry season. Returning from the rice fields, PCV Sarah Payne of Winston-Salem, N.C., took this picture.



"Reflecting"

Along a street in Kigali, Rwanda, a young girl pauses for a moment of reflection. PCV Randy Perkins captured her in this contemplative mood.



"Let's pretend"

Near Altun Ha, a Mayan ruin in Belize, a group of five children play in a make-believe car. Idaho Volunteer Donna Statler, who is a teacher trainer, took the picture while on a morning outing.



(Continued from page 31)

people live in the lowlands which constitute about a fourth of the kingdom's landscape.

Education was the primary focus with the majority of the first 60 PCVs in Lesotho serving as secondary teachers although some were rural development workers and experts in health and nutrition. Throughout the time that Peace Corps has been here, there have been numerous program shifts but education remains the centerpiece of Volunteer activity. Current projects, however, include education, agriculture and health.

Liberia

1962-1990

"The Peace Corps experience offers a great opportunity for a person to broaden his or her understanding of our global village while at the same time addressing basic human needs. But I don't want to overly romanticize this experience. Accomplishments in the Peace Corps are winnowed out of frustrations in trying to adapt to different cultures, different concepts of time, strange food and loneliness from being away from more familiar surroundings. But somehow it works." — PCV Paul Henry, Liberia and Ethiopia, 1963-1965

U.S. Rep. Paul B. Henry, who served in both Liberia and Ethiopia, is a fourth-term congressman from Michigan's Fifth Congressional District. He still speaks today of the legacy of Peace Corps service.

"One comes home, two years later, with a sense of having contributed knowledge and skills to one's host country, while at the same time having been personally broadened with a more comprehensive and empathetic understanding of the Third World," Henry observes.

About the size of Ohio, Liberia lies at the southwestern

extremity of the western bulge of Africa and its coastline runs for 370 miles along the Atlantic Ocean. Close to 4,000 Peace Corps Volunteers served there over the years. They were involved with fisheries, forestry, education, rural development and health among other activities.

In the rural areas, PCVs found life difficult but rich in personal challenge. Many locales where they were placed lacked electricity or running water. Termites nibbled at the houses where they lived. These circumstances prompted one Volunteer to note: "All in all, it is a good life and the minor discomforts are more than offset by the overall satisfaction of my work."

Volunteers were called home from Liberia last year when civil unrest posed concerns for their safety and security.

Libya

1966-1969

"Thirteen years before, Libya was described as the world's poorest country. Thirteen years after, it was considered the capital of world terrorism. But for one brief shining moment in 1968-69, every Libyan fourth grader spent 12 hours a week learning English, courtesy of the Peace Corps. Instead of reshaping Libya's system of education, we became, thanks to (Libyan leader Moammar) Gadhafi's revolution, a minor footnote in that nation's history. But nine months in a Saharan oasis, without electricity or running water, without ever seeing a female or talking in English, was a time of solitude and beauty and learning that will affect my life forever." — PCV Bob Marshall, Libya, 1968-1969

Robert P. Marshall Jr., associate general counsel for Time Magazine in New York, joined the Peace Corps after graduating with a degree in American history from Harvard.



Husband-and-wife PCVs David Alpin and Susan Gardels train diver at Monkey Bay in Malawi in 1988.

Marshall served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in both Libya and in Tunisia.

"I was in Libya during the 1968-69 school year and in Tunisia the 1969-70 school year," he says. "I taught English in both places. The towns I lived in were Aujila, Libya and Tabarka, Tunisia."

Bob Marshall, who enrolled in Columbia Law School after his Peace Corps service and joined Time in 1976, still gets together with other PCVs who served in North Africa.

The first Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in the fall of 1966. A coup d'état in the fall of 1969 brought an abrupt end to the program here.

Peace Corps' presence in Libya was limited to teaching English as a foreign language. The host government felt that, in order for the country to develop further, a second language was necessary and English was chosen. In addition, both urban and rural children were to be taught and the Volunteers' willingness to go to the rural areas was greatly appreciated.

Teaching English at the primary school level seemed most beneficial as the young students tended to grasp it quickly and this built a solid base for the later grades. PCVs often encouraged students who they thought were capable of further advancement. This led to many close relationships.

Madagascar

Late 1991

The Peace Corps is awaiting a request by the government of Madagascar to establish a Peace Corps program there. Although no formal agreement has been made at this time, the people of Madagascar have expressed a sincere interest in receiving Peace Corps Volunteers to provide English instruction and to establish environmental and natural resources programs.

Malawi

1963-69 1973-76 1978-Present

"The cliché of the era fit me perfectly—I felt I received so much more than I gave. We were the American Peace Corps 'pioneers' to Malawi, and because of that had opportunities and experiences that groups to follow were never to have, except for those few who went into 'untouched' areas." — PCV Linda Millette, Malawi/Nyasaland, 1963-1965

Linda Millette of Upper Marlboro, Md., spent three years "in the bush" at a teacher training college in Mlanje as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Malawi was then known as Nyasaland.

Millette was a member of the Nyasaland I group of PCVs made up of 42 teachers.

"The Peace Corps gave me the opportunity for the first most important growth experience of my life," she says. "For it was in Malawi that I solidified my own values and the person I wanted to be as I ventured through life. The lives I touched and who touched me will forever remain a vivid part of me."

After leaving this small landlocked African nation in



PCV Mark Chamberlain samples beef brochettes from Fanta Koita, a Bamako vendor, in 1989.

December of 1965, Millette spent a year and a half hitchhiking through East Africa and North Africa, the Middle East and Europe. After 21 years, she was reunited with another Peace Corps Volunteer with whom she socialized while in her host country.

"We are now married and living most happily in the D.C. area where I am again looking for something with the challenge and reward I felt so long ago and an ocean away," she says.

The Peace Corps has been in Malawi three times. Differences with the host government over the role Volunteers should play prompted the earlier cancellations, but the Peace Corps returned in 1978 with the understanding it would provide PCVs with the skill levels required by Malawi. Presently, Volunteers work in health, enterprise development, education, and water and sanitation development. They also provide technical assistance in accounting, computer programming, engineering and business management.

Malaysia

1962-1983

"I went back to my town in Sabah almost 20 years after I was a Volunteer there and I never expected to see so many of my former students...From the capital up to my village and back, the thing that they kept telling me was that some of the best days of their lives were spent with me. They said, 'You taught us to think and to be different.'" — PCV Julia Chang Bloch, Malaysia, 1964-1966

The Honorable Julia Chang Bloch, who is currently serving as U.S. ambassador to Nepal, was among the first of 4,243 Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Malaysia over a span of nearly 21 years. In this tropical land of great contrasts,



PCV Joe Wirbicki, a fisheries specialist, strolls with Malaysian man in 1980.

they worked in agriculture, education and health programs.

"I would say that I'm an ambassador today in part, if not in large part, because of my Volunteer experience," Ambassador Bloch says. "I'm the first Asian American ambassador in U.S. history, and I say this because Peace Corps gave me a life-long interest in development and the Third World. It also really reaffirmed my own personal interest in international affairs."

The former PCV who became a diplomat believes that today's Peace Corps is different than the one she joined when she was 21.

"In those days, the Peace Corps was still a novelty," she says. "Commitment and the act of volunteering often were enough to carry the volunteer. The countries that we went to were very receptive. I think today developing countries have become more sophisticated. They're expecting volunteers to be more professional in the sense of having more skills."

Some PCVs in Malaysia worked in rehabilitation and psychiatric programs, concentrating on helping handicapped children. Others in agriculture programs assisted dairy farmers improve their milk production. Still others taught students math and science and vocational education. Volunteers also taught architecture and civil engineering.

Officially known as the Federation of Malaysia, this Southeastern Asia country consists of eleven states on the Malay Peninsula and two on the island of Borneo.



Bloch

Mali

1971-Present

"A remarkable truth about the Peace Corps experience is that it doesn't end with the completion of two years of service. My closest friend in Mali, Mama Fomba, in whose family I lived eight years ago, has since my departure opened her doors to two other Volunteers. The latest of these Volunteers brought Mama with her to the U.S. Reuniting with Mama in my home in Connecticut this fall reinforced for me the knowledge that the friendship, the connection of two worlds, even the local language in which we communicated, is still strong and will remain with me forever." — PCV Andrea D. Luery, Mali, 1983-1986

Timbuktu is typical of the thousands of small towns and villages in this landlocked African country, but the legendary outpost became synonymous with end-of-the-world remoteness. For the hundreds of Peace Corps Volunteers who have gone to Mali over the years like Andrea Luery, they have discovered it's a small world after all.

Luery, who is a development education coordinator for TechnoServe in Norwalk, Conn., was able to help show her Malian host, Mama Fomba, that people a half world away in America want to know and understand and learn about people in faraway places.

The first Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in Bamako, the capital of Mali, in the spring of 1971 to help lessen the hardships inflicted by a severe drought. Twenty-five strong, they developed projects in poultry raising, vegetable pro-

duction, water resource management and agriculture extension.

Currently, there are 150 PCVs working in the fields of integrated rural development, secondary education, community development, improved woodstoves, forestry, water resource management, vegetable gardening and small enterprise development. Despite being one of the poorest countries on earth, Mali is generally thought to have sufficient underexploited resources to allow substantial improvements in the standard of living.

Malta

1970-1977

1990-Present

The first Peace Corps Volunteers — two architects, one vocational education teacher, a librarian, a math/science teacher and a linguistics instructor — arrived here in 1970. In the spring of 1975, one of the high points of Peace Corps service in Malta came when Dr. Reynold Derrer, a Peace Corps Volunteer, assisted in the eradication of an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease.

A change in the political climate led to Peace Corps' departure from Malta in 1977, but the Peace Corps returned in 1990. The program in this Mediterranean island is small, but effective. In an effort to increase milk and beef production with the specific aim of ensuring adequate food supplies at relatively low prices, the government requested assistance in the areas of veterinary science and large animal husbandry.

As a result of massive tourism and limited land space, Malta has many environmental concerns which must be addressed. Peace Corps/Malta will conduct a pre-feasibility study on whether to establish an environmental education program in 1991.

Marshall Islands

1966-Present

"The Peace Corps made us a generation that believes in peace through person-to-person contacts across national boundaries. I think that vision is crucial to the survival of the planet now." — PCV Vicky Persinger Lee, Marshall Islands, 1966-1968

Dr. Victoria Persinger Lee, a clinical psychologist who directs the Palo Alto Institute for Group Therapy in California, served in a community development program on the island of Majuro, an atoll of the Ratak chain in the western Pacific.

Peace Corps has been in the Marshall Islands since 1966. Initially, the area was administered as part of a Peace Corps presence in all of Micronesia. However, at the request of the host government, an independent Peace Corps/Marshall Islands post was created in 1986.

Today the Peace Corps' programs in the Marshalls concentrate on education and health. Most common health problems in the islands are largely preventable, and Peace Corps Volunteers work on health education projects in the schools and their communities. Most education Volunteers teach English and health to seventh and eighth grade stu-



California Volunteer Erik Vidstrand weighs child using sling in village of Rkiz, Mauritania, in 1984.

dents in outer island elementary schools. Some secondary projects have included youth development, agriculture, fisheries, and handicraft production and marketing. Other Volunteers teach science or vocational subjects in a high school in Majuro.

Mauritania

1967

1971-1991

"When the heat, dust, flies, and endless meals of camel meat and rice would start to get me down, I could look out my door, see a group of Nomads riding their camels and realize how fortunate I was to be able to experience this scene that could have happened 1,000 years ago." — PCV Byron Morris, Mauritania, 1974-1976

The first dozen Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in

Mauritania in 1967 to build roads and dig wells, but Peace Corps' initial presence in this harsh land was less than a year long because the entire American mission was asked to leave when the Arab-Israeli conflict broke out. In 1971, the Peace Corps returned with one Volunteer working in a regional poultry project sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The next year, a second PCV came who also worked on a poultry project.

Over the next 10 years, Peace Corps provided PCVs to dig wells, teach English and mathematics, plant rice and vegetables, staff the Nouakchott Hospital in Mauritania's capital city, and work as nurses and social workers in maternal and child health care centers. In response to national priorities, Peace Corps in 1984 doubled the number of PCVs working in agriculture. The maternal and child care and preventative health education programs were combined. By the fall of 1986, a small number of Volunteers began teaching English around the country. In the fall of 1988, a forestry project started with five Volunteers.

The most recent program emphasis in this historic homeland of the Moors was on agriculture, in which PCVs worked on oasis and river basin extension projects; community health education, focusing on preventative health care; education, teaching English in lycees (high schools) and a teacher training college; and reforestation and dune stabilization. Because of present tensions in the Middle East, Peace Corps Volunteers were brought home earlier this year.

Byron Morris, who is a senior estimator for a large construction company in Atlanta, worked for the Ministry of Agriculture on a project to irrigate small vegetable gardens while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mauritania. Morris was first in Atar, where he set up a shop to repair and maintain irrigation pumps. Later, he worked in Tidjikja, where new pumps donated through USAID were introduced to the rural area.

"The project was not continued after my term of service because war in the Spanish Sahara made it too dangerous for Volunteers to remain in the area," Morris says, adding, "The friendships and understanding that I was able to share with people from a culture very closed to Westerners are my lasting contributions from the Peace Corps."



PCVs Vicki Anderson and Steve Dosh conduct nutrition class in Micronesian village in 1980.

Mauritius

1971-1975

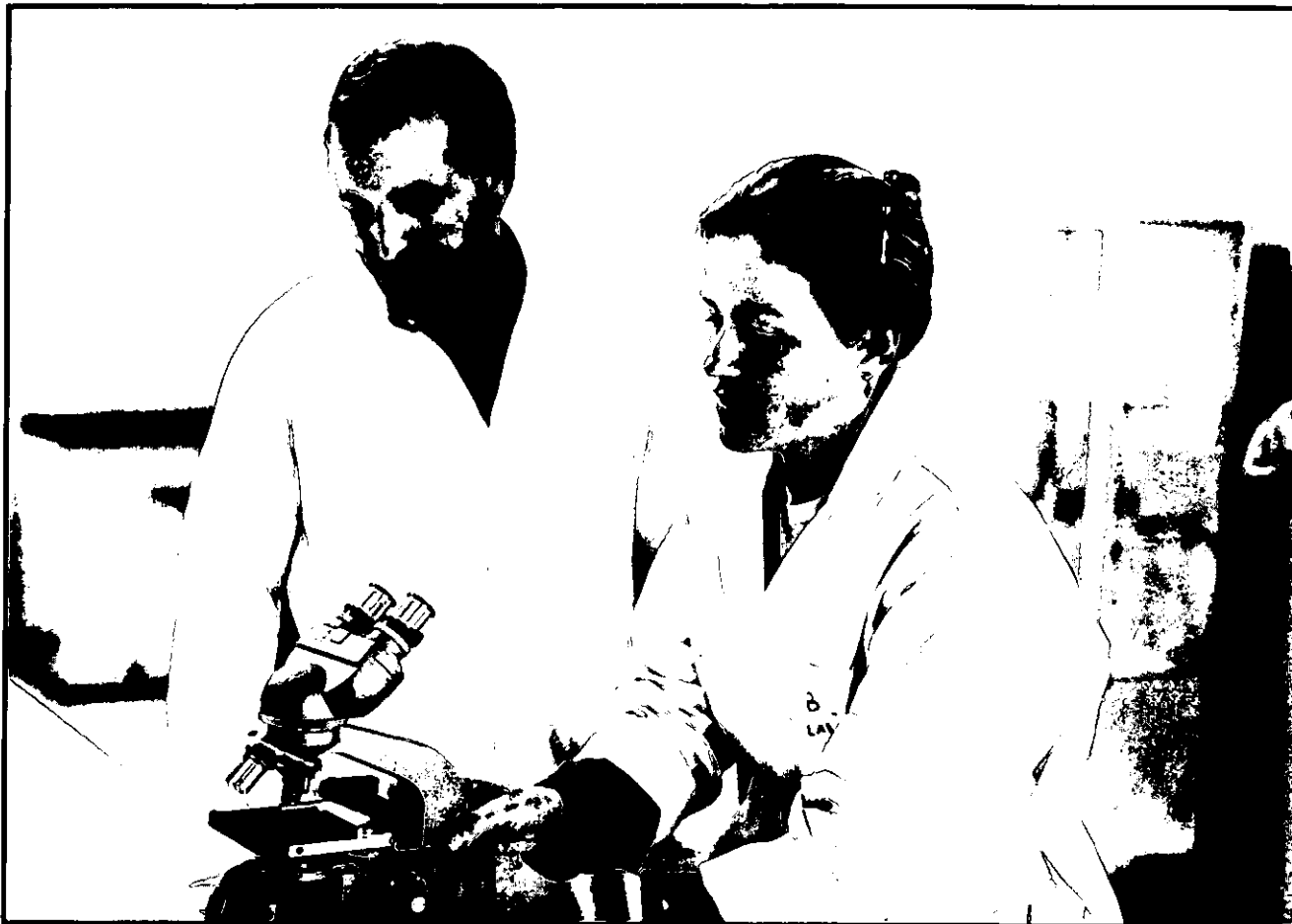
"Mauritius was a country of contrast: incredible beauty along with equal amounts of poverty. The Peace Corps effort helped towards industrialization, technology and development away from simplicity. Looking back 20 years, the island has prospered — in some ways for the better and others for the worse. Speaking of the experience, I would have to say that it changed each of us more than we changed it." — PCV Joseph Sauder, Mauritius, 1970-1972

Joseph Sauder was an education television specialist while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mauritius. He broadcast educational programming covering all subjects to upper high school levels across the entire island.

Today, Sauder is a senior television producer and director at a community college in Sparta, N.J.

During their brief stay on this island in the Indian Ocean, PCVs worked in various areas of oyster and shrimp production, including studying life styles, feeding habits, reproduction and growth patterns. These studies led to expanded production of the island's fishing industry.

The construction of salt and drying stations helped many fishermen. Programs to improve the raising of animals through feeding, pest control and cross-breeding and the establishment of an agricultural youth club were also implemented by Volunteers.



Veterinarians Senhaji Mohamed and Mia Hay, an Associate Volunteer, study slide in Morocco in 1990.

Micronesia and Palau

1966-Present

"I learned two valuable lessons as a result of my Peace Corps experience in Micronesia. I learned to say 'I'll try,' rather than 'I can't,' and I learned how important one's extended family is. Serving as a Volunteer helped me to get my priorities of life in order. I returned to the United States a changed person, for the better." — PCV Karen Edwin, Micronesia, 1979-1981

Karen Edwin, who teaches youngsters with behavioral disorders and learning disabilities in St. Louis, Mo., served on the island of Pohnpei, where she was a special education teacher trainer and program coordinator for deaf and retarded children. While serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the west Pacific, she started a program for severely handicapped children.

Six months after returning to the United States, she married Dony Edwin, a Pohnpein. They have three children. They live with her mother in keeping with the tradition of living together as an extended family.

Peace Corps' first agreement to serve in Micronesia was signed in the fall of 1966. Exactly 20 years later, when the Compact of Free Association with the United States became effective for the Federated States of Micronesia providing the FSM with authority for self-government, a country agreement with the Peace Corps was drafted. That agree-

ment was signed in a formal ceremony in Pohnpei in January of 1987.

Until January of 1986, the Marshall Islands were also considered part of Micronesia but the Peace Corps program for the Marshalls is now operated separately.

The Republic of Palau, where Peace Corps Volunteers also serve, is administered from Pohnpei along with the Peace Corps/FSM program. Palau remains the last trusteeship in the world.

In past years, more than a third of these PCVs in this island group have been involved in upgrading education. Many have also served in professional roles such as lawyers, architects, surveyors, engineers, small business advisors and public health nurses. Volunteers additionally have been involved in other community development roles as advisors, recreation leaders and assistants to local government personnel. A small group of PCVs has been working with the Yap state government's Division of Marine Resources since 1985.

Mongolia

Summer 1991

"Even Floridians can enjoy the winter. Pollution during the day is quite light, probably a little more than

(Washington) D.C. but much less than L.A. Nights are worse due to the burning of soft coal in the gers (tents)." — Country Director Charles W. Howell, Mongolia, 1991

Chuck Howell arrived in the capital of Mongolia, Ulan Bator, in late January to establish a Peace Corps office in advance of 15 American men and women who will begin training as Peace Corps Volunteers in Ulan Bator starting in June.

Upon Howell's arrival, the temperature hovered between minus 30 degrees and zero Fahrenheit. Howell, who will serve as country director in this remote land, went about his duties finding office space and housing bundled up against the cold. He was told in advance that winters here are cold but dry — much like those in the Midwest of the United States. By the time the first PCVs arrive, the weather should be more inviting. Summers in Mongolia are generally mild and pleasant.

Wedge between China and the Soviet Union, Mongolia boasts an extraordinary culture and a history going back 3,000 years. Covering 604,247 square miles, its landscape ranges from mountain areas with peaks that tower above 10,000 feet to vast deserts and flat unlimited spaces in the country's steppes.

The 15 first Peace Corps Trainees who are sent to Mongolia this summer and the 15 more who follow them in the second year will have to adjust to the isolation, diet and language. On one of his first shopping outings, Howell found bare shelves and long lines. Like other Peace Corps countries, there are challenges.

The Mongolia One group due in June will include 13 English teacher trainers who will be assigned to the National Institute of Foreign Languages and two computer specialists who will work with the Ministry of Health.

Mongolia has been a Soviet satellite for nearly 70 years, hidden to the outside world. It still remains one of the most inaccessible of all the countries in the world.

Morocco

1963-1991

"The Peace Corps program may or may not have changed their lives, but the Moroccan women we taught to sew on treadle machines and to make cinnamon rolls and pizza in the ferran (public oven) certainly changed mine. I returned to graduate school in anthropology, and wrote my dissertation on Moroccan women, trying to understand why their lively, proud behavior did not fit the Western stereotype of 'downtrodden submissive Muslim women.' I am still trying." — PCV Susan Schaefer Davis, Morocco, 1965-1967

"Witnessing Stevie Wonder's lyrics come to life in the third level English class of Morocco's Lycee de la Prison Civile in Casablanca made our perplexing language a personal adventure for the students, and helped to make education a life-long commitment for me. As a result, my efforts in higher education have focused on both multicultural and classroom climate issues on college campuses, and personally vivid images reborn each time I hear 'Living in the City.'" — PCV Greig M. Stewart, Morocco, 1974-1976



Pennsylvania PCV Charles Resnick rides along rural Nicaraguan electrification route in 1970.

Many things have changed since Susan Schaefer Davis first went to Morocco in 1965 to work as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the foyer feminin (women's centers) program. Urban women's dress has changed and veiled women are rarely seen in Rabat, the country's capital. This is related to the fact that women also are playing an increasing economic role in Moroccan society.

"I feel Moroccan women today are moving closer to reaching the potential of their contributions to society, with greater access than in the past to the tools that will allow them a full range of choices," she says.

Now an independent scholar and a consultant on adolescence, women and development in North Africa, Davis was on the faculty of Trenton State College in New Jersey and a visiting professor at Haverford College outside of Philadelphia. She also has written books on women and adolescence in Morocco.

Greig M. Stewart, the assistant dean of journalism at the University of Maryland in College Park, Md., taught English

in a regular school his first year as a Peace Corps Volunteer and was an instructor in a penitentiary the second.

"The Prison Lycee was an opportunity for a limited few," Stewart says. "For those few it was a chance — perhaps the first and only — at a future if they passed the national baccalaureate examinations, one of them in English. What lay in store for the successful students is unknown.... What is known is that those Lycee students were the best prepared and most conscientious (I) will ever have the privilege of teaching."

More than 2,800 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Morocco. The most recent PCVs were involved in a number of major areas of development including education, health and sanitation, agriculture, village water supply, parks management, endangered species protection and working with the handicapped in programs such as a blind mobility project. A group of nine American veterinarians also was working last year as Associate Peace Corps Volunteers under a new animal care program. The Associate PCVs were serving a one-year tour instead of the normal two years most Volunteers spend overseas.

Mozambique

Tentative 1991

The government of Mozambique is seeking support from the Peace Corps in its unending pursuit for development. Two ministries have made overtures to Peace Corps. The Ministry of Education participated in the first positive discussions of Peace Corps' entry into Mozambique followed by a formal letter of invitation from the office of the Ministry of Cooperation.

Since Mozambique was granted independence in 1975 from its Portuguese colonists, this African country has faced endless problems in development. The large private companies which had placed their emphasis on making large profits neglected the development of Mozambique's infrastructure.

Before 1975, more than 90 percent of the nation was illiterate and most people went without medical services. In the last 15 years the social policy has been based on free access to health care and education. Progress has been made in both areas. However, in 1989, only 327 doctors worked in Mozambique, less than 40 percent of whom were Mozambican. The same problems existed with regard to education since the state system was reaching only 40 percent of primary-age children.

Namibia

1990-Present

"Most of my energy in the classroom is directed towards building confidence within each student that they can succeed...It's fascinating watching a country trying to grow, and develop as an independent state, finally free of all colonial yokes." — PCV Ted Plosser, Namibia, 1990-1991

A bilateral agreement was signed on Sept. 19, 1990 — shortly after Namibia gained its independence — establishing the first-ever Peace Corps program in this new African nation. Because Namibia has decided to make English its official language, the Peace Corps and government of

Namibia agreed that English instruction was the best form of assistance to start a program here.

Peace Corps was able to quickly pull together a group of 14 experienced Peace Corps Volunteers from already established programs in other countries to serve as English instructors. These first Volunteers, who are serving a third year teaching in Namibia, arrived in Windhoek, the national capital, holding a banner with the Namibian flag and Peace Corps emblem sewn on it. Their splashy entrance was quickly followed by a second group of 15 Volunteers, also made up of educators with skills in math, science, English and teacher training.

As Namibia continues to build on its new freedom and sense of national unity, its national constitution declares a desire to "promote the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Namibian nation among and in association with the nations of the world." Volunteers like Ted Plosser are helping achieve this goal as they remind themselves they are serving in a nation of high hopes that is less than a year old.

Nepal

1962-Present

"The two years that I spent in Nepal completely changed the way I looked at everything, from the world all the way down to myself. I learned that while ethnic, religious and national differences between people are great, we all have the same aspirations for ourselves and our families." —

PCV James T. Walsh, Nepal, 1970-1972

A native of Syracuse, N.Y., U.S. Rep. James T. Walsh



Volunteer Rebecca Enns, from Reedley, Calif., street shops in Pokhara, Nepal, last December.

was elected to Congress in 1988. Before coming to the House of Representatives, he was a telephone company executive. The memories of Nepal, a small Hindu kingdom tucked between Tibet and India, remain strong for the 43-year-old federal lawmaker who served here as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Walsh is one of more than 2,700 Americans who have served in this picturesque land located in the shadow of the Himalayas. The first PCVs in 1962 trained their national counterparts in basic programs of agriculture and education. Peace Corps' endeavors today include such diverse programs as forestry, urban planning and nursing education.

The Peace Corps continues to enjoy the favor and respect of Nepal's monarchy as it strives to meet its development goals in the 1990s. Western-educated King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev's family has ruled since Nepal was first opened to foreigners in 1951. Events last year led to reorganization of the government and a political restructuring of the country continues to evolve.

In one of Peace Corps' most accomplished programs in Nepal, PCVs have designed, planned and constructed community water systems, rural suspension bridges, hill irrigation systems and mule trails throughout the hill areas of Nepal.

With rapid deforestation taking place, this environmental concern also is being addressed.

Nicaragua

1968-1979

Spring 1991

"(Serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer) taught me the value of appreciating cultural and language differences, and helped me to recognize the essential importance of a language and culture to a rich and full life. It helped me to understand that my own country is as multicultural and ethnically diverse as the world itself, and I know that I will always struggle to facilitate maintaining cultural and language expression among people here...Being in Nicaragua also taught me to maintain my revolutionary spirit, because the Nicaraguans are such loving, open, vital people dedicated to building a society which benefits its members. Patriotism and revolution have been a way of life for them for many years (not just in recent history) and they proved to me that these concepts are not mutually exclusive." —PCV Sharon Elliott, Nicaragua, 1973-1975

Sharon Elliott, who served as a health and nutrition Peace Corps Volunteer in remote areas of Nicaragua, currently is a clinical research coordinator at the University of Washington Medical Center Department of Radiology in Seattle. She also keeps busy these days volunteering in domestic work with early childhood bilingual-multicultural education programs.

Three years ago, Elliott returned to Nicaragua with a delegation from the Seattle-Managua Sister City Association. Her appreciation of the value of cultural and language differences was reinforced by the visit.

"I felt like I had come home," she says. "The courage and vibrancy of the people under extremely hazardous and punitive circumstances was a wonder, and a comfort. Mostly I took away feelings of love and a sense of acceptance, and



PCV Walter Pickett inspects flowering onions with agriculture official near Maradi, Niger, in 1980.

a willingness on the part of Nicaraguans to help the Norteamericana with a bad accent to learn to practice those two things in her dealings with the world."

For nearly a decade, this Central American country hosted Peace Corps Volunteers. Some PCVs helped markets improve sanitary conditions and gave advice on purchasing, storage, display, sales and record-keeping methods. Others helped families with pre-school children and assisted new farmers with irrigation, marketing systems and crop production.

In the wake of the democratic election here last year, the new Nicaraguan government is calling for fresh opportunities to establish relationships with its neighbors. A recent

sign of the country's turn from internal conflict to both internal and external development is its invitation to the Peace Corps to begin sending Volunteers this year.

In response to the severe problem of unemployment facing Nicaragua, Peace Corps will initially provide PCVs to work in vocational education and micro-enterprise development. The new government of Nicaragua has indicated that development priorities at this time include job creation, income generation, vocational training and health.

Peace Corps' re-entry into Nicaragua will begin this spring. Initially, the first group of American Volunteers will be 15 experienced individuals who have been serving elsewhere and already possess language skills, cross-cultural awareness and technical ability.

Niger

1962-Present

"That rare chance—to touch another heart across the bounds of cultures and learn all of us are the same—is what the Peace Corps meant to me." — PCV Beth Whitehouse, Niger, 1984-1985

Niger is a country dotted with small villages. Peace Corps Volunteers here abruptly come face-to-face with adjustments to climate, living conditions and a new culture. When Beth Whitehouse was 23, she quickly experienced these sudden changes.

"In my village, there was no electricity or running water, women with seven children and men with multiple wives were the norm, and the only telephone available to the villagers was in the post office," she recalled in an article in the Asbury Park, N.J., Press, where she is a staff writer today.

When Whitehouse prepared to leave Niger, a 16-year-old student with whom she had developed a close relationship put his hand to his chest and expressed his sadness by saying, "Miss. My heart." His message was a universal one.

Over the past few years, the Peace Corps has consolidated community agroforestry programs, small enterprise development nurseries and fuel-efficient stove projects into an environmental protection and education program. Volunteers also have initiated new math and science education programs. Forestry and agricultural activities have been expanded. During the 1960s, programming centered on education. Today there is still emphasis on teacher training programs that focus on teaching English as a foreign language.

Nigeria

1961-1971

Fall 1991

"Nigeria was such a vibrant and exciting country that it was impossible not to want to get to know about every part of it. The people were so warm and friendly and I have found that the wonderful feeling of having been there still lingers after all of the years that have passed." — PCV Sandra Frazier, Nigeria, 1966-1968

Sandra Frazier has been working for AT&T for the last 10 years. Currently, she is a training instructor with the

FTS2000 program, a new government telephone system. During the four years she spent as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the 1960s, she was an English teacher trainer in Kaduna, a large city in one of the northern provinces of Nigeria.

Volunteers assisted Nigerians in several key ways. Education programs, such as the one in which Frazier served, were particularly successful, especially in secondary education where PCVs alleviated a shortage of teachers in math and science. In technical schools, they taught industrial arts, English and liberal studies.

PCVs also worked in developing farming communities, establishing cooperatives to help in the production and marketing of farm products such as maize and kola nuts, agriculture education and working with youth through Young Farmers' Clubs.

Business-related PCVs worked with groups of professionals to establish associations through which they could all benefit by the availability of equipment and training.

After serving in this central African country for 10 years, Peace Corps left in 1971. There are plans to reinstitute a Peace Corps program here later this year, with 15 health volunteers tentatively scheduled to be in place in the fall.

Oman

1973-1983

"At the time I experienced Oman, it was a society suspended between two eras, ancient and modern. The Omani world view was in flux and somewhat incongruent. The lid had just come off their containment and they were vacillating between these two worlds. More than anything else, the job of the Peace Corps was to take a few friendly steps with them into the 20th century. Omanis are dignified people, respectful and hospitable, and received our advice and methodologies with a lot of good humor." — PCV Deborah Berry, Oman, 1975-1977

Situated on the Arabian peninsula, Oman hosted Peace Corps Volunteers for 10 years. Over that decade, 170 American men and women spent two years of volunteer service here.

Deborah Berry, a partner and database management director of a business services company in Columbus, Ohio, spent her two years as a PCV working as a medical social worker with the Public Health Department.

"My experience there served as fodder for the rest of my life," she says.

The Peace Corps provided assistance to rural areas and tribes in the delivery of health care services. Volunteers also were involved in training local medics and medical personnel.

Water sanitation and disease control were other projects where Peace Corps involvement contributed to Oman's economic and social development. Volunteers built sanitary facilities in remote areas of the country. They worked to control trachoma, tuberculosis, malaria and early childhood diseases through clinics and outreach programs.

Mountainous in the north, Oman has a 1,000-mile-long coastline. It is bounded on the north by the Gulf of Oman and on the east and south by the Arabian Sea.

Pakistan

1961-1967

1988-1991

"Serving as teacher trainers in Quetta, in the province of Balochistan, was so much more vital because we were closer to the people there. We were able to learn about development work at a very human level and we could see some of our results. We also felt rich in our understanding of an Islamic culture—especially now." —PCVs William "Bim" Schauffler and Jennifer W. R. Schauffler, Pakistan, 1990-1991

William "Bim" Schauffler and Jennifer W. R. Schauffler from Brookeville, Maryland, were in Pakistan for about a year when the entire contingent of Peace Corps Volunteers was brought back home in January because of the crisis in the Persian Gulf. He had been a teacher trainer at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., and she was working at the Industrial Bank of Japan before joining the Peace Corps. They say they now hope to dedicate their time to fulfilling the Peace Corps' third goal — promoting a better understanding among Americans of others in other parts of the world.

During the 1960s, Peace Corps Volunteers served in both East (now Bangladesh) and West Pakistan. Peace Corps first entered Pakistan with 60 PCVs skilled in public works projects. The program rapidly swelled to more than 200 before strained relations between Islamabad and Washington precipitated the withdrawal of PCVs from here in 1967.

In May of 1988, after an absence of 21 years, an agreement was finalized for Peace Corps' return to Pakistan. By the end of that year, Peace Corps was re-established in the country with a small group of English teachers working in teacher training colleges and universities.

After the program was resumed, a second group of nine Volunteers in special education completed training and assumed posts at institutions for the handicapped in several of Pakistan's urban areas.

Peace Corps was planning to increase the complement of Volunteers in the country and exploring programming in other areas, such as small enterprise development and community health, when Volunteer service was suspended for security reasons. A Peace Corps representative remains in place in anticipation of resuming the program at a later date.

Panama

1963-1971

1990-Present

"I felt a sense of small town life in Panama even though I grew up in a small town. There's a Spanish word, pasear, which means to pass around, to walk around. I remember walking around, enjoying the evening air, seeing the people, the Panamanians." —PCV Steve Spangler, Panama, 1964-1966

One of the things about Peace Corps Volunteers that impresses Steve Spangler, a management analyst for the

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Washington, is how they stay in touch and involved with their host countries long after they have left.

"The politics, the culture, the people — it never goes away," according to Spangler, a resident of Arlington, Va., who worked in community development as a PCV.

A foundation was laid for staying in touch when Spangler helped organize an alumni group of returned PCVs, Peace Corps Panama Friends, for the 25th anniversary of this worldwide volunteer organization.

"There was little contact from 1964 to 1986," Spangler said. "It had been 20 some years since all of us had been there. In the last four years, our group has grown from six to seven names to over 400."

Peace Corps was contacted by the Panamanian government in February, 1990, about resuming a program in Panama following the overthrow of the Noriega regime and installation of a new democratic leadership. PCVs here will work in agriculture extension, agro-forestry, forestry extension, environmental education, small business development and community development. Recognizing the universal importance of the Panama Canal watershed, American Volunteers will help show the Panamanian people ways to stem natural resource degradation under an integrated agriculture-natural resources program.

Six experienced Peace Corps Volunteers transferred to Panama last fall to form Panama 21 — the 21st group of American men and women to serve in Panama since 1963. Several training groups are scheduled to be sworn in during the current year, bringing the number of PCVs by the end of 1991 to around 40.



This cartoon is as topical today as in the 1960s.

Papua New Guinea

1981-Present

"This fledgling democracy has diverse difficulties and possibilities. We miss the people and the country." —PCVs John and Donna Smith, Papua New Guinea, 1981-1984

John P. Smith, a Realtor in the District of Columbia, and Donna Smith, who designs and produces jewelry, have striking memories of their stay in Papua New Guinea as Peace Corps Volunteers.

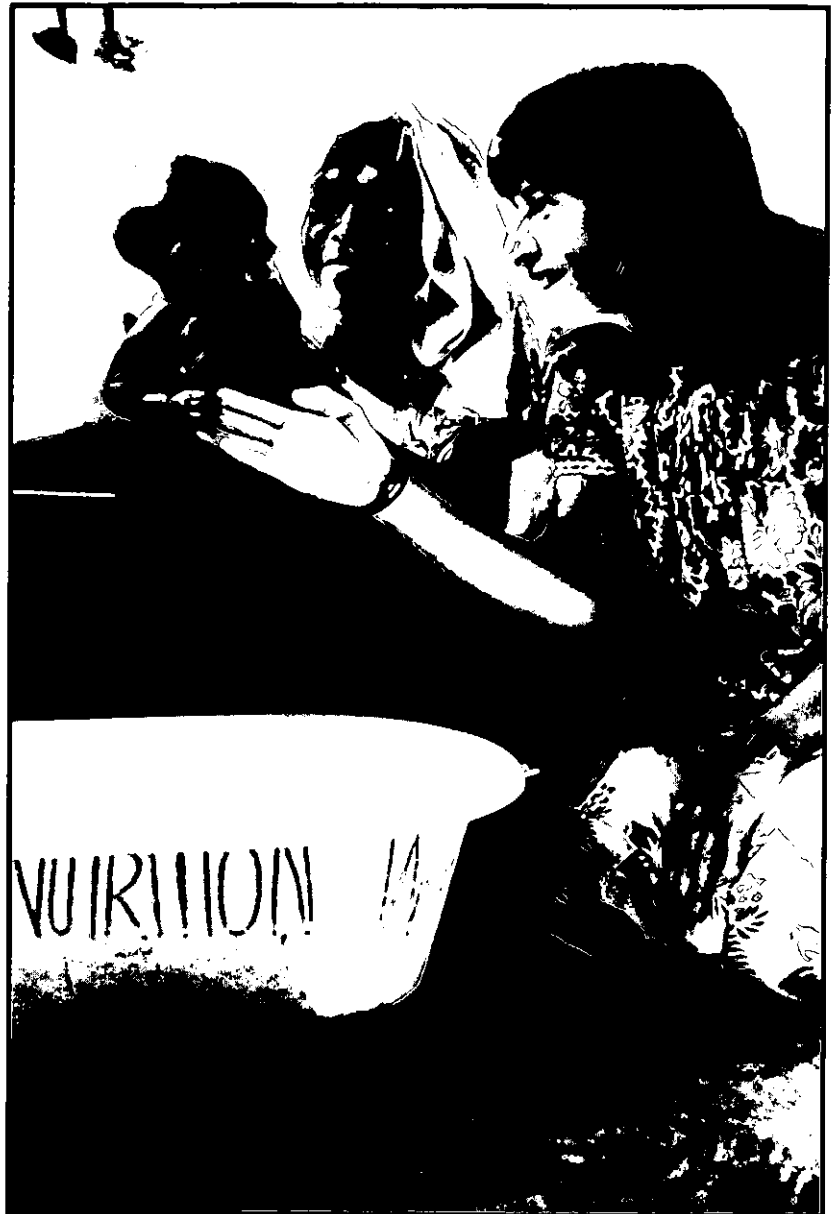
"Rain forests, volcanic islands, snow-covered mountains, expansive swamps and extensive river systems provide homes to more than 700 cultures," they remember. "The travel brochures say it's like no place you've been."

The Smiths, who previously served as Peace Corps Volunteers from 1978 to 1981 in Guatemala where they worked with 4-H clubs, were among the first nine PCVs to arrive in this island nation of more than 3 million people in September of 1981. They worked on a UNICEF project promoting nutrition in one of the most malnourished areas of the country.

Before joining the Peace Corps, John Smith majored in sociology and minored in anthropology while Donna Smith studied metal sculpturing.

The number of Americans serving in PNG now is about eight times the number in the original group of PCVs here a decade ago. They range in age from 22 to 70. They work in health, secondary education and rural community development projects. Some are striving to develop safe and reliable water supplies in four provinces. One project with six PCVs was started in 1988 to establish an agricultural bank development program.

Located north of Australia, Papua New Guinea provides Peace Corps Volunteers continuing challenges.



Carleen Pantano helps bathe malnourished baby in PNG in 1988.

Paraguay

1967-Present

"My experience as a Volunteer in Itacurubi del Rosario, Paraguay forced me to see myself 'up close and personal.' I saw myself react, act, fail and succeed right out there in the central plaza! The people of Paraguay opened up their hearts and homes to me, long before I had deserved that honor, and for which I will forever be in their debt. I often dream of what the world would be like if each RPCV practiced at home the acceptance which they felt in the

countries where they served." — PCV Kate Raftery, Paraguay, 1976-1979

Kate Raftery has seen Peace Corps from many dimensions. Between 1973 and 1984, Raftery served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay, a Peace Corps trainer in Costa Rica and El Salvador, the programming and training officer in Paraguay, and the programming and training officer in the

agency's Inter-America Region in Washington, D.C.

Raftery returned to Peace Corps in May of last year as chief of operations in Washington for the Inter-America Region after almost seven years as the vice president at Partners of the Americas. She also was co-founder of the Friends of Paraguay and served as co-chair of a 1987 reunion of former PCVs who served in this landlocked country in the heart of South America. The reunion was the first of its kind ever held and a poster hanging in Raftery's office is a reminder of the sentimental gathering.

Peace Corps/Paraguay has had a well received program

for well over two decades. The people of Paraguay have worked with PCVs in the areas of agriculture, health, small business, education and conservation. Peace Corps has been the catalyst for forming creative coalitions of government and non-government organizations and Peace Corps Volunteers to address challenges facing the country, such as the environment.

In the natural resources arena, Peace Corps has been working with various host country agencies to stem the destruction of various soil, forest and wildlife resources.



PCV Susan Wier notes special occasion as she makes periodic visit to Paraguayan village of Chacarita in 1980.

Peru

1962-1975

"My Hispanic background served as a bridge for me when I began my Volunteer service — while my peers struggled for a short time with the language and culture, I was off and running as soon as I got there. Now, my Peace Corps experience serves as a bridge in my work, equipping

me with the insight and sensitivity to connect differing cultural backgrounds between my subject and readers." —

PCV Ron Arias, Peru, 1963-1964

Ron Arias, senior writer for People magazine and author of "Five Against The Sea," was one of 2,470 Peace

Corps Volunteers who served in Peru. Over a 13-year span, PCVs worked in agriculture, education and urban development programs.

When Peru was struck by a devastating earthquake in 1970, Peace Corps Volunteers were there to pitch in as recovery efforts began and to help rebuild the country's infrastructure. Volunteers with backgrounds in civil engineering, carpentry, masonry and architecture helped redevelop roads, water and sewage systems, and housing.

Peace Corps Volunteers assigned to agriculture programs worked on livestock projects, crop cultivation and rural planning. Other PCVs were involved in training elementary school teachers and working with handicapped rehabilitation programs. Peruvian agencies involved them in feeding thousands of school children.

Because of PCV efforts, the economy of this South American republic was notably improved.

"The community development program in Peru is healthy," a 1963 evaluation report noted. "There appear to be no big or dramatic problems. In general, the program exhibits vitality, maturity and stability."

The report concludes: "We are in Peru, we are accepted and we are wanted. The Peace Corps idea is working."



Volunteer Bob Loew takes break from Peruvian earthquake relief in 1970.

Philippines

1961-1990

"Nothing in my life has been the same since I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines 30 years ago. I am indebted to the Philippines and Filipinos for my understanding of the meaning of poverty and my awareness of giving of self without sacrificing the human spirit. I am indebted to President Kennedy and the Peace Corps for being able to serve my country as a peacemaker." — PCV Marjorie Pfankuch Bakken, Philippines, 1961-1963

Marjorie Pfankuch Bakken was a member of the Philippines I class of Peace Corps Volunteers, the first to go to

the Philippines. Her group started what became one of the oldest, most successful Peace Corps programs in terms of measured successes and largest in the world in terms of numbers of PCVs who served.

In the fall of 1961, the government of the Philippines invited Peace Corps Volunteers to tackle assignments in math and science education. When Bakken went overseas as a PCV, she served as one of the first educators there. Today she is academic dean of Wheelock College in Boston, but she is on sabbatical leave this academic year while she studies at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

In 1970, the program in the Philippines shifted to areas

of health and nutrition, agriculture and income-generation as a result in the change in the priorities of the Philippine government. Program objectives more recently were designed to respond to the needs of Filipinos by working primarily at the grassroots, rural level for social, economic and ecological development. Specific project areas where PCVs worked included agro-forestry, agriculture production, fisheries, deaf education, teacher training at the sec-

ondary and primary levels with emphasis on English, math and science, and water and sanitation/health activities. There was almost no limit to the tasks PCVs could assume.

Last summer the program in the Philippines was suspended for security reasons. It is hoped that the longstanding relationship with the Filipino people can be renewed in the future.



Wading ankle-deep in a rice paddy, Philippines Volunteer Ronald Ratner coaxes his pet water buffalo.

Poland

1990-Present

"I applied in October of 1989, before there was anything announced about Poland, to do the Peace Corps after college. Then, I guess it was February or January when someone called and said, 'If you got Poland, how would you feel about that?' Well, of course, elated to have the chance to go to Eastern Europe." — PCV Catherine Peebles, Poland, 1990-1992

Catherine Peebles of Reston, Va., is one of 60 Americans who were in the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers sent to Poland to serve as English teacher trainers. The Poland "pioneers" range in age from 21 to 70.

"You forget in the daily grind of work that this is really something special," Peebles says.

Using donated textbooks, PCVs like Peebles are help-

ing to nourish new ideas in this fledgling democracy as they teach English — the language of commerce and technology — to Polish students who have never heard native English speakers before now. The Peace Corps has men and women assigned to both teacher training colleges and secondary schools.

"I think that the Peace Corps — our presence here — will change the quality of English education for the better," says Peebles, who adds that there's "a horrible lack of English teachers in Poland," where in the past only outdated language textbooks have been available.

The Peace Corps has started a small business program to work with local governments in Poland on economic development, and plans to launch an environment management and education program.

Romania

Spring 1991

Fairytale settings often found in storybooks about Romania belie the deep social concerns — particularly among children — as this European republic pushes toward new democratic horizons.

Fifteen Americans this month will form the first team of Peace Corps Volunteers ever to serve in this European nation. With backgrounds in early childhood development, special education and community development, their objective will be to help improve conditions in the country's institutions for children.

The dire need for humanitarian assistance became apparent after the fall of the 24-year-old Ceausescu regime. It was determined that Peace Corps Volunteers would be welcomed and could provide much needed assistance in the orphanages that had been created during the Ceausescu years.

The work that the first group of PCVs will do in Romania will have a powerful impact here. By providing a solid educational foundation for Romania's orphaned children, Peace Corps Volunteers will help restore hope for a brighter future for the entire nation.

While Peace Corps efforts will focus on children in institutions, the educational models, once developed, will be

applicable to schools throughout Romania. PCVs will also work to create a more normal atmosphere that will better prepare the children for life outside of the institutions by encouraging more community participation in the children's activities.

In Romania, the Peace Corps will work in collaboration with the newly formed Citizens Democracy Corps created by President Bush. Volunteers will be attached to the Romanian Ministries of Health and Education.

Rwanda

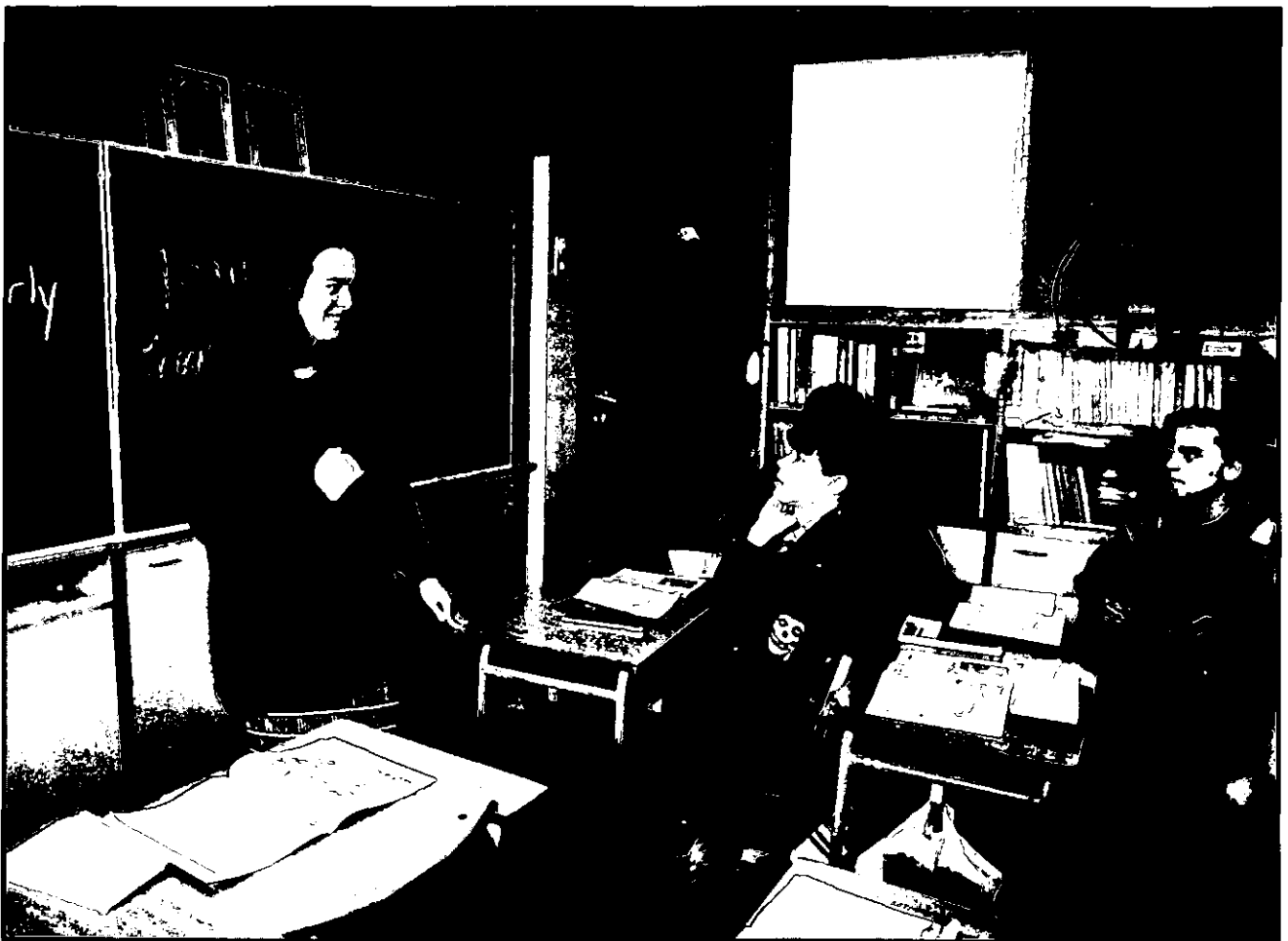
1975-Present

"As a teacher, I am accustomed to helping people understand and master new concepts. As a university English instructor in Rwanda, I felt as if I spent my days as a student, constantly rediscovering English language and literature through the minds of my students. I hope some of the connections I found between languages and cultures help me teach now that I'm back in the U.S., working with students who have difficulty imagining life in faraway lands."

— PCV Patricia Henson, Rwanda, 1989-1990

Patricia Henson, an English instructor at Louisiana State University, taught English as a foreign language at the National University of Rwanda when she was a Peace Corps Volunteer. She is one of nearly 100 Americans who have served here.

Peace Corps entered Rwanda in 1975 with three Volun-



Virginia Volunteer Catherine Peebles teaches English to Polish students in Bialystok in 1990.

teachers in university education and one assigned as a home economics teacher trainer. Later, programming expanded into fisheries and agriculture. Today there also are programs in health, forestry and environmental education. In addition, PCVs have worked as marketing coordinators for youth training centers and acted as agricultural cooperative advisors.

With the highest population density in Africa and a shortage of land, Rwanda is struggling to obtain self-sufficiency. To improve agricultural trade opportunities with English-speaking nations in East Africa, Peace Corps Volunteers provide English training. Last year the Peace Corps also sent its first math and science teachers here to work in secondary schools.

In the health field, PCVs combat childhood malnutrition by helping Rwanda's Ministry of Health staff and operate nutritional programs at many of the 170 rural health centers in the country. One volunteer, a physical therapist, worked with disabled children, most of whom are victims of polio.

Known on the African continent as "Land of a Thousand Hills," Rwanda is located only 2 degrees south of the equator. Rwanda's high elevation — most of the country is at an altitude of over 5,000 feet — contributes to its temperate climate. Some PCVs have helped create a national park — the Parc de Nyungwe — in the highlands of this small, landlocked country in east-central Africa.

Sao Tome/Principe

1990-Present

Peace Corps Volunteers came to this West African island nation for the first time in October of last year. These six Americans are living and working on the main island of Sao Tome, providing greatly needed help to this small nation's health sectors.

Volunteers are focusing on the areas of nutrition education and providing technological answers appropriate to the health needs of the people. The goals of Peace Corps' health sector program are to assist in the education of school children and rural communities in the areas of nutrition, hygiene and primary health care; to improve the general health care infrastructure by aiding in the construction of and instruction in the use of latrines, potable water systems and school kitchens; and to promote small community development projects at the grassroots level.



Pennsylvania PCV Steve Berger retrieves water from well in Senegalese village in 1977.

Senegal

1963-Present

"Peace Corps teaches how interconnected the world really is. Development is not something which is done over there, rather it is something which is hopefully done every day in every country. Whether we believe it or not, our daily actions in the United States, the amount of resources we use, etc., do influence the life of the people living in Tchingue, Senegal. I realized this the first time I tried to explain to Bathie Ngom why the price offered for his peanuts was decreasing while the prices he had to pay for his fertilizer and other inputs was increasing." — PCV Stephen Leisz, Senegal, 1986-1989

Stephen Leisz, who worked as a forestry extension agent in and around Tchingue, Senegal, for his first two years of Peace Corps service, spent his last year acting as departmental coordinator for the Peace Corps' African Food Systems Initiative (AFSI) in Nioro du Rip, Senegal. He presently is working as an assistant editor for Educational Services Corp., a publisher of foreign language courses on audio cassette, in Washington, D.C. He also has been accepted to start work on his Ph.D. in land resource management at the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin - Madison beginning this fall.

As a Peace Corps Volunteer forestry extensionist in this

West African country, Leisz worked with community and private nurseries, successfully starting six. He also discussed natural resource management issues in formal classes at a local primary school and informally in the community.

While he was involved with AFSI, Leisz worked with seed storage trials, millet variety trials, and did forestry baseline data research to prepare for the start-up of the forestry component of the food initiative program.

"In Niore, I worked throughout the whole department with a wide range of people, from government officials to local farmers," he says.

Senegal is about the size of South Dakota with seven times the population, almost half of whom are under 19. The first 15 Peace Corps Volunteers who arrived here in 1963 were English teachers. Today the priority of Peace Corps programming in Senegal is placed on rural development, small business development, natural resources, rural health and university education with a focus on training Senegalese English teachers.

Seychelles

1974-Present

"My time in the Seychelles was a real personal awakening for me and has remained significant in that I followed through with something I really wanted to do." — PCV Mike Jensen, Seychelles, 1980-1982

"The Peace Corps was not my first overseas experience. I had travelled before, but it did open up the possibilities in terms of international development work. We had a widely diverse group of people from all over America and I'd like to think that we made a significant impact on the development of this young nation." — PCV Kofi Owusu, Seychelles, 1979-1981

Mike Jensen built roads in the Seychelles. Now he is building bridges in Montana.

Jensen, who was an engineer attached to a national public works program while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer here, is a structural engineer in Missoula these days.

"Peace Corps/Seychelles was a very unique, rewarding experience that has made me the envy of all Montanans," he says. "There's no other place on the planet I'd rather return to."

Kofi Owusu, a media specialist and consultant in Washington, D.C., was involved in audio-visual productions as a PCV in the Seychelles.

"I am very proud of some things I did," he says. "There was no television when we were there but we helped lay the foundation for what is now their national television system.

"As an African American," he adds, "I recommend the Peace Corps highly to any black students or young professionals who want to start out doing something which will have a lasting, positive impact on their own lives as well as others who are less fortunate. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity that you can grow with."

The Seychelles is a tropical paradise, largely isolated from the rest of the world, but not immune to the problems

of a young nation. A group of islands widely scattered over the western Indian Ocean, the Seychelles has hosted Peace Corps Volunteers since 1974. Peace Corps' program is aligned with the Seychelles government's plans to help meet the basic needs of its people in education, water and sanitation, road construction and traffic engineering, and health, nutrition and maternal child care.

Noted accomplishments include the development of the first occupational therapy program at the country's nursing home, the publishing of a Ministry of Health newsletter, a calories count pamphlet and the establishment of an on-going weight reduction clinic for hypertension patients.



Nebraska PCV David L. Beyer climbs palm, hunting for coconuts in Sierra Leone in 1976.



A Korean bamboo worker weaves basket under watchful eyes of PCV Larry Geiter, of Brockport, N.Y., in 1975.

Sierra Leone

1962-Present

"It's hardly possible that a quarter-century has passed since I worked as a Peace Corps teacher in Sierra Leone. I have always felt that it was I, rather than my students, whose education made the greatest leaps during those two years."

— PCV Martin Puryear, Sierra Leone, 1964-1966

Since leaving the Peace Corps, Martin Puryear has become an award-winning artist. A noted sculptor who maintains a studio in New York, Puryear's work can be seen today at the Donald Young Gallery in Chicago. His creations also have been seen worldwide in such diverse places as Mexico, Italy, Brazil and Sweden as well as the United States. While he was a PCV in 1965, he was part of a group exhibition in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

"From my present perspective, I feel the greatest privilege (serving in Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer) was the opportunity to see my country and its beliefs from a vastly different point of view at a relatively early stage in my life," Puryear says.

Puryear, a native of Washington, D.C., learned traditional techniques of wood craftsmanship from African carpenters while in the Peace Corps. As a PCV, he was a secondary school teacher of English, French, biology and art.

Sierra Leone — or "lion mountain" — was given its name by Portuguese explorers who likened the claps of thunder rolling over the coastal hills of this West African nation to the roar of the great jungle cat. Despite its fierce name, the people here have been hospitable to the Peace Corps ever since the first Volunteers arrived shortly after the

republic gained its independence from Britain in 1961.

Today, Peace Corps provides approximately 125 Volunteers to predominantly rural settings throughout the country. The principal areas of focus are education, health and food production. In addition, recent commitments by the government of Sierra Leone have established a forestry program with projects in national park development, conservation education and resource management.

Solomon Islands

1971-Present

"Peace Corps was absolutely the most profound experience in relativity: how people are all related and how different life can be lived, and I have very few absolutes anymore. Solomon Islanders build temporary houses and lifetime relationships." — PCV Margaret Cheney, Solomon Islands, 1981-1984

Margaret Cheney served with her husband, Elwood Robinson Jr., in the Solomon Islands as community development Volunteers. They now live in Norfolk, Va., where she is an interviewer with the Virginia Employment Commission and he is a theatrical designer.

Peace Corps' involvement in the Solomon Islands began in 1971 with the placement of six Volunteers, four of whom worked with the World Health Organization on malaria eradication efforts. In 1976, Volunteers were involved in the national census, collecting reliable population and economic data for government planning purposes. Volunteers also served as small business advisors and primary education instructors.

In the late 1970s, Peace Corps altered its program focus in response to the development plans of the newly independent government. The plans placed special emphasis on government decentralization, self-reliance and local determination. Peace Corps/Solomon Islands initiated a community development project as a response to government development priorities.

Today, while Peace Corps programming continues to emphasize community development, the Solomon Islands program has substantially increased its involvement in the area of secondary education, particularly in the academic subjects of science, math and business studies. Other programs include health, agricultural and natural resource development, and appropriate technology.

Somalia

1962-1970

"Sharing in the problems the Somalis found as they attempted to build their new nation gave me enormous appreciation for the vision and wisdom of our own founding fathers." — PCV Thomas E. Petri, Somalia, 1966-1967

U.S. Rep. Thomas E. Petri of Wisconsin was one of 418 Americans who served in the Somali Democratic Republic (also known as Somalia) in East Africa. Education was the main program emphasis.

The first wave of Peace Corps Volunteers taught English, math, science and social studies in secondary and intermediate schools. Later groups were assigned to all three educational levels starting with primary students. They came in regular contact with more than 7,000 students in both day and evening classes.

Assigned to the southern region of the country, PCVs starting their service in 1965 accelerated the English language program where Italian had previously been the exclusive language of instruction.

When not pursuing their teaching assignments, PCVs were involved in building windmills, taking the population census, gardening, adult education and school construction.

South Korea

1966-1981

"Korea seemed to grow and change before my eyes....directed and nurtured by a culture so rich in tradition and human spirit that to not grow and change myself would have been impossible." — PCV Margaret Pollack, Korea, 1978-1981

Margaret Pollack, special assistant to the chief of staff of the Peace Corps in Washington, worked for three years in a rural health program

"I didn't rid the country of tuberculosis, but I did make a dent and had an experience of a lifetime trying," she recalls. "I hope the Koreans who I worked with would say the same thing."

Pollack was one of the 2,155 Peace Corps Volunteers

who served in South Korea. For those 15 years, they taught English to thousands of Koreans in middle schools and universities. They worked with deaf, blind and other handicapped students in special education programs and helped set up Korea's Special Olympics program. And Volunteers like Pollack, assigned to tuberculosis and leprosy control and maternal and health care programs, worked in rural health centers supported by the Korean Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to identify and treat health needs of people throughout the country.

The Hansen's Disease (leprosy) program provided a tremendous opportunity for Peace Corps Volunteers to assist patients living in the 96 "leprosy villages" around the country. The PCVs not only provided treatment, they also helped to organize income-generating projects in the villages. Their work increased the attention given this special population by the Korean medical profession.

Sri Lanka (Ceylon)

1962-64 1967-70 1983-Present

"Was I ever able to really accomplish anything there? In terms of measurable and sustainable projects, no. I do know, however, that I deeply cherish the memory of the little girl in my Brownie troop who suddenly stopped stroking my wrist to exclaim, 'Aunty, you're white!' And I still recall the student who honored me at graduation exercises with the words, 'Miss, we forget you are American.' For me, these were successes." — PCV Margie Legowski, Sri Lanka, 1987-1989

As an English language teacher/advisor, Peace Corps Volunteer Margie Legowski experienced her first curfew, her first anti-government strike and, in essence, her first civil war. Against this backdrop, some PCVs wondered at times their reasons for being there but Legowski felt Peace Corps had a role to play in this resplendent isle despite the conflicts and underlying troubles.

"Thus, I look back and remember, not the lessons and exams, not the SPA (small project assistance) funding and water scheme, but my daily encounters with my colleagues and friends—the people who had become my first priority."

Today Legowski is an education specialist with the Peace Corps' World Wise Schools program. At the time she was in Sri Lanka, her host country was going through troubled times. The Peace Corps experience has improved dramatically since the summer of 1989 and Legowski would be among the first to tell potential PCVs to go there.

In January of 1983, the government of Sri Lanka expressed interest in having the Peace Corps return. The Peace Corps had been in the country twice before. In both instances, it was asked to leave when there was a change in political parties.

With the current situation now stabilized in areas of the country where PCVs are assigned, the present Peace Corps programs here are concentrated on improving English language skills and agricultural productivity at the village level.

Sudan

1984-1986

"The Sudanese were not familiar with Peace Corps and certainly not accustomed to seeing Americans live in their villages or neighborhoods. I think they respected what we tried to do and how we lived." — PCV Mary Clarkin, Sudan, 1984-1986

The Peace Corps' stay in this Northeast African country was brief, but the programs touched important areas of development. Charcoal is an important fuel in Sudan and the Peace Corps Volunteers worked on improved kiln design, introducing these designs to producers and monitoring their use. Improved woodfuel combustion systems helped industries in brickmaking, baking and lime production. The PCVs also addressed some of the concerns over rapidly disappearing stands of forest by working with farmers through agro-forestry projects to halt the destruction of fuelwood.

Mary Clarkin, a reporter for The Hays Daily News in Kansas, worked on the Sudan renewable energy project. She was one of five Volunteers sent to Sudan in 1984 as part of a Peace Corps experiment. The agency did not set up a separate office in the country.

All five PCVs worked on the same project. Jim Adams started a tree nursery; Kevin McNally worked with stovemakers; Jon Dorre teamed with charcoal-makers; and Brad Tyndall and Clarkin promoted fuel-efficient stoves. A 1,000-home survey monitored the acceptance of new stoves, and a book later chronicled the stove program's successes and failures. A national agro-forestry seminar spurred dialogue between foresters and farmers, and workshops taught nursery workers and stovemakers new techniques.

"We tackled projects that seemed, at the outset, too ambitious," Clarkin says. "And I remember the pride we and our counterparts felt to see something succeed."

The Volunteers, along with other Americans, were evacuated out of Sudan in April 1986, following the U.S. bombing of Libya. No other Volunteers have been sent here since.

Swaziland

1968-Present

"My experiences were nothing special for a Peace Corps Volunteer. By other standards, they were out of this world. I can remember driving over miles of unpaved roads, entering a settlement, introducing myself to a startled trader, a gentleman who immediately became my pupil in the craft of modern bookkeeping." -- PCV Christopher Matthews, Swaziland, 1968-1970

Chris Matthews, chief of the Washington bureau of the San Francisco Examiner, recalled his memories from two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in one of his syndicated columns.

"There was tedium, certainly, but also the adventures of a lifetime," he wrote. "Who but a Peace Corps Volunteer would have the audacity to hitchhike across much of Africa:

from Mozambique to Tanzania? How many Americans ever got to confront a mamba snake, face to face, as it rose up to meet the car window on a sweltering late afternoon? Or saw Victoria Falls for the first time, at night, all alone, on a walkway above the gorge?"

Memories like this can be cited by dozens of men and women who served as PCVs in Swaziland, a tiny nation wedged into the eastern corner of southern Africa, where the Peace Corps has been involved in its development since the country gained independence in 1968. Volunteers now perform a number of functions in academic, vocational and adult education.

Expansion into agricultural development and rural extension work has begun, but remains a slow process. In a cooperative relationship with the government of Swaziland, the Peace Corps also is directing more programming attention to technical education to build the country's pool of skilled labor and improve its economic standing.

Tanzania

1962-1969

1979-1991

"I guess that at different times we have all felt mighty far from home. The difference in our lives here is usually for me a source of excitement, or accomplishment, or pride or even comfort, but every once in a while the distance between me and where I was born and raised creeps up and pays a visit to the back of my brain. That part which makes your coccyx move when you look down from a terrific height." — PCV Steve Hill, Tanzania, 1989-1990

Peace Corps Volunteer Steve Hill, from Euters, Pa., completed his two-year term as a fish culture extensionist on March 26, 1990. While serving in Tanzania, he edited a PCV newsletter called "Labda Kesho," which means "maybe tomorrow" in English. One weekend he discovered what he called "a recipe for reality" while on an outing.

"Of all the beautiful, wonderful things to do while in Tanzania, one of the best, but underrated, has got to be the 15-mile walk from Litembo to Mkili on Lake Nyasa," he wrote. "The path winds beside a tumultuous river which has grown in strength by the mile. About halfway there, the mountains give way to the rolling coastal plain with the lake and the mountains of Malawi as a backdrop. From there the bone-tired exhaustion climbs on board and, even though the way is downhill, your butt drags.

"We did get there eventually and, after a rest, some maji and lunch, we all stumbled down to the lake and collapsed. Let me tell you, after you have walked those 15 miles and as you look up into the southern sky and over to Malawi and up the lake toward Mbeya, invisible in the distance, and down the lake toward Mozambique, also invisible, and you feel the incredible depth of the lake, then...then you realize just how far you've come.

"So I guess this is sort of a recipe for reality. Take one extremely long walk, have the only serious relationship you've had for 18 months disintegrating around you, be in a fantastically isolated spot beside a huge and treacherous body of water with three German women who spoke their language three-quarters of the time and WHAMMO! You'll

know exactly how far from home you really are.”

PCVs have served twice in Tanzania. Both times there have been “recipes for reality” as overseas conflicts elsewhere have brought program suspensions here. The Vietnam War contributed to worsening relations between Tanzania and the United States in the late 1960s. Volunteers returned as relations returned to normal. The current Middle East crisis contributed to a decision early this year to suspend the program again.

Rural development has been one of the major objectives of the Peace Corps in Tanzania. Another concern has been general health care on the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba.

Thailand

1962-Present

“Upon arrival in my town as the only American after three months in training with only Americans and English-speaking Thais, I was finally faced with an overwhelming sense of loneliness and awe at what I had gotten myself into. Then, into my sparse room lacking warmth or privacy, came a teacher-colleague who invited me to join her in a delicious dessert of fresh mango slices on warm coconut-milk sticky rice. Then it was off to a beauty parlor where head massages take a half-hour! My initial fears were permanently allayed. I felt at home and few tears ever fell until leaving Thailand two years later.” — PCV Charlene Day, Thailand, 1974-76

Charlene Day, who says her “total life has been one with an international emphasis, both professionally and personally,” is about to begin a new world adventure. The mother of three children, she and her family are about to leave the United States for 2-1/2 years in Mongolia, where her husband is country director of a new Peace Corps program.

“The self-development journey will no doubt continue, only with a richer element through the eyes of our children,” she says.

Day, who served as an English teacher in secondary schools in Thailand, said she learned to “really concentrate on specific skills and develop my own capabilities” living in a new culture and new surroundings. Those she lived and worked with learned that American women are highly independent and friendly and yet willing to adapt and respect a new culture with different emphasis on women’s rights, she says. Her students also discovered that a new language — English — can “come alive” for them.

Since the first Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in Thailand in January of 1962, roughly 3,500 PCVs have served here at the request of the royal Thai government. Historically, the vast majority of Volunteers have taught, especially as teachers of English and as teacher trainers. In recent years, however, there has been increased emphasis on programming in agriculture, rural development and rural health care.

A five-year national economic and social development plan is the foundation for Volunteer project activities in Thailand. The Peace Corps is the largest of several international organizations in Thailand.



PCVs John and Nancy Wilkinson visit Temple of Emerald Buddha in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1968.

Togo

1962-Present

"There is definitely a portion of the farming community around the world, and certainly in West Africa, where animal traction will be important in the foreseeable future. Assisting with that training is the best thing we can do for them right now. I'm excited to be a part of it."

— PCV John Elmer, Togo, 1983-1985

In 1983, John Elmer left an affluent 10-year-long career in insurance sales in the Midwest, passing up a tempting promotion, in order to tackle his "toughest job" — he joined the Peace Corps.

"I was 36 years old when I joined the Peace Corps," says Elmer. "Despite the fact the New York Times reported I was 39-years-old," he adds with a smile.

Elmer is one of the growing number of mid-career individuals who have taken a break from the fast-track to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer overseas. From 1983-1985, Elmer was an animal traction extension agent in Togo, a small West African nation about the size of West Virginia, where he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. From 1987-1990, he served as the lead trainer in animal traction at the Howell Living History Farm in Titusville, N.J.

Elmer is extremely proud of the animal traction program in Togo. For the last three years, he has been a training consultant for the Peace Corps.

"In the early 1970s, Togo tried to use mechanized farming methods, but it was unsuccessful," says Elmer. "The cost of machinery, maintenance and the size of the average farmer landholding made the use of tractors in Togo unrealistic. The Togolese government deserves a lot of credit for backing this program."

Today the Togolese successfully breed and raise their own cattle while Peace Corps Volunteers provide farmers with the technical support necessary to receive and work



Illinois PCV William Wallace does welding for well repair in Togo in 1976.

with a pair of oxen. Peace Corps/Togo also provides PCVs to work in forestry, inland fisheries, community health, appropriate technology, cooperative promotion and education.

With approximately 2.5 million people, Togo is the most densely populated country in West Africa. Only a small percentage of the people live in cities and towns, however, because Togo is a rural nation. The country's capital, Lomé, is on the southwest coast. It is an intriguing blend of ancient African and modern western influences. Women in brightly colored prints carry baskets on their heads to market.

Tonga

1967-Present

"I think my Peace Corps service had a pretty significant influence on the way I see life. My first year, I tried to be Tongan. I tried hard to fit into their culture and I fit in pretty well, but there were just some cultural things that were too different. That gave me a feel for what it really meant to be an American. In Tonga you're born into your life. One is expected to live out their life a certain way. Also, what we take for granted in terms of physical possessions, they don't need. It was nice to see that our lifestyle and what we accept as the norm is not the norm anywhere else...nor should it be." — PCV Ellen Wiczer, Tonga, 1974-1976

Ellen Wiczer, who taught biology and science in secondary schools as a Peace Corps Volunteer serving in Tonga, is today a speech and language pathologist in private practice in Albuquerque, N.M.

Peace Corps is the only official U.S. presence in this Pacific kingdom. Tonga, also known as the Tonga Islands or Friendly Islands, is comprised of an archipelago of about 150 islands. Nukualofa is the capital.

For the first 15 years here, Peace Corps Volunteers were primarily engaged in teaching in primary and secondary schools throughout the country. In 1982, a major country review and evaluation recommended that the Peace Corps focus on more technical assistance to government ministries and sponsoring organizations.

Today most teaching assignments have teacher training components with the goal of having each education PCV spend a significant amount of time teaching counterparts. Over the last five years, PCVs in the education sector have been taken out of all primary and most middle schools. The program is now concentrated on technical subjects such as science and math, industrial arts and accounting, which few Tongan teachers are qualified to teach at the secondary level. Volunteers teach at government and church-supported schools. One quarter of the Volunteers work with different government agencies on technical development, particularly in fisheries and agriculture.

Since the Peace Corps first entered Tonga in October of 1967 with 60-plus Volunteers, program strength has grown as high as 100 and has maintained an average of 70 PCVs until recent years. Since the program began, the total number of PCVs to serve here exceeds 1,100.

Education remains the backbone of the Peace Corps/Tonga program. While Tonga's school system is expanding, there still is a lack of trained teachers.

Tunisia

1962-1991

"Tunisians have one foot into their traditional culture and the other foot dramatically jumping into European and Western ideas. In many ways they're having a hard time assimilating the two. They're very eager and open to meeting outsiders, and they're very eager to show outsiders about their life, their dances, their food." — PCV Lisa Kristine Welborn, Tunisia, 1989-1991

Lisa Welborn of Lawrence, Kansas, taught beekeeping to farmers and rural women in a small agricultural town not far from the capital of Tunis. One of the most conflicting images Tunisia has to offer is the diversity between the modern richness of the capital and the timeless poverty of the not-so-distant rural regions. The people of this tiny North



PCV Rick Touchette, of St. Louis, inspects well in Tunisia in 1979.

African nation are equally diverse, Welborn said. "Everyone wanted to include me in their family," she said. "Everyone wanted to be my father. Everyone wanted to be my sister. Everyone wanted to be my brother. They included me in their lives without restraint."

Welborn was one of more than 1,500 volunteers to serve in Tunisia since 1962. They worked at sites ranging from the eastern coastal region where olive groves flourish to more mountainous regions of the interior.

Peace Corps has helped this Arab nation grow in agricultural fields including fisheries, large-animal husbandry, beekeeping, poultry raising and crops. More recently, it focused its efforts on higher education. Volunteers taught literature, American history and graduate-level English in Tunisian universities. Thousands of Tunisian students have learned English as a second language through Volunteers. Special education was also pioneered in Tunisia by PCVs. Sports programs such as basketball also proved popular.

Because of the buildup in tensions in the Middle East starting in January of this year, Peace Corps Volunteers have temporarily left Tunisia.

Turkey

1962-1972

"I felt I was helping the villagers to get in touch with the modern world that they were so hungry to enter, and they were helping me get in touch with a very basic and ancient way of life that I would never have imagined, much less experienced, if I hadn't gone to Turkey." — PCV Harlan Green, Turkey, 1964-1966

"People always ask me what brought the Turkey program to an end. From 1969 onwards internal terrorism from left and right became more and more threatening. In 1971, the two governments by mutual consent agreed that the Volunteers' safety could no longer be assured. A kidnapping or death was widely expected. Many such events did, in fact, occur throughout the 1970s. Most Volunteers left in 1971. The last PCV, who wished to serve his full term, left in 1972. It was a sad but wise end for a program that was much loved by the Volunteers." — PCV Jerry W. Leach, Turkey, 1964-1966

Harlan Green, a writer and film-maker living in Santa Barbara, Calif., was part of a contingent of rural community developers who were the first to live in the Turkish countryside. He hasn't been back since 1967, but the memories of his service there remain vivid.

Jerry W. Leach, who is now a Peace Corps regional director at the agency's headquarters in Washington, served with his wife, Marianne, and taught at Adama Boys High School and Gazi National Teachers Training in Ankara.

Leach, who later spent time in Papua New Guinea and speaks Turkish and Kiriwinan, worked on the foreign affairs staff at the White House before becoming head of the Peace Corps region which includes countries in the Pacific, Asia, Central Europe and the Mediterranean.

Green and Leach were among 1,477 American men and

women who served in this diverse country with its high mountains and long coastline.

The contingent of Peace Corps Volunteers in Turkey grew quickly as programming expanded over the years to include community development and health programs after initially concentrating on education and agriculture. Throughout the time that the Peace Corps was in Turkey, teaching English in secondary schools and universities remained a priority.

Tuvalu

1974-Present

"One unique thing about our assignment was that this was the very first time the Peace Corps had worked alongside another non-profit organization. We worked with Save the Children. It gave us a lot of extra help and support. This was great because, when we left, our work didn't fall apart. It continued to grow and prosper." — PCV Vicki Dilley, Tuvalu, 1980-1983

Before gaining independence in 1978, two Peace Corps Volunteers were serving in Tuvalu. When a regional U.S. embassy was established in Suva in 1979, a more substantial Peace Corps program was developed here. About 10 PCVs were on board in 1980.

Once the Peace Corps program was expanded in 1980, PCVs began providing assistance to government agencies and to island communities. The program was developed through direct collaboration with Save the Children Foundation. It continued with Volunteers working as island community developers until 1982, when that portion of the program was cancelled because of the termination of air service to the outer islands. Because of Tuvalu's unique geography and government requirements, Peace Corps policy has been to respond to individual needs through single placements.

Vicki and Leland Dilley worked in a community development program as Peace Corps Volunteers here. They now live in Northfield, Minn.

"Our Peace Corps experience was one of the most life-changing experiences I've ever had," Vicki Dilley says. "We found it very rewarding. We went over at a very good time. The people were very receptive, and able and willing to work with us."

At the request of the Tuvalu government, Peace Corps now recruits skilled volunteers to meet a specific need through individual placements. Each placement has a long-term emphasis on training and transfer of skills to local counterparts. The most recent placement was an architect. Another Volunteer is serving as a marine fisheries advisor establishing procedures to collect data on bottom fish catches by research/survey cruises and commercial fishing operations.

Uganda

1964-1973 Summer 1991

"I recently met a Ugandan who came to dinner. After he left, the one thought that came to mind was that my Peace Corps experience—even though it was 20 years ago and the details are now fading—was the single most affective

experience I've ever had. It really changed my life." — PCV Thomas Schroer, Uganda, 1970-1972

After an 18-year absence, the Peace Corps is returning to Uganda. Peace Corps Volunteers served in this Central African nation from 1964 to 1973, but the Peace Corps suspended its program because of political unrest.

Thomas Schroer, who works in regulatory affairs for Du Pont in Wilmington, Del., taught science, math and music in a secondary school program in which he was also involved with sports. He was one of the 447 PCVs here over the nine years the Peace Corps was in the country.

The first group of Volunteers in the reinstated program in Uganda will work in vocational education and environmental sectors. Approximately 10 volunteers with backgrounds in agricultural, mechanical and civil engineering will work with the Ugandan Ministry of Education, Department of Technical Services and several of the country's technical colleges. Their efforts will support the Uganda government's commitment to educate students with the aim of reconstructing the nation's deteriorating infrastructure.

When the first Peace Corps members served here, they concentrated on expanding educational opportunities for the Ugandan people. Twenty-five new schools opened as a result of the availability of Peace Corps teachers, who served as instructors of English, math, science, history and geography. Through their efforts, enrollment in secondary schools more than doubled. Volunteers also involved themselves in extracurricular activities throughout the country, such as adult education, textbook development, language study, community health and gardening.

Uruguay

1963-1974 Spring 1991

"Volunteers in Uruguay lived with the locals, paid rent to them, and developed such close relations that they referred to their host family members as 'my father, my mother, my brother or sister.' " — *"The Bold Experiment: JFK's Peace Corps"* by Gerard T. Rice ©1985 University of Notre Dame Press

After a break of 17 years, Peace Corps Volunteers will return to Uruguay this spring. Initially, 10 experienced PCVs who have been serving in other countries will be placed in this Latin American republic. Another 25 Volunteers will enter Uruguay in the summer.

Peace Corps Volunteers will focus their efforts in the beginning on development of natural resources and small enterprise activities. Most of the PCVs will serve in the rural interior of the country. Bounded by Brazil and Argentina, Uruguay is a land of rolling grass plains and low hills with abundant pasturelands. More than 320 kilometers of beaches run along the Rio de la Plata and the Atlantic Ocean.

The government of Uruguay and the Peace Corps first signed a joint agreement on July 31, 1963. For nearly a decade, almost 200 Peace Corps Volunteers served here, working in rural community development, youth development and agriculture. PCVs helped establish youth groups similar to 4-H clubs, introduced new methods of cultivation and animal husbandry, and contributed to social programs

for young people in both rural and urban areas.

Sports programs also were encouraged. Volunteers taught classes, arranged clinics, planned tournaments and coached teams.

Vanuatu

1990-Present

Vanuatu, an island republic in the Pacific, became a Peace Corps host country in January 1990 when three Americans were sworn in as Peace Corps Volunteers. They are teaching math and science in secondary schools here.

The Peace Corps program in Vanuatu is administered through the Peace Corps office in the Solomon Islands.

Vanuatu is a Y-shaped archipelago of 80 islands covering 4,670 square miles. It is located 1,348 miles northeast of Australia. Formerly the New Hebrides, the Pacific island chain was governed jointly by France and Britain before gaining independence in 1980. The 150,000 inhabitants here speak a mixture of English and French as well as a native dialect, Bislama.

Venezuela

1962-1977

"My experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Venezuela remains one of my most cherished memories. Twelve years in the U.S. Congress and as my party's nominee for governor of New Jersey were challenging but, indeed, no more rewarding." — PCV Jim Courter, Venezuela, 1967-1969

Former U.S. Rep. James A. Courter was assigned to the Venezuela Municipal Court in Valera while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Courter, who decided not to seek reelection to Congress after running for governor of New Jersey, is now the senior partner in the law firm of Courter Kobert Laufer Purcell & Cohen in Hackettstown, N.J. He recently was nominated to head a presidential commission created by Congress to study military base closures and realignments.

Courter was among 2,201 PCVs who served in this South American country over a 15-year period in business, education, health and urban development projects.

In urban development projects, U.S. Volunteers designed public works projects, including plazas, transportation terminals, markets and parks. They developed city plans, completed census studies, opened city planning offices and reformed the budgetary systems in several cities.

Hospital assistance was another important effort. Volunteers taught maintenance personnel, designed mechanical systems, fashioned and installed air conditioning systems, laundry systems, equipment maintenance systems and procedures, and established administrative and accounting procedures at medical care facilities throughout Venezuela.

Small business operators were trained in management skills. PCVs helped set up regional agencies to provide technical assistance.

Western Samoa

1967-Present

"It was the hospitality of my Samoan friends and neighbors that impressed me the most. I was a newcomer, a stranger in their village, and yet I was welcomed like family. I was deeply touched and very grateful to be part of their community." — PCV Carrie Hessler Radelet, Western Samoa, 1981-1983

"Three other PCVs and I taught at a secondary school on the island of Savai'i. We did far more valuable work for those in our village, however, by providing impromptu basic care for sundry cuts, infections, and fevers. The pots of rich cocoa Samoa we received in return still linger in my memory." — PCV Dean Trackman, Western Samoa, 1982-1984

"Peace Corps still remains very near and dear to my heart," according to Carrie Hessler Radelet, who now manages the Boston International Group, John Snow Inc., a public health organization. As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Western Samoa, she taught English and social studies.

"The lives of most of my students were not irrevocably changed by my presence in Samoa," she says. "But I know that my being there did touch a few lives — just as surely as my life was changed forever as a result of this experience."

While in the South Pacific, Radelet also worked with the Western Samoa Red Cross organizing a national public awareness campaign on disaster preparedness.

Trackman, who taught in the village of Vaito'omuli in the Palauli District of Savai'i in Western Samoa while serving here as a PCV, is now an editor at the National Museum of African Art, part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

"I taught at Ulimasao College," he says. "Colleges are similar to our high schools. Although I was supposed to be a math teacher, I also taught English and social studies. In my second year, I was responsible for supervising the junior grades in the school."

Located 2,600 miles southwest of Hawaii, Western Samoa is an independent nation with nine jewel-size islands covering 1,097 square miles, about the size of Rhode Island. Peace Corps Volunteers in the early years numbered around 150, but the program evolved into around 75 to 80 PCVs serving at any one time in the 1970s. Today the main program emphasis is on agriculture and education.

Yemen

1973-1990

"I worked as a preservation architect for the Executive Office for the Preservation of the Old City of Sanáa. My primary duty was the as-built documentation of a culturally and historically significant building within the central market (suk) of the old city of Sanáa." — PCV Michael A. Jasso, Yemen, 1987-1989

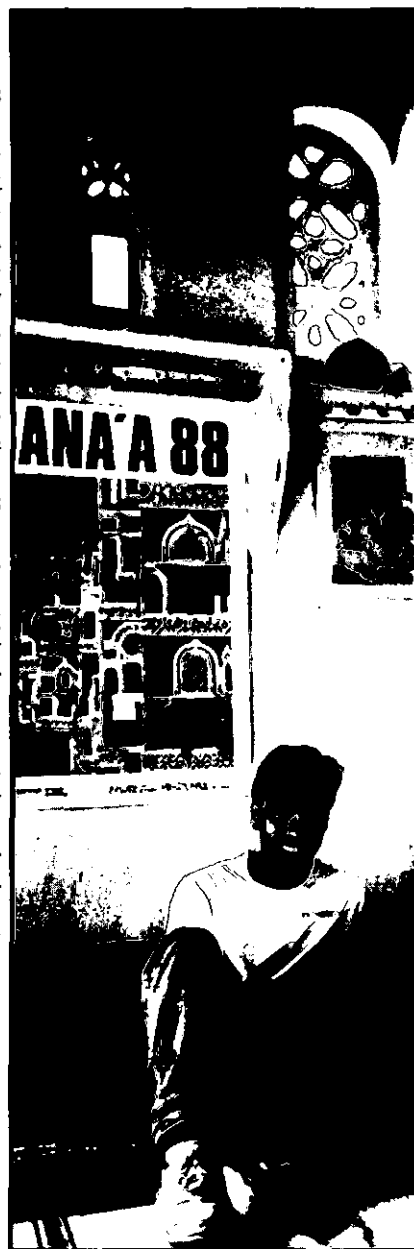
When the first small group of Peace Corps Volunteers went to Yemen in 1973, Peace Corps' activities initially focused largely on health-related programs. Over the years, however, PCVs worked on everything from earthquake relief to architectural restoration.

Michael A. Jasso, a Peace Corps Volunteer from Chicago who studied architecture at Princeton University, worked as a preservation architect in the old city of Yemen's capital, Sanáa. He collected and correlated data on an historic structure used for the wholesale and distribution of raisins throughout Yemen. He also designed the structure's restoration, including an expanded upper level to be used for exhibition, shop and restaurant facilities.

"Known as a caravanserah, or samsarah, Gamsarah al Gumruck is one of the few buildings of its type still in use in the old city," he said.

Jasso currently is working in Chicago for the National Trust for Historic Preservation as the training and information coordinator for a national demonstration project called Inspired Partnerships funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The project's goal is to assist congregations with older urban religious facilities in dealing with the management of these facilities as a means of enhancing their ability to be active partners in community stability and development.

From 1985 until 1990, when Peace Corps Volunteers were withdrawn, the main Peace Corps emphasis was on education.



PCV Michael Jasso relaxes at home in Sanáa in 1989.



PCV Jonathan Barner, a science teacher, adjusts telescope for student in Apia in 1977.



Kansas PCV Ray Siebert shows Zairian farmer low-cost implement in 1974.

Yugoslavia

Possibly 1992

Peace Corps' entry into Yugoslavia is presently targeted for some time in 1992. Volunteers would work with members of educational departments to meet the immediate needs of undergraduate instruction. They also would assess the needs and possibilities of in-service training.

Yugoslavia is the latest European country to ask for Peace Corps' assistance in the area of English teacher training. The goal of such a project here would be to increase the number of qualified primary and secondary school teachers of English through undergraduate training and in-service training for current teachers.

If this program is established, Peace Corps Volunteers would work with members of educational departments to meet the immediate needs of undergraduate instruction and to assess the needs and possibilities of in-service training within the department.

Zaire

1970-Present

"It's hard to imagine another country in the world more needful of the kind of help that Peace Corps offers than Zaire. Amid simple collections of mud huts and barefoot people, I taught villagers how to raise fish so they could eat fish forever on their own." — PCV Mike Tidwell, Zaire, 1985-1987

Mike Tidwell, who spent two years in Zaire after being sworn in as a Peace Corps Volunteer in February of 1985, wrote about his experiences in a book titled "The Ponds of Kalambayi: An African Sojourn."

Like others before him, Tidwell had to adjust to new ways and learn acceptance. Farmers who he was helping were giving away part of their harvest to relatives and others.

"In the end, despite my fears, sharing didn't destroy the fish project," he wrote in his book. "Farmers went on building and harvesting ponds, giving away 20 to 50 percent of their fish, and selling the rest to earn money for their wives and their children. It was a process I simply couldn't change and eventually I stopped trying."

Living in Washington, D.C., Tidwell is now busy writing another book about his experiences as a counselor to homeless crack addicts in the nation's capital.

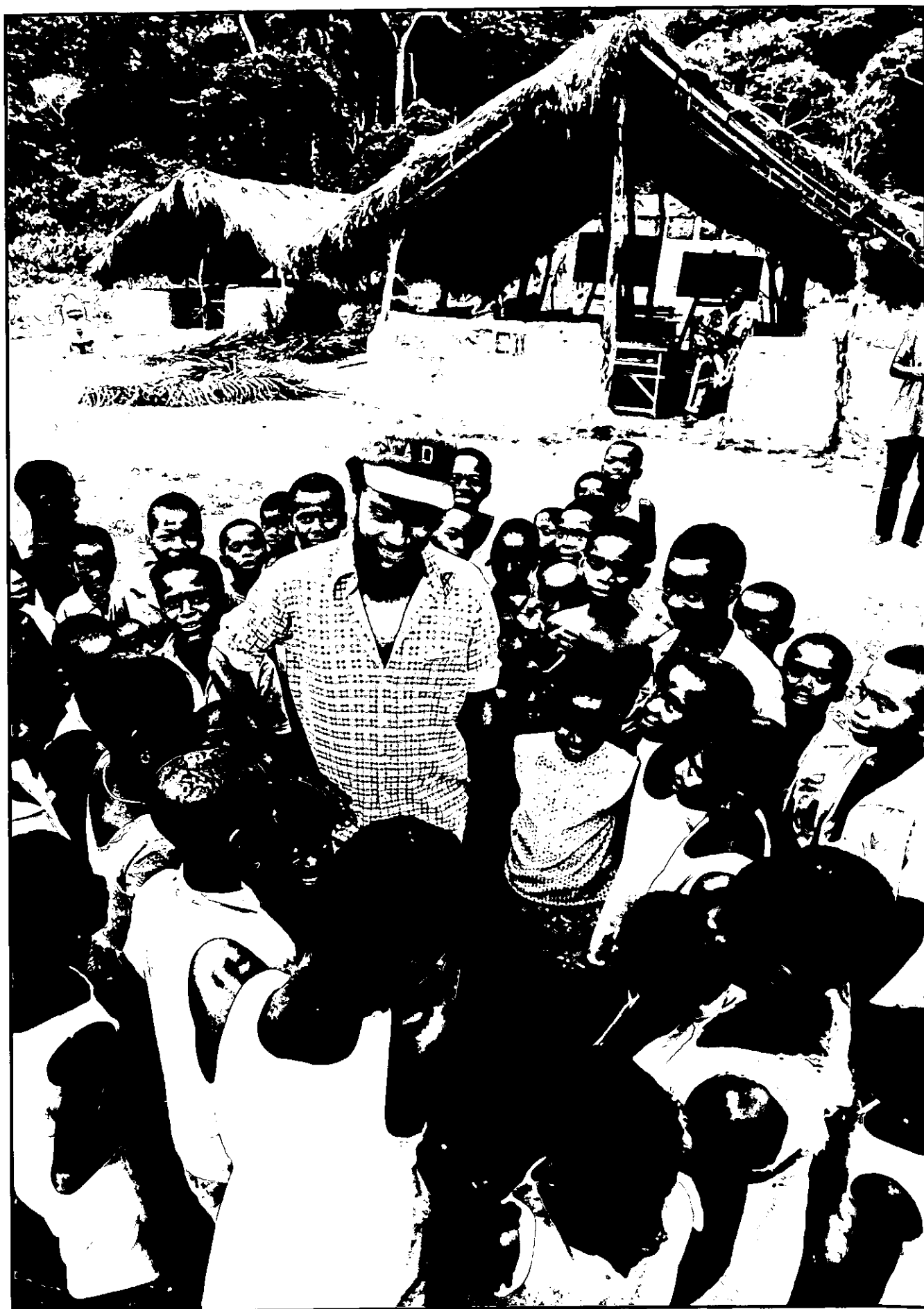
With a population of more than 30 million and covering 905,000 square miles of west central Africa, Zaire has been the host for over 21 years to close to 2,500 Peace Corps Volunteers. Since 1974, PCVs have worked with fish farmers teaching improved methods of inland fish production. Volunteers to date have been involved in training thousands of fish farmers, developing fish culture manuals and training materials, and constructing and renovating a national research and extension training center.

Volunteer numbers in Zaire have run as high as 400 at a time in the past, but Volunteer input was cancelled in 1986 because of strained relations between Zaire and the United States. That dropped the PCV count to only 70. The education program was discontinued entirely. Over the last several years, relations with the government of Zaire have improved and Peace Corps has once again started expanding its program there. In addition to fisheries, PCVs have recently been assigned to agriculture, health and water sanitation programs.

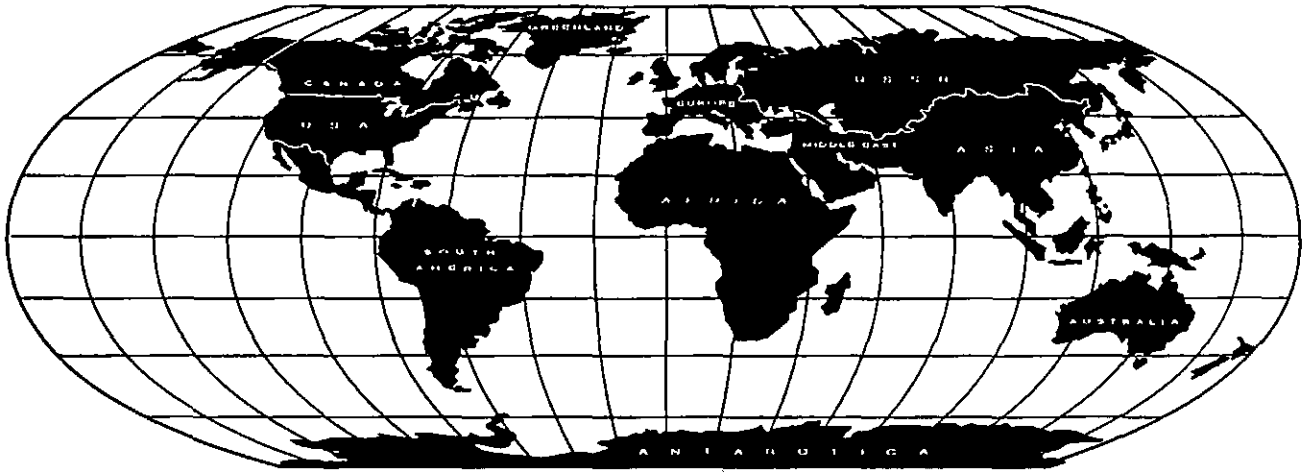
Zimbabwe

Fall 1991

The Peace Corps hopes to sign a country agreement to send up to 25 Volunteers to Zimbabwe by the fall of 1991. This Southern African nation, formerly known as Rhodesia, has one of the continent's most prosperous economies. However, education is a pressing need for its rapidly growing population. The government of Zimbabwe has expressed an interest in Peace Corps Volunteers to teach mathematics, science and vocational education.



New Jersey PCV James Colford Jones chats with school children of Kpalime, Togo, in 1976.



Peace Corps Roll Call of Nations

Afghanistan	Ethiopia	Malaysia	Romania
Anguilla	Fiji	Mali	Rwanda
Antigua/Barbuda	Gabon	Malta	St. Kitts/Nevis
Bahrain	The Gambia	Marshall Islands	St. Lucia
Bangladesh	Ghana	Mauritania	St. Vincent/Grenadines
Barbados	Grenada	Mauritius	Sao Tome/Principe
Belize	Guatemala	Micronesia	Senegal
Benin	Guinea	Mongolia	Seychelles
Bolivia	Guinea-Bissau	Montserrat	Sierra Leone
Botswana	Guyana	Morocco	Solomon Islands
Brazil	Haiti	Mozambique	Somalia
Bulgaria	Honduras	Namibia	South Korea
Burkina Faso	Hungary	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Burundi	India	Nicaragua	Sudan
Cameroon	Indonesia	Niger	Swaziland
Cape Verde	Iran	Nigeria	Tanzania
Central African Republic	Jamaica	Oman	Thailand
Chad	Kenya	Pakistan	Togo
Chile	Kiribati	Palau	Tonga
China	Laos	Panama	Tunisia
Colombia	Lesotho	Papua New Guinea	Turkey
Comoros Islands	Liberia	Paraguay	Turks and Caicos
Congo	Libya	Peru	Tuvalu
Cook Islands	Madagascar	Philippines	Uganda
Costa Rica	Malawi	Poland	Uruguay
Côte d' Ivoire			Vanuatu
Cyprus			Venezuela
Czechoslovakia			Western Samoa
Dominica			Yemen Arab Republic
Dominican Republic			Yugoslavia
Ecuador			Zaire
El Salvador			Zimbabwe
Equatorial Guinea			

*'Any definition of a successful
life must include serving others.'*

— President Bush