

Peace Corps needs ag volunteers

by Bart Becker

The Peace Corps needs volunteers with farm backgrounds or agriculture-related degrees, according to a

man who has had administrative responsibility for agriculturally oriented programs in India.

James H. Wood, who has spent almost five years with

the Peace Corps, said Tuesday areas of the Near East, India and Africa need volunteers to work with agriculture programs.

The emphasis on agriculture

is a change from the early Peace Corps years, when humanities-oriented programs were a more prominent facet of the organization's programs.

"AS THE PEACE Corps has matured and countries have become accustomed to it, a greater opportunity for ag involvement has shown itself," he said. "The program gives an ag graduate the opportunity for experience that fits in with his career choice."

He pointed out that India's growing season, for instance, is year-round. This means that a volunteer in that country will experience three times the growing season of Nebraska. In addition, the volunteer will be exposed to crops with which he is unfamiliar in Nebraska.

Many of the jobs available to volunteers are second nature to this country's farmers, he said, but are introductory to the people of a less advanced country.

FOR INSTANCE, the transition from animal power to tractor power is being made in areas of India and volunteers are needed to help the farmers reorganize to make the maximum use of the new power.

Wood said many Indian farmers suffer from lack of adequate tools. "When labor is plentiful and cheap, little attention is given to the improvement of tools."

He said Peace Corps volunteers have been involved in the "green revolution" in many countries. India, with the help of Peace Corps volunteers, has almost advanced to food-grain self-sufficiency since 1967.

THE WORLD-WIDE focusing on agriculture heightens the need for ag-related volunteers, Wood said. Home economists, dairy husbandry and agronomists were some of the fields he mentioned.

He said the Peace Corp' experience would prepare Corps volunteer to go into international agriculture occupations when the two-year Peace Corps stint is finished.

He noted that Franklin E. Eldridge, associate dean of the College of Agriculture, has information concerning the Peace Corps programs.

"It's an exciting, educating experience," Wood said.

VISTA, THE domestic equivalent of the Peace Corps, also has openings for volunteers, but in different areas than the international organization, according to a regional coordinator.

Roland Blahnik said VISTA "has gotten requests for humanities-oriented volunteers rather than for volunteers with skills."

He said the organization needs lawyers, architects and business administration majors for its programs. VISTA is short on volunteers in these areas, he said.

Blahnik said the VISTA volunteer population fell last spring as a result of rumors that the program would be phased out of existence.

"IT'S NOT TRUE, we're still here," he said. "VISTA is one of the most securely-funded programs."

The volunteers are in both rural and urban areas, he said. They often work alongside community volunteers—people who have lived in the area for much of their lives.

Colorado has new mascot; SAM plans Ralphie roast

Roxann Rogers

The Nebraska-Colorado game Oct. 30 will have not only athletic competition but mascot competition. There may even be a "battle of the heads" when Big Red meets Ralphie.

"Ralphie" is the Colorado mascot, a large buffalo head worn by CU student Martha Hill. Chances are UNL's mascot "Big Red", manned by four Corn Cobs workers, will delight to meet Ralphie, clad in brown hot pants and brown suede boots. Likewise, Martha will enjoy meeting Big Red as she is a former Husker fan.

WHEN YOU find out Martha is from Lincoln it isn't hard to figure out why she wears the buffalo head and parades around on a wet field on a cold Colorado game day. "I grew up on football. It's just a way of life in Lincoln," says Martha.

Because "I wanted to meet new people and do new things," Martha said good-by

to over 60 per cent of her graduating class that went to UNL and headed for Boulder, a decision she said she has never regretted.

The road that led to Martha's duties as Colorado's second Ralphie (the real buffalo is the first) wasn't exactly smooth.

AFTER MARTHA convinced the Recreation Department of the idea of a Ralphie in hot pants, she had to meet the approval of the pom pom girls and the cheerleaders. At first, they were reluctant. They told her a girl her size wouldn't be able to carry the weight of the paper mache head the entire game.

But Martha finally won them over to the idea of a girl mascot and has been the buffalo head at all Colorado home games this year.

The Nebraska-Colorado game will have a bit of irony, as it has been chosen for the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity's traditional bonfire pep rally at UNL, and the bonfire chairman

Dick Lemer dates Martha.

The traditional bonfire pep rally will be held Monday evening, October 25. Students wishing to participate will meet at the Student Union at 9:45 and march from there to the SAM house.

COACH BOB Devaney will light the fire in the pit in front of the house. Jerry Tagge, Jim Anderson, The UNL marching band, Corn Cobs and Tassels, and the yell squad will witness the burning in effigy of a Colorado buffalo.

After the fire is lit, Sigma Alpha Mu members guard it 24 hours a day until after the game Saturday.

THE SAM bonfire first began in 1963 for the purpose of creating more spirit. "There is no traditional game for which we have the bonfire pep rally.

Boren . . .

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complicated graphs and bureaucratic chit-chat that falls off into unintelligible muttering when he gets as confused as the audience.

WHAT IS HIS platform? On agriculture Boren says, "I'm okay on that." On the population crisis, he maintains that by adapting bureaucratic practices to Mother Nature, the pregnancy can be extended to 18 months.

As for the ecology, "The

health of the people must be saved from the poisons being flooded into the air, water, and soil...subject of course, to the health requirements of the industrial complex," he said.

Boren's name was added to the New Hampshire presidential primary ballot through the efforts of some Dartmouth University students who circulated a petition on his behalf.

What about Nebraska? "If I can get some of the same type of support in Nebraska, I definitely will run here."

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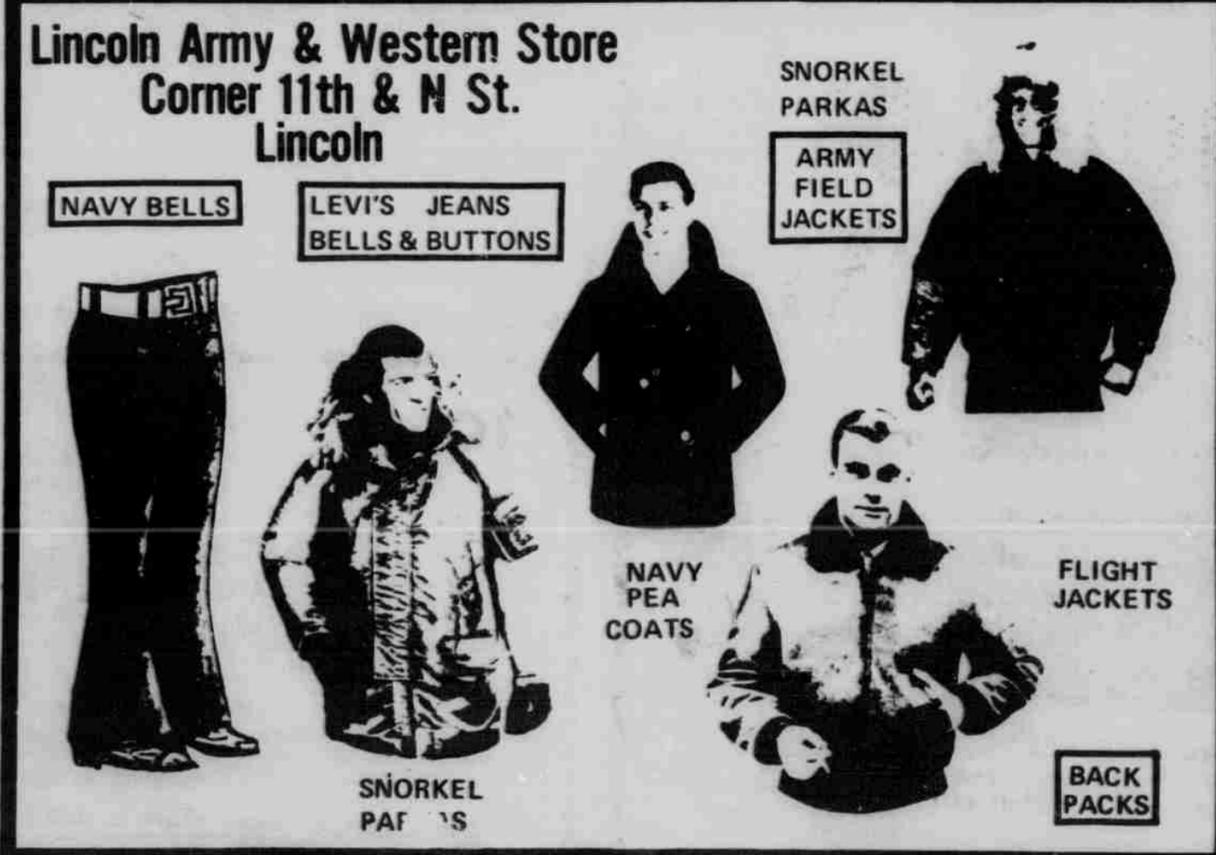
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