

**Bangkok, Thailand**



October 2 Day 1 slept until 1 p.m. due to late arrival. We heard that tailoring is high quality and inexpensive in Bangkok so we arranged for one to pick us up and take us to his shop. We met Steve, a fine young man of 29 years, who helped us select and fit for a new wardrobe. Judy got a custom-made blouse just as she had been seeking. They then took us to the largest shopping mall in Bangkok where we looked for just the right shoes.



October 3 Day 2 We arranged for an excursion to the Rose Garden outside of the main city. The roses weren't hitting on much but the orchids were really spectacular. We also saw an elephant show, Thai boxing, (much like ultimate fighting but without the octagon, Thai ritual dancing and heritage instruments. It was quite good.

Photos from the Rose Garden:



orchids were everywhere and out in the full sun.  
elephant show: 110 elephants are agile enough to step between the people. 111 elephants dance with a hula hoop,



1116 Thai boxing demonstration,

October 8, 2008



We made our city tour of Bangkok beginning with the floral and vegetable markets. 394. Flower market, 396 Turtles made with flowers. 397 Young man prepares his motorcycle for flower

deliveries.

399 Chile peppers 400 come in different colors 401 guy with cart loaded with vegetables 402 vegetable market 403 crab and other seafood. 405 Pumpkins 406 Housing by the market 407 save 408 man in a hammock waiting for customers 409 young boy in hammock. 410 Housing along the river. 411 Thai Navy headquarters.



We went for a river cruise in a long-tail boat. The river joins a canal. Many people live along the canal, some houses have no land, their only access is by water, others are built over the canal connected by a small piece of land. These over canal houses are grandfathered and cannot be sold, they may be transferred by inheritance, so the people never move. 415 Man doing logging in the river. 417 bridge



418 Housing along canal



421-22 monitor lizards are common in Thailand. They are quite large and swim well.



424 politician's house, here you gain wealth after election. In America it is required before election. 426 Teak house with 3 sections as family increased 447 Lady on porch 428 House on canal don't necessarily connect to street they may



only be accessed by boat. 429 garden where we made lunch. 430 water lilly



The Thai cooking demonstration was one of the highlights of our tour. Anytime we can

get involved, the experience is more fulfilling. 431 Cooking demonstrations by Jim. 432 The food is all laid out in advance. 433 Our host's name was Jim. She and Judy make red chili paste



As Jim describes the processes, Judy uses the mortar and pestle to grind the ingredients. 435 Jim starts to stir fry the ingredients.



438 making fried bread with minced park sauce.





446. Jim says “you give it a try, so we each fry our bread. This worked so well I thought we could try it next time we had friends over for dinner. We have the recipe.

448 temple 450-452 life along the canal 453 temple and large golden Buddha



456 the Navy holds the royal processional vessels here. We viewed the six of them but photos were not to be taken.



460 ff This temple was made from broken China. As the story goes, the king of Siam purchased various items from China but they were received broken. Upon inquiry, the Chinese refused to take them back. To avoid destroying the trade relations between Thailand and the Chinese, the king accepted the goods. His advisors asked what they were to do with all of this broken ceramic. The king replied that he had a few temples to finish and the craftsmen were to use these fragments to cover the temples. The Chinese living in Bangkok were so impressed with the King’s wisdom that they gave ornate dishes to be used in the project. Thus these beautifully decorated temples were finished.



471 Wat Po, the temple of the reclining Buddha. Pictures cannot properly capture the immense size of this figure.



To 492. Later that day, we went for the final fitting of the tailor-made clothes, revisited the computer mall and visited the Jim Thompson House where pictures were not allowed. That evening, we each had our first Thai massage. \$8 for two hours. Though the ladies promised to be gentle, I cried out from time to time and wondered how long it would take for the bruises to heal. Panu warned us that European food would not be available for the next few days so we took in our last at the Italian restaurant in the hotel.

October 10, 2008

On our way to the River Kwai, we saw salt making at the side of the road.



Here 494 is an empty salt pond. 496 wind mills are used to bring the salt water into the pond where the water evaporates and the salt is collected, packaged and sold in the roadside stand 497.



499 We stopped at a typical house. Many have their own temple with a Buddha and photos. 500 The bedroom.



502 refrigeration is common in this area. 503 the stove and bottles with oils and other mixtures. 504 rain water collection barrel. 506, a bee hive is considered good luck, after the bees are gone.



509, the house overlooks the river. 510 and has a collection of orchids. They grow so well in this hot, humid climate and coconut husks are broken in pieces for the “orchid mix” to hold the plants. 511 This wooden monkey decorates a tree. 512 There are two squirrels in this cage, climbing on the branches and running around. 513 a cage full of canaries. One was in a nest

with the young. The nest was a coconut with a hole for the opening.



519 In preparing coconut sugar, a fire is built in this fire container. The area closest to the fire is the hottest so the sap

is transferred from container to

container at decreasing temperatures 521-522. 523 This man has a python around his neck. They are harmless to humans as we are too big for them to suffocate. 524 monkey,



527, the Floating Market where vendors sell from their boats along the side of the market pier as well as to boats passing by to 538. 539 While sitting and watching the people sail by, we were interviewed by this class studying English.



540 We visited a wood working shop where carvers were making incredibly beautiful and elaborate works.





549. Our group photo over looking the Bridge over the River Kwai. The metal bridge replaced the wooden one that the prisoners made and that was subsequently bombed by the allies (not by the prisoners as portrayed in the movie.



552 replicas of the steam locomotives used 70 years ago in World War II. 557, the River. 562 the war museum was fascinating, we easily spent our hour there. It overlooks the cemetery.



570 On the way to our hotel, we see cattle grazing on the road median, maintaining and fertilizing the grounds while feeding. 571 The king's photo adorns many highways.

October 11, Saturday - Long-tail speed boat ride along the River Kwai

574 Our boat showed us the scenery along the river including birds, lizards



and flora. To the left is a kingfisher bird and stalactites.



592 Monk cave

595 Riverside resort



605 bird



607 monitor lizard

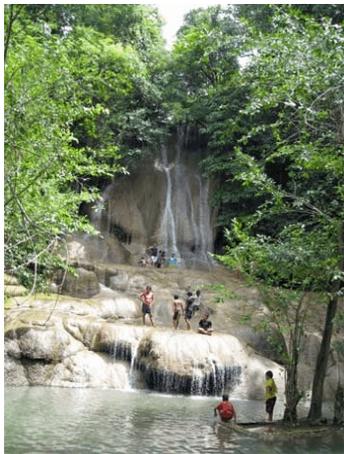
Panu, on the left.

613 off to Hell Fire Pass by pick-up truck. Our tour leader,



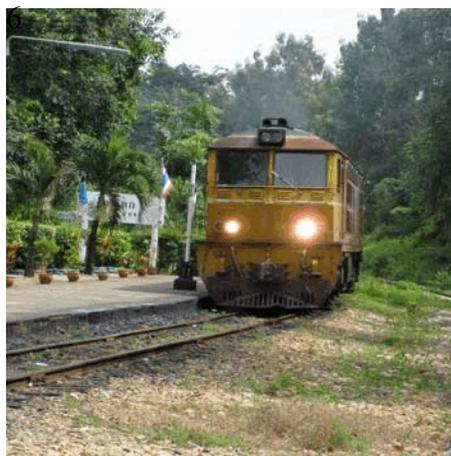
620 POWs made this mountain pass without using heavy equipment. Here they drilled and hammered the holes to place dynamite in the hill.





629 waterfall where Thai families play

633 Woman giving unsolicited back massage



34 Riding the train with our friends, Rudy & Dorothy



644 Cave where Buddha statue remains



650 Buddhist Tiger Temple - our most memorable event of the trip



691 Tiger cubs

October 12, Sunday - Phitsanulok



694 - Making snack from sticky rice in toasted bamboo stem



699 The bamboo is cut open for serving





701 Long-tail chicken (rats) for sale



705 small birds



706 mongoose



708 cobra snake (right)

710 mirrored temple



714 Panu makes offering and prays for good karma

721 The Buddha is surrounded by mirrors, even on the ceiling.

730 Market for fish food. Most animals, e.g. eels, frogs and snakes were alive, ready for sale.



739 Rice barge cruise.

744 Preparing rat we bought this morning





750 John, Carolyn and Jim try some rat (there is not much taste, mostly crunch)

752 We made an unscheduled stop for the boat race.



758 High school band



759 Motorcycle costs THB 40,000 or \$1,200



762 Worms for sale



765 Larva

768 Water buffalo



Monday October 13 - Siukothai historical park



773 Farm house



775 "Iron Buffalo" for plowing and pumping

776 Mother, child and infant, father is in field



777 Cistern for water collection

786 Swings for children



787 Catfish farm,



788 Raising ducks, the government has encouraged farmers not to depend on one crop in most cases, rice.



792 The farmer feeds the catfish. fry are bought for three cents each and yield 50 cents each when sold in five months.



797 Rice from the farm, immature



798 When it is more yellow, it is ready for harvest



799 At the rice mill the product is packaged



802 This shows the various rice products husks are burnt in the steam engine, rice "noses" are used for flour, full rice heads are eaten or exported. Rice powder is used for animal feed.



805 This machine shakes the rice to separate it

814 Steam engine provides all power



819 Ash is used for fertilizer



820 Removing ash from furnaces is a hot job





824 Main stupa at Sukothai Historical Park, elephant figures guard it on all sides.



828 Buddha image



832 Bodhi trees are special because Buddha received enlightenment while sitting under one.

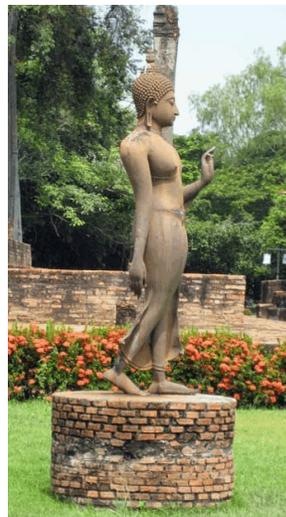


836 Boundary stones from temple

the main



839 Standing Buddha



840 Walking Buddha

841 Water buffalo





844 Indigo plant leaves are used for making dye.



845 The leaves are soaked and mashed



846 Lime is mixed in

847 A vat of indigo dye

852 The dyed clothes hang on poles to dry

proprietor shows how the before it becomes blue

857 Mrs Yellow, the fabric turns green



859 A wax stencil is used for the pattern.

October 14 - Chiang Rai - North Thailand



873 Local politician thanking village for their support at Buddhist temple.

874 This village has four monks



8



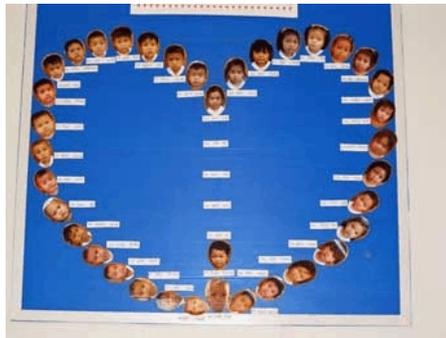
75 Local day care center sent police escort to welcome us, had big banner and children lined up to sig national anthem as flag was raised.



880 Morning exercises



889 Classroom with activity centers



898 Heart with names and faces of students

900 Water cups identified by each child's number



901 Dancing demonstration, the children were quite into the dance.

909 Dancing shrimp are eaten alive

919 Hill country people





These ladies wear this heavy coil around their necks which pushes down their clavicles. It is a form of beauty.



970 Young men playing a game like volley ball and soccer.



972 Hill Tribe village Similar to our native Indians, these village people maintain their separate lives in tribal custom.

October 15, Wednesday



973 Religious holiday - end of rainy season. Monks line up in parade before citizens to receive food products.



982 We enter the country of Myanmar (Burma), northwest of Thailand at the northern most point of Thailand



983 Us in a tuk tuk



1000 Family of five on motorcycle



1002 Catholic church, the Catholics get around even in areas that are primarily Buddhist.



1012 Nursery shows off for us



1018 At the Buddhist temple in Burma one must deal with the proper god for your day of birth. Judy was Saturday and Jim was Tuesday. Note that true Buddhism has no god.

These prayers and gods have been added to fill the hole in the heart that god belongs in. Buddhism is, in essence humanism, that is we try to be good and follow the rules and if we achieve it, we may enter enlightenment, but if not, then we will be reborn and have another chance. The five essential precepts that common people follow are much like the last four of our 10 commandments, except that instead of not covet, they have no intoxication.



1024 Ringing the gong for good karma

1025 The main stupa with remains of some nobleman



1027 A very unusual Buddha inside. It is a mold whose face and eyes appear to follow you. If you get the idea that Buddhas are everywhere in Thailand, you have it right and it seems we saw only a small fraction of them.



1030 The special Buddhas are on the bottom row. The Myanmar Buddha is white and has a different hand characteristic than the Thai Buddha.

1037 In the truck on the way to lunch

1039 We drove through farm land.

1053 Eating chicken cooked between pieces of bamboo



1063 Our truck

1067 Akku people in Myanmar selling their wares



1073 The Golden Triangle where Burma, Laos and Thailand come together at the Mekong River. The river begins in China and travels to the sea thru Vietnam. It is the 12<sup>th</sup> longest river in the world.





1096 Snake in liquor to enhance sexual performance in Laos.

**October 16 Thursday**



1113 White crystal temple

**October 17 Friday**



1117 Elephants with Kevin

1121 Judy never flinched



1119 Jim mounting the elephant - You missed the expression panic as he perceive he was falling off the other side.





1124 The elephant puts the hat on Judy

1127 and on Jim

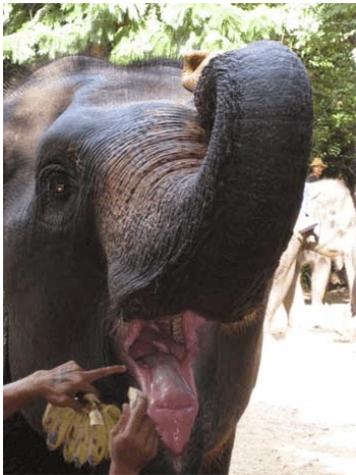


1128 and takes it off again

1129 elephants bathe in the river



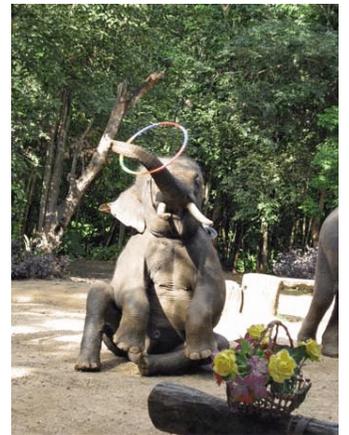
1135 elephant show



1140 getting on the knee



1144 with hula hoop



1148 they paint a picture of flowers and grass, this little one even prints her name



1162 soccer anyone?

1172 I prefer basketball



1175 Our friends, Kevin and Carolyn



1176 Our friends, Ed & Sheryl



1180 On the elephant and ready to ride



1182 Our friend, Ruth



1200 Our mahood takes our picture



1210 Ruth crossing the river



1215 Baby elephant three months old



1224 We set off on bamboo rafts for our river cruise.



**October 18, Saturday**

1226 Though many prepare food early in the morning and give the best to the monks, one may purchase hot food from vendors. One gives an odd number of products. We gave rice (in banana leaves), stir fry, milk, water and fruit. One also gives a flower incense and a candle. Odd numbers are auspicious because they are in balance, an odd number is the sum of an odd and an even number. (Panu bought the food, we gave it away and the monk gave us a blessing.)



1233 Jade Buddha



1235 Our host on right, with family prepare home host dinner.

1236 We all help in filling the wonton appetizers.



1237 After dinner we make a wish and send up our hot air balloon.



**October 19, Sunday**



1245 We board our rice barge for farewell dinner

1254 City sights along the river [Ruth]

1280 Our group photo



**October 20, Monday**

1281 Grand Palace



Jade Buddah [Ruth]