

# TOLEDO MAGAZINE

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A handmade toll bridge spans the Song Ve River in the Quang Ngai Province of Vietnam. Rural lifestyles are changing, however, and the bridge is slated to be replaced with a concrete span.



Above: Quang Ngai City is the site of one of Vietnam's many orphanages. This boy standing at the entrance of an orphanage is one of the 231,000 Vietnamese orphans. Below: Ngo Thi Kim Loan, 13, looks through the window of a restaurant in the valley.



## Vietnam's Children

BLADE PHOTOS  
BY ANDY MORRISON

CYAN

MAGENTA

YELLOW

BLACK



At lunchtime in Quang Nam Province, a young boy near Chu Lai is fed by his grandmother.



Oxen and other beasts of burden are a common sight in parts of Vietnam. This one is used to work the fields in the Song Ve Valley.

### Living in a world of contrasts

The children of Vietnam's Central Highlands live in two worlds: the old and new.

They were born after the war ended, but they're still surrounded by the reminders of the years when their nation was torn by bombs and firefights. Craters in the Que Son Valley, the unmarked graves near Chu Lai, and abandoned tanks and trucks are often seen throughout the country.

While the children are taught about the conflict in schools, they're being raised in a new Vietnam. There are factories and industrial parks and new hotels.

Nearly half of the people of the Central Highlands were born after the war ended in 1975, but they still carry on many of the traditions of their

ancestors.

In places like the Song Ve Valley, the children go to school each morning, and in the afternoon they work in the rice paddies with family members.

They play soccer and frolic in the river with water buffalo.

While there are foot bridges that span waterways, there are modern concrete and steel structures, too.

Gone are the thatched-roof huts that once lined dirt roads. Now there are bamboo-reinforced concrete and stucco homes with lights, televisions, and stereos.

While the country has moved into the modern world, it also is plagued by poverty and other Third-World problems that will challenge the new generation.



As this boy demonstrates, clothing with American motifs is popular in Vietnam. Nearly half the population of the Central Highlands was born after the Vietnam War ended in 1975 with the fall of Saigon.

