

NEPALI LIVELIHOODS

Images of a bygone era by Toni Hagen

Calendar

2009



The early morning winter sun is rewarding not only to dry earthen vessels but also to bring charming smiles to the faces of these young girls from a potter's family in the hilly districts of eastern Nepal.

NEPALI LIVELIHOODS



Handloom weaving, a subsistence part-time labour of mountain women, is still very much part of the domestic scene in the mid-hills and mountains of Nepal. Weaving has now been gradually developed to produce souvenir textiles of Nepali handicraft for sale and export.

JANUARY

2009

Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



This image of an ironsmith at work, clad in a very unusual white attire with peasant customers looking on, would have been rare catch for Toni Hagen.

FEBRUARY

2009

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

NEPALI LIVELIHOODS



The castration of a bull, however crude the technology might be, is neatly carried out with skilled hands. Castrated bulls are still the only 'power machines' to till the mountain terraces of Nepal.

MARCH

2009

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Shallow water hill streams allow the funnelling of fish into bamboo traps known as *duwali*. The tattered clothes of these fishermen indicate their precarious livelihood. Poverty is still widespread in Nepal but such tattered clothing is no longer visible.

APRIL

2009

We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th
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Highland dwellers are excellent herders and yak breeders. A cross between highland yaks/naks and lowland cattle results in *chauri* cows whose offspring do not survive for more than a few days but milking continues for months. The *chauri*, thus, is virtually a milk machine.

MAY

2009

Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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The machine to express oil from mustard seeds is run by bull power. Remote areas in Nepal still use this technique.

JUNE

2009

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu
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Salt traders of the upper Karnali used to bring rock salt from Tibet, using sheep and goats as pack animals. Salt was sold or bartered with rice, and measured by volume, not weight.

JULY

2009

We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
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Making wooden vessels from heartwood is an age-old tradition. The axle is driven by hand straps but has now been largely replaced by electric motors.

AUGUST

2009

Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo
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Mud bricks are sun baked before going into the kilns. The Kathmandu Valley was famous for its bricks and tiles and is now equally infamous for the pollution caused by brick kilns.

SEPTEMBER

2009

Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We
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Highland-dwellers from Nepal's yak country produce excellent *chhurpi* (dried cheese) from the debuttered milk of *chauri* cows. The resinous smoke from the fire using fir and juniper wood has turned the cave-like setting almost black.

OCTOBER

2009

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Canoe-making using the simple axe. It takes almost the entire trunk of a mature tree to prepare a dugout. The Bote/Majhi of the mid-hills and the Inner Terai still make a living ferrying people on such canoes.

NOVEMBER

2009

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2009

Riverside plateaus called *tar* are very productive for growing black grain lentils, *masko dal*. Lentil-thrashing in the warm winter sun is part of peasant women's household chores.

DECEMBER

2009

Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th
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NEPALI LIVELIHOODS



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



Toni Hagen (1917-2003)



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER

Swiss geologist Toni Hagen first came to Nepal in 1950 as part of a technical assistance team sent by the Swiss government to help with the tentative steps at introducing western-style development. That was an era when foreigners had to seek government permission to travel outside the Kathmandu Valley. As the geologist in the Swiss team, Hagen was allowed to go around the countryside, an experience that whetted his desire to see more of this 'unknown' land. Thus began a relationship with a country that grew into a close friendship over the course of half a century.

Toni Hagen was later taken over by the United Nations to conduct the first geological survey of Nepal, making him the original 'UN expert' in the country. He spent nearly a decade doing that during which he travelled more than 14,000 km on foot. His explorations took him all over Nepal and he saw the country like no one else had before him, and very few have since. Hagen's experience of those early days, his geological findings and his views on the society and economy of Nepal have been documented in *Nepal: The Kingdom in the Himalaya* (4th ed, Himal Books, Kathmandu, 1998). Hagen's colour photographs in the book for the first time exposed the social diversity and varied landscape of Nepal. This was a landmark book which introduced Nepal to the world and to Nepalis themselves.

With time, Hagen became deeply involved in the study and practice of development in Asia and elsewhere. But he always kept a keen interest in what was happening in Nepal. He continued to critique Nepal's path to progress and never faltered in his belief that socioeconomic advancement was not possible without genuine democracy achieved through decentralisation. For his contribution to scholarship on Nepal, in 1984 the then Royal Nepal Academy awarded him the 'Birendra Pragyalanakar', the highest recognition given by the Nepali state to foreign scholars.

The Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal was set up in 2000 to continue the work begun by Toni Hagen long ago to promote an understanding of the Himalaya and its geography, among Nepalis themselves and in the outside world. This calendar is part of the same attempt and contains pictures taken from the 1950s by Toni Hagen. The slides from the Toni Hagen collection were made available by his family

Calendar © Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal



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