

1. The province of Mahasarakham was one of the poorest in all of Thailand. Its capital was a city/village of four or five thousand people. But it had its delights, This is the crossroads of downtown – State & Madison, as it were.
2. The same view from a little further back. Only college teachers were wealthy enough to afford motorcycles.
3. Most lower level government officials and merchants used the pedicabs.
4. The police station was on the northwest corner of this intersection. For children whose parents were in the market, it also served as a park and playground,
5. a restaurant and two tiny shops.
6. The main north-south street looking past the market into the commercial section. The two story light green building in the distance is the bank.
7. On the left, the hotel- In the foreground a street cleaner. For 20 cents a week this job could be yours.
8. The building in the background is the movie theater where once I saw 101 Dalmatians dubbed into Thai. The mini-bus teeming with people is advertizing a festival at one of the outlying temples. By the way, Cruella de Ville is just as mean in Thai as she is in English!
9. this restaurant is built over a canal, so you know what they do with their garbage.
10. for two or three cents this cabbie would take you anywhere in town., or even a couple miles out.
- 11.
- 12.
13. Poorer families cannot ride cabs home from the market, they must walk, and often for miles.
14. While you wait for your bus you can have your fortune told.
15. or you can get a snack,
16. Actually, the buses stopped across the street under the shade of trees.
17. On the government square you can listen to musicians. This one is playing the saw, a two stringed violin.
18. Looking down the main street, the teachers college was a kilometer or two away. The tower disguises loudspeakers from which the government radio station plays at night. Those trees are trimmed and it's considered a plum job to be a trimmer because it pays eight dollars a month.
19. Just beyond the government square with its loudspeakers are the provincial buildings,
20. and it is teachers' day. This is the governor's office building.
21. Across the street and behind the walls behind the procession is the (governor's mansion. It's built out of teak, as was my house. The man leading the procession is the chancellor of the teachers training college, Mr. Wisan Siwarat.
22. an ice cream vendor of the pre Good Humor variety.
23. And this is the provincial market.

24. if you need a basket,
25. or some fish,
26. or lettuce or watermelon,
27. or cucumbers
28. or more fish (I never could figure out if there was any organization in the market, but then I do not understand how the Jewel – a food store chain here in Chicagoland – organizes its shelves either.)
- 29.
30. or rice,
31. or waffles,
32. or soup,
33. or garlic fish (a delicacy)!
- 34.
35. and the meat market (I must say that while Thai cattle look a lot like our own, just a little skinnier, their meat is cut in the strangest of ways.)
36. It 's extensive, our meat market...
37. Hot peppers anyone? Hot peppers are the basis of much Thai food, at least up in the North East.
38. Vegetables.
39. This lady with the white teeth is selling all the fixings for betel nuts the red betel paste and the pulpy wood for fiber. Chew this for a while and your teeth will turn black forever but you'll never have a toothache.
40. You can also get a haircut in the market,. I tried it once, but it caused such a stir to have the foreigner have his hair cut there that from then on I got haircuts in Bangkok during term breaks.
41. Oh, yes, the day before this photo the authorities placed strychnine-laced meat out for all the stray dogs in the market. On this day they were picking them up and carting their carcasses off.
42. This truck is advertizing the night*s movie at the theater. Admission is 2 Baht – or 10 cents -- for the movie. It is an adventure and love story. The best kind.
43. The entrance to the movie theater with all the coming attractions.
44. If movies aren't your thing, how about a cock fight?
45. Or Thai boxing?
- 46.
47. Back to the cock fighting, yes, it's illegal , but never mind!
48. It's very popular!
49. or how about the ponies?
- 50.

51. They're coming to the post.
52. There's a story about how this C-125 wound up in the middle of this race track, but it's too long to tell here. If you sat on the wings or in the cockpit, you got a wonderful view of the race.
53. If you sat under the wings you could get your hair cut. That's a US airman, an MP stationed there to guard the plane, getting his hair cut. Never mind that the plane was a total wreck! Later on it was blown up and pieces of it were transformed into thousands of ashtrays.
54. Thais love a parade. At any occasion they have one!
55. "
56. "
57. "
58. in Thailand every male student was also a Scout. Here are some of my students in their Scouting finest.
59. Here we are visitng a temple with some friends.
60. It was a new temple being built for a new part of the city.
61. And here we're gathered for a sermon of some kind in the temple.
62. Those are the main gates to the Teachers' Training College of Mahasarakham.
63. That very faded red box is a postal box. The building behind it is the student union where the faculty hung out.
64. There were two instruction buildings. This is the north one. At the far end on the second floor is the English Department.
65. This is the south building which housed the offices, the library, and the science rooms.
66. We're getting ready for a party in the student union.
67. Mr. Suksan, the head of the English Department is leaving for a year's study at the University of Hawaii. He is addressing the students before he leaves.
68. An English class. Only teachers wore shoes in the classrooms – a sign of our social position.
69. One thing for which our school was famous was its emphasis on the practical aspect of its course of education. Every student had a plot of vegetables. These provided food for the college cafeteria and taught students good agricultural methods which, it was hoped, they would teach to others out in the villages. And in those villages where most would teach, they'd need to augment their income with their own gardens.
70. This is the boy's dorm in the midst of a flood. For some reason it was built in very low land, and not on very high stilts. The boys worked hard to keep the waters and plants out., but it was always a losing battle. They would have to be sent home until thee waters cleared.
71. This is the house where I lived. Just like the governor's mansion, it was made out of teak wood.
72. And it flooded under my house, too; but teachers' houses were built on much higher stilts.

73. From my front porch, we are watching some of the students. Every male student was also in the national guard and periodically had to dress the part. I was told they were practicing being inconspicuous. They saw me before I noticed them, and shouted out cheerfully, "Good afternoon, Ajan Kerm." And then they laughed happily as they sneaked off. I felt ever so much safer.
74. The same view with three feet of flood water under my house.
75. The chancellor of the College had a dog, JoJo. I don't know what JoJo was good for, other than companionship. Only those who were wealthy could afford to have pets. I must say, however, everyone loved JoJo, and he loved every teacher and student, too. Especially if you stopped to talk to him.
76. At dawn on teachers' day – before we gathered at the provincial offices – at the college gates we were blessed by the priests.
77. And so were all our students, for they were teachers in training.
78. On the stage in the cafeteria/auditorium the English Club is putting on a play in English. We often used European fairy tales, but this time is a familiar (to our students) Lao folk tale, Mo lam mu. The spoken dialogue, however, was completely in English whether the tale was European or Laotian in origin.
79. These are the coordinated dancers from the provincial girl's high school in town.
80. And a sunset (from my front porch).

The Teachers Training College of Mahasarakham was closed in March 1968. On March 27, 1968 it reopened as the Mahasarakham College of Education. This change transformed what (in American terms) would have been a junior or community college (2 year institution) into a 4 year college. In March 1974 the college of Education became the Mahasarakham regional campus of the Srinakharinwirot University. And finally, on December 22, 1994 it became an independent institution, the present Masarakham University with some 50,000 students on two campuses. The primary campus is now in Kantarawichai..