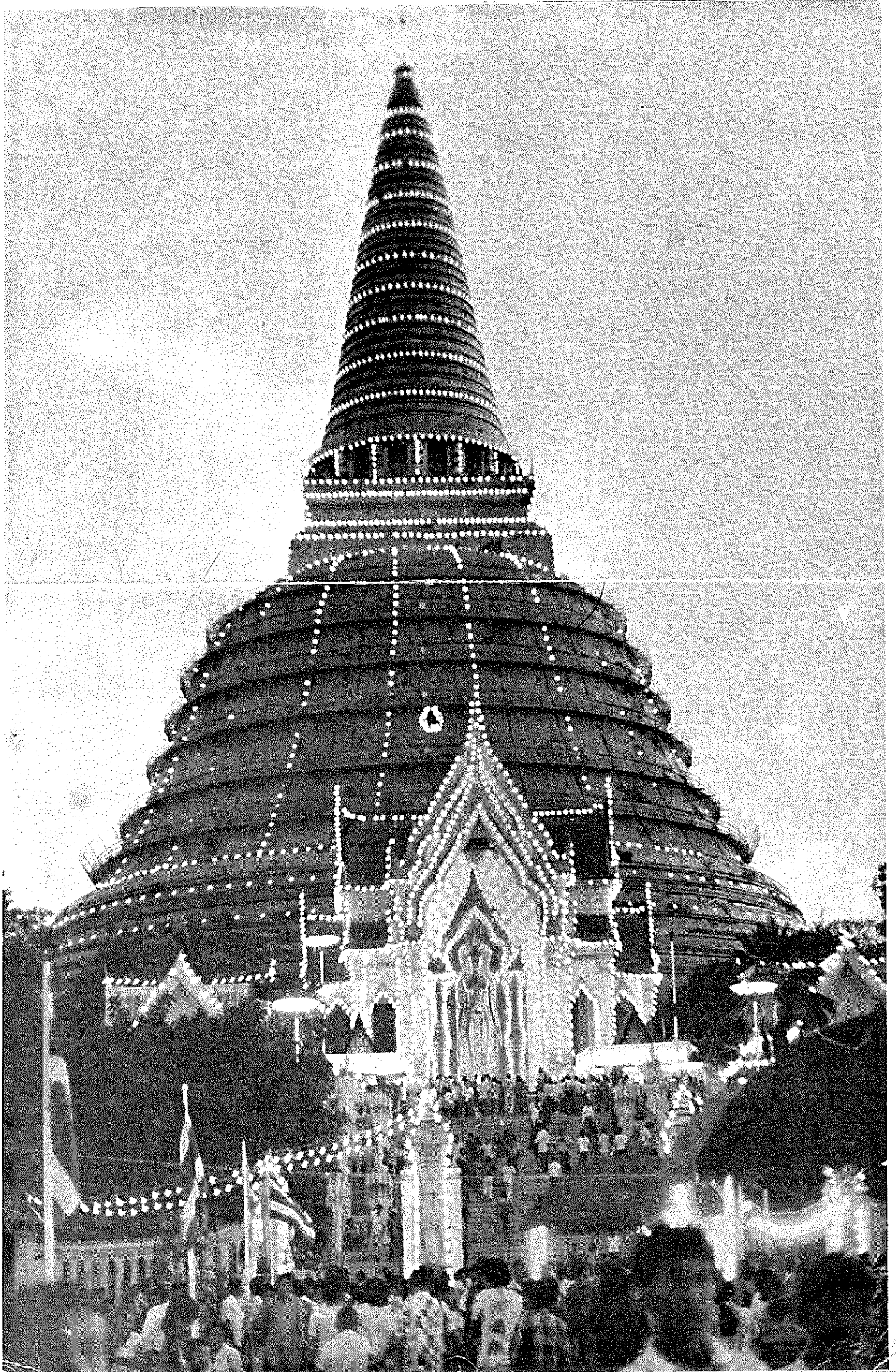


Sticky Rice



STICKY RICE

Dec. 7, 1978

Merry Christmas to everyone!

As mentioned last month, this issue will include the new Constitution of the Action Council of Thailand (ACT) as well as the minutes of the last meeting (Nov. 4).

In upcoming issues, Sticky Rice will have two more articles including photos by Doris Lange and Kathleen Hamilton and Ilze Goodfield (jointly).

ed.

EDITORS: Dewey E. Weaver *
 Sandy Effert * c/o Peace Corps
 Linda Dumas *

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 NOTE

PLANNING AHEAD:

Larry Lahlik has a great suggestion for a final farewell fete for Group 58 and other volunteers destined to leave Thailand in around April of '79. He suggests renting a couple of bungalows in the mountain retreat Khun Tarn, Lamphun Province sometime in mid-March. Let him know if you're interested in participating c/o AYUTHAYA TEACHERS COLLEGE. He will finalize plans in January and everyone is invited to come and join in the fun.



 SHORT STORY

Now I will write about the true and honest reason of why I hate Christmas. During my childhood Christmas was a time of intense anxiety for my brothers and myself. Many reasons existed for our unsettled hearts-- the roots of which lay deep in the discord of our parents union. To this day they detest each other though we will never know exactly why. Our anxiety seemed to peak around the issue of whether or not to have a Christmas tree. In that our father was an avowed atheist and our mother a disavowed Jew, there was no logical reason to have one except that everyone else did, but that was a rationale that carried little weight in our house. In fact, it was the very evidence our parents would use to persuade us of their own convictions. So, in the weeks before Christmas, my brothers and I would sadly see the windows of other childrens' families' homes with gaily decorated trees gleaming in harmonious interiors.

Before my father left our home, before my parents fractured their marriage into fragments so small that it was no time at all before they became dust, getting a Christmas tree was not so emotional nor arduous. We would beg and beg and our father would assume a completely unyielding stance until in despair we knew we wouldn't have a Christmas tree. Then suddenly he would appear one day after work, negotiating it through the front door. Overjoyed, we somehow forgot his cruel outlook on the Christmas tree issue. But once inside, we couldn't help but notice it was apuny, lop-sided, truncated version of a Christmas tree. We couldn't point this out to my father for his favorite label for us was "ingrates" and while we never understood its meaning, it was used immediately were we to complain about anything at all.

But all was not lost. Our father explained that our tree was to be placed on a card table which would then be covered with a white sheet and the whole monument would look exactly like a tree growing in the snow. Well, couldn't we have a tall tree and put a sheet on the floor and wouldn't it look even more like a tree growing out of the snow? How stupid our unformed minds were: it was perfectly obvious that if the tree were to be placed on the floor then Fluffy would bother the ornaments and my youngest brothers would be cut by their broken pieces. What wasn't perfectly obvious to us was that that cat could have jumped up and pissed on the star of Bethlhem if it had so desired and the pinus homunculus was the best Christmas tree we would ever get. Perhaps we were ingrates, for we never did get into the true spirit of Christmas with which we could have applauded ourselves for having the humblest Christmas tree in the Claremont District.

Things did get worse for us after my father left. During his presense in our home my mother's position was one of the helpless housewife unable to challenge the despot. We often hated our father for things that must have been mutually decided. With mother, the Christmas tree issue became ever so much more complex. It wasn't that she didn't want us to have a tree, it was that she didn't have time to get us one. Again, we admired the windows in our neighborhood. Some were brightly rimmed with flashing colored lights and some had snowflakes etched on them.

(con't. on following page)

 SHORT STORY (con't.)

We could never understand why some families with magnificent trees hung them with such useless trash as strings of popcorn and cranberries and mishapen homemade ornaments. My brothers and I thought that the most beautiful Christmas trees in the whole world were the ones that were sprayed white all over with big globs here and there that looked like real snow, and then were trimmed with globes of all one color-- either blue or red usually.

At this time of our lives, my mother was devoting herself to her musical career. We would be home alone most every night and although Christmas was approaching, there was no sign in our home that it was Christmastime. Harry the mailman brought lots of cards, but they weren't for us and after my mother opened them, they only looked like so much clutter in a nook in the kitchen. Each night when my mother came home, we would ask her if we could go out and buy a Christmas tree. In those days trees could only be purchased at special lots which frequently were open only after dinner. What usually followed was a tirade about how little we appreciated how hard my mother had to work, how tired she was, how ruthless the music business was, and how unimportant it was to spend her hard-earned money on a Christmas tree. (In our own defense, we only saw that our mother got beautifully dressed up and was quite happy to be going out. We assumed that her work must be something like having Christmas every night.)

Since we had this conflict each and every night, it gradually became clearer what my mother's objections were: Christmas trees were too expensive and utterly useless. They had a duration of semi-usefulness between Christmas Day and New Years. On January 2nd, they were a genuine liability and the garbage men charged extra for hauling them away. We could think of no arguments against these claims. Our sadness became silent, but deepened. By Christmas Eve our sorrow turned to sulking; and when my mother came home from work and offered to buy us a Christmas tree we barely believed it possible as we filed into the car so late in the night.

For some miraculous reason the Christmas tree lots in downtown Berkeley were still open. All the doors of our car were flung wide as we raced to find the tree we would take home. Inspection of the trees took in every nuance. How full were the boughs; was the top symmetrical; did it lean even a little. Once a decision was made, my mother would offer the proprietor half the price on the tag pointing out that within eight hours the tree would be totally worthless and that further, he would have to pay to have it taken away. I never once saw anyone refuse my mother's offer.

This same ritual took place year after year. Some years we even found a glopped up snow covered tree, and by then decorations were already marked down by half. I think my brothers and I stopped caring about Christmas as we drifted away from home. And I can't recall any of us ever having a Christmas tree in our own homes. Usually we buy each other expensive gifts at Christmas to demonstrate devotion. Often we find ourselves together on Christmas Day, for all the stores are closed and everyone else is with their family.

--Kathleen Harilton--

COMMENT

4.

NOBODY KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS

I'm not sure what the purpose of this message is, or for that matter if it is a message at all. But everything in our world is labeled, so I will call this "An inadequate protest of this stupid world we have made."

Being an Agronomist, I spend the majority of my time with poor farmers who need help. With the end of the rainy season approaching, many small farmers are working at breakneck speed to harvest their first crop and try and start a second before the rain gives out completely. One afternoon, myself, a coworker, our boss and two other visiting extension workers from Tak ventured out to check on the harvesting progress of one of our research plots. We talked with our co-operating farmer, who is our most productive, open minded and generally hard working, one of all we are in contact with. He was truly an extension agent's ticket to progress. After a few words the farmer left us to continue his task in the field while we started recording results. About five minutes after the farmer left, we went to help in the harvest. On the way we noticed the farmer's bicycle ahead, a few more steps and his body came into view. At first we assumed it was an accident, coming closer and seeing a great deal of blood and no movement we knew it was no accident. After searching the area we found the bush where the killer fired from. He left the two expended shotgun shells behind. Shotguns at close range leave little doubt whether a man is dead or not. I can't describe the feeling of remorse and loss I then felt and feel now as I write this letter. I would imagine his wife and three kid's feel the same. For fear of the killer fearing retaliation and thus initiating a "pre-emptive" attack on the oldest boy, the family will now have to sell their house and move.

A day later I entered in one of those severe cases of "This country is Hopeless" blues. A few days later and a little more wiser I realized that these things happen back home too, maybe with less frequency, and certainly for "Better Reasons."

But then again these people don't have much to kill over. So I suppose losing face, which was the motive behind our farmer's death, is grounds for murder in rural areas.

What does it all mean? Don't ask me. I don't know. I asked God. He seemed to think it was an offshoot of selfishness and conceit. But I'm still not sure what it means. Maybe that's why we have so much of it in this stupid world, "Nobody knows what it means."

Mike Stem
Thai 62

COMMENT

VOLUNTEERS AND INSURGENTS

Surin province borders with Cambodia. As you head south on Highway 214, the last Amphoe you come to is Gap Churn. If you keep going on Highway 214, the paved road abruptly stops into dense jungle growth and a dirt path leads on into Cambodia. At this point a Thai flag and Cambodian flag stand side by side. Gap Churn district is no man's land. Within 15 kms of the border one sees abandoned rice paddies, houses, a dug in border police station, manned bunkers, soldier camps and armoured personnel carriers.

(con't. on next page)

COMMENT (con't.)

5.

It is quite a contrast to the normal sights one sees back in Muang district. The people here do not smile at foreign visitors and the closer to the border you get, the fewer and fewer people you see. At Dan village which is four kilometers away from the border you can make a left and travel 20 or so odd kilometers to Sangka district. The dirt road one goes along is surrounded by heavy jungle growth. The only sign of life is the road you are travelling on. For me, I kept my composure, but it was like being a small child again who is afraid of the dark, the jungle, the stillness and who and what are unseen but may be watching. You don't have to know you FEEL these things.

This trip occurred after I was at my site for less than three months. Later, a friend of mine who had talked to a general in the Thai army told him that the new PCV in Surin had made the trip from Dan village to Sangka district on the back of a motorcycle along that dirt road. His response was that the PCV in Surin was crazy to do such a thing and that he would only fly by helicopter between those two points of land. He also said the army didn't like sending ARMED personnel carriers along that road.

After I heard his answer, I did a lot of thinking and propose to put forth the following question.....BEFORE we take that lonely bus ride to our new site, why aren't we informed about possible hazards such as what I have gone through without KNOWING any better? We should be sat down in front of a map and have pointed out to us the places where it would be best not to go. It may hurt recruiting, it may scare off a few volunteers, but it would warn volunteers from sleeping in villages where a few weeks later the Khmer killed 17 people. I might add that when they attacked Ban Kruat in Buriram province, the two other PCVs and myself had considered going down there. Some of our friends were shot in bed by Khmer Rouge who numbered over 200. This type of thing is risky business and PCVs shouldn't be anywhere around places like that. Ag. extensions workers, DLD people, and teachers who visit students homes all should be given fore-knowledge about this situation. I know how dangerous motor-cycles are, but to be on the back of one in an insurgent held area is dangerous night or day.

The reason for all this is because the border areas, such in Surin, are operating grounds for all types of diffused elements: vandits, students who fled to the jungles in 1976, hard-core Thai communists, Khmer Serei of the old Lon Nol guard, the Khmer Rouge, rightist Thai guards who assassinate people who work hand in hand with anti-government forces and finally the Thai army who maintains vigil along the border with the help of the Village Defence volunteers and the border police. An unknown X appears any time these groups get together, but usually it ends up in bloodshed. Why should we be any where around those areas?? I cringed when another volunteer gave me "advice"... "When you are in a village and hear guns going off, it's probably the insurgents, pretend nothing is happening and don't ask any questions." This foolish type of heroism and development workers like us need no part of it nor the entry into dangerous places.

In conclusion, I want to state that I think that Thailand is an extremely safe country to live and work in, but there are some areas which are almost as bad as my home in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. There once you know the rules you can play the game pretty safely with out running into any trouble. Here, the rules are a lot different, the game is always changing from one play to the next. I want to keep abreast of things so I can play it safe. Here, we need some help.

'Nuff.

--Mike Skladay--
Surin

 Minutes ACT Meeting November 4th, 1978

The ACT meeting for Nov., 4, 1978, was called to order by Chairperson Bill Rapp at P.C. at 10:00 AM. Those present were; Linda Dumañ, Donald Nichols, Bill Preston, Richard Linn, William French, Bill Rapp, Scott Pflueger, Dewey Weaver, Roberta Dean, Rudy Miniutti, Ed Schrock, Brad Phillips, Sandy Effert, Pamela Yeaton, Maggie Thielen, Jim Lytle, Thom Marallo.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS: Bill Rapp mentioned that no group letter had been drafted or given to Ann Morgan concerning the possible changes in the TEFL and motorcycle policies. Don Nichols motioned that a letter should be drafted concerning the TEFL program. Dewey Weaver seconded it. Motion carried. Don Nichols volunteered to draft the letter, any "Pet Ideas" should be sent to him at Suratane. Also a letter for the motorcycle policy was suggested, but Bill Rapp felt Ann Morgan knew the Volunteers feelings well enough and would present it as thus.

Brad Phillips spoke for Tom Owens concerning the travel file. As quoted from Brad, Tom says; "The file will be ready soon!" The Photo Contest was discussed by Dewey Weaver. AS of now it looks like the AIT Conference won't be the site for the photo contest. No definite details have been made. Volunteers are still asked to send in photos. There will be a contest.

The sub-committee for elections reported on the groups meeting. Chairperson Don Nichols explained the list of 5 alternative amendment proposals. ACT members voted on one amendment to be used in election procedures. Dewey Weaver motioned to amend Article IV: Election of Members, of the ACT Constitution. It was seconded by Ed. Schrock. Motion passed. Linda Dumas motioned to amend Article IV: Election of Members, of the ACT Constitution, by inserting alternative amendment number five. (The new amended article IV will appear in Sticky Rice.) It was seconded by Brad Phillips. Motion passed. The sub committee on elections will meet to handle the details of the up incoming elections. The ACT members then proceeded to amend the ACT Constitution. The following amendments were added; Roberta Dean moved to amend Article III: Membership, of the ACT Constitution. It was seconded by Ed Schock. Motion passed. Scott Pflueger motioned to amend Article III: Membership, of the ACT Constitution by inserting the words, "All elected members of ACT are voting members." It was seconded by Roberta Dean. Motion passes. Ed.Schock motioned to amend Article IV: Election of Members, of the ACT Constitution, by adding the words, " A permanent election committee composed of ACT members will be established to decide election procedures, at its discretion." It was seconded by Don Nichols. Motion passed. Roberta Dean motioned to amend Article VI: Officers, of the ACT Constitution by changing the first sentence to read; "ACT members shall elect officers from within mambership of ACT and shall also elect a Newsletter editor who must be a PCV." It was seconded by Thom Marallo. Motion passed. Ed Schock motioned to amend Article VIII: Amendments, of the ACT Constitution by adding the words, "or group representative," to the existing article. It was seconded by Pamela Yeaton. Motion passed. (The revised ACT constitution well appear in Sticky Rice)

NEW BUSINESS: Rudy Miniutti stated that several volunteers had sent letters to A. Surat and got no replies. He was wondering if A. Surat was getting an assistant. Reply was held off until group met with Carol Worzak.

STAFF SECTION OF ACT MEETING- The meeting was opened to discussion with Carol Worzak who was substituting for Ann Morgan. First order of business was Rudi's question concerning an assistant for A.Surat. Ms.

ACT Minutes Continued;

Worzak explained that PC is looking for an assistant. There seems to be a problem finding someone with appropriate qualifications. A foreigner may be brought in. Ms. Worzak also spoke about a former PC Volunteer Barb Watson, who was in a serious accident. She cited this incident to urge all terminating volunteers to be sure and apply for Health Insurance. There are two kinds of policies. One is for 1,000 dollars and one for 10,000 dollars. Terminating volunteers should apply two months in advance. Ms. Worzak also said the new PC ID cards will have the PC address and phone number in Thai and English. Also Ms. Morgans home phone number will be on the card. These cards will be given to new volunteers. Old Volunteers will be asked to write the numbers in on their cards. A flier will be sent to all volunteers with the details. Ms. Worzak said there will be a combined Swearing in Party, and Christmas party on Friday December 15, 1978 at Anns house. All volunteers are welcomed. Don Nichols asked Ms. Worzak if there was a PC policy on site visits. Don said some volunteers were upset that PC Staff visited their sites when they weren't there and asked a lot of personal questions about the volunteer. Ms. Worzak said there is no PC policy on site visits and suggested volunteers with problems should speak directly with the PC staff member who made the site visit. Bill Rapp adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday January 13, 1978, 9:30 AM at Peace Corps. All newly elected ACT members are to be there.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Effert Secretary ACT

****EXPLORERS*****

The Explorer Club, formed by a group of students from the International School of Bangkok (ISB) would like to have Peace Corps Volunteers join them on weekend hikes. Several expeditions are now in the planning stages. Although all trips emanate from Bangkok, you needn't necessarily be in or near Bangkok to participate. If a trip is planned to a site in your province, you could meet the club when it arrives in your district, and join the expedition.

If you're interested in doing any trekking with the Explorers or helping to set up an expedition to your site, get in touch with Gregg Smith (Pres. of the Explorers) 126 Soi 49 Sukumvit, Bangkok. 391-0906.

If you're in the Bangkok area and would like to attend the regular club meetings, they're held Wednesday nights at 7 P.M. room 208 ISB (Soi 15 Sukumvit) (The doors are locked at 7 P.M. so get there early.)

THE LATEST NEWS

Surgeon general of the USA and the police commissioner of police Haad Yai South Thailand released a joint communique; "Cigarette Smoking Can Be Hazardous to PCVs Abroad." In an unrelated incident that has never occurred in America, Bill Rapp PCV Satul, arrived at the Haad Yai train station on his monthly trip to Bangkok and was greeted at the station by unrestrained pandemonium... Could it be true?... it wasn't... could it be the king... it wasn't.... rumor has it the anti smoking league of Pattini planted a bomb under the top layer of sand in a public ashtray... Think about it your next hit may be the last hit of your life.

ACT CONSTITUTION
U.S. PEACE CORPS THAILAND
1979

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Advisory Council, Thailand, hereinafter called ACT.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The ACT will keep U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV'S) and Trainees (PCTs) informed on PC/Thailand staff, PC/Washington and other U.S. and Thai government agency and legislative proposals or decisions which affect PCVs and PCTs.

ACT will publish a newsletter at least once a month which will be distributed free to all PCVs and PCTs and PC/Thailand staff.

ACT will act as a liaison and troubleshooting agency between PCVs, PCTs and the PC/Thailand administration. PCVs and PCTs with problems affecting other PCVs and PCTs may bring the problem to the attention of ACT. PC/Thailand staff may use ACT to bring problems to light which PCV and PCT cooperation with staff might solve.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP:

PCVs and PCTs elected as members of ACT are hereinafter called members. All elected members of ACT are voting members.

The director of PC/Thailand or the directors' representative will be a non-voting (ex-officio) member.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Ten members will be elected by region, five members elected at-large. The members of ACT will determine the districts and their constituents prior to each election so as to keep the membership as representative of PCVs and PCTs in-country as possible.

Elections will be held annually. A candidate may run no matter when his Close of Service date (COS) is. Upon termination, the PCV or PCT loses his membership. No special election will be held to replace that member.

Election will also be held by training groups. Each training group will elect two (2) members per group to serve until the next annual election. These representatives will serve for a minimum of two (2) meetings. If this is not possible the two (2) representatives from the group will serve another year on the council. At this time they will end their service as a representative for their group.

Any PCV or PCT may run for membership in ACT. Candidates may announce their candidacy themselves. ACT will inform all PCVs and PCTs of the upcoming election through its newsletter, at least a month before the deadline for nominations. The exact date of the election will be determined by the ACT at its first meeting of every calendar year.

A permanent election committee will be established composed of ACT members which will meet to decide election procedures at their discretion.

ACT CONSTITUTION CONTINUEDARTICLE V: MEETINGS

ACT shall meet at least four times every year, at a place to be determined by ACT.

Subject to approval of the PC/Thailand director, all elected ACT members or their proxies will receive round trip travel expenses from their work site to the meeting site, plus one day's per diem. Since the only available funding is from Peace Corps, ACT is dependent on PC for such expenses. This should NOT imply censorship authority on the part of the Peace Corps. This also does not preclude the possibility of ACT obtaining such funds from other legitimate sources, such as sale of advertising in the newsletter.

All PCVs and PCTs, staff members and Thai government representatives are welcome to attend all meetings. Executive sessions are diametrically opposed to the purposes of ACT, and shall not be held. If the officers of ACT wish to meet for official business, their meeting will be open to all who can attend a regular ACT meeting, and voting members will be allowed to vote on any issues raised at such a meeting.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

ACT members shall elect officers from within membership of ACT and shall also elect a newsletter editor who must be a PCV. The composition of officers may be varied at the discretion of the membership, and posts may be combined, or added, or deleted by majority vote of the ACT.

ARTICLE VII: NEWSLETTER

The newsletter shall be published once a month and distributed free to all PCVs and PCTs, and PC/Thailand staff. It will also be available to anyone else requesting a copy. In exchange between other PC countries and Thailand Volunteer organizations with a newsletter shall be started.

THERE SHALL BE NO CENSORSHIP OF THE NEWSLETTER. All contents will be at the discretion of the editor. The editor will be answerable to the ACT only. The editor shall adhere to the laws of the Kingdom of Thailand as pertains to publications.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by 2/3 vote of the ACT. Constituents who wish to propose an amendment may do so in writing through either their district representative, or any at large member, or group representative, or the constituent may propose the amendment at any regular ACT meeting.

Submitted 4 November 1978 by
Bill Rapp, Chairman Volunteer
Organization. Amended and
approved in the above form
4 November 1978 by Volunteer
Organization membership.

SLE- ACT secretary

NEW SOURCE OF SUPPORT

As was printed in the last issue of Sticky Rice, there are several projects now is the working involving project money available through the Peace Corps. Below, is the second of three projects that will be covered in Sticky Rice.

PINEAPPLE EXTENSION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR LOW INCOME FARMERS

I. Proposal

Promoting farmers in Changwat Chaiyaphum of the Northeast, with an average annual income, of approximately 8,000 baht, in cooperation with the US Peace Corps and Accelerated Rural Development (ARD) office, to increase this income by 1,800 baht from only 0.25 Rai the first year, and in from 2 to 5 years, almost double their income from only 2 Rai of pineapples.

II. Farmers Involved

First year involving 8 farmers, with an annual average income of less than 10,000 baht in the Target area and increasing this amount each season having at the end of 5 seasons a total of at least 248 farmers. Each farmer will increase his income by approximately 1,800 baht from the initial 0.25 Rai to approximately 28,800 baht from 4 Rai at the end of 5 seasons.

III. Basic Project

Peace Corps will furnish 9,000 baht to start a Pineapple Bank, to purchase 14,000 Pineapple shoots, enough to plant 2 Rai of Pineapple. These will be divided between 8 farmers each receiving 1750 shoots, enough to plant 0.25 Rai of Pineapple. This the farmer will take care of himself with the help and supervision of the ARD office in conjunction with the Peace Corps Volunteer. He, the farmer must supply the fertilizer, insecticides, herbicides, growth accelerator, and labor, amounting to a cash investment of approximately 200 baht (depending on current prices). In return each participating farmer must return to the Pineapple Bank, after the first season only 2 pineapple shoots to be distributed to new farmers for the next season. He himself keeping the crowns of the fruit and planting them to expand his own field the next season to at least one-half Rai, and eventually expanding, and rotating his field, as after the third season the initial plants must be ploughed up and started over again, to whatever size he feels he can handle, approximately 2 to 4 Rai in this area. Along with selling the fruit the farmer can either use his extra shoots, in the season to come, or sell them to other farmers producing still another small income from this plot.

IV. Procedure

A. Selecting areas where soil is suitable for planting and selecting potential farmers in the Target area and familiarize them with the project.

B. Send farmers to training seminar sponsored by Khonkaen Lablae Food Products Ltd. in Khon Kaen.

C. Farmers selecting and preparing plots of land for planting so as to have ready when shoots arrive from Khon Kaen.

PINEAPPLE EXTENSION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT CONTINUED

D. Must be done so as to get shoots planted by no later than the end of September as that is close to the end of the rainy season.

E. Frequent meetings and follow through with each step of production with the farmers at the test plots.

F. Signing of contracts with Khon Kaen Lablae Food Products Ltd. guaranteeing 0.80 Bt per kg. for fruit, thus assuring them of a market for fruit meeting the canneries standards of 110 to 115 M.M. in length.

V. Location

The areas for planting pineapple must be located in a belt that has already been tested, running through Chaiyaphum. Five villages located in this belt, that are now being considered are

These are also located approximately 100 kilometers from the cannery in Khon Kaen and are all areas with a need for such a project.

VI. Income and Gains Produced

Figures supporting gains on 5 season basis. (Detailed information available in PC Office, Ajaan Surat)

VII. Capital Outlay

Capital Outlay for one Rai of Pineapple. (Detailed information available in PC office, Ajaan Surat)

VIII. Summary

From these figures we can conclude this project could very well benefit the farmers in this area. We are working with the support and cooperation of the cannery, ARD, Peace Corps, and the farmer, all working close together to help the number one supporter of Thailand THE FARMER, increase his income so he can better help himself and draw a closer relationship between Government, Peace Corps, and the farmer.

James A. Hanson

(THE FULL TYPEWRITTEN REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT PEACE CORPS)

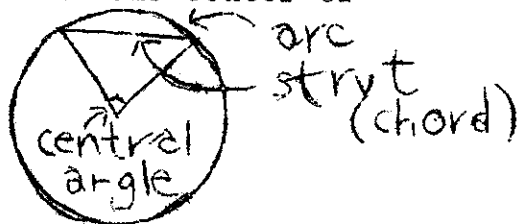
BETTER DOMES AND GARDENS CONTINUED

CHORD FACTORS

Dome math is not difficult, even a blockhead can be a domehead. All you need to know is how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. That plus the ability to think things through and use your common sense. All the work has been done for you and summarized as follows;

HOW IT WORKS:

The central angles are the basis for all the other figures. Think of the dome struts as curved areas drawn on the surface of a sphere. The central angle of a strut is the angle between the ends of the arc and the center of the sphere. The central angles are not of direct use to most dome builders, they are included here in case you want to check or make further calculations from given figures.



The chord factors are the figures of interest in building a dome. They are calculated from the central angles by this formula:
$$\text{Chord factor} = \frac{2 \sin(\text{central angle})}{2}$$

The important part being that if you have a table of chord factors for a particular dome (which has been included here), you can calculate strut lengths for any size dome you like. Therefore use this formula:

$$\text{STRUT LENGTH} = \text{RADIUS} \times \text{CHORD FACTOR}$$

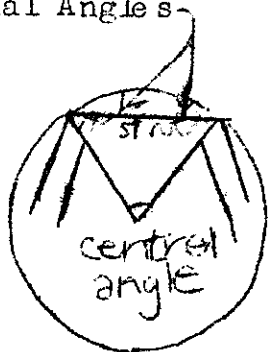
The result will be in feet if your radius was in feet, meters if your radius was in meters, and so on. If you want to know the size of the largest dome you can build with a certain length of material, the chord factors can tell you that too.

$$\text{RADIUS} = \frac{\text{STRUT LENGTH}}{\text{CHORD FACTOR}}$$

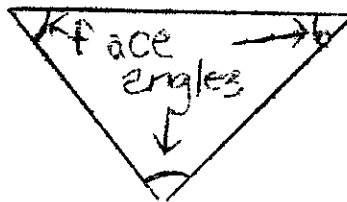
Axial angles are useful in hub design. They are the angles the strut ends make with the center of the sphere.

They (A.A.) are formed by this formula:
$$\text{A.A.} = \frac{(180 - \text{central angle})}{2}$$

Axial Angles



Face Angles are the angles you should find at the tips of your skin panels. Rather than clutter the diagrams by labeling every angle, each angle is only given once. Since the triangle is symmetrical you can easily find the other places it belongs by turning and flipping the triangle.

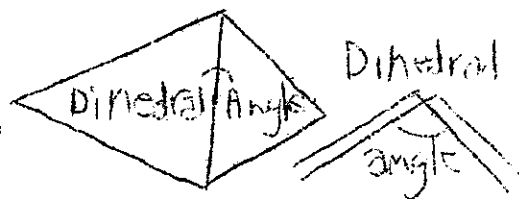


BETTER DOMES AND GARDENS CONTINUED

CHORD FACTORS

Dihedral angles are the angles between triangles. They are useful if you plan to bevel your skin panels or use beveled struts.

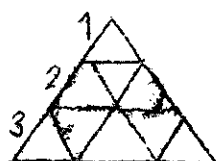
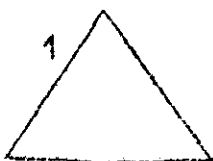
Calculating the dihedral angles and face angles requires fairly elaborate trigonometry. The measurement from models for these angles have been included in the diagrams.



The Icosahedron is not the only solid from which domes may be derived. The Tetrahedron can also be used. In fact any irregular network of lines that can be drawn on a sphere can be used to design a dome.

The Octa based breakdowns have the advantage of easy separation into hemispheres without the need to cut any members. This is in all frequencies and both alternate and triacon breakdowns. Octa alternate breakdowns have the additional advantage of being easy to attach to ordinary structures, like the side of a building or house.

To make a complete sphere from an icosahedron breakdown, you have to repeat the basic triangle 20 times. For an octa-based breakdown, you repeat the basic triangle only 8 times. You will find that in order to get an equally smooth appearance, with an Octa breakdown, you will have to use a higher frequency.

THE BASIC TRIANGLE: ICOSAHEDRON

1 frequency

2 frequency

3 frequency

4 frequency

Frequency is nothing more than the number of times that the edge of the Icosa-Triangle is divided. The higher the frequency the more regular or smooth surfaced the sphere is.

THE HUB

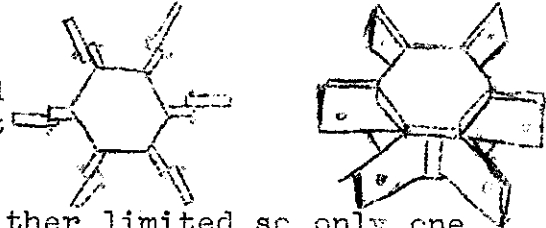
The hub is the point at which the strut members are joined together. Dome hubs are of 2 types. Rigid hubs, which always maintain a fixed angle. It's easy to put a dome up with them, because the half completed structure holds its shape due to the rigidity of the hub (like a big tinker toy set). Also, the angle established by the hubs helps you to make sure that the struts are going into the correct positions. However, you have to be careful not to strain a rigid hub. With the full leverage of a strut working against it, it is

BETTER DOMES AND GARDENS CONTINUED

THE HUB

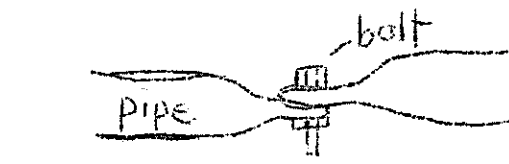
easy to break something. Also rigid hubs are very time consuming to assemble. Flexible hubs, on the other hand, cannot be broken by any mishandling. They will accept any angle you shove them into without protest. However, their flexibility means that any strut structure put up with them requires added support or assistance until it is finished or self supporting. Also using flexible hubs means that the dome is not like a tinker-toy set and requires longer time to assemble.

Rigid hub- Pentagons and Hexagons must be assembled.

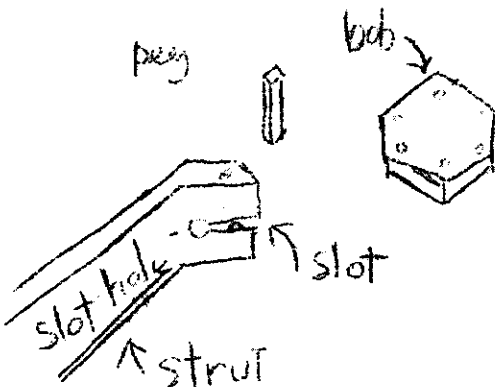


Designs for Rigid hubs are rather limited so only one diagram has been included here. With my dome experience I find that flexible hubs are more easy to work with, that seem stronger and which there are more numerous designs for them, in short they are less of a headache.

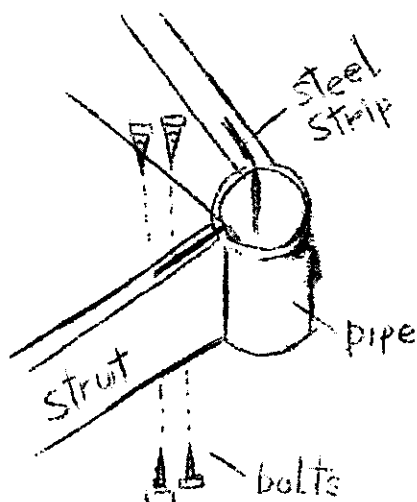
Here are designs and ideas for a few flexible hubs.



I. Smashed pipe ends work nicely and after pre-construction (pre-cutting, smashing, and drilling) assembly is very easy.



II. Plywood hubs can be used as an inexpensive means of assembly. They are flexible in horizontal motion but not in vertical, so care must be taken as not to split a strut end. Also you might want to double 2 hubs of 3/8 inch thick because in Thailand 3/4 inch plywood is unavailable. You certainly wouldn't want the dome to fall down on your friend's head. (Note: plywood weathers easily so you should add some type of protective coating.)



III. Struts connected to a pipe section by steel strips affords maximum strength for a hub. The steel strips are prebent and go through the pipe section and are fastened on the top and bottom of the strut. For connecting pentagons use a pipe section slightly smaller in diameter than those of the hexagons. This will be the method that will be used on the Petchaboon Dome.

(top & bottom)

BETTER DOMES AND GARDENS CONTINUED

There are of course variations to these 3 basic flexible hubs. Just remember the hub must be strong, strong enough for the weight of the struts plus extra weight- children love to climb on domes. If you can think of an idea for some type of bamboo hub I'd be interested to hear your idea.

I have excluded information here on covering, waterproofing, windows, vents etc, because this is information used on dome homes. There is not much chance of building a dome home in Thailand. However, there are many uses for domes other than homes. Domes can be used for shade houses or lathhouses for plants or even for people. A small dome by a pond for a rest area is quite a pleasant site. A dome for a storage area. An Octa-alternate dome can be placed along side a building for this purpose.

Domes are cheap and easy to build. All your struts are lying in the nearby bamboo patch. The best thing to do is start with models, using paper cut-outs, tape or plastic soda straws, and pins. I built a 120 cm. scale model of the dome I hope to build in Petchaboon. My greatest pleasure from it was when I was done. I set it out for all to see. The facial expression of "what is it!" to the "switched on light bulb" that comes after understanding was phenomenal.

Well, best of luck in your endeavors for doming. If I can be of any help just drop me a card. "Cheke-dee".

Michael Brown
Group 59
Petchaboon Teachers College

Special Note: On Technicalities

With a little help from my friends,

The Dome Builders Handbook edited by John Prenis
(A compendium of experiences by 19 donors)

Note from Carol:

As many of you know, Barbara Watson was involved in a serious automobile accident in mid-October. She was in critical condition at Phythai Hospital for five weeks with multiple, complicated injuries. Although we were becoming more hopeful for her chances of recovery, the injuries proved to be much too severe. Barbara died very suddenly on November 19.

I know that those of you who knew Barb share our sense of sadness for her and her family. It was a very touching testimony to Barb that so many people were concerned about her during her illness---calling on the telephone frequently, wanting to know when she would be premitted visitors, asking if there was anything they could do. She made a lot of close friends among her co-workers and patients because of her personal and professional caring for them, and she will remain in their memories for many years.

Barb's family naturally wanted her body to be brought home as soon as possible so we did not have a ceremony for her here. Since so many other people were killed or seriously injured in the accident, we also decided against a memorial service because of the added pain it might bring to all the families. If any of you would like to express your sympathies to Barbara's family I'm sure it would mean a great deal if you shared your thoughts and feelings with them in a letter. Her closest relatives are her brother and sister-in-law, and you can reach them at this address:

Mr. & Mrs. Duane Watson
7418 S.E. Woodward
Portland, Oregon 97206.

DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL FAIRS

*** Below is a letter PCV George Marek sent to Ambassador Frantz B. Howitz. The letter concerns the development of Agricultural Fairs. Perhaps other Ag.Extension Volunteers will be able to use this material also.

Ambassador Frantz B. Howitz
Embassy of Denmark
10 Soi Atacanpasit
Sathon Tai Road
Bangkok

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I read with interest the article in yesterday's Bangkok Post about your Raindrop Project in Sakon Nakorn Province. I am a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer engaged in similar activities in neighboring Nakorn Panom Province. Your Raindrop Project sounds like an exciting venture with great potential.

There is one activity that I am promoting here in Nakorn Panom that may or may not be a part of your program already. I am proposing to start annual District Agricultural Fairs in several of the Amphur of Nakorn Panom. These Fairs will probably be scheduled to occur during the dry season, after the harvest and before planting the next year's rice crop.

I propose that if your Raindrop Project has not already done so, promoting annual Agricultural Fairs in Sakon Nakorn Province would have a dramatic, lasting impact on the agricultural community there.

In America we have a long tradition of holding Agricultural Fairs in many of our farming communities. The tradition is very old in America, but the Fair had been an institution in Europe centuries before the American settlement.

The Agricultural Fair has long been recognized as valuable in promoting agricultural extension, building community awareness and local morale, and boosting the local economy.

A District Agricultural Fair might include the following features:

1. Agricultural extension demonstrations and exhibits.
2. Home economics projects and exhibits.
3. Irrigation models and instruction.
4. Livestock judging and awards.
5. Handicraft exhibits and awards.
6. Forestry and fisheries promotion.
7. Students at local schools could be invited to display science projects or agricultural projects.
8. Football tournament, games, entertainment and fun.

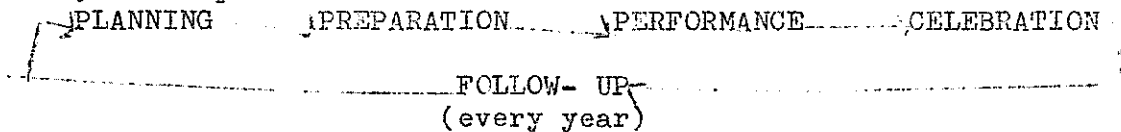
A weeklong Fair could begin with a parade comprised of marchers and dancers from the various villages in the District. Evening entertainment could be provided in the form of traditional music, dancing, and theater. The Fair could end with a fireworks display on the final night.

In Nakorn Panom I have identified the Community Development Department as the local group best equipped to organize such a Fair. You may find

Agricultural Fairs Continued;

the same to be the case in Sakon Nakorn. With the Community Development Department's yearly activities centered around the Fair, their work may be made more effective. They could expect to reach a larger audience.

I recommend the following procedure for Agricultural Fair centered community development.



The PLANNING phase should include deciding what the next Fair is to feature, dividing the tasks amongst all the worker, and assigning workers to carry out the preparations in the various villages of the District.

PREPARATIONS include set-up of the Fairgrounds, but must begin much earlier with extension officers taking the Fair Plan to the villages and helping the villagers prepare their projects for participation in the Fair.

With proper planning and preparations. PERFORMANCE is easy. Even on a very small scale the Fair will be a success. I attended one such Fair in Chachoengsao Province last April. The Fair was small but well attended and quite successful.

The Community Development Workers must FOLLOW-UP their Fair by helping the farmers implement the ideas and technology they gained at the Fair. The CD Workers must also meet to discuss the good points and shortcomings of the last fair before planning the next one.

This process should repeat itself every year. A minor failure any one year is no excuse for not holding the Fair the following year. Leadership capable of instilling a spirit of enthusiasm is necessary for any such endeavor, but I believe that the Fair will foster enthusiasm on its own amongst the people who participate in it.

I believe that short of improvement in the people's living conditions resulting from implementation of better agricultural practices, the Fair will increase community awareness, and not the least- FUN.

I submit the idea for your consideration, Mr. Ambassador. I believe that it is a good one and not overly difficult to implement.

I would be very happy to hear what you thing of the idea.

You have my best wishes for the success of your Raindrop Project. If I can be of any service, please let me know. Peace

Sincerely yours,

George Marek
P. O. Box 19
Amphur Muang
Nakorn Panom