

Saigon - South Vietnam
20 January 1967
Friday evening

WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN 54481

My Dear Family -

a full day. Up at 0500 and now I am just back from dinner and it is 2030. Before taking a shower and working out some clothes I want to write with you about the day. We went out to Tan Son Nhut air port at 6:30 and a special flight on Air America (via a twin Beechcraft) to Cantho. Recto and several of his associates were at the airport (reminded me of West airports) to meet us and we were taken to the Recto (Adm. Bldg) for our "briefing". This proved to be a good experience - They do not have much now - only a year old and getting here 9074 students and at total faculty (full & part time) of 47. They have ~~four~~ faculties (colleges) - Science, Law, and Law and Social Sciences, and Agriculture. We concluded the briefing at 0945 and agreed to meet again, twice, here in Saigon. We then went on a tour of the community and saw the classrooms and science labs. The classrooms are in a building that was a girls dormitory - and the labs are in a part of an old French Hospital - constructed in 1890.

Then we were guests of the University for lunch. They served a Chinese dinner - 7 courses - (see menu enclosed - in Vietnamese) and it was excellent. In fact it was something - to get an imitation to the kitchen in French, to eat Chinese food and to have it served by Vietnamese and in one of the national universities of Vietnam? Quite interesting!

After lunch we were taken over by the OSSIA people - they gave us a "briefing", which was very poor and also took us on a tour of Cantho - showing us some different things than what we saw in the morning. For instance we saw black market OSSIA motors (used in Wisconsin) being sold on the open market. We also saw other cottage type industries

- fruits working together sewing, manufacturing, etc.

In the market square I saw a cage on the ~~ground~~ ground - it contained a 22 year old ~~boa~~ constrictor snake - long enough to let a small pig!

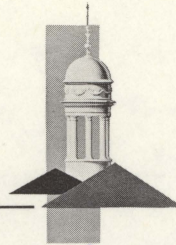
We were scheduled to leave in two airplanes - I left at 5:30 and the others at 1830.

Mel Wall had made plans to stay over in the Delta area - and to go with a former student of his who is working with our government's International Volunteers Service in a village south of Contho. Paul met Mel in Contho and they rode with us out to the airport to see if they could catch a ride south. While waiting for my flight to leave a helicopter flew in - with red crosses painted out - and they let off two wounded men - one just able to walk and the other on a stretcher. and then - Paul and Mel ran out to the helicopter and climbed aboard - they had arranged to fly to Laos Village. I don't think I'll ever forget that night - Mel climbing into the helicopter! He has been thrilled with this big anyway and has really liked into the activities so it is fun to see his enjoyment and willingness to enter into things new & different. He is at the ~~opposite~~ other end of the pole from Art who is very cautious and conservative and does not want to try anything different - and seldom does.

We had a most interesting flight back - The Mekong Delta is a rich agricultural area and it's easy to see from the plane how much potential there is for rice, fruits and vegetables. About a third of the way back the pilot mentioned to look down - I did and saw some tanks and armed personnel carriers moving across an open field - guys were coming out of the corners on the tanks - it seemed unreal - to be flying about 2000 feet above the war and to look down and see the toy like vehicles moving & firing at the V.C. It all adds to the complexity, ~~and~~ that I am viewing

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all of this in and has missed certain aspects of it seem.

My plane landed at the airport at 1825 and I was back at the
by hotel by 1930. Don Bestie didn't go - he had "the bug"
last night and so he stayed here. He is feeling OK tonight tho
so we seem to be in good shape. Howard also had the bug
last night but he made it OK.

Tomorrow and Sunday we will put time in the office so
we will be ready for our trip to Dalet on Monday and then
to Hue Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We will be on the move
next week but then we should settle back down to 10-14 days here
and appointments with faculty at the University of Saigon.

We have not had any mail delivered for two days so perhaps there
will be some tomorrow. I have read and reread the two letters for you
and I know you are all more than busy with activities, plans and
programs at home.

I am enclosing a stalk of rice I picked near Loutris - also the
mutation to which this was and the name -

Love

Dad.

LE RECTEUR DE L' UNIVERSITÉ DE CANTHO

Prie

MR . . . *James H. Albertson* . . .

de vouloir bien assister au déjeuner
organisé à la Salle II, le Vendredi
20 Janvier 1967 à 12 h 00.