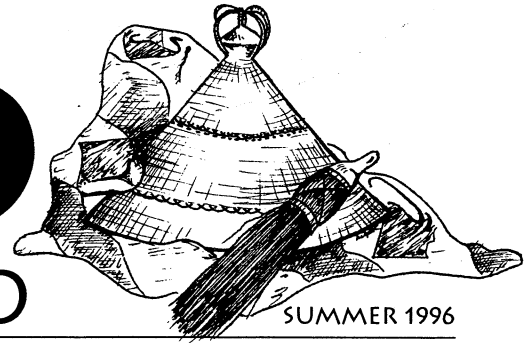


FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

METSOALLE EA LESOTHO



SUMMER 1996

2801 Spencer Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 ■ 301/589-4236 ■ George Fanelli, *Editor*

LESOTHO: ON THE ROPES (PART TWO)

The Lesotho government, as mentioned in the last issue of FOL, seems to be heading into further chaos and has not been able to establish any stability.

Prime Minister Mokhehle's Basotho Congress party (BCP) held a Leadership Conference in late 1995 (the first since 1991) which was intended to strengthen party unity but which actually revealed significant internal divisions. Ironically, the division within the

party seems to be headed by the Prime Minister's brother, Shakhane Mokhehle. Shakhane Mokhehle had been Secretary-General of the BCP until 1994 when he had been replaced by G. Kolisang. Thereafter, Shakhane Mokhehle and his supporters had been extremely critical and disruptive in the party, eventually taking over the BCP offices for three (3) weeks prior to the Leadership Conference.

The Prime Minister had

opened the Conference with a call for party unity but immediately after his speech there was a request to replace the Party Executive by the Shakhane faction. Thus, the conference collapsed without anything being accomplished.

The Prime Minister's position was further weakened by the BCP's own paper, "Makatolle", openly supporting the Shakhane faction's position. The paper questioned the decisions to postpone the party's annual conference and to hold it outside of Maseru. The weekly paper "The Mirror" reported in its February editions that the Prime Minister would probably announce his retirement (he is now 77) at the conference. Should Prime Minister Mokhehle step down, the fight for the party leadership would be between his brother, Shakhane and his faction, and the Minister of Law, Molapo Qhobela.

Interestingly, however, in a poll conducted and released by "The Mirror" in late 1995, the most popular politician in Lesotho is the Minister of Agriculture, Ntsukunyane Mphanya. Prime Minister Mokhehle ranked second, Minister of Law Qhobela was fifth and Shakhane Mokhehle was off the chart (actually 28th). Nevertheless, Minister Mphanya's name is not mentioned in any articles written about the possible successors to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister also had other problems. The teachers' strike continued until October 1995

DEATH OF THE KING

It was reported in "The New York Times", the "Washington Post" and several other newspapers that King Moshoeshoe II died in an automobile accident on 15 January 1996. The King was returning to Maseru after a visit to the mountains. The accident, which also killed the King's chauffeur, occurred when the King's car plunged off a cliff in the Maluti Mountains.

The King was born in 1938 and attended Corpus Christi College at Oxford. He succeeded his father as paramount chief of British Basutoland in 1960 and assumed the title of king when Lesotho became independent in 1966.

Initially after independence, Moshoeshoe tried to increase his political influence. However, the elected civilian government made him recognize that the position of prime minister held constitutional power. His political power was then greatly diminished but his position was a rallying point in times of political crisis.

He was placed under house arrest in 1970 when the defeated prime minister, Leabua Jonathan, refused to acknowledge the election result and, with the support of the army, staged a coup. The King was released

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

NOTICES

Recently, several notices were received about a slew of items which may be of interest to all. These notices included fliers:

◆ "The Word Universe: A Journey to West Africa" – a film by Mark Keegan. This film is about an RPCV (Liberia) who returns to West Africa to find a friend from his PCV days caught up in a civil war. The film premiered at the 1995 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival and was rated among the top 30 of 500 films submitted. You may see a copy of the brochure for the film by writing to the editor of FOL (remember the new address) or you may contact Mr. Keegan directly at 310 Riverside Drive 1605, New York, NY 10025. Or you may call him at 202/662-5442.

There are several packages available, starting with the economy model (just the VHS tape in a box) for \$19.95, Africa package (everything in the economy model plus a 64-page booklet, "A Liberia Chronicle") for \$29.95, to the film maker package (everything in the Africa package plus the director's notes) for \$49.95.

◆ Michael Arnott, RPCV/Philippines, proposed to introduce a "Journal of Sustainable Development and Education". Below is a brief description of his proposal:

This is a brief description of a proposal for an international sustainable development journal that will respond to an important need that is honored more in words than in deeds: empowering the community side of development partnerships. If you agree, please write me a brief letter. Describe, from your experience, why this journal would make a difference. Foundations, the source of start-up funding, wants to see support from people around the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

MEMBER NEWS

A recent article in the Fairfax Audubon Society's (FAS) newsletter, "Potomac Flier", described a project undertaken by the FAS and the Environmental Network, a group of PCV's in Lesotho trying to ensure the survival of threatened and endangered species of birds found in Lesotho.

Much equipment was needed to monitor and evaluate the situation and to this end FAS collected and reconditioned 15 binoculars, a spotting scope and a tripod to the Network. You may wish to consider donating either your binoculars or spotting scope to FAS for this cause. You can obtain additional information by writing to: Fairfax Audubon Society, P.O. Box 82, Vienna, VA 22183-0082.



RPCV **Barbara Hardy's** (1975-78 in Lesotho) experience in Peace Corps was the focus of an article in the Saco, ME "Journal Tribune". Barbara was 57 when she began her service and remained overseas for 10 years before she returned home to her official grandmother duties. Barbara spent the past winter in Florida with her daughter, not the worst place to be considering the harsh winter we had in the Northeast.



Florence Brooks, a Peace Corps volunteer in Lesotho from 1977-1981, died in July 1995. FOL has no other details.



FOL received a letter from **Jennifer Middleton**, Secretary of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), who reported the TAP program was able to fund 35 scholarships in 1995 due to various contributions received, including FOL's. She also enclosed a letter from PCV Betty Hiebert which described the difference a TAP award made for one woman in her village, Mary Makhabo. (Copies of these letters are on pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter.) Since 1992, FOL has donated a total of \$4,000 in scholarships to Lesotho.



FOL also heard from PCV **Brooks Pearson**, Treasurer of the Volunteer Liaison Committee (VLC). FOL has contributed a total of \$1,250 to the VLC since 1991 but has not made any recent contributions. PCV Pearson requested FOL re-establish its ties with the VLC and FOL agreed, sending a \$100 contribution as a start. Don Spicer requested that the VLC use its best judgment on which projects to fund. He also requested that information be sent back to FOL on which projects were selected, the outcome, etc. We look forward to hearing from the VLC and the continuation of a long and productive relationship.

ON THE ROPES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

when it was suspended for several months so that students could write their Standard VII, Junior Certificate and Cambridge Overseas School Certificate exams. The strike had not been fully supported by all of the teachers in Lesotho. The Lesotho Teachers Trade Union (LTTU), which generally staffs Catholic schools, continued the strike when schools reopened in August but the Lesotho Association of Teachers (LAT), which generally staffs Lesotho Evangelical Schools, did not.

The National Assembly, in spite of all this confusion and commotion, passed an Education Bill in late 1995 which caused more anger from the LTTU. Education had primarily been in the hands of the various churches in Lesotho prior to independence in 1966. However, as funds became scarce and the churches found it difficult to pay teachers, the government assumed this responsibility without the ability to place nor hire any of the teachers. The new education bill would provide for the government to hire, fire and place teachers as needed. The LTTU took great exception to these expanded government functions and began additional protests. The LAT, therefore, appealed to international educational organizations for solidarity with the law. The teachers' organizations of Zimbabwe and Sweden have so far been the only organizations which have responded affirmatively to the LAT's appeal.

While all of the strife above was transpiring, events of potentially enormous economic and political significance were taking shape in Lesotho. James Motlatsi, the president of the South African National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), campaigned for the inclusion of Lesotho into the Republic of South Africa (RSA). He advocated this

HOW THE WEATHER WAS

I am sorry for the delay in getting this issue of FOL out. If you glance at the Board of Directors list you will notice the change in my home address. It took forever to pack everything, actually move and then unpack more than had been packed originally (thus disproving the concept of the conservation of matter/stuff/junk) in our new home. The newsletter has suffered my neglect.

Nevertheless, there have been many things which have occurred in Lesotho since the last issue, first and foremost the death of Moshoeshe II (more on this later), the teachers' strike, political maneuverings, the suggestion of the political union of Lesotho and South Africa, filling of the Katse Dam (Highlands Water Project) etc.

A very Laurel-and-Hardy thank you to those members who sent me copies of numerous newspaper articles since the last issue of FOL. Most of the articles dealt with the King's death but there was an article submitted from the Fairfax Audubon Society newsletter reprinted in this issue of FOL) on the dangers to the bird life in Lesotho and several

notices regarding books published by RPCV's. Additionally, there was a favorable piece about the Peace Corps in the latest issue of "Road and Track" (admittedly, not a place I expect to find favorable or unfavorable articles on the Peace Corps).

FOL President-for-Life Spicer requested I remind everyone that they do not need to fill out the entire membership form when renewing their memberships (you are renewing, aren't you?). Since most of the information usually has not changed we only need you to fill in the name and address to ensure our basic information is correct. If you send in your e-mail address, please make it legible!

I wish to reiterate, our newsletter can only be as good as everyone wishes it to be so please keep those articles coming in. Your contributions really help in the preparation of each issue. Also, if you have comments or suggestions about the newsletter let us know (please, none of that negativity stuff, it gets old in a hurry).



George Fanelli

position only after Nelson Mandela became President of RSA. However, he has not received support on this proposal from either government in Lesotho or RSA (this would make a great deal of sense — Lesotho wishes to preserve its independence and the RSA does not want to be seen as meddling in the internal political affairs of another sovereign state — especially the annexation of a state).

Therefore, Mr. Motlatsi made a different modest proposal. He is now pressuring the government of the RSA to grant full citizenship to all migrant workers (especially migrant mine workers from Lesotho,

Botswana, Swaziland, Malawi and Mozambique) from other African countries.

Most of the membership of NUM supports Mr. Motlatsi's proposal. However, it received a very different reception from government officials. Mr. Notsi Molopo, Minister for Labor, disagreed vehemently with the proposal in an interview. The reasons for his disagreement are obvious. It has been estimated that should migrant Basotho mineworkers be offered citizenship in the RSA, and should political conditions remain stable there, the majority of workers would probably

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

THE PEACE CORPS FELLOWS PROGRAM IN RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Peace Corps Fellows Program in Rural Community Development jointly sponsored by Illinois State University, combines academic course work with practical work experience in rural Illinois communities. Fellows earn master's degrees while working with rural communities on important local projects.

Academic Programs:

Fellows choose from four programs: economics, political science and public administration, geography (rural and regional planning, environmental issues, computer mapping, GIS), business administration (MBA program). Each department has developed a course of study that allows Fellows to spend up to a year working with a rural community. The course work and work experience allows graduates with international background to establish credentials as specialists in community development, both in the United States and overseas.

Student Aid and Funding:

During the first year of study, Fellows receive a graduate assistantship and tuition is waived. During the second year, Fellows undertake a community assignment while earning a monthly stipend. The program is supported by the Illinois Governor's Rural Affairs Council, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and other public and private groups.

Rural Development Projects:

This is an innovative program and provides exciting opportunities. Community leaders from many towns are enthusiastic about hosting a Fellow and believe returned Peace Corps volunteers will bolster local development efforts. Fellows have worked in local social service agencies, regional economic development efforts, school-to-work programs, and downtown restoration in their first- and second-year activities.

The first class of six Fellows began the program in late May, 1994 with summer work assignments in communities. We are pleased with the Fellows and with the community response to them. The next class of Fellows began the program in Fall 1995. We invite any returned volunteer to apply for the class which begins in the Fall of 1996. Since we receive a significant number of inquiries and applications, we urge interested returned volunteers to apply well before the March 15, 1996 deadline.

Want to Know More? If you would like to know more about the program, please contact Dr. Bob Hunt at 309/438-5945, email: rwhunt@rs6000.cmp.ilstu.edu. Regular mail Peace Corps Fellow Program, Political Science Department 306, Schroeder Hall, Box 4600, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-4600. ■

PEACE CORPS NOVEL AND SEQUEL ARE FREE TO VOLUNTEERS

Dr. Betty Halliwell (former PC HQ employee) has written several books about the Peace Corps.

Whether or not you have requested a free copy of Dr. Halliwell's 1995 Peace Corps novel, *The Bjorklund Legacy: Philanth at 25*, you may request a free copy of its first sequel and/or a free copy of *Philanth* for a friend. You may also request that it be gift wrapped, autographed, and/or hardcover.

Philanth tackles the problem of holding onto self-transcendent values in a secular culture. It also shows the effects of using top management positions at Peace Corps as plums for a president's supporters. Peace Corps director Charles Bjorklund makes a tour of PC countries with two young returned volunteers, and his burnout becomes a metaphor for his country's fading altruism regarding its role in the world. This is 849-page philosophical/political romance is offered as a gift from the author, a former sociology professor who worked at Peace Corps headquarters while completing research for the book.

In the sequel, *Bjorklund's Daughter* is a rising politician struggling to further her famous adoptive parents' far-sighted global agenda while keeping the unscrupulous vice president at arm's length. This 529-page celebration of the space program is from the viewpoint of the NASA executive who looks to Congresswoman Bjorklund like he would make a satisfactory husband for a presidential aspirant.

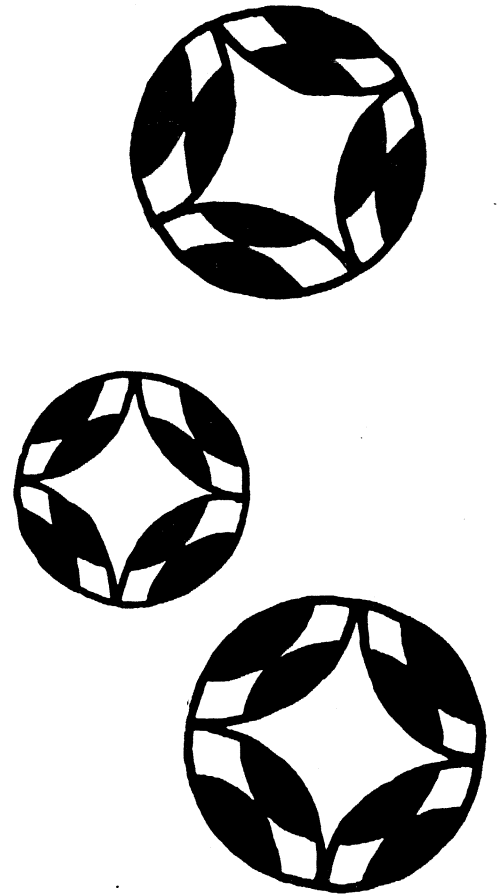
For more information or a copy of either book, contact Dr. Betty Halliwell c/o The Pribiloff Press, 2930 Colorado Avenue, #D18, Santa Monica, CA 90404-3647. Voice mail: 310/453-8007. Fax: 310/828-9174. ■

A SPECIAL BONUS FOR ALL OF YOU PHILATELISTS!!!

The Postal Administration of Lesotho has announced a new issue commemorating the 50th Anniversary of University Studies in Lesotho. There are six beautiful stamps in this issue (the pictures are too small to print and the black and white format of this newsletter does not do the colors justice). You may write for additional information to: Lesotho Philatelic Bureau, Private Bag A1, Maseru 100, Lesotho.

There are three different sets available - the mint condition (6 Maluti), the used condition (6 Maluti) or the first day cover (8 Maluti). Unfortunately, since prices have been quoted in Maluti and the exchange rate fluctuates, I can not provide exact cost.

Finally, we were contacted by Douglas Linton, Managing Editor of the Weissmann Travel Report's "International Profiles" guide. Mr. Weissmann is looking for a former Lesotho RPCV to examine and update the current Lesotho report. You can contact Mr. Weissmann at: P.O. Box 49279, Austin, Texas 78765, telephone: (512) 320-8700, fax: (512) 320-0016. ■



FOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Spicer
President/Treasurer/Membership
 3815 Gateway Terrace
 Burtonsville, MD 20866
 (h) 301/890-1003
 (w) 202/452-3195

Scott Brumburgh
Vice President/Secretary
 2801 Spencer Road
 Chevy Chase, MD 20815
 (h) 301/589-4236
 (w) 301/589-4237

George Fanelli
Newsletter Editor
 319 Louvaine Drive
 Buffalo, New York 14223
 (h) 716/874-4981
 (w) 716/882-0063

Bill Dunn
Membership Database
 1685 Crescent Drive
 Anchorage, AK 99508
 (h) 907/561-3105

Delton Allen
Activities
 1927 15th Street, NW,
 Apt. #2
 Washington, DC 20009
 (h) 202/232-4716

JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

world. If you are still in contact with Peace Corps friends and co-workers, please share this article, or a translation of it, with them.

The sustainable development approach acknowledges that the prosperity of any one of us is linked to, not at the expense of, the prosperity of all of us and our environment. Even if that expense is hidden from view, shifted to others, the environment, or the next generation.

The Journal will be a forum where community leaders and educators, whose informed participation is crucial to sustainable success of development policies, can share their experiences with each other. Their expertise will help inform and guide their peers and the political leaders and experts who work with them. Equal access to information and communication resources is essential to partnerships in which

both partners are empowered.

Each issue will use case studies to examine the why, how to, and results of projects in a different topic area. All reports will be followed by commentaries plus an author's response. Community leaders and educators are the Journal's primary audience and authors, but the articles will be written and edited so as to appeal to development and education experts. The case studies should be good stories as well as instructive reports.

The Journal will start as an English language bi-annual publication. If possible, it will be distributed free to current U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers and by subscription to all others. A 12-page draft proposal is available upon request. Michael Arnott, 61 Slade Street, Belmont, MA 02178. Phone 617/484-5068. (Philippines 1979-81). ■

IN THE MAIL

St John Tlali Primary
PO Box 17
Tlali 170 Lesotho

September 17, 1985

Dear Friends of Lesotho,

I am a primary Resource Teacher in the foothills near ha Tlali. I work mainly with small rural schools and many unqualified teachers.

I want to tell you about a woman, Mary Makhabo Nthako, who received a TAP scholarship this year. She has worked hard to improve her village and church. In 1991 she organized and taught a grades 1-3 primary school which met in the chief's house. The distance is too great for the small children to attend St. John Tlali Primary School. The next year funds were donated to build a simple 3-room school, which now is a St. John Tlali Primary extension school. She still contributes much time and energy to these projects.

Last year she made a very brave decision to pursue her dream of becoming a qualified teacher, which would better her (and her family's) life.

In order to do this, she resigned her

position as a private teacher (salary R 50.- per month). This was a dead end job because she had only completed Form B (9th grade) before her marriage and could not further her adult studies. She enrolled at the local high school and is repeating Form B as a review. Her oldest child is also enrolled at the same high school this year in Form A (grade 8).

With her husband away at the mines she is left to manage the home and family. Mary's mother is helping by watching the younger children when she is away.

In addition to studying hard, she has a very strenuous daily walk to the high school. She has lost weight because of the additional stress of becoming a student again. During the June-July winter holidays she had surgery - a hysterectomy - and managed to go back to school after the holidays even though she still was not feeling well.

She is very eager and proud of her achievement in English this year. Her long-time goal is to finish Form E and then go on to become a qualified teacher. When we are together we have fun



Mrs. Mary Makhabo Nthako — age 36 — being presented TAP scholarship check by Betty Hiebert, PCV at St. John Thali HS.

joking and she says, "I am a teacher. I speak English".

Receiving a TAP scholarship gave her a lot more self-esteem and the courage to pursue her dream. I know she will become an enthusiastic teacher.

Sincerely,
Me Betty Hiebert-PCV
Primary Resource
Teacher
St. John Tlali Primary
School

20 November, 1995

Dear Friends of Lesotho,

On behalf of the Tuition Assistance Project I would like to thank you for all the support you've given. Your generous contributions have allowed many deserving students to attend primary and secondary schools.

In addition to other donations this year, yours has enabled TAP to award 35 scholarships. This number could not be nearly as high if TAP did not receive donations from FOL.

Enclosed is a letter written by Betty Hiebert. She has described one recipient's situation. I hope you will find this information useful. Thank you again for all the support that has been given. TAP truly appreciates all the efforts.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Middleton
Secretary, TAP

DEATH OF THE KING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the following year after he agreed to remain separated from politics.

He maintained a low profile until 1986 when the army seized power again, with the help of the South African government. The King was forced into exile in England in 1990 and the military junta put his son Bereng Seeiso on the throne as Letsie III. The King remained in England until 1992 but did not assume the title of King again until January 1995 (see FOL Summer 1994 and Summer 1995 issues).

Russell Baker had an Observer article on the King's death in the *New York Times* on 30 January 1996. Mr. Baker pointed out

how isolationist the U.S. has become by looking at the lack of media coverage of Moshoeshoe's funeral. The lead stories that day were on Ms. Clinton's appearance before a grand jury, Senator Dole's poor television persona and the political shrewdness of President Clinton.

The King's son, Bereng Seeiso, ascended the throne for a second time as Letsie III in February.

A final ironic note on all of this concerns the attorney, Thabang Khaueo, who had filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the legislation which reinstated Moshoeshoe II (see FOL Summer and Fall 1995 issues). The Lesotho High Court dismissed the case, finding Khaueo did not have standing to bring the suit. ■

ON THE ROPES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

accept the offer. This could result in massive emigration of up to 400,000 people from Lesotho to the RSA.

There is also potentially devastating economic consequences. Most migrant mineworkers send a large percentage of their wages back to their families in Lesotho. This keeps workers' families sheltered, clothed and fed. This system allows money to continue flowing into the Lesotho banks. Should such a major source of funds cease or if they are diverted from the banks, the level of private economic activity would decrease substantially.

Fortunately (for Lesotho), the only political party in Lesotho advocating a union with the RSA was the one hurled on the political scrap heap of history, the Communist Party. ■

FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

2801 SPENCER ROAD
CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815