

The Highlander

By MICHAEL D. BENGE
Ban Me Thuot, Viet Nam

(Editor's Note: Presently working in Ban Me Thuot, Viet Nam, with a volunteer group founded before the Peace Corps, Michael D. Bengé, a graduate of Ione High school in 1953 and Oregon State University in 1962, has written a series of articles for the Gazette-Times on his work in Viet Nam.

After arriving in that country in January, 1963, he studied language for three weeks at a town called "Quan Tri" near the 17th parallel. Upon completion of language study he proceeded to Vinh Long, a town in the Southern Delta where he advised at a technical school. After four months he was then transferred to a technical school in Ban Me Thuot in the central Highland region. His work there consists of working with the Malayan minority groups whose language and customs are completely different from the Vietnamese.

Finding a shortage of personnel and a large need for someone to help these people, he diverted his work from the technical school to many other activities. Presently some of his activities are community development, agriculture extension, strategic Hamlet school construction, and now trying to enlist aid to pupils in very poor and distant hamlets, in many of which the students are orphans as a result of the VC activity. Some help has been given by the various aid organizations, but he finds it difficult to obtain small amounts of money needed to sponsor various small projects and student aid.

One student requires \$1.85 worth of supplies a year, and \$10 can begin a school garden pig program that will finance the year's salary for the teacher with some left over for classroom supplies.

At the present time Bengé is being helped in his projects by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Terrel Bengé of Ione, who have collected amounts of children's clothing and small amounts of financial aid. Lowell Gribble has sent some garden seed for school gardens and various teachers in this area have shown interest in classroom to classroom sponsorship. He appreciates any help that may be offered for this work and can be contacted either through his parents or by writing to him at APO No. 97, in care of USOM Education, San Francisco, Calif.

Halfway around the world, on the southern tip of China, bordering two similar countries of Laos and Cambodia, one finds the war torn country of Viet Nam. This country was once part of the French colony of Indo China until the countries were divided during a communist revolution which brought the world's attention to this little country—smaller than the State of California.

Now the country is divided into two parts, communist North Viet Nam, capitol Hanoi, appointed leader Hoa Chi Minh, and below the 17th parallel the so-called Republic of South Viet Nam, capitol Saigon, and late Diem family as leaders of the state. (Diem is pronounced Ziem).

By now three places in Viet Nam are well-known all over the world—the southern capitol, Saigon; the northern capitol, Hanoi; and Dien Ben Phu, where the last deciding battle was fought by the French.

Saigon many times is referred to as "The Paris of the Far East," but never having been in Paris, I could not make a fair comparison. It consists of noise,

dirt, smoke and thousands of people. Quiet sidewalk cafes contrast with the noisy night life of the night clubs and bars blaring both Eastern and Western music. Outside and inside of either you will find peddlers of all ages, selling paintings, cigarettes, chewing gum, Chinese souvenirs and anything else imaginable. In the streets you will find hundreds of people with small "Howard Johnson" restaurants balanced on each end of poles carried on their shoulders, selling different foods, and peddlers with their wares spread out on the sidewalks so you have to slowly weave in and out amongst them, being accosted to buy products of many different countries. Countless street walkers, beggars, ragged little children stop you on the street for many different reasons and one finds them difficult to ignore.

There are modern buses, trucks, jeeps and cars jamming the streets, colliding, blowing horns, ringing bells, drivers cursing the thousands of pedestrians darting in and out of the traffic, dodging bicycles, pedicabs, cycles (motorized pedicabs), motor bikes, scooters, and the 4500-odd blue and white Renault taxi cabs. At times one finds the traffic more dangerous than the war situation. Prices are high, hot and humid, smoke, dirt and a never-ceasing din—this is Saigon.

On the streets and in the market places and shops one hears the constant din and babble of many languages—Vietnamese, French, Indian, Chinese and the newcomer—English. At the present time there are some 16,000 American service personnel in Viet Nam along with a few hundred civilians engaged in aid programs, contract firms, and various business enterprises.

Now most of the VC activity is concentrated in the Mekong River delta area where it is ideal due to population, waterways and the Cambodian border being nearby. Some activity is in the Highland jungle area also but main concentration is around the outskirts of Saigon and the Delta.

Dress of the women here is the easiest to describe concerning the traditional Vietnamese costume. "Aogia" is the women's dress made of silk or synthetic, pastels prevail in color but white and black are often seen. A flower design on print may make up variations. The dress is form fitting at the top, Chinese collar and split from the waist down into front and rear flowing pieces with pantaloons worn underneath. High-heeled shoes of wood and bright colors and designs make up the footwear with a ribbon tying the long hair on a conical coolie hat with a bright ribbon tied under the chin, holding it in place. Western dress is more widely seen since the Coup. Men wear the Bureaucratic white shirt and tie with small pointed-toed French or Italian design shoes. The working class wears black blouse and pantaloons with a straw conical hat.

In the highlands the dress of the Mountain people or Montagnards is completely different due to the difference in races.

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PRIMARY ELECTION FILINGS

Of Particular Interest
to Morrow County
Congress, Second District

Democrat—Rep. Al Ullman, Baker.
Republicans—Willard R. Cromwell, Hermiston; Everett J. Thoren, Elgin.

Secretary of State

Democrats—Alfred H. Corbett and Harold P. Steubs, both Portland, M. A. Yegge, Astoria.
Republicans—Tom McCall and Dan E. Mosee, both Portland.

State Treasurer

Democrats—Thomas M. Baggs, Milwaukie; Robert W. Straub, Eugene; Vic Davis, Portland.
Republican—Howard C. Belton, Canby.

Attorney General

Democrat—Robert Y. Thornton, Salem.
Republican—Merlin Estep, Salem.

State Senate

(18th Dist. — Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler) Democrat—Ben Musa, The Dalles.
Republican — Giles French, Moro.

State Representative

(28th Dist.—Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Wheeler) Democrat—Martin H. Buchanan, Milton-Freewater.
Republican—Irvin Mann Jr., Stanfield.

Democratic Convention Delegates (At-large candidates listed are only those from this area).

At large (14 to be elected)—Marjorie Bartlett, Hermiston; Al Ullman, Baker.
Second district (2 to be elected)—Al Lamb, Heppner; Gene B. Conklin, Pendleton; R. E. Goad, Pendleton, and Doris B. Overhulse, Culver.

Republican Convention Delegates

(At-large candidates listed are only those from this area).

At large (10 to be elected)—J. P. Steiwer, Fossil.

Second district (2 to be elected)—Phillip D. Parsons, Klamath Falls; David C. Baum, La Grande; Rex Ellis, Pendleton; Robert W. Chandler, Bend; Kenneth M. Abraham, Hood River; W. E. Hanzen, Pendleton; Robert F. Smith, Burns; Fred W. Heard, Klamath Falls; George Stadelman, The Dalles; Warren H. Albright, Madras; Ron Bayes, La Grande; Alva C. Goodrich, Bend.

Morrow County Judge

Democrats — Frank Hamlin, Paul Jones, Haskell Sharrard, W. W. Weatherford, all Heppner.

Republican—Berl Akers, Ione; Ambrose Chapin, Oliver Creswick, both Heppner.

County Commissioner

Democrat—Max Jones, Irrigon.
Republican — Walter Hayes, Boardman.

County Sheriff

Republican—C. J. D. Bauman.

County Clerk

Democrat—Sadie Parrish.

County Treasurer

Republican—Sylvia McDaniel.

County Port Commissioners

(4-Year Term—3 to be elected) Democrats—Al Lamb, Heppner; Lloyd Berger, Irrigon.

Republicans — Dick Krebs, Cecil; Dewey West, Boardman.

(2-Year term—one to be elected) Democrat—Joe Tatone, Boardman.

Republican—Don Turner, Lexington.

Justice of the Peace

(Heppner)
Nonpartisan—Jim Devine, Mrs. Avon Melby, Earl Soward, all Heppner.



YOUNG CAMPERS at Camp Easter Seal, Oregon's only summer camp for the exclusive use of crippled children and young adults, watch as the flag is lowered at sunset. The camp attracted youngsters from 23 Oregon counties last summer.

Tom Driscoll Due For U of O Degree

Tom Driscoll, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Driscoll of Heppner, will receive his bachelor of arts degree at mid-year commencement exercises at the University of Oregon Friday, majoring in education.

Tom completed work for his college degree in one term less than four years. He started at Eastern Oregon College and transferred to the University of Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll and son Tim left Thursday for Eugene to attend a luncheon for parents in the Erb Memorial Student Union building and the graduation at 3 p.m., also on the campus.

Tom expects to continue with graduate studies through the ensuing term and then will seek a teaching position, probably in a high school in the Portland or Eugene areas. He has already been interviewed by several schools.

County Planning Meeting Slated

Meeting of the Morrow County Planning commission will be at the courthouse Monday night at 8 p.m., County Judge Oscar Peterson announces. The commission is working towards adoption of the zoning ordinance that was prepared sometime ago.

Clarence Rosewall is chairman of the commission. Other members are Roy Lindstrom, Paul Brown, Vern Russell and E. E. Christenson, the latter a newly-appointed member from Irrigon.

Fair Board Calls Monday Meeting

An important meeting of the Morrow County Fair Board has been announced for Monday evening, March 16, at 8:00 p.m., in the conference room of the Gilliam and Bisbee building. The meeting will be open to the public, and all interested persons who have questions or suggestions relative to the annual fair are invited to attend.

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SKI



TRAILS

By BIRDINE TULLIS

The road to Arbuckle was cleared and in excellent condition last week-end. No ruts, no bumps, just a nice smooth snowy road up the mountain! It was truly a winter wonderland in the mountains Sunday with the snow falling, and huge banks of snow piled high on each side of the road. Conditions on the slope were excellent with about a foot of new powder snow. Sunday there was a good crowd of skiers on the hill, and a larger than usual number of spectators. Could be they were out to inspect the much publicized road condition! A public thanks to the county court for realizing the need for better road conditions to this much used winter recreation area!

We goofed! The date of the annual Arbuckle Winter Carnival is Sunday, March 15. It was announced as March 14. So mark this change and plan to attend this day of fun, races, and entertainment. The club hopes the Sunday date will enable more interested competitors and spectators to be present. Children planning to take part in the competition should have written permission from their parent or guardian. Chairman for this event is Don Wise, assisted by Ken Peck.

Another important date for all club members is the annual club meeting on Thursday evening, March 12. This will be a potluck dinner at the high school multipurpose room at 6:30, followed by speaker Bob Abrams and a business meeting. The purpose

Jackpot Hits \$25

Jackpot at Del's market, in the new promotional event started about two weeks ago, has now reached \$25, Del Piper, store manager, announces. Because of interest developing in the jackpot, specials at the store normally advertised for Friday and Saturday only will be extended through Monday, Piper said. Details of the jackpot competition are included in the store advertisement on page eight of this section.

of the meeting is election of officers and planning for the future operations of the club. Club will furnish coffee and rolls.

On the hill—A lost auto transport on Shaw Creek grade—a foot of new powder snow—the tow rope respiced and in good condition—Arnold Melby the only man on the hill Saturday, but lots of women and children—Margaret McCarter with a new pair of Heads—Bill, Scott, and Vicki Barratt up for beginners instruction—Denise Bloodworth and David Matheny among new skiers this week-end—Skiers from Hermiston over to try our slope—Please check at Phil's Pharmacy for information about Arbuckle now that Peck's Ski Shop is closed for the season—Carry chaps! Even with snow tires it is difficult to get moving if you are forced to stop on the grade—More new snow is falling this week!

We'll SEE YOU ON THE HILL!

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