



Veterans of Foreign Wars

WE'D DO ANYTHING FOR THIS COUNTRY

“Pond, Ice & Snow with Trees” Kevin Macpherson, The Image Bank

GETTING THERE

(Continued from page 109) down the wide Mekong to Pak Ou, the "grotto of 1,000 Buddhas." Whatever your speed, stay at the **Souvannaphouma Hotel**, impeccably run by charming Pierre Perrot. He nicknamed the place Relais de Luang Prabang because he has ambitious (and, we hope, unrealistic) plans for cloning this casual town house all over Laos. Make sure you get a room in the old section, the former villa of Prince Souvanna Phouma, where local woodworkers have commemorated the Land of a Million Elephants by carving the pachyderm's image everywhere. Visit the second-floor restaurant for delicious sticky rice and bamboo shoots stuffed with duck, and on the way, check out the primitive weaponry displayed in the downstairs bar. Getting here is an exercise in patience: First you must obtain a visa (have a travel agent help) and fly to Bangkok. Next you fly to the capital, Vientiane. Finally, it's onto a Lao Airways plane for the last hop into Luang Prabang.

Souvannaphouma Hotel: 856-71-212200, fax -212577. Doubles, \$57-\$65.

5 Luang Prabang, Laos



THE BEST SPEEDS FOR VISITING the former royal capital of Laos? Slow and slower. You can glide slowly around the former Royal Palace and a few temples on a bicycle, although you may—once this pace gets to you—decide that if you've seen one Buddhist temple, you've seen them all. Then you can float even more slowly (*Continued on page 164*)

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is enclosed
one if you
see it

Fast Transfer

and:

Barbara McBarney



Feb. 28

Dear Larry,

I thought the enclosed
might interest you if you
haven't already seen it.

It's from Conde' Nast Traveler
magazine.

Regards

Barbara McGarvey