

A Boy of Burma

Patricia Ling & Hilda K. Watkins

Genevieve Sowards wrote," I chose the locale and outlined the story but I got no credit for it."

This is from "Juniors" a Sunday sheet which those attending Sunday School took home to read. "A Boy of Burma" was on the back of the weekly eight page newspaper. This cartoon started on August 3, 1952 and ran to January 25, 1953. It was published by the American Baptist Publication Society when they were located at 1701-1703 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, 3, Pa. There was 26 installments.

August 3, 1952

A Boy of Burma

A Might-Have-Happened Story

Maung Ko has lived in Moulmein, Burma, all of his eleven years. He lives with his Buddhist parents and grandmother not far from the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital of the American Baptist Mission. Since his people do not approve of the white foreigners, Maung Ko keeps away from the hospital until the day our story opens. On this day Dr. Kathleen Smith is treating out-patients in the clinic when Dick Milton, son of a missionary, runs in.



Next Week: Daw Soe's Headache Remedy

August 10, 1952

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

Maung Ko angered the nat or spirit of the big banyan tree near the mission hospital, so his sister, Ma Hla Sein, said. She believe that is why he stumbled and struck his head against the tree and hurt his arm. After Dr. Smith bandages his arm, Maung Ko still has a headache but his grandmother, Daw Soe, fetches him home, promising to cure the pain. The next day Dick Milton, the Baptist missionary's son, goes to see how Maung Ko is.



Next Week: Dick's Plan

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

After Maung Ko receives treatment at the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital for an injured arm, he decides that he would like to learn how to heal people as the foreign doctor does. He is afraid that his family will object to his ambition. His friend, Dick Milton, has an idea to help.



Next Week: Danger in the Garden

August 24, 1952

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

Maung Ko's fears that his family would object to his plan of becoming a doctor prove true. Even though the missionary, Mr. Milton, whose son, Dick, is Maung Ko's friend, offers to arrange schooling for the Burmese boy, Maung Ko's father refuses to let him study with foreigners. But Dick and Maung Ko are still friends.



Next Week: A Quick-Thinking Boy

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

Maung Ko's ambition to become a doctor is balked by the opposition of his family, even though the missionary, Mr. Milton, offers to place the boy in a good foreign school without charge. Maung Ko continues his friendship with Mr. Milton's son, Dick. One day when the boys are practicing baseball in the garden a cobra attacks Dick.



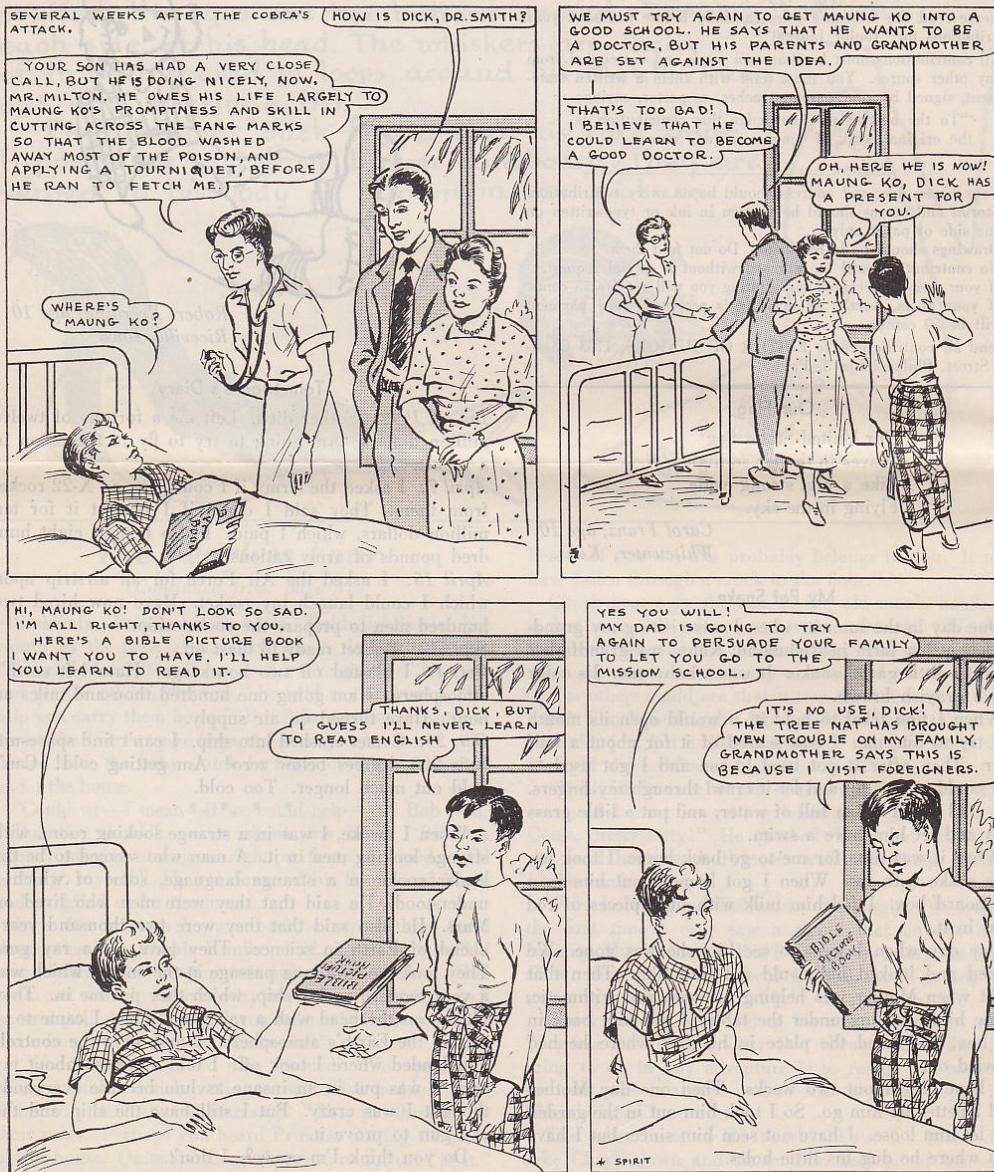
Next Week: Will Dick Live?

September 7, 1952

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

Dick Milton is sick for several weeks after he is attacked by a cobra. Fortunately his Burmese friend, Maung Ko, knew how to give the right kind of first-aid treatment.



Next Week: Maung Ko's new trouble

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

When Maung Ko visits his friend, Dick Milton, in the hospital, Dick gives him a Bible picture book. The Burmese boy accepts it gratefully. He tells Dick that the tree nat, or spirit inhabiting the tree, has brought more trouble on his family because it disapproves of Burmese associating with foreigners.



Next Week: Will the move to Kamawet cure Maung Ko's father?

September 21, 1952

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

When Maung Ko's father takes sick, a fortuneteller advises the family to move from Moulmein to the small village of Kamawet because the tree nat is angry. Maung Ko wishes to remain behind to attend a Christian school and eventually learn to become a doctor, but he is forced to go along with his family.



Next Week: Has Grandmother Daw Soe thought of a way to help her son get well?

A Boy of Burma

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and Patricia Ling

Maung Ko's family moves to Kamawet with the hope that the change will appease the nat, who they believe is making his father, Maung Khin, ill. But the sick man grows worse. A neighbor suggests calling in the American nurse from the village clinic. The family is afraid to follow this advice.



Next Week: Will Nurse Maxville's medicine cure Maung Ko's father?

A Boy of Burma

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Maung Ko wants to become a doctor like the one who treated him at the mission clinic in Moulmein. His family objects. Daw Soe, his grandmother, believes that the tree nat sends bad luck to the family because Maung Ko is friends with the American boy, Dick Milton. Maung Ko's father, Maung Khin, is ill. Sacrifices to the nat do not make him well. They move to Kamawet, but Maung Khin grows worse. Nurse Maxville is called in.



Next week: The lazy buffalo

October 12, 1952

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

Daw Soe, Maung Ko's grandmother, loses faith in Nurse Maxville's medicine because her son does not get well at once. She throws away the pills left for him by the nurse, but Maung Ko recovers them. His mother sends Maung Ko into the paddy field to help Maung Set plow and plant while her husband is too sick to work.

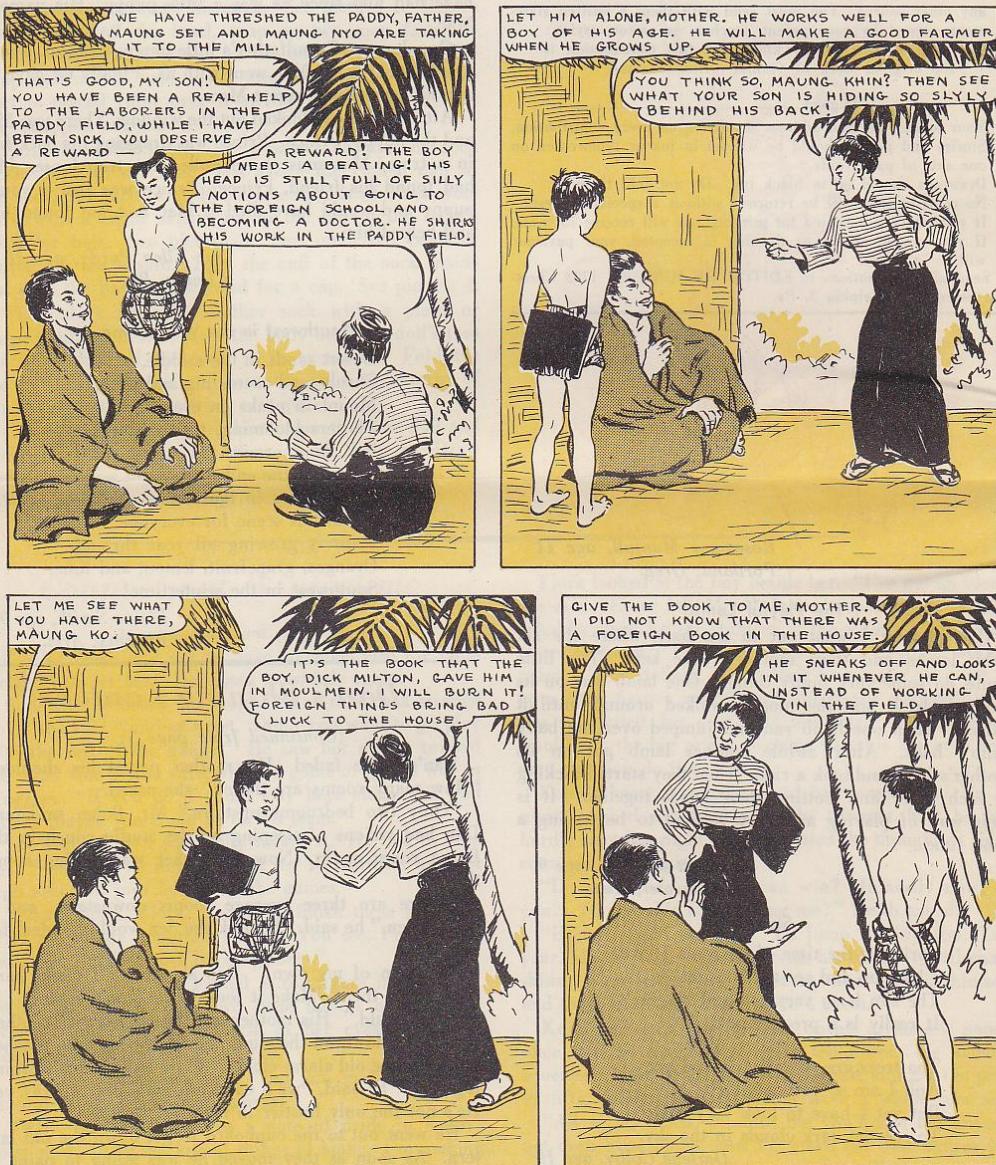


Next week: Maung Ko's secret

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

Maung Ko helps Maung Set, a hired laborer, to cultivate the paddy field so that the family will have rice to eat. While the two work they talk of the kind missionary nurse, Miss Maxville. This strengthens Maung Ko's ambition to become a doctor. The boy continues to do his share of farm work during his father's convalescence. At last the rice is harvested. Maung Ko comes to report to his father who is sitting on the porch.

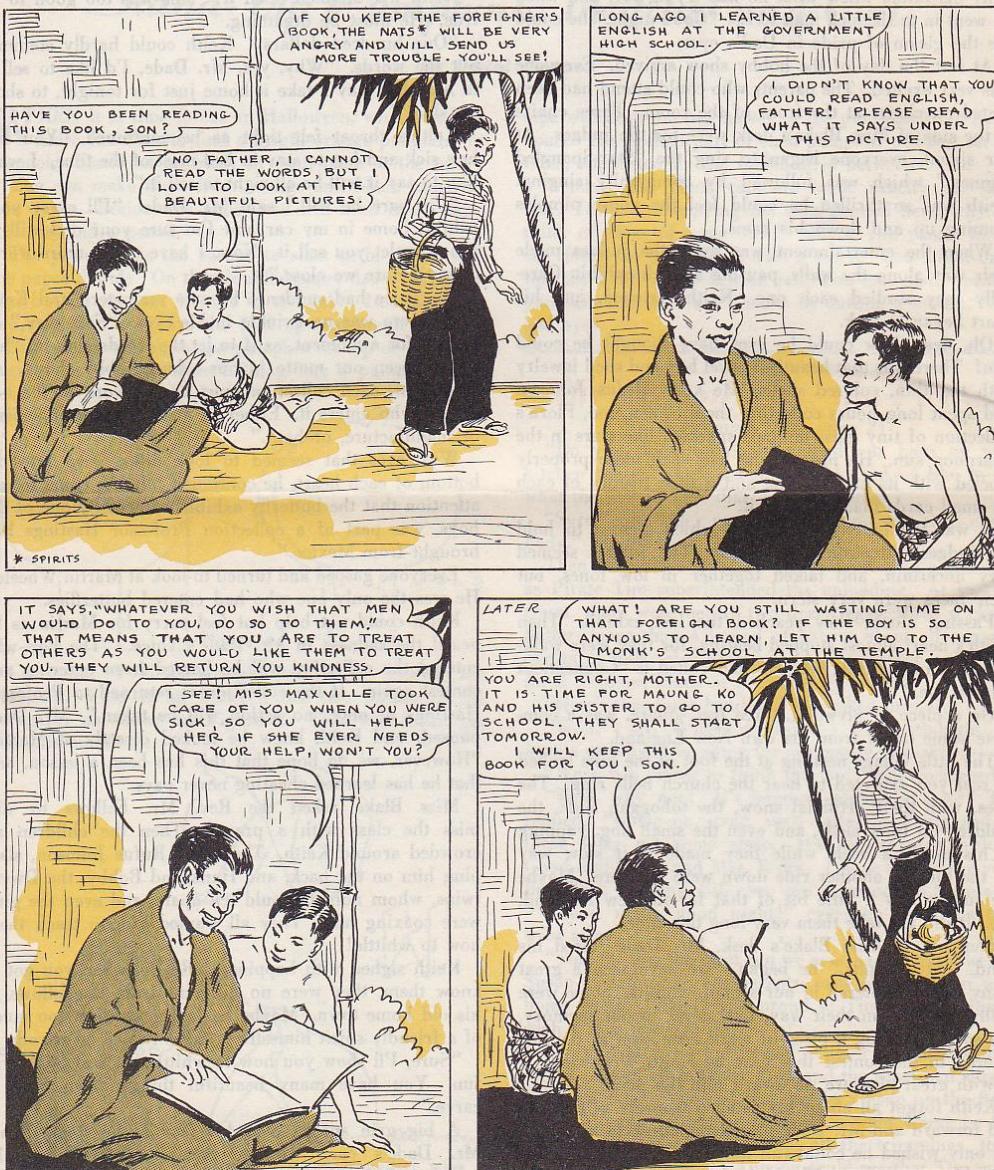


Next week: Will Maung Ko lose his precious book?

A Boy of Burma

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Maung Ko's family moves from Moulmein to Kamawet. Maung Ko's father, Maung Khin, is very ill. When sacrifices to the nats do no good, the missionary nurse, Miss Maxville, is called in. Maung Ko works on the farm. At harvesttime, Maung Ko reports to his father who praises his work. Maung Ko's grandmother scolds the boy for looking at his Bible picture book, a gift from Dick Milton. She snatches the book from Maung Ko and gives it to his father.

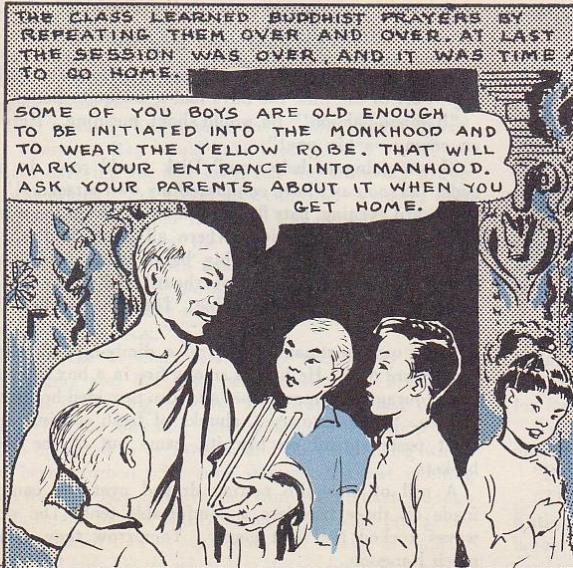
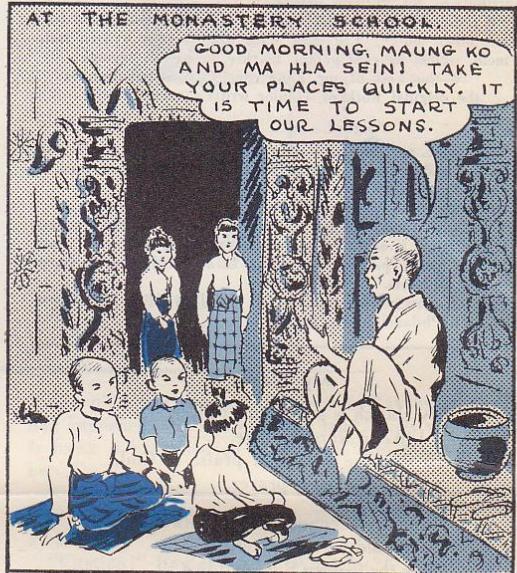
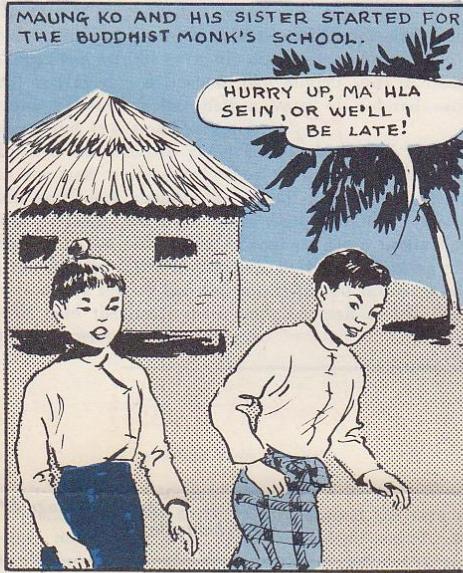


Next week: The monk's school

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Maung Ko wants to attend the foreign school at Moulmein so that he can learn English and study medicine. His family objects. They move to Kamawet because a fortuneteller suggests that the move will make Maung Ko's father, Maung Khin, well. At Kamawet the family sends Maung Ko and his sister to school at the Buddhist



Next Week: A Stubborn Boy

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Maung Ko and his sister, Ma Hla Sein, go to school at the monastery. They are taught to repeat Buddhist prayers. After school Maung Ko goes to his father's paddy field to help Maung Set. He is the laborer who is hired to work in the field during the long illness of Maung Ko's father.

AFTER SCHOOL MAUNG KO WENT TO HIS FATHER'S PADDY FIELD TO HELP MAUNG SET.

MAUNG SET, IN SCHOOL TODAY THE MONK SAID THAT WE OLDER BOYS SHOULD BE INITIATED INTO THE MONKHOOD. WE'LL HAVE TO SHAVE OUR HEADS AND WEAR YELLOW ROBES.

YES, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT SOON, MAUNG KO. YOU WANT TO BECOME A MAN, DON'T YOU?



YES, BUT NOT THAT WAY. NOW THAT FATHER IS WELL AGAIN, I'M NOT NEEDED SO MUCH HERE. I WANT TO LEARN HOW TO HEAL PEOPLE AS THE FOREIGN DOCTORS DO.

WAIT UNTIL YOUR GRANDMOTHER, DAW SOE, HEARS THAT!

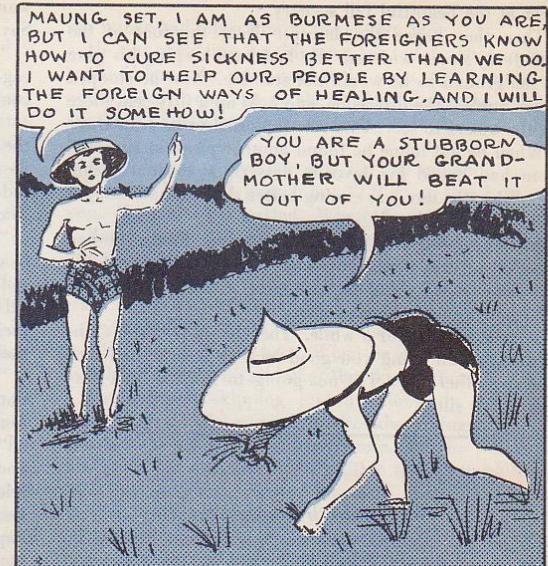
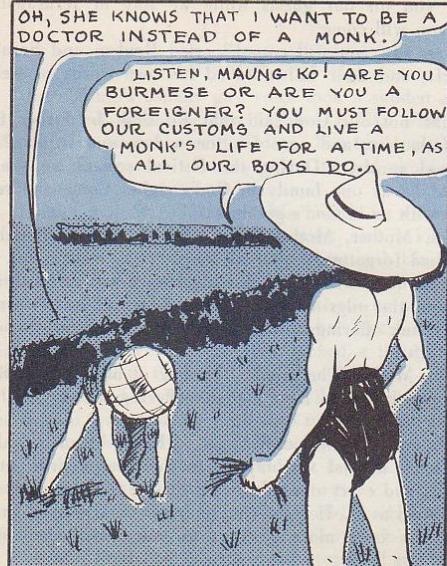


OH, SHE KNOWS THAT I WANT TO BE A DOCTOR INSTEAD OF A MONK.

LISTEN, MAUNG KO! ARE YOU BURMESE OR ARE YOU A FOREIGNER? YOU MUST FOLLOW OUR CUSTOMS AND LIVE A MONK'S LIFE FOR A TIME, AS ALL OUR BOYS DO.

MAUNG SET, I AM AS BURMESE AS YOU ARE, BUT I CAN SEE THAT THE FOREIGNERS KNOW HOW TO CURE SICKNESS BETTER THAN WE DO. I WANT TO HELP OUR PEOPLE BY LEARNING THE FOREIGN WAYS OF HEALING, AND I WILL DO IT SOMEHOW!

YOU ARE A STUBBORN BOY, BUT YOUR GRANDMOTHER WILL BEAT IT OUT OF YOU!

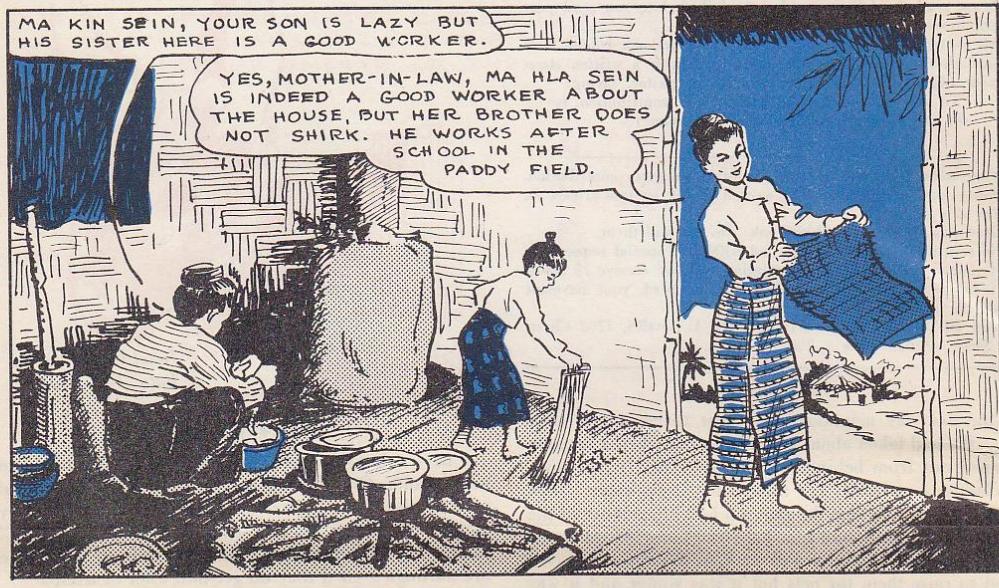


Next Week: Disturbing Rumors

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By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

Maung Ko and Ma Hla Sein attend school at the monastery. After school the children help their parents. It is the custom of a Burmese boy to mark his entrance into manhood by spending from a few months to a year as a monk. Maung Ko is old enough now but he does not want to. His ambition is to become a doctor.



Next Week: Bad News

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and Patricia Ling

Maung Ko's father is ill, so the family moves to Kamawet. Maung Ko is sorry for he wants to go to the foreign school in Moulmein. He and his sister attend a monastery school. Maung Khin is well enough to work in the fields again. Like many Burmese men he has the old-style Burmese tattooing on his thighs. Now Maung Ko hopes he can go to Moulmein to study. This seems impossible because of his family's opposition and the rumors of civil war.

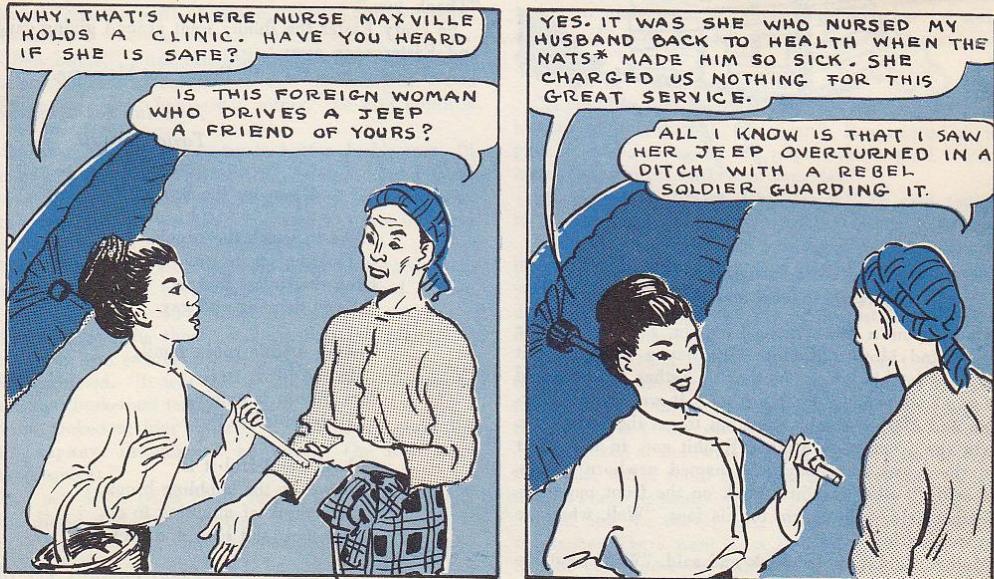


Next Week: News at the Bazaar

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Maung Ko wants to attend the foreign school in Moulmein. Not only does his family object, but news of the outbreak of civil war near that city makes it dangerous to go there. Maung Ko's mother goes to the bazaar to buy a supply of food in case the war reaches Kamawet where the family now lives.



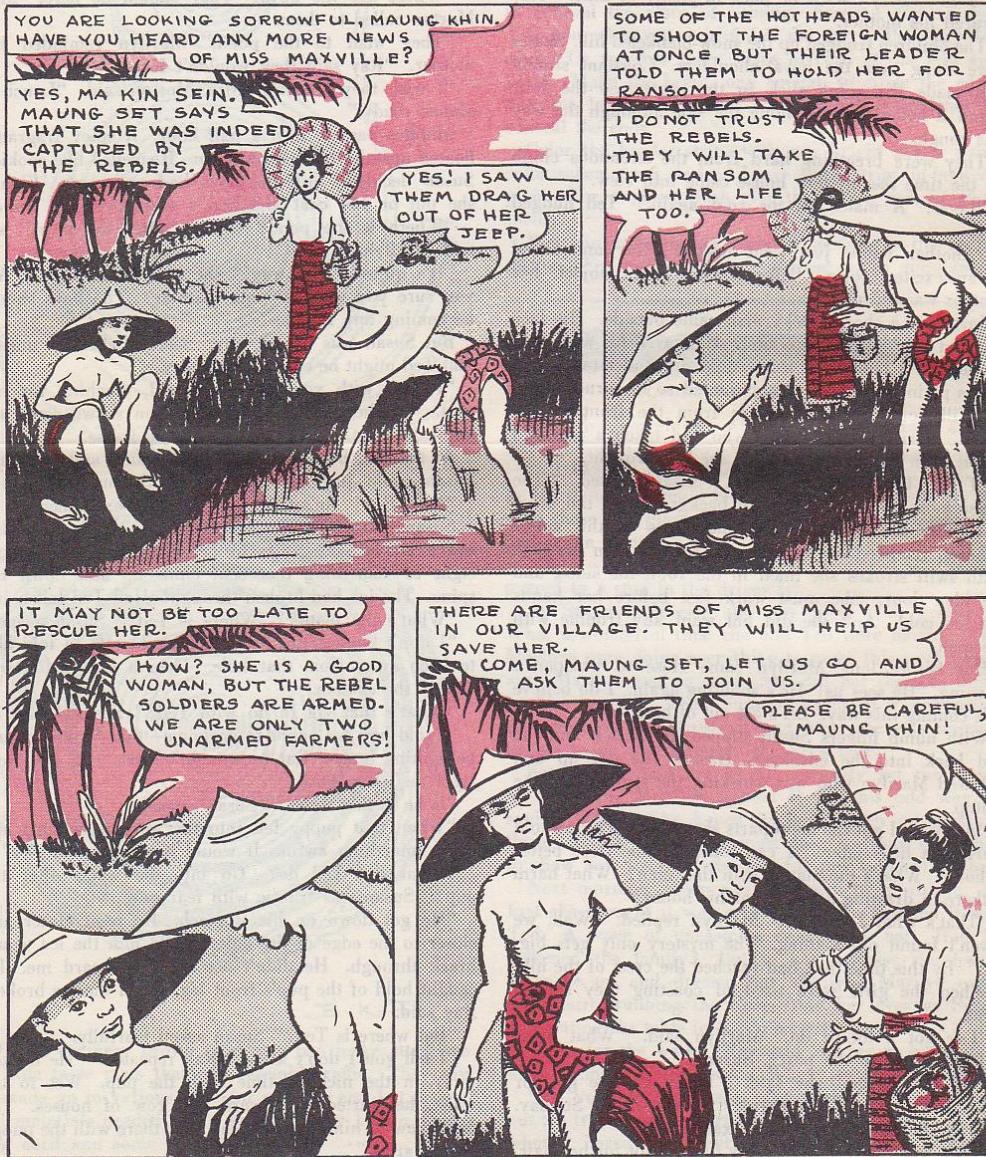
Next Week: Has Miss Maxville been captured by the rebels?

* SPIRITS

A Boy of Burma

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and Patricia Ling

There is trouble near Kamawet where Maung Ko and his family live. The civil war has spread to the next village where the missionary nurse, Miss Maxville, has a clinic. Maung Ko's father, Maung Khin, who owes his life to Nurse Maxville's skill, is concerned for her safety. His wife, Ma Kin Sein, learns at the bazaar that Miss Maxville's jeep, and probably she herself, has been captured by the rebels.



Next Week: Maung Khin's Duty

December 14, 1952

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

There is civil war in Burma. Maung Khin, who was cured of a serious illness by the missionary nurse, Miss Maxville, learns that she has been captured by the rebels. He decides to try to rescue her. Other villagers whose families have been patients of Miss Maxville go with him.



Next Week: Plans for Rescue

A Boy of Burma

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Maung Khin's mother, Daw Soe, objects to his plan to rescue Nurse Maxville from the rebels. Daw Soe thinks that her son's recovery from his illness was due to her own offerings to the nats and not due to the medical aid he had from the American nurse. Maung Khin's wife agrees with her husband that the rescue should be attempted.



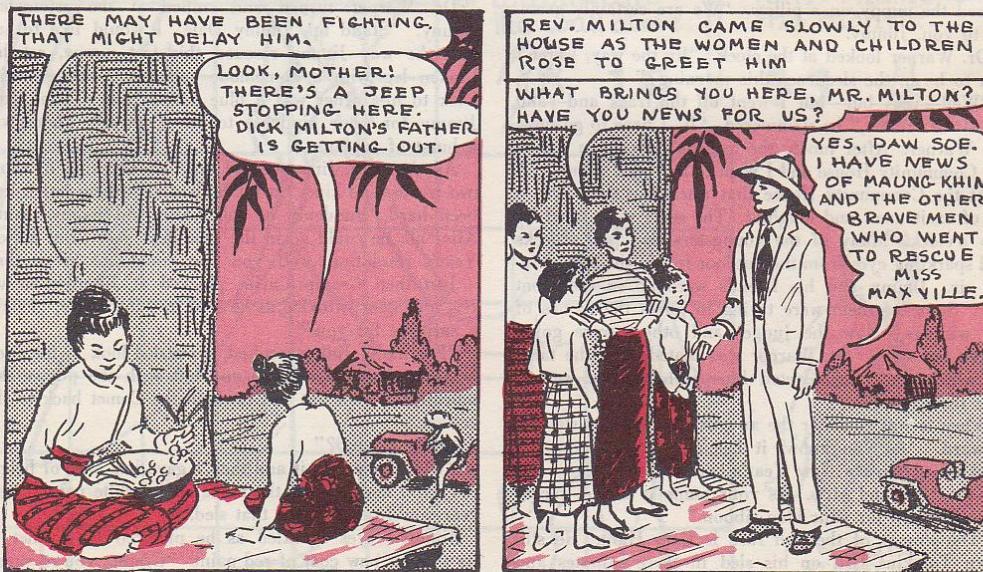
Next Week: Success or Failure

December 28, 1952

A Boy of Burma

By Hilda K. Watkins
and Patricia Ling

There is civil war in Burma. Maung Khin goes with a group of people to try to rescue Miss Maxville from the rebels who are holding her for ransom. His mother, Daw Soe, warns him against the attempt, but he disregards her advice. His family anxiously await his return.



Next Week: Is the News Good or Bad?

A Boy of Burma

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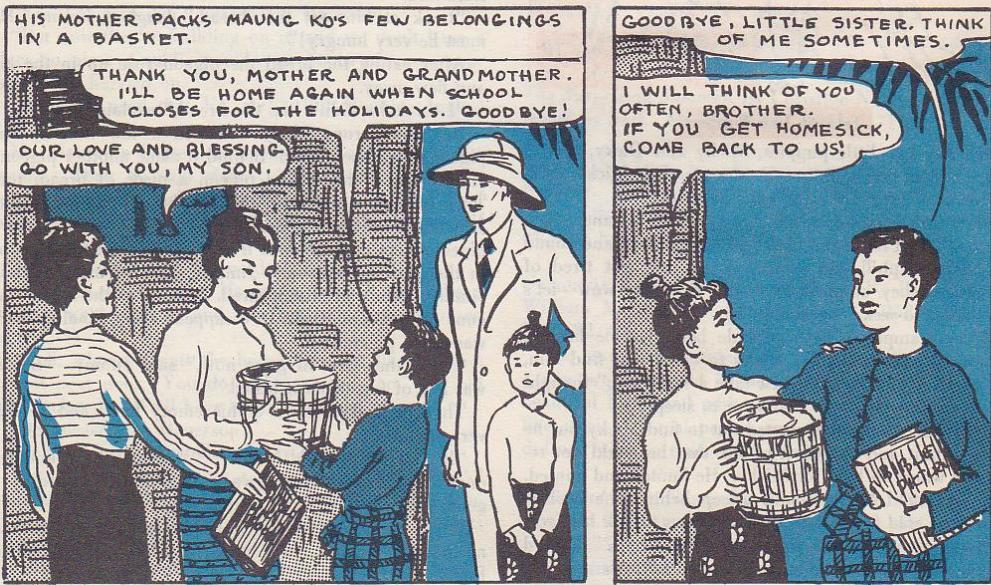
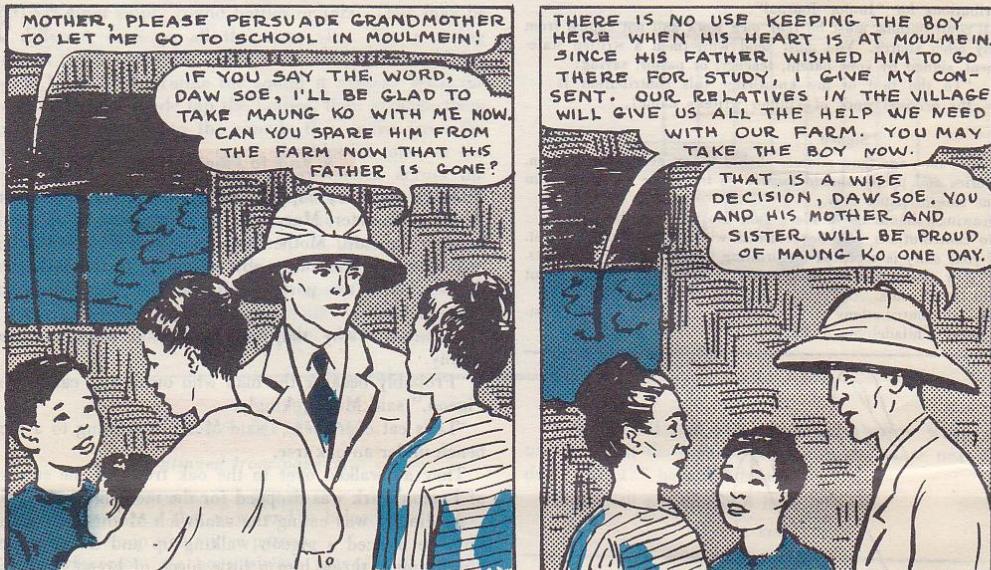
Maung Khin goes with a group of friends to rescue the missionary nurse who has been captured by the rebels in a civil war in Burma. His mother, Daw Soe, his wife, and his two children are waiting for news of him when Rev. Richard Milton, the Baptist missionary from Moulmein, comes to see them.



Next week: Will Maung Ko be allowed to go to Moulmein?

A Boy of Burma

Rev. Richard Milton of the Baptist Mission at Moulmein tells Maung Khin's family in Kamawet that Maung Khin is dead. He died trying to rescue the missionary nurse. In case of his death, Maung Khin has requested Rev. Richard Milton to persuade Maung Khin's family to let Maung Ko study at the Christian school in Moulmein.



Next week: Will Maung Ko feel homesick in Moulmein?

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By Hilda K. Watkins
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Maung Ko's father, Maung Khin, loses his life trying to rescue the missionary nurse from the rebels. Rev. Richard Milton tells the family the news and also tells them of Maung Khin's request that the family permit his son, Maung Ko, to study at the Christian school in Moulmein. They give permission, and Maung Ko prepares to go with Rev. Milton to the school.

WELL, HERE YOU ARE AT SCHOOL,
MAUNG KO, AND WITH YOUR FAMILY'S
BLESSING, TOO! THAT'S A GOOD START.



DURING THE FOLLOWING MONTHS MAUNG KO STUDIES HARD. HE IS TOO BUSY TO FEEL HOMESICK. HE SOON HAS MANY NEW FRIENDS.



IN HIS SPARE TIME MAUNG KO HELPS DR. SMITH AT THE MISSION CLINIC.



AND WHEN VACATION TIME COMES HE VISITS HIS FAMILY IN KAMAWET. SEVERAL BUSY, HAPPY YEARS PASS IN THIS WAY.



Next week: What is Maung Ko's plan?

A Boy of Burma

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Before Maung Ko's father loses his life trying to rescue a missionary nurse from the rebels he becomes interested in Christianity. In obedience to Maung Ko's last wish, his wife and his mother, Daw Soe, permit the Baptist missionary, Rev. Richard Milton, to take Maung Ko to the Morton-Lane Judson High School in Moulmein. Here the boy spends several busy, happy years, returning to his family in Kamawet only for vacations. Mr. and Mrs. Milton and their son Dick continue their interest in the ambitious Burmese boy.

