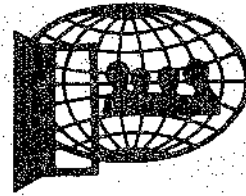


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SERVAS



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Autumn Quarter 1981

No 15

Peter Manniche A TRIBUTE

Peter Manniche died on 15 February, 1981, aged 91 years. He had been Denmark's *Serval* sponsor for ten years.

When I attended my first *Serval* Conference in 1970 it was decided that each country should find a *Serval* sponsor. At first I forgot about it, but one evening I watched a TV programme in which Peter Manniche appeared and he seemed to me to represent something genuinely Danish and to stand for the aims of *Servas*.

I immediately wrote telling him about *Serval* and asking him to become our sponsor. I also wrote to the Danish Broadcasting Corporation for the first time and

thanked them for a programme that made me feel glad to be Danish. Peter phoned the day he received my letter. He was pleased to hear from me and agreed to accept

sponsorship. Later he would phone me once in a while and talk for a long time. I was quite worried about his phone bill with all those long distance calls, and I knew his wife was too! But he dedicated his life and most of his money to the International People's College, which he founded at Elsinore in 1921. Even at his death it was announced that he had requested that no flowers be sent to his funeral but that donations should go to the fellowships fund for IPC.

Whenever I asked for help Peter was always eager to give it, and he had many valuable contacts. He agreed to open our *Serval* Conference at ICP in 1978, and although by that time he was very old and weak he still revealed something of his former spellbinding talents as a speaker.

*Birgitte Damsgaard,
Secretary, Serval Denmark*

"Rural Development in Denmark and the Changing Countries of the World."

Peter Manniche and various other writers contributed to this book, which was edited by James Forrest Porter, Director of the Overseas Institute, U.K. The book's objective is to show how rural development can be achieved if founded on a sound and broadly based educational movement. The authors believe that the ideas upon which the Danish Folk High School is based, those of the great poet-bishop N.F.S. Grundvig, provide a model.

In the first part of the book a group of international writers discuss the problems of developing countries. The second part is a study of rural development in Denmark with particular reference to the Folk High School and the Cooperative Movement. The third part gives examples of how both of these have spread to other countries, particularly to the developing countries. Publisher: Borgen Publishers, Mynstervej 19, 1827 Copenhagen V, Denmark. Price D. Kr.40.--(About £:3.50)

What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and of wildness?
Let them be left,
O let them be left,
wildness and wet; Long
live the weeds and
the wilderness yet.
from *Inversnaid*
Gerard Manley Hopkins

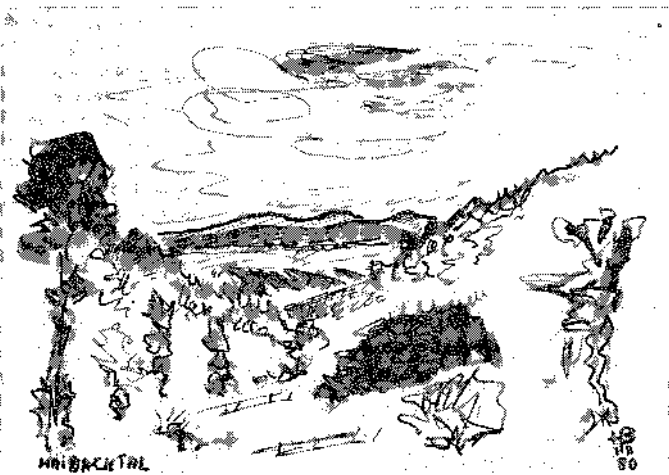
Beechwood

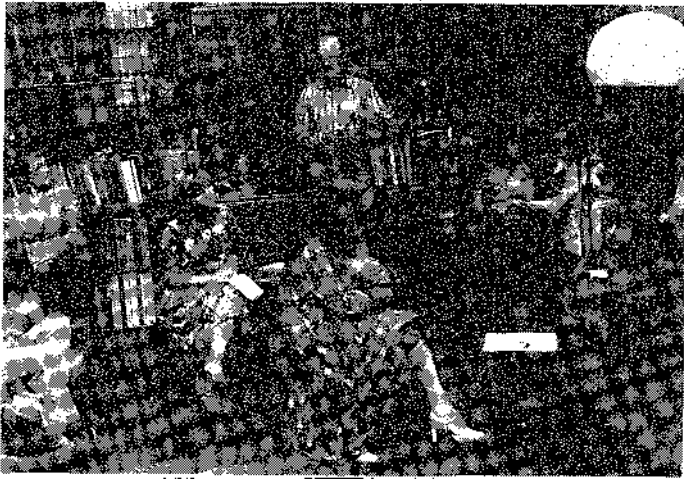
We have received literature about Beechwood College, which is a centre with aims that, in many respects, coincide with those of *Servas*. It is described as: "an education and resource centre for common ownership, cooperatives, community enterprises, and local economy initiatives; a venue for group study of lifestyle patterns, democratic modes of organisation and ownership systems; and a forum for debate on the social and political implications of the structural transformations now taking place in our communities.

Beechwood College is a financially independent, cooperatively run centre that is not affiliated to any particular political party or dogma. It's programme is based on assumptions which include the following:

1. People are by nature interpersonal organisms.
2. They find working together a source of satisfaction.
3. They will exercise self-direction and self-control in the service of objectives to which they are committed.
4. They accept and seek responsibility.
5. They have the capacity to exercise ingenuity and creativity in the solving of problems.

The College is surrounded by a seventy-acre farm and woodland, and it is well worth a visit by both U.K. *Serval* members and travellers from other countries. For information concerning the education and advice services and conference facilities contact: Freer Spreckley, Beechwood College, Elmete Lane, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 2LQ, England. Tel: 0532 720205.





Los Angeles area SERVAS members and visitors, the art collection of Annette and Seymour Bird and the stained-glass windows of their home (a converted church) surround SERVAS Area Representative Don Fawcett at an April gathering in the Southern California beach community of Venice.

More than seventy people - hosts, returned U.S. travellers, prospective members and travellers visiting from France and New Zealand - attended and enjoyed international dishes at a potluck supper.

Such occasional gatherings in Southern California are among the largest SERVAS events in the world, apart from the annual and biennial national and international conferences.

Don Fawcett of Los Angeles is Vice-President of Servas International and a former editor of S.I.N.

'SHARE'

Francis Mullen of Sherman Oaks, California, who is a *Serval* day host and also chairs the Planning Committee of *Share*, has sent us an account of some of her travels, and the following extract will undoubtedly prove of considerable interest to other members.

Still other perspectives on South Africa came to me from the hospitality of *Servas* hosts. *Servas* is a general international hospitality organization, specifically multiracial. My days in South Africa were about equally divided between *Share* and *Servas* hosts. Both the *Servas* families with which I stayed in Cape Town and Johannesburg were of English descent, both emphatic on the need for change. "Every thinking person in South Africa knows that apartheid has to go," I was told in Johannesburg. In Cape Town, Gwen McLaren,

who is coordinator for *Servas* in South Africa, arranged for me to meet at her home and other homes, Coloured hosts on the *Serval* roster, as well as some obviously upper-class, business-orientated whites in elegant ocean-front homes. The same freedom and desire for discussion was evident everywhere. However, the Coloured persons I talked to, almost all of professional backgrounds or students, were among the few I met who were not at all sure that change was coming, and were certain that it would not be soon.

Though my sample was small, I could not but be struck by the number of middle-aged people I talked to who had sons, daughters, nieces and nephews in Canada or Australia. I wondered if there was a trend for younger folk to seek other environments. South Africans in general are aware that they are sitting on a powder keg, but seem little more disturbed by the fact than are my neighbouring Los

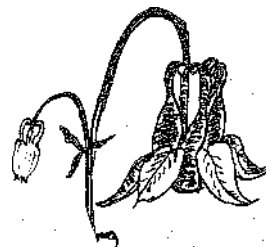
Angelenos who know their houses are close to the San Andreas fault, or in an area subject to brush fires and mud slides. To South Africans the question is whether change can be made soon enough, broadly enough, and initiated in ways that will head off violent confrontation, from within or without the country, yet the discussions sometimes seem more academic than realistic.

Share is described as "Hospitality for Psychologists in International Travel", and anyone who would like further information about it should contact Frances A. Mullen, Ph.D., 4014 Cody Road, Sherman Oaks, Calif 91403, U.S.A. (Tel: 213-986-6084)

The Buddhist Way

At the International Conference in India last winter the Editor met a young Indian, K.S. Rama Krishna, who has sent her the following Six Teachings of the Buddha, which he believes to be of inestimable value to us all. The Buddha, according to the Buddhist Holy Book 'Sambiyasutta', gave these precepts to Bhikkhus, declaring them to be the Six States of Consciousness that conduce to unity and harmony. They are:

1. Acts of goodwill towards fellow beings
2. Words of goodwill sincerely spoken
3. Thoughts of goodwill sincerely harboured
4. Sharing with others all that one has, down to the last crumb of bread
5. Sharing with others one's higher life of flawless virtue
6. Removing all evil around oneself by speaking nobly and practising the creed of love



The Holiday Fellowship

We are inquisitive lovers of nature, and one organization has opened up to us a world of friendship and discovery: the Holiday Fellowship, founded by the starter of the great out-of-doors movement in Britain, a founder of our Youth Hostels Association.

Anyone seeking a social holiday with some organized w a s in quiet rural Britain would enjoy this organization's programme, which includes low-priced informal house parties in mansions owned by the Fellowship in England, Scotland and Wales.

Our children always enjoyed their family centre holidays. A brochure also details many special-interest holidays (bird study, historic houses, archaeology, etc.).

Address: Holiday Fellowship, 142 Great North Way, London NW4 1 EG, England.

Hal & Joyce Wallis, Hassocks, Sussex, England, *Serval* Hosts.

A day without ... emotional stirrings - responses to the perfume of a flower or a herb, to the flight or the song of a bird, to the flash of a human smile or the warm touch of a human hand - a day such as millions spend in factories, in offices, on the highways, is a day empty of organic content and human reward. To be condemned to a devitalized megapolitan habitat, in which human beings are isolated not merely from each other but from all other organisms, and are even forbidden by housing regulations to keep a dog or a cat for company, is to unlearn all the lessons in coexistence and mutual aid learned by living organisms during their

three billion years on earth.

The Pentagon of Power
Lewis Mumford, 1970



IN MEMORIAM

Harry Steinmetz

It is sadly that we announce the loss at 82 years of a long-standing member and former editor of *Servas International News*. We cannot do better in expressing our bereavement than to quote from the letter we have received from his son Harry L. Steinmetz and his daughter Johanne Fechter.

"It is with heavy hearts that we write that Dad passed away at 1 a.m. on 15th February, just three months after he lost mother. In spite of his involvement in numerous projects, he simply had not been able to reconcile himself to life without her. He went as he wished to - 'in action'. On the afternoon of 13th February he had a meeting of the Educational Growth Opportunities group at the San Diego Unitarian Church. He passed out - heart stoppage - as he was taking notes on the speaker, and he never regained consciousness.

They had wondered in recent years who would go first, and had privately hoped they could go together somehow. Dad's heart never recovered from the loss of his wife,

companion and best friend for more than 56 years. We say goodbye to them both, not only with grief, but also with a sense of gratitude, for their lives touched those of thousands and provided inspiration for many. We are proud to have been able to call them our parents. We cherish the memory of their love. We cherish their words, their deeds, their integrity. We must believe that the world is better for their having lived, for they lived their conviction day by day and truly sought a better world for all. We loved them living, we love them now and forever.

It is time for each of us to rededicate our lives to the pursuit of peace and brotherhood while the lives they lived still light the beacon by which to steer our course."

John Hosie

On Friday, 19th June I received a letter from Helen Hosie, mother of John Hosie, informing me of his death whilst on a climbing expedition in Peru on 7th June. She wrote: "They realized they were not going to reach the top of the mountain because of the weather and started back down. John was the last man and they realized he was taking a long time to come round and climbed up a bit. They realized then that he had fallen. He'd fallen 800 feet and caused an avalanche. They searched for two days without success and his body may never be found. It took them 'til 14th June to come down and get back to civilization ... We are trying to look at it that he died doing something he was happy doing and not something he was forced to do. He was such a wonderful son, and though he had taken a step away from us by being independent he never lost touch and would walk into

the house without warning just to see us. He had such a wonderful future in front of him and was so happy in Aberdeen."

John had been a London host co-ordinator and interviewer of traveller applicants in 1979 and then took on the work of dealing with all enquiries about *Servas* received via the New Internationalist from 1980 until his visit to Peru. His parents were dealing with them in his absence. Previously he had been a host in Scotland. Last year he obtained his Ph.D. from the Royal Institute in London and then went to a research institute in Aberdeen. He was on the England, Scotland and Wales *Servas* Committee with responsibility for publicity.

I have written to his parents expressing my sorrow on learning of this tragedy, and feel that there are many *Servas* members who will share this with me because he was so well-known and liked by all who met him.

Graham Thomas,
President,
Servas International

An Appeal From UGANDA

Dear Editor,

Last year I received over ten letters from intending visitors to Uganda. As a new secretary, and the only host, those were quite many, and as Uganda had never been visited by any *Serval* traveller before it appeared that our friends elsewhere had come to accept us. Unfortunately, none managed to enter the country, despite the fact that the majority rang from the neighbouring country - Kenya! The intending visitors were from Germany, U.S.A., Australia, U.K., and Canada. Here at home, due to currency restrictions,

no traveller left the country.

Writing in *Africa journal* late last year one journalist had this to say: "The international community has finally begun to awaken to the enormous human tragedy it has on its hands in Africa. Among the causes of the tragedy can be listed wars, drought, corruption civil disorders, mismanagement, weak governments, food shortages, internationally organized stock thefts, and lack of development. Many of the victims are called refugees, displaced persons or homeless, and others are merely referred to as

STARVING." It is estimated that about 60 million Africans live in the areas affected by the above causes and 12 million face crippling starvation or malnutrition and death! Uganda is among the countries hardest hit. The international community, through agencies, has come to our rescue, but the progress is rather slow, and aid is not arriving fast enough. Those of us who are here feel *Serval* brothers and sisters elsewhere should assist in the task of rehabilitating Uganda.

Servas hosts and travellers in Uganda, who are few in number, despite the problems, have pledged to fight and eradicate some of the human tragedies, particularly to give help to the starving children and orphans. The resources are limited, but the will to help is still strong. In this noble cause they intend to work with the International Agencies, such as CARE, UNHCR, UNICEF, CARITAS, OXFAM, Save the Children Fund, International Christian Aid, etc., who are laying down the inside relief infrastructure, such as health centres, water holes, etc. or re-grouping homeless people in Karamoja. In this regard they are appealing to our friends in *Servas* for assistance. Please come; visit Uganda to preach peace to Uganda and help rebuild Uganda.

As an organization concerned with building world peace and understanding by providing opportunities for deeper and more personal contacts among peoples of diverse cultures and backgrounds, you must understand that this message cannot be driven home to people who are naked, hungry, sick, homeless or are being constantly attacked by others. We know the "haves" have no obligation to help the "have POTS", so we cannot force our brothers and sisters to visit us. But the international

**JOIN, SUBSCRIBE,
DONATE.**

Join the several thousand Servas hosts and travelers worldwide, whose friendship can perhaps help to hold the fragile world together. Check one or more of the boxes at right; enclose a donation if possible, and a long envelope addressed to yourself; and mail the form.

Thank you.

TO:

Servas International News
9, Partway Lane,
Coker Hill, Yeovil,
Somerset, England.

I am not now a Servas member of Servas, but I'm interested in the organization. Please send me information including the name and address of someone who can tell me more about Servas in this part of the world. Please send me the next four issues of your publication. I am enclosing the equivalent of £1.50 or more- International Postal Coupons, money order, or cheque.

To help Servas in its efforts toward peace and international understanding, I enclose donation.

**SERVAS THANKS YOU.
PLEASE PRINT YOUR
NAME AND ADDRESS.**

Community, through the international agencies, has realized it has an obligation to help the poor! So if Servas members are concerned with the growth of Servas internationally, as they pledged at the last conference in India, and they are committed to this, then they have to get involved in the problems of Third World countries by contributing to the solution. Many people appear to have turned a deaf ear to Uganda, but through *Servas News* we are appealing to them to wake up! Please contribute generously and come to Uganda to spread the message of peace.

Yours in Peace,

Davis M. Masifa

Servas secretary – Uganda

**EDUCATION FOR
PEACE WITHIN
SERVAS**

Thank you, Rosalind, for having published "Education for Peace and Disarmament" in S.I.N. No. 14. I am sure many readers may have ideas for improving this unfinished article, and I look forward to their suggested improvements or even an independent paper for various uses, including the UNITED NATIONS Spring 1982 Special Session on Disarmament. In the meanwhile, readers may be interested in knowing that the article on "peace and Disarmament" originated from a combination of host experiences and the search for our role in the Decade for Women Committee. That search had been a bit difficult since I presumed that a basic SERVAS goal was Human Rights for all, regardless of sex. Then I realized that SERVAS has a very special role – the opportunity for informal peace education through the dialogue between travellers and hosts. This obvious fact stimulated my work in the Decade for Women Committee. With the help of Servas travelers, the paper evolved that was later distributed during Disarmament Commission meetings.

How many of you readers have thought about our unique SERVAS opportunities for expanding peace education? I feel sure that many of you, like me, cherish each new idea obtained during conversations between travelers and hosts, even if it is generally impossible to identify from traveler reports the subjects of hosts- travelers discussions.

Or are you like some hosts or travelers who feel insecure about discussing subjects such as human rights, the

nuclear threat, international conflicts, economic issues or differences among governments in approaches to human welfare etc.? Do you perchance fear such discussions may lead to arguments or negative criticism that sometimes replaces positive comments, even among some SERVAS leaders? Or do you remember that having an open mind with respect for different opinions is the most basic qualification required for participation in SERVAS? Or do you lack inner confidence regarding your own self-value knowledge of your community or international affairs? If these are problems for you, then what easier and more enjoyable source than SERVAS can you find for educational experiences^

Of course, non of us SERVAS workers, travelers or hosts can claim to be the absolute authority on these subjects. If such applicable knowledge existed in the field of human relations, peace and social justice, then we could all celebrate the elimination of all instruments of violence and enjoy and use for living the tax money thereby saved in many countries with huge military budgets!

Although it is unlikely that many of us can agree with the enthusiasm of some naïve people who seem to think that SERVAS can bring world peace, I wonder how many of us take advantage of the rich possibilities available through our open doors for obtaining new ideas and new feelings or attitudes. If enough new ideas with positive attitudes are generated, who knows the extent of our potential for contributing to education for peace? Regardless of whether you think SERVAS is an organization for peace or for friendship only are there any of us who lack concern about the survival of our world?

In peaceful greetings,

*Reva King, Peace secretary,
SERVAS International*

