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Community Resource Center

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Vol 8 No 61

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October, 1987

Mid-Autumn Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar (October 7 of this year's solar calendar). This is an important holiday to the Chinese people. On this day the moon is big, round, and bright, symbolizing that the members of every family are happily united.

The Chinese people have many interesting stories that have been handed down about the moon: Ch'ang-as ate a miraculous pill and her body became light and airy. Then she flew up to the moon. On the moon there is a magnificent palace, a charming rabbit, and a tall cassia tree. Under the cassia tree is a man named Wu Kang, chopping the tree trunk. He wants to chop down the tree, but this unusual tree cannot be cut down. To this day, Wu Kang is still on the moon chopping the tree.

Over ten years ago, astronauts landed on the moon and found that the moon is a desolate piece of rock. However, because of these ancient stories, in people's hearts the moon will always be mysterious and beautiful.

—from the Magazine of Overseas Chinese Education, Taipei, Taiwan.



Research and other tidbits....

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 City USD. Call 454-8101 (Multilingual
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LAO AND HMONG READERS

Alba Rosenman wants to sell these beginning reading materials, by the carton. They are reprints (Pragmatics International) of the books originally printed in Laos. Many of the adults remember these books. They contain proverbs, wisdom, moral teachings from a time past, and as such, transmit a great deal of cultural understanding to non-Lao, non-Hmong who can translate them, or have them translated literally.

The price listed is the bottom offer she will accept, half of the retail.

LAO PRIMER, 100 per box, \$1 each book LAO 1st GRADE, 40 per box, \$1.75 each book LAO 2nd GRADE, 32 per box, \$2.25 each book LAO 3rd GRADE, 27 per box, \$2.75 each book LAO alphabet poster (color), \$1 each HMONG PRIMER, 94 per box, \$1 each book.

Contact Alba at (317) 285-5473, 288-1774, or write to her at Teacher's College, Ball State Univ, Muncie IN 47306.

Father Bertrais is still at work...

HMONG TEXTS AVAILABLE

Father Yves Bertrais, who helped develop the writing system for Hmong (RPA), is living in French Guiana where 1,400 Hmong have been resettled. He recorded hundreds of pieces of oral lore and ritual text while in Laos and Thailand, and with trained assistants, he is transcribing and publishing them. He says that he will leave the translating for others.

The series is called the "Hmong Cultural Patrimony" series, and is published by the Assumption Printing Press in Bangkok. He plans to publish twenty titles between 1985 and 1989, and seven are now available from a Hmong Catholic association in Minnesota.

Kab Ke Pam Tuag: Cov Zaj (Funeral ceremonies: songs and recitations.)

666 pages, \$18.00.

Keeb Kwm Hmoob Raws Tsev Koom Haum Vib Nais (Origin of the Hmong, according to Vinai "Confraternity"). 166 pages, \$3.00.

Dab Neeg: Phau Ib (Tales and legends: Book 1). 200 pages, \$3.00. Cim Xeeb Haav Txiv Daw (Memoir of the Green Hmong of Anning (China)). 90 pages, including color photos of the Chinese Hmong, \$3.00. Kab Tshoob Kev Kos: Phau Ib (Marriage rites—volume 1). 138 pages,

Nyeem Ntawv Hmoob (First steps in reading Hmong). 70 pages, \$3.00. Xyum Nyeem Ntawv Hmoob Ntsuab (Green Hmong primer). 37 pages,

Postage charges will be added on. Order from Hmong Catholic Association, 951 East 5th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. (612) 771-4644. Fr. Bertrais' address in French Guiana is Association Communaute Hmong, 97318 Javouhey, France (Guyane Fr.)

RMC in Kansas City will close..

The Refugee Materials Center, directed by Bud Tumy, located in Kansas City, MO, will no longer operate as a center devoted to providing ready information on various issues related to the education of refugee students. The federal Dept of Ed maintains a network of clearinghouses, some emphasizing bilingual ed, some vocational ed, etc. Bud's materials will be reviewed and sent to the different clearinghouses.

Thanks, Bud Tumy, we never waited more than two weeks for any number of reprints!

Refugee

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