



VIETNAMESE CANDY LOVERS pose with Lt. Col. William C. Pelton. The children would gather along the road each day to await the Colonel's jeep and a fresh cargo of hard candy. Candy is a rare thing in Vietnam and soon became the by-word of the younger set as the Colonel's flock continued to multiply.

Cans Fascinate Vietnamese

By LYNNE CEREFICE

An empty metal peanut can is almost useless in the United States, but in the small Asian country of Vietnam this shiny, colorful object serves as a passport to any native village.

According to Lt. Col. William C. Pelton, who spent 14 months in Vietnam with the United States Military Advisor and Assistance Group, the Vietnamese natives will do almost anything to acquire a peanut can. This, he said, is a rare treasure in their eyes.

However, peanuts are not a part of the standard Vietnamese diet. Pelton described the standard menu as consisting of steamed rice with beans moulded in the shape of a mound and boiled chicken. A dish of fresh fruits, chosen for their color, freshness and rarity, is sometimes placed at each end of the table, he said. And the standard beverage is white rice wine.

The Vietnamese people are also superstitious. "In the minds of the natives, the countryside is inhabited by supernatural spirits," Pelton said.

He said that they believe some spirits hide among the thickets while others take refuge underneath the fig or banyan trees. Still others are said to establish themselves upon small mounds of earth which dominate the routes leading to and from the villages, he added.

"To honor these spirits," he said, "the natives sometimes hang a pot of lime on a branch or place it at the foot of a tree." Pelton explained that the most important spirit is the village or guardian spirit.

Rice paddies are the country's

chief source of income, Pelton said. "Methods of processing the grain are comparatively primitive," he said.

He explained that the flow and amounts of water used to irrigate the paddies are controlled by small man-made ditches and human-operated paddle machines. During the harvest, he said, the entire family and neighbors assist each other. "The rice stalk is cut by an ancient-type hand scythe and the grain is pulverized by the ancient method of wooden mallet and stone," he said.

In Vietnam, the water buffalo is the beast of burden used to aerate the rice paddies. Pelton said that the animals are both domestic and wild and children often ride them. "A child is assigned to each one because the animals are so precious," he said.

In describing an amusing experience, Pelton told of a visit to a jungle village. "Few of the natives had ever seen a white person," he said, "and thinking I was painted, they would pinch my skin in an effort to remove the white." My arms were sometimes red and sore for days afterward."

'57 Cabinet Accepted Bookstore Report

By MEG TEICHHOLTZ
(Sixth in a Series)

Less than one year after All-University Cabinet had declared a student-run bookstore to be "unfeasible," it appointed a committee to "determine whether the BX and downtown stores meet the needs of the students adequately."

In March of 1957 Cabinet approved the committee's report which contained recommendations designed to alleviate some of the problems of purchasing books and to keep the BX open all year.

The committee questioned both the administration and the State College bookstores and found that part of the problem students ran into in getting required texts stemmed from the professors and College heads themselves. According to the report, professors were to have the lists of books required for their courses in the hands of the bookstores at least 60 days before the beginning of the semester.

However, the committee reported that usually these lists weren't in until about one month before the new semester, and often not even that soon.

"In the 'top-ten' schools, lists for the fall term are submitted to the stores for ordering on June

1," the committee said. "According to the managers of the downtown bookstores," the report said, "late and absent lists cause many cases of overstocking or not ordering books at all. At the end of the 1957 spring semester book rush, the Athletic store had \$35,000 worth of overstocked books."

The committee recommended that the existing University rule on submitting book lists 60 days prior to the semester be enforced by the administration in a manner to meet the needs of the students, bookstore owners and professors.

In addition the committee recommended that a full-time manager be hired to run the existing Book Exchange. The report noted that there is an inadequate BX schedule during exam periods when students most need the facilities, and such an arrangement would aid in solving this problem.

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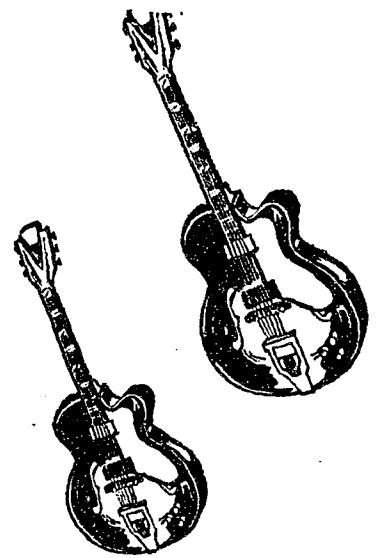
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