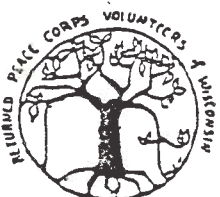


NEWS LETTER

Returned Peace Corps
Volunteers of Wisconsin:
Madison Chapter

AUGUST 1988 vol. 8, no. 1



1981

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the newsletter marks the start of our eighth consecutive year of monthly newsletter publication. In addition, our organization is stronger than its ever been - as witnessed by our starting this year with the largest number of renewing members that I can remember. Also, our successful calendar sale last year gives us a reasonable working budget for the first time in our history. Now we can look forward to an even nicer calendar for this year, and the opportunity to take on projects that we just couldn't consider in the past.

One of the great things we have going for us is that we have a comparatively large number of interested, active members - large enough that we can pass around the burden of running the group. Thus, we don't have to rely on a small group of individuals to keep our organization working, with the risk that that small group will burn itself out. We can also rely on new people with new ideas to take on leadership roles.

Since our annual election of officers is coming in October, it is time to start considering who should be taking over from our current officers. A Nominations Committee, consisting of Buck Trawicky, Jim Good, and chaired by Helene Pesche, is looking for input from our members concerning who should be considered to run as officers for next year. If you have suggestions or are interested in nominating someone, contact any member of the committee. They'll be glad to hear from you. If you are asked by the committee to run for an officer's position, please give it serious consideration. Without a continual input of new ideas from new people, we will eventually stagnate.

I should point out for our new members that we generally do not have an election as such for president. Since the president has to put in a fair amount of time to keep the group running smoothly, many highly qualified people have turned down the opportunity to run for president because they just cannot fit it into their schedules. As a result, we now ask people who we feel would do a good job as president if they would be willing to run. When we find someone who agrees, we usually settle on that person to run unopposed. The presidency has thus become a consensus agreement position, in part to minimize any bad feelings that could arise. This approach has worked well for us in the past but can be changed if people feel the need (and if two people can be found to run for president). Because the other officers generally have to spend less time at their positions, there is more willingness to run for these positions and so we can hold actual elections for these positions. However, I expect that Buck will be secretary as long as he wants the position, especially since he writes such incredibly interesting minutes.

EDITOR'S CORNER:

1. Our annual Pig, Tofu and Whatever Roast is tentatively scheduled for the weekend after Labor Day. Buck Trawicky has agreed to coordinate this year's event. Anyone willing to help Buck with the logistics should call him at 256-7868. As of now, I don't know the location of the Roast, but directions and/or a map will be in next month's newsletter.

2. We generally try to staff a table during the first two days of Fall registration at the UW. Anyone who can sit at the table for a couple of hours during the day (most likely university students and staff) should contact Bob Merideth at 257-1153 for more information. We hope to have our 1989 calendar for sale at this time.

3. I'm publishing a short newsletter for the second straight month. The reason for this is not that it's easier for me to put out a short newsletter or that it saves money on duplicating costs. The reason is that I don't have anything else to include. So it's time for another appeal. If you come across an article two pages or less in length which you think would appeal to other RPCVs, please cut out the article or duplicate it and send it to me. If I have space for it (weight limits on first class postage limit me to 6 pages per newsletter), I'll include it in a future newsletter. If you thought it was interesting enough to send to me, I guarantee that others will also appreciate the chance to read it.

Articles sent to the box number on the back of this newsletter will eventually reach me. However, it would be faster to send the article directly to me at the following address:

Walt Zeltner
6187 Sun Valley Pkwy.
Oregon, WI 53575.

The more articles I receive, the more varied I can make future newsletters.

4. Deadline for submission of material for the next newsletter is Monday, August 15.

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

Next month's meeting will be on Thursday, August 4 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:

! ! ! Thursday, September 1 (There will be no Friday potluck in Sept. We will have our Roast a week later!)

Monday, October 3
Tuesday, November 1

Illness isn't slowing this rider down

Plainview, Minn.

He looked liked a hundred other cyclists laboring up the 2-mile hill where Hwy. 42 mounts the Mississippi River bluffs above Kellogg, Minn.

On a day that began with a hailstorm and then graduated inevitably into the daily stoking of the Turkish bath of the cornfields, this was not a hill climb; it was a rolling purgatory for stubborn souls.

Yet the Minnesota highway map was implacable. If you wanted to get from Hwy. 61 and Kellogg to Plainview, you had to get over the hill. The young man riding in front of me understood that, and went churning up the twisting asphalt gumbo, grunting to his companions and mocking his fatigue. He also changed gears noisily and drained an ocean of sweat.

His private war with the road in the 90-degree heat scarcely set him apart from the others. Neither did his muted yelp of triumph when he reached the summit. What was different about this rider is written in the hospital dossiers.

Pat Malone has leukemia. He found out about it last fall a few weeks before he was to fly to Zaire to take a job as a coordinator for health and food relief. But what about leukemia patients? Aren't they supposed to take tests and try to comfort anxious members of their families?

"Well, yes, but there's no reason some leukemia patients can't go on 500-mile bike rides," Pat Malone said. "Chemotherapy won't work for this condition. I'm getting a bone marrow transplant which could mean a future for me. The doctors say the chances of that are two out three."

He rode his bicycle and conducted himself in camp without betraying any surface anxiety about those jobs. The doctors said there's one chance in three, Pat Malone, that you have no future after the transplant. It must have been a kick in the gut for a 29-year-old man filled with ideals of service to the starving and ignored.

"I was in the Peace Corps in Africa for several years," he said. "I taught gymnastics for a long time. I taught other things and I solved problems. I was the guy doing the serving. I think that's an important calling, and it gives great satisfaction if you work at it the right way. But now I was the man who was sick. And I needed others. I didn't know how to respond to that for a while. Open yourself up that way. I learned to accept it, to express fear about the future and about my leukemia. But I also learned that life can't stand still for a person when he gets the kind of news

I did. In fact it should give him more purpose than ever."

Malone is an engaging and impressive young man, driven by a range of curiosities and urges to change whatever part of the world he can reach with his energies. The leukemia has not diminished those energies, physically or intellectually. And this week he is riding with a double purpose — to tell Pat Malone he can ride 500 miles, and to raise money for leukemia research. He solicited money from friends from Brady High School and the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, relatives and the jock community. He raised \$2,000, and with each spin of the pedals, I wanted to tell him what he meant to those he rode with.

There was hail, all right, and there was the usual blowtorch south wind lacing our noses and jostling the little metal steeds we rode. But you can't ride through the land of Hiawatha without being gripped by its pictures — sailboats riding in the haze of Lake Pepin, emerald bluffs lifting hundreds of feet above the lake. There were moments when you swear you are riding the edge of the Norwegian fiords, or the pastoral foothills of the Bavarian Alps.

And coming down from Cannon Falls, we rolled through ravines and past barns where poets inscribed cryptic ballads celebrating honeyed valleys of our ancestors and a walk in the woods after the storm. We had 80 miles of it, and never mind the 2-mile hill and the hail. Pat Malone and the fiords of the prairie made it a treasure.

From the Minneapolis (?) Star Tribune (6/20/88)
with thanks to Julie Olson.

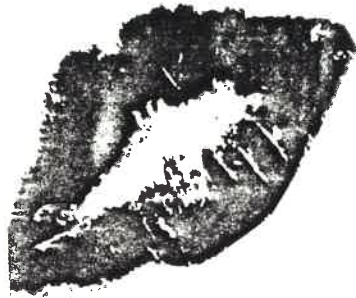
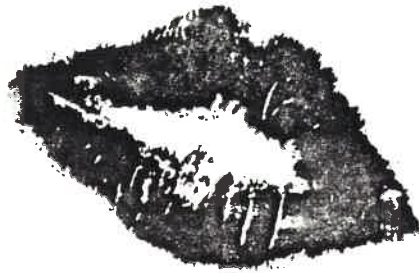
NEWSLETTER POLICY:

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.

FLASH: OUR 1989 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE NOW! EARLY BIRD PRICES: \$4 FOR RPCVS OF WIS \$5 FOR NONMEMBERS. PRICES VALID FOR 2 MONTHS.

CONTACT JIM GOOD 608/233-7373 FOR MORE INFO!

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



LOOSE LIPS

Some of us just did not keep our basic skills up to snuff. Mark did himself in with a machette blow to the index finger of his left hand. After a brief period of mending he discovered he could not move his finger. A visit to a sports medicine doctor, and surgery to stitch his tendon back together, has him in a cast, and doing a 3 fingered thesis literature search. ---Then we have Ken's parents, 88 year old Hiram and 87 year old Eleanor. He backed the car over her. It was a horrifying experience for all 3. But now that Eleanor is out of the hospital and Hiram is in a nursing home, Ken can laugh about it. ---The arrival of Bob and children, in an old truck loaded down with belongings, struck up the image of the Clampets of the Beverly Hillbillies. Except for tire problems, they made their eastward journey with due speed. ---Jo is back into the mode of pure, drug free substances in her body, as she is busily incubating a brother or sister for Hank. ---And CONGRATULATIONS to Dan and Mary Grace on their 2nd daughter Anna Rose. Loose Lips thinks that's a fine name! ---Laura gets the award for the mother with the cleverest handling of a tot. Whenever William uses one of the P words, Laura sit him on the toilet. He is learning that those words mean business. Challenges are still to come with the F word. ---Karen is moving, but only down the street. Good-bye to the home of many of a Christmas party. ---Marc and Jo and Rick and Masako had a party with representatives from the Ralph Lauren set to the tie dyed spiked hairers. Of course the RPCV contingency tied it all together. The food was outstanding. ---Another gathering with

a different bent was Ross and Brent's RECEPTION FOR SIRA. CHIROPRACTORS, politicians and RPCV's made up the fractions. Everyone was dressed to the gills and charmingly sipped on strawberry punch. Sira wore a black backless dress, giving everyone a chance to check out her alignment. ---John represented our group at Michael Feldman's What Do You Know? radio show. He had people in stitches as he won the quiz. Do you know the phrase the English use as they throw out the contents of their chamber pots? The prize is a device that makes the sounds of machine guns, sirens, or bombs, depending on which method of extinction he wants to use. He even managed to illegally plug the calender. ---And CONGRATULATIONS to Meredith, as she is now a member of the RPCV board. ---The Goods have been successful in their search for an older home with character. Now to complete the closing. ---And THANKS to the Goods, Julie, and Bob for their calender efforts. ---And SYMPATHY to Ken who burried his cat. It died last winter and he has been carrying it around in a shopping bag ever since. ---Sharon is now in Guatamala learning Spanis. She will not be lonely, as Peter is going down to visit his sister and her. Maybe Scott should join them for a visit. ---Dean is busy doing his world tours. He is headed for Austrailia via Bangkok. He can't afford to stop by and see us til after Thanksgiving. Oh well. ---The calender is great and more gorgeous than ever. The printer would like to enter it in printing contests, except we need to get the quality of or photos up. Maybe we should all take photo safaris to PC countries. ---See you in Boulder.



American Red Cross

June 30, 1988

Dane County Chapter
4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Box 5905
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-0905
(608) 233-9300

Ms. Rose Ann Scott
RPCV'S OF WISCINSIN INC
2714 Oakridge Avenue
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Ms. Scott:

Recent reports of renewed drought and famine in sub-Saharan countries are painful reminders that the struggle to eliminate hunger, death, and dependency continues. In October, 1987, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization predicted a food deficit of more than one million tons for Ethiopia alone. The Red Cross believes it is critical to launch a worldwide drought alert and to act now.

As executive director of the Dane County Chapter of the American Red Cross, I recognize that the Madison community includes a diversity of groups committed to combating hunger all over the world. Together we must develop a plan for publicizing this crisis in order to sensitize the people of Madison and Dane County to the magnitude of the problem. In recognition of the similarity of this concern to the commitments of RPCV'S OF WISCINSIN INC, we ask you to join us.

Your involvement is essential to our success. As the Midwest suffers through its worst drought since the 1930's, each of us is made aware of the devastation that can result from a natural disaster. If the Midwest drought continues, we will certainly pay more for food. But food will still be available to us.

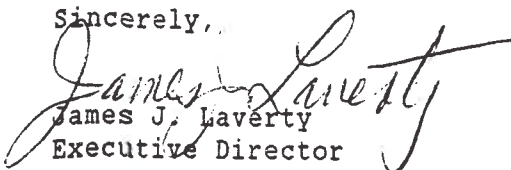
This is not the case in sub-Saharan Africa. Without our help and the assistance of others worldwide, many people will starve and die.

Please join us and representatives of the other groups listed on the enclosed sheet. Our first step is to convene a joint meeting -- then we will develop a strategy for publicizing the situation.

In the near future, a Red Cross volunteer will call to see if a meeting at the Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, on Tuesday, August 2, 1988, 8AM, or Tuesday, August 9, 8AM, would be convenient. When you are called, I hope you will agree to attend. If you are unable to come, please ask someone else to represent your organization.

Please join us in this fight against hunger!

Sincerely,


James J. Lavery
Executive Director

Enclosure



MEMBER UNITED WAY OF DANE COUNTY

