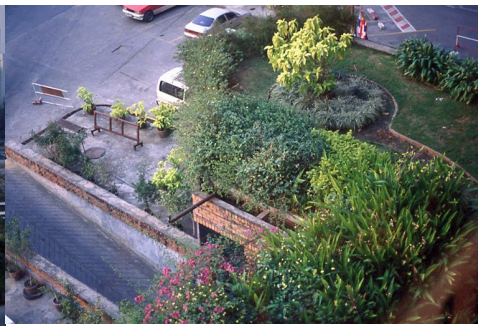




Some of the view from our hotel window



The view down



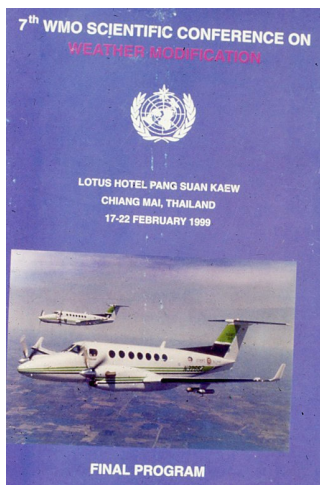
The Lotus Hotel in Chiang Mai

Conference and Princess

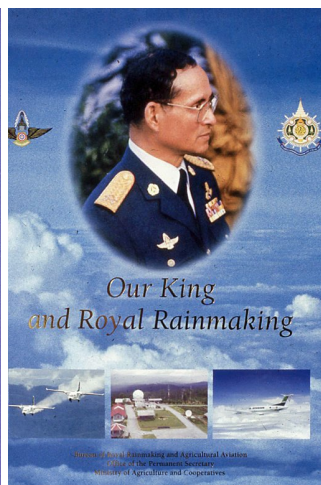
Upon our Monday arrival at the hotel we tried to contact a family with whom we had written in advance. I asked a hotel receptionist, Sunida, how to do it, and it worked. About an hour later she asked me for help with her college English assignment: “What does scapegoat mean?” It was in a policy article prohibiting harassment. I explained the meaning using the Biblical story in Leviticus, that an innocent being gets the punishment that others deserve. That help started correspondence that lasted about five years, plus a long visit with Sunida during the 2002 trip to Thailand.



Sunida



Conference proceedings



The King and his project



The Invitation to attend

The King of Thailand authorized the Royal Rainmaking Project, using the scientific methods of cloud seeding to increase rainfall in Thailand. So it was appropriate to host the conference of the World Meteorological Organization of the United Nations in Thailand.

Weather modification has a few tools, depending on the types of clouds available. “Cold cloud” seeding initiates tiny ice crystals in clouds colder than 0°C that then grow large enough to fall, possibly melting by rain. One technique, discovered in 1946, chills some air colder than -40°C . The other technique, discovered in 1947, uses a substance, usually AgI (silver iodide), that acts as a nucleus upon which an ice crystal can grow. “Warm cloud” seeding uses a substance that attracts water vapor (hygroscopic) to initiate cloud droplets larger than others, whereby the larger droplets fall faster and collide with the smaller droplets and get larger.

The opening ceremonies of the conference were presided over by the **Royal Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn**. We received an official invitation to be present. There were special decorations for the royal visit.





Almost ready



The arrival of the Princess



Her presentation



Walking alone



In the elevator



Back down in the lobby



A typical conference speaker



Some of the scientists listening



My research paper being examined

During the conference we explored some of the city of Chiang Mai using local transportation. We visited schools for international children and a youth organization.



Part of the old city wall and moat



More of the old city moat



Typical taxi

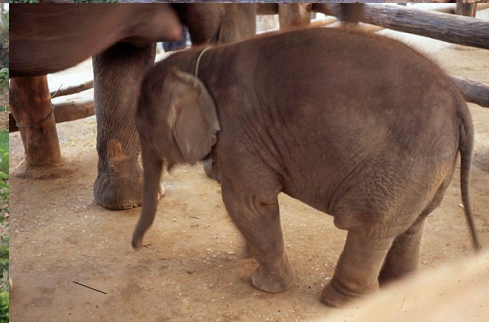


The Centre - a youth organization

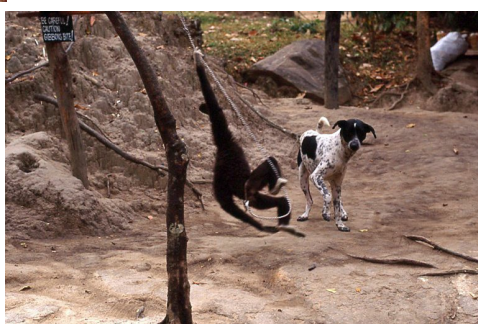


High school international students

On Saturday conference participants boarded large busses and had a police escort to Mae Sa where we visited the Mae Sa Elephant Camp, about 15 kilometers northwest of Chiang Mai.



Visitors could ride the elephants. We saw elephants stealing bananas from people in the house balconies. Years later we learned that visitors could stay in the camp for several days and learn about the care of the elephants. Our younger daughter did so. There are daily shows showing off what the elephants can do, from games to typical labor to painting frameable art works.



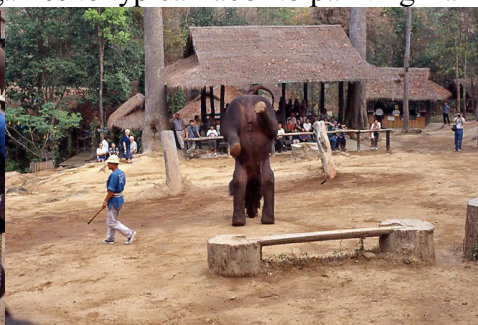
Pets



Gail on elephants



Entrance parade



Head stand



Very front seats



Running with the ball



Moving logs



Final greetings

Nearby is a nursery for many flower types.



Butterflies are also raised

Butterflies feeding

Gail and free sample



Silkworm cocoon preparations

Racks of silkworm cocoons

Visiting cloud seeding aircraft



Visiting cloud research aircraft



An evening of Thai theater

This conference was well organized for presenting the research efforts and for showing participants some of Thai culture.