

**Update on India III Volunteers
Mysore and Punjab
1963-65**

**A set of Biographies developed to celebrate the
50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, Fall 2011**

Donna Anderson, India III, 1963-65



Donna Anderson was a Peace Corps Volunteer in India III from 1963-1965. She was stationed in South India, the state of Mysore (now Karnataka) in a Gram Sevak Training Centre in Mandya. This is a center that trains extension field workers, both in agriculture and home economics. She worked in a Health-Nutrition Education Project at a centre for village women and made follow-up visits in nearby villages. She also developed pre-school education lessons for Balwadi (Preschools) for 3-6 year olds. Finally she participated in a pilot health-nutrition outreach project in Andhra Pradesh (a neighboring state) to prepare for future Peace Corps Volunteer groups to South India. This was followed by teaching and coordinating activities for two Peace Corps training groups in Davis, California (1965).

Donna graduated with a B.S. Degree in Home Economics from the University of Minnesota prior to joining the Peace Corps and returned to the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health to earn a Master's degree in Public Health in 1971. She is currently an adjunct instructor in the Public Health Administration and Policy program of the Health Policy and Management Division. She has held a number of public health positions in Hennepin County and the City of St. Paul. She recently retired as Public Health Director of the Dakota County Public Health Department in Minnesota after 22 years of service! Donna currently serves on a non-profit organization board, and balances her time as a volunteer in professional health organizations, state and local health groups as well as faith and community groups. Donna has been active with her Peace Corps India III group, planning and attending reunions and keeping track of people! The group will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps in Washington D.C. in September.

(Donna is pictured here with a group of IndiaIII volunteers at the University of Minnesota, during campus training. That is Dessie McCullagh behind her.)



Mary Louise (Pass) Andrews, India 1963-65

Mary Andrews from Mason, Michigan served in the Peace Corps in India from 1963 to 1965. Mary graduated from Pennsylvania State University in Home Economics Education during fall commencement ceremonies in 1962 and departed for Peace Corps Training in January 1963. The training group first spent one month in “Outward Bound” training in Puerto Rico and then three months of language and cultural training at the University of Minnesota. She was in the group within “India III” that would be sent to south India, the state of Mysore (to be changed to Karnataka). Another portion of the training group would be assigned to northern India, the state of Punjab (her future husband was in that group).



She was assigned the role of “Home Science Teacher and Block Development Worker” in Hubli, a crossroads and maintenance center for the Indian Railways. Her roommate, Connie Sherman Hankins, was also a Home Economist from the University of New York, Buffalo and had a similar assignment albeit with different interests. They lived and worked in a boarding school for harajan girls (untouchables). The *Mahilavidiyapeeth*, (school for girls) was a struggling compound of classrooms, hostels, various outbuildings such as a weaving room and a grinding room (rows of grinding stones to prepare the wheat and sorghum into flour). Following Gandhiji’s lead, the students all had to put in at least an hour of weaving or grinding everyday to serve the needs of the community. The compound also had a large kitchen garden that the students were supposed to tend! The founding father and mother of the school, old “freedom fighters” became adopted parents, and one of their daughters, Amala, had just graduated from the University of Baroda with a degree in home science so she became their mentor. Together the three organized home economics curricula for the secondary students and a more intense program for the teacher training program (two year teacher training to serve in rural elementary schools). Mary says, “It was fun to apply one’s college education to such an enormous challenge right out of the gate!” After school and on the weekends, Mary developed an outreach program in the surrounding villages to teach nutrition, child care and simple gardening to the village women. Believe it or not they were introducing “smokeless chulas” to help prevent eye and respiratory disease from the cooking fires—development workers are still introducing those chulas today in Asia and Africa! She also developed a demonstration poultry unit on the school grounds.

Both Mary and Connie were supervised by the Block Development Office, the Ministry of Agriculture’s development arm. Gram Sevikas (home scientists) and Gram Seviks (agriculturalists) were assigned to each Block (township) along with a Sanitary Engineer and Health Worker. These block development workers were instrumental in tackling famine and food security issues (this was pre Green Revolution times), water and sanitation-borne diseases and basic improvements to family social and economic well-being.



This early international experience in the Peace Corps assisted Mary to become involved in international work within her full-time career in higher education. As part of the land grant tradition, her employer, Michigan State University integrated international training as part of the professional development of Extension workers in 1979. Mary took over the leadership of “International Extension Training” and served as Director for 22 years...involving over 150 mid-career Michigan educators in international development roles.

She started a semester-long study abroad program in India for upper-level undergraduates in 1998 which continues today. In 2000 a reverse study abroad program was designed to host Master’s level students from Lady Irwin College, New Delhi in a one-month short-course at MSU. Mary has used her expertise in program evaluation and women-in-agriculture issues to serve on a number of training or evaluation teams for the UNDP, World Bank, USAID, Asian Organization of States and UNICEF; and served on the board of the international child

welfare organization, Christian Children’s Fund (now Child Fund International). Additionally she has served in leadership roles in her professional associations, The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) and the International Federation for Home Economics-- US (IFHE-US). Mary’s work in educating Michiganders about development earned her a role in a Peace Corps training video about the Third Goal of the Peace Corps—educating Americans about the world; and her work at MSU earned her the highest award for International Service at the institution in 2004, the “Ralph Smuckler Award for Advancing International Studies and Programs”. See more about Mary’s work on her website

www.msu.edu/~mandrews/



Harry Edgar Andrews II, India 1963-65

Harry Andrews, originally from New Bethlehem, PA and currently of Mason MI, served in the group of India III volunteers that were assigned to the state of Punjab. His location, Palampur (Kangra District), currently is in the state of Himachal Pradesh. Harry joined the Peace Corps after finishing his third year at St. Lawrence University in upstate New York. He was a biology major and returned to SLU after his Peace Corps service to complete his degree. Harry and Mary Lou Pass married upon returning from their Peace Corps service just as Uncle Sam was breathing down his neck to join the emerging war in Vietnam. Luckily married men were given deferments at that time. Harry spent a year at the University of Denver earning a teaching certificate and then traveled further west to attend the University of Hawaii for his Master's Degree in Educational Communications.



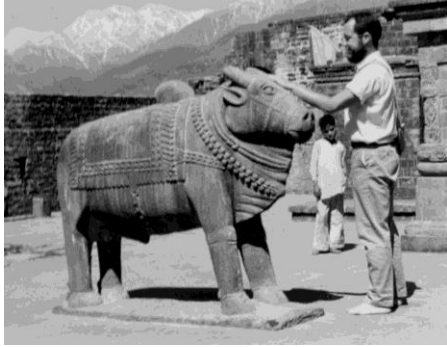
Harry lived and worked with a group of India III volunteers that included at times, Jay Buffenmeyer, Bob Spencer and Hal Willson with short term stays with Larry Brown, John Reid and Roger Banks. He worked with the Ministry of Agriculture's poultry development project and also taught swimming one monsoon season at Hyderabad Public School, a private boys high school. His major assignment was training young elementary school teachers to serve as afterschool leaders of "Young Farmer Clubs". Hal and Harry ran a camp (with tents and outhouses) on an escarpment in the hills above Palampur. This camp had its ups and downs, a significant event being the discovery of a dangerous Russell's Viper that some kids who visited the camp had caught. Harry put the snake in an upside down bucket in their tent

while attending to other duties. Upon return, the bucket was overturned and the viper gone! That was a long and uneasy night in the tent!

Harry remembers weekend visits to Delhi, staying in the third floor guest hostel at the Peace Corps Headquarters at 61 Sunder Nagar. Since Harry and Mary have been returning to Delhi regularly for the past 13 years, they often reminisce about old Delhi haunts like Gaylords, Wengers, the South Indian Coffee House, Nirulas, Moti Mahal and other hotspots! Delhi is very different today, but continues to be a thriving and exciting city.



Harry participated in the two Christmas treks to Goa with other India III volunteers. He and Mary served as attendants for Connie and Hank's wedding in Delhi. Upon departing India, he and Mary took a short trip to Nepal and then joined Connie and Hank for the long trip home—via Africa and Europe! They



boarded a freighter in Bombay and sailed to Mombasa. Although only steerage class passengers, Harry and Hank climbed over the barriers and spent each day in the first class lounge enjoying Heinekens, first class meals and unending games of bridge. Upon landing in Mombasa they traveled overland by train to Nairobi and later to Kampala. They viewed game parks, enjoyed meeting Indian expatriates for great Indian meals and fell in love with “Africa”. Upon reaching Kampala they realized that a war was raging in Southern Sudan, their next stop on their trip up the Nile to Alexandria and eventually Europe. They were forced to fly into Juba (overland travel was halted) and with police guards, boarded

a series of barges for the long and twisting journey up the Nile. The barge was protected by a group of very young army men with heavy automatic rifles...that they brandished for the fear effect on passengers and shore-bound onlookers. Our traveling group slept in sleeping bags on wire bunk beds, cooked our own food on a small gas burner and got our water from a tap at the back of the barge that was reserved for slaughtering the animals that passenger’s brought on-board for meat. It was a very hot and unnerving two week journey past bloated hippos and often deserted villages. Near Khartoum, we boarded a train to bypass the dangerous cataracts and finally boarded a steamer at Wadi Halfa on Lake Nasser formed by the famous Aswan Dam for our final push to Luxor and eventually Cairo.

We were separated from Connie and Hank while departing the steamer (Sherman was a name on the famous “unauthorized visitor” list...so they were detained.) Harry and Mary pushed on to Cairo for a week and then boarded another freighter for the trip across the Mediterranean. While in Athens they met-up with a group of American travelers about to return to the USA who invited them to use their apartment in Mikonos that was prepaid til the end of the month. They did, and enjoyed the bounty of the sea (squid, octopus and various fish dishes). From Athens, traveling on the famous “Orient Express,” Harry and Mary made a quick trip to London to pick-up a pre-ordered Triumph TR-4. They drove it through England and Scotland to put on miles for a shake-down, then on through Germany, Italy, Austria and Switzerland. The car was shipped from Bremerhaven to Newark, NJ, while they sailed home on a student ship from London to New York.



Will and Mary at edge of Kolonia airstrip, Ponape, Micronesia

Although Harry and Mary thought about marriage, Uncle Sam contributed to that decision as Harry hurried to (and passed) his pre-induction physical upon return to American soil! They were married in June and the Hankins returned the favor and joined in their wedding. The newlywed’s returned to upstate New York where Will, their only son was born. They then moved on to Denver and Honolulu. Will attended the preschool in Hawaii where Mary was the principal while Harry studied at the University of Hawaii. Upon finishing his Masters, Harry was offered jobs in either American Samoa or Micronesia. They decided on Ponape, Micronesia. Harry coordinated the educational support services at a teacher training college, (later Community College of Micronesia, and still later University of Micronesia) and Mary taught psychology and supervised student teachers. In 1971, just as the job market in the

USA was tightening-up, Harry was offered a faculty position in the Office of Medical Education Research and Development at Michigan State University’s new College of Human Medicine. They really couldn’t pass up the job opportunity. Also Will needed to start school and Mary could see a chance to get her Master’s (and eventually, PhD). Now, 30 years later, they are still at (or near) Michigan State. Both Harry and Mary spent their careers at MSU, Harry serving as Director of the Biomedical Communications Department and Mary as an Associate Dean and Director of International Extension Programs.

Tom Arens, India III, 1963-65



Tom Arens of Santa Rosa, California worked as a Poultry Extension Officer in the Peace Corps in the Kulu Valley. Following my Peace Corps Volunteer work with India III, I became involved in PC training at several universities including California, Davis; Pennsylvania; Columbia-NY, EIL in Brattleboro Vermont, and Wisconsin. Some of these trainings were poultry focused; some were more general. In 1966, an opening for an associate director of PC came up in Hyderabad (under the Bangalore regional office) and I spent several years trying to support several large groups of volunteers in Andra Pradesh. In 1971, I moved to Bangalore, the regional office for South India, working with Norm Miller and Tom Carter with some of the most innovative PC programming in agriculture and science education that I've experienced. During the late sixties, training moved entirely

from the States to India and regional offices assumed much of the responsibility for training programs.

After PC, returned to the US but soon was on my way back to South Asia representing a small privately funded nonprofit, World Neighbors. WN had supported development programs in India since early fifties. It is a small organization and at that time did not take government funding. The political situation resulting from the formation of Bangladesh made it impossible to establish an office in India in late 1972, so I flew up to Kathmandu and opened my office there, starting a number of new programs in Nepal and continuing to support ongoing programs in Kerala, Tamilnadu and Maharashtra. It was difficult to register a small nonprofit in Nepal in the seventies and eighties but eventually the government realized the value of nonprofits and permitted us to support local nonprofits with a great deal of independence. Later with the King's approval of multiparty elections in 1991, nonprofits became an industry.

NB Hiremath (known to many PCVs in Karnataka) and I started dryland farming programs in northern Karnataka in the seventies with a number of local nonprofit organizations, and the Agricultural University in Dharwar. NB and I worked together to expand agricultural work in Karnataka and gradually reduce WN commitments in Tamilnadu (for community health and family planning), Kerala and Sri Lanka. Programs in Nepal were greatly expanding during this time in community and reproductive health, drinking water, forestry, fodder and animal husbandry, and capacity building of nonprofits. After 28 years in this effort I retired back to my home in Santa Rosa, California (in 2000) but continue to return every year to Nepal.

Several years ago, together with former colleagues at World Neighbors and other friends, we registered a small nonprofit in the US for supporting remote clinics in Nepal to provide delivery and other reproductive health services to women by skilled Nepalese nurse-midwives. Friends of Nepal Pariwar Foundation (Pariwar means, "family") now supports seven nurse-midwives in four clinics in two districts that are located northeast of Kathmandu and border on Tibet. I spend three months a year in Nepal usually in the spring visiting clinics and getting as much trekking in

as possible (as age permits). Visitors are welcome...just let me know. (5877 Melita Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 – tarens@sonic.net)



2011 – Hinguwapati Clinic nurse-midwives and clinic assistants in Kavre District, Nepal

Joe Bette, India III 1963-65

Joe Bette was in the Punjab Group of India III. The director of industries for the state of Punjab saw my Peace Corps circulated resume and requested that I work full time at the government testing & finishing center in Ludhiana. I worked with other metallurgical engineers testing mostly bicycle and sewing machine parts to meet export specifications. Peace Corps backed up my expertise with contact with stateside metallurgists for all kinds of special problems. One industrialist came to me with a warehouse full of rusting cast-iron fry pans. A stateside contact sent me a receipt for a stabilizing salt brew that did the trick. I shared a house with Gary Harms on the second floor of an abandoned house in the village of Nandpur, nine miles out on the Grand Trunk Road (the main road from Lahore to Calcutta of Kipling fame). The lower portion of the house was Gary's poultry cooperative's feed mixing center. Odoriferous at times! With the help of the local 5th. grade teacher we started a 4-H club for boys and introduced vegetable farming, soccer and home based small chicken raising in enclosed hen houses for non fertilized eggs. Hindus can eat these eggs as they are vegetarian (no potential life).

At the end of our service, in January 1965, Pat Cantlon and I set off overland for Europe. We contracted with an Indian based in London to drive his car thru Pakistan to the Iranian border. We took the 300 mile dirt road west of the Indus thru Wasiristan to Quette. Each evening the local police would erect a chain across the road and all vehicle traffic was corralled in the police barracks. Pat and I hatched the idea to pass ourselves off as "on official Pakistani government business". Our rudimentary Punjabi served us well as we asked the police chief to open the government guest house for us and to join us for drinks and dinner. We'd give the cook money for a chicken and fix'ins, take warm showers and sleep in clean sheets. We covered about 100 miles a day and successfully repeated this ruse three times! Pat eventually purchased a VW in Germany; we traveled in style around Europe and England landing in New York late June.



Basic Facts. Joe graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with an MBA in 1966. In 1967 & 1968 he was employed by US Steel at the Orinoco Mining Company, Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela. He spent the last 4 months touring South America. Then from 1969 - 1974 he was employed by United Nuclear Corp. manufacturing fuel rods for the submarine fleet in New Haven CT. During that time he returned to his home town, married, and opened a travel agency. From 1975 to the present Linda and Joe have operated a residential and commercial real estate agency, raised three children, and bought a home in Luquillo, Puerto Rico.

Linda and Joe spend 6 months living and working full time at their real estate office in Southbury, CT. and spend the other 6 months at their home in Puerto Rico. They plan to declare residency there in 2012.

February 2013 is our group's official 50th PC Anniversary. "We'd love to host an India III reunion the first week in Feb. 2013 at our place in Luquillo, Puerto Rico. Air fares

are low that week and we all have fond memories of the fabulous February weather there. Longer reasonable rentals are available in the area as well. So think about joining us!" (Photo of Joe and Linda at son's recent wedding.)

John A. Briscoe, India III, 1963-65

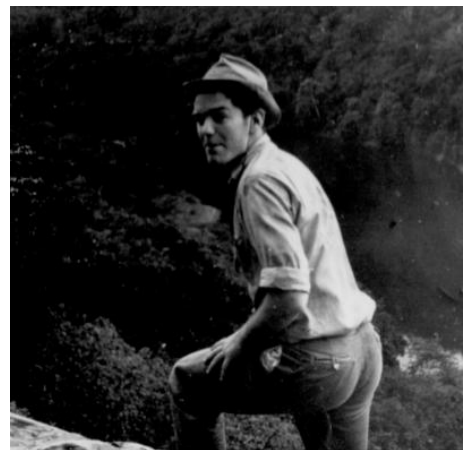


John was assigned to the Mysore (Karnataka) Group. He worked at the College of Agriculture outside of Bangalore. I got swept up in the great chicken explosion and “liberated” a chicken feed mill under cover of The Bengaluru Koli Raytaru Saharkarada Sangha. Our house in Hebbal included Hal Marz, Hank Hankins and George Scripko. Other volunteers came to visit until I started manufacturing poultry feed in the shower room and the smell of fish meal became a bit pervasive. After extending my Peace Corps service for a couple of months to set up a future PC poultry program in Kerala, I proceeded to New Delhi for the week of stool tests. (I notice that no one else has mentioned this peak experience in their bio.) Thanks to some incoming PC staff I met Virginia Wolf who was attending a film festival and after carefully considering options for 24 hours we agreed to travel home together and got married in September.

Harris Wofford, who managed our completion of service conference, offered me a job training a new India group and I followed it up with 10 months of work at Peace Corps headquarters overseeing training programs and another training program at the Experiment in International Living in Vermont. In the fall of 1965 I entered MIT’s political science program. I never finished the thesis and proved to myself that academia was not a place I wanted to be, but the course work and thesis research has been useful. Harris Wofford then invited me to serve as Assistant to the President at Bryn Mawr College. In the meantime Virginia and I had produced two sons and soon got very involved with local politics. I ran for the state legislature in 1974 and 1976 and got closer than any Democrat had, albeit the rewards for second place in politics are slim.

After the 1976 election I went to work for our Congressman – Bob Edgar (D-PA7, 1974 to 1986) as his staff director, fund raiser, and sometimes campaign manager. Edgar represented the most Republican district in the nation represented by a Democrat so his elections were always nail-biters with margins like 1163 votes and 467 votes. In 1986 he voluntarily retired from Congress and ran for the U.S. Senate, coming in second. I raised the money and proved that \$4.5 million was not nearly enough to win a senate race in Pennsylvania.

Enter Harris Wofford, again. Harris became Secretary of Labor and Industry for the State of Pennsylvania in 1987 and received the go-ahead to develop a comprehensive service initiative in Pennsylvania. Together we created PennSERVE: The Governor’s Office of Citizen Service and built the program up to a \$15m per year operation supporting service learning in 87 school districts and 53 colleges plus full time youth corps in 6 cities and a summer youth corps enrolling 9,000.



Then Harris went off to become a U.S. Senator and the governor cut my budget by \$1m. I went to Senator Vince Fumo, Chair of the Finance Committee in the state senate and he restored the \$1m. The governor was not amused by this example of entrepreneurialism and I got fired. (Note: Senator Fumo was later convicted of 163 counts of fraud, misuse of funds and other details and is now serving time in Allenwood Federal Penitentiary.) (Note 2: Pennsylvania politics is not dull.)

After a year of consulting and work with the National Governors Association I took over an alternative high school and summer service program called Visions. We hired drop-outs to rehab old houses and built the curriculum around skills they needed to do construction. I spent a tumultuous three years with groups of 60 kids. We knew we were having an impact when a local gang in Harrisburg left a body on our front porch. During my last year I suspected that a senior staff member was stealing money, but could not prove how he was doing it. The Visions board, acting with Solomonic wisdom fired both the suspected staff member and me. I decided to go back to the family farm where my colleagues could shit on me and step on my toes, but they couldn't fire me. For three years I tested the "make it up in volume" rule. Having managed to get milk production up by 50% I realized that we were now losing \$4 per hundred weight on 50% more hundred-weights – not a long-term solution. I sold the cows. Congressman Bob Edgar to the rescue: Just as I was selling the cows I was contacted by Bob Edgar, the Congressman I had worked for. He had just been selected as General Secretary of the National Council of Churches and was facing a financial crisis. I became Development Director of the Council and over 6 years we were able to balance the budget and rebuild endowment from \$2.5 to \$8.5 million. In 2007 the Board terminated Bob Edgar's contact and let me know that I should go too.

Fortunately Bob Edgar was chosen as President of Common Cause, a national political reform group, and I went with him as VP of Development and into another financial crisis which almost shut down this 40 year old organization. After three years I had reached age 73 and Common Cause has a \$1,000,000 surplus for the year; it seemed like a good time to retire.

I have now joined that last refuge of scoundrels --- I am a consultant serving as Director of Development for The Clean Oceans Project, Development Associate for the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education and Development Director for The New Economics Institute. I am saving non-working retirement for that "eternity" part of my next life and have made my children promise to put a cell phone with a very large battery in my coffin, just in case I have an idea for a new project.

Finally, this is getting embarrassingly long, on the personal front. My marriage to Virginia lasted for 20 years and I subsequently have been married to Kate Williams, a teacher and political junkie, for 26 years. My oldest son Mark is a Public Defender in Santa Cruz, CA, dedicated to keeping drunk drivers on the road and drug dealers on their corners. Alexander, son # 2, is Director of Health for Alameda County in CA with 2500 employees and a budget of \$700m. Both sons are married and each has produced 2 grandchildren, My daughter (with Kate), Martha-Emily is special assistant to the Director of Development for the California Salvation Army and our son, Christian, is in his second post-high school year at the Mapplebrook Career Development program. Kate and I look forward to seeing everyone in September. I promise to hit you up for one of my clients.

Larry F. Brown, India III, 1963-65



When I graduated from Colorado State University in the fall of 1962, a girl was wanting me to get married, the draft board was chasing me for something other than marriage, and since I was the first in my family to get a college degree my dad wanted me to get out there and make my first \$ million. Instead, I bought a new pair of ski boots (with my graduation money) and headed for Aspen to be a ski bum. I have no idea how I thought being a ski bum might qualify me for a deferral or exemption from the military, but that's what I was doing – until I got the call to be in New York for induction into the Peace Corps.

I have many good memories of the training in Puerto Rico and St. Paul. Remember that all assignments in India were kept secret? – except that they consistently talked about a beekeeper. Well, I was the only beekeeper, so I was always getting hints of where I might be stationed, etc. All the assignments were unique but mine (Bhagamandala, Coorg District, Mysore) was at the end of the road in a 400-inch rainfall/year jungle – and it was gloriously beautiful.

My work in beekeeping extension was not particularly productive. The Indians had been managing Apis indica for thousands of years and could do it better than me. But, Apis mellifera, the species native to Europe and America, could produce about 10 times as much honey as indica so my plan from early on was to import some mellifera to India to see how they might perform. It took about a year to obtain permission from the government and obtain a little funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation and PL 480, but it finally all came together. I ordered 10 cages of bees from Davis, CA, flew them to Delhi and bought seats for them on the DC-3 to get them from Delhi to Kulu Valley. The best that can be said is the bees survived. The monsoon season kept them from thriving as I'd hoped. I lost track of them after leaving India and do not know if they continue to survive.



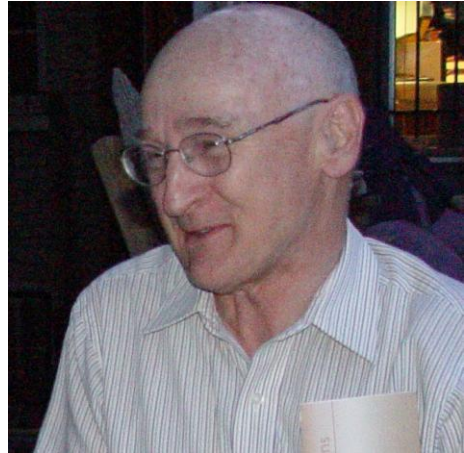
After the Peace Corps I taught high school science for 4 years, got married, had 2 girls, and returned to school for a PhD in plant ecology (applied ecology). The objective was to work for industry doing environmental stuff. I did that. I worked for a large mining company for a dozen years, got laid off (in 1985) then formed a consulting company and did environmental stuff for mines all over the US and Canada with some in Mexico and Greece.

Consulting is a rewarding but demanding profession. After about 15 years of consulting I got tired, bought a peach farm (in 2000) in western Colorado, farmed it for about 6 years, and then got interested in my friendly next-door neighbor who was also divorced. Bob Geissel had instilled a desire to sail in my soul and the time was right (it was now or never) so in a weak moment (new years eve 2004) I asked my friendly neighbor if she'd go sailing with me. She, in a similarly weak moment, said yes, so I bought a 44 ft sloop and we have since spent our winters sailing up and down the Pacific coast of Mexico – and gotten married.

We also flew an ultralight aircraft (a Power Parachute) for about 6 years and we still motorcycle (Honda Goldwing 1800) quite a lot. Life is and has been good to me. August 2011

Jay Buffenmyer, India III, 1963-65

Jay Buffenmyer is from Florin, Pennsylvania. For some of us who didn't know this, Jay was first assigned to a Peace Corps Project in Tunisia in 1962. When that project was considered a failure, Jay became the first volunteer to get a transfer assignment to another country. "How can you supervise workers in a low-cost housing project who speak only Arabic with the French taught in our training, asks Jay?" "My rewarding and hopefully beneficial experience with India III overcame my somewhat bitter feelings from the prior project. My assignment in India was to work with small scale wood-based industries in the Punjab state, mainly in Kangra, Palampur, and the Kulu valley (under the Industries and Forestry departments)."



After leaving India I served at a training center in Austin, Texas for volunteers assigned to India, for a few months. Then I enrolled at Pitt for my Master's degree in Economic and Social Development (having gotten the B.S. prior to joining the Peace Corps). Upon completion of my Masters I went on for the Ph.D and taught at Pitt for an additional year. Then I worked as a management consultant for OAS with the Barbados Government. For 3 years we worked to establish an Institute of Management and Productivity for the private and public sectors. The Center is still going strong with its training, research and consulting activities. My last 35 years have been spent with Elizabethtown College, PA teaching in international business, cross-cultural understanding, management and economics. I have also held administrative positions of chair and director of international business at various times. Even

after officially retiring in 2003, I continue to work for the department and college about two to three days a week as an adjunct professor, just with much less pay! I enjoy working with the students and faculty, and have flexibility in times and activities.

On the personal side, I met Carolyn on a blind date set up by an Indian graduate student and the rest is history. We have had a wonderful life together and have been blessed with two great children. Jennifer is a stay-home mom now after working in the financial sector and Vinton is in charge of exploring for oil and gas for ION in Europe and the Middle East. He is based in London. Carolyn and I travel whenever we can and will continue to do so as long as our health permits.

John Chromy, India III 1963-65



John Chromy, currently of Washington DC was born and raised on a farm in New Prague Minnesota. He received his BA in History from St. John's University, MN.

Beginning with my service in India III, I have had a much blessed life with many opportunities to travel, work with exciting people and engage in fascinating work. It has been a great 48 years. As many of you know I married Patricia Ward in 1965 and with her had two daughters, Maureen in 1966 and Caroline in 1970. Sadly Patricia succumbed to cancer in 1984. In 1987, I married Nora Pacheco from Ponce, Puerto Rico and we have had a terrific life together these past 24 years.



Career wise, after India III, I was hired by the Peace Corps to train several groups of PCVs going to India and in 1967-69 I worked out of the Bangalore PC office as Associate Director, overseeing India 29, India 48 and others. In 1970 I returned to the US and went to work for the US Government's "War on Poverty" out of the Chicago Regional Office and then from 1974-76 out of the Atlanta office. From 1977-79 I served as Peace Corps Country Director in the Eastern Caribbean islands and from 1979 - 81 was appointed Associate Director of the Peace Corps in the Washington headquarters, overseeing recruitment, selection, placement, medical services, volunteer payroll and emergency services.

In the 1980's (1981 -1990) I was privileged to work for Eunice Kennedy Shriver as the National Director of Special Olympics in the United States and gained the friendship of her and Sarge. This was a terrific and privileged friendship that ended only with their deaths in 2009 and 2011 respectively.

From 1991-96 I owned and operated a bakery/delicatessen in Lanham Maryland and lived the hectic life of a small business owner. Since 1996 I have worked for the Cooperative Housing Foundation (www.chfinternational.org) implementing housing and local economic development in about thirty countries. I have traveled to many difficult countries like Afghanistan, Lebanon, West Bank/Gaza, Sudan (Darfur), South Africa, Angola (saw Ken Lyvers there), Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Haiti, Honduras and Mexico. The work CHF has done in those countries gives me much satisfaction and contentment that I have been able to help low-income people around the world.

It has been a great 48 years. Nora and I look forward to welcoming you all to Washington next month. My daughters and their families have been and remain a joy in my life. Nora is a wonderful spirited loving partner and it is a great privilege for me to be part of her life and for us to grow old together graciously. I am also very proud of being part of India III--what a terrific group of people!

(John Chromy, the patient is participating in a skit with John Reid (the Doctor) at Camp Radley in Puerto Rico at the end of Outward Bound Training.)



Connie (Sherman) Hankins, India III 1963-65

Connie Sherman Hankins, from Baltimore, formerly from Middleport, NY chose her college and major with only the goal in mind to be married and have a family. She also had a travel itch, an adventuresome streak and some altruism. Connie was inspired by Kennedy's "Ask not..." message. When she had left Middleport, NY for Seattle, she picked up a Peace Corps application at the world's fair. A side note here is that she got free admission to the fair for several days by being an extra for MGM on an Elvis Presley film. (this is a deep secret!).



India was where the Peace Corps sent Connie. Most of the time she loved her assignment at a school for village girls. It was started by a Gandhian disciple in the city of Hubli, Mysore (now known as Karnataka). The association with the wonderful culture and people of India as well as with the diverse Americans who would never have come through Middleport was the highlight of those years. Before leaving India, Connie married fellow volunteer Willie Hankins.



Their plans were to work internationally, but before that came to be they took advantage of a one year opportunity in Baltimore.

Willie, and to a minor extent Connie, became involved in the Civil Rights movement and other domestic issues. That one year in Baltimore stretched into 45 plus years there. They raised their children Frank and Laura, worked and played hard and traveled as often as possible. Connie taught for 17 years in city schools.

It was a great thing to do while children were growing up and Hank saving the world in this urban area. Connie then switched

careers to work in financial services for 17 years. She loved that. Her message to her husband has always been that he was lucky she stayed with him for longer than 17 years. Connie and Hank are happy to have their children just down the road in Washington, DC, and perhaps happier still to have granddaughters Maggie and Ellie there. (Connie is pictured here with her two children, Laura and Frank.)



Gary Harms, India III 1963-65



Gary Harms, originally from Beatrice, Nebraska is currently living in Cloquet, MN (North Country). He received a B.S. in Horticulture from the University of Nebraska just before joining the Peace Corps. He lived in Nandpur, Punjab along with Joe Bette while serving as a volunteer. Here is his story...

Joe Bette and I had a wonderful time in Nandpur , Punjab. He did his thing with metals and I focused on poultry and both together worked with local kids on a number of projects. There was a time when Joe and I could recite the Indian national anthem for we did so often with our local 4-H group. It was fun. And then there was our cook James who was a gem. After my volunteer days ended in late 65, Brent Ashabranner asked me to consider staying on as a field officer and I did, but ended up in

the Calcutta office for three more years as Deputy Director. I then found myself dealing with difficult issues of divorce, suicidal cases, disruptive volunteers, etc. But, in 1967, I married Roshan Rahman from Calcutta and we then left for the U.S and Washington D.C. P.C. headquarters. I worked at the D.C. office for about 6 months, having been offered the Peace Corps Directors job in Iran but said no, for we had visited Tehran on the way back to Washington and I found it a bit chilling in the faces of people. I was then called by Development and Resources Corp in Sacramento CA to manage PC training programs for which they had contracts with the P.C. I accepted and so we drove from D.C. to my home state of Nebraska for a visit and then to Sacramento where I was the Project Director for a well drilling group destined for India. Then, I was assigned to do the same thing down in ElCentro Ca for a group going to South America. I resigned from the Development firm and that was a mistake as I had no other job in site. Dumb me!! Within a few months, I had a call from a friend in Washington DC, who had been briefly involved with the P.C. prior and knew me and wanted to know if I would be interested in moving to Duluth, MN to work for a state/ federal partnership, called the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission, and I would concentrate on giving grants to Indian tribes in the northern parts of Minn. Wisc, and Mich. I said yes and he said are you sure as it's cold up there!!!!!!!!!! Well, some 41 yrs later I am still here, but don't ask me why as I don't have an answer.

The time with the Upper Great Lakes Commission was somewhat rewarding as I worked closely with the Governor's of the three lake states and their staffs, so it was an experience in politics as well as tribal politics. I traveled to my favorite city Washington D.C. many times and actually dined in the White House dining room with Nixon as a low level staff guy back in 72. My boss was a presidential appointee and that's why that happened. I covered all Indian reservations in these three states and that was an experience that I cherish to this day, although it ended my career which I will explain at the end. The Commission was terminated by Reagan in 1980 and I was out of a job, and depressed, for to find employment in northern Minn at that time was impossible. But, luck would have it that I applied for and was hired by the City of Duluth as a Business Development expert!! I stayed with that mindset for 6 yrs, until I was offered the Planning Directors position in 1989 at a nearby Indian reservation and so accepted. I was

instrumental in creating their first casino operations in the early 90's, writing multiple grants for community centers and receiving a \$13 mil federal appropriation for a new pre K-12 school, so I had many visits to Albuquerque, NM , the main control center for Indian programs. I survived for 15 yrs, which is not bad for a non Indian person and was terminated within 5 min in 2005. I was shell shocked!!! It was all due to an unexpected political change and I could do nothing about it of course. Life goes on. Since then I have served as an Executive Director for a non profit at Lake Mille Lacs but that ended in 2008. So, now I am retired but active on two boards, being reelected to a township board and serving on a local fire district board.

Roshan passed away in 1995 and my son Christopher lives in Duluth. But, I still maintain that my days as a PCV were by far the most rewarding and we had a solid group. I think back about the grueling physical activities at Camp Radley, with drown proofing, rock repelling etc. It was fun. I miss you all and think of you often. Sat sarii akal jee! Keep in touch. Gary Harms
<harmscloquet@aol.com>

Ken Lyvers, India 1963-65



Ken Lyvers from Bardstown, Kentucky had a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from University of Kentucky before joining the Peace Corps. During the Peace Corps he worked in poultry development and other agricultural work in Punjab. Afterwards he worked for USAID on a contract as an Agriculture Engineer on a rural works program in Eastern India, then as a technical coordinator for a PCV group at the University of Wisconsin planning to participate in that same rural works program. Then he was hired by USAID to go to Vietnam, which turned into a 40+ year career of work with USAID. His initial retirement was in 1994 at the Senior Foreign Service grade level.

Ken received his Master's in Public Administration from the Maxwell School, Syracuse University in 1974. While working in Vietnam on Provincial and District Civil Operations (about 5.5 years), he met Hien. About a year before leaving Vietnam, Ken married Hien, and over the next six years had three sons. Two of them are working in Virginia for an air-conditioning company and the youngest in Doha, Qatar working for Carnegie Mellon. That son recently gave birth to twin daughters (grandchildren). Ken and Hien bought a home in Vietnam in 2004 and recently moved to a much nicer place in Dalat, Vietnam. Ken is now retired for the third and final time from USAID. The Lyvers' are headed back to Vietnam to live in mid October and welcome any PCVs to come and visit! They plan on living in Vietnam and visiting the States for 1-2 months each year. klyvers@aol.com

Ken has over 40 years of experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating large economic development programs with an emphasis on the transition from dependence on humanitarian assistance to sustainable development. He has worked in Angola, Kenya, Ukraine and Moldova, Sudan, Egypt, Eastern Africa, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and at USAID headquarters in Washington DC. Most recently for four years in Jamaica. Ken worked initially as the Director of the Office of Sustainable Development and Governance and then as the Director of Sustainable Development as USAID went through a reduction in force and combined all technical programs under one office. Most of the programs Ken has led are large development efforts ranging in the \$2- \$300 million dollar range! He has worked in designing Development Relief Activity (DRA) and supervising the Food for Peace Monetization Development Assistance Program (DAP) in Angola, designing Agriculture and Food Security Programs in several countries, closing out two large land privatization efforts in Moldova, managing Private Farmer Assistance Programs, Agribusiness Partnerships, and Agribusiness and Credit efforts mainly in Ukraine and Moldova, and directing and redesigning the largest general agriculture development project in the world for USAID in Egypt (\$300 million)!



Gordon Louden, India III 1963-65

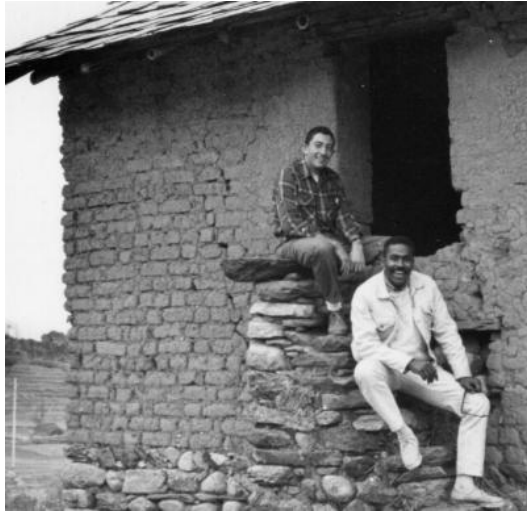
Gordon Louden, of Grinnell, Iowa had graduated from Iowa State with a B.S. in Agriculture when he joined the Peace Corps. He was sent to South India, Mysore, now Karnataka. He worked as an Agricultural Development Officer. According to his wife, he has led a pretty quiet life after returning from the Peace Corps. He took over the family farm near Grinnell and has expanded its operation over the years. His son Ben is now President of Louden Farms, Inc., and Gordon jokes that he just does what the president tells him to do! Gordon married his "current" wife Dorothy 45 years ago. They have two children and seven grandchildren. All of the family lives in the neighborhood much to the envy of other grandparent-age friends. Life has been good with great kids, hilarious grandchildren, much travel in the US and abroad, lots to do in a college town, and best of all, good health. Since harvest is about to begin, Ben will have a lot of work for farmer Gordon so he wishes you all a great time together.

Although no current photos are available, get a hoot from these two taken at Camp Radley in Puerto Rico!



Remembrance for Harold R. Willson, 1941-2001, India

III



Harold or Hal (on far left with Roger Banks), as friends and associates called him, died January 23, 2001 at age 59. My name is Sally Willson; I worked in Washington as PC India Desk Officer under the name Sally Dana until we were married in 1966.



Peace Corps certainly influenced Hal's career and interests. In India from 1963-65, he helped establish a 4-H type training program for rural school teachers in Palampur, a town in the Himalayas now in Himachal Pradesh. I understand on this same site, a College of Agriculture was started in 1966 and has since become the Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University!

After returning from India, Hal worked on several PC-India training projects out of the University of California at Davis and Riverside while he pursued his MSc in International Agriculture at Davis, and PHD in Entomology at Riverside. He returned to India in 1969-70 with the Ford Foundation and researched indigenous grain storage methods in the Punjab. In the 1970-80s during his research extension appointment at Cornell University, he coordinated three state-side training programs for foreign agriculturalists from the Middle East including Pakistan, India and China. Next, at The Ohio State University where he was tenured and focused on corn, wheat and soy grain integrated pest management, he advised graduate students from Mali, Senegal, Uganda and China. His work also took him to South Africa, Swaziland, Columbia, Germany, Eritrea, Uganda and the Ukraine.

During the 1990s, he made many trips to Uganda where he took part in a Virginia Tech-Ohio State long range pest management project. A funny story about Hal told by a university colleague at his memorial service goes like this: "On one of his first field trips in Uganda, we were on our way to some rural areas to meet farmers and examine their crop pests. Heading out, Hal insisted on stopping at one of the first maize fields we saw. By God he was going to get out in that field. Pretty soon, Hal was pulling up stalks and slitting them to look for boring insects when the door of a hut opened. An old man came out. Then there was a woman, too. The kids kind of stayed back. Grabbing a stalk, Hal went running over to the farmer and asked, 'Did you know you have a stalk borer problem?' And before we knew it we're in the guy's hut drinking homemade beer. So, every time we were near there, we'd stop at this guy's place. Hal's total passion for the subject matter made people forget all their fears and suspicions".

At home, here in Columbus, Ohio, we hosted many foreign nationals for month-long stays in our home, all participants in the Columbus International Program, a year-long exchange program for foreign professionals. Hal's retirement goal was to return to some kind of overseas work but

unfortunately, his life was cut short. His death was sudden and a shock, especially to his collaborators in Uganda. Instead of giving flowers to the family, his friends and associates contributed to a fund that paid for 32 boxes of his entomology journals to be sent to the University of Kampala in Uganda.

The accompanying photograph taken in 1964 shows the three Peace Corps Volunteers who set up the Young Farmers training programs in Palampur; with Vineet Nayyar (center first row) and his staff at the District Commissioner's Office in Kangra District. From left to right, third chair in: Robert Spencer; followed by Vineet Nayyar, IAS District Officer, Harold Willson and Harry Andrews.

