



MAY 1996

COLUMBIA RIVER PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

• Volume 15 • Number 5 •

Noted RPCV Author in Town

*Mike Tidwell to read from his new book
in Portland and Salem*

Noted RPCV author Mike Tidwell (Zaire 85-87) will read and sign copies of his newest book "Amazon Stranger" in Portland and Salem in mid-June. On June 11th, Tidwell will read in Portland at 23rd Avenue Books (1015 NW 23rd Ave.) at 7:30 p.m. On June 12th, he'll read in Salem at Jackson's Books (320 Liberty Street, SE) at 5:30 p.m.

"Amazon Stranger" is a true life tale of an American expat who goes "native" deep in the South American jungle, becoming chief of a tribe of forest Indians while beating back the illegal incursions of unscrupulous oil companies. Tidwell will also read from the new paperback version of his classic Peace Corps memoir, "The Ponds of Kalambayi." This book is widely considered one of the best accounts of the volunteer experience ever written. A must read. Mark your calendar. Come out and hear Mike read!

We are encouraging CRPCA members to come out to see Mike Tidwell. We'll be doing our best to welcome Mike to Portland and Salem. After the Portland book signing we'll have some time to chat with Mike at a local restaurant/bar.

Praise for Tidwell's first book, "The Ponds of Kalambayi"

"The fight against poverty is unbelievably complicated and Mike Tidwell's book, painful in its honesty, shows that no one, not even an outsider, can live in a society on intimate terms with death, hunger, and terrible corruption without becoming a casualty. It's a shame that only the military gives out Purple Hearts. This is an important book."

Mortiz Thomsen, RPCV Ecuador, author of numerous books including "Living Poor", his own Peace Corps memoir

From the President

First and Foremost — We are in need of a newsletter editor. Better yet, we need a newsletter committee consisting of a newsletter editor and assistants willing to proofread, check out events, write articles, and help with other jobs that would shoulder some of the burden. I don't need to tell you of the importance of the newsletter. It's our communication, not only for our membership, but for other RPCV groups. So why do it? It's a way to contribute to the organization. It can develop your writing, graphic art and computer skills. You get to read other newsletters and sources of information and find out about the RPCV community. So please come forward. This is an important job and we need your participation.

Other Officer Positions — Dick Swee has agreed to continue as Speaker's Bureau Coordinator. This is an area that I think we could do much more with. Contact Dick to participate or share your ideas. Anne Feldstein has taken over as Restaurant Coordinator and will treat us to an evening at the Edgefield in June. JoAnn von Rohr will continue on with membership. President, Vice President, and Steering Committee positions are still open. We occasionally need backups for all of the positions. This month Robin Teater has been gracious enough to fill in as our newsletter editor (*ed note: Ah shucks, 'taint nothin...*). If you could provide backup for any position, notify an officer listed in the newsletter. Your assistance is appreciated and it will make a difference.

Questionnaires — Thanks to all who have mailed in the questionnaires. We got very good feedback on a lot of topics. Unfortunately, many of the envelopes were separated from the questionnaires, resulting in unidentified responses from people willing to participate in some way. If you indicated a desire to participate in an activity but didn't sign the

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questionnaire, contact JoAnn von Rohr to let her know. Karen Celarius has been compiling the questionnaire results and will provide a summary next month.

Starlight Parade — Marching in the Starlight Parade is a terrific activity. People admire our service to America and the developing world, and the Starlight Parade is one of the few places where they get to express their feelings. It's great to soak up that appreciation and fun to march. Do it this year. Come on out on June 1 and join us. Details inside in separate article.

Welcome Aviva Samuels — Aviva Caroline Samuels was born to Elizabeth (Benin 75-77) and Rick Samuels on March 16. Congratulations. Come show her off soon!

Regional Update — Originally scheduled for May, the 35th Regional Celebration in Seattle has been postponed to September or October. There will be a Regional Meeting in Seattle on May 18 to discuss the Regional Celebration and other matters. Contact Mike Waite at 360-574-7455 for further details.

Mike Waite

Join the Starlight Parade!

Wanted: Starlight Parade participants!
When: Saturday, June 1, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.+
Where: Starting at the NW Park blocks and ending at Lincoln High School, Portland

This will be our sixth year in the Portland Rose Festival Starlight Parade and we want to be there *en masse*. The more the merrier! We would like 35-50 in the group this year. The Starlight Parade is in the evening — no hot sun to drain you of your energy! All you need is to don your national costume from your country of service, find your camp lantern to light up and carry with you and join fellow Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for a stroll through the streets of Portland. If your outfit doesn't fit, which was the main excuse for not participating last year, you have time to alter it or lose those pounds that you gradually gained over the years. (For those who don't have a national costume, a Peace Corps t-shirt or sweatshirt is an option.)

Don't miss this opportunity to "Bring the World Back Home." To sign up, please contact Teri Kaliher (Venezuela 74-76) at 503-246-7103.

May Potluck Meeting

When: May 19, 1996
5 p.m. - Business Meeting
6 p.m. - Potluck
7 p.m. - Guest Speaker

Where: Charlene Holzworth's home, 2524 NE 34th

Program: Guest speaker Barbara McLeod will talk about her teaching experiences in China. she went on her own to teach English at a small technical university in Wuhan Hubei Province. The university had been built during the 50s with help from Russia. Barbara, an active member of the Northwest China Council, will show slides and also talk about the Imperial Tombs of China Exhibit which starts May 1 at the Portland Art Museum.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 18 Regional meeting, Seattle (call Mike Waite for more info)
- May 19 Potluck Meeting
- May 23 Nomination Party featuring Patty Garamandi, Eugene
- June 11 Mike Tidwell book signing, 23rd Ave. Books, Portland
- June 12 Mike Tidwell book signing, Jackson St. Bookstore, Salem
- Aug. 16-18 Regional Campout, McCall, Idaho
- Sept. - Oct. Regional Celebration
- Nov. 2 Eugene RPCV Celebration
- Nov. 9 West African Figout

OFFICERS

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Submissions for the June 1996
newsletter should be received by
May 25. Please mail to CRPCA
at above address.


More praise for Mike Tidwell...

"Tidwell reveals his natural storytelling ability in this deeply moving account of two years in Zaire. The images he takes with him...live again in this perceptive, gently humorous work."

Kirkus Review


"How Tidwell altered his Western notions of privacy and propriety and learned to live in the local culture is the lighter side of a riveting story...This is a stirring account of his experiences."

Publishers Weekly



the PONDS of

Kalambayi



MEMBERSHIP • ADDRESS CHANGE • RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE: () _____ hm () _____ wk

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PEACE CORPS COUNTRY: _____ YEARS: _____

PEACE CORPS JOB/SECTOR: _____

CURRENT OCCUPATION: _____

- New Membership
- Membership renewal
- New address, effective: ___/___/___
- Joining CRPCA **and** NPCA (\$35 individual/\$50 family)
- Joining CRPCA **only** (\$15 individual/\$22.50 family)
- Joining NPCA **only** (\$20 individual/\$27.50 family)

Please make checks payable to : **COLUMBIA RIVER PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION**
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8/1/96
Marie Hermanson
[REDACTED]
Portland OR [REDACTED]

If this box is checked, your membership has expired. Please renew using the membership form inside!

If this box is checked, you have received a complimentary copy of our newsletter. To become a member of Columbia River Peace Corps Association and receive future issues, please see the membership form inside!