World Neighbors in Action
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WORLD NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Veteran Worker Claimed By Death In Philippines

In December, 1964, death claimed one of the World Neighbors most dedicated workers in the Philippines. Marcelino Arucan writes:

"**Dionisio Bautista** joined as a plain volunteer in 1956, when he went down to Cebu after forfeiting his land ownership rights in Isabela because of his desire to be a part of World Neighbors. He stuck it out there with us during those trying days. In Central Luzon, where he was stationed after Cebu, he accepted a challenge to move to remote Ilocos, even if it meant being farther from home. He stayed there for two years.

"Again, when we needed a worker to live in Mountain province, he did not hesitate to accept the call. We shifted him from Mountain to Sta. Cruz, Zambales, and he never said a word of complaint. His immediate acceptance to go to Mindanao where it would be hard for him to visit his aging father was his last and, to me, his greatest test of dedication.

"At the hospital, the last words he uttered were about his field activities, addressed to his fellow workers and the farmers he worked with."

There could be no finer tribute to Dionisio Bautista than that he gave his years and his life in the service of his neighbors.

Share reports of activity in your area through the Newsletter. Send your stories to "WN In Action."

Peru Community Builds Its Own Water Line

In the Armatambo community of Lima, Peru, the people organized themselves to solve the problem of their supply of drinking water. From Lima, **Nelson Coronel**, coordinator of a joint YMCA-World Neighbors project, writes:

"On July 25th, work began at 3 p.m. The people exhibited growing enthusiasm; the ditch...began to be opened up at great speed. Work was started with 35 men present, and within an hour, more than 400 persons were working! The ditch was 80 cm. deep and more than two km. long. A tunnel eight meters long was dug at one point.

"Jokes were frequent, stimulating the workers to more effort... At 6 p.m., the order was given to suspend work until the next day; but the people wouldn't listen, and continued working, seeing the solution to their most pressing problem within their grasp. They worked in shifts all night.

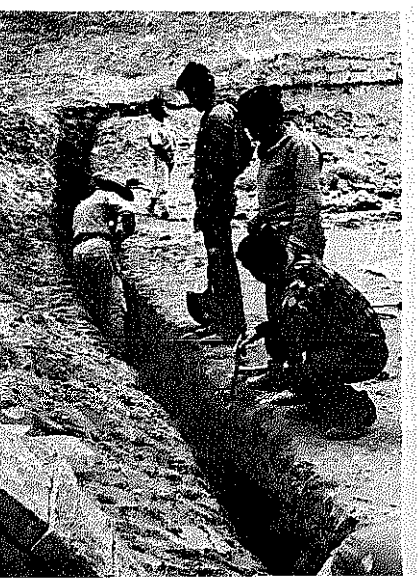
"The next day became a day of fiesta. Men, women, children – all cooperated. The women prepared large quantities of food and refreshments for the workers. The children played at construction. Groups competed with each other to see who could work faster or better.

"When the ditch was finished, the mechanics cut the threads on the pipes and connected the couplings. Workers plumbers and masons made the installations. At 5 p.m., just 26 hours after beginning the job, all was ready. The valve was opened, and, amid an air of general expectation, a hissing sound issued from the pipes – the pressure of the air being displaced by the water.

"As the water gushed out of the last faucet, there was a loud 'hurrah,' and an improvised celebration. We had realized our goal. We knew, once more, that all is possible, if we have faith, enthusiasm, and ability."

In addition to Mr. Coronel, three students from the University of Engineering, **Oscar Mosto, Angel Carbajal,** and **Jose Diaz,** participated in the organization of this project.

Digging the two kilometer ditch for the water pipe was supervised by Jose Diaz, an engineering student. The entire project was completed in 26 hours!



COVER PHOTO

Proud leaders in Armatambo, Peru, take a break from concrete finishing on the water supply they have just completed. Before the water line was laid, residents had to carry in their water.

Busyness is the keynote in the WN "Artisan's Cooperative" in El Alto, Bolivia.

El Alto Cooperative In Full Swing

When World Neighbors first approved the self-help project at El Alto, Bolivia, **Stan Susan** wrote:

"Your letter of approval for our El Alto project – and the 'go ahead' – has made us very happy. We have shared this with the World Neighbors committee, and all are enthusiastic about the future. Now there is hope! Several remarked that 'this is the first time anyone has shown any interest in us or our area.'"

Since that time, the project is well underway. A more recent letter from Stan tells of later progress at the project:

"The many details connected with organizing the 'Cooperative Artesanal' are nearing a close, and we are actually in production. There are 33 women making yarn and knitting sweaters, weaving shawls, and the rest of the 225 unemployed men and women who are registered in the cooperative will be starting work – and begin training in new skills – as fast as we can set up the procedures and get the raw materials needed.

"It's interesting to see the 38 women at work weaving, all busy like a regular factory. The sweaters and shawls are very attractive and well made. We will get into the marketing end of it this week... Carpentry will be one of the next skills to get under way."

What Is World Neighbors?

World Neighbors is an organization, now extending through some 18 countries. But, more than that, World Neighbors is a bond of fellowship, a dynamic spirit, which moves people to constructive action for the good of all. The quotations on this page are typical expressions, received from neighbors, near and far.

Being A "Neighbor" Brings Happiness

Leonida Ehim, World Neighbors instructress in Bahay Toro, Philippines, writes:

"... I was elected to the motherhood circle, and everything since has been like a dream... such fun we have had together! I am an instructor in mothercraft, health and sanitation, and since I have come to like child and parent development work, I help with the study and play center.

"In putting into action what I learned in nutrition, we thought of vegetable and fruit tree nurseries ... our teachers have been emphasizing in our training that World Neighbors workers are not afraid to work with their hands, so we made up our minds to show them ...

"We decided to form ourselves into teams of five... Each had a nursery, in the yards of the local people. Home owners agreed to manage the nurseries, with our help. We asked guidance of the Bureau of Plant Industries. These will be a source of seedlings of vegetables and fruit trees..."

Wives Are Help-Mates In Kabale, Uganda

Sometimes we fail to give due credit to the wives for the part they play in the work of World Neighbors leaders – for some of our best work is done by husband-and-wife teams. From Kabale, Uganda, **Dick Lyth** writes:

"... Because of their husband's position, the wives automatically enter into a place of leadership... in the whole community in which they live. Twenty-three wives came together in August – it had not been easy for them to leave home – every day there were prayers and an address on spiritual life. Instruction in a variety of subjects followed: health, child care, family planning, club work, local government, agriculture, cooking and sewing.

"The women were thrilled with this opportunity to prepare themselves to take their place with their husbands as responsible leaders in their country. There was a happy, appreciative spirit, and a willingness to help each other."

Wives in Kabale, Africa, believe in being "Help-mates," and join with their husbands in making World Neighbors self-help program a success story.

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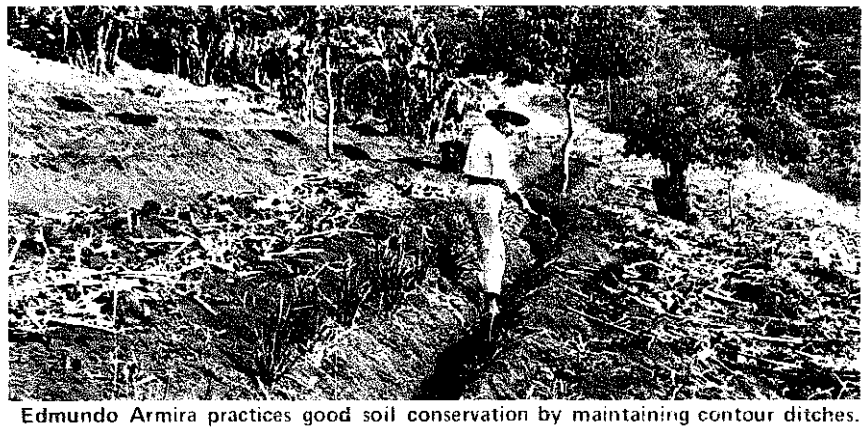
World Neighbors is a non-governmental, non-sectarian, world-wide people-to-people movement building understanding through cooperative self-help projects in newly developing nations.

WORLD NEIGHBORS
IN ACTION
A Newsletter for Project Personnel



Edmundo Armira practices good soil conservation by maintaining contour ditches. Grass barriers on the uphill side of the ditches prevent soil from washing away.

Contour Ditches Help Conserve Our Soil

The soils we cultivate are a gift from the Creator. They were preserved and fed during countless centuries by the natural vegetation that grew on them. When we cultivate the soil, we use something that is not ours alone — soil belongs to all generations.

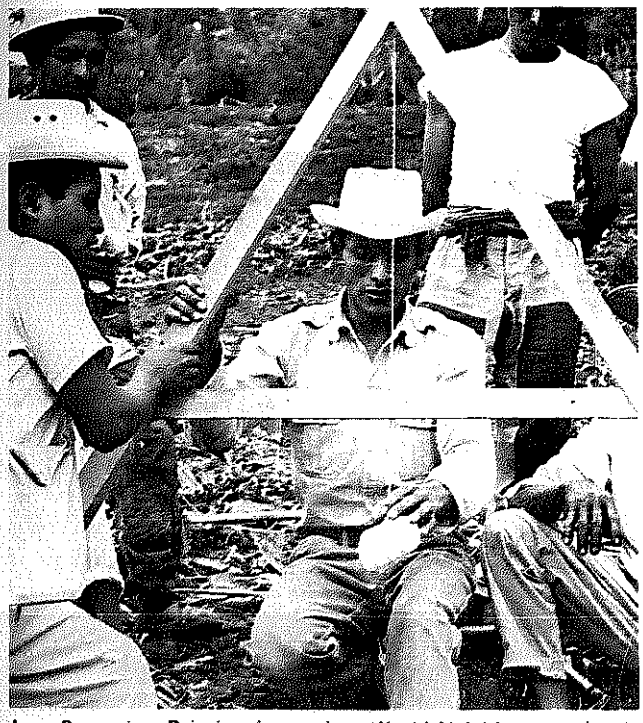
If we stop to think that all the food we eat and most of the raw material for our clothes comes from the soil, we begin to realize how much of our well-being depends upon the soil.

Not very long ago much of the land we now cultivate was covered by forests or grasslands. Only small plots were cleared and burned. Erosion of the soil was not a major problem then because the unused surrounding area was protected by natural vegetation.

But as the population grew, more of the forests and grasslands had to be cleared. This land was exposed to the forces of rain and wind. The soil upon which our very life depends was carried away.

Today, with the need for still more cultivated land, one of our most serious problems is the loss of the most valuable part of our soil — the topsoil.

In this issue of **In Action**, the farmers of Chimaltenango, Guatemala, share their experience of how the soil and its nutrients can be conserved — not only for our own well-being but for the well-being of our children and our children's children.



Jose Saturnino Pajarito (center), a World Neighbors worker in Chimaltenango, Guatemala, teaches villagers how to use an "A" Frame. Local farmers have used "A" Frames to construct more than 3 miles (5 km.) of contour ditches in the area.

GUATEMALAN FARMER SAYS:

"CONTOUR DITCHES HAVE HELPED TO MAKE MY HARVESTS LARGER"

About three years ago, World Neighbors workers in the Chimaltenango department of Guatemala became concerned about the many farmers in the area who were harvesting smaller and smaller yields each year despite the use of more fertilizer.

In the past, when harvests began to decline, their fathers had followed the custom of letting the land rest and renew itself. They owned enough land so that only part of it had to be cultivated. The other land was left in fallow or idle.

When their fathers died, however, the land had been divided equally among the sons and daughters. Now each of them had to feed their families on smaller plots of land. They could not let any of their land remain out of cultivation, as their fathers had. So the

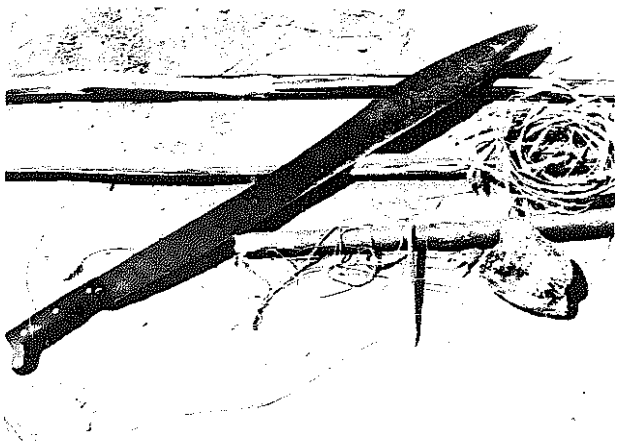
Continued on page 8

HOW-TO-DO-IT SECTION: Conserving Our Soil

How To Make An "A" Frame

A good way to prevent our soil from eroding is to construct contour ditches. We do not have to be engineers to construct contour ditches. Nor do we need to have expensive soil surveying equipment. All we need for marking contour lines where the ditches will be dug is a simple tool or level that can be built using locally available materials.

This section of **In Action** shows how to make a simple level called an "A" Frame. With this "A" Frame any farmer can easily mark contours on his land. Then he can dig the contour ditches which help to conserve his soil.



1. These are the simple materials needed to construct an "A" Frame: three sturdy wooden poles or boards, a saw or machete, a rock or another heavy object, string and a pencil.

2. Cut two of the pieces of wood about 6-1/2 feet (2 meters) long. These two poles are the legs of the "A" Frame.

3. Cut the third piece of wood about half as long as the ot two. This is the crossbar of the "A" Frame.

4. Tie or nail the two long poles together at one end. T string or nail should be about one inch (2.5 centimeters) fr the end of the poles. Make sure they are securely fasten

5. Tie or nail one end of the crossbar to the middle of o leg of the "A" Frame.

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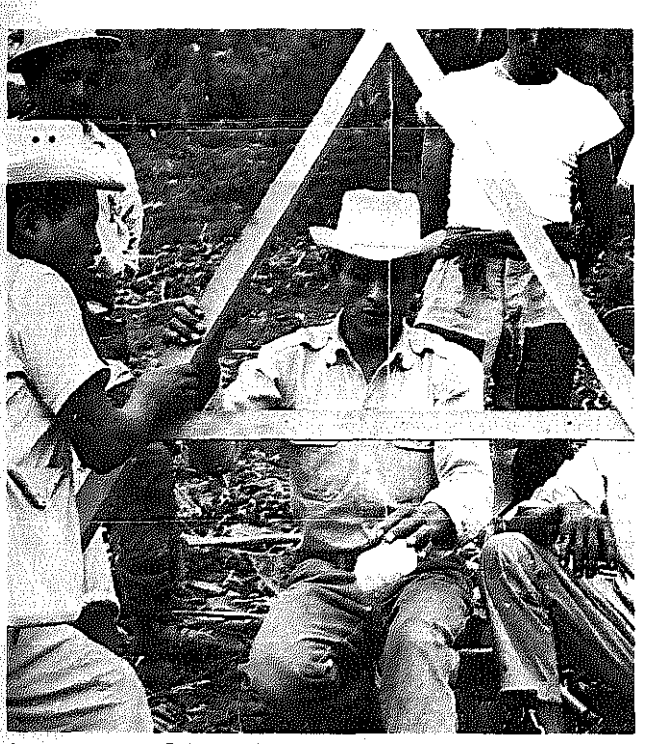

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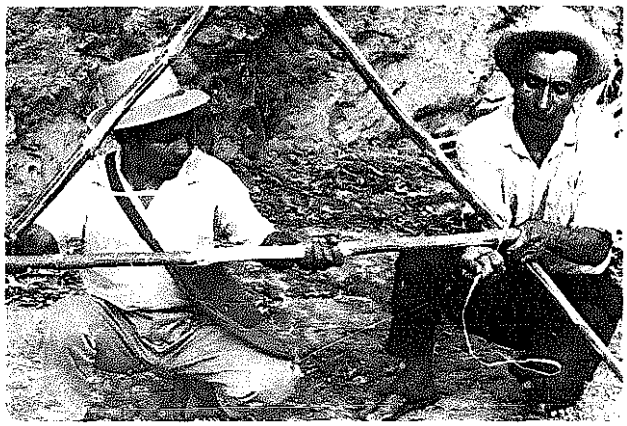
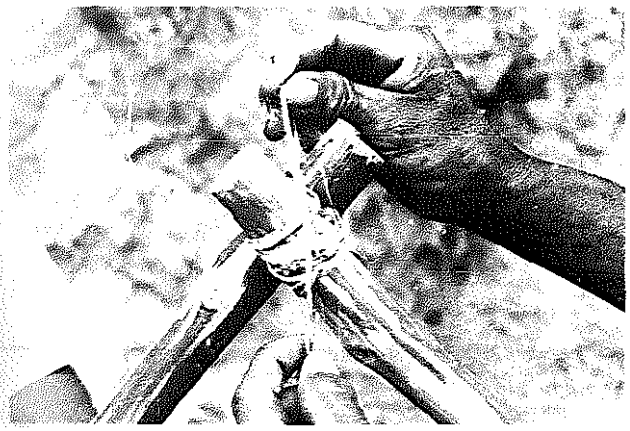
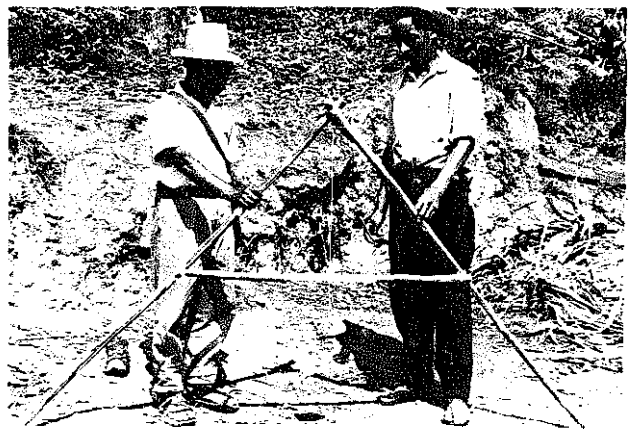


6. Tie or nail the other end of the cr· ·sbar to the middle of the second leg. This crossbar supports .e legs and serves as the place to find the level ground position.

8. Tie the other end of this string to a rock or heavy object. The weight should be heavy enough so that when it is suspended, it cannot be moved by the wind.



7. Tie one end of a string to the top of the "A" Frame.



9. This is what the "A" **Frame looks *like* when** finished.

WHY TOPSOIL IS NEEDED

Figure 1shows a "soil profile" -a picture of the soil from top to bottom. The layer of soil an the surface of the ground – the topsoil – consists of decayed vegetation, manure and loose soil. The topsoil is where most roots of a plant grow. The crops we grow must obtain the nutrients that nourish them from this 'aye, of topsoil. Because this soil is on the surface of the ground, it is the first to wash away if we do not protect if.

Below the loose topsoil is a layer called the subsoil. In forested areas, this layer of subsoil is usually soft. But in areas where people have cleared the land for growing their crops. this layer often has become hard. It is difficult to grow crops in subsoil after the topsoil bar been washed away.

Below the subsoil is bard rock. In many areas the topsoil has washed away and there remains very little sub. soil covering the hard rock below. This is a serious problem because, of course, crops will not grow in hard rock. For this reason we must learn how to conserve and even increase the amount of topsoil in our fields.

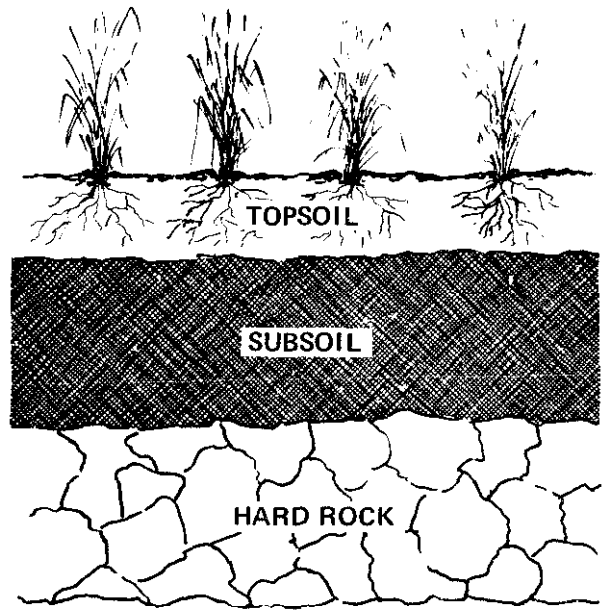


Figure 1

How To Find Level Ground With An "A" Frame

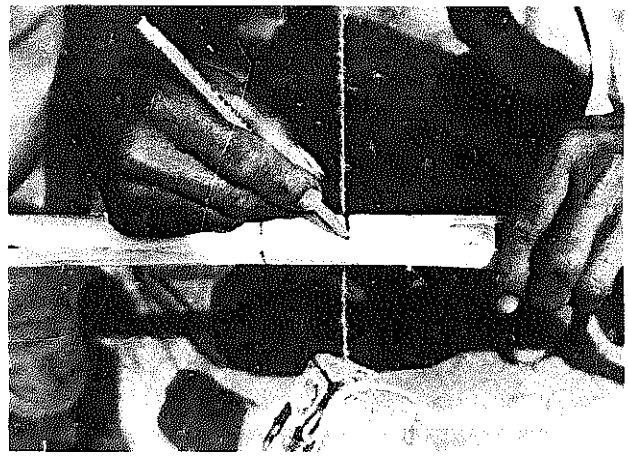
In order to make level contour lines on our land with the "A" Frame, we must know when the two legs of the "A" Frame are in a level position. So, after the "A" Frame is made, the next step is to find the point where the string passes the crossbar when the "A" Frame is in a level position.

It is quite easy to find this point on the crossbar. To do this merely follow the steps explained in this section. NOTE: This point will seldom be located in the exact middle of the crossbar.

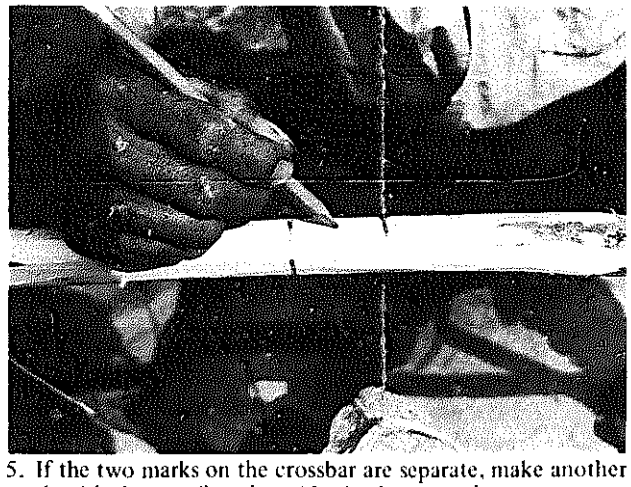
1. Stand the "A" Frame upright. Using the stakes, mark the points where the legs of the "A" Frame touch the ground.

2. With the pencil, mark the point where the string passes the crossbar of the "A" Frame.

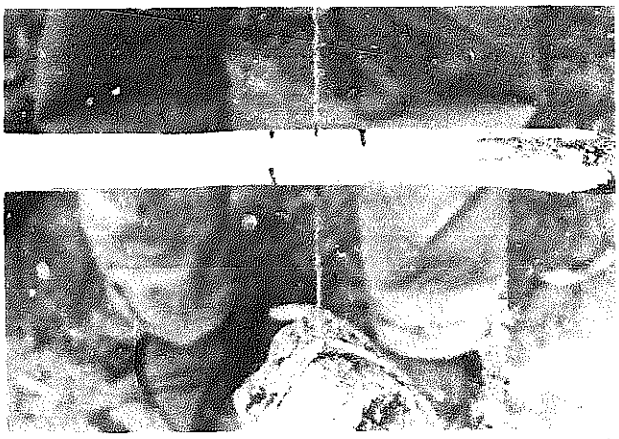
3. Move the frame so the placement of the legs is reversed. The left leg now touches the stake where the right leg was and the right leg touches the stake where the left leg was.



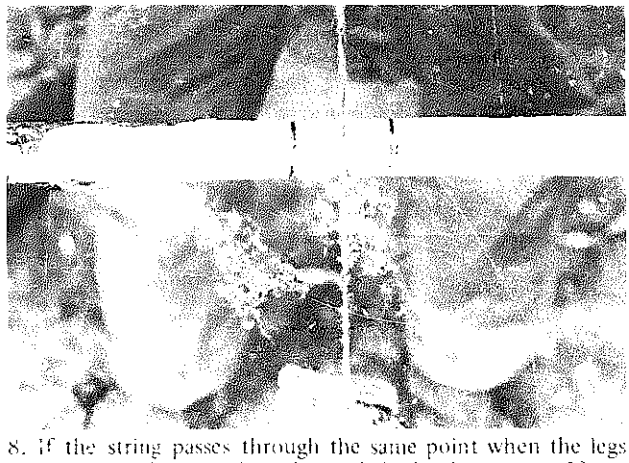
4. Again mark the point where the string passes the crossbar. On level ground, the two marks will be at the same place. If the ground is uneven, the two marks will be separate.



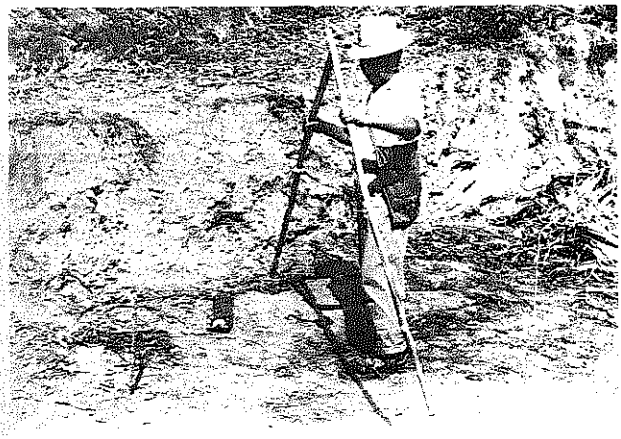
5. If the two marks on the crossbar are separate, make another mark with the pencil at the midpoint between them.



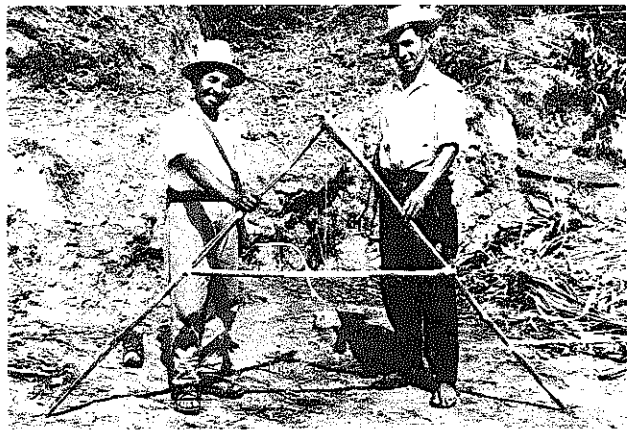
6. Move the "A" Frame so the string passes thro[illegible] midpoint of the crossbar. Again mark with the stakes [illegible] points where the legs of the "A" Frame touch the ground.



8. If the string passes through the same point when the legs are reversed, then you have located the level position. If not, repeat the same procedure and recheck the midpoint.



7. To be certain you have located the level ground position, turn the "A" Frame around again so the placement of the legs is reversed. The string should pass through the same point.



9. Now that you have found the level position of the "A" Frame, you can use the "A" Frame to lay out level contours on any piece of land.

How To Mark Level Contour Lines With An "A" Frame

We know that by digging contour ditches we can conserve and even increase the amount of topsoil on our land. And we have learned how to construct the "A" Frame and how to find level ground with the "A" Frame. We can now use this tool to help us mark level contour lines on our fields. The contour ditches will be dug following these level contour lines.

The only pieces of equipment we need to mark the contour lines are the "A" Frame, some sturdy stakes, and a hammer, rock or heavy board to drive the stakes into the ground.

We will mark our first contour line on the highest point of the field. Mark the contours carefully so that when the contour ditches are dug they will be perfectly level.

1. Cut some sturdy stakes. These stakes are used for marking the points where the contour ditches will be dug.

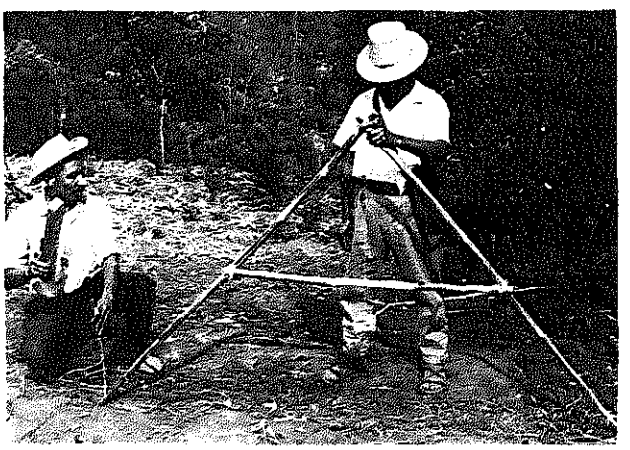
An "A" Frame Helps To Mark Contours

2. Study the area of your field where you want to construct contour ditches. Begin marking contour lines at the highest point on your field.

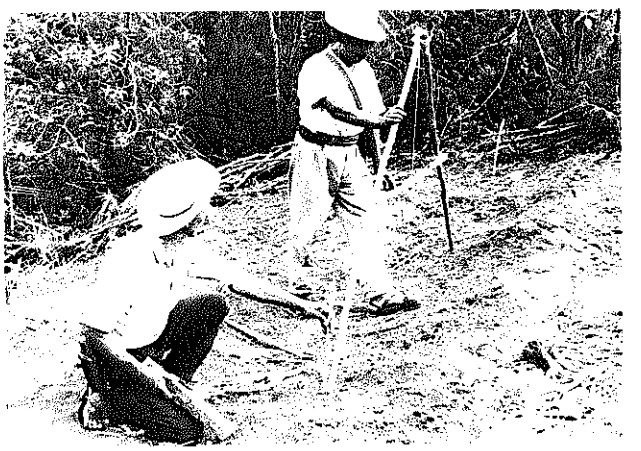
5. With the string passing exactly the point of the level position, drive another stake into the ground just below and touching the second leg of the "A" Frame.

3. Drive the first stake at the very edge of your field. This should also be at the top of your field. You will begin marking the contour lines at this point.

6. Now pick up the "A" Frame and move it along, placing it so that one leg of the "A" Frame touches the stake you just drove into the ground.



4. Place one leg of the "A" Frame just above and touching the first stake. Place the other leg so that the string passes the level position point you marked on the crossbar.



7. Place the "A" Frame so the string passes the level position mark. Drive another stake just below and touching the second leg. Continue across the field in this way.

With Contour Ditches We Can Conserve Or Even Increase the Amount of Topsoil

Figure 2

MARKING CONTOUR LINES

With the "A" Frame that you have built mark off contour lines on your field. Use stakes to mark there contour liner. just as you see here. The contour ditches will be dug following the contour lines marked off by stakes. As the ditches are dug, the stakes can be removed. The spacing between contours depends on the steepness of the ground, the drainage qualities of the soil and the amount of rainfall in the area.

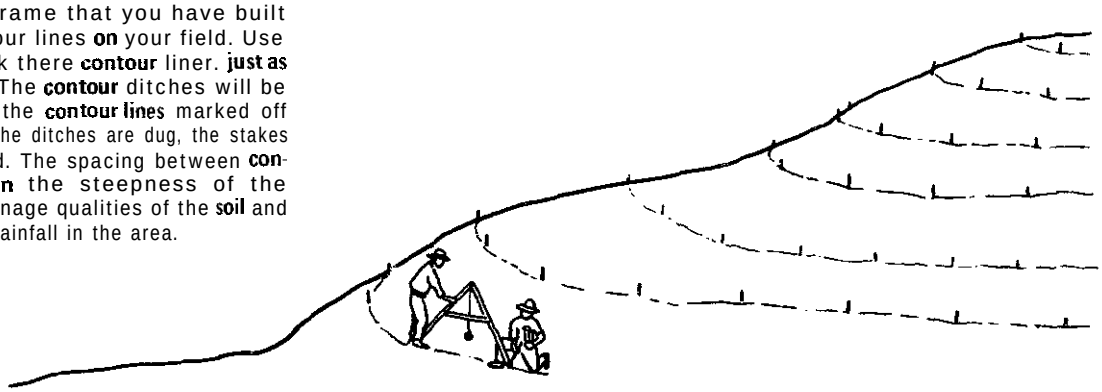


Figure 3

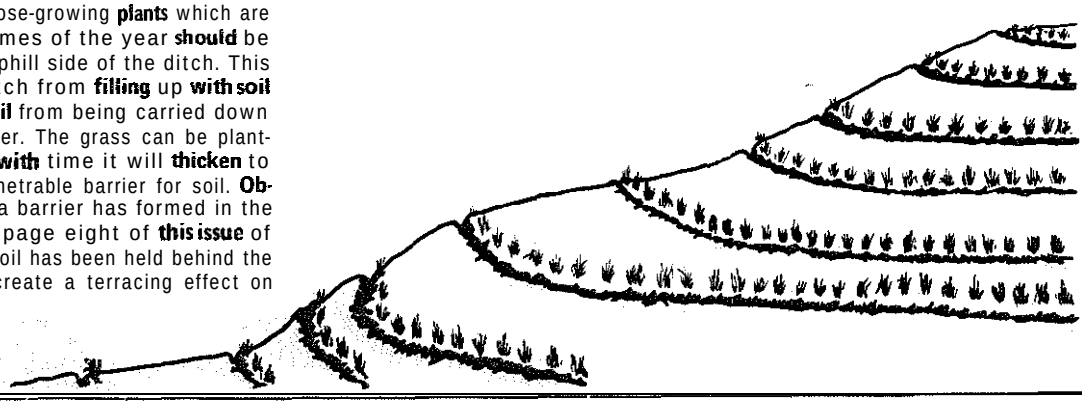
DIGGING CONTOUR DITCHES

Here you see contour ditches that have been dug following the contour lines marked off by stakes. The ditches are about 12 inches (30 cm.) wide and 6 to 12 inches (20 to 30 cm.) deep. The steeper the land, the closer together the ditches should be. On steep land the ditches may be just a few feet apart. On nearly flat land they may be 65 feet (20 meters) apart. On the higher, steeper part of the bill in this diagram the contour ditches are closer together. On the lower. flatter part the ditches are further apart:

Figure 4

PLANTING GRASS BARRIERS ABOVE THE DITCHES

Grass or other close-growing plants which are present at all times of the year should be planted on tbe uphill side of the ditch. This protects the ditch from filling up with soil and prevents the soil from being carried down the hill by rainwater. The grass can be planted sparsely, and with time it will thicken to become an impenetrable barrier for soil. Observe how such a barrier has formed in the lower photo on page eight of this issue of In Action. The soil has been held behind the grass barrier to create a terracing effect on the hillside.



WN Workers In Guatemala Find Local Solution To Help Save Soil From Erosion

Continued from page 1

land had no opportunity to rest. And each year the rain carried away more soil. The soil left behind had less nutrients for the planted crops.

World Neighbors workers tried to find someone who had solved this problem. They found a village leader, Toribio Salazar, who was harvesting more instead of less each year.

"Twelve years ago I followed the advice of don Marcos Arozco, a soil conservation worker in the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture, and made contour ditches on my land. At that time a deep gulley ran through my land. My harvests were barely enough to feed my family.

"Today, because I have conserved and even improved my soil I am harvesting 10 times the amount I harvested on the same plot of land 12 years ago."

In addition to making contour ditches, Toribio tried other new practices. Some of these included mixing organic matter into the soil, using leguminous cover crops, rotating crops, analyzing soil, controlling pests and using chemical fertilizer and manures.

Of all these new practices, Toribio thinks the most important one is the use of contour ditches. Contour ditches protect the soil, as he says, "from washing away to the sea."

Recently a group of farmers from another region of Guatemala made a visit to Toribio's farm to see his soil conservation practices. One of the visiting farmers asked Toribio why he decided to make the contour ditches.

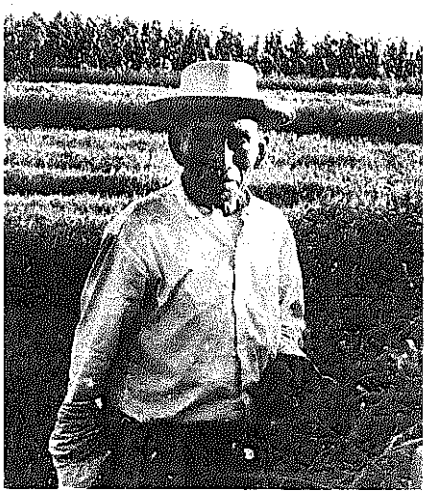
"The gulley that passed through my land was about six-and-a-half feet deep," said Toribio. "I just looked at it and didn't know what to do. The soil conservation worker told me that in order to stop the erosion I should make contour ditches. He told me how to make them.

"At first, I didn't make contour ditches because I didn't believe they would stop the erosion. But the conservation worker came again and again and again. It was only after many of his visits that I started to have confidence in him. Then I decided to make my contour ditches.

"The first year the ditches did not help very much. The water continued to erode my soil. Also, the ditches would often fill up with soil that was washed into them. But each time I cleaned them out. The following year I cleaned out the ditches again. I started to see the good results created by having them. Water no longer ran down my hillside!"

Another visiting farmer asked, "You told us you didn't own the land when you made contour ditches 12 years ago. Why did you work so hard to make contour ditches on land that was not your own?"

"I did not think it was important if the land was my own," answered Toribio. "By taking good care of the soil I would benefit from the land for a few years even though the owner might someday take it away from me. At least I wouldn't lose my harvest or the fertilizer I applied.



Two years ago, Toribio Salazar began attending agricultural extension classes so he could learn ways of teaching others what he knew. Since completing his course, he has been a World Neighbors volunteer extension worker.

"In the meantime I have talked to my neighbors about the importance of contour ditches. But there are still some who do not understand."

Another farmer asked, "What benefits do you believe the contour ditches have brought you?"

"The benefits have been many," replied Toribio. "The most important benefit is that I have larger harvests. And the water no longer carries away the soil and the fertilizer I apply."

Hundreds of farmers have come to see the contour farming and soil conservation of Toribio. Many of these farmers have returned to their homes convinced of the importance of soil conservation. They have put into practice what they saw. For as Toribio tells his visitors, "While many practices have improved my harvest, there is no doubt that contour ditches have made the greatest contribution."

Guatemalan farmer Toribio Salazar (left) shows farmers from the Chimaltenango area how much soil has been saved by contour ditches and grass barriers along their edges.

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