

First Veteran Of Peace Corps Speaks Out

By WARD CANNEL

NEW YORK (NEA)—It is now exactly two years since 62 young Americans assembled on the campus of Rutgers University to lead this country on a new, dramatic and dangerous step in international relations as the first contingent of the U.S. Peace Corps.

Today, with Peace Corps volunteers on two-year tours of duty in almost every underdeveloped nation in the world, the pioneer squad is coming home—considerably changed after 24 months in Colombia, the heartland of explosive South America.

"We went out there idealists," says Jim Puccetti, volunteer leader of the northeast region. "We are coming home realists."

The assignment handed to Puccetti and his fellow volunteers was wrapped up in the misleading simple two words: community development. In a nation and a continent where individualism and initiative have been punished and corrupted for five centuries, the prospect of a community acting to help itself is something less than hopeful.

"But after nine weeks of training at Rutgers and another six weeks in Bogota," Puccetti says, "we went out to the job feeling that we could walk right in and change everything."

"Well, we were wrong. Changing attitudes like those we found will take a long, long time."

It is a situation that has cost

U.S. business and industry millions of dollars in executives and their families who cannot adjust or cope and must be brought home. But in two years, the pioneer corpsmen suffered no casualties from the difference in culture.

With no precedent to follow,



JIM PUCCETTI

and no book of rules on how to get things done, the Colombia Corps had to make its own way. The first step was to win the local priests' support. The second, to get the women to join in the campaign.

Both, however, were easy compared with getting rural commu-

nities to see that by group effort they could solve many of their own problems.

"Getting a well dug," Puccetti says, "is easy by comparison with getting a community to express its need for a well—or a school, or a bridge, or anything else."

Once the corps gained the confidence of the campesinos, the project would be accomplished quickly, easily and, most important, inexpensively. A school that

Kennedy Visit Not Assured

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The White House says it is not sure whether President Kennedy will be in town Aug. 28, when a Negro-sponsored civil rights march of 100,000 persons is planned.

There have been reports Kennedy will be in Texas the day before to speak at a Democratic fund-raising birthday dinner for Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson.

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might cost the Colombian government 25,000 pesos to build for an area, would, if a community wanted it and helped build it, cost less than 10,000. Bridges that might never have been built now cross dozens of streams in interior of a country that farms, buys and sells much as it did in the times of the Spanish conquest. In many areas, cooperatives set up by the corps are bringing 20th Century methods to Colombia.

"We didn't do it by bringing the people up to our level," Puccetti says, "or by lowering ourselves to their level. It had nothing to do with levels. It was simply a matter of plain, personal contact that made the difference."

And if that contact made a dif-

BETTE STEPS OUT

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—Bette Davis has stepped out of her role in Frank Sinatra's movie "Four For Texas."

Miss Davis had a conflicting movie commitment for "Dead Ringer" in which she'll star for Warner Bros.

Wednesday, July 17, 1963

ference to Colombians it was equally effective on the young Peace Corps men and women who worked seven days a week for \$119 per month among people who had hardly heard of the U.S.

Four of the Colombian corps, like Puccetti, have married Colombian girls. Most of the pioneer group are going back to college for graduate studies or, like Puccetti who has joined CARE with a post in the Philippines, into foreign assignments in health and welfare.

"It changes you," Puccetti says. "Before the Peace Corps came along I was going to San Francisco State College studying business and management. My friends were going into real estate or teaching."

"But when the corps came along . . . well, I could never go back to a life like that. I see things differently. I'm different. The world is different."

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Unkind Thing Said In Temper Moment

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: I would like to thank all the people in the world who have kids. Especially my mom and dad. I know it isn't easy to bring up a family, but it isn't easy to be a kid either.

I would like to let my mom and dad know that I love them the way they are and I really don't want them to change. Yesterday I lost my temper something terrible and said some things I didn't mean. I called them unfit parents. If anyone is unfit it's me. I'm so mad at myself for what I said I'd like to bite off my tongue.

Although I am only 13 years old I know very well the best friends kids have are their mom and dad. From now on I'm going to control my big mouth and show them how much they mean to me.—SORRY NOW

Dear Friend: Thank you for writing. I am withholding your initials and city, even though you asked me to print them. I'd like thousands of parents to think perhaps your letter was written by their own teenager. I'm sure it could have been.

Dear Ann Landers: Five married couples used to take turns having the gang over once a week. We women sat and talked after supper while the men played cards. It was enjoyable but we had to give it up because the men never knew when to quit. It was too difficult for us girls to party until 2 or 3 a.m. and then get up the next morning and do our housework and chase after young children.

Now the men have their card games and the women stay home, but they STILL don't know when to quit. And it's worse. Last week Clifford came home at 6:30 in the morning. Yesterday it was almost 8 a.m.

One of the women claims we shouldn't gripe. She said, "We at least know where they are. They could be doing worse." I say if a man wants to do worse he will.

I hate for our children to see their father coming in at such disgraceful hours. Last week the milkman saw him.

Do you have a solution for this?—THE JOKER IS WILD

Dear Mrs. Joker: You girls made a big mistake when you dealt yourselves out. Reactivate those man and wife get-togethers—starting at your home. After two or three evenings, bring up the

question and settle on a sane quitting time.

Encourage the consistent winners to spearhead this campaign. You'll find them surprisingly receptive. The winners always want to quit earlier than the losers.

Dear Ann Landers: We live about two miles from a shopping center. Every Friday my husband's parents do their grocery marketing out this way so they just drop in to see their little grandchild.

They don't stay more than a half hour but all the same it upsets me to have them just pop in like that. Don't you think they should telephone in advance and ask if it is convenient?

They are lovely people, Ann, and I do like them, but we have our own life and our own friends. Am I wrong to consider this an invasion of our privacy? I'd like your opinion.—KEYPORT, N.J.

Dear Keyport: One of the Landers Laws for in-laws is that there should be no popping in unexpectedly. A telephone call is easy to make and it should be a must.

I can see no evidence, however, that these lovely people are trying to "take over your life" or "interfere with your friends"—so retract your claws, Toots, and get your blood pressure back to normal. Your in-law troubles are plenty minor.

Confidential to CLUMSY OX: I agree it sounds as if you put on the floor-show. There's nothing you can do now but replace the figurine and be more careful in the future. And maybe you should stick to gingerale.

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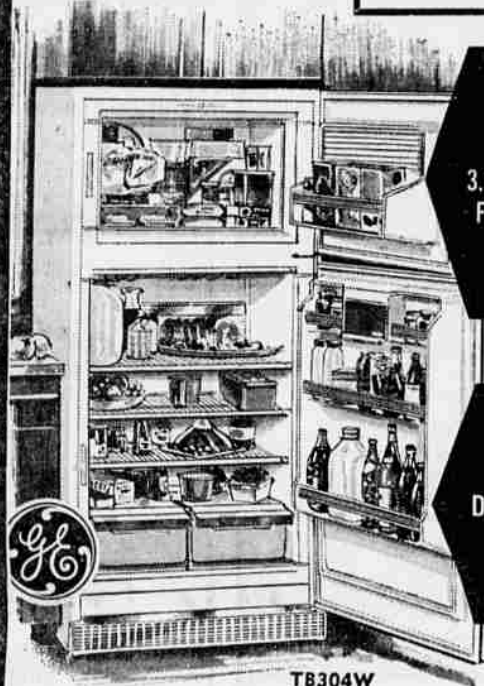
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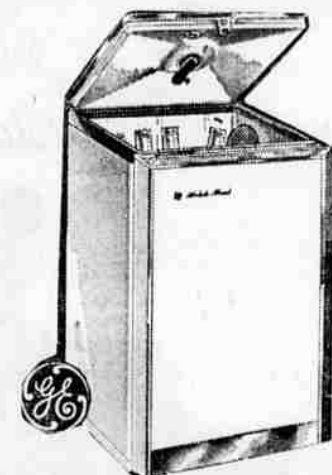
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