

September 3, 2012

Dear Friend of Thailand,

I hope this Update finds you well, and enjoying the last minutes of summer. Whew! I can't believe it. I've been back at school with students for only two weeks and am already looking forward to my next summer vacation.

But that is not why I am writing. There are a number of things to share with you this evening where Friends of Thailand is concerned. In this Update, you will find information about

- **A NEWLY-FUNDED PCV PROJECT**
- **ADDITIONS TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY WEB SITE PAGES**
- **ADDITIONS TO THE WEB SITE'S THAILAND RPCVs PAGES**
- **PETER MONTALBANO BOOK**
- **SLEUTHING LEADING TO INFORMATION ABOUT THAI X AND XI**

A NEWLY-FUNDED PCV PROJECT

The Friends of Thailand Board of Directors recently reviewed and approved funding in the amount of 33,866 Baht for PCV J.P. Abon's "Project Just Play." J.P., of Thai 123, and his Thai counterparts in Amphur Banphot Pisai, Nakhon Sawan, will use the money to build a new playground for the students at Wat Nongtangu School in Tambon Nongtangu.

Many thanks to FoT members for making this playground possible. In addition to their annual FoT dues, generous donations from members Billie Fallon (89), LA Adams (96A), Bill and Wannee Shaw (XII), Jane Victor (39), Lewis Smith (II), Barbara Lucey (XI) (in memory of Thai XI member Leon Berger), Peter O'Brien (113), Henry and Linda Dahlberg (IX) and Kermit Kreuger (VI) were also applied to this effort.

If you would like to read more about the project, please go to <http://www.friendsofthailand.org/projectsponsorship/projects2012/02Abon/main.html>

ADDITIONS TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY WEB SITE PAGES

In the past weeks, FoT has added several items to the 50th Anniversary (Bangkok) section of the site. One is a wonderful letter of congratulations on our successful celebration from Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams. Another letter of congratulations is from Helen Lowman (Thai 93), Peace Corps Washington's Regional Director, who attended the 50th. And Bill Vanderburg has submitted photos from the

50th in Bangkok, which are featured on the **Individual Photo Albums** page.

To read the letters and view the photos, go to the FoT web site at the URL below and click on **Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary**. Then, go to the **Bangkok Thailand, July 2012** page.

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/>

And if any of the rest of you who were in Washington DC last fall or Bangkok this July to celebrate would like to send photos for inclusion on the FoT web site, that would be great!

ADDITIONS TO THE WEB SITE'S THAILAND RPCVs PAGES

Three people have recently sent a welcome archival photos and information that I have added to the Thailand RPCVs section of the web site.

1. **Kermit Krueger** of **Thai VI** spent a few days during a recent home renovation project scanning a fantastic collection of photos he took while a PCV at the Teachers' Training College in Mahasarakham. He sent three groups of photos, along with a separate document of captions for each group. To view them and read about each go to <http://www.friendsofthailand.org/thailandrpcvs/groups/main.html> and click on **Thai VI**.
2. **Karl Kunz** of **Thai 28** also forwarded an exceptional gallery of photos, some featuring Neil Armstrong's visit to PCVs in Buriram and Surin in October 1969. To view them, go to <http://www.friendsofthailand.org/thailandrpcvs/groups/main.html> and click on **Thai 28**.
3. **Larry Stone** of **Thai 107** recently forwarded his group's photo. I have recently added it and that of the most recent group of Peace Corps Thailand, **Thai 124**. To view the Group Photo Gallery, go to <http://www.friendsofthailand.org/thailandrpcvs/main/thailandrpcvs.html> and click on **Peace Corps Thailand Group Photos**.

Much thanks to Kermit, Karl and Larry for providing these wonderful additions to the FoT web site and history of Peace Corps Thailand. And if any of the rest of you are inspired to forward photos from your time as a PCV, please feel free to send them along and I will add them to the web site when they arrive.

PETER MONTALBANO BOOK

Peter Montalbano of Thai XI, who lives in Thailand and translates Thai written works into English, recently sent the following message round that some of you might be interested in. I know that when the book is available for purchase, I plan to buy a copy.

From Peter:

Well, the first online review of my translation of the Thai novel *The Brotherhood of Kaeng Khoi* has come out

<<http://marcelbarang.wordpress.com/2012/08/20/the-brotherhood-of-translation/>> , from - guess who? - Marcel Barang.

To read my detailed response to the review, you'll either have to click on the "response" button at the bottom of the page, or just go here:

<http://marcelbarang.wordpress.com/2012/08/20/the-brotherhood-of-translation/#comments>

Hope this all generates more interest in the book. So far they haven't put it on Amazon, but the publisher has told me it will soon be on the Asia Books website. They've also sent copies to *The Bangkok Post* and *The Nation*, and have completed submission to the Man Asia committee. Early in the game yet.

SLEUTHING LEADING TO INFORMATION ABOUT THAI X AND XI

THAI X

Not too long after my return from Thailand in early August, I heard from a Michael Selby, who had recently learned of Friends of Thailand and the our web site. He informed me he had been a TEFL volunteer in Thai X, but could not find his photo in the Thai X Biography featured on the FoT site. In fact, he said a few other people he had trained with were not in the Bio, either. After I questioned his memory on his group number (Sorry, Michael), he sent me four pages of names for Thai X trainees to prove he had not forgotten his past. Sure enough, he and quite a few "new" Thai X names were listed.

So, what was the deal with Thai X?

Quite by chance, I wrote about this situation to another Thai RPCV from the days of yore. He wrote to yet another RPCV asking why there might have been two separate training sites for PCVs in Thai X. And that other RPCV knew the answer.

Apparently, when Thai X entered training, PCW decided to have all those east of the Mississippi train at Northern Illinois University. Those in west trained in Arizona and Hilo. Few in each of the two sub-groups ever knew of the other's existence. Only now is it possible to report all of Thai X is accounted for.

And based upon what Michael wrote, those who trained in Arizona had quite a

different experience than those at NIU. Here is what Michael wrote in one of his messages about a very memorable training experience: **"We trained in Hilo Hawaii. Previous to that, we were sent to the Arizona desert (Tucson? Phoenix?) for one week and learned Spanish. This was some kind of test program, but I don't remember all the details. I do remember having to kill and cook a rabbit in the middle of the desert at night!"**

I must admit what Michael describes is rather odd, to say the least. First off, why would a bunch of PC trainees bound for Thailand as TEFL teachers spend a week in Arizona learning Spanish? Second, and more curiously, why on earth would those same trainees ever need to know how to kill and cook a rabbit in the middle of the desert at night? I guess it's just one of those experiences that will always be part of the mysterious past. And kind of cool!

The three pages of the complete, mimeographed Thai X roster Michael sent are now on the FoT web site. They are a little hard to read, but it is great to have them. You can view them at

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/thailandrpcvs/groups/thai10/main.html>

THAI XI

We have always known Thai XI had three groups: TEFL, Village Health and Malaria Eradication. Each seem to have had their own biographies, trained at different sites, and did not necessarily know each other. Earlier in the summer, we discovered the names of those in Village Health when one of the group sent a photo from their COS conference. Now, thanks to Bill Vanderburg and John Burton of Thai XI's Malaria Eradication group, everyone in that group has been identified.

To view the photos of all the Thai XI groups, go to

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/thailandrpcvs/groups/thai11/thai11mainpage.html>

Okay, that's it for this evening. Keep the PC Thailand archival information and photos coming. What fun it is to have so many of you participating in the gathering of PCT's history.

More as it develops,
Carolyn