The Highlander

By MICHAEL D. BENGE

Ban Me Thuot, Viet Nam

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of periodic articles from Michael Benge now serving in Viet Nam with International Volunteer Services).

Two hundred air miles north of Saigon one finds the principal highland city of south Viet Nam, Dalat. During the French colonization of Indo China, this city was the main resort area reserved strictly for the French. Discounting a small primitive minority group of Mountagnards, called "Kahoes," the residence was exclusively French and a few handfuls of Vietnamese personal servants. No squatters or refugees were allowed in this area, which resulted in a perfect replica of a French chalet one might find in Europe.

The terrain is a mixture of Northern California—sheer drops, winding mountainous roads, filled with the fragrance of pine pine trees and clear crisp air, setting to find bananas sprouting among trees and deer feeding in rice fields where you normally expect to find a meadow of grass.

Weaving in and around the mountains, searching for the small airport which is located in a small valley several kilometers below the city itself, one spots many beautiful waterfalls dotting the green jungle. Dropping into the airport, skimming over the mixed stand of pine and banana trees, barely missing a mountain the plane settles on the runway, rolling to a stop in front of a small but beautiful airport which would do justice to any city. Small but usually adequate, except during the holidays, when the passengers exceed the capability of the airline. One may drive from Saigon but a great fear of Viet Cong patrols and mines in the road keeps the traffic to a minimum.

Winding through the pine clad hills over a roadway doing justice to a state park, one feels the chill of the mountain air as he gazes at the orchids hanging from the many varieties of trees dotting the mountainsides.

Arriving at the edge of town is like entering a mountain resort in Europe with the streets lined with the reds of poinsettia bushes, the pink of roses and the various other brilliant colors of the many flowers found here. Dropping down to the town one finds it centered around a beautiful manmade lake dotted by many vacationers, paddling the striped awning covered red and white pontoon boats. Narrow roads wind up and down hills, around various natural and manmade objects, joining, separating at every angle and degree until one is soon confused and lost among the tiny shops and restaurants selling European or western commodities alongside the now present Eastern goods. One is amazed to find such a clean and orderly town here in the Orient, lacking the confusion, clutter and noise common throughout Asia.

Western dress is prevalent and sweaters and top coats a must to keep out the chill of the night air. French language is spoken, keeping in time with the styles of clothes, architecture of the houses and the almost carefree atmosphere of the people. One is not aware that the country is at war, for the only uniforms seen are those of the military academy nearby. None of the sharp cries or babble of the Orient disturbs the night air and the lights begin to twinkle around 9:00 and the only activity to be found is that of Maxiems and the Nite Club at which, whenever the doors are swung open, one may hear the blare of the twist, the haunting high wail of the Vietnamese or the lonely, longing French tunes promising everything.

The central market place is the most modern in Viet Nam—clean, orderly, four stories high, similar to a giant supermarket, but each counter and stall is operated and owned by individuals. Fresh fruits and vegetables abound for the cool weather is stimulating and only here are found the Dalat strawberries. Now the town is rapidly becoming the fruit and vegetable producing center of Viet Nam for many crops flourish here, while they wither in the hot humid areas of the lowlands.

Scantily clad Mountagnards of the Kahde tribe wander among the stalls finding a high price placed on the goods in exchange for the baskets and blankets which were woven in the scattered mountain villages. Civilization is beginning to be forced upon these people and the present generation is unable to cope with the changes.

In a quiet evening, lingering over a delicious meal with French bread and red wine, one finds a false peace in this central highland city of a country unknown to the world until recent Communist activities drew our attention to Viet Nam.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Berry attended funeral services Monday for Mr. Berry's grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Wolf, of Echo. The services were held in the community church in Echo.

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GAZETTE TIMES

Mrs. Eppenbaugh To Head Irrigon PTA

By LaVELLE PARTLOW

IRRIGON—A large crowd turned out for PTA Monday evening, to hear the music of Bert Wells and Rich Gillette. Bert Wells interspersed their music with a variety of humor, adding to the enjoyment of the evening. They were accompanied to Irrigon by Bob Tolar, Mick Tolar's brother.

Preceding the musical entertainment, installation of the new officers was conducted by Mrs. Robert Smith, in a candlelight ceremony. As each new officer was introduced, the outgoing officer presented her with a carnation corsage.

The new officers are: Mrs. Kenneth Eppenbaugh, president; Mrs. Ronald Black, vice president; Mrs. Shirley Zielinski, secretary, and Mrs. George Anderson, treasurer.

Following installation of officers, the Scout Charter was presented to the outgoing PTA president, Mrs. Warren McCoy. Scout directors who stood and repeated the Scout service pledge were: Scoutmaster Myron Riddle, Dick Ryan, Perry Pummell, Bill Schmeder, Vernon Stewart, J. J. McRae and Kenneth Lamb. Following the PTA meeting, in recognition of "Men's Night," the gentlemen served cupcakes, coffee and punch to the audience.

Budget Hearing on May 12

The Budget Committee for the City of Irrigon met at the school Tuesday evening and completed an approved budget for fiscal year 1964-1965. The committee voted to include $2,000.00 in Capital Outlay fund to be used in increasing the size of the Fire House Building, which could then include some City building facilities. The budget was kept within the 6% limitation. Notices of the approved budget and of the budget hearing have been mailed to voters residing in the City of Irrigon. Second notices will be mailed, and the budget hearing will be held at the old Irrigon school building, in the upstairs council room, Tuesday, May 12, at 8:00 p.m.

Mrs. Nina Platt of Clarkston, Wn., spent a week visiting her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gayman and family. From here she went on to Stanfield, where she will visit other children.

Mrs. Vernon Dillon was released from the Good Shepherd hospital Monday, after undergoing surgery the previous Thursday. She is convalescing at her home.

School Budget Hearing May 4

The Morrow County School Budget election, election of Morrow County School Board members, and election of an Irrigon Advisory school board member will be held at the old Irrigon school cafeteria on Monday, May 4, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Effective Monday, May 4, post offices will discontinue issuing money orders on Saturday, on a national basis. It is anticipated that closing the money order windows at the larger offices along with other special services, will result in an annual saving of $12.7 million to the Post Office Department. The only change at the Irrigon office will be the discontinuing of money order service on Saturdays.

The regular monthly 4-H Community club meeting of Irrigon was held last Thursday evening at the old school building basement. There were 52 members and 6 leaders present. Jeanice McElroy gave a report on judging. Each member brought a dime for the IFYC program. Miss Esther Kirmis, county extension agent, was present for a special meeting on Money Management. The next meeting will be May 7.

The A. C. Houghton Kindergarten, first and second grades entertained at the April student-body meeting held on Tuesday. Guests for the entertainment, in addition to parents of the children, were children from the McNary-Umatilla Kindergarten, accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Milton Huwe, and several of their mothers.

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Cook and children of Portland arrived in Irrigon Friday evening to visit Mrs. Cook's father, Dan Hill, and grandmother, Mrs. Sedalia Dexter. Mrs. Dan Hill is in The Dalles caring for her daughter, Mrs. Dave Koch, and new granddaughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Stewart, Sharon and Tommy spent the week-end in La Grande visiting Stewart's folks, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stewart, and Mrs. Stewart's folks, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Reeder.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Koch of The Dalles are parents of a baby daughter, Shawn Laurene, born Tuesday, April 21. Baby Shawn weighed 6 lbs., 13 oz., and has one older sister. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hill, and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Koch of Hermiston. Maternal great-grandmother is Mrs. Sedalia Dexter of Irrigon.

Jack Higgins of Kellogg, Idaho, left for his home Thursday after spending a week in Irrigon with his sister, Mrs. W. C. Anderson.

Miss Susan Paxson, who is employed at the Deaconness Hospital in Spokane, spent the week-end in Irrigon with her brother Larry, and her grandmother, Mrs. Nora Paxson.

Ricky, Randy and Steve Mills of Hermiston were overnight guests of their grandmother, Mrs. Myrtle Markham, Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Isom and Mrs. Myrtle Markham attended the Union Pacific Old Timers Club No. 19 potluck dinner and meeting Saturday evening, honoring the past presidents of the club.

Menus at A. C. Houghton school for the week of May 4 through 8 are as follows: Monday — Beanie-weenies, buttered carrots, berry cobbler; Tuesday—Barbecued pork, sweet potatoes, grapefruit, pickled beets, fluffed Jell-O; Wednesday — Hamburgers, potato chips, fresh tomatoes and lettuce, fruit; Thursday—Roast beef, fluffed potatoes and gravy, pear salad, lemon cake cheese, deviled eggs, green cobbler; Friday — Macaroni and beans, fruit, gingerbread with whipped cream. All meals are served with bread, butter and milk.

Athletes from A. C. Houghton school will compete with other schools in a Junior Olympic track meet to be held at Arlington Friday, May 1.

The A. C. Houghton Bobcats will play baseball against Athena Saturday, May 2, on the A. C. Houghton ball diamond, game starting at 1:30 p.m.

The Boy Scouts Court of Honor will be held at the A. C. Houghton Cafetorium Tuesday evening, May 5. It will be preceded by a potluck dinner in the cafetorium, served at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend the dinner and Court of Honor.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Russell of The Dalles are parents of a baby daughter, Sandra Kay, born Sunday, April 19. The baby weighed 8 lbs., 3 oz., and has an older sister. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sanders and paternal grandpaents are Mr. and Mrs. Leon Bentley.

Joe Irish of Portland, who recently purchased acreage from the Rees Morgans, arrived in Irrigon Tuesday, and is working on construction of a honey extraction building. Mrs. Irish joined him here Friday morning.

Mrs. Bart Gayman of Kennewick spent Saturday through Wednesday visiting her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gayman.

Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Dillon of Lorane, Ore., arrived in Irrigon Sunday to spend a week with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Dillon.

Harry Snyder was released from the Umatilla hospital Friday, following a week's confinement. He convalesced at his home, and was able to return to work the following Thursday.

Mrs. Rees Morgan returned to Irrigon Tuesday after spending a week in Portland caring for her cousin, Mrs. Tom Riser, who had recently undergone surgery.

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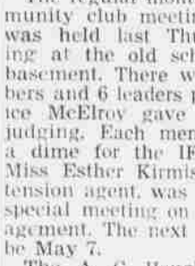

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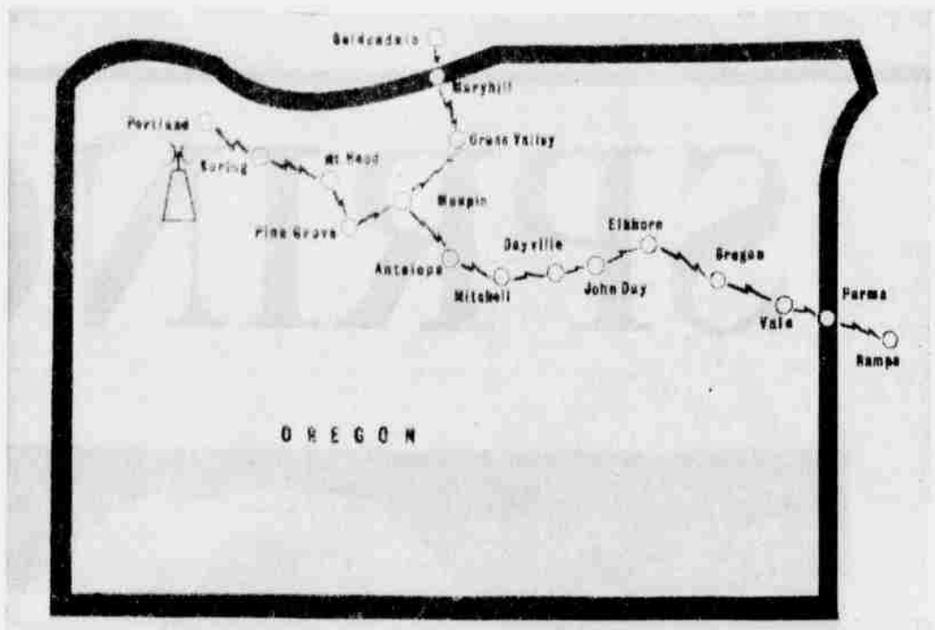

THIS IS the route of the new Pacific Northwest Bell long distance microwave radio relay which will connect the Pacific Northwest directly with Eastern and Midwestern population centers. Mountaintop relay stations will be located some 30 miles apart near the points shown. Maupin will be a branching point for the Washington portion of the project. Pacific Northwest Bell and the Long Lines Department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company Monday filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission seeking approval of a new $16 million microwave radio relay long distance route linking the Pacific Northwest with the major population centers of the United States. Microwave relay stations in Oregon will be located near Vale, Brogan, John Day, Dayville, Mitchell, Grass Valley, Antelope, Maupin, Pine Grove, Government Camp and Boring.

Hardman News

By CHARLOTTE WALKER

(Held over from last week)

HARDMAN, RHEA CREEK — Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Howell and boys and Mrs. Bill Howell of Wall Creek visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam McDaniel last Wednesday.

Guy Chapin is in Pioneer Memorial hospital recuperating from a heart seizure. He was taken to the hospital early last Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Ida Lee Engelman and Frankie of Ione visited Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Chapel one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam McDaniel stayed at the Lloyd Rice Ranch last week, doing chores while Mr. and Mrs. Rice were away on business.

Mrs. Leo Robinson is spending a few days in Ashland. She left Sunday.

Mrs. Mary Bryant, Mrs. Sue Vinson, Mrs. Cleo Robinson and Doris visited various friends in Hardman Saturday afternoon.

Relatives and friends were saddened by the passing of Mrs. Ella Bleakman. She grew up here and was laid to rest at the Hardman IOOF (Odd Fellows) cemetery.

Services Are Held For Louise Ritchie In California Town

Memorial services for Louise Isabell Ritchie, age 80, were held at Moreland's Mortuary Chapel at Compton, Calif., on Tuesday, April 21. She died Saturday, April 18, at a rest home there. Interment was at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Compton.

Mrs. Ritchie was born December 14, 1883, at Deming, N. M., and was raised in Oklahoma. She came to Ione in 1903 to teach school and was married to Charles M. Ritchie in Heppner on August 3, 1905. They made their home in and around the Ione and Heppner area until his death November 1, 1939, in Ione. She went to Portland for a few years and had made her home in Compton for about the last five years.

Surviving her are two daughters, Mrs. Howard (Mary) Bones of Compton, and Mrs. Faye Bucknum of Pendleton. Also nine grandchildren, eight of whom live in the Los Angeles area and one at Escondido, Calif., and 22 great-grandchildren.

Week-end guests of the Frank Hamlins were Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Pulfer of Pasco, Wn.

We don't fly airplanes,
We can't train elephants,
We're not good cooks,
We don't build airplanes,
We'll probably never go to the moon,
We don't raise wheat,
We don't practice law,
We can't set a broken leg,
We can't hang wallpaper,
We don't sell clothes,
We're not painters,
We can't fit shoes,
We don't fix TV sets,
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We don't sell groceries,
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