

AERO-GRAMME #8

The Alternative Education Resource Organization Newsletter

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Winter 1992

RETURN TO RUSSIA (BACK TO THE USSR?)

Unfortunately we were not able to send *AERO-GRAMME #7* to all the people on our mailing list (now over 1200) because we had to get that special issue out to our paid subscribers to give them the chance to come with us to Russia in late February. We now have a group of twelve students and teachers planning to participate in the teacher training seminar near Moscow from February 26-March 10. *AERO-GRAMME #7* contained reports on the **First Festival of New Schools**, held in the Crimea, USSR, in August 1991. It also has information on individual alternative schools that were represented there, as well as a report on **Summerhill's** 70th anniversary celebration. If you did not receive that issue, send \$5 for a copy, or \$10 for yearly subscription.

The teacher training seminar that we will be helping to lead is sponsored by the **Eureka Free University**, the first private university in Russia. The seminar is called "Eureka Avant Garde. The University has also created a consortium of avant-garde schools. The seminar will present examples of several alternative education systems, and participants can choose one for further study. These will include the **School of Self-determination of Alexander Tubelski**, Moscow; **School of Developmental Instruction of I. Frumin**, Krasnoyarsk; **School of Dialogues of Culture of S. Kurganov**; **Alternative Education, USA, Jerry Mintz**; **Waldorf Schools, John Lundgren**; **European Alternative Schools, Patrice Creve**. We just heard from Patrice, in Toulouse, France, that he has been ill, but will try to get to the seminar.

Right now we are in the process of raising funds and finding sponsors for airfare for the students who are going on the trip. The University will take care of their expenses in Russia. We are also trying to raise funds and get materials to help support the **Eureka Free University**. If you would like to help in this effort, send contributions to AERO. Call if you need more information.

(For more on the Festival, see section on Russia and Commonwealth of Independent States)

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SEMINARS IN THE USA

In a conversation that I have been having with **Kathy O'Donnell** on Prodigy, it suddenly occurred to us that we needed to do similar seminars in the United States to the one in which we are about to participate in Russia. The idea would be to come into a community, find students and teachers there who can make a presentation about their different approaches to education, to let people know what their options were in that community. We would have a core group of people to coordinate the seminar. Public and private alternatives and other innovative programs would be represented, and local media encouraged to cover the seminar. We have a possibility of funding such a project. In her latest post, Kathy said, "I would love to have one of Jerry's seminars come to St. Louis and plan on helping him bring one here if his schedule permits. I am now going to pursue finding a resource center for homeschoolers in this area. My support group is very excited by the idea and I will be doing research to make it a reality by next September. I

believe the seminars across the country that he is proposing will ultimately help all children, whether homeschooled or in alternative schools or even in public schools. I believe the best things the alternative systems are doing will ultimately work their way into the public schools. Good luck, Jerry, and all of us as we pioneer a new education movement." If interested, contact AERO.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL GATE MEETING, ADELPHI MANHATTAN CENTER, NY, NY

These are excerpts from the report sent to **Phil Gang**, Director of GATE:

The meeting was held on November 16th, and attended by 34 people, coming from the states of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Vermont. They came as a result of mailings to the GATE members in the region (from DC through New England), and selected readers of *AERO-GRAMME* in the region.

We were privileged to have **John Gatto** in attendance in the morning. Just three days earlier, Gatto had rented Carnegie Hall to offer to the public talks from seven alternative educators. Several members of the **Mead School**, a private alternative in CT attended. There were also educational consultants, public alternative school teachers, school board members, several homeschoolers, college level teachers, etc. Jerry Mintz facilitated the meeting.

At the meeting, the video of the **GATE** national meeting was shown, after which people gave brief introductions. This was followed by a period of intense individual networking. After more individual networking, we resumed discussion of several issues. In the end we decided to encourage any members in the region to organize sub-regional meetings. It was also decided that there would be three coordinators in the region, with **Aostr Johnson** communicating to GATE members in northern New England (Vt, NH, ME) **Judy O'Brian** those in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and **Jerry Mintz**, those in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and those south to DC. Some people at the meeting expressed discomfort with the idea of regions, and preferred the concept of centers. It was felt that any meetings that were organized would be open to any **GATE** member who wanted to attend.

One point that was echoed strongly was that (the new **GATE** publication) *Education 2000* should be seen as "a springboard" as **Nina Lynn** said, not a dogma. It should be seen as a "living, breathing" statement, open to change. People felt that there could be one large regional meeting a year, perhaps in the Fall. More local groups could or should meet more often. One suggestion that was relayed was that local meetings which featured representatives or demonstrations of various forms of educational alternatives would be useful.

ARTHUR MORGAN

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the mail and communications section, I mention a matching grant that was given to **Arthur Morgan School**, and that I had met **Arthur Morgan**, who had helped me start a recreation center in Yellow Springs, Ohio when he was in his 90's, and I was a college student. I realized that I had the story about it in my computer, as part of an unpublished article I dictated into a tape recorder about important educators or writers I

had met, including Morgan, **Paul Goodman, Sol Alinski, Porter Sargent, Edgar Z. Friedenberg, Tim Pitkin, Morris Mitchel, John Holt, Jonathan Kozol, George Dennison.** I don't usually have the time or space to put these things in *AERO-GRAMME*, but I thought I'd put this one in. Let me know if you think putting in these historical stories would be useful to you.

Surely, one of the giants in the field of alternative Education is **Arthur Morgan.** A self-educated man, who never went to College, he eventually became the head of the Tennessee Valley Authority because of his engineering skill and he became president of **Antioch College** in Yellow Springs, Ohio. While he was there he established the first cooperative education program that I know of, back in the 1920's, a program in which Antioch students received much of their education through on the job experience in a variety of fields. He also was a prime mover in the small communities movements and helped establish communities all over the world including some that are continuing to this day in India.

When I met him, he was in his 90's and I was in a master's degree program at Antioch. I remember having a discussion with him in which he tried to demonstrate to me his feeling about the destructiveness of large cities. He said that large cities basically sucked up the best talent from the countryside but were not actually able to reproduce themselves and that over a long period of time there was demonstrable evidence that IQ's actually dropped, in a reverse evolutionary process.

When I first approached him, I told him that I was interested in establishing a democratic and interracial recreation center in Yellow Springs. That had never been done before. I had just come from Vermont where I had established a recreation center in Plainfield. Morgan encouraged me in this pursuit. I then organized students from all over the city and was even able to get funding for the project from the local community chest.

But I was having trouble finding a place for the recreation center to meet. It looked like I had found a good place in the local Presbyterian church, because they had a wing that was virtually unused. But when I approached them with this project the church turned me down. So I went back to Arthur Morgan to see what suggestions he might have.

I walked into his small office. He was a tall man, stooped over with age and somewhat hard of hearing. As I told him my story, he began to dial the phone. My first thought was, "I wonder if he is getting senile, what's he doing?" I wondered if he had heard what I said.

It turned out that he was dialing one of the millionaires in town, a former student of his. He had carefully helped in the development of Yellow Springs and it was now in the unique position of being a town of 5,000, very close to Dayton, but not a bedroom community to Dayton. In fact, more people came in to Yellow Springs to work than went out. Morris Bean, the president of the local foundry, came to the other end of the phone to talk to Morgan. Arthur Morgan said to him, "Hello Morris -- yes, I'm fine. Morris, do you remember several years ago when the Presbyterian church said that they needed to

expand their building and that they expected to go beyond their parishioners and help the general community...., yes, well, there is a group of young people who approached the church to see if they could have a recreation center in the building, and the church turned them down! Now, you put money into that, didn't you? --Yes, well if you could just get me the names of some of the others....(pause).....yes, I'll wait." And then Arthur Morgan ,the renowned Quaker, looked up to me and said something that I will never forget, "I think that this is ethical!" And that's how I found out how the old Quaker got things done. It was an important lesson.

Less than a week later, I got a call at 1:00 o'clock in the morning. It was from the secretary in the church. They said that they had been "rethinking" my request and wanted to know if I could come down to the church to talk to them that morning. Within a week, the new recreation center opened in the Presbyterian Church. And that recreation center evolved into a community center which continues on to this day, a living legacy to the work of Arthur Morgan.

Several years, later, I was visiting Yellow Springs and there was a controversial issue being dealt with by the Town Council. It seems that a man had bought up several hundred acres on the outskirts of Yellow Springs and wanted to develop them into housing. Some of the people in the town thought that it would be good because it would bring in new tax money. Other people were concerned about the additional number of people that it would bring into the town and the destruction of the greenbelt that surrounded the town. After the discussion had gone back and forth a while, the 95-year-old Arthur Morgan was recognized and slowly made his way up to the podium to speak.

"My granddaughter is probably the youngest member of this audience." he began. I am sure that people were wondering what this had to do with the issue and if the old man still had all of his marbles. "I want her to grow," he continued, "I want her to mature." Then he said with some emphasis, "but at some point I want her to stop growing!" And with that one dramatic analogy, he had said all that needed to be said about the issue of expansion of Yellow Springs. In his mind, it was a mature community that did not need to expand, and with that one brief talk he stopped the project and people in the audience were left to imagine Arthur Morgan's 40 foot tall granddaughter!

MODERN SCHOOL REUNION, 1991

This year's **Modern School Reunion** was attended by more than 100 people connected to the movement. **Edgar Taffel** was the featured speaker. He worked for many years with **Frank Lloyd Wright**, and showed slides of their architectural work. **Zack Shaw** came from California, and spoke briefly. He has been working at **Peninsula School**. For those who remember the story, he helped **Jim Dick** learn how to read at the age of ten, more than 60 years ago. **Nellie Dick** also attended the reunion. Now more than 98, she is still actively involved and interested in alternative education. She sends us letters and articles, and was featured recently in a story in the New York Times, as she and her son, Jim, did a presentation on the Modern School at Queens College. We now have three tapes concerning the Modern School. We have not had time to promote them properly, but every college library that has heard about them has bought them, as well as over 50 Modern School people. The first is two hours of recollections by Nellie and Jim, with

over 125 original historic photos. The second and third feature the last two reunions.

Lane deMoll of **Fire Mountain School** in Oregon writes, "I met you at the NCACS Conference in 1989. I just read *AERO-GRAMME #6* and enjoyed it immensely. It was filled with useful contacts and fun connections for me...One particular item jumped out at me: "**John Froebel-Parker** is going to be at the **Modern School Reunion**." You mentioned he is a descendant of Froebel. It just so happens that I am as well. My mother's maiden name is Carol Froebel and she just retired as Director of the Summer Camp at the **School in Rose Valley**." I showed Lane's letter to John at the Modern School Reunion. He was quite excited about it. I'd love to know if they got together.

MAIL and COMMUNICATIONS

I met **Elizabeth Quigley** at the **Alternative Education Conference** in Connecticut. She is very interested in teacher education and she runs "an extensive intern program here at **Middle Earth**, an alternative School and day treatment center." She is also trying to set up a PA alternative educators' association. 299 Jacksonville Rd., Warminster, PA 18974.

In the **Folk Education Association of America** newsletter, they reported that **Arthur Morgan School**, Burnsville, NC, has received a \$50,000 matching grant from the Dogwood Foundation of Asheville. They hope to raise \$150,000 by July, 1992, in time for their 30th birthday. AMS may be the only alternative boarding school designed for junior high school aged students. It is named for **Arthur Morgan**, creator of **Antioch University's** pioneering co-op education program. I met Arthur Morgan when I was a student at **Antioch-New England Graduate School** and he was in his 90's. He helped me organize a Yellow Springs, Ohio community center that is still operating (see story in this newsletter).

Pat Wagner of Denver has written a new book called *Building Support Networks* for Schools. It contains the basic strategies for constructing an active information and idea exchange, using networking techniques which she has developed. Pattern Research, Box 9845, Denver, CO 80209.

We received an order for both **Nellie Dick Modern School** videos to be given to **Joanne Gilbert Schwartzberg**. She is the granddaughter of Modern School pioneer **Joseph J. Cohen**, and she was President for many years of the **Near North Montessori School** of Chicago.

Janisse Ray read in *AERO-GRAMME* about an opening for an English teacher at **Alejandro Acero's** bi-lingual school in Colombia. She was invited to fill the position, and is probably teaching there now. She also sent us a brochure from a new school in Tallahassee, FL called **Full Flower**.

We've received a publication from **Launa Ellison** called the *Consortium for Whole Brain Learning*, 3348-47th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55406. It has articles like "Case Against Competition," "A picture of an Empowered Learning," and "Self-Knowledge of Learning Preferences is Empowering."

Karen Kennedy of **Tucson High School** writes, "It is thrilling to discover you! I didn't know you existed! I no longer feel alone!"

Ed Clark of the **GATE** Steering Committee wrote, "Thanks for your energy and support in planning, shaping, and carrying out our conference...Thanks also for your persistence. You were right--We were our own keynoters!" I have a short video of the GATE conference (17 min., \$15), or a longer version (40 min.\$25).

Elizabeth Wertheim has been developing an alternative school in Hawaii called the **Hui Kamalii School**. "What was a preschool is growing into a self-governing community school for 5-7 year olds." She also said she is available for consulting services. 880 Hana Hwy, Haiku, HI 96708.

Lisa Paulson of **High Wind Farm** (Rt. 2, Plymouth, WI 53073) ordered a copy of Jenifer Goldman's *My Life as a Traveling Homeschooler* "because I have a granddaughter just turning 11 who is homeschooled." She also mentioned High Wind's joint projects with the USSR and China. "You may also like to know that we've just facilitated the training of teachers for the first **Waldorf School** in the country to be run through the public school system (in Milwaukee)." The school, is in the inner city.

In communicating on GENIE with **Carol Tofani** and her son, **Jason**, they asked for suggestions for starting an alternative school or homeschool resource center in their community in Oklahoma. Here is the plan I sent them:

1. Make a list of everyone you can think of who might be interested in creating an alternative school or homeschool resource center.
2. Ask THEM who THEY know who might be interested.
3. Set up a small meeting at your house to TALK about the idea.
4. From that group, brainstorm ways to get through to people you might not know, such as putting a notice in the paper, public service announcements, or posters.
5. When you go public, you might consider creating a LEARNING CENTER that wasn't exclusively for homeschoolers. You could have activities and presentations at such a center AFTER SCHOOL and in the EVENINGS and WEEKENDS, as well as during school hours, so a variety of people could participate.

Lu Vorys of **Lamborn Valley School**, in Paonia, CO, writes, "I thought your Russian AERO was very exciting. I liked your analogy of the Berlin Wall" (surrounding the education system in the West, protecting a system that isn't working any more)." ...Paonia Public Schools are allowing alternatives and homeschoolers to take up to 2 courses in the public schools this year on a trial basis."

I was honored to be the keynote speaker at the graduation of the **Harriet Eisman Community School**, in Long Beach, New York. The school, operated by Long Beach Reach, Inc., had an enthusiastic audience of graduates, parents, and alumni. **Johanna Mathieson** is its Director. Many of its students would not have graduated from high school if not for this school. A high percentage go on to higher education.

Pam Abell, of **Albion Whale School**, in California, sent us two beautiful silk screened shirts that say, "You can go to your college, You can go to your school. If you don't learn to love, you're an educated fool!" Apparently that's what happened to the Albion School district. The Albion Whale School is one of only two schools that I know of in the country which started as private schools and became public supported. But Pam writes, "After the 20 year anniversary of the Whale School the district cancelled the contract and is giving home schooling and Independent Study the equivalent of no support, talks restructuring and alternatives but is doing centralization and measurable achievement...Thank you for the networking in spite of our isolation." PO Box 67, Albion, CA 95410.

Dr. Robert Lefkowitz is a teacher at a Jewish school in Brooklyn that consists mostly of Russian immigrant children. He wrote, "Thank you for your newsletter. To me, one of the most important aspects of this work is its very fundamental enquiry into education itself, philosophical, spiritual. What you teach, why you are teaching it and the method you use to teach are to me a unity...I do not think there is any such thing as alternative education. There is only education. The only difference is whether it is truthful or not...Alternative may be a polite phrase for that which does not lie or at least is seeking the truth...The unity of knowledge means that starting at any one reference point one can touch any subject, since no point of knowledge alienates another. Thus in any lesson, all other lessons are implied. This comes with the spirit of truth. This is what must be foremost in the classroom, and the common interest of student and teacher." When I visited Dr. Lefkowitz's class, the students watched the video of the USSR trip in a very cramped space, but were very excited about it. Students were sneaking out of other classes to see it.

Shelly Morrison writes from NJ, "Thank you for your work (and play) toward better education...We have three children (oldest 7) and are hoping to relocate to a community with an alternative School. Any information would be appreciated." 156 A N. Main St., Stewartsville, NJ 08886.

Amy Pezzicara is interested in an internship through May 1992. "I am in the process of changing my major to environmental education and would like to gain some practical experience. I will return from the **Audubon Expedition Institute** in December." 696 West Shore Trail, Sparta, NJ 07871.

We have gratefully received a grant of \$2500 from the **Josephine Bay Paul and C. Michael Paul Foundation** to help us keep AERO going through the end of 1991. An earlier Bay-Paul grant funded most of the cost of the USSR trip. **Shaker Mountain School Inc.** has also continued to support AERO. We are hoping for more funding after the new year, since the Mailman matching fund is now completed. We are interested in any suggestions our readers may have for funding. Grants should be made to the **School of Living**, our sponsoring organization, and can be sent here or directly to the School of Living.

As our readers may know, **Dr. Patch Adams** is building a free hospital in West Virginia. In a recent letter he reminds us that he is still looking for two teachers who would help

them develop an alternative school in connection with the hospital. He just returned from his 7th "clowning" trip to Russia. **Gesundheit Institute**, 2630 Robert Walker Place, Arlington, VA 22207. (703) 525-8169.

Hal Studholme is interested in becoming a teacher in an alternative school. 2414 Clinton Ave. South, Apt. F-11, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

Jason Siegel is a college student looking for an internship job at an alternative school: 954 Hale St., Beverly, MA 01915.

Richard Paolillo will be graduating from college in May with a Ms. Ed in Reading. "I have been sharing info on homeschooling and alternative education with many folks up here." PO box 876, Potsdam, NY 13676.

The **Academy of Self Governors**, organized by **Marshal Fritz**, is well under way, in Fresno, CA. "I really like your idea of calling us self-governing schools. As you can see by our name, we take it seriously." Fritz has take a very business-like approach to creating this school, since that is the background he came from. Other schools that are struggling financially may want to take note. He is particularly taken by some of the ideas behind **Sudbury Valley School**, and has tapes for sale by **Dan Greenburg** and others. 940 E. Bremer Ave., Fresno, CA 93728 (209) 441-1776

TRANET printed a letter from **Stephanie Clark**, who graduated from Harvard, and is looking for a job in an alternative school. 1149 Bellview Rd., McLean, VA 22102. They also said, "If you have any doubts that the alternative learning movement is growing in the USA and world wide, a quick scan of *AERO-GRAMME* will set you thinking and make you wonder why we don't free more young people to learn from the world and community around them instead of locking them away in schools which try to drive education down their throats."

From Missoula, MT., **Dr. Liz Rantz** writes that she is homeschooling her children, and looking for the best way to use her medical abilities. She also reports that **Shining Mountain**, the school we helped to start when **Jenifer** and I went to Montana, is continuing into its second year, and that **Avalon**, a school that grew out of Shining Mountain, is also continuing into its second year. Box 8808, Missoula, MT 59807.

Lee Newman posted to us this note on the Prodigy Network: "We live in New Hampshire and my son's school is in Framingham, MA. It takes one hour and ten minutes one way, 56 miles...The name of the School is **Sudbury Valley School**.It's been in existence since 1968 and is completely democratic, run by staff and student alike. It is age mixed, ages 4-19, no grades. They have 120 students. In order to graduate, a student must write a thesis and give a two hour oral argument. The school has told us that their graduates have always gotten into the college of their first choice. My son is in his second year and loves it very much.

Linda Thomson heard about us on Prodigy from **Lee Newman**. They have been

homeschooling since the fall, but were looking into a new school in Portland, OR, named Cascade Valley. It was started with the help of Sudbury Valley. "Jonathan and I visited Cascade Valley and even though they are new at being a school, we were very impressed." When I asked her why, in a subsequent post, she replied, "There was lots of energy, but not in a disruptive way...However the thing that really impressed me what MY SON's reaction to the school...On the way home he kept coming up with thoughts and questions. He hasn't shown this much enthusiasm for anything for a very long time..." The decided to try out the school, and will let us know how it goes.

Marie Blanchard told us on Prodigy about a 62 year old ex-Glenmary nun named **Marie Cirillo** who is helping to provide homes and education for people in an impoverished area of the Appalachians, in TN. The public school system stopped providing bus service, so most of the children are no longer going to school. Cirillo is exploring the possibility of homeschooling, setting up a resource center or a school. I recently called her and put her in touch with other homeschool organizations and alternative schools in TN. She is also involved with a community land trust, trying to reclaim land that has been taken by the mining companies. They currently have over 100 acres and 5 houses, with seven being built. She extended an invited to visit, which we hope to do in the near future. Rt. #1, Clairfield, TX 37715

Last year **Highland School**, in WVA, celebrated their tenth anniversary with a fair and reunion. They also celebrated winning first place in their state for their youth conservation club. One unusual aspect of Highland is that some of its funding comes from oil wells that have been donated to them, and natural gas on the property heats and provides electricity for their residence. Ultimately, they hope to set up a boarding school, and could take some boarding students now. Antioch College interns have been working at the school. Highland is one of the self-governing school group, and is democratic and has a non-coercive curriculum. In April they are planning to have a gathering of students and teachers from similar schools. If you are interested, contact **Candy Landvoigt, Highland School**, Sycamore Springs Farm, Highland, WV 26346. (304) 869-3250

The National Office Coordinator of the **NCACS, Michael Traugot**, asked us to tell *AERO-GRAMME* readers that their annual conference will be April 29-May 3 at the Indianapolis Boys and Girls Camp, near Noblesville, IN. The cost will be \$65 for adults, \$45 for children, including meals. Accommodations will be cabins or camping. Conference Coordinator is **Faye Jenkins**, 4069 Westover Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46268 (317) 875-8472.

Emanuel Parriser of Community School in Maine writes, "Just got your latest report. Good work! Your ability to network with people is phenomenal and a great model for tying us all in. I think you should seriously consider helping an international journal of alternative education get off the ground..."

We attended a conference in Gainesville, FL concerning the "Ethics of Celebration and De-celebration of the Quincentennial." The issue is how to view the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival. The conference was organized by **Richard Haynes** and **Jan Elliott**, a

Cherokee Indian, and editors of *Indigenous Thought*, 6802 SW 13th St., Gainesville, FL 32608. One example of the discussion was from a hispanic man from Corpus Cristi, TX, or Mexican origin. "The Spanish part of me says I should celebrate this. The Indian part says I should mourn it. A hispanic sculptor in Corpus Cristi is honored to be the first to do a sculpture of Columbus. The Indians there say they will tear it down. I'm here to get help in deciding what to do." In an article in *Indigenous Thought*, **Russell Means** points out that "Columbus did not 'discover' a hemisphere that was already inhabited by 100 million people. His arrival cannot be recognized as heroic by indigenous people...Although his own diaries indicate he was greeted by the Arawak Indians with the most generous hospitality he had ever known, he immediately began the enslavement and slaughter of the Indian peoples of the Caribbean Islands..."

While I was in Florida, I caught up with **Autre Chose**, the French Traveling School. We both visited **Jordan Glen School**, in Archer, FL. Autre Chose is traveling in their bus with 8 children 10-15 years old, and two teachers. Jordan Glen is doing well, and even has a waiting list. I played tennis with Jeff Davis, the Director. We then traveled with Autre Chose to **Stone Soup School**, (Star Route 1, Box 127, Crescent City, FL 32012). It may be the only boarding, democratic and non-coercive alternative school in the United States. They now have eight students and three staff. One of them lives there with her two year old son. Stone Soup is looking for families that may want to move to their community. Autre Chose continues to travel west. They have a cellular phone in their bus, and we last talked to them on New Years Eve as they passed through New Orleans. We are coordinating communications to them.

Carol Ouimette of the **Network of Progressive Educators** has put out a new newsletter, outlining the history of the organization, their mission statement, and activities. PO Box 6028, Evanston, IL 60204-6028.

John Gatto pulled off his outrageous plan to hire Carnegie Hall so he could tell people about educational alternatives. The New York State Teacher of the Year has been in the news people of his radical statements about the destructiveness of the traditional public educational system, made upon receiving his awards. At the November 13th Carnegie Hall presentation, "The Exhausted School," he featured several speakers, including **Dan Greenberg** of **Sudbury Valley School**, **Mary Leue** of the **Free School** in Albany, **Pat Farenga**, of **Holt Associates**, **Dave Lehman**, Principal of **Alternative Community School** in Ithaca, NY, several of his own current and former students, and others. He said that over 1200 stubs were returned to him from Carnegie Hall, so there were at least that many people there. I helped arrange funding for the event to be videotaped, through help from the **Bay-Paul Foundation**. John recently sent us a letter with a small contribution for the Russian trip. "Tell them to hang in through the tough times, that people are praying for them."

Dan Geifenberger of CT writes, "Your publication is the greatest! It's one of a kind and very interesting and to the point, unlike most other alternative publications on education, which are sometimes so wordy they are confusing to say the least! Just keep up the good

work. I can't believe how good your newsletter is for hard to get information.

Serena Mendiola has set up a new organization to help kids develop pen pal contacts in other countries. Her organization, "Kidcare Communications", is "a global network of kids reaffirming their own special uniqueness..through friendships established via mutual correspondence. (800) 851-9001, 117 West 95th St, Suite 2F, NY, NY 10025-6635.

Kim Goody is looking for a graduate school that offers a Masters Degree and which is humanistic/holistic. "I am from an experiential education background and desire a graduate program with similar values." We sent her a list, but if you have other information, RFD #2, West Franklin, NH 03235.

Duke Cairns, whom we visited several years ago at **Gateway School**, Arcata, CA, writes, "Thanks for keeping *AERO-GRAMME* coming. I like the news and the knowledge that there are other alternative schools out there. Gateway School is still rolling along. 1992 is our 10th anniversary. My current interests: the politics of the "choice in schools" proposal, teacher position exchanges with foreign schools, student/school produced videos and their distribution." 1975 Ernest Way, Arcata, CA 95521.

I visited **Gabe Prost**, a student at the **Meeting School** in NH, which was one of the schools we had recommended to him when he first called from Canada. It is one of only a handful of boarding alternative schools. Even though TMS has only 15 students now, we were impressed that they keep their own radio station in almost continuous operation, giving the students valuable experience. We then went to visit **Sally and Alex Vittum**, who had traveled with us to the **National Homeschool Association Conference**, in CA. They live in Tamworth, NH. We then visited a new alternative school in Center Sandwich, the **Community School**, which Alex has been trying out. They now have about 20 students, and have just bought a new building on 350 acres, through the help of contributions and donations.

Gabe's parents, **Leonard and Arlene Prost**, run a vegetarian summer camp in Canada, which I visited when we came back from the NHA trip. The camp is in Quebec, but just north of Ottawa, Ontario, and it takes about 50 students. It is called **Au Grand Bois** (in the big woods) and is on 565 acres, with hills, fields, streams, workshops, a recreation hall, etc. Ladysmith, Quebec, JOX2AO (819) 647-3522.

Reader **Frank Lindenfeld** is producing a new newsletter, *Grassroots Economic Organizing*, PO Box 5065, New Haven CT 06525. In his latest issue, for example, he describes an organization called **EDTEC**, a for profit company which focuses on developing business skills and initiative in middle and high school urban youth. At one point they developed a summer program for 2000 teenagers in Camden, NJ in which they taught the kids how to create jobs for themselves through starting their own small businesses. It worked, and has been widened to several other cities. It has even become an elective program in the Camden public schools. The businesses developed include silk screening, messenger services, carpentry, janitorial, home repair jobs, and computer services. 309 Market St., Camden, NJ 08102.

Fairtest Examiner is a newsletter about fair and open testing. They feel that most testing is culturally loaded and inaccurate. In a recent issue, they pointed out that SAT coaching centers raised SAT scores an average of 100 points or more. "This undermines one of the basic premises of the SAT, that it measures skills learned over a long period of time." 342 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139-1802.

Derek Peterson, who was previously Dean of **Prescott College**, and is now finishing up as an administrator at **Sheldon Jackson College**, in Sitka, Alaska, writes that "My wife and I are leaving our careers to begin our journey. We will ride a tandem bike from Fairbanks to the southern tip of South America, by way of eastern Canada. We are excited!"

Wayne Jennings, editor of the *Brain Based Education Networker*, ordered several of our videos and Jenifer's book. He said he is now "Helping design a high school of tomorrow; designed and am implementing a large scale "at risk" program; working on designs for progressive Native American Schools; bidding on the New American Schools RFP; operating an Indian youth enrichment program; editing the (enclosed) newsletter." Wayne says he will send a complementary issue of his newsletter to AERO-GRAMME readers who request it. 449 Desnoyer Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-4946 (612)644-2805.

The **Robert C. Parker School** is in its second year, near Troy, NY. We visited them this year in their rented space in a former public school building. They have about 15 students, from 6-13 years old. The school started as a result of work by a group of parents who were affiliated with a private girl's high school in troy.

Elizabeth Was and **Miekal And** are organizing a new community near Madison, WI. They are involved with setting up a land trust with the help of Jubal Stuki, former President of the School of Living. For more information, Dreamtime, 1341 Williamson, Madison, WI 53703 (608) 258-1305.

Changing Schools reported that **High School Redirection** in Denver was threatened with closure as of December 20. Their building was to be sold, with no alternative site given. **Arnie Langberg** is the principal of the school. He also organized **Jefferson County Open School**, near Denver, and the **Village School**, in Great Neck, NY. Before his Carnegie Hall presentation, John Gatto had heard about the threat to High School Redirection, called the School Board President of the Denver Schools, who assured him that the school would stay open. In a recent phone call, Arnie confirmed that the school is being allowed to stay open for the rest of the year, with no assurances thereafter. Also, he was forced to lay off almost a third of his teachers. He said that letters of support would still be useful. The Denver Public School office is 900 Grant St, Denver, CO 80203. High School Redirection is 1900 Downing St., Denver, CO 80218.

We got a note on the GENie network from **Samual Lubell**, who teaches at **Scarsdale Alternative School**, a public alternative in Westchester County, NY. "SAS actually predates most of the current wave of alternative schools, since it was started in the 60's by

a group of Scarsdale High School Teachers in response to student dissatisfaction. It is not a school for troubled youth or "at risk" students. Our advanced placement classes tend to be among our biggest...We have a weekly community meeting which makes up the rules of the school according to majority vote." They are part of the Coalition of Essential Schools of Ted Sizer.

The First Annual Student Achievement and Success Conference was announced by the Community of Caring Office of the Sacramento City Unified School District, to be held April 23-4. It will feature **Dr. Joseph Fernandez** as keynote speaker. It is described as "Promoting development and preventing at risk behaviors in urban schools." PO Box 2271, Sacramento, CA 95812-2271.

HOMESCHOOL NEWS and COMMUNICATIONS

HOMESCHOOL RESOURCE CENTERS

Shelly Morrison writes from Stuartsville, NJ: "We are a group of 7 families meeting on a regular basis two days weekly. The children are aged 4-12. The Quaker meeting of Quakertown has graciously allowed us the use of their beautiful old building with kitchen, toys, and gameroom and large meeting room. Last year each family took turns preparing the day's activities. This year we have hired a "resource person" to do the planning. We started the year by asking the children what they would like to do with the meeting days. Their answers: Play, lunch, crafts, reading/writing workshop, treasure hunts, baking, math, making airplanes and puppets. We will also take field trips.

Eileen and Rob Blau have been trying to find "like minded families to form a 'cooperative educational environment' where we, as parents all share in the teaching. We wouldn't be hiring any professional teachers. Our plan is to meet in each other's homes. One of the problems we've encountered is the legality of what we want to do. We know from the State Board of Education that it is legal to educate your own children at home, but it's unclear to us if that includes doing it with other families. We are interested in talking to other families interested in starting a cooperative school." Groups with similar experiences, please contact them at 135-75 Geranium Ave., Flushing, NY 11355 (and please send AERO a CC).

Ann Haiman writes from Berkeley, CA: "I just read your article in *Home Education Magazine*. I am a resource support person for our area and I am a member of Northern California Homeschool Association. I can see how a resource center would so meet our area's need. At present we haven't someone or ones willing to organize. We do a lot through our activity page."

Maria Sperduti has sent us the latest newsletter and curriculum guide from their Education Resource Center of Rhode Island. This program offers many programs, courses, activities, trips, and talks to its mostly homeschool membership. We feel it is an important example of what a homeschool resource center can be. They meet in a space that has been given to them by the Unitarian/Universalist Church. For more information: ERCRI/The Mediator, 50 Rounds Ave., Providence, RI 02907.

REPORTS ON JENIFER GOLDMAN'S BOOK

My niece **Jenifer Goldman's** book, *My Life as a Traveling Homeschooler*, has sold out of its first printing. It is now being carried by **ALLPIE, Holt Associates, Home Education Press, New Leaf Distributors, and Inland Book Company** (but still available to *AERO-GRAMME* readers). It has been reviewed by many publications. In *TRANET* they said, "This 10 year old girl has, perhaps some advantage over some other home schooled children in as much as she's the niece of **Jerry Mintz**, who is one of the best informed advocates of educational alternatives. But the book is her own and speaks for the many young people who learn more because they set their own curricula." In *Learning All Ways*, 11 year old **Jason Tofani** says, "I think if you wanted to learn about homeschooling, this would be a good book to read. This book gave me a good idea. I can write my own book!" **David Colfax**, who wrote *Homeschooling for Excellence* says, "Jenifer's book is a good model for all children. She describes the sort of thing that all kids should try to do: taking control and making sense of his or her education. I strongly suggest that children and parents read this book."

PUBLIC SCHOOL HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Kerry Weisenberger of CA is a homeschooler who is signed up with a program run by her local public school system for homeschoolers. It is called Community Home Education Program, and actually provides funds and materials to homeschoolers in their district. They receive a curriculum to follow. Every subject comes with a textbook or workbook. Lesson plans are filed every four weeks with the supervising "teacher," and there are quarterly conferences. They have a science fair, art fair, field trips, craft workshops, etc. They can choose to supplement anything, and are not obligated to use their books. "So far (in week #5) I'm really happy with our choice. My daughter is thriving and my confidence is sky high. I don't feel we are being patronized; in fact, the support is overwhelming."

Lori Christian is another CA homeschooler on Prodigy who is participating in a public school supported homeschool program. She heard about the **National Homeschool Association** meeting through our post, and she and her son, **Thad**, came to the meeting in Sacramento.

GABE'S JOURNAL OF THE NHA TRIP TO CALIFORNIA

Gabe Prost is a 15 year old Canadian who homeschooled when he was younger, through 5th grade. His parents run a vegetarian summer camp in Canada (see Mail and Communications). He was looking for a boarding alternative school, and we eventually helped him find the **Meeting School**, in Rindge, NH. Before going there, he came to New York in preparation for the trip which five of us made to the **National Homeschool Association Conference** in Sacramento, CA. He interned for **AERO** for two weeks, during which he handled routine correspondence, went with us on a trip to Washington where we made a presentation at the **New School of Northern VA**, and helped us host the **Autre Chose** group, which had just arrived from France for the beginning of their cross-country tour. He kept a running journal of his experiences, some of which follows:

Oct. 18: "At four O'Clock we switched trains in Chicago. Now the excitement begins. Our new train is the double-decker California Zephyr. It has an observation deck, a diner, lounge, and snack bar. This train purrs as it glides along the track. Now we're traveling in style.

Oct.20: When we arrived (in Oakland) we were greeted by something disastrous: a full fledged inferno. At first we just saw patches of the fire. Then we realized that the whole hillside was in flames. (We had arrived in the middle of the Oakland fire!) We flagged a cab who took us to Jerry's friend's house (**Ken and Etta Lebensold**). Their house was a mere 3 miles from the fire.

Oct 21: This morning we woke up to hear the horrific news that the fire devastated 1700 acres of land leaving thousands homeless and some people dead....

Oct 22: I've realized that we've been doing so much each day my brain is having trouble comprehending it all. I've started making an outline of what we did and then transforming it to my notebook. Our first milestone today was stopping at Pebble Beach. It was nice to smell that salty air and feel the brisk breeze of the ocean again. At Pebble Beach I saw about 10-20 harbour seals. They were no more than 10 feet away from me! Next we went to the Exploratorium, in San Francisco. This was not just any museum. Everything here was to touch and do. There were science experiments, sound and light experiments. This place was packed with exciting things. Then we were off to the steep hills of San Francisco to ride the cable cars. I hung out the side of the car and the wind whipped my hair back. What a rush! We stopped at the Hard Rock Cafe. It was definitely a highlight of the trip."

Gabe continues by describing our visit to his Uncle Sidney, then to **Contra Costa School** in Orinda, **Cascade Canyon School**, in San Rafael, Harban Hot Springs, an Old Faithful geyser, a petrified forest, a cruise in San Francisco Bay by Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge, etc. Eventually, we made it to the **National Homeschool Association Conference** in Sacramento.

"Oct. 26: I went to my first workshop at the conference. It was entitled 'Options for Homeschoolers after High School.' It was interesting and I got a few things out of it, but the presenter took a dry approach, and didn't really stay on topic. Later that day I met **Thad and Lori Christian**. They were excellent people and were practically the highlight of my day.

Oct.21: Today Jerry offered a workshop entitled "Winning the Hearts and Minds" Our whole group attended, along with about 30 other people. Everyone's attention was captivated, and almost everyone participated."

One more note about the NHA Conference: There was a demonstration of amateur radio, and the obvious implication that it would be a good tool for homeschoolers and alternative schools. I had a ham license for many years, and talked to people in MI and GA from the conference. I also demonstrated a super-learning technique which I developed to teach the morse code, something required in order to get an amateur license. Twelve year old homeschooler **Thad Christian** volunteered, and was able to learn the entire morse code in 17 minutes. I'm thinking of making a video to help people use this technique to learn the code. Are there people out there who already have amateur radio

stations, or who want to start? For more information write to AERO, or the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main St. Newington, CT 06111.

Mark and Helen Hegener have been publishing many of our materials in their *Home Education Magazine*. They printed an article I wrote about homeschool resource centers, and excerpts of Jenifer's book, which they now carry in their catalog. In a recent letter Helen said she was "dismayed at the reports of those activists who 'see private alternatives and homeschooling as antithetical to their needs.'" I'm sure that there is a lot of misunderstanding in this area and I have some thoughts on that which I'll send along when I have more time to write...Your newsletter has become one of my primary sources of information outside the homeschooling movement. Excellent job you're doing with it." PO Box 1083, 1814 HWY 20 East, Tonasket, WA 98855.

Dawn Zeitlin writes that "We are starting an alternative homeschool association in Atlanta. About 10 families showed up for our first meeting. We expect 20 for our second. We've even got a newsletter. But I desperately need training before I can offer myself as an educator. Keep in touch with me about your alternative teacher education programs.

The **Home Education Network of New York** has been quiet for a while, with its newsletter, edited by Rochester homeschoolers being the main link. In their last newsletter, they mentioned that a new homeschool advisory group has been formed, to work with the education department. **Judy Utting-Forti**, of Long Island, is one member. **Seth Rockmuller and Katherine Hauk of ALLPIE**, are also on the board. One HENNY newsletter contact: **Amy and David Mantell**, 275 Yarmouth Rd., Rochester, NY 14610.

Wendy Harytic a Durango, CO homeschooler writes: "Thank you for *AERO-GRAMME*. It takes me out of my isolation and makes me more aware of it. I've requested a petition to circulate for a voucher system in Colorado that includes homeschoolers. We hope to get on on the '92 ballot. I continue to talk to anyone who will listen regarding alternative education. It seems so little when there is so much to be done. Yet home, family, earning a living, keep me here. I can't follow you around the world--Aero-Gramme is my only link, at least for today."

Holt Associates has given us a copy of a new publication of theirs called *Homeschooling in the News*. It consists of reprints of significant articles about homeschooling from 1986-1991. Another interesting book is *Earning our own Money: Homeschoolers 13 and under tell their stories*. They are also carrying Jenifer's book in their catalog, and have reordered several times. 2269 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140.

Norman Rose wrote us on Prodigy that he is starting a commercial resource center in Chico, CA. He has a doctorate in education. He will have small groups of children working together, using computers and other materials that he has to work in art, drama, music, etc. They will also organize outdoor activities, gardens, nature studies, etc.

Olivia Loria of Pinewood School is opening a homeschool resource center in Denver in

conjunction with her homeschool support program. They now also publish a newsletter called *Pinewood School News*. 112 Road D, Pine, CO 80470.

The latest *Moore Report*, there were two contrasting stories from Nevada: In one, six children had been taken from a family by social services for homeschooling, among other things. They were returned through the help of **Raymond Moore** and the **Rutherford Institute**, which gives legal help to homeschoolers. Moore said the taking of these children was the worst miscarriage of justice by social workers he has seen in many years. In another story, all home and public school students in Washoe County, NV were tested by the same standardized test, although the homeschoolers had had no preparation for it and it was given in an unfamiliar setting. Nevertheless, the homeschoolers scored higher in nearly every area, with considerably more homeschoolers in the 70% to 90%ile range. Box 1, Camus, WA 98607.

The **New England Homeschool Conference** will be held on May 1 and 2 in Framingham, MA. The keynote speaker will be Alex Haley, author of *Roots*. For more information call Steve Moitoso, 800 882-2828. 116 Third Ave., Auburn, ME 04210.

The latest *Options in Learning*, put out by **ALLPIE** (PO Box 59, East Chatham, NY 12060-0059) reprinted Jubal Stucki's article from *Green Revolution* about **Ralph Borsoti**'s pioneering work in homeschooling, starting in 1920. His family named their homeschool the School of Living, which became the name of the organization which still bears it 72 years later. The **School of Living** is the sponsor of AERO, and has helped give birth to the health food, organic farming, environmental, consumer protection, and community land trust movements, among others. The *Green Revolution* and membership in the **School of Living** can be ordered for half price, \$10, only through AERO.

INTERNATIONAL MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

HOLLAND

Ute Roehl of Holland, who coordinated the arrangements for participants from outside the USSR who came to the **New School Festival in the Crimea**, wrote a long letter updating recent activities there. She said that a **Montessori Center** has been started in Moscow. "One thing that is important now: We must go on as much as possible as if everything is normal. Our courage is an important vehicle through which they can make it. I am sure that our commitment is worth more than finance. I am strongly convinced that the people in the east whom we are in contact with will make these centers for education grow to really help children." She emphasized that it was really important to keep in written contact also. "Thank you for your report and the (USSR trip) tape. I nearly couldn't believe it. Of course, I will send a copy to Lena. I hope **Alexander Tubelski**, Julia, and Slava, who are coming to Holland can take it home."

GERMANY

Nicola Haensell is in a teacher training program and is looking for an alternative school where she can spend a semester. She needs to write a major paper about it. I met her at the International Summerhill Conference in 1990. Avenariusstr. 35/2228, 85 Nurnberg 10, FGR.

RUSSIA and COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

I have received a translation of a report on the **First New Schools Festival** in the Crimea, written by **Alexander Trushkin** of the Peschanoye Settlement, in the Crimea. It is seven pages long, and I could copy it for those interested. Here are some excerpts:

"Teachers and children from 62 cities around the world met at this Festival and got to know each other well during the seven days. About a hundred agreements, contracts, and commercial deals were concluded. Programs for international cooperation were launched. However, the festival produced even more emotional results for the participants. **Jerry Mintz**...compared the significance of the festival to the tumbling down of the Berlin Wall. Here the majority of our foreign guests learned for the first time that the USSR does have alternative education, possessing, what's more, tremendous intellectual potential...."

"The initiators of the "tumbling down of the wall" were two women: the Soviet journalist **Elena Hiltunin**, and **Ute Roehl**, who works at the **Universal Education Association**, in Holland.....**Alexander Tubelski** reported that in our country, the movement toward new schools was revived in the mid-80's, thanks to the *Teacher's Gazette*, which was headed by V.F. Matveyev. "Eureka" pedagogical clubs began to spring up all over the country, later being united unto the **Creative Union of Teachers of the USSR**. Now the "**Eureka**" **Open University**, the "**Aristotle**" **Club**, and the **Krasnoyarsk State University** help the public to become acquainted with foreign alternative systems...Even so, we do not have a common understanding of what an alternative school is...This makes the role of the teacher particularly difficult: not to teach, but to assist. And there is a paradox:to educate a free child it must be done by a teacher who is not free himself. Most probably, the changes in the teacher's consciousness is what is most important today, the key task to be performed. When that is fulfilled, our New School will come into existence.

"In a traditional school, everything is known beforehand. The teacher follows the curriculum,"knows what the future will be," and prepares the children for it. But what if the future is unknown, and everything is changing? You will stop "working" with and "teaching" the children. You'll begin to live together with them."

Steven Kerr was at a meeting in Kharkov, Ukraine, that was a follow up to the Festival of New Schools. He is a Professor of Education at the **University of Washington**. We talked on the phone and he FAXed a copy of information from our publications that had been printed by **Alexander Adamski** in *Democratic Russia*.

Barbara Ann Rogers-Hendricks, who is now working with the American Greens, wrote,"I read with great interest your account of the First Festival of New Schools, held in the USSR. I commend you for your participation and your excellent talk. I am much encouraged for the future of alternative education."

Apparently as a result of a post on PEACENET, I received a newsletter called Tallahassee-Krasnodar Sister City Program. Krasnodar is near the Black Sea, in Southern Russia. I met people from an alternative school in Krasnodar at the Crimea conference. Tallahassee, is in Florida. The newsletter mentioned that the US Postal Service is providing especially low rates for sending parcel post to the Russia at this time, if it is for humanitarian aid for individuals. They also listed items that would be useful. These are

items that we would like to collect to bring with us when we go there. They include canned goods, packaged goods that only require water, coffee, sweets, soap, clothing, socks, gloves, scarfs, T-shirts, vitamins, first aid items.

I received this post on PEACENET from **Marcus Endicott**: "Last Year I bicycled alone from Yugoslavia to Estonia, visiting all the green movements in all of the Eastern European Countries, except of Albania. I med demonstrations of Econet/Peacenet and GreenNet for them using my solar powered laptop. My primary motivation for doing this was to find Rainbow people. In Tartu, Estonia, I met the people with the new **Steiner** school there. They told me it was the first in the Soviet Union. I also visited a community trying to develop a New Age center at Starya Ladoga, outside Petrograd, and the **Ecopolis Peace Association** community in the Ukraine." Marcus also sent us a copy of his book, *Vagabond Globetrotting: State of the Art*, about his experiences. PO Box 2589, Cullowhee, NC 28723-2589. on Internet he is mendicott@igc.org.

TRANET gave this address for the Soviet Pen Pal Club: PO Box 74, Post International, Moscow, USSR

JAPAN

Dave Ballough recently called to say he was interested in going on the return trip to Russia. Dave is the Chairman of the **National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools**. He has just come back from a three week trip to Japan. In a letter, he reported that he has visited the **Global Free School**, in Tagasago City, which is directed by **Kazuhiro Kojima**. "I find it exhilarating to meet with people from foreign countries and to find that, in spite of our cultural differences there is so much common ground when we talk about alternative education. The importance of students being involved in the decisions affecting their education, non-coersion, experiential education; these things transcend culture."

CANADA

Henry Smalla writes from Toronto: "Just received your fabulous newsletter! Nothing like it since the good old days of the Alternative Schools Network "conferences" in Chicago in the 70's...Many thanks--keep up the good work."

FINLAND

Mikael Motola is an Israeli working on a doctoral thesis in Finland concerning alternative schools. He is a friend of Yakov Hecht, the Director of the Democratic School of Hadera. He said, "I appreciate the effort you are doing in creating a network of people interested in alternative education, and I like very much your friendly style." He said he is particular interested in "education in democracy connected with the problem of tolerance and intolerance" and "vocational orientation and future projects of students in alternative schools, especially those without compulsory curriculum." He would like to connect with people in Europe who could help him with his research.

AUSTRALIA

We have received two new editions of *Connect*, the newsletter of youth participation in education. The August edition has a headline, "Supporting Student Participation," and is

about the public school's attempts to create an environment of student participation, for 'entire schools, special programs, and in the classroom. This issue is a guide to such action. The October issue features a story about students who created a controlled swamp as an environmental project. 12 Brooke St, Northcote 3070, Victoria, Australia.

LIBERIA

James Beiah, President of the **Margibi Youth Development Association** in Liberia is looking for funds to help the youth of his devastated country. For example, \$25 will provide meals for 50 orphans or abandoned children, or a month's salary for an "educator in the rehabilitation process." PO Box 148, 1500 Kakata, Margibi, Republic of Liberia-- West Africa.

KENYA

John K.A. Maina, of the **Kipkoriony Primary School** is still looking for books for his school library. He wrote: "Thank you very much for putting my article in AERO-GRAMME. Your letter was very thrilling, and I would like to be kept on your mailing list until I can afford to pay...The community around the school, 350 families, are looking for alternative technology, on how to run their own piped water using bat bore holes/wells and wind pumps, also agricultural technology for bee keeping, poultry keeping, vegetable gardening and orchards." PO Box 29, Kaptagat, Kenya.

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