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The Jinuos—Newest Nationality
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The social history and customs which make the 10,000 Jinuo people in the remote mountains of Yunnan province a distinct nationality.

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EDITOIAL OFFICES:
Wuh Wen Building, Beijing

P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China.
Democratic Parties Find New Role

China's eight democratic parties held national conventions in Beijing last October. Two thousand five hundred delegates attended these and a meeting of the National Federation of Industry and Commerce which was held concurrently.

The close cooperation between these parties and the Chinese Communist Party has culminated in the establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of China in 1949.

Representatives of these parties, along with those from the Communist Party and people from all walks of life, participated in the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in September 1949. At it they proclaimed the establishment of a people's democratic government, the People's Republic of China, and adopted the Common Program of the CPPCC. The latter, expressing the will of members and those people who have historical roots in the Kuomintang — to serve China's modernization; the other is to promote the return of Taiwan in order to realize the unification of our country.

Eighty-one-year-old Qu Wu has spent almost his entire adult life working for democracy as a member of the Left wing of the Kuomintang Party — to serve China's modernization. He went to the Soviet Union to study. There he and his wife became friends with one of their classmates, Chiang Ching-kuo (son of Chiang Kai-shek, presently head of the Taiwan authorities).

In 1926 the Kuomintang and the Communist Party had agreed to cooperate to overthrow the imperialist-backed warlords and Sun Yat-sen led in reorganization of the Kuomintang for this purpose. Qu Wu, then 27 and a student at Beijing University, was elected a member of the executive committee of the reorganized Kuomintang central committee. The next year he went to the Soviet Union to study. There he and his wife became friends with one of their classmates, Chiang Kung-kuo, who was president of the Kuomintang government's supervisory.
warlords, Chiang Kai-shek turned against the revolution and began massacring Communists. In August that year 22 members of the Kuomintang central committee issued a declaration stating that they were against this sabotage of Kuomintang-Communist cooperation and the splitting of the revolution. Qu Wu signed this paper. Recalling this episode Qu Wu said, "I was always for Sun Yat-sen's policy of alliance with Soviet Russia, all the more so with the Chinese Communist Party and support for the workers' and peasants' movements. That is why, from the stand point of a Kuomintang member, I opposed Chiang Kai-shek's betrayal of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's principles and suppression of the Communists."

In 1937 the resistance to the Japanese invasion began. Chiang Kai-shek was forced to allow the Kuomintang to cooperate with the Communist Party for a second time. In 1938 Qu Wu graduated from a Soviet military academy and returned to China, going to Chongqing. He became a member of the Kuomintang government's legislative council headed the advisory department of its military committee and taught at a Kuomintang military school. At one time during Kuomintang times he also headed the construction department of the Shaanxi provincial government and was Secretary-General of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association. A book he wrote, On the War Between Soviet Russia and Germany, was highly regarded by world strategists.

Although there was an agreement for cooperation in fighting the Japanese invasion, a group of die-hards inside the Kuomintang, of whom Chiang Kai-shek was chief, was pursuing a policy of passively resisting Japan and actively fighting the Communists. The democratic wing of the Kuomintang, of which Qu Wu was a member, struggled against this idea. They tried to influence the upper echelons of the Kuomintang to move Chiang more in their direction. The two previous occasions. Why can't they cooperate a third time for the good of the country?"

"The Communists don't forget those who have done something to benefit the people," Qu Wu added. "Every time Chairman Mao saw me he would mention my efforts for the peaceful liberation of Xinjiang."

"After liberation Qu Wu held an important position as Deputy Secretary-General of the State Council. Despite his age he is still active as a deputy to the National People's Congress and a member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Political Consultative Conference. He is engaged in writing his reminiscences of the two Com-
The Democratic League and Chinese Intellectuals

—Interview with Prof. Wen Jiasi

WEI XUITANG

AFTER the Fourth National People's Congress in Beijing in 1954 the Democratic League in October 1979 I visited Professor Wen Jiasi, a standing committee member of its central committee, and Acting Chairman of its Beijing Municipal Committee. Prof. Wen was a member of the decision-making body in French literature who has translated books by Stendhal, Hugo and other writers. His family goes back to the 17th century.

The Democratic League, which was founded in 1941, had grown to 200,000 members by 1949. It attracted to it highly-qualified intellectuals in the cultural, educational and scientific fields. It gradually became a democratic party composed of intellectuals," Wen Jiasi observed.

The Democratic League was an important force in the democratic movement. Heads of the universities had moved to Kunming, the then wartime capital of the Kuomintang government's wartime capital in the southwest. It represented the political demands of the national bourgeoisie and upper strata of the petty bourgeoisie. Its members were very active in the anti-Japanese democratic movement.

Prof. Wen Jiasi recalled how he had come to join its activities. "I was a young professor only recently returned from studies in France, with no interest in politics. My brother Wen Yiduo persuaded me to read Edgar Snow's Red Star Over China. From it I learned for the first time the real situation in the liberated areas under Communist Party leadership. Under my brother's influence I gradually came to understand that the cause of liberation was the only hope for China."

The Democratic League in 1944 in Kunming, Yunnan province. Kunming was wartime site of Southwest Associated University, combining Beijing, Nankai and Qinghua universities which had moved there from north China. The Kunming group, the first of those which later became part of the democratic league, was an important force in the democratic movement. Heads of it were all famous personalities in Kunming and the university, among them Ch'i T'uan, Li Gongpu, Pan Guangdan, Wen Yiduo, Fei Xiaotong and the historian Wu Han, who was one of Wen Jiasi's sponsors.

"My brother was not one to stay absolutely. Its Kunming branch launched a campaign for 10,000 signatures for peace. The democratic league became the object of abuse, slander and threats from the Kuomintang, but it did not give in. The Kuomintang struck a vicious blow by sending its secret agents to shoot down Li Gongpu in a Kunming street on July 11. At the memorial service for him on July 15, Wen Yiduo angrily denounced the secret agents he knew to be present. "You can shoot one revolutionary, but you cannot destroy the cause. Hundreds of successors will rise to continue their cause. Justice can never be killed because the truth is always with us!"

After the funeral service Wen Yiduo talked to the press. On October 16, 1944, the Kuomintang authorities attacked it, killing four and wounding 60. The people were infuriated. Prof. Wen Jiasi recalled that its activities in the 17 years involved around helping to build the China Democratic League illegal.

In November 1947 the Kuomintang government declared the China Democratic League illegal. The plenary session of the league's central committee early in 1948 had to be held in Hong Kong. That meeting decided its support for the Chinese Communist Party and the overthrow of the Kuomintang political party. It supported the call of the Communist Party in May 1948 to hold a new political consultative conference and to set up a democratic coalition government, and attended the preparatory meeting for the conference in June 1949. In September it took part in the conference itself, and the founding of the People's Republic of China and the Central People's Government. Zhang Lan, Chairman of the China Democratic League was elected a Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government.

TALKING about the role of the China Democratic League in the new China, Prof. Wen observed that its activities in the 17 years before the cultural revolution were revolved around helping to build the people's democratic power as a basis for the revolution. That was the People's Republic's united front led by the Communist Party. Many of its members worked in leading government units at
various levels. Wu Han served as Vice-Mayor of Beijing. The democratic league did a lot to educate its members to carry out the policy of "let a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend." Its members contributed much to China's culture, education and science.

During the cultural revolution, the democratic league was unable to carry on its work due to persecution by Lin Biao and the gang. Documents and files were destroyed, and its members were forced to go to work in the countryside. "One could say that the democratic league's life force is returning and it has made new achievements," said Prof. Wen Jiasi. "Now they have cleared their good names and have been restored. This amounts to rehabilitation of the China Democratic League and its intellectuals."

In the winter of 1977 the leaders of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party affirmed the historical contribution made by the democratic parties. After surveying the needs of the country, the democratic league made a study of problems involved in shifting the main task to modernization. "One could say that the wounds have healed," said Prof. Wen Jiasi. "The democratic league's life force is returning and it has made new achievements." Some of its members have distinguished themselves for outstanding contributions. A number have been cited as outstanding or model teachers, and many have been commended as advanced workers. Its members continue to be an important force in culture, education and science.

The Democratic League was a part of China's patriotic revolutionary united front. It is a political union of intellectuals, especially middle and higher intellectuals in the cultural, educational and scientific fields, working for socialism, and patriots who support socialism. Its task is to unite all the above-mentioned that can be united and to keep contact with compatriots in Taiwan, Hongkong and Macao and overseas Chinese intellectuals for the purpose of working for the goal of reunification of our motherland and building China into a strong modern socialist country.

At present it is preparing to enrol new members, call local branch congresses and strengthen leadership at all levels. The league has a role to play and Prof. Wen Jiasi expressed confidence that it would be able to fulfill it well. Along with his political activity, he observed, he would continue his research in French literature. He is revising his translation of The Red and the Black and plans to republish the translation he made long ago of the collected poems of Victor Hugo. He is working on a book about French literature for an encyclopedia and writing several research papers.

The Democratic League

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

FEBRUARY 1980

The Democratic Parties

MOST of the eight democratic parties in China were born during resistance to Japanese aggression (1937-49) and in the struggle afterward to build a democratic China. Their members came mainly from among the national bourgeoisie, the upper strata of urban petty bourgeoisie, intellectuals and other patriotic people.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 the eight parties pledged to work for socialism under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. In the last 30 years the system of exploitation has been abolished in China, the capitalists have ceased to exist as a class, thus the social base of these parties has undergone a fundamental change.

As a result the nature of the democratic parties has also changed. They have become political unities of people working for socialism and patriots who support socialism.

Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang: Formed in January 1948 at a meeting in Hongkong bringing together several smaller groups which had fought for democracy within the Kuomintang Party. Today its main following is among people with historical roots in the Kuomintang.

China Democratic League: Originated in 1941 as the League of Democratic Political Groups and reorganized into the present League in September 1944. Its membership today is mainly intellectuals in the cultural and educational fields.

China Democratic National Construction Association: Formally set up in 1945 by patriotic industrialists and businessmen and intellectuals connected with them who during the later years of the war the Kuomintang had been holding dinners and meetings in Chongqing to discuss current events and matters relating to their opposition to Chiang Kai-shek's policies. Its membership overlaps with and its activities are closely associated with those of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, a people's organization of national capitalists founded in October 1943. Today, with the socialist transformation of capitalist-owned industry and commerce completed, capitalists no longer exist as a class. Most of the individuals who have the ability are working, earning their own living. So today the federation has become an organization of socialist workers and patriots who formerly were capitalists. It has played an important role in helping the policies of the Communist Party in this respect, reflecting their opinions and helping them to remodel their thinking.

China Association for Promoting Democracy: Founded in December 1945 by Shanghai intellectuals in culture and education engaged in the post-war democratic movement. Its convention called on its members, who are mainly among primary and middle school teachers and people in publishing, to improve the quality of teaching and teaching methods and help upgrade China's culture and science.

Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party: Today its members are mainly in medical and health work. It was founded in 1927 as the China Revolutionary Party; later changed to the China Democratic National Construction Association. Its main sphere of activity.

China Socialist Youth League: Founded in September 1922 as the League of Chinese Universities for the Propagation of Socialism. Its main function is to get in touch with the students and young people and to play a role in developing their knowledge of socialism and preparing them to become leading socialists.

Jiu San (September 3) Society: Founded by intellectuals in culture, education and science in Chongqing in 1944 as the Democracy and Science Forum. Changing to the present name on September 3, 1945 in commemoration of the victory over Japanese aggression, it continued to work for democracy. In the post-war period, its convention called on its members, mainly scientists and technical people, to train more such personnel for China's modernization.

Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League: Founded in November 1947, it has members mainly among patriotic and democratic people on the mainland who come from Taiwan and are dedicated to its reunification with the motherland.

The Democratic Parties

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

FEBRUARY 1980
Light Industry Exhibition

CHINA'S biggest-ever national exhibition of light industry products held last September and October provided an initial review of achievements since the readjustment in economic planning. More stress is being laid on light industry, both to provide a better standard of living for the people, and as a quick way of accumulating capital needed for modernization in all fields.

One striking feature of the exhibition was the great number of products from parts of the country where they had not previously been made. One of the purposes of the exhibition was to let producers see what is being done in other provinces and cities in order to stimulate more local production. Those from far places included woolen blankets, sweaters, porcelain and various kinds of other goods that have been made in Inner Mongolia.

Before liberation in 1949, 70 percent of China's light industry was in Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangzhou and a few other coastal cities. Since liberation both the central government and localities have set up many light industrial plants throughout the country according to nearness to raw materials, fuel, power, transportation and the local market. In Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang, for instance, the main sugarbeet growing areas, sugar refineries were set up. To Tibet, where modern industry was unknown, came woolen mills, sugar refineries, paper mills and match and leather goods factories. Goods from the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on display at the exhibition included many fine quality and colorful products, such as lambskin coats, woolen blankets, carpets, sweaters, leather goods, porcelain and articles for the use of minority peoples. Now as many as 800 kinds of goods are made there. Its beautifully-patterned blankets sold to buyers from 23 countries at the Guangzhou commodity fair.

Other parts of the country, too, are striving to produce things they never made before. At present the government is adopting measures to encourage development of light industry.

Nationwide production of light industrial goods has been a factor in the average annual increase of 23 percent for food, 66 percent for watches and 18 percent for sewing machines. The 1978 total value of light industrial production was 17 times that in 1949. In 1978 one-sixth of China's total national revenue, or 18 billion yuan, was from profit and taxes paid by light industrial concerns.

China's light industry products are sold in over 150 countries and regions. More than 700 kinds of goods are exported, compared with 53 in 1953. They make up a quarter of China's total value of exports.

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The exhibition revealed wider production of large household appliances such as refrigerators, vacuum cleaners and electric fans, and, for the first time, home washing machines. But鼓励 were low-priced easy-to-make products suited to most families' present purchasing power, that sell at low profit but bring in returns through great volume of sales.

Jiangsu province has been outstanding in this respect. At the exhibition people flocked to its watch counter to buy Zhongshan watches made in its capital Nanjing. At 30 yuan they are within the purchasing range of lower-paid workers. Though the margin of profit per item is small, the factory has kept on making them for a dozen years. The Hongmei (Red Plum) camera made in Jiangsu, which is extremely simple but takes good pictures and sells for 36 yuan, was a favorite. Also popular was its new three-watt light bulb and plastic umbrellas from the province's Nantou prefecture which are light and durable, and do not get stiff in winter nor stick together in summer.

The province's two major cities, Wuxi and Suzhou, produce models of bicycles to suit different needs. There is a folding type with a 16-inch wheel which is convenient for storage in city apartments, and a sturdy 28-inch model suitable for the countryside capable of carrying a load of 200 kilograms. There is a small type with a 20-inch wheel with a basket in which young mothers can carry baby to the nursery.

Better Quality

New Products

New products at the exhibition included bicycles with from three to seven speeds, digital calendar quartz watches, locks that open to computer cards and sewing machines that can do embroidery and buttonholing, now being made available for public sale.

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from the famous porcelain center Jingdezhen in Jiangxi province, lacets from Xiaoshan in Zhejiang province, carpets from the city of Tianjin, Temple of Heaven shirts made in Beijing and Red Double Happiness ping-pong balls from Shanghai. Some, like Wuliangye spirits from Sichuan province, Shanghai's Big Rabbit sweets, Zhang Xiaoquan brand scissors from Hangzhou in Zhejiang and Polaris brand desk clocks from Shandong had long been favorite items.

**New Varieties**

Shanghai has always been a leader for quality, but the workers feel this is not enough: new items and styles must be introduced. A current slogan calls for new styles or models in one third of the products each year. In the past six months 6,000 new varieties have been produced.

Shanghai had put out new items before, but for a long time they were only samples that people could look at in the show window but were unavailable to be bought. In 1979 the Shanghai Bureau of Light Industry decided to put out in quantity some of these items: 200,000 each of women's wrist watches (not generally available before in China), calendar watches, small-wheeled bicycles, atmospheric pressure thermos bottles that pour through a spout and J B 8-2 sewing machines.

The women's watches had been successfully trial-produced a dozen years ago but were never produced in large quantities. One production line built last year can make 50,000 annually, five times more than ever before. This general trend has resulted in production of over 100 types of new products and urgently-needed goods in Shanghai.

In the same spirit, in Heilongjiang province, a big producer of powdered milk, several new varieties are now available. They include a high-calcium type for infants and young children, and a low-fat one with added vegetable oil and linoleic acid for elderly people with high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries. Instant-dissolving milk powder and quick-soluble powdered bean milk from many more places were also featured at the exhibition.

In less than a year since the economic readjustment altogether 3,000 new products and 40,000 varieties and styles have been trial-produced in the country as a whole. But products still cannot meet demand. Quite a few things were available for sale at the exhibition, but people had to stand in line at 3 a.m. to buy inexpensive, good-looking furniture made in Heilongjiang. Sales of bicycles and sewing machines were limited to those who had been issued tickets for them from their places of work. The famous spirits and wines were sold out as soon as they were put on sale. The demand is there, and now it is able to serve as a stimulus to production.
Modern Chinese-made coal cutter.

Underground transportation

Technicians at work on a control device.

Photos by Xie Jun

Underground transportation

Mines at the Nantun mine.
One of the largest coal reserves in the world has been mapped out in southwestern Shandong province on the east China plain. Small amounts of coal had been known here for centuries, but new fields were found in 1958 and only in the 60s did geologists realize how vast the reserves are.

Today the Yanzhou mines are one of China's eight major coal bases. Three mines are operating and four huge ones are under construction round the clock with 20,000 workers. At the same time, machine shops and coal-dressing plants are going up, as well as apartments, hospitals, schools and stores for the miners.

The base is linked with the Beijing-Shanghai railway and the Grand Canal to provide coal to industries in Jiangsu province, Shanghai and Wuhan on the Changjiang (Yangtze) River, and to Shijiusuo on the coast of Huanghai Sea where a new port will be built for coal export. The new base will be important in China's modernization.

Large Reserves

The Yanzhou field covers an area of 3,700 square kilometers embracing 12 counties. There are 18 to 25 coal seams. Most of it is fat coal or gas coal with low sulphur content good for coking and power plants.

Before liberation the existence of this underground treasure was unsuspected. A few mines around the edges of the field put out about 100,000 tons a year. Between 1963 and 1965 geologists located a major field under commune land and in 1966 work was started on the first new mine. Large-scale exploitation began only after the collapse of the gang of four in 1976.

Modern Construction

Both the scale of construction and the technology used are new in China. Eighty percent of the shafts being opened will produce from 1.5 to 4 million tons annually. Some of the equipment is imported and Chinese equipment used is of world standard.

Construction ran into difficult problems. The alluvial soil contained layers of quicksand, sand and gravel. Workers and engineers used a freezing method—drilling holes 300 to 400 meters deep in a circle around the site, then pumping freezer liquid into the holes and circulating it. This created a frozen wall which kept the quicksand outside. In building one pit that now produces three million tons a year, this method took only five months to penetrate 200 meters of quicksand.

While improving their freezing method the workers and engineers adopted innovations and new techniques to keep the frozen wall in place during digging. Thus the shaft was dug at a rate of 187.5 meters in a month.

In building the pithead frame, the workers boldly made use of hydraulic pressure, laser and other new technologies, completing it in only 27 days. This is much shorter than the five months needed with the old method.

New Design

The Yanzhou Institute of Coal Mining designed the new mines. The 3,000,000 tons-per-year Baodian mine is a very large one with four extraction areas and ten coal faces, four of which use foreign multi-purpose coal-extracting machines. China does not have many such large mines. In addition to lacking experience, the engineers also had to get rid of old concepts.
To prepare for it, a group of 25 technical people from the institute went to the Nantun mine, a 1,500,000 tons-per-year producer with nearly the same geological features as the Baoshan iron and steel mine construction. It also decreased labor intensity and improved working conditions and safety.

The Great Battle

Liang Jihai, deputy director of the Yanzhou coal field, has worked more than 20 years in coal mine construction. "As China is a developing country, our financial and material resources and technical personnel are limited," he said. "To do more — and do it faster, better and more economically — we have to concentrate our resources and manpower in a well-organized 'mass campaign' on needed projects."

Xinglong mine at Yanzhou is an example of how this concentration works. It is being built to supply 3,000,000 tons of coal a year to the new Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex still being constructed in Shanghai. The mine work included shafts, 81 kilometers of tunnels, surface buildings with 180,000 square meters of floor space, and installation of 14,400 machines and other equipment. Over 8,000 workers, technicians and large numbers of construction machines and equipment were concentrated.

The work at all levels was closely coordinated and carried out simultaneously. While tunneling machines were digging away 400 m deep underground, workers were busy on the surface and high in the air. All sections worked in a spirit of socialist cooperation.

The mine was completed 23 days ahead of schedule in the first half of last year.

New Start for Literature and Art

While the Fourth National Congress of Writers and Artists was meeting from October 30 to November 16, 1979, China Reconstructs reporters talked with four major leaders in the cultural field — Mao Dun, Zhou Yang, Xian Yan and Yang Hansheng — on the present situation and problems. In our January issue we printed interviews with Mao Dun and Zhou Yang, Honorary President and President of the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles. Here are two more, with the well-known playwrights Xian Yan and Yang Hansheng, both federation vice-presidents.

XIA YAN—

Difficulties and Prospects

WHEN people talk about the best of Chinese literature, they are certain to mention Xian Yan's "Bond Labor," a reportage published more than 40 years ago about the life of Chinese workers during the 30s. This article can be said to have ushered in a new era for this type of writing in China, and is listed as required reading in the Japanese general branch of the Kuomintang's department of overseas affairs. After the defeat of the Kuomintang and Communist Party were still cooperating to fight the imperialist-beckoned warlords, Yang Xian was in charge of organisational work in the Kuomintang's department of overseas affairs. After the defeat of the Great Revolution in 1927, he participated in the workers' movement and later became a teacher and translator. He took part in the cultural movement between 1929 and 1930, organizing a drama troupe and publishing journals. Around 1932 he went into the film industry and worked there until 1937, when the war against Japanese aggression started. Acting as a correspondent, he ran a newspaper called the "Jiuyang" (Save the Nation from Extinction) Daily in Shanghai, Guangzhou (Canton) and Guilin, and was an editor for the Hongkong paper "Hua Shang Bao" and the Shanghai "Chuangjing" (Chungking) New China Daily. He also did united front work.

After China's liberation in 1949 he worked for a time in the Ministry of External Affairs. Between 1954 and 1965 he held the position of Vice-Minister of Culture and for ten years was in charge of the film industry and cultural relations with foreign countries. Cruelly persecuted by Lin Biao and the gang of four during the cultural revolution, he spent eight and a half years in prison. Today he is Vice-President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, advisor to the Ministry of Culture and Vice-President of the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles.

In the years he spent in jail, his leg was fractured and his eyesight impaired. Although his leg injury has since healed, one leg is still shorter than the other. We had our interview with him in a Beijing hospital. Xian Yan was sitting in an armchair when we walked into his room, and it was distressing to see him struggle to his feet with the aid of a walking-stick. But this old revolutionary waved aside our expressions of sympathy and launched into an animated conversation with us.
Oh, Starlight! and The Unveiling are both exposes of the gang of four. All those were written by young people. There are also works by older authors, such as Cao Yu's The General Director and Chen Baichen's The Young People of Our Village. There is debate and some difference of opinion about the plays, but, in any case, they have been written, and by authors in their sixties and seventies.

"The film industry hasn't done so well," he continued, "but 12 feature films were released for the 30th anniversary celebrations of new China on October 1, 1978, plus a number of animated cartoons, documentaries and so forth. But things are improving and next year's one will probably be much better. What is most encouraging is the debut of a number of young film directors. Little Flower, for instance, a feature film by the Beijing Film Studio was directed by some young graduates of the Beijing Film Academy. The situation in music is still poor. I mentioned to those in the music association that for each period we used to have some good songs, but now everybody knows how to sing. There was 'My Home Is on the Songhua River' and 'March on the Taibai Mountains' was on everyone's lips. But today's 50-year-old authors were only 20 at the time of liberation. Today's 50-year-old authors were only 20 at the time of liberation. Their generation even less so. Their attitude toward them.

"These so-called 'taboos' are a thorny problem. It's bad to set them up, and just as bad if they're not broken down in the right way. There have been struggles over such matters in China. For a long time Chinese films didn't describe love. It was acceptable in films with ancient themes—like Shao and Zhu Yingtai and The Heavenly Maid and The Mortal. Excellent films based on ancient stories—but not in films with modern themes. Take the film The Young People of Our Village for instance. The propaganda departments concerned at first refused to pass it, and it took a mighty big tussle to get it shown to the public. How should he be evaluated? He had his mistakes and his merits. He beheld the kingdom and created a breed for the bourgeois democratic revolution in England. So one shouldn't be in any hurry to talk about merits and mistakes; one should wait for a while. On the whole, it's good to write about matters of significance in daily life and personal experience. What's important, though, is how the themes are treated and the writer's attitude toward them.
“There’s still no law for literature and art. Others have them; there’s even one for forestry. But there’s no law for publications, and everyone slides his car in. A mere word from someone or other often decides the fate of a play. A recent example is the debate in Shanghai over Son of an Artillery Commander. I hear that there was considerable divergence of opinion over it. Some insisted it would poison people’s minds. Then someone up top said it seemed all right to him, and that single pronouncement was enough to lift the ban and bring the play back onto the stage. It should be the public who decides whether a book or play is good or bad, and not a few individuals. A law on publications and a copyright law should be drawn up as soon as possible. Now there isn’t, and frequently what one man says goes. Interference sometimes reaches ridiculous proportions; even a surname given to a negative character in a play can be enough to get an author into trouble.

“Controversy and debate should be allowed on questions of literature and art. There should be democracy in these fields. Even if wrong things are said, or a bad idea implanted, it’s no real crime. A work of art can suffer a lot at the hands of politics. But we mustn’t always blame the art—we must first find out what’s wrong with the policy.”

Choice of themes should be broad,” he said. “And all themes, large and small, are permissible. A writer’s choice must be protected by legal and democratic institutions. Without political guarantees, all this is meaningless.”

Xia Yan had been in hospital for some time because of a stomach disorder. “But my health has improved a lot since I’ve been getting treatment here,” he assured us. “It’s very quiet here, and I’ve plenty of time to read scenarios and to think.” But he still was quite busy. People came to see him on the four afternoons a week the hospital allowed visitors, and some of them brought work along.

**YANG HANSHENG**

*Rebirth of the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles*

Yang Hansheng, now 77, is vice-president of the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, member of the standing committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, as well as a noted playwright and film director. He wrote his first play in 1932, Sweet Iron and Red Toon, describing the struggles against feudalism and local tyrants by peasants in his native Sichuan province. After the founding of new China in 1949, he held leading posts in cultural circles and was appointed secretary of the Party organization of the Federation of Literary and Art Circles, as well as secretary-general of the federation. In 1955, and again in 1969, he was elected vice-president and also secretary-general of the second and third national congresses of writers and artists. Whenever he was free from his heavy administrative duties, he wrote scripts for plays and films, among them *The Three Companions, Troubled Times over the Frontier, The Beautiful North and Lights in Ten Thousand Homes*, as well as the well-known play *Red Tears*, describing the *frontier* life of the liberated areas.

Yang Hansheng explained: “The federation was set up in 1949, exactly 30 years ago. It is made up of nine associations, including those for writers, dramatists, film workers, artists, musicians, dancers, folk artists and photographers as well as one for researchers on folk literature. It is a body for professionals with a voluntary membership, and as such it enjoys a certain independence. The federation and its associations are social organizations which conduct their activities on a social level and not by administrative edict. For instance, they organize debates, forums and study meetings to promote the implementation of the hundred flowers and hundred schools policy. The Ministry of Culture is an administrative organ of the State Council. Of course, their overall tasks are the same. Their organizations and the ministry are all led by the Communist Party and have common policies, tasks and objectives.”

The federation and its associations should be enough to get an author into trouble. If an author is imprisoned for many years, Tian Han, the noted playwright, died in prison on December 10, 1968, at the age of 70.

Nine years of imprisonment impaired Yang Hansheng’s health, and he underwent a long period of hospitalization after his release. He had just returned from his convalescence at the former imperial summer resort near Chengde, Hebei province, when we visited him at his home.

He first talked about the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles which had recently resumed its activities and the various associations of which it is composed. “We asked him to tell us something about the federation’s present and past.”

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As part of their plans to usurp Party leadership and seize power, Yang Hansheng said, the gang of four had completely disbanded the federation and its associations. Association workers were evicted from the federation's premises; some were driven out of Beijing, while others were imprisoned. Since the fall of the gang the federation had now been restored, and its staff reinstated. But owing to the lack of buildings, they were forced to work in sheds and make do with their offices by day and sleep in them at night. The Party and government were highly concerned about this situation and were taking measures to solve the housing problem. Books and reference materials were also missing or incomplete. Of the original association workers, some were driven out of Beijing, while others were imprisoned. The federation's older cadres had been similarly affected by the gang. Although politically he'd been persecuted by them, his thinking on literature and art was still under their influence!" Yang Hansheng then mentioned an article entitled "Lauding Virtue" and "Lacking Virtue" published not long ago in the magazine Hebei Literature and Art. "The writer is only 28 years old and a former Red Guard," he said. "And he was pretty deeply affected by the gang's ultra-Left thinking. But we shouldn't treat such people as enemies. For them it's still a question of understanding. The important thing is to help and re-educate them. We reasoned things out with that young fellow in Hebei province and helped him see where he was wrong. We dispelled his doubts and fears and showed him he had a promising future. The young man was deeply moved. Today he's studying hard. He now admits he was deeply influenced by the gang and that a lot of his thinking was actually theirs. The people in charge of the Hebei Federation of Literary and Art Circles feel that they, too, must bear part of the blame in this matter."

On the question of current literary themes, Yang Hansheng declared: "On this subject I agree with Hu Yaobang (Head of Propaganda Department of the Party Central Committee). He mentioned three types of themes: modern ones, about China's socialist revolution and construction; those dealing with the old and new democratic revolutions between 1840 and 1949; or historical ones. In the past several thousand years, China produced many great scientists, writers, artists, statesmen and military thinkers, who contributed a great deal to the creation of the multi-national state of China. Though history provides a great variety of themes, we should encourage authors to write more on modern ones."

There is also a great deal of work to be done on developing the culture and art of our national minorities. Their literature exists chiefly in the form of folk literature. Research in this field also suffered heavily and we now have to start again from scratch. Recently, we invited ballad singers from nationalities all over the country to Beijing to speed up the work."

Finally we inquired about his present state of health and if he was planning to write anything. He answered: "I recovered from some illnesses while in prison between 1966 and 1975. It was sheer willpower that kept me alive. For instance, a stroke paralyzed me on one side and I eventually got better only because I massaged myself every day."

"I composed classical-style poems while in prison. But since we weren't allowed paper or pencils I memorized them all — more than 100 of them. Now I'm writing them down. I'm also interested in all types of themes for plays. I'd like to write something about Li Bai and Du Fu, and also about some famous ancient scientists. But all these will have to wait until I finish revising the film scenario Ode to the Guerrillas of Southern Jiangxi, which I began after I was released from prison. It's in memory of Chen Yi, who spent three years leading the guerillas fighting in southern Jiangxi. I've also got my work in the federation. And we have very, very much work to do."
The emblem of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) confirmed on November 26, 1979, the Nagoya resolution to restore China’s seat in the Olympic movement. Thus ended the 21-year abnormal situation, in which China had no official relations with the IOC since 1958. This significant change was met with vigorous approval from sports circles the world over, for a large gap in the international sports field had finally been filled.

Zhong Shitong, President of both the All-China Sports Federation and the Chinese Olympic Committee, when interviewed about this event by a staff reporter of China Reconstructs, said:

"The decision of the IOC has made it possible for the People’s Republic of China with her 900 million people to rejoin the world sports family, and her sportsmen from both the mainland and Taiwan province will be able to attend the Olympic Games side by side. This has long been the wish of the Chinese people and is in the interest of the Olympic cause. It shall also strengthen the unity and friendship among the athletes of different countries and promote the development of world sports."

The Chinese Olympic Committee has always advocated increasing cooperation and reinforcing ties with the IOC and sportsmen the world over on the basis of mutual respect. China’s sports delegation will take part in the speed skating, figure skating, skiing and biathlon competitions at the 13th Winter Olympics in February to be held at Lake Placid in the United States, and go to Moscow in July to take part in the qualifying rounds and competitions of the 22nd Olympic Games in 15 events, namely track and field, swimming, gymnastics, archery, shooting, weightlifting, basketball, volleyball, football, handball, fencing, cycling, yachting, boating and wrestling.

"When China was excluded from the IOC, she launched a mass sports movement throughout the country. As a result, the Chinese people, formerly known as the ‘sick men of the East’ are in much better health today. Our athletes have improved national records in all sports, broken world records 180 times and won 30 championships in international competitions. All this shows that they are gifted and promising although they are still below, and in certain events very much below, the high standards of other countries. To catch up will need enormous effort on their part in learning and training. They have made considerable progress in the past, and there is great possibility that they will do even better in the future, as the restoration of China’s place in this ‘united nations of sport’ will create more chances for them to learn from their counterparts abroad."

"I have been asked by friends for my views on the relations between the Chinese Olympic Committee and Taiwan province. I believe that this victory is one for the entire Chinese people, both on the mainland and in Taiwan province, because we all want the reunification of our motherland. In view of our common aspiration that there be only one China in the world, and taking into consideration the reality of Taiwan province, the IOC approved that the committee based in Taiwan should remain in the international committee as a local body of China under the name of the Chinese Taibei Olympic Committee."

"We have long taken a keen interest in the sportsmen in Taiwan and placed great hopes in them. We invited Taiwan athletes to join us in the Eighth Asian Games and again, in the Fourth National Games. We provided facilities for their travel and guaranteed their freedom to come and go. Even today, we still reserve places for them in our sports delegations."

"In the past, Taiwan athletes have done a great deal in developing sports and have got good results. This is an asset to the Chinese nation. Some of their experiences should be noted by mainland athletes. We should learn from each other and improve together. If the Taibei Olympic Committee should need any help in their participation of the 22nd Olympic Games, we shall be glad to do whatever we can. That our Chinese athletes will be able to stand side by side at the Olympic Games is an opportunity that we greatly value."

Zhong Shitong with Chinese gymnasts. Photos by Feng Yiping and Li Kai.


China takes environmental protection seriously. For a socialist country her highest principle is to safeguard and foster the interests of the people. Some good results have been achieved.

One of the problems that arises with widespread use of chemical insecticides is pollution of the soil, water and crops, which directly or indirectly endangers the people's health. These insecticides also kill many beneficial insects and birds, thus reducing natural preventives of plant diseases and insect pests.

China's agro-scientists sought to cut down on these undesirable effects through using selective insecticides, mixtures and thinner solutions. When this did not fundamentally solve the problem they turned to biological control. Some success has been gained in employing beneficial insects and pathogenic microbes to prevent and control plant diseases and pests. Insects like trichogramma, ladybirds and green lacewings kill pests that harm grain, oil crops, cotton and trees. Microbes control the corn borer, pine moth and rice plant skipper. Antibiotics are used to control rice sheaf, and culm blight, rice blast, millet smut and apple rot. In rice-growing areas ducks turned out into the paddy fields to eat rice hoppers get rid of 70 to 80 percent of them. Such measures are being widely introduced throughout China. Figures for 1978 show that they were used on 6,700,000 hectares of land, counter-insects on 2,070,000 ha. and antibiotics on 2,000,000 ha.

In China's less developed areas, ducks were used to kill hoppers on 670,000 ha. of paddy land, counter-insects on 2,070,000 ha. and antibiotics on 2,000,000 ha.

In the fourteenth of China's 2,100 counties, with an installed capacity of 5,300,000 kw. These now provide an inexpensive source of power

Eighty percent of China's population lives in the countryside where brush and other vegetation is the traditional domestic fuel. About 400 million tons a year of such fuel, the equivalent of 400 million tons of coal, is burned and thus does not return to the soil as organic matter. In the past in some places indiscriminate tree-felling for fuel aggravated soil erosion and began to affect the climate.

New Sources of Energy

New sources of energy are being promoted in the countryside to protect the natural environment and the ecological balance. Chief ones are small hydro-power stations and marsh gas. China has water resources for small or medium-sized hydro-power stations capable of producing a total of 150 million kilowatts. A total of 88,000 such stations have been set up in three-fourths of China's 2,100 counties, with an installed capacity of 5,300,000 kw. These now provide an inexpensive source of power...
fluke and hookworms, thus greatly smaller, scattered industrial towns ed night soil. Disease that exists with unfermentation is good organic ferti
dermore, solving many of the problems takes time and money, so solutions can be reached only step by step. Starting from what is feasible in the current period, in 1978 the state set dates by which 167 industrial and mining enterprises with se-
Qi Shenbao (left), a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, conducting experiments in using slink flies to control aphids.

Part of the equipment for treating water at the Cangzhou Petrochemical Works in Hebei province.
Photos by Xinhua
Marsh Gas: China's use of marsh gas as a means of cheap energy and good organic fertilizer has attracted the attention of a number of developing countries. Last August UNEP held a training class in China for marsh gas specialists and rural energy development officials from 20 countries. It later decided to set up an international center in China for training marsh gas specialists for developing countries. The center will also do research, the results of which will be disseminated through UNEP.

Deserts and Desertification: Existing and newly-made deserts cover 47,000,000 square kilometers, or almost a third of the earth's land surface, making this one of the world's most serious environment problems today. Land in 64 countries is affected or threatened. A 1977 United Nations conference attended by 110 countries called for curbing the menace by the year 2,000.

In speaking with UNEP's Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba last October, Vice-Premier Li Xiannian said that if China's experience could be of use to the developing countries, she would share it with them without reservation.

In January 1980 issue on page 24, par. 1, line 10 and in the box on page 25, line 4, first evidence of the existence of the ginseng was found not in 1978 but in the summer of 1979.

In the bottom left picture on page 30 Tian Chongxue is second left and Bishop Fu Tiehan is on the left.

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

FEBRUARY 1980.

Mohammed harvested grapes.

FENG XIANCHU

A drying room where grapes become raisins. 

Photos by Peng Xianchu

The Grape Harvest

Photos by Peng Xianchu

Mohammed plucked some bunches of grapes and washed them. Since these were grown in his home, they were his.

"Where do you get your grain and vegetables?" I asked him.

"I've got a private plot, so I grow my vegetables there," said the old man. "The production team also grows some vegetables for the commune. One can buy vegetables at the village fair for special occasions." The state provides 16 kilograms of grain per person and some oil, which the commune allocates according to the needs of each family. Mohammed's family, for example, had got 56 kilograms of grain, which was more than enough for his wife, his daughter and himself.

We had a very lively supper as Mohammed and his wife teased each other.

"How many kilograms of grapes will we get this year?" he asked his wife.

"Oh, about 350 kilograms. Last year we got 300."

"Nonsense! You're too conservative," he joked. "I bet we'll get at least 400 kilograms this year."

With workers like Mohammed and the determination of members of his team, such targets will be easily reached.
Treasures and Wonders of Wuyi Mountain

XIA WEI

In northern Fujian province along China's southeastern coast stands Wuyi Mountain, famous alike for its Rock Tea, its rich flora and fauna and its sites of ancient "boat burials."

Let us begin with Wuyi's Rock Tea. Best of the Oolong class, long drunk and appreciated around the world, it has a flavor all its own — combining the sweet mellowness of the black teas with the delicate fragrance of the green. This it owes to an exceptionally favorable combination of temperature, moisture, sunlight, soil fertility and altitude. The bushes are planted in fields strewn with pebbles on terraces between cliffs and along streams.

Rock Tea has its sub-groups. A choice one is Dahongpao, or "Scarlet Robe." It is grown on a small plot high on the mountainside, totally exposed to the mild rays of the sun after dawn but shielded from the glare of noon. A natural spring moistens the soil and nourishes the roots.

Another famous variety is the Bofangqin, or "White Coxcomb." It was of this tea that the Song dynasty poet Fan Zhongyan wrote almost a thousand years ago:

Excelling all others is the wondrous tea of Wuyi's streams,
Immortals planted it here in times of yore.

The wealth of plants and animals native to Wuyi Mountain makes it a veritable museum of flora and fauna. Hence the people's government has designated 570 square kilometers as a natural preserve.

A Natural Museum

Many types of broadleaf and conifer trees cover the slopes. Its boxwood is prized for woodcarving. Sarcandra and the Chinese plumyew have medicinal value. Rare species include the long-petaled beech, Chinese plumyew and cryptomeria. Gingko trees, some 700 centuries old, grow to heights of 20 meters.

Among the rare fauna are the tufted deer, clouded leopard (Neofelis nebulosa) and large Indian civet. More than 140 kinds of birds inhabit the mountain's forests. Gorgously feathered are the mandarin ducks and willow warblers (Phylloscopus). Rare species include the red-bill robins and common quaker-warblers. A fork-tailed sunbird resembles the humming birds of South America. Its plumage is jade-green except for a brownish-red ring around the neck. Living mainly on insects, it also sucks nectar from flowers with its long, pointed bill.

Some 50 years ago an American biologist found some tadpoles of this species here. Last summer a team of Chinese scientists found some tadpoles each with a gray
Fruit of the Chinese torreya—the inner nut is eaten.

The Chinese torreya (Torreya grandis), which grows in the Wuyi Mountain.

Nine-Twist Stream.

Right: The bearded toad (Vibris-
snphora liui) with four horns.

Tadpoles of the bearded toad.
The path to the top of Tianyou Peak.

Y-shaped mark on its back and four small "horned freaks.
High up in the cracks of the mountain cliffs one sees wooden planks with wooden boats on top. This was noticed here as long as 800 years ago by the Song dynasty neo-Confucian philosopher Zhu Xi (1130-1200) in one of his poems.

Naturally people may ask why, how and when these boats were placed on these precipitous cliffs. A fanciful explanation, in a legend, goes like this. The mountain god was giving a banquet. He set up a rainbow bridge for the people to come over. No sooner had the guests walked off the bridge than it collapsed. The planks flew in all directions and got stuck in the cracks on the cliffs.

From the 14th to 17th century it was thought by scholars that the boats had belonged to a minority people. They conclude that in ancient times the riverbeds in this area were very high and these people had lived on the cliffs, which then formed the lands. When a chief died they put him in a boat which they hauled ashore.

In recent years, Chinese archaeologists have studied the sites anew. In the autumn of 1978 scientific workers from the Fujian Museum and other units brought a boat down from the cliff. Carved out of a single log, it had a plank as cover on top. Inside they found a bamboo mat on which were scattered human bones, a turtle-shaped wooden plate and pieces of rough cloth. Obviously it was a coffin. A preliminary estimate dated it as at least 2,000 years old.

Nine-Twist Stream
Nine-Twist Stream, the main scenic attraction on the mountain, flows between reddish peaks and overhanging cliffs of red sandstone weathered into unusual shapes. Some rise straight up as if having been chopped by an ax. Some are large on top but small at the bottom. The stream meanders among them over seven kilometers cutting the area into two parts. It is an impressive spectacle to see a boat sailing amid the cliffs.

The twists or bends are numbered from downstream up. At the first are two peaks, Manting and Dawang. Halfway up the first, its name is carved in two immense Chinese characters covering 18 square meters. Dawang Peak is 400 meters above sea level, big at the top and slender in the middle. The top is covered with ancient trees and fallen leaves. On it one has the feeling of standing on a rock in the vast rolling sea. Looking down, the stream appears as a narrow ribbon.

Ruins known as Wuyi Palace are one of the places visitors like to explore.

The stream follows a narrow valley from the first to the fourth twists. At the fifth the view widens. The cliffs on both sides lean apart as if to give it space. Here Zhu Xi had his villa built eight centuries ago, lectured on philosophy in his old age. The ruins still remain.

After liberation in 1949 a stretch of new buildings were put up here—the Wuyi Sanitarium—serving the people. Recently, to help accommodate an increasing number of tourists, a hotel, a department store and a restaurant have been added.

Photos by Liu Chen
Paving the Way for Deeper Understanding
—Two Weeks with the Old Vic

YING RUOCHENG

The Old Vic Company, though quite used to presenting history on the stage, has found itself making history with this tour. A hush fell on the gathering at the welcoming banquet for the Old Vic Company last autumn, as Toby Robertson, director of the company and the artistic director of Hamlet, uttered these words, for it was a sentiment shared by all.

The tour was a triumph for the Old Vic Company on its part, I think, was mildly yet pleasantly surprised by their audiences' knowledge of and zest for Shakespeare. I remember how impressed they were as we sat in the plane from Shanghai to Beijing, and I translated orally for Mr. Robertson an article welcoming the Old Vic written by Cao Yu, a leading playwright in China and President of the Association of Theatrical Artists. In the article, Cao Yu gave a list of the translations, performances and adaptations of Shakespeare in China since the beginning of this century. The list was far from complete, but still it was sure proof that this literary giant was by no means unfamiliar to Chinese theaters. Of Hamlet alone, there had been several productions, including versions of it in the form of Sichuan Opera and other indigenous performing arts. That apart from Shakespeare's universal appeal, explains why the finer points in the interpretation and presentation of Hamlet by the Old Vic was fully understood and appreciated.

In Shanghai and Beijing, Hamlet was presented to packed houses for nine unforgettable performances, the last of which was broadcast on the nation's television network, which in turn was viewed by tens of millions of people. Outstanding dramatists and theatrical artists from the two cities attended the performances. Discussions about the production were held, press reviews appeared in all the major newspapers, giving unanimous praise to Mr. Toby Robertson's handling of both the text and the mise-en-scène, and to the superb and masterly interpretation of Mr. Derek Jacobi and fellow actors and actresses.

The Old Vic Company on its part, I think, was mildly yet pleasantly surprised by their audiences' knowledge of and zest for Shakespeare. I remember how impressed they were as we sat in the plane from Shanghai to Beijing, and I translated orally for Mr. Robertson an article welcoming the Old Vic written by Cao Yu, a leading playwright in China and President of the Association of Theatrical Artists. In the article, Cao Yu gave a list of the translations, performances and adaptations of Shakespeare in China since the beginning of this century. The list was far from complete, but still it was sure proof that this literary giant was by no means unfamiliar to Chinese theaters. Of Hamlet alone, there had been several productions, including versions of it in the form of Sichuan Opera and other indigenous performing arts. That apart from Shakespeare's universal appeal, explains why the finer points in the interpretation and presentation of Hamlet by the Old Vic was fully understood and appreciated.

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Berlin Orchestra and von Karajan Acclaimed

MUSIC has given me so much that I feel I must give something back,” Herbert von Karajan, one of the world’s leading conductors, told Chinese reporters in Beijing. What his world-famous Berlin Philharmonic gave Beijing music lovers at three concerts last October 29, 30 and November 1 was supreme aesthetic satisfaction.

Concertgoers in Beijing have heard some of the world’s finest orchestras, including the Boston Symphony led by Seiji Ozawa, von Karajan’s one-time protégé. But the Berlin Philharmonic is in a class by itself. It is capable of producing sound that is integrated and polished at every dynamic level, and with wonderful details. This was amply demonstrated in its performance of Brahms’ Symphony No. 1 at the opening concert. A work that had been played in Beijing many times by both local and visiting orchestras, by some it had sounded a bit rushed, by others long-drawn-out; none caught the grandeur of the work so well as von Karajan. He used an unhurried tempo and built up to an emotion-charged climax with overwhelming, yet controlled, power. The audience was electrified from the very beginning when the strings sang out in a glowing and sonorous tone to the high-spirited horn call near the end.

The Berliners showed what they could do with a full display of orchestral color in the Ravel orchestration of Pictures at an Exhibition. In “The Great Gate at Kiev” section the bold brass drove ahead with great masses of tone as von Karajan led the orchestra to overpowering heights.

An orchestra must not be impersonal, von Karajan stressed: it must have a personality of its own. This belief is undoubtedly one of the keys to von Karajan’s success with the Berlin Philharmonic. Last June this writer heard Isaac Stern talk about idiosyncrasy when the violinist visited Beijing. One could say both Furtwängler and Karajan were true to the Inner essence of the music each in his own way. Both had “inner veracity”—to use Furtwängler’s cherished phrase in his Concerning Music.

The visiting conductor was impressed by the rapt attention of the Chinese audience, even in such a large place as the 5,000-seat Beijing Gymnasium.

Conductor von Karajan spoke highly of China’s Central Philharmonic Orchestra and its principal conductor Li Delun. He said he was amazed at the character and precision shown by members of the orchestra who sat in with the Berliners to perform Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony. He observed that this was even more astounding when it was realized that the average age of the Chinese musicians was in the mid-thirties, meaning that they had lived most of their adult life through a time when western composers were branded as “bourgeois” and their music was virtually outlawed in China.

He said that Li Delun was a very fine musician and that he would certainly invite Li to conduct his orchestra some day.

Explaining why he had wanted to come to China, von Karajan said that Debussy had been a great admirer of China and recalled the influence the orient had exerted over him and other great composers including Mozart, Beethoven and Puccini. He also said that it would be marvelous if he could come back with an opera company and film Puccini’s Turandot in Beijing’s Imperial Palace.

The Berlin musicians at the Great Wall. Huo Jianying

With China’s Central Philharmonic Society conductor Li Delun (left). Li Shengnan

This was the Berlin Philharmonic’s first visit to China, but music lovers here have long admired the great orchestra through recordings. During an hour-long informal chat with the maestro in Beijing, this writer asked him about the difference in style between himself and his great predecessor Wilhelm Furtwängler. The latter was known for his use of the rubato as a subjectivist, whereas Karajan is known for his precision and objectivity. The conductor conceded that his predecessor had been sometimes rather free with the tempo but he was all admiration for Dr. Furtwängler. “His outstanding merit was that he could make the musicians play by themselves without interfering with them.”
Performances from Abroad Brought Cultural Springtime in Autumn

Last autumn and early winter saw a surge of cultural exchanges. Artists from as many as 14 countries visited China to present their varied and colorful repertoires, enhancing Beijing's autuminal beauty and charm. Among the solo performers were Luxembourg's celebrated pianist, Florence Soeskin Wong, and the exciting Spanish dancer, Lucero Tena. The Pyongyang Schoolchildren's Arts Troupe made up of delightful youngsters between the ages of nine and 15 displayed their musical and dancing skills together with Chinese children. A happy coincidence was the appearance in China for the first time of the world-famous Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by maestro Herbert von Karajan and the century-old "George Enescu" Philharmonic Orchestra of Romania. Both opening performances were held on the evening of October 29, 1979. Before the two orchestras' series of concerts came to an end, the artists of the National Theater of Greece arrived with their program of famous Greek tragedies. Again in the field of drama, nine productions of Shakespeare's Hamlet were given by Britain's Old Vic Company to full houses in Beijing and Shanghai. Audiences received with equal enthusiasm the diverse talents of the Mexican Trio, the Children's Art Troupes from Bangladesh, the Orchestral and Wind Ensemble of the Tokyo College of Music, the Reykjavík Male Voice Choir of Iceland, the Berne String Quartet of Switzerland and the New Zealand Maori Cultural Group. Yehudi Menuhin, the world renowned violin artist, gave three thrilling performances in Beijing that also won tremendous applause and admiration from Chinese musicians.
The Black-Necked Crane

WANG HUAIXIN

Black-necked cranes have almost disappeared from much of the world, but in the early 60s many were found at Lake Elin, source of the Huanghe (Yellow) River in China's Qinghai province, in the northern part of the Qinghai-Tibet plateau.

The cranes spend the winter in the Hengduan Mountains in southwest China and return to the plateau in March to breed. They leave for the south again in late fall. Nearly 300 of them have been counted in recent years on the grasslands in six minority prefectures and ten counties in Qinghai. Lake Longbao in the south of the province has the most.

Chinese wildlife scientists began fieldwork in 1978 on the black-necked crane's population, dispersal, habits, relation to environment and migration patterns. A study team left Xining, Qinghai's capital, in late March and reached Lake Longbao after three days of travel through the mountains. The center of interest was that although the spring was colder than usual, the cranes had returned 20 days early.

The team erected its felt tents on the shore of the lake still frozen and set up 40-power telescopes. The next morning at dawn a flock of 30 cranes were seen three kilometers away. When the scientists approached to within 1,000 meters with cameras, the cranes took flight, leaving little possibility for good movie shots.

A month later when the ice on the lake began to melt, the cranes no longer flocked but wandered about in couples. It was the moulting season. In May they were building their nests. Each contained one or two drab-yellow, brown-spotted eggs. The female and male alternated on the nest, changing two to six times a day. The parents did not leave the nest even when the plateau's changeable weather brought fierce winds, rain or snow.

The baby cranes hatch after one month, a period that seems to leave the parents exhausted. In August the adults usually begin teaching their young to fly in preparation for escaping the snow storms which arrive in September.

Why do black-necked cranes choose to breed in this area 4,200 meters above sea level where the weather is so bad? One reason is the abundant food supply, but the main reason is the absence of human beings, usually their greatest enemy. The cranes are big but relatively defenseless. They can only peck or flee.

One day the scientists went out to film baby cranes hatching. The parent on one nest fled when the men were about 1,000 meters away. There were two baby cranes, one just hatched, the other struggling out of its shell. The parent came back only after the men had left. It took away the first baby hatched and deserted the other. Later in the day an eagle carried off the orphan. The survival rate of baby cranes is low because the parents lack the capacity to defend them. Some cranes work tirelessly the whole summer, only to have no young left in the end. Moreover, baby cranes often fight in the nest until they kill each other. These factors make the black-necked crane an endangered species.

Why did the cranes return so early, while the lake was still frozen? Black-necked cranes are extremely sensitive to changes in weather. The previous year a cold spring had forecast autumn rain-storms and a rise in the lake's water level. The cranes returned to make one month earlier than usual in order to get their young out of the area before the floods, the scientists concluded.

WANG HUAIXIN is a cameraman for the Xining TV Station in Qinghai province.

A field study group.

A pair of black-necked cranes.
'China Reconstructs' in My Classroom

SHIRLEY DEANE

As a teacher of Asian Geography and Chinese History, I have had great difficulty finding good resource materials for students at the high school level. Available textbooks are not only too elementary, but frequently inaccurate in areas of basic geography and history. For example, in one textbook, maps do not show Korea's short border with the U.S.S.R., but make it appear as if the whole of northern Korea borders only China. More reliable material on China is, in the main, too advanced—more for university students.

Just over five years ago, I became acquainted with China Reconstructs. Since then, I have been making use of it in a number of ways. The 1978 and 1979 issues have been especially valuable.

In my course on Asian Geography I spend one third of the year on China. I first look at the physical geography of the country, land formation, river systems, climatic conditions and vegetation. It is important for students not only to know the facts about each of these areas, but also to understand the relationship of one to the other, and then to appreciate the advantages and disadvantages inhabitants of the various regions have. I want to guide students in understanding how the physical geography has influenced the cultural development of the people. Then I want them to examine how the people have made use of advantages to overcome limitations.

Actually, my course is very much a cultural geography, for the greatest emphasis is on understanding people. That entails some in-depth study and certainly means we must look at history as well. But always the focal point is appreciating the importance of the geography and overall economic situation in determining the movement of events.

SHIRLEY DEANE teaches high school in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. A long-time reader of our magazine, she recently visited China.

FEBRUARY 1980
Chinese Cookery
West Lake Vinegar Fish
(Xi Hu Cu Yu)

To this famous traditional dish from Hangzhou in Zhejiang province is attached a legend. In ancient times two fishermen-brothers lived together on West Lake. When the younger brother fell ill, the older brother, who cooked a fish from the lake for him by this recipe-every day and soon he recovered. The kind-hearted sister-in-law was praised by all and her recipe has been handed down from generation to generation.

In doing so they got some ideas about the controversial nature of historical research. Also, as a result of changing the articles for study, they became more interested in recent events in China.

In conclusion, the examples of how students use China Reconstructs in History are important in having them appreciate the work of any historian who interprets historical events, as drawing conclusions based on available information. Often high school students will have the idea that the study of history is simply the memorization of "facts." Again in the area of history, as in geography, the articles vary in depth and variety. Some articles, such as the excellent in-depth series on history in the 1979 issues, can be reserved for students who want to do more research. Or, of course, these articles can be used for my own background.

ARTICLES on leaders such as Zhou Enlai, Zhu De and Peng Dehuai are used in units on modern Chinese history. Here, in sections on geography and ancient history, maps and pictures are very important. Frequently, I display these pictures and maps on bulletin boards.

The Halixia Canada-China Friendship Association has been making kits to help teachers who teach units on China. Included in these kits, besides the articles, there are various aspects of life in China. Members used pictures from China Reconstructs to make these colorful useful posters.

Recently, I have even discovered material that I can use in my history classes. The article "North China to North America — An Evidence Linking Paleolithic Cultures in China with the North America" is a very short but interesting article which is directly related to the topic of native peoples in North America.

Generally then, the student can read most articles in China Reconstructs on his own with or without guidance from me. They then can draw conclusions and make observations on their own. Because the material varies in depth, some can be reserved for research assignments for those most interested in the Chinese history. Here, I suggest is then very important in having them read on their own and become less dependent on the teacher.

* China Reconstructs, May 1978, p. 45

China's Progress
I highly appreciate the article "Crucial Steps in China's Modernisation" by Wen Zong in your October issue last year, especially her "What About Energy in China?" in your April 1979 issue. I agree with my family that this is the best and most solid way to develop herself. Also the fossils discovered are very interesting. Everyone is very proud of the people of China to know what lived there before them. Therefore, we are very happy that I can study. Knowing something about them would make it easier to live there.

Beauce, France
L.P.

Energy Problems
Since I started reading China Reconstructs, I have found all the articles interesting, especially those on energy and forestation. Here, in sections on geography and ancient history, maps and pictures are very important. Frequently, I display these pictures and maps on bulletin boards.

In the September issue, I like the piece "The Beijing Prison." It reflects the justness of the socialist legal system. The French Television had a program on the Beijing Prison a few days ago.

Beauce, France
L.P.

Sports Articles Too Short
My suggestions are about your sports items. To begin with, I really enjoy these sports topics and the magazine as a whole. But the sports topics are just too short. In your April 1979 issue for example, the sports articles should have been longer. Secondly, we want to know more about certain games especially those in which we partici-

Kimpaui, Uganda
R.S.

Sports Articles Too Short
More Articles on Students
I was very happy to get your magazine and went through them all. Since I am a student I would like to know if you are going to write about students in China and what subjects they are taught in school. And also about some of the places in China because I may one day be sent there to study. Knowing something about them would make it easier to live there.

Gulu, Uganda
C.B.O.

Disabled Children
I enjoyed very much the article on the International Year of the Child, but I am sorry that nothing was mentioned about disabled children. Something about the life of blind, dumb and crippled children.

The continued articles on Chinese history are most interesting. Having used them considerably, the effect is of additional interest to me to read about it from the Chinese point of view.

Tucson, U.S.A.
R.A.D.

Your magazine China Reconstructs is a pleasure to me and my country. This magazine seems so well balanced in its variety of articles each month. I was quite interested to read this article called "The Beijing Prison" in your September issue. Your article on your figure for "re- repeaters" seems impressively low.

Slovenia, Canada
H.B.

Sports Articles Too Short
More Articles on Students
A Historical Mistake
Reaching your October 1979 issue, I found a Historical mistake in a caption for "Beijing Scissors" on page 4. Your caption reads: "Ruins of an earlier summer palace Yuanmingyuan, destroy-

Tucson, U.S.A.
J.D.

Disabled Children
Comments on Religion
I very much enjoy your magazine and admire your country's achievements. But to my regret, I find no difference between the religious policies of China and the Soviet Union. Although your door is open again to the world your 3.5 million Citizens have had to cut off from the Pope. Everyone knows the active role played by the "patriotic" churches in the present freedom. The Catholic church does not want any person to have a complete freedom. Allowing religious freedom can only be good for China and brings benefits to China. I consider this an act of disloyalty to the Chinese people and China. It is a point of national pride to me.

J.D.
Singen, Federal Republic of Germany

More In-depth Articles
I enjoy your magazine because it brings back so many happy memories of my 1949 visit. But, while the magazine is very enjoyable, it is still relatively unexpen-

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since the people had exercised their democratic rights. Most of those had been more than a dozen years of age. After the revolution that started in 1966, it was 92-year-old Wang Gui, 89-year-old Xue Zhanxiang, and other former landlords and rich landlords were deprived of their rights as citizens. This constituted a major advance in the political and social relations in Chinese society.

The Electorate

After the voting, the polling officer announced the results: Of 157 voters, 138 had come to the polls. There had been three absentees due to illness and there had been no ballots cast by raving ballot box, and 16 who had been away on business had voted by proxy. Ballot slips returned numbered 127, equal to the number issued. Thus attendance was 100 percent.

In the county as a whole, voting attendance averaged 98.2 percent, with 282,610 out of 287,758 voters casting their ballots.

There were other reasons to be happy over these elections, too. In previous elections held in this county in 1965, 2,364 people, or 1.2 percent of all citizens over the age of 18, had been disenfranchised. In the current elections, however, only 74 had been disqualified by law from voting, among them 15 of the electorate, only 1/43 of the electorate, only 1/43 of the electorate.

The constituency where the Huafeng Brigade is located had been an advanced worker. At the Gaoshanzi commune, he said, “I have been happy over these elections, too. I’ve got the right to vote for the first time.” And when he was given his elector’s card he said, “Now I’m going to look for my son. I haven’t heard from him in 30 years.”

Nomination of Candidates

The new Electoral Law adopted by the Second Session of the Fifth National People’s Congress in 1979 decrees that candidates to people’s congresses at the national and local levels are nominated by their constituents or electoral units. It also stipulates that any voter can make a nomination when it is seconded by no less than three others. Organizations can also nominate, but must provide an account of the nominee’s qualifications. In direct elections the number of candidates to be elected. These are important new provisions which will broaden the scope of democracy.

After repeated discussion from early September to early October, in which 89 percent of the electors in Beizhen county took part, 3,970 candidates were nominated. The constituency where the Huafeng Brigade No. 4 is located was to elect four deputies, and seven candidates out of 33 nominees were settled upon in the course of the discussions.

At the Gaoshanzi commune, there was a difference of opinion over one nomination. Some people were in favor of the proposed candidate — director Jia Zhiyi of the local supply and marketing cooperative, pointing out that he was a capable administrator and an advanced worker. Others disagreed, pointing out that he had been currying favor with his superiors by selling things rather than the general public, the best bicycles, sewing machines and watches.

In the end, because the majority of electors felt he didn’t represent their interests, they failed to win a nomination.

As discussions over candidates at the 2nd production team of the Taizigou brigade, the first to speak up was a wrinkled old peasant by the name of Bai Yingwen. “When the Kuomintang held elections for their national assembly,” he said, “the like of us could get anywhere near the ballot box. It’s only after liberation that the people got the right to vote. I thought the first general elections in 1953 were already very democratic, but these elections are even more so. Now we’re asked to name the candidates and discuss them — that’s real democracy!” He then nominated Sun Yaqun, secretary of the brigade’s Party branch committee, noting that though Sun lived several kilometers away from the fields, he never was late for work. Besides that, he skillfully organized the work of the brigade as a whole. On rainy days he would walk around with a shovel, banking up fields that were in danger of flooding. He also upheld the interests of the community and once had promptly dealt with...
a theft of twigs which the brigade had obtained for making baskets. A debate ensued over Sun's nomination. A team member objected on the grounds that Sun had privately given a voucher for buying timber which rightfully belonged to the brigade as a whole, and that he had often eaten at the brigade's canteen without giving the requisite grain coupons. Nor did accountant Wang Wenfu approve, complaining that handling the theft of the stolen twigs, Sun had only imposed a fine of ten fen for each twig instead of fifty according to regulations.

Then another commune member spoke on Sun's behalf. She insisted that a man should be judged by his principal aspects and conducted as a whole. "Secretary Sun has worked conscientiously ever since he came to this team," she said. "He's got drive and takes responsibility for his decisions. He's done a good deal for our brigade, making things better than ever, but if he mends his ways he's still a good commune." Other brigade members cited examples to show the big changes that had taken place in their once backward brigade under Sun Yuxiang's leadership. In the end Sun was made a candidate by consensus.

**People's Deputies**

The new electoral law provided that the scope of direct elections is now broadened to the county level, which means that the people elect their deputies to the county organs of state power, and that they have the right to run the country and which has eliminated the old practice of the election of the People's Deputies, a man should be judged by what he has done for the country, the party and the people. The newly revised electoral law units for the first time the positive and negative experience of the intervening 30 years and laid down the new emphasis on socialism. It is an important piece of legislation that determines the future direction of the country.

During the elections in Beihen county, people often heard remarks that this was like "sort flowers out from among flowers," meaning that all the candidates were so worthy, it was difficult to choose among them.

For example, one of them, Ma Yuxiang, a 69-year-old model worker at the Shangguan brigade, had been a team leader ever since agricultural cooperatives were first set up after liberation. In 1958 he led his teammates in a collective effort that converted 28 hectares of barren hillsides into farmland. They also dug ponds to conserve water and planted 4,000 fruit trees and 400 grapevines. But during the successive political movements over the last dozen years, he was accused of "placing too much emphasis on subsidiary production and not enough on farming" and "not enough emphasis on socialist modernization." In his own words he had had "seven ups and downs"—seven times in and out of the brigade leadership and then reinstated again. But nothing could shake his resolve to change the face of the land he lived on. "Do what you please with me," he would tell himself, "I know I'm right, and the day will come when truth comes to light again." All the brigade's members unanimously supported his nomination as a candidate. "Nothing can break his will to work for socialism," they said.

Another candidate was Wang Fenqiu, a 42-year-old barefoot doctor and midwife at Liyang commune's Qingjin brigade. In all her years of work she had never failed to answer a patient's call, night or day, and since 1974 she has saved the lives of three women who were having difficult deliveries. She takes every opportunity to explain the advantages of birth control, and all the women she has given contraceptives to have given 100 percent effectiveness. People say that one couldn't choose a better deputy.

Chengxiang, 44, is a doctor who has worked for 20 years at the Changxing commune hospital since graduating from medical college in Shenyang. Elected a People's Deputy, he said, "I never thought it possible with my capitalist family background." He had been influenced by oligarchy while he was in Beijing visiting his ailing mother, and had decided in time to take part in the County People's Congress. In his languages, the principle of consultation in the countryside has developed a deep affection for the simple, hardworking peasants he lives with. He is now in the leadership group at the hospital where he and another doctor look after a ward of 40 beds. He also works on the yearly medical screening of recruits for the armed forces, something he has been doing in the last two years. Previously he was barred from such work because of his family background. "I will fulfill my duties as a People's Deputy to the best of my ability," he declared.

On October 19, 1978, Beihen county held its Ninth People's Congress. The 431 deputies present elected the executive for the county government.

**Election Law Revised**

For a dozen years since the start of the cultural revolution in 1966, an ultra-Left political line had seriously damaged China's democratic electoral system and hindered the effectiveness of her first electoral law promulgated in 1953. The newly revised electoral law units both the positive and negative experience of the intervening 30 years and laid down the new emphasis on socialist modernization. It is an important piece of legislation that determines the future direction of the country.

THe 10,000 Jinuo people living in the primeval forests along China's southern border were officially approved as a separate nationality by the State Council last June. They became China's 56th nationality. The decision was made on the basis of findings that they have a language (belonging to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetian family), customs, economic structure and psychology of their own not shared with others.

The Jinuos, sometimes known as the name Youles from the Youle Mountains where they live, are concentrated in the Jinuokol people's commune in the Xiaojiangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan province. Their 1,300 families live in 40 villages scattered over 3,000 square kilometers of an isolated area 83 kilometers east of Jinghong, the prefecture center. The real origin of the Jinuos is still a mystery, but two legends about it are told. According to one, a brother and sister, Mahei and Manlu, guided by a god, survived a great flood and later married. From the god they received ten calabash seeds which they buried in the earth. One sprouted and produced 100 calabashes and one grew as big as a house. When it was opened, four persons stepped out: a Jinuo, a Han, a Dai and a Hani, who became the ancestors of these nationalities who live along China's southern border today. Another version of the story has a fifth, a Bulang, another story has it that during the period of the Three Kingdoms (A.D. 220-280) troops commanded by Zhuge Liang (A.D. 181-234) were stationed in the Youle Mountains. The Jinuos were in a late stage of clan society at the time of liberation 30 years ago. Each natural village was a clan commune, and its territory was indicated by wooden signs as a warning to anyone from another village from trespassing, fishing or farming in its territory.

The village was headed by its two oldest men. They inspected the borders each year with the soldiers to enforce the old laws. But the army was already on the other side. As punishment, Zhuge Liang ordered them to do three things: Stay and settle where they were, build houses with a flat roof, and plant grain instead of fifty sets of rice seeds they had given them. These people are supposed to have been the ancestors of the Jinuos. The one element of the story that can be linked with reality is that the Youle Mountains are one of China's six ranges where the well-known Pu'er tea is produced.

**Clan Communes**

The Jinuos were in a late stage of clan society at the time of liberation 30 years ago. Each natural village was a clan commune. Land belonging to each village was marked off with wooden signs and speaks to prevent anyone from another village from trespassing, fishing or farming in its territory.

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markers with new ones. If a dispute arose with another village they called the people together and prayed for help in settling it. Their main duty, however, was to officiate at the ceremony starting spring sowing — they slaughtered an animal sacrifice and buried some seeds in the soil. They also made the decision on when the new year was to begin. This came when the trees were white with blossoms. On the chosen day the headmen would beat a big drum and the villagers would gather at their houses to sing and dance.

Traditionally the Jinuos lived in bamboo long houses with all the patrilineal descendants from one ancestor under one roof. The biggest of these, formerly located in Longpa village, is described as having been 60 meters long and 10 meters wide, housing 127 persons of 27 families. It had 32 rooms along either side of a central corridor, which has 32 hearths, one for each family. The first hearth at the door was the largest, and symbol of the entire large family. It belonged to the oldest man. When he was young, Shaxian, a former village head now 74, recalls that he lived in such a house with three generations older than his and a total of 75 people.

This large multi-hearth house is no longer in existence but three smaller ones are still used. The biggest is 37 meters long and 6.5 meters wide and holds 32 members of eight families. Such houses were described by the anthropologist Lewis H. Morgan in his Ancient Society but the fact that people were living in long houses into the 50s of the present century has been a matter of interest. In recent years ethnologists and historians from seven countries have visited Longpa.

The Jinuos farmed by the slash-and-burn method, with knives, hoes, shovels and sickles. They usually divided the land into 13 sections, on each one in rotation cutting trees, burning the brush and planting seed. They grew millet, maize and cotton but with yields only 20 or 25 times the seed sown. Grain production was only enough for four months of the year, for the rest of the time they lived by hunting and on wild foods they could gather.

National Customs

A distinctive feature of the Jinuos was their custom of decorating the ear lobes. At birth the ear lobes were pierced and a carved piece of cork or a short piece of cogon grass and flowers were inserted to enlarge the holes. The larger the hole the more industrious and beautiful the person would be, it was hoped. Though the custom is no longer followed, such ear decoration can still be seen on many men and women over 30. Another custom was to paint the teeth black with the sap of the lacquer tree, which in addition to being a mark of beauty was said to prevent bad breath and tooth decay.

The men wear a white collarless jacket and white or blue trousers, and the women a collarless jacket of many colors and embroidered bands, a short black skirt bordered in red and a white bonnet that comes to a peak at the top. The cloth of these is made with cotton yarn which the women twist by hand. They can be seen doing it while resting in the fields or walking along the road.

The Jinuos are good hunters. A hunting party shares the game equally, with the one who fires first getting the skin. Each family has a hut at the edge of the field or near its house for storing grain, and even in times of shortage, theft of grain was unheard of.

Marriage between brother and sister was common in the past, and today between cousins it is allowed in some villages. Before marriage young men and women had a free sex life. Some villages had special houses for them to spend the night together, and the children of such unions were not looked down upon. But once formal marriage has taken place, the wife is expected to be loyal to her husband. Monogamy is the rule.

When someone dies, all the men in the village turn out to fell a tree, split it and hollow it out for a coffin. After the burial a small bamboo house is built over the grave in which the family of the dead person places offerings of food daily, sometimes for as long as two or three years. After a few years the body is re-
Dr. Bai Lalei is one of the first college graduates of Jinuo nationality.

Hunting is a pastime.

Commune tractor driver.

Mother and daughter.

Jinuo women picking tea on the Youle Mountains, one of China's six main areas for producing Pu'er tea.

Paddy fields created on land once cultivated by slash-and-burn method.
A bamboo basket borne on the forehead is an important means of transportation.

Pan, bowl, spoon and plate, all made of bamboo.

Boiling rice in a bamboo tube.

moved and the coffin re-used to bury another on the same spot. This is so that more land would not come under control of the spirits.

When the Jinuos became ill they called in shamans to drive away the demons, and sometimes to treat with herbal medicines. The oxen, pigs, chickens and dogs they raised were mainly for sacrifices to get rid of the demons. Important ceremonies began with the headmen's order to kill an ox.

New Year's Day and other festivals are celebrated with singing and dancing to drums and gongs all through the night. A hunting song is played in the beautiful tones of an instrument made of seven segments of bamboo of various lengths. An ancient folk song about love and work, called "The Bridal Chamber," is sung while the people standing by sway to the beat.

Big Changes

Living in the social stage of primitive communism 30 years ago, today the Jinuos share the benefits of China's socialist society. Kezuogulo, center of the Jinuosok commune in the cleared areas of a dense forest once said to be devil-haunted, is a thriving place that has become the economic, political and cultural center of the entire Youle mountain area. Beyond its rows of new buildings—commune offices, stores, schools, hospital, post office and hotel—stretch the neat squares of paddy fields, and bamboos and palm, banana, betel nut, pomelo and papaya trees have been planted.

Commune Party secretary Bai Layao, 49, in his youth was a casual farm laborer who never had enough to eat and lived part of the time on wild fruit and roots. When a work team sent by the people's government came to the area in 1954, he went to help it. Later he was sent to study in the Yunnan Institute for Nationalities. He is pleased by the way farming methods have improved since the village is farming its collectively-owned land in a socialist way.

The Jinuos had not grown padd rice because they believed that spirits lived in the water. It was first grown in 1958 after the government helped build irrigation work. The many-fold increase in yield astonished the villagers, especially the headmen, and more Jinuos began to take part in the construction. Now the commune's six production brigades have a total of 413 hectares of paddies worked by 25 tractors and 4,000 water buffaloes. Grain production has risen from 1,000 tons in 1952 to 4,100 tons in 1978. This means a distribution of 400 kilograms per person.

Two hydropower stations enable some villages to have electricity for lighting and grain processing. The commune has 300 hectares of tea groves, 30 of lacquer trees and 100 hectares planted to medicinal herbs all of which bring in considerable income.

The Jinuos had no written language. They kept accounts by marking a bamboo. When a messenger delivered an urgent verbal message he carried a red pepper to show that it was an important matter, a piece of burning coal symbolizing a torch and a chicken feather to indicate urgency.

In 1956 the people's government sent teachers and set up the first primary school with 60 children. Today in the commune there are 41 primary schools and three middle schools, with over 2,000 students and 105 teachers, of whom 75 are Jinuos. There is still no Jinuo writing, and since there are so few people, probably will not be. Instruction is in the Han language. Every production team has its own bookkeepers and health workers. Thirty-one Jinuos have graduated from technical school and 13 from university. A young Jinuo woman, Bai Lalei, became director of the commune's hospital after graduation from Kunming Medical College in 1974.

Commmune grave but contains articles used by the dead person and food offerings from his family.

Photos by Sun Yunshan
Excursioning out of Beijing

LIU HONGFA

EVERYONE who comes to China wants to see the Great Wall. One of the best places to visit it is at Badaling north of Beijing. In the past most tourists made the trip by bus or car over winding mountain roads, a long ride which could take longer if traffic was heavy. Now a special tourist train goes right to the wall. It leaves Beijing at 6:05 am. every day except Wednesday and returns to the Beijing station at 2:50 pm. Round trip by first class coach is 6 yuan.

Not long ago I took this train with 475 members of 17 tourist groups from the U.S., Japan, West Germany, France and New Zealand. LIU HONGFA is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs.

Getting off at the foot of the Great Wall.

At platform No. 1 of the Beijing Railway Station, young women conductors were standing beside the doors of the brand-new dark green coaches welcoming the passengers in English, Japanese or other languages. "One of the things foreign visitors find most difficult is not being able to communicate with the Chinese people," Yuan Minghua, a conductor, told me. "To serve them better, all of our conductors have studied a foreign language. We compiled a book of a hundred English sentences commonly used on our trip. Now every conductor can speak a little English and we have studied Japanese, German, French, Spanish and other languages."

As the train bored its way into the mountains north of the city, guests settled down to tea, orange soda or beer or purchased sweets, cigarettes and souvenirs. A burst of applause came from the next car. A Japanese group, I found, had just serenaded the conductors and staff with the song "I Love Beijing's Tian An Men" in Chinese. Then they sang the famous Japanese song "Drawing in the Nets" and several girls performed Japanese folk dances in the aisles, which got them a big hand.

A portion of the Great Wall comes into sight soon after the train enters the mountains. The 2,500-year-old wall stretches from the town of Nankou near the once closely-guarded pass which gives access to the plain on which Beijing stands, the train begins to climb. Some of the grades are so steep that a second diesel engine is used to pull from behind. Meanwhile the loudspeaker broadcasts information about 72 scenic spots on the Great Wall in English, Japanese and Chinese. Some people turn on their tape recorders, others take notes, and the picture-takers start snapping the scenery through the windows.

At Badaling the train stops right at the foot of the wall. Most of the trippers walked along the road-wide top of the wall following it up a mountain slope to the tower east of Badaling—a bit of a strenuous climb, but possible for most if you take your time. The view from the peak, of the giant ancient wall snaking and twisting its way over the mountains, is the high point of the trip.

"Listening-to-the-Orioles"

For visitors not attached to regular tourist troupes the Beijing Taxi Company offers special inexpensive tours which take in several places around the city in one day. Reservations should be made ahead of time. Tour buses leave from the west side of Qian Men, convenient to downtown hotels.

One trip includes scenic Fragrant Hill Park, the Azure Clouds and Sleeping Buddha temples and the Summer Palace. On this tour, if one wishes, one can have lunch at the bamboo-shaded Listening-to-the-Orioles Hall. Here, walking across an old opera stage, visitors enter the rooms from which the Empress Dowager Cixi (Tzu Hsi 1835-1908) viewed the performances. These are now converted to dining rooms. The kitchen staff dug around in museums and came up with recipes for dishes and 40 pastries originally served in the palace, and these are now among items available on the menu. Service is on dinnerware of the same design as used in the palace, imperial yellow with dragons and four characters denoting longevity. Some visitors to Listening-to-the-Orioles Hall have great fun having their pictures taken in costumes worn by emperors and such on the Beijing Opera stage.

In the busy tourist season reservations for lunch should be made the day before by phone. Evening dining by candlelight and the glow of palace lanterns as in the old days is also possible for groups if reservations are made ahead of time.

The Eastern Tombs

Another day-long excursion is to the newly-opened Eastern Tombs of the Qing dynasty (1644-1911) emperors located 125 km. east of Beijing. In the 15 tombs are buried five Qing emperors, 14 empresses and 162 imperial concubines. (Four other Qing emperors are at the Western Tombs south-west of Beijing in Hebei province.) The Eastern Tombs are among the...
bathers and colorful changing sheds. Above it amid the green trees were the parks and villas of the temples.

Beginning about 1898 privileged foreigners from 50 countries began having summer villas there. Later warlords Wu Peifu, Duan Qirui, and Zhang Xueliang and other high officials also built homes there which still stand today. After liberation the people's government constructed over 30 sanatoriums and quite a number of clubs, and fenced off safe swimming areas. Thousands of workers, intellectuals and cadres as well as diplomats and foreign specialists working in China have spent their holidays there.

Shaohaiqu Pass

From Beidaihe one can visit the Great Wall at its eastern end, Shaohaiqu — the pass between the mountains and the sea. From a long way off one can see the five characters reading "First Pass Under Heaven" atop the great gate of the pass built in 1381 during the Ming dynasty. From the top of the gate there is a magnificent back-breaking view of its way to infinity. In the gatehouse is an interesting display of ancient armor and armaments.

Another Beidaihe side trip is to the Temple of Meng Jiang Nu, 6.5 km. up the coast east of the pass. About it a famous legend has lived down through the ages. Shortly after their marriage, her husband was one of the tens of thousands conscripted by the Emperor Qin Shi Huang (reigned 221-210 B.C.) for the construction of an army of statues. In the temple are the parks and villas of the temples.

A similar 30-minute flight is available to Chengde, the famous summer resort of the Qing dynasty. The Qian Long tomb, though smaller in size than the Ming dynasty Dingling tomb whose "underground palace" north of Beijing has become widely known since its excavation in 1956, is much more beautifully decorated. It is noted for its exquisite stone carvings on Buddhist themes.

At the tomb of the Empress Dowager, as is traditional, between tiers of steps leading up to the main door there is an elaborately-decorated gatehouse painted in yellow for emperors and white for empresses. Above the phoenix, but for her death of her husband Emperor Xian Feng in 1861 to her death in 1908 she virtually ruled China either as regent or in other capacities.

Beidaihe, Northern Coast Resort

Some visitors to Beijing like to spend a few days at Beidaihe, a famous summer resort on the northern coast from which one can make many interesting side trips. Now, instead of spending five to ten hours on the train, they can get there in 50 minutes by special Viscount or Trident flights. Large tours sometimes book most of a day at Beidaihe for their guests. Tours to the Temple of Meng Jiang Nu, 6.5 km. up the coast east of the pass.

Overnight tours sometimes book most of a day at Beidaihe for their guests. Tours to the Temple of Meng Jiang Nu, 6.5 km. up the coast east of the pass.

There is an interesting display of ancient armor and armaments. Another Beidaihe side trip is to the Temple of Meng Jiang Nu, 6.5 km. up the coast east of the pass. About it a famous legend has lived down through the ages. Shortly after their marriage, her husband was one of the tens of thousands conscripted by the Emperor Qin Shi Huang (reigned 221-210 B.C.) for the construction of an army of statues. In the temple are the parks and villas of the temples.

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Peasants enthusiastically responded to their call for following year the peasant army took Chengdu and a large part of the province. The imperial government, fearing they would reach the scale of those in Tang times. The government hired laborers. Peasant revolts broke out in many places and it was times.

Reforms to stimulate agriculture and make other improvements were begun in 1069 by Wang Anshi (1021-1086) when Emperor Shen Zong appointed him Vice-Premier and gave him the go-ahead. A particularly innovative statesman, Wang Anshi drew on measures which had been enacted in earlier dynasties. But with the TV university they can do it faster.

Dedicated Students

Many of the TV university's students are working adults who have already worked for some years. They are happy to have the opportunity to get further education and improve their knowledge, but study places heavy demands on them. One of them, Li Weiyun, a textile worker in Shandong has to do all the house work and care for her two two ones alone because her husband's job is in another city. But she has been able to arrange her time well and in the end-of-semester exams she got 100 in math and 90.5 in chemistry.

One hundred fifty thousand of the enrollees are middle school teachers taking refresher courses in their subjects to improve their teaching ability. One of them, Li Xia, teaches English in a big town in Jinan middle school has been praised by her students for her clear explanations.

National Exams

At the end of the first year a nationwide examination was given administrated through the local organizations. Papers were graded by experienced teachers, and ninety percent of the students passed.

Teaching materials are selected from those used in regular universities. A group of five to seven experienced teachers from other universities approve the teaching plan for each lesson before video recording.

About 20,000 full or part-time counselors chosen from the staffs of colleges or places of work helped the students. One of them is 60-year-old Xiao Yuanjin, a former teacher of inorganic chemistry at an institute in Liaoning. He guides a class of 29 at the Anshan Iron and Steel Complex. Some of the students find the courses difficult at first because they lacked sufficient formal schooling. Xiao familiarized himself with every student's situation and gave special help to those who needed it. As a result his class continued in the national examinations and he was cited as an outstanding counselor.

Peasants Rise Again

The old abuses returned and the Song government became even more corrupt. The demands of the luxury-loving court and high officials increased. Emperor Hui Zong (reigned 1100-1125) carried to extremes the ruling class penchant for adorning their surroundings and houses with rare plants and unusual-shaped rocks, and sent special officials to the south looking for them. When one was found, it would be seized, even though it meant dismantling the owner's house. To allow the vessel bearing a huge stone from Lake Taihu to pass, sluice gates, bridges and city walls were pulled down. Officials used the opportunity to step up extortion and demands for bribes. Even substantial families were reduced to bankruptcy and the poor were forced to sell their sons and daughters. On top of this, the government issued large amounts of paper money. Inflation soared, increased taxes, causing the prices of commodities to soar.

The burden of the extortions became intolerable. In 1120 a huge peasant uprising broke out in Zhejiang province led by Feng La, a farmhand for a big landlord who was treated unfairly. When poor peasants. Feng denounced the corruption of the ruling class and also its capitulation to the demands of the Liao and Xia states. The rebels killed many hated local officials and within a few months took 92 counties in Zhejiang, Anhui and Jiangxi provinces. The government mustered a large army for a fierce attack. In 1122 the last group of the rebels, short on grain and weapons, retreated into a cave and fought to the last man.

Peasant Uprising and Reform in Northern Song

JIAO JIAN

During the early part of the Northern Song dynasty (960-1127) officials and landlords were able to buy huge tracts of land without restriction from the government. The effects of this concentration of land ownership was particularly serious in Sichuan, where 70-80 percent of the population were tenants. A big landlord sometimes had several thousand tenants. In addition to rent, the peasants were burdened by heavy taxes which the landlords shifted to them. Even sideline production like raising tea and silkworms and weaving did not help their poverty a great deal, because the government monopoly paid them very low prices. Big landlords and corrupt officials worked together hand-in-glove to exploit the peasants while they themselves lived in luxury. There was a saying, "The rich spend poverty a great deal because the government taxes more than its income increased and defense was improved. The big officials and landlords strongly opposed the new laws, and some local officials refused to put them into force. After the death of Emperor Shen Zong, the conservative historian Sima Guang became Prime Minister and the new laws were repealed.

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Tree horse from a Western Xia subsidiary tomb.

The Uetan Mountains of Ningxia form the backdrop for the final resting place of an emperor of the ancient Western Xia kingdom founded by the Tangut people. This is borne out by the tomb of a Western Xia emperor excavated in recent years near the Western Xia capital, present-day Yinchuan. Situated at the eastern foot of the Helan Mountains 25 kilometers west of Yinchuan, now capital of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the mausoleum grounds cover an area of 40 square kilometers. They contain the graves of several emperors and several dozen subsidiary tombs. One of the main tombs and four subsidiary ones have been excavated since 1972. The above-ground construction of the emperor's tomb had long collapsed, but the remains of former magnificence show that it was basically the same in structure as those of Tang and Song dynasty emperors, only smaller in scale. It included a pavilion to house tablets, a sacrificial hall, side towers and a shrine.

Several hundred fragments of stone tablets were found with writing in both the Western Xia and Han languages. Preliminary study of these indicates that the tomb might belong to Li Zunxu (1162-1226), the eighth Western Xia emperor. The vaulted burial chamber lay 20 meters below the ground surface, between the sacrificial hall and shrine. The tomb chamber had two symmetrically-arranged side chambers and was entered through a sloping passage. Most of the burial accessories had been stolen. Only some odd pieces of gold, silver and pearl ornaments, some pottery and porcelain vessels and several dozen pieces of gilded bronze armor were found scattered around. Finds in two of the subsidiary tombs included a carved stone horse and dog, fragments of textiles, and a big gilded bronze cow which is 120 centimeters long and weighs 188 kilograms. When these and further finds are thoroughly studied they may reveal more on the cultural relations between Western Xia society and the Tang and Song dynasties.

**Puppet and Game from Ancient Graves**

A BIGGER-THAN-LIFE 115-centimeters tall was unearthed last spring from a Western Xia site. This is the earliest puppet found in China, so from it we know that Chinese puppetry predates that time. The body is made of 13 main pieces of wood with carved or chiseled movable joints. It can sit, stand and kneel. There are many holes drilled on the abdomen and legs, possibly for attaching strings or clothing.

Along with it was found a 115-centimeter-long black jade cow, 0.7 cm. in diameter which might have been used to move the strings and 12 wooden figurines in sitting, standing and kneeling positions. Among 283 objects found in this tomb were tweezers and scissors with still quite sharp blades, a bronze mirror decorated with star and cloud patterns, a steel sword and two knives of well-quenched iron with only a little rust on them. This shows that iron smelting had reached quite a high level by that time.

The chestboard formed the top of a low, square white lacquer table that stood near the center of the hexagonal brick tomb chamber, which also contained the wooden sarcophagus. In the center of the room was a larger table with porcelain reliefs of pale blue glaze, a pottery ink slab and a bone-handled brush, and against the wall stood another table with a bronze mirror.

The name weiqi (also known by its Japanese name, go) is literally "the game of siege" in which a piece is surrounded and captured. It may have been played in China as early as the sixth century B.C., but it was extremely popular among the Han people through history, including at times contemporary to this tomb (dated to some time before 1078). This is the first time evidence of weiqi has been found in a tomb of the Liao dynasty established in the northern part of China by the Qidan (Khitan) people.

The 30-centimeter square chestboard has 13 horizontal and vertical lines, with 70 black and 76 white pieces placed on them. Some of the pieces seem to have been lost.

The chessboard game? Chessboard found in a 11th-century tomb of the north China Liao dynasty.

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**For more on Western Xia see China Reconstructs history series XVI in the January 1980 issue.**
Visit to Yu Garden

That is Lake Heart Pavilion. Inside have a small winding bridge, especially have interest. It looks like there is a dragon along the top of the wall. Right, there is a dragon sculpted on top the wall.

Wang: That pavilion in the center of the lake seems to be floating on the water. It's really an esthetic experience to come here. It's really an esthetic enjoyment.

Marie: No wrong, at wall top garden's scenery there. Not wrong, at wall under take picture, afterwards (One) come here sightsee, (They take a picture at the foot of the wall and then go to Dianchun Hall.)

Jiinzhi: Right.

Wang: pool, winding bridge, waterside pavilion, artificial hill are China garden's special color.

Wang: Small Sword Society and staged an armed uprising against the imperialist invaders, and the Qing dynasty government troops who colluded with them.

Smith: It's really an aesthetic experience to come here.
Notes

How to say where it's at. Chinese has a whole lot of words that denote location. Some of the main ones are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>shàng</td>
<td>shàng</td>
<td>up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xià</td>
<td>xià</td>
<td>down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lǐ</td>
<td>lǐ</td>
<td>in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qián</td>
<td>qián</td>
<td>front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hòu</td>
<td>hòu</td>
<td>back</td>
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<td>dōng</td>
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<td>east</td>
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<tr>
<td>xiān</td>
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<td>front</td>
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<tr>
<td>nán</td>
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<td>běi</td>
<td>běi</td>
<td>north</td>
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<tr>
<td>pánɡ</td>
<td>pánɡ</td>
<td>side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zhōnɡ</td>
<td>zhōnɡ</td>
<td>middle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These words follow thing is. According to Chinese grammar these location words are also nouns, and are called nouns of location.

- shānshān (on the mountain)
- Yúyuán (in Yu Garden)
- jíshānqián (in front of the artificial hill)
- shuǐzhōng (in the water)

bian (side) or miàn (face) are often added to these words.

- shānbiān (above, over)
- xiàbiān (below, under)
- lǐbiān (inside)
- wàibiān (outside)
- qiánbiān (before)
- hòubiān (behind)
- dōngbiān (east side)
- xībiān (west side)
- nánbiān (south side)
- běi biān (north side)
- zuǒ biān (left side)
- yòubiān (right side)
- pánɡbiān (beside)
- zhōnɡjiān (between, among)

There are a few exceptions: pánɡ (side) is used only with biān (face) and zhōnɡ (middle) is used with jīn (in).

Here are some sentences using nouns of location.

- Libiān yǒu cházuò. Inside have tea tables.
- Qíshānbiān shì Hǔxià. In front is the Lake Center Pavilion.
- Tā zuìzǎi zuòbiān, wǒ zuìzǎi yòubiān. He sits on the left and I sit on the right.