

# Youngsters Get Off the Streets and Into Jungles

By TOM A. CULLEN

LONDON (NEA) — For British youngsters who want to fell trees in the Borneo jungle, the nation's "little peace corps" provides a necessary outlet.

Surprisingly, there are more than enough youths who want to do this or:

—Wire a village for electricity in Ethiopia.

—Introduce softball in the Northern Rhodesia copper belt.

—Lead an expedition in the mountains of the Southern Cameroons.

—Build bridges in Nigeria.

—Try a million and one other tasks in faraway places with strange sounding names.

Americans, contemplating a peace corps of their own, might take a lesson from the British program behind all this, the Volunteer Service Overseas.

The V.S.O. started two years ago with the support of the British Council of Churches, the Royal Commonwealth Society and the British government.

At present, the organization has 85 British boys and girls in 25 countries and plans to send another 150 abroad later this year.

There is a long waiting list of applicants for V.S.O. About half are high school graduates seeking a period of adventure before embarking on university careers; the others are industrial apprentices and trainees.

The only material compensations offered these youths while abroad are room, board and pocket money. These are provided by the government or agency in the territory where they work. Their fares are paid by the V.S.O. or British concerns which employ them.

They must be between 18 and 24, physically fit, with average academic ability and good character. Parents' consent is required for those under 21. All of these volunteers serve a minimum of a year.

Applicants are "invited" into the program by the participating governments. They know from the start why they are wanted and what is expected of them.

Participating governments are told that the boys and girls generally have little experience but a strong sense of service, idealism or eagerness to learn.

Typical of the volunteers is David Howell, 18, an apprentice who went from the work bench of a Manchester engineering program to an industrial training center in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya.

David teaches African trainees how to use tools; he barbers with Indian contractors for raw materials. He converted an old fire engine into a truck because his center could not afford to buy one.

In the evenings David teaches boxing and gymnastics at a boys' club in the slums.

Another youth, Colin Henry, built himself a house 50 miles from the nearest white man in British Guiana before turning his attention to the Amerindians on his reservation.

Before leaving, he constructed a new wharf, laid the basis for a small timber industry, set up a village council, opened a training center for women, started a housing program. In his spare time, he taught.

Volunteers sent to the furthest point in the program, the Falkland Islands 8,000 miles from Britain, have traveled on horseback to teach children of shepherds and shear sheep in their spare time.

"Young people must be given the opportunity to prove themselves," says Alec Dickson, 44, the V.S.O. founder and an admitted "do-gooder." "At the same time, they can bring the world's peoples closer together."



By ANDY LANG

AP Newsfeatures

QUESTION: A few years ago we had a textured vinyl fabric installed on the walls of one of our rooms. The fabric is still in good condition, but we have decided that we would like a change of color. Can this be painted? And, if so, is there anything we should know about handling the job?

ANSWER: Yes, vinyl fabric wall covering can be painted. The most important thing is to remove all dirt and stains before beginning to paint. Ordinary surface dirt and most spots can be washed off with a detergent. When you run into a spot that will not wash off, use an odorless paint thinner on a clean cloth and rub vigorously. If the spot still does not come off, substitute a bristle brush for the cloth. Textured vinyl fabric can "take" this sort of treatment without damage. When the wall covering is completely dry, apply a coat of oil-type primer-sealer. When the primer-sealer is dry, put on the finish coat. There are many types of quality paint that will be satisfactory, but the kind most generally recommended by paint experts is an alkylid flat paint or enamel.

(Questions of general interest will be answered in this column. However, individual correspondence can not be undertaken.)

## Youthful Lover Won't Forget

ATIENZA, Spain (AP) — A passionate lover of Atienza will not remember Valentine's Day 1961 kindly.

Long hours spent courting his sweetheart through the barred window of her room while her mother and father slept have ended in disaster.

Longing for a kiss, the young lover thrust his head through the bars, stuck firm, and had to wait several hours for a locksmith to set him free.

While he waited, quite a crowd collected.

The noise made by the watchers woke the girl's father. He beat the young lover as he struggled to get free and finally sent him home bleeding and with a bruised head.

Understanding police kept the youth's name a secret.

The teeth of rodents never stop growing.



THE MENACE—Perhaps this Roman wants to get even with the city's heavy honking motorists. He put together a weird collection of auto horns and plays on the street to cadge coins from bystanders. They're probably happy to see him depart.

## TEN-YEAR-OLD

by Janet Henry

He can't remember homework,  
Or where he left his shoes,  
Or when to mind his manners,  
Or whose toothbrush is whose,

Or how to set the table,  
Or why the answer's no;  
But he'll recall a promise  
I made a year ago.



## ILL-CHOSEN STAMPS

ROCKINGHAM, N.C. (AP) — A young man bought 200 stamps which showed whooping cranes and their young. He soon returned to exchange them for other stamps.

"They won't do," he told the stamp clerk, "We're sending out

wedding invitations and my girl says these birds look too much like storks."

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