

## After 50 years AFSC still seeking peace

On Sunday, April 30, 1967, the American Friends Service Committee becomes fifty years old. Looking over the earliest records from the Committee's archives, one sees similarities between now and then.

In the spring of 1917, the United States was at war with Germany. After resisting involvement for more than two years it had finally been drawn in. Conscription was in effect, but the status of many young Friends who were conscientious objectors was unclear.

Fifty years later the United States is fighting in Vietnam. After resisting involvement beyond an advisory role, we are now engaged in a full-scale war. Conscription is in effect, but changes in the law to reduce its inequities are imminent.

In 1917, Friends were concerned to provide opportunities for constructive service for young Quakers who were refusing military duty because of their pacifist beliefs.

Today, the AFSC is providing counseling for hundreds of young men who are resisting military conscription on grounds of conscience. In addition, it is providing alternative service for more than 60 men and has begun a new program to offer constructive service to younger men and women whose lives have been disrupted by the war in Vietnam.

### Rebuilt French villages

While the armies of World War I fought on, young Quaker men were in France helping to reconstruct bombed-out villages and assisting refugees and war victims.

In South Vietnam today, AFSC personnel are operating a child care center for refugees, and a program of post-operative medical care is being set up.

In the years following World War I, the new American Friends Service Committee began to direct its attention to programs whose purpose would be to bring about better understanding between the world's peoples and establish the foundations of peace.

Quaker centers were established in  
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## Soviets come to learn but stay to teach

Three teachers of English live in American homes, teach classes, find American students work hard. American teachers of Russian to pay return visit to schools in U.S.S.R.

The lives of an American woman in New York and a Russian woman in Moscow are much the same, according to Tamara Alexandrovna Pritykina. As a Russian woman who lives in Moscow and has just spent three months in the United States, she should know.

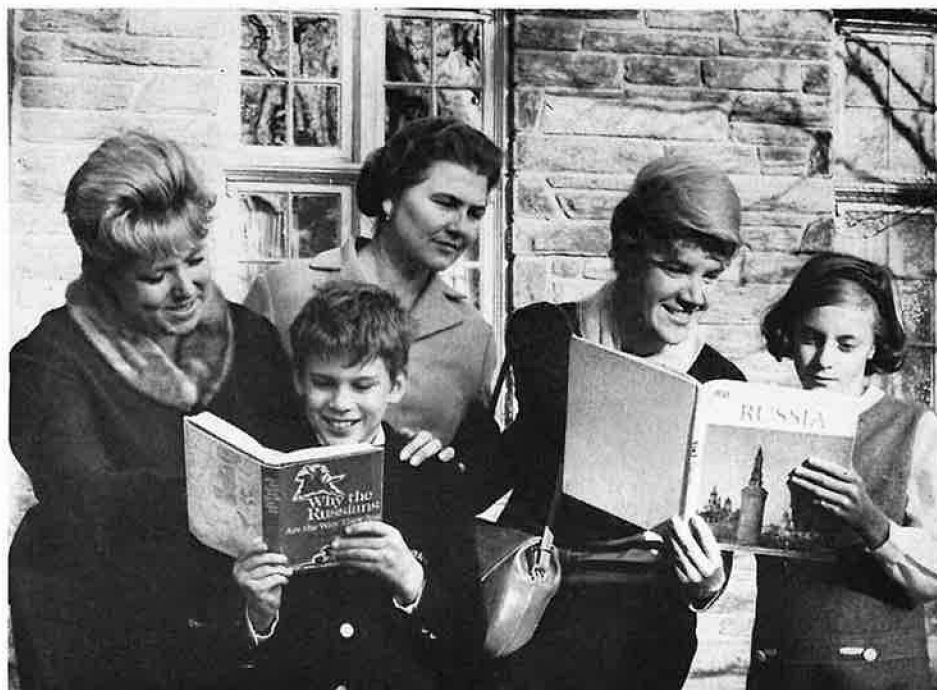
Tamara Pritykina is one of three teachers of English who recently visited schools between Boston and Philadelphia as part of an exchange of teachers sponsored by AFSC's School Affiliation Service. She says, "We came to learn English better and to get to know the students and the country."

But the three Russians also contributed much to the schools they visited. An attractive, able Russian teacher in their class gave students a sudden surge of interest in the language. The teachers

reviewed the Russian language textbooks and made supplementary tapes to use with them, taught songs and poems, gave talks about life in their country and helped with conversation groups.

Tamara Pritykina and Valentina Ivanovna Zorina are teachers of English in Moscow schools #12 and #17. Nina Dmitriyevna Pechko, the third teacher, is principal of Middle School #2 in Krasnoya, Silo, in the suburbs of Leningrad. Giving details of her background, Nina Pechko said, "I have one thousand seven hundred and fifteen children at school and two at home."

"Here the life of the student is a bit easier," one commented. But "all things taken into consideration, your students  
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*Main Line Times, Ardmore, Pa.*

The three Russian teachers—left to right, Tamara Pritykina, Nina Pechko and Valentina Zorina—during a one-day visit with students at Friends Central School in Philadelphia. Most of the time they were separately assigned.



Photo courtesy of the *Morning Star* of Fort Collins, Colorado.

In the studio of Mrs. William Sayre volunteers make articles for the craft fair. Left to right are Daniel Sayre, 10, son of the studio owner; Chester McQuery, AFSC staff member in Denver; Mrs. Carl Judson; Mrs. Paul Bates; Mrs. Donald Nash, organizer of the fair; Pearl Bates, 11, daughter of Mrs. Bates; and Heidi Nash, 8, daughter of Mrs. Nash. Many of the items sold at the fair, including hand-crafted silver jewelry, were made by Jeanne Nash. Others active in the fair were Mrs. Maurice Albertson, Miss Agnes Lilley, Mr. and Mrs. Borden, Mrs. Carl Levine, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wehmeyer and Mrs. Wilmer Tjossem.

## Colorado women stage craft fair to raise money for AFSC; say they will do it again next year.

Take one Quaker housewife who likes to make things, mix with creative friends who want to do something worth while, and the result is a craft fair to benefit the AFSC.

Held December 1 and 2 in the home of Mrs. Donald Nash of Ft. Collins, Colorado, the fair was an effort unique in the area. The group took in over \$300 and, after paying for materials and commissions and sending \$50 to Seoul Friends Meeting for its work in Tan Dong leper village, they sent the Service Committee a check for \$175 with a note saying, "Please feel free to spend it where the need is the greatest."

### Response enthusiastic

Asked how the fair came about, Jeanne Nash, originator of the idea, replied, "I have always liked to make things. Eventually the house begins to overflow. What should be done with the

collection?" After she decided on a craft fair, "friends and Friends responded with growing enthusiasm," Jeanne wrote. At special workshops volunteers worked industriously to get items ready by sale time. Advertising was mainly by word of mouth. "The project was a trial balloon on a shoestring, and we were dubious," Jeanne said.

The fair opened with a colorful display of original hand-weaving, pottery, silver jewelry, block printing, stained glass work, woodworking, knitting, miscellaneous needlework and minor crafts. Visitors were impressed with the quality of the craft items and what one called "the quiet dignity of the affair." The support of friends, both as contributors and buyers, helped to make the fair a success. Jeanne Nash, a dedicated and untiring worker for liberal causes for many years, writes, "We are going to do it again next year, bigger and better."

## Soviets *continued from page 1*

have a lot of things to do and study hard." Another felt that eight periods a day in the high school was "too much" and there was "no time for rest between periods." After seeing classes from kindergarten to twelfth grade, one commented, "No matter what the level of achievement, each child was accepted and encouraged."

Their suitcases heavy with books, English dictionaries, courses of study, pictures, tapes and films, the three teachers returned home December 16. This spring, American teachers of Russian expect to pay a return visit to high schools in the U.S.S.R.

"The most wonderful thing to me is the people I met here," said Tamara Pritykina, who had never been outside her country before. "When they visit Russia we will be happy to share our homes and our hearts with them."

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cities such as Paris, Berlin, Geneva, Warsaw and Moscow. Institutes on world affairs were begun in the United States, and caravans of college students crisscrossed the country with a message of world peace.

As the Committee's present relief efforts in Vietnam are moved forward, a larger program is working to end U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia. The book *Peace in Vietnam*, which includes proposals for American withdrawal, has now sold more than 80,000 copies. An advertisement in *The New York Times* in September, 1966, announced the Committee's determination to increase its efforts to reach the decision-makers within the American public with its message.

Now under way are a national conference on conscription, an updated edition of *Peace in Vietnam*, and a conference for persons in public life who are opposed to U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

In fifty years the AFSC has changed significantly. It has grown from a small group of Quakers to an organization with more than 450 staff members of all faiths operating in 18 countries abroad and through a regional office network in major cities of the United States. The organization has changed, but not its purpose. It is still trying, in the words of William Penn, "to see what love can do."

## "Who has sacrificed for me and for whom I will sacrifice?"

Every afternoon in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam, AFSC staffers David and Mary Stickney teach English for an hour to young Vietnamese men and women. One day they asked the students to submit questions in writing for discussion. A young man with some university training, who was about to be drafted into the army, wrote the following:

"What do you believe (about God)?  
... What can I do when I want to

have faith in God?

"I don't know if there can be a God in a land which (is) suffering (so much). It is my native country too. I want to tell to you that many people were killed in loneliness in . . . Vietnam. How many evils, slaughter, misunderstandings have taken place here? Why (doesn't) God redeem them? Why (doesn't) God bring the light of freedom, light of equality (and) love together to Vietnam?

"Do you know (for) what I am thirsting? What I believe? . . . I was born in condition of war of my state and after 20 years I still see it. I think the war will last forever. Who (has) sacrificed for me and for whom I will sacrifice? My friend and my enemy—what have they found in battlefield? Who is reasonable? (Each says,) I am of course. Two sides have (the) same answer. How must we solve this problem?"



**South Vietnam**—Surgical patients like the boy above, center, need physical therapy to prevent crippling loss of muscle tone and stiffening of joints. Field director David Stickney (above, right) is setting up a rehabilitation service, with American and Vietnamese staff, to work in the Quang Ngai and Danang Province hospitals. (Below) David Stickney steers the shallowest course through a perennial puddle outside his house.



**Day care center** in Quang Ngai combines preschool education with food, vitamins and supervised games, singing and dancing (left, above). Program director Mary Stickney helps with daily baths (far left)—quite a chore for 75 children! Volunteers from a Buddhist student dormitory (left) sew garments for the children.



## San Francisco women unite against poverty

They were only ten unemployed women, with 71¢ between them, but what they lacked in funds they made up in determination.

Mrs. Dupre, who started it all on August 19, 1965, during the Watts crisis, relates, "I called nine of my friends and we all sat in the living room of Mrs. Freeman's home. We decided that the only way to alleviate the degree of hopelessness and frustration that started Watts was to get to work on it. The only way is personal involvement. You can't sit above it and look down on it."

Since then they have been working steadily in the Hayes Valley section of San Francisco's Western Addition to alleviate the problems of poverty in their own neighborhood. Calling themselves The GROUP (for Grass Roots Outreach to Underprivileged People), they explain their basic philosophy by saying, "Poor people can help other poor people because they are able to communicate with them and build trust and confidence."

The GROUP spent its first four months searching out fifty of the most desperate families in a 75-block area. They collected contributions of food, clothing, toys and money and saw that each family received a Christmas box when the holiday came. Even though GROUP members lived in the area, they

were appalled by the poverty, sickness and poor housing they found.

### Building a bridge

Following the delivery of the Christmas boxes the GROUP found itself called upon for various kinds of advice and soon was a bridge between the families and the resources available in the city. Some of the people needed help in explaining their needs to the agencies, and the agencies in turn needed a better understanding of how best to help the people.

Because GROUP members can talk easily with the families, they get a true picture of a family's problems and needs. Families trust and accept them and remain in contact with them long after their crises have passed. The mother of a family known to the agencies for many years said, "The GROUP is the only one that has helped me." With its limited resources the GROUP has helped this family very little financially, but the mother was referring to the GROUP's understanding, advice and emotional support, and the intangible gift it gives of hope.

The GROUP counsels families on everything from budgeting and grooming to child care, meal preparation and home care. They've helped find jobs for the unemployed and called the attention of city authorities to a rat-infested, substandard dwelling, even helping to relocate its tenants in adequate housing.

### Giving direct help

Direct help is one of the organization's major functions. Members arranged a

clothing distribution and helped children in the area who were unable to go to school because of inadequate clothing. One member noticed a little boy staring into the schoolyard while classes were in session. When she asked him why he wasn't in school he told her he had no shoes. The GROUP managed to get him a pair—new ones—and now he's back in school.



### An office of their own

Now they work from an office in the heart of the poverty area. With the help of AFSC's San Francisco regional office, they persuaded a local foundation to award them a grant of \$15,000 to carry on their work and expand their activities for the better part of a year. Welfare and social agencies are turning to them for advice and even sending them cases to handle.

The GROUP is one of four small, local associations of citizens encouraged by AFSC's community development worker Helen Ferguson. The AFSC program was begun in the spring of 1965 to help the local people articulate and solve their own problems.

