

MANICA - 22 October 1964

WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY

STEVENS ● POINT

54481

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

My Dear Family -

Two days - full and exciting ones - since my last letter to you. Tuesday, October 22 started at 3 AM - when I got up, packed my few things in my attache case and had a cup of coffee - we were successful in arranging a ride, via hand Rover (an English version of the jeep) from Malaybalay to Cogayan de Oro - a distance of approx. 85 miles.

The people who were going included the driver (an engineer), and his wife, a C.P.A. and his wife, the mother of the C.P.A.'s wife, another young man, Mr. Augustin and myself. Two of the women and the driver rode in the seat and the five of us rode in the back on two seats - facing the center of the vehicle. The trip down took 4 hours and was over mountains & canyon roads - some of the roughest roads I have ever been on. It was dark when we left and the sun came up about half way 5 AM - bringing with it a chance to see some of the beauty of the country side. The mountain area is most interesting - beautiful flowers, trees and spectacular waterfalls, etc. The acacia trees were in bloom - yellow flowers against dark green foliage and also the African Tulip tree - a bright orange flower - tree to 60' tall.

We stopped once - to give those who needed a chance to relieve themselves - the men going 10-15' away from the hand Rover and the women squatting in front of the vehicle - other than that stop we stopped only on narrow parts of the road - to wait for on coming vehicles or to let some one pass.

We passed up the Philippine Laking Co.'s pineapples fields also

their cattle ranches and feed lots.

When we arrived at Cagayan de Oro - I was covered with dust - well shaken (wrt down) and pleased to be there. Our plane tickets were changed and we were back in Manila at 1pm.

The trip in the land rover was hard on my camera - the range finder is not working and when I opened the camera two small screws fell out - I managed to get them back in place but will have to have an expert repair the range finder. I certainly hope the rest of my pictures turn out.

I am quite fed to the people for bringing us for I found out later that the afternoon plane did not stop at Malaybalay so I may have stayed there for two or three days waiting for the weather to clear satisfactorily for air transport.

Yesterday was equally interesting but in a far different way. Dr. John Bok, the higher education specialist for AID, and, incidentally from Windsor Colorado and D.V., Dr. Williams and I went to Los Baños to visit the campus of the College of Agriculture, to see the pilotus and learn something about the International Rice Institute, and to visit several of the Barrios (villages) where community development projects are in progress.

The rice institute is sponsored by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation - is, indeed, international in that they have researchers from all over Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the U.S. and are trying to develop an improved rice seedling that will benefit over half of the people of the world - who eat rice as the main staple of their diet. The facilities are excellent and the personnel seem to be outstanding and have, in the three years of the institute, been able to develop several new strains of seed.

However, I think that the visit to the BARRIO'S was the

Most exciting and rewarding. There are over 50,000 Barrios in the Philippines and they represent the potential strength & weakness of the country. The College of Agriculture, in cooperation with other agencies has developed a program of "technical assistance" whereby they send a team of four "specialists" to a Barrio, to live with and work with the people in terms of community betterment. The team consists of technicians or specialists in farm management (including economics) home management, plant production and animal production. The team will stay in an area anywhere from one to three years and then move on to another Barrio. Right now they have been or are involved in 44 Barrios and the results show considerable success. This project represents a democratic societies best defense against communism. It develops, through self help and self involvement and development, improvement in raising rice, hogs, care of children, improvement of the home and community-cooperative development. More of this when I get home.

Your letter of Oct 16 was waiting for me when I returned and it was good to hear of your birthday celebration, the thoughtfulness of the youngsters, and other activities that keep you all so busy. Mail also came from Kurt, Gordon and Pauline too - so I received a lot of news from home.

Now my love to all of you -