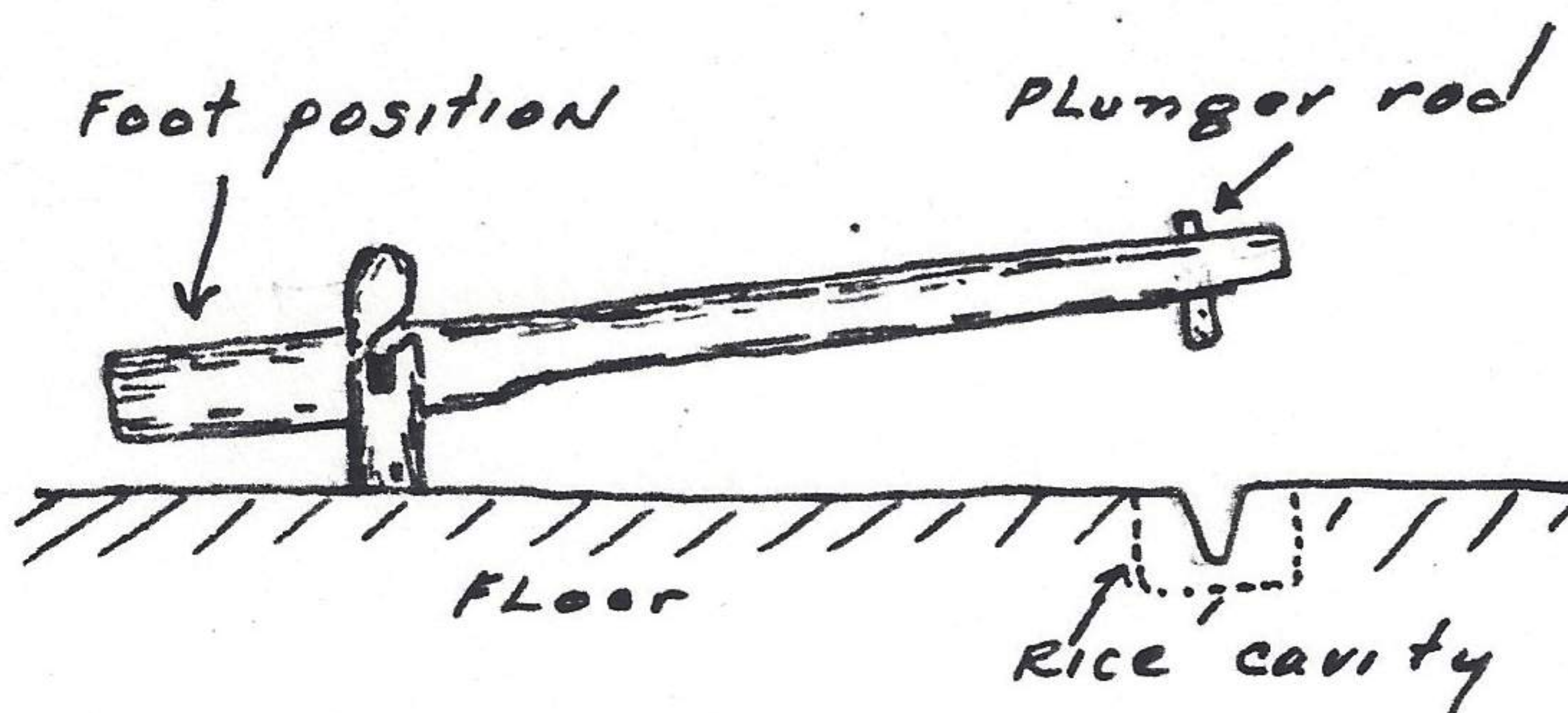


Ledo, Assam annette

11-23-44 Left camp APO 689 with [^] at 10:00 and visited a Hindu and Muslim village located approx 2 miles directly north of our station. Returned 3:00 PM Found the Indians still working in their rice fields but nearing the completion of the harvest. Made one casual inspection of a Hindu home. (The man with pocket watch.) These homes are simple and primitive but even in face of the apparent poverty are scrupulously clean and neatly arranged. The building or hut is constructed as usual with bamboo walls and thatched roof. The interior floors are solid and veneered with a mud or clay surface which in one of the rooms extends uninterrupted up the side wall of bamboo to within $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet of the roof. This room supported the grinding apparatus. Such earthen floors are only possible when the occupant goes without shoes. The other two rooms are without this side protection of mud. The only barrier between the living room and the presently occupied cow shed outside is the loosely constructed bamboo wall structure of the side of the house. Imagine the odors and flies that must gain entrance from this outside source. The door leads into the first end room. A percussion grinder, mancos and metate and a semicircular fireplace are the only pieces of equipment in the room. The large foot thrasher or grinder is the most conspicuous bit of furniture and demands most of the room for its operation when in effect. It crudely

(Dekē)



measures six feet long and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in height. It is made entire of wood and nicely fashioned. The purpose of this instrument is to dislodge the husks from the kernels of rice and in part to break down

the solid structure of the rice kernel proper. It depends upon the condition of the rice before being placed in the crushing receptacle as to the final product produced. If it is partially soaked or green will flatten out but if it is thoroughly dried and harden will disintegrate into a powder. This