

Combating Ignorance

Nurse Wins Trust of Laotian Peasants

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Canadian nurse who helped the Laotian government establish a pest-control program in a remote Mekong River province says she succeeded by combating ignorance and superstitions with trust.

"The United States was building bridges in the area and in the north planes were dropping crates of soap with one stamped 'A gift from the U.S.A.," said Mrs. Marge Patipatanakoon, 33, of Loop Lake, Saskatchewan.

"But the poverty-stricken rice farmers never got so excited as when a foreigner could speak two words of their language."

Mrs. Patipatanakoon, who in April married a native Thai interpreter with whom she had worked for two years, was interviewed here following a brief vacation in Canada.

TOM DOOLEY

She conferred with officials of the Tom Dooley Foundation, an American medical aid organization which financed her two years in the disease-ridden land.

Established in 1961 after the death of Dr. Dooley, famed jungle doctor of Laos, the foundation has a budget this year of \$1 million from private contributions. The organization is most active in Laos, Nepal and India. It finances the operations of about 30 American and Canadian volunteers.

Mrs. Patipatanakoon is now enroute back to spend two more years in her village of Muong Khong, Sihanoukville Province.

It lies in the steamy highlands near the Cambodian border where the Mekong widens in the area Laotians call "10,000 Islands."

One of the latest provinces to undergo the modernization schemes of neutralist premier Souvanna Phouma, Sihanoukville is about 100 miles southeast of the Laotian capital, Vientiane. The Communist Pathet Lao has been active mostly in the north.

"The daughter of a farmer in Saskatchewan, Mrs. Patipatanakoon (nee Aberding) was reared on the edge of waters," she said. When she became a registered nurse, she sought her calling among the Indians and Eskimos of northern Alberta and the Yukon.

FIRST TRAINING

It was there she received her first training in frontier medicine. It was Dr. Dooley's books on Laos and Viet Nam that lured her to the even greater or remoteness of Southeast Asia, she said.

When she arrived in Muong Khong—an island 5 by 10 miles—59 per cent of the children died before they were 12 months old. They succumbed to diseases

Heir Of Pioneer Aids City

Mrs. Helen Russell McCullion, of Oakland, heir of the original subdivider of Russell City Redevelopment project, has quit claiming her underlying interest in some of the roads in the project area.

Mrs. McCullion is an heir of the late Henry Russell, who subdivided the area about 1906.

Harold Davis, executive director of the project, explained that during early transfers of the property on the eastern side of the project area, title to some of the streets was somehow retained in Russell's name.

Mrs. McCullion has signed over leaving a clear title to the agency.

Library Lease Is Renewed

PLEASANTON — Alameda County Supervisors have renewed a \$150 a month lease on Pleasanton's public library, 660 Main St., for two years.

"The property was originally leased to the City of Pleasanton in 1962 for library purposes by Howard and Della Hansen, executors of the estate of Hans N. Hansen.

Alameda County took the lease on assignment in a subsequent reorganization of the county library system.

Uniforms For Office Girls?

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Officials of a savings and loan association have uniform thoughts on the subject of women's dress.

"We think the 65 women employed here should wear uniforms and, with this in mind, ordered that they do so beginning Aug. 6.

The announcement was made by some with less than enthusiasm.

"Who wants to become a job?" asked one. "We want to stay individual," said another. "If we didn't, we could join the women's army."

A third asserted her fashion-consciousness by giving the firm two weeks' notice. The firm's officials said they wanted to take their employees out of "a hotbed of costumes."

"It's almost a raise for the girls," said Kenneth F. Spencer, the association's chief managing officer. "We not only pay for the clothing, but we do the laundry."

Each woman will be given three sets of suits: one blue, one black and one checked. Plans call for all to wear each set for one week, changing every Friday afternoon, to the uniform to be worn the coming week—a kind of fashion preview.

Former Policeman Arrested

A former San Pablo police sergeant faces arraignment in the Superior Court July 8 on a Grand Jury indictment charging he sold securities without a license.

Clifford J. Locke, 35, now a private detective in El Cerrito, is free on \$2,000 bail pending his appearance before Superior Judge Lewis E. Lerera.

The indictment charges he sold a security interest in an Albany check-stop firm to Mrs. Sharon C. Brown, widow of a Richmond police officer, without obtaining a permit from the State Corporation Commission.

Started by Locke after he left the police force, the check-stop firm was a private organization offering merchants a quick method of intercepting bad checks.

Teen-Ager Sentenced In Burglary

Donald Clinton, 18, a truck loader of 2744 Darwin St., Hayward, has been sentenced to six months in the county jail and placed on three years probation on conviction of second degree burglary.

Clinton pleaded guilty to breaking into the home of Clifford P. Engle, 163 Grove Way, on March 26, when he ransacked three bedrooms and made off with \$45 in cash and our sweaters.

Police said several other area burglaries were also cleared with Clinton's arrest.

He was sentenced yesterday by Judge Lewis E. Lerera in the Superior Court.

Naturalize Eight New Citizens

Eight South County residents were among 84 new United States citizens naturalized Friday in ceremonies in the U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

These included Timothy and Maria Balyk, natives of Canada, and Stephen Czurgaj, stateless, all residents of Hayward; Franz Auf Der Mauer, born in Switzerland, now living in Pleasanton; Mrs. Constance Comparato, native of Italy; Mrs. Maria Garcia Ross, native of Portugal; John S. and Mary Alicia Silva, natives of Portugal, all living in San Leandro.

Artist's Work To Be Shown

Hayward artist Joseph Romano is among the 116 artists whose work has been selected for showing during the San Francisco Painting and Sculptural Annual, scheduled through August at the San Francisco Museum of Art.

The 116 were selected from 500 entries. Romano, 22372 Holly Court, Hayward, will show a large collage entitled "The Earth Fault."

Rotary Club Looks Ahead

FREMONT — Newly elected Niles Rotary Club President M. O. Sabraw will outline plans for the coming year's Rotary activities at noon luncheon Thursday at the International Kitchen in Fremont.

Sabraw, a Fremont attorney, also will introduce committee chairmen who will explain new programs in detail.

Sihanoukville are gradually accepting their white sister, however. Her medicine is a powerful demonstration of truth.

YAH ME HANG

"The Laotians call her pills, 'yah me hang'—medicine, have strength."

Now Mrs. Patipatanakoon often is allowed to work alongside the witch doctor. However, she said, she must be careful not to let medical science get too much in the way.

"If the sorcerer prescribes for a woman a month of lying by the fire, we try to make her settle for a couple of weeks and occasional changes of bedding," said the nurse.

Increasingly, too, the Laotians call upon her in a crisis. She recalled when the police chief of a neighboring village called her from her hut at midnight. His wife was in labor.

Mrs. Patipatanakoon and her delivery kit rode two miles on the rear fender of the officer's bicycle.

The baby, the woman's first, was an honorable boy.



JUNGLE NURSE . . . Mrs. Marge Patipatanakoon, right, is shown with a group of student midwives which she helped train in the remote Mekong River Province of Laos, thereby earning the trust and respect of farmers in the area which is near the Cambodian Frontier. Mrs. Patipatanakoon, a Canadian, recently married a native Thai interpreter and after a brief stay in her native land, will return to the area under supervision of the Tom Dooley Foundation. —AP Wirephoto

Must we strike!



Is a strike the only way we can get a living wage? Is a strike the only way we can climb out of sheer, ugly poverty?

If we work forty hours a week, fifty-two weeks a year, we still earn less than \$4,000. Many of us earn as little as \$3,500 for a full, 52-week work year.

Many of us support families. We struggle to raise our children in decency and dignity. We want to accept the responsibilities of living in the community. How far can we stretch \$1.81 an hour?

How much food—and what kind—can we put on the table for our family on these wages? How many shoes, how many pairs of jeans, how many little-girl dresses and hair-ribbons will such earnings buy? How much can we put aside for an uncertain tomorrow?

\$4,000—the Federal government says—is the boundary-line of poverty. If you support a family, the line is drawn even higher. Yet we work—full-time, forty hours a week, fifty-two weeks a year, in useful

vital jobs—and we cannot cross the line. Even with the meager raise our employers offered us, we cannot cross the line.

We do not want to strike. We know, as well as most, perhaps better, the vital services provided by our hospitals. We work with human suffering, we are friends to pain. We are the muscle, the human flesh, the weary toil that make a hospital work. We know—and yet we have nowhere to turn.

Must we go on subsidizing the hospitals with our low wages? With poverty for our children? Why are we who can least afford it called on to contribute so much? Why are we not entitled, just as you, at least to a wage of modest comfort and decency?

Is a strike the only way? What other way can we turn?

These are, in the final analysis, your hospitals. Your charity, the tax exemptions you grant, your patronage endow these hospitals. Is this your say? What would you have us do?

HOSPITAL & INSTITUTIONAL WORKERS • Local 250 • AFL-CIO

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