
ADAPTATION

Vo. 7

No. 3

Summer 2002

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY OF MISSOURI



Serving African Refugees and Immigrants Since 1983

ADAPTATION
Published Quarterly
Established in 1983
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ADAPTATION is a quarterly publication of the Ethiopian Community Association of Missouri. It is funded by Western Union. Opinions expressed in Adaptation do not necessarily mean the view points of Western Union and ECAM.

The Repercussions of 9-11 on Refugees Worldwide

Countries that used to be heaven places for refugees/immigrants are now closing their doors because of the savagery act of global terrorism. If USA is the first to take such kind of action, it is understandable. In such a complex situation there are always possibilities that terrorists may try to use refugees although the participants of the 9-11 terrorist act never were refugees. The world is totally different after the September 11 brutal and inhuman terrorist attack and it is true that America will never be the same America too. The new America will be vigilant, watchful, strong and fast to strike against global terrorism. We appreciate what our government does to protect us from another surprising terrorist attempts.

While taking security precaution, it is quite possible to handle the needs of refugees and immigrants too. Right now, thousands of helpless refugees all over the world are not sure about their future. They are almost forgotten in their shabby refugee camps. USCR executive director Lavinea Limon said, "...At a time when freedom is under attack, the world is turning its back on people fleeing war, persecution, and terror in search of freedom". True, they fled terror but the farther they run the closer they go to feel the effect of terrorism on them. Unfortunately refugees are suffering the repercussions of the tragic event of 9- 11 Countries in Europe –the UK, Germany, and Denmark. ...are taking some strict measures on refugees because of terrorism. Canada is doing the same. Again, there are various ways to support refugees while taking care of securities. In the mean time refugees are suffering from diseases, starvation and malnutrition, moral deterioration..., in the refugee camps around the world. One solution is to open the doors for resettlement but this seems unreal for now.

Until then, world should not be indifferent and especially those wealthy countries must continue their financial support to help refugees in their camps. However, the news is not encouraging when it comes to financing refugee organization like UNHCR. According to US Committee for Refugees report, fleeing people are suffering from poor funding by donor nations. About a million refugees in Africa live in terrible and alarming situation because of \$20 million budget cut of UNHCR in 2001 alone. Unfortunately, conflicts, abuse and civil unrest are increasing in despotic countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, and it is absolutely not the right time to cut budget.

Bill Frelick, editor of the World Refugee Survey 2002 said, "Whether contributing financially to maintain refugees in safely and dignity in their places of initial asylum, providing rescue through resettlement for those still in danger in regions of initial flights, or funding sustainable return and reintegration in place like Bosnia, Sierra Leone, and Afghanistan, donor countries can do more than simply provide charity –they can invest in a more stable and secure future for all". And we would like to emphasize that the problem of refugees is a global problem and it needs global solution.

Healthy Families A Healthy Society By Carl Swearson

If you look closely, you will see it. If you listen carefully, you will hear it, much like the low rumble of a train approaching from a distance. "What's that," you ask. Can't you see it? Haven't you heard? It's the marriage movement in America. It's growing and going to be heard, Years ago, I sold life insurance and even then, took notice of statistics in the industry that claimed married men lived somewhat between 7 to 9 years longer on average than did single men. Also, those in the married column tended to be healthier, wealthier and happier when compared to divorced or never married men.

The benefit also flowed down to the next generation. Children of married, intact families tended to do better in school, be better adjusted socially, be happier in life, would get into less trouble with the law, have fewer drug problems and fewer unwanted teen pregnancies – you get the picture. On the flipside, I remember reading a report from the Heritage Foundation years ago that stated for every 1% increase in

illegitimate births there was a 1.7% increase in the juvenile crime rate.

So why isn't there more support for marriage? Why does the current cultural climate seem so hostile heterosexual relationships only within the confines of marital fidelity and commitment? Look no farther than your TV set to find one obvious source of this mindset.

Nowadays, it's many times more likely that any sexual act taking place on TV will be between a couple not married or

committed. Following that sort of script on the screen may get the audience's emotional juices flowing, but it's a recipe for disaster when applied in real life.

Many say Hollywood's addiction to sex is connected to their addiction to money. Everyone's heard the line, "sex sells," but Hollywood's glorification of sex without commitment has played a leading role in steering 50% of American marriages down the dead end street called "divorce." Should it surprise anyone that divorce is the leading cause of childhood depression?

I've heard it said that despair comes not from weariness of pain, but from weariness of pleasure. If you need convincing, just pickup a copy of any national tabloid and it is literally filled with testimonies of miserable life experiences of the "rich and famous."

Commitment in marriage requires vigilance. Roofs will leak and cars will break down. When it happens, we don't sell the house or ditch the car, we get it fixed. The same can be applied to marriage. Should the relationship break down or just need a tune-up, there are plenty of "marriage tools and mechanics" available to get things up and running again. My tool of choice recently has been seminars outlining a practical application of Stephen Covey's "The 7 Habit of Highly Effective Families."

Who Knows, maybe one day the Hollywood types will get it... marriage is not just a "Bible" thing, or an "old fashioned concept," it's sound and healthy advice built on the bedrock morals of unselfish mist, love and commitment that gives all of us the best shot at happiness and fulfillment.

REFUGEE

It needs global attention

Staff

A refugee is not a tourist or an adventurer who travels from country to country for mere pleasure. A person becomes a refugee without his free will mainly to save his life. It is a life and death struggle – a struggle to run away from fear of persecution. Most of us (refugees) barely won the challenge thanks to God but a considerable number of fleeing groups lost the challenge and died in the desert and jungles searching for freedom. Some of them perished in the desert in thirst and starvation; some of them were killed by wild animal and disease like malaria and typhoid. These people lost their lives in order to save their lives – what an irony. Women and young girls were raped and a lot of us lost some of our belongings to the outlaws while crossing borders. But who are refugees? Can we call anybody that crosses a border a refugee? Let's see the definition of refugee by United Nations.

“Refugee is a person who “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country..”

In short, and according to the definition the following fundamental criteria must exist in order to declare one is a refugee:

1. well-founded fear of persecution
2. living outside the country of nationality
3. unable or unwilling to return to his country because of safety

It was not a nice and smooth experience; it was a dehumanizing reality. First of all it is an unimaginable fact **to run away from your home country** because you are not accepted for the belief and opinion you would like to practice. One of the most difficult and unbecoming reality is to give up one's freedom. Freedom should be ubiquitous – everywhere and at the same time for everybody. When a human being lacks freedom, he reacts **or** rebels against those who are responsible for such an evil act. In the absence of **power to** protect his freedom any human being may try to avoid the deadly conflict against those who are viciously armed to revenge him.

Remaining in a dilemma, he wonders if he should fight for his natural freedom or surrender the struggle and leave to the land where they do not any **more bother** him. In other words, there are two uncompromising choices for him; either to stay or accept the consequence of persecution. One has to be a fatuous person to expect justice from those arrogant and power-mongering leaders. When reality strikes, and when desperation grows a person who expects right and peace must act soon before it is too late. The action he takes to save his life from the danger of persecution is only fleeing his country and passing through all the challenges that enable him to become a refugee in a land he never thinks to go to.

Fleeing his beloved home land is a lugubrious memory that is imprinted forever in the mind of this poor refugee. It is not only a sad memory, but also a

guilt that erode his consciousness for the long year to come in his life. Second, the journey to freedom is not a piece of cake. It is bitter. It is tiresome. It is risky. In most cases this journey takes weeks and even months. Scorching desert, surprising attacks from outlaws and unmerciful diseases enervate even the strong athletic and ebullient persons too.

Third, he who manages to reach to the refugee camp may yet face another type of challenges. He encounters with culture, language and society completely different from his. People dress quite differently and he starts to wonder if his manner of dressing is appropriate or not. Refugee women are the most affected ones by the manner of dressing. Even to some extent the food may be

inconvenient to his taste too. He may experience cultural shock that takes him long period of adjustment. In order for him to gain some respect from this strange society, he must behave their way and if he does it is a wise decision. of course. Securing an asylum from the country you fled to is not a guarantee of stability by itself. There are times when the

hosting government reacts oddly against the refugees and even forces them leave the country. In most case, UN tries to control the situation by negotiating with that particular government. If UN fails to convince the outrageous government, the safety of these refugees will be in

dangerous situation. Such cruel act of an apathetic government happens rarely, but when it happens its outcome is disastrous to the well-being of refugees. It is a trap – a trap refugee can not overcome. It is a situation when abject refugees do not know what to do. By the way, is there a law that protects refugees

when situation like this occurs. Yes! According to the 1951 Geneva Convention:

1. Refugees shall not be returned against their will to the country where their safety will be endangered.

2. They can claim basic refugee right in the country they get asylum: the right to work, the right to social benefit, the right to have travel document, the right to identity paper...

Generally there are five possible solutions in handling problem concerning refugees.

Being refugee is not a new phenomenon rather it existed in the past and troubles the world right now and will continue in the future if society does not act in a united way.

Refugee is not a one nation or an organization problem it is a global problem that needs global attention and that is why United Nation is assuming total responsibility to help refugees through its organization called UNHCR

– United Nation Higher Commission for Refugee. Let us see the five problem solving solutions:

1. Local Integration

If the first country offering

asylum agrees and has resources and land to support

Refugees, it is possible to settle them permanently. Marriage or securing adoption

Are some best examples to

mention.

- 2. Involuntary Repatriation**

This is the worst kind of scenario. It happens when the country denies asylum and forces them to return to their country.

3. Voluntary Repatriation

When refugee find condition in

his country changed and it is safe to return back, he does it voluntarily.

4. Refugee Status

voluntary repatriation and start a new life in a new country.

So far, UNHCR helped about 50 million refugees all over the world; currently with its 5000 staff over 120 countries UNHCR is helping about 22 million people. For detail information see the and statistics given below:

Estimated number of persons of concern who fall under the mandate of UNHCR

Region

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Asia | 8,450,000 |
| Africa | 6,072,900 |
| Europe | 5,571,700 |
| North America | 1,047,100 |
| Latin America & Caribbean | 575,600 |
| Oceanic | <u>76,000</u> |
| Total | 21,793.300 |

What is UNHCR?

When the first country to which the refugees flee grant asylum to the refugee.

5. Resettlement

A refugee that resides in the first country where he was granted asylum status gets a chance to resettle in the third country.

An acronym UNHCR stands for United Nation Higher Commission for

Refugees. It was established on

December 14, 1950 by the United

Nation General Assembly **to help people who** fled their countries with shelter, food, water and medicine. Beside giving **emergency** supports it also works toward securing long term solution like

Refugees from Burundi – a dilemma

“Burundian Refugees in Tanzania have still facing an uncertain future” says Refugee International on its report dated 6/192002. It sound that there is some kind of pressure on refugees from the Tanzanian authorities. Some Burundian refugees told Refugee International that they are told “Tanzania for Tanzania and Burundi for Brundi. Go home by truck now or by foot later”. Although the pressure exist Refugee International indicated that situation in Burundi is not favorable for refugees to go home. As a matter of fact refugees themselves are not seeing any suitable situation that invites them for repatriation. According the news, in 1991 about 30,000 refugees were returned home. In its report the US Committee for refugees pointed out that there are about 240,000 refugees from Bumndi in East Africa. They sense the worst condition in Zaire and Rwanda and they say ...there is a growing xenophobia in Tanzania”.

Contrary to the observation of RI, both government of Burundi and Tanzania insist that now is the right time for

refugees to go home. Various different sources prove there is still civil unrest in Burnndi. Refugee International is very much concerned about the safety of Burundian refugees and urges international community stops such risky forced retune and promote the following proposal:

“The international community maintains vigorous engagement and pressure on the Government of Burundi and the rebels groups to negotiate a cease-fire. Until a cease-fire is

negotiated in good faith, no donor pledges should be released.”

- “The international community supports the role of UNHCR as a member of the Tripartite Agreement and pressure signatories to communicate openly about security incidents to refugees in the camps in Tanzania...”
- “The right of refugees to seek asylum not to be abrogated **by** any party, and that there be no forced repatriation or refolement.”

Somali Refugees Are In Danger

Concerned for the safety of Somalia refugees, UNHCR asked the government of Kenya to relocate some 5,000 new refugees away from the volatile border area. According the report of UNHCR, about 17 refugees have died because of lack of food and different kind of diseases and water contamination. Most of these victims were children.

These people fled because of the fighting in Geddo region (Somalia). Gedclo is not far from the refugee’s camp where 5000 Somalians are kept. Because of its proximity, four refugees were killed by astray bullets.

In related news it is reported that there are over 213, 000 refugees in Kenya and among this number 129,000 are from Somalia alone. The government of Kenya is threatening to force these Smalian Refugees back to their home.

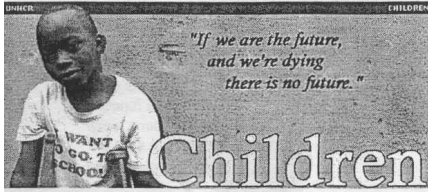
Most African Refugees flee...

We just picked up some African countries as a mple to show where most these African refugees go to

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| <u>TANZANIA</u> | 498,000 |
| Burundi | 350,000 |
| Congo-K | 120,000 |
| Rwanda | 25,000 |
| Somalia | 3,000 |
| <u>CONGO-KINSHASA</u> | 305,000 |
| Angola | 180,000 |
| Sudan | 70,000 |
| Burundi | 20,000 |
| Central-Af | 20,000 |
| Uganda | 10,000 |
| <u>KENYA</u> | 243,000 |
| Somalia | 160,000 |
| Sudan | 70,000 |
| Ethiopian | 5,000 |
| Uganda | 5,000 |
| Other | 3,000 |
| <u>ZAMBIA</u> | 270,000 |
| Angola | 210,000 |
| Congo-K | 50,000 |
| Rwanda | 5,000 |
| Burundi | 2,000 |
| Other | 3,000 |
| <u>GUINEA</u> | 190,000 |
| Sierra Leone | 100,000 |
| Liberia | 90,000 |
| <u>UGANDA</u> | 174,000 |
| Sudan | 150,000 |
| Rwanda | 15,000 |
| Congo-K | 8,000 |
| Somalia | 1,000 |
| <u>ETHIOPIA</u> | 114,000 |
| Sudan | 80,000 |
| Somalia | 30,000 |
| Eritrea | 4,000 |

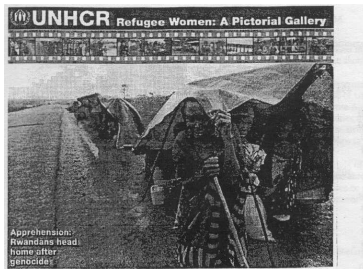


NB. This statistics is taken from USCR report of world refugee survey 2002.



A Child's World

In recent decades, literally tens of millions of children have been given a new chance to grow and prosper through better medical care, schooling or, in the case of refugees, through the protection and help of UNHCR and other humanitarian organisations. Despite these accomplishments, life remains desperate for millions of the world's youngest citizens, including 25 million children currently uprooted from their homes. A special summit on children, which had been cancelled because of the September 11 attacks in the United States, was held May 8-10 to review progress in helping these children.



Why a World Refugee Day?

Just as we make a special effort to remember our mothers on Mother's Day, we want the world's refugees to be remembered on their special day. For years, many countries and regions have been holding their own Refugee Days and even Weeks. One of the most widespread is Africa Refugee Day, which is celebrated on 20 June in several countries.

As an expression of solidarity with Africa, which hosts the most refugees, and which traditionally has shown them great generosity, a special UN General Assembly Resolution was unanimously adopted in 2000 which designated 20 June every year as World Refugee Day.

ECDC Conducted A Successful Conference

From May 13-15 2002, ECDC

conducted its annual African Refugee Conference with great achievement. The theme of the conference was *African*

Refugees: The Quest for Solutions in a Changing World. What makes this conference unique was the lining up of expert speakers who eloquently

addressed their messages clear and loud.

In his remarkable opening speech, Dr. Tsehaye hoped the conference would be educative and productive, indeed it was. Topics like fly/AIDS epidemic in Africa, women's issue, human right concerns, refugee admissions, were discussed thoroughly. Among high ranking guests and speakers were Gene Dewey Assistant Secretary of State, Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), Nguyen Van Hahn Director of ORR, Frank Sharry Executive director of National

Immigration Forum, and Kathleen

Thompson Director Refugee Programs, iNS.

The motivational and energizing key note speaker was one prolific Ethiopian Immigrant called Dr. Noah A. Samara. Samara is a pioneer of Satellite Broadcast System. "Samara is an immigrant from Ethiopia who founded WorldSpace in 1990 when he was only 34 years old, motivated initially to stop the spread of AIDS in Africa by sharing information about transmission and prevention through direct audio broadcasts via satellite. ..the potential audience for the WorldSpace service is more than five billion people, according to a company projection." Writes African Resource NETWORK on its April 2002 issue.

African Refugee. NEIWORIC;0]

Participants at *ECDCIAP.N's* annual conference approved this resolution during the concluding "Town Hall" session.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the suspension of the United States refugee resettlement program and its slow recovery in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks have produced tragic consequences for many African refugees who were anticipating reunions with family members already living here; and,

WHEREAS, thousands of additional refugees still languish in camps throughout Africa where malnutrition is rampant housing inadequate, health care minimal and abuse of women and children a growing reality; and, -

WHEREAS, resettlement to a third country is the only viable solution for many of these refugees; and for other urban refugees stranded in such areas as Moscow and Cairo where they are increasingly being vandalized by hate groups ,and,

WHEREAS, the annual admissions ceiling for Africa has traditionally lagged behind other areas, even though they account for more than 30 percent of refugees worldwide,

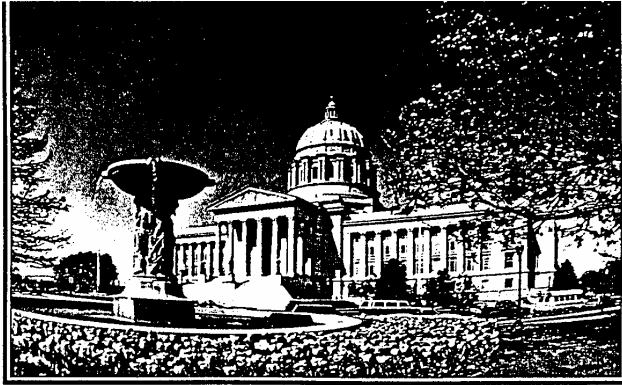
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that the United States increase its support for refugee protection and assistance by allocating a minimum of \$841 million for the Department of State's Migration and Refugee Assistance account for fiscal year 2003, an amount that would provide \$581 million for overseas assistance, and accommodate an overall admissions level up to 90,000 refugees; and,

that the African refugee admissions ceiling be increased to at least 50,000 over the next two years to make up for the shortfall resulting from the

interrupted flow this year, and adjusted annually thereafter to a level more consistent with their numbers and needs.

Unanimously approved by attendees of the conference with grateful acknowledgment of the generous support our new homeland has historically provided to refugees, immigrants and asylees and with confident hope that the tragic events of September 11 will not erode America's tradition of hospitality and welcome for the world's dispossessed.



Missouri's STATE CAPITOL

State government in Missouri focuses on the state's beautiful, domed Capitol, dominating the bluffs of the Missouri River in Jefferson City.

The dome, rising 238 feet above ground level and topped by a bronze statue of Ceres, goddess of agriculture, is the first view of Jefferson City for travelers arriving from the north. The structure is Jefferson City's leading tourist attraction and is a mecca for school groups who arrive by busloads, particularly during General Assembly sessions when they fill the galleries to watch the Senate and House of Representatives in action.

In addition to housing the two legislative bodies, the Capitol provides office space for the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, state auditor and some administrative agencies. The structure is also notable for its architectural features, including its six 48-foot columns on the south portico and eight 48-foot columns on the north side; its 30-foot wide grand stairway and its bronze front doors, each 13 by 18 feet—largest cast since the Roman era.

The Capitol's first floor features the State Museum. Outstanding paintings, pediments and friezes decorate the Capitol interior. A prime attraction is a series of Thomas Hart Benton murals in the House Lounge.

Statuary is a prominent feature of the Capitol grounds. Heroic bronze figures depicting Missouri's two great rivers, the Mississippi and Missouri, and a 13-foot statue of Thomas Jefferson dominate the south entrance. A bronze relief depicting the signing of the Louisiana Purchase by Livingston, Monroe and Marbois and the Fountain of the Centaurs are the most outstanding features on the north grounds.

The present Capitol, completed in 1917 and occupied the following year, is the third Capitol in Jefferson City and the sixth in Missouri history. The first seat of state government was housed in the Mansion House, Third and Vine Streets, St. Louis; the second was in the Missouri Hotel, Maine and Morgan Streets, also in St. Louis. St. Charles was designated as temporary capital of the state in 1821 and remained the seat of government until 1826 when Jefferson City became the permanent capital city. The first

capitol in Jefferson City burned in 1837 and a second structure
u iplcid iii I K4() burned wlicii the dome was struck by I igitning on I chruary 5. 19 I
The present Capitol was constructed for \$4,215,000, including site and furnishings. It is
five stories high. 437 feet long. 300 feet wide in the center and 200 feet wide in the
wings. The dome is 23% feet high and the height of the wings is 88 feet. It includes
500.000 square feet of floor
space.

Matt Blunt, Secretary of State

Missouri

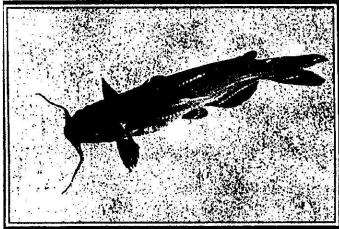


THE GREAT SEAL OF MISSOURI

The Great Seal was designed by Judge Robert William Wells and adopted by the Missouri General Assembly on January 12, 1822. The center of the state seal is composed of two parts. On the right is the United States coat-of-arms containing the bald eagle. In its claws are arrows and olive branches, signifying that the power of war and peace lies with the U.S. federal government. On the left side of the shield, the state side, are a grizzly bear and a silver crescent moon. The crescent symbolizes Missouri at the time of the state seal's creation, a State of small population and wealth which would increase like the new or crescent moon; it also symbolizes the "second son," meaning Missouri was the second state formed out of the Louisiana Territory.

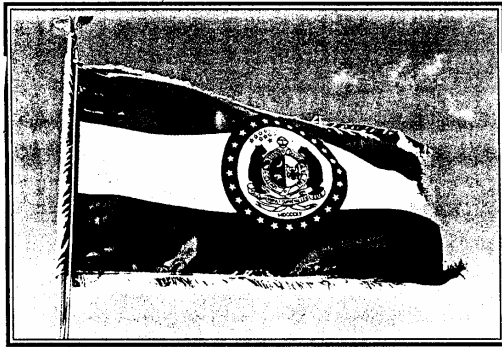
This shield is encircled by a belt inscribed with the motto, "United we stand, divided we fall," which indicates Missouri's advantage as a member of the United States. The two grizzlies on either side of the shield symbolize the state's strength and its citizens' bravery. The bears stand atop a scroll bearing the state motto, "Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto," which means, "Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law." Below this scroll are the Roman numerals for 1820, the year Missouri began its functions as a state. The helmet above the shield represents state sovereignty, and the large star atop the

helmet surrounded by 23 smaller stars signifies Missouri's status as the 24th state. The cloud around the large star indicates the problems Missouri had in becoming a state. The whole state seal is enclosed by a scroll bearing the words, "The Great Seal of the State of Missouri." (RSMo 10.060)



The STATE FISH

On May 23, 1997, Governor Mel Carnahan signed a bill designating the channel catfish as the official fish of Missouri. The channel catfish (*ictalurus punctatus*) is slender, with a deeply forked tail. Young have spots that disappear with age. The catfish does not rely on sight to find its food; instead, it uses cat-like whiskers to assist in the hunt. The channel cat is the most abundant large catfish in Missouri streams. Its diet includes animal and plant material. Adults are normally 12 to 32 inches long and weigh from a half-pound to 15 pounds. (RSMo 10.135)



THE STATE FLAG

Nearly 100 years after achieving statehood, Missouri adopted an official flag on March 22, 1913. The flag was designed by the late Mrs. Marie Elizabeth Watkins Oliver, wife of former State Senator RB. Oliver. The flag consists of three horizontal stripes of red, white and blue. These represent valor, purity, vigilance and justice. In the center white stripe is the Missouri coat-of-arms, circled by a blue band containing 24 stars, denoting that Missouri was the 24th state. (RSMo 10.020)



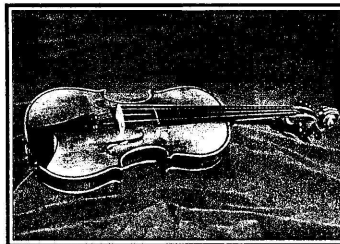
THE STATE MINERAL

On July 21, 1967, the mineral **galena** was adopted as the official mineral of Missouri. Galena is the major source of lead ore, and the recognition of this mineral by the state legislature was to emphasize Missouri's status as the nation's top producer of lead. Galena is dark gray in color and breaks into small cubes. Mining of galena has flourished in the Joplin-Granby area of southwest Missouri, and rich deposits have been located in such places as Crawford, Washington, Iron and Reynolds counties. (RSMo 10.047)



THE STATE INSECT

On July 3, 1985, Governor John Ashcroft signed a bill designating the honeybee as Missouri's state insect. The honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) yellow or orange and black in color, is a social insect which collects nectar and pollen from flower blossoms in order to produce honey. The honeybee is common to Missouri and is cultivated by beekeepers for honey production. (RSMO 10.070)



THE STATE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

The **fiddle** became the state's official musical instrument on July 17, 1987. Brought to Missouri in the late 1700s by fur traders and settlers, the fiddle quickly became popular. The instrument was adaptable to many forms of music, could be played without extensive formal training and was light and easy to carry. For generations, the local fiddle player was the sole source of entertainment in many communities and held a position of great respect in the region. (RSMO 10.080)



THE STATE FLORAL EMBLEM

On March 16, 1923, Governor Arthur M. Hyde signed a bill naming the white hawthorn blossom the official state floral emblem of Missouri. Known as the "red haw" or "white haw," the hawthorn (*Crataegus*) is a member of the great rose family, which resembles the apple group. The hawthorn blossoms have greenish—yellow centers and form in white clusters. More than 75 species of the hawthorn grow in Missouri, particularly in the **Ozarks**. (RSMO 10.030)



THE STATE ROCK Mozarkite

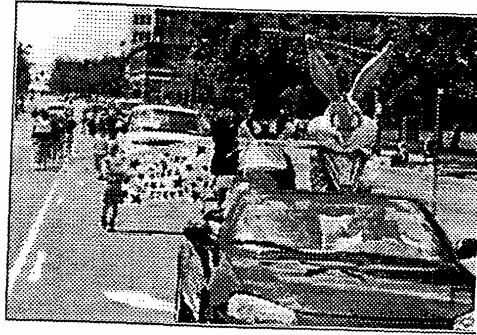
was adopted as the official state rock on July 21, 1967, by the 74th General Assembly. An attractive rock, mozarkite appears in a variety of colors, most predominantly green, red or purple. The rock's beauty is enhanced by cutting and polishing into ornamental shapes for jewelry. Mozarkite is most commonly found in Benton County. (RSMO 10.045)

Festival of Nations brought the world to Tower Grove Park

When it comes to organizing festival that entertains the global refugee's cultural show, the master is International Institute of St. Louis. Refugees group from Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America came to celebrate this bonanza like events by bringing their unique cultures: traditional dress, delicious food, sweet music and various kinds of exhibitions were all over the Tower Grove Park on June 8 and 9, 2002.

Ethiopian Community Association of Missouri was one of the happiest participants of this fabulous festival of Nations. Wearing their traditional colorful dress Tsehay and Haregewein were attracting the attention of people who came to the festival. While Hareg was displaying her skillful weaving threads craftsmanship, Tsehay was serving Ethiopian coffee in style to the people in the shade. Mesay and her family were busy selling spicy Ethiopian food too. The Unity soccer team of Ethiopia also participated in the 2002 International Soccer Tournament.

International Institute brought the whole world to the Tower Grove Park. We refugees have exposed our cultural heritages to the people gathering in the Park and they liked it. The message of the festival was clear — it tells that we are part of you and we bring with us the most valuable and unique culture to contribute to this wonderful land - USA.



St. Louisans representing their world heritages as well as neighborhoods, businesses, and social groups participate the annual Festival of Nations Parade.



Festival of Nations and its Parade are great fun for St. Louisans of all ages and all heritages!



Annually, the Community Performance Ensemble delights audiences at Festival of Nations and at International Folk.

Photos: from website of International Institute of St. Louis.

