

PEACE CORPSMAN IN AFRICA

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I was granted a sizeable piece of virgin land, as a gift to the school, some five kilometers from the school compound, for applied agricultural work. The area has required a great deal of physical work, by hand naturally, as I do not have any tools yet, but I have succeeded in producing things that Ethiopians can actually see and learn from.

Making It Practical

I have attempted to design this program so that any Ethiopian farmer can do, or duplicate it, on his own plot. So far, I have used only such things as are available to the local farmer. Such simple but important practices as crop rotation, fertilizing the soil, row cropping, contour plowing, weeding and proper care have all been demonstrated at this location. We now have in production corn, wheat and numerous vegetables for food.

A secondary aim of the program is to introduce vegetables in the diets of the people. Changes in things of this nature are slow to be seen, but I do believe I am making progress. I have also started a poultry program, designed to provide eggs and chicks as breeding stock from American breeds of poultry, for the local farmers.

My parents back in Tucson have been most helpful in contacting my many friends at the U of A to send me printed booklets of information, in writing American companies and manufacturers for aid of their products, and to seed companies. With the generous assistance of the newly organized SOUTHERN ARIZONA PEACE CORPS SERVICE ORGANIZATION, which has sent me books and an electric thermostat, I have constructed a crude but, I believe, serviceable incubator. I only hope our rather unreliable source of current does not fail me now. My thanks to everyone for every effort of help.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second and concluding portion of a report from Africa by Marc Clausen, graduate of this College of Agriculture, who is just completing his first year's assignment as a member of the Peace Corps.

Difficulty With Time

A typical school day begins at "WOISERO SIHEEN" school at 8:30 a.m. I feel I must explain here a situation that caused us much trouble as related to time. In Ethiopia, the system of telling time, both clock and calendar, is completely different from what we, as Americans, are accustomed to. In Ethiopia, the beginning of a day starts at 1:00 o'clock which would be 7:00 our time. So school really begins at 2:30. Ethiopians constantly interchange their systems so we never know to which they are referring. Another source of confusion is due to the fact that Ethiopia follows a system which for example makes July 11, 1963, July 4, 1955 to them. Very difficult to understand!

Back to school! We have five periods of 45 minutes in length, with school closing for lunch at 12:30. At 2:30 school resumes for two periods and is out at 4:00 p.m. There are 57 teachers in our school of 1200 students. The faculty is comprised of four nationalities: Ethiopian, Indian, South African and American.

Another interesting note is the official end of the day here. Each day at 6:00 p.m. the entire Empire halts whatever they are doing, while the flags are lowered. People actually stop in mid-pace, passengers immediately jump out of cars and busses, and stand in reverent silence while the flags are lowered. Quite an interesting aspect of nationalism and respect!

I live with three other Peace Corps fellow teachers, George Parish, from North Carolina, Gene Rosaschi and Jerry Lemert, both from Oregon. We have an adequate house on a spacious compound within walking distance of our school. Although we do as much of our own cooking as we have time for, we employ a native cook who is paid \$30 monthly and a houseboy whom we pay \$15 Ethiopian money which, of course, is paid from our salaries as are all expenses, utilities, food, everything. Our salaries have not stretched far enough to cover it all, so we have a large garden, where I try to further demonstrate production practices, as well as to provide

more food plus variety in our meals.

Meals From 2 Cultures

We have meals that are somewhat of a compromise between European and Ethiopian foods, with as much American thrown in as we are fortunate enough to obtain. We frequently eat the national food of Ethiopia, INJERE & WAT. The things we miss most in our diet are good meat — and in a variety. (lamb is about all that is available) and SALADS, SALADS & SALADS, desserts and COFFEE. How often we talk and dream of ice cream, home-made cakes & pies, donuts and good old American HAMBURGERS.

As we rapidly approach the close of our first year in Ethiopia, I would say I can easily understand why some of the people here say and feel Americans should stay home. I have seen and worked with Americans here with very little interest in Ethiopians and their country, and can further see why and how misconceptions of Americans are established.

As far as our "AID PROGRAMS" go, I do not believe it is possible for any man in Washington to plan the proper aid program for the people in the middle of Africa. These good people do not need our money and machines. Rather they first need and desire our understanding, true fellowship that can come about only through personal contact and grass-roots work, working with them.

Peace Corps Effective

I am firmly convinced that the Peace Corps is one of the best and most effective types of foreign aid the United States can offer. In addition to helping people, it provides an opportunity to dispel many of the false impressions others have made of us and our nation.

I must say that I believe in the Peace Corps and what it is doing and I am proud to be a part of it! Thankful to be an American! I am greatly enjoying my stay here in this beautiful country and find the work as much of a challenge today as when I first arrived. I am only too glad to give all my time, energy, human understanding and as much of my experience and intelligence as possible to a people so desirous to learn.

At this time I cannot say who will benefit more from our stay in Ethiopia. We Americans may be learning more than we are teaching!