

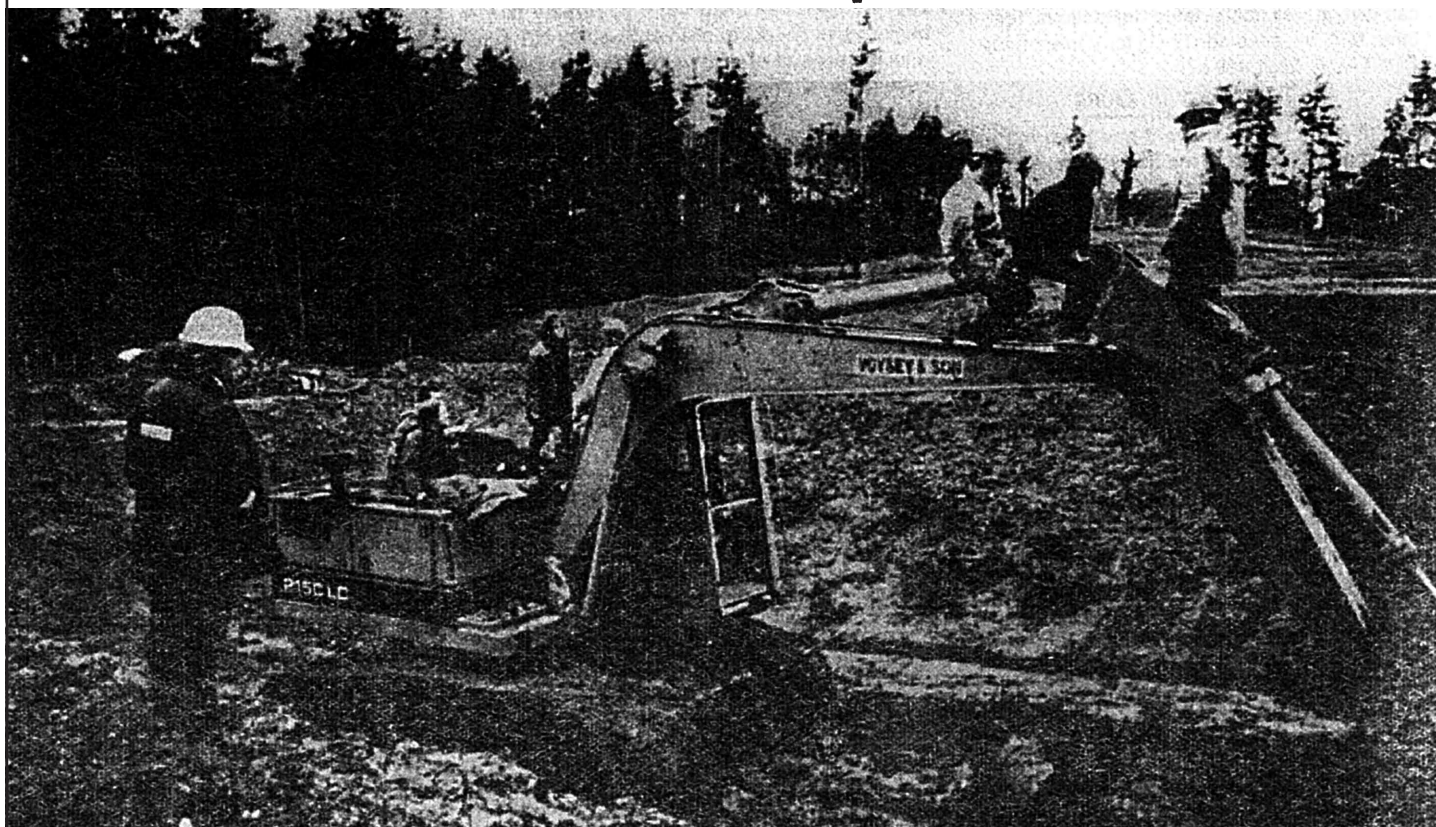


EARTH FIRST!

ACTION UPDATE

No 15 **30p**
APRIL 95

" Mae'n cwl i dorri pethe' "



A30 ACTION TAKE TO THE DIGGERS

POLLOK ESTATE

Wimpey Construction are still trying to bulldoze the M77 through Pollok Estate in Glasgow. The 2nd locals' protest camp at Corkerhill has now fallen. Many direct actions have obstructed works but there have also been many arrests. The school strike is now off, as parents were threatened with fines. "OPERATION ROADBLOCK", a month of daily direct action, will be launched in May, contact Glasgow EF! for further details and to put your name on the rota. NOW!

On Friday, 17th March a Wimpey executive entered the Pollok Free State camp and stated that Wimpey would be evicting the camp within the next two weeks. The camp is protecting a small beech woodland along the route of the road and is the main focus of resistance. Reports, on going to press (22/3), suggest that the threatened eviction of the camp is about to take place with over 200 security guards and police officers surrounding the site. The AGM of the Wimpey Group is late April so any actions to raise the awareness in the minds of the shareholders would be very welcome. eg. Office occupations (contact Road Alert! 01635 521770 if you are unsure how to do one). Avon Gorge, Norfolk, and Upper Nene EF! have all recently done them. Or why not visit a Wimpey Homes site near you. Ask if Wimpey

Homes is part of the Wimpey Group that's building the M77, whilst making yourself at home.

The pressure is on! Please help support the No M77 Campaign in Glasgow by making Wimpey regret ever taking on this contract and also warn other contractors not to take on controversial projects. For further information contact... Pollok Free State on: 0860 728244 (camp mobile), 0860 223068 (second mobile), 0141 810 1600 (office), 0141 636 1924 (other office).

No M65!

Several tracks are currently being bulldozed into Stanworth Valley, near Preston. The contractors want to be able to move heavy machinery into the woods to try and remove protesters. They are living in an aerial village of 22 tree houses. This will be impossible to evict without large cherry-pickers, large men with chainsaws etc. The only way this machinery can get into Stanworth Valley is by building these tracks. The campaign desperately needs people to obstruct the contractors on the ground as the tree house dwellers can't afford to be bailed off the site - the current tactic to weaken the protest - go along and get in the way even for a day. Ring 0161 861 7895 If not you, who? Tomorrow it will be too late,

A30 ACTION

The 16 mile long A30 road "improvement" near Exeter is yet another Euroroute in disguise. Many of the trees and hedgerows along the route have already been destroyed but construction has not yet started. At the moment A30 Action are defending a 400 year old Oak tree, two mature copses and one of the oldest badger sets in the country. However, here's the good news! Due to the government's policy of privatising road building the contract for construction has been put out for tender and they are having difficulty finding anyone to take it on. Private investors will not be able to afford the cost that a major direct action campaign would incur. The presence of A30 Action has had a major effect and is placing the future of this road in the balance. As always they are desperately short of resources - donations, people, ropes, tarps, etc. See what you can do for them. Check diary dates for events. Contact: 01392 438015 / 0385 278157

No M11 UPDATE

There are still regular actions at the M11 - there's a lot of concrete trying to be poured at the moment and they're just starting to get to the interesting bits of the tunnel construction under George Green. With the fall of Claremont Rd. the campaigns focus has relocated to "Greenmania" complete with

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tree-dwelling protesters. This is at the Green Man roundabout between Wanstead and Leytonstone. They're itching to put new and innovative NVDA techniques into practise but the opportunity has yet to arise as the State bottled and didn't try to go in on the widely grapevined 21/3. 50 of us turned up though and a good time was had. While this "Cry Wolf" tactic has long been used as a windup (repeatedly at Claremont) sources still reckon that an attack is imminent in the week following; so the word is **TURN UP**. Even if they don't turn up that day your day will not be wasted as actions always follow false starts. Obviously any support you can give is well appreciated. Injunctions from the other M11 link sites don't hold for "Greenmania"... **CONTACT: 0181 989 8741**

THE LAND IS OURS

The direct action movement has been the most potent popular force of the 90's. However, so far, it has been responding to the government's agenda (such as road building or the Criminal Justice Act) rather than setting it's own. The aim of the land reform movement is set the agenda and force the government to respond to it. The land is our common inheritance. Yet today between 50 and 75% of Britain is owned by one percent of it's people. With the land comes the power to exclude, legislate and destroy. "The Land is Ours" campaign proposes reforms to land ownership and its use. To draw attention to its aims an area of land with symbolic importance in Southern England will be occupied for the week starting April 23rd. The site will be away from roads and houses, and with clean water and sanitation. Bring tents, tarpaulins and any useful materials. There will also be circus acts, music, storytelling.... DIY Culture in action! Assemble Cooltan Arts Centre, 372 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, London SW9 by 10am, April 23rd. There will be transport, but if you can, bring your own and take others. Feel free to come and go if you can't spare a whole week. Send a SAE to Land Reform, Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ. Ring Freedom Network for the location.

RECLAIM THE LAND

Darlington EF! (NE England) are planning to reclaim their last bit of greenbelt, before it is turned into an executive commuter housing estate. The proposed development faces strong local opposition and is not seen as a solution to local housing problems. Darlington EF! intend to set up a camp on the land with tree houses and benders. However, they need help setting it up. Skills, tools, people and money are urgently needed to save their last piece of natural land. Phone 01325 356586

Gwynedd EF! are campaigning against Arfon council's decision to allow 300 new executive houses to be built on meadows at Brewery Fields. These new houses are not for the needs of local people but are rather for the advantage of commuters using the so-called A55 corridor. 99% of locals oppose the new development and a petition of 1500 names has been drawn up. The building will threaten 240 species of wild flower, 80 species of birds and 12 different kinds of mammal. Phone 01248 600286/371562

PRISONER SUPPORT

Jim Chambers, a long-serving campaigner against the M11 Link Road, has been remanded in custody after police accused him and one other person of committing £50,000 worth of criminal damage on

a road construction site. He's being held in Wormwood Scrubs prison awaiting trial; which may not take place for several months. Sentence first, trial later. The Crown Prosecution Service are obviously trying to make an example of him and set a precedent. It's vital that Jim receives letters of support - it makes a HUGE difference to have something to read and to know that people outside are thinking of you. Write to: Jim Chambers - PV2504, HMP Wormwood Scrubs, PO Box 757, DuCane Road, London, W12 OAE.

SOLSBURY HILL - ANNIVERSARY

200 protesters marked the anniversary of the beginning of the destruction of Solsbury Hill. Over a long weekend of actions the site was invaded several times and work was stopped on at least two days.

On March 14th, local lad Eddie, quit his job as security guard at the construction site. Egged on by jubilant protesters, Eddie threw off his yellow jacket and walked off site, forfeiting not only his job but his wages for his previous 61 hours work. When asked what prompted his dramatic decision Eddie replied, "It just wasn't worth it any more. The security guards were dragging people off the diggers and it was dangerous. Plus, I was sick of the mud".

On the Tuesday one person was arrested on a trumped up assault charge and bailed to appear at Bath Magistrates Court on April 19th, 9.30am. Tel. 01222 343066. Solsbury Hill Action Group are still organising actions and they are having a Beltaine Gathering on the Hill.

TRESPASSERS PICNIC

On April 11th and 12th, four Manchester EF!ers will be in court charged with Aggravated Trespass under the Criminal Injustice Act. This was the first CJA arrest in the country, (4th Nov.) and in conjunction with this legal event, a teddy bear's picnic will be held in Crown Square Manchester, organised by the Freedom Network, phone 0161 248 9310. Be there, or get up to the M65 and take their place, defending Stanworth Valley.

EARTH FIRST! NATIONAL GATHERING

Will be from Thursday 13th to Monday 17th April near Swindon. All are welcome. If you've never been to an Earth First! event in your life - this is the time to start! It'll be empowering, and you'll make loads of new friends / learn new skills - an essential part of building the network.

We'll be camping at Collymore Farm, Coles Hill (about 5 miles from Swindon) on the B4019 Swindon to Farringdon road. Bring information, ideas for workshops, tent/bender material, warm clothes, drums etc. A Catering Crew from Cornwall will be on site, providing meals at £2.50 per day, or bring your own. The last bus leaves Swindon at 6pm - get the one to Highworth. Maps will be useful to find the site! A minibus will be going to the railway station and Highworth at 8 and 10.30 pm to pick up stragglers on the Thursday night.

A selection of workshops/talks are already planned but if you can, try and think of something you could offer, be it information about your area or skills you may have - building/climbing/ stopping things! Phone 01794 512790 / 01635 521770

WHAM BAM, THANK YOU LAMB.

The Lloyds and Midland Boycott has recently had direct actions at branches across the country, including Manchester, Hull, Sheffield, Cambridge, Norwich and many others. Bank branches are a



Eddie gives digger diving the thumbs up.

CJA free zone. Lock on to a leaflet dispenser now!

The second National LAMB gathering occurred in Leeds on the 3-4th March. It was highly informative and featured some excellent workshops. Lloyds AGM has also just occurred... details next month! The focus of LAMB's attentions this time were the banks approach to hydro electric dams, especially that of the Bakun Dam in Sarawak, and the barbarous funding of the arms trade. The Lloyds Annual Report, published last month, was full of how these bastards claim to be environmentally friendly. Don't let them get away with it. Ring 0161 274 4665.

ACTION LINE

The Freedom Network have set up a 24 hour action line. Ring 0171 5019253. If you wish to advertise an event on the action line ring 0171 7386721

TO POLLOK WITH LURVE!

4 cars, 21 activists and a mission from Mother Earth.... sounds like the basis for a road movie. Which indeed it was! Welcome to the surreal world of TO POLLOK WITH LOVE. The plan: to drive 4 old and brightly painted cars to Pollok Park, Glasgow, to help finish 'Carhenge', the ultimate symbol of the decline of the car culture. Starting in Oxford, the convoy made several visits en route. In Walsall, the grand opening of the Black Country Spine route, with VIP guest Dr. Brian Mawhinney, was disrupted. In Newcastle-under-Lyme, the convoy joined forces with the local FoE group to express their anxieties about the M6 widening to the head of the local council. At the M65 campaign, the convoy helped in barricading one of the squats.... with the help of a few tons of cement! Then on to the Pollok Free State where, via a procession around the estates of south Glasgow, the cars were lead to their final burial. Nine upended cars in a circle stand in defiance of the people that would destroy the land.... the only cars that will ever be seen in Pollok Park....

You've read the article, now watch the film.... available in June on Undercurrents 3 from Small World Media at 46 Rymer's Lane, Oxford, OX4 3LB, Tel: 01865 712521

FREE EAST TIMOR

British Aerospace (BAe) signed a deal with Indonesia in June 1993 for the supply of 24 Hawk aircraft. These planes will start leaving Britain towards the end of 1995. Indonesia illegally invaded East Timor in 1975. Since then a third of the original population (200,000) have died as a direct result of the invasion and continued occupation by the Indonesian military. Hawk aircraft (from previous

How to contact Earth First! Action Update.

By phone 01222 383363 and dictate a message into our Answer phone, or by post: Action Update c/o Cardiff EF!, PO Box 7, Cardiff, CF2 4XX, or by FAX on 01222 640666, or finally by email to 'dhwilcox@cix.compulink.co.uk'. Articles should reach us not later than the 20th of the month for inclusion in next months AU! Thank you for your contributions. - The AU team.

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deals with BAe) have been seen on bombing raids in East Timor. It is widely believed that planes from this latest deal will also be used to attack civilians in East Timor.

On SATURDAY 8th APRIL there will be a planning/training day in Manchester for people who wish to take direct action to help the people of East Timor. Ring Stop the Hawk Deal on 0161 834 0295 / 01457 871 609. It is hoped that people will form affinity groups and plan actions to coincide with BAe's AGM on 4th May. Contact CAAT 0171 281 0297 for details. Also, SUNDAY 23rd : NVDA training in London: 0171 561 1236.

STOP PRESS: Chris Cole from the Ploughshares Group recently broke an injunction preventing him from entering BAe property. His court case is Friday 24th March and he faces a 2 year jail sentence. Contact 0151 5461688

CRISP-O

CRISP-O (Citizens Recovery of Indigenous peoples Stolen Property Organisation) recently seized items of mahogany, believed to have been stolen from the indigenous peoples of the Amazon, from Robert Sayle's store in Cambridge. The mahogany was handed in at Parkside police station, Cambridge.

GENETIC ENGINEERING

GenData - an off shoot of Corporate Watch has produced a pack on the Bio-technology industry and the implications for the South, the environment, and animal rights. Contact via Manchester Earth First! Tel: 0161 2744665

RENTAMOB SAVE WOODLANDS!

Avon Gorge EF! got a desperate call recently from a lady whose local woodlands were being destroyed. "They want to build a golf course, but planning permission was turned down," she said. "Now they're appealing against the decision and The Forestry Commission are bulldozing the woods in advance - please help, we've tried everything!" So a few Earth Firsters went along that day to the 50 acre woods near Bristol, D-locked themselves to machinery and stopped the chainsaws. An astounded Forestry Commission official agreed to meet local people the next day, where their views were explained to him. A few weeks later planning permission for the golf course was again turned down! The moral of this story is make sure you have a reliable contact number and people know you exist!

14 YEARS FOR A.L.F. MEMBER

Keith Mann 28, a member of the Animal Liberation Front, was jailed for 14 years at the Old Bailey on Monday 19th December 1994. His "crime" was criminal damage to 3 meat vehicles and escape from custody. Keith did not harm life, in accordance with the Animal Liberation Front's philosophy of nonviolence to all things. His obscene sentence was intended as a threat to all those who put life before property, particularly in the animal rights movement. Keith has also been classed as a Category A prisoner, following his escape from custody, placing controls on who visits him and

the mail he receives. For more information / offers of support, send an SAE to: Justice for Keith Mann, c/o ICA, PO BOX 1135, Downs View Road, Hassocks, W.Sussex. BN6 8AA.

"You can imprison an individual, but you cannot imprison an ideal."

CRITICAL MASS

Police threatened to ban a Critical Mass cycle ride under the CJA unless Norwich Cycling Campaign allowed them to control it. Fortunately, police intervention worked to the cyclists' advantage: all city centre streets were closed to cars in order to let them pass, causing even more chaos for motorists than was expected. Must be the first time the ACT has been used on a cycle ride.....and it's not even applicable!

McLIBLE- TRIAL LATEST

The court is currently listening to evidence on food safety and animal welfare. Mr Walker, from McDonald's sole hamburger supplier, explained how all raw beef supplies to the process plants are sampled, tested, and characterised as 'satisfactory', 'passable', and 'unsatisfactory'. He stated that 'unsatisfactory' relates to beef which has a total colony of more than 10 million bacteria per gram. He then admitted that such consignments are not rejected but are used for McDonald's hamburgers. McDonald's have admitted responsibility for a serious food poisoning outbreak in Preston in 1991. The Employment section of the Trial begins late April. Forty ex-employees will be testifying about the poor pay and conditions; trade union officials and activists from around the world will give evidence on McDonald's hostility to trade unions. Saturday 15th April, is the 40th birthday of McDonald's, and an International Day of Action - picket your local McD's! Tel: 0171 7131269

IF YOUR NAME'S NOT ON THE LIST...

...it soon will be! In the wave of protests over live exports the Police have announced the formation of a new unit dealing with "Animal Rights Protesters". The Police already have a national "index" of animal rights activists, the new unit's role will be to ensure that this information actually gets USED by local forces, and to coordinate these operations.

TARMAC DERBYSHIRE!

Tarmac have got the contract to build the A564, a 110 million pounds, 15-mile road, linking the M1 and M6. As usual the most destructive route possible has been chosen, across Derbyshire, taking in archeological sites and badger sets. It is been built partly to assist access to a lovely new Toyota car factory. Roads to help build more cars, so we need more roads... the madness continues. Actions happening, contact 01332 204097.

PHONE PHREAKING!

Save dialling 141 before each call to Wimpey Head office or the like, have the operator set it automatically. Just ask, it's a free service. From then on every call from that particular phone will remain anonymous.

EDITORIAL

Greetings Fellow Earth Firsters - hope the April Fools went well....! Sorry if anyone tried to leave us a message recently but our answer phone packed up ... it has now healed itself!! The deadline for the May edition is April 20th. So send us any articles, news, dates, photos, criticisms and cartoons. If you send it - we will print it - but keep it short. Could every group also please send a telephone and or E-mail number to us in Cardiff even if it's only a short term one. It makes contacting the network so much easier for us all. Also, if anyone has got access to cheap printing facilities could they please let us know, as we may no longer have our present ones...help!! Lastly, Manchester Earth First! are still desperately waiting for money from some of the groups to cover printing and distribution costs. Go on, raise a fiver and send it to them or this might be the last Action Update. If you're coming to the gathering pay them there. See you at the gathering!

DISCLAIMER: Reality is an illusionary spectacle. Any actions within this are merely the roles that we have been assigned - so we ain't inciting nothin'...

Diary Dates

APRIL

Saturday 1st : Mass Trespass at Eithnog, (N.Wales) Gwynedd EF! 01248 600286.

Saturday 1st : Mass Trespass at the A30, Exeter 01392 438015.

1st - 7th : International Earth Liberation Front Nights - you know what to do!

1st - 8th : Greenhouse Gathering, Berlin. A SEED (Amsterdam) 0031 20 668 2236.

7th-9th : Ploughshares Support Network Gathering near Oxford 01604 718481

Saturday 8th : Planning & training day in Manchester for Stop the Hawk Deal Ring 0161 834 0295 / 01457 871 609

Saturday 8th : March against the CJA. 12 Noon outside City Hall, Cardiff.

11th - 12th : Trial begins of the first EF! people nicked under CJA. Support needed. 0161 248 9310 or 0161 274 4665.

13 -17th : EARTH FIRST! NATIONAL GATHERING. Collymore Farm, Coles Hill, nr Swindon. 01794 512790.

14 - 17th : Youth CND march from Aldermaston to Westminster Central Hall. 0171 607 3616.

14 - 16th : Barricading Weekend on the A30 01392 438015

15 - 17th : Actions at Vallee d'Aspe, France 030 722586.

Saturday 15th : International Day of Action against McDonalds 0171 713 1269.

Monday 17th : Mass Civil Disobedience, London. CND 0171 6073616.

Wednesday 19th: Court Appearance of the Solsbury Hill Scape Goat, Bath. Phone 01222 343066

Sunday 23rd : NVDA training for BAe. A.G.M., London 0171 561 1236.

23rd - 30th : THE LAND IS OURS - a week long occupation of a soon to be well know site in southern England. See Article.

25th - 30th : Training for Activists, Jigsaw Non Violence Project, Oxford. Emma 01865 770833.

28th - 1st May : Shut Sellafeld Action, Vigil, Peace Camp & Party. 01706 371387.

30th - 2nd May : Beltaine Gathering at the A30 Fairmile Site 0385 278157

MAY

Monday 1st (or Sunday 30th April??) : Anti CJA Parade in London. Contact Coalition Against the CJA : 0181 8015285

Friday 4th: British Aerospace Engineering's AGM.

Monday 15th : International Climate Action Day. 0031 20 693 2024 - mad anti roads/cars actions all over Europe - get planning yours.

JUNE

Thursday 1st : 10th Anniversary of the Battle of the Beanfield, and Saturday 3rd : Stonehenge Walk starts. Contact: Stonehenge Campaign, c/o 99 Torriano Ave, London NW5 2RX

Saturday 10th : Anniversary of Hawk Deal Protest 0171 281 0297

15th - 17th : Liberty Human Rights Convention 0171 357 8689.

21st-25th Glastonbury Festival - anyone got an EF! site going?

JULY

Friday 7th: Free Festival in conjunction with Free Stonehenge Campaign

AUGUST

1st - 18th : Ecotopia 95 Poland, 00 31 20 665 7743 - one seriously big environmental gathering / communal living experience.

EF! CONTACTS

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01392 438015. *Mobile:0385
278157*

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0121 449 6675

Blackmore Vale EF!
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Students Union
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socs203@vaxa.york.ac.uk

Support Groups

Justice? Legal Defence
c/o Prior House
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Brighton BN2 2GY
01273 685913

Earth Liberation Prisoners
c/o Mid-Somerset EF!

Corporate Watch
c/o Oxford EF!

Freedom Network
371 Coldharbour Lane
Brixton
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If you know of any
changes to this list-
let us know! Recent
alterations in italics.



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Name: _____

Address: _____

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