

IIWS

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INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES, INC.

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LAOS - RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION TEAMS

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and

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*This edition of the Annual Report should be read as a collection of personal descriptions written by individual IVS'ers, rather than as a straight, impersonal report.

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Flanagan

View from a Paddy House

Green upon green.
New green upon deep green.
And green changing blue.
And blue upon blue
With brown and yellow and sounds
Gurgle and splash and listen!... thunder...
Silent swaying blades moving to an unknown rhythm
Suggesting mystery and surprise
Teaching patience and expectation.

Mike Flanagan

FOREWORD

This interview is with a Laotian official who has long taken an interest in IVS affairs. He kindly consented to this interview with IVS, which took place on April 26, 1968.

He is a director of a government service. His secondary studies were interrupted by the Japanese occupation. He joined the Lao Issara resistance movement at the age of 15, and lived in exile in Thailand with its leaders. Afterwards, he resumed his secondary and university studies. Since joining Royal Lao Government Service he has traveled widely through Asia, Europe, and the United States. This interview was conducted in English. He points out that he has spent much of his life in his village and still visits it and other rural areas frequently.

1. Q. What do you see as the overall role of IVS in Laos?



- A. International understanding, through working with each other. If we meet each other every day we can learn to appreciate one another and come to a sounder judgment about ourselves. In the long run, this can make a contribution to world peace.
2. Q. What about an IVS role in economic development?
 - A. Of course we hope that IVS can help the people to have a better life. But if the people can't understand who you are and what you are, how can you help them to progress in economic development? Perhaps there will not be any open conflict, but there can be unconscious opposition to your ideas. That is why I emphasize so much the psychological aspect in this field. At this time this is much more important than material accomplishment.



3. Q. What are the main internal problems facing Laotian society right now?

A. There has been a very significant increase in needs. Before the Laotian people did not have them anything like today. With aid from many different countries, many material goods are brought into the country. Then, where there is a fluctuation of this aid or other income from foreign countries, there is a great effect upon the country. It has a much greater effect than when we didn't have these needs as before.

During recent years we have imported so many things from developed countries, very often things way beyond our means. Thus, we were not prepared to use them and there has been a lot of spoilage.

Another problem is that the improvement in the standard of living has not been widely received. It has gone to the few.

The problem is that our progress here has not been a natural development coming from the country itself. This has created many social problems.

4. Q. How much of a role can IVS play in trying to solve these problems?

A. That is a difficult question. For IVS works together with the people, and yet the problem did not come from the people.

IVS cannot really help too much in these grand problems. The main thing is for it to have understanding with the people. Once IVS and the people understand each other, it will know how to help the people.

By helping the people, I do not mean to give them "a better life." This is not a very suitable term.

I mean to give them "easier work" in the countryside. I believe that we can relieve them of some of their unnecessary burdens if we can introduce some skill and technology.

Primarily through constant, reciprocal contacts, through building confidence, you can make them understand that there are many ways they can improve their standard of living by means of technical knowledge.

But, that is a very difficult task for you to accomplish. The standard of living of people in the city has been artificially raised. People think that by coming to town they will automatically have a more luxurious life. It's hard for you to go and teach them to improve their condition when they see that some other people who don't work as hard have a much easier life.

5. Q. I wonder if you have some thoughts on the American aid program here?

A. I think that the first idea of American aid was and is to help Laos. I think America wanted to make Laos a prosperous country and so to avoid tumultuous revolution. For it is well-known that poverty is a good soil for Communism to grow in. I think that America wanted to show people who wanted to go Communist that it's not worthwhile to take this long and difficult way, and that another way is better.

This hope has failed on a country-wide basis because wealth has arrived only to a very small group of people and has created a big gap which didn't exist in 1954 and 1955.

This doesn't mean that I say it was an American mistake, because if our leaders were capable of handling the aid and using it wisely, there would not be such a big problem today.

But, I don't want to blame our leaders either because Laos became independent too quickly and we were obliged to take our independence without any preparation.

Some people believe that the United States wants to control Laos by pouring in much money and then after spoiling it being in a position to command it. Here I cannot judge, but many people feel that way.



I cannot judge if it is really intentional or because the aid was given in an awkward way and so the situation deteriorated.



6. Q. Let us talk for a moment about rural areas. What is the role of the IVSer at the village level?

A. Well, I am from a small village in the south of Laos. Each time I go there I try to show the villagers that I am very proud of my village, that there is nothing wrong with their condition. I explain to them that whenever I go to a foreign country I tell people about my village.

And I mean it, you know. Maybe the villagers do not have many luxuries, but since they do not know about them they have a contented life. If there was no war they would be very independent, far more independent than city dwellers. They live close to nature.

I try to convince them that having a position in the Lao Government now does not mean the same thing as under the French Colonial system. We are no longer masters, but just citizens working together. A person who produces rice and cattle is just as important as an engineer.

For me, an IVSer should try to help in this understanding. He should have more significance than the man who distributes tin roofing. His role should be higher and better than that.

Your role is very difficult. For, on the one hand, you have to make the villagers understand the real intention of the American people. And, on the other hand, you must try to make USAID understand the most meaningful way to help the development of Laos. In other words, your role is to guide the villagers toward economic development while protecting their natural equilibrium.

I think that the industrial society and civilization to the United States is a kind of success--in the United States and for the

American people. But, can we be sure that our people are able to follow that way of life?

The problem is that material progress is a means, and not an end in and of itself. If we are not very careful, we will have had results when people adopt an external American industrial civilization without fully understanding its value and how to utilize it.

So, your role is very difficult; particularly since I don't think the villagers can differentiate between IVSer and USAID technicians at first. But, if you can decide that building understanding is your role to play, I believe that it is very delicate and useful. Your role, therefore, is very distinct from USAID though, of course, USAID can be very helpful if it carries out its program properly.

7. Q. Could you talk some more about the IVSer in the village? What style of life should he lead, how should he live in order to try to create understanding?

A. Well, I will tell you how I see it, though perhaps I am wrong and only have a theoretical understanding.

It can be true the villagers will identify you just as a man from the U. S. with stuff to distribute.

Since we have just emerged from a colonial position, most of our people have not yet realized that they are independent. They don't realize that they are citizens of this country, a part of it, that what they do will be a part of our national effort--for bad or good.



So, since you have come from a very well-known and rich country, perhaps the people will say, "Well, the French have gone away but now we have a new nation in its place." Maybe they think they have to live as before under the French administration, waiting for orders.

Very often, therefore, people may not really expect rich, well-educated people to come live in the village and try to improve it. They wish above all to send

their children to the city to get official positions, in order to grab things from the Government and give them to the village.

I think the IVSer should live like a boy of the village who has gone away to be educated and then come back to give his knowledge to the villagers. He should live like a boy of whom they can be proud. Then they might want their sons to be educated and then come back to help the village.

The only example we have of this kind of thing right now is with former monks. They have a very respected position in the community.



The IVSer should live as a simple person, but respectable. Villagers should respect him because he can give technical advice, help them improve the village.

In this way, the villagers will think that you are helpful, sympathetic, someone in whom they can be confident.

Of course, it is still a long way to go until the people will really trust you. Therefore, I don't know if you will be able to see the results in a very short term. This can be difficult for IVSers because it is only natural to want to see short-term results.

I personally think, though, that it's better to work long-range instead of coming and saying "I only have two years to get so much done."

You can help and advise as a part of the village, without using the authority of your position, without offering to give things.

It is very important for the villagers to see you as a part of them. Once they can appreciate your behavior, see that you don't put yourself as a high-level person, you can give much advice.

It is true, of course, that you can give them a lot of things, make publicity, do projects. Maybe you may be tempted to do so out of fear that the people won't like you if you don't. But, this is not

helpful to the process of development. I don't advise this approach to your group.



8. Q. What specific projects should the IVSer be interested in at the village level?

A. Well, these projects would vary from place to place. They should be determined by careful study of the people and their customs.

They can only be decided on when you are in the village. You cannot go from here in Vientiane and say, "I should construct a dam or school in the village." For you can upset the natural, customary ways that have been built up for many years if you are not careful.

But, let me emphasize. I am not at all against economic development. I am only against economic development which does not take into account the local atmosphere and surroundings.

At first, the IVSer should try to meet vital needs. For example, it might be very difficult for the villagers to get drinking water.

9. Q. What should the IVSer do if the village does not feel it has any really vital needs and is mainly interested in improving its village temple?

A. Well, why not help them with their temple? Then he can gain their confidence. Perhaps, if he spends two years talking with the people, living in a good way, he can begin to change their ideas.

Maybe then, when the next IVSer comes to the village, he will find the people ready for new ideas.

Maybe you should send your philosophers to a village like that. Maybe you could find villages which are ready for economic development to send your economists to.

10. Q. One last question. We've talked a lot about how the IVSer can help the Lao. What can he learn from his experience with them?

A. As our culture and traditions are very different from yours, I think that it is very meaningful for you to try to understand what is our culture, our tradition, our way of life.

Maybe from that you can extract some value to help the present civilization in your country, for maybe not everything in modern civilization is good.

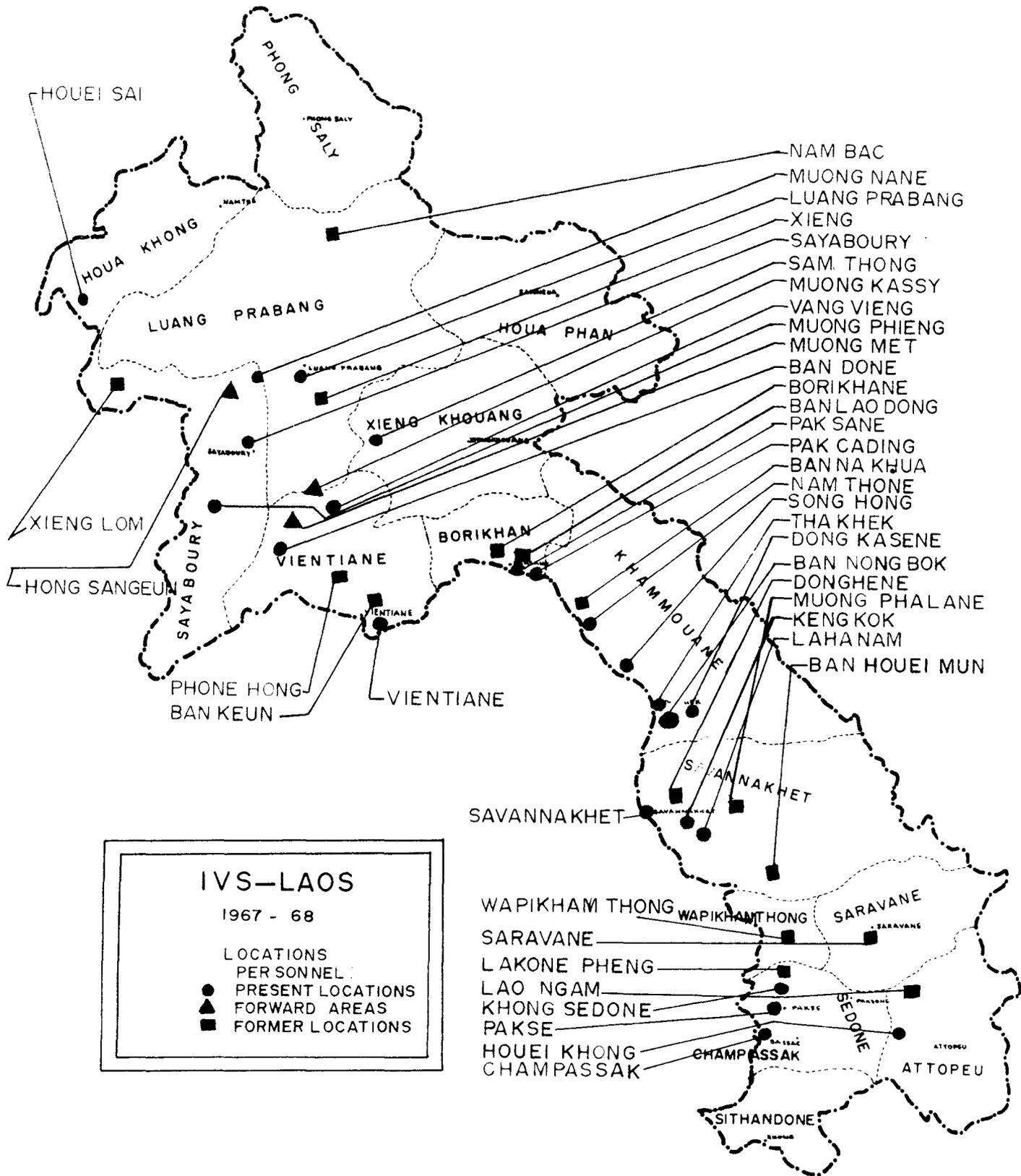
It seems to me that man in industrialized countries is often not free. By creating more and more needs, he chains himself to his work and the idea of increasing development. With development must come larger and larger organizations and, with time, man can become more of a productive tool than a human being. It seems often that men do not command their machines, but are instead crushed under them.

It often seems that the more developed men become, the more frustrated they become. For they go further and further from nature.

Probably here in Laos, anyway in villages far away from the cities, man is still content with what he has. For his needs are vital, natural needs which he can achieve by himself. People live naturally, with much human dignity and brotherhood.

The word "bo pin nyang" which we sometimes use with a smile on high is a kind of state of mind which in a certain way makes Laotians quiet. People don't worry about things so much, they don't try so hard to reach things on high.

I think that these parts of our country can give the IVSer a place where he can think about his own country and civilization and probably can improve it by separating human qualities from the machine.



IVS-LAOS
 1967 - 68

LOCATIONS
 PERSONNEL:

- PRESENT LOCATIONS
- ▲ FORWARD AREAS
- FORMER LOCATIONS

- NAM BAC
- MUONG NANE
- LUANG PRABANG
- XIENG
- SAYABOURY
- SAM THONG
- MUONG KASSY
- VANG VIENG
- MUONG PHIENG
- MUONG MET
- BAN DONE
- BORIKHANE
- BAN LAO DONG
- PAK SANE
- PAK CADING
- BANNA KHUA
- NAM THONE
- SONG HONG
- THA KHEK
- DONG KASENE
- BAN NONG BOK
- DONGHENE
- MUONG PHALANE
- KENG KOK
- LAHANAM
- BAN HOUEI MUN

- SAVANNAKHET
- SAVANNAKHET
- WAPIKHAM THONG
- WAPIKHAM THONG
- SARAVANE
- SARAVANE
- LAKONE PHENG
- LAO NGAM
- KHONG SEDONE
- PAKSE
- HOUEI KHONG
- CHAMPASSAK
- CHAMPASSAK
- SITHANDONE
- ATTOPEU
- ATTOPEU

FROM THE STAFF

When someone asks what IVS is, the normal, pat answers are the ones most often given--"a private, non-private volunteer agency," a "Peace Corps-like organization," etc.--but, although IVS is a volunteer agency, and although it is like Peace Corps, it is something else. It is something distinctive.

Started many years before Peace Corps and used as a basis for Peace Corps, IVS has built up a tradition over the years. It is like a family--sometimes happy, sometimes sad, sometimes troubled, and sometimes free and easy-going. The same turmoils and growing pains are as deeply engrained in IVS as in a family. Due to its size, volunteers feel more like a part of something. They feel the right to criticize the direction of IVS. They feel the right to worry about IVS. They feel the right to be proud of IVS. Because of this, IVS is a continually changing entity.

Many of the things which an IVS'er faces are typical of the things which any volunteer or social worker faces throughout the world. To work with a people whose culture and background are different carries the same challenges world-wide. The IVS'ers manner of living, communication, and mode of dress is also similar. The one thing different that the IVS'er (both in Laos and Vietnam) faces is a lack of security to one's life. This is not to say that every possible mode of protection isn't taken to insure a safe existence; but the threat of a Pathet Lao attack is omnipresent. They call Laos "The Forgotten War," but it is far from forgotten in the daily lives of the volunteer.



Larry Lehman, Khamka, Dick Augspurger, Loren Finnell, Ken Ullom, and Bob Lovan--IVS/RD Staff.

This year has been a particularly difficult one for IVS/Laos, and also a satisfying one. Much of the last six months of the fiscal year was occupied with negotiations for new IVS contracts. The staff spent countless hours, both in the office and at home, searching for ways to make IVS a better organization. Meetings with the Director of USAID and other officials filled many a day. Work plans were drawn up. Proposals were made. Counter-proposals were offered. Decisions were reached.

The outcome of this monumental task was a greatly increased understanding between IVS and USAID, a work plan to give IVS direction, and a staff number adequate to meet the demands of the organization. The gains made this year are history. It is up to the staff and the volunteers to take advantage of and build on these for the future of IVS in Laos.

FROM THE TEAM

This year the IVS team's Program Committee and Fred Branfman felt the IVS position in Laos needed a re-evaluation. They collected information from team members all over the country about their present jobs, their feelings about working closely with or independently of USAID, and their feelings, generally, about working in Laos. Out of this came the Position Paper which was sent to the IVS Board of Directors in Washington. The following message, which was supported by a majority of team members and staff, is an excerpt from the paper.



"The basic goal of IVS is to help people to achieve their own desires for a better life. We believe that this can be best done by IVS through a commitment to 'social development.' By 'social development' we mean the development of the ability of a society to harness and mobilize all resources available to it to achieve its own ends.

"By stressing its commitment to this kind of development, we in no way mean to downgrade what is commonly called 'economic development.' Our ultimate goal is as any organization contributing

to an improvement in the standards of living of people in developing nations. Due to its reputation and small size, IVS generally attracts volunteers with a fairly high level of professional training and/or work experience, capable of making a 'technical' contribution. But, in helping to build a well or school

we are concerned that it is the people themselves who participate not only in the work but in the conception, planning, and organizing of the project, and that they will be able to carry on such projects by themselves after the volunteer has left. Growth in the strength of a given society to itself achieve its own ends is the meaning of 'development' as we understand it.



"We believe that it is essential that IVS be

committed to:

1. Relationships based on respect.

2. Working with people rather than materials.

3. Allowing development to take place over time.

4. Developing a spirit of self-reliance and cooperation.



"The greatest single source of failures in development work is internal and external 'pressure to get things done.' It is this which leads to half-formulated schemes neither desired by nor within the reach of villagers; to projects being pushed energetically for a year or two and then abandoned; to a discouragement of initiative and inventiveness on the part of villagers; to impatience and annoyance on the part of the IVS'ers which in turn frustrated the growth of close relationships so essential to long-term success.

"The IVS'er in the field, whether doing CD work or teaching in a teacher training college, needs above all time: time to learn about his station, understand people, make plans; time in implementing plans; time in getting to know people informally and build trust and confidence. IVS'ers working in Laos should be encouraged to live at a level roughly similar to that of government workers and villagers of Laos. In this way they will learn Lao, come to understand the needs of Laos and be in a position to build proper relationships.

"There is (a) group... who question whether IVS can truly serve the Laotian people no matter what internal or external changes are made by it. It feels that the basic role of a volunteer is to promote change in such a way as to give people more control over their lives. It feels that as a part of the aid program, IVS is necessarily political and is in addition not working in the best interests of the Laotian people. It feels therefore that IVS should either pull out of Laos or admit frankly that it is in practice, although not out of intention, supporting a particular political situation.

"There is general agreement that if IVS were to be more independent, and put into practice the kind of 'social development' described here, that it would have more of a claim to be engaged in 'people to people' aid."

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee as an idea grew out of volunteer dissatisfaction in early 1966. At this time, certain volunteers were unhappy with their projects, staff response to their ideas, and the orientation they had received before coming to Laos. This group lost its exclusiveness as the demand of country-wide representativeness grew. From the first all-team conference came the decision to make the group a body of elected regional representatives and later came the suggestion of including the education members, thus making the committee a unifying factor for IVS in Laos. The first meeting of this newly-defined committee was July 1967. At this point, in addition to acting as a voice of volunteer views, work began on developing a structure for the new committee. An agreement was drawn up that established guidelines for the committee and area meetings were held, so that on October 14 the first national meeting of elected area representatives was held. From the time of the October meeting, the committee participated in the planning and conducting of the 1968 annual meeting, began developing machinery for administering the Marty Clish Memorial Scholarship Fund, as well as meeting with people from IVS/Washington: Mr. Gardiner, Executive Director; Dr. Kitagawa, Member of the Board of Directors; and Cliff Doke, Program Officer.

The major thrust of the committee efforts, however, has been the development of a Position Paper. The experience of the February, 1968, annual meeting, and the fact that many volunteers were unsatisfied with what they were doing or with the way that they were asked to do their job, made apparent the pressing need to define just what IVS should be doing as a volunteer organization. The committee felt that its best contribution to a statement,



Program Committee Meeting at IVS Office:
Randy Ireson, John Kiechle, Ken Ullom,
Jerry Nell, and George Viles.

which would, of necessity, come from IVS Washington, would be a volunteer attempt to produce such a definition. Response from the field was received and with the help of Fred Branfman, the paper was sent to Washington for presentation at the May 22 Board of Directors Meeting. The committee felt that thoughts stimulated by the paper should not stop with its completion, but continue. The paper is thus a beginning, not an end, in itself. Therefore, through continued response, the committee hopes to eventually obtain a better understanding of volunteer opinion. The success of this year for the committee would not have been had it not been for the aid of such interested individuals as Loren Finnell and Fred Branfman. With the cooperation of all IVS Laos, the committee hopes to continue improving to give the volunteers an organized voice on their behalf.

February, 1968



Jean Veillard, RD,
entertains at the
conference dinner.



Judy Stuckey,
Kristen Lehman,
Karen Bowman,
Brenda Peters

ALL TEAM CONFERENCE

A skit: Here, Randy Ireson,
Ken Ullom, and Fred Branfman,
author



One of the many meetings held
during the conference





Stan Druben, Chairman of the Program Committee, leads a group panel discussing various field problems.



Bob Lovan leads a panel discussion with Mr. Voravong, Director of the Service Geographique; Mr. Manorack, Director of Travaux Publique; and Mr. Ratsophonng, member of Assemblée Nationale.



Kris Lehman, Barb Gingerich, Mary Ann Russell, and Liz Candea in one of the many "nit-picking" sessions that took place during the three-day conference.

IVS / RD - STAFF



Monsoon 1968

And the rains came;
the fields turned to mud.
The water buffalo and plow replaced
the tank and AK-47.

The rains came;
the skies filled with clouds,
The lightning and thunder replaced
the Migs and F-105's

The rains came;
the fields turned to mud.

And the farmer replaced the soldier.

Because they talked in Paris?
Because the rains came.

Allan Best

IVS IN AGRICULTURE

There has been in recent years a realization that the rural farmer in a developing nation can profitably use and respond to a foreign aid investment. This is a group-occupation which can receive inputs and almost magically respond with production that easily pays for itself; witness the inputs of fertilizer, irrigation, and improved high-yielding varieties of rice.

As of 1968, the emphasis of the agricultural program is rice. USAID's primary purpose for implementing the program is political, but the program does offer IVS'ers a chance to contribute in a context that is meaningful to volunteers. The rice program is directed to the farmers, and this is good because most of the Lao are rice farmers. The objective of the program is to produce more rice, and this is good because the profit from extra production goes to the farmers.

IVS Agriculturalists generally try to work in a counterpart relationship with officials of the RLG Agricultural Service. This kind of an assignment can be frustrating, rewarding, or both. A counterpart position indicates that one has something to offer and this inherent assumption can cause problems. It is very easy to make a paper assignment. But, things such as an attitude of superiority or of the Lao official not desiring to be helped are some of the obstacles that may preclude a real relationship.

Those IVS'ers who have been successful are those who establish with their counterpart a learning-teaching relationship. It is necessary that the IVS'er spend his beginning months learning about Lao culture (farmer and agent attitudes)



Jim Gingerich, Roger Brady, and Larry Lehman planting demonstration rice paddy.



An IVS display on good farming practices.

and the tropical agriculture which he has likely never seen before (in this case, rice). It is after that time that the IVS'er can be of real assistance, because he will know the situation, and, based on his broader and more technical experience, can offer valuable suggestions. And, if during his learning period, the IVS'er has managed to get accepted by his counterpart, then he may find the very satisfactory experience of being able to help, being permitted to help, and being appreciated for his help.

IVS'ers this past year have made working relationships with RLG Agricultural officials in Extension and Research activities. One attraction of agricultural work in Laos is the number of unknown factors. There is an excitement in discovery, for example, of which extension techniques work best and of which variety and fertilizer are best for an area's soil. The fact that IVS Agriculturalists work in counterpart positions means that IVS'ers work mainly with officials of the Lao Agriculture Service, and not independently (on their own) directly with the farmers. The reasons for this are twofold: One, is that it is more logical to teach an agent who will continue to teach farmers after the IVS'er's departure, than to teach a group of farmers who do not intend to pass the information on. The other reason is, that by dealing directly with farmers the IVS'er may usurp the credit that the Lao Agricultural personnel should be getting. The resulting loss of face could severely affect the program of

IVS'ers working in that area or service. There are a very few areas where the RLG Agriculture Service does not have agents placed. IVS'ers assigned to such places assume the responsibility there. These locations, however, are being brought into RLG control as fast as it is possible to find graduates and train them in basics of agriculture.

IVS'ers have been active in specific programs. In Extension, they have assisted in making



Dennis Wilczek at an IR-8 rice demonstration.

demonstrations of improved rice varieties, fertilizer, and irrigation systems in both rainy and dry seasons. This includes helping to organize farmer-tours. There has also been some work with vegetables, i. e., corn fertilization demonstrations. In Research, IVS'ers assist in setting up field trials of new varieties in both paddy and highland rices, and in fertilizer trials. In Irrigation, IVS'ers promote self-help in building small dams or pump irrigation systems. Some IVS'ers have tackled the very challenging problem of encouraging farmers to form associations to operate irrigation systems, pump and canal maintenance, and correct conservation of water.

The kind of assistance that IVS'ers give varies with the IVS'er and the assignment. Probably, the ideal is the accepted-advisor capacity. Suggestions as to 1) how to teach farmers methods of fertilization (proper rates), 2) how to properly and safely use insecticides and spraying equipment, 3) how to set up research field trials which will yield valid data, 4) how to set up a pump and canal system . . . are some of the ways in which IVS'ers have helped. Of course, if the IVS'er is the only one in an area who has a jeep, he'll be asked to transport agents, farmers, fertilizer, and other commodities. In general the types of activities which involve the IVS'er will depend upon the kind of personal relationship that he achieves with the Lao Agricultural official.

(Marcus Bordsen)

VILLAGE LIFE: THE HUSBAND

Working on a low-priority refugee resettlement project is probably one of the least-directed jobs open to an IVS'er. The freedom is tempered by a certain amount of frustration and confusion; however, as it often seems nothing constructive is happening, even if I knew (which I often don't) what constructively could be happening. Nevertheless, it is an exciting job.



Whatever initial commodity relief is necessary to new groups of refugees is handled exclusively by USAID and the RLG; therefore, although the villagers do not totally distinguish between IVS and USAID Americans, I am not called upon to be a supplier-figure in their eyes. Instead, because my job is mostly to work with and assist the resettlement effort, planning and improving the new villages, I am able to work on a cordial and not strictly defined basis with villagers and RLG employees. Not having always to be "project-oriented" has enabled my wife and me to live in Nam Thone almost as members of the village, though, of course, always somewhat removed by our status and wealth as foreigners.

I believe the challenge of a job like this is that one must be able to come up with a constructive response to an innumerable variety of situations, and that the response must be relevant to the people involved. One soon learns that naive community development cliches (for example: "Well, let's have a village meeting about it," or "the government has a program that . . .") are greeted by the quiet derision they often deserve. Learning what the people have done, can do, and/or consider reasonable is extremely important, as is gaining their respect as a person who is not out of touch with their definition of reality, and willing to help, by their methods, when they feel help is needed. The mechanics of getting families to clear and develop land for a village and farm has by now become a minor part of the job because there are very few new arrivals in the Nam Thone area. Rather, it now becomes important to be able to go without seeing any visible results for long periods of time, yet continue to visit, talk and work with the people, asking and answering questions, discussing ideas, gaining trust. Then, when a chance to do something concrete presents itself, you will know how, when, and with whom to act, without becoming so excited about the prospect of a significant accomplishment that your excess enthusiasm alienates the villagers and blinds you to their reactions.

Being married in this job has several advantages. The family unit is something that is understood and accepted by the Lao people, and living as a family facilitates our relationship with the people in many ways; many otherwise difficult areas of work and living have been opened to us. We have also been able to develop our house and yard as a moderately productive unit, though not so well as the Lao in many respects, gaining a feeling of accomplishment at times when it is available from no other source, and also living in some degree within a context that is familiar to our neighbors. Of course, working as a couple also provides a ready source of encouragement, criticism, and companionship, though it is often an easy temptation to stay in the familiar shelter of our home and not go out and visit and work with the villagers as we know we ought. Crossing that initial gap of cultural incomprehension and discomfort is a difficult and often unpleasant process, but it must be done if one is to ever be effective in one's job. After a year in Laos, I am at last beginning to feel at home with the Lao language and the people of Nam Thone. Perhaps, I am even beginning to understand what it is I can really do here.

(Randy Ireson)

VILLAGE LIFE: THE WIFE

In our almost unique position of having the freedom to develop many of our own goals (USAID has only small local projects as this is a low priority area), a satisfactory life is evolving for us. I work with the RLG home agents two or three days a week and spend the rest of the time working in the garden or with the chickens, doing housework and visiting. Randy and I spend a lot of time together because part of our job, as we see it, is creating a home in Nam Thone that is understandable to the Lao, so that we will be accepted as neighbors. On our own home plot we have a garden, as the villagers do, but we plant and care for it differently. Many villagers have chickens, but few are as big as ours and none live in a cage all of the time. We hope by living and working here we can show the villagers alternative ways of doing things that may be more healthful or more productive.



Being married, my experiences of Laos are somewhat different than those of a single girl. Without a husband, I would not be allowed to live and work in the countryside, far from any city. A single person, unrelated to a family, is a rarity in Laos, so this can make the single person more unusual and set apart than the married couple. It's easy, though, to withdraw into the familiar comforts of home when things get discouraging or frustrating. Also, a husband or wife must spend a certain amount of time and energy building and maintaining the marriage relationship; whereas, a single person might use that time and energy to visit with the Lao. However, it is good to have someone to try out your ideas on or solve problems with, and someone to laugh and cry with when life in Laos becomes too absurd for words.

(Carol Ireson)

IVS AND FISH

The importance of fish as a protein source in a person's diet is an established fact. In Laos, fish hatchery stations exist at three locations--Luang Prabang, Vientiane, and Pakse--and one is being installed in Savannakhet. Farmers and other people interested in growing fish exist everywhere. However, there has not been an established program to bring the hatcheries and potential growers together except in a limited number of refugee camps and in the immediately



surrounding areas of the hatcheries until now. Jack Donnan, IVS, my predecessor in this field, helped lay the groundwork and drummed up a lot of the enthusiasm that has made the establishment of such a program possible. IVS is involved in the fish culture program of the Royal Lao Government and U. S. Consultants (USAID) in the two important areas of extension and training for extension. IVS has assigned one volunteer, thus far, to work with and among the different governmental bodies,

the station at Luang Prabang, and those who want to grow fish. In my first two weeks, I have been involved in everything from teaching farmers how to raise the fingerlings they buy for the hatchery, to teaching my counterpart some of the science of successful fish culture.

The Royal Lao Government, through its Agricultural Extension Service and its Division of Water and Forestry, will provide an increasing number of fish specialists and extension agents who will gradually assume the responsibility of running the fish hatchery stations and aiding the farmers and other fish growers in overcoming their technical and marketing problems. If my counterpart's enthusiasm and rate of learning are any indication, then the time when Laos will be self-sufficient in fish and fish culture expertise will soon come.

Working myself out of a job will be a most delightful experience. Maybe then I can relax and just go fishing.

(John Bryson)



REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT--MUONG PHIENG STYLE

As a member of the Rural Development Team, approximately eighty percent of my working effort is devoted to refugee relief and resettlement with about eighteen hundred Lao, Meo, and Yao refugees. The Meo and Yao are hill-tribe people closely related to the Chinese; whereas, the Lao are paddy farmers and more closely related to the Thai.

The Meo and Yao arrived in the Muong Phieng area in 1967, and the Lao arrived in February of this year. Basically, my involvement with the two groups is quite similar, although the Meo and Yao consume a far greater portion of my time since they number about seventeen hundred of the total. We (this is by no means a one-man operation) are basically trying to re-establish these people in such a way that they will no longer be treated as refugees, but as settled, paddy or hill farmers, as the case may be.



A good deal of our concern is furnishing the basic necessities of food, clothing, medical care, hand tools, and shelter. Most of the refugees upon arrival have with them little more than what they can carry personally (the old story for all refugee groups down through history); thus, the first priority is material aid to help relieve some of the more overt discomforts of being a refugee. A good deal of my time is actually spent supervising the distribution of commodities provided by the United States Agency for International Development. Of the several items provided, rice has been the most cumbersome, amounting to about fifty tons per month; most of this rice has necessitated making local purchases and then transporting the rice to storage areas for eventual distribution. With a limited budget, it has been necessary to use as much refugee

Tom Xerri with refugees in Muong Phieng.





Tom Xerri and Carol Wells
listening to Meo refugee medic
tell of needs at Nam Poui, Muong
Phieng Cluster.



self-help as possible, which means the recipients must help collect and distribute the rice. This saves on handling costs and gives the refugees an opportunity to feel they are helping to better their own conditions.

Helping to facilitate communication between the Refugee Relief and Resettlement Branch of USAID, and the Muong Phieng refugee operation is a less exciting activity; but, still quite necessary. This is accomplished by monthly reports, memos, radio messages, and periodic visits to the Branch Office in Vientiane. For any organization to function there must be a communication channel, and I guess I am a part of the channel, to link organization and refugee.



After working with the Meo and Yao for a couple of months, it became necessary for me to acquire a field assistant. His name is Yang Ying and he hails from a former Meo refugee village not far from Muong Phieng. Yang has proved very helpful in my contacts with the Meo and Yao as many of them do not speak Lao and I do not speak Meo. His ability to translate Meo-Lao has lessened the amount of frustration on several occasions between the refugees and myself. In addition to his translating, he has helped on such community development projects among the refugees as village sanitation and gardening. Recently, he completed a survey to determine the swine population acquired by the refugees since their arrival. This data will help us to start a swine project with longer-ranged objectives than the emergency relief now being given.

One thing impressed upon me in working with Yang Ying is the importance of using local people when and where possible. This is especially true in longer range community development projects of the type Yang Ying has been involved. By helping him with materials and with a little encouragement, there is no doubt that he can be more effective in the long run than myself. I might add that Yang and myself have a lot in common during off-duty hours in that we both enjoy visiting remote villages and hunting.

This is, very briefly, the refugee program in this corner of the Royal Kingdom of Laos.

(Tom Xerri)

A DAY IN THE FOREST

IVS Forestry Team:

The villagers of Ban Na Tham were scattered below us in a grassy field next to their village. They were waiting for our helicopter to land. This was a big day for them because never before had they a chance to see a chopper up close. While we were landing, shutting down, and checking the security situation with the soldiers, they waited patiently at the edge of the field. At last the lieutenant said it was all right, and the men, women, and children hurried forward oohing and aahing to look at and to feel the "flying boat." So excited and pleased were they to see us that they threw a big feast in our honor and tied strings around our wrists to keep the good spirits in our bodies and the evil spirits away. All we had come for was to work another day on the forest inventory program which the IVS Forestry Team is helping to advise.

The preparation for this day, in that it was basically a day like all days, began weeks before when we first began to train our men and to establish an inventory procedure. The Lao foresters were trained in the basics of forest inventory. They learned such things as how to take an inventory plot; what trees to measure and how to measure them; how to measure distances and run a compass line; how to recognize different vegetation patterns and their significance; and, how to use maps and aerial photographs.

In the office we had already delineated on maps and the corresponding aerial photographs the inventory line that each crew would run for that particular day. The lines were from one to two klms. long and, at 150 meters apart, would have anywhere from 7 to 15 plots. The crew's beginning and ending points were marked, as well as the azimuth they were supposed to run on. All of which provided a record, of varying accuracy, of where they were so that we could better utilize the data they collected.

By the time this particular day occurred, the Lao had reached a degree of proficiency so that they were able to do the field work without our direct assistance. We continued to prepare work and kept things coordinated and running smoothly.

When the crews had all returned to the village, we made ready to fly back to Vientiane. Again, the people gathered--this time to bid us farewell, and to shake their heads in disbelief as the pilot lifted the chopper two feet off the ground, did a 180 degree turn, and flew off. The villagers had something to talk about for many days to come. We had the good feelings that come with generous hospitality, as well as inventory data to add to that of days previous and that of days to come. All of which will help to give us a better idea of what the forests of Laos are like.

The data collected will give us some knowledge of the general condition of the Lao forest, as well as aid us in planning next year's work and the years to come. At present, we are in the process of conducting training courses in photogrammetry, cartography, and compilation, and other related areas of forestry. Using the data collected this year as a guide, we are training the Lao to distinguish and delineate various forest types along with other pertinent features on the aerial photographs. The next step is the making of maps from these photographs. These maps will be used to develop next year's field inventory work, as well as give us a better idea of the general ground condition in Laos and the location of the various forest types. Along with this work, the data is being compiled to give us volume figures upon which to base future management plans.

Since we have begun our work, the Lao have learned much. We have done a lot of work, but there is still much to do. Just as the helicopter was new to the village we visited, so is the concept of forestry and what it proposes to do in Laos new to most Laotians. The future of forestry in Laos, whether



Jim Mahlia, Tom Zacharczyk, and Ed Myers work with the Lao government in developing a forestry program and training forestry workers.

or not it will become a viable concern, depends on these people and their willingness to accept and abide by the restrictions and demands a forestry program will place on them. Our work is just the beginning, a mere laying of foundations for future generations to build on. So far, it has been an enjoyable and educational experience.

(Tom Zacharczyk)



In the boat: Alex, the rice, Bertha, Cort, and Kamdii.

for IVS'ers Cort Van Ripper and Alex McIntosh are quite at home here in Ban Done.

IVS IN BAN DONE

Bathing women and small boys fishing greet the gaily colored white and red pirogue with shy smiles and laughter as it slides up onto the bank. The two Americans acknowledge the greetings with the traditional "sabahdii" and with their paraphernalia--radio, survival kit, sacks of rice--make their way through the village. The quiet rhythm of the village remains undisturbed by the presence of the two Americans. An old man pauses to shake hands, make brief conversation, and passes. Nothing seems to be conspicuous about this pair--one tall, lanky blond, wearing white bermuda shorts; the other short, dark-haired, sporting a battered Boy Scout hat--

Ban Done, located 120 kilometers north of Vientiane, is a relatively short three or four hour drive during the dry season; but, when the rains come, it is accessible only by boat, an additional six hours. This problem of transportation is one of the main obstacles to development in the area, but it cannot compare with a much greater obstacle--that of the conflict in Laos. Only three years ago, the Ban Done area was Pathet Lao territory and many of the villagers remain loyal to their cause. Often at night, sounds of strife can be heard, and it is always a feeling of gnawing uneasiness that Cort and Alex carry with them on their treks to surrounding villages. A small army camp exists at the village, and the Colonel is a man to be duly feared and respected; but, even his presence cannot deter a "raid," as a previous attack on their house has proven. But, as most IVS'ers in the field, they have learned to live with the sense of danger. Fortunately, for Cort and Alex and their assistants, most of the villagers desire only a better way of life, and concentrate their efforts on improving their rice crops and living conditions. Encouraged by this sense of determination in the villagers, the two can readily tolerate the insecurity of their positions. But, somehow, even conflict cannot erase the serenity that surrounds village life.

Work in Ban Done is slow-moving, but there is never a dull moment. Mornings are usually taken up with short trips to neighboring villages or by small business items that can be done in Ban Done itself. At least three times a week, a trip to the next village to the dam site is in order to note the progress and help any small problems that might arise. As usual, in Laos business is mixed with pleasure, and a visit to the dam means a brief respite for the laborers



Travel is often on such jungle trails.



The villagers transported supplies and built the dam under the supervision of IVS. Now, it's time to use and enjoy it.

and a swim in the river--with much frolicking and gaiety. This project is a source of immense satisfaction to Alex and Cort because it was initiated and built by the villagers themselves. Before the American AID program began to furnish material support, the villagers were hauling cement up the river in their little pirogues--a slow and tedious process. Now, with machines and trucks and guidance from two Thai Nationals, the dam is well on its way to completion. The dam will insure the villagers of a wet-season crop and enable them to produce a dry-season crop as well. With the final product so near at hand, the villagers are already preparing with great anticipation a big boun (festival) to celebrate the fruits of their labors. It is no great surprise that the two IVS'ers look forward to joining the villagers in their celebration.

During the afternoons the heat forces all work to a standstill. This is the time for letter writing, report writing, reading, or napping--usually to the quiet strains of a guitar strummed by one of the workers that frequent their house. Often, Alex engenders a new sound to the quiet air with the incongruous sounds of his banjo. Sometimes it is the sounds of the Beatles that lends the air of toe-tapping and filters out of the house to spread a more Western touch to the village scene. But, in tune with the village itself, the IVS house is usually very still. Sometimes the lassitude is shattered by tragedy as the villagers bring in a man delirious with malaria. Pain and sickness so familiar, yet so mysterious, is often a case for the village witch doctor or the local medic; but, when all this fails or when it is a sudden sickness such as malaria, the villagers seek help from the IVS'ers. It is time to shift into action again. The radio goes on and a call is put through for a small plane to take the man to Vientiane. A big service to a village so isolated, another way to help; but, imbued with the responsibility of miracle-workers by expectant, trusting eyes, an unwelcome burden and a silent, unspoken helplessness is felt by both wishing that they really could perform miracles.



Kamdii weighs rice in the village.

In the late afternoon, one by one the villagers bring their rice to be sold. Kamdii, Cort's assistant, has charge of this operation--weighing the rice, discussing the price, writing up the receipts. Kamdii has worked with Cort for a year and a half now, and has progressed from an avid student to an indispensable part of the program. Confident, eager, Kamdii acts as translator, guide, and advisor; and Cort and Alex readily admit that they could not do without him. Kamdii is dedicated to showing his people "the good way." It is through his energies that most of the work in Ban Done is accomplished.

Often, their work takes them to more remote villages--to buy and sell rice or introduce a new rice or organize a rice demonstration. During the rainy season, one trip is an all day affair and sometimes, when there is a boun in progress, the trip may be stretched to days, depending on how persuasive the villagers are, or, as in many instances, how persuasive the lao-lao is. One village, Non Phet, way out in the banaak--or boondocks--is a frequent visit. All the village is aware of the small expedition as it treks to the river--Cort, again, in his regulation uniform of white bermuda shorts, Alex in his Boy Scout hat, Kamdii and Bhoua Phing (the other assistant) taking up the lead, laughing and joking with the villagers. Sounds of sabahdii and paj saj? (where are you going?) follow them to the river. The newly painted boat lying conspicuously among the other brown, dilapidated boats is loaded with the IR-5 rice to be demonstrated, the faithful radio (security requires that they take it with them wherever they go), survival kit, and "ole" Berthax, the even more faithful dog--more frequently called "Berta" by the Lao. And, though these trips have become routine, they are always a pleasure. It is a beautiful, awe-inspiring trip with Kamdii at the prow guiding the boat through the dense Laotian jungle, maneuvering through narrow rapids, dodging low-hanging vines and floating bamboo logs, following the swift current around the mountains, listening to the calling of birds and the chattering of monkeys. To be a part of the sounds and silences of the jungle, it to be known an important reality of Laos.

Emergency:
Cort and Alex put
a malaria victim
on a plane bound
for a hospital.





Alex studies work still to be done in the village.

They land and dispose of the rice sacks, but their real destination lies another hike ahead through more jungle and paddy fields. But, in reality, it is more than a hike away. In the first village, they are greeted as miracle workers again. A young boy has been ill for two weeks and there is no doctor. They go to see him knowing beforehand that there is nothing they can do--again, imbued with a frustrating responsibility. But, they arrange for transportation to Vang Vieng and continue on with the persistent realization that so much more needs to be done. In the second village they rest awhile

and Alex makes arrangements with the local gunsmith to get a few gun parts. Finally, through more jungle and over a few more rice paddies, they reached their final destination.

The tasang, head man in the area, immediately hands them a shot of lao-lao, the brutal Laotian beverage, with a hearty welcome and business commences over continual rounds of the drinking. For the villagers, it is a cause of much joking and laughter to watch the two falang downing the potent drink, but for Cort and Alex who see a long journey ahead, the name of the game is to see how little they can get by with drinking. A difficult task in the face of Laotian hospitality. The conversation is merry. A chicken is killed and feasted upon, more lao-lao is poured, and gossip ensues, and the conversation finally comes around to the usual questions. Do you have a wife or a girlfriend in America? Why aren't you married? When will you get married? To the Lao, the concept of being single is quite foreign and a source of much curiosity. But the tasang is an understanding man. With a merry twinkle, he tries to persuade them to stay the night. There are several pretty girls that they should meet. But, regretfully, Cort and Alex decline the invitation and with much difficulty take their leave--mission accomplished. The tasang has agreed to demonstrate two hectares of IR-5 rice and has bought IR-8 seeds for another crop. But, it is a tipsy caravan that weaves its way across the rice paddies toward home--"ole Berta" is leading the way and Kamdii filling the air with Laotian songs.

Cort and Alex have much to be pleased about. With support and guidance, the villagers have constructed four schools, a dispensary, and a dam. Another dam is in the planning. They are assured of a double crop and are no longer hesitant to plant IR-8 and IR-5 for marketing. Important obstacles have been overcome. They have gained the trust of the villages. But, for these two IVS'ers, as it is with most of us working close to the people in the field, essence of the experience lies in the small day to day associations

with the people--a question, an answer, a smile, a look in the eyes--always learning, studying, trying to understand. There are many avenues to progress, some may be even more important than a dam. Little things count: a village youth sporting white bermuda shorts; another villager requesting some red and white paint for his boat; an old man squatting beside them offering tea from a bamboo glass, eagerly, earnestly, asking for English words; a game of volleyball or makato (Laotian soccer) in the evenings. But, most of all, it is the gleam of pleasure and satisfaction in their eyes that makes it all worthwhile. Only the sounds of heavy guns in the night can shatter that gleam and leave the blight of a question mark.

(Dawn Bowman)

HANDICRAFTS

It is difficult for Lao villagers and refugees to understand why "foreigners" are interested in their crafts. This is partially due to the fact that crafts, to them, serve a "functional" rather than an "ornamental" purpose. Everything they make has an immediate and specific use in daily life. IVS has been working for over two years in a handicraft program designed to insure that their ability to make crafts is not lost (as has been the case in some instances) and to reinforce the indigenous Lao culture. The nationwide program, led first by Liz Candea and now by Jack Parmenter, encourages the villager to produce traditional Lao items or things re-designed to meet modern needs.

The handicraft most encouraged is weaving, because 90% of the villages in Laos practice this skill in some form or another.

"Right now, we are working in synthetics and cottons because silk must be imported, mostly from Japan," Jack says. "We want to stress silk weaving. Weaving traditional Lao patterns in silk. At present, there is no industry in Laos, but work is being done now to encourage this industry. The villages who don't weave could produce raw silk. We would bring the raw silk into Vientiane to be processed and dyed and re-distribute it to the villages for weaving."

This program is sponsored jointly by IVS and the Royal Lao Government. It is not an official USAID project. At the moment, the IVS'er brings items from villages he visits. These items are shown to the ministry, who purchases the items. The money is given to the IVS'er, who then takes the money back to the villager.

Soon, the Lao Government will take over more of the craft hunting jobs. There is a government agent now in Luang Prabang, and two will soon be sent to Sayaboury and Thakhek.

IVS and the RLG have received much assistance from the United Nations Organization in Vientiane. The U.N., the RLG, and IVS are working with the Ecole de Beaux Arts to have the art students revive Lao pottery. They hope also to revive this craft on the village level in villages who used to produce various kinds of pots until manufactured pots, imported from other countries, drove them out of business in the past few years.

Jack is very involved with this program because he has seen in the villages he has worked with "a feeling of solidarity among the villagers who work together to produce traditional Lao items. The people re-gain a sense of pride in their culture." His biggest difficulties arise now from the fact that transportation is so poor in most of Laos, and from the fact that so many of the people he works with are illiterate, which makes bookkeeping and communication difficult."

(Crystal Erhart)

: a village woman
is drawing water
from a well

How is it that a moment in the very grips of everydayness can, without warning, reach a depth beyond itself and reveal its rootedness in recesses of time? The detail before me is common: The grasp of hand upon rope, a delicate tightening in the face, the definition of tendon stretching against skin, the pained expenditure of effort. Aspects of everydayness, but at closer view: elements in an instance of the crisis strewn history of humanity. I am the witness of an ancient drama whose heroine executes with flawless precision the requirements of her role. With buckets filled, she turns and begins the slow, deliberate steps which retrace her route home: the mapped region of her struggle for existence. I have moved to the doorway from where I watch her pass, a study in human diligence. I am revered. I say a silent tribute to this mother of the race. Oblivious of my attention she goes on her way, soon to rejoin her children in the sweet shade of her porch. There she confers precious affection on miniature representations of her self and her absent husband. Removed now from her labor at the well her world is transformed by these marvelous creatures whose sounds and movements are the measure of her impact upon history. They exist far ahead of her in some distant, unchartered future into which she projects all her untold, unrealized anticipation.

Mike Flanagan



Carol Wells teaching village women how to make and follow a pattern.

THE HOME ECONOMICS PROGRAM IN LAOS

The IVS/RLG Home Economics Program in Laos has undertaken the responsibility of improving the living conditions of the Lao population. More specifically, the following goals have been developed in order to meet the responsibilities of the Home Economics Program:

1. To increase the health, mentality, and general well-being of the Lao people through improved nutrition and sanitation practices.
2. To lower the high mortality rate (approximately 40%) through improved child care practices.
3. To assist the people with various means for increasing their yearly incomes, such as small home industries, double crop rice, etc.

The goals of this program are implemented by 48 RLG home agents in 25 locations. IVS Home Economists are stationed at three of these locations-- Sayaboury, Nam Thone, and Vang Vieng. The IVS Home Economists have the opportunity to work as counterparts to the RLG home agents, learn the Lao village life and culture, and assist the RLG home agents in planning their programs tempered by the villager's needs.

The 48 home agents located in the province are under the direction of the RLG National Home Economics Branch, directed by Mme. Boun Souei. Under her are four technical supervisors responsible for advising the home agents in nutrition, sewing, handicrafts, and child care. Three of these supervisors have been trained in Bangkok, but all of the personnel at the National Home Economics Headquarters could benefit from additional training. The IVS National Home Economics Supervisor is counterpart to the Director of RLG Home Economics; together they plan how to best implement an effective Home Economics Program.

During fiscal year 1969, the RLG Home Economics Branch will conduct two in-service training sessions in order to re-train all 48 RLG Home Agents; 24 will be trained in each of the six weeks' long sessions. The major objectives of this in-service training are:

1. To up-grade the technical skills of the RLG home agents. The home agents have received anywhere from 2-6 months of training. This is not sufficient if these agents are to bring about change in the traditional homemaking methods of the rural village women.
2. To educate the home agents in the many facets of the RLG/USAID Agriculture Extension Program and their role in supporting the program.
3. To instruct the RLG home agents in program planning. Often a Home Economics program does not get started in an area due to the agent's inability to organize her resources and plan a program.



Carol Wells showing villagers how to make a pattern.

During the training sessions, the RLG home agents will be instructed in: Nutrition and Foods, Child Care, Clothing Construction, Handicrafts, the Rice Production Program, Program Planning, Visual Aids, and Demonstrations. After this training the home agents will return to their field stations and conduct village training programs, incorporating the technical knowledge learned in Vientiane.

In the past, the RLG home agents have been limited in both technical ability and financial support; consequently, the visible results of the Home Economics effort over the past eight years are in some locations negligible. Hopefully, as the home agents receive additional training and financial support from USAID, they will become more effective in teaching the Lao population how to improve their living conditions. It is projected that villagers will receive home economics training in 150 villages during fiscal year 1969.



As is to be expected, the National Home Economics Program is not problem-free. There are many frustrations with the USAID bureaucracy and RLG Government

IVS Assistant Kheua Kham gives individual sewing instructions in blouse construction program at Muong Phieng Cluster.

procedure. For example, the financial support for the Home Economics Program from USAID is under much consideration. Many people fail to appreciate the contribution of a home economist to the development of Laos. According to the Program Office (USAID) the approval of the Home Economics Program depends on the contribution it can make to the Rice Program.

IVS policy is that all IVS'ers are counterparted to the RLG personnel in the comparable position. For the IVS Home Economist this is a challenging learning experience but also a problem-laden experience. The IVS'ers are often discouraged by the home agent's lack of dedication to help their fellow countryman, unenthusiastic approach to their work, and the bureaucratic channels one must use to reach a minor decision concerning program planning.

Working with and around these obstacles, the Home Economics Program will continue to progress. Its responsibility to improve the living conditions of the Lao people is vitally necessary to the development of Laos; thus, full effort will be exerted by IVS and RLG personnel to meet this responsibility.

(Joanne Augspurger)

NURSING

Sue Robbins Goffard, R.N., worked as a public health nurse for two and a half years in Thakhek. She left Laos two months ago. The following is an excerpt from her End of Tour Report:

Why are Public Health Nursing Programs Essential to Community Development in Laos?

In order for a country to develop economically, agriculturally, and socially, in addition to a stable effective government, it must have effective manpower. Effective manpower requires sufficient numbers of productive people possessing enough interest and energy to work to their full capacities. Energy requires a positive standard of health.



In relation to the above statements, what is the current situation in Laos?

- A. " . . . Sufficient numbers of people . . . "
- Percentage of men decreasing due to war casualties
 - 40% infant mortality
 - High incidence of disabling, life-shortening, and fatal diseases.
- B. " . . . Possessing enough interest and energy . . . "
- Daily energy is being consumed by parasites, worms, mosquitoes. The symptoms of the major local diseases are fatigue and lethargy.
 - Human interest tends to dwell on basic needs until those basic needs are adequately satisfied. So long as fatigue, discomfort, pain, death continue to plague villagers, interest in community and country needs is likely to be small. (This is one reason why village interest in assuming community and country responsibilities is frequently low, much to the frustration of healthy, energetic, Western counterparts.)

C. " . . . Productive people working to full capacity . . . "

- High incidence of disabling disease
- Continuous fatigue-lethargy due to continuous ill health produced by ignorance and superstition.

People continuously plagued and weakened by disease cannot work productively to full capacity or develop as responsible citizens. (This is one reason why Lao villagers frequently work for only a few hours per day, much to the frustration of their healthy, Western counterparts.) They cannot look beyond their own miserable immediate problems of physical ill-being until something is done about those problems. Until such time, village-provincial-country responsibilities are likely to receive little attention. When a villager is dragging himself off to the jungle toilet eleven times per day, he has little concern for whether the new school gets finished on time, or who wins the next election. But, he is concerned about his diarrhea. Perhaps if more constructive assistance could be offered regarding his immediate problem of diarrhea, the villager would be more interested in and have more energy for the economic and agricultural developments which we keep telling him are so important.

RLG Activity Currently Being Done to Improve Village Level Standards of Health:

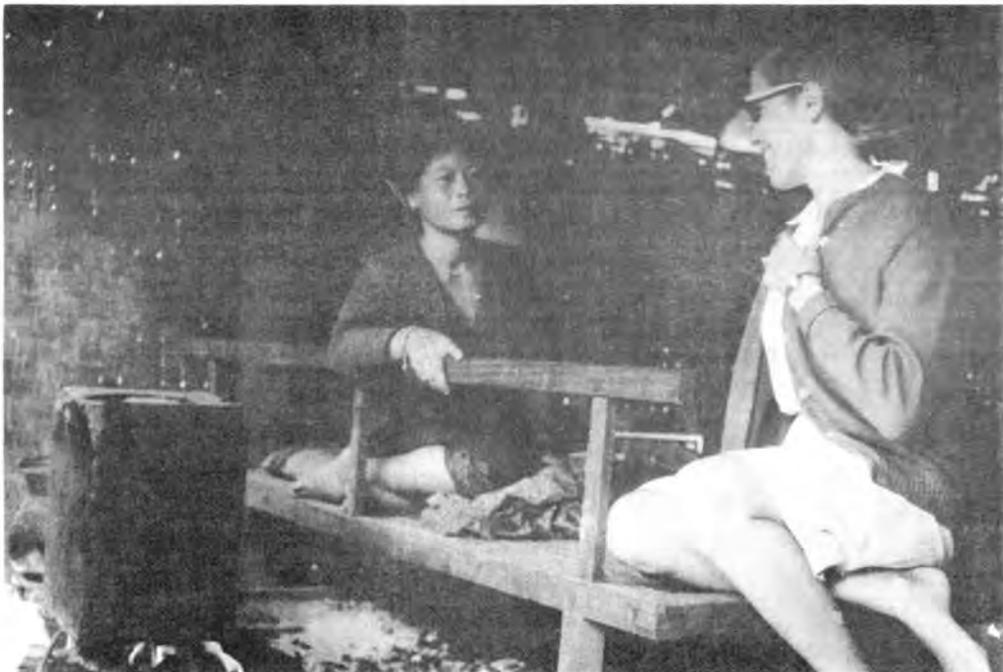
A. Curative Medicine (medical treatment of disease)

1. Hospital Centers--mainly in provincial capitals. Treat general city population and nearby villagers within walking distance.
2. MCH Centers in five provincial capitals. Treat mother-child percentage of city population and nearby villages.
3. Medic-Dispensary network available in all provinces (approximately 10-15 per province). Treatment of general village population near enough to visit dispensaries.
4. Rural midwives...located in all provinces (approximately 10-30 per province), treat mainly mother percentage of village populations. One midwife can generally provide service for her own village and possibly 2-3 other close-by villages.

B. Health Education... Preventive Medicine.

Hospital centers provide some health education, mainly for





Jane Wilczek visits a Lao wife receiving post-natal care--Lao style. Women usually spend up to 30 days in a smoke-filled room after giving birth.

hospital staff and mother-child percentage of "city populations."

MCH Centers, medics, and rural midwives offer little or no health education service. The limited training which these medical figures have had stimulates them to encourage village dependence upon medicine. Little or no attempt to introduce preventive medicine...health education...is made. Thus, the village population continues to get sick - take medicine - get sick - take medicine. The diarrhea pills and the dirty water are taken simultaneously. The people cannot get well and stay well. They exist in a constant state of ill health.

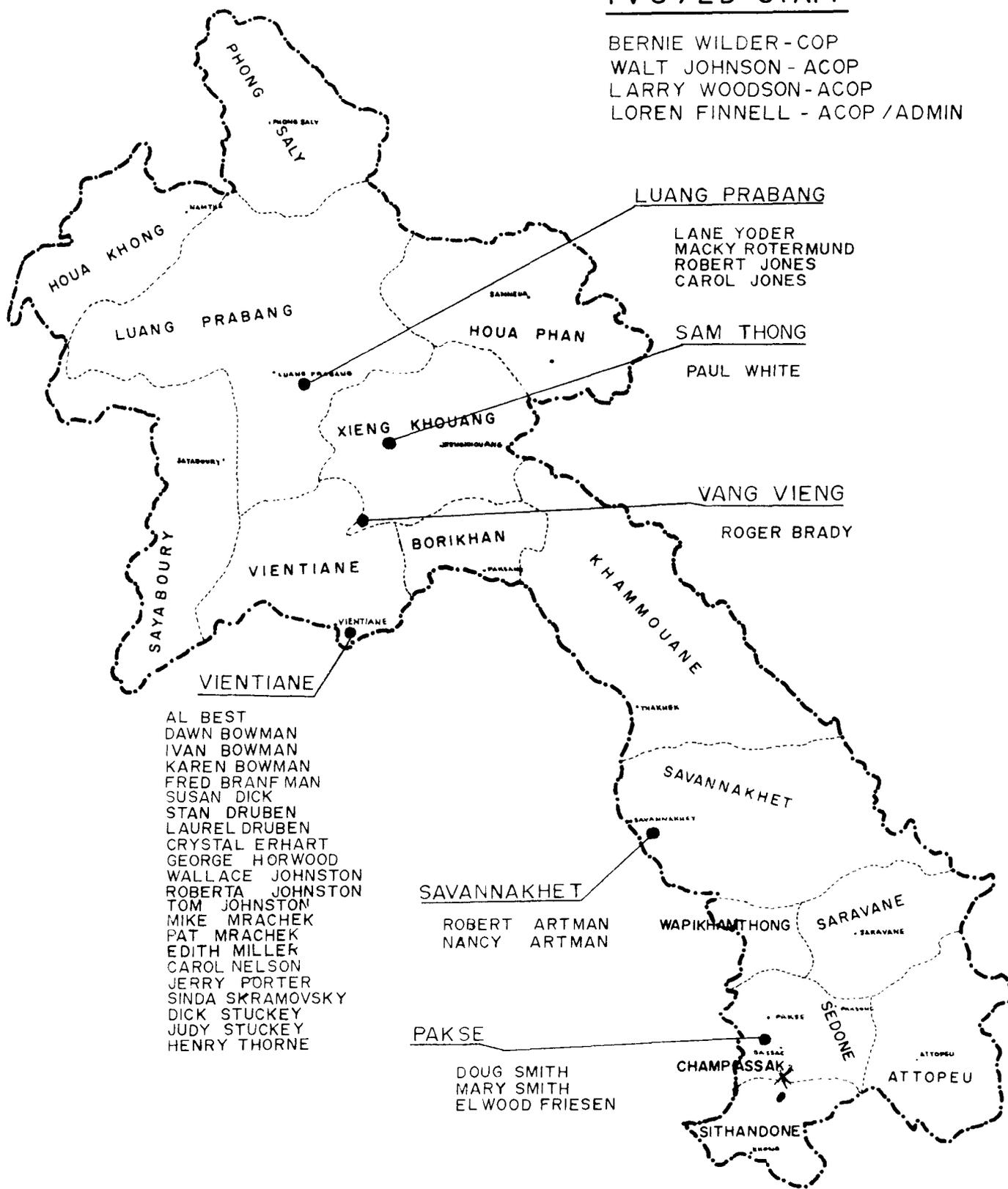
To have a "sufficient number of productive people, possessing enough interest and energy to work to full capacities," Lao must have public health education programs.

Due to other priorities, the recent contract negotiations have regrettably brought about a reduction in the desired IVS participation in the Public Health Nursing Program in Laos.

(Susan Robbins)

IVS / ED STAFF

BERNIE WILDER - COP
 WALT JOHNSON - ACOP
 LARRY WOODSON - ACOP
 LOREN FINNELL - ACOP / ADMIN



LUANG PRABANG

LANE YODER
 MACKY ROTERMUND
 ROBERT JONES
 CAROL JONES

SAM THONG

PAUL WHITE

VANG VIENG

ROGER BRADY

SAVANNAKHET

ROBERT ARTMAN
 NANCY ARTMAN

PAK SE

DOUG SMITH
 MARY SMITH
 ELWOOD FRIESEN

AL BEST
 DAWN BOWMAN
 IVAN BOWMAN
 KAREN BOWMAN
 FRED BRANFMAN
 SUSAN DICK
 STAN DRUBEN
 LAUREL DRUBEN
 CRYSTAL ERHART
 GEORGE HORWOOD
 WALLACE JOHNSTON
 ROBERTA JOHNSTON
 TOM JOHNSTON
 MIKE MRACHEK
 PAT MRACHEK
 EDITH MILLER
 CAROL NELSON
 JERRY PORTER
 SINDA SKRAMOVSKY
 DICK STUCKEY
 JUDY STUCKEY
 HENRY THORNE

STUDENTS

They are harshly seventeen,
a curious and potent age
when the Future, like sex,
is the dark core
at the great, weighted moon.

Their hand with children
has that deep familiarity
of those who know
all of love,
though they have never
heard its name.

Their voices are
like the red leaves
that fall with the rare light of Laos--
written into music
the tones would not be ordinary,
but physical,
and intricate as veins and stems
free and lightly lying on bare earth.

They have a country grace,
and country appetites
beneath a bronze and amber wash
of hard living in their
thick hinterland
of deep-silled, sooty mountains
that cast off such solidness,
a vast promise
almost of contempt
through miles of clear air.

Crystal Erhart

DONG DOK

The Ecole Supérieure de Pedagogie, better known as Dong Dok, is a teacher training school located nine kilometers from Vientiane. Instruction is in three languages: French, Lao, and English. This year over 900 students studied in the French section, almost 200 studied in the English section, and



The teachers and staff of the English Section at Dong Dok.

400 in the Lao. The subjects taught in the three sections run the range of the usual subjects in a secondary school and include practice teaching classes.

The IVS teacher is invited by the Lao Government to teach English or to teach other subjects in English to future teachers because there are not enough trained Lao to train their own teachers. IVS supplies teachers in Home Economics and Mechanical Arts and a Maintenance Advisor.

Dong Dok is a government school under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. The school administrators are Lao, and the French and English sections each have a head of staff who serves as a liaison between their teachers and the administration. Most of the English section teachers are IVS, but there are also British Colombo Plan teachers, and one Australian.

Dong Dok students come from all parts of Laos after they have had six years of primary school and have passed the entrance examination. They study here for from two to nine years on a government scholarship. Almost all students live in the dormitories on campus, and the teachers live nearby in the 41 apartments and nine houses built by USAID and maintained by the Royal Lao Government. The school maintains kitchens and a dispensary on campus for the students.

The goal of IVS involvement at Dong Dok is to train Lao teachers and to help Laos develop her own school system. IVS teachers in Laos want to make possible what was expressed this year at the Dong Dok graduation ceremony:

"We all know that every country has its national language that is used in all levels of education. I think it is important for Laos to use its national language. By using the Lao language, all Lao can be educated. Through education and the hastening of patriotism, our country can advance and develop.

"All teachers have the duty to give their students a broad education and common aims. But, the teacher can only teach when he and his students can communicate. For this reason, Lao should be the national language of instruction. When using a foreign language, it is only necessary for the student to memorize the material the teacher presents, but cannot explain to him. Some teachers think that when the student has memorized the materials he understands it. This misleads the student into thinking that memorizing is learning. This is why using Lao, even with a smaller vocabulary, is a clearer way to teach.

"The teacher should be careful to use all Lao words and not to insert foreign words. If the teacher uses foreign words, the students will try also, but they won't know where, when, or how. The words will not be clear and will have no meaning. The teacher and student will not understand each other. The language used would be Lao-French, not pure Lao nor pure French. The teacher should try to use Lao in many subjects, especially sciences and mathematics which pose more problems than other subjects. In the future, when the child forgets to use the foreign language, our problems will be reduced and using the Lao language will be easier."

George Horwood developed the first extensive visual aid program in education.

VISUAL AIDS IN EDUCATION

The purpose of a visual aid workshop is to instruct future teachers how to make teaching aids for their classes. A workshop is not a showcase of affluence. It uses materials readily available in Laos, and it uses the talents of the Laotian people.



The administrative authorities first request a workshop, and then support it by providing Laotian teachers, classroom time, and space. The pupils, or future teachers, then do their best to make the designated aids appropriate for their future needs.

These aids vary with each workshop because some trainees will be teaching elementary school, while others will be instructing at the secondary level. Therefore, the aids for reading and mathematics, for example, will vary with each workshop. Bamboo, paper, sandpaper, rubber bands, felt, and other easily available products, to name but a few, are used extensively. Aids from these products consist of easels, flash cards, clock charts, felt boards, cut-out alphabets, and numbers (both Lao and Western), meter sticks, pens, brushes, water filters and many other aids that are of prime importance in a developing country. A visual aid workshop can be for two days, a week, a month, depending on the request from the school administrator.

The future plans for this program are made and the support from IVS is extremely vital to its success. The volunteers in the different provinces throughout Laos play an important role in making workshops a worthwhile project by supporting its aims and goals.



ARTS AND CRAFTS:

This year Carol Nelson taught second and third year English section students basic arts and crafts. The class was held in the special art room at Dong Dok, and it included pinch and wheel pottery, glazing and firing, wood block prints (used as illustrations in this report), spatter painting, water color, and design. Another Lao teacher, Mrs. Vandy, taught a similar course to first year English section students.

This year several IVS teachers at Dong Dok decided that just because they were in Education didn't mean they shouldn't experience village life. They moved into Lao houses in two small villages near Dong Dok and enjoyed it so much they hope future IVS arrivals will continue with this idea.





Left:

Bobbi Johnston filing books in the Teachers' Room.



Right:

Students learning about the microscope in Science Class.



Left:

The English Section Basketball Team.



Left:

Stan Druben observing his
Chess Club.



Right:

Madame Pingkham,
Head of the English
Section.

THE DONG DOK FARM

Waking up in the morning at 7:00, I felt a little dreary. The night before I had stayed up late preparing for the day's classes and now my eyes were telling me that I had stayed up a little too late.

Even though my classes weren't until the afternoon, I had to get up now because there was so much other work to do. That's one thing about this job. There is always something to do.

After eating breakfast, I drove through the campus on my way to the school farm. This farm is used for instructional purposes, and a lot of work had to be done to prepare it for the next year's classes.

I drove towards the hog barn where five gilts and one boar are kept for instructional purposes. On the way, I found myself wondering when the rains would come since the grass was dry and the hogs needed green feed.

Reaching the hog barn, I got out of the jeep. I noticed one of the farm hands (called "coolies" by everyone here) standing on the porch of his house which is near the barn. I greeted him with an exuberant good morning--in Lao, of course.

He returned the greeting and followed me into the barn. He motioned to one of the gilts and said something to the effect that she was not well (even after nine months, the work load had been so much that I couldn't study Lao like I should have; therefore, sign language was used just about as much as the spoken language).



I looked closer and noticed the gilt had a cut on her leg. I went to the medicine cabinet and got a homemade mixture of creosote and grease to kill the worms that had gotten into the wound. I also gave her some penicilin for insurance.

After having looked over the rest of the hogs, I left the barn, but just before I got to the jeep, I noticed that the compost pile I had started a few days earlier

Henry Thorne on his way to check the garden.

didn't look like it was getting any bigger. I had told the farm hands to place the hog manure on the pile every day. After several minutes of questioning, I figured out that they were putting the manure in the fish ponds instead. I knew I would never find out from them why they did that, so I figured I would wait until I saw the farm manager and ask him. (I was to find out that the reason they put the manure into the ponds was because the farm manager had told them to--after I had told them to put it on the compost pile.)



Ducks on the Farm Pond.

The next stop was the chicken house--about 100 meters away--where we had some Rhode Island Reds and Leghorns. As I was looking over these chickens for any unhealthy signs, the farm manager drove up on his motorbike. (It should be mentioned here that the farm manager is actually in charge of agriculture education in all of the similar schools in Laos. He was on his way to assign the tractor driver his work for the day when he saw me.)

As we stood there talking about what we were going to do that morning, another farm hand came up and told us that some of the hens were laying soft eggs. He showed us some. Our first conclusion was that it was due to a deficiency of calcium, but the ration I had formulated contained what I thought to be an adequate amount. (When I later checked the ration, I found I had miscalculated so more calcium was added and there were no more soft eggs.)

After looking over the chickens, I turned my attention to a rice paddy I wanted to make between the hog barn and chicken pens. I had gotten some rice seed from USAID and wanted to make a bigger paddy than the one already in existence. As a reply to my idea, the farm manager said he thought it a good idea that another paddy be built, but that it should be built at another spot farther away from the buildings and nearer a swampy area where adequate water could be obtained. I felt that this wouldn't be best since the paddy would be too difficult to reach and, therefore, would not receive the care and attention that mine would--the place where I wanted the rice paddy was much closer to the road; hence, more easy to get to, and had just as much water available.

This discussion went on for a few more minutes when the farm manager finally gave into my idea.

While this may sound all well and good, there is a problem here that doesn't meet the eye. Whenever a decision is made it should be made by the farm manager and not by me. The problem is that I have to be able to influence the farm manager's decisions, while at the same time make him believe the decision was entirely his. In this particular situation I was not sure that I had succeeded. I had the feeling that I hadn't. The only thing I could hope for was for my idea to work so well that he could see that it was better.

I cannot forget education. It always seems to take second place when agriculture is discussed, but it is actually the most important.

When I arrived here, there was an inadequate agriculture education program for a portion of the students at this school and at some of the other teacher training schools in Laos. Since then, much of my time has been spent helping my counterpart set up a curriculum that can be applied to all the

teacher training schools in Laos and one that would give the students a more complete education.



The farm hands at work.

The attempt to establish student projects in both livestock and gardening in connection with this new curriculum is the focal point of the whole education effort now. The ultimate goal of the student project idea is to have the students grow vegetables and livestock for profit and to gain a better appreciation for agriculture.

Besides the student projects, the farm has been maintaining several hogs, chickens, ducks, and some fish to demonstrate the phases of livestock production, such as breeding, that normally would not be shown in a student project.

Although USAID pays for all the material expenses used in connection with the Ag program, it is run pretty much the way the school and my counterpart want it run. That's the nice thing about my job. I am free to develop the agriculture program through my counterpart without any strings, which a person might normally expect, being attached to the money.

There have been some conflicts between myself, USAID, and the school administration as to how the agriculture curriculum and student projects should be handled, but everything seems to have been worked out and all we need now is time and hard work.

(Henry Thorne)

EDUCATION IN THE FIELD

Education in the field as an education advisor to an ENI is exciting work because of the closeness of the changes that can be effected by education. The IVS'er working in the smaller ENI's has a chance to work in a greer situation than is possible in the larger schools because he is generally assigned to the school as an advisor, not in a specific job slot such as English teacher, math teacher, geography teacher, etc.

For someone with initiative the work can be very creative. Living in a small village, working in many cases with ethnic minorities that have tradition of literacy, and who practice subsistence agriculture with primitive tools and methods, can set the guidelines for practical programs in education. The education advisor can do a great deal to bring about development and desirable social change by being aware of the political, social, psychological, and cultural values that form the context of village life as it changes from its traditional or colonial form.

The teachers and students that he works with, for the most part, return to the villages and teach within one or two years after contact with the ENI program. They are not training to study overseas or to do administrative, technical, or governmental work in the cities. Because of this, the IVS'er who works most efficiently with these people in programs which are designed to meet the felt needs of the communities that they are working in usually end up in programs related to agriculture, community development, basic craft skills, etc., rather than in academic programs.

The education advisor living in the field should be aware of the importance of the primary education and, although assigned to ENI, should keep in mind the fact that he is primarily training people who are going to be primary teachers. Until now, it has been up to the education advisor on his own to shape programs

With a few old cans and, presto--a new shot-put ring.



Paul White advising a summer workshop.



relevant to the primary school program and oversee his practice teachers in the classroom. Next year some IVS'ers will be assigned specifically to the primary schools with this as his primary responsibility, and an important tie will have been made between the primary school and the small ENI's that train primary teachers. There are many opportunities for original work and expression in the area of educational planning and development for the IVS advisor working in the field.

(Paul White)

THE SUMMER WORK PROGRAM

Since 1964, USAID has financed and administered a summer work program for Lao students. This usually involved about 100 students and was conducted over a period of approximately 10 weeks. The main drawback of these programs was that they were directed by different personnel and division staffs, resulting in little continuity and almost no follow-up.

In April of 1968, following a request by USAID, IVS agreed to conduct the summer program for students. After discussions with USAID, it was agreed that IVS would provide a volunteer who would be available full-time to administer the program. It was also hoped that a second volunteer would assist the program on a part-time basis.

To put the program into action, IVS proposed that the volunteer administering the program would communicate with all USAID offices and request descriptions of jobs which could be performed by Lao students. At the same time, all secondary schools in the country would be approached to determine the number of students interested in summer work and a description of their qualifications, interests, and abilities.



RLG official and summer students discuss fish pond operations.

When these two steps had been taken, students and jobs would be matched to provide the appropriate student-job combination. At this point, with students working under the supervision of personnel from the division to which they were assigned, IVS would visit the students at their work locations and

evaluate their individual performance, their working conditions, and the effectiveness of the overall program.

By the end of June, IVS had received about 500 applications from Lao students who were interested in participating in the program. From USAID divisions and from IVS, 164 job requests were received.

In reviewing these requests and in keeping with the project agreement approved by USAID, the following criteria served as guidelines:

1. To provide the Lao student an opportunity to work in and become familiar with the development process in Laos;
2. To provide on-the-job training, where possible, within the students' field of interest and study;
3. To afford the student an opportunity to work with and become better acquainted with Americans and the part they play in the development of Laos.

Although the program began very late in the year and final approval for the project further delayed implementing the important initial stages, the difficulties in obtaining job descriptions and student applications were finally overcome and 149 jobs were approved for the same number of students. In this selection, a major qualification was that each student selected had to have at least one year remaining in school.

Actual student placements included:

- 32 student agricultural workers (nation-wide)
- 24 student literacy surveyors (nation-wide)
- 23 student census enumerators (Pakse-Thakhek)
- 18 student school constructionists (Vientiane-Sam Thong)
- 17 student clerical workers (Vientiane)
- 14 student cluster workers (nation-wide)
- 5 student vocabulary study (Vientiane)
- 3 student hygiene education assistants (villages)
- 2 student science assistants (Luang Prabang)
- 2 student visual aids/crafts (Luang Prabang)
- 2 student medical aids (Ban Houei Sai)
- 2 student Finance Ministry assistants (Vientiane)
- 1 student library assistant (Vientiane)



Two Lao students explain to Al Best how their surveying is aiding in a dam project.

Although some changes will be expected before the program officially begins on July 12th, it is believed that the maximum number of jobs, 150, will remain.

At this early stage, no observation can be offered. A program of this size and with such solid potential must be planned and worked on throughout the year to ensure the most effective results.

Job recruitment should begin much earlier, perhaps in October, and be completed by February. This would require, of course, early requests for student employment from USAID and IVS personnel. And, hopefully, an earlier start will permit more effective participation by Lao school administrators in selecting students, and ample time for adequate orientation for both students and employers.

Furthermore, greater involvement by Lao government officials, acting as observers and advisors, as well as guidance and leadership from organizations such as the Lao Student Association, would clearly contribute to the program's future growth and development in a constructive and creative way.

And, responsibilities to the area of development in Laos, and meaningful education for the Lao student, could be expanded to include increased concern for rural development, village school development, health education, and other "job corps" type needs. All, it should be noted, with the ultimate goal of reaching that point where the summer work program for Lao students can become a Lao-administrated, Lao-implemented, and Lao-initiated activity.

I once saw a sign that read:

Keep your feet on the ground,
Your eye on the ball,
Your shoulder to the wheel,
And your nose to the grindstone--
NOW, TRY WORKING IN THAT POSITION!!

In Laos, IVS finds itself in a similar circumstance. We are regarded by IVS/Washington as young, inexperienced, though competent, volunteers who are working for a private organization; by USAID as technically competent village workers and teachers who are working as part of the "country team"; by the Lao as sympathetic co-workers who try to understand their culture and problems; and the volunteer looks at himself in as many different ways as there are volunteers. And, we try to work from this position.

The effort to reconcile these points of view is the source of many of our problems in Laos. The divergent points of view, however, create the condition that enables us to make our unique contribution to the people of Laos. The most successful volunteers are probably those who do not try to define IVS and, hence, their work role in one set of terms for all groups.

The most successful volunteers are those who can operate at the village level as a competent technician or as a teacher for our contractee; who can be a sympathetic and understanding co-worker to the Lao; who remains the young and energetic volunteer that was sent off by the IVS/W office; and, who can, through the trusts and responsibilities accompanying the above roles, fulfill his own primary personal objective by making life a little better for the Lao people.

It is in the Chief of Party's office that most of the reconciliation of views, objectives, and motivations must take place. The major role of the Chiefs of Party is to endeavor to fill the needs and wants of the various parties involved in the contract. For USAID: to perform the services specified in the work plan. For the Lao: to provide sympathetic people and expertise to help them solve their problems. For the Volunteer: to provide a satisfying and meaningful work experience. It is toward filling these needs that I have worked for the past five years in Laos--sometimes successfully, and sometimes not. My satisfaction has been in helping the volunteers to be successful and, hence, the overall program to be successful. For the help and understanding of all those who have assisted me, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

B. Wilder

IVS PERSONNEL ROSTER 1967-1968

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>DATES AT POST</u>		<u>POST</u>
Archer, James	RD	11/19/66	11/3/68	Houei Mum Muong Kassy Hong Sa
Artman, Nancy	ED	10/4/66	9/24/68	Savannakhet
Artman, Robert	ED	10/4/66	9/24/68	Savannakhet
Augspurger, Joann	RD	11/19/66	7/15/68	Muong Phieng Vientiane
Augspurger, Richard	RD	11/19/66	7/15/68	Muong Phieng Vientiane
Barth, Richard	RD	9/27/66	6/19/68	Ban Nakhua
Basler, Patrick	ED	6/15/63	12/2/67	Vientiane
Bewetz, Frank	RD	10/15/65	10/9/68	Kengkok Lahanam Muong Phieng
Best, Allen	ED	3/14/68	6/1/70	Vientiane
Bowman, Dawn	ED	3/14/68	6/1/70	Vientiane
Bowman, Ivan	ED	7/12/67	7/6/69	Vientiane
Bowman, Karen	ED	7/12/67	7/6/69	Vientiane
Bordsen, Marcus	RD	9/14/66	8/27/68	Pakse
Brady, Roger	ED	5/1/66	5/21/68	Pakse Vang Vieng
Branfman, Fredric	ED	3/26/67	5/15/69	Vientiane
Brewster, Charles	ED	10/4/66	10/24/67	Vang Vieng
Brown, Chester	RD	8/17/63	10/26/67	Borikhane Vientiane
Bryson, John	RD	3/25/68	3/7/70	Luang Prabang
Candea, Elizabeth	RD	10/15/65	7/15/68	Muong Phieng Nam Thone Thakhek Vientiane
Candea, Randy	RD	10/15/65	6/7/68	Muong Phieng Nam Thone Thakhek Vientiane
Chang, Wilma	RD	9/24/67	9/7/69	Vientiane Paksane
Cunningham, Fred	RD	11/14/67	11/26/69	Houei Sai

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>DATES AT POST</u>		<u>POST</u>
Davis, Gary <i>A40</i>	RD	3/18/67	3/1/69	Saravane <i>Post-46</i> Muong Kassy
Dick, Susan	ED	11/14/67	10/26/69	Vientiane
Donnan, Jack	RD	12/7/65	12/7/67	Vientiane
Druben, Laurel	ED	9/20/66	6/30/68	Vientiane
Druben, Stanley	ED	9/20/66	6/30/68	Vientiane
Edwards, Chandler	RD	7/23/67	7/6/69	Hong Sa Champassak
Erhart, Crystal	ED	9/20/66	9/2/68	Vientiane
Esser, John	RD	10/15/65	10/10/67	Nong Bok Savannakhet
Fink, Carol	RD	7/23/67	7/6/69	Song Hong
Fink, John	RD	7/23/67	7/6/69	Song Hong
Finnell, Loren	RD/ED	11/4/66	10/26/68	Vientiane
Flanagan, Michael	RD	3/18/67	3/1/69	Hong Sa Muong Phieng
Friesen, Elwood	ED	7/12/67	7/6/69	Pakse
Gingerich, Barbara	RD	9/24/67	9/7/69	Vang Vieng
Gingerich, Jim	RD	9/24/67	9/7/69	Vang Vieng
Gompert, Terry	RD	11/19/66	11/3/68	Paksane
Goodwin, Andrew	RD	11/19/66	11/3/68	Houei Mun Muong Kassy Thakhek
Gorman, Brenda	RD	10/15/65	10/10/67	Vientiane
Green, Judith	ED	9/15/65	8/15/67	Vientiane
Grover, Jane	RD	9/14/66	8/24/68	Xieng Ngeun Muong Nane Luang Prabang
Grover, Robert	RD	9/14/66	8/24/68	Xieng Ngeun Muong Nane
Harter, Roger	RD	9/24/67	9/7/69	Saravane Vientiane
Hendricks, David	RD	4/3/68	3/7/70	Vientiane
Horwood, George	ED	10/4/66	9/24/68	Vientiane
Howarth, Francis	RD	4/19/66	5/26/68	Phone Hong Sayaboury
Howarth, Nancy	RD	4/19/66	5/26/68	Phone Hong Sayaboury
Ireson, Carol	RD	11/14/67	10/26/69	Nam Thone
Ireson, Randy	RD	7/23/67	10/26/69	Nam Thone
Jacobson, Robert	RD	3/18/67	3/1/69	Ban Amone

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>DATES AT POST</u>		<u>POST</u>
Johnson, Erwin <i>ADG</i>	RD	9/14/66	8/27/68	Pakse Houei Kong
Johnson, Walter	ED	1/8/68	1/8/70	Vientiane
Johnston, Roberta	ED	7/12/67	7/6/69	Vientiane
Johnston, Thomas	ED	11/2/67	10/26/69	Vientiane
Johnston, Wallace	ED	7/12/67	7/6/69	Vientiane
Jones, Carol	ED	9/20/66	2/29/68	Vientiane Luang Prabang
Jones, John	ED	9/20/66	2/29/68	Vientiane Luang Prabang
Kiechle, John	RD	7/23/67	7/6/69	Paksong
Linden, Oscar	RD	11/14/67	10/26/69	Nong Bok Kong Sedone
Lehman, Kristin	RD	11/19/66	11/3/68	Dong Hene Vang Vieng
Lehman, Larry	RD	11/19/66	11/3/68	Dong Hene Vang Vieng
Lewis, Jerry	RD	4/15/66	6/30/68	Hong Sa Muong Met Muong Kassy Vientiane
Lovan, Robert	RD	6/15/64	10/11/69	Kengkok Vientiane
Majoros, Robert	RD	9/28/66	9/20/68	Ban Nakhua Dong Kasene Hin Boun
Malia, James	RD	9/23/67	9/7/69	Vientiane
Manning, Francis	RD	3/25/68	3/7/70	Thakhek
Marby, Gerry	RD	9/13/66	8/27/68	Borikhane Pak Chao
Marby, Karen	RD	9/13/66	8/27/68	Borikhane Pak Chao
Mrachek, Mike	ED	7/12/67	7/6/69	Vientiane
Mrachek, Pat	ED	7/12/67	7/6/69	Vientiane
Miller, Edith	ED	9/20/66	9/2/68	Vientiane
Mummert, Dennis	RD	3/25/68	3/7/70	Paksane
Murdock, John	RD	3/23/67	9/7/69	Khong Sedone
Myers, Ed <i>teek</i>	RD	3/18/67	8/1/69	Vientiane
McIntosh, Alex	RD	3/18/67	3/1/69	Muong Kassy Ban Done
Nell, Gerald	RD	3/18/67	3/1/69	Kengkok
Nelson, Carol	ED	7/12/67	7/1/68	Vientiane

*M. L. ...
...*

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>DATES AT POST</u>		<u>POST</u>
Olsen, Larry	RD	10/16/65	3/12/68	Khong Sedone
Parmenter, Jack	RD	11/19/66	11/3/68	Hong Sa Luang Prabang Vientiane
Peacock, Jean	RD	4/15/66	8/1/68	Borikhane Thakhek Luang Prabang
Peters, Brenda	RD	9/23/67	9/7/68	Sam Thong
Peters, Gary	RD	9/23/67	9/7/68	Sam Thong
Porter, Jermain	ED	9/15/64	7/1/69	Vientiane
Robbins, Susan	RD	12/10/65	4/20/68	Thakhek
Rotermund, Manfred	ED	7/12/67	7/6/69	Vientiane Luang Prabang
Russell, Mary Ann	RD	4/15/66	12/14/67	Vang Vieng Nam Thone
<u>Russell, Thomas</u>	RD	4/15/66	12/14/67	Xieng Lom Hong Sa Vang Vieng Nam Thone
Sanders, Keith	RD	9/23/67	9/7/69	Lahanam
Skramovsky, Linda	ED	7/12/67	7/6/69	Vientiane
Smith, Douglas	ED	10/5/66	9/24/68	Vientiane Pakse
<u>Smith, Mary</u>	ED	10/5/66	9/24/68	Vientiane Pakse
Stern, Richard	ED	9/23/67	9/7/69	Luang Prabang
Stuckey, Judy	ED	10/5/66	6/30/68	Vientiane
Stuckey, Richard	ED	10/5/66	6/30/68	Vientiane
Thompson, MacAlan	RD	9/14/66	8/27/68	Muong Met Hong Sa Nam Bac Xieng Lom Vientiane
Thorne, Henry	ED	11/14/67	10/26/69	Vientiane
Tufts, Tom	RD	9/23/67	9/7/69	Hong Sa
Ullom, Kenneth	RD	10/15/65	10/9/68	Vang Vieng Vientiane
Van Riper, Cort <i>ADL</i>	RD	3/18/67	3/1/69	Ban Done
Van Tine, John	RD	9/14/66	8/27/68	Hong Sa Savannakhet Lahanam Pakse

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>DATES AT POST</u>		<u>POST</u>
Van Tine, Susan	RD	9/20/66	1/31/68	Savannakhet
Veillard, Jean 1/10	RD	12/10/65	12/4/69	Lahanam Wapi Khamthong Dong Kasene Thakhek
Viles, George	RD	7/23/67	7/6/69	Houei Khong
Wells, Carol	RD	9/23/67	9/7/69	Muong Phieng
Wells, Jon	RD	9/23/67	9/7/69	Muong Phieng
Weytman, Gary	RD	8/14/66	4/30/68	Nong Bok
Weytman, Geraldine	RD	8/14/66	4/30/68	Nong Bok
White, Paul US/110	ED	10/4/66	9/24/68	Sam Thong
Wiederhold, Robert	RD	9/23/67	9/7/69	Na Sai Thong Hin Boun
Wilczek, Dennis	RD	9/14/66	8/27/68	Thakhek Savannakhet
Wilezek, Jane	RD	9/14/66	8/27/68	Thakhek Savannakhet
Wilder, Bernard	ED	6/15/63	9/1/68	Vientiane
Woodson, Larry	ED	8/1/64	7/28/68	Luang Prabang Vientiane
Xerri, Tom	RD	9/23/67	9/7/69	Muong Phieng
Yoder, Lane	ED	10/4/66	9/24/68	Luang Prabang Vientiane
Zacharczyk, Tom	RD	3/18/67	8/1/69	Vientiane
Ziegler, Frank	RD	2/25/64	5/20/68	Khong Island Savannakhet Lahanam

A-SQUAT

And you, o volunteer, croon
content, and go on about your
business in a bondage posture,
spending their money, eating their
food and riding with the guns.

My country, we are more
than on the verge of a mean
flavorless solitude,
or of petty savage scandals
richly chased---
they are awake now, brooding
in their corners, a faint rustle
of iron wings---

our guilt is a fact,
a cramped
ugliness of soul like
feeling watched and the
flashlight catching the
leer of a big-eyed tree toad
behind you
sucked on to the cement pipe
connecting from roof
to cess-pool.

Crystal Erhart

"A SEQUENCE IN LEARNING HOW TO DRINK LAO-LAO"





As another year of accomplishments draws to a close, and as I depart Laos for other horizons, this is your Editor wishing you equal success in the year ahead.

Loren Finnell



