

Peace Corps Doctors Write Telling of Their New Posts

During the past summer, Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill worked together on the Peace Corps Doctors Program, the first program of its kind.

Now the doctors and their families are at their respective posts, and letters telling of their

new life are being received.

Given below are selected excerpts from the letters:

JALLALABAD, AFGHANISTAN—Nangrahar Medical School

“The Volunteer Doctor Medical Program in this medical

school has turned out to be better than expected. The plans which were only dreams in May are realities in November. The school has caught the imagination, not only of Afghans but of others as well. We have a tiger.

“In May 1965 Nangrahar hospital was clean and empty; in November it is bloody and crowded. In May the staff of twelve Afghan doctors was doing little; in November six Afghan doctors and four Americans are working around the clock.”

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“There is an electric excitement in the air, both operating rooms are busy, and many new developments are beginning. The Volunteers have been there for only six weeks, the changes date since then.”

* * *

“We need a surgeon desperately also an anesthesiologist and a hospital administrator.”

NEW DELHI, INDIA

“We spent a week in Israel—living in a kibbutz. In a land of miracles a minor one took place. The older kids got up at 5 a.m. each day to join the workers in the fields—voluntarily.”

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

“We love Ethiopia—it is beautiful beyond all expectations and the climate is marvelous.”

* * *

“We went . . . to Seattle for the rat-race of buying and final packing—trying to allow for the kids’ growth, wear, etc. (all intangibles). Had a good trip from Seattle to here. The kids did beautifully and were just flying over Ethiopia when Peg first collapsed in sobs and rejection of all but T-panda.”

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“I spend a great part of my day riding in broken down Fiat taxis. PCVs in Ethiopia are not allowed to have cars, regardless of their source.”

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“Carolyn finds the lab at Pasteur a tremendous challenge. There hasn’t been a biochemist there for six years and they do

nearly all the clinical lab work in the country . . .”

DESSIE WOLLO, ETHIOPIA

“Many of the patients travel long distances, some as much as six days journey by foot over mountain passes, impassable by auto and even donkey and you can imagine the condition of their arrival.”

* * *

“The countryside is beautiful with a large ‘mountain’ range called Tolsa rising almost perpendicular several hundred yards in front of my front door. The top of the range is flat and harbors several herds of baboons numbering several hundred. Hiking into the surrounding countryside is one of the favorite pastimes of the PCVs, and very rewarding it is.”

SHIRAZ, IRAN—Pahlau University Medical School

“... ladies that help at house have never seen diapers, no concept of cleanliness, etc. . . .”

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“May do project on dwarfs in villages—25 yrs. old, 4’10” people—possibly endocrine but probably nutritional . . .”

GOBES, TUNISIA

“Gobes is an oasis city . . . on the Mediterranean and the sea is about a mile away from our house. The beach is quite nice and comparable to those back home.”

* * *

“Most of the people here are very poor. Women remain in the home. They do not socialize outside at all. When they do go out . . . white veils cover the whole face except for one eye.”

* * *

“I have been getting the *N. E. Journal and Newsweek Magazine* (a few weeks late). We hope to get *Time Magazine* later and all PCVs receive the Sunday “News of the Week in Review” section of the *NY Times*. The Peace Corps provides us with a large number of good pocket books.”

* * *

“I heard over the armed forces station that Duke beat UNC yesterday . . .”

Something Missing, Something Gained

The Employee Cafeteria in the basement is gone.

In its place is the Carousel Room, an attractively decorated dining area open around-the-clock for employees.

A wide selection of food and drink items is assured by the eight tan-colored machines which line one interior wall. On the “menu” are coffee, hot chocolate, milk, soft drinks, sandwiches, crackers, pastries and assorted candies.

The convenience of a change machine has also been provided.

At one end of the new dining area there are eight tables and thirty-two accompanying chairs.

At the other end of the room—for diners who wish to stand while eating—are two counters and a large “carousel table” which sports a gay green and yellow awning.

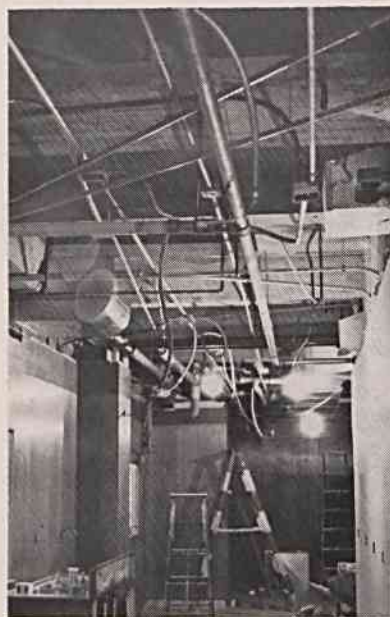
It should be noted that now that the Carousel Room is available for employees on night duty, the 10:30-11:30 P. M. supper is no longer being served in the first floor cafeteria. The first floor cafeteria now closes after the dinner meal at 7:00 P. M.



The Carousel Room Gets a Facial. There is an art to the deft wielding of mortar and trowel . . .

A Tour of the Facilities

Yes ma’m, a cafeteria . . . No’m, go right ahead; you won’t bother us. Thas’ right . . . not quite through. No ma’m, I don’t know what goes there. Tables? . . . maybe so. . . . Ma’m? No ma’m, that sink won’t be there when we’re finished. Yes ma’m, we certainly will be glad when we’re through.



Progress Is Reviewed

Director of Dietetics, Miss Dot Tate, is shown standing at the “carousel table” scanning the blueprints for the Carousel Room.



Photos by Wallace