

Lewis Pate, Former Resident, Back From Field Trip In North Laos Bush

It's a long distance from North Carolina to North Laos, and the changes have been almost as great as the distance for Lewis W. Pate of Southern Pines.

Pate, whose official job is that of a U. S. information officer, just returned from a field trip with Dr. Ras Johnson, of the U. S. technical assistance mission.

A former North Carolina high school teacher, Pate gave first aid to hundreds of people, including a group of refugees just out of Communist China.

The two Americans slogged through jungle, during almost continual rain, to reach outlying villages within 200 miles of Communist China. Dr. Johnson tells how at one place Pate picked his way through an area where they had been warned of land mines and suddenly jumped almost as high as a mine would have blown him, because he had stepped on a small snake.

Born In Tenn.
Dr. Johnson, who was born "just over the hill" from North Carolina, in Tennessee, is head of the education division of the

International Cooperation Administration's technical assistance mission in Laos.

During the past summer, he worked with Ministry of Education officials to train a number of rural school teachers for the Province of Phongsaly, which up until last year was in Communist hands.

When the equipment arrived, Dr. Johnson was faced with the problem of delivering it, since the teachers had gone back to their remote village homes. There are almost no roads in Phongsaly Province, so the ICA Mission decided to fly the materials into the province in a light plane that could land in cow pastures. The U. S. Information Agency also wanted to get some materials into the area as a part of its work in the Mutual Security Program, and Pate was selected to go along since he had taken courses in first aid.

The two Americans and two representatives of the Laotian Ministry of Education were flown north by an American pilot. From the cow pasture landing fields, they distributed their educational materials and first aid kits on foot, except at two places where they found Jeeps which could be used to get to some villages. There just were no roads leading to most villages.

Pate set up his make-shift clinic at place after place and dispensed pills, ointments and

other medicines. He did a brisk "practice" at a village of Boun Neua while waiting for a soldier to procure a Jeep so they could move nearer to villages back in the hills by the China border.

One man who approached Pate was suffering great pain from an infected finger with the swelling spreading through his entire hand. Pate, who speaks both Thai and Lao, called for boiling water for sterilization so he could lance the finger. A boy returned with hot tea, and Pate had to call in a shopkeeper to interpret from the local half-Chinese dialect into Lao, to get the boiling water.

He lanced the finger and when he returned through the village the man was relieved of pain and his finger greatly improved.

While Pate was busy giving first aid, Dr. Johnson and the two Lao education officials distributed their materials and also handled some of the distribution of Pate's U. S. Information kits to the two or three literate adults in each village. The literates read to the illiterates.

Dr. Johnson and the Lao officials also made a survey of possible short and long term aid that might be given to education in this remote area, where the Government of Laos is anxious to get an educational program in operation and eliminate the remaining vestiges of communist teachings which were planted during the communist occupation of the area.

The Laos have asked U. S. aid in helping to create a desire for freedom in the people of this former Communist area, and the In-

IN GALLERY AT LIBRARY

Exhibit Of Sketches, Finished Work By Local Artist On Display

An exhibit of drawings by Glen Rounds, his first in the past five or six years, is on display in the art gallery at the library in connection with Children's Book Week, observed last week.

The exhibit contains preliminary drawings from many of the books written over the past 20 years by Mr. Rounds, dating all the way back to "Old Paul," one of his first books and considered one of his best.

One wall, the one to the left of the entrance door, displays eight original drawings for "Swamp Life, An Almanac," widely acclaimed last year as one of the

international Cooperation Administration is supplying agricultural experts to help the people improve their standards of living as well as education and health technicians.

Pate, a native of Raeford, was graduated from Southern Pines High School, and attended Wake Forest College and the University of North Carolina. He served in the U. S. Army during World War 2.

He left his job as North Carolina high school teacher in 1953 to go to Thailand as a Fulbright scholar and liked Southeast Asia so well that he went back to Thailand for two years as a U. S. information officer before being transferred to Laos late in 1956.

best books on conservation of wildlife.

On another wall Mr. Rounds has tacked up proof sheets of lithographs from "Wild Horse" which show the different stages the artist must take to produce a book cover. Of interest also is a set of five drawings showing the various steps in making color separations.

This particular technique is one that has been used seldom in the publishing trade and Mr. Rounds used it to great advantage in "Buffalo Harvest," which was published about eight years ago.

For those interested in the printing inside the book, the local writer and artist has included manuscript pages, some galley sheets, with his marked corrections, and page proofs. The whole make-up of a book is there.

Viewers will get a chuckle from one drawing of what the artist calls a horse thief. His editor, however, referred to the man pictured as a "reprobate" and had grave doubts about its appearance in the book. Comments from the editor and the artist are interesting and we won't reveal here what they are, but suggest you go and see the picture for yourself.

There are, unfortunately, many drawings missing from the exhibit which admirers of Mr. Rounds will undoubtedly wish were in-

cluded. This being Children's Book Week, however, a number of libraries elsewhere in the country had requested an exhibit and, though he doesn't do it often, Mr. Rounds packed up sketches and sent them off.

What's there are pleasing, though, and children and their

elders will get a lot of entertainment just looking. For those who are curious as to just how drawings for a book are made, the exhibit is educational.

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