

# *Voyage to opposite side of the world*

## *Mom, Dick & Jim*

From Mitchell to Bangkok without stepping on snow or the ground !  
When Mom opened the curtains in her hotel room, Marriott Renaissance in the center of Bangkok – this was her view.  
Central Bangkok including the Royal Bangkok Sport Club and Chulalongkorn University.



She liked it, decided to stay and here she is enjoying an evening on the 64<sup>th</sup> floor of the famous le Bua Tower.

Mom also visited the khlongs (canals) and noticed people like this lady who enjoys her life on the khlong, only a few kilometers from le Bua Tower.



# *Voyage to opposite side of the world!*

Departure: Mitchell, S. Dakota (9 January 2012)

**Longitude: 98 degrees west**

Latitude 43 degrees north



A long trip: 21 hours and 38 minutes  
Leaving Mitchell on Mon, Jan 9, 2012.

DL4739: FSD to MSP  
Departs 11:05AM Mon, Jan 9, 2012  
Sioux Falls, SD

Arrives 12:13PM Mon, Jan 9, 2012  
Minneapolis/St Paul, Minn

1h 7m Layover in MSP

DL621: MSP to NRT  
Departs 1:20PM Mon, Jan 9, 2012  
Minneapolis/St Paul, MN,  
**(continued)**

# *Voyage to opposite side of the world!*

To: Bangkok Thailand (arrival, 11 January, 1:00 AM)

**Longitude: 98 degrees east**

Latitude 15 degrees north



Arrives 5:15PM Tue, Jan 10, 2012  
Tokyo, Japan, (NRT)

1h 5m Layover in NRT

DL283: NRT to BKK  
Departs 6:20PM Tue, Jan 10, 2012  
Tokyo, Japan, (NRT)

Arrival in Bangkok, Thailand  
11:55PM Tue, Jan 10, 2012  
Bangkok, Thailand, (BKK)

**Total Flight Time 2h 38m**

Day 1

# "Siam" Central shopping area

Central World is one of the largest shopping malls in the world. This Christmas tree decorates one of the many atriums – it is 7 floors high – can you find the nice folks from South Dakota?

Here we are in the central plaza of Siam Paragon.



When looking up from where we are standing,

we see two levels of the **sky-train** which we use every day to move throughout Bangkok.



# Day 1

## "Siam" Central shopping area



Bangkok is consistently voted as the best shopping city in the world! The "Siam Central Shopping Area" has five times more shopping space than the next largest shopping area in the world. There are nine huge shopping malls that can be accessed through the skywalk. Each of these large malls remain unique, a couple of them sell the most luxurious products in the world, others sell copies of these luxuries, others specialize in computer/technology products, others in wholesale clothing – it's all here. Additionally the streets are packed with vendors selling "everything"!

"Once Upon a Time" is a charming place to relax and eat. It is tucked into a "soi" (side-street) in the midst of this shopping area. The back of the restaurant touches the tallest building in Thailand, 87 floors high. Bangkok would also win an award for

the **city of greatest contrasts – with enjoyment on both sides!** The majority of street vendors would not want to change their position with those working in the office towers – many living on the khlongs have never ventured into the city – the numerous Buddhist shrines in front of the luxury shopping malls, are only a few that one encounters every day - each step provides new views and perspectives..

Surprise – obviously no jet-lag!

This is the first evening in

Bangkok – and the time "back-home" is 5:00 in the morning.



We walked back to the Renaissance along the famous "skywalk". This shrine was one that we observed along the way.

# Day 2

## The “Khlongs” of Bangkok

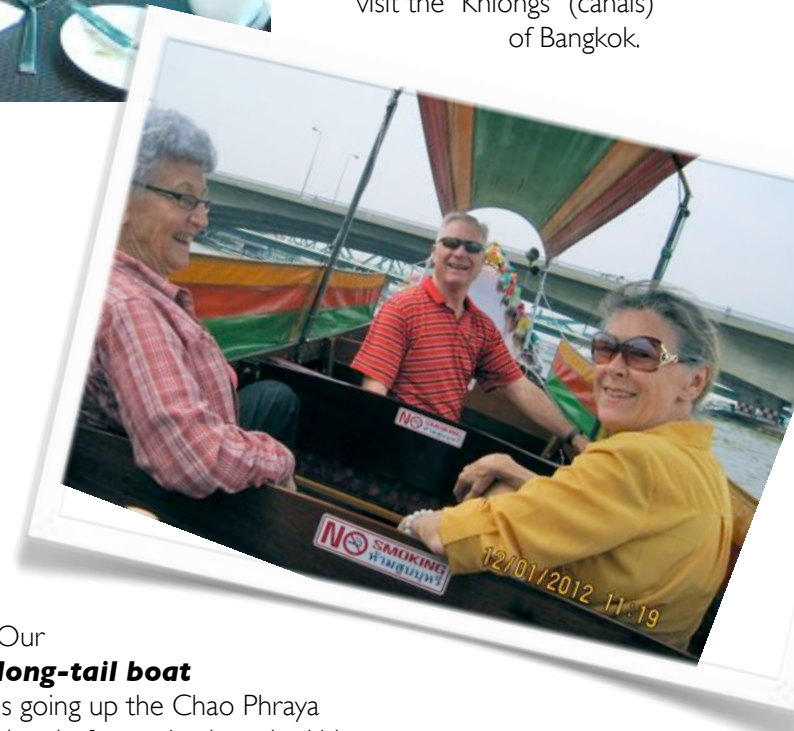


We settled into a nice/luxurious routine of taking our time to enjoy the beautiful breakfast buffet.

Time to consider the “programme” for the day and also to catch up on events, family affairs, etc.

Here we see Darlene, in Mitchell, showing us her home – via security-cameras in her house. Dick is also talking to her on the phone. Amazing, when one considers that Darlene is on the opposite side of the world.

We then took the skytrain to the river and rented a **long-tail boat** so that we could visit the “Khlongs” (canals) of Bangkok.



Our **long-tail boat** is going up the Chao Phraya river before going into the khlongs.

The motors on these boats come from old trucks. It takes a lots of skill to drive them, however, they are especially efficient in the ever-changing water levels in the khlongs.

# Day 2

## "Khlongs" & Russ Wermers

The trip to the Khlongs also gave us an opportunity to sample various modes of transportation:

- **Skytrain** to the river
- **Long-tail boat** so that we could visit the "Khlongs" (canals)
- **Tuk-tuk** to Banglamphou
- **Public boat** on khlong back to Central World.



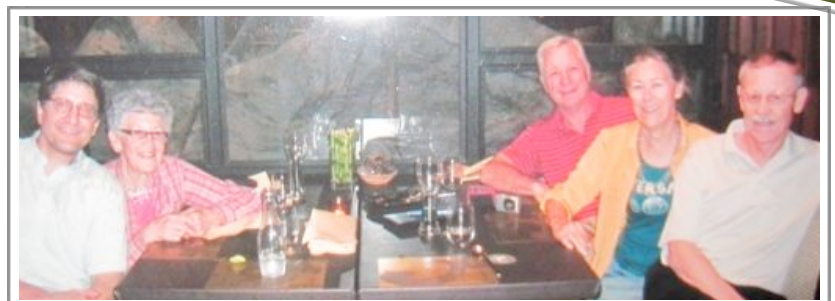
Here the long-tail-boat is leaving the Khlong-Kruai and going back to the Chao Phraya river.

Up until one year ago, I lived in the house in the background (where the man is standing). The water-marks on the houses show how high the flood was during the months of November & December.



Everyone into the "tuk-tuk" to go from the river to Banglamphou.

Dinner with Russ Wermers, guest lecturer at Chulalongkorn University



Day 3

## The Grand Palace

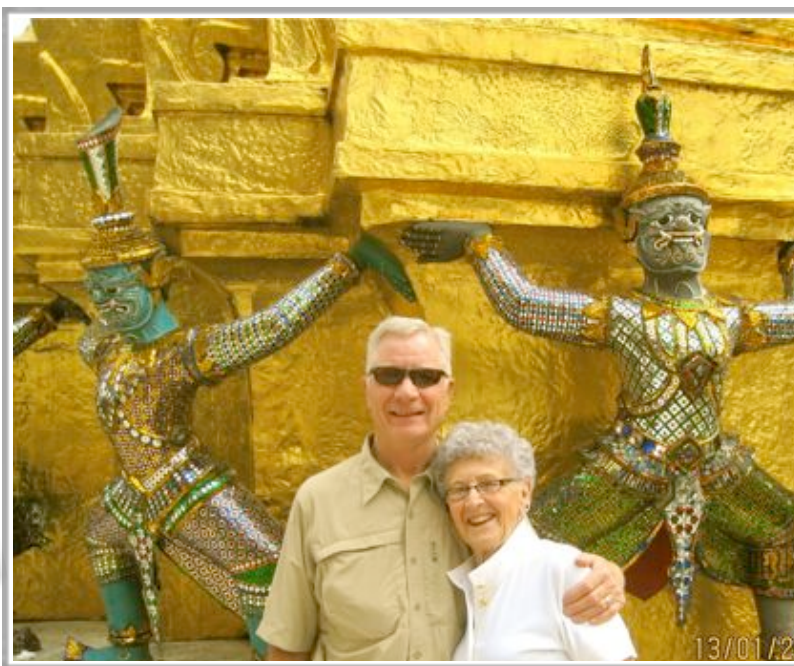
Also called **“The Temple of the Emerald Buddha”** – one of the most awe-inspiring temples in the world. Every corner and niche is covered with jewels, gold leaf decoration, paintings, sculptures, and more. Impossible to describe, one must see it to believe it!



Mom & Jim trying to



understand the scenes from the Ramakien (or are they trying to take some “gold-leaf” which is used amply on all pictures)! This story follows the walls of the galleries, over one mile long



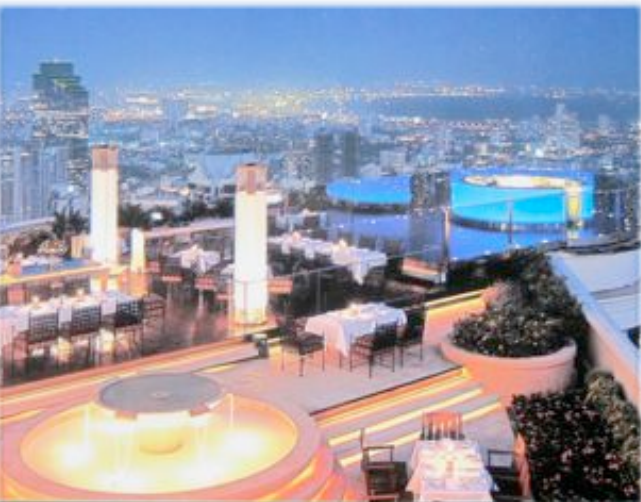
# Day 3

## Sunset on the 63<sup>rd</sup> floor

A nice change of scenery, after the Grand Palace, a peaceful lunch on the river.

Then we took a boat down the river so that we could watch the sunset from the 63<sup>rd</sup> floor of leBua.

The views are especially dramatic because of the building architecture and river.



Mom is escorted down the steps to the "Sky-Bar" (also notice the beautiful red jacket)!

SIROCCO  
63<sup>rd</sup> Fl. 6:00pm - 1:00am  
T 66 2624-9555

*The finest Mediterranean cuisine under the stars*

04/03/2012

leBua  
SIRROCCO

SKY BAR  
63<sup>rd</sup> Fl. 6:00pm - 1:00am  
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*Service where the sky is the limit*



13/01/2012 18:38

# Day 4

## Chatuchak



With over 15,000 small shops – this IS the largest marketplace in the world. Perhaps the map on the next page will give you an indication of the difficulties of navigating this market – although everyone agrees that it is worth the effort.

It seems that every direction that you turn your head there is something new and interesting to discover.

We did find a quiet corner for lunch, although dominated by the elephants.



Obviously Mom found this foot massage to be a good option.





Where are you?

We are here!

HELP!

# Day 5

## To Chiang Rai



Today after our usual luxurious breakfast in the Marriott, we said good-bye to the friendly staff. Dick's comment sums it up nicely; **"I wish I could put in a bottle all this kindness and the beautiful smiles and take them home with me!"** At the Suvarnabhumi Airport, we flew to Chiang Rai.



We then took the boat up the Kok River (45 minutes) to the Jungle-Outpost, where I live.

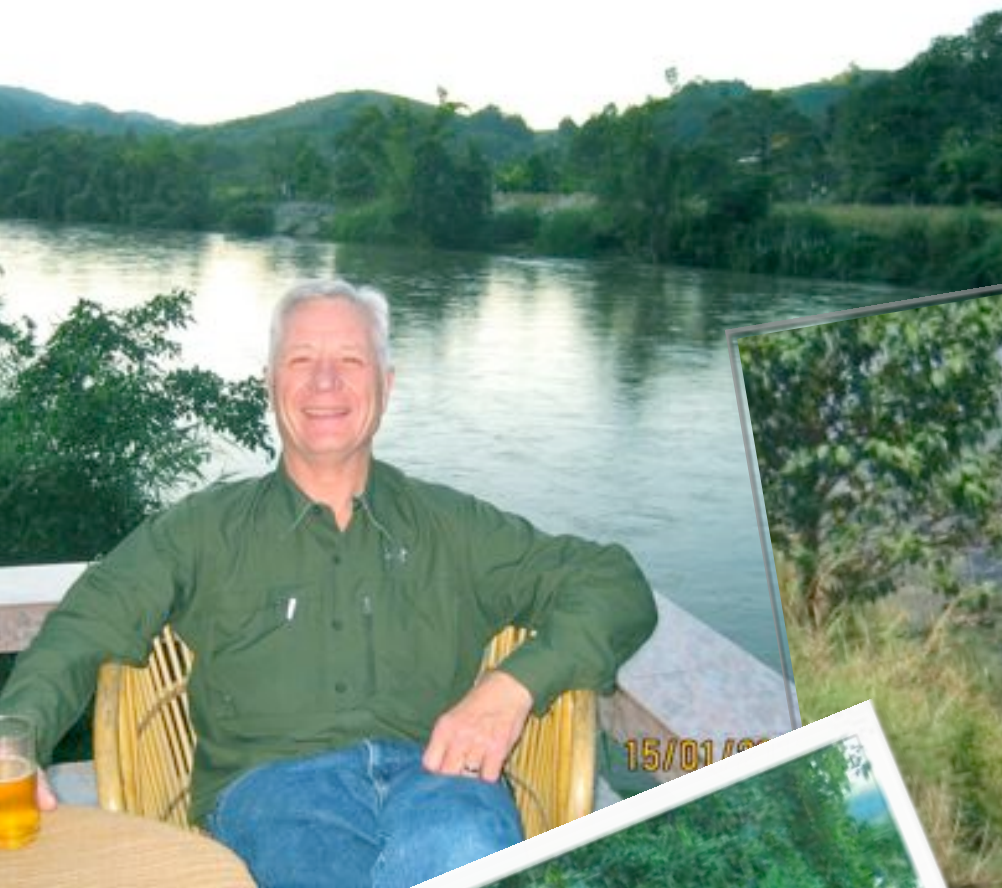


*Day 5*

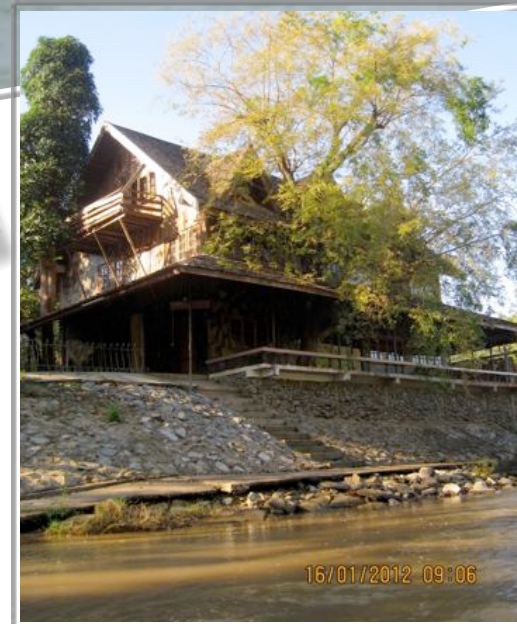
*The jungle-outpost*

Enjoying the terrace on the river.

The Kok River valley is considered as one of the most beautiful in the world. Nature thrives on the jungle covered hills surrounding our small jungle-outpost.



It was this house on the river that first attracted me to this region one year ago.



*Day 6*

# *Elephants @ Kok River Valley*

At last the day has come to ride the elephants!

From the lodge, we took a long-tail boat to the elephant camp, only five minutes away, on the opposite side of the river. The pictures tell the important part of the story – fun for everyone...

Yes, Mom was the first one of the team on her elephant.



Good memories for everyone.

Day 6

# The Jungle-Outpost

After the elephants, we visited an Akha Hill-Tribe on the river, went up the river to the only small-suspension bridge crossing the river. Then lunch at Pee So Pah's place – and a visit to my home.

On the dock – on the lotus pond in front of my home.



Princess above the Lotus Pond.

Tiger, Tom Jones & Luke enjoying the view



# Day 7

## Golden Triangle, Burma & Doi Tung

Again this morning, we start our day with a luxurious breakfast – this time in le Meridien in Chiang Rai.

This is the only day that we use a car:

1. Burma/Myanmar; MaeSa (Thailand) – Tachilek (Burma) - about 50 miles north of Chiang Rai
2. the Golden Triangle - about 30 miles east of MaeSai
3. DoiTung, Mae Fah Luang Gardens - on a mountain-top north of Chiang Rai

### Golden Triangle

This is the point where three countries meet:

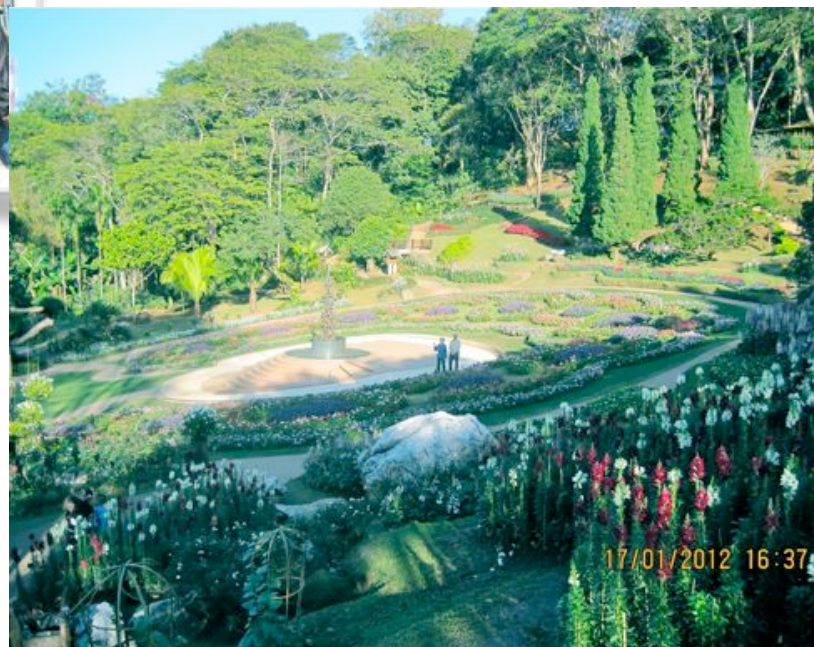
- Thailand – picture is taken from here
- Burma – left side of Mekong River (in background)
- Laos – right side of Mekong.

This region is famous because of its renown as an opium producing (poppy growing) region. The jungle covered mountains were an ideal place for such activities.

In recent years the King of Thailand has introduced alternative farming for the hill tribes - the Doi Tung project is a good example.

This garden was also created and is maintained by the local hill tribe people.

That's Mom & Dick standing in one small corner of the garden!



# Day 7

## Doi Tung & Golden Triangle, Burma

Mae Fah Luang : "Royal Mother from the Sky"  
The only practical means for the King's Mother to visit this region was with a helicopter and the ethnic people affectionately called her –  
**Mae Fah Luang**

The King (with his Mother) lived for 18 years in Lausanne, Switzerland. Therefore, she was always happy on this mountaintop and built a Swiss-chalet-style-Palace above these gardens.

Always (& obviously) a joy to be in these gardens.



*Day 8*

*leMeridien, the White Temple @ farewell*

Our final day together started with another luxuriously long breakfast at le Meridien. The ambiance and service in the hotel was such a treat that Dick and Jim decided to simply wander around the hotel for a few hours this morning.

Mom & Judy decided to visit the White Temple a couple of miles south of Chiang Rai. As is obvious in the pictures – both options were delightfull.



The Kok River is in the background of both of these pictures:  
- above taken from lobby of hotel  
- evening cocktails at the river restaurant.

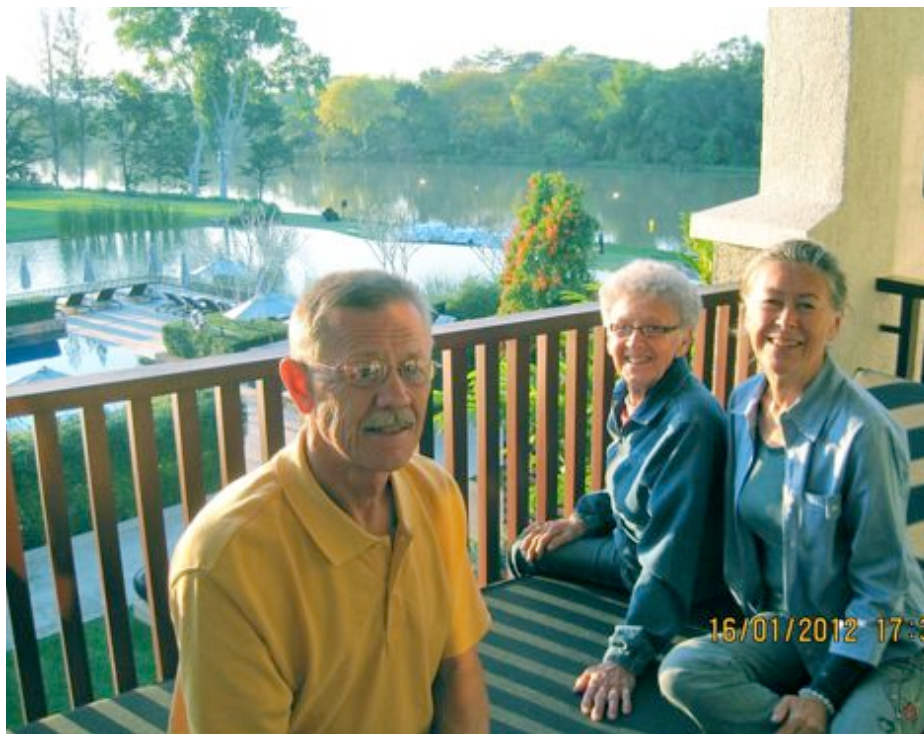
# Day 8

## leMeridien @ farewell

At 1:00 PM, the team from South Dakota had to be at the Chiang Rai airport to take a plane back to Bangkok, where they would stay a few hours at the Novotel before they would catch their early morning flight back to the other side of the world.

It was especially nice that we could spend our last moments together in the lovely setting of le Meridien. Even Justin Malcom, the Director of le Meridien, was present to assure that all of the needs were met.

As we reviewed our time together, it was quite amazing to realize that this team from South Dakota had made the trip to the opposite side of the world into a very different culture and climate and yet – there was NOT one moment of sickness or problem of any kind among them. Every moment of their time in Thailand



was full of discovery and fun.



The last

picture that I took during this

wonderful holiday - **"The last dance"** Mom & Justin!



# Judy & Dick @ a Lucky Star!

It seems that Judy and Dick were born under the same lucky star:

- Judy, 7 October 1947
- Dick, 26 September 1947

Although it did not seem like such a "Lucky Star" at that time, fortunately we can now look back and feel gratitude that we had the strength to overcome the difficulties along the way.

Whatever, we both muddled on along the bumpy-road and the road seems easier to navigate at this stage:

- Judy has lived and worked on three continents and can get along in five different languages.
- Dick created and built-up Muth Electric, one of the most successful companies in the Midwest, USA.

This very special trip was possible through the generosity of Dick and the knowledge of Judy - and the positive attitude of the entire team.



Judy & Dick near  
Ethan, South  
Dakota, around  
1950

Judy & Dick in Chiang Rai, Thailand in 2012.

This photo-album is an expression of gratitude to everyone for contributing to the success of this

*Voyage to the opposite side of the world!*

