

14 June, 1970
Quang Ngai

Dear Folks:

They say that one's indiscretions and neglected responsibilities always come home to roost eventually and I'd say that "they" were right! On a muggy, rainy day in June, in Quang Ngai, in this Year of the Hound.... I find myself faced with making amends for dereliction of duty. Said "duty" being that of keeping my 'wider circle of Friends' informed as to what is going on in the Quaker project in Viet Nam. I can hardly believe that it has been 7 months since I wrote the last general newsletter but so it has been.

In that intervening seven months I have had many letters from you and some of them still sit in my desk drawer awaiting the proper moment to be answered. For some it has been a long wait. I regret this but offer no apology as I know that you understand that has been for lack of time only and not lack of motivation.

In that same period of time there have been a lot of changes here. Some can be labeled as progress; others fall into a less desirable category. Grin....But to bring you up to date, let's start with....

Current team roster: The list is just about the same as when I last wrote but many changes are coming up soon. Some sad, some exciting. You remember that Eric Wright was appointed temporary team leader last August when our Field Director resigned. The personnel office in Philadelphia was unable to turn up any new prospects so Eric's temporary tour turned out to be nearly a year. He could continue right on for another year as far as we are concerned but feels that he must get back home; both for a well deserved rest and for a period of deciding where his life will lead him next. Eric will be leaving us on the 28th of this month. After nearly three years of close association, we are dreading the final moment of separation. In finding a new Field director to replace Eric, Philadelphia has reached back into our ranks and chosen Lou Kubicka to serve for the next year. Lou has been with the team since August of 1967 as a generalist. He generously extended his tour for the second time to fill this slot which seems to be hard to find people for.

Of course, Lou has always been noted for his willingness to help solve problems facing the team. Why, just last week as we struggled with the problem of a room shortage, Lou leaped to the rescue by marrying one of the team physical therapists! Grin... Just my crazy way of informing all of you that Lou Kubicka (generalist-Team director) has just taken Eryl Pearson (English physical therapist) as his lawfully wedded wife. Shortly after I wrote the last newsletter, a replacement for Marge Nelson was found in the person of Chuck Henkle. Chuck is a young doctor who had just finished his internship and is doing his alternative service with AFSC. Chuck came out in late October and brought with him his brand new bride, Bev.

Bev is a lovable, rollicking nurse that has added tremendous dimension to the team as has Chuck. He is interested in Orthopedic surgery and has had numerous opportunities to operate since he came.

I guess Chuck and Bev decided that the life of the Quaker team lacked still another "dimension" and elected (NO, "elected is not quite the right word!! Grin) to fill the gap for us. They are going to present us with a tiny new Quaker teammate come the end of October. Philly may be having ulcers but we are having a BABY!! We furiously searched the AFSC field manual for a section covering "babies" but found nary a word so I guess we're on our own. We are ecstatic! Imagine us with a baby.... That is going to be one spoiled kiddie... By the time he goes home he will be a year old and probably speaking fluent Vietnamese. Grin.

Keith Brinton will be leaving us sometime in August or September of this year and that is going to be another painful wrench. Keith was the first team member to come to Quang Ngai when Dave and Mary Stickney were the Field Directors. That was back in late 1966; a long time ago. We are going to remember Keith for a lot of things, not the least of which is his command of the language and his willingness to do anything asked of him...He has been our real "Jack of all trades."

Other than that we are going to stay just about the same for the next year. By October of next year, all of us that are here now will be gone. Replacements will be coming out several months preceeding our departure, however.

The CDCC: The Child Day Care Center continues to take less and less of our time as it runs on its own. The Social Welfare Ministry in Saigon has taken quite an interest in it as what they consider a model CDCC. We hear that an increased sum of money in the national budget has been allocated to the construction and running of CDCC's around the country. With this in mind the Ministry has been conducting courses for Director-esses. In April of this year, one of these courses was conducted by the gov't in the Quaker CDCC. Lady Borton, who is closest to the action at the CDCC was not at all impressed by what was accomplished or learned at the course although the participants put a lot of effort into formal lesson plans and neat note books, etc.

At the moment, much thought (both in Philadelphia and Quang Ngai) is being given as to when and how the CDCC should be devolved. It doesn't really need us anymore but the problem of to whom it should be handed over is not an easy one.

Quaker Rehab. Center: There has been lots of growth here... Both in construction and personnel. In April, Lou and his construction crew finished the large hostel in back of the main rehab. center. This building was built to house the patients needing rehabilitative services but no longer needing to stay in the main hospital for nursing services. It was intended to accomodate 40 patients but like everything else around here, quickly had to prove its "stretchability" and usually has anywhere from 70 to 80 patients in it. It has been a great asset, as well as a headache, from time to time. Grin.... We have hired a make nurse (A partial hand amputee) who is doing a

good job of running the hostel with Beverly's help and has relieved a lot of the former pressure on the physical therapists. Before we had the hostel or Bev, the P.T.s spent better than half of their time just doing cleaning and dressing of the patients' wounds prior to their exercise. This was work the Vietnamese nurses should have been doing on the wards but weren't. Nowadays, Bill, Eryl and Mr. Ry are free to spend their time in actual treatment.

A cement walk is being laid, leading from the orthopedic ward to the Rehab. Center, a small item that we have needed for a long time. During rainy weather, the mud between the buildings is next to impassable except for the stout hearted and even in the dry season, the rough ground takes a heavy toll of the wheelchairs.

Roger Marshal has added three leg amputees in the prosthetic shop as trainees. This is something we have always wanted to do but we have found it wasn't easy to "hire the handicapped". Gradually, however, we seem to be increasing our percentage of handicapped workers. Our receptionist is a double amputee (a leg and a foot); the nurse is a hand amputee and we have a night watchman that is a leg amputee but unfortunately, he is about to be sacked.

We are rapidly approaching the end of the first Physical Therapy Aide Course. These 3 students will graduate in October and a new class started in November. This period of teaching has been exciting and a real challenge. Bill and Eryl do almost all of the patient treatment now with a little help from Mr. Ry and the three students. I spend most of my time at a desk here at the house, putting together lesson plans and other teaching materials and translating them into Vietnamese. The students work with their patients (2 or 3 to a student) in the mornings under Mr. Ry's supervision. Both Bill and Eryl keep up with the lesson plans that the girls have had and they give them as much clinical instruction as they have time for. In the afternoons, the girls have classroom work. This consists of lectures from me or Mr. Ry, observation of surgery or demonstrations of some type. Since home study is next to impossible for them, we often give them time in the afternoon to carry out reading assignments. This schedule is not entirely satisfactory....It has given the students patient responsibility too soon; They have not had enough time to study. The glaring fault with our system is that I simply have not had enough time to spend with them in actual teaching, and clinical supervision. This is a fact made necessary by the need for me to spend so much time this first year in lesson preparation. With the next class, it should be possible for me to spend the great majority of my time with them and I anticipate that things will go much more smoothly and the students will have a much better opportunity for learning. In the meantime, the three girls that are now students, will go right on working for us as full time aides and we will still have the opportunity of polishing off their skills or strengthening their weak spots. All in all, we are very pleased with this first class and look at it as a real step forward towards eventual devolvment of the project.

Retreat: For the second time since Quaker Service has been in Viet-Nam, the entire team "retreated" from Quang Ngai.

fertilizer? Where can they go for help? To the Saigon gov't? That's a laugh... The NFL and NVA don't need to pursue this war... If they'd just sit back and wait, the Saigon Gov't with the able help the their bumbling american advisors, will destroy themselves.

Just so I don't sound too one sided, I might add that the North Vietnamese and NFL are scoring no points in my estimation by their own invasions into territory that neither belongs to them or welcomes their presence. These are not what could be construed as "peace moves". There are all too many incidents like happened at refugee camp out near My Lai last week... The NFL got their walkie talkies and contacted the Popular forces that were supposed to be guarding the camp and told them that they (the NFL) were coming in that night and at what time. They told the Popular Forces boys to get out and they wouldn't be hurt. Well; those brave defenders of the people did just that. At the appointed time, they retreated into the ocean.... Some up to their necks, others swam out to fishing boats off shore. Then they waited while the NFL came in and killed 30 refugees and wounded others as they gathered up provisions. An incident like that leaves one despairing of the human race as a whole... Each day I feel less and less that politics, race or any other national factor has anything to do with man's potential for savagery.

On that note, I am going to leave you for this time. It hasn't been much of a letter but my main purpose was to bring you up to date and hopefully, I won't let another 7 month period go by without a letter.

My love to you all....

Dot

PS = SINCE SENDING THE ABOVE OUT, DOT HAS A REQUEST TO MAKE. IF EACH ONE READING THIS NEWSLETTER COULD SEND TO HER ONE OLD BATH TOWEL AND OR ONE USED SHEET - THEY COULD BE USED TO GREAT ADVANTAGE. NOW IF YOU ARE NEAR ME - AND CAN GET THEM TO ME, I SHALL MAIL THEM MYSELF. BUT THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR THESE ITEMS. HOLES OR RIPS DO NOT MATTER. THANKS LOADS, AND MY LOVE TO EACH OF YOU. MOM WELLER

Mrs. M. J. Weller
[REDACTED]

Dick & Cynthia Johnson
RFD #1
[REDACTED]



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