

Holmes



ANNUAL REPORT

1963-1964



RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

ANNUAL REPORT
of
INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES, INC.,
Rural Development Division Team (VARDA)
LAOS

July 1963 - June 1964

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I. INTRODUCTION

With this year, International Voluntary Services completes its first decade of service in the developing countries of the world. It was in 1954 that a number of leaders from the traditional 'peace' churches in the United States founded a new organization, nondenominational and nonpropagandizing, dedicated to 'people-to-people' activities in community development at the village level. Since then over 350 Americans, chiefly young college graduates, have served with IVS in the countries of Laos, South Viet-Nam, Algeria, Jordan, Liberia, Nepal, Iraq, Ghana, Cambodia, and Egypt. The effectiveness of IVS' work was 'discovered' in 1960 by several U.S. Congressmen: a U.S. agency, the Peace Corps, was initiated to do similar work.

IVS first came to Laos in 1957 under a contract with the United States International Cooperation Administration (now the Agency for International Development). An agricultural team of six worked at an isolated post in Xieng Khouang province; a second team began work at the Sisavang Vong University near Vientiane. These two teams have continued work and expanded under two separate contracts. This report deals with the work of the team working with the US AID Rural Development Division (RDD).

II. 1963-1964: A PERIOD OF ORGANIZATION AND EXTENSION.

IVS RDD's growth and actions during the past eight years can be briefly summarized:

- 1957-1960: Initial field work in Xieng Khouang Province.
- 1960-1961: Sudden change: political problems, evacuation, return.
- 1961-1962: A 'holding-fast' operation, branching out in the field.
- 1962-1963: Growth: Quadrupling of personnel, many new locations.
- 1963-1964: Organization and more thorough programs.

The three most important changes in IVS RD during 1963-1964 fall into three areas of organization and program.

A 'Cluster Village' program was initiated in September, 1963. Recognizing the importance of 'cluster villages,' natural economic and cultural groups of from six to twenty villages, USAID and IVS have entered a program sending small teams of three to five IVS'ers to live and work in these villages with Lao counterparts. The six village areas picked

in the provinces - Moung Pieng, Phone Hong, Borikane, Ban Houii Kong, La Khom Pheng, and Kengkok (see map) - involve a total of 23 team members working directly with the clusters in a variety of programs. These range from building demonstration farms to leading sports programs. Each cluster is under the supervision of a USAID RDD Community Development advisor, who coordinates and plans cluster activities.

The second area of change is in the field of administration. The original VARDA contract anticipated seven teams of seven IVS'ers, each with a Team Leader directing activities and maintaining liason with the IVS Chief-of-Party and USAID personnel. This concept has changed in the last year with the initiation of the 'cluster village' work and the placing of additional USAID men in the field to provide support and direction. We are presently working with a small headquarters staff, keeping in contact with the field by frequent visits, a Field Representative in the north, a Field Representative for the South, and one traditional on-location Team Leader. Also, an Agriculture Officer has been appointed by IVS to maintain close liason with USAID and Lao Government Agriculture divisions in all IVS planning and operation of agricultural projects. The administrative structure will require continued observation and may need further modification in the future.

Last, USAID has increasingly taken over support activities formerly borne by IVS Vientiane. New CJ-3B and CJ-6 jeeps were phased into the Motor Transportation Section: Maintenance was given responsibility for IVS electrical power plants and shortwave radios. All other supplies received for project use, five tons of items ranging from tools to household appliances, have been turned over to USAID with the arrangement that USAID take over and continue support operations. Several kinks are still being worked out, but USAID is expected to assume full logistic support, freeing IVS for more important work.

As already indicated, IVS works with RDD and other USAID divisions to implement projects. The main emphasis is on rural development programs. Work in agriculture, well digging and road building requires constant liason with the USAID Agriculture and Public Works divisions. IVS nurses have worked with the Public Health Division and frequently with Operation Brotherhood, the Filipino health and community development program.

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III. IVS RD Programs in Laos.

A. Administration: the Vientiane Team

Most IVS personnel in Vientiane work on the headquarters team, keeping administrative liason with USAID and the RLG (Royal Lao Government) and assisting field teams. Several IVS'ers, however, do have project work in the area. IVS has moved from Building "K" to Building "L" on the American Embassy Nai Hai Dio Compound, in close contact with all USAID offices. Six Americans and seven Lao have carried out the administration involved with up to 45 persons in the field.

Administration - E. Walter Coward, Jr., Chief-of-Party, has four years of experience and speaks the language well. As a former team member and Team Leader, he has been able to understand basic policies and problems and to work out solutions through USAID and the RLG.

Dayton Maxwell, Associate Chief-of-Party until his return to the U.S. in May, assisted with the many duties involved with field teams, particularly in preparing reports, visiting field teams, and securing qualified Lao assistants. He had formerly been Sayaboury Team Leader.

Administrative Assistant Galen Beery had responsibility for support of field teams until USAID took this over in May, has kept in contact with USAID support and maintenance branches, overseen the \$250,000 worth of IVS project equipment, and acted as manager for IVS' Vientiane Apartments. He has recently begun work in audio-visual areas.

The position of Business Manager was held by John Doolittle until late in 1963 when operations were turned over to two capable assistants. Doolittle then transferred to Pakse. Henry Eby became Business Manager in February, continuing and improving financial work in this important facet of headquarters responsibility.

Phillip Plummer transferred from Luang Prabang in December to become Assistant to the Chief-of-Party, and took over field team support until his departure in July. He personally secured many items needed to keep field teams in operation.

Myron Paine, formerly Team Leader in Sayaboury, joined the Vientiane team in mid-1964 to take up duties as Agriculture Officer. His liason with USAID Agriculture Division has improved contact with team members doing agricultural work.

The IVS projects in Vientiane have been few but significant. The city has a population of over 100,000 and is the administrative capital of Laos. There are a few basic industries, rice is the main agricultural product. Ethnically, the population is chiefly Lao with large

concentrations of Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, and the foreign staffs of embassies.

Chester Brown, Field Representative for northern Laos, uses Vientiane as his base of operations for field trips to teams in Luang Prabang, Ban Houei Sai, Moung Pieng, and Sam Thong, and heads personnel working in the Vientiane area.

Vegetable Production Program - Vegetable production in Vientiane and the surrounding area has been low. A 1963 USAID study revealed that seven tons of fresh vegetables were daily imported from Thailand, and a 'crash' program was initiated to increase vegetable growing and counter this outflow of Lao capital. IVS'ers Phil Clifford, Jim Haldeman, Dave Barte, and Win McKeithen were taken from projects elsewhere in June, 1963, and assigned to this work. Assisted by a Lao Agriculture man, each daily visited from five to ten villages on a 40 kilometer route. They informed villagers of the program, distributed seeds, and made sure that planting was done correctly. Repeat visits and help with problems encouraged villager response. By October, 1963, the IVS'ers were able to turn the work over to Lao Agriculture men and return to other projects. The official AID report on this notes an optimistic 500% increase in locally-raised vegetables.



Rake project - A rake-making project instigated by IVS'er Dugger Harris has received wide notice. The Floridan, who transferred to Vientiane in the summer of 1963, noted the lack of rakes in Lao villages and built one from bamboo. Villagers developed better ones. Harris took his samples to a rehabilitation farm for veterans near Vientiane and supplied them with bamboo. The veterans began to turn out rakes as a sideline to garden work. Rakes have been sold in the Commissary and a contract for 2,000, to be distributed through Laos, has been secured from USAID. Ben Revellia, the farm

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director, has succinctly summed up the program: "This will allow us to train and rehabilitate another 150 Lao amputees for useful careers."

Demonstration Farm - Working with the USAID Agriculture branch and the Lao Veterinary Service, Harris is developing a 50-acre experimental farm at Kilometer 9 near Vientiane. The farm, formerly jungle, has been planted in corn, soybeans, sweet potatoes, sorghum, and peanuts, to provide fodder for pigs, chickens, and ducks being raised. Dugger also assisted with a three-acre plot planted on an island in the Mekong River. (Photo below) Only part of the crops were harvested; the rest had been planted too late and were covered as the river rose. Better results are expected next year.

Water Pump Development - Dave Barte took over the task of experimenting with various types of water pumps. Several different types of simple pumps, using local materials such as bamboo, oil drums, rope and chain, were tested with varying success. One uses a foot valve, some pipe, and part of an oil drum, operated by a farmer pedaling a bicycle like the one noted in "The Ugly American." A windmill and a Chinese-type "water-dragon" were imported from Thailand and set up at Phone Hong, but proved to be unsuccessful at this location due to a lack of enough wind.

Public Health - Since August of 1963, Joan Barte worked in the Ban Hom area assisting the medic of a small dispensary. Medicines were secured from the Public Health Division to supplement the medic's small stock. Several classes of women were taught basic sanitation and hygiene, and two groups of Lao Agriculture students, totaling 50 persons, were taught first aid. Joan also assisted Dorothy Heieie of USAID Agriculture in field trips to train Lao Agriculture extension trainees in sanitation and health methods in the field.



B. Northern Laos

1. SAYABOURY

Sayaboury, located west of Vientiane in the province of the same name, is a spread-out capital, a collection of villages along the Nam Houng River. Meo and Yao, living in the mountains to the east and south, use the Lao village of Sayaboury as a shopping center. The population is about 6,000; surrounding villages bring the total up to about 24,000. The economy is agricultural.

IVS has had a team in Sayaboury since January, 1962. From the original single man in 1962, the team expanded to a maximum of six in 1963, occupying two large houses capable of housing 18 people. And as the official USAID presence in the area, the IVS team frequently housed USAID personnel in addition to team members, team leader and family, and Lao assistants.

The main change in the Sayaboury team in the 1963-1964 period has been the move of USAID personnel into the area. With transfer of authority from IVS to the Area Coordinator, the IVS team dwindled. As team members transferred to other areas, the team was finally terminated in June, 1964.

Mechanic Training Program - Myron Paine replaced Dayton Maxwell as Team Leader in May, 1963. A month later he began a training program for mechanics to take care of an increasing number of vehicles in Sayaboury. Five young Lao were trained in a "learn-as-you-earn" program, servicing and repairing IVS jeeps and rebuilding two nearly defunct vehicles. Training included a week's orientation tour in Vientiane with instruction at the AID motor pool and visits to Laos' largest garages and machine shops. It was hoped that students could eventually set up their own garages, although it was apparent that they still needed several years of practical experience. When the course ended, two students were hired by IVS and AID as mechanics, one is now working a rice mill, and two operate heavy equipment with Travaux Publique.

Agriculture Extension Farm - A long term project was setting up of a livestock and crop extension farm about three kilometers away from Sayaboury. Arnold Radi and Craig Maxwell secured riverside jungle and directed land clearing, planting crops, building of sheds and a swine house. Some crops were grown for feed for the swine at a plot near the center of town. Radi transferred to Savannaket and J Wayne Perkins replaced Maxwell in September. Native swine were sold and those remaining were fed on an improved diet of rice bran and corn. Perkins cleared more land and pumped water from the river for irrigation.

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Left: Lao mechanics received training repairing IVS jeeps. Right: Arnie Radi inspects pole beans grown at the experimental farm.

By February, it was evident that sole IVS support for the farm was not desirable. Perkins and Merv Yetley, who joined the team in October, submitted a proposal for an agriculture training and propagation center, to train area villagers, to be co-operated and managed by AID, the RLG, and IVS. But since program emphasis at this time was placed on the new cluster work, funds could not be made available for the farm. Negotiations are underway to turn the farm over to the Provincial Chief of Agriculture, who has expressed a desire to continue operations. Perkins' term expired in late June and he also returned to the states.

Village Surveys - Bill Hollingsworth, placid, pipe-smoking former farmer and schoolteacher, gave valuable service by making village surveys and visiting villages to keep in contact with local officials. During August, 1963, for example, he completed surveys of 17 villages, with information on schools, dams, homes, canals, crops, problems and possibilities - and revisited 15 villages. In late 1963 he developed a compost program for schools and home gardens. Until his departure in June, Hollingsworth worked with the Provincial Agriculture Chief on the rice seed multiplication program.

Sports Programs - School sports and recreation programs were emphasized in the summer of 1963 when Pat McTighe joined the team. A sports and youth worker, he soon had local schools in a soccer league and was directing competition. When he left IVS in September, IVS work of this kind ended except for teaching carried on by interested Lao assistants.

Home Economics - Betty Morgan, a home economist, arrived in Sayaboury in August for projects in clothing, food preparation and nutrition, child care, and gardens. She soon began teaching informal afternoon classes in sewing in a nearby village. This rapidly became community social gatherings where the women learned how to make blouses and skirts, alter clothing and repair zippers and buttons. These classes



Above: Betty Morgan, IVS Sayaboury, instructs two village mothers in making of shirts for their children.

continued until the November garden planting season. A similar girl's program was begun with classes each week at three schools. Betty transferred to Luang Prabang in February, 1964, after the arrival of Beth Yetley, to work with Lao Home Extension Agents in the field.

Merv and Elizabeth Yetley joined the team in October and began to survey the Moung Pieng area for possible cluster location there. In the meantime, Merv assisted with team operations while the Paine family vacationed, and helped Perkins work out the farm proposal. Beth Yetley joined Betty Morgan in the school program with exercises, games and lectures on Home Economics. They made several trips into surrounding mountain areas and then joined Perkins in a rat eradication program in a nearby village, which met 90% response and success.

Below: Left: Road conditions complicate travel to Moung Pieng. Center: Beth Yetley discusses child care with young Lao mother. Right: Merv Yetley and Lao assistants look over small garden in front of IVS house.



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2. MOUNG PIENG

Cluster development, in the MOUNG PIENG area 30 kilometers southwest of Sayaboury, occupied much of the time of the Sayaboury team in the latter part of 1963. MOUNG PIENG is the largest of a number of villages in small, flat valleys encircled by forested mountains.

A cluster program was officially initiated in late December. At a conference of IVS, USAID, RLC, and Operations Brotherhood personnel in Sayaboury, it was determined that the program would include a demonstration farm, housing for personnel, road building, an educational program, and medical assistance. The five Fundamental Education men in the area would be part of the program: IVS and OB would live together.

Location was delayed for many reasons. The first was lack of housing. Yetley had a 50,000 kip 'temporary house' built of bamboo while agreements for a permanent house were made final. Yetleys and Lao assistants moved to MOUNG PIENG in April, living in tents until their temporary house was completed. The second reason for delay was the need of an orientation meeting for all concerned, held off until the return of Nick Bustamente of OB, who had accepted the job of Cluster Coordinator of IVS and OB activities.

Since moving to MOUNG PIENG, Yetley has been occupied with construction of the house and demonstration center. He has assisted in distributing ducks in Nam Hia, a Meo refugee center where two dams for fish-raising have been constructed. The ducks have been distributed under an agreement that ducklings will be returned for distribution to others, and recipients have agreed to supply all feed for the ducks. Beth Yetley is teaching sewing to 45 Meo refugees and teaching health and sanitation classes in the MOUNG PIENG schools. A school milk program which has been started has met with instant success.

In the field of health, Operation Brotherhood personnel staff the small dispensary located next to the site of the new cluster house, and hold regular sick call for the surrounding villages.

In livestock, John Batto, who joined the group in May, will be working with animal husbandry in the area. Six OB-raised swine have been placed in the villages with Fundamental Education personnel contacting the villagers and IVS providing backstopping on transportation and technicians.

Travaux Publique men and equipment are continuing improvements on the dirt road to MOUNG PIENG despite advent of the rainy season. Difficulties with mud and lack of road have been reason for the team's recent purchase of four Lao ponies, to use as transportation during work in nearby villages.

D. LUANG PRABANG

Luang Prabang, the Royal Capital of Laos, is located on the Nam Khane River where it flows into the Mekong, in an elongated valley surrounded by mountains. The population of the city itself is about 12,000; the dozens of villages within a radius of 40 kilometers add another 17,000 population, mostly Lao with some Meo, Yao, and Lao Tung to the south-east. There is some trade but the basic economy of the area is agricultural.

The first IVS team member was located in Luang Prabang in 1961, at the Regional Teacher Training Center on the outskirts of the town. Since then, the team has remained within the limits of three to five team members, with a decided growth in 1964.

Education - George Ridenour, teaching courses and assisting in administration at the RTTC (now known as the ENI - Education Nationale Institute), was joined in late 1962 by Hank Holmes. Holmes, living near the RTTC, continued Ridenour's activities after his term of duty expired and he returned to the U.S. The work at the RTTC has covered many activities in a number of different fields. This included:

1. Teaching agriculture, school gardens, rural arts and animal husbandry. This was finally turned over to a Lao Agriculture man.
2. Working out new educational materials with two Lao assistants.
3. Overseeing the building of a model training school and initiating demonstration teaching courses for practice teaching.
4. Building up the school library with books from USIS and the Asia Foundation.

As a special project, Holmes and fellow IVS'er Win McKeithen sought out and wrote up traditional Lao songs. These have been collected into an illustrated book, approved by the Lao National Literary Committee, and are being printed at the request of Prime Minister Souphana Phouma.

Rural Development Activities and Surveys - In January, 1963, Phillip Plummer was assigned to Luang Prabang as Team Leader. He maintained IVS administrative liason with USAID and investigated the potentialities of putting an IVS team in Xieng Ngeun, a cluster village area 30 kilometers southwest. Xieng Ngeun is composed of a number of villages and is a military stronghold and economic center for Meo tribespeople who come out of the mountains to trade.

Blaine Jensen and Brian O'Conner were assigned to Luang Prabang for the new potential team. Brian was shortly reassigned to Sam Tong when it became evident that there would be a delay in putting a team in Xieng Ngeun. Blaine assisted USAID for a month, making an extensive survey of the villages across the Mekong, and left to join Brian in Sam Tong.



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Above: Hank Holmes takes over for a short class at the RTTC. Right: Bill Wengerd and villagers inspect a 45' concrete and metal flume built by self-help to carry water to their rice paddies.



Phil Plummer was reassigned to Vientiane since the program did not appear to be materializing.

Val Petersen worked closely with USAID Rural Development activities during the time he was in Luang Prabang. In June and July, 1963, he made an extensive survey of a number of villages. He also made trips to refugee villages in order to keep up to date on this program. When a vacancy was left by reassignment of the AID Area Coordinator, Petersen worked as Acting Area Coordinator from September, 1963, to January, 1964. In this capacity he undertook all tasks of the Area Coordinator, including:

1. Liason with Lao government officials in Luang Prabang.
2. Running of the USAID house.
3. Continuing refugee and support programs.
4. Responsibility for all Americans in the area.
5. Coordination of all USAID-chartered aircraft in the area.

In January, 1964, Dwane Hammer, formerly with IVS' NEC team, arrived as USAID Area Coordinator. Petersen, as RD Rural Advisor, completed surveys, consolidated survey information and finished extensive maps of the projects in the area. He returned to the U.S. in April when his term of duty was completed, planning to return.

Orientation Program - A group of six new IVS'ers received orientation in Luang Prabang in March and April. This included extensive language study, visits to villages and projects, and interviews with USAID and Lao officials. Success of the orientation as compared to previous ones has made it evident that this practice should be followed in the future.

Cluster Village Project - In March, 1964, it was felt that cluster village planning would again be possible, and Betty Morgan, a Home Economist, transferred to Luang Prabang as the first member of such a

team. During her three months in Luang Prabang she has begun tentative Home Economics programs with three Home Extension agents trained by Lao Agriculture. In early May, at the end of the orientation program, Bob and Ruth Worley, Joe Bussewitz and Bill Wengerd joined the Luang Prabang group in preparation for Xieng Ngun assignment. Bob has completed well and school projects across the Mekong, while Wengerd is assisting USAID Agriculture in village self-help dam and canal projects. Bussewitz is involved in the rice propagation program. With this nucleus of team members available and a good potential program, it is anticipated that a move to Xien Ngun will soon be made.

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4. BAN HOU EI SAI

Ban Houei Sai, northermost IVS/USAID outpost in Southeast Asia, lies on the Mekong where it borders northern Thailand, 25 miles from the Burmese border. The area received wide attention in 1962 when rumors of a Viet Minh invasion caused widespread panic and an mass exodus of soldiers and civilians. The town is a trade center and leans heavily on Thailand for manufactured products. A Tom Dooley Foundation hospital has served Ban Houei Sai for three years.

From its beginning in 1962 until a year later in 1963, the Ban Houei Sai team can be said only to have maintained a presence in the area, plagued by many problems. IVS'ers Joe Flipse and Mike Cunningham had encountered strained relations with local government officials and morale was at a dangerous low with a program stalemated by politics. USAID duties and the U.S. Importation Program took their time. The report for July, 1963, notes: "Our month didn't include anything strictly IVS, nor anything that could be tabbed as community development. Yet it was work that had to be done and which involves us since we're the representative Americans of USAID."

Headquarters Construction - Part of the low morale can be traced to substandard living quarters. The first IVS house was an abandoned bamboo shack: the second was only slightly better. In June, 1963, land was secured from the RLG and work on a team house began, using a USAID earthblock machine to produce building blocks from dirt and a small amount of cement. The final 14-man crew hired and trained turned out about 400 blocks daily, each costing 9¢ for materials and labor. 4500 blocks were used in the entire building. 90% completed by December, the \$1,200 house included plaster walls, bamboo ceiling and a screened porch, as an example to local homeowners.

Earth-block Construction - 40 persons had worked with an received training in the use of the earthblock machine, and its success made it inevitable that it be used elsewhere. In September the machine was loaned to villagers to build a school, supervised by the police commandant who had become expert in use of the machine. With training, experience, and examples at hand, earthblock construction in this area will probably continue without more than advisory assistance.

Road Construction - A third IVS'er, Forester Ned Hogan, joined the team in July, 1963, as assistant supervisor of a contingent of Public Works men and equipment detailed to build and repair roads and bridges in Ban Houei Sai. He lived near the road crew while six bridges were rebuilt and work begun to give 4.5 kilometers of road an all-weather capacity. Hogan was put in charge of the project in September. In mid-October, with bridges finished and road only partially completed, the project was temporarily terminated and he was reassigned to Phone Hong.



Left: Joe Flipse discusses unsuccessful rat elimination program from the porch of the first, \$1-per-month, IVS house in Ban Houei Sai.



Right: Joe and Mike supervised construction of the new, earthblock IVS house during four months building time.

After the first provincial council of Nam Tha Province, in August, 1963, the former attitude of local officials almost completely reversed and there has been an awakened government and remarkable progress in certain areas. Neglect of projects has changed to an active interest in and support of refugee programs.

Refugee Activities - Refugee work east of Ban Houei Sai, at the request of the chief of the Yao tribespeople, took up most of Flipse's time from September, 1963, to the end of his contract in April, 1964. Mike Cunningham then and now continues to provide a great deal of backstopping program support. Because of increased labor levies and harassment in the Pathet Lac held area of Mounng Sing, a flood of refugees, largely Leu, have poured into the area. The earlier Yao refugees had cleared and planted new rice paddies; the new refugees needed rice, seed, blacksmith tools and implements so they could resettle. Flipse arranged for airdrops of needed supplies.

A sizeable refugee medical program has grown under the direction of the Yao chief Chao Mie, support of Dr. Weldon and the USAID Public Health Division and the assistance of the IVS'ers. A bamboo, 12-bed hospital was built by the villagers in less than a month, with Public Health-supplied medicine and support by the Dooley hospital in Ban Houei Sai. Hill people come in from two days away for treatment. The Yao are proud of the hospital and enthusiastic about other programs.

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And 59 students are being trained in medicine at this and other hospitals. They will set up similar aid stations in their villages when they complete training.

In education, Lao government officials sent three school teachers to Nam Touei when a new school was built to relieve overcrowded conditions caused by refugees. The entire area was given official representation when a Moung office was established in Na Woua.

Despite progress, a new influx of 4,000 to 5,000 refugees is expected in the near future, needing immediate aid so that they can begin planting crops. $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours downstream from Ban Houei Sai is an area available for resettlement. Potential IVS activities in this area are garden programs, school construction, dispensaries, improvement of water supply, and rat elimination programs, after the resettlement.

USAID airdropping of rice has always been a costly item in the budget. To cut this and encourage self-reliance, Flipse and the Chao Mie proposed to USAID in February that 100 mules be purchased so that the Yao themselves could pack in the rice on bimonthly trips. The Yao would feed and take care of the mules. The \$15,000 cost would be asorbed in savings by the end of the year.

Flipse's work with refugees resulted in his being hired by USAID RD when his IVS term ended in April. He has continued on in Ban Houei Sai as RD Area Advisor. Mike Cunningham has carried on liason and support work, recently laying the groundwork for a program utilizing Fundamental Educators in constructing water-seal toilets and improving wells.

C. Central Laos

1. SAM TONG

The first IVS team in Laos was located at Phonsavannah, Xieng Khouang province until 1960's political situation forced evacuation. IVS' opportunity to return to the area came last year at Sam Tong, a mountain-ringed valley in southwest Xieng Khouang, 45 minutes by air from Vientiane. "Pop" Buell, a former IVS'er and now USAID Social Welfare worker, heads refugee relief work from a thatched headquarters and warehouse beside the airstrip. The valley has eight or ten small villages with a population of 800 - 900 Meo: there are an additional 2,000 Meo and Lao Teung in the surrounding area. Rugged terrain makes use of light planes necessary to avoid hikes of several days to nearby villages.

Education - Brian O'Conner made several visits to Sam Tong in August, looking over opportunities for a new Meo school. Buell and Colonel (now General) Vang Pao, Meo military leader, recognized possibilities of a school system built around local youth and 50-60 Meo students who had graduated from primary school but failed to meet entrance qualifications for the Lycee or ESP in Vientiane.

During the summer, the four main buildings of the school were built. The Lao Ministry of Education provided several Meo and Lao teachers and school started in October. O'Conner was permanently assigned to Sam Tong. His school activities have been in three main areas.

1. O'Conner teaches two English classes - an advanced one early each morning, another every evening. On Saturdays he flies to and from a village 10 miles southwest, to teach 130 Meo students, Lao teachers, and several soldiers.
2. He organizes and develops the physical plant and curriculum. The school is in a constant drive to expand and improve facilities and this has meant directing students in repairing buildings, putting in offices and a library, and constructing equipment with a minimum of materials. Desks, for example, are built from scrap packing crates and wooden pallets used in airdropping rice.
3. Assist in procuring educational and administrative materials and supplies. Books and materials are at a minimum and depend on loan and salvage. Brian secured an old mimeograph machine from IVS and some scrap paper, and has helped create books in Lao for classroom use.

Blaine Jensen joined O'Conner in October for agricultural work. Meo from the village of Ban Na helped them build a house near the school. This was finished in mid-November. Blaine has since operated out of

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A Meo farmer, Brian O'Conner, Assistant Lee Sing, Team Leader Chet Brown, and Blaine Jensen check one of 34 fish ponds stocked with USAID-purchased Talapia, a fast-growing tropical food fish.

Sam Tong in agricultural extension, programs involving fish raising, growing of coffee, gardens and pottery production.

Fish Ponds - Jensen found that the Meo like fish so much that they had nearly fished out the few streams nearby, and suggested that they build ponds to raise fish. The suggestion was enthusiastically received: the Meo dug ponds faster than fish could be secured to stock them. 1,500 fingerling Talapia, a fast-growing food fish, were initially distributed - 500 more were purchased from the ESP with Social Welfare funds and the help of "Pop" Buell. The demand kept up and 6,000 more were flown in from Bangkok in May. At last count, the Meo were happily fishing in 34 or more home-dug fish ponds.

Coffee Growing - In Ban Khan Se, a Lao Teung village 10 miles north of Sam Tong, Blaine was requested for help with coffee grown for local consumption. A better grade of coffee beans was secured from IVS Pakse and has been distributed to 11 villages. And vegetable growing has begun in Ban Na and other villages. Jensen offered, on one trip, to supply seeds if more ground was prepared for gardens. There were three

gardens ready then: on his return visit, 20 had been prepared for planting of the seeds.

Emergency Relief Work - In May, 1964, the sudden hard fighting of Pathet Lao and neutralist troops on the Plaine des Jarres resulted in a heavy influx of refugees, mostly families of soldiers, to Sam Tong and Ban Na. Brian and Blaine dropped other programs for two weeks to aid evacuation of more than 5,000 refugees to Vientiane, resulting in a letter of commendation from the Director of USAID.

In planning future projects, IVS Sam Tong expects to enter several additional fields. A nursery of fruit trees, from which cuttings could be distributed, would be an asset to this mountain region. A village three minutes away by air has favorable soil, good climate, and interested farmers. Milk goats would probably do well in the area: the Meo recognize the value of these animals and would take care of them. And the Sam Tong area clay is excellent for pottery but the Meo don't know pottery-making skills. They have expressly requested a teacher for this and a search is underway to find one. Only potters found so far in this culture have been women, who can not easily be used to teach men.

2. PHONE HONG

Phone Hong is a large village center 70 kilometers north of Vientiane on the road to Luang Prabang. It lies in a small valley of rice paddies, ringed with mountains up to 4,000 feet high. The Nam Ngum River circles the valley on the east: Route 13 forms the western boundary. The village lies on the junction of the main road and a secondary road going to the east. Phone Hong is the site of a large army camp and is the economic center for villages extending along the main road and to the east.

IVS first came to Phone Hong in March, 1963, when Jim Haldeman, an agriculturist, and Pat McTighe, a sports and youth worker, moved in to do village work and assist with a program of improving dug wells. Pat left Phone Hong after a month and was replaced by Phil Clifford. He and Haldeman had just become accustomed to the area and begun several small projects when it was necessary to assign them to work on a crash vegetable production program in Vientiane.

The Phone Hong team was reinitiated in September with new personnel, guidance, and direction. The approach, as outlined at a meeting of the Chao Khouang of Vientiane, representatives of Lao Agriculture, Public Works, IVS, USAID, and RDD, would be limited to a specific group of villages with work in five areas: (1) self-help village projects, (2) a program of roads and markets by Public Works, (3) well drilling, (4) training center for RD, and (5) a dispensary. Phillip Plummer became



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Top: Original IVS house in Phone Hong. Middle: IVS house in Phone Si Vat. Bottom: Brook Greene distributes seeds for village gardens.

Team Leader: the program was under Jim Clark, RDD Area Coordinator. The Primary School Inspector provided three fundamental education workers with some training in agriculture and community development, to work with the team and eventually take over the project.

Brook Greene, a generalist, and Gus Carlson, construction, moved to Phone Hong early in October, living in rented quarters. An old house, formerly a rice storage barn, was rented in Phone Si Vat, five kilometers east of Phone Hong.

To make the IVS house more comfortable, Carlson introduced the earth block machine by using it to put floors and walls in the IVS house. The villagers began to borrow a concrete shingle machine. Team members found showing USIS films at local bouns is good public relations. The IVS house began to assume importance as a focal point in the village.

An airstrip was needed and Ned Hogan, IVS forester and road construction man, was assigned to the team to work with Public Works engineers in overseeing building of a runway near Phone Hong. He lived with construction personnel at the airstrip. Chet Brown took over as Team Leader in early November.

Security in the Phone Hong area has been considered doubtful at times and there were several brushes between FAR and guerrillas in the area. On December 4, a land mine blew up an army truck a mile from Phone Si Vat. Carlson went to Vientiane to work out a book on earthblock construction and was later assigned elsewhere. When

the airstrip was completed, Hogan retired to the IVS house in Phone Si Vat and then was reassigned.

Demonstration Farm - The main project of the Phone Hong team has been the building of a demonstration farm, directed by John Schafer, an agriculturist who joined the team in January. 1½ hectares of land were donated by local farmers and, until the recent beginning of the rainy season, from six to 30 volunteers showed up daily for work on the farm. The area has been cleared of brush, stumps pulled, a well put in and a pond plotted. A fence has been put around the area and a dispensary is nearing completion. The farm will be used to test and propagate new crops, to breed and distribute ducks, chickens, and swine, and as a demonstration center for local farmers. An IVS demonstration house is planned. Lao Agriculture workers will continue running the farm when IVS leaves Phone Hong.

Water Pump Experiments - To experiment with dry season crop-growing, IVS borrowed a small rice paddy near a small creek. Dave Barte, IVS'er from Vientiane, built and tested a centrifical pump operated by a bicycle, similar to the one featured in "The Ugly American." A wooden Thai windmill and 'water dragon' were purchased with IVS funds and set up, but wind at Phone Hong is not enough to operate the windmill. Experiments and crops were unsuccessful but may continue next year.

Brook Greene has taught English to older children in the nearby school every afternoon and to 30-60 younger children in the evenings. Through his efforts, a local school teacher has been assisted by IVS in teaching local women how to knit with IVS-purchased yarn.

IVS team members have acted as USAID supervisors for the building of several self-help schools in the area, with trucks used by Public Works and Travaux Publique personnel assisting by hauling sand and gravel dug by volunteer help.

Dave and Joanne Barte assisted in Phone Hong in May, 1964, living in a rented house in town. Dave did some experimenting with squat-type waterseal toilets; Joanne explored possible home economics programs in the cluster village area.

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3. BORIKANE

30 kilometers up the Nam Sane River from Paksane lies the moung of Borikane. Its population of 6,052 Lao and some Meo compose 1,210 families living in 13 villages. The area is isolated transportationwise: it takes from three to five hours by boat to reach Borikane, and the road becomes a morass in the rainy season. The area's hills and rises gradually slope upwards towards the eastern mountains.

IVS arrived in Borikane in early October, 1963. The first team members were Phil Clifford, Howard Lewin, and Jim Haldeman, under the direction of Team Leader Chet Brown. After moving in to a rented house with radio, stove, generator and other household equipment, the team members spent several months becoming oriented to needs and desires of the villagers and beginning a few projects. The first report pointed out community involvement: "Since we have been here our rapport with the village as a group has gone from complete stranger to one of confidence and interest... We have developed friends who have invited us to show them what we can do..." After the groundwork was laid, Mr. Brown's role was reinterpreted to allow him to live in Vientiane, spending part of each week at Borikane.

Borikane is the best example of what can be expected from a new cluster village program set up in an area of generally good reception. The team has worked in many different areas, usually meshing together well for coordinated work but occasionally clashing gears.

Agriculture - Work on a $\frac{1}{2}$ hectare demonstration farm began soon after the team arrived, headed by Jim Haldeman, the agriculturist. Village interest was shown immediately: 53 volunteers showed up to clear the site. Since then the farm has been planted with various crops as an agricultural extension center. Agricultural possibilities in the area include wet season vegetables, insect control, new irrigation methods, improved feed, better swine, poultry and livestock housing, and rat control programs. Local farmers have been visited, interested in seed beds and gardens, and introduced to feed crops such as soybeans. All schools have been contacted and the idea of school gardens introduced. Several schools have taken up the idea: about 3,000 students would be involved. Seeds have been distributed to 150 families, with follow-up on planting and growing. Future plans are to develop the demonstration farm to its fullest extent and contract with village farmers to grow and supply feed for farm livestock. It will eventually be turned over to the Lao Agriculture service.

Sports and youth work - Experience with Boy Scouts and youth clubs has helped IVS'er Phil Clifford in sports and youth programs. First and second projects, an "after-dark" sports program and a boy's club,



Above: Gus Carlson and Borikane villagers mix concrete to pour apron around newly dug well. Right: Fresh cement is smoothed as apron.

office, a dining room-classroom, screened porch for meetings, and storage space, while the nearby seven-room dormitory will house the IVS'ers. Construction began in April while plans were being approved; the main building has been partially completed and should be finished in July. When the team completes work in the area, this center can be transferred to the RIG for use as a demonstration center and housing for employees.

Dispensaries - Three dispensaries are being built by self-help as part of the USAID Public Health program in Borikane. The Public Health Division will supply medicine and a medic to each as it is finished. Volunteers have shown up daily to work under Carlson's direction. The dispensaries should be completed in another two months.

Water-seal Toilets - One of the most successful IVS projects in Laos has been a water-seal toilet construction program headed by Howard Lewin and a Lao Basic Educator. In January, using USAID-donated cement, they began to demonstrate toilet bowl construction on the porch of the IVS house. Thai designs were improved: these bowls use no materials, other than cement, not available locally. Four to six villagers have attended class every morning, installing bowls and building privies under careful instruction. In the village of Mong Gao there has been a 70% participation. Lewin showed USIS health films and distributed sanitation booklets as part of the program; he has prepared a booklet in Lao on the building of these improved latrines.

Well Repair - Leaving the water-seal toilet work in the hands of the Basic Educator, Lewin is now working to improve and repair local wells before the rainy season begins. In January, after the Chao Mung requested a good well in each cluster village that needed one, Gus Carlson spent several weeks in Borikane, training 46 villagers in basic well ring making and testing improved forms developed by Public Works. In April and May the villagers poured rings to repair over 10 wells. All



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Left: Original IVS Borikane house soon featured front-yard vegetable garden and bulletin board. Right: Carlson works on earthblock house.

failed, but Phil has continued interest in such programs. Bulletin boards were put up in eight villages and kept up to date with project photos and Lao news stories. These have played a vital role in the welcoming attitude of cluster villages toward the IVS-USAID projects. Clifford has also made up a cluster booklet, presenting basic community development concepts, for the participating local officials, has sponsored a song contest, and planned a weekend teacher's seminar to expand school recreation programs.

School Milk Program - A school milk program, supplying six cluster schools with enough U.S. surplus powdered milk for two cups per day for each child, has been most successful. Clifford, and Joanne Barker, who arrived in January, showed teachers how to mix the powdered milk and oversaw the program until the school year ended.

Home Economics - Joanne Barker's work as a home economist has thus far been difficult due to a number of problems, but some small successes have been achieved. She has overseen distribution of $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of U.S. Bulgar wheat, showing the village women how to prepare this as an equivalent to sticky rice. Most has been distributed to farm refugees and those whose rice land was ruined by an untimely flood. There has been some work in baby care and feeding, help with home gardens, and, in the team's enthusiasm for using local materials, Joanne headed a brief crafts program where the women made American-type bamboo purses, readily adapted for fishing. But the program has been complicated due to disinterest, lack of enthusiasm, lack of time and a place to meet.

Headquarters Construction - Housing is high in priority of problems to be solved. The IVS'ers have been crowded into a small, quite inadequate home. As soon as Gus Carlson, an architect and builder, joined the team in March, he tackled this problem and designed an IVS headquarters center. The two story main building will contain a small

wells were first dug by hand, then rings built with USAID-furnished cement and lowered in. There were several problems, but this program has been more successful than elsewhere.

Rattan Furniture - The construction of rattan furniture is a potential home industry in Borikane. Most furniture of this type in Laos has been imported from Saigon or Bangkok and is expensive. When Lewin asked if villagers could duplicate a USAID rattan dining chair, they turned out a dozen copies. USAID and Vientiane merchants are interested in purchasing such local products when quality improves and the villagers have asked for an instructor. Work has ended temporarily due to the rainy season but this area deserves further consideration later in the year.

The number and success of projects in Borikane make this one of the higher points of IVS work in Laos. In May, all work was disrupted for a weekend when fear of military action from fighting 70 kilometers north prompted villagers to seek safety in the forests. The IVS team held firm for several days and projects resumed as villagers returned.

Villagers gather on front porch of IVS house to make their toilet bowls under IVS instruction.



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D. Southern Laos

1. PAKSE

Pakse is the largest city of southern Laos, located on the Mekong River and Route 13, with a population of about 35,000. The city lies in a rice-growing valley, with small mountain ranges on either side rising eastward to the Bolovens Plateau.

IVS began work in Pakse in 1962 under Team Leader Dick Carter, with quarters in a rented French-style home just outside the city. In June, 1963, the team had grown to seven members and Oliver St. Pee was made Team Leader to replace Carter who transferred to Savannaket. St. Pee spent three weeks reorganizing work and delegated more authority to IVS'ers and assistants. Anticipating subteams in surrounding areas, he began field trips into potential spots such as Khong Island, Lecompeng, Moung Phia Phye, and Ban Houei Kong. Teams were later established in Khong Island and Ban Houei Kong. In May, 1964, IVS divided Laos into northern and southern regions for administrative purposes. St. Pee was made Regional Representative for the southern region, which includes Pakse, Savannaket, and adjacent subteams.

Education - IVS personnel have played an important part at the Pakse Regional Teachers Training College since courses began in 1962, teaching in many fields and assisting administration. St. Pee was the first IVS teacher before being made Team Leader. Dave Barte took over for the last part of the school's first year, teaching Science, Drawing, and Rural Arts to 60 students. Animal Husbandry and Agriculture programs were initiated, the school library was expanded. Ben Bachman, a new IVS teacher, took over Barte's work in September and October, teaching 70 students. He resigned in October and Roderick MacRae took over and has continued teaching. MacRae has assumed responsibility for gardening, carpentry, and rural arts classes, teaches English and sports. He has directed library work, translated books, and helped build a demonstration school and workshop.

Livestock Projects - Livestock projects at Pakse fall into two main categories, the swine raised at the RTTC and the IVS goat program, although there has been some minor assistance in the villages. The RTTC received several pigs from the Vientiane NEC early in 1963, and J Wayne Perkins, teaching agriculture courses, planned multiplication and distribution of this stock for similar swine-improvement projects at village schools. He was transferred to Sayaboury and Ken Lewis took over in August. The many problems involved have delayed the program. There has been inadequate support, noncorrelation with other school activities, and a lack of funds which forced Lewis to buy feed from his own pocket until May, 1964.

Recognizing the suitability of goats for Laos - "hardy, easy to keep, feed and house, a low investment and familiar to the population" - IVS purchased six goats which were taken care of by Ken Lewis. Two more goats were purchased in October: four were born in November. Despite this increase, the goat project never quite left the ground: the goats were supported, fed, and managed solely by IVS. In May, 1964, the remaining goats were transferred to OB Paksong to be used in their livestock program and as a source of milk for the hospital.

Corn Raising Project - In May, 1963, a corn-raising project was begun under J Wayne Perkins, "to assist in a refugee relief program by providing proper work, to obtain feed for swine at the RTTC, to increase corn production, and to teach improved planting methods." A new method, contracting, was tried and more than 100 contracts were signed with farm families to grow corn. Ken Lewis completed purchase of the corn. The results weren't satisfactory in that the amount of corn harvested was small, but the success of this contract method pointed the way for similar projects elsewhere.

Public Health - Joan Barte assisted as teacher at the RTTC and taught nutrition, first aid, and public health courses to the 60 students, developing lessons and materials as needed. A Home Economics class was started for the girls and turned over to a qualified Lao instructor. And periodically Joan assisted Columbo Plan doctors in surgery and amputations in leper villages. She transferred to Vientiane with her husband in June, 1963.

Agriculture - Ken Lewis' operations have consisted of liason details and bringing a number of small, non-related projects to completion. In addition to activities described above, he managed the IVS house, taught Animal Husbandry and gardening at the RTTC for a semester, served as Acting Team Leader in the 2-month absence of St. Pee, checked on Thai cooperatives and began cooperative gardens. He also distributed clothing at leper villages and secured and developed improved livestock feeds. In June, 1964, he was transferred to Savannaket.

Village Survey - As part of the investigation for possible subteam sites, Pete Natale, who joined the group in June, 1963, made a survey of schools in Moug Phia Phye, 60 kilometers south of Pakse. Only a few construction projects were reported, with no future projects. Natale was assigned to Ban Houei Kong in September.

Refugee Survey Activities - Team member Harold Voelkner, nominally assigned to Pakse, spent most of his time upcountry working entirely under the USAID Social Welfare advisor. His assignment had several main objectives; to survey the refugee situation in southern Laos, to "put through" assistance for refugees who had not achieved self-sufficiency, and to work out a new supply and record system for refugee commodities.

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Harold spent long weeks checking incomplete projects, flying in to isolated airstrips and locating refugees, and making organizational improvements. His term with IVS ended in September and he continued with USAID. His supervisor has concluded: "I have never seen anyone more effective at the village level."



Left: IVS house in Pakse. Right: Lao-type residence on Khong Island

a. KHONG ISLAND

The first Pakse subteam was located on Khong Island, an elongated, 26-square-mile island in the Mekong River near the Cambodian and Thai borders. As the center of a large complex of smaller islands, this location permits access to a large, river-centered Lao population. Moung Khong, the provincial capital has a population of 12,000 and is the largest of the 115 villages in Sithadone province. 105 of these are located on islands or on the banks of the Mekong. The total population of about 52,000 is dependent on an economy of agriculture or fishing. A Dooley hospital has recently located in Moung Khong.

John Steele, IVS construction man, flew to Khong Island in March, 1963, to work on a self-help bridge and two self-help schools. Public Works engineers building a nearby airstrip and other bridges gave advice and assistance. When the bridge and schools were completed in June, John left for Pakse. The Chao Khouang requested his return to direct self-help projects still unfinished. Steele was permanently assigned to Khong Island in September, although the move to the inexpensive house rented there took almost a month due to lack of aircraft.



First self-help bridge that Steele assisted with on Khong Island.

Self-Help Projects: Steele and an interpreter first made a survey of the status of USAID self-help projects. By late November they had visited 25 villages by boat. Most of the 28 projects, schools and dispensaries of 1962-1963 USAID work, were from 50% to 85% complete. Of the three dispensaries, one was still incomplete by June, 1964, due to lack of roofing and cement. Steele visited all of the villages once - many two or three times - but found little work done on successive trips due to lack of initiative and materials.

Bridge Projects - Despite plans, work on provincial bridge projects did not begin until April, 1964. There was no transportation for wood from the forests to the bridge sites until

Public Works assigned vehicles and workmen to haul lumber. A pile-driver was not available when work began and two of the six bridges constructed have earth foundations.

School Garden Projects - Gary Studebaker joined Steele in October and soon became involved in vegetable projects. The bulk of these were at four nearby schools which he provided with seeds, sprayed, and checked growth. Gary worked with four riverside families on private vegetable gardens, and tested 15 varieties of vegetables in a garden at the IVS house. A hog raising project was started at one school and by April the students had built a hog house and Studebaker began to search for a bred gilt. Plans were to have the school furnish feed and students learn by taking care of the animal. Boars would be sold; gilts would be distributed to other schools.

Medical Assistance - During an outbreak of cholera in March, the IVS'ers dropped other activities and assisted a Dooley doctor control the outbreak by providing assistance around the island.

Agriculture Survey - In recent months the team has helped in an agriculture and livestock survey of Sithandone province for the Lao Veterinary Service. Questionnaires on livestock and the local economy were distributed to probans in 11 tassengs, picked up and facts tabulated.

John Batto joined the Khong Island group temporarily in February, assisting Studebaker with the survey before work in Moug Pieng.

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Steele will return to the United States when his contract expires in June. Frank Ziegler, a Washington state poultry expert, is working closely with Studebaker and will take over Khong Island duties when Studebaker is transferred to Ban Houei Kong in this next month.

Right: IVS House and demonstration garden area in Ban Houei Kong. Waterwheel for the garden is located to the right of the bridge in the foreground.



b. BAN HOUEI KONG

The second Pakse subteam is at Ban Houei Kong, a group of villages lying 45 air miles east of Pakse in the mountains of the western Bolevens Plateau. The village itself is small, dirt-roaded, with a short airstrip, several small stores, and a dispensary. A missionary family has been located there for several years.

Team members Win McKeithen and Pete Natale were flown to Ban Houei Kong in September, 1963, settled in a 700-kip-per-month house in a nearby village, and began to establish rapport with the villagers. In village visits, the IVS'ers were overwhelmed by a warm reception: "One of our first problems was to find work for the villagers who offered us their services." They reciprocated in kind, speaking Lao, entertaining local officials at traditional rice wine parties. An intense survey of the area was made in October, with questions on such diverse items as soil, wood, political structure, language, farm power systems, families and roads, to pave the way for team activities.

Dispensaries - Responsibility for overseeing the building, manning, and operation of three dispensaries has been put in the hands of Win McKeithen, who is working through the Tassengs for self-help construction by soldiers and villagers. Six young men are receiving six months' training at the Operation Brotherhood Clinic at Paksong. Construction has continued under the direction of a Public Works employee, and two dispensaries have been completed, opened, stocked with drugs from



One of the two-wheeled carts built by the agricultural cooperatives in Ban Houei Kong for only 5,000 kip (\$10) each, to be used hauling rice.

 from USAID Public Health Division, and are holding daily sick calls. The completion of the other has been delayed.

IVS Housing - Under direction of the USAID Public Works division and Natale, a comfortable Lao-type frame house of six rooms has been constructed on a hillside near the airstrip. A demonstration area for agriculture lies behind the house. Team members moved in April 5.

Road and Bridge projects - USAID-initiated road and bridge projects are being supervised by Ned Hogan, who joined the team in February. His first work in the area was a survey of timber for commercial cutting. Wood is there but poor roads, lack of equipment and organization make present exploitation impossible. Now Hogan is directing Public Works men and village volunteers in building a 19 kilometer road to a southern town of the cluster, which includes a number of culverts and bridges.

Cooperatives - An important part of the IVS work has been the assistance of several agricultural cooperatives. These were originally set up as civic action programs by the U.S. military in 1962, supplied with some equipment, and nominally supervised by USAID after the military left. Pete Natale has made extensive repairs to a jeep and large truck so that they can be used to bring supplies from Pakse and take produce out. John Doolittle, joining the team in October, has brought financial statements up to date, secured vehicle and rice mill parts from

Thailand, and investigated market potentials for locally-grown coffee. In trips to Vientiane, he scrounged enough old jeep parts from scrap piles to have six two-wheel farm carts built for only 5,000 kip (\$10) each, for use of co-op members and to haul produce and rice to the collection points for shipment to markets. The development of these agricultural cooperatives remains a high potential in the future of Ban Houei Kong.

Agriculture - Ken Lewis has assisted some local coop farmers in agricultural programs, but from the amount of work in this area it is evident that a full time agriculturist must be assigned to the team. Gary Studebaker is to be assigned here. The hillside near the IVS house has been cleared for use as a demonstration farm for all-season vegetables and field crops. Under direction of Community Development Advisor George Penrose, IVS has built a waterwheel to lift water 36' to provide year-around irrigation. Prospects are good for a swine project, securing a boar and sows for the farm and teaching feeding, watering and housing, with distribution of litters in the villages. Feed could be secured through corn contracts with 50-100 farmers. And IVS-USAID future plans include possible establishment of 10 gardens in each of 15 western villages - a total of 115 gardens - to increase vegetable production.

Paddy Rice Growing - An important future adaption of mountain tribes will be the change to settled modes of agriculture. They traditionally practice the "slash-and-burn" method, planting 'dry' rice in burned-off, partially cleared areas and moving to new areas every two years. A number of Laven farmers have recognized this and requested instruction in lowland type rice farming. Pete Natale has worked closely with USAID advisors in hiring two lowland Lao farmers to teach 15 Laven farmers how to make rice paddies and grow 'wet' rice in an area 10 kilometers northwest. 8 buffalo and 10 plows have been provided by USAID.

Right: Air view of typical village on Bolevens Plateau.



2. SAVANNAKET

Savannaket, the "Heavenly City," is the 2nd largest city in Laos, a military and trade center of 30,000, on the flat plain of the Mekong. There are several small manufacturing plants in Savannaket; the 15 large villages in a 20-kilometer radius produce cloth and salt. The city is connected with the rest of Laos by two main roads.

Richard Carter was the first member of the Savannaket team, transferring from Pakse as Team Leader. He arrived in July, 1963, and rented five new Lao-type houses for team use. Dugger Harris, an agriculturist, worked in Savannaket for about a month before being permanently assigned to Vientiane. Arnold Radi joined the team on September 17. He took over administrative duties when Carter transferred to Kengkok in January, 1964. Doris Murphy, nurse, taught health from July until December, when she began work with the OB team in Kengkok. And Carol Falk, home economist, served in Savannaket until February.

Poultry Farm - With broad experience in the field, Dick Carter was admirably suited to assist developing the Savannaket Poultry Station, in addition to liason and GSO functions as Team Leader. Carter hoped to expand production and improve stock of the 240 bird flock at the station, operated by the Lao Veterinary Service, to begin vegetable programs in villages and start a swine breeding program. Because of various difficulties which arose, Carter's participation was confined to constructing a dam to store water for duck raising possibilities. Arnold Radi reinitiated work in February, 1964, improving the dam, building duck houses, and repairing farm machinery.

Vegetable Program - Radi took over work with Lao Agriculture and the Savannaket vegetable program in September. As in Vientiane, most market vegetables have been imported from Thailand. Radi's assistance involved a daily route to distribute seeds, teach planting, provide insecticide, and check on growth. A total of 135 families were helped - in 5 villages, two army camps, ten private concerns, and two schools. Within two months the program began to "bear fruit" but profit of growers was small because of cheap Thai imports. Survey of the program showed that it was effective, but it began to lag because of lack of water and because farmers began to prepare for the rice growing season.

Rice Seed Multiplication Program - Since April, Radi has been overseeing work of four Lao Agriculture men in a nationwide program for multiplication of rice seed in five provinces. Lao Agriculture is contracting with farmers in this province to plant and grow improved rice, which will be purchased by USAID and Lao Agriculture for further distribution.



Doris Murphy teaches soldiers' wives the basics of maternal and child care in army camps in Savannaket.

Public Health Program - In July, Doris Murphy began teaching maternal and child care to two classes of officer's and enlisted men's wives at several of the 50 Savannaket-based FAR army camps. 242 women initially attended the course, 124 completed it. The course involved USIS slides and films, printed material, and some nutrition basics taught by Dorothy Heieie of USAID Agriculture and two girls from Lao Agriculture. Several brief sessions were held with members of the Lao Women's Association and students of the Christian Missionary Alliance. A booklet on maternal and child care was worked out and mimeographed in Lao and English. Doris then surveyed hospitals and needs in Kengkok and transferred to that team.

Home Economics - In the field of home economics, Carol Falk began by holding arts and crafts workshops for a Lao Women's Association display at That Inghang Festival in November. Two Lao Agriculture extension agents were successfully supervised in a program which included training courses and village extension work. This included nutrition, home gardens, food preparation, home improvement and health, and clothing. Carol's last two months in Savannaket were spent clearing up details and preparing for assignment to Kengkok.

a. KENGKOK

The town of Kengkok, about 55 kilometers east of Savannaket on the Mekong plain, appeared very favorable for IVS work and a cluster village team was established there in mid-January, 1964. The town has a population of about 3,000; there are many villages nearby. An Operation Brotherhood hospital, a Lao Dispensary, and three Groupe Scholaires are located in Kengkok. The economy, as usual, is agricultural.

Dick Carter, after several preliminary trips and planning with USAID and Lao officials as to program, moved to Kengkok on January 6 with John Kurtzig, a former agronomist on the Cambodia team. For the first month their work consisted of repairing their rented house, building a chicken house, locating lumber and gravel, securing well-ring forms, and making contacts with the local officials and villagers. Phil Buechler, construction man, joined them shortly after they arrived and assisted a USAID maintenance crew in repairing the house.

Demonstration Area - A 3/4 hectare piece of wooded land was secured to use as an agricultural demonstration farm, and clearing and planting this took much time for the next several months. John Kurtzig has overseen leveling, seed-bed preparation, soil testing, fencing, and planting of fruit trees. The area is to be worked by IVS and available labor, growing field crops and some vegetables. At present, a wet season vegetable program is being worked out with Lao Agriculture. A swine raising and distribution program will be possible in the future. During January to March there was much assistance to two villages carrying on a vegetable program, and chickens treated with DDT for flies.

Well Rings - To provide a year-around source of water for the farm, Phil Buechler undertook to put in a well using concrete rings made using Public Works wooden forms. Theoretically, the rings could be made with bamboo reinforcing, and lowered into place. After two months, Buechler was able to report that "This well has presented just about every conceivable problem." Rings broke in the well, subsurface soil proved difficult to work in, forms were rebuilt and most problems overcome. The final 7½ meter well is providing water for the farm. Another well was put in in a nearby village.

Public Health - Operation Brotherhood Hospital operates a 14-bed hospital in Kengkok, and Doris Murphy operated as Public Health nurse with their staff from January until her term of duty expired in late May. Doris started a Public Health program, beginning with a prenatal clinic, taught nutrition and infant care, and showed health films twice a month. First aid courses were held for local school teachers. 679 students of the Kengkok Groupe Scholaires received yearly physicals at the hospital. Two Lao nurses were assisted on home cases and teaching of nutrition, disease prevention, and sanitation. Doris lived with the Filipino staff during this period and acted as house manager.

Home Economics - When Carol Falk arrived in Kengkok on March 10, plans included an extension program in Kengkok and surrounding villages, a home economics program with Lao officials' wives, and some school teaching. In late March the extension program was underway, a Rural Improvement Club organized and meeting for two hours per week for films, demonstrations, reports, and work on arts and crafts. Village extension agents arrived and are now in villages with two Lao Agriculture men. As the period ended, Carol began what promises to be a successful program in building water-seal toilets.



Above: Doris Murphy giving injection as part of OB assistance. Upper right: Well-ring form used in making concrete rings. Right: Phil Buechler mucks out refuse in bottom of new well.

3. THAKHEK

The fifth largest city in Laos with a population of about 10,000, Thakhek lies on the Mekong halfway between Pakse and Savannakhet. It is the port of exit for a French-operated tin mine 80 kilometers to the northeast; it is the cultural and economic center for the villages which dot the plain 15 kilometers inland to a low mountain range.

IVS came to Thakhek on January 31, 1964, when Allen and Dorothy Bashor flew in with a planeload of supplies. They moved into one end of a USAID-rented duplex; offices occupy the other end.

Refugee Program - The Bashors have quickly become involved in a large refugee resettlement program. Their first work was assisting USAID with logistic support, distributing supplies and making sure that they went to the refugees. In the past year an estimated 4,300 Lao have left villages on the plateau to the northeast because of the Pathet Lao. Most have been resettled in four new villages around Thakhek, which should become important in future community development programs. One village, Ban San Hoan, has temporary houses for 146 families, with a

total of 300 families expected. Permanent housing, schools and dispensaries will be built at the end of the rainy season. The Bureau of Public Roads has cleared $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres for each family to farm, and those interested have been allotted land for growing vegetables.

Agriculture - Al Bashor has been working in a vegetable program with Lao Agriculture men. The local agricultural station hopes to stimulate area production to the point where imports are not needed. Well rings have been installed to improve the well at the station and agricultural demonstrations held. Al is testing different varieties of vegetables in a demonstration plot not far from the IVS house. In one refugee village, nearly all families have planted vegetable gardens. Future plans are to involve more people in year-around vegetable growing, hiring others to work their rice paddies. Two villagers already doing this are being held as examples.

Medical Assistance - Dorothy Bashor has taken a personal interest in improving the ancient provincial hospital in Thakhek, which has six old buildings, two doctors, and a Vientiane-trained nurse. Operating room supplies are being sought; non-functioning plumbing is being repaired.

Education Program - Both Dorothy and Allen will be involved in an Education Seminar in July for 50 provincial teachers, the result of a 1960 education bill providing for increased teaching of village teachers in pedagogy, education, first aid, and similar basic courses. Allen will teach vegetable growing courses; Dorothy will assist Diana Dick, IVS NEC nurse, teach first aid, and the use of visual aids.

With the work at hand in Thakhek and the potential for future development, it seems probable that this area may be chosen for some cluster activities and increase in team size in the near future.
