FROM THE PRESIDENT

The days are getting longer, I am feeling livelier. Spring is coming. And our group is moving along. So remember as we come out of our hibernations, there are several things in our group to get involved in.

In May is the Parent’s Brunch. We do this with Peace Corps Minneapolis. We invite family of current volunteers to give them support and information. Families who came last year had many concerns and asked lots of questions. It also lets them know that groups as ours exit.

Next is a project we are attempting to get off the ground, and Gordon has really taken off with this. This is the naming of US highway 151 the Peace Highway in honor of all Peacemakers including Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. So people across the state we need your help on this.

And the last weekend of June we are going to tent camping at Wyalusing State Park which is on the Mississippi. So everyone mark your calendars. This can be an Escape to Wisconsin for all of you in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and even Florida. We have a group campsite reserved, and are planning a picnic pot luck for people who would like to come for a day.

So if you are feeling it is time to donate some of your energy to your organization give me a call. Many of the things we do require very little time. My dream is to have each member really committed to one thing, like Karen does Camp Lucerne, Wade did Freeze for Food and then Deb took it over, Walt the newsletter, Jim the calendar setup, Bob is the historian. There are several areas in our group that could use a good leader. One of the easiest would be properties librarian, maybe 5 minutes a month. So do you have a half hour to spare? Is there an area you would like to see improvement? So give me a call 241-0845.

An interesting thing we did at camp was a Communication Styles survey. As president it has been fun to think about it and group dynamics. For example Don started the membership survey, Nan is using her process skills to finish the project. Meredith uses her people skills first, and then gets right into action. So if you would like to discover your style, ask me for the survey.
THE WINTER RETREAT'S FORMAL TALK
and other events
reproduced in the native tongue
with comments by the scribe
Feb 24-26, 1969 c.e.

Friday night was dark, Saturday was balmy hot, and Sunday was reassuringly cold. About 12 or 15 appeared for Friday night's heavy action, and were distressed to discover that all those stories about the unfettered behavior of the first night were only true up to last year; this year we were the soul of decorum. All were formal clothes and insulated buskins, and talked loudly of Provencal poetry and raw silk prices. This continued until the last gabbles faded out at 3:30, with beer still undrunk and a few muffins left.

Karen woke us all at 7:30 for breakfast, which most of us ate, talking with our plates full. Meredith and Rose Ann ate privately, in purdah, and their food was passing strange.

By noon our numbers reached about 25. We played and talked all day, with a period of serious discussion in mid-afternoon. (Ken, in an act of magnificent sartorial condescension, wore jeans for this occasion.) Then we had a fine potluck, with more than enough grandly delicious food. A slide show followed, partly to identify unassigned slides, partly to see new ones. Several people were able to prove that they had indeed been in the places they claimed. By 2, all were tucked into bed dreaming off eggs Sunday had a better breakfast, hotter fires, and looser talk.

By 1:00 most had left to return to their villages, quite happy.

The Serious Talk concerned these matters: an interpretation of our hexagram for the year; a Peace Highway; tropical rain forests; the parents' brunch; Kennedy's birthday; and money for World View; Global Ed. projects; the Historian's report; our Constitution; a proposal by the Nightclub Committee; and our personality types revealed.

Our Hexagram for the year is Grace changing into Following. Very favorable, with no references to bloody pits this time, for which we are grateful. Grace describes a situation of harmony and restful beauty. A good period in which to resolve matters, to take care of old business, and to make changes if these do not require heroic measures. The moving lines are the 3rd, 4th, and 5th. The 3rd refers to the pleasures of conviviality, and counsels us to be refreshed in each other, but not to confuse this with our true work. The 4th and 5th caution us to beware of choosing grace over simplicity, and alerts us to recognize teachers and betters. The state into which Grace is changing is that of Following, we hope, and not self-followed. This, too, is very favorable, but it depends on us adapting ourselves to the needs of the time, and acting without arrogance.

Rose Ann next informed us of her outraged thoughts on the dedication of highways. There are many highways dedicated to those slain in the nation's wars; why should Wisconsin not have one dedicated to peace, to workers for and lovers of peace? She suggests that Highway 151 become the Peace Memorial Highway. (This is an especially fitting choice, since it is at right angles to the Interstate.) Gordon, meanwhile, had done some research on the legislative hurdles involved. The original bill that named the Korean War Veterans' highway was very simple and straightforward.

So, we talked about this. Don't denigrate the fallen, or veterans; just war. Whose districts does 151 go through? Enlist them. North Dakota has a Peace Garden. Try to do this for May 29, 1969, Kennedy's birthday. For whom shall this be dedicated? For Peace? The Peace Corps? Friends and workers for peace? Peacemakers? Rose Ann, Gordon, and Meredith will work on this.

Bob Meredith spoke of us forming a Rain Forest Action Group, as outlined in the March newsletter. We would help organize events and raise money to save the rainforests. The nat'l org. would help us by providing info packets and advice, and would ask us for $50 in the second year. (T Thompson is in favor of reforesting Wisconsin, and Kasten, surprisingly, is very strong on protecting rainforests.) Is this within our group's purpose? We'll discuss all at the March meeting. Bob M and Carol will work on this.

The Parents' Brunch will be on Sat, May 13, in the Memorial Union. This has been very gratefully appreciated that we've done it, and it reassured following and being talked to by other, and by questioning us. (Though in the interest of their serenity, it's been necessary to bar certain of our members from this event.) This year, let's have a slide show of some sort, either a continuous background visual drone, or a separate feature. And we'll make sure the Union gives us enough food, and serves more quicker.

We also discussed the imploration by the Natl Council that we do something special on Kennedy's birthday which would also raise money to help support their magazine, World View, which has been made better (and thus more expensive), but which has not yet reached the subscription level that makes it self-supporting.

We talked about this for an interminable 5 minutes, until we realized that nobody particularly wanted to celebrate May 29 with a fundraiser, though we enjoy the magazine. So we cut through the knot by discussing, first, the mechanics of making a profit on the brunch, and sending the extra to the Natl Council, and then, stricken by pity for these poor Peace Corps parents, and not wanting to change them more than a minimum, (we're a low-rent outfit, after all, like the Sufis), we woke up and saw that we are already contributing to the Natl Council with our calendar profit-sharing proposal. We don't have to do anything; this request is meant for all those other groups.

But we'll have a table at the brunch, and will display "World View", and offer subscriptions.

And (half-year) calendars. We also suggest to "World View"'s editors that they learn from "Sports Illustrated" and have an annual swimsuit issue. Picture it: semi-nude photos of PCVs (scrawny men and larger women), draped in becoming native underwear.
Then, we got on to the main verbal event, our Global Ed plane. The Natl Council has received Biden-Pell grant money from AIID to dole out in amounts of up to $5000 to local groups et al. for global ed projects. We intend to submit a proposal by the deadline this year (July-Nov; the earlier the better!), for a project to be done in '90, and perhaps begun this year.

This is a refinement of the discussion at the February meeting regarding an African village in Kenya. This is to be a summer daycamp, with an overnight option, which would recreate (features of) a traditional African village. We would want all kids to have the chance to attend, including black kids curious about their origins.

We definitely don't want to undertake all of this ourselves, and we wouldn't want to do a good job anyway. We'd want to enlist Africans, especially, mostly from the University community. And we'd do well to work closely with the UW departments that bear on this topic. Then, community groups would be needed to enlist the kids. And there must be a camp staff with an existing program in which this can be tailored.

And we don't want to reinvent the (octagonal) wheel. This has been done before; surely there's a model to take. And the program Jeff worked with in Atlanta was based on a Wisconsin experiment, by an organization that probably still exists.

So, what are we going to do? And now things started to get very interesting for everyone. The whole idea started to take shape, before our (3rd) ears.

We shall develop modules, on, eg, Latin music, or African house building, which can be plugged in to existing programs by other offices, or teams of native students of the cultures, in developing these. We'll write the Africans, etc., into the proposal, and we intend to pay them fairly. These modules will be usable by schools, camps, 4H clubs, etc. They will be broad-based, multi-media, resource-rich; just full of hyphens. They'll be adaptable to an hour's program, a day's, a week's, a week's. We'll draw heavily on our own slides, and our own experience, both during PC and since. The number of topics we can cover is immense: on Africa, for instance, we can do modules on music, drums, dance; tie-dyeing; outdoor showers; house construction, the movement to America in time to welcome Balbo.

Rose Ann has already talked with UW people, and gotten interested responses. We can start small, with a couple of modules, and then learn from the process and go on to do dozens of others. We can involve other PC groups. Each geographical area of our group can work with a module. (Aha, yes, Ganja in Nepal, a multi-media experience). There'll be lots of volunteers to develop that one.) All modules must focus on doing.

These modules can be positioned on a 3-dimensional matrix (see how much we've learned since our 20s?) of geographical area; topic; and density and extent of information, and intended audience.

We need a general outline of a typical module. And a beginning list of possible modules. This will be done soon.

And we need a session in "Race Awareness Training"; Merideth will arrange it for us, perhaps for this Spring.

There are in Madison some very interesting teachers who would be a good resource, and good company. They're Fulbright exchange professors and teachers, both Madisonians and Sierra Leonians, who have been or are teaching in each other's country.
Mardi Gras, Milwaukee style, was a big hit, especially for RPCV’s from Chicago and Madison. The reggae was great, the food plenty and free, and the setting lovely. Some 300+ were there with the profits going to OXFAM. Milwaukee’s Prez won first place in the costume contest as a large head and Rose Ann won 3rd wearing mainly reds, purples and yellows.

But an even bigger event was our retreat at Camp Lucerne. Every bed was full except for Buck’s and only because he slept in front of the fire place. The best part for everyone was the opportunity to leave home for the weekend, and escape the routine of daily living.

Betsy was also a highlight. How a 2 and 1/2 year old can provide so much entertainment is mind bogglesing. She learned to wear a headband because her hair was greasy, and taught the lesson to all listeners. Seeing good ole member Mary Grace and her family there was a pleasant surprise. -Don brought his kids and holed up in a cabin with them except for meals.

-Meredith nagged Ken until he put on jeans. -Char and Carole enjoyed the great escape, and Dave and Deb closed themselves in the dinning room closet for a little nookie. --Thanks to Karen for a job well done.

The next BIG event was Julie’s birthday party, which she planned, Meredith made a delicious double chocolate oatmeal cake, and then Julie stayed home. We called her, sang Happy Birthday, and told her how good her cake was.

But the event of a lifetime was the birth of Walker Ward Good. It was such an event, that the March of Dimes came and took a family photo to air on evening news. He was the first baby born for Healthy Baby Week. The fact that he weighed 8 lb 14 oz didn’t phase Laura as she left the hospital in less than 12 hours.

Baron Bliss lived up to it reputation of being a hot time. Buck puzzled us all, as he wore a tie and wool vest. Gordon really gets the guys award for being with it, as he wore a lava lava. But what a clever guy, he wore it upside down, so everyone had to get real close and look from the top down.

Nan got hot. -Brent brought Luke, as his parents were on R & R, taking a breather before there are more. And another member from the past, Kevin, came, welcome. Bob’s NRA jacket complete with scouring pads on the elbows enlightened us about his past -small bore champion in California?! Does Gina know?

Bob has been seen reading the Nursery Times. --Julie purchased Eastern tickets to Costa Rica to see Scott. After much ado she is on her way with chocolate rabbits on another airline.

John told the brunch bunch he didn’t understand our humor. We don’t always either, John! Ken bought one of John’s paintings, Sunrise off India.

Meredith is visiting her family in CA. - Buck and Brent went to Davenport. Karen is playing the trombone for Kiss Me Kale at the Fireside. -Marc is teaching at Blackhawk TC and -Jo is teaching 1 class of Somke Enders. Lee now has to deliver all the Girl Scout cookies Katya sold. - Ken helped his ex shovel her driveway, but stayed 2 shovel lengths away from her.

--VP Hank is putting up sunrooms and trying to go to school.

--Dianna has gotten over her cold.

-Deb and Dave, and Ruth and Matt are well matched couples when it comes to communication styles.

Take it from Loose Lips, all of you females with your biological clocks running out. Two thirds of all marriages fail, so stop looking for the perfect man. If you found him your odds of it lasting aren’t much good. And you are never rich enough or settled enough to have a baby. So just do it.
DATES TO NOTE

March
19 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
  Constitutionally required Board Meeting at Brunch
26 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
27 Mon  Dean Mahon arrives
29 Wed  Global Ed Meeting - 6 pm - dinner at Rose Ann’s 241-0845,
31 Fri  Dean Mahon leaves

April
2 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
3 Mon  GENERAL MEETING - 7:00 pm - Union South - 227 N Randall Ave

7 Fri  World Health Day  “Health For All: Pass It Along”
9 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
  National Volunteer Week - Twins Game in Minneapolis
11 Wed  Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950
16 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
16 Sun  Newsletter Deadline
22 SAT  EARTH DAY
23 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
  28-30 FSS Regional President’s Meeting Chicago
30 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

May
2 Tue  GENERAL MEETING - 7:00 pm - Union South - 227 N Randall Ave

7 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
10 Wed  Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950
13 SAT  PARENT’S BRUNCH - THE GREAT HALL - MEMORIAL UNION

14 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
16 Tue  Newsletter Deadline
20 Sat  Kite Fly - Milwaukee
21 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
28 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
29 Mon  JFK’s Birthday
29 Mon  Memorial Day

June
4 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

7 Wed  GENERAL MEETING - 7:00 pm - Union South - 227 N Randall Ave
11 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
14 Wed  Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950
18 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
16 Fri  Newsletter Deadline

23-24 FSS  Camping Wyalusing State Park

25 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

* BRUNCH on Sunday is where the discussion of our group business occurs
  between meetings, plus spirited chatter. Go left after paying.
Thorn Tree

Calendar needs slides from places besides Africa. Jim 246-2816

AND ON THE EIGHTH DAY, WE BULLDOZED IT.

CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY!!

April 28th is Arbor Day and this year a special effort is being made to encourage everyone to plant trees. Our beloved planet needs our help. Plant a tree and invest in the future. Contact Leigh Kline if you have questions. Forestry Extension Office, 262-0134.

Worldwide, fifty thousand acres of rainforest will be destroyed today. Paradise lost at the horrendous cost of half the species left on earth. To ensure their survival, we must act now. Learn how by writing us.

RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK
300 BROADWAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133

BED AND BREAKFAST

Friends coming to town and need a place for them to stay? Accommodations just 5 minutes from downtown. Homemade muffins for breakfast, a massage by the fire in the evening, kittens for company, all the comforts of home. Contact Meredith at 271-0998.

WANTED charities to donate our calendar profits to. Call Rose Ann 241-0845.

SURVEY RESULTS

In November of 1988, the RPCVs of Madison surveyed RPCVs in other parts of the Wisconsin area who have become members of the National Council, and thus by default our group, in 1988. What follows are some highlights of the results. A full report will eventually be filed with the President and Historian, that report will include a copy of the questionnaire.

Volunteers served in approximately equal numbers in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia. Their service dates also fell neatly in thirds: 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. The latter is reasonable in light of the presumably greater likelihood of joining the National Council on the part of volunteers who served more recently in combination with the greater number of volunteers from the early days.

Approximately half those surveyed were living with a partner and approximately half had children whose ages were quite varied. A plurality (12) were teachers of some kind. Seven were students. There was 1 homemaker, 4 technicians and 7 who were various sorts of professionals other than helping professions. The latter category had 5 members.

We asked respondents to tell us which of our activities they would, ideally be most willing and eager to work on. Fundraising for overseas organizations, fundraising for local organizations, evening activities like potlucks and speakers bureau all got an equal and large amount of interest, while overnight trips and activities for the families of current volunteers received equal but less interest. The difference in levels of interest for these two clusters was not enormous, although it is real. The good news is that virtually all our activities are of interest to some of our respondents, our diversity is a perceived by them as a plus and would be enhanced by their participation.

Respondents told us that the most important service we could offer them was informing them of our activities (as opposed to organizing or helping them organize other activities). Most indicated that attendance at our meetings was unrealistic.

Those who had attended one of our meetings liked them. A few had trouble parking and some found the business parts difficult to follow. They correctly perceive that we are a friendly bunch and like us for it.

The big news is that our respondents just love the newsletter. (CONGRATULATIONS, WALT!). It came up again and again in their free form comments. Several people wistfully wished they understood the idiosyncratic parts better. No one didn’t like it.

I recommend on the basis of these results that we discuss at the next meeting what things we could do in THE NEWSLETTER to serve these people. Two things we might discuss are soliciting contributions from them for the new "Our Foreign Correspondent" column and encouraging them to submit items to the "Thorn Tree."

Cheers,
Nan
OUTGOING TELEGRAM

HE AND HIS WIFE, NANCY, HAVE LONG RESIDED IN ATLANTA.

HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, URBAN STUDY INSTITUTE OF GEORGIA, ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GEORGIA HEALTH FOUNDATION, AND A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE MASS MARKETING INSURANCE INSTITUTE.

SENATOR COVERDELL, FEELING A STRONG RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS CONSTITUENTS, WANTS TO COMPLETE HIS PARTICIPATION IN THIS SESSION OF THE GEORGIA LEGISLATURE BEFORE TAKING UP HIS IMPORTANT NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AS PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR. AT THE PRESENT TIME WE ARE PROJECTING THAT HIS CONFIRMATION BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE AS PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR WILL TAKE PLACE BY ABOUT MID-MARCH. HE HAS ASKED ME TO STAY ON AS DIRECTOR UNTIL HE IS SWORN IN

KEEP UP YOUR HARD WORK FOR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE. WE EXPECT A SMOOTH TRANSITION THOUGH I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO LEAVE WHAT YOUR WORK HAS MADE FOR ME "THE BEST JOB IN WASHINGTON -- GETTING TO WORK FOR WORLD PEACE, TRAVELLING, AND EVERYONE THANKS ME FOR YOU "MY BEST TO YOU AND DEEPEST GRATITUDE. ARMACOT

PCV Magic

[from the newsletter of the Returned Action Volunteers in the Northwest]

RPCV Charles White related this story: "While teaching in Malaysia with the Peace Corps, I was invited to spend a week with a student and his family. We bathed each morning in the river, and one time I displayed my athletic ability by swimming across the river and back. The village youngsters gave me an ovation and an older native commented, 'It must be wonderful to have magic skin.' I assured him that my white skin was no different from his darker, olive-colored skin. 'You're wrong,' the man replied. 'White skin must be magic. If one of us swam across that river, the crocodiles would eat him.'
Northern California Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Dear RPCV Colleague:

I am writing regarding the nomination of the next Peace Corps Director and to ask for your participation in an effort to challenge that nomination. Both the candidate and the process bear attention.

President Bush has nominated Georgia State Senator Paul Coverdell to direct the Peace Corps. Apparently Coverdell, owner of an insurance company, had hoped to head the Small Business Administration as his reward for halting the southern stampede toward Pat Robertson during the presidential primary. Coverdell’s overseas experience is limited to military maneuvers in Korea, Okinawa, and Taiwan.

At least two aspects of this nomination are disturbing. First, under Loret Miller Ruppe’s directorship international leaders have come to expect (and rightfully so) that when dealing with the Peace Corps they will be met by an individual with the dual characteristics of international experience and cultural sensitivity. My concern is less with Coverdell as a person than with the message his candidacy sends to our neighbors around the globe. International understanding and goodwill should not be asked to endure the affront of someone without substantial overseas experience or foreign language skill. I dare say the Small Business Administration would not be led by someone without business acumen and experience.

Second, during the presidential election campaign the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers communicated to both candidates its willingness to assist in the search and selection of the next Peace Corps Director. After the election that invitation was reissued to the Bush transition team, with no response. In effect, an alumnus association of 125,000 plus members has been ignored in the search for candidates for the Peace Corps post. It is time for the Peace Corps to be directed by a former volunteer!

Please communicate these concerns about the Coverdell nomination to your membership and ask them to write immediately to their Senators. In addition, there is a small coterie in Congress that served as Peace Corps volunteers or staff (list attached); they, too, should be contacted and encouraged to speak out on this issue. Thanks for your help.

Peace,

Anne Fitzgerald
Costa Rica 65-67

NCCRPCV  P.O. Box 2547  San Francisco, California 94126
Ms. Muffy Green  
RPCVs OF Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 1012  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Ms. Green:

Knowing of your interest in the Peace Corps, I am writing to enlist your support for legislation which I will soon be reintroducing to create a special college program to increase participation in the Peace Corps. I was pleased that an amended version of this bill was passed by the House during the 100th Congress. This legislation is especially timely in light of the renewed emphasis which has been placed on public service in recent months.

This legislation, which has been endorsed by the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and was cosponsored by 70 Members of Congress, was developed in consultation with the Peace Corps administration and would provide $5 million for the first year of the five-year demonstration program.

The program would be modeled after the Reserve Officer Training Corps programs now offered at many colleges. Under the plan, the federal government would pay the education costs for qualified undergraduates during their last two years of school. Candidates would be selected on the basis of merit and commitment, and preference would be given to minority students, who are grossly underrepresented among the ranks of Peace Corps volunteers.

Just as ROTC students take military courses, these Peace Corps candidates would take courses designed to help prepare them for service in the nations that have Corps projects. They would study language, culture, and history of the nations in which they would serve, as well as agriculture and economic development. After graduation, participants would serve three years as Peace Corps volunteers.

Our nation would receive manifold benefits for this small investment. The Peace Corps, whose efforts are so appreciated overseas, and which includes perhaps some of our country's most effective goodwill ambassadors, has had a shortage of skilled volunteers. This program would correct that deficiency, as well as help to develop a commitment to public service which sometimes seems disappointingly absent among so many of our younger citizens. And, as is the case today, Peace Corps volunteers continue to serve their nation upon their return, in such fields as government, international relations, medicine, and education.

Thousands of students across the nation compete for ROTC scholarships. This legislation would provide an opportunity to our best and brightest young people to compete for scholarships for peace as well.

I am asking supporters of this Peace Corps legislation, along with their friends, relatives, and relevant groups of which they are members, to write to their Member of Congress in support of this bill. Additional cosponsors will increase pressure on the Foreign Affairs Committee, to which this legislation will be assigned, to give the legislation favorable consideration.

Any support which you could lend to this initiative would be most appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments, or if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Constance A. Morella  
Member of Congress

CAM: csp
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
1319 F Street, NW, Suite 900 • Washington, DC 20004
(202) 393-5501

PACIFIC PEACE SUMMIT CALLED: PEACE CORPS VETERANS TO MEET JAPANESE

The first ever Asian-Pacific Returned Volunteers Conference will be hosted by the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. The Japanese Overseas Cooperation Association (JOCA) have accepted their invitation to meet in Honolulu, March 19 to 25 at the East-West Center.

The conference is the first meeting between the Japanese and American Returned Volunteers and will focus on four themes: Development Education, Development Resources, Resettlement of Volunteers and Building the Conditions of Peace in the Asian-Pacific communities where members from both groups have worked.

"It is timely," said National Council CEO Timothy Carroll, "that we should sit down now and begin a collaborative effort. Our combined force of nearly 150,000 experienced and dedicated volunteers could have an enormous impact on the development work of the 1990's throughout the entire Pacific."

The National Council has received funding for the conference from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Logistics for the conference will be handled by the RPCV/Hawaii, one of the 72 affiliated groups of the National Council.
A Traveller’s Encyclopedia

Hearken, O Gentles, for I wish you to use your imaginations to realize that you need, or at least desire, something you’ve perhaps never thought of.

So, there you are, wandering again, out in the World: do you recollect? Loose and competent, with your world-travelling gear in your pack and on your person, and in your head and hands. Clearly, when one considers it, the most important stuff is in one’s head and hands. It’s the only reliable gear for meeting any surprise, opportunity, or potential disaster. The pelf is just to make us feel good, and well-dressed for our circumstances, yet unburdened. It extends our range of classy behavior, but we can still run down a bus.

Now, the best company is often with the chance-met chappies of good insights and experiences and advice. And your venison friends: wideawake folk, with a sense of humor and much perception. Remember those conversations? In the eastern hills of Nepal, lazing on a warm slope, guffing about farming or the Ching with a good friend, three days’ walk from home. Stoned in a Tibetan restaurant in Darjeeling with well-travelled strangers, discussing yoga or the Indian economy, and telling stories from Eurasian history. Strolling with your host in those faerie mountains near Bisbee, recollecting your futures and reappraising each other’s character. The rambling drifting talk with local folk in barzinhos and bus stations. Those meditative or exuberant theses of your inner monologue.

But think of all those times when, in full career, your conversation foundered because you didn’t understand what you were talking about; or your interesting stream of thought ended because you only half-knew something crucial; or, worst of all, you were unable to make an apple pie though all the ingredients were to hand, and your beloved had the munchies.

Definitely, you need to reach for your Traveller’s Encyclopedia. It is your portable reference library. It helps you bridge your gaps.

My image is of a volume contained in a soft, dark leather cover, about the size of a Penguin paperback, of thin durable Bible paper, with movable and changeable contents, and much room for one’s custom pages. Star charts, a topographical atlas, metric conversions, the sun salutation diagrammed, historical dates and names, recipes for crepes and pilau, Morse code and power prayers, knots and hexagrams, the boiling point of water at different altitudes, the electromagnetic spectrum, and dowsing instructions. A Swiss army knife of the mind.

Help this develop. Send me your ideas. (Or, yet better, publish your own version, so I can use yours.)

Have no illusions: I do not pledge to make this project my constant avocation, nor do I promise when it will be born. But colleagues and helpful nudges make it more likely.

Buck Trawicky
1250 Jenifer Street
Madison, WI 53703 USA
608/256-7862
A wonderful bunch of mail has found its way to me. Of special note is a warm response from Harriet Larsen (Honduras, 1975-78) in Janesville, inspired by Sharon Lewandowski’s letter printed here last month. Harriet worked in the Hospital de Occidente near Santa Rosa de Copan in the far west of Honduras, near Guatemala, and Sharon’s mention of learning Spanish in Honduras brought back memories. She writes...

“I sympathize with all her problems. The love of the people and the need of good nursing care kept me going. Much teaching in nursing procedures was accomplished. I hear from one of the doctors who tells me my influence is still felt and the work carried on as I hoped it would....I enrolled in Peace Corps at the age of 65 - after I retired... I had the privilege of being one RPCV in this area honored by the "Beyond War" group a couple of years ago. Best wishes to all you RPCVs. - Paz.”

Although Harriet lives in Cedar Crest Retirement home in Janesville and unfortunately is not able to drive to Madison to meetings, I’m delighted to be able to share her memories and continued sense of connection to her Peace Corps service.

I have another letter which may more properly have been directed to the “travel” section of Gourmet. It seems that Mark Visocky, formerly an active member here and now resident in Kingsville, Texas, spent his Christmas vacation sampling all the food and drink he could get his hands on in all the dining rooms, kitchens, restaurants, outdoor grills, bakeries, vineyards, food stands, bars, candy stores, and markets in his path on a bus and car tour through Mexico. His guide and traveling companion was his Mexican roommate Eladio, whose relatives seemed to have enjoyed turning Mark into an “hombre gordo.” “I only got sick once,” he reports, “but nothing that some beers and a few street tacos didn’t straighten right out.”

In one of the few passages of his letter not dealing with food, he tells of buying one cotton and one wool sweater, both beautiful, for $12. Then he got some blue corn and bean “gordas” with napolitos and red sauce, followed by ice cream - rum popo, with fig. What I wouldn’t give for a double order, to go, right now!

Eladio’s parents live in Tlahuelilpan, in Hidalgo state and the guys spent Christmas and New Year’s there, taking short trips to visit friends and relatives. My favorite part of Mark’s letter was his description of a visit to some friends’ farm near Tlahuelilpan...."The farm is about 50 ha and they grow alfalfa, corn (blue and yellow), beans, and chili. They are restricted to those crops because they irrigate with the black waters from Mexico City, sewage water with the solids removed, and truly black. The price of irrigating a hectare (2.2 acres) is about $.02/day - very cheap. Eladio’s father asked me about farming in Wisconsin and I told him that we also grow alfalfa. He asked me how we irrigate, and when I told him that we do very little irrigating because the rain comes often enough (most years), he couldn’t believe it.

"It was so good being in the rural areas of a developing country again. The people working in the field, endless number of animals grazing along the roadside, the donkey carrying firewood, and the children playing in the village - all brought tears to my eyes - oh how I miss this lifestyle." So do I. Thanks for the snapshot from Mexico, Mark. I only wish you could have sent samples of some of those great-sounding Mexican dishes.
Dean Mahon, a member living in Geneva and very recently married in a haunted English castle, writes that the wedding was great. Hilda, whom he married, is taking French lessons and they’re busy integrating their households. A co-worker here in Madison reports that Dean is no longer available in his office at 11 p.m. Geneva time, which is probably a pretty good indication that Dean is not having any trouble settling into his new lifestyle. Felicitations!

Sharon sends greetings from Nicaragua Libre. She reminds us not to believe everything we read and speaks admiringly of the courage and strength of the Nicaraguan people. The letter I have is pretty dated and I know that her plans and assignment within Nicaragua have changed somewhat, so I hope that waiting until next month will allow more recent info to get through. In the meantime, greetings to you, Sharon, in Nicaragua Libre.

Any and all letters are welcome from anywhere, anytime. You may write to me, Lee Szabados, at home, 686 D, Eagle Heights, Madison, 53705 or to the address on the newsletter. Until next time, Lee

THE FAR SIDE

"And remember, ask not what your anthill can do for you, but what you can do for your anthill."

FREEZE FOR FOOD

| LOTS OF GREAT PEOPLE |
| LOTS OF HARD WORK (AND FUN) |
| 81 RUNNERS |
| Isthmus Ad |
| Notices at Sports Stores |
| Press Coverage |
| Local Business Support |

The Bottom line totals: $1076.00 sent to Oxfam

Many thanks to all who helped out with the race, to Chris and Wade for the after-race festivities, and to John, Julie, Dave & Ken for their work on preparations. Mark Jan. 27th, 1980 on your calendars for next year's Freeze for Food, and start saving those canned goods now! (just kidding).

Muchas gracias—Deb Stapleton

10th Annual National Conference of RPCVs
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio
July 21-23, 1989

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the Northeast Ohio Returned Volunteer Association. Together they will sponsor a conference at Kent State University on July 21-23.

Features planned include:
- individual and RPCV Group Orientations
- Workshops
- workshops and Town Meeting Forum on Public Issues
- Career Fair
- Annual General Meeting
- Awards Banquet
- Many RPCV groups are planning reunions.
- New Director of the Peace Corps will discuss directions for the Peace Corps.

Up to 1,000 RPCVs from around the country are expected at Kent State.

Kent State/Ohio is only about a 12-14 hour drive from Boston. Talk of forming a BARPCV caravan of cars is already underway. Plan ahead. Sign up early and save.

Dormitory rooms are available on the campus at the conference facilities.

For travel arrangements, contact Gaye Laurell (RPCV Morocco) at Fisher Travel (1-800-541-803) she can help with special airline rates, transportation to and from airports, car rentals and tour packages. The conference registration fee is $75.00 if you register before July 10th. Send your name, address and phone number and check for $75.00 to 1989 National Conference, P.O. Box 1184, Cleveland, Ohio 44120. Telephone Steve Frye (RPCV Fiji) at (216) 991-3798.
AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

American Players Theatre is preparing for their summer run at Spring Green again. Those of you who have seen APT productions an enjoyable experience it is. Randall Duk Kim, the shining star of APT will be back this year and is scheduled to play Lear in the APT production of King Lear.

We are planning to go in August on a Sunday so we can picnic in Tower Hill State Park across the road and then go to the Sunday evening performance which begins at 6:00 pm. That means we have three choices; King Lear on 8/6 or 8/20; The Comedy of Asses on 8/13; or A Midsummer Night's Dream on 8/27. King Lear is one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies. A Comedy of Asses is a bawdy comedy by Plautus. It is classified as adult entertainment. A Midsummer Night's Dream is Shakespeare's delightful comedy of feuding fairies and fantastic fools.

If we get 20 takers we can have the tickets at $12.50 each which is a considerable saving over the individual prices. Please let me know at the meeting what your preferences are or contact me at home by 4/15/89. We would love to have people from all over the state join us for this enjoyable event.

Don Sauer  H(608) 249-3360  W(608)266-7133
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EDITOR'S CORNER:

Deadline for submission of material for the next newsletter is Sunday, April 16.

* * * * * * * * NEXT MEETING! * * * * * * * * *

Next month's meeting will be Monday, Apr. 3 in Union South at 7 PM. Check the "Today in the Union" sheet on various bulletin boards in Union South for the room.

Future meetings are scheduled for:

Tuesday, May 2
Wednesday, June 7
Thursday, July 6 (Malawi's Independence Day!)

Other RPCV organizations have our permission to use any material of interest in this newsletter.
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

All RPCVW, Inc. members receive the newsletter on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we would prefer that our members pay through December of the year of joining ($1 a month for each month to December), then pay for a full year membership at that time. Reduced rates are available for those in extreme financial circumstances.

You can also join the National Council of RPCVs through us by paying a further $15. We strongly encourage all members to join the National Council, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

☐ I want to join RPCVW, Inc. and am enclosing $_____.
   ___ Individual - $12 for one year (or $1 per month to next January)
   ___ Joint - $17 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
   ___ Overseas Individual - $20
   ___ Overseas Joint - $25

☐ I am also enclosing $15 for National Council membership.

☐ I do not want to join, but I would like to receive the newsletter and am enclosing $7 ($15 for overseas) to cover the costs.

☐ I'M MOVING! Please change my mailing address on your records.

NAME: ___________________________ COUNTRY OF SERVICE: ___________________________
ADDRESS: ___________________________ SERVICE DATES: ___________________________
TELEPHONE: ___________________________

Please make checks payable to RPCVs of Wisconsin, Inc. and send to:

RPCVs OF WISCONSIN, INC. - Madison Chapter
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53703

marked ATT'N: MEMBERSHIP!

QUESTIONS? PROBLEMS? Call me at 608/835-3083 most evenings and weekends.
Or try 608/282-2470 weekdays and ask for me - Walt.

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NEWSLETTER POLICY:
Since we're always trying to get new members, I'll send three copies of our newsletter to anyone we think will be interested. After that, you have to pay to stay on our mailing list. Details can be found on the back page. ONE EXCEPTION: contacts in other RPCV organizations can continue to receive our newsletter if they will send us theirs.

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Rose Ann Scott 241-0845
Hank Drennon 356-3027
Buck Trawicky 256-0641
Peter Joyce 251-0156
Wade DellaGranna 238-5488
Meredith Green 271-0998
Brent McNabb 244-0289
Deb Stapleton 251-4192
Hank Drennon 249-3081
Hank Drennon 249-3081
Julie Olsen 255-7864
Jim Good 243-2818
Bob Merideth 257-1153
Rose Ann Scott 241-0845
Laura Good 246-2818
Walt Zellner 835-3083
Don Sauer 249-3360
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Walt Zellner 256-2141
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Meredith Green 233-6807
Lee Szabados 231-1694
Bob Cowell 251-0641

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Snowman