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June 3, 2002

ph; 303 973-0450

Dear Karen and Bebe:

Just checking in. Hope all is well with you both.

Thought I would bring you up to date on "The War Cradle" in the hopes that you haven't quite given up on me yet.

Sales have been brisk on Amazon. Additionally, I have been picked up by Baker/Taylor, Barnes & Noble, and others, including Quality Books, who is the largest distributor to libraries. Most importantly, the books seems to be going the academic route.

In April I was invited to a panel on Babylift at Texas Tech University's symposium on Vietnam. They include many dignitaries in the US as well as Vietnam. On my panel was Ross Meador (the then kid who placed the first 57 kids on Daly's flight) Ken Healy, the pilot of that first flight, and myself, who recieved those kids in Denver. Since the symposium is attended by academics, book sales were great and several told me that they would be using it in classroom studies. I have since received a note from a teacher at Brown U. in R.I. informing me that they will be using it as a text book next year, the same with a University in NY and have a request from an editor at Cal. State University to do an academic review. Who would have ever thought?

Texas was especially interesting and a feather in my cap. Sat next to a Vietnam ambassador at the book signing. He kept informing me that "he was a communist." I kept patting him on the knee responding, "you'll get over it." We then went into a lengthy disucssion regarding the war and I flatly told him that they made one big mistake that covers it all. "Look into the history of America," I informed him. "We conquer but never stay...we rebuild the countries we conquer... look at Japan/Germany! You should have sat back.. let us take over, rebuild, then come back in politically." He thought about it for a minute..."you're right." Then he proceeded to talk about how bad the country was and the trouble with the farmers/peasants...that they are hard to motivate. "Well...! I said "bring back your royal family! Look at the British...they know how to get tourists...look how it brings a sense of culture and binds the people (who are far more educated than your farmers.) A royal family brings a sense of unity to a country." He told me they would probably cut his throat in Hanoi if he suggested it...I told him to call me, I'd come and argue his case.

Children's Hospital of Denver came through and had the plaque made for the building at 22nd and Downing Street. We placed it on the building April 27th. Although we couldn't get Ford to attend, we had a nice crowd and got the job done. I have since received e-mail from all over the globe thanking me for getting the plaque to commemorate Babylift, since it is the only one in the world, anywhere. There are three small commemorative plaques to those who died in the C-5A crash, but none to Babylift.

Babylift is surfacing again. A couple of documentaries are out. One recieved the award at Sundance, 2002... "Daughter from Danang" and is making the rounds on PBS. The seond is "Precious Cargo."

Further, I have just received a packet from Okland Museum in Okaland, Cal. They will be doing a "Next Stop...Vietnam" exhibit in 2004 that will be in Oakland for 6 months, then tour the U.S. They are interested in my artifacts, the President's quilt (I hope I told you that I made a quilt for President Ford from the remnants of the orphans clothing and will become a part of his library exhibit when I make my deposit) and the Oakland Museum said that they will take the book along for sales when they tour.

I have also be invited to the World Airways Reunion in Oakland in October and have been invited to the Vietnam Education Center in N.Y. on November 23rd to do a presentation. (They are covering all expenses as well).

Additionally, I have been speaking at schools, book clubs and small groups regarding Babylift. It's fun. but not the route I want to take on a permanant scale.

I am also enclosing a copy of a review I just received from Writer's Digest. They told me I can use it for promotion and I am awaiting the reviewers name. Also, when I spoke with the Editor, she herself was reading the book and remarked.."this would make a great movie. I can just see Daly...the plane crash....Ross..." I told her I had a few attempts, but to date nothing jelled. It was a warm glow, though, to hear those words from a stranger.

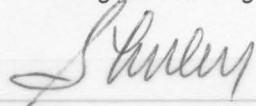
We are getting down on the first inventory and it's getting time to think of a second printing. I do have some corrections to make...errors always slip through, but and hoping that I can still get a major publisher interested.

Oh yes,....through all this, I slipped in April and broke my leg in two places. I have been to surgery, have plates, screws and all that and finally got out of the wheelchair and onto crutches. Just when I was doing well, I fell down a flight of steps and a couple of more times that set me back. But, hopefully I will be out of this brace and crutches and ambulate better. It has certainly slowed me down and has been an experience. Seeing the world from a wheelchair is an altogether different perspective. And not good. I made it to Texas under these conditions and all went well.

I have not heard a word from Steve...sent me a Christmas card with a note promising that he will send me the script in January...and explain. To date no word and I think this applies: "Some people fail because they don't start...others fail because they don't finish." Undoubtedly he is in there somewhere."

Sorry for the length of this, but didn't want to take up your time via telephone.. I just wanted to keep you up to date on the events and hope you keep the faith that this will make a difference in the lives of the orphans, for which it was intended.

All good things and best regards to you both.



Oh yes...I did send a copy of my book to Prime Minister Tony Blair's wife, Cheri. I had a 2 week turn-around response. She finds the book and concept of "a war cradle of sorts" interesting and was then accompanying her husband to Afghanistan. I propose a war cradle..a protective environment, medical care, education, teach them a trade.. they would be the future leaders of the country. (1 in 5 is an orphan) My experience to date is that many of the Vietnamese orphans feel a strong loss of culture and it has taken control of their lives...they are searching for answers, when often there are none. I am not convinced that taking children from their birth environment is the proper thing to do.

In writing non-fiction, facts should be ~~re~~arranged into a plot.

Each chapter needs a beginning, middle and end - plus a hook to pull you on thru the book. Whole book needs same structure.

*vivid anecdote; suspense expansion*

Chap. 1 - There is wonderful drama and excitement and color in here. I'd move one of the dramatized events up to the beginning of the chapter to get the reader involved immediately. I was confused in the middle - lost order of events - it seemed a mass of unsorted data - needs smoother transitions. Good thump! ending.

Chap. 2 - Incident with Brown & Child would make a good beginning. Then explain why GIs were suspicious of children. *or a generic incident of a child as agent of death* Good place to explain American soldier's historic concern for children. This chapter flowed more smoothly for me. Overall, I'd like to see you use more quotes, if possible, from the people you interviewed.

Chap. 3 - Another weak beginning - needs a dramatic incident to get it off the ground.

*re-done*



Father in heaven who lovest all,  
Oh, help thy children when they call;  
That they may build from age to age,  
An undefiled heritage.

Rudyard Kipling  
The Children's Song.

Do right to the widow, judge for the fatherless, give to  
the poor, defend the orphan, clothe the naked      The Aprocrypha

And he who gives a child a treat  
Makes joy-bells ring in Heaven's street,  
And he who gives a child a home  
Builds palaces in Kingdom come,

The Everlasting Mercy John  
Masefield

Bitter are the tears of a child:  
Sweeten them.  
Deep are the thoughts of a child:  
Quiet them.  
Sharp is the grief of a child;  
Take it from him.  
Soft is the heart of a child;  
Do not harden it.

A child      Lady Pamela Wyndham  
Glendonner

The culture shock of the children is followed from the presidio in California to Denver, where the last of the orphans await final adoption procedures. In dealing with the media and press, the organization's paranoia emerges as it has been suggested by the press that some of the children are not orphans. Accusations are made that the airlift has been used to the advantage of opportunists within the organizations and Vietnamese officials.

Some children have been misplaced or have been kidnapped during the operation and getting the organizations to confirm or deny these allegations has met with embarrassment. During the airlift children were found to be "swapping" name wrist tags; one child embarking in San Francisco was found to be wearing six identification tags. Speculation indicates that many of the children have been misidentified.

After all the children have been placed in adoptive homes the legal entanglements and political investigations begin. Mothers who have escaped from Southeast Asia appear and attempt to find and repossess their offspring, often taking them from well-adjusted families and homes. Some foster parents relinquish them quietly while others challenge the claims in sensational court battles. The organizations are forced to spend more than \$200,000 in legal fees to defend the adoption procedures. During the litigation action some children fail to recognize their natural mothers after brief periods of separation amounting from six months to two years. As a result, questions arise regarding identity.

Finally, when the fires turn to ashes, a smoldering continues. An aftermath of the moment in history deals with cultural shock from which some children never recover. Families are traumatized by disruptive, incorrigible temperamental children who are eventually abandoned into the American Social Service system, and the question arises if they may not have survived better in Vietnam. The controversy continues as to whether "Operation Babylift" was an act of humanity or the greatest "babyheist" of the century. The reader is left to draw his own conclusions.



If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away- Thoreau

#### CHAPTER IV

A late afternoon shower had passed over the airfield. The lingering raindrops caught the reflection of the departing sun, glistening like tiny rainbows before they slithered into the puddles below the Pan American Jet. Like a dancing accompaniment to a silent symphony, the rainbeams were playing a prelude in their fall, the introduction of the drama that was about to unfold. The crescendo would soon follow in the build-up of young voices heard now in the far distance. A busload of excited children raced across the flight line toward the huge wings of the silver lady, who beckoned to them like a mother's outstretched arms, waiting to take her young to her bosom. Yes, once they were in her arms they would be safe. Safe from hunger and despair, abandonment and even perhaps death itself.

Ross Meador heaved a sigh of relief as he edged the vehicle, bearing the U.S. Embassy seal, closer to the cluster of people gathered at the ramp.

"Next stop, America," he shouted above the noise coming from the huddled masses peering, and some half-hanging, out the open windows.

One by one the anxious children jumped down from the bottom step of the bus, each trying to outdo the youngster who jumped before him. It was a gigantic leap, both feet hitting the ground.....a game they repeated whenever the occasion provided for it. This time for sure the last jump had a more definite significance.

*Insert*

There were surgical teams in the Delta from Australia, Iran, The Phillipines, and Turkey, The Koreans aea also in the country and the Germans arrived with a hospital ship the Hegoland, very fancy, painted white, with a staff of 7 doctors, which is prked on the waterfront in Saigon.

Surgiacal wounds herea are 100 % infected. The Phillipinos are apparently closi all their wounds tight at the skin where it would- be much better to leave the skin open anticipating infection.

The philipino team consited of four doctors, five nurses two anesthetist and half dozen elninsted men running x ray dept and doing tother tings. Well trained people and happy to be working with them howe-er medical surgical rpoglmn exist.

The entrance to Tan Son Nhut was littered with abandoned American cars and motorcycles. American evacuees were turned away back at the gates by resentful Vietnamese guards firing into the air and shouting, "we want to go too." The desperate civilians had to retreat back into Saigon to find open evacuation assembly points, which were dwindling down because of the heavy attack. With firefight in the streets, it was a life threatening attempt to move about the city. A bus plan had been put into effect to get Americans to evacuation points but that too broke down whereby forcing 8 busloads of evacuees to abandoned attempts to reach the defense attaché office at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. These 8 busloads eventually ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ sought haven in the embassy compound. Evidence of further lack of realistic planning was repeated throughout the crisis. Vietnamese personnel who had been employed by the U.S. Embassy had been instructed to move to "safe houses" and remained <sup>tele-</sup> in phone contact with officials at the embassy regarding their whereabouts, but they were subsequently abandoned when events at the embassy became hectic and telephones were no longer answered. It was apparent that the American embassy staff was not prepared for such an evacuation especially one requiring helilift of thousands of persons from the embassy.

The scene outside the embassy compound was reaching riotous proportions as hundreds of Vietnamese tried to claw their way over the 14 foot wall surrounding the compound in their desperate attempts to reach the American evacuation helicopters.

Many evacuees moved in vehicle convoys to the pick up points at the embassy and at Tan Son Nhut, harassed by mobs and armed South Vietn troops. Air America UH-1's lifted some individuals from scattered locations in the city.

U.S. Navy and US Air Force fighters, including "Wild Weasel" anti SAM aircraft deployed shortly before to Korat, Thailand, circled overhead. Two F-4s took out an enemy 57 mm anti aircraft sit 10 mile (16km) northeast of Saigon in late afternoon.

Ross had been going strong for several days trying to get rid of the thousands of dollars worth of supplies in Saigon and to get out an additional 66 Vietnamese. Monday he was told by USAID that it didn't look like the evacuation would come up for several days. That evening Sr. Marte came by with a truck to pick up supplies. As they were loading, Tan Son Nhut came under bombing attack. The runs freaked out as the public address system drove up the streets declaring a 24 hour curfew. Ross had considered heading in for USAID housing when sounds of a huge fire fight came from downtown. He decided to stay home, that he was probably safer there. He went up to the roof of the villa to watch the war. Saw considerable smoke over the air base and 10 F5's all took off in one direction flew over his head. All the staff left the compound except for Hong and Bac. Hong made him a nice supper. He borrowed a radio from next door. News was watery. very noisy all night. Hong was afraid and Ross promised to take care of her. Paid guards around the compound. Ross

TED GLEICHMAN —

FCVN was established in 1967 by a group of Denver area physicians.

FCVN was started in Denver by <sup>Lee SANUVE</sup> Lisan Buchanan, a Quaker, dedicated to saving children.

The purpose was to hal~~ve~~ the appalling death rate of infants and children in Vietnam by providing food, clothing and medicine as well as trained personnel.

The group that started FCVN was a very unique group of people in that they represented all social levels, religion, cultures and economic backgrounds. They had the common cause of protecting and saving the children of Vietnam. The group grew ~~xxxxx~~ at a phenomenal rate of approximately 75 people in the original organization.

Early FCVN - defunct.

domino theory-

Throughout the years of the Second Vietnam War there was impassioned argument as to what would happen when the war was over...especially if the Communists were to win. The "domino theory" generally att

Seats in cargo hold? 305 aboard -

We have to realize that public opinion &  
public enthusiasm can set wheels in motion -  
and provide momentum that is hard to stop -

From council

The most significant obstacle facing the housing industry  
is a general public disillusionment."





MIA

Among U.S. agencies handling the adoption of South Vietnamese children are: Friends for All Children, Boulder, Colo; Holt Adoption Program, Eugene, Ore; Travelers Aid-international Social Service of America, New York; Catholic Relief Services, New York, Migration and Refugees Services, New York and World Vision International, Monrovia, Calif. Friends of the Children of Vietnam, Denver, Col..

Charles Judman

Only - former boxer + A. Army Staff Sgt

He's religious, philanthropic, humanitarian  
& generous -

AIM

143  
42

62

185

93

243  
-  
150

243 - 149

62

308

172

133

Handwritten scribbles and numbers, including a large '0' and '2'.

57

150 =

243  
-  
149  
-----  
94

172  
-  
81  
-----  
91

62

243  
-  
62  
-----  
181

222

"THIS BOAT IS GOING TO ITALY!"

deep impression. American and British bombs had created havoc with all the buildings fronting the water. B-17's (Flying Fortresses) had made a mess of Naples' docks. Some warehouses were reduced to total rubble. Every windowpane had been smashed. Walls craned with

"THIS BOAT IS GOING TO ITALY!"

Germany. In January 1945 reduced to virtual slavery. Most of the Italian army, who with Hitler's, had long been generals shot or imprisoned. Sin

THE LAWTZ OFFICE

888 7th Ave

NY - 10019

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William Morris Agency  
1350 Ave of Americas

NY - 10019

Mary Jack Wald

Wald-Hardy Associates, Inc.  
Suite 325  
799 Broadway  
New York, N. Y. 10003

April 4th - McCarr -

Hawaii -

Arrival - receipt - policy defunct.  
Alphay receipts - unless they are stored up  
at airport + kids  
smells

---

Soldie + Sains - found inside to  
States + got stuck - clearing up kids  
Plans full of names + food -  
Pilot - said when I need name I  
did a little dig + she said work.

---

250,000 - 2 AF - Clark + Sain

---

1st flight not equipped -  
subsequent flights are equipped

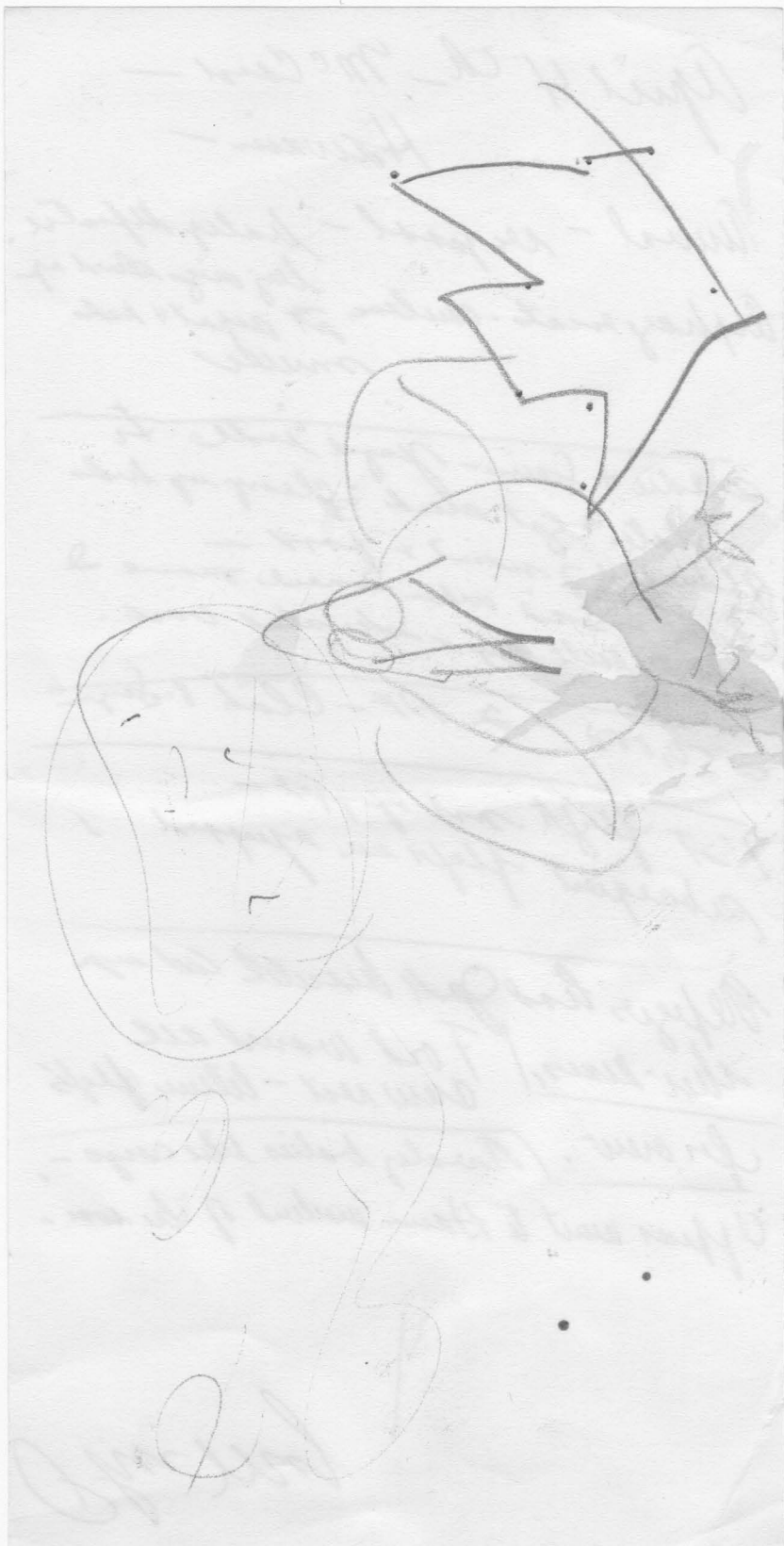
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Alphay had just brought out up  
their names. Ford worked all  
crew rest - little flights

---

for crew. (Nasty babies like cargo -  
Alphay went to Hawaii instead of the war -

4  
Fly me



As the US. made plans to resettle the 147,000 Sout Vietnamese in their lnew land therw wasn an outpouring of g ugly protest across the nations, marring an otherwise honorable exit and demonstrating that the us was nt yet free of the rancor that the war had spawned.

Ervery war scars nations as well as people. But only one conflict in American history the Civil War ever divided the United States more brutally than Vietnam or imprinted such an zlbun of nighmarish images' on the national psyche. The war has been ghe saddest chapter in the past century of American history-, and it will take years for the U.S. to come to grips with what it did to Vietnam and what Vietnam did to America.

The faith of Americans in thier leadershi was practially destroyed and many were left convince d that they had been both seduced and ecir brf by their government. bben decieved.

I Hope this  
BOOK BRINGS  
PEACE TO THE WORLD

Newsweek Pg 7-8  
wind-up -

It will not be easy. The war has been the saddes5t chapter in the past century of American historyk and it will tke years for the US to come to grips withwhat it did to Vietnam...and what Vietnam did t o America. The faith of Americans in their leadership was practially destroyed and many were left confvinced that they had been both seduced and deceived by their government. The war added a cynical new vocabulary to the American idionm..."light a t the end of the tunnel" "protective reaction, smart obombs, peace with honor" an d it eroded the legitimacy of authority throughtout the country . Times were chancing. Vietna brought incalculable changes to AMericna life The society had already been shaken by the revolt of the black;s Vitetman accelrated the transformation.Out of the protests and mass movements grew a life-style that came to be calle the counter-culture. Some of the manifestations were as evanescent as Day Glot paitnt, but others seeped into the soutl of the nations young. Protest over the war led to a whole new plitics that ultimately involved the rights of women, homosexuals and every other alientated sector of society.

C. I on garb - Viet on lute - what is he saying there?  
117.42

~~C. I on lute - what is he~~

over



Operation Frequent wind began and ended before Congress ever got around to granting Ford the authority to use US troops to evacuate the South Vietnamese but that did not deter the President. Pressed to defend his action, he replied:  
"I took them out because they would be killed. I am proud of it."

*Handwritten scribbles*

*Texas  
MAY-75*

①  
About 4 am Tuesday the Communists launched a massive rocket and artillery assault on already beleaguered Tan Son Nhut airbase. Some 150 rockets and 130 mm shells whined in forcing an immediate halt in the ongoing evacuation of Americans and Viets. From the San The ICCs International Commission For Control & Supervision compound is ;burning...The back end of the Gymnasium has been hit.... Two marines were killed. Doctors were called for, firefighting equipment was requested and then told to stay away because of the shelling. A large secondary explosion was reported across the runway. The ammo storage area was hit. Worse, yet communist troops were pushing into some of the city's suburbs. The coordinated attacks turned out to be the last of the war.  
The shelling of Tan Son Nhut was reported to Washington. President Ford and his top advisers led to the decision to evacuate all remaining Americans.

Re-write

use newly constructed  
consolidated 2 single units

(A)

Must have  
Completed

Continental Care Center was to be occupied in June as a psychiatric care unit, accommodating 120 patients. Opening a new medical facility was not without its challenges; each employee had to be selected and trained, each piece of equipment purchased, policies and procedures written for each department along with formalizing the <sup>numerous</sup> requirements for licensing, ~~acceptance~~. It was a momentous task and I looked forward to it; opening <sup>a new facility</sup> ~~one~~ put you into an exclusive "club" of administrators.

Since Continental was lacking in luxurious surroundings, the inner

Jun 10-1944 - 4 days

P-47 - Grand support →

Rosell, France -

Plane on fire - ejected  
4:00 pm -

Break left leg - (hit ground)

Traced enemy band -

Tank direct hit & flak -

Amnesia - 8-9 Hitler  
Guns

3-400 yards from Canadian Troops

Woke up from trail & Hitler guard  
my Part hit ejected - Amnesia.

Had 3 little sisters home same age  
(5-4-7-14-17) age. Can't & they go -

~~FORGET ONLY~~  
just the grand  
Awards

31-14-15 year old

6-9 HITE ETAGEND 12TH PANZER DIVISION

1 month before I was camp -  
Medical Student - did you at person  
Camp - put leg in cast -

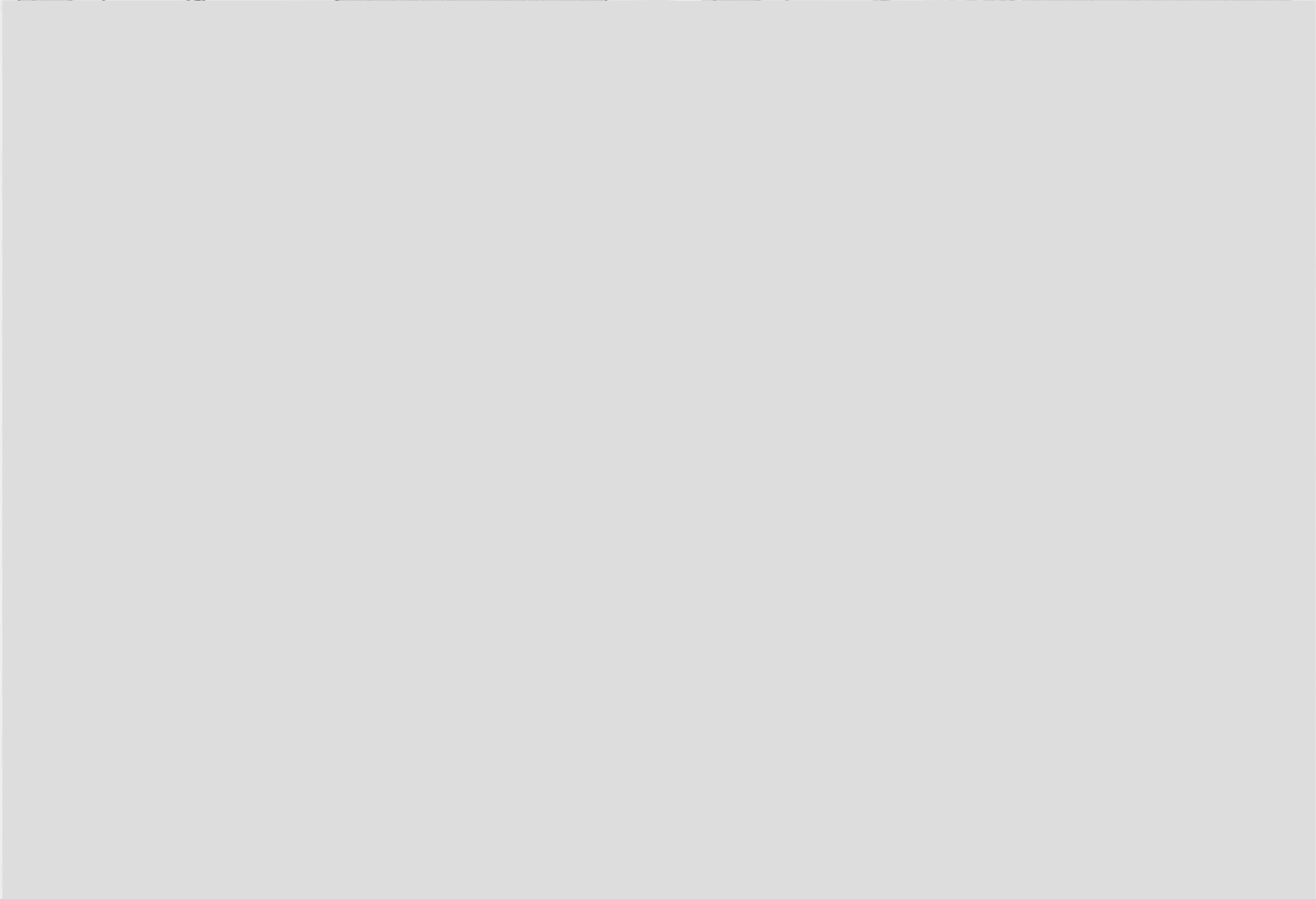
Stalag Luft (3) -

Imperial 7A - 1945 -  
Nof Munich



Sheraton  
HOTEL  
Colorado Springs





**THE WIND AND ANNE**

# **THE WAR CRADLE**

**VIETNAM'S  
CHILDREN OF WAR**

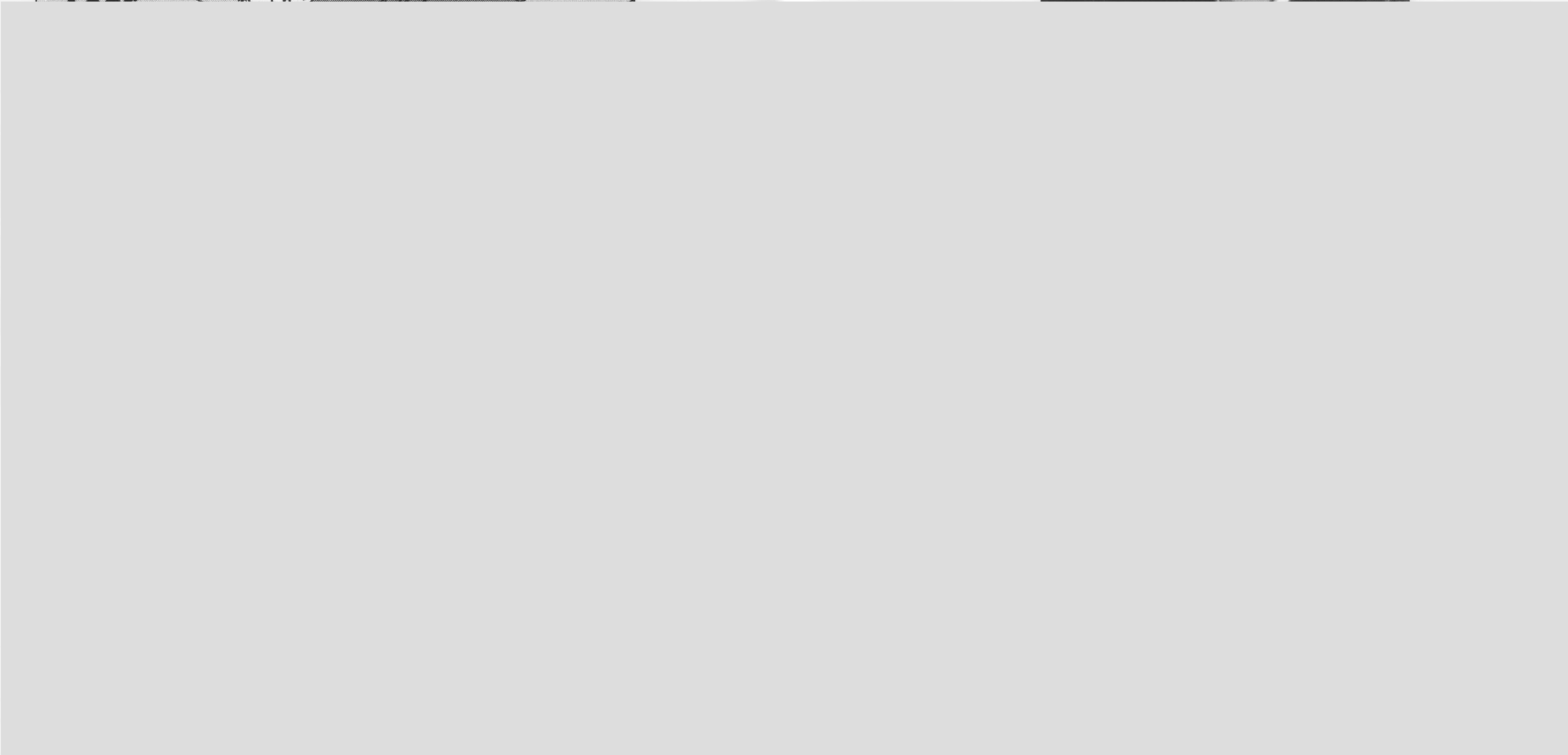
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**OPERATION BABYLIFT-  
THE UNTOLD STORY**

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Shirley Peck-Barnes

Shirley Peck-Barnes



Non-Fiction

## LOST . . . STARVING . . . UNWANTED . . .

they were the tens of thousands of children in Vietnam left to wander the country aimlessly. It was Vietnam's greatest tragedy . . . children caught in the crossfire of war . . . too incidental for the concerns of generals, and all uncertain of their fate under the advancing North Vietnamese Army.

**"THE WAR CRADLE"** tells of the events leading up to the last days of the Vietnam War and of the search and rescue of the oppressed orphans. The American soldier was confronted with the misery of the children at every turn. Sometimes they were his friend . . . sometimes the enemy. Stalwart nuns sheltered sick and dying babies in poverty-ridden orphanages and looked to the West for salvation and safe homes.

**NOT ALL WARRIORS CARRY GUNS . . .** there are some who fight an equally fierce battle without them. This is the true, untold story of not only the orphans, but of the camaraderie and courage of people who were obsessed with saving the children. People like Ross Meador, a 20-year-old college dropout in search of adventure, only to find himself in the Delta driving a beat-up VW van, rescuing babies. Or Ed Daly, President of World Airways, who defied the U. S. Embassy in a daring rescue attempt of refugees from the beleaguered Danang. Berated, he later did it again in an unauthorized flight of 57 orphans to the United States. Dr. Ted Gleichman saw enough misery for a lifetime in a My Tho orphanage and founded the Friends of the Children of Vietnam. There were hundreds of other volunteers like Australian Rosemary Taylor and American nurse Cherie Clark . . . all of whom lived the tense moments of what some have called "the greatest rescue mission of the century" . . . Operation Babylift.

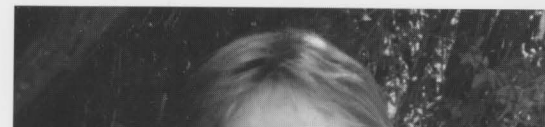
U.S. \$17.95



THE WAR CRADLE

CHERRY LANE BOOKS





Shirley Peck-Barnes

Shirley <sup>Peck</sup> Barnes was born in Edwardsville, Pennsylvania, and was raised in Hamtramck, Michigan. A degree in business was her springboard to adventure. Following jobs in Hollywood, she was assigned to the Far East as a secretary with the Department of Defense, then to Europe <sup>during the Korean War years</sup> and spent seven years in the Washington area as the wife of a career Air Force Officer with NSA. Retirement to Denver, with four children, was interrupted by her husband's illness and she returned to the job market as a licensed healthcare administrator. It was during these years that she encountered the crisis of the Vietnamese War orphans. Home is now a small ranch in Littleton, Colorado, where she is involved in corporate management and currently writing two books: "Where Have All The Roses Gone?", a <sup>spoof</sup> on nursing homes, and "APO 239", her experiences in the Pacific. For side-bar, she quilts and writes screen treatments. <sup>light humorous parodies</sup>



Shirley Barnes was born in Edwardsville, Pennsylvania, and was raised in Hamtramck, Michigan. A degree in business was her springboard to adventure. Following jobs in Hollywood, she was assigned to the Far East as a secretary with the Department of Defense, then to Europe and spent seven years in the Washington area as the wife of a career Air Force Officer with NSA. Retirement to Denver, with four children, was interrupted by her husband's illness and she returned to the job market as a licensed healthcare administrator. It was during these years that she encountered the crisis of the Vietnamese War orphans. Home is now a small ranch in Littleton, Colorado, where she is involved in corporate management and currently writing two books: "Where Have All The Roses Gone?", a spoof on nursing homes, and "APO 239", her experiences in the Pacific. For side-bar, she quilts and writes screen treatments.

Cover bio

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*accepted  
a trace  
9/20/00*

*Business Degree*

*with  
USA*

*Humorous comedy*

*Humorous parody*

*a light  
humorous parody  
on nursing homes*

*took a town of duty*

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*assigned to*

*light humorous parody*

## **“The War Cradle”**

### **The untold story of “Operation Babylift”**

#### **CHAPTER BY CHAPTER OUTLINE**

**PROLOGUE:** An overview of Operation Babylift, the mass evacuation of orphans during the final days of the Vietnam War. Sick, dying, left to wander alone, these tiny victims were too incidental for the concerns of the military strategists. Their fate was left in the hands of volunteers—ordinary people who were excited into action, despite an unpopular war, to seek out these orphans, give them new life, fresh hope, and find homes for them in the United States and abroad. Their efforts provided the only protection these children would have—a virtual “war cradle”. Still perceived nearly 25 years later as one of the most noteworthy humanitarian gestures of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, “Babylift” remains a triumph in a war otherwise riddled with political upheaval, failure, and defeat. It also remains a virtually untold story.

CHAPTER I “The Maverick Flight” - Millionaire Ed Daly of World Airways attempts to evacuate 1,500 war orphans at his own expense, but he is met with opposition from USAID on grounds they declare his cargo plane unsafe for transporting children to the U.S. Daly suspects retaliations for his unauthorized action-packed rescue of refugees from Danang days earlier. Defying regulations and red tape once more, Daly begins the first mass evacuation of orphans from Vietnam without sanction from either the Vietnamese or U.S. governments and emerges a hero. President Ford responds to an outcry from America and authorizes “Operation Babylift,” the evacuation of orphans from Vietnam.

CHAPTER II “The Soldier’s Ballad” - Described is the American soldier’s role in Vietnam as rescuer, surrogate father and Santa Claus, as well as specific events in which children are both victims and the aggressor. Although the generosity of “GI Joe” did not surface until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, history reveals that the American soldier had a long standing record of rescuing children. When he left Vietnam, the children of that country endured a great loss.

CHAPTER III “Orphanages of Vietnam” - As a direct result of American support, orphanages sprout-up all over Vietnam in a massive effort to provide for the homeless children of war. Each facility is unique and the French nuns who run them fought a day-to-day struggle for survival. Stories revealing search and rescue efforts by

volunteers, as well as the tragedies of individual children, are revealed. It is a never ending battle of cutting through red tape and facing the daily challenge of keeping the children alive until they can be sent to homes that welcome them in America

CHAPTER IV "The Friends of the Children of Vietnam—The Beginning"- FCVN comes into existence after a Denver physician, Dr. Ted Gleichman, returns from a tour of duty in the Delta. Appalled at the death rate of infants (80%), Gleichman is determined to do something about the tragedy half a world away and organizes the relief effort. FCVN expands to 60 chapters worldwide, survives internal political struggles, and emerges as a forerunner in the effort to save the children of Vietnam.

CHAPTER V "Mister Ross" - Ross Meador, a 19-year-old college dropout, ventures to Vietnam to become FCVN's supply coordinator. Driving a Volkswagen bus without air-conditioning, he journeys daily into remote areas of the oppressively hot Delta to rescue sick and dying babies from abandonment in foundling homes, villages, and even trash heaps. The race back to Saigon through VC infested territory is precarious and often arrival at the orphanage is a race against death with little lives slipping away along the route. The Gia Dinh critical care center unit is over-crowded, epidemics erupt and take lives while a desperate staff labor day and night to bring dying babies back from the brink of death. Ross faces a multitude of problems during the last days before the fall of Vietnam.

CHAPTER VI "The Plane Crash" - Daly's rescue of the orphans grips all of America; it is seen as the one positive thing of the Vietnam War. President Ford implements "Operation Babylift" and sends a C5A Galaxy from the Philippines to Saigon to begin the evacuation of hundreds of abandoned children. Then fate intervenes and tragedy strikes. Soon after takeoff from Tan Son Nhut Airport, the rear cargo doors are blown off and the plane crashes, killing 172 orphans and escorts aboard. The crash scene is chaotic and sabotage is suspected, but the tragedy is not a deterrent and Babylift continues.

CHAPTER VII "The Airlift" - As the Communists thrust deeper into South Vietnam, the attempts to save the children become an hour-by-hour agony for the agencies. Finally, the Vietnamese government reverses its previous position and approves the emigration of orphans processed for adoption to the West. Children are hurriedly shuttled to the Philippines, then to the West Coast of the United States. Exhausted volunteers staff the 46 flights, transporting 2,547 orphans; nine infant deaths are reported, adding a sad note to the rescue

*Print*

CHAPTER VIII "The Last Days" - It is the last day of a hot war and Ross Meador accidentally learns of total evacuation. The orphanages are emptied, but when the volunteers return from the airport, they find them overflowing with abandoned children. Panic grips all of Saigon, and Meador weaves his way through a maze of blockades to the American Embassy. After hours of standing in line to the helicopter evacuation pad, Meador leaves his coveted spot and returns to the end of the line to help Fr. McVeigh, a catholic prist, with a group of frightened children. With firefights blasting away outside the compound, it is late into the night before Meador races across the Embassy rooftop with a child in his arms. His last memory of Vietnam is seen through the rear opening of the chopper as he witnesses tracers whizzing by and sees a city below in flames. He realizes that Vietnam will be the event of his life.

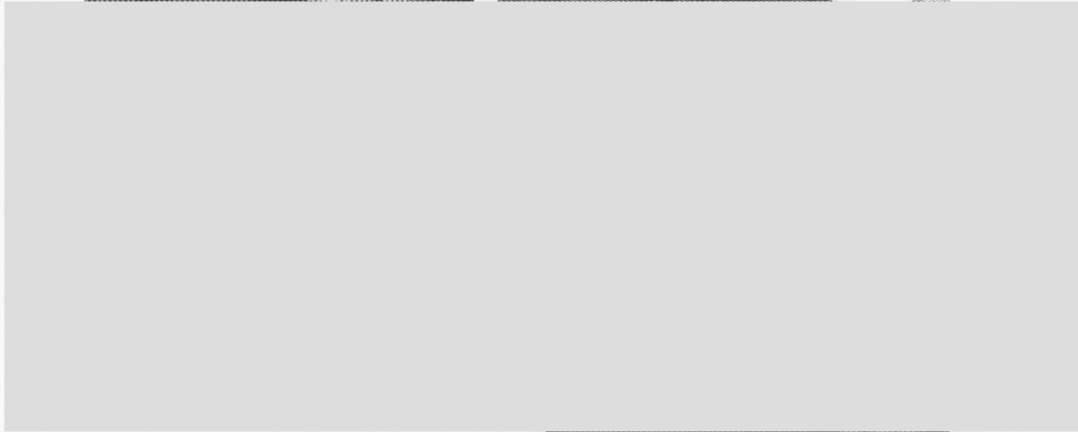
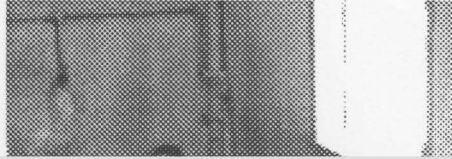
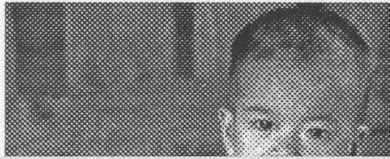
CHAPTER IX "On Course With Destiny" - The author brings herself into the story, revealing how, by chance, she became involved in the Babylift. While driving home late during a Denver snowstorm, she listens to a newscast making an appeal from FCVN on behalf of the orphans and her conscience stirs. She recalls her own experiences as a secretary in the South Pacific during the Korean War years and the plight of the children during that engagement. Accepting that she must become involved, she places a call to FCVN offering the use of her healthcare facility to house the 600 orphans coming to Denver.

CHAPTER X "Rainbow" - The Vietnam War is over and all the children that are ever going to get out have arrived on the shores of the land of the free. Several thousand are sent directly to their adoptive homes, but the remaining FCVN orphans arrive at the Denver facility to await processing. Some 3500 volunteers emerge to staff the crisis. A caring Denver community donates food, clothing, and supplies. Then homesickness becomes an epidemic, a child is stolen, and interaction with the orphans is often traumatic. Press and political accusations emerge charging that many of the children are not orphans after all but allegedly the offspring of influential Vietnamese officials. After six hectic weeks of daily involvement, accompanied by a never-ending stream of confusion and threatening calls, the last child departs and the author finds herself alone in the building surrounded by remnants of the airlift. Along about noon on a Saturday in May, it is all over. Then comes the realization, the grasping and understanding it clearly...that this newly erected building, in which orphans found refuge, is on the very site of the first Children's Hospital of Denver, founded in 1910. That this ground should be a sanctuary for children in desperate need, twice within this century, is not without coincidence. It is seen as a visible act of destiny.

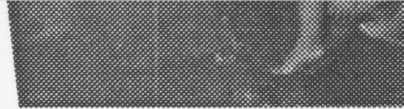


CHAPTER XI "Aftermath" - The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Babylift in April 2000, brings a resurgence of interest from the adoptees themselves. Along with reunions and the implementation of a web-network, tours are scheduled to Vietnam for those in search of answers. For some there are none. Many adoptees come to realize their place in history and share their experiences. Six adoptees discuss their lives, their feelings, and what it was like for them growing up in America.

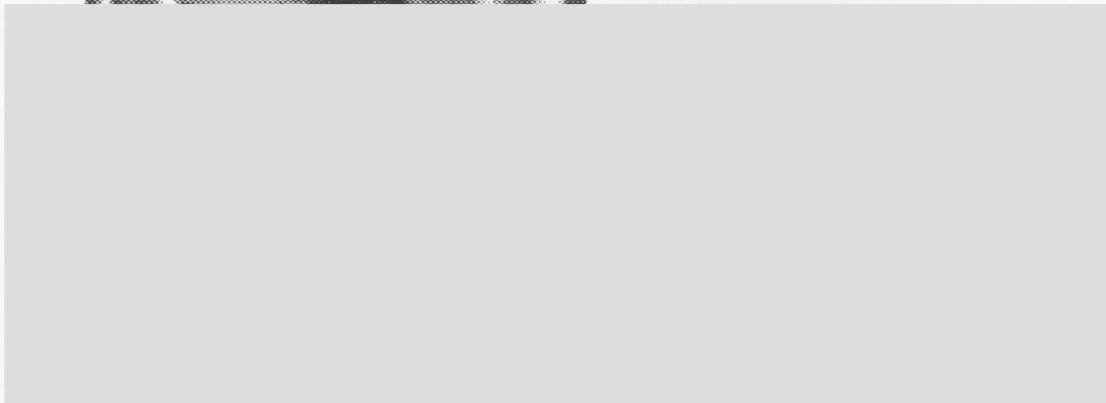
EPILOGUE: When "Operation Babylift" is placed in the proper perspective, it will go down in history as one of the most noteworthy humanitarian gestures in our lifetime. Critics called it a "babyheist," Vietnamese mothers surfaced to reclaim children they had abandoned in Vietnam, and hearts were broken on both sides of the courtroom. Most of the players in the drama returned to a normal life, while others remained traumatized by their involvement. The author's attempt to get into Vietnam in 1984 was almost successful; preliminary approval came from Hanoi, then the trip was cancelled. A visit to the Vietnam Mission of the United Nations is described and reveals the feelings of the Communist government. The author sees the lesson of this moment in history unheeded as the children of the world continue to pay the price of getting caught in the crossfire of war. But there is hope... "With the birth of each child, comes the message that God has not yet tired of man."



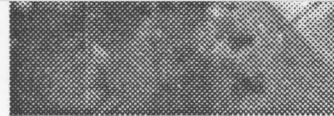
**Orphans of Vietnam**  
*Photos by Ross Meador*



Children were placed  
in these repository  
playpens for long  
periods of time.



**Their crib was their world**



Non-Fiction

## LOST . . . STARVING . . . UNWANTED . . .

they were the tens of thousands of children in Vietnam left to wander the country aimlessly. It was Vietnam's greatest tragedy . . . children caught in the crossfire of war . . . too incidental for the concerns of generals, and all uncertain of their fate under the advancing North Vietnamese Army.

"**THE WAR CRADLE**" tells of the events leading up to the last days of the Vietnam War and of the search and rescue of the oppressed orphans. The American soldier was confronted with the misery of the children at every turn. Sometimes they were his friend . . . sometimes the enemy. Stalwart nuns sheltered sick and dying babies in poverty-ridden orphanages and looked to the West for salvation and safe homes.

**NOT ALL WARRIORS CARRY GUNS . . .** there are some who fight an equally fierce battle without them. This is the true, untold story of not only the orphans, but of the camaraderie and courage of people who were obsessed with saving the children. People like Ross Meador, a 20-year-old college dropout in search of adventure, only to find himself in the Delta driving a beat-up VW van, rescuing babies. Or Ed Daly, President of World Airways, who defied the U. S. Embassy in a daring rescue attempt of refugees from the beleaguered Danang. Berated, he later did it again in an unauthorized flight of 57 orphans to the United States. Dr. Ted Gleichman saw enough misery for a lifetime in a My Tho orphanage and founded the Friends of the Children of Vietnam. There were hundreds of other volunteers like Australian Rosemary Taylor and American nurse Cherie Clark . . . all of whom lived the tense moments of what some have called "the greatest rescue mission of the century" . . . Operation Babylift.

THE WAR CRADLE

Shirley Peck-Barnes

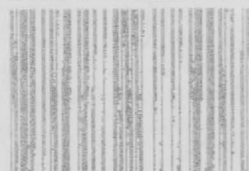
# THE WAR CRADLE

VIETNAM'S  
CHILDREN OF WAR

OPERATION BABYLIFT-  
THE UNTOLD STORY

Shirley Peck-Barnes

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U.S. \$17.95



*Inside  
F/Cover*

Shirley Peck Barnes

Shirley Peck-Barnes was born in Edwardsville, Pennsylvania, and was raised in Hamtramck, Michigan. A degree in business was her springboard to adventure. Following jobs in Hollywood, she was assigned to the Far East as a secretary with the Department of Defense during the Korean War years, then to Europe and spent seven years in the Washington area as the wife of a career Air Force Officer with NSA. Retirement to Denver, with four children, was interrupted by her husband's illness and she returned to the job market as a licensed healthcare administrator. It was during these years that she encountered the crisis of the Vietnamese War orphans. Home is now a small ranch in Littleton, Colorado, where she is involved in corporate management and currently writing two books: "Where Have All The Roses Gone?", a light, humorous parody on nursing homes, and "APO 239", her experiences in the Pacific. For side-bar, she quilts and writes screen treatments.

*Inside back  
cover*

*The War Cradle*

several times. Efforts to get a commemorative plaque on its cornerstone have not been successful—sad, considering a pioneer effort to save children happened there twice in the same century. Philbert Martinez, a Continental employee who worked for me after Babylift, embedded my name in the concrete sidewalk, a gesture that both surprised and pleased me. After all these years, it's nice to know it's still there.

As for myself, after the children left Continental, I continued as a healthcare administrator for several more years, and while the work was rewarding, nothing changed in a system severely lacking in progress and attitudes, and my career was often complicated by old "politics" that kept resurfacing. For example, when my name was sub-

Smyth Communist onslaught

one last symbolic gesture of goodwill  
turned into a catastrophe when a  
merry flight crewally awoke to the  
reality of the U.S. cockpit & landed only  
minutes after leaving Saigon

~~And remained optimistic in  
appeal to Congress for aid to the  
Thieu government. "I still think there is  
an opportunity to change the situation in  
China,"~~

Majorin Conger said no aid could  
help: "I at war I need."

"I think ~~but~~ it will be up to  
America

Outraged USAID officials considered  
the Au Sang escape as an ~~important~~  
"abysmally inhumane and ~~hard~~ ~~hearted~~  
act of ~~war~~ ~~to~~". Only and his crew  
opened their ~~eyes~~ as a humanitarian  
gesture. Which ~~ever~~ it was, it  
~~obviously~~ ~~was~~ ~~only~~ ~~his~~ ~~crew~~ ~~that~~ ~~did~~ ~~it~~.

Without Honor pg 368 — NW

Accounting that was clearly  
about to fail.

After his departure he had leave that I  
became ~~seriously~~ ~~ill~~

After his departure I became ~~seriously~~ ~~ill~~  
and ~~was~~ ~~hospitalized~~ ~~hospitalized~~

Several weeks after his departure I became  
seriously ill and hospitalized at the  
Navy Army Hospital, which at that time  
was a mix of quarters completely  
<sup>under military supervision</sup> ~~hospital~~ - a half acre field hospital  
from W.W.I. Learning my husband was  
dead, I <sup>sent a letter</sup> ~~sent a letter~~ to the island and  
instructed me to Stogin as soon as I was well.

~~Handwritten notes, possibly a letter or document, crossed out with a large X. The text is mostly illegible due to the crossing out and fading.~~



from

58 replies. Daily plane

7 agencies  
applied  
replies  
in return

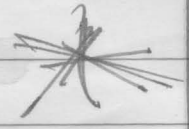
(203) F-104's?

Check hospital (260-

Collapsing  
country

Big Mink 6'2 - Pg 253 -

Halt's Children Services -



Notes on Nixon papers - Pg 252 -



Footnote Vernon Lyons - USAID - Pg 20?

Stans +  
Shure's  
April 5, 1978

Ambassador Graham Greene in Time?

"Moulton Proposals. ---" (Pg 207)

When Father Olmsted -

Hut

Saugrey -



Peter Arnett  
abroad  
Dulip  
1 Plamre

Homeworks violated the law by entering the  
sewer to put flow - whether they emerge  
~~that way~~ you know. I did honorable duty  
still does not show the part of men's  
dedication.

If you make love to somebody, the  
way you make love to somebody  
is a private, personal matter.

If you want to put your big toe in  
somebody's that nation the  
two parts. Making it public is the  
mess. People are committed are  
entire in people, and it is as much  
a violation of their rights as it is  
an abuse to injure they are popular  
or soot because they have the  
~~to~~ countries they were made with.

The ~~idea~~ <sup>idea</sup> of  
Dred & had - murder & crime have  
been eliminated from our reasoning  
because there are excuses for  
not believe - a defunct cluster -  
a drag faith, etc.

Not only was the FCVN office and Continental <sup>Case Center</sup> deluged with threatening letters and phone calls, but extreme critical comments emerged in <sup>the</sup> ~~Denver~~ newspapers as well. It was unbelievable that the rescue of the orphans <sup>who were</sup> caught in a cross fire of political upheaval and war, should be a target for fault finding and hate. <sup>Further</sup> Applicants for adoptees did not like what they heard, "that America was on a 'guilt trip' and <sup>acting</sup> acting out of guilt and selfish concern." Article after article provided statistics <sup>of minority and</sup> disadvantaged American children that were available for adoption <sup>and</sup> the <sup>of minority and</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>occurred</sup> <sup>Babylift</sup> <sup>crisis</sup> ~~opposition~~ of flooding the adoption market with foreign children. Repeated <sup>the</sup> ~~grew~~ grew in proportions and the ~~rescue~~ rescue effort was being presented in black and white. In truth, what happened during the "Babylift" <sup>is</sup> a many colored picture. <sup>Further</sup> although the criticism was mounting in proportion to the fact that thousands of lives were saved, no one produced a solution to these children or the thousands still remaining in Vietnam. They continued to be homeless and abandoned.

*The fact that thousands of lives were saved  
did not result in the end. No one produced an  
alternative solution to Babylift - the children  
left behind and ~~homeless~~ homeless & abandoned.*

*children*

*The issue*

(A)

Not only was the FCVN office and Continental Care Center deluged with threatening letters and phone calls, but extreme critical comments emerged in the newspapers as well. It was unbelievable that the rescue of the orphans, who were unfortunate children caught in a cross fire of political upheaval and war, should be the target for fault finding and hate. Further, applicants for adoptees did not like what they heard, " that America was ~~on~~ a 'guilt trip' and insinuated that they were acting out of guilt and a selfish concern." Article after article provided statistics of minority and disadvantaged American children that were already available for adoption, <sup>accusing</sup> ~~and accused~~ "Babylift" of flooding the adoption market with foreign children. The issue grew in proportions and the rescue effort was being presented in black and white. In truth, what happened during "Babylift" was a many colored picture. The fact that thousands of lives were saved seemed irrelevant to the critics. No one produced an alternative solution <sup>the crisis</sup> ~~to Babylift~~ <sup>amercian</sup> and the children left behind ~~also~~ remained homeless and abandoned.

only a fraction  
of the needy children  
got out under Babylift -

Quote  
Chicago Tribune 4/21/85

This was evident with all the Betty  
Pre-annual Magazine

(X)

Always planning TV coverage that was a

This was evident in all the pre-annual Betty  
weekly + daily reports of the experience  
that was underway.

*My own weekly column  
got me into Betty's  
change function*

This was evident in all the Pre-annual  
Magazines that were ~~started~~ by the ~~the~~ media.

Lost: Having wandered from, or unable to find the way. no longer visible. No longer to be found. Missing; having gone astray, or lost the way, bewildered as to place, direction, perplexed. No longer seen, heard or known; as a person lost in a crowd.

Lost, it's like no other feeling.

"~~TO BE~~ TO BE lost." It's like no other feeling. The abandoned children of Vietnam were engulfed with the emotion.

(overcome) sense of abandonment, discard.

TITLES -

"WHIMPERERS ABOVE THE MORTARS -"  
STORY OF OPERATION BABYLIFT

"CHILD LAND" - STAFF - - -

"NOT ALL WARRIORS CARRY GUNS"  
STAFF - - - -

"LOST" - STAFF - - -

city location would not lend itself to the affluent patient. It was going to be a no-nonsense operation and I could use all the positive public relations that is generally needed with a new business endeavor. The timing of "Operation Babylift" was perfect and when it fell into my lap I must admit the notoriety it was to bring was the farthest thing from my mind. Conversely, nor was I prepared for the negative repercussions that were to stem as <sup>the</sup> a result of my involvement.

Further, the fact that a new building was erected on the same site did not diminish the recollection of what was there before. Without any stretch of the imagination it was an improvement over the old dilapidated Downing Nursing Home, the tired edifice that had deteriorated over the years and had been demolished months earlier to yield to the construction of the new building.

*Ambulance*



On a sunny Saturday in mid-May the few remaining children were readied for departure to their adoptive homes. Along about noon they were gone. <sup>Along the way we saw some 600 children passed thru this door no they were all gone.</sup> Operation Babylift was over.

Suddenly, I found myself alone in the building. It was both euphoria and an erie feeling, a sense of/desertion. I wanted to run somewhere.

Instead, I went upstairs ~~to the unit one last time to be sure~~

*THE UNIT WAS LEFT SECURE. LIGHTS WERE OUT AND EXITS SECURE.*  
~~nothing was overlooked.~~

Toys were scattered everywhere, rooms looked occupied, but no one was in them. The nursing station seemed normal, as if the staff had just stepped away for a moment; charts were neatly stacked beside a silent phone.

I went down to <sup>DOIT</sup> secure the basement door and noticed the obvious silence of the washers and dryers for the first time. Then, after locking the elevator into position, stepped back into the deserted lobby.

It was an abrupt halt....a calm that you often find following a devastating storm. Like sitting in an empty stadium after the home team lost a big one, the let-down. Or solitude, like being the last person to leave a church.

It was over.

The volunteer's roster at the security desk revealed the date, May 17, 1975. The last signature was "T.C. Ning." I picked up the pen to sign out, then realized there would be no more entries. Then, ~~it~~ scrawled the word, "Rainbow." I don't remember why.

Now "Operation Babylift" was a part of history and thousands of orphans were scattered around the world, miles from their heritage, but finally "home".....to where ever home was to be for their lifetime.

This story does not have an ending. Remember what I wrote earlier, "that fate often brings people together in the most unusual places and circumstances, and when they part something of each remains with the other...though only a thread, it endures and sometimes strengthens."...I think that must hold true with "Operation Babylift" as well. Most assuredly the children would remember something of their days in the building at the corner of 22nd and Downing Streets in Denver, Colorado.

Maybe they would recall a special person...a toy...the confusion and crying....or just that they had found their very own peaceful corner. Or maybe ~~they would~~ <sup>just</sup> remember that they had been someplace warm, cozy and safe. Or ~~just that they were~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~wanted~~ <sup>loved</sup> "for the first time in their lives, ~~when they were uncertain how they fitted into this big universe,~~

The 3500 volunteers that staffed Babylift in Denver would remember the frightened babes they tried to communicate love to. Who could forget those terrified little faces upon arrival, and how they struggled to stay awake the first night, afraid to go to sleep. There would be a certain child to recall...and the ~~wondering~~ <sup>never ending</sup> *community* "if they made it, somehow."

Denver, the western cow-town that was finally growing into a proud metropolis, would remember too.

And in the powers to be, that are supposed to determine the outcome of events, it appeared that it was in the natural order of things for this acre of land at 22nd and Downing Streets to become ordained for a second time in this century, to hear the sound of little voices, to witness their pain and temper their confusion, <sup>to be</sup> <sub>a</sub> haven.

The chances of such an occurrence happening twice within this period was indeed not without odds. It was a highly visible act of destiny.

I often wonder, if in the years to come, there will be a "third coming" of children in that very special spot....and <sup>at 2nd + Day</sup> wished I could be there again.

#####

As the weeks wore on and the excitement of the ~~end of the~~  
the airlift began to taper, a quiet routine of boredom seem to  
overtake the volunteers. Initaly there hadn't been time to  
have meetings, <sup>to do any training</sup> or to meet all the key people of the organization.  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and ~~even thier~~ Roles changed daily. It was  
difficult sometimes to estalish continuity. ~~and few~~ <sup>cross-section</sup> volunteers  
were skilled in even the basic management concepts, Therefore,  
often times leadership and supervision was minimal for the many  
child care givers who appeared each day to donate their time,  
Voluntters ~~xxx~~ as wonderful as they may seem, could pick and  
choose and you always risked the chance of losing their  
involvement if you "ruffle" them, ~~and~~ so it was with the voluntters  
at Continental who came because they were intersted in handling  
children. The cleanup each day was awesome and consequently left  
to <sup>a very degree</sup> the three staff members I had ~~previously~~ hired to  
assist me in opening the building. Very often I became exasperated  
with the coordinators who were oblivious to the <sup>aspect of</sup> surroundings ~~of~~ <sup>the physical plant</sup>  
~~the building~~, the trash consistenly ignored and the neglect of the  
physical plan. One coordinator in particular, who seemed to  
have been conscentious and dedicated, Nancy Hegel, worked many  
late night shifts and had a grasp of the magnitude of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
our <sup>frustrations</sup> ~~problems~~. She only problem was, she could

not see how all the time it entered for us - and  
many other concerns were related to our understanding -

As the days wore on and the excitement of Babylift began to  
taper off, a quiet routine of boredom seem to ~~affix~~ <sup>overtake</sup> the  
volunteers themselves.

(A)

In my attempt to admonish her behavior, I was given a counter offer. If I would cooperate in providing her with information regarding the orphans, /whom she thought were children of the elite, the reporter promised unlimited/media coverage for my facility when I was to begin my psychiatric program.

The timing of "Operation Babylift" was perfect and when it fell into my lap I must admit I became aware of the positive public relations it could generate; though in making the initial offer to FCVN, the notoriety and publicity rate was the farthest thing from my mind. Now the reporter was resurrecting an administrator's dream, the opportunity for favorable press in an industry that gets very little. I could relish the opportunity of having an opportunity to get out those good human interest stories that promote positive public relations.

What an opportunity! Instead, I declined. Old habits die hard. Play fair, hold hands and stick together....it's what we learn in kindergarten.

\* \* \*

~~Just when~~

They are the innocent victims of the whole tragedy of Vietnam. There is no foreseeable change in their future.

*In October 1982*  
Congress eventually passed legislation allowing Amerasian children to enter the United States under the sponsorship of their natural fathers. Too few benefitted from the law and their reunions were both awkward and heartbreaking, <sup>h</sup>hurried or inept explanations were made to American families who were not aware of their existence.

The unclaimed children must spend a lifetime wondering who their fathers were. They have only to look into a reflection to be reminded of the drama they are living. *OK*

Most Vietnamese refugees made the transition into American life and heads no longer turn with curiosity, ~~We are, after all, the melting pot of the world;~~ they are just one of the crowd. Yet, one can't help but <sup>ponder</sup> ~~deliberate~~ <sub>wonder</sub> if they weigh a sense of loss or displacement in a country so geographically different than the one of their origin. There is a longing for roots in all of us.

To date, a multitude of subjects regarding Vietnam still appear in the papers, though they are now on a lesser page. Agent orange surfaces, the never-ending quest for the MIA's and the occasional family reunion is seen in a tearful picture. It's all there to remind us there was a war.

Most recently, in a humanitarian effort to curtail further tragedy, some veterans returned to Vietnam to clear a mine field