September 1979

Dear Fellow Member:

This is a status report and a request for your assistance.

We had an excellent collection of speakers during the past year — and on fascinating topics. This is possible only if the membership gives us suggestions and information on likely speakers. If you know of persons who have had interesting experiences and would be good speakers, please pass the information along to me or to John Field.

The other area where we need your assistance is membership. We badly need more members, particularly in the younger age groups. So please look among your friends, relatives, and acquaintances and locate appropriate persons. Nomination forms are available from John Field. We must become more active in recruiting members, and all of you can be of great help in this.

We are planning a new edition of the Yearbook for 1980. Money, as usual, is a problem. In the past we have been fortunate to have one person carry much of the cost of publishing the Yearbook. It would be much more equitable if this could be shared. I, therefore, strongly urge you to make a contribution to the special Yearbook Fund established by the Council. If every member contributed $15 each year to this Fund, we would accumulate an adequate sum to cover costs. We shall also look into ways of possible cost reduction in the printing.

The informal ladies nights have been received with much approval and have been successful. We intend to continue them for the present.

I have very much enjoyed my association with the Harvard Travellers Club and the many friends in it. I look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm, and I hope that you will all attend as many meetings as possible.

I do hope you will be able to assist us in these various efforts.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN G. FERRIS, JR., M.D.
President

559th Meeting

Number 1

1979-1980

The first meeting of the season will be held at the St. Botolph Club, 199 Commonwealth Avenue at Exeter Street in Boston, on **Tuesday October 2, 1979.** Parking is available at both Newbury and Exeter and Boylston and Exeter. The Copley subway station is nearby as well.

As usual, cocktails will be served at 6:15 P.M. (price $1.75 apiece); dinner is at 7:00 P.M. (price $10.00 apiece, including wine; students $6.00 apiece); and the meeting will start promptly at 8:15 P.M. Please return the enclosed card ***as soon as possible*** if you are coming to dinner.

THE TZELTAL INDIANS OF CHIAPAS, MEXICO

Our member, Ross McCord Miller (Harvard, '77) develops exhibits at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. Carter Brandon (Harvard, '76) is in his second year of graduate study in economics at Oxford.

During the summer of 1978, with partial support from the Harvard Travellers Club, Miller, Brandon, and their colleague Gene Murphy conducted a survey for potable water in the remote jungle villages of Chiapas, Mexico's southernmost state. There they lived and worked among the Tzeltal Indians, Mayan descendants who live much as their ancestors did 3,000 years ago. However, recent migration to the jungle from the highlands of Chiapas has left the Tzeltal Indians increasingly exposed to technological modernization and encroaching political interests.

On October 2nd, Messrs. Miller and Brandon will show slides and a film depicting village life in the jungle. They will trace the known history of the Tzeltals, discuss their customs, and reflect upon the fate of a people now suspended precariously between tradition and assimilation.

Please reserve the following future meeting dates (all tentatively set for the Harvard Club): Nov. 6, Dec. 11, Jan. 22, Feb. 19, March 18, April 22 (Ladies Night), and May 27. In November our speaker will be Mr. James Billipp, whose topic will be the Ika tribe of the Colombian Andes.

JOHN OSGOOD FIELD, *Secretary*

Secretary's address:
28 Glenoe Road
Chestnut Hill, Mass. 02167
Tel.: 731-0579

560th Meeting

Number 2

1979-1980

The second meeting of the season will be held in the Aesculapian Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, November 6, 1979.** Cocktails will be served at 6:15 P.M. (price $1.95 apiece); dinner is at 7:00 P.M. (price $11.75 apiece; students $6.00 apiece); and the meeting will start promtply at 8:15 P.M. By vote of the Council, members may bring ladies as guests on this occasion. Please return the enclosed card ***as soon as possible*** if you are coming to dinner.

THE IKA TRIBE OF THE SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA

Jim Billipp (Colgate, '72) is a freelance writer, photographer, and film maker who lives in New York.

Since 1974 Mr. Billipp has made three extensive expeditions to Colombia's Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, an isolated mountain mass which rises abruptly from the Caribbean to a glaciated summit approaching 19,000 feet. Attracted to the range by its superb and varied climbing, Mr. Billipp has returned to the Santa Martas in recent years for the dual purpose of mountaineering and ethnographic study of the secretive Ika tribe. The Ika are a small group of highland weavers inhabiting the vertical wilderness on the Santa Martas' southern slope. They control the best routes of access to the high peaks' region and are reluctant to allow outsiders passage to their sacred snows.

Through persistence and good fortune, Mr. Billipp gained the trust of the wary Ika. He has climbed the major peaks of the Santa Marta, and his documented collections of Ika material culture have been acquired by the Smithsonian, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Peabody Museum. At present he is editing a film from 20 hours of ethnographic footage that he produced while living among the Ika.

On November 7, Mr. Billipp will show slides highlighting his intimate association with the people and peaks of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

Please reserve the following future meeting dates: Dec. 11, Jan. 22, Feb. 19, March 18, April 22 (Ladies Night), and May 27. In December our speaker will be Mr. Sandy Weld, who will discuss Glacier Bay and the Humpback whales in that area while running six slide projectors simultaneously on three screens. Because of the special nature of this presentation, ladies will again be welcome as guests of members on this occasion.

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561st Meeting

Number 3

1979-1980

The third meeting of the season will be held in the Estabrooks Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, December 11, 1979.** Cocktails will be served at 6:15 P.M. (price $1.95 apiece); dinner is at 7:00 P.M. (price $11.75 apiece; students $6.00 apiece); and the meeting will start promptly at 8:15 P.M. By vote of the Council, members may bring ladies as guests on this occasion. Please return the enclosed card ***as soon as possible*** if you are coming to dinner.

GLACIER BAY AND THE HUMPBACK WHALES IN THAT AREA

Sandy Weld is a professional photographer, expert sailor, and author of *The Leading Edge*, a book about ocean racing, who lives in Weston and Cataumet, Massachusetts.

During the past five years, Mr. Weld has sailed his 73-foot yawl "Windigo" over 50,000 miles in Southeastern Alaska, the Canadian Northwest, the west coast of Mexico, Panama's San Blas Islands, and Newfoundland. In the summers of 1977 and 1978 he spent much of his time in and around Glacier Bay, observing the Humpback whale and exploring the upper reaches of the Bay. In a stroke of good fortune he was able to photograph a feeding method of the Humpback whale known as "bubble net feeding," which has rarely been seen much less recorded on film.

On December 11, Mr. Weld will employ a multi-media slide show using three screens and six projectors to communicate the diverse majesty of Glacier Bay, its mountains, glaciers, flora and fauna, including the Humpback whale.

Please reserve the following future meeting dates: Jan. 22, Feb. 19, March 18, April 22 (Ladies Night), and May 27. In January Mr. Laurence Coolidge will show pictures from his recent travels in western China.

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562nd Meeting

Number 4

1979-1980

The fourth meeting of the season will be held in the Aesculapian Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, January 22, 1980.** Cocktails will be served at 6:15 P.M. (price $1.95 apiece); dinner is at 7:00 P.M. (price $12.00 apiece; students $6.00 apiece); and the meeting will start promptly at 8:15 P.M. Please return the enclosed card *as soon as possible* if you are coming to dinner.

A JOURNEY TO WESTERN CHINA

Lawrence Coolidge (Harvard '58, MBA '62) is a partner in Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge, a firm in Boston providing fiduciary services.

Last summer Mr. Coolidge and his wife spent five weeks in China as guests of the Chinese government. They travelled with two other couples on a journey arranged and led by Mr. Aga Hilaly, a distinguished diplomat who has served as Pakistan's Ambassador to India, the Soviet Union, the United States, and elsewhere. While in Washington, Ambassador Hilaly arranged the Kissinger-Nixon visits to China, and this trip was set up on the strength of his long-standing contacts in China.

The Chinese government allowed Ambassador Hilaly and his party to pick their own itinerary. As well as visiting sites of archaeological interest in Peking, Shanghai, Langchow and Sian, they were able to travel west by train to Lanchow and Yumen to the ancient Buddhist center of Tunhwang with its famous caves and sculpture, and thence by train across the eastern part of the Taklamakan desert to Urumchi and to the old silk route oasis of Turfan, which is 600 feet below sea level.

On January 22nd, Mr. Coolidge will show slides of the trip with special emphasis on western China and the changes caused by the government's modernization of old Turkestan, now the Chinese province of Sinkiang.

Please reserve the following future meeting dates: Feb. 19, March 18, April 22 (Ladies Night), and May 27. In February Professor Mayberry Lewis of Harvard's Anthropology Department will speak on Indians of the Amazon.

Club note: The Year Book fund is well below need. In view of sharply escalating printing costs, the membership's continued support of the new Year Book is essential.

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563rd Meeting

Number 5

1979-1980

The fifth meeting of the season will be held in the Aesculapian Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, February 19, 1980.** Cocktails will be served at 6:15 P.M. (price $1.95 apiece); dinner is at 7:00 P.M. (price $12.00 apiece; students $6.00 apiece); and the meeting will start promptly at 8:15 P.M. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner.

THE KOUPREY OF KAMPUCHEA

Our member, Harold J. Coolidge, is a former President and Vice-President of the Harvard Travellers Club who has devoted a long career to international conservation.

On February 19, Mr. Coolidge will show a unique documentary colored film on the Kouprey, a wild forest ox whose present limited habitat is in the war zone of northern Cambodia. The Kouprey is the rarest endangered large mammal surviving today. First discovered in 1937, it was described as a new genus by Mr. Coolidge in a *Memoir* published by the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard in 1940. No living specimen yet exists in captivity. Estimates now number the Kouprey at less than 100.

Please reserve the following future meeting dates: March 18, April 22 (Ladies Night), and May 27. In March Mr. Robert F. Perkins, Jr., will present an illustrated talk on his solo trek north of Labrador last summer.

Club notes: Members who have not yet completed the questionnaire for the new Year Book are kindly requested to do so at their earliest possible convenience.

By vote of the Council, all members of the Club for 50 years duration or more will be exempt from paying dues starting next season.

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564th Meeting

Number 6

1979-1980

The sixth meeting of the season will be held in the Aesculapian Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, March 18, 1980.** Cocktails will be served at 6:15 P.M. (price $2.00 apiece); dinner is at 7:00 P.M. (price $12.00 apiece; student members $6.00 apiece); and the meeting will start promptly at 8:15 P.M. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner. By vote of the Council, ladies will be welcome as guests of members on this occasion.

A SOLO TREK IN NORTHERN LABRADOR

Our member, Robert F. Perkins, Jr., is a free-lance artist, writer, and traveller associated with the Library of the Boston Athenaeum.

For five weeks last summer, Mr. Perkins travelled unaccompanied across the northern Labrador peninsula. Beginning in Nachvak Fiord, he proceeded up the Palmer River through the Torngat mountains. At the headwaters of the Palmer he portaged seven miles across to the neighboring valley of the Korok River and then spent three weeks en route to Ungava Bay in a 14½ foot canoe called "Monkey." In the course of his trek he discovered the Quiot, a rare subsistence food that is hardly known outside of Labrador.

On March 18, Mr. Perkins will show slides of this extraordinary travel experience in one of the last remaining wildernesses of North America. His watercolors, drawings, and paintings based on the expedition will be on view at the Sunne Savage gallery during March. All members of the Club are invited to the opening on March 7, 5-8 P.M., 105 Newbury Street, Boston.

Please reserve the following future meeting dates: April 22 (Ladies Night) and May 27. In April Mr. Neil Goodwin will show his celebrated film, "Silent Waters," on the life cycle of a New England pond.

Club note: Members who have yet to complete the questionnaire for the new Year Book are kindly requested to do so at their earliest possible convenience. All members should know that the Year Book Fund remains well below need despite several very generous contributions. Once again, the Council estimates that if everyone donated at least $15 to help bring out a new Year Book this year, this could be done without sacrificing quality. Unfortunately, to date less than a third of the membership has contributed to the Fund.

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565th Meeting

Number 7

1979-1980

The seventh meeting of the season will be held in the Massachusetts Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, April 22, 1980.** Cocktails will be served at 6:15 P.M. (price $2.00 apiece); dinner is at 7:00 P.M. (price $12.00 apiece; student members $6.00 apiece); and the meeting will start promptly at 8:15 P.M. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner.

LADIES NIGHT

Members are invited to bring their ladies to this annual Ladies Night.

STILL WATERS: LIFE IN A NEW ENGLAND POND

Our member, Neil Goodwin, is co-founder of Peace River Films in Cambridge. His latest production, "The Sea Behind the Dunes," about marine life off of Cape Cod, will be shown on Public Broadcasting television next fall.

A few years back, Mr. Goodwin directed the production by Peace River Films of "Still Waters" for the PBS television NOVA series. This celebrated documentary portrays a year in the life of a beaver pond in central Massachusetts. In creating the pond for their own use, the beaver also engineered an aquatic habitat for a wide range of creatures. "Still Waters" reveals the extraordinary activity that accompanies the annual life cycle in the pond, while focusing on inhabitants and visitors that range from microscopic organisms to deer, eagles, and the beaver themselves.

On April 22, Mr. Goodwin will show "Still Waters" and, with slides, describe its production.

Please reserve the following future meeting date: May 27. Dr. Pierce Gardner will show slides of his sailing expedition to Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands a year ago.

Club notes: In February the Council agreed that all past officers of the Club may attend future meetings of the Council *ex-officio.*

In light of sentiments expressed by several members of the Club concerning the projected format of the new Year Book, the Council voted in March to suspend preparation of the 1980 Year Book pending review by a special committee to be created by President Ferris. Mr. Robert B. Stephenson has consented to chair this committee, and members are invited to communicate their recommendations to him at their earliest convenience.

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REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Article VII of the Constitution, the Nominating Committee presents the following nominations for the year 1980-1981.

President: Dr. Benjamin G. Ferris, Jr.

Vice-Presidents: Dr. Lot B. Page
Dr. John B. Stanbury

Secretary-Treasurer: Robert B. Stephenson

Councillors: H. Adams Carter
Dr. Raymond N. Kjellberg
Peter Alden
Dr. John O. Field
Robert F. Perkins, Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT H. BATES, *Chairman*
RALPH E. FORBES
DR. HARRISON E. KENNARD
JOHN H. ROSS

Nominating Committee

566th Meeting

Number 8

1979-1980

The eighth meeting of the season, the **ANNUAL MEETING,** will be held in the Aesculapian Room of the Harvard Club on **Tuesday, May 27, 1980.** Cocktails will be served at 6:15 P.M. (price $2.00 apiece); dinner is at 7:00 P.M. (price $12.00 apiece; student members $6.00 apiece); and the meeting will start at 8:15 P.M. Please return the enclosed card as soon as possible *only* if you are coming to dinner.

Amendment to the Constitution

In view of rapidly rising costs, the following amendment to the Constitution has been approved unanimously by the Council and will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

That Article V, 2b, shall read hereafter: "Annual dues shall be $25 for Resident Members and $10 for Non-Resident Members and Associates, payable in advance."

SAILING THE TIP OF SOUTH AMERICA

Our member, Dr. Pierce Gardner, is Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Chicago.

From the middle of December 1978 through the first week of February 1979, Dr. Gardner and his wife were among a crew of six who sailed a 50-foot ketch, *Compass Rose*, down the inland waterway on the west coast of Chile. Retracing Darwin's route much of the way, they passed through the Straits of Magellan to the Beagle Canal along the southern edge of Tierra del Fuego. After rounding Cape Horn, the expedition sailed to the Falkland Islands, some 400 miles northeast of the Cape in the Atlantic Ocean.

On May 27, Dr. Gardner and Mr. Edward MacArthur, skipper of the *Compass Rose*, will recount their voyage and, with slides, illustrate some of the spectacular scenery and wildlife observed.

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