DOWN THE BAYOU

Two Visitors from Malaysia
Study Louisiana Agriculture

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NAPOLEONVILLE, La. — In rural Assumption Parish near Bayou Lafourche two young men from a faraway land, Malaysia, are intently at work studying the vocational agriculture of the area so that they can, in turn, convey their knowledge to their people.

They are Alang Perang Zainuddin and Mohamad Shah Lassim, both connected to the Agriculture College in their country and now studying at Louisiana State University. For two months they are to remain at Bayou Lafourche at Assumption High School.

Dr. James Hutchinson, professor of agricultural education at LSU, is supervising these student teachers for the university. Their mentors at Assumption High are James J. Hubbell and William Blanchard, the school's vocational agriculture teachers.

"They are here on a reciprocal agreement with LSU," Dr. Hutchinson, on a visit to Assumption High, said, adding that five years ago LSU and the College of Agriculture in Malaysia instituted a program in which staff members and graduates of the two exchange personnel.

Malaysians Confer with La. Educators

Two Visitors from Malaysia are shown with their mentors at Assumption High School where they are to remain for two months. Pictured are (from left, seated) Mohamad Shah Lassim, Malaysia; Dr. James Hutchinson, professor of agriculture at Louisiana State University who is supervising the two at Assumption High; (standing) William Blanchard and James Hubbell, vocational agriculture teachers at Assumption High, and Alang Perang Zainuddin, Malaysia.

TWO STUDENT TEACHERS at Louisiana State University who is supervising the two at Assumption High; (standing) William Blanchard and James Hubbell, vocational agriculture teachers at Assumption High, and Alang Perang Zainuddin, Malaysia.

"They will go directly to the farm and supervise work on the farm," he said.

The two visitors from Malaysia, who are living in Baton Rouge with their families, find that their country and Louisiana have the same kind of coffee, "thick."

Dr. Hutchinson cited the potential through this program for reaching an entire country, describing it as "dramatic," in spreading throughout the country to raise the subsistence level of its farmers.

In a five-year plan, he said, there should materialize two trained vocational agriculture high school educational programs such as Assumption High School has, Dr. Hutchinson declared.

WATER BUFFALO

Zainuddin, who lives with his wife and three-year-old son in the university apartments, noted that Malaysia depends on the water buffalo for much of its beef and said that his countrymen are primarily fish eaters. Recently, he enjoyed a fishing trip at Pierre Part in the interior of Assumption Parish.

Louisiana was the right place to come to because of numerous similarities, said Lassim, who also lives at the university apartments, with his wife and two sons, one of them of school age. One of the similarities is the "crawfish" which, however, appear only when flooded rains.

This is rather frequently the cause of heavy rains.

The two have formed a fondness for hamburgers. When their Assumption friends visit their homes, however, they are treated to some delectable Malaysian dishes. One of these, the curry puff, is a conversation piece in local agricultural circles.

Coconut milk is a big item in their home-cooked food. It goes into their meat dishes, their fish dishes, including the crawfish menu — and their wives use fresh coconuts, far harder to obtain here than at home where the coconut tree is a household plant.

These two men, who will carry an important agricultural message back to Malaysia and who, according to Dr. Hutchinson, are setting a wonderful record, have one disappointment here. "No snow."

RELATIONSHIP NOTED

Among their observations in Assumption Parish is a study of how a vocational agriculture department is run and they are also noting the relationship between the school and the people of the area.

Said James Hubbell: "We show them how to organize, plan teaching, supervise the work of students and their projects on the farm, how to assist farmers and deal with other agencies." He pointed out that the agricultural department in the rural community will be their field of operation.

TAUGHT AT COLLEGE

Dr. Hutchinson taught at the college in Malaysia and there met the two now in Louisiana. They were on the staff of the three-year college, and elected to come to Louisiana to go into agricultural education. Both are on a degree program leading to a master of science degree.

There are 45 from Malaysia at LSU at present, all in some form of agriculture. Zainuddin and Lassim are the only ones to come to Assumption High School and the only two of the group who are in agricultural education.

There is no communication difficulty for them on Bayou Lafourche as far as the English language is concerned, but they are not at home in the French-speaking phase of this countryside. Both hope to pick up some French while here.

When they return home they will be in the Extension Department of their college in a school system that is geared to the British. They do find similarities in Louisiana where rice plays a prominent part in agriculture. They have visited the Rice Experiment Station in Crowley.