

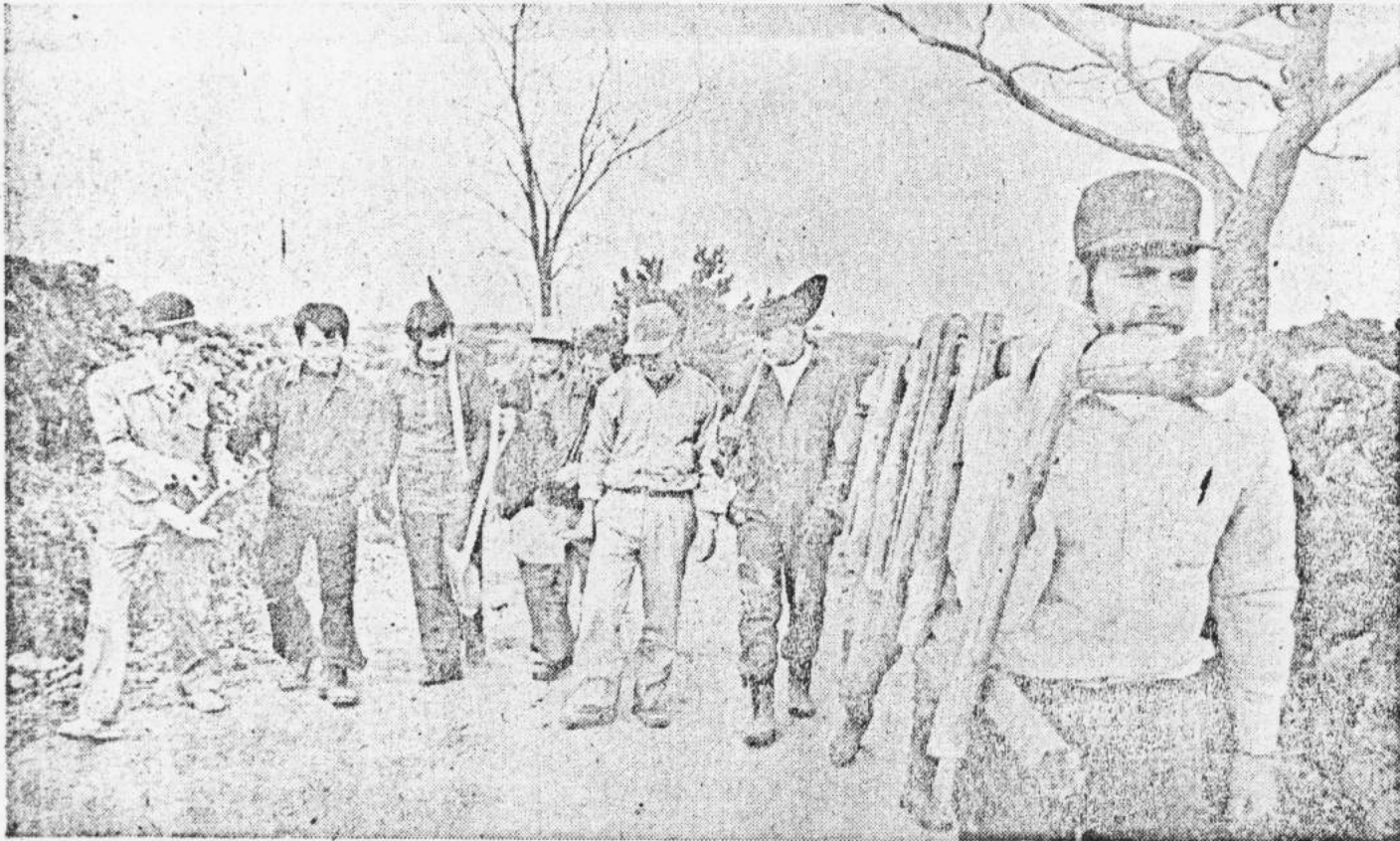
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Villagers of Kwangyong 1-ri Cheju-do and American volunteer workers of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) make resolute steps toward the village's work site with shovels at hands and a ladder over their shoulders early in the morning. The cross-Pacific co-workship was spon-

sored by the four-year Human Development Project by the Chicago-based research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. The Cheju-do project was initiated in October, 1975.

Korea Times Photo

## Cross-Pacific Co-workship

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# Shows Model Development

By Kym Ji-young

**KWANGYONG 1-RI, Cheju-do** — The New Year sun shines over ubiquitous lava rock walls and infallible rope grip-wor.s on thatched roofs at Kwangyong Village just like everywhere, but the shimmering shine presents new hope for a better future to villagers bent on making it.

A circular main path, recently widened and paved by villagers, girdles the predominantly agrarian village, ushering in the New Year and new hope. The 800-meter road stands as a solid symbol of departure from the long-dormant past.

To some 600 residents in this tiny hamlet on the north-western slope of Mt. Halla, eight kilometers from the principal city of Cheju, the road expansion and pavement work last January was the first successful joint labor involving the whole community in living memory.

## Joint Labor

The story is a familiar and typical report of the successful Saemaul (New Community) Movement, as reported in large numbers these days, but Kwangyong Village has an added dimension with the incorporation of a social demonstration program by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a Chicago-based non-profit, non-sectarian human development organization.

Since October, 1975, the villagers have had "strange" Americans who insist on living just like the local populace — subsisting on meager barley and rice diets, sleeping on low-lying ondol floors, and sometimes even sitting on the infamous pig toilets (where pigs actually come into toilets to feed on human discharges).

The American and Korean ICA staff have activated a set of development plans covering social, economic and cultural realms of village life, which were drawn from the necessities the villagers themselves feel, under the comprehensive Human Development Project.

The human development project in the village is one of ICA's 12 community development demonstration programs around the world. It is modeled after the "5th City" project in Chicago's West Side slum area which is now in its second decade.

Eight American and five Korean ICA members are now resident in the village, helping to organize communal village work, charting development plans and giving physical labor assistance in the implementation of the project.

All the villagers are now organized into five guilds for physical well-being, practical education, developing cor-

porous patterns, commercial expansion and agricultural intensification for effective development of village society as a whole.

George Holcombe from Baton Rouge, La., the leader of the ICA group in the village, said, "the people here have great potential, but it needs a little priming for them to develop it. If our efforts here are worth anything, it is to motivate the villagers to help themselves."

The local people have successfully launched 15 ambitious projects they have drawn out of real life necessities through intensive consultation among themselves and with the ICA staff. The Kwangyong Village projects to come into full swing by 1979 will need some 230 million won (\$460,000) during the initial four years from 1976.

About half of the budget outlay will be borne by the villagers themselves, and the ICA will finance the rest through its own cash and in-kind donations and contributions from other sources.

Three Korean-American joint-venture oil refineries are actively supporting the project: Korea Oil Corporation and Honam Oil Company have donated 10 million won (\$20,000) each to the village through ICA, and Kyungin Energy Co. has promised a five million won (\$10,000) donation.

Among the 15 projects are:

a public health outpost which has given treatment and sanitation counselling through a resident American nurse and visiting medical teams; an adult training network through which village leaders were trained for leadership and practical agricultural skills; a village rehabilitation project which has facelifted the village, and a commercial service union which operates as a readily accessible deposit and credit bank.

ICA members, who lead frugal and tight-scheduled communal lives "just on the poverty line of the village," have now become fully accepted members of the village overcoming the villagers' initial overexpectation (for immediate material gains) and some scepticism about their motives. In spite of the language barrier, the Americans are now regulars in village events like funerals and birthday parties.

## Communal Lives

John Slicker, 21, a sociology major from the University of Illinois, said of his life in the village: "I do quite a few manual jobs here, sometimes very tiring, but that's nothing. By doing this kind of work, I'll learn much more than studying books, which will be outdated next year."

Villagers view the foreigners as "very active and devoted co-workers." Ko Chang-hong, 37, a community leader,

said, "It can be said they have awakened the people here to see our problems and to define our future needs to some extent. But we are not and will not be mere beneficiaries of outside help. We will pay double the donations from others with our labor and with material and money investments of our own."

Life in the village is certainly hard for the aliens, who have been born into and lived in modern comfort facilities. Miss Janice Barstow, 24, a nurse from New Providence, N.J., speaks much to the point: "Running hot water is a nice thing to have but certainly not such a necessity as to be never done away with."

ICA will phase out from the village in 1979, but, according to Rev. Kang Byoung-hoon in Seoul, who is the regional director of the organization for the Far East, the village development model will be duplicated in other villages on Cheju-do island remote settlement in mainland Korea and villages in similar stages in other countries.

The simple philosophy of ICA of "being those who care and those who dare" will merge into Korea's Saemaul Movement to reach out to every neglected nook of the global community for better living for all the people, regardless of their race, ICA volunteers hope, stepping into another year of their voluntary service.