



**MONTAGNARD WEAPONS** — Lt. Col. Edward J. Vaughn (left) holds a Montagnard crossbow and Rotary Club President John McPhaul a Montagnard knife that Co. Vaughn picked up while serving in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. The background for the weapons is a map of the Central Highlands. The photo was made a few minutes after Col. Vaughn spoke about the highlands people, the country and the war in South Vietnam. (Pilot photo)

**Vietnam Communities Developing**

(Continued from Pg. 1, Sec. 1) some aspects of South Vietnam, showing the difficulties the nation faces in its efforts to develop.

Kontum has always been remote and is the largest province in South Vietnam. It contains 98,000 people, Montagnards—in 13 different tribes. The tribes speak a dozen different dialects—and only five have been reduced to written form.

The province contains the highest mountains in all Vietnam. The mountains are covered with jungle in three general layers—vegetation about 25 feet high in one, 75 in another, and 125 in the third.

The main highway through the province has 112 bridges on one stretch of 90 miles.

Some American military advisors and civilians and some French priests and nuns are working among the natives. Some of them have been there for many years—like Sister Marie Louise, who has been serving the leper colony there for 24 years.

Among the Americans are some Northwestern University language specialists who are putting Montagnard dialects into a Bible.

Only in recent years has exploitation of the provinces resources gotten under way. Generally, the province is on a subsistence economy—the people produce for their own use. And they have to import some of the commodities needed for every day living, like kerosene for lighting, and dried fish.

Two-thirds of the rice crop is made into rice wine.

Native hamlets are clearings in the mountain jungles in much of the country. The reason why Viet Cong and North Vietnamese ambushes are successful regularly is that there is only one road or trail connecting the hamlet with the outside areas. Consequently, when the enemy attacks a hamlet, a relief force can reach it by only the one trail.

In the total scene, the French occupied virtually all the influential administrative and technical positions themselves during their occupation. Consequently, Vietnamese independence coming in 1954 found the country with hardly any trained civil servants or technicians.

The only Vietnamese who received higher educations during the more than 100 years of French occupation were those most loyal to the French. These were sent to Paris for their education. The nation has universities—but these are low in quality.

The shortage of skilled native servants was aggravated by the Viet Cong. They murdered 11,000 civil leaders in 1962 alone.

The shortage of talent is hindering progress.

Dedicated, unpublicized American military and civilians are working with native

authorities on civil as well as military development.

On his military tour, Col. Vaughn said, "we (military advisors) were concerned with the administrative side of running the province" when he was in Kontum in 1964. At the time, he explained, there was little military activity. The natives were strapped for military equipment and personnel. However, the regional Popular Front force was effective then, because the only Viet Cong in the province were local people.

In January 1965, though, the North Vietnamese 101st Regiment infiltrated and subsequently took three of the provinces five districts before relief was brought when American troops moved in. (It was not till the spring of 1965 that the first large, conventional American force—the 173rd Airborne Brigade based on Okinawa—was committed to the Vietnam war).

The North Vietnamese attacks sent refugees fleeing in their path. Problems of supplies were created. All supplies had to be brought in by air, because the North Vietnamese troops had cut the roads.

The situation was desperate when the American soldiers arrived, stopping the enemy campaign to cut off the highlands.

Col. Vaughn was one of five officers and five enlisted men in Kontum when he first arrived. Only 13,000 American military men were in all of South Vietnam then. (Now, he said, there are more than 450,000.)

He said the American advisor has been in Vietnam since about 1957. The advisor and the American civilian worker are in the publicity shadow now, he said. But, he said, the sector advisors are the closest to the Vietnamese people.

They will be the last ones out of Vietnam, he said.

Col. Vaughn said he returned to Vietnam for service as a civilian because it is important to know the civilian aspects of the struggle as well as the military.

In his 16 years of Army service he has been under fire in two wars. Vietnam is his second. His first was Korea while he was serving with the 45th Infantry Division.

He and his wife lived on Midland Road before moving to their new home in Highland Trails.

Col. Vaughn said after the meeting that progress in the Vietnamese highlands is measured by changes which are insignificant to Americans: for example, a Montagnard starting to ride a bicycle, instead of walking.

But in 10 years, he predicted, the country will be completely changed.

John McPhaul, Rotary Club president, presided at the meeting.

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**WEST END NEWS**

BY SALLY AUMAN

**School News**

Ray Atkins, Vice-President of the Student Organization, presided at an Easter Assembly at the school Thursday. He presented the Rev. Fred Currie, who gave an inspirational message on The Resurrection.

The High School Girl's Glee Club participated in the district concert in Durham on Friday and received a rating of "Very Good."

The students performed formed well and their director, Mrs. Leah Spencer, plans to have them take part in the contest again next year. The club was from the smallest school and, with only 16, was the smallest group to sing. Janice Gordon was the accompanist and the girls were Janet Markham, Judy Brewer, Aye Molsinger, Betty Jo Stubbs, Laura and Jean Auman, Susan McCaskill, Judy Blue, Patricia Luck, Joan Butler, Dorothy Brown, Janet Reynolds, Joyce Cole, Laura Sutphin, and Martha Blake.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Sutphin for the Easter holidays were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Steelman with Wanda, Paula Jean, Charles and Christopher of Mount Arlington, N. J. Mrs. Steelman is a niece of Mrs. Sutphin and they visited Fred Jones, Mrs. Sutphin's father who is a patient at the Montgomery Nursing Home.

Visiting Hawley Poole for the weekend were Miss Mary Booker of Goldsboro, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lee Boney of Selma.

**PFC Staley**

Walter Lee Staley has been promoted to PFC-E-3 since arriving in Korea 3 months ago with the armed forces. Also during the time he had a broken arm and hand but he has advised his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Barna Staley that he has completely recuperated. His wife, Barbara, is making her home with his parents during the tour of overseas duty.

His address is PFC-E-3 Walter Lee Staley, 655343932 Co. A USA Camp Carroll Depot, APO San Francisco 96460, Box 78.

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