China Reconstructs

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Three Men of Our Time

THREE MEN, whose stories are told in this issue, have conquered the hearts and admiration of the people of China, each an outstanding example of communist morality and character, yet each with a particular strength which the people wish to develop.

"Man of Iron" Wang Chin-bhi (p. 2) proves that, by facing contradictions squarely and overcoming all difficulties in the way, the working class is both the maker and the master of history. His work in helping to build the now-famous Taching oilfield made him known throughout China. Lankao county Party secretary Chiao Yu-lu's oneness with the people and his excellent working style helped him lead the people to banish natural disasters from their area (p. 6). Wang Chieh, a fine soldier of the younger generation in the People's Liberation Army, grew up without experiencing the hard life of pre-liberation days, and found both the will and the stamina needed to make himself over into a true revolutionary (p. 10).

These men have become heroes nationwide because the people realize that their lives point to and define the moral standards of a socialist society. The very qualities found in them reflect in a concentrated way the spirit of our times: absolute devotion to the people and to the revolution, the dialectical materialist view of the world, a defiance in the face of every difficulty, a modest and common-sense method of working, and a way of living simply and working hard.

SUCH men as these are the product of our revolutionary age. In the old society of exploitation of man by man, Wang Chin-bhi was a wandering worker constantly threatened by unemployment and hunger. Chiao Yu-lu was one of millions of poor peasants. It was the storm of the revolution that smashed their chains and enabled them to become the masters of their country and the shapers of their own destiny. Wang Chieh was born into the new generation, given an education and high ideals. Typical of today's young people, he carried on the revolution with courage and vigour.

There are thousands and thousands of workers such as Wang Chin-bhi, cadres such as Chiao Yu-lu and young people such as Wang Chieh. In their lives and work we see the tremendous power of the thinking of Mao Tse-tung. The liberated millions of Chinese people are learning to put it into everyday practice, each doing his utmost in the building of socialism and communism, whatever his past may be. With strength and confidence, they are doing things undreamed of in the days of their fathers. They are bringing about immense changes in the world in which they live.

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THE 'MAN OF IRON' – WANG CHIN-HSI

When I went from Yumen to Taching in March 1960, I took a bellyful of anger with me. I had attended a conference in Peking and there I had seen buses in the streets with big inflated bags on top. When I asked what they were, people said they were full of some kind of gas because we didn’t have gasoline to run them with. Well, I’m an oil driller and I find that hard! Imagine a big country like ours without oil to run its cars, buses and trucks! And I kept the nerve to ask why? I knew that some foreigners said China was “poor in oil.” That burned me up. Nobody was going to convince me that oil lay under foreign soil and not under a country as large as ours. These same foreigners like to call us “stupid”. What rubbish! The Chinese working class under the leadership of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao is most intelligent. Chairman Mao teaches us that we must be determined to build up our country and do it with our own hands. So it’s no good just being angry. We have to do something about it.

During this conference I learned that we had discovered a big new oilfield. I couldn’t sit still for excitement! I wanted to go to Taching at once, on wings if I could, and get the oilfield going so we could throw the “poor in oil” label into the Pacific Ocean! The liberated Chinese people are a people with backbone. We’re not afraid of heaven or earth, ghosts or treachery! Come what might, we would put that oilfield to work and strike a blow for the Party and the Chinese people.

I am an oil driller. I know very well that without pressure you can’t drill, even if the stratum is as soft as beancurd. Without pressure, a mud pump can’t bring up rock cuttings. Without pressure, beneath the earth, no oil will gush out. It’s the same with men: if they don’t feel pressure, they’ll just float around and get nothing done that’s worthwhile. But if they work under pressure, what they do will measure up to the highest standards and stand the inspection of our children and their children’s children.

It’s not a kind of pressure from the air that lodges. It’s a kind of pressure the Chinese working class takes upon itself, the pressure of responsibility. A revolutionary must hold himself responsible to the Party, to the country, to future generations and to the working people of the rest of the world. This pressure brings out the best in him. What a tremendous pressure it is for a country not to have oil! We must take this pressure upon ourselves — and it should be thousands of tons.

I have never shed a tear in my life, but the sight of the Taching oilfield made me weep for joy. “A whole sea of oil!” I cried. “Battle position! Let’s get the drills working.”

What of Hardships?

The early days were tough. There were no houses. The 33 of us found an old rundown stable with three walls still standing. We swept the dung-covered floor and through the first night sat back to back with the wind whistling through the cracks.

How should we face hardships? Chairman Mao has said, “The Chinese revolution is great, but the road after the revolution will be longer; the work greater and more arduous.” The more we studied Chairman Mao’s works, the more clearly we understood our job. We knew that we were going to run into all kinds of difficulties in opening up the oilfield, but we also knew that the biggest difficulty of all was that the country didn’t have enough oil to meet its needs. Our job was to solve this problem, conquer any difficulty that stood in the way and put the oilfield to work as quickly as possible, in the best way possible. Hardships for a few of us would bring happiness for generations to come — this would be our greatest happiness.

The drilling equipment soon arrived at the nearby railway sta-

The Taching oilfield was opened up and built entirely by China’s own efforts from 1960 to 1965. When this big and most up-to-date petroleum centre joined the ranks of all enterprises, China became virtually self-sufficient in oil and its products.

The Taching story was told by Wang Chin-hsi, newly promoted to vice-director of the oilfield, to 13,000 people in the Great Hall of the People in Peking and televised and broadcast to the nation on February 15, 1966. Wang Chin-hsi was formerly a lead driller of the Yumen oilfield in Kansu province. He and his team went to Taching in 1960 and pioneered in the battle to tap oil. Inspired by the country’s urgent need to be self-sufficient in oil, Wang and his team worked, ate and slept in the open by the first derrick. His determination and ability to take hardship so moved the elderly woman with whom he stayed when first arriving at Taching that she said, “You must be a man of iron!” The same stock and soon spread throughout China. Because Wang Chin-hsi is an outstanding representative of the Chinese working class, the Taching Communist Party committee urged every worker there to “Learn from the Man of Iron! Be a Man of Iron!”

The following are excerpts from Wang Chin-hsi’s talk.

Installing a drill by hand before the caves arrived.

PHOTO: CHINESE
sit up and one of them bandaged my head with a piece of his shirt. I went on directing the job. When the derrick was finally on the ground, my teammates told me to send me to the hospital, but I wouldn't go. It was International Labour Day and there was a meeting of ten thousand people.

"It's our first big meeting," I told them. "I have to go in order to find out what is expected of us, how we are going to drill better wells. Which is more important, my leg or producing oil?" I made them promise not to tell the leaders about my leg. They put me on a horse cart and sent me off to the meeting.

At the meeting, Party leaders of the oilfield praised our drill team, pinned red ribbons and a big red flower on me, asked me to speak and called on all the workers to learn from me. What could they learn from me? We had only drilled one well, and that was done by the whole team under the direct leadership of the Party committee. What could I have done without this leadership and the work of each man in the team?

The Party committee sounded the battle cry: "Get the oil out as quickly as possible; ship out the first load of crude oil by June 1; there must be victory!" I forgot all about the pain in my leg and hurried back that very night to discuss with my team how to answer the call. We pledged: "The next well will be the first producer in the field. We'll meet the deadline!"

Somehow the leaders found out about my leg and I was sent to the hospital. But how could I lie still in the hospital when the whole country was waiting for us? The first chance I got, I stole back to the site and took my place on the platform with a stick to support me. We finished the well in good time so that crude oil started flowing out of Taching by June 1.

Taking Our Own Road

From the first day we set out, the Party set us high standards for drilling. To ensure maximum recovery, wells had to be drilled as quickly as possible. Vertical. Before 1962, we allowed a deviation of not more than 3 degrees, but the Party committee proposed that we allow no more than 3 degrees, just as the old saying goes, "Are you fit for it?" the leaders asked us.

"Absolutely."

One of the technicians kept thinking through a thick foreign-language book. "Why do you keep hauling that thing out?" I asked him.

"I'm looking for an automatic device that we can use to prevent deviation." "Oh fine! Can we make it right here?"

"Out of the question."

"Then you're only talking hot air," I told him. I was angry.

Chairman Mao tells us to rely on ourselves. We must bust out our own path, one to fit our own conditions.

Our leaders held many discussions with the drillers. A three-way cooperation group of leaders, technicians and veteran drillers began to analyse everything we'd done so far and to experiment. By trying out many ideas and searching for the best method, we finally succeeded in drilling a well with only a little over 2 degrees deviation. Later we cut this down to only 0.5 degree.

The Party committee proposed another still drilling standard—one thousand metres, one day! We called these "one-one-one" wells. Some teams weren't sure they could do it. Others were afraid that if they tried, they might lose their "precision" abilities.

"We'll do it," I said. "You can't be afraid of taking risks when you're fighting a revolution. If we feared before trying, nothing will get done. It's like learning to drive. Children don't have very strong legs and often stumble and fall. But they always get up and try again. Their legs get stronger."

Under the Party's care and education, an able worker like me has become a leader. The hard-working spirit of veteran leaders at Taching has been an inspiration for us. Even though they hold high positions and are getting older, they came to Taching to produce oil for the country and went through all the hardships right along with us. They are keeping up the tradition of hard work and plain living so that communism will become a reality some day. Like them, I am a communist. It's no longer enough for me just to work hard and sleep less. That's hard work on a low level. For the revolution I have to take heavy loads, be able to work in the toughest conditions, stand the test when things are most difficult, and be ready to give my life if needed. To do anything about the communist cause, I must work like this all my life. Even more important, I must do my part to help educate the young people who follow us to carry on this tradition of the Communist Party through the generations.

The Third Five-Year Plan has begun. We will continue to do things in the way Chairman Mao teaches us to and keep to the road of self-reliance. There will be tight economic conditions. Whatever amount of oil the revolution needs, we will provide it.

Wang Chieh-lai (centre) and his drill team on the derrick platform.
COUNTY PARTY SECRETARY

— CHIAO YU-LU

MU CHING

MAY 1966

In 1962 Lankao county, which lies beside the Yellow River in eastern Honan province, was hit by some of the worst natural calamities in its history. That spring, sandstorms destroyed the young wheat. In autumn there was a flood followed by widespread waterlogging and a rise of salt to the surface. Crops were ruined. Two-thirds of the 600,000 hectares of farmland were laid waste. The county yield was the lowest ever recorded.

That winter, Chiao Yu-lu came to Lankao to take up the post of Communist Party secretary of the county. He was resolved that through collective effort the land should be made fit to feed the 360,000 people who lived there, and then to bring about a greater prosperity.

The day after he arrived, Chiao Yu-lu went to the homes of former poor and lower middle peasants, to the animal shelters and the fields. He had to see for himself what the problems were.

He went from village to village with a little group of cadres from the county Party committee. When they saw sand dunes he said, "Planted with saplings, these can be changed to green hills!" And when he saw how the low ground was water-logged and higher stretches were white with alkali, he suggested, "Beets and radishes... well, give it a try!"

He returned to the county office convinced that with determination and good leadership the people would be able to reverse the tide of disaster. He told the Party committee, "Much can be done." Chiao Yu-lu took charge of the reclamation committee, the county Party secretary in the fields.

Chiao Yu-lu directed the reclamation committee to work out the laws governing the course of floods and sandstorms, and the rise of alkali in the soil.

Reliance on the Masses

The revolutionary enthusiasm of the masses had to find its way into full play to wage the struggle against nature. Chiao Yu-lu turned to Chairman Mao's teachings on reliance on the masses to carry out the revolution. He and other county leaders had stayed in the homes of former poor and lower middle peasants. These were the most revolutionary of the rural population and the majority of the people. Living and working with the peasants, the leaders had learned much. They had also been able to find groups and individuals whose work could be held up as examples in the current battle.

The spring of 1963 was one of biding sandstorms and the summer one of torrential rains. But during that time the teams collected a mass of scientific material, complete with maps, charts and detailed records of the location of sand dunes, rivers, streams and wind passages over the entire county. These enabled the Party committee to work out the laws governing the course of floods and sandstorms, and the rise of alkali in the soil.

Investigation and Study

Deeply imbued in Chiao Yu-lu's mind was Chairman Mao's words, "No investigation, no right to speak." He proposed that a 120-member team of experienced farmers and technicians should be organized to make a detailed survey of Lankao's 1,800 square kilometres of land. He himself took an active part, saying, "Breath chewed by others has no taste. I can't direct work from nothing but reports."

In studying the forces of nature, Chiao Yu-lu based himself on the principle of always choosing the most critical point and most critical moment. When examining the direction of sandstorms and floods, he set the example by going out in the heaviest storms. On one occasion when there was a continuous seven-day downpour that flooded the entire county, he led three young cadres into the swiftly-flowing knee-deep water, where, with a compass holding an umbrella over him, he charted the currents.

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Nevertheless, 27 families which
formed a production team there refused to accept government relief. Instead, they were developing the revolutionaries of grass and with the money they got for it bought grain, fodder and seed. The Chino village production brigade vowed to turn their all-time old "upside down." They scraped the whole lot out of the surface, dug deep trenches and spread the sub-soil on the soil. Working in torrential rains, the Chaoto Tower brigade dug a whole system of drainage channels and ditches. The Double Poplar brigade's former poor and lower middle peasants strengthened their collective in a year of calamities by selling pigs and eggs in order to buy draught animals and seed for the brigade.

At a mass meeting called in September 1963, Chiao Yu-lu asked representatives from these four villages to tell the 10,000 people present what they had done. He called upon the people of the county to learn from the spirit of Han village, the determination of Chaoto village, the enthusiasm of Chaoto Tower, and the road of collective economy taken by the Double Poplar brigade. Thus, he said, was the new road for Lankao.

Son of the People

Shortly afterwards, Lankao was hit by new disaster. In 13 days 550 millimetres of rain fell, washing away 7,000 hectares of autumn grain crops and leaving two-thirds of that area of cropland badly damaged. Another bitter winter lay ahead.

Chiao Yu-lu and the county leaders threw themselves into an all-out effort to find ways to mitigate the loss. Transport groups and sub-district occupations were quickly organized.

Before long there was a heavy snowfall. Chiao Yu-lu spent the whole night on the telephone, checking to see what help was needed for the people and what could be done to protect the animals in the various communes. At daybreak he called the Party cadres together and said, "Comrades, when the door is blocked by snow, we should not sit in the office warming ourselves by the stove. When there are difficulties, Communist Party members should be out among the people, giving all the help they need."

With several others, Chiao Yu-lu visited nine villages that day, calling on scores of poor peasant families and providing them with money and grain. He collected on an old childless couple in Hau Tower village. The man was sick in bed, the woman blind. When Chiao Yu-lu sat down, the old man asked him, "Is your son?" The Party secretary answered, "Why are you here in this storm?"

"Chairman Mao told me to come here. Let me see how you are," The woman was speechless with emotion. She passed her trembling hands over Chiao Yu-lu's head, face, arms and hands. The old man recalled bitter memories. "When the snow blocked our way, we had to live by what was left. Like the days before liberation, the landlord would come and press me for rent. I had to flee my home and shelter under the eaves of others. I slept in their cow sheds." His voice broke and he could not go on.

"Today we hold the seal of government in our own hands," Chiao Yu-lu said with emotion. "We will change Lankao." Chiao Yu-lu heard and saw much that deeply moved him. Men and women in many production teams refused relief, even when it was forced on them by Party committee members; "Give it to others in greater need," they insisted. "We'll get along, after all." Chiao Yu-lu saw that Mao Tse-tung's thinking was taking hold. They were organizing their revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and selflessness in the face of difficulties.

In March 1964, just 16 months after he arrived in Lankao, Chiao Yu-lu could no longer rise from his bed. But his heart remained outside his room, where the struggle on the land was going on. He dragged himself to his desk and began to write an article which he hoped, "the people of Lankao set their sights high, the sun and moon must do their bidding."

He had barely started when he was taken to the hospital in Kaifeng. The diagnosis was terminal. His heart hung during the Japanese occupation. Chiao Yu-lu was from the former Chiao county and sent to work in a coal mine in northeast China. He escaped to the Japanese, joined a hired hand for a landlord until 1943, when he joined the revolution. The following year he took part in guerrilla fighting. Having fallen ill, Chiao Yu-lu died. There must have been a district head, and after the liberation was put in charge of a workshop in the Loyang Mine Machinery Plant. From the moment he joined the revolutionary struggle, he was working hard but revolution and the people in his mind. No matter what post he was given, he would frequently throw off his jacket, roll up his trousers and plunge into a job side by side with the workers or peasants. His socks were patched and mended many times but he would not buy new ones. "Compared with the former poor and lower middle peasants, we are well off," he would tell his wife.

He was deeply solicitous about the health of his comrades, but never gave a thought to himself. His comrades saw that he fre-
When only you eat and dress well—that is not happiness. True happiness can come only when all the poor people in the world have a good life. These words were written in a diary by a young soldier named Wang Chieh. He was killed at the age of 23 in July 1966 in an accident while teaching the militia of a rural people's commune how to lay mines.

Among his personal effects his comrades found the diary which he, like many other young people in China today, kept. The entries in it revealed his day-by-day struggle, guided by the writings of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, to create in himself the spirit of a true revolutionary.

Wang Chieh's diary was published in November 1965 and quickly became the most sought-after book in the country. A total of 20,400,000 copies were sold in the subsequent two months. His name became a household word; his example, that by which million

When his basic training was over Wang Chieh went into an engineering unit. The squad to which he was assigned, as part of the Chinese People's Volunteers in Korea, had fought in one battle for more than 30 hours and helped destroy three tanks of the American aggressors. Wang Chieh listened eagerly to the stories told by deputy commander Kao Shuchung, who had been decorated as a combat hero. Wang Chieh too longed to be a hero.

The First Test

The company was assigned to construction work. Wang Chieh took to it with great gusto. However, after several days of wielding a 6-kilogram hammer, with hands blistered and his back aching, he began to feel otherwise: how pleasant to be a truck driver, or a member of a tank crew.

From long experience, the political director knew what the new soldiers were thinking. In their study sessions he got them to read Chairman Mao's "Serve the People", praising a soldier named Chang Sau-teh who had worked selflessly for the revolution, "In Memory of Norman Bethune", on the Canadian communist who had come to China during the war with Japan, and the essay "The Foolish Old Man, Who Removed the Mountaion". The unit learned a deep lesson from the communist spirit of Chang Sau-teh and Dr. Norman Bethune, and the "Foolish" Old Man's perseverance until he reached his goal.

Wang Chieh began to understand the purpose and meaning of his labour. The work no longer seemed so hard. At the end of the project Wang Chieh, the new recruit, was cited as an outstanding worker in his company. He applied to join the Communist Youth League and was accepted.

An early view of Wang Chieh's life:

- During his platoon mates' paddled rafts.
- Taking an elderly woman home.
- Fishing in the river with his father.

Wang Chieh is the last to jump into the icy water to drive the pile.
"What does one live for?" he later wrote in his diary. "How should one live? These are the fundamental questions of life. . . . I think and think about them and feel that a man's life can be meaning-ful only when he lives like Chang Shiu-teh and Norman Bethune." He vowed to strive to form an entirely new character and to make a thorough study of Chairman Mao's writings to guide him in doing this. He spent a little time every night reading, no mat-ter how full his day had been or how tired he was.

The Battle with Himself

Wang Chieh's diary reveals demands he made on himself and the depth with which he put into practice what he read in Chairman Mao's works.

One morning at a practice for emergency fall-in. Wang Chieh was commended for arriving at the assembly point first and with his equipment in perfect order. He flushed with embarrassment, but accepted the praise. His heart, however, was uneasy, for he knew that he had received it under false pretences. Actually, an inspection of the company commander had made of his squad the day before his inspection. Wang Chieh feeling that there might be some such a drill in the morning, so he got up very early to get ready. Thus his quick arrival and the condition of his equipment did not mean that he had really been any faster than the others.

Finally Wang Chieh went to the platoon leader and admitted that he had done wrong. When he re-turned to the barracks, he wrote in his diary, "It is dishonourable to get a commendation by decept-ive means. After this I will not take credit that does not belong to me."

Sometimes he meditated on his future. One entry reads, "As the years go by, one has more and more to think about — frightful marriage, rank, demobilization. . . ." But yet, he wrote, China is com-mitted to struggle with the threat of armed aggression from U.S. im-perialism. This thought was fol-lowed by a quotation from Chair-man Mao: "Countless revolution-ary martyrs have laid down their lives in the interests of the people, and our hearts are filled with pain as we the living think of them — as there be any personal interest, then, that we would not sacrifice?"

"As a revolutionary fighter, I will place the interests of the peo-ple in dealing with any cor-respondence.

Wang Chieh wrote.

Good Seed
Gradually Wang Chieh changed his outlook into a proletarian one. He secretly believed in a revolutionary and was to be the seed of revolution. Wherever he had joined the Party and state now, there would I take root. Green and bear fruit. If sown in the desert I will be a green Great Wall, if sown on a barren mountain I will grow into heavy ears and grain.

He pledged to devote his life to service to the people. At first this devotion to others was not always obvious to the members of his unit, but later they recalled many examples. When they were comp-ing out, he would let others have the best places to sleep. When they were eating, he would let others take the heaviest tasks. When everyone was tired after a long march, he would volunteer to do the heavy work. He regularly get up before the others, swept the barracks and fetched enough water for the whole squad, and some-times the whole platoon, to wash.

Once while the company was building a road, a snowstorm began. When the men came back

at night they took off their wet padded coats and hung them around the stove to dry. Wang Chieh feared that the coats near the stove might catch and those far from it would not be dry by morning. After the others went to sleep, he sat up until three o'clock turning the coats and moving them about. He jumped at every chance to help people. One day when Wang Chieh was pushing a cart of grain to camp, he passed an elderly woman hobbling laboriously down the road. He invited her to get on his cart, and she and several kilo-metres out of his way to take her home.

Chou Yu-lu from his squad re-calls that one Sunday when he and Wang Chieh set out to buy some books in town, they ran into transport crew going back and forth with their carts transporting stone. The man had a hard time pulling the loaded carts up the slope of a high arched bridge. The two soldiers helped a few of them and then Chou Yu-lu went on to do an errand in town. A few hours later, when Wang Chieh did not meet him at the bookshop as agreed, Chou went back to the bridge and found his friend there still pushing carts.

Once Wang Chieh came to see everything he doing was for the revolution, no hardship or danger could stop him. The seed of the revolution is a rugged one. full of hardships and obstructions," he wrote, and later: "A revolu-tionary must not be afraid to sacrifice himself, if he is able to do so, he will not be able to stay on the revolutionary road to the end. . . ." In everything he did, Wang Chieh showed himself afraid of neither hardship nor death. When a project called for him to climb to a great height, it was Wang Chieh who did it. Even the man who took on the dangerous job of removing the charges that did not go off. When the company was putting up an emergency bridge one winter night, he was the first to jump into the water to drive down the pile.

"There was trouble, wherever there was great danger," the men of his company recall.

Workers of the Taiyuan Mining Machinery Plant discuss how they can be like Wang Chieh. The headline reads: "Learn from Wang Chieh."

"There was where you would find Wang Chieh.

Looking Towards the World

Wang Chieh showed deep con-cern for the socialist construction of the country. He tried to save even a drop of oil, a single screw, an inch of fuse, an ounce of dynamite, a cent in white. Once he picked up a used toothpaste tube from the mud and took it home. "What's the idea of bringing that old thing around here?" a new recruit asked him.

"A used toothpaste tube may not be worth much," Wang Chieh replied, "but it contains zinc which is a much-wanted metal." He went on to explain that if everybody salvaged his toothpaste tubes, it would mean a lot more material for socialist construction. "Even more important," he went on, "focusing something like that will help us develop the habit of saving and keep up our revolutionary tradition of hard work and plain living."

He also followed international affairs avidly in the newspapers.

In June 1964 he completed his term in the army and was eligible for discharge. "How can a fighter push down his arms and go home when U.S. imperialism is stepping up its aggression against Viet-na-m," he wrote. He applied for an extension of his term.

In May 1, 1965, angered by stories of atrocities committed by the U.S. imperialists in Vietnam, in his diary he pledged: ".. . . to defend the motherland, to support our Vietnamese brothers, to defend world peace, I volunteer to fight shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese people. I am ready to give my life for it."
VISIT Lanchow in Kansu province in the late summer and you will find yourself surrounded on all sides by fruit—particularly luscious melons. Street stands, store displays and loaded trucks and carts make a riot of colour. This is the height of the season and the smell of good fruit permeates the air. Beginning in the early summer, apricots are followed by melons, peaches, apples, pears, grapes, jujubes—and this will go on until the winter snows fall.

LI HAI-FENG

Li HAI-FENG is a reporter for the Xinhua Daily in Lanchow.

Melons and other fruit have been cultivated in Lanchow for centuries. The Lanchow Annals, compiled in 1616, recorded a dozen kinds. Among them was a delicious pear called the "Golden Jade" and a variety called the "Perfume Pear" which improved with age. When Lanchow held its 1963 Fruit Fair, the "Golden Jade"—now called the "Winter Fruit"—won first prize. It is crisp and juicy, both sweet and tart. A famous local delicacy is made of this pear, cooked with sugar and raisins. The ancient "Perfume Pear" is now called the "Soft Pear". When first picked the flesh is hard and sour, but grows softer and sweeter the longer it is kept. It is best eaten after it has been frozen. After it is thawed in cold water for 20 minutes, the flesh becomes like a thick cream. If kept frozen until the following spring, the inside becomes a sweet juice which can be drunk from a small opening made through the skin.

The local melons are famous. One is called the "Drunken Melon" because it smells and tastes like sweet wine. Most widely sold in the country and abroad is the "Lanchow Honeydew". Weighing one and a half kilograms, it is delightfully sweet and can be transported and stored a long time. There are three varieties, two picked in early July and one in late July. Two have a pale green flesh and the third has a red colour.

Lanchow's natural conditions—a dry climate, plenty of sunshine and a wide daily range of temperature—give its fruit their great variety and taste. The sunshine and high temperature in the daytime speed photosynthesis while the low night temperatures retard the consumption of nutrients. This makes the fruit full and sweet. But there are unfavourable conditions, too—the lack of rainfall and water. The local peasants have overcome this disadvantage with a method they developed through long years of struggle against nature. They cover the fields with a layer of pebbles 10 to 15 centimeters deep. Through it involves much hard work, this keeps the moisture in the soil from evaporating.

It was not until after liberation came in 1949 that fruit production expanded on a large scale. Today there are four times as many fruit trees in Lanchow and the harvest has grown threefold (some of the new orchards have not yet begun to bear fruit). In a campaign to make the city green, fruit trees were planted wherever they could grow, on the grounds of public organizations, along the streets and around the houses. Lanchow will soon be one vast orchard.

In 1949, only 60 kinds of fruit trees could be found here. Five hundred additional varieties have been introduced, some already widely cultivated. Among the new pears are such names as the "Duck Pear" from Hopei province, the "Laiyung" from Shantung and the "Small White" from Peking. Two hundred new apples are being grown, including "National Lustre" and "Red Jade" from Lanchow and the "Banna Apple" from Shantung. Among the types of grapes are the prized "White Seedless" from Turfan, Sinkiang's famous grape region, and the "Fragrant Rose" from Shantung.

The area planted to melons, especially the honeydow, has expanded greatly. In the old days the individual poor peasants farming alone could only cover small plots with pebbles. Since the formation of the people's communes, however, the strength of collective economy has made it possible for the peasants to be able to handle fields over extensive areas. The best honeydew melons are grown in the Paizaping brigade of the Grey Rock People's Commune, which has expanded its area from 120 mu in 1949 to 660 mu.

To keep the purity and prevent the mixing of breeds, the communes grow a single variety of melons over large areas, something impossible for the individual peasants to have done before the liberation. The People's Government has set up the Lanchow Melon Experiment Station to do research on better cultivation and management. Other organizations contribute: Lanchow University, the Lanchow Agricultural Research Institute, centres for the dissemination of agricultural techniques, and the scientific experiment groups in the communes. This approach has helped raise the number of honeydew melons grown per mu in the Paizaping brigade of the Grey Rock commune by 40 per cent, while the sugar content has increased from 12 per cent in 1937 to an average of 14 per cent.

In the summertime, a half-hour's bus ride from the city takes one over the bridge and along the north bank of the Yellow River; where there are great stretches of the communes' melon fields on the hillsides. The green vines and golden melons against the backdrop of light grey pebbles in the fields is a refreshing scene.

"Winter Fruit" pears are ripe.

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MAY 1966
A Daner Writes from South Vietnam

The following letter was received by Radiote Peking:

Dear Comrades of Radio Peking:

I am Nguyen Xuan Son, a dancer in the cultural troupes of the people's armed forces in the southern central district of south Vietnam. I have often listened to your radio programmes supporting Vietnam in her resistance to U.S. aggression. Today, I wish to convey to you our determination to defeat U.S. imperialism. How moved and excited we are! Our eyes glittered with tears, and there were some tearful faces.

Comrades, after the programme was over I lay down and thought about it. The music and songs from Flamingo Town in the Coconut Grove are wonderful. How I wished I could see the dancers, too. And how I wished I could take wing and fly to you and watch the dance drama Heroic Sisters, the play Flowers of Hatred and Letters from South Vietnam, and the puppet opera The South Atlantic. But I knew that for the moment it was impossible. The practical thing now for us to do is to work doubly hard, sing out more U.S. invaders, drive them off our soil and bring about the reunification of our land.

And we will invite you to visit and perform in our cities and villages in the south-central district of south Vietnam. That will be the fulfilment of our wishes.

Dear comrades, now let me tell you something about our activities of Vietnamese fighters—Sister True, in the Suongsong opera The Fury of Coconut Village, who organizes the people in a "strategic hamlet" to rise in arms; Sister Mai, in the Yunnan opera The Cook, who as a servant in the imperial palace, who killed a U.S. "adviser" who comes to dinner; the brave young guerilla reporter Mai, in the revolutionary production Young Heroes of South Vietnam, who bravely fight the enemy.

After watching Nguyen Van Tri, the poupou opera, Tran Van Thanh, head of the Permanent Mission of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation to China, wrote: "The Chinese could not have re-created the fighting life of south Vietnam on the Chinese stage so vividly. If they did not share the revolutionary feelings of the south Vietnamese people and their deep hatred for the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their running dogs...."
The “Nine-Girl Cotton-Growing Group” harvest their crop.

**Girl Cotton-Growers**

WANG CHIAO

A MID enthusiastic applause, a girl with long braids and wearing a colourful, padded cotton jacket walked onto the platform in the Hall of the People in Sian. The occasion was a session of the Northwest China Agricultural Forum held in December 1963. As this was the first time she had appeared before such a large meeting, Chang Kuei-fang blushed and remained speechless for a moment. Then she took hold of herself and told the delegates how the “Nine-Girl Cotton-Growing Group” had achieved record yields in their experimental fields and had inspired the women in her home county to take an active part in a campaign to increase cotton production.

The “Nine-Girl Group” was formed in 1957 when the Shensi Provincial Committee of the Chinese Communist Party called on the women and girls of the province to emulate Chang Chiu-hsiang, a woman of Weinan county well known for the high cotton yields she obtained, and grow more and better cotton for the country. Responding to this call, nine teenage girls from the youth brigade of the Yungtai advanced agricultural producer’s cooperative asked for one mu of land from their production team for experiments.

**Away with Prejudice**

In the spring of 1957 the first plants grew vigorously, but they soon turned yellow. Experienced agronomists told the girls, “The soil is too poor, and manure is needed right away.” But the production team did not have enough for its own farm land. Where could they get manure? Chang Kuei-fang, at that time the youngest and also the most active member of the group, suggested, “Let’s collect ditties and dung ourselves!” This was a bold proposal indeed! Never before had women in the village done such “unclean” work. The girls rose before dawn and, without their parents’ knowledge, went out to gather dung on the roads. But they were soon observed. Some people praised them but others jeered, remarking that their unsavoury behaviour would prevent them from finding husbands.

When this gossip reached the ears of the parents, some scolded their daughters while others tried to stop them. The Party branch called the older people to a meeting and explained that the young people were doing the right thing in trying to grow cotton needed by the country. As parents they should support their daughters in breaking away from old prejudices. With understanding and consent thus won, the girls threw away all their fears. Every morning before daybreak they collected the dung on the stretch of road leading from their village to the nearby town. In a fortnight they had eight cartloads. As this was dug into the soil, the young shoots grew green and healthy again.

Soon there was another problem—infest pests. In their enthusiasm the girls used too much insecticide. The leaves began to droop and within a few hours yellow spots appeared on them. Advised to immediately wash the plants with water, the girls, disappointed and ashamed as they were, hesitated to do so. Communist Party branch secretary Chang Chih-ho, who was following their work with interest, encouraged them, saying, “Failure is the mother of success. Since we experiment, we should not be afraid of mistakes. We should learn from them.”

The girls watered in pails and pans and washed the plants one by one, lea by lea. It was laborious but the crop was saved. In order to master the technique of cotton planting, they visited Chang Chiu-hsiang in Weinan county and sought advice from the Northwest Agricultural College and the Shensi branch of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, both assigned a large 177.3 mu per county. They also got pointers from experienced peasants.

**Success in Transplanting**

In the summer of 1959, many plants were battered to pieces by a violent hailstorm. The field was a sad sight. Some of the girls burst into tears. One said, “Let’s stop trying to grow cotton and stay home and do our sewing.” Seeing their disappointment, Chang Chih-ho called them together. “The hailstorm has broken our plants but not our hands,” he said. “We must be able to withstand the wind and rain. We don’t want to be like hopeless flowers.”

They decided to transplant cotton plants from thickly-sown areas to the places where the shoots had died. This hadn’t been done in their area before so they turned for advice to Chang Tsi, an old man with much experience in planting trees. Impressed by their serious attitude, he taught them everything he knew about transplanting cotton. They followed his advice carefully and most of the plants survived. The girls now had really achieved something—they had a body of experience in transplanting cotton shoots.

In their scientific experiments the girls learned how to stop rank growth. They put their findings into rhymes and ditties. This enabled them to remember what they should do at each stage and helped to spread their new knowledge through the entire production brigade. Their success attracted more and more attention and peasants came to see their experimental plot and ask advice.

**Influence on Others**

For six years in succession from 1957 to 1963, the “Nine-Girl Group” maintained a record yield of over 200 jin of ginned cotton per mu. In 1965 they enlarged their experimental field to 40 mu. Despite drought, flood and hail the yield of ginned cotton in the following three years still averaged a high 177.3 jin per mu from this greater area.

The group has become a training school for advanced workers. Although it now has 30 members, whose average age is 18, it retains its original name. Many members have married and 22 have gone to other villages. When they leave they take with them selected cotton seed and continue their scientific experiments in their new homes. Most have become heads of cotton-growing teams while a few are women’s leaders of commune brigades. Members of the group often visit those who have left, and the Party branch secretary of the brigade also invites them back every year when they all exchange notes and help one another.

Today there are 1,409 girls’ cotton-growing groups in Wukung county. Last year the average per-mu yield of ginned cotton for the whole county was 45 jin, more than double that of 1964. At the National Cotton-Growers’ Conference at the beginning of 1966, Wukung county was chosen as a model to show how a low-yield area can be transformed into a high-yield one. The girls of the Yungtai production brigades are now exerts an influence far beyond the boundaries of their own county.
New Development of Ancient Sports

CHING CHUAN-JUI

An impressive exhibition of sword play, thrusting spears, flashing ancient weapons and stylized combat with bare fists was held last New Year's Day in the Peking Workers' Gymnasium. Wu shu, an sport is Chen in Chinese, is several thousand years old and falls into two categories, "Chinese boxing" and fighting with weapons of other centuries. There are about twenty kinds of boxing. The major types of weapons are the sword, the broadsword, the spear and the cudgel. The stylized exercises are done singly, in pairs or in groups. There are also wrestling, fencing and tilts with spears. The unique combat scenes on the Chinese opera stage that so delight the audience have their origin in ten shu. Today's acrobatic stunts too have absorbed the best from the basic training in ten shu.

Since the new China came into being, ten shu has been regarded as a precious cultural heritage and the People's Government has encouraged its development. The peculiarities of the different schools which hindered the growth of the sport have disappeared. The techniques of ten shu have been raised to a level never known before, and many kinds on the verge of extinction have been revived.

In 1953 a tournament of traditional sports was held. Han contestants as well as those from ten national minorities took part. This tournament laid the foundation for new study and improvement of the sport.

In 1953 the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission began to organize workers and sportmen in this field to search for and bring more forms of ten shu to light, study them in order to discard undesirable elements, and develop and improve them.

The first to be put through this process were the two forms of boxing most popular among the people, tai chi chuan and chang chuan. Tai chi chuan is characterized as a woman sport as called ritualistic movements, one flowing naturally into the other, forming a continuous series of actions, sometimes lingering to end. But since the traditional tai chi chuan consisted of a hundred complicated and sometimes repetitious movements, it was difficult for people in general to master. A simplified version consisting of 24 essential movements was worked out. Particularly beneficial to people with chronic ailments, to the aged and those of poor health, it has been adopted for use by convalescent homes and hospitals.

Chang chuan forms the basic training in ten shu. It includes movements for the legs and body, for balancing, leaping, rolling and somersaulting. The rise and fall, abrupt turning, fast running and jumping into the air are particularly suited for the physical training of young people. To facilitate its wide adoption three different series have been arranged, ranging from elementary exercises for schoolchildren to one consisting of 60 difficult movements for contest.

One of the most popular forms of boxing has always been a formalized kind which derives its movements from the aggressive and defensive movements of animals and insects, such as those of the monkey and the mantis. In the past, some of the actions in "monkey boxing" tended to be more ostentatious than useful. Movements such as imitation of animals and chewing food actually had little to do with physical training. These theatrical motions were eliminated and movements emphasizing agility, resourcefulness and daring, such as running, leaping, parrying, tumbling, rolling and somersaulting, were retained and developed.

The fine traditional movements of the hands were improved.

Creative developments have also been made in ten shu combat with weapons. Traditionally there were two main styles of sword play: the standing play of body postures which emphasized sculptural beauty, and the walking play which used foot and body movements. Shanghai and Anhwei sportmen have combined the salient features of both, making the wounding of the sword more uniquely graceful.

By 1959, the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission had worked out a standard series of movements for each of the five basic forms of ten shu: chang chuan, the sword, the broadsword, the spear and the cudgel. Competitions at the National Wu Shu Tournaments following year were held under new rules. Entrants had to go through the standard series and optional exercises, and then could perform exhibitions of traditional skills as they chose. The result was an increase in the creative spirit of the sportmen, demonstrated, for example, in highly intricate exercises consisting of 70 to 80 movements using zigzag and arc patterns rather than the old straight lines. The bounding and leaping in chang chuan have been widely adopted in ten shu with all kinds of weapons. Many difficult movements were created to achieve a grace and beauty of the body in the air. A performer, for instance, leaps into a free-hand cartwheel. In the split second that he is upside down in the air, he sweeps the broadsword in his right hand under his head, then completes the turn.

At the Second National Games last year, ten shu sportmen exhibited new forms of bouts between two combatants and group exercises with fists or broadswords. The bouts pay more attention to developing the sportmen's alertness and agility than to form.

Many promising young ten shu sportmen from spare-time ten shu classes and schools have come to the fore. The new series of movements they have created show increasing maturity beyond the required standards. A few of these newcomers are shown in the colour photographs on the following pages. Liu Hsu-ch'ih from Anhwei province demonstrates daring skill and alertness when he makes a thrust of the broadsword while making a body turn in the air. His movements are vigorous and lightning fast. The 18-year-old woman boxer Chen Tso-yun, with forcible motions which seem very gentle, swift variations and graceful postures, has demonstrated performance at the tournament never seen before. The use of the double hooked spears by Chen Yuan-tse and of the double swords by Chang Lien-mei are all creative developments based on the best of the traditional techniques.

CHING CHUAN-JUI is a sports in the Wu Shu Department of the Peking Institute of Physical Culture.
A forward balance with pointed swords, by Chang Ling-mei.
Chang chucks leaping, by Chi Kuang-yu and Chien Yuan-tse.

New Wu Shu Sport

Side lunge with hooked spears, by Chien Yul-chi.
Shortly after this, a representative from the county Party committee presented a report. The white scabbard border to the reader's head. Number 36, Beijing, China, on it were the words, "The People's Number One Purveyor". Our blood boiling, we raised our rifles over our heads and shouted, "Avenge Ma Wen-long!" There and then we decided to build a watchtower, to reinforce the tunnels and to fight the Kuomintang to the end. Working continuously for four days and nights, we built a 15-meter-high tower on top of which we planted the red flag that had just been presented to us.

Victories heightened our fighting spirit. We were closely united around the Communist Party. This was shown by what happened to Han Tch-ching, a poor peasant. Han was captured by the Hoo Hui as he was carrying a message to another village. He was taken to Miyun where Kuomintang troops questioned him about Chiaochuanghu. When he refused to speak they tortured him with a red hot poker. They then put him on a train under guard, but he managed to jump off and found his way back.

The Struggle Is Intensified

In 1945 we extended the tunnels to every house, making an opening under the brick bed, the stove, in the well, or some other place. From hidden firing points in the tunnels, commanding a full view of the roads through small holes in the cracks of walls or the ground, we could shoot at the enemy without his knowing where the shot had come from. Two tunnels led to other villages.

The People's Liberation Army was already marching from victory to victory but Chiang Kai-shek was waging a last-ditch struggle. The Hoo Hui was on the rampage in two neighboring villages and the county Party committee decided to give it a drubbing. In February 1948 the county Peasants' Association chairman, Chiang Tzu-liang, led our militia to Lungenwuntun and Tzuechung, where, in a surprise raid, we arrested 70 local landlords and took them to Chiaochuanghu.

To retaliate, the Hoo Hui brought 1,000 regular Kuomintang troops with U.S.-supplied arms and equipment to attack our village, saying they would raze it to the ground.

When we got word of their intention, the villagers went into the tunnels. The militia took up their posts in the watchtower and at the firing points. Directing the battle from the watchtower, Chiang Tzu-liang shouted, "Comrades, the Kuomintang is throwing all it can into this battle. Don't be afraid to keep calm and take careful aim before you fire. They can come in alive but they must go back dead!" The enemy charged several times, but each time they beat their retreat.

Then they brought up their artillery. To prevent losses, Comrade Liang ordered us to withdraw into the tunnels. The tower had just been evacuated when it was blown up by a direct hit from a shell. The enemy rushed into the village and set fire to the houses. The bandit soldiers, their caps askew, dashed this way and that. We had a good view of them from our firing holes in the tunnels and kept picking them off one by one or else had men at street entrances which we could set off from the tunnels. When a group of soldiers appeared at the head of a street, we just pulled the fuse and the mine exploded in their midst.

Unable to see any of us and unngngned by the heavy smoke, they became paralysed with fear. In the tunnels, everyone joined in the fight. The militia did the firing while others distributed drinking water and watched the doors which shut one part of a tunnel off from another. Even when the enemy found an entrance they did not dare use it as they could only come in one by one and they knew we were waiting for them. They threw in incendiary bombs and also poison gas. But we were prepared for these too. By closing various doors inside the tunnels and putting cotton quilts and damp earth against them, we made the bombs ineffective and shut out the smoke.

At one point, two bandit soldiers discovered a mine on the stone bridge at the entrance to the village. They shouted and trembled with fear. Cursing them, their company commander dug out the mine and removed the fuse. "Bang!" the mine exploded. We had set it with a double fuse.

All the enemy succeeded in getting through were shot. Our men, 38 in number, killed five of them and captured eight. Then we hunted down the rest in other villages to load with their dead and loot. Then, driving along more than 100 of our donkeys and taking with them the 76 landlords, they left.

Good Traditions Developed

When we emerged from the tunnels we found our village raked to the ground. Fallen beams were still burning and black smoke was rising everywhere. Hatred filled our hearts. Milliarmen came over from a neighboring village, "Ma Fu," their leader, said, "don't be distressed. Just tell us what you need. We are here." Tears welled up in my eyes. "No," I said, "I'm not distressed. With the Party and you to back us, we can stand on our feet even if the sky comes down on our heads." The secretary of the district Party committee also arrived. "What?" he said. "Are you weeping?" I brushed my face with my sleeve. "No," I said. "I have a strong backbone." We consulted together and decided to call a mass meeting.

We gathered in the middle of the smouldering ruins of the village. Chiaochuanghu is a strong fortress which the enemy cannot break," the district Party committee secretary began. "Because we have the Communist Party, besides our own strength, we have the support of the people. With the support of the people we can overcome any difficulties we face.

At one point, two bandit soldiers discovered a mine on the stone bridge at the entrance to the village. They shouted and trembled with fear. Cursing them, their company commander dug out the mine and removed the fuse. "Bang!" the mine exploded. We had set it with a double fuse.

All the enemy succeeded in getting through were shot. Our men, 38 in number, killed five of them and captured eight. Then we hunted down the rest in other villages to load with their dead and loot. Then, driving along more than 100 of our donkeys and into stauncher fighters. We saw that if we wished to be completely liberated, we had to struggle against the reactionaries to the end. We devoted another three days and nights to rebuilding the watchtower and again placed the "People's Number One Fortresasan" red flag on its summit.

In December 1948 our militia coordinated with the People's Liberation Army to liberate the county town of Miyun. Then the army went on to besiege Peiping (now Peking). Almost everyone in our village helped to every stretcher, act as couriers or transport grain.

It is now 17 years since Peking was liberated. Each spring when we visit the graves of the dead, we add earth to those of the heroes who fell. We also recount stories of our struggle to the youngsters so that they understand how the people's power was won through fighting for it and so that they will always treasure the fruits of victory won through the life and blood of their kinsmen and carry on the revolutionary tradition of firm struggle.

In 1944 we set up an exhibition room showing the history of the struggle waged by the militia of Chiaochuanghu. We also reentered 317 meters of the 11.5-kilometer main tunnel. This exhibits the young people in our revolutionary tradition, teaches them to shoulder our rifles and in turn to pass them on to their children.

Our young people have mettle. Their spirit surpasses that of their parents. The militia combine farm work with military training in a much more expect way than we did.
Aerial prospecting for minerals was only started in China 12 years ago, but an area equal to half that of the country, five million square kilometres, has already been surveyed. The famous Tacheng oilfield is one of the many valuable sites thus discovered. A great deal of reliable scientific data on the country's many kinds of mineral resources and information for geological research has been collected.

The method used is that of prospecting from an aeroplane by the use of magnetism, radioactivity and other physical effects. The presence of minerals in the earth is detected by very sensitive instruments. Surveying from the air has many advantages over ground surveying, particularly when the work has to be carried out in difficult terrain such as high mountains and deserts. The costs are lower and the efficiency higher. It is a time-saving device in the actual layout of the deposit over wide areas can be readily determined and more comprehensive data provided to assist the planning of the actual excavation. It has been proved that an aerial surveying team can do as much work in one year as 30 ground teams.

The First Trial Flight

In 1953 several of us who had just completed university physics courses were assigned to carry out aerial magnetic prospecting. We were eager to contribute to the building of socialism in our country and our first task was to master the use of the instruments. We studied them and experimented with them day and night until we became proficient in their use. Leaders from the Ministry of Geology, the director of the Civil Aviation Bureau, and air force officers gave us much useful advice and guidance in the solution of the difficulties of our trial flight. The commanding air force officer himself piloted the aeroplane.

This flight was over a large iron ore deposit in the grasslands of Inner Mongolia, where a ground survey was under way. We arrived in October when snow had already fallen. The location of the deposit was not marked on the map and the only information we had was that it was situated a few square kilometres north-west of a certain temple.

We took off from our base at daybreak and soon found the temple. In the vast grasslands it is rather risky for a small aeroplane, carrying only three people, to venture far from its base. But we had no misgivings, and after circling around for some time, we finally spotted some white drill-towers and a row of tents. We flew over the markers which had been put out to guide us and set our magnetic instruments. They registered definite reactions. It was a moment of great excitement. The ground surveyors rushed out of their tents when they heard the sound of our plane, waved to us and cheered, hailing this new method of prospecting. We dived down and dropped a message of thanks for their assistance.

Exploring the Grasslands

After this initial success, we began to explore the grasslands and the Gobi Desert. At that time work over such large areas was not easy because there were very few settlements and it was difficult to obtain water. Selecting a stretch of level ground for our base, we removed all the big stones and erected a temporary hangar. We also set up a windsock and installed radio equipment, as it was necessary to be both flyers and weathermen. We had tents and yurts for living quarters. We found water some distance away and carried it by exact count.

Our biggest difficulty was navigation, as there were no natural landmarks to guide our flight. We were also unable to fly in equidistant parallel lines, a necessity when magnetic prospecting. With the cooperation of the ground workers, we set up landmarks by the aid of a theodolite. Crossed lines were plotted and large flags planted every kilometre. The ground crew in the truck had to travel ahead of the aeroplane. The day's work over, we would make a fire and cook our food, then sleep in a makeshift tent or under the truck. We were living "with the blue sky overhead and the grasslands underfoot". In semi-desert country we had to travel on foot, practically all the equipment and provisions being carried by camels and ourselves.

We managed to overcome one difficulty after another by encouraging each other with stories of the Red Army's unconquerable spirit when crossing the snow mountains and marshlands on the historic Long March in the thirties. We finally completed surveying hundreds of thousands of square kilometres of the vast grasslands and the Gobi Desert, locating rich iron ore deposits and other valuable minerals. We were very happy to be able to supply our fellow-countrymen with useful information about the mineral wealth of our country. This contribution towards socialist construction was ample reward for our work under conditions of considerable hardship.

Mountain Tigers' and 'Winged Feet'

With the beginning of the Second Five-Year Plan in 1958, our country's need for minerals became greater and more urgent. By this time our team was much bigger and our skill had improved as a result of several years of practical experience. In order to find mineral deposits in the shortest possible time, we divided ourselves into air and ground crews, and as soon as an air crew found an indication of the possible presence of minerals, a ground crew set out to investigate. If the result was favourable, geological surveying began at once. By this method minerals were located within a few months. For instance, a big deposit of iron ore was revealed in Liaoning province only two months after the aerial survey had been accomplished. Accurate results were not easy to obtain. They necessitated flying at a very low height, no more than 150 metres, along the mountainsides and through ravines. Sometimes, as the plane was caught in a descending air current and turned its nose down, we were tossed from our seats, banging our heads against the top of the cabin. Yet no serious accident occurred in all the years of our work.

Many of the new deposits were located in almost uninhabited regions. The ground crews had to battle against mosquitoes, pit vipers, snakes and leeches in the southern tropical jungle, and to
Somebody’s Mother

ONE DAY the postal-telegaph office in the town of Shaokuan in northern Kwantung province received a wire addressed to a Comrade Chang in a certain address. The message read: “Arriving Shaokoung on 18th 19.40 am. Please meet at railway station, Mother.”

Liu Pei-chin said she could not find such an address in Shaokoung, nor even one like it where they could try. So the staff returned the wire with a notation to the effect that the Hapols province where it had been sent. Soon they received a long-distance call from Wuhan. The staff there said that the wire had been sent by an old lady from Changching when she passed through Wuhan and she was already on the train for Shaokoung.

Liu Pei-chin, head of the telegraph section in Shaokoung, was worried about the traveler. The next day’s wire arrived: “Has the train left when the was due she went to meet it. As Liu Pei-chin did not know what “mother” looked like, nor what she would be wearing, she decided that she had to stop quite a few elderly women. Where they had been and one woman was found who had no idea what anyone from Comrade Chang. Then she in- introduced herself. “Mother, I am from the postal-telegaph office. We have been unable to deliver your wire to Comrade Chang.” Liu Pei-chin said what she had told her the old lady with a smile. She took the traveler to her own room in the telegraph workers’ residences.

AT FIRST the old lady was quite worried, but Liu Pei-chin’s genuine friendliness soon put her at ease. She explained where she was going. Her daughter, who lived in Huauwu county in the neighboring Hupeh province, had just had a baby, and she was going to her daughter’s home to help her out for a few weeks. The railway does not go to Huauwu, so she had to get off at Shaokoung and take a bus. At Wuhan, she had asked someone to send the telegrapher asking her son-in-law to meet her, the writer had mistakenly addressed it to Shaokoung instead of Huauwu.

Liu Pei-chin immediately sent a wire to Comrade Chang at Huauwu. When there was no reply after a day, she began trying it a few more times by telephone and finally found him.

As the old lady was finally ready to leave, she took the young telegraph operator’s hands in her own and thanked him. “Mother, I am simply doing my duty,” Liu Pei-chin replied.
A Guinean in China

Kourouma Karamoko

I was sent by my country in response to an invitation by the Chinese writers. I visited Nanking, Shanghai and Hangchow, and arrived in Peking on September 11. It is impossible to give a complete picture of the impressions that remain with me, for one must see China with his own eyes to understand and admire the work accomplished there in only 16 years under the direction of Chairman Mao.

When I arrived in China, I thought that my contacts would be with writers. But I saw workers, peasants and soldiers, for whom work is their life. And they write for the workers.

At the university, I had thought I would meet deans with serious faces. Instead, I saw a smiling rector, young professors of nuclear physics in blue blouses, and young men and women students discussing the problems of Africa with an open admiration for the people of Guinea. In the factories, I had thought I would pass through a series of offices before entering the shops. But in Peking and Hangchow textile plants I was received by women directors who seemed to know only workshops. The interest they had in showing me the progress of their factories was even greater than my interest in visiting them.

How to express my admiration of the fields of rice in the October People's Commune near Nanking or the hills of growing tea of a production brigade near Hangchow? How to picture my emotion standing before hundreds of boys and girls at the Children's Palace in Shanghai? How to convey the Chinese people's feeling of pride, happiness and freedom which I sensed during my visit to the Industrial Exposition in Shanghai? I repeat—one must actually see China to understand what socialism has done.

Three thousand years of history, out of which hundreds of peasant uprisings against oppression and the aristocracy have arisen, have forged the Chinese people in the crucible of work. Here in China everything can be summed up in one word: work. This is the impression which takes hold of you when you gaze out of a train window at immense stretches of rice, cotton, maize, millet.

You have the same impression in the streets of the cities and the lanes of the villages—that there is not one square metre of land uncultivated and that of the 650 million Chinese, 650 million of them are workers. You will not find one slogan which does not encourage work. And the slogans insist on quality.

This leap forward in history, impelled by the Chinese Communist Party in 1949, is certainly a phenomenon unique in the evolution of mankind. The contrasts are striking—ancient history and contemporary, feudalism and socialism, traditional and modern. Ultra-modern monuments built in record time appear alongside ancient Ming palaces. Tricycles have not yet given way to automobiles and trucks coming out of Shanghai by the hundreds. Tientsin electronic apparatus plants produce a computer capable of integrating differential equations to the 24th order, while in large stores filled to bursting the clerks daintily add up your bill with the abacus. Add to this the heavenly aspect of the Summer Palace in contrast with the austere port of Shanghai. In this country built on the dialectical materialism of Marxism-Leninism, one also gets the strong impression of the harmonious marriage of the realistic with the classic.

In the light of my experience here, the aid which the people of China are giving to the countries fighting for their independence seemed to me much more real.

Words fail me in telling the Chinese friends of the gratefulness which a guest owes them for their friendliness, their kindness, their smiles, their warm handshakes in the hotels, opera theatres, the stations. I fail even more to find words to thank them for their wish and determination to enlighten always more the friendship which unites our two peoples through the fraternal links between Chairman Mao and President Toure.

Long live Chinese-Guinean friendship!

From this issue

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More than half of some 100 science films made in 1965 were on agricultural subjects. Some of the films, which run from 10 minutes to an hour or more in length, teach the farmers how to use modern machinery, others provide basic information for new electricity-users in rural areas. Many demonstrate technical skills for various crops such as how to select seed for planting, care for young shoots, apply fertilizer, kill insect pests. Comparably information is provided for livestock-raising, fish-breeding and forestry.

Special films have been made to describe the new methods developed by model farmers and the results of recent research. Still others help to counteract unscientific customs or superstitions in the countryside. (An example is the film on swallows described on page 56.) This year, with even greater emphasis on scientific farming to increase yields, 70 per cent of those produced will be devoted to agricultural.

In the nationwide campaign to revolutionize industry, films on new techniques, processes, materials and equipment are a stimulus. Many are designed to help workers master basic knowledge in their line and for classroom use in industrial schools. Thrift is another big theme. A recent release shows how a plant checks its power lines without shutting off the electricity, thus without interrupting production.

Concerted Effort

In the past two years the stress for science films has been to provide workers and farmers with information for solving urgent problems of production and provide it in a way that can be easily understood and readily applied. The film makers are able to do this because of the help they received from individuals and organizations of many levels throughout the country. From government offices for agriculture and industry, they learn of the general policies, problems and recommended solutions. They often go to the factories and farms to hear from the workers and farmers themselves what is happening and what is needed. In making the films they have the aid of scientists who supply them with information and work together with them to pare it down to the essentials for clear presentation.

Because of the importance of such films, much attention is given to circulating them in a planned way. When new science films are released, people in the county or commune offices usually get together with the agricultural extension stations and rural projection teams to make a selection of films which will present systematically what the peasants in their area need to know.

In Shantung last year the emphasis was on increasing production of the province’s five major crops—sweet potatoes, maize, wheat, rice and cotton. In the first nine months of the year, 15,000 film showings brought information on these crops to 16 million viewers. The films introduced some twenty points of scientific farming, such as rational close-planting of cotton and measures to counter maize borers and black rot on sweet potatoes.

The mobile projection teams that tour the Shantung countryside are often accompanied by scientists and technicians who advise commune members on how to apply what is recommended in the films. They supplement the films with lantern-slide shows and exhibitions on the same or related topics. So great is the peasants’ thirst for such information that they greet these films like “timely rain.”

These projection teams use the “cotton-bringing” and “grain-bringing” teams.

More films on health and hygiene were also produced in the past two years. Several shorts made with the cooperation of outstanding athletes teach swimming, table-tennis and volleyball, which are popular in both city and countryside. A number feature prevention and treatment of common diseases. Late last year the Shanghai studio released a colour film on schistosomiasis, an endemic disease in the south. Made with the cooperation of doctors and scientists, the film gives a graphic explanation of the life history of schistosomes, or blood flukes, and depicts the methods people in the south have used to wipe out the snails which spread the disease.

Science for Everybody

For films to popularize general scientific knowledge, the subject matter is practically unlimited. These are intended to help the people gain the understanding of nature and society through which they will develop a scientific, dialectical materialist world outlook.

Topics range from explanations of scientific phenomena in everyday life to more detailed material in the fields of astronomy (eclipses of the sun and moon), geography (pant formations and stalactite caves), physics (the lever), biology (marine plants), anthropology (the Peking Man) and the history of social development (the life of some minority nationalities).

Film makers’ long-term plans call for a complete series covering basic knowledge in all branches of the natural and social sciences.
Making the Film ‘Owls on Night Duty’

IT IS a quiet night in the country. In the fields, the mice come out of their holes and set to work eating the peanuts, carrots and beans and gnawing at the young rice shoots. Two fat mice get into a fierce battle over a tasty morsel. Suddenly an owl swoops down from the sky and snatches up one of them. The other streaks over to a river and swims across, but it is caught by a second owl. This is the action in the film Owls on Night Duty.

Because of their fierce appearance and mournful call, in the countryside webs had once been held to bring bad luck. This film shows that they are useful birds, for they feed on mice which damage the crops. An owl consuming two or three mice a night, about a thousand a year, can be a saving of several thousand jin of grain in that time.

When our studio set about making the film, our biggest problem was to make the owls and mice do what we wanted. Owls, being night birds, thin light, but we could not shoot our pictures without it. We decided that we could not do our filming in the fields, but would set up similar conditions in our studio.

OUR FIRST JOB was to get the owls accustomed to catching mice under artificial lights. We raised 30 birds in six wooden cages. Every time we put in mice to feed the owls, we turned on a 45-watt bulb in each cage. On the first evening this happened, the frightened birds flew about wildly, striking against the walls. The next morning the mice were alive and unharmed. We continued to feed the owls under artificial light. On the seventh morning we found no mice, which meant that the owls had become accustomed to eating under lights. We then gradually increased the size of the bulbs. The owls became accustomed to it.

Our next project was shooting scenes of the owls catching and eating mice. We reproduced the natural surroundings in our studio. On this we trained a hidden camera with a soundproof cover. Owls have very keen hearing, so be sure that they were not disturbed by any sound of the camera in operation, we further covered it with padded quilts. Every night we turned the owls loose and watched them from our hiding-place. We waited seven nights before we got satisfactory shots of the owls catching and eating mice.

We then went ahead giving the owls further training so that they would do just as we wanted. After eight months of domestication and training, they were ready for the filming. From our observations we learned which owls did which things best. We "cat" one bird for a shot of the owl wheezing about looking for prey and alighting on the telegraph poles and branches in our "countryside", another for catching and devouring the mice, and a third for shots of the owl looking about impudently,

THE VILLAINS—the mice—also learned to "act" after they had become accustomed to our "countryside". Mice-catching specialists from communities outside the city helped us a great deal with their information on the habits of mice. Though we utilized the animals' characteristic greed for food in getting them to do what we wanted, we still spent fully two weeks shooting the scene of a brown mouse dragging away a carrot. At first it would not eat our carrots. Then it would eat them but would not drag one away. We studied the matter and concluded that this was because it did not have a home where it could take its food. We constructed a hole for it. Two days later the mouse stole out of its hole, selected a carrot and took it home.

In this work we received much help from the staff of the Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The zoologists told us about the habits of owls and checked our script. Scientists from the Shanghai Association for the Dissemination of Science and Technology and the Shanghai Zoological Society also made valuable suggestions about the script. Biology teachers and students from Futan University served as both advisers and actors.

One day, to show how a mouse blocked up its hole, we placed a mouse in a hole we had made and turned an electric fan on it. Though the mouse shivered with cold, it would not close up the hole. A biology professor came from Futan University in the suburbs to see what he could do. He found the mouse was not satisfied with our hole because the earth was too thin to give it a feeling of home. As soon as we added more earth the mouse sat down making its own hole which it would block up whenever we turned on the fan.

Thus, the knowledge and work of many people helped us solve one problem after another in order to complete this 16-minute-long film.

YU CHI, head of the Shanghai Scientific and Educational Film Studio, directed and wrote the script for the owl film. It received an award for service in agriculture.
The Search for 3½ fen

Workers at Tientsin's No. 2 Bicycle Factory recently embarked on a search for 3½ fen.* This is the way it came about. Although many improvements had been made on the "Double Happiness", a model designed for use in the countryside, peasant buyers had written in that this bicycle was not smooth to pedal. The workers studied the problem and found that this was because there was too much friction around the ball bearings in the sprocket wheel which drives the chain. The workers decided to put a separator in the bearing case. This, however, would raise the cost of production by 3½ fen per bicycle. The Communist Party committee in the factory asked the workers whether they thought that this amount could be cut down elsewhere. They discussed the matter and agreed that the cost must not be raised. Then they began the search for the 3½ fen in their work.

They found many ways to save right under their noses. The saddle department had been using two jins of cotton yarn waste every day for wiping its machines. Now someone proposed that the outside and rough parts of the machines be wiped with the sunny sackings that came around rolls of steel wire the plant bought. Then only half a jin of cotton would be needed for the fine parts.

Paper is wrapped around the finished saddles before they are shipped out. But every day 26 of the factory's bicycles are sent fully assembled to a shop nearby. The workers calculated that the paper for each saddle cost 3½ fen, and that by not wrapping these 26 saddles, they could save Y110 a year.

Similar ways to save were found in other departments. The wrapping section had always considered it easier to tie a knot with a long string. Now they made themselves more skilful so that they save two inches of string per bundle. Another department found a way to catch and re-use the gasoline used to clean the trade marks. In many places boxes were put up to collect odd bits of material for later use.

Many workers sought to regain the 3½ fen through improvements in the manufacturing process. In the materials department, Li Chien-hua made repeated measurements and calculations on the sheet steel. He discovered that by cutting the pieces for the front forks lengthwise from the steel instead of crosswise, he could get four more pieces per sheet—in a year this would yield a saving of 48,000 times the 3½ fen, or Y1,400.

The steel strips from which the tubing is made once had to have 13 millimetres trimmed from both sides in order to make them the right size. Since this was a waste of both labour and material, the factory asked the steel mill to produce narrower strips, cutting costs by more than Y10,000 a year.

Improved workmanship also brought savings. The painting department calculated that if there were four per cent fewer rejects in the painted frames, mudguards and forks, the cost per bicycle could be cut by 3½ fen. The workers adopted seven special measures to guarantee quality, and pledged extra care in their work. To date they have been able to cut the rate of rejects by two per cent.

Altogether 380 suggestions were submitted for large and small economies. Many of these have been adopted. Today the "Double Happiness" bicycle—with a separator for its ball bearings—is much smoother to pedal but costs Y1.18 less than when the economy movement started.

In the shops one often hears workers saying such things as, "Be sure and turn off the light. Don't forget the 3½ fen!" When their gloves are worn out, they mend them instead of getting new ones, and try to save in a thousand little ways. The spirit of saving every fraction of a cent has taken deep root.

Programme-controlled Milling Machine

A new product of the Peking No.1 Machine Tool Plant is a programme-controlled milling machine. It performs a series of different operations on a workpiece according to a pre-set programme of operations and specifications, automatically changing the direction and speed of the feed as the sequence demands. The worker in charge of the machine needs only load and unload the machine and watch it at work.

Top Grinder

A machine that makes the taps, the high-precision tools necessary for processing the internal threads in screw holes, will soon go into production. Since this kind of equipment was formerly not produced in China, factories which did not have imported models had to make their own taps on ordinary lathes and thread grinders.

The new machine does the work five to seven times more efficiently than the method previously used. It can grind completely finished taps directly from blanks. The machine has a magnetic separator which removes metal particles from the cooling liquid and a device which drains the spray away from the operator.

It was designed and built by the Peking High-precision Machinery Institute.

High-precision Heavy Planer

A heavy-duty planer that makes a highly-finished surface has been built in Wuhan. The four-metre-long machine is designed for processing grinding surfaces on machine beds and large flat surfaces on other machines. Ordinary planers produce rough or semi-finished surfaces which need further scraping by hand. The new machine cuts the time for producing such a surface from the former several days to only a few hours.

Extra-large Bearings

Extra-large bearings, used chiefly in excavators, are being made at the Loyang Bearings Plant in Honan province. Each weighs a ton and has an outer diameter of more than two metres.
**Early Arabian Coins Unearthed in Earth**

**ISIA NAH**

**COMMUNICATION between China and the Arab countries. In spite of the great distance separating these two regions, their commerce during very early times, has been traced back before the rise of Islam. Mohammed, the founder of Islam, once said, 'Seek for learning though it be as far away as China.' This indicates that the people along the coast of the Arabian peninsula had long known of China in the east, possibly through Persian traders and possibly because Chinese traders had been there.

The Chinese historical records mention the dispatch of diplomatic envoys from the caliphate of Arabia to China in Anno Higimo 31 by the Mohammedan calendar (A.D. 651), shortly after the rise of Islam. Within the next 147 years, according to Chinese history, Arabia sent 36 diplomatic missions to China. During the reign of China's emperor Hsun Tsung (A.D. 712-756), the caliphate and the Tang empire of China united in an extended conflict on three occasions, the severest of which was in 134 A.H. or A.D. 751, at the Battle of Talas. This battle, in which the Chinese army was decisively defeated, left Hien-chih was totally defeated by the Arabian army, marks the beginning of the decline of Tang power in Central Asia and the rise of Arab domination there. Only six years later, however, friendly relations had been restored and Arabian traders were helping to build the 

**ISIA NAH** is Director of the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and author of the book *Studia in Chinese Archaeology* (1961).

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**Chinese archaeological discoveries in Shensi**

**MAY 1966**

A tombstone with Arabic inscriptions dated 590 A.H. (A.D. 1198) recently discovered in Chianchow, (Front (1975) and back (1975).
have tombstones with inscriptions in Arabic. While we do not exclude it, the possibility of this particular tomb belonging to some Arab who had taken up Han customs seems rather remote.

**Earliest Islamic Coins**

These coins deserve special mention not only as the first coins from the Arabian Omanayan dynasty found in China but as the earliest of any Islamic coins found in China. Other Islamic coins previously found in Sinkiang date from much later, in the 15th century, and most of them were minted locally by inhabitants of Sinkiang after they had embraced the Islamic faith. Often cited as the earliest Islamic coin is a silver one discovered by Prof. Huang Wen-ji at a site in a Tan tomb in Turfan in Sinkiang. His report on the excavation incorrectly claimed the legend on the coin to be in Arabic and said that it read: "Made by Mu'awiyah the 28th year of the reign," a mistake which has been repeated by other authors. This coin has nothing to do with Arabia. As I have pointed out elsewhere, the inscription is actually in Pahlavi, the language of Persia. The Pahlavi legend clearly indicates that the coin was minted during the rule of Karestes II, of the Sassanian dynasty of Persia, who reigned from 590 to 627. Further more, Mu'awiyah I did not reign in the 28th year A.H. but between 41 and 60 A.H.

The discovery of these three gold coins is evidence of the intercourse between China and Arabia in those days. Diplomatic, commercial, and cultural relations developed later during the Tang, Yuan, and Ming periods. From the 16th century on, however, these were impeded by the widespread intrusion of the European colonials. Now, as the two peoples join together to fight the imperialists, the conditions exist for their friendly relations to develop still further and even more vigorously than they did in ancient times.

**STAMPS OF NEW CHINA**

**CHILDREN'S SPORTS SPECIALS**

A SET of eight special multi—colour stamps featuring children's sports was issued on February 25, 1956. The children of China are encouraged to be strong and healthy builders of socialism and communism and brave defenders of the motherland. Each of the eight stamps is: 1 fen, light green background, Playing Football; 2 fen, green, blue, and brown, Swimming; 3 fen, 8 fen, pale golden yellow, Diving gymnastics; 5 fen, 8 fen, turquoise blue, Surfing; 6 fen, 8 fen, bright green, Shooting and signalling; 7 fen, 10 fen, yellow, Fishing the rubber-band rope. The Stamp measures 39 x 27 mm. Perf. 11. Colour-photographed. Index No. Special 72, Serial Nos. 411-418.

**School Compositions**

**Why Did the Lizard's Tail Disappear?**

_Ever since I was very small_. I have found great interest and amusement in brooding fish and collecting insects. Last year after entering middle school I joined the biology group and began to understand that scientific observation is more than an interest and amusement, and that it can train us to analyze and solve problems through practical experience. All the members of the biology group keep some small animals and plants, such as a house-lizard and put it in a large glass jar with some dirt in the bottom so that I could watch and study its habits. I caught all kinds of tiny creatures for it to feed on; big and small insects and worms, some alive and some dead. Watching its behaviour very carefully, I discovered that the lizard liked live insects best and seemed to enjoy catching and eating moths which it caught with its long tongue.

I also wanted to discover the temperature at which it hibernated. As winter approached, I kept a close watch to see when it began to hibernate. It seemed to find out when it came up again. I found that it hid itself in the dirt when the temperature dropped below 21 degrees centigrade.

_We had three days' holiday for the National Day celebrations last year and my first thought when I returned to school was about my lizard_. I was astonished to find that it was quite thin and was very small. I wonder why? When I returned home I read _How I Grew_ by Wen-yuan Yang, Chien-sheng Shang—hai middle school student.

_If I could see what was in its stomach, that might help me solve the mystery_. I was afraid that if I opened it up my schoolmates would laugh at me if there was nothing to see.

Our teacher had often told us that if we wish to have knowledge we must have courage enough to ask. I asked myself why I was being so timid where there was really nothing to fear?

_With my schoolmates if they listed something which has been long—lost, we found nothing about tail—eating_. I asked my schoolmates if they knew anything about it, but could not get any help. Then I thought, I killed the lizard and carefully slit open its stomach. How exciting! There, right before my eyes, was the missing tail! My guess was correct.

_We Chinese people are very addicted to pumpkin_. Our local pumpkins taste good, but they are too small. Those from other areas are much bigger but they are not so tasty. In my lessons on agriculture I had learned that crop-breeding can vary greatly, and I wanted to have a try...

When I began my experiment, I remembered that the teacher had said that a pumpkin depends on insects to spread its pollen. So I caught a bee, tied a thread to it and, keeping one end of the thread in my hand, let it gather pollen from the male flowers of our local pumpkins. Then I gently pulled it towards the female flowers of some pumpkins which had been introduced into our village from other areas, so that it would spread the pollen on them.

That done, I waited for the big pumpkins to grow. But they grew too slowly. It seemed to me that the temperature was not right. He said it was due to lack of fertilizer. I once got some soil from the pond of ashes of burnt grass and some calcium superphosphate which I spread around the pumpkin vine as top dressing.

The pumpkins began to grow very quickly. One of them grew to be more than 30 kilograms in weight. When it was time to harvest it, I could not carry it in my arms and had to ask my schoolmates to help me carry it home. It was huge and I had to cut it good, too. Commune members came and asked me for some of its seeds. How happy I was! I had not only grown a huge pumpkin but I had now a better understanding of the meaning of what I had read in books.

—Ying Hau-chu, 6th grade pupil of Yungkong in Cheliang province
In the Course of Struggle

The Chinese people's outstanding support for the struggle of the oppressed people in their stand against imperialism, and in particular U.S. imperialism, is of great significance for the peace-loving people of the world. As time goes on, and in the course of struggle, more and more people will see more clearly the real nature of imperialism, they will experience the various events and come to realize where their real interests lie, who are their friends and who are their enemies. The imperialists will be further and further isolated, and to the extent they are isolated will as the forces for prosecution of the anti-imperialist struggle.

It is very clear that the policy of self-reliance practiced by the Chinese people in all spheres will be further consolidated and strengthened in order to achieve China's national rejuvenation.

The Chinese people, with their vast resources in the struggle for liberation, surrounded great obstacles, finally achieving the foreign and their national rejuvenation.

EMILY LAURSEN

Hastings, New Zealand

Lesson in Fable

In the December 1900 issue I particularly appreciated the fable: "The Foolish Old Man, Removes the Mountain," So I understand that all the difficulties we will encounter in the struggle and facing now will be overcome little by little and finally defeated.

BENEDICTA EUGENE

Waterloo, France

Old Two-faced Tactic

I have read your article, "Imperialism—the Major-General Tieng Tiung-ya." He has compiled and presented with great pains a complete picture of the old two-faced tack of brutal prevention and sea policy which the imperialists advocated against the Chinese people. Instead of stopping imperialist fire and killing our people, they make the agreement and ban the following three years, the hero's the Chinese and the thieves the imperialists. 

The People's Republic of China, a triumph of our times.

The American troops made a grave mistake in landing in China at that time. They are making a bigger team by breaking peaceful peasants and transgressing against the territorial integrity of the other countries of Asia.

The People's Revolution now in full swing in Asia, Africa and Latin America requires the participation of all the political forces of the world. The imperialism and the colonialism tremble in front of this revolutionary tempest.

Smash the schemes of the American imperialists all over the world!

Long live revolutionary unity among all the oppressed people!

Vorw, Albania

Genuine Independence

"The Road to Complete Economic Independence" calls the peoples of Asia and Africa are unite and fight against imperialism and achieve complete economic emancipation before they can guarantee their genuine independence. Therefore, both Asia and Africa will fight hard against imperialist power that we may be masters of the vast territory and natural resources which are our forefathers.

Kigoma, Uganda

Peoples' Friendship is Indestructible

This letter, written by an Indian in London, is a demonstration that despite all the efforts of the Western imperialists, the traditional friendship between the peoples of India and the Chinese People's Republic, that friendship still exists and will grow.

It is plain who wishes to destroy that friendship and who would wish to see us fighting each other. To us, ordinary people, only the experience and friendship of China will help us in our attempts to go forward and achieve the real status of a great power. Those who want India to continue to play the role of black-leg for imperialism are the most vicious enemies of India and its development. We can now see what you have done in China and this stands in the best example that we can simulate.

With every good wish and the true wishes of "Hindu-Chin Bhish Bhish"

B. M. T.

London, England

The Long March

In recent years I have found very good article in English, "The Long March," by Comrade Ion-lard. Articles like this are of much interest to readers who do not know the personal characteristics of Chien Mao and of the soldiers who fought the war. It will be very useful to our friends in the revolution war for the liberation of China.

A BEADER

Linz, Peru

Inhuman U.S. Conduct

I was sincerely pleased by the poem, "No, Not This Kind of Peace" in your January issue. I could not imagine to what extent these "Yanks" could create such great misery. Moreover, I am able to find your journal, through this means, let us know a little about the jive and human American Conduct. Here I do my political self-criticism which reveals the new line of the revolutionary peoples of the world whole pillar.

Smash the schemes of the American imperialists all over the world!

Long live revolutionary unity among all the oppressed people!

Vorw, Albania

New Insight into China

I like your "To Our Readers" in the January issue. Many people no doubt write to you and explain their views. It is nice and helpful to have you explain your views to us.

What I want to say is that all our huge experience and understanding between our two people.

Regarding your magazine, I think it is sufficient to say that China Reconstitu, like all your other magazines, expresses the courage and spirit and pre-, sents work of outstanding literature.

Once more, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views in the space which is always precious for me.

I wish to you and your people in the possible construction of your country.

Metox Fiy, U.K.

THOMAS WATTERS

Potential of Cooperative Labour

All your articles are, in their own way, an introduction to new ideas. Articles like "A Village Prosperous" and "Man Conquers the Desert" depict the dignity and the vast potential of cooperative labour which is more power-packed than nuclear weights. This, and not so much the patriotism in war is making the pillar of imperialism which at the top of its splendor is beginning to sink.

The get-up of your magazine is fine. It is clean, unlike the art and bulky- packed magazine we get in the west. It is a great necessity for the pure and healthy process of development. So keep on.

Fersehals Cologne, Pakistan

A.HOSSAN

To See in Perspective

China Reconstructs equals or surpasses the standards of any mass circulation American magazine. The content and prose are the ideal in the American magazine imperialist- dominated media. Articles like this are of much interest to other readers who do not know the personal characteristics of Chien Mao and of the soldiers who fought the war. It will be very useful to our friends in the revolution war for the liberation of China.

A BEADER

Massachusetts, U.S.A.