

NOT FOR QUOTATION WITHOUT PERMISSION.

SV-P #144

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Quang Ngai

Dear Philly Folks:

Once again, Hi to all...Lots of little items to bring you up to date on but at the moment I can't think of anything earth shaking that has happened since the last PF letter.

Quaker mobility: Has improved with the addition of one small "duck egg white" Honda truck to the stable. For those of you who may have been worrying about the crew that was to drive the new vehicle from Saigon to Quang Ngai; you can stop now. Lou, Lady and Pete did the honors and made the trip with no major problems in three days. They left Saigon on a Sunday morning and plowed through the heavy rains towards DaLat, arriving there just before dark. They were only slightly humiliated by having to have a truck pull them out of the deep mud a couple of times. Guess those Honda trucks just aren't good "mudders". They stayed over night at the VNCS house in DaLat and the next morning pushed on to Nha Trang where they spent that night also with VNCS... (That nice seaside resort,, Remember, Marge?) Tuesday, they came right on thru, coming in the Quang Ngai gate just in time for dinner around 6ish. The little vehicle is great.. Tiny but strong and for the moment, sharp looking. Ever since it arrived, the poor old citroen and volkswagen have been cowering in a remote corner of the yard, feeling completely upstaged. Grin... The citroen is hanging on, but just barely. The VW is deadlier than a doornail still, but its transplant has arrived and we hope Lou can once again breathe life into it.

Personnel Changes: This team is much like an amoeba...Constantly changing its shape and composition. At the end of this month we are facing some real traumas. Eric is leaving us for good on the 28 of this month...We have been expecting this but even so it is a hard fact to adjust to. Keith is also leaving for home on the 28th of this month. This we did not expect to take place so suddenly and I just haven't been able to make myself believe it yet. But while we are going to miss both their personalities and willing hands greatly, they both are very ready to go. And for that reason alone, I will be glad to see them get on that plane on the 28th. They are going separate ways but should arrive back in Philadelphia not too far apart. Eric is going to stop off in Korea and I think Japan and then head home via San Francisco. Keith heads for Hong Kong (Nhu thuong!) and will be there a bit before also heading for SF and Philadelphia. So you all will be seeing them soon. Good news for you; sadness for us.

Clark will be leaving some time in mid-august or september. Not sure of the date yet. We have just heard that a Mike and Diane Jones from Hillsborough in California will be out to take over the Saigon job. In July we will be welcoming Dave Baily...I think an Oberlin grad and friend of Pete and Eric and maybe Lady. He comes into a generalist position.

New Blood: I've been dying to tell you this news for a long time but decided that it would be more descreet to hold off until certain other people had heard first. Grin..But now I have permission to tell all. It all comes from not listening to the pearls of wisdom coming from our Philly teammates. We were warned not to let Dr. Henkle and his ~~wife~~ wife work too closely together. You know how funny we all tho't that was.. Grin... Well, turns out maybe we didn't quite understand what Philly was trying to tell us. When we finally learned that Bev's frequent periods of nausea and vomiting weren't adhesions or amebiasis or heat reaction....Pete's immediate reaction was, "Well, at least I won't be the baby of the team anymore!" Grin..... Yes, you've probably guessed it long ago. WE are going to have a BABY!!! The problem of a name has gone into Quaker Committee but Chuck's pride keeps getting in the way and I guess we have to concede that at least one of "it's" names has to be Henkle. He*just doesn't have that communal spirit yet.. (Got lots of spirit tho)... The estimated date of arrival is October (how do I know what day??!) and Bevy will go to Chu Lai and be delivered by an OB-GYN man up there. Following that, WE will set about raising OUR baby...Can't you just see us having team meeting and trying to arrive at a "sense of the meeting" about potty training or some such.Grin... I'M really excited about the whole thing. Don't know how Eric and Keith can stand to miss this big event.

And in this corner we have: Mr.& Mrs.Louis P. Kubicka, now receiving callers at 263 Phan Boi Chau. Still haven't had the big formal like ceremony up on Buddha mountain but that awaits the arrival of Bryl's Mom and sister on the 9th of July...Not sure of the exact date of the

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Dam Cuoi but shortly thereafter. Meanwhile, back at the compound, Lou and Eryl have gone and tied the knot via a civil ceremony here in Quang Ngai. Any day now, we might begin seeing a little bit more of them. Grin.... All is well and as far as we know there are no more "secret alliances" in the offing. Well....Thats not exactly the truth but I'm not at liberty to say..... (Sorry Friends...)

Mike, Eliz & Dudman: Surely you all know by now that the three journalists (Mike Morrow, Eliz. Pond and Richard Dudman) have been released and are safe and well. That was great news...Eric sent off a cable soonest welcoming Mike back to this side...It's just too bad that the poor CBS fellows were lucky enough to be captured alive. This makes it look more hopeful for the rest of the newsmen still missing. Make you homesick for the "action", Marge?? Grin....

Social work students: The two young girls from Caritas left us today. We are really going to miss their energetic and cheerful personalities around here. They seemingly did a fine job. If they had nothing else on the ball (and they did), their enthusiasm would have carried them a long way. Eric formally presented them with certificates of appreciation today at noon which immediately reduced one of them to tears. They return to Saigon to study ~~at~~ until October at which time they will be finished. One of them is toying with the idea of coming back up to Quang Ngai to work with us. We shall see.

Quaker Menagerie: We still haven't managed to get the pony that Marge wanted or the ducks that Rog wants or the bunnies that I'd like but on all other fronts we seem to be doing fine. First it was old Mein Phi (Definitely not your kind of dog, Jack!), Vietnamese type mutt... Tense, hyperactive (at times) and blind as a bat in a hail storm....Loving but at the same time, independent...Loves to go for rides in the citroen and will race you back. Getting a reputation about town as the fastest near-sighted hound on his four feet. Then there came Bac-Si; lumbering moose type animal, all mouth and feet, loving Kortirmer Sneard type puppy..At 3 months is several inches taller than Mein Phi and many pounds heavier..Phi's only defense now is that he can outrun Bac-Si without even working up a sweat. Well, two dogs is fun..We really enjoy them...But the straw that broke the camel's back was a couple nights ago..Co Van (Anh An's girl friend) brought the tiniest grey kitten you ever saw to Roger. Both dogs went wild and drove the kit behind the fridge for 24 hours..But after that the kitty took over and in three days has both the dogs trained perfectly. Bac-Si pays it no attention whatever but Mein Phi is fascinated and I think rapidly falling in love with it (Eryl swears he has a very unhealthy attachment to the lil ball of fur and wants nothing more than to eat it. Grin..). But the two of them play together constantly and I haven't seen any hind legs missing from the kit yet. This time I'll try not to poison the cat, Jill. Grin...

Poor Bich loses again: Robbery in Viet-Nam is no news story, particularly of a honda. I would make a wild guess that dozens of hondas are stolen every day in Quang Ngai. But none of those coups can be as easy as it must have been for the clever fellow that filched Bich's honda out of our yard in broad daylight. You just wouldn't believe it. It was late morning..Maybe 11 or so. Mr. Bich was in the dining room discussing work problems with Eric and I was also sitting in there working on lesson plans. Several other teams members were around..It wasn't like the place was deserted. Anh Huong (the auto mechanic) was out in the yard working on one of the ailing vehicles. A strange young boy came to the door and came in. He asked Eric about getting a job with Quaker Service. Eric talked to him a bit and I guess told him to go over to the center and fill out a application. The boy went out and not 10 minutes later he had disappeared with Bich's Honda. Later we managed to piece the story together. Bich had the key to the honda in his pocket. He is always meticulously careful. The boy had left his name and address (false) with Eric and then went out into the yard. He walked to the gate and stood there a bit leaning against a gate post,.. I saw him there and so did Lady as she drove in. Then he apparently went over to Huong and told him that his brother had brought his honda into the yard (was Bich's honda but Huong didn't know that) and had gone off with the keys. He asked Huong if he knew how to cross the wires to start it without the key. Good old helpful Huong said he did and got it started right away. Then the boy took off and we've never seen him since. Bich came out a minute

later and no honda. Groan....The poor mechanic was humiliated but it could have happened to anyone, I guess. Eric and Bich took off immediately in the car and drove almost as far as Chu Lai, trying to find the fellow but there was little chance of that. Later Bich and Lou went over to report it to the police and found that this particular fellow was well known for his clever thefts and had been arrested before. Even so, they showed little interest in doing anything about it and I doubt that Mr. Bich stands a chance of getting it back.

Quy, the soldier: Just a few more days left for Quy and he is really sweating. He is leaving here on the 29th and I guess will go to DaNang for training. Lou will start proceedings soon to request his return to us after the basic training but after the experience of Duong and An, its hard to be optimistic. One of the other prosthetic trainees is going with him but can't think of his name right at the moment.

Good business to hire the handicapped : Seems to me I have heard that said somewhere...We have just added two more amputees to our staff and are about to fire one...Does that make our batting average better or worse? We hired Mr. Da, a single above knee amputee, as night watchman of the hostel but he has turned out to be something less than satisfactory so it looks like he will be leaving soon. He caused something of a moral dilemma in our ranks as just before it was decided that he would have to go, he invited Eric, Keith and some of the others to a feast at his house. Well, knowing that we were going to sack him, should one go to the feast or not? Grin...Such a decision. It was finally decided that the invited would go and the firing postponed a week.

One of the newly hired was an amputee who had already trained as a prosthetic technician in Saigon and had worked at the rehab. center in DaNang for awhile. It turns out that he had been let go from DaNang due to unpopular (and unhealthy??) political convictions or some such thing. We hired him...Naturally!! Grin.... Then another amputee who had recently received his artificial leg was signed on as a new student of prosthetics. He is just starting and Roger hopes to have him to a level of proficiency where he can function with the help of the more experienced boys by the time Roger leaves in December. With Lieu, that makes 3 technicians that are amputees. We are sneaking up to that quota...

Chuck, the Surgeon: Wow, this fellow really puts out. Being constantly frustrated at being unable to schedule an operating theatre for his elective surgery, he revamped his little office a bit and is now doing most of his surgery there with Mr. Bich's help. Anything that can be done under local or spinal anesthetic goes. Skin grafts, stump revisions, excisions, tendon releases...Its exciting. Bill anderyl meet up with a problem with one of their patients that is holding up progress...They snap their fingers twice and presto...Chuck takes care of it. Grin..Well, its not quite that easy but almost. Bev is chief nurse with the blood pressure cuff, etc and Bich is assisting in some cases. He is even doing skin grafts now and Chuck lets him sew up a lot of the cases. Bich, of course, is enjoying all this tremendously and Mr. Ry is just a mite jealous. Grin...When Chuck is going to operate in his office, he and Bev make up the pack of instruments and drapes and what not and send it to the main building to be sterilized. The office has been screened well and a tight door between the P.T. dept and the office. Triem has special instructions to scrub the "theatre" down with antiseptic each day...Sometimes he even does it! Grin... Things have worked out very well and at almost no outlay of money for extra equipment. Chuck has proven a past master at worming his way into the warehouse and finding anything he needs.

Enough for this week, Friends....Sure would be nice to hear from some of you. Ahem... Old faithfuls are excepted from that nasty remark. Grin...Take good care of yourselves...

Love,

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