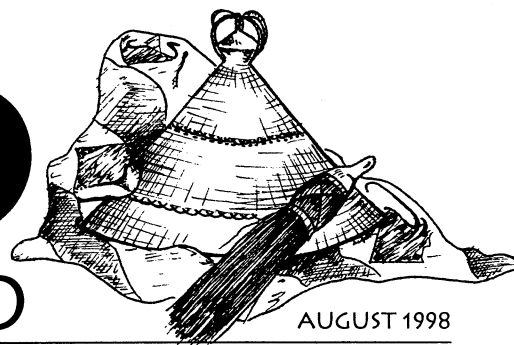


FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

METSOALLE EA LESOTHO



AUGUST 1998

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

ELECTIONS IN LESOTHO (FAIR OR FOUL); AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

The last issue of FOL discussed the problems the Basotho Congress Party had in its attempt to hold its mandated **1995 Annual Conference** (you may recall the three party conventions and you're out rule) in 1996 and 1997. BCP leader and Prime Minister Mokhehle decided there was no way he could possibly retain his party leadership if the Annual Convention was ever held so he went out and formed a new party, the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD).

Additionally, the Prime Minister convinced 40 of the 63 BCP Members of Parliament to "cross the aisle" with him, and in effect, form a new ruling government (the LCD) and relegate the BCP to opposition party status. Obviously, this change in government did not sit well with either of the two other major political parties, the BCP or the Basotho National Party (BNP).

There was talk of a legal challenge to the action and even a request made to the King to intervene and remove Prime Minister Mokhehle but nothing happened.

The challenge was not followed up with great vigor since national elections were scheduled to be held in 1998. The BCP party leader, Molapo Qhobela, and BNP

party leader, Retselisitsoe Sekhonyana, both felt confident each of their respective parties would do well enough in the national election to either win an outright majority of the seats in Parliament and form the government or win enough seats so that a coalition government (something

completely unthinkable for such a long time—a coalition of the BCP and the BNP) could be formed and completely exclude the LCD.

Preparations for the election went along smoothly. The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) arrived safely in country and voter

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NOTES FROM LESOTHO

EVERY DOLLAR HELPED

Some of you may recall (although I presume all members of FOL keep and catalog each prior news letter issue) in the Winter 1997 issue an article on two (2) projects in Lesotho which had been listed in the Peace Corps Partnership Program's November 1996 issue.

One project, submitted by PCV Heather Miller in Makhoareng, Qacha's Nek, was the need to improve the classroom facilities for grades 1 through 5 at the primary school in the village (grades 6 and 7 had actual classrooms). The estimated cost for the project was \$3,410 and not a single dollar had been received.

The 1997 Annual Review of the Partnership Program lists total contributions received for Heather's project as \$3,485. Well done—I do not actually know if the construction has been completed but it would be nice to find out.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

FOL received a letter from PCV's Rex and Janeen Baker (Matela Farmer Training Centre) who related an unusual story about RPCV Henry Stelzer.

It seems a student of Rex's had a bible which was donated by Bob and Candy Baker of Duluth, Minnesota. The student asked if either

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NOTES FROM LESOTHO

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Bob or Candy Baker was related to Rex or Janeen Baker. It turned out there was no relation.

Nevertheless, Rex decided to enquire why the Baker family of Duluth would donate a bible to be used in Lesotho (RPCV Henry Stelzer enters this story here).

Henry Stelzer was a good friend of the Duluth Bakers. Henry is also blind. He applied to be a PCV (the Matela Bakers do not provide dates for this story so I am not sure when Henry was in Lesotho—he is not listed in any recent FOL directories), a position became available at a blind school in Maseru and he subsequently began and completed his PC service.

Henry returned to the United States but wished to return to Lesotho as a missionary. He was unsuccessful in his efforts to raise the necessary funds so he returned to Maseru without any sponsorship. He was able to establish several different cottage industries for the blind during this second stay in Maseru. Additionally, he taught blind women to operate telephone switchboards, raise animals, etc.

Henry received many boxes of food and clothing from the States on a regular basis. The Duluth Bakers' were very generous in donating food and clothing and, in addition, several bibles with their names on the front were donated.

The Matela Bakers' student won one of these donated bibles as a prize in a concert competition. She kept it with her and at the Farmer Training Centre and having met Rex and Janeen, asked if they were related to the Bakers' who had donated the bible.

The end of the story, as related by Rex and Janeen, is Henry moved back to the States perhaps two (2) years ago. ■

FUND-RAISING PASSES 80% MARK

Thanks to the generous contributions of its members, the Friends of Lesotho has raised over \$4,000.00 toward its goal of \$5,000.00 to fund its Basotho student tuition and small project programs for the next two years. Between January 1 and May 31st, donations excluding dues received totaled \$4,100.00. FOL hopes to reach the \$5,000.00 milestone this summer, then begin distribution to funds to the Peace Corps/Lesotho Tuition Assistance Project (TAP) and Volunteer Liaison Committee Small Project Fund in the fall.

This is the first time the organization has attempted a membership fund-raising program in its 10 1/2 year existence. Between 1986–1997, members made unsolicited contributions of more than \$8,000.00 beyond dues, all of which went directly to projects in Lesotho.

Thanks to these members:

FROM \$501.00 TO \$1,000.00
Puckett, Sandy

FROM \$251.00 TO \$500.00
Ambre, Joan
Woods, Emmett

FROM \$101.00 TO \$250.00

Cassell, Tom
Hochstadt, Ted
Hollister, John
Shriver, Ann

FROM \$51.00 to \$100.00

Brumburgh, Scott
Casper, Dennis & Cheryle
Lockwood, Lorri
Macklin, Amy
Ruch, Dave & Heneghan, Tia
Smith, Kim

FROM \$10.00 TO \$50.00

Bartels, Jeff
Carney, Michael & Terri
Carr, Mark
Cooley, Lawrence
Dallagrana, Wade
Ferrick, John & Johnson, Linda
Freer, Kevin
Gospodarek, Beth
Hoener, Fred
Kalnbach, Jan
Kenney, Dana
Latta, Michael
Mayo, Douglas
McKay, Tim & Betty Jane
Meador, Michael
Melbye, Mark
O'Malley, Ann
Schmitz, Karen
Spicer, Don & Peko, Nthakoana
Templin, Steve
Tibbits, Margaret
Zandernella, Catherine

By Scott Brumburgh

10,000 VOLUNTEERS -GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE...

The Director of the Peace Corps, Mark Gearan, personally wrote to FOL President for Life Don Spicer earlier this year to let Don know that the Peace Corps will try to expand to 10,000 volunteers in the field by the year 2000. President Clinton announced this initiative during one of his national radio addresses. The plan now calls for Peace Corps funding to increase to \$270 million (current funding is \$222 million with 6,500 volunteers in the field) in federal fiscal year 1999, with 8,500 volunteers in the field and then additional funding will be sought and the remaining volunteers in place during fiscal year 2000.

Chic Dambach, President of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), strongly recommended in the Spring 1998 issue of the NPCA's publication, **Group Leaders' Digest** all RPCV's lobby congressional representatives to make the **10,000 by Year 2000** goal a reality.

FOL BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

FOL recently received a press release about the publication of a book which may be of great interest to everyone. The book, by Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman, is entitled, *All You Need Is Love/The Peace Corps and the Spirit of the 1960's*.

The press release describes the book as neither a tribute to the Peace Corps nor a collection of personal stories, although vivid accounts of individual experiences provide compelling evidence of its influence and value. Instead, this book is a timely, balanced history of an agency that continues to bring both the face and ideas of Americans to people around the world. ■

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HOW THE WEATHER WAS

I have to apologize to all members of FOL for the delay in this issue of the news letter but work interfered again with my schedule.

Nevertheless, an election was held in Lesotho in late May, under the supervision of the three person Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). A discussion of the election and its results appear elsewhere in the newsletter.

Some issues of FOL, and this column in particular, are very easy to compose, edit, and ultimately, make some sense.

Not this issue as there are two deaths of PCV contemporaries of mine to report.

First, FOL received a letter from Jan Kalnbach (77-79) earlier this year to let us know of the death of Barbara Hardy (Thabana Morena 76-79). The letter from Jan is printed in its entirety later in this issue.

Every year since I completed my Peace Corps service, I have received a copy of "The Christmas Ambre Report," a brief overview of the events during the prior 12 months in the lives of FOL members, Joan and Earl Ambre. I had some cause for concern when there was not a Report this past Christmas.

I was very, very saddened to learn of the death of former Country Director, Earl Ambre, on 12 November 1997. The complete text of the memorial from Earl's funeral appears in the news letter (I have also included Joan's Report in the news letter for those who did not receive one this year).

I suspect a number of FOL members never had the opportunity to meet Earl or Joan Ambre. I had the great fortune to begin my service while Earl (it is difficult to separate Earl and Joan—they were uniquely bound together and be-

cause of their closeness and love for each other. I know this is a very difficult time for Joan) was Country Director. Peace Corps service is/was a great adventure and is/was a seminal event in my life but I was, nevertheless, a frightened, nervous and apprehensive city boy when our plane touched down in Maseru 22 years ago.

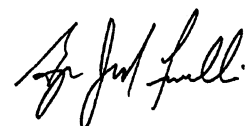
Earl (and Joan) recognized the symptoms and went to work right away to provide me with a sense of security, community, commitment and confidence. Earl was so proficient at providing such reinforcement that it appeared effortless. It obviously worked for me and for countless others who had the privilege of serving with Joan and Earl.

One of several friends who informed me of Earl's death was Dave Evans. Dave related a story in his letter which I think is so reflective of Earl's nature that I wanted to include it in the news letter.

"...After my house was robbed, I came lividly into his office and he said, 'Dave, just keep in mind that whoever robbed you probably needs it more than you do.' And that one explanation/rationalization has had as much impact on me as anything anyone has ever said to me..."

The little story just says so much about Earl's kindness, his belief and trust in human goodness, and, ultimately, the impact he had on our lives. He was a truly good, good man and he will be very missed by those of us who had been fortunate enough to have known him.

My prayers and condolences go out to Joan during this period of great sorrow.



George Fanelli

ELECTIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

registration efforts began throughout Lesotho.

At some point, it is not exactly clear from the stories I was able to pull from **The Mirror** or **Mopheme/The Survivor** (another weekly paper printed in Lesotho) or **The Electronic Mail & Guardian**, Prime Minister Mokhehle designated Pakalitha Mosisili as the new party leader of the LCD. The early voter polls seemed to indicate the upcoming election would be close raising the possibility the LCD would not have an absolute majority, and, therefore opening the door to the BCP/BNP coalition government mentioned above. NOT!!!

The elections were held Saturday, 23 May. It turned out to be a landslide for the LCD. It won 78 out of the 79 constituencies, most by a margin of several thousand votes (there are apparently 80 seats available in this Parliament—previously there were 65—but one of the seats {Moyeni} was not contested because one of the candidates died before the election). The voting results may have been influenced by several actions and promises of the LCD immediately preceding election day. First, there was the reported 10% pay increase approved for all civil servants (for those of you who remember, this sounds very similar to the Jimmy Carter tactic for federal employees immediately prior to the 1980 election) and secondly, there was the promise of 850,000,000 Maluti (it turns out Lesotho's entire Gross National Product is only five times this amount) to Lesotho's farmers if the LCD was returned to power.

It should not be surprising, therefore, that both the BCP and BNP protested these (normal by American political standards) political tactics and promises. **Mopheme** reported a protest march

by hundreds of BCP and BNP followers on Sunday, 24 May. Unfortunately for the BCP and BNP, while trying to enlist supporters for the protest march in Maseru, the LCD sent a van around the city letting people know of employment opportunities at various self help projects that morning. Obviously, such tactics kept attendance at the protest down, especially given the current extraordinary unemployment rate in Lesotho (more on this below).

Regardless, both the BCP and the BNP have moved for the annulment of the election results and have accused the LCD of massive voter fraud. BNP leader Sekhonyana took the precaution prior to the election to hire a South African company, (OF&A from Durban) to examine the election results, voter registration rolls and conduct exit polling. Several examples of statistical abnormalities were revealed by the examinations and exit polling (statistically suspicious numbers of voters born on the first day of January, or the second day of February, or the third day of March, and so forth). The information was presented to the IEC prior to the election (16 May) and, subsequently, an appeal was made to the supreme court to postpone the election. The court decided these (and other) irregularities did not seem significant enough to influence the outcome, and ordered the elections to be held. The court has not yet ruled on the motion to annul the entire election.

However, the three major political parties may find themselves extinct due to other forces which have been brewing in Lesotho. The Summer 1996 issue of FOL had noted the president of the South African National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), James Motlatsi, was campaigning for the inclusion of Lesotho into the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

COSATU SEEMS TO BE RUNNING AN OPEN CAMPAIGN TO MERGE LESOTHO INTO THE RSA AS A TENTH PROVINCE, AND MAY BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF DUE TO THE ENORMOUS POLITICAL CLOUT IT HAS IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

That call has been picked up by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), reported by **The Mail & Guardian** in its 29 May edition. COSATU represents the 100,000 current (and 50,000 unemployed) Basotho mineworkers. COSATU seems to be running an open campaign to merge Lesotho into the RSA as a tenth province, and may be able to pull it off due to the enormous political clout it has in both countries.

The COSATU membership is extremely impatient with political events in Lesotho and economic events in RSA. Most of the unemployed mineworkers have been forced to return to Lesotho and, obviously, are unable to supplement Lesotho's foreign currency reserves by sending wages back to their families. The outlook for their employment is not good and the **Wall Street Journal** reported in its 25 March edition that an estimated 30,000 more mineworkers will lose employment this year.

The reason for such massive lay-offs is clear. The price of gold (most of the Basotho mineworkers are employed in RSA's gold mines) has fallen below \$290 per ounce. Major mining companies insist it is not economical to mine South African gold at these prices (South

African gold deposits are in extremely deep mines which are expensive to operate), so they have scaled back production.

Unemployed mineworkers return to Lesotho without any prospects for employment (hence the popularity of the LCD van announcing employment availability at self help projects sent around Maseru the day of the BCP/BNP election protest) and no longer able to afford to send their children to school or provide for their families. **The Journal** article also indicated domestic violence, alcohol abuse, crime and other social ills have risen dramatically with the increase in unemployment. Given the social unrest and the fact the miners do not have much faith in Lesotho's political system, it does not seem far fetched to believe COSATU will push for what had been so unthinkable such a short time ago and which the Basotho had so fiercely and proudly prevented during the apartheid years; Lesotho's absorption by its gigantic political and economic neighbor, the Republic of South Africa.

All was not gloom and doom in Lesotho since the last issue of FOL...

The Summer 1996 issue of FOL had mentioned the tragic death of King Moshoeshoe II on 15 January in an automobile accident. His son, King Letsie III was sworn in on 14 February. It was long overdue but, finally, an official coronation for the King was held on 31 October 1997. There were stories on the coronation in both **The Mirror** and **Reuters** news service.

The festivities were filled with pomp and circumstance, as both South African President Nelson Mandela and Britain's Prince Charles attended, along with a crowd in excess of 20,000 in Setsoto Stadium in Maseru. King Letsie received the warmest reception but the cheers for President Mandela

were equally as loud.

The King spoke to the crowd about establishing national unity, lasting peace and political stability. He also spoke of the upcoming elections, applauded the establishment of the Independent Electoral Commission, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 and appealed to every Mosotho to cast his or her vote.

Reuters reported Prince Charles also spoke and delivered a congratulatory message to the King from his mother, Queen Elizabeth, and then, in Sotho, wished Lesotho "an abundance of (this is **Reuters** spelling, not mine) kgotso, pula, nala". It may not be my place, but I would check the spelling of any foreign language phrase if I were a **Reuters** correspondent.

The Summer 1995 issue of FOL had an article on the construction of the Katse Dam (which is actually Phase I of the Highlands Water Project). It was scheduled to be completed in 1996 but due to some construction complications and threats from the World Bank about an environmental impact study (see FOL Winter 1997—there were actually two issues of FOL which were labelled Winter 1997—the referenced article is in the earlier issue) the project was not completed until this year.

The dam was officially brought on line on 23 January. An official dedication ceremony was held at the dam site and was attended by King Letsie III, President Mandela, Botswana President Ketumile Masire and Namibian President Sam Nujoma.

President Mandela stressed the project would provide for a better future for the children of Lesotho and South Africa by providing clear running water where none was previously available. He commented on the significant improvement in the infrastructure (roads, communication services and electrical supplies) of the highlands due to the construction. He also stated it would be a

great joy for South Africans to know the royalties paid to Lesotho for the water from the project (estimated to be \$1.3 million per month) will flow into the Lesotho Highlands Water Revenue Fund for rural development all over Lesotho. Finally, President Mandela stressed the importance of regional cooperation and said the success of the project would create "an environment conducive to mutual development with all of South Africa's regional partners".

Not everyone agreed with President Mandela. The opening of the project brought fresh protests from environmental groups in both Lesotho and South Africa. The Group for Environmental Monitoring (GEM) claimed the opening of the dam will have serious ecological effects on the Orange River (where the water is drawn from) and the Vaal River (where it is sent). Additionally, the GEM stated many Basotho farmers and villagers had not been adequately compensated for the loss of homes and land during the construction. GEM stated in 5 February 1998 issue of the **Electronic Mail & Guardian** 22,000 Basotho were directly or indirectly hurt and 4,000 hectares of arable and grazing land was lost through the construction process.

The GEM argued the total development cost for all four phases of the project (\$8 billion-not even Bill Gates would call this chump change) does not contribute anything toward the goal of sustainable development and the conservation of natural resources. GEM argued the money would be better spent by encouraging conservation and repairing water mains which GEM claims leak like sieves.

Nevertheless, GEM expects Phases IB and II will be scheduled to begin construction in the near future, with the anticipated displacement of an additional 400 families and the loss of large tracks of arable and grazing land in the Thaba Tseka district. ■

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Bill Dunn, FOL's Membership Database guru, now can also be referred to as FOL's **Web Meister**. I received the following letter from Bill about the new FOL Web Site.

Friends of Lesotho now has a web site. The address is <http://www.alaska.net/~dunnx2>. The site went on line in March and contains sections with information for visitors to Lesotho, news from FOL, photos, Lesotho links and membership information. The target audience is both FOL members and others who may be interested in, or planning a trip to Lesotho. Please visit. Updates are planned every few months.

In the process of constructing this site, many FOL members were contacted by e-mail. If FOL does not have your e-mail address, please send it. There's a list of members' e-mails on the web site, but even if you prefer not to list your e-mail on the web site, it could be shared with other members less publicly in the upcoming (paper) directory. E-mail addresses will not be placed on the web site unless authorized by an individual member.

A number of members have asked about distributing the newsletter by e-mail or on the web. That's something that may take awhile, but it is certainly being looked into. In the meantime, if you're looking for a way to get more involved and don't happen to live in DC, this may be the answer. Contributions of original artwork, photos, stories, and especially on-line news research would be greatly appreciated. For the more technically oriented, if you have any "free" disk space that comes with your internet service provider's account, linking the FOL web site over multiple servers could allow for considerable growth.

I finally did have the opportunity to visit the web site recently and it is fabulous. I highly recommend a visit for all members. Bill, a (Laurel and) hardy well done.



I mentioned previously I would reprint the letter from Jan Kalnbach concerning **Barbara Hardy's** death. The text of the letter appears below:

"Wanted to tell you that our sister of Peace Corps, Lesotho, Barbara Hardy, died yesterday, Feb. 14, in Maine. She was in Thabana Morena for three years, I think. It would be in the records. She was intern supervisor for NTTC.

I'm sending a \$50.00 check in her memory, please give it toward the scholarship fund in her name. So many in Lesotho in those years, knew and loved Barbara that if there was an article about my setting up the scholarship, more money would come in, I bet. Thanks."



I also had mentioned I would include the text of the memorial from Earl Ambre's funeral. The complete text appears below.

EARL AMBRE

A man of courage... A man of commitment

Earl Ambre was born on April 24, 1929, the thirteenth and last child of Joseph and Jennie Ambre. After sharing and enjoying his early childhood with his twin sister, Earlene, he entered the seminary to pursue studies for the Roman Catholic priesthood. He was ordained on May 1, 1954, for the diocese of Rockford, Illinois. For fifteen years he served in the numerous parishes and schools where he distinguished himself by his hard work, dedication and courage to undertake new and bold initiatives in education, social justice, and community effort.

In 1969, he entered the Peace Corps with Joan Hushek, and they were married in Jamaica on March 31, 1970, after receiving the necessary dispensations from Rome. Together, Earl and Joan served the Peace Corps in many of the islands of the Caribbean and in Lesotho and Botswana in Southern Africa. Again, he distinguished himself by his vision, courage, and commitment to the

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peoples of the world. He finished his career at the U.S. Department of State where he built an outstanding program for retirement planning and career transition. At his own retirement he received tributes and praise from the foreign service community around the world.

Those who knew Earl well, knew that he never needed praise or recognition to motivate him. If he believed something was the right thing to do, he pressed on, regardless of resistance or opposition. But there were two accomplishments that he allowed himself to be proud of. One was the results of his efforts for the Knights of Columbus, Council 4522, of Arlington, Virginia. During his years of active membership and the direction of the Bingo Program, he raised funds to be used for many charitable projects and the expansion of the Council facilities. Even more than that, he felt his efforts were understood when he received the Lincoln Douglas Social Justice and Racial Equality Award for individual contribution to the Community of Freeport, Illinois during the 1960 Civil Rights Movement an award which was presented in 1992.

Unfortunately, his own retirement was cut short by illness, but even in sickness he demonstrated the same courage and commitment that marked his whole life. There is no doubt that he left his imprint on every person that knew him. The effects of his presence on this earth will be felt far into the next century. Truly, he has left the world on November 12, 1997 a better place for his having been here.

Peace be with you, Earl

I spoke with Joan recently and she wanted me to let everyone know she is coping as well as can be expected (in addition to dealing with Earl's death she has a debilitating back problem currently but is scheduled for surgery in July). She also informed me she had contributed \$500 in Earl's name to the FOL Tuition Assistance Program. Anyone who wishes to contribute in either Barbara's or Earl's (or both) memory can send the contribution to Don Spicer.

Finally, Joan gave me her e-mail address. Anyone who would like to drop her a line can do so at "EJAMBRE@compuserve.com"

I know Joan would like everyone who missed this year's "Ambre Report" to have the chance to see it, so I have printed it below.

Dear Family and Friends...

Oh how I wish I could write a note to each of you personally instead of resorting to this method of mass reproduction, but as it is I am fortunate to be able to do this much—as I shall explain. I know that some of you will still be in shock from seeing the notice of Earl's death and others will be wondering why you have not received the usual "Ambre Report." The bottom line—or end of the story—is that the second half of 1997 made it the year to forget. After a wonderful first half of the year which included travelling through California and spending a week at Lake Tahoe in January to a great trip back East to see many friends and attend the CORPUS Conference in Boston in June and the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Reunion in San Diego in July, our lives began to unravel at a rapid pace.

Earl's six month review of his cancer status showed its return in several places in his body, most significantly in his chest where a new mass was growing at an alarming rate. Then I made what turned out to be a disastrous decision to have back surgery in July—an attempt to relieve nerve compression which was causing a great deal of pain in my right leg and lower back. The operation was a failure and has left me more incapacitated and in more pain than before. Earl had to try to take care of me instead of my being better able to make his life more comfortable. Thank God for family and friends here in Phoenix—and others who came to help out—we managed to hang on. But two hospital stints in September and October were more than Earl's body could take, and in November we finally had to face the reality that the end was near. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Hospice of the Valley for making his final week as comfortable as could be hoped for.

FOL MEMBER NEWS

His twin sister Earline and her husband were here with us, and we were able to be with him at home until he died peacefully on November 12th. I would have to write volumes to thank the many people who helped us through those last months. I have been a virtual invalid since my surgery and have had a number of other complications in addition which have left me unable to walk more than a few steps, stand for any length of time, and also unable to sit for any length of time without pain—hence my absence from the e-mail circuit. Please be patient if you don't get a response to your e-mails. I depend upon my brother to come by and download messages for me.

Which brings me to the present. So many of you have been so kind, thoughtful and generous after hearing of Earl's death that I wished I could write to each of you to thank you for your support and concern, but even with help I have only been able to respond to a few. And I am looking at another several months before I can even consider a second back operation to undo the damage of the first one. I have developed one complication after another—including a stomach ulcer which landed me in the hospital the day before Thanksgiving needing two pints of blood. Not until the doctors are satisfied that I can take the trauma of more surgery will they even consider it. So I am trying to be realistic and figure that I have to write off the first half of 1998 before I can think of carving out any kind of a normal life!

Please know that I love you all and appreciate so much your care and concern. If you know me, you know I don't give up too quickly, so I am expecting a full comeback by the second half of 1998—including plans to attend this year's CORPUS Conference in Seattle the end of June, and then a trip back to Wisconsin in July/August for Earl's interment in the family grave site in Milwaukee and some additional visiting to friends and family in the East and Midwest. Anyway, those are my 1998 goals!

For now, I am mostly confined to home, except for two daily trips to the doctor's office for treatment in the morning and afternoon, so I am never too far from a phone (hint, hint!). Once again, thanks to you all. I love each and every one of you!

Joan Ambre

FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

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