



YACHASPA

Quechua for “sabiendo” or “knowing”...

Newsletter of Amigos de Bolivia y Perú, Inc.

Editor's Introduction...

This issue of *Yachaspa* was delayed due to several changes at the end of 2004, including changes in the leadership of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*. Prior to *Amigos'* recent Board meeting, a longtime member, Patt Behler (Peru 1962-4), was elected President for 2005, replacing Ken Rustad (Bolivia 1962-4). Ken is a co-founder of *Amigos* who served as president (and more recently, as unofficial Board coordinator) since 1989. The election of Bill Sherry as 2005 Treasurer (previously our Membership Coordinator until a year ago) and Gerard Maguire, a newly elected Board member, as 2005 Kantuta Coordinator, completed the transition.

The mailing address of *Amigos* is now in Columbus, OH (replacing the longtime Post Office Box in New Mexico), and *Amigos'* email address is boliviayperu@hotmail.com, replacing the old earthlink address. These new addresses appear throughout this newsletter and on our *Amigos'* website at www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org. Also, the website has been improved substantially by Gerard Maguire, who volunteered to be our webmaster. Equally momentous leadership changes are underway for PC/Peru and PC/Bolivia. Michael Hirsh has been named as the new director of PC/Peru, replacing key personnel who re-opened the program in 2002. Doreen Salazar is the incoming PTO of PC/Bolivia, replacing Charna Lefton. All these transitions are detailed in articles within this issue.

Amigos Board Holds First Teleconference

The annual meeting of the Board was held on January 6, 2005. Board members present during the teleconference, which was arranged by Stephen Paul Jacobs, included Patt Behler (Peru), Gayle Hartmann (Peru), Stephen Jacobs (Bolivia), Gloria Levin (Peru), Gerard Maguire, (Bolivia) Hugh Pickens (Peru) and William Sherry (Bolivia). Absent were Ken Rustad (Bolivia) and Steven Huffstutlar (Bolivia).

Three newly elected officers for 2005 were in-

stalled: President, Patt Behler; Treasurer William Sherry; Kantuta Coordinator, Gerard Maguire.

The following Board members were confirmed for continuance through 2005: Publications Coordinator, Gayle G. Hartmann; Corporate Secretary, Stephen Paul Jacobs; Membership Coordinator, Gloria Levin; Rendezvous in South America Coordinator, Ken Rustad; Washington, DC Area Coordinator, Hugh Pickens; Bolivia Coordinator, Steven Huffstutlar and

Peru Coordinator, Patt Behler.

Before the meeting, annual reports from the various officers and coordinators were submitted to the Board members electronically; during the teleconference there was discussion of the reports.

There was also discussion and approval of changes in content and format of our membership application; in accordance with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) require-

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Winter 2004-05

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Amigos de Bolivia y Peru, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association. As an affiliate of NPCA, *Amigos* is one of approximately 150 organized groups of returned Peace Corps volunteers, former staff and friends who work together and separately. *Amigos* promotes and supports a variety of activities for the purpose of enhancing cooperation and understanding among the peoples of Bolivia and/or Peru and the peoples of the United States.

Yachaspa, the newsletter of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*, is distributed quarterly with the following anticipated deadlines for submitting materials to the editor: Spring Issue-

March 15th; Summer Issue-June 15th;
Fall Issue-September 15th; Winter Issue-
December 15th.

Articles are welcome and may be submitted to brownr@westminster-mo.edu.

Yachaspa is distributed to members by mail or electronically in .pdf format. Past issues are also available at www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org on the *Amigos* web site .

Note *Amigos* Website and New Addresses

by *Gloria Levin*

Take a look at *Amigos*' redesigned and improved website at www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org. Gerard Maguire (Bolivia 95-97) volunteered to revamp the website, resulting in a more current and aesthetically appealing site. A new feature is a photo gallery, and the news page is being updated continually with current media reports on Bolivia and Peru. The page for links to other

sites has been expanded. Some features are not yet functional such as a place for submitting comments to the webmaster, and a message board is planned. Under consideration are pages of special interest to current PCVs and for PC invitees preparing to enter training. Gerard's excellent work and volunteer spirit were recognized by his recent election to *Amigos*' Board of Directors and his naming as our new webmaster.

The election of new officers has necessitated a change in our ad-

resses. The official mailing address has been changed from the New Mexico post office box to the Columbus, OH address of *Amigos*' new treasurer.

Finally, our email address has also been changed from earthlink to amigosdeboliviayperu@hotmail.com. These changes appear throughout this newsletter and on the website.

Amigos Board Holds First Teleconference (continued from p. 1)

ments for affiliate groups, appropriate changes will be made.

In addition, the mailing and e-mail addresses for *Amigos* correspondence have been changed. Likewise, notification of contact information for new and continuing officers of our organization has been transmitted to NPCA.

Transfer of financial records and funds will be directed to Bill Sherry, incoming Treasurer.

In addition to his responsibilities as incoming Kantuta Coordinator, Gerard Maguire has agreed to serve as Webmaster for 2005, replacing Bill Sherry.

President Patt Behler will name an Elections Coordinator in the near future who will oversee the process for verifying the election of

future Board members. She also presented the following goals for the coming year: increasing membership, gaining better access to membership lists, active fund-raising and increased participation and monitoring of Kantuta projects.

Another major item of business will be the revision of the Bylaws. Gloria Levin, Bill Sherry and Patt Behler will serve as a sub-committee and invite input from all of the other Board members as well as from all members of the organization.

Gloria Levin moved that Ray Brown, *Yachaspa* editor, be heartily congratulated for his excellent support of *Amigos* by serving in this capacity.

Gayle Hartmann reported on her family's recent trip to Peru and told of

her visit to the Peace Corps office in Lima; she indicated that volunteers are often quite isolated and therefore have difficulty receiving copies of our newsletter.

Gerard Maguire suggested that each Board member submit a short biographical sketch and photo so that he could include all of them at our newly revamped web site.

The teleconference participants ended the two-hour meeting on a positive note with the anticipation that the 2005 Board can and will build on the groundwork that past president Ken Rustad has so efficiently put in place over the past years.

An Opportunity for Amigos to Grow

by *Patt Behler*

As incoming President, I want to say how much I look forward to working with a great Board, made up of Bolivia and Peru RPCVs who remember how important it is to keep our Peace Corps experiences in our hearts and how worthwhile it can be to continue our relationships with friends, workers and organizations in both of "our" countries.

Day by day, we are developing contacts that we hope will pay off in benefiting those in Bolivia and Peru who need our help and support.

It's not only a job for the Board, however! We are counting on all of you, our loyal members who have supported *Amigos* through the years, to initiate ideas that we can put into action...ideas that can support a continuing "conversation" among us stateside but also ideas and projects

that you discover that can assist our host country friends and neighbors. Be on the look out for non profits that may have a fit for us to work with; if you are a member of a local RPCV group, gather ideas that we can use. Brainstorm with friends and let us in on what you come up with.

Amigos, we look forward to a wonderful *Amigos* year! Join us in the journey!

Time Zone Members, Where in the USA are You?

by *Patt Behler*

Over the years, Ken Rustad and I have talked about developing regional time zone members' groups with the idea of planning reunions, sharing projects...just generally keeping in touch. During this last summer's NPCA conference in

Chicago, we were successful in reaching some of our Central Time Zone (CTZ) members who said, "Sure, I'd like to come to dinner at a Peruvian restaurant in Chicago!" And they did; it was a great gathering.

If it could happen in the Midwest, it could happen anywhere. We need representatives in different

time zones all around the country to recruit members and help plan get-togethers...will you volunteer to help get people in touch with each other in your area?

Let me know if you are willing, able and ready to get a group started in your area.

What's Happening with PC/Peru?

by Gloria Levin

As seen in the accompanying two articles, staffing in PC/Peru is undergoing major changes. Kate Raftery, the first country director (CD) since PC re-entered Peru, built the program from the ground up. After Kate's departure in October 2004 for her new position at PC/ Washington, she was replaced by two subsequent interim directors, both of whom served briefly, being reassigned to other PC positions outside of Peru. Serendipitously, both the incoming and the outgoing PC/Peru CDs are spending a month together in Washington, DC, undergoing training there before undertaking their new roles as CDs – Ken Goodson (who served as Acting Director of PC/Peru, is moving to Mongolia) and Michael Hirsh (to lead PC/Peru). I recently had lunch with them, both members of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* and Bolivia RPCVs.

In addition to Michael becoming the permanent CD as of early February, the program is receiving two new Associate PC Directors (APCD). Ken had formerly served as APCD for both youth and health programs, but that job has been split into two fulltime positions in recognition of the programs' growth. As of January 31, the health position will be filled by Emilia Villanueva, an outstanding Peruvian counterpart to two PCVs, who worked with CARE in Huaraz. The youth APCD position

will be filled by a North American, not yet announced. The third APCD, for PC/Peru's Small Business program, continues to be Alfredo Gutierrez, another Peruvian. The well-loved PC Medical Officer (PCMO), Mary Stonehill, has been replaced by a Peruvian family physician, Dr. Jorge Bazán.

PC/Peru formerly used a contract firm, CHP, for training PC recruits but is converting to in-house training, with the hiring of its own PC training director. Driven by the specifics of budgetary cycles, generally two training sessions per year are conducted. The first group of PCVs (called Peru .5, acknowledging its forerunner status) numbered only four and were all experienced PCVs transferring from other Spanish-speaking countries. They arrived in Peru May 2002 and were in the field August 2002. Ken commended them as extraordinary PCVs who opened pathways to agencies that are the basis of the current program. Twenty members of Peru I recently completed their service and are heading back to the U.S.

I learned that PC/Peru uses telecommunications extensively, although most of the PCVs are located in rural areas with irregular access to internet-enabled computers. Nonetheless, all check in with PC via the internet at least once a month, and Ken estimated that 90% can access the internet at least every two weeks. He estimated that 90% have their own cell phones; some use a service that does not charge for calls made within its network, facilitating PCVs keeping in touch with each other.

PC/Peru headquarters does bi-weekly (snail) mailings to all PCVs to rented *casillas* in regional post offices. Although slow, the service is reliable, according to reports from the PCVs.

Peru PCVs publish their own photo-, recipe-, poetry-, profile-, journal- and news-filled newsletter, *Pasa la Voz*, the most recent two of which Ken had sent to me. One statistic found in the newsletter that will be evocative for RPCVs – the average weight gained by female PCVs in Peru is 5 lbs.; the average weight lost by male PCVs in Peru is 10 lbs! And the most weight lost by a current PCV is 42 lbs. Maybe the latter is due to the most common “bug” found in PCVs, *giardia lamblia*. Cited as useful items brought to Peru by PCVs were: a solar shower, headlamp, boots, hand sanitizer and a sense of humor.

Ken has been a terrific communicator with *Amigos*, writing several excellent articles for *Yachaspa*, meeting with *Amigos* board member, Gayle Hartmann, on her recent visit to Lima and emailing me news over the last few months. *Amigos* will be sorry to lose him, but we wish him well in Mongolia. Michael has proven to be equally warm and *cumplido*, so all signs are favorable for a close relationship developing between *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* and the volunteers and staff of PC/Peru. I am organizing a Peruvian dinner on January 28th for RPCVs from Peru and Bolivia in the DC area to meet Michael and Ken while they are in town for training.

Changing Times in the PC/Peru

by Ken Goodson, until recently
Acting Country Director

With the departure of Kate Raftery, PC/Peru's first country director since re-establishing the program, who is now Chief of Operations for Latin America and the Pacific in PC/ Washington, the program had been awaiting news of the new leadership. Michael Hirsh was offered and accepted the position and will be on the ground in Lima, Peru in early February. (See accompanying article about Michael.) Clearly, an RPCV from Bolivia with Peru experience, is a perfect choice to be PC/Peru country director. Welcome aboard, Michael!!

Additional changes and departures are currently taking place as well. Mary Stonehill, Peru's Peace Corps Medical Officer (PCMO), who was tasked with establishing all of the program's medical policies and support contacts for Volunteers, will finish her contract with PC/Peru on December 24, 2004. Mary has been invaluable and has focused the majority of

her past weeks training Dr. Jorge Bazan, her Peruvian replacement who has been on board since December 1, 2004. Mary will move to Moldova, where she will serve as PCMO for the program there.

Kathleen Hickey, a Peruvian resident born of North American parents, accepted the position of Training Director and will begin her work with a 3-week trip to Cochabamba, Bolivia to learn from Bill Green and his excellent training staff there.

Finally, after 7 years of life and work in the Andes, I was offered and accepted the country director position for PC/ Mongolia. I will leave Peru on January 10th and be on the ground in Asia in early February. My position here will be replaced by a new (US direct-hire) Youth Associate Peace Corps Director (APCD), someone I hope will be in Peru by April, and a Health APCD, who should be on board by the end of January or early February.

The past two and a half years have been truly incredible for me, personally and professionally. When Kate Raftery and I arrived to Peru in May of 2002, PC/Peru consisted of the two of us sitting in a closet in the Agriculture

office at the US Embassy. Today we have 104 PCVs serving in 5 departments, a staff of 21 people supporting the efforts of Volunteers, and three active projects - all attempting to make a contribution to improving the quality of life in Peru.

We have one of the world's best PC staffs and a fine collection of dedicated, hard-working Volunteers. Because of staff and Volunteer efforts, we are identifying more appropriate host agencies and counterparts. Interest in hosting a Volunteer and belief in what a PCV can offer to a community and a host agency have skyrocketed.

And great things lie ahead for PC/Peru! Despite all of the changes I am reminded of what my community in Bolivia told me at my *despedida*: **Llaqtakunap atipayniwan, terqimuyaunta kuyuchisunchis.** *Con el poder del pueblo, moveremos el mundo.*

The residents and communities of Peru continue to drive this program and to create all of the wonderful opportunities to serve that so many Peru RPCVs remember. Best wishes, Ken

Amigos Member Named Peru Country Director

by Gloria Levin and Michael Hirsh

Longtime Amigos member, Michael Hirsh, was recently named Peace Corps Country Director in Peru, replacing Kate Raftery. Michael will arrive in Lima in February, after four weeks of training in Washington, DC. He will be accompanied by his two trusty dogs, Pepper and Delilah, ages 12 and 5, respectively.

This will be Michael's fourth stint with Peace Corps. He was a volunteer

in Bolivia from 1970 until the program closed in 1971, stationed in Punata in a rural electrification program. He served as Program and Training Officer (PTO) in Ecuador 1980-83 and as Country Director in the Dominican Republic, 1992-97. In between these PC assignments, Michael worked with USAID, serving in Colombia, Chile, Paraguay and Peru. While in Peru, 1983 to 1987, he managed a major reconstruction project after the devastating El Niño

coastal floods and sierra drought of 1983. Working with local governments, he rebuilt schools, roads, irrigation systems and other essential infrastructure. That project team has remained close, and Michael has attended several of their reunions in Lima. Michael also has hiked in many areas of the country and can speak rudimentary Quechua.

Michael has other ties to Peru as

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What a Difference 40 Years Makes:

Changes Between the Peru of 1964 and 2004

by Gayle Hartmann

In December 2004 I returned to Peru after an absence of 40 years. I had been a Peace Corps volunteer in Arequipa, Peru, from 1964-66; over Christmas 2004 my husband, adult daughter and I returned for a two-week vacation. We had a wonderful time, visiting both tourist spots such as Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca, as well as people I had known in the 1960s (they, of course, are now grandparents). During the trip I made a point to jot down notes about changes I observed ~ some positive, some negative; some socially important, some less so. Here is a summary of those changes along with a few observations on their significance.

CHANGES THAT CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS NEGATIVE:

1. A Huge Increase In Population. For example, the populations of Lima, Arequipa, and Cuzco have increased by nearly a factor of four. The population of Juliaca has exploded, and it is widely described as a site of contraband activity, with trafficking in illicit goods across Lake Titicaca. These huge populations have produced enormous urban footprints, with the "edge communities" of newcomers living in precarious economic circumstances, generally with a minimum of infrastructure. In the 1960s we thought Lima and Arequipa were big, with new "barriadas" crowding the urban outskirts - those cities of 40 years ago now seem small, quaint, and relatively orderly.

2. Great Concern About Personal Security. Virtually every person we talked to, from American tourists to Peruvians of all walks of life, com-

mented on the need for security: Don't wear anything of value! Definitely don't carry a purse! Don't leave belongings in a car! Don't walk in certain areas! Walk in groups!

What a difference from my earlier time in Peru when personal security was basically a non-issue. We walked anywhere, day or night, in groups or alone, and I always carried a purse. About the only security issue was the occasional pack of semi-wild dogs ~ the recourse being pretending to throw a rock in order to make them scatter.

Of course, an increase in security concerns is not limited to Peru; it has become a global issue. Who knows where it will lead.

CHANGES THAT CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS POSITIVE, OR LARGELY SO:

1. A Great Increase In Tourism. From being a barely visible economic factor in the 1960s, tourism has become one of the primary engines driving the Peruvian economy. An aspect of tourism called "adventure tourism," didn't exist at all. Now huge numbers of visitors hike Inca trails, climb Andean peaks, and run rivers that drain into the Amazon, not to mention the hordes that visit Machu Picchu, the Nazca lines, and the other top tourist attractions.

From my recent experience, on the whole, tourism is well organized and well managed. It has also helped foster a class of young, well-educated, foreign language-speaking Peruvians who make decent salaries and can afford to live decent lives.

Of course, tourism is not without its negative aspects. For one thing, it can be easily disrupted by unexpected events, and thus is not a stable piece of the economic pie. We heard of the big

decline in tourism after 9/11.

2. Much Improvement In Communication. The communication revolution that has swept the U.S. has swept the entire world. The comparison to 40 years ago is mind boggling. Then, the old-fashioned means of communication, the postal system, was uncertain at best. Letters generally arrived after a few weeks; packages frequently did not. The telephone system worked, most of the time, within the country, but many people did not have telephones. An international call was a rare and expensive event. I recall a friend calling her parents in Ohio for Christmas; it was the only international call she made in two years; I made none and received none. Televisions were uncommon. Now there are telephone booths at Machu Picchu and, of course, cell phones and televisions are everywhere.

And, what a difference the internet has made! Internet cafes are also everywhere and they are cheap! These huge improvements in communication can only be seen as positive in a country that has, for centuries, been separated both by difficult geography and political factionalism.

3. Some Improvement In Basic Infrastructure. I believe it is correct to say that in the 1960s the only major paved highways in Peru were the Pan-American highway and the highway between Lima and Arequipa. Within cities, streets were primarily cobblestone, which were constantly being repaired. In 2004 there are still far fewer paved highways than one might expect, but it

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What A Difference 40 Years Makes (continued from p. 4)

is possible to drive from Arequipa to Cuzco on a paved road and many more urban streets are paved. In some communities, many people are riding bicycles – a means of transportation virtually unknown in the 1960s. In addition, electricity, water, outhouses, and even sewers have begun to reach rural areas. What's more, solar power is being used in some small, hard-to-reach communities. Of course, there is always the question of who will fix the solar equipment when it breaks down. But, still, improvement in basic infrastructure, although much slower than many would like, is at least visible.

4. A Healthier Population.

Real improvements in public health are a welcome and significant change. Children with cleft palates and club feet used to be a common sight; also common were people with serious leg or spinal problems who pushed themselves along the streets on low-slung carts. On this visit I saw none of any of these. Although there are still beggars, there seem to be fewer of them, as well. Very

poorly dressed children, often without shoes, were not at all uncommon. I saw not a single child without shoes on this visit; I'm sure there are some, but I didn't see them.

5. A Heightened Understanding Of Both Cultural And Ecological Preservation. Peru is known worldwide for the significance of its cultural patrimony as well as the importance of its biological diversity. In the 1960s the country's cultural patrimony was certainly known, but little attention was being paid to its preservation. Although I'm sure there is still insufficient funding directed toward cultural preservation, it is clear that its importance is now well understood, and serious attempts at preservation and management are being made at all the sites that we visited. Significant but reasonable revenues are being collected as entry fees at well-known sites.

In addition, I was extremely impressed with the generally elevated knowledge of the country's ecology and the concern with its preservation. For example, many national parks exist where there were none before. I'm sure many political decisions need to be made and enforced before ecological preservation can be considered assured,

but that is also the case in the U.S. Peru has at least started down the right road.

6. Pride In Its Multicultural Heritage. Peru may not yet be as proud of its multicultural heritage as it should be, but there is considerable pride where once there was little. Statues representing individuals of indigenous heritage are common. Middle-class people (at least in the tourism industry) are proud of their indigenous heritage and of their ability to speak Quechua or Aymara.

Some of this pride is probably related to the obvious: it is good for tourism, but some is, I hope, heartfelt. For Peru to surmount one of its biggest obstacles, the cultural gulf between its indigenous and Spanish/mestizo population, greater pride in all segments of the population is still needed.

So, kids with shoes, national parks, bicycles, outhouses, cell phones, and pride in its unique cultural heritage. All these changes are positive and represent hope for Peru's future. As always, a major continuing need is national and international investment at the local level, with long-term oversight and management. May positive changes flourish!

Amigos Member Named Peru Country Director (cont. from p. 5)

well. Although now divorced, he was married to a Peruanita for two decades. His son, Maurice (now a freshman at Arizona State), was born in Peru, and his daughter, Mariana (now a junior at California State San Marcos), spent her early childhood there.

After Peru, Michael and his family settled in San Diego, CA. For the last six years, as well as for the three years prior to going to the Dominican

Republic, he worked as Director of Planning and Budget for the Jewish Federation of San Diego, and managed a financial planning practice on the side. Michael was born and raised in Albany, NY and earned his undergraduate degree from Cornell and an MBA from Dartmouth.

Michael writes: "I look forward to serving as a link between Amigos and PC/Peru and hope to facilitate the flow of *Kantuta* grants to PCVs

and their communities. I also would like to interest departing Volunteers in joining Amigos and continuing their membership after their one-year free membership ends. I look forward to meeting with Amigos members visiting Lima and getting to know RPCVs living in Peru."

Amigos de Bolivia y Peru wishes Michael the best and looks forward to receiving regular updates on the PC/Peru program.

Tropical New Year

from *Reflections on Peru* by Todd Tibbals who was a PCV in Chimbote, Peru from November 1962 to July 1964

I pressed my face to the vibrating window and cocked my head trying to see past the big engine churning patiently in its perch on the silver wing. We were coming into Iquitos, Peru.

Just about three short hours before, we lifted off in Lima amid the concrete jungle of streets and skyscrapers, the country's major foothold in the 20th Century. Suddenly we were soaring over Nature's great freak, the thirsty, barren coastal desert which rims the continent from Ecuador to mid-Chile. Minutes later the aircraft's nose elevated and we began to climb sharply as the Andean foothills jutted into the desert below.

And then the majestic Andes, backbone of South America, were upon us in all their splendor. Impressive snow-topped peaks rose above us on both sides as we churned through a 15,000 foot valley dotted with Lilliputian farm clusters, almost unchanged since the days of the Incas. Raging streams thundered down through immense gorges relentlessly carving out the face of the most sterile highlands, then funneling into the long valleys which feed the Amazon basin. One's concept of the geography of Peru can be just so many words on a page or specks in the mind until he has flown over the mighty Andes.

Before we had completely digested the Andean eye-full, we were dropping down over rolling hills dressed in lively shades of green,

basking in the early morning sun which now, with renewed vigor, seemed to announce our arrival at the threshold of the jungle. Soon the big Faucett Airlines plane was gliding above a never-ending expanse of thick, torrid jungle, interlaced by mile after endless mile of meandering rivers, brown and swollen. The only movement was the plane's shadow bouncing along the tree tops like a giant bird trying fruitlessly to penetrate the tangled vegetation. Suddenly the brawny Amazon, all-embracing and cocky, sprawled out in front of us, its muddy waters seeming to swallow the surrounding area.

... My first impression of Iquitos is the same one which persisted throughout our three-day sojourn ~ that this is not Peru (as most people know it), but a world of its own, much closer tied to and resembling Europe than it is to the rest of Peru. Tall, slender, tough-faced men with high boots, khaki outfits, and Stewart Granger hats, leaned casually on the wooden railing, their arm pits ringed with sweat. A cage of parrots behind the counter clattered above the blend of human voices. And then, Herman, our host, met us, hustled us through the immigration (emphasis on health records, with injections on the spot for delinquents), and drove us through town to our hotel.

Iquitos, with some 70,000 people, hugs the bank of the Amazon, making it a long narrow city, backed right up to the jungle, and having no outlets save the river itself, and of course, the almighty airplane. Wooden houses with banana leaf roofs give way to masonry buildings as one approaches town, The many

fancy-tiled facades and ornamental iron railings (especially along the river front) have quite a European flavor, and give this most un-Peruvian city a somewhat has-been flavor, hard to describe. But yet it is the cleanest city I've seen in Peru (no small thanks to the rains which pound the city almost daily). And beggars ~ there just aren't any. Anyone who gets hungry just has to step into the jungle where he can pluck the fruit of his choice.

The first afternoon found us wandering around the city ~ the animal museum, (with its 30 foot boa constrictors), hide depository, an orchid greenhouse, and finally, Belén, the famous floating city within a city. The moody Amazon with its tremendous variation in height from season to season can play havoc with permanent structures along its course, but Belén (population maybe 5,000) just takes it all in stride. Large balsa logs, bound together, support battered shacks in which abide one or two families plus their chickens, hogs, etc.~ Noah's Ark not having much on some of the rafts.

I almost forgot it was New Year's Eve. Herman invited us to spend the evening at his place back in the jungle, half an hour by outboard from Iquitos. The jungle at night is something to behold; it reaches out and rattles your inhibitions. Herman scanned the shore with his flashlight as we putted along, hoping to expose a pair of sleeping eyes belonging to a crocodile, but they must have all been New Year's Eving it up at a local wing-ding.

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Tropical New Year (continued from p. 8)

... I shattered my first New Year's resolution (not to let the heat bother me) early that first day of 1964 by taking showers before and after breakfast. Herman rallied our sagging spirits and loaded us torrid tourists into his launch for a day on the big river. Iquitos melted into the green expanses behind us as we churned down-river. It is easy to see how huge ocean-going ships from New York and Liverpool can steam into Peruvian waters ~ Iquitos is almost completely supplied from points East. To those arm chair adventurers who fancy a trip down the Amazon from say Iquitos to the Atlantic, I say keep on rocking. It is about like the drive between Lima and Chimbote

~when you've seen one kilometer you've seen it all.

Three hours out, we pulled over at a clearing where some 2nd and 3rd generation Amazonian "aborigines" (speaking Spanish and wearing grass skirts over their short pants) lived. They posed for pictures (which would fool anyone back home), demonstrated the finer points of blow gunnery, and waved as we headed back up stream. With all due respect to Herman, I would like to go on record saying that the six hour outing to the "savage village" should be reserved for ladies' tours and Lions' Club picnics.

Once back at the hotel, we didn't wander far from the showers for

the rest of the day ~ sounds like maybe we're the "savage village" type after all. Next morning we checked out, took our last stroll in front of the swelling river, and drove out to the airstrip.

The Stewart Grangers were still lounging around the stuffy waiting room leaning on crates of furs, or talking to dark-skinned girls in colorful skirts. The parrots still squawked from their cage marked "Lima," but it didn't seem to catch the attention of the dispatching clerk, busy tagging a couple of rifles for shipment.

And then we flew back to Lima.

Coming Changes in PC/Bolivia

by Gloria Levin

As reported in the Fall 2004 newsletter, Charna Lefton's 5-year term as Programming and Training Officer (PTO) was due to end mid-December 2004. She obtained a one-month extension so is leaving PC the end of January 2005. Charna has been a dependable friend of this newsletter, having regularly contributed newsy updates on PC/Bolivia happenings. Amigos wishes her well in her future adventures.

Her replacement as PTO, Doreen Salazar, will be arriving in Bolivia late February. Interviewed while she was undergoing PC staff training in Washington, I learned

that she was born to two immigrant parents from Argentina and Holland, and was raised in California. She was a PCV (Ecuador, 1987-89), serving in water sanitation, working on potable water systems.

After PC, she earned a masters degree in environmental engineering from the University of California/Davis (from which she had earlier earned her bachelors degree). Eight years working on wastewater treatment systems for an engineering firm in California were followed by several years working on USAID contracts in Asia and then Central America, dealing with environmental partnership and municipal pollution projects, respectively.

Doreen will live in Cochabamba with her husband, Carlos, and their two sons ~ Nicolas (age 4) and Martin (1). She met Carlos in Ecuador when completing her PCV service; Carlos holds a masters degree in urban environmental management. Amigos looks forward to working with Doreen once she settles in. About 4 months after Doreen arrives, the current PC/Bolivia director, Howard Lyon, will be completing his PC term.

Peace Corps Week

In years past, the Peace Corps has designated the week surrounding its March 1st anniversary as "Peace Corps Week" to celebrate its mission of promoting world peace and friendship.

For its 44th anniversary in 2005, Peace Corps Week will take place from February 28th through

March 6th. Thousands of returned Peace Corps Volunteers and friends of the Peace Corps will participate in Peace Corps Week activities that advance the Peace Corps third goal to promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

So start planning now and check the Peace Corps Week website, www.peacecorps.gov/pcweek.

All registrants will receive a free presentation kit, which includes materials to help you prepare for and promote your presentation as well as souvenirs for your audience.

PC Online...

Under the Consolidated Appropriations Bill that has been passed by the Senate and scheduled for a vote in the House, the Peace Corps will receive \$320 Million for FY05. The Peace Corps received a direct appropriation of \$310 Million last year (later reduced to \$308 Million) plus \$20 Million that was authorized to be transferred from the Global AIDS Initiative to the Peace

Corps for HIV/AIDS activities for a total of \$328 Million for FY04.

The bottom line is that there has been no increase in funds made available to the Peace Corps for 2005. If anything, there has been a slight decrease.

President Bush promised in his State of the Union address in February 2002 to double the size of the Peace Corps within 5 years which

would have required annual 15% increases in Peace Corps appropriations over a five year period. Promises not funded are promises not kept.

Read the story and leave your comments at:

<http://peacecorpsonline.org/messages/messages/2629/2024886.html>

NPCA Advocacy Listserv

As Congress wraps up the FY 2005 budget, efforts are underway to address the next federal budget (FY 2006). The NPCA has a new action opportunity posted connecting you to a link so you can instantly send messages to Congress! Please go to: www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=908

The action opportunity is also listed as part of "Advocacy Headlines" page. This page also includes

a Peace Corps budget update, a summary of how RPCVs fared in recent congressional elections, a summary of recent Global Leadership on Global Warming Advocacy trainings, and an overview of the recent "People Speak" forums.

Please go to: www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=1055&ref=3

Kids Around the World

Kids Around the World uses the Internet to introduce elementary school-age children in the United States to the lives of children in developing countries around the world. In a time of globalization and increased interdependence between nations, this site fosters curiosity, creates awareness, and encourages sensitivity and understanding toward other cultures.

Kids Around the World is a project of Global TeachNet, a program of the National Peace Corps Association. Children from around the world were interviewed to create Kids Around the World, and each profile includes audio of the interview, English translation of the interview and photos of the child. The site can be found at www.katw.org.



NPCA Updates

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SPREAD THE WORD! National Day of Action in Support of Peace Corps Funding Planned for March 1st, 2005

In an effort to raise the collective voice of RPCVs, former Peace Corps staff and other supporters of the Peace Corps program, the NPCA is undertaking an organizing campaign culminating with a National Day of Action on Tuesday, March 1st, 2005 - the beginning of Peace Corps week.

The purpose of the day will be to mobilize NPCA members and supporters to contact their representatives in Washington and voice support for strong funding for the Peace Corps. Details on specific requests and action opportunities will be developed in the coming weeks, and forwarded via our advocacy listserves, the NPCA e-newsletter, and this website.

We need your help! Begin contacting friends, neighbors and colleagues and ask them to make plans to participate next March 1st in our

National Day of Action. If you want to find out other ways you can assist, please contact us at advocacy@rpcv.org. Thanks and stay tuned!

BY-LAWS CHANGES PASS OVERWHELMINGLY. The election process ended on December 30, 2004 and the results are in!

Following a long, deliberative process initiated by affiliate group leaders and culminating in a vote by the NPCA membership, all three proposed changes to the NPCA by-laws passed, easily exceeding the two-thirds majority required. This represents a very important step forward for the organization and we are extremely grateful to everyone who participated in this process.

MODEST PEACE CORPS FUNDING INCREASE. President Bush signed into law an appropriations bill that will provide just over \$317 million in funding for Peace Corps for the year that runs until next September 30th.

This represents a 3% increase in funding from the previous Peace Corps budget, and is significantly lower than the \$401 million originally requested by the President.

In a prepared release, Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez says the allocation will allow the agency to modestly expand and continue the President's call to service both at home and abroad.

STAY UP-TO-DATE on NPCA's activities every month, Kevin Quigley, NPCA President, reports to the NPCA Board on current activities and future projects of the organization. To find out what the latest report included, visit our website www.rpcv.org and Click on "Latest NPCA News" or click here www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=118 and scroll down to "Monthly Report from the NPCA President". The document can be downloaded in Word for your convenience.

Don't be Left Out: Peace Corps Alumni Directory to be Published

Harris Publishing and NPCA have partnered to produce the NPCA 25th anniversary commemorative directory, to be published later this year.

You may have already received an invitation either by e-mail or

mail in recent weeks to update your biographical information.

If you would like to add your spouse, or ensure that your RPCV friends receive notification, contact Harris Publishing at customerservice@bharrispub.com

or call 800-877-6554.

In your e-mail request, include the person's complete contact information, including e-mail address for appropriate processing.

Great Opportunity to Help

by John P. Coyne
[mailto:jpcoyne@cnr.edu]

A couple years ago I started a non-profit organization with several other RPCVs, www.peacecorpsfund.org which is an attempt to raise money to promote RPCV projects in the U.S. You can check out our website. This coming fall we will have a fund raising event in NYC that will honor five New York City RPCVs who have spent their careers teaching in the inner city. This is the first event of its kind to honor such RPCVs and to celebrate their lifetime of service. By raising funds at this event we will be able to provide money to other RPCVs across the country who are

doing local Third Goal projects, and/or, want to start new projects and need help.

As part of this evening in September 2005 we will have a silent auction. I am starting to collect items for it. The first two items I've pulled together are: a week in an apartment in Paris on the left bank of the Seine, across from Notre Dame and off the Quai de la Tournelle, valued at about \$2500. The second item is a collection of first-edition Peace Corps books (you can guess who gave that item!) Anyway, the range is wide and I'm writing to ask if you could think of

something you might donate (or arranged to have donated) and just send me a quick email on it. (You don't need to think about sending the item.)

We want to have about 100-125 items for that evening. We will also have these items "on line" so RPCVs and others across the country can bid on them if they can't be in NYC for the event. I'll be sending out more information on the evening in the months ahead, with invitations for you to come to it.

If you can, please pass on this request to other RPCVs on your list.

Many thanks for your help,
John.

Past President Writes...

Amigos:

In 1989 when this organization was founded, there were a number of expectations which have not materialized. I had started a number of non-profit corporations before and I volunteered. Although it took some time to get the bylaws accepted by the corporation bureau (NM) and there were some exchanges regarding the awarding of non-profit status by the IRS, that was the quick part. *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* was started as a two-country group because the Peace Corps had been out of Bolivia since 1972 and Peru since 1974. We expected to become grey haired and fade away. The Peace Corps returned to Bolivia in 1990 and the first post-1990 PCVs are finishing their tours in Peru.

In 1989 I was working on a three book fictionalized account of my Peace Corps service. Any of you who have attended a conference of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) probably have seen the table of books written by RPCVs based on their Peace Corps experiences. Other than RPCVs, there is not a big market for these books, and I'm not sure if mine can attain com-

mercial standards. They were good therapy and I'm glad I wrote them. My writing pursuits have moved on and I'm not aware if there is much point in trying to do more polishing of my Peace Corps books.

As I writer, I would have been content to stick with my word processors. My work with *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* brought me into the world of computers, most of which has been self taught.

Among the current Board members, Bill Sherry and Hugh Pickens have helped me at those times when I thought I'd reached the end of my capabilities. Dave Dolson came forward and took over the editor's job with the newsletter. Bill Sherry stepped up and took over the membership roles and the web site. (I still can't believe I managed to put up a web site.) In 2005, I will be replaced in three of my other positions.

After fifteen years, it's time I was moving on. I've only been in a hospital once (overnight for observation) since I was born. Now complications (high blood pressure, foot ulcers, reductions in kidney function) of being a Type II diabetic are mounting up. I've realized there are a few other fish I want to broil before I fade away. In the meantime, I

will also be available to help smooth transitions.

To the post 1990 RPCVs, I would like to say this is your organization, more than ever. I'm pleased to see that some of you are stepping forward. I remember attending the speech by a presidential candidate a few years ago. He asked for hands of those who wanted to participate in the kinds of changes he was promoting. Hundreds of hands went up. Then he asked how many wanted to be leaders in those efforts. Few hands went up. We are an internet organization and it's taken us RPCVs from the Sixties more years than it should to grow into that. *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* is at a major threshold. You've got more to contribute than you realize. I know there is nothing like the face-to-face experience that you experienced as PCVs, but there is so much more that can be done for all those people in our host countries. Don't let them fade into the past. Reconnect. And don't be timid to re-gear your thinking or to dream big.

Ken Rustad
Past President
Amigos de Bolivia y Peru

Peace Corps Writers

The latest issue of "Peace Corps Writers" is on the web with an interview with Thurston Clarke, author of "Ask Not: The Inauguration

of John F. Kennedy and the Speech That Changed America," a Viet Nam tale from Iran RPCV John Krauskopf, and an article by Gabon

RPCV Bonnie Lee Black on how she earned the title of the "Martha Stewart of Gabon." Take a look at: <http://peacecorpswriters.org/>

Bartolomé Arzáns' Account of Colonial Potosí

by Steve Jacobs

As a volunteer in the Bolivia of the '60s, I was aware that much of the way things were organized and the way people thought about them came from another time and place. But then, I was busy learning a new language and trying to make my way through a life with its challenges and responsibilities. These days, in my retirement, I can happily indulge my curiosity. This past semester, I took a course in early colonial Latin American Literature. I discovered Bartolomé Arzáns, a fascinating writer from 17th century Potosí, and his compelling tales of daily life in this high altitude boom town.

As I recall, during our two years of service, we were given three weeks of vacation. The first week needed to be in-country. So, in February 1965, Dave Erbe and I (we were both teaching at the Universidad de San Simón, in Cochabamba) traveled by bus and train to Sucre and Potosí. Sucre was friendly, colonial and more formal than Cochabamba, but quite comfortable in altitude and attitude. The train-ride to Potosí was fascinating - a Toonerville Trolley sort of affair - stopping every now and again to exchange passengers. At each station, refreshments were served up to us from women and children at window-side. We arrived in Potosí in the afternoon and froze our butts off that night. I think we splurged on the hotel but there was nothing approaching central heat. I remember putting on all my clothes and requesting extra blankets. But then it was Potosí! Its churches were extraordinary examples of baroque architecture and its museums (especially the Casa de la Moneda) were fascinating. And there was that legendary mountain of silver!

Two years ago, I returned to Potosí for a weekend. I was living in Sucre, on my final sabbatical from Tulane University. The train hadn't run in years (there is talk about restoring service) and a taxi-colectivo had to suffice. While I got to know my fellow passengers almost too well, the packed Toyota did not have the character nor did it convey a sense of adventure as the old train did. This time, I stayed at the Hotel Colonial, a pleasantly patioed and centrally heated establishment a half block from the Plaza Principal. The architecture and museums were still there, but this time I was struck by the contrast between a compact but busy downtown surrounded by block after block of deserted streets. I shouldn't have been surprised to find young people gathering in the icy plazas and pedestrian streets at night. Altitude and temperature cannot compete with social needs.

Forgive my meandering introduction to Arzáns and his remarkable Historia de la Ciudad Imperial de Potosí. The 17th Century manuscript, in Arzáns' own hand, is in the Brown University Library, in Providence, Rhode Island. It was first published in 1965 (coincidentally about the time of my first visit to Potosí) by two important colonial historians, Lewis Hanke and Gunnar Mendoza. Finally, Arzáns' account of life in the Imperial City was available to students of Latin American Literature. Although the huge facsimile edition is far too expensive for the common library, selections in Spanish and English have more recently appeared and Arzáns' richly detailed, amusing and delicious celebration of the Imperial City is now available.

The history of the Historia is interesting itself. Arzáns was the son of a Spaniard who arrived in Potosí in 1643, seeking his fortune at the height of the silver boom. Bartolomé was born in 1676 in the Imperial City, was self-educated and became a teacher. He wrote during the decline of Potosí's greatness and his work attempts to account for the moral causes of this decline. A full panoply of characters from miners to pretentious Spanish governors animate the many tales. They speak of a time when rival bands of immigrants from different regions of Spain (a Bolivian version of the Gangs of New York) found easy pretexts for duels and street fights. The women are remarkably beautiful and resourceful. There are evil gypsies and clever monks. The stories are colorful and present slices of life from every level of boom-town Potosí society.

While I have not seen all of the editions of selections from the huge work, I am happy to recommend two. "Relatos de la Villa Imperial de Potosí: selección, introducción y cronología de Leonardo García-Pabón" is an exquisitely produced volume from Plural Editores in La Paz (sponsored by the Spanish Embassy). It was published in La Paz in 2000. An English translation, Tales of Potosí, Bartolomé Arzáns de Orsúa y Vela was published by Brown University Press in 1975. It was edited by R. C. Pad-den, who provides an informative introduction and was skillfully translated by Frances M. López-Morillas.

NEWSFLASH!!

by Gloria Levin

It was just announced that six Oscar nominations have been won for "Ray," a biographical film directed by Amigos member, Taylor Hackford (Bolivia 1968-9). In addition to being nominated for the Best Director award, Taylor's film was nominated as Best Picture, and many feel that Jamie Foxx ~ who stars as Ray Charles, the legendary singer ~ has a lock on the Best Actor award. The film was

developed by Taylor over a period of 15 years, more than a decade of which was in search of funding. The film has received critical acclaim and boxoffice success.

Taylor's biographies often mention his Peace Corps service and his passion for Latin American culture ~ leading to his development of the film, "La Bamba." A producer, director and screenwriter, he has played key roles in developing well-regarded films such as "The Idol-

maker," "When We Were Kings" (which won a 1997 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature), "Against All Odds," "The Long Walk Home," "White Knights," "Delores Clairborne," "Chuck Berry! Hail! Hail! Rock and Roll" and "An Officer and a Gentleman." Another RPCV who has done well ~ very, very, VERY well. Best wishes, Taylor!

Yachaspa is published quarterly by Amigos de Bolivia y Perú for its membership. The newsletter welcomes articles and other material pertaining to the general purposes of the organization. Except for copyrighted material, items may be reprinted as long as attribution is provided to Yachaspa and Amigos.

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