



Cooleemee Clothing on Vietnamese Children.

## Clothing From Cooleemee Helps In Leper Colony

By MARLENE BENSON

Captain Clyde Roberts of the U. S. Army, now stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, was very thankful to be with his family this past Christmas. His wife, the former Joan Pierce of Cooleemee, and their two sons Randy, 9, and Dave, age 7, were equally grateful to have him at home.

Captain Roberts recently returned home from Plei Mrong, Vietnam, after completing a year's active duty as a member of a Special Forces Camp there. The camp, located only 35 miles from the Cambodian border, consisted of only 12 American GIs in an entire camp of Vietnamese soldiers.

It was heart-breaking to Roberts and his men to see how other human beings were forced to live. Things we take for granted, such as food, shelter and clothing, were luxuries to these unfortunate people, especially the children.

### LEPER COLONY

Only one-half mile from their camp was a leper colony that was completely abandoned. These people were separated from the village and treated as outcasts by their own people. No one dared help them, regardless of their condition or how desperate they became. They were just abandoned in the colony and left to die.

Many of the lepers were missing an arm or leg or deformed in some way, but did everything possible to exist. The children born in this colony had never worn clothing, experienced the taste of a candy bar and had no idea there were such things as toys to play with.

A large number of the children seemed to be completely normal, but were never allowed to leave the colony. The lepers lived in a very small world all their own, with no outside help, until the Americans set up the Special Forces Camp nearby.

Captain Roberts explained that at this time, two medics were sent to the colony with medical supplies that could arrest the disease. Although it is impossible to cure leprosy, with proper medical attention, it can be stopped.

Many times the Americans found lepers that had been outcast by their own tribe and left to die, and would take them back to the colony for medical attention.



Captain Roberts With Friends.

# Cooleemee Journal

6 Pages

COOLEEMEE, N. C.

10 Cents

Wednesday, January 10, 1968

## Johnson Ijames Begins 30th Year At School

Johnson Ijames at 77 years of age is still very active in his duties as janitor at the Cooleemee Elementary School. This year will mark Johnson's 30th year at the school. During this time many children in Cooleemee have become very fond of him.

Johnson's first job was at a very young age with a sawmill in the county known as the Charlie Seaford Sawmill. He was married in 1912 to the former Ida Noble. In 1917 he was employed with Erwin Mills in Cooleemee where he acquired 48 years seniority before his retirement several years ago.

During the time he was employed at the mill, he also worked the winter months for the school and after 30 years still enjoys his duties there.



Johnson Ijames

## Not Enough Feeling

The elementary school principal called a father to school for a conference. "Do you know," he asked, "that your son swears terribly?" The father nodded his head and said, "ain't it the truth? He knows the words, but he don't put no feeling into them."

## What Is It? See Page 3

