

Activities

1. The long awaited improvement of the two reservoirs for irrigation is now well on the way to completion. The persistent effort to remedy the situation and repeated reporting have paid off. We all wish to express our appreciation to members of FWD, OICC, EDU and FHWA who have helped solve this critical problem. us.
2. The clearing of additional farm land is underway.
3. The electric pump of the 1st reservoir has been removed, cleaned and greased. It will be re-installed when water is needed from the two improved reservoirs.
4. The contractor has replaced a broken sink and repaired cracks that appeared in the newly completed classroom building
5. Student labor is being used to reshape the slope of the steep bank behind the classroom building.
6. Chloradane spray is being used by the school to control ants that were eating the poincispans trees.
7. OICC assigned Mr. Zamora to assist with the wiring installation of the Home Economics electric stove.
8. Mr. Zane working with the school staff was able to remove a troublesome obstruction from the Home Economics laundry tub drain. Lead caulking had accumulated in a pipe bend and was removed by snagging it with a wire hook.
9. Two adding machines sent to Vientiane were repaired under the direction of Mr. Kumabe.
10. Ten chicken coops for a joint Fa Ngum - ADO project of demonstration the raising of broilers have arrived from Fa Ngum Vientiane. Although the 147, Transportation request, clearly showed Fa Ngum School Phone Savanh as the destination the coops were off loaded at Phone Hong, CDAA office. We have repeatedly had this problem with other commodities. Perhaps improved security will make truckers less apprehensive of going the rest of the way.
11. Three volt-ohm- amperage multi meters were receive by the IA Dept.
12. Students are clearing a wooded park area under the direction of Mr. Khomoh Social Studies Teacher and Student Body Advisor
13. Nearby enemy action on Friday February 23 (after the cease fire) made it necessary to close the school for one day. IVS teachers were moved from Thalat to

PROBLEMS

1. The School Director Mr. Noupit had to seek police assistance in halting the cutting of the school fence by villagers wanting to graze their cattle on the property.
2. A taxi driver came into the school campus to wash his car in the reservoir. He drove over and damaged the wire reinforced hose pipe intake of the irrigation pump. The damaged hose has been repaired and efforts are being made to halt community use of the reservoir pond.
3. The tractor powered post hole digger has failed for the 3rd time. The universal joint of the drive shaft is too weak for digging in hard dry soil. All SEAs should take note of this failure. The replacement of the universal joint is not been found to be a successful repair.

Activities

1. 93 mai dou wood cross arms for the electric power poles were inspected and delivered to EDL. Payment was made after delivery.
2. EDL is presently staking the areas where the concrete poles are to be placed.
3. Quotation requests were given to three companies for furniture replacement sent to Pakse. The quotations will be sent up this week.
4. The Final installment of furniture from the French Technical School will be delivered by the end of the month.
5. Additional work on the campus by the contractor has progressed as follows:
  - A. The concrete pavement under the eaves of the Science and HE AG buildings has been completed.
  - b. Trenches for the irrigation system and to the water tower have been dug.
  - c. The trench for the curbing of the paved road has been dug.
  - d. The drainage ditch to be concrete lined has been prepared.
  - e. The concrete foundation for the first well has been laid.
6. Requests to the Social Assistance Committee of the AWC were sent to Mrs. Ruth Stone from Director Hongthong.
  - a. Purchase of Lao musical instruments since the school now has a part time music teacher.
  - b. A work scholarship program which includes the levelling of the courtyards, clearing of shrubs and debris, and the planting of grass and trees to prevent erosion in needed areas.
7. Holes have been dug using the post hole digger in preparation to planting decorative trees on the campus such as the Australian pines sent from Vientiane.
8. Commodities received from Vientiane
  - a. Two adding machines
  - b. Science glassware and chemicals
  - c. Textbooks
  - d. Tractor connecting pins and rods

PROBLEMS

1. The one and only microphone for the P.A. system apparently was accidentally dropped. It was returned to Vientiane and is in process of being repaired.
2. For the past two weeks, the school has been without the use of the well. Water for drinking and toilet use had to be purchased. Apparently the substitute 7 HP engine was too strong for the Dempster pump and the inner mechanism snapped. Hartwell Blake volunteered to take care of repairs. A USAID WATER trailer from MTB has been loaned to the school and water is obtained from the SMD jet pump. Mr. Peter Flynn, ORA, generously loaned the use of his vehicle to pull the trailer to school.

PLO-Comment:

FWD has made available a replacement Dempster pump jack for air shipment to Savannakhet. The RPM of the gasoline or electric power unit will be

reduced by appropriate pulley sizes to produce the recommended 38 strokes per minute.

Mr Fittro has provided the specification, price and source of supply for a Dempster 9" stroke pump. A purchase request is being made for the procurement of two pumps. This will give us one stand by spare for immediate dispatch should a similar emergency arise again.

Luang Prabang - Mr. Shozun Yamauchi

Mr. Yamauchi's monthly report items regarding maintenance and construction are quoted and followed by comment when necessary.

1. "The John Deere tractor was taken in twice to the FHWA shop. The first was an emergency case to reinstall a shaft used to anchor the two arms of the 3-point hitch system. Trouble started when the two common nails used to hold the retaining pins fell off while harrowing in the field. The second time was to have the rear wheels aligned and the extending axles cut off flush with the rim as a safety factor. The shop crew also welded a pentel jeep trailer hitch on the tractor drawbar."

PLC COMMENT

The long axles recommended for procurement maybe of questionable value; perhaps the Pakse Fa Ngum tractor should be procured without the extended axles

2. "A construction check list was prepared dated 15 February for distribution to EDU, PWD, OICC and AC/LP. The distribution copies were all sent to MT/VIE on the 16th at Rantala's request. Distribution as early as possible is desirable as it serves as a reminder of the many jobs that need to be done and checked out as the Phase II contract approaches its March 8 deadline.

PLC COMMENT:

The list of 27 items includes eight projects that are UH Team and Fa Ngum School staff/student responsibility. These will be handled as already suggested by Mr. Yamauchi. Five of the items listed are now completed or in final stages of completion. Four are in progress or in active planning/discussion between OICC and PWD. The remaining items here listed may not all have been agreed to by OICC, PWD, EDU or the Project Manager as no written change order has been submitted. A check is being made as to whether there was a verbal agreement followed by OICC instructions to the contractor to do the suggested/agreed upon work.

1. Replace driveway to village and brick yard.  
Action: Phase II Amendment II? See item 9 AC/LP's 30 Nov 72 memo to OICC, PWD, EDU Inspection Team.
2. Action: Phase II Amendment II? Also see item 5 AC/LP's 30 Nov memo, and Green's 12 Dec 72 memo to Dent. Also item 8 Carlson's 29 Nov 72 memo to duke.
4. Protect foundation of classroom bldgs A and B.  
Action: Phase II Amendment II? See items 2 & 3 AC/LP's 30 Nov memo, and Green's 12 Dec memo.
5. Water-proof man hole covers.  
Action: See item 6 AC/LP's 30 Nov. memo.
6. Raise gutters above roof line of shop bldg.  
Action: Correction work by contractor. See item 3 AC/LP's 30 Nov memo.

7. Check outlet of avert under chain link fence at Route 1 junction which is much lower than the drainage ditch.  
Action: OICC instruct contractor to lower drainage ditch along school road following specs.
8. Check limit of grading, finish grade, drainage pattern around shop bldg.  
Action: OICC decision and instruction to contractor on job site.
9. Replace vandalized 3-inch gate valve on clean-out line of water tower.  
Action: OICC instruction to contractor.
10. Install key locks in classroom bldg toilets.  
Action: OICC instruction to contractor.
11. Secure door bumpers in classroom bldg.  
Action: OICC instruction to contractor.

"Two problems of long standing have been satisfactorily resolved during the month."

a. "Regarding the connecting sidewalk between the shop and agriculture building, the contractor with OICC/LP, Director Wath and SEA concurring did a superb job of eliminating the controversial steps and installing a full ramp that permits service vehicles to drive up to the shop gates. The gentle sloping ramp also added a much needed 40 cm clearance between the downspout and the concrete pavement."

b. "Regarding the 'fish pond' confrontation in front of the toilet bldg, the contractor is preparing the area to construct an elevated connecting sidewalk so the monsoon runoff will drain on the surface and in one direction only. The bottom landing and two of the three steps of the existing walkways to the boys and girls toilets will be buried."

PLO COMMENT: -

At no time to my knowledge did the contractor or OICC ever say that they would not take care of this "fish pond" problem. It was not, however, possible for them to take care of it until such time as construction reached the stage of completion where it was convenient and appropriate to do so.

3. "The Nampapa/LP may have city water piped to the school even before the promised replacement equipment for the deep-well is installed, or before the troublesome 6-inch plastic line is repaired and tested to the satisfaction of all. The trench to lay the 2.5 km water extension to Ban Sankaloke is approximately one third way done after only ten days of hard digging.

Another attempt by OICC and the contractor to repair the 6-inch line again proved futile. Flange connectors used for the first time made the repair work easier, but then two small leaks developed where reducer couplings were reinstalled. At month end, OICC is having well water pumped into the system, hopefully, to fill the 15,000 storage tank so the system can be tested for leak.

PLO COMMENT:

This plastic line has caused considerable loss of time, money and effort. The problem has received the constant attention of OICC, PWD, UH, EDU and the AC/LP. The expectation is that the line will be successfully repaired. But, many of us have reservations about whether it will provide reliable long term service without springing additional leaks. Who then will repair the line if present highly qualified engineers & technicians are experiencing difficulty in making successful repairs?

"No report has yet been received on our well water sample sent to the Embassy Clinic. We plan to send a second sample in early March."

4. "On the 17th, Gibson and Carlson of PWD/VTE met with Connick and Bewetz in LP to finalize plans for the completion of the irrigation system. It was decided that PWD/LP under Bewetz's supervision will install the 10 hp pump on a pontoon, run the electric service line, install the 3-inch GI pipes and construct the 10,000 gallon storage tank. After the meeting, the group visited Fa Ngum to inform us of their decisions and to make a final inspection of the installation site."

PLO COMMENT:

A follow up was made with OICC and PWD to make certain that the electrical installation for the irrigation pump is planned on the basis of a IOHP pump

EDU/SE: JWRantala:skc