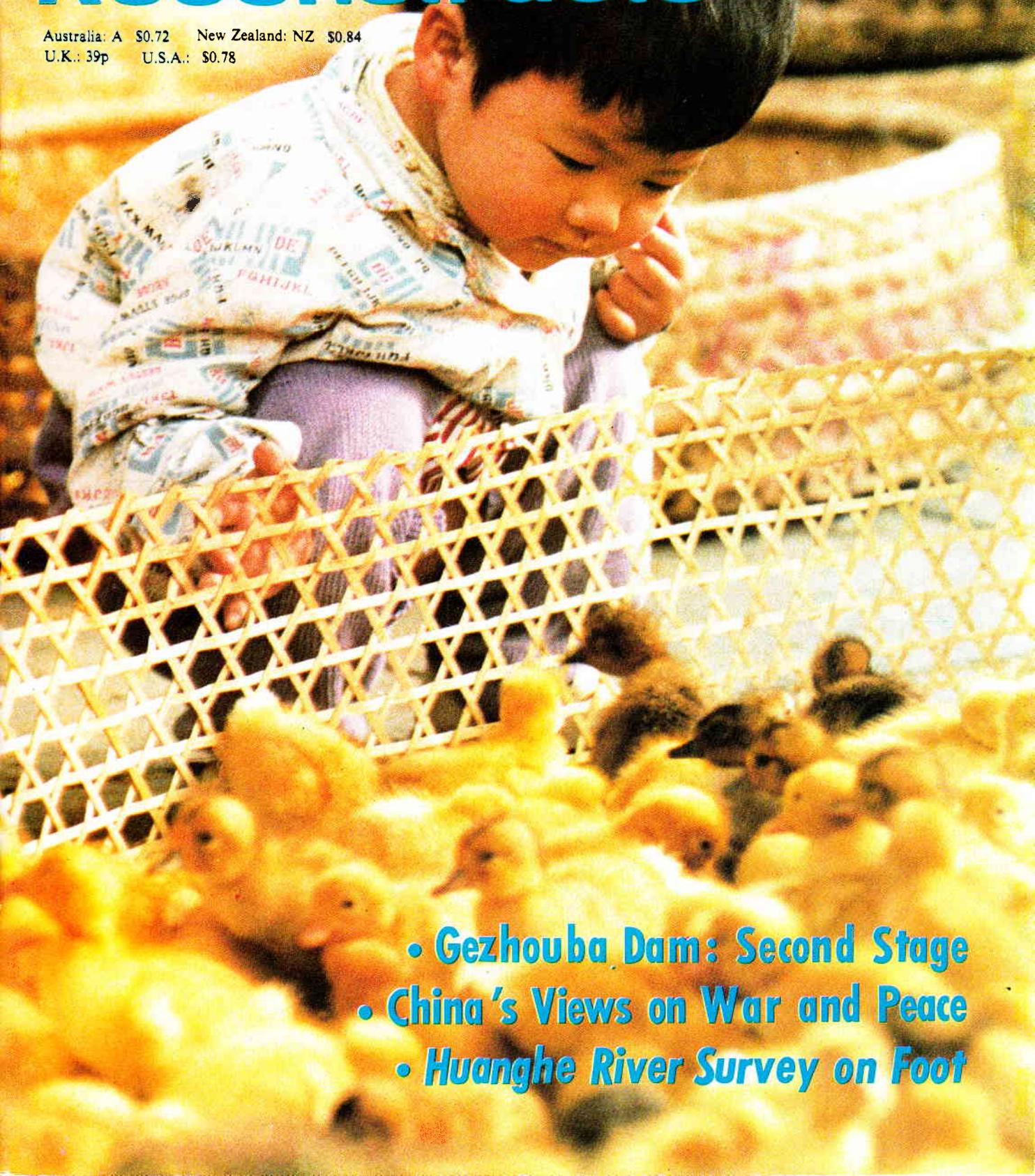


# China Reconstructs

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- **Gezhouba Dam: Second Stage**
- **China's Views on War and Peace**
- **Huanghe River Survey on Foot**

Yang Liankang, who surveyed the entire Huanghe (Yellow) River on foot (see story inside).



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Fascination (Photo prize-winner, see story on page 56). <i>Sun Zhichang</i>	

## Articles of the Month

### A Message to Chiang Ching-kuo p. 6

Liao Chengzhi, son of a founder of the Kuomintang and childhood friend of the current head of the Taiwan administration, has personally urged him to bury the hatchet, initiate the third co-operation between the Communist and KMT parties, and help bring about the peaceful reunification of China. Quotes from Liao's letter; responses from home and abroad.

### He Surveyed the Yellow River on Foot p. 8

A scientist's personal survey of the entire length of the Huanghe yields proposals which challenge previously held ideas.



### Gezhouba Project — Second Stage p. 12

While the first stage of China's biggest key water control project already supplies power and aids navigation, the builders tackle the various challenges of the second stage.

### China's Views on War and Peace p. 19



Wang Bingnan, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, outlines China's basic positions on war and peace, nuclear weapons and disarmament.

### Painter Ye Qianyu p. 33

The work of an outstanding contemporary artist known for his figure paintings.



### Chinese Machinery in the World Market p. 49

Increased technological and production sophistication brings greater quantity, quality and variety of exports and an entry into European and North American markets.



## Milestone 33

**T**HIS month marks the 33rd anniversary of the People's Republic of China — a good time to look back, and forward.

To understand the new China one must never forget the old society that existed before 1949. Nobody who did not see it can truly picture its evils: the famines that periodically killed millions; the hundreds of beggars dying daily in city streets; the wives and children sold so that the rest of the family might survive; the corruption, brutality and injustice of decaying feudalism; the humiliation, invasion and oppression by foreign powers; the devastating strife between alien-backed warlord armies.

One must also never forget the long, heroic struggles and sacrifices by which the Chinese people won their national and social emancipation from the shackles of that old society.

Led by the Communist Party, the people have by their own efforts brought the country an immense distance forward in these three decades. Formerly anyone's prey, China has become independent and equal among the nations. Formerly, her backward economy could not begin to support her 450 million or so people. Now her agriculture feeds a billion.

Formerly, her resources for industry were virtually untapped except for some primary processing, mainly of a semi-colonial type, with the profits flowing largely into foreign pockets. Now she has a comprehensive industrial base, publicly owned and planned. Between 1952 and the present, the total value of China's industrial and agricultural output has grown on average more than 10 percent annually (with ups and downs in individual years). Factory-made goods range from consumer items to automobiles, tractors and space satellites, from petrochemical products to computers — though still in limited quantity and with a lot of unevenness geographically and technologically.

Electricity is now seen even in very remote villages where even candles or oil lamps used to be too big a luxury for most people. Constantly spreading is the infrastructure of roads, railways, ports, telecommunication, and hydro-projects to irrigate, prevent floods and provide power.

**A**LONG with better food and shelter, a far-reaching medical network, with services free or at very low cost, has almost doubled life expectancy (see article on page 31). Beijing's TB mortality rate, to cite only one instance of victory over disease, has dropped since 1949 from 230 to 10 per 100,000 population. Educational levels have improved dramatically.

Rapid economic and social developments are not unique in the modern world. But that a third world country, so vast and with so recent a starting point

in modern development, and with a population that has almost doubled, has been able to do so much so quickly, and almost entirely by its own efforts, is truly remarkable. Only under a socialist system could it have been done.

**O**F course the country is still far from rich. And there have been serious errors, without which economic progress might have been greater, living standards higher, culture and education more advanced, socialist democracy and legality more firmly grounded.

The setbacks and abuses, particularly during the "cultural revolution," were not, however, as some current writings abroad allege, an "inevitable" result of socialism. Essentially, they were aberrations caused by backward ideas and behavior left over from 2,000 years of feudalism combined with inexperience in new circumstances (which led, among other things, to some extreme impetuosity and "ultra-Leftism"). Undoubtedly, they have done damage to the socialist cause and the Communist Party itself.

But it is socialism and the Communist Party's leadership that make it possible to repair the damage and make new advances. China is still far from perfect (what country is?). But she is still further from the dark and pessimistic picture of her painted in recent books by a few foreign correspondents. Some of their facts are erroneous, or hand-picked for their chosen arguments. In general, such writers focus on a small part of the picture and proclaim it as the whole, like the fabled blind men who examined an elephant — and concluded respectively that it resembled a rope, tree-trunk, wall, or snake — depending on whether they touched its tail, leg, side or trunk.

Missing from their picture is the mainstream of development, the deep changes of the past six years (and particularly the last three) touching every area of Chinese life. The economy has become more responsive and active, income and living standards are rising, consumer goods are more available. Governmental structure is being streamlined. Cultural life is active. Legality is stronger, socialist democracy is advancing. The press is no longer over-sloganizing or reporting only triumphs but discussing problems and criticizing defects. Crimes, corruption and abuse of public trust are exposed and punished by law.

**T**HERE are still bottlenecks and difficulties. The main point is that the direction is forward and that so much has been achieved, especially considering the complexity and scale of the task China has undertaken — the building of a modern socialist civilization, materially and ethically, out of an old society which had both a strong ancient culture and horrendous problems.

The road China travels is not always straight or painless, but it leads upward, and this magazine looks forward to chronicling the journey. □



## Thanks for a Life Saved

Our American tour group consisted of 25 people, with myself as tour leader and my wife as escort. On the morning of May 5 in Zhengzhou, two members of our group, Milton and Louise Mann, stayed behind at the guesthouse because Mr. Mann was feeling unwell.

He went for a haircut in the barber-shop, and there suffered an attack later diagnosed as a cardiac arrest. Awaiting his turn for a haircut was a Chinese army physician, Liu Qingyuan from the No. 153 Hospital at Zhengzhou. He quickly administered treatment and restored Mr. Mann's heartbeat.

When we returned from our tour for lunch, an ambulance, doctors and nurses were at the hotel to take Mr. Mann to the hospital. A member of our group, Dr. Libby Marks, examined Mr. Mann and consulted with Chinese physicians. Mr. Mann was quickly taken to the Zhengzhou Provincial Hospital, accompanied by Mrs. Mann.

The rest of us left for Kaifeng that day, hoping that the Manns could rejoin us in Shanghai for our trip home.

The treatment accorded Mr. and Mrs. Mann by the hospital can only be described as most compassionate and humanistic. The best the hospital had to offer was available to them, and Mrs. Mann was permitted to sleep in the same room as her husband. An interpreter was available 24 hours a day. Food was brought in from the guesthouse. The medical and nursing care was personal, warm and human.

After four days Mr. Mann was released from the hospital and he and his wife, accompanied by a physician, flew to Shanghai. Dr. Libby Marks and the Chinese physician again consulted on treatment during the trip home, and Dr. Marks was given a number of drugs that might be needed.

Mr. and Mrs. Mann and other members of our tour are grateful beyond measure to the doctors, nurses, attendants, and all those who worked over and beyond the call of duty on behalf of a stricken American.

We also thank the personnel of the Zhengzhou Chinese International Travel Service for their personal and active concern.

LEO and BESS GABOW  
Palo Alto, Ca., U.S.A.

## Door Open Wider

I enjoyed reading the April 1982 *China Reconstructs*. Particularly praiseworthy is the fact that it does not

spread ideological propaganda, but reports objectively on China's geography and achievements in the cultural and economic fields.

Since the downfall of the "gang of four," China has opened its door much wider to other countries, including those in Western Europe. I hope she will continue with this policy. Only through mutual understanding and respect for each other's thoughts and feelings and achievements can the world's peoples feel close to each other.

EDWIN MAYRHOFER  
Linz, Austria

## Poor Quality Paper

Regarding *China Reconstructs*, the one fault I find is the paper on black and white pages, a very cheap type such as that found in our small newspapers in Canada.

All articles are very well written, informative and all show the great struggle China has gone through to pull herself up out of the backward mud of the past.

ROBERT N. BROWN  
Rexdale, Canada

*Thank you for your criticism; we are trying to improve our paper stock.*

— Ed.

## Fair Coverage

We are about to publish a small book for use in schools called *People's China*. Printed in English, it will describe China's achievements, geography and culture. A major aim is to further the understanding of students in English-speaking countries of the great depth of Chinese civilization, and particularly to enable them to appreciate China's growth and development since 1949.

As a subscriber to *China Reconstructs* and *China Pictorial* now for some six years, may I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your great improvements over the past few years. Some of my cynical friends claim that you show only the best of China, but since I had the privilege of visiting China in April this year, I know that your magazines are very fair in reporting your country.

STEPHEN CODRINGTON  
North Ryde, Australia

## Don't Trivialize Struggles

I have been a regular reader of your magazine for about a year now, and I am glad I started subscribing. It is not only educative in providing information about China — past, present and future — but the colored pictures make it very pleasant.

I would only advise that you do not imitate Western magazines in which news or the struggles of peoples are

reduced to trivialities. China did not reconstruct without an ideology, so introduce a bit more of the ideology that has made China what it is now, and your magazine will be "super."

AMIDU IBRAHIM TANKO  
Legon, Ghana

## Comprehensive Cross-Section

I think that the April 1982 edition is excellent, as good as anybody could expect for a magazine of this nature. You are certainly giving good insights into life and progress in China, a very comprehensive cross-section of the achievements of your people.

Together with the map of China you issued this year, the little maps in the articles make for good understanding of the geography and topography.

A. J. MACLEAN  
Warana Beach, Australia

## Story of a Disabled Soldier

"The Story of a Disabled Soldier" by Ma Xinyou in the July 1982 issue of CR will be shared with students in my classes who are preparing to be teachers, counselors, school administrators, and other types of professionals that will serve the handicapped. This brief, simply written article demonstrates what universal humanity is all about, and how the handicapped can succeed when supported by their loved ones. My wife and I visited the People's Republic of China last December and your excellent magazine brings back many meaningful and happy memories about your great nation and its billion people.

ALFRED L. LAZAR  
Long Beach, Ca., U.S.A.

## Chinese Football

I have really enjoyed everything in CR but would like to comment on Chinese football. As I can see, after China was given the opportunity to participate in world sports the team has really shown that it is to be reckoned with for some years to come. After reading "Football Strengths and Weaknesses" in the June issue, I can see they will be dangerous if they play with much the same sort of stamina.

I would like to advise the Chinese football body not to place all their hopes on one player only, because in the news I read that after the top player, the "Football King of Asia," was injured by New Zealand players he couldn't play the second match and the team lost. The Chinese football body should avoid such things and train everybody.

JOSEPH MACDONALD A. ANNAN  
Accra, Ghana

# Minority Drums and Dances

ZHOU ZONGHAN



Dai nationality pre-schoolers already know the basic movements of the elephant-foot drum dance.  
*Zhou Zhongyao*

**D**RUMS of every conceivable size, shape and material have been used in every age and almost every human culture. They have beaten out the rhythm of armies on the march and laborers at work, been used in religious worship and for signaling and communication.

Perhaps their happiest use is to accompany dances. A drum in the hands of a skillful drummer is practically an invitation to get the feet and body moving to his beat. No matter what other instruments are used, the drum's steady underpinning helps give shape and form to the music and guidance to the dancers.

In China, drums and percussion instruments of all sorts have been popular throughout history and are an integral part of the folk dances of minority peoples.

## Dai Elephant-Foot Drums

Wild elephants once roamed freely in the forests of western and

southwestern Yunnan province in south China, the homeland of the Dai people, and elephant-foot drums — (large on top, then tapering to a splayed "foot") are the chief accompaniment of Dai songs and dances.

The drums vary in size and in pitch, the largest being taller than

a man. Made of the wood of mango or kapok trees, with drumheads of chamois or cowhide, they are richly decorated. The body is painted with multicolor designs on a red and black background and covered with silk netting from which tassels dangle, while the two ends feature peacock tailfeathers.

At weddings and other celebrations, and particularly at the annual Water-Splashing Festival (the Dai New Year, which falls in April), the gongs and drums are brought out and the dancing begins under a big tree or on a threshing ground. Young and old take part in the dances.

One of the most popular is the peacock dance, usually performed by gorgeously costumed young women with small drums attached to their waists on which they beat out the complex rhythms of the dance. At the climax, accompanied by swift drumming, the performers spread their arms wide and with vigorous movements of shoulder and body imitate a peacock spreading its tail.

## Qiang Bells and Drums

The Qiang people live in northwestern Sichuan, a large province just north of Yunnan. Their bell-

Yao drummers beat out complex rhythms on bronze drums of different sizes.



ZHOU ZONGHAN is a lecturer at the China Academy of Music.

and-drum dance, performed as part of the *Zhuanshan* ("Mountain-Circling") Festival, has evolved from ancient religious ceremonies performed by sorcerers.

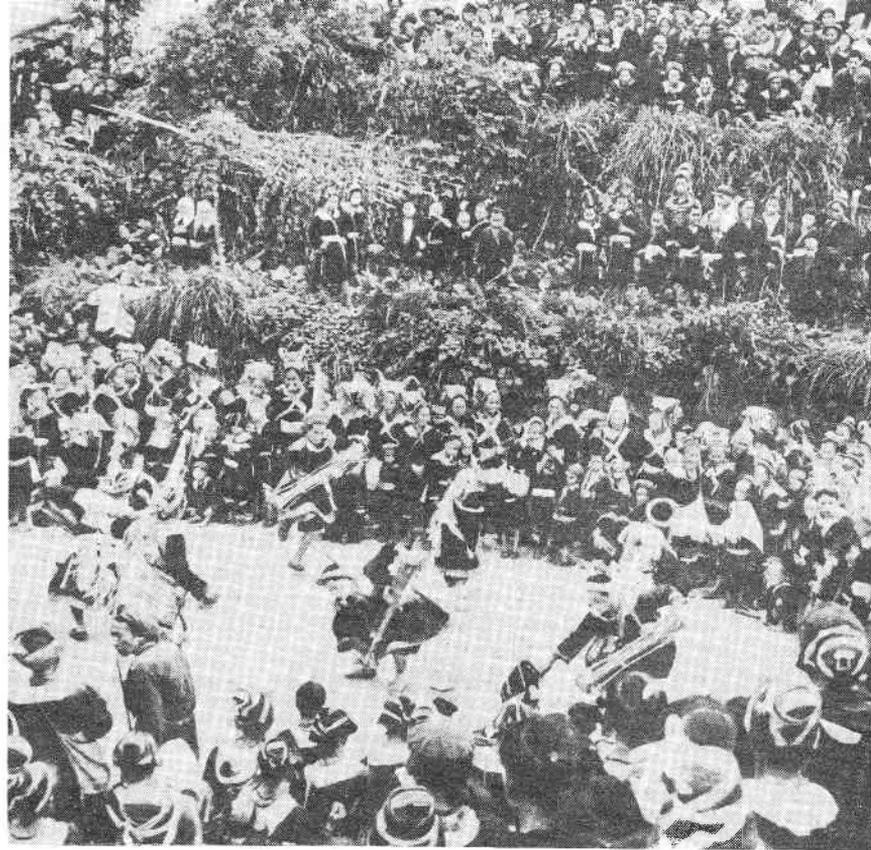
In the old days, villagers climbed up the mountain leading an ox and carrying food and wine to sacrifice to the mountain gods to insure good harvest. Monkeys, wild boars and rats — all made of paper — were set on fire (symbolizing the destruction of pests that ate grain). Pieces of dough in the shape of the sun and half-moon which had hung from the ox's horns were fed to the animal. Sorcerers called on the gods through a ceremonial drum dance. After the religious ceremony, people danced gaily to the sound of flutes, drums and bells.

Today's Qiang folk dances have evolved from these fertility festivals. The male dancers carry sheepskin drums with small handles, and keep time with short curved drumsticks. The women dancers carry bells that are sounded in time with the drums. The dances are very gay, light-hearted and graceful, and most villagers join in the fun.

### Bronze Drums

Bronze drums are an old part of the cultures of east and southeast Asia, in China dating back to the Spring and Autumn period (770-476 B.C.). Some 1,400 ancient specimens are now preserved by the state culture relics departments

Tambourine dance of the Uygurs.  
*Li Dongri*



Autumn harvest festival and Yao dancers with long drums add a lively air to the celebrations.  
*Huang Guoqing*

of various places. The largest is about 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> meters high and over four meters in diameter; it weighs over 300 kilograms.

In Ningming county of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (south China, just east of Yunnan), there are 1000-year-old large painted murals on a cliff showing the ancestors of the Zhuang people dancing to the beat of what appear to be bronze drums. The tradition has continued to this day. Along with reed flutes, bronze drums also accompany the courtship dances of the Miao people of Guizhou province (just north of Guangxi).

The Yao people live in a mountainous area of Guangxi. Their Spring Festival celebrations feature night-long dancing to bronze drums. In a large hall, a drummer sits on a ladder above a circle of dancers. At the center of the circle, two bronze drums are hung from a beam, and a pair of male and female dancers in turn move around them, occasionally reaching up to strike the drumheads.

### Uygur Drums

The Uygur people of far western Xinjiang use percussion instruments of many different kinds. Among the most popular are tambourines and iron drums which come in two sizes, the larger ones used singly and the smaller in pairs. Both are shaped like a flower pot, wide at the mouth and narrow at the base.

On festive occasions drums of different sizes and kinds are grouped on the minarets of mosques, on roof-top platforms and by the roadsides. The drummers combine the deep, resonant tone of the large iron drums and the higher tones of the smaller drums in complex, exciting harmonies that are perfect for dancing.

Tambourines, with scores of iron rings around the circumference which give off a clear ringing sound when the center is struck, also accompany group dances, pieces for couples and solos by women dancers. It is featured in dance versions of the famous

*(Continued on p. 18)*

# For China's Reunification — A New Step Taken

A NEW and important step toward the realization of the cherished desire of all patriotic Chinese, the reunification of the country, was taken when Liao Chengzhi, a vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress and a member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party who is the son of Liao Zhongkai, one of the founders of the Kuomintang, cabled a warm personal letter to Chiang Ching-kuo, head of the present administration in Taiwan and the son of Chiang Kai-shek. Liao and Chiang knew each other in childhood and studied together in the Soviet Union in the 1920's. Calling on Chiang to make his contribution to reunification, and to renew cooperation between the two parties, Liao offered to go personally to Taiwan to further this cause.

Liao, in his letter of July 24, recalled his family friendship with Chiang and regretted the 36-year lapse in their relationship and the recent news that Chiang was not in good health.

He wrote further: "The peaceful reunification of the motherland would be a great achievement to be recorded in history. Taiwan is bound to return to the embrace of the motherland eventually. An early settlement would be in the interest of all. The compatriots in Taiwan would be able to live in peace and happiness, the people of all nationalities on both sides of the Taiwan Straits would no longer have to endure the pains of separation from their kith and kin, and the elders in Taiwan and those who have moved there from the mainland would all be properly placed and provided for. And this would contribute to the stability of Asia and the Pacific region as well as to world peace."

Liao said that if the great cause of reunification could be accomplished through Chiang's work, he would certainly win the esteem of the nation and the praise of all. Chiang would be doing a meritorious service to the country and his name would be inscribed in the "temple of fame."

Liao stressed that "Peaceful reunification is entirely an internal affair of China. Those outsiders who talk glibly about it have designs on our Taiwan. This is common knowledge."

RECALLING the two previous periods of cooperation between the two parties, which had made great contributions to the Chinese nation, Liao said he hoped that Chiang Ching-kuo, who presides over the administration of Taiwan, would take the unshirkable responsibility to make a third cooperation a reality.

Liao pointed out, "Over the past three years, our Party has repeatedly proposed talks with your Party to bury the hatchet and work jointly to accomplish the great cause of national reunification, but you have time and again announced that there should be 'no contact, no talks and no compromise,' which I think is inadvisable. . . . Such talk as 'reunifying China with the Three People's Principles' is regarded by all sensible people as unrealistic, deceptive and self-deceiving.

"For the sake of your Party, I would think that if you would take up the historic responsibility and resolutely take part in peace talks to accomplish national reunification as required by time and tide, the two parties would be able to co-exist for a long time to come, supervising each other while joining in the glorious effort to revitalize China. Otherwise how could the situation exist-

ing in that small corner be maintained for long?"

When talking about the remains of Chiang Kai-shek, ex-leader of the KMT, returning to the homeland, Liao Chengzhi said, "I recently read one of your writings in which you expressed 'fervent hopes that my father's soul would be able to return to the homeland and be reunited with the forefathers.' I was overwhelmed with emotion when I read this. The remains of your father are still placed temporarily at Cihu. After reunification, they should be moved back and buried in the native soil . . . in fulfillment of your filial wishes."

Finally Liao Chengzhi said, "The longing for old friends grows with age. If it is convenient to you, I would pack and set out for a visit to Taipei to seek enlightenment from our elders."

ON July 24, the letter was cabled to Taipei. The next day newspapers in different parts of China, including Hongkong and Macao, as well as Chinese newspapers abroad prominently featured the full text or excerpts, arousing great interest among personages in and outside China.

Wang Kunlun, Zheng Dongguo and Hou Jingru, members of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang in Beijing, spoke at a meeting on Liao's letter and issued a statement which said in part: "National unity and the reunification of the country are an irresistible historical trend. . . . And cooperation between the two parties is beneficial to the country and the nation."

At a forum organized by the Preparatory Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of China

Promotion Committee in New York, Soong Hsi-lien, former commander of the 11th group army of the Kuomintang forces, described Liao's letter as both "sincere and significant."

He said that the letter, based on the important nine-point proposal for reunification put forth by Chairman Ye Jianying of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress,\* has set forth the principle of long-term coexistence and mutual supervision between the Communist Party and the Kuomintang.

Leading members of the Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League in Beijing and the All-China Federation of Taiwan Compatriots and other Taiwan-born people in Beijing held meetings of support. They said his letter expressed the common desire of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits and expressed the hope that Chiang Ching-kuo could conform to the will of the people and agree to hold peace talks leading to reunification.

Zhuang Xiquan, president of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, said he hoped that Mr. Chiang Ching-kuo would seize this opportunity to make a choice beneficial to the country's peaceful reunification.

Some prominent Chinese newspapers in Hongkong also published comments urging Chiang Ching-kuo to give up his previous stand and work together with the Communist Party for a vigorous development of China.

Liao Chengzhi's personal letter is the latest of many reunification efforts from the mainland. At various levels, many other such personal approaches have been made by old colleagues of Taiwan officials now living on the mainland.

Important previous statements were Chairman Ye Jianying's programmatic points and a more recent call on July 16, by Peng Zhen, Vice-Chairman of

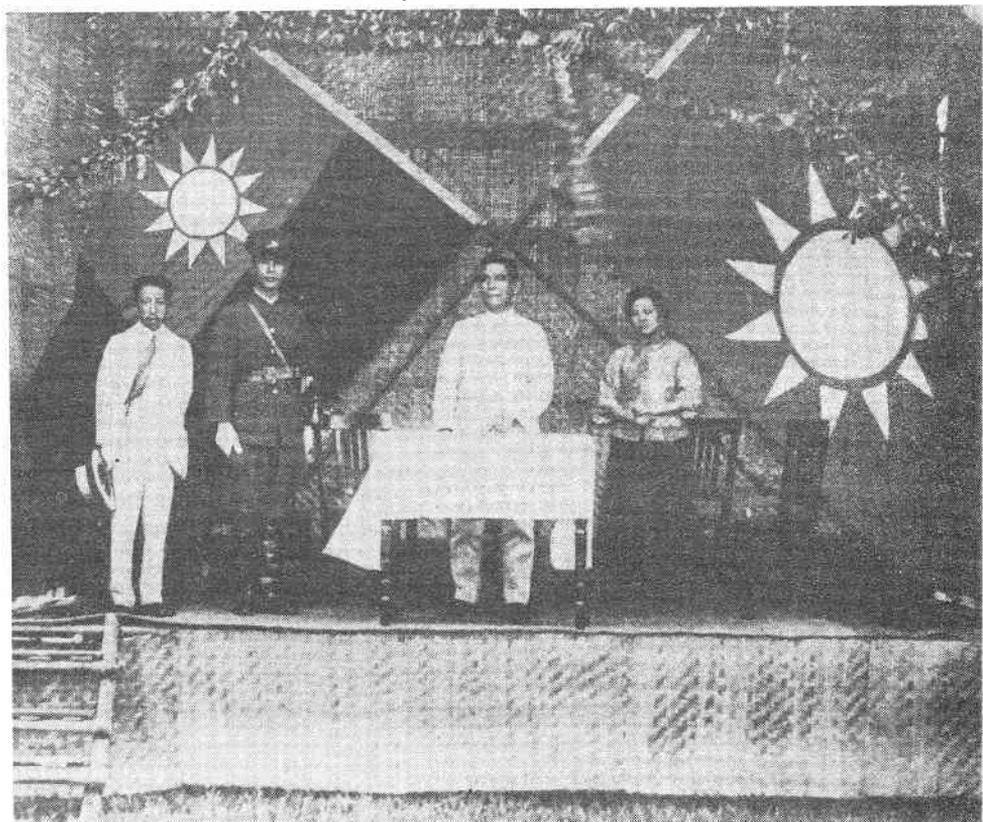


In April 1916. Dr. Sun Yat-sen (fifth left, front row) and his wife Soong Ching Ling (fourth left) attend a rally in Tokyo to denounce Yuan Shikai, a representative of foreign imperialist and feudal forces in China. Others in the picture are Liao Zhongkai (second left, back row) and Liao Chengzhi (the boy in front of Sun Yat-sen).

the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Vice-Chairman of the National Constitutional Revision Committee, urging people in Taiwan, as well as in Hongkong and Macao, to study and discuss the

text of China's new draft constitution, and calling attention particularly to its provisions for the establishment of special administrative areas with rules set according to specific local conditions. □

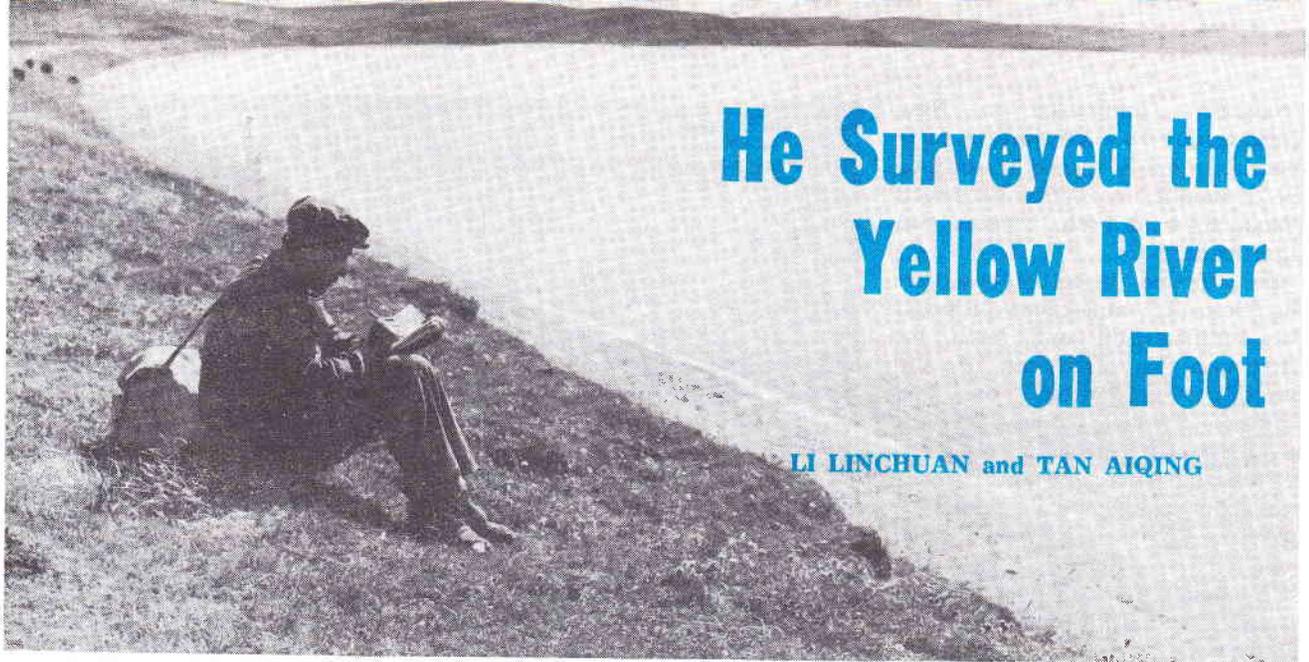
June 16, 1924: Sun Yat-sen (second right), Soong Ching Ling (far right), Liao Zhongkai (far left) and Chiang Kai-shek (second left) at the opening ceremonies for the Huangpu (Whampoa) Military Academy.



\* The full text of Ye Jianying's statement, made on Sept. 30, 1981, was carried in a supplement to the November 1981 China Reconstructs.

# He Surveyed the Yellow River on Foot

LI LINCHUAN and TAN AIQING



The solitary surveyor sketching the terrain at Lake Gyaring.

Wang Jingye

AT 10 A.M. on May 31, 1982, a small boat advanced out of the mouth of the Huanghe (Yellow) River toward the Bohai Sea against a high wind and turbulent waves. As the yellowish current carrying the boat merged into the blue of the bay — meaning that the river had reached the sea — a travel-stained man of about 40 in the prow waved his arms exultantly and shouted, “Long live our great motherland!” Then he dove into the sea for a swim. That was how Yang Liankang completed the task he had set for himself of a personal survey of the entire length of the Huanghe.

The Huanghe is China's second-longest river whose 5,500-kilometer course touches seven provinces and two autonomous regions. It is the symbol of the Chinese people, its valley the cradle of the Chinese civilization. It serves as an important transport artery and waters millions of hectares of farmland. Its terrible floods of the past are legendary.

Aerial and ground surveys so far made along the Huanghe treated each section separately. Yang felt that no complete picture existed of the entire river and its branches, its history,

LI LINCHUAN is a staff reporter for the *Guangming Daily*, and TAN AIQING for *China Reconstructs*.

and how its phenomena develop one into another along the way. Such information would be valuable for better understanding, controlling and utilizing the river.

Yang is a geomorphologist — a scientist who studies and seeks to explain the features of the earth's surface. For him nothing is more important than first-hand data: No matter how advanced modern techniques may be, information gathered by them cannot compare with on-the-spot observation. He decided to get it by surveying the river on foot, and with a single survey taking in its entire course — something that had never been done before.

Carrying only a backpack with several changes of clothing, two map books, a mug, some notebooks and envelopes and two language textbooks (Mongolian and Tibetan), Yang had left Beijing by train to begin his pioneering 10-month undertaking on July 19, 1981. In Qumarleb county in south-central Qinghai province he began by investigating places previously named as the source of the river. Two surveys since liberation, in 1952 and 1978, had cited two separate sites in the county and the source had also been sought by parties in the reigns of Kublai Khan (1215-1294) and the Qing

dynasty emperors Kang Xi (1662-1722) and Qian Long (1736-1795).

After walking about the wild plateau for two days, on the third day, with the help of a Tibetan shepherd boy, in a growth of high grass beside the Yueguzonglie Stream he found the wooden plaque erected by the 1952 survey team proclaiming this the source. He and the shepherd traced the stream upward to search for its beginning. It came from a small pool fed by a spring on a low hill four kilometers up from the plaque, and nearby they found a second pool. From it he followed a stream that he later found ran into another branch of the river. Yang made a drawing of the spot, then filled a small bottle with the water — to present to his parents in Beijing.

After a night with the hospitable family of the shepherd, he set out to locate the Kariqu Stream, claimed as the source by the 1978 survey. He found it to be a spot of shallow water on a stretch of grassy flat land, and had to spend quite a bit of time simply determining the direction of the flow. He followed it upstream. It came from behind an earth ridge. While this stream, on the east side of the ridge, ran toward the Huanghe, the water in a second stream coming

from behind the ridge on the west side, another survey had found, eventually reaches the Changjiang (Yangtze), China's other great river. He had come to the beginning. He carved the characters *Yue He Yuan*, "You have reached the source," with a sharp rock on a flat stone.

Then he went on to investigate the Lalangqingqu, another stream in the southern part of the county mentioned in the data of the earlier scientists. While not tracing it to its source, he followed it far enough to learn that it was actually longer and had more water than either of the two previously named as sources. Therefore the Lalangqingqu should be considered the source of the Huanghe, according to the international tradition that the longest feeder-stream is the source of a river.

### On the Plateau

Yang worked his way down the river and some of its branches, much of the way on foot, studying the rock and sedimentation layers, taking samples, making sketches, investigating and relating his findings to data he got from hydrological stations, oil survey teams and mine pits he visited along the way.

At a section of the river west of the Longyangxia power station in east-central Qinghai he had many battles with the weather. He was not prepared for the sudden, sharp temperature changes in summer. He was congratulating himself in the bright sunshine one day at having discovered the gravel of an ancient riverbed, when suddenly black clouds gathered, a high wind rose and rain and hail began to pelt down. He could find no shelter on the treeless plateau. By dusk, when he reached the home of a Tibetan family, he was so numb with cold he was unable to speak.

Yang investigated 30 big gorges on the upper and middle reaches of the river along cliffs so precipitous and paths so narrow that

often he had to inch ahead pressed against the rock wall above the turbulent river. When it was impossible to advance, he would backstroke across the river with his pack on his chest to seek a path on the other side. He felt that if a place is so difficult to get to that geologists have not been there before, that is exactly the place he might find something of value.

At Gongcang, the first big gorge on the Huanghe and located amid snow-capped peaks, the cliffs rise so sharply that they seem to have been cleft with an axe. As he and two young Tibetans traveled on horseback along the bottom of the cliff their small path vanished up a 70-degree slope. The young men turned their horses, preparing to go back, but Yang stopped them. He explained that on just such clean-cut cliffs the ancient course of the river can be identified most clearly.

They climbed the slope on foot and 70 meters above the river Yang found many round pebbles washed smooth by the water and embedded in the cliff — sedimentation from the depth of the river at a much earlier period.

### Anything for Science

Yang inspected altogether about a hundred profiles along the length

of the river. Linking their data together, he drew a map of the river's ancient course which will be of great value in studying geomorphic changes along it.

In ten months he mailed back many rock and earth samples, fossils and primitive artifacts. He worked for two hours, diving again and again deep into cold Gyaring Lake in Qinghai to get a sample of mud from its bottom. Sometimes he had to transport heavy rock samples dozens of kilometers on his back. In Ningxia he discovered the fossil of an ancient fish. It weighed five kilograms and as he carried it to a place where he could mail it, the strap of his bag broke three times and he had to stop to sew it together.

"Although I did the survey alone," Yang recalled afterward, "I never felt I was alone." The Ministry of Water Resources and Electric Power had instructed all water conservancy units along the way to give him accommodations and provide whatever data he needed. Wang Renzhong, secretary of the Secretariat of the Communist Party Central Committee, expressed high praise for Yang's pioneering spirit. Yang also had the support of Liang Buting, first secretary of the Qinghai Party committee. At one time the latter

Questioning Tibetans in the area near the source.

Wang Jingye





A worker at a hydrology station on the lower reaches provides information on changes in the water level. Shi Panqi

sent a member of his staff to take Yang a fur coat as protection against the plateau cold.

"The people along the river looked after me like I was their own son," Yang observes. He spent nights in 48 Tibetan herdsman's tents and with 200 peasant families. Out of respect for his devotion to science and the country's needs, the people treated him like a distinguished guest. He was even asked to sleep in the place of honor reserved for living Buddhas in herdsman's homes.

A commune brigade on the Zoige grassland on the border of Gansu and Sichuan provinces assigned an old Tibetan herdsman familiar with the terrain to guide him. There the river almost looks back upon itself. This is the famous marshy grassland the Red Army had to cross in the 30s on its Long March. At any time one might sink in and be swallowed up. Their horses often sank knee-deep in the swamp. To protect Yang, the old man went ahead on foot picking out a path. Saying goodbye to him after a three-day trip, he offered Yang the greater part of his own supply of yak butter for the road.

The news of Yang's travels spread far and wide. As he passed through the plain and on the lower reaches of the river, every morning many people would be waiting on the bank to greet him with tea

and mung bean soup. Local government leaders came to the river to meet him and some went along with him part of the way to work with him.

On the lower reaches he could make better time, averaging 70 kilometers a day on foot. But sometimes in order to make it to the next village before night, he would have to travel for several hours at a near-run. What most people who met him did not know then, was that only four years previously he had been paralyzed, unable to walk. The resolve which carried Yang through to the end of his project had been steeled in strange circumstances.

### Hard Training

The son of a teacher, while he was still a student in the Beijing University department of geology, Yang liked field study. During summer and winter vacations, then in good health, he traveled on his own to 22 provinces, and visited many of China's famous mountains. To prepare himself for the rigors of a life in the field, he exercised strenuously, jogged every morning no matter what the weather, swam outdoors and took cold baths in winter, and in summer wore a leather overcoat to accustom his body to heat. His home was 15 kilometers from the school,

and he always walked both ways on weekends. Sometimes he went without food for a day to condition himself to withstand hunger.

Already then the great river held a fascination for him. After graduation in 1961 he applied for a job in Lanzhou, capital of Gansu province. He believed that it was one of the best places to study geomorphology, for there is the meeting place of China's several geological structures, thus there the development of the Huanghe can be observed more clearly.

### Harder Steeling

In 1964 two papers by him were chosen to be presented at a national geological symposium on the Quaternary period. Yang asked for leave to attend the conference. The head of his geological team, a new person who had not hit it off well with Yang, refused and sent someone else instead. When Yang protested, the leader charged him with disobeying the leadership. In a political movement not long afterward he made a lot of false charges and escalated the matter, implying that disagreeing with a leader meant opposing the Communist Party. After the "cultural revolution" began in 1966 this led to Yang's being called such things as "counter-revolutionary attacking the proletarian headquarters."

The end of the trek, the mouth of the Huanghe River.

Shi Panqi



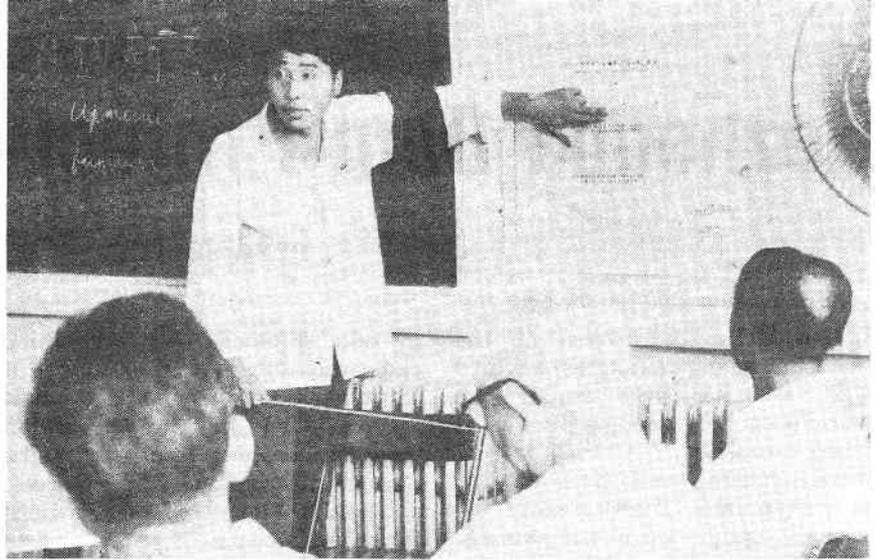
Yang went to Beijing eight times to appeal his case to higher authorities, but it was impossible to get a proper hearing during that period. All he got out of these trips was a chance to travel to Beijing by a different route each time, which gave him the opportunity to observe the geographic features of other areas.

In the early 1970s he was taken by the police and held in custody pending trial. In protest he went on a hunger strike. The muscles of his legs began to atrophy and finally became paralyzed. He was tried by the then-authorities and sentenced to ten years in prison.

There Yang sought to use his time to good advantage. Paper and pen had been brought to his cell for him to make a confession. When Yang had persisted in his refusal, they were taken away, but luckily for him the bottle of ink was left behind. Yang made himself a pen from a piece of reed, and surreptitiously began writing on whatever piece of paper he could pick up. In four years he wrote five articles totaling 200,000 words (which he kept hidden) on geomorphology and the exploitation of the loess plateau.

Yang still cherished his dream of surveying the river. Knowing that the ability to speak some Tibetan would be helpful along the upper reaches of the Huanghe, he began learning it from his cellmate, a Tibetan.

In 1976 the gang of four was ousted from power and things began to change. Gradually the jails were regularized. Yang filed an appeal for reconsideration of his case. One day in 1978, while still in prison, he learned from the newspaper that a national science conference was being called in Beijing to get the country's scientific activity back on its feet. Excitedly he addressed a letter to the Communist Party Central Committee. His first point was that a study of how the Huanghe had developed should be placed on the scientific agenda. His second: that his case be reexamined so that he could be freed to participate in the survey.



Outlining his findings to scientists studying the Huanghe River at a meeting held by the Ministry of Geology. *Zhang Jingde*

In December 1978 Yang was cleared and released from jail. A few months later the Chinese Association for Science and Technology, having learned about his case, honored him with the title "Staunch Scientist." Yang meanwhile was in a sanatorium, where he spent a year recovering his health. In 1980 he was elected a delegate to the association's conference and became the youngest member of the meeting's presidium. Following the meeting he presented to the Ministry of Geology his proposal that he survey the entire Huanghe on foot.

This was a blow to his parents. His father, who had written 203 poems over the years giving vent to his anguish at his son's misfortune, had hoped that now the family could always be together. But when Yang Liankang explained his reasons, they finally agreed. "Go ahead son," his father said. "Your work is for the good of the country."

### Controversial Proposals

After he returned from his survey last spring, the department of science and technology of the Ministry of Geology held a symposium at which he reported his findings and they were discussed. On the basis of his data, he has drawn a number of conclusions which differ from views previously held on time and reasons for the river's formation, its source, the

relation between its main stream and branches, and dividing its course into sections.

He thinks that the Lalangqingqu, as the longest branch, should be considered the source. He feels that the river was formed at least two or three million years ago, much earlier than previously believed. Another of his controversial views involves where to place the dividing line between the middle and upper reaches. He believes it should be at Qingtong gorge in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region rather than Togtoh further downstream in Inner Mongolia. Above Qingtong gorge the main problem is erosion on the steep slopes, by the time the river reaches Togtoh the main problem is sedimentation as it has already begun to pass through a plain, which geological cores show was built up over the deep-down ancient riverbed.

He also presented many suggestions on how to exploit and utilize the river. Yang's propositions are still a matter of controversy. But according to Prof. Wang Nailiang, a well-known geologist teaching at Beijing University, "The ideas are new and expressed on good grounds." He said in a report: "His survey of the entire length of the Huanghe is the first in history. He has been places where no one else has been, so his comparisons and explanation are very valuable." □

# Gezhouba Dam Project—Stage Two

DENG SHULIN

**T**HE Gezhouba project on the Changjiang (Yangtze), which will take its place among the world's great engineering feats when completed, is China's largest water control and hydroelectric project to date. The first stage, essentially completed in the summer of 1981, is already serving navigation and producing electricity (see "Building the 'Impossible' Dam" in the October 1981 *China Reconstructs*). Some 50,000 workers and technicians now work day and night to finish the second and final stage of the project by the 1986 target date.

The completed complex will include a 2,561-meter dam spanning the Changjiang and rising 47 meters tall (70 meters above sea level). Trains and motor traffic will pass over the top of the dam. Below, a spillway and silt-clearing sluices will discharge flood waters and prevent sand and mud from accumulating. Twenty-one generating units will produce 14.1 billion kwh of electricity a year to supply power grids in Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Henan and Sichuan provinces.

**DENG SHULIN** is a staff reporter for *China Reconstructs*.

Three shiplocks—two of which can accommodate 10,000 tons of shipping at one time and a smaller one—will handle 50 million tons of shipping annually. The Changjiang's famous Three Gorges, a peril to mariners since ancient times, will be made safer over a 100-kilometer stretch as the water level is raised.

## First-Stage Successes

Gezhouba is located at a spot on the river originally divided by two small islands into three channels. First-stage structures, across the smaller second and third channels, included a huge spillway, two of the three shiplocks, silt-clearing sluices and a seven-unit power station.

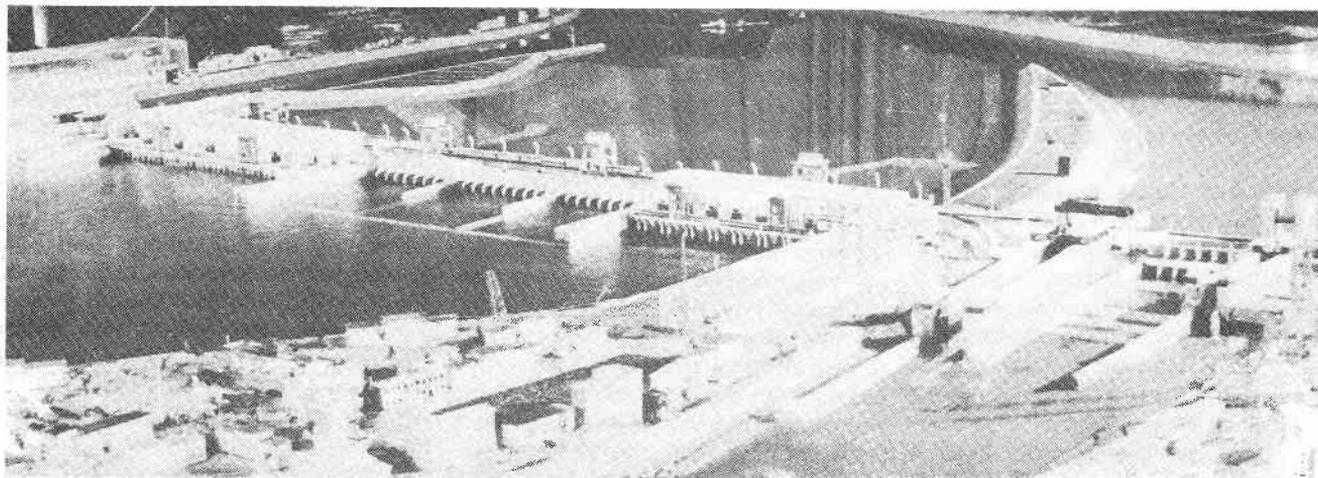
According to Liu Jinming, deputy chief of the dispatcher's office, the locks handled two-way traffic to the tune of 28,782 ships and barges and almost 1,200,000 passengers between June 1981 when they went into operation and May 31 of this year. In the control room, young technicians with the press of a button shift the huge lock gates, each weighing 600 tons and standing as tall as a 12-story building.

At the power station, the first three generating units have been working smoothly since December 1981, and between then and June of this year had produced 1.7 billion kwh for the surrounding countryside (and, incidentally, for the second-stage construction site). Hubei province, where Gezhouba is located, now produces more hydroelectric than thermal power, and in the first four months of 1982 it used 170,000 fewer tons of standard coal for power generation than in the same period the previous year.

By the end of 1982 the fourth, fifth and sixth generators will be operational, and within the first six months of 1983 the seventh will be added.

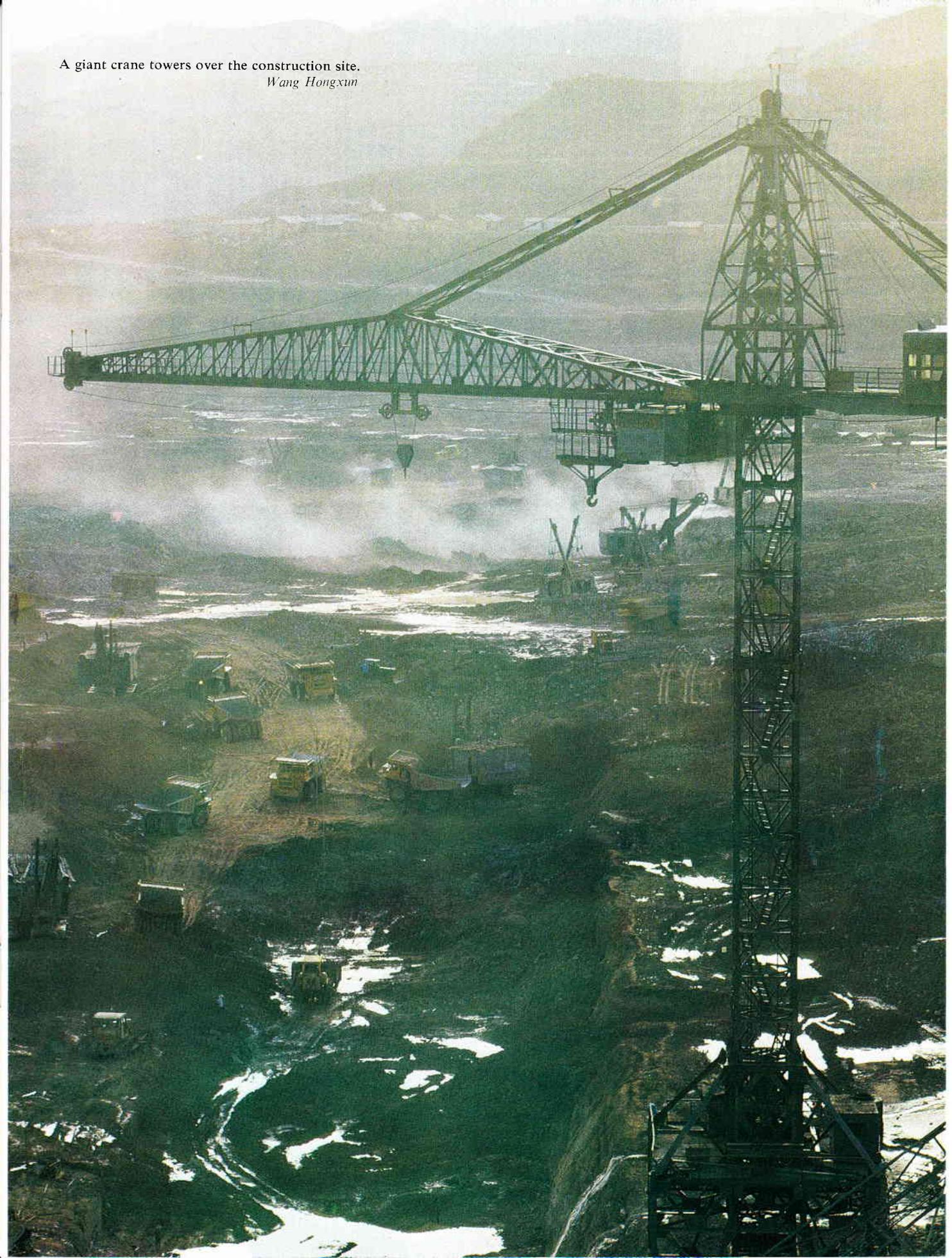
The dam structures met their greatest challenge in July 1981, when exceptionally heavy rainfall along the upper reaches of the river sent floodwaters crashing down toward Gezhouba. When the flood crest reached the dam, it ran at 72,000 cubic meters per second—equal to the highest recorded flow in 1896.

Millions of Chinese listened eagerly for the latest bulletins as Gezhouba's giant spillway was

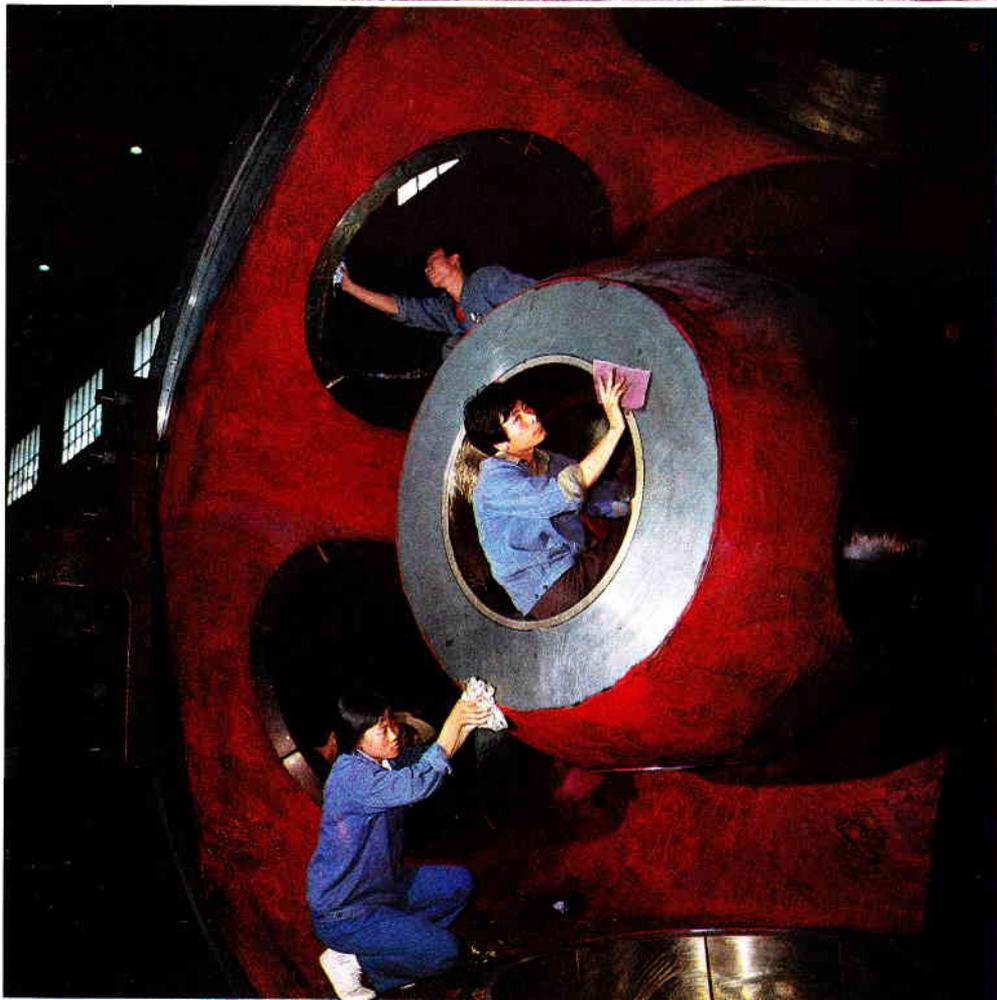
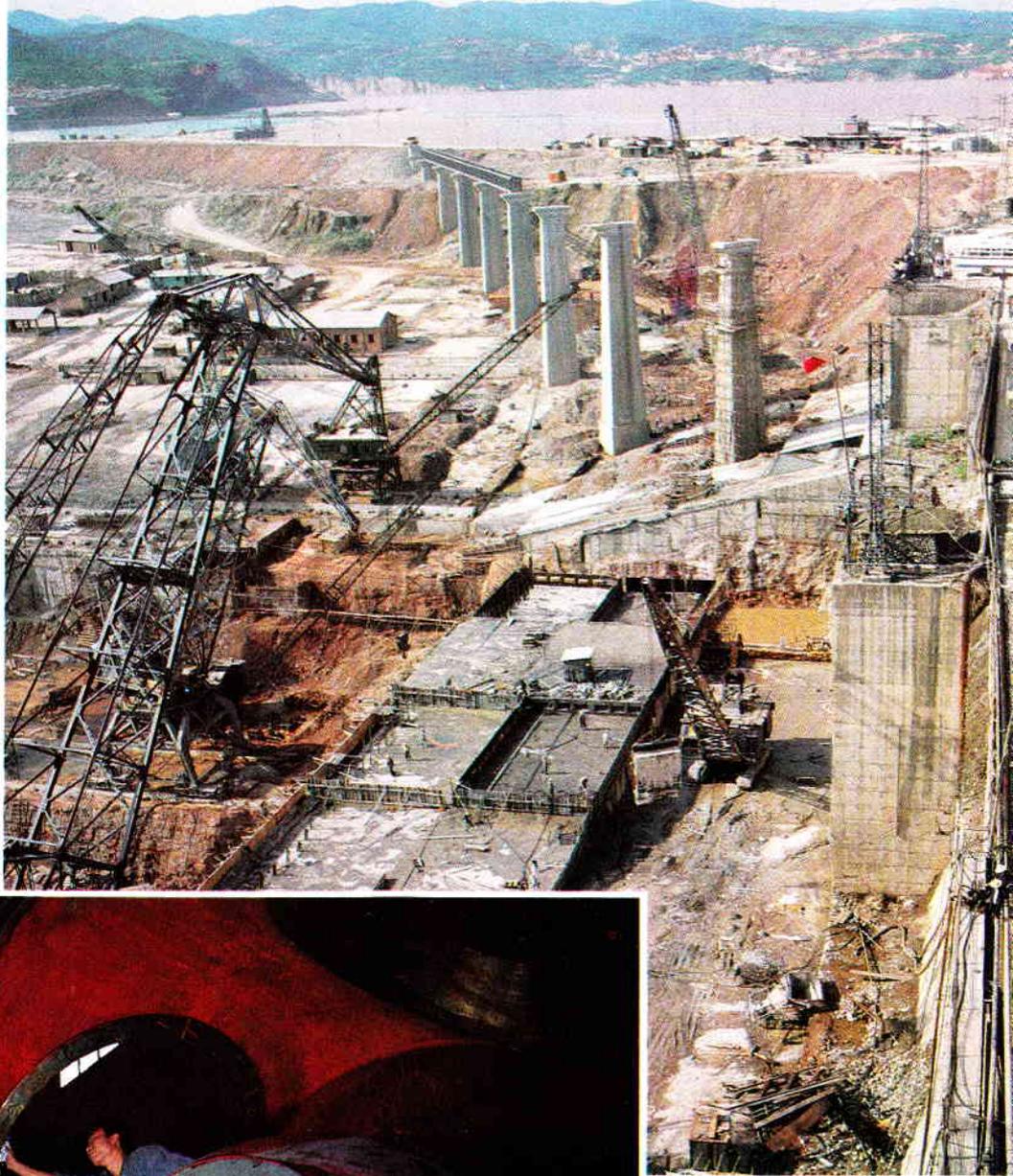


A model of the project as it will look when completed.

A giant crane towers over the construction site.  
*Wang Hongxun*



At right, water flows through the second-channel sluiceways. Across the road, the second stage of construction is under way on the main channel.  
*Wang Hongxun*



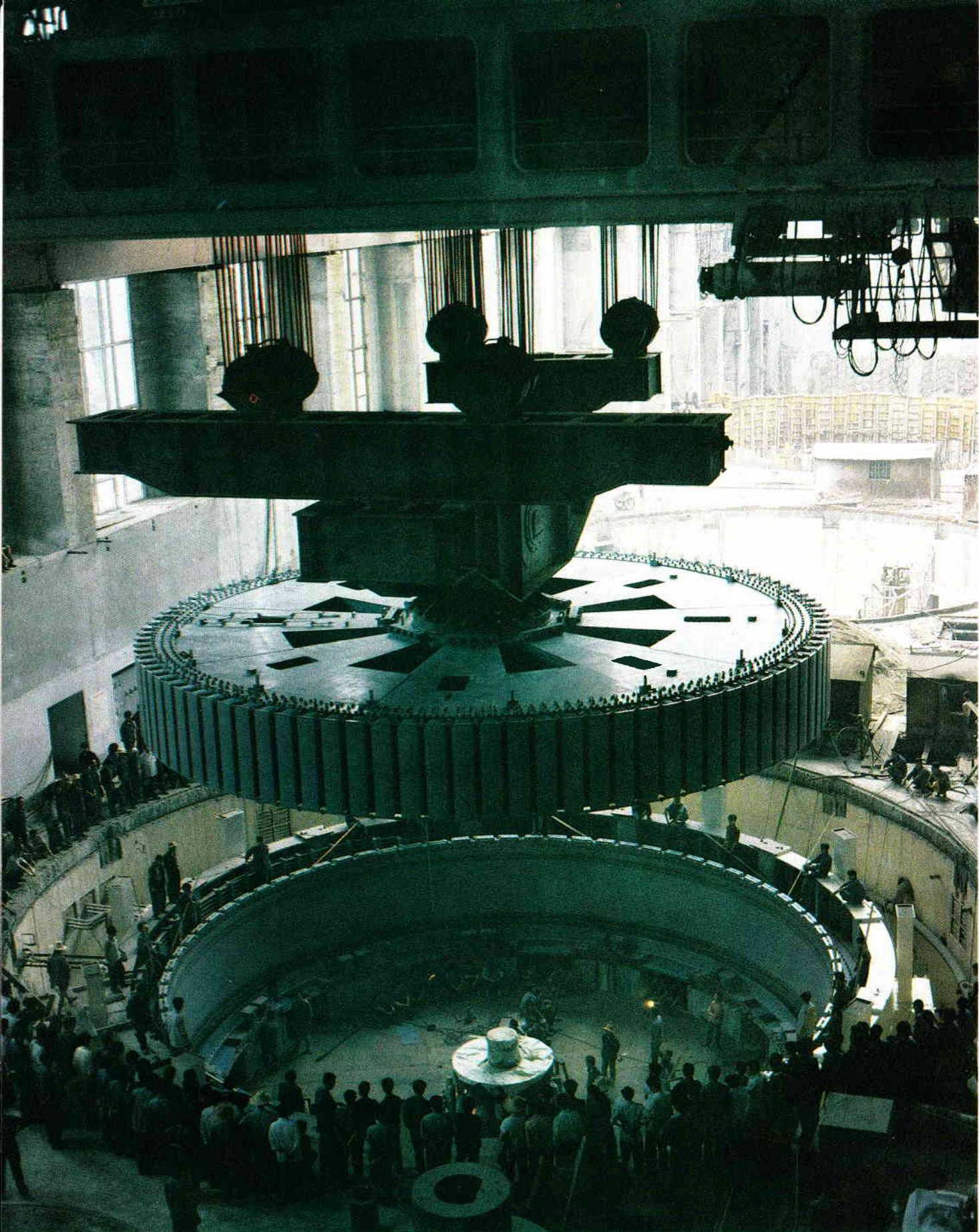
Workers install some of the final pieces of generating equipment in the first-stage power station.  
*Wang Hongxun*



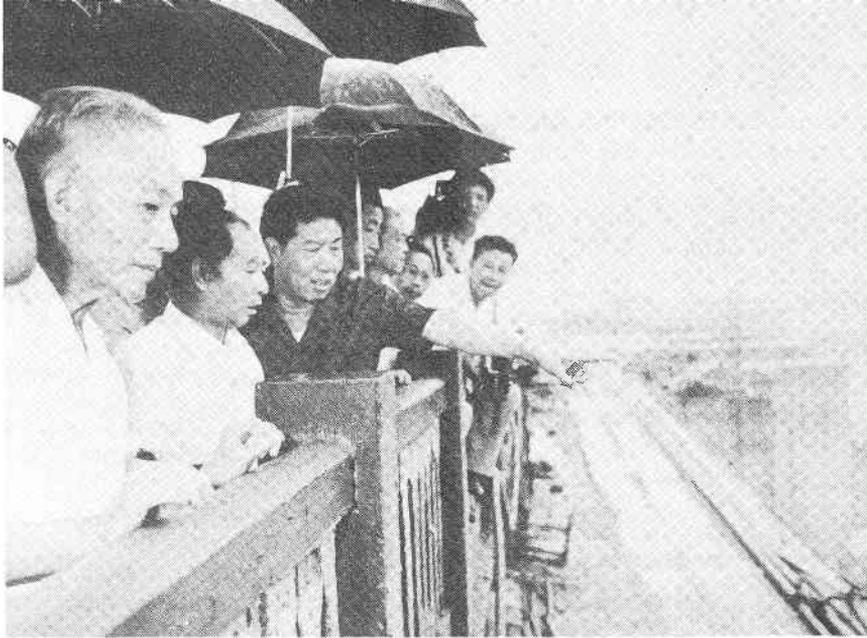
Surveyors take constant readings to insure accuracy.

*Wang Hongxin*





In an operation requiring precise positioning of a part weighing many tons, the rotor of turbogenerator No. 4 is lowered into place.  
*Huang Qingtu*



Hu Yaobang (second left) and other top leaders visit the second-stage worksite.  
Huang Qingfa

opened to maximum capacity and the sluices were adjusted to handle the flow. As the flood crest passed safely, people heaved a collective sigh of relief. The many measuring instruments buried within the dam structure showed that every major element had taken the strain without difficulty. Slight wear and tear on the apron below the sluice gates, from the masses of silt and rock carried by the floodwaters, was quickly repaired.

### The Second Stage

From his office at construction headquarters, deputy chief engineer Chen Fuhou helps direct the complicated building tasks along the 5-kilometer long second-stage worksite. A cofferdam (itself a major technical accomplishment) surrounds the site, holding back the river water. Purplish-brown rocks, once covered by the flow of the age-old Changjiang, glow in the sun. From a pit measuring 900,000 square meters comes the clatter and roar of modern construction machinery and fleets of trucks.

This stage alone will require the displacement of 24 million cubic meters of earth and rock, the pouring of 5,250,000 cubic meters of concrete, and the installation of 34,700 tons of metal structures.

These include the No. 1 shiplock, a dike to prevent silting and another to divide the river's flow and form the main shipping channel. Also planned are a power station with 14 generating units (twice as many as for the first stage) and an installed capacity of 1,750,000 megawatts, and a large flood-discharge and silt-scouring sluice. At right angles to the main dam will be a 978-meter concrete barrier on the right bank of the river.

Though much was learned from the first-stage construction, the second presents as many if not more technical problems, Chen

Fuhou points out. Some 300,000 square meters of bedrock will have to be reinforced because of the presence of clayey silt and interbeddings. More than 6 million cubic meters of earth and stone must be dug out from under deep water. A real challenge will be the building of a 500,000-volt super-high-tension transformer substation and a 70-meter-high pylon with a 600-metre span.

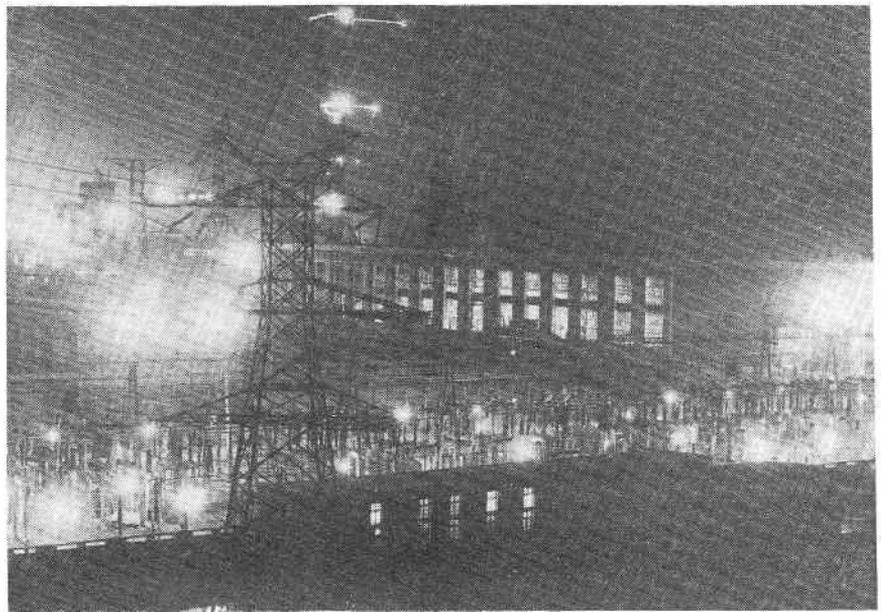
One problem concerns the effect of the project on the fish in the river. Of the 274 species found in the Changjiang, only the Chinese sturgeon migrates to the upper reaches of the river to spawn. Specialists are now debating whether to build fish ladders at the dam for the sturgeon (some favor them, some argue that the sturgeon could not get their large bodies over the ladders). Other suggestions for protecting the sturgeon include transporting netted fish over the dam or artificial propagation. Many experts now urge a variety of approaches rather than a single one, and a special research center has been set up at Gezhouba.

### Milestone in Water Control

Not far from the construction site is a temple commemorating Yu the Great, a legendary Chinese ruler credited with building some of the country's first water-control pro-

The first-stage power station at night.

Xinhua



jects. Old Yu would be proud to acknowledge the builders of this complex as his spiritual successors. Gezhouba is the first major dam on the main stream of the Changjiang, one of the world's three largest rivers.

Construction difficulties were enormous. Water flow is very fast here, with flood peaks reaching a maximum of 110,000 cubic meters per second. Geological conditions are very complex, and large amounts of silt and pebbles are carried down by the river (as much as 500 million tons of silt pass Gezhouba every year). Still, after careful study, no other proposed spot appeared as suitable.

The project brought together a large number of Chinese engineers and water-control experts who pooled their experience and creativity to come up with new answers to old problems. One example was their innovative way to prevent silting. Ships passing through the channels above and below the dam require calm, slow-moving waters, but this increases the likelihood of masses of silt piling up around the dam.

Specialists of the Changjiang Basin Planning Office devised retaining dams and dikes to divert silt into positions where it could be flushed away when scouring sluices were opened to maximum capacity. While ships pass, the sluices remain closed and the water stays calm. Opened periodically while ships are kept away, they discharge a high-speed torrent. Last winter alone, two million cubic meters of sand and pebbles were washed away in this manner.

The project has provided valuable experience for the country's future hydropower projects—including the massive Three Gorges Complex upriver from Gezhouba, now in the planning stage. Chinese and foreign tourists visiting the gorges—a breathtaking scenic wonder—and the many historic sites of the area should include Gezhouba in their itinerary. This man-made wonder is a feast to the eye and the imagination, a monument to human ingenuity in taming and reshaping nature. □

## MINORITY DRUMS AND DANCES

(Continued from p. 5)

*Twelve Mukam* (a collection of 240 songs and ballads based on traditional tales, poetry and proverbs).

In rural areas of southern Xinjiang, drums take the place of "town bells," being sounded from many a production office roof to signal the start of the day or to call a meeting.

### Legend of the Long Drum

Long drums carved from the trunk of a tree are popular in many parts of south central China. The Yao people of Fuchuan county, Guangxi, have a legend to explain their origin. King Pan Gu, creator of the universe, went hunting one day and encountered a group of ferocious wild goats. They killed him and hung his body from a catalpa tree.

Pan Gu's seven sons looked for him for seven days and seven nights. When they found his body they were so angry that they cut down the tree and pursued the goats until they had killed them all. From the tree and the goat-skins they made long drums, and used them in a dance to celebrate the avenging of their father's death. Yao villagers still celebrate King Pan Gu every July as their New Year.

Another Yao legend about the drum is more romantic. Young peasant Tang Dongbi and a fairy maiden fall in love and marry, but the proud Heavenly Emperor forces her to return to the sky palace. Then she appears to her husband in a cloud to tell him to cut down a *qin* tree from the southern mountains and make a long drum with it. Every year on the 16th day of the 10th lunar month (in November or December), when he beats the drum, she will sneak away and join him for that day.

In memory of the loving couple, young Yao men of the Liangshan Mountains "call" the fairy maiden in a spirited dance. They wear turbans with pheasant feathers and beat the long drums strapped to their waists. □

Yao long drums come in many sizes; even the smaller ones are almost a meter long. The body is made of wood, narrow in the middle and wide at both ends, and decorated with floral designs. The drumheads are usually of cowhide or sheepskin.

### Drums of Tibet

Among the Tibetan people, drums are an important part of the accompaniment for religious and social dances and for dances by special performers. In the Qinghai-Tibet plateau region, large cylindrical drums with cowhide heads, low and resonant in tone, were once an important part of the ceremonial equipment of every monastery. In religious rituals, dancers in the masks of gods, demons and animals writhed and strutted to frighten onlookers and impress them with the power of these "spirits." Potent music was provided by the deep-toned big drums, smaller drums with sharper notes, bronze horns, trumpets and cymbals.

A folk dance popular among the herdsmen of the Sichuan-Tibetan grasslands is performed by women holding small drums with handles and sheepskin heads and men carrying bells. Holding the drums in their left hands, the women beat out the time with curved drumsticks held in their right. The sound of the men's bronze bells intertwine with the beat, and the result is very lively dance music.

In an area near the Himalaya Mountains, one folk dance has been performed for over a thousand years. Male dancers in colorful dress with small drums fastened to their waists run and leap while beating out tattoos with the drumsticks held in both hands. In many Xigaze dances, the drums are played on the sidelines in harmony with the bells tied to the performers' ankles.

Some ancient dances, done to the sound of drumbeats and large cymbals, feature dancers in the masks of wild bulls and other creatures. These once obviously had religious significance, and are performed with gusto in a style distinctively Tibetan. □

# On War, Peace and Nuclear Weapons

**WHAT IS** China's basic attitude as regards war and peace, nuclear weapons, and disarmament? Approached by *China Reconstructs*, Chairman Wang Bingnan of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, who has been active in foreign affairs for decades, gave his views on a number of relevant questions:

**Q. Do you consider that the menace of a world war is growing?**

**A.** Yes. People in all countries are right to be concerned. Partial wars have gone on without cease since the end of World War II — in Korea, Indochina, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America. The situation is really turbulent and full of crises.

**Q. What is China's policy?**

**A.** I think the main line of our foreign policy is clear. It is to defend world peace and to oppose hegemonism — especially the drive of any superpower for world domination — because it is the contention, warmongering and expansionism of the superpowers that endangers world peace.

China is opposed to war. She has suffered long and grievously from it. Without peace, internal and international, we cannot modernize successfully. China strives to postpone, as long as possible, and by every possible effort, the outbreak of a new world war.

**Q. Can world war be avoided, in your opinion?**

**A.** I believe it can, provided all the world's people take the defense of peace into their own hands and mobilize against hegemonism. To believe that world war is absolutely inevitable is incorrect.

**Q. What do you think of the recent peace and anti-nuclear demonstrations in many places around the world?**



Wang Bingnan

**A.** We Chinese appreciate and understand the spontaneous actions that have arisen in Europe, the Americas, Japan and elsewhere. People fear war because they have already suffered from it. The atomic bombs dropped at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were an object lesson: any future nuclear attacks are bound to be far more terrible. Although many of these movements have no clear program, we sympathize with their good intentions — the saving of peace and prevention of a world war.

**Q. What is at present required for peace, in your opinion?**

**A.** While the people want peace, the two superpowers each want to rule the world. Both have huge stockpiles of nuclear weapons. Both want to extend their control. This starts or aggravates many local wars. The Soviet Union has occupied Afghanistan. The U.S. supports Israel's aggressive military actions in the Middle East, and

supported Britain in the war with Argentina. In today's local wars, superpower intervention is generally a factor. We are against all hegemonism. With regard to Afghanistan, our emphasis is on opposition to Soviet expansion. With regard to some countries in Latin America, the U.S. plays the main hegemonist role, and we also oppose that. Each case has to be evaluated in its own context.

**Q. Could you explain China's policy on nuclear weapons?**

**A.** We stated years ago that we wanted to break the nuclear monopoly of the superpowers, so we built a few weapons of our own. But at the same time we pledged, and still pledge, never to be the first to use nuclear arms. We hope the U.S., the USSR and all other nuclear-armed states will follow suit. If there is less prospect of their use, the role of nuclear weapons will diminish.

Furthermore, we support the

various proposals made by medium-sized and small countries for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, and want all countries with nuclear arms to guaran-

tee not to use them against such areas.

**Q. How about conventional disarmament?**

**A.** We want a reduction in con-

ventional arms. This is different from our stand on nuclear arms — nuclear arms should be completely banned and destroyed, not just reduced.

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## China's Stand on Disarmament

**A**T the June 11, 1982, Second Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament, Huang Hua, Minister of Foreign Affairs and chairman of China's delegation to the session, made the following statement:

"The Chinese government and people have always stood for genuine disarmament and made positive efforts towards progress in disarmament. Since the 1960s, the Chinese government has put forward on a number of occasions its views and proposals on disarmament and on strengthening international security. We have always opposed the arms race and the threat or use of force in international relations, and we are against any country carrying out aggression or expansion by means of superior military strength.

"China is in favor of Soviet-US talks on nuclear disarmament, hoping that the two countries would take a serious and responsible attitude to reach an agreement genuinely helpful to bringing the nuclear arms race to an end and preventing a nuclear war, and that they would not follow the same old road which has, instead of leading to the reduction of nuclear armaments, left much room for improving their nuclear weapons."

**O**N behalf of the Chinese government Huang Hua proposed several major steps toward an end to the arms race and for disarmament:

"An agreement should be reached by all the nuclear states not to use nuclear weapons. Pending such an agreement, each nuclear state should, without attaching any condition, undertake not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states and nuclear weapon-free zones, and not to be the first to use such weapons against each other at any time and under any circumstances.

"It is our view that conventional disarmament should be effected simultaneously with nuclear disarmament. . . . All these positions of ours indicate the obligation China is prepared to undertake for disarmament. In point of fact, the Chinese government has long since repeatedly pledged to the world that at no time and under no circumstances will China be the first to use nuclear weapons and that it undertakes unconditionally not to use such weapons against non-nuclear states. This amply shows the good faith of the Chinese government on the question of disarmament."

**H**UANG HUA specifically announced: "If the two superpowers take the lead in halting the testing, improvement or manufacture of nuclear weapons and in reducing their nuclear weapons by 50 percent, the Chinese government is ready to join all other nuclear states in undertaking to stop the development and production of nuclear weapons and to further re-

duce and ultimately destroy them altogether.

"China's social system and fundamental interests require that we pursue a policy of peace. We do not need war and we firmly oppose a new world war. China's armaments, including her nuclear capabilities, are entirely for the purpose of self-defense against foreign aggression.

"China does not have a single soldier outside her own borders and never seeks any bases on foreign soil. Neither does she have any territorial ambitions. Our record shows that we were forced to act in self-defense only when a war of aggression was imposed on us. We will not countenance aggression or threat against ourselves, and we never pose any threat to others."

**H**IS concluding remarks were: "Disarmament is, in the final analysis, a question of how to prevent war and maintain peace, so it is bound to attract the attention and arouse the concern of the people throughout the world. So long as the people of all countries unite in a persistent and relentless struggle against wars of aggression, it will be possible to maintain world peace. The people's struggle is a powerful impetus to disarmament and maintenance of world peace. Our task is to make concerted efforts for the realization of genuine disarmament in conformity with the wishes of the people of the world." □

To come back to conventional arms, both the United States and the Soviet Union talk endlessly of desiring peace, security and détente. But as long as they pile up more armaments, this talk should not lull anyone — it can't be considered honest without action to suit.

Disarmament is an old issue. The Soviet Union raised this question immediately after the October Revolution of 1917, and at the time it was sincere. Now, under different circumstances, it talks of arms reduction at every international conference. And at every session of the UN General Assembly disarmament is put on the agenda. But weaponry, both nuclear and conventional, goes on increasing each year.

If the superpowers really mean peace they shouldn't just talk disarmament in general but specify figures — for limiting conventional arms and for cutting down armies. The reason they just talk, which is easy, but don't act, which is hard, is that they lack real resolve for peace. Without that no solution can be found.

**Q. Do you continue to make a distinction between just and unjust wars?**

**A.** As Marxists, of course we do — we analyze each war with this in mind. How can one oppose all wars, even those waged for self-defense or national liberation? After all, the U.S. was born from its own just war of independence, and the Soviet Union justly defended its October Revolution. China's wars against Japanese invasion and against Chiang Kai-shek were just wars. In the Arab-Israeli struggle our sympathy is with the Arabs, because Israel is expansionist.

On the war over the Malvinas Islands we consider that in essence it is a problem of opposition to colonialism. Although Argentina lost, victory or defeat in battle isn't the test of justice or injustice. Politically, Argentina's right to the islands has been recognized by many countries — for example, at the conferences of non-aligned states and the meeting of foreign

ministers of American states. Her people showed courage and fighting spirit which deserve our admiration. This war also showed where the U.S. really stood. This self-styled friend of Latin America, when the test came, took Britain's side.

In Indochina, when Vietnam was justly resisting U.S. aggression, it had our support. But today the situation is the opposite. Today Vietnam wants to dominate the other countries of Indochina — Kampuchea and Laos. Vietnam's aims have become unjust, so we support Democratic Kampuchea's fight to expel the Vietnamese invaders.

**Q. What does your Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries do for peace?**

**A.** On behalf of the Chinese people, we develop ties with similar groups in other countries. Each year we host about 200 delegations — 2,000 or so visitors.

Friendship requires mutual understanding, and some people abroad still have little understanding of China. As we exchange views understanding increases, and so does friendship.

Friendship among peoples serves the cause of peace. It also makes people in each country better able to see to it that their own government does something for peace.

Friends sometimes say to us, "Although you oppose hegemonism

now, when you're not so strong, won't you seek it for yourselves when you're stronger?" In past centuries when China was powerful, she did sometimes pursue policies of expansion — that's one reason they worry. But after visiting here most friends come to see that we aren't going to take that old path.

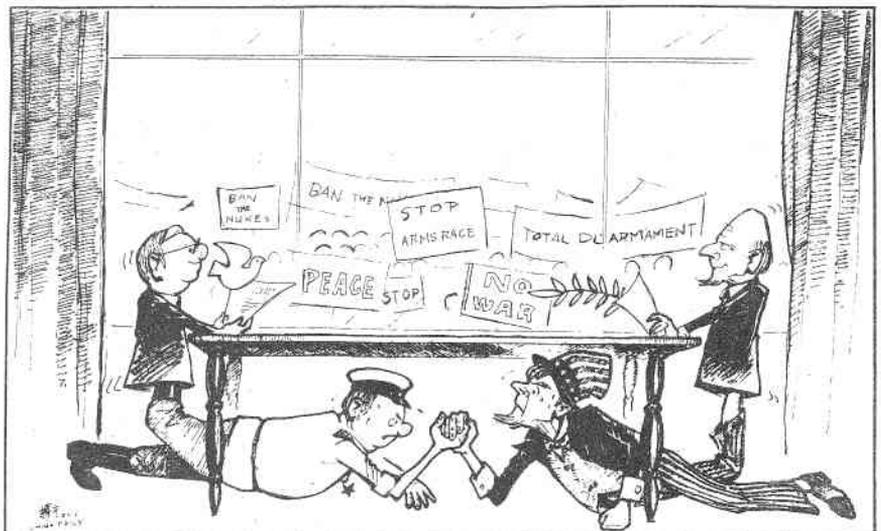
We are a socialist state and as such oppose expansionism as a matter of principle; we criticize the Soviet Union for abandoning that principle. China has publicly pledged many times that she will never act the superpower. She does not keep a single soldier or a single base on foreign soil.

As a practical matter, China has a huge territory, abundant resources and a vast internal market (though a lack of these is clearly not the only motive for expansionist policies). Finally, she is engaged on an extensive program of economic modernization that will not be completed until well into the next century, and those plans would be completely disrupted by war.

After exchanging views with us, most friends leave China with hearts at ease. They can see that China's policies are of benefit to her own people and to world peace, which is in the interests of all. □

Inside and Outside: Preparations for war and professions of peace.

Yao Ning





The neighbors, including Liu Lixing (left) and plumber Xi Fengnian (top center), gather around Xingxing after her accident in the crowded hallway-kitchen.



Present Party secretary Yuan Yifang and former secretary Liu have different opinions on how to deal with plumber Xi's argument with the housing director.

# 'Neighbors'—A Film on the Housing Problem

BIN WEN

**W**INNER of this year's Golden Rooster outstanding film award, *Neighbors* has proved very popular because it deals with real problems in people's lives—the housing shortage and related evils.

As the film opens, through a cloud of cooking smoke the camera takes the audience into the hallway of housing provided by the "Construction Institute" for its faculty and staff. Probably never intended to house families, the building has no kitchens. The six families who live on the second floor have to do their cooking in the corridor. They are busy preparing lunch, each in front of their own stove, coming and going, jostling and sidling past each other. Every inch of space is jammed full, even the ceiling from which hang strings of drying onions and peppers, stovepipes for winter use and rattan chairs for summer.

As the neighbors talk once again longingly of their desire for a room that can be used as a communal kitchen, Wu the institute's director of housing arrives. A new highrise building belonging to the institute is ready for occupancy. He tells Yuan Yifang, the institute's Communist Party secretary and Old Liu the elderly former secretary now retired to a position

as advisor, that they can move in. Old Liu, who has real concern for the grievances of the masses, chooses not to move. He does not feel it right to move to better quarters until conditions for all the people have improved.

An accident the next morning highlights the critical situation. As everyone bustles about helping Yuan move, a little girl, Xingxing, bumps into and overturns a pot of boiling porridge in the cramped corridor. She is badly burned and taken to the hospital.

**D**URING the "cultural revolution" Yuan, along with Old Liu, had been forced to move out of better quarters and into this place to learn to share the problems of the masses, but he seems to have forgotten the message. Not only does he move into a nice apartment, but he also offers his former room—which the residents have been hoping to get for a communal kitchen—to the nephew of a high cadre friend.

Xi Fengnian, a plumber, three generations of whose family live there, hopes to get the room back for his neighbors. He tries to curry favor with housing director Wu, by doing some plumbing repairs for his son. But after accepting Xi's offerings, the housing

director, who feels it is wiser to please his superiors than the people, does not give up the kitchen room. Angry plumber Xi gets into a row with him, however it is not Wu who has to make a self-criticism, but Xi, for causing a disturbance.

Finally Old Liu arranges to get the kitchen room by giving in exchange for it the new apartment he has been assigned.

When it is learned that Old Liu is going to be visited by Alice, a foreign journalist who he knew 35 years before in Yan'an, housing director Wu is ashamed to have her see the place where this old revolutionary is living. He arranges for Liu to temporarily use Yuan's nice apartment. There are some hilarious scenes when Liu, entertaining Alice, can't explain why somebody else's wedding picture is in his bedroom, can't find Yuan's official stamp while a postman waits with a special delivery letter, and so on, until Alice catches on. Then he takes her to his old quarters. The families are having a celebration feast in their newly decorated kitchen and invite Alice to join them. She is more impressed by their neighborly solidarity than she ever would be by the fancy apartment.

Not long afterward, Yuan Yifang becomes director of the



Alice, a foreign journalist who knew Liu in Yan'an, is more impressed by the residents' neighborly spirit than the fancy apartment Liu is put into to fool her.



Liu Lixing is concerned about the widening gulf between the Institute's cadres and its workers, but his daughter tells him not to get involved.

Municipal Construction Committee. While Yuan demands more and more privileges for himself, Old Liu volunteers to take a hand in the housing office.

**B**ECAUSE the production of building materials lags behind the needs of construction, their allocation can become a tool in the hands of a few who use them to advance their own interests. Old Liu learns that Yuan has allowed materials allocated for constructing three Institute apartment buildings to be used for luxury apartments for high cadres.

Liu is so enraged that he leaps from a hospital bed and runs out into the night to go to tell the secretary of the municipal Party committee. The latter immediately investigates and calls an emergency meeting to stop the abuses. On the roof of one of the luxury apartments, which is nearing completion, Liu meets his old colleague Yuan and has a heart-to-heart talk with him. As if awakening from a dream, Yuan realizes how he has gone wrong.

Old Liu's illness becomes worse and is diagnosed as cancer of the liver. But even up to his leave-taking for treatment in Beijing, his concern is more for how to speed up construction of the Institute's three new apartment buildings than for his own situation. He asks Yuan to do what he can to speed things up.

Spring comes, the new apartments are finished, and the neighbors are having another feast

to celebrate their imminent move. Yuan, now reformed, returns from Beijing with two Beijing roast ducks and a letter from Old Liu. The neighbors, recalling the years Old Liu has given to the revolution which have undermined his health and knowing that he probably has a terminal illness, are moved to tears at the optimism for the future expressed in his letter.

The producers of *Neighbors*, the Youth Film Studio, a new company formed by the teachers and other staff of the Beijing Film Institute, have given us a good example of how films should be made, with their realistic treatment of a real problem, unlike many films today that either avoid or whitewash reality.

There are recognizable character types from real life, the Yuans, reformed and unreformed, and the Old Lius, and the many others who, just like so many in the film's audience, are struggling against poor living conditions and bureaucrats who don't do enough about them. Particularly in the well-rounded portrayal of the ordinary people, with both their faults and quiet tenacity, the picture represents an advance in film making. With gentle satire and warm sympathy the creators offer their audience a perspective on their problems, perhaps in the hope that they will leave the theater with greater courage to fight against them. □

**A dinner to celebrate the imminent move into new apartments.**

*Photos by Pan Yikun*



# Making China Green

YONG WENTAO

EVERY able-bodied man, woman and child in China over the age of 11 is called upon to plant and maintain five trees annually, raise seedlings or do some other related task, in a resolution passed by the National People's Congress in December 1981. Last spring city workers went out en masse to plant trees along the streets and outlying areas, and commune brigades and teams, too, began their efforts to, as the call goes, "turn China green." To emphasize the importance of the campaign, Hu Yaobang, Deng Xiaoping, Zhao Ziyang and other Communist Party and state leaders went out planting too.

The resolution highlights the fact that afforestation has become one of China's urgent problems. Today she ranks 120th among 160 countries and regions for forests (122 million ha., 12.7 percent of her total area).

As of May 16, near the end of the spring tree-planting season, 2.33 million hectares had been planted with a total of 1,100 million trees. A long-range aim of 30 percent was put forward in March 1980, with a target of 20 percent by the end of the century.

She has 9,500 million cubic meters of standing timber, but

less than a third is now of a size for felling. Thus the supply of wood falls far short of demand. That used for fuel makes up a third of the annual production. But getting sufficient fuel (including farm waste) is a problem for an estimated 500 of the country's 800 million rural population.

China has some large forest reserves, and in other areas, annual planting under the people's government since 1949 added 28 million hectares. Nature preserves have been created to protect rare animals and plants. Many denuded mountains were turned green, deserts blossomed with oases and farmland was protected from sand behind shelterbelts. But still forests have declined as a result of incorrect policies\*, and forested areas are unevenly distributed throughout the country.

Other aspects of the problem with even more serious long-range consequences are soil erosion and

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\*The countrywide small-furnace iron-smelting campaign in 1958 caused trees to be cut for fuel; overemphasis on every place being self-sufficient in grain brought previously-forested areas under cultivation. Uncontrolled felling as a result of the "cultural revolution" helped denude wild slopes.

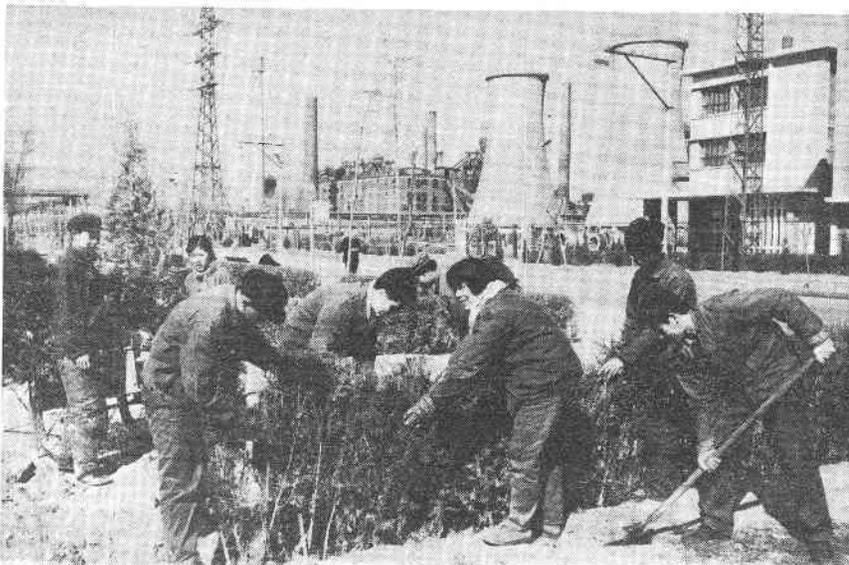
destruction of ecological balance. Historical records say that the Loess Plateau in the north-central part of the country was 53 percent covered with forests (a total of 32 million hectares) in the Western Zhou dynasty (11th century-771 B.C.). But by the time of liberation the hills had become practically denuded (down to two million ha. or three percent). Over the years, the land has been eroded into deep ravines.

Today the Huanghe (Yellow) River, which runs through the loesslands, leads the world in volume of silt carried. Studies made at Shanxian county in western Henan province near where the river emerges from the loesslands found 1,600 million tons of silt a year being carried downstream. The nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium washed away annually through the Huanghe are enough for the entire country's agriculture for one year.

Today the Changjiang (Yangtze) River is nearly as muddy as the Huanghe, emptying 500 million tons of silt a year into the sea. Soil erosion takes place on 20 percent of its drainage area, or on 360,000 square kilometers, and 2,400 million tons of soil are washed away each year. Such serious soil erosion has raised the riverbed and silted up lakes.

Desert area, on a countrywide scale, is expanding. In the north-western part of the country desert and gobi account for 127 million hectares, or more land than is under cultivation in all China. Damage to windbreaks and shelterbelts in the past decade or so contributed to the desertification of six million hectares of land since liberation. The sands of Inner Mongo-

Tree-planting at the Capital Iron and Steel Company in Beijing.



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YONG WENTAO, formerly Minister of Forestry, is vice-chairman of the Central Afforestation Commission and advisor to the Ministry of Forestry.

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS



Plastic film shelter helps grow seedlings for tree-planting campaign.

*Wang Shusen*

A palm-shaded avenue in the far south.

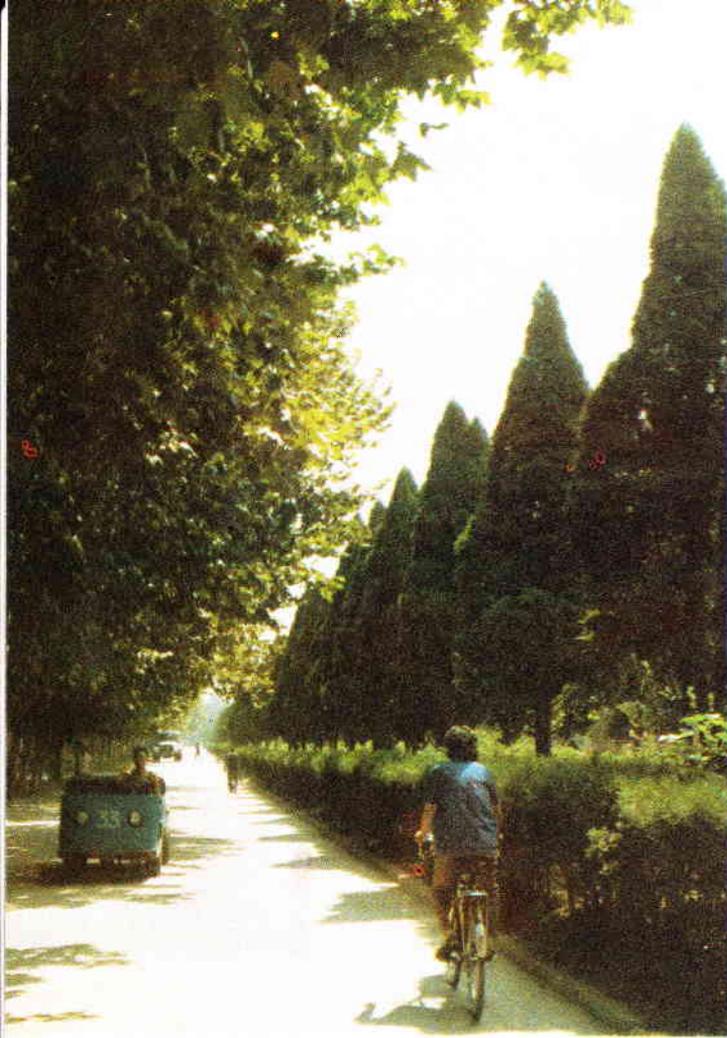
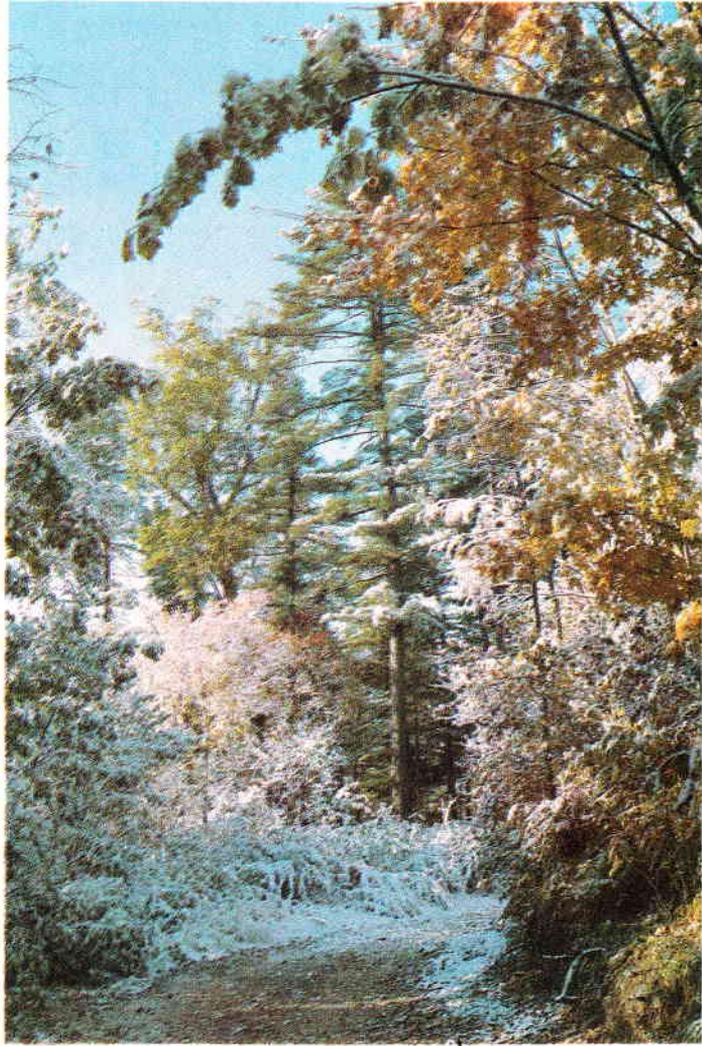
*Xie Jun*



Green grass now grows in Beijing. This west side overpass is one of the places.



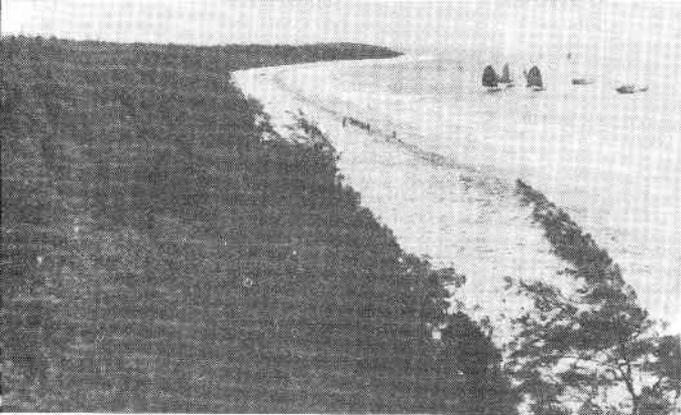
Forest area in the Lesser Hinggan Mountains of the northeast.  
*Yang Li*



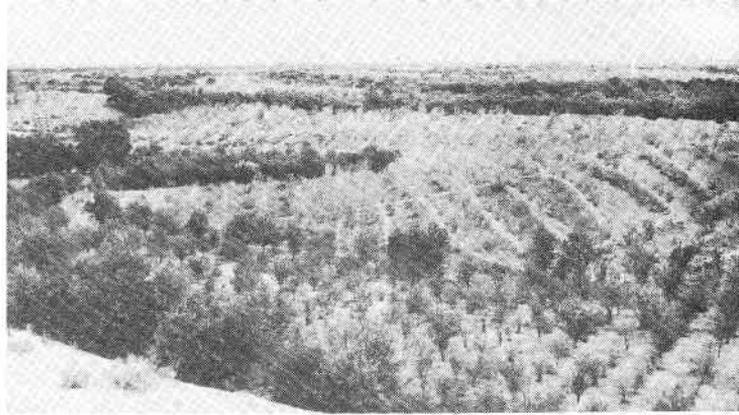
An avenue in the Zhengzhou Grinding Wheel Factory.  
*Wang Gangfa*

A new forest atop a ravine stands like a bulwark against erosion.  
*Wu Shitang*





Windbreaks protect coastal farmland from typhoon damage.



A net of trees and grass in Minqin county, Gansu province, helps cut sandstorms and holds shifting sand. *Xinhua*

lia are moving southward and air-borne sand is more plentiful in Beijing than previously. In the south, parts of the Pearl River valley in Guangdong province, Hainan Island off the southern coast, and the Xishuangbanna prefecture near the Burmese border are threatened by desertification as a result of loss of tree cover.

### Some Successful Spots

There are, however, some good examples of what can be done when afforestation is consistently practiced. Here are a few.

• Xiaxian county in southwestern Shanxi province has been commended by the State Council for its continuing efforts over thirty years. This county is sometimes visited for relics said to date from the Xia dynasty (21st to 16th century B.C.), but the most spectacular thing about it is the ocean of greenery that has been created. Xiaxian used to be a dry, windy, dusty place with few trees. Since 1952 the people of the county have done annual plantings along rivers, lakes and roads and around people's homes.

The county has at present 25 million trees, 7.5 times the number in 1949, or a cover of 25 percent. Three fellings of mature trees have provided 180,000 cubic meters of lumber for agricultural and sideline use and extra income for the peasants from sales. An average of 2.5 rooms of new housing and public buildings per family (total 140,000 rooms) has been built collectively or individually.

• In Yanzhou county in western Shandong province, by planting trees wherever they had space,

since 1975 the people have built up a network of shelterbelts and raised the tree cover to 14.7 percent.

• In Dongxihe in Xichang county, high in the mountains of southwestern Sichuan province, the slopes had become almost denuded and loss of soil and water were a serious problem. Now that the slopes are covered with trees, the mountain torrents have been cut by a third, silt content of the streams is reduced by 80 percent, and annual rainfall has increased by 20 percent.

• Chunhua county on the loess plateau in Shaanxi province used to suffer from serious soil erosion, with an average of two million tons of soil a year being washed away to the Huanghe. Now soil loss is 50 percent less since the people began planting trees, so that now its mountain slopes and valleys are covered with them.

• When the Huanghe changed its course and between 1938 and 1947 ran to the sea through the Huaihe River, it left a vast stretch of barren, sandy waste. Weishi county in central Henan province has done much to reclaim such land. Today, to stabilize the sand dunes, 18,300 hectares of shelterbelts have been planted. This has greatly improved the environment and created conditions for a prospering agriculture. Proceeds from forestry have helped communes and their brigades get funds for farm machinery and water projects.

Aerial sowing of forests has been done in 500 mountainous regions since this work started in 1958, to a total area of 12 million

ha. Of these 2.67 million have trees which are now full-grown and 1.47 have trees ready to be felled.

### Afforestation Program Needed

The tree-planting campaign is still in its initial stages. The work has been done quite well in the cities, but started later in remote areas so in some places is still in the preparatory stage. Problems have to be solved, one of which is getting enough seedlings. In some places trees were planted but not taken care of so they did not survive or grow well.

We need to work out a complete afforestation program which includes cultivation of seedlings, training technical personnel and introducing systems for management of forested areas.

We are trying to avoid a mistake made previously of insisting on uniformity, and now choose the kind of trees to be planted with an eye to the needs of the locality. In cities the emphasis is on greenifying scenic spots, historical places and the main streets. Factories and other places of work and residential areas are urged to plant trees within their own premises, and grass and flowers as well. In the rural areas, emphasis is on planting trees along lakes, rivers, roads and around houses, and in creating shelterbelts to protect farmland.

China has favorable natural conditions for a great variety of tree species; an incomplete survey tallies 2,800 species of arboreal alone. Afforestation committees have been organized at the provincial level in every place except Taiwan. □

# China's Census: Accurate to 0.2 Percent

XIAO QING

ON July 1, the cut-off date for the third census of the People's Republic of China, five million census takers and supervisors went to their assigned stations — by foot, bicycle, horse, boat or even camel — depending on their area of this huge and varied country. Their aim was to count all its citizens, estimated at 1 billion and belonging to 56 nationalities of varied habits and traditions. The allowable error was not more than 0.2 percent (2 per thousand) — if this was exceeded a recount was mandatory. To achieve such precision was an ambitious undertaking. But the results of sample rechecks showed it to be realistic — no province or municipality was found to be in violation of the standard, and in one urban district (in Tianjin) where a recount was required, the error dropped to zero.

XIAO QING is a staff reporter for *China Reconstructs*.

Though China has long had a universal household registration system, a big advantage in enumeration, there are nonetheless factors that could distort the figures and that had to be coped with.

## Difficulties

In the cities in recent years, for instance, many families have moved into new apartment buildings but not reported their change of address. Some people who returned after having shifted to rural areas in the waves of the "cultural revolution" have not re-registered for residence. Children born in excess of family planning provisions sometimes went unrecorded as did some deaths of older people whose relatives wanted to keep on getting their pensions for a time.

In the farm and pastoral areas, some people were wary of the census takers, not knowing why

the count was necessary — and had to be persuaded. Others did not know how to fill out questionnaires because of low education and had to be helped. Families living far apart in mountains or forests or remote fishing settlements, or those without fixed times and places of work, could easily be missed if care was not taken. In short, hugeness of territory and undeveloped transport and other conditions brought added difficulties.

## Preparations

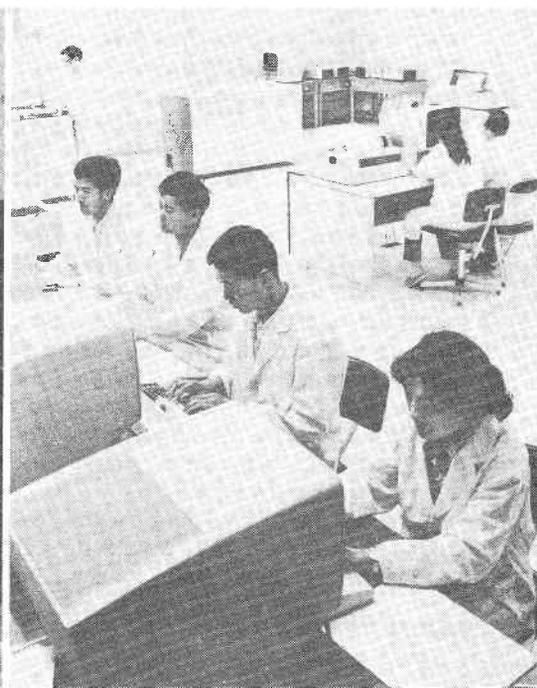
Preparations for the census began quite a long time ago, in the winter of 1979. In July 1980, a pilot count was made of the roughly 950,000 people in Wuxi city and county on the lower Changjiang (Yangtze) River. Based on this experience, working rules for the nationwide effort were drawn up, including the 0.2 percent error limit and provisions

A national electronic computer centre in Beijing, which will make the final count.

*Bai Liansuo*

Workers at the computer station for Shandong province sort out local census data.

*Shi Panqi*



for re-check. By the end of May 1982, similar pilot counts had been completed in selected spots in every province and municipality. Each was also a training ground for census-takers. In mid-June there was a preliminary census, a kind of dress rehearsal in which the effect of the training was checked as well as a better understanding of the tasks gained.

To bring the significance, content and requirements of the census home to every household, posters, blackboard notices, match-box labels and handkerchiefs illustrating the census were distributed to urban neighborhoods and rural commune production teams. In June, designated as "Census Publicity Month" a documentary film on the subject was shown nationwide. In Tianjin, a special textbook was produced for primary and middle school students, who were then asked to help with preliminary publicity.

The result was that the five million census takers, when they went out for the count proper between July 1 and 10 (15 in remote minority nationality areas) all had the needed training.

### Enumeration

The enumeration itself was done in two ways: at census stations and through home visits. Unlike the deterrents in the old society, people were not worried that they would be taxed or press-ganged into the army, if counted. But misunderstandings that did exist were generally cleared up by a talk, and people proved willing to give truthful data.

In the Chongwen district of Beijing, an old residential area, there are altogether 111 streets and lanes. Here 125 census-taking groups worked from 243 stations, between two and three to each lane. After ten days, there was not a single household that had not filled out the forms. Though some were reluctant at first, this soon changed. One young man not yet assigned regular work, for instance, was afraid he would lose his chance by admitting that he had done odd jobs for a year. An-



On July 1, a census enumerator came to the International Peace Hospital, Shanghai, to register a boy born two days before.

Wang Zijin



Ayixia (left), census taker at a street office in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, explains the population count to residents.

Li Guangkuán

other person, unregistered for residence in Beijing, was afraid to write down his workplace for fear of being sent away. A couple that had adopted children was reluctant to report the fact. The census takers went to their homes and dispelled their worries by promising to keep their "secrets." Then they were glad to be enumerated.

One headache for the enumerators was to get full data for per-

sons often away from home. It sometimes took several days, and dozens of phone calls, to locate one. In Beijing's Yuetan Beijie (Altar of the Moon North Street) neighborhood, out of 752 families about 100 had absent members. Nonetheless, the count there was completed in time.

In the coastal Dagou commune census area of Tianjin municipality, there are fishing households

whose men sail off in trawlers, sometimes as far as the Zhoushan Islands 1,200 kilometers to the south. To enumerate them, census takers met the vessels on return, or sometimes rowed out to board those about to depart.

At Lüju, a fishing village there, census worker Wu Xihe, an electrician by trade, encountered snags because some people had exactly the same name, and there were oldsters who didn't know their own age. All these things had to be cleared up by careful and patient work. Wu persisted through hot days and nights, bringing along his own portable electric fan to avoid staining the forms with his sweat.

### Guarantees of Accuracy

The enumeration work relied heavily on urban neighborhood committees and rural production teams (which often coincide with smaller villages) as basic units. These know everyone living in their areas. They were usually able to estimate when a child was expected in some family (the



Local training class for census takers in a county in Shanxi province. Nationwide, 5 million were trained. *Yu Lujun*

census counted every citizen born at zero hour on July 1 and subtracted every death occurring before then), even within a few minutes. An example of the deep roots of some neighborhood heads is Han Yunying, 58, chairman of a lane in Beijing's Qianmen district. Her family has lived in that lane for three generations, so she naturally knows all the neighbors, and often even their relatives living elsewhere.

Hence these local leaders, and the census takers, were able to explain away the worries (and sometimes the false hopes) of some individuals. While some individuals feared to report children born beyond the family planning policy, others, not normally resident in Beijing, thought registering such children would ensure the latter — and even the parents — of permanent resident status in the capital. It was explained to both that such fears, or hopes, were unfounded and irrelevant to the census.

### Manifold Benefits

Not only national and local planners, but many social and other

scientists are waiting for the census results to get the data they need. For instance, who knows how many children are born in China and in this or that city each day? On July 1, a newspaper in Shanghai reported that in the last hour of the last day of June, eight children were born in the city in time to be added to the census. Some persons maintain that the national total that day was about 37,550, the estimated daily rate last year. The census will give the correct answer.

Many areas have established a special file for residents more than a hundred years old; the census questions for them include, besides the 19 on the regular form, 11 additional ones — such as occupation before retirement, health condition, number of descendants and experience connected with longevity.

The census will also provide a basis for working out many social welfare systems such as old age pensions and various types of insurance. It will indicate incidence of employment, marriage, divorce and many other matters concerning society. □



A county leader in Hunan province visits He Yuanzhu, a 101-year-old woman, discovered by the census. *Li Yiping*

# Health Care Network Serves the People

LI ZIYING

**I**N the old society most of China's vast population lived in dread of illness, because for them there was virtually no decent health care.

The services of the few modern medical personnel and facilities were concentrated in large east coast cities, and even there were beyond the financial reach of the vast majority. Chinese traditional medicine, with its many useful remedies, could not be legally practiced, so there were no standards or licenses for it and it was often riddled with superstition. Many families went deeply into debt for treatment that was useless or harmful, and most could not afford even these dubious services. Millions died of relatively simple illnesses that could easily have been prevented or cured with proper care.

Establishing health care services was a priority for the people's government after the 1949 liberation, and the medical network painstakingly built up over the past three decades now serves the great masses of China's people. The average life span has risen from 35 years before 1949 to 68 years today (66.95 for men and 69.55 for women). The old terror of getting ill has disappeared.

## City Services

Urban facilities include hospitals, clinics and health centers. Major teaching, research and treatment hospitals — some of them specializing in particular diseases, burn or accident cases — are avail-



A Benglong nationality "barefoot doctor" in Yunnan province — one of the countless paramedics who are an important part of the health-care network in rural areas. *Xinhua*

able to city residents and to people referred from outside the city. There are also well-equipped district hospitals or hospitals attached to universities and industrial or other enterprises. Most government offices, factories and other workplaces have their own clinics and health stations.

In addition to those run by the state, there are some cooperative clinics organized jointly by medical personnel and even a few doctors in private practice. The cooperative and private practices, covering both Chinese traditional and Western medicine, are operated by people who were trained before 1949 (and in a few cases by personnel they themselves trained). They must be licensed by the state and follow the state-set fee schedule, and are a small supplement to the public health system.

All clinics play a part in preventing diseases as well as curing them. The main task of neighborhood and workplace health centers is to treat minor complaints, give preventive inoculations, and popu-

larize knowledge of hygiene, population planning, disease prevention and control.

In 1981, China had some 77,806 city health care units of all kinds, almost 39 times the number in 1949, with over 950,000 hospital beds (versus 63,767 in 1949) and almost 1,500,000 medical personnel (5.3 times the 1952 figure).

## Rural Health Care

A three-tier network has been established in the countryside. The county level is at the top, its facilities almost invariably including a hospital, epidemic prevention center, a women's and children's center and a medical school. Some counties also have a traditional Chinese medical hospital and a pharmacological institute.

Some 2,800 county hospitals are now found in over 2,100 counties across the country, accommodating 362,000 beds. There are 1,285 county medical schools and a total medical work force of 427,000 people. County hospitals have specialized departments of internal med-

LI ZIYING is on the staff of the Ministry of Public Health.

icine, surgery, gynecology and obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT (ear, nose and throat), stomatology, pediatrics, traditional Chinese medicine, and chemical and X-ray examination facilities. Most have epidemic prevention centers and some also have pathology labs.

The second tier is at the commune level. Almost all communes now have their own hospitals, for a nationwide total of 55,500, with 763,114 beds and 925,000 medical personnel. One-third of these hospitals are supported by state funds. The rest get state subsidies to supplement local funds. They are in charge of administering health care in their localities, providing treatment and preventive services, supplying birth control devices and guidance, and training medical workers full time and through special short-term courses. Most of these hospitals are not nearly as comprehensively equipped as the county hospitals, and in numbers and professional level health care personnel lag behind practical demand. Strengthening this sector is an important goal for the immediate future.

The third tier is at the production brigade level. There are now 610,000 brigade clinics in China.

**Street-corner medicine in Beijing's Western District — epidemic prevention workers educate people about disease prevention and hygiene.**



Brigade clinics provide treatment and preventive services for minor complaints, spread family planning and knowledge of hygiene, handle preventive inoculations, train modern midwives and mobilize people for birth control, hygiene and other campaigns. Most clinics are funded by the brigades, while a few are cooperatively-run under the same rules governing city cooperative clinics.

### **Barefoot and Rural Doctors**

China's famous "barefoot doctors," rural commune members with some basic medical training who provide health care part time while continuing to do farm work, originated in the 1950s. (The name was coined in south China, where peasants work barefooted in the rice paddies, and came to be applied to all rural paramedics.)

Most, over a period of years, have become quite proficient, and in 1981 a nationwide exam was given; those who had reached the level of regular medical school graduates were certified as "rural doctors," while those who hadn't kept the title of barefoot doctor and were encouraged to take more short-course training. Both rural and barefoot doctors still engage in production, earn workpoints (partly from medical and partly from farm work) and share in their brigade's annual year-end distribution of grain and cash. Their incomes vary with the development of the economy in their particular area.

Rural doctors who serve in brigade clinics also get a monthly subsidy from the local government or the brigade, or from the clinic's cooperative income. Barefoot doctors get slightly smaller subsidies. Increasing the number (currently almost 1,400,000) and the quality of training of rural and barefoot doctors is now an urgent need.

### **Medical Coverage**

A number of Chinese people (now amounting to scores of millions) pay nothing for health services beyond a 10-cent or less registration fee whenever they need such care. These include workers

in state factories or other enterprises, government offices, cultural, educational, scientific, medical, sports and press units, and college and vocational school students.

Government funds cover much of this, with money-earning enterprises contributing for their employees out of their labor protection funds. Dependents of such workers, such as spouses or minor children who do not have other medical coverage, pay half the cost of medical treatment, the rest being paid by the units.

The majority of commune members are covered by cooperative medical care plans set up by brigades. Usually this involves paying two or three yuan annually per person to the local medical fund, with the brigade allocating an equal sum. This money maintains the brigade clinic and almost all the cost of treatment and medicine. If a brigade member has to be referred to the commune or county hospital, or even further, the brigade's cooperative medical fund pays all or most of the cost. The amount of reduction or remission of medical expenses is decided annually after discussion by brigade members, and according to the brigade's economic status.

Some people—including those not employed who are not workers' dependents, members of some industrial or service cooperatives, a few self-employed, and farm workers whose brigades have not established medical plans—pay for their own medical services. A small number also choose to go to private practitioners or group clinics. In all instances, however, the cost is very low—about 1/100th, it's been estimated, of what people in the U.S. pay. No one goes untreated through lack of funds.

Chinese medicine has made enormous progress in the last 33 years—in facilities built, in personnel trained, in prevention and treatment techniques, in endemic diseases wiped out or brought under control. To extend and upgrade our health network so that every Chinese person has the best possible care is our task for the future. □

# Ye Qianyu— Noted Figure Painter

PRIMEROSE GIGLIESI



Ye Qianyu at work in his studio.  
Yang Wumin

**T**RAVELLING, life itself, and sketching are inseparable components of my art and I call the relationship between these three my way of life as an artist."

These words of Ye Qianyu, one of the major Chinese painters of human figures of our times, though spoken with a great simplicity, summarize what the artist has tried to do throughout his long career and why he has succeeded.

Ye Qianyu, born in 1907 in Zhejiang province, began to draw and paint in middle school but never had the opportunity to enter an art academy or benefit from the strict discipline of a master. His love of art probably came from his mother, who loved to draw and embroider. Forced to abandon his studies in 1926 when he was 19, he began to draw advertisements for a manufacturer of cotton goods.

Thus his artistic career began almost by accident. Later he left this to illustrate textbooks, but after two years chose to work in cartoons, an activity that occupied him for ten years and led him gradually to a growing interest in social problems and an ability to



Sketch of actor Zhou Xinfang as a character in the Peking opera 'The Four Scholars.'

note with meticulous precision the real world under his very eyes.

In 1937 the National Federation of Cartoonists organized an anti-Japanese propaganda team that served along the Changjiang (Yangtze) River. In a hundred cartoons under the title *Views of Chongqing* he described the life of the people behind the battle lines. In 1942, when the Japanese intensified their expansion in the Pacific, he was trapped in Hongkong. This experience he recorded in twenty drawings entitled *Flight from Hongkong*.

In 1943, after a sojourn in India, he began to experiment with using the techniques of Chinese traditional painting to depict the life of China's ethnic minorities. He traveled widely among these peoples in Yunnan, Tibet, Xinjiang, Sichuan and Guizhou. This was a turning point in his career as an artist, for it pointed him inevitably toward figure painting. In 1946 he exhibited his works in the United States. In 1947 he was teaching in the Art Institute of

Beijing and in 1949 became professor of traditional painting in the Central Academy of Fine Arts. He now heads this department.

## Sketch-Diaries of Travel

The art of Ye Qianyu is an art that inquires into the world. His albums of sketches, crowned with persons and events, reveal his ability to discover what is typical and essential in the innumerable manifestations of life.

In his long trips through China, often by train or boat, he put masses of impressions onto paper — a bony dog, a herdsman's tent, a child scratching his head, another sitting next to an old man as knobby as the cane he holds. Of great interest are his studies of animals. There are also landscapes — mountains and water, lines of boats with their nets, goatskin rafts drying on riverbanks, roofs, steps cut into steep rock, an open-air performance.

Ye Qianyu's drawings are travel notes, or better (as he himself

PRIMEROSE GIGLIESI has made a study of contemporary Chinese traditional painting.

says), his diary. Traced rapidly and with great conciseness, more than achieving a physical likeness they aim at capturing the spirit of the subject. They are, therefore, notes that emerge from a meticulous observation of reality, drawings first encompassed by the eyes and then registered in the mind.

The drawings of Ye Qianyu, as well as his paintings, provide excellent study material for those who want to understand that generation of painters which, formed essentially before the birth of the new society, have reflected in their works the passing from the old to the new, the slow and difficult maturing of a consciousness permeated with different ideals and moral values.

### Pictures the New Society

One of the most evocative aspects of his work is revealed in the enormous number of sketches connected with mass movements in the new society. Ye Qianyu has not idealized or reduced socialism to an instrument of propaganda but has introduced it through concrete images of everyday life.

On a single sheet of paper he

reveals the power to distill a series of situations: a peasant with a line of ducks, a group of militia women, a traveling merchant with his scales, three Party leaders in animated discussion, a child tying up a cabbage bigger than he is, a bit farther away a greenhouse, three peasants with baskets, a woman standing during rest time with her shovel against her breast, knitting.

In such sketches Ye proved an artistic maturity nourished by a passionate civic conscience and a deep tie with the humanity that surrounded him. His refusal to live closed within himself or to live the life of others is expressed in a language without embellishment. The personal events of an individual are lived out as part of the larger event where, in spite of all, man is not alone—the universe of an individual, his own particular drama, is absorbed by the much vaster universe of the existence of other human beings.

### Man — the Theme of Art

It can be seen that the dominant theme of the entire artistic language of Ye Qianyu is man. Like his sketches, his paintings of human figures in motion, are a sure point of reference in understanding his activity as a painter. Especially in his portrayals of dances of the ethnic minorities, Ye has found material more consonant with his poet's soul. Clarity of invention, grace of composition, the rhythm of music, and discretion of color characterize his work. The face surmounts a body expressive in posture and movement, and in the impeccable detail of a jewel or a shoe we find once again the hand of one of the great masters of balance and line of our time.

A comment by Ye Qianyu, in a letter to a friend written the day after liberation in 1949, reveals how he had been maturing during his experience as an artist. "I want to study tradition," he explained, "and try to paint the man of today with the methods of the Song dynasty painters." A simple statement perhaps, but it expressed his deepest conviction, a belief that can be understood in his refusal to passively imitate the classical models, in his scorn for conventions and his courage to explore new roads.

One of his most loved Song dynasty painters is Li Longmian (1040-1106) whose fame through the succeeding centuries is tied to his splendid portraits. Ye Qianyu reminds us of this famous master



Ye Qianyu was a popular cartoonist for many years. Above he pictures the 'Gold Rush' of war profiteers in Chongqing, 1940. Below: 'Getting Past an Official's Doorman' (1936) from the comic strip Xiao Chen in Nanjing.



一九六三年初夏潘子实画凉山彝舞



Yi Dancer (1963)



Tibetan Dance (1960)

西藏高原之舞

一九六〇年 凌平



Old Boatman (1961)

船夫  
一九六一年 凌平



一九六一年二月 凌平 寫 即 交 回 稿



New Look of the Mountains along the Fuchun River (1980)



Indian Drummer (1961)



Xinjiang Girl (1980)



Han Red Scarf Dance (1979)

in the way with which he sculpts his forms and in the surprising agility of his line technique.

In Ren Bonian (1840-1896), another famous painter of human figures, Ye discovered an artist who opposed academic conformism with an exalted individual invention. Before doing a portrait, Ren Bonian covertly observed every gesture, every particularity of the person, so as to be able to express his character more than physical aspects. In this spirit, Ye wrote some years ago: "To grasp a man's temperament and mentality, it is necessary to observe him closely in daily life when his characteristics are revealed naturally instead of asking him to sit formally or strike a pose, thus losing all semblance of his natural self."

### Figure Painting — and Movement

Like Li Longmian and Ren Bonian, Ye Qianyu has raised the art of figure painting to new heights. His works, conceived in his mind with detailed sharpness, express the idea of modern man through a style that is new and, at the same time, distinctive and delicate. Alone, free of any surrounding accessories, the figure stands out, a figure with whom the artist seems to identify himself completely. The color does not attempt to attract immediately as a fundamental element. At times intense and luminous, at times light and clear, it serves to bring out the infinite nuances of the ink.

In *Tibetan Dance*, for example, the long sleeve in a warm, burnt red and the belt of the pure green of grass create a surprising contrast with the heavy folds of the dark robe. The face, gracefully leaning to one side, defines and exalts the inner life of the person — a woman in the flower of her youth, with well-drawn eyebrows and large, languid, caressing eyes that seem still wet with the artist's ink.

It is useful to compare this painting with *Korean Dance* where, once again, Ye exhibits great skill in bringing out character, mood and particularly motion. "It is almost impossible to sketch

## Chinese Cookery

# Cantonese 'Cha Shao' Roast Pork

(Cha Shao Rou)

**I**N Guangzhou (Canton) this traditional dish is made like barbecue, on spits in big ovens, hence the name *cha shao* (pierce-fried) meat. But it is also made at home in the skillet by this recipe.

- 2. lb. lean pork
- 4 cups chicken broth (or stock)
- 8 "points" of an anise star
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 5 cloves garlic (crushed)
- 1/4 teaspoon taste powder (msg)
- 1/4 teaspoon red food coloring (optional)
- 1/2 tablespoon sesame oil

#### For marinade

- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 4 tablespoons rice wine (or sherry)
- 3 scallions (cut in sections)
- 5 slices ginger
- 3 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon five-spice powder\*
- 1 lb. vegetable oil for deep-frying

Cut pork into strips 5×5 centimeters and 15 cm. long. Mix salt, wine, scallions, ginger, sugar and five-spice powder well and marinate meat in it for one hour.

Heat cooking oil in skillet. Remove pork from marinade and when oil smokes put pork in to fry. Deep-fry pork over medium heat until dark red. Remove pork and let it drain. Pour off oil and wash skillet.

Heat one tablespoon oil in skillet. Add one tablespoon sugar. Stir over very low heat until sugar melts and turns light yellow. Add chicken broth, marinade sauce, garlic, anise, taste powder, soy sauce, red food coloring and the fried pork. Bring to a boil and skim foam. Simmer over low heat for about 45 minutes, or until pork is cooked but not so tender that it falls apart. Remove pork to platter. To gravy in skillet, add sesame oil. When gravy thickens, pour over pork. *Cha shao* meat is generally eaten cold served in 1/2 cm. thick slices cut against the grain. Serves 4-6. □

\* Five-spice powder (*wuxiangfen*) is a ready-mixed powder available in Chinese provision stores abroad, containing anise, fennel, cinnamon, ginger, tangerine peel and *hua jiao*, a mild Chinese red pepper. It is particularly used to season red-cooked meat and poultry.

something in motion," he once wrote. "In the dance, for example, the gestures are very rapid and the brush has difficulty keeping pace with them. It is necessary, therefore, to master the laws of motion."

Ye Qianyu's life, like that of Qi Baishi (1864-1957) whose work was a milestone in modern Chinese painting, seems a constant road on which he has never rested. The four seals Qi Baishi carved for him not only add a note of beauty to

his paintings but underline the tremendous effort of those artists who have chosen to speak a language close to the millions of people who only three decades ago destroyed the "man-eaters" of their society.

The Chinese public had another opportunity to see Ye Qianyu's works when they were displayed in a one-man exhibition at the National Art Gallery in Beijing last June. Included were pieces dating from 1935 to the present. □

# Transportation: Some Facts and Figures

LIU HONGFA

**C**HINA has striven to construct land, water and air transport facilities to keep pace with her economic development. Before 1949 she had very few railways and they were concentrated mainly in the northeastern and eastern coastal provinces. Today rail lines reach into every one of the 29 mainland provinces and autonomous regions; the capitals are accessible by rail with the exception of Lhasa in Tibet, and a line is being built to it. All of her 2,100 counties have highway networks except two in Tibet and Sichuan. Oceangoing transport and civil aviation have developed markedly. China now has her own fleet of oceangoing freighters, with a total carrying capacity of eight million tons going to 400 ports in over a hundred countries and regions. She is served by 171 domestic air routes; 20 international lines link her with 18 countries and regions throughout the world.

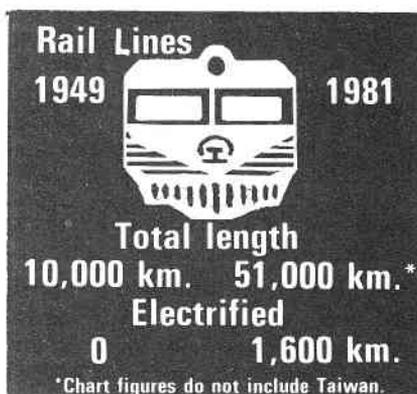
railway was built from the port of Wusong to Shanghai—and 1949, altogether only 21,000 kilometers of railroads were constructed. But they were poorly equipped and had no unified rail standard, so transport capacity was very low. By the time of liberation in 1949, only 10,000 km. were in use.

Since liberation a total of 28,000 km. has been built and existing lines have been restored to use and improved. Now rail lines total 51,000 km. Much of the new construction has been in the interior, especially in the northwestern and southwestern provinces. This provides conditions for a rational distribution of industry throughout the country, for better exploitation of China's natural re-

sources, and for developing her local economy. Rails carry 70 percent of the total volume of goods moved and 60 percent of the passenger transport.

A line from Qinghai province into Tibet through some of the world's highest mountains is now under construction. Its first stage, 820 km. from Xining, capital of Qinghai, to Golmud in its western part, was opened to traffic earlier this year and the line is proceeding toward Lhasa.

Electrification is one of the measures being taken to modernize. In 1976 the Baoji-Chengdu rail line was transformed from steam power to electricity. Recently another five lines totaling 1,600 km. have been electrified.



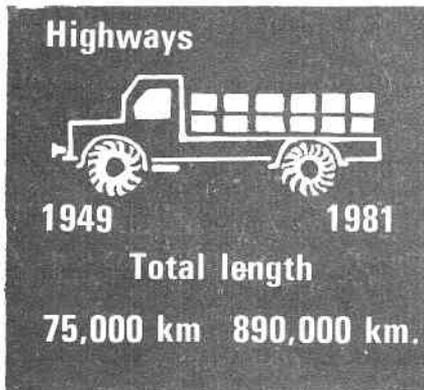
**RAILROADS:** Most of the railroads in old China were built to suit the needs of the imperialists who intended to dominate China at that time. In the 73 years between 1876 — when China's first

LIU HONGFA is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs.



Construction since liberation includes 4,000 tunnels and 14,000 bridges. Before liberation there were only two rail bridges across the Huanghe (Yellow) River and none at all over the Changjiang (Yangtze) River. Now 13 cross the Huanghe\* and the Changjiang is spanned by four big bridges — at Wuhan, Nanjing, Chongqing and Zhicheng. A fifth is being constructed at Jiujiang.

However, transport is still a weak link in China's economy, and further development is an urgent task. The rail system is still inadequate, and its technology backward.



**HIGHWAYS:** Construction has averaged 25,000 km. annually over the past 33 years, giving the country a total of 890,000 km. of highways. This is 11 times the figure in the early days after liberation. Ninety-two percent of the rural commune centers and 80 percent of their agricultural production brigades can be reached by road.\*\* These play an important role in developing the economy, culture and health care in the rural areas and in generally improving the lives of the peasants.

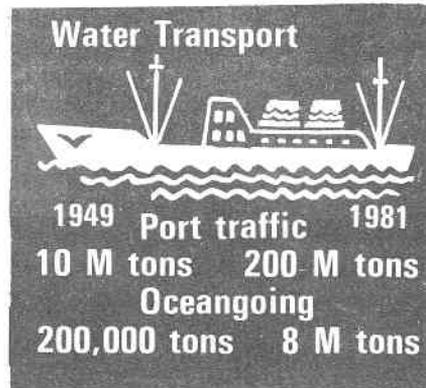
Before liberation there was only one highway bridge over the Huanghe River; now there are 30. The longest, in the city of Luoyang, measures 3,400 meters. The newest at Jinan in Shandong province, with its longest span 220 meters, is the biggest of China's ten cable-

\* See "Bridging the Yellow River" in the March 1982 China Reconstructs.

\*\* Two articles on these country roads appeared in the September China Reconstructs.

stayed bridges of prefabricated reinforced concrete.

Nevertheless, despite progress, highways cannot yet meet the needs of the country's construction. Quality needs to be improved and a more complete network to be built.



**WATER TRANSPORT:** This, and especially oceangoing transport, has also developed greatly. A total of 180,000 km. of China's rivers are now navigable. Technical conditions for inland navigation have improved; almost all boats have been mechanized.

The ice-free 6,300-km.-long Changjiang River, deep and broad, is China's main water transport artery. It is of tremendous importance in linking the country's southwest, central-south and eastern regions. Lack of upkeep kept its pre-liberation transport capacity quite low. Dredging of the river after liberation, including the dangerous upstreams chan-

The longest highway bridge (1,255.6 meters) over the Changjiang River soon to be completed in Luzhou, Sichuan province, will allow 7,000-ton ships to pass.

Xiong Ruqing



Qinhuangdao port's mechanized dock No. 8 when completed can handle 6 million tons a year. Wu Qingyue



First plane trip for this old Uygur and his granddaughter. Outlying places like Qiemo on the southern edge of the Taklimakan Desert in Xinjiang now have air service. Liu Hanliang

nel at the famous gorges, raised its transport capacity more than 30 times. Automatically controlled electric navigation lights have made night travel possible.

The 2,400-year-old Grand Canal from Beijing in the north to Hangzhou in the south, after being dredged and widened along its 1,747-km. length, is handling 16 times as much cargo as in 1949. However, water transport can still play a bigger role and its potential needs to be further tapped.

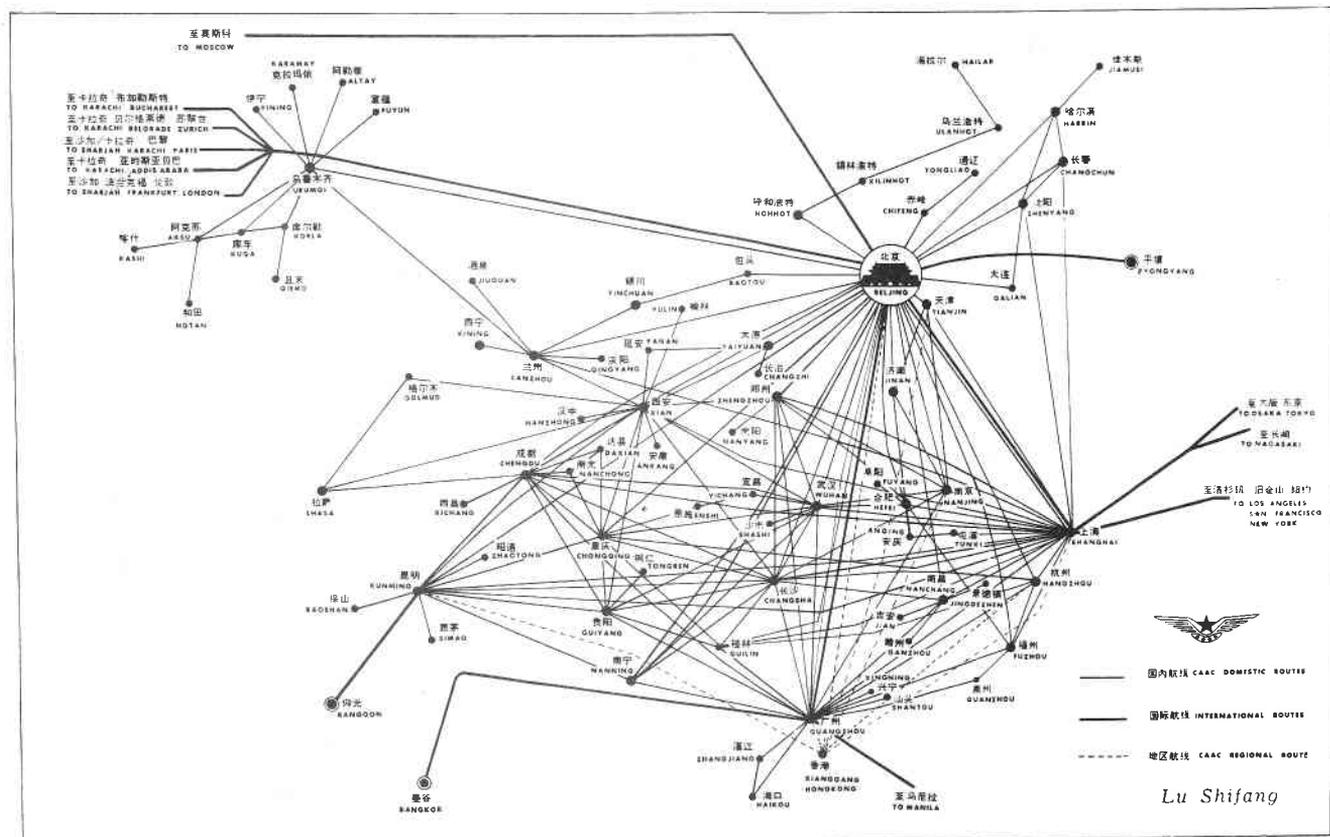
China at present has 140 deep-water berths able to handle ships of 10,000-ton capacity. Seventy percent of these facilities were built since liberation and were designed and constructed through China's own self-reliant efforts. Since 1972, 70 new deep-water wharves and berths have been constructed in the ports of Dalian, Qinhuangdao, Tianjin, Qingdao, Shanghai, Ningbo, Huangpu and Zhanjiang. Among them is the new Dalian harbor for 100,000-ton oil tankers and the new Beilun port at Ningbo with highly mechanized facilities for handling iron ore.

Traffic in China's ports has increased from 10 million tons at the time of liberation to 200 million tons today.

Before liberation there were only a very few Chinese oceangoing ships and these were almost all controlled by foreign capital. Now China has a considerable oceangoing transport fleet with a total carrying capacity of eight million tons. But ports must be expanded and the number of oceangoing ships increased if she is to compete in the international shipping market.

**AVIATION:** China's civil aviation—in number of planes, carrying capacity, flight length, airport construction and specialized flights—has also developed. Altogether more than 100 airports have been built, expanded or reconstructed. Some of them, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Urumqi, Nanning, Kunming, Tianjin and Harbin are international ports which can receive giant passenger planes under complicated landing conditions. Some 20 kinds of planes are in civil air service, including the Boeing 707 and 747, Trident, Ilyushin 62 and China-made passenger planes and helicopters. Boeing 747s are used on China's international lines and some domestic ones.

China has aviation agreements with 40 countries and professional contacts with airlines of 180 countries and regions. Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) operates 18 international lines reaching 21 cities in 18 countries and regions. However, China's aviation is still far behind that of the advanced countries. □



# Learning English— A Popular Spare-Time Activity

YE MEI

NOT long ago a young British woman living in Beijing was riding on a train to the southwest when a 4-year-old boy came up to her and whispered in English, "Hello, Katherine." Katherine Flower, an announcer on China Central TV's popular English-language course *Follow Me*, had been recognized once again. The boy enthusiastically introduced her to his whole family, including his 70-year-old grandfather, all of them regular watchers.

An eagerness to learn English on the part of people of all ages is a fairly new phenomenon in China, connected to the drive to modernize the country and open her doors wider to the rest of the world. Foreign trade, scientific and technical exchange and foreign tourism within China are all increasing rapidly, and knowledge of foreign languages is thus a real necessity. Of all those now being studied, English has received particular stress because of its international importance. Many of the world's people speak it as a second language, and many technical journals and documents are published in English.

A number of Chinese youngsters now get their first English lessons in primary school. In middle schools, it is part of the regular curriculum. Beginning in 1980, an English test has become a compulsory part of the entrance exams for key colleges and universities. Outside of the school system, many are studying on their own, aided by spare-time courses, language broadcasts and informal study groups.

## TV Programming

*Follow Me* is one of four nationwide English TV programs designed to meet viewers' different

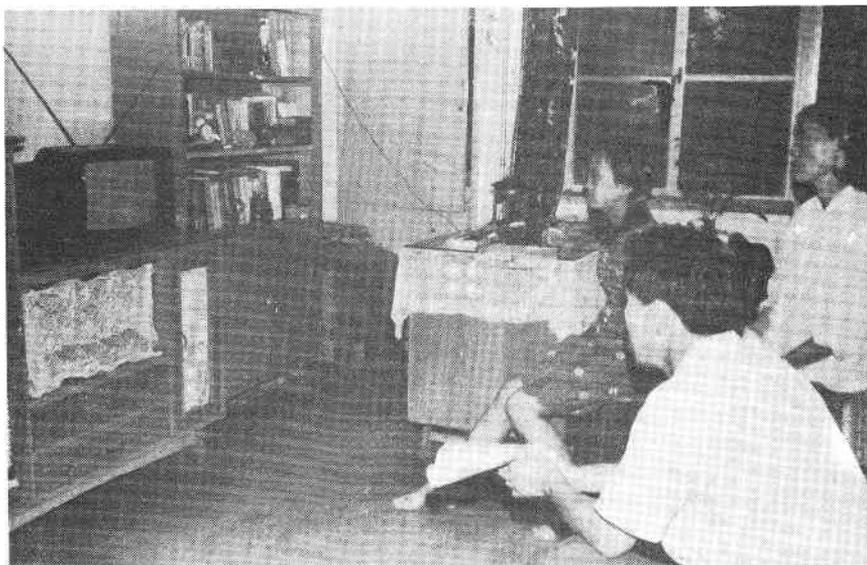
needs. A course in technical English is part of the TV University series. There is also *English ABC* taught by Professor Chen Lin of the Beijing Foreign Lan-

guages Institute, and *English on Sunday*, an advanced program which combines language study and entertainment, and airs every Sunday afternoon.

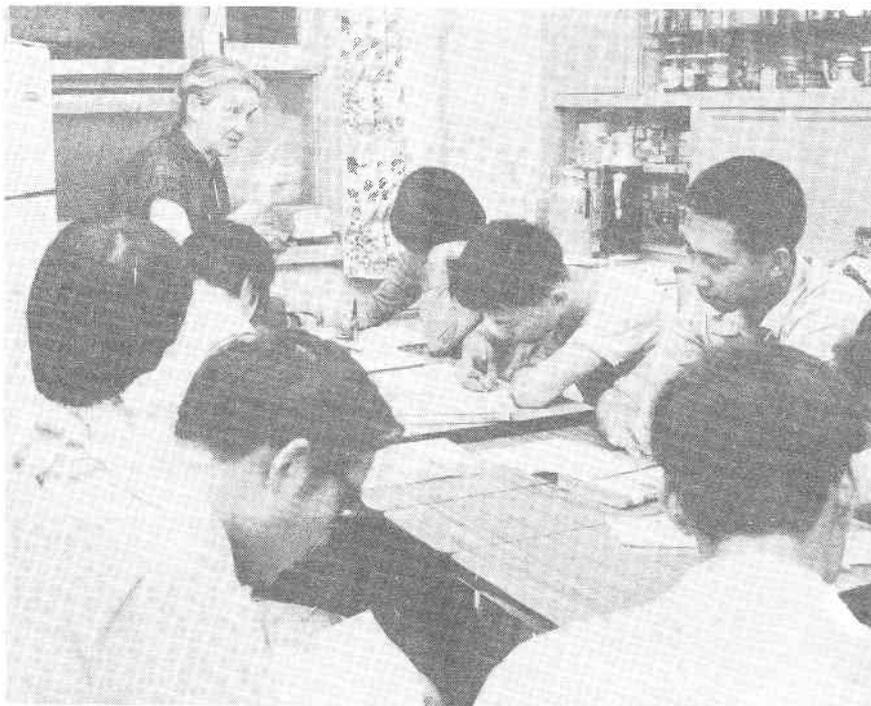
Katherine Flower (right) and Yuan Shibin, an English teacher from Beijing's College of Foreign Affairs, being filmed for 'Follow Me.'



A family of 'Follow Me' viewers.



YE MEI is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs.



Joan Wang holds class in the dining room of her home.

Zhang Jingde

The 30-minute *Follow Me*, shown every other day, is the most popular general program. The original series was developed by BBC of London and has been adapted for Chinese viewers by a CCTV team including Katherine Flower and several Chinese university English teachers. The approach is fresh and lively, with short sketches, jokes and pictures. Skits using professional actors show how English is used in daily life situations in hotels, shops, restaurants, homes and business meetings.

The adaptors have added explanations on some items of Western culture (such as supermarkets or English football fans wearing the ribbons of teams they support) and supplemented British segments with Chinese. To a "London Quiz," for example, they added a "China Quiz," asking viewers to answer in English the age of Tian An Men Gate in Beijing and the length of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River.

The adaptors were also careful to cut things they thought would be totally unintelligible (such as a stage vampire about to sink his fangs into a lady's neck) or offensive to Chinese audiences (a picture of a woman taking a bath,

even though she was covered to the neck in soap suds). When the bathtub picture was eliminated, some viewers guessed what had happened and wrote to complain that the program was underestimating their sophistication. What's so shocking about a bath?

First shown in January this year, the program has evoked tremend-

ous response. Some hundred letters each day arrive at the station, expressing appreciation, suggesting improvements and asking for printed texts. Katherine is recognized wherever she goes, and is very impressed with the young people she encounters standing behind shop counters or sitting at desks, busy practicing their English.

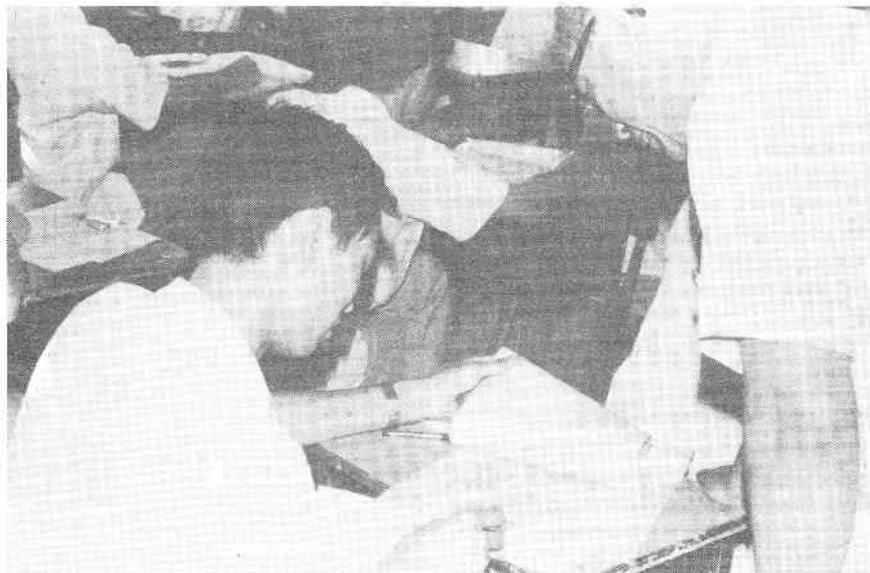
Not long ago, while visiting Kunming in southwest China, she lost her way in a narrow street. Suddenly a Chinese woman on a bicycle stopped, looked at her in amazement and then said in careful English, "Hello, Katherine Flower." Learning that Katherine was lost, with a proud smile the woman said, "The hotel is on the left. Follow me, please," and other English phrases she'd learned from *Follow Me's* Lesson 4 — Street Directions.

### Night Schools

To meet the needs of people who work during the day, evening or spare-time courses have been started by government offices, trade unions, factories, research institutes and hotels. Chinese English-language teachers and foreigners living in China have been recruited to teach these classes.

English-language students at the Chaoyang District Trade Union night school take their final spring semester exam.

Photos by Wu Chuping



The Chaoyang District Trade Union of Beijing runs a successful spare-time college covering a number of subjects. Of the 780 students currently enrolled, 200 are taking English classes. They include factory workers and technicians, staff members from scientific institutions, doctors and nurses, and shop assistants. One young woman is a typist employed by the American Embassy in Beijing.

Students attend classes three hours an evening three nights a week. Textbooks prepared by the Beijing Foreign Languages Institute are supplemented by English newspapers, and the teachers insist the students speak only English in class. Those in their second year of this four-year course can express themselves fairly adequately in English and write short compositions. When they graduate, they're expected to reach the ordinary college graduate level.

Zhou Benzeng, 32, is typical of the young people taking the course. In 1968 he was employed as a lathe operator by the People's Machinery Plant. He was eager to learn everything about his machine, but disappointed to find that the only operating manual was in a foreign language. In 1974 he started to follow the Central Broadcasting Station's English language course and formed a study group with two other young factory workers. A few years later, attending a book fair at the Workers' Cultural Palace, he was delighted to find he could communicate a bit with an English-speaking foreigner.

When he learned that the District Trade Union was opening a spare-time college, he immediately enrolled. He has made so much progress that last fall his factory sent him to a special English-language training course run by the First Ministry of Machine Building in Guangzhou (Canton), and on his return he was made a researcher in the design section of Beijing's Research Institute of Printing Machinery. There his language ability will be put to good use in helping engineers keep up with developments in their field around the world.

## CHINA HANDBOOK SERIES

"How, really, is China today?" many people ask. This series answers the question by presenting China in its various aspects, including:

1. Geography
2. History
3. Politics
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5. Education and Science
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Another student, 27-year-old Wang Xiaohong, works at Beijing Knitting Factory No. 3, which imports its synthetic yarns from the U.S., Japan and other countries. For a long time the workers had a hard time with the English labels on cartons and materials, and this caused difficulties in production. Armed with what he'd learned in evening classes, Wang started compiling an English-Chinese handbook of common words appearing on the labels and translating some English texts.

Last June the factory leaders asked him to conduct a basic English course for 100 workers. With his help, they have now learned to read in English such terms as kilo, class, grade, unit, weight and the names of different countries.

### Tutoring Young People

Joan Wang, 68, lived in Switzerland for 14 years and speaks English fluently. She is one of many volunteer teachers around the country. In 1975 she began to give some English coaching to two neighborhood children about to move to Hongkong with their parents. As more and more kids asked for help, her class grew so large, with so many different levels, that she had to divide it into the present three classes — an elementary one for primary and junior high students, an interme-

diate one for senior middle school kids, and an advanced class for those preparing for college entrance exams and for young government employees.

Joan doesn't collect a penny from her students, either for her services or for books. In fact, with the help of friends and relative abroad she has set up a small library of 700 volumes in English, ranging from *Patrick and the Ducklings* to a junior encyclopedia.

She now has 30 students. Her classes are so lively and cheerful that by popular demand they stay open even during the long summer vacation. She searches out simple, interesting stories to use as reading texts (*Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves* was on the agenda when this reporter visited the intermediate class), and pays much attention to correct pronunciation and the use of idiomatic English.

Warm and energetic, Joan is a grandmother now but still lithe from years of tennis-playing. She laughs off her own hard work: "It's really exciting to see the children growing up, and most are making good progress." The children love her. Bright-eyed, pigtailed Huang Luhong has this tribute for her teacher: "I like Auntie Wang's class because it's always so interesting and lively, and it's helped me a lot with my middle-school English course." □



The author, Chen Junyu in Davis, California with a blooming crape myrtle in the background.

## Bright Future for 'Hundred-Day Red'

CHEN JUNYU

**I**N the green of midsummer, when the flowering shrubs of spring have long faded, there is still one bush whose bright red blossoms light up the landscape. This is the crape myrtle. For its long period of bloom, beginning in late July, it is known in Chinese as "Hundred-Day Red."

CHEN JUNYU is a professor in the landscape gardening department of the Beijing Forestry Institute.

The crape myrtle is one of the shrubs being introduced in many parts of China for park and street beautification. Its striking clusters of long-lasting blossoms make it a favorite for decoration, but it has an additional use — fighting air pollution: with strong resistance to sulphur dioxide, a common industrial pollutant, it can therefore be grown around factories. And, since it absorbs sulphur dioxide, it helps purify the air.

**O**RIGINATING in south Asia and northern Oceania, it was grown in China at least as early as the Tang dynasty (7th century) in its capital Chang'an (today's Xi'an). Now it grows wild in south, central, east and southwest China. The shrub thrives in moderate climates, but has a certain adaptability to cold, so it can also be cultivated as far north as Beijing in sheltered spots, and can be found there in the parks and along the streets.

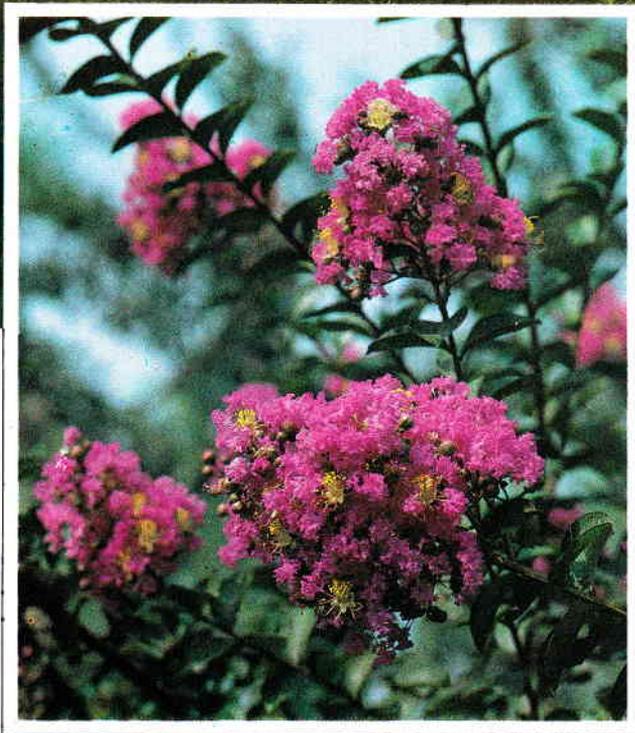
The region south of the Chang-jiang (Yangtze) River is ideal and there it is widely planted in open spaces. The botanical garden in Hangzhou has a big collection of many species of crape myrtles. In places like Chengdu and Chongqing in Sichuan province they often form part of plantings of shrubs set out to form a design.

Even more fascinating are the shapes into which these bushes have been trained in the parks of these cities, as to go around a door frame, or in the shape of a basket or vase. In Nanjiao Park in Chengdu is a myrtle as tall as a man with its criss-crossing branches formed into the shape of a vase. With this adaptability to training and its long life the crape myrtle lends itself well to dwarf cultivation for miniature gardens.

While the crape myrtle loves sunshine, it can adapt to shade; while it prefers a humid climate, it can also adapt to a dry one and grow in poor soil. Thus it is suitable for cultivation in gardens, courtyards, rockeries, and along lakes and streets. But often whole hill slopes are covered with it.

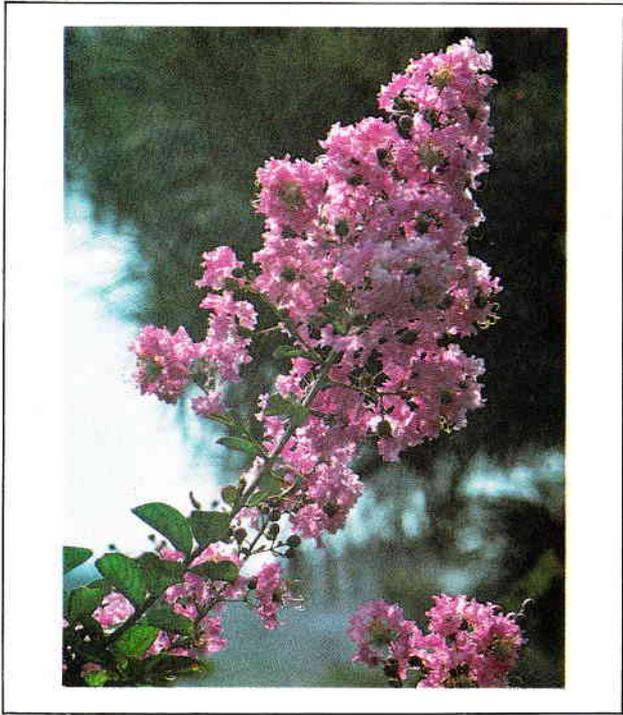
**C**HINA is not alone in widely planting the crape myrtle. Last year when I attended an academic conference in Davis, California in the United States, I found the streets of this small city lined with it. In the Sacramento valley I saw a new species of crape myrtle being grown on a lawn before a factory. In addition to the original light red variety, China now grows the Silver Crape Myrtle, which bears white flowers, and dark red and purplish varieties. □

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

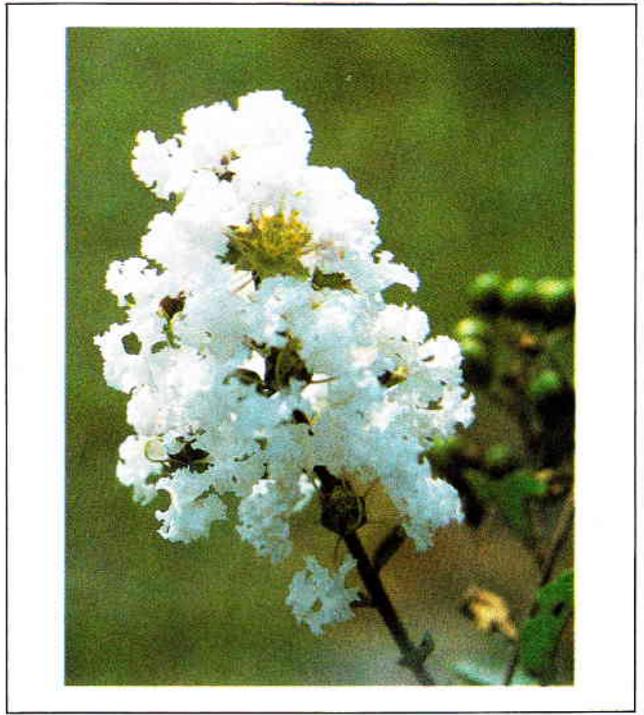


The hardy crape myrtle is one of the shrubs chosen for planting along Beijing streets to beautify the city.

Red Beauty



Light Violet



Silver



Violet Cloud

# China Exports More Machinery

PAN MOLIN

**N**OT LONG ago a small hydro-power station went into operation in the state of California in the U.S. — using a set of generating equipment made in China. According to the project contractor, Consolidated Hydroelectric, Inc., the station will contribute a lot to the economy of the locality where it was installed. This is the second such station built, and contracts for more have been signed.

A West German firm has just ordered 1,000 BCM-III microcomputers developed by the Beijing Computing Technology Institute. This is the first sale of Chinese computers to the West, but probably not the last. A foreign computer journal described the BCM-III as an important product. At three-quarters of the cost of similar computers made abroad, its design and performance have won praise from West German computer experts.

Can China really be selling such high-tech products to advanced industrial countries like the U.S. and West Germany? Only some thirty years or so ago, China had no modern industries to speak of and could barely make the simplest machines for her own use, much less for export. Over decades of increasing industrialization, exports to developing countries had gradually expanded. Competing in the larger worldwide market, however, and on a much larger scale is a recent development. Since 1977 the volume of machinery exports has grown by 30 percent annually, and in 1981 it was 6.5 times that of 1965.

## Small Beginnings

As early as the mid-1950s, China had begun to export manufactured

equipment. Most of these products were quite simple — small standard and diesel engines, lathes, drills and bearings. The volume was not very large, and it went to Asian, African and Latin American countries. However small, this was an important beginning. One major measure of a country's level of development is its ability to export manufactured goods rather than raw materials.

Over the years China has developed the technological know-how and industrial base to supply 80 percent of the equipment needed in her own national economy — including electrical and mechanical devices, meters, and other instruments — and to produce for foreign markets. China now has 10,000 industrial machinery enterprises staffed by 10 million people, plus hundreds of research and design institutes.

Machinery for export still amounts to only about 10 percent of that produced in the country.

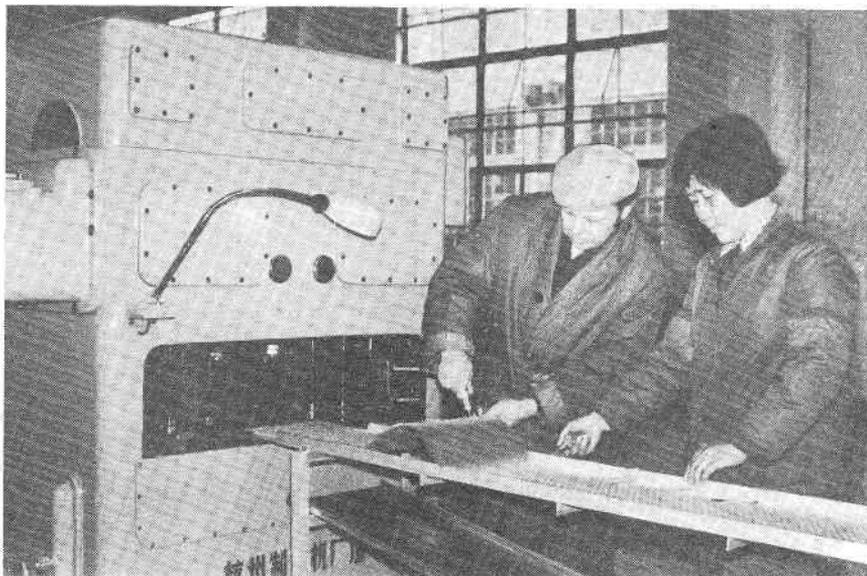
However, not only are the quantities rising rapidly, but the quality and variety of such exports have also improved. While continuing to export small, simple machines, China now exports many more pieces of large precision equipment, such as 6,000-ton hydraulic presses, 6- and 8-meter crankshaft grinders, 3-meter gear hobbers (for cutting the teeth on gear wheels), and oil-drilling equipment.

In addition to single items, she also now sells complete sets of equipment. From 1978 to 1981 China signed about a hundred contracts for completely equipped small plants — for textiles, sugar refining, abrasive paper and cloth making, and electrical machinery production. Satisfied customers include some from the Philippines, Thailand, New Zealand, Canada and the U.S.

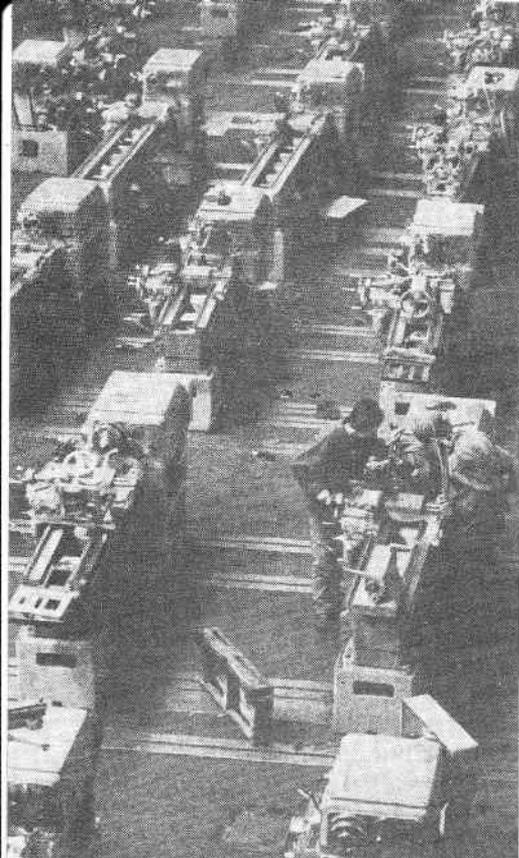
## Expanding the Market

China now sells hundreds of categories of machinery products

**In Hangzhou, a woman technician and a representative of West Germany's Linde A.G. do a final check on a punching machine which makes plate fins for large oxygen-making equipment.**



**PAN MOLIN is with the Policy Research Department of the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry.**



Machine tools produced by Machine Tool Works No. 1 in Shenyang sell well in international markets.

to 120 countries and regions worldwide. Hongkong, Macao and countries of Southeast Asia and Africa have long been markets, but new opportunities are now opening up and expanding in Western Europe and North America. China began exporting lathes to the U.S., for instance, in the early 1970s, but the volume was only about US \$10,000 annually. By 1978 the volume of equipment sales had increased to US \$400,000 a year, and in 1981 to 20 times the 1978 figure.

The breakthrough into top international markets is a tribute to China's increasing competence in technology and production. Customers from industrialized countries, who can pick and choose among products made everywhere in the world, are naturally interested in quality, reliability and cost.

An executive of the Kloeckner Machine Tool Company of the U.S., in explaining why his firm has purchased a variety of machine tools from the Shanghai Machine

Tool Works, says that the products are stable and dependable, and the Chinese firm is efficient and responsible in handling business affairs. Another satisfied American customer, Zidell Explorations Corp., has urged Shanghai's Liang-gong Valve Factory to increase its output, as Zidell would like to purchase as many of its high-quality products as the factory can turn out.

Over the past few years, Chinese factories have developed new products of world-advanced technical level, such as a plasma-bead welding machine for large welding jobs, a high-precision magnetic disc lathe, and many other precision lathes. In addition to adapting foreign technology, China has made breakthroughs of her own in the machine tool field, including new types of gear-making and steel tube-straightening equipment. Foreign customers now show greater interest not just in Chinese products but in Chinese patents. In 1980 a West German firm purchased Chinese patent rights on a technique for processing key components used in large oxygen-making equipment.

### Cooperation and Exchange

With increased openness and flexibility in foreign economic relations, some Chinese enterprises, with the approval of the govern-

ment, have started to trade directly with foreign companies, thus making it easier for factories to tailor their production to customers' needs. Cooperative production, compensatory trade deals and agreements to process materials on order for particular customers have also activated China's foreign trade.

China has signed some 20 cooperative production contracts with Japanese, French, Italian, West German and American factories covering such products as grinders, mills, and ordinary and digital-process control lathes amounting to US \$130 million.

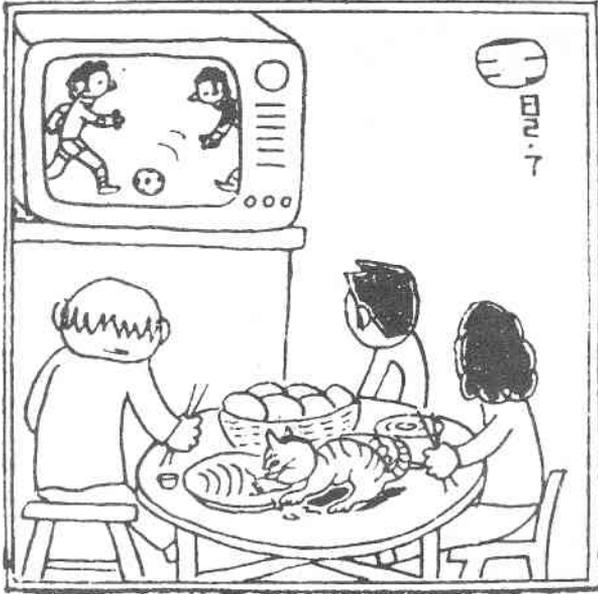
To promote foreign trade and exchange, China's foreign trade corporations have sent delegations to West Germany, the U.K., Japan and the United States to investigate markets and develop ties with industrial and commercial circles. Individual enterprises also now regularly send representatives abroad and invite foreign businessmen to China.

In a sense, China is just beginning to show her potential for industrial exports, but with close study of international markets, greater output and variety, and an emphasis on quality control and cost-cutting measures, the "Made in China" label will undoubtedly be showing up more and more often on machinery used around the world. □

At Luoyang, Henan province, workers ready bearings for export to Europe and North America. Photos by Xinhua



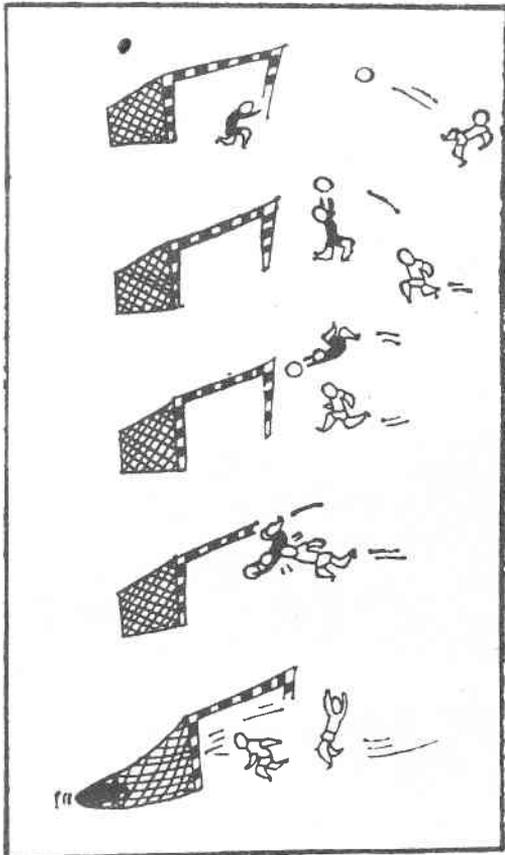
**CARTOONS**



Undivided attention. Yu Shouyang



Terrific head work. Zhang Yimin



The fashionable hedgehog. Yang Chengzhong



We're so lucky to still have granny with us!

Ding Huayuan

# A Trip to Liaoning Province

Staff Reporter

**A** TOUR of Liaoning province, just eastward from Beijing across Bohai Bay, might include a stop at the port of Dalian — one of China's biggest located at the tip of Liaodong peninsula — and its seamen's club, or a farm where spotted deer are raised for their horns (used in traditional medicine). It might include a stop at that vast hole-in-the-ground at Fushun, an open-pit coal mine, and, for something lighter, to a handicrafts workshop making gorgeous pictures out of — feathers. Another shop in Dalian creates elaborate mosaics from shells.

**T**HE visit will certainly include Shenyang, the provincial capital. Shenyang has a more colorful history than one might expect of a large industrial city. In the 17th century Shenyang was an early capital of the Manchus, who after 1644 ruled all China as its last imperial dynasty, the Qing (1644-1911). After the leader Nurhachi united the tribes of this nomadic nationality, their capital was at Shenyang from 1625 to 1644 when they marched on the central Chinese capital Beijing.

At Shenyang one can see their early palace and two imperial tombs. The palace design, while adopting the curving roofs of traditional Chinese architecture, was made to accommodate a custom harking back to the Manchus' earlier days, the tribal conference. The top leader sat in a separate not-very-large throne room, round in shape and reminiscent of a Mongolian ceremonial yurt tent. The throne room is

flanked by several smaller square open pavilions to seat other top leaders. Banner flags, weapons and other Manchu artifacts are displayed in the former residence rooms of the palace and in the Liaoning Historical Museum also in Shenyang.

The tombs, though smaller in size, are in the style of those of the Ming emperors north of Beijing. Nurhachi is buried in Shenyang's Eastern Tomb, and in its Northern Tomb, his son Huang Taiji, who succeeded him and before his death in 1643 wrested much of northeastern China from the armies of the Ming dynasty.

**M**ANY people are surprised to find that eastern Liaoning's famed industrial quadrangle made up of Shenyang, the steel city Anshan, Fushun (coal) and Benxi,

once Penki (coal and iron ore), has also a number of scenic spots. Twenty-five kilometers southeast of Anshan is Mt. Qianshan (Thousand Peaks). Its jagged peaks covered with pines, oaks and lindens made it an ideal place for building temples and shrines. There are nearly 40 of them, each with its own character, some perched atop the peaks, others in the valleys, sheltered by craggy rocks and old trees. The earliest Buddhist one dates from the Tang dynasty (7th-8th century); most of the Taoist temples were built in the Qing dynasty. Many have been restored and are functioning today\*.

\*Some temples are described in greater detail in "Thousand Mountains, Fairyland Near Steeltown" in the January 1981 issue of China Reconstructs.



Mud baths in the above building are one kind of treatment given at Tanggangzi hot springs near Anshan.  
*Liu Jianguo*

From the auto road to the base, by easy footpaths one can climb through the quiet greenness to visit them and see the temple statuary — Sakyamuni, founder of Buddhism and other Buddhist figures, and in the Taoist temples, Lao Zi, to whom the basic writings of Taoism is attributed, and other Taoists.

Half-way up, at the Zhonghuni nunnery temple with its building climbing up the slope, you may be received by 50-year-old Abbess Neng Kuan, who is quite a figure in the area. In addition to the Buddhist scriptures, she has studied traditional Chinese medicine. She is a member of the leading council of the Liaoning Province Buddhist Association. She and two other nuns, a retired worker and a former commune member, chant the sutras three times a day, receive visitors and maintain the buildings. There are a total of 40 monks and nuns on the mountain.

Qianshan is particularly beautiful in May when its thousands of pear trees are in bloom. Something about the water and soil there seems to produce very special pears, particularly the famous thin-skinned Southern variety. In the Qing dynasty the mountain was used for growing them for the emperors. Now the orchards are maintained by the Mt. Qianshan administration.

Other curiosities there include a mountain peak in the shape of a lion — one of many such grotesquely-shaped rocks. The peak sends back the echo of the sound of a bronze bell in a nearby pavilion, so the place is called "The Lion Roars as the Bell Tolls." There is also a huge stone poised on a slope like a big goose egg. Though it quivers when touched, it is known to have stood there for a thousand years without falling.

**O**N warm, sunny days you can see a cloud of mist curling up among the verdant hills 20 kilometers east of Benxi. It is coming from the mouth of a huge water-eroded limestone cave. In it one can take a spectacular two hour



Meeting ground of Manchu palace at Shenyang. The chief leader sat in the throne room at top and other heads in the smaller square pavilions.

Xinhua

2,300-meter-long boat trip through its labyrinthine underground passages between fantastically shaped stalactites and stalagmites. They have been given fanciful names like "Gallop Horse" and "Clusters of Spring Bamboo Shoots".

Several times it seems as if the boat has come to the end of the cave but with a slight push of the punt pole it makes a turn and enters another part of the underground river. Along the way one passes caverns so large that any one could serve as a natural theater for a performance. Looking down from the boat through the clear water, at the bottom of the river one can see fish swimming, though no ray of sun ever enters the cave.

A recent geological survey found that the cave was formed 150 million years ago. Some 5,000 years ago the part near the mouth was a shelter for neolithic man. In 1962 a few human fossils, stone axes, pestles, pendants and other stone age remains were excavated here.

**T**HE Liaodong peninsula, which makes up most of eastern Liaoning, is one of the places in China noted for its large number of hot springs, caused by a well-developed earth fault and molten rock activity. One of its largest is

Tanggangzi, 15 kilometers southwest of Anshan. Visitors often stop there for a refreshing bath and a bit of relaxation at the large sanatorium with parklike surroundings, and perhaps a tour of the physiotherapy clinic.

The place has long been famed as a pleasure spot. In the 1920s several of the northeast warlords built the Longquan (Dragon Stream) Resort for their exclusive use. Pu Yi, last of the Qing dynasty imperial line who was made "Emperor of Manchuria" by the Japanese, lived there for a time during the Japanese occupation of northeast China following 1931. But it was strictly forbidden to ordinary people of the area.

Patients from all over the country now come to the 1,300-bed hospital for treatment for arthritis, rheumatism, sciatica and psoriasis. The 72° Centigrade water contains potassium, magnesium, sodium, fluorine, radon and other elements. The 120 pools for hydropathic treatment can accommodate 1,200 people. In a steel-structured glass house beside the lake, 130 people at a time can get the mud-bath treatment. A Geriatric Research Institute set up there in recent years, in addition to studying problems of aging, places special emphasis on rheumatism and skin diseases. □

# Radio Peking Celebrates 35th Birthday

Shahe Village and the site of the cave from which the first English newscast was transmitted.



Broadcast House built in 1959 stands just outside Fuxingmen, Beijing.



Wei Lin, who read the first news bulletin in 1947, pictured a few years later in Beijing.



AT 8:40 P. M. local time on September 11, 1947, the voice of liberated China reached the outside world in an English-language broadcast for the first time. The newscast was beamed from a cave in the small village of Shahe, nestling in the Taihang Mountains, north China. The news was read by a young woman announcer with two thick pigtails. Before she started, a gramophone record of the "Triumphal March," from the Italian opera *Aida* was played as the signature tune. The announcer, Wei Lin, is still with Radio Peking. Now in her late fifties she still turns up occasionally before the microphone. The first 20-minute English transmission that night, which followed

a newscast in Chinese, marked the inauguration of the English language service of the Northern Shaanxi New China Broadcasting Station under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee.

As the Chinese people's revolution rolled on to victory, the broadcasting station moved with the liberation army. At one point, it operated from Kulong Peak in the vicinity of Jingxing, Hebei province. The editorial department and the studios were some 40 kilometers apart, separated by the Hutuo River. Communication difficulties made the delivery of scripts very haphazard, and a messenger on horseback was called in to do the job. Sometimes, when the water level of the river was higher than usual, he had to abandon his horse. He would wrap the scripts in oil-cloth and swim across the river, the parcel held precariously overhead. Whenever there was an urgent script or last-minute changes to be made, the editorial department would dictate over the phone.

Following the liberation of Beijing, as Beijing was known under the Kuomintang rule, the broadcasting station moved into the city in March of 1949. A Japanese language service was added later that year. The founding of the People's Republic in October 1949 provided the essential conditions for the rapid expansion of the overseas services. Today the station, known as Radio Peking, broadcasts worldwide in 38 foreign languages and also in Chinese *putonghua* and four dialects for overseas Chinese listeners. The total transmission time has increased from 11 hours a day in 1950 to 134 hours at present.

From its small beginnings in 1947, the English language service has grown swiftly, expanding from a 20-minute transmission to 18 one-hour transmissions beamed to the five continents every day. A 10-minute newscast beamed to the Eastern Caribbean area six days a week was added recently. Meanwhile, the staff has grown, too: from a solitary pig-tailed an-

nouncer to a department of some 50 people. They include program editors, news and feature writers, reporters, announcers, translators, music editors and those who take care of listeners' letters and reference material, plus a few language experts from abroad.

Radio Peking received its first letters from listeners in March

1949. Listeners' letters were few and far between in those early years, but some people did write regularly. In 1981, a total of 10,889 letters were received by the English service alone. Radio Peking wouldn't have achieved as much as it has but for the support of its listeners, as its leaders and staff constantly say. □

**Two of Radio Peking's regular listeners and old friends from Iceland call at Broadcast House while visiting China.**

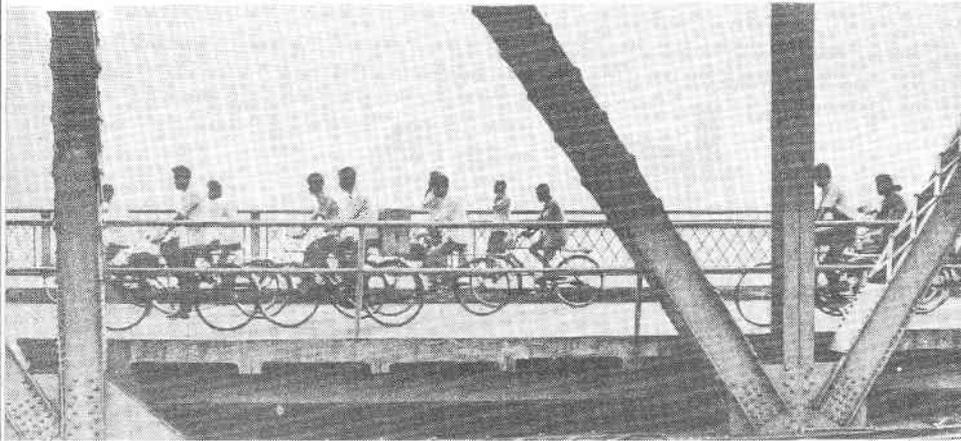


**A veteran runner in the oldsters' long-distance race in Beijing being interviewed by Radio Peking.**



# National Photography Exhibition

ZHANG SHUICHENG

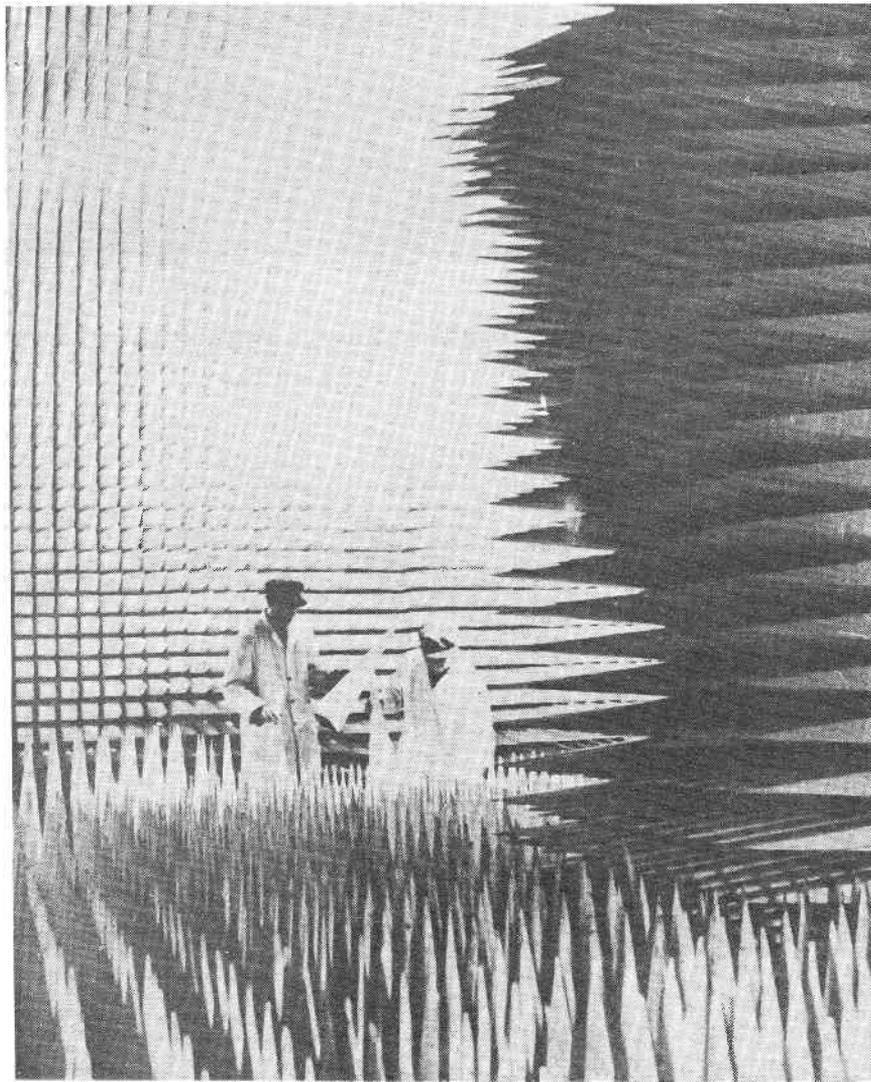


Another Day for the Builders

*Cai Shaohua*

Rhythm in the Microwave Darkroom

*Zhang Tongsheng*



A NEW FORCE of photographers has grown up in China in recent years, as shown by the great number of entries (14,788 by 4,385 photographers) submitted for the 12th National Photo Art Exhibition held in Beijing. Many of them are young, and very alive in their thinking and willingness to learn. Quite a few are amateurs who have been able to create good works and a style of their own despite often inadequate equipment and facilities. For the final showing, 251 in color and 116 in black and white were chosen to be hung. The exhibition shows in China's photographers today a heightened sense of beauty and attempts at inventiveness in theme, form and style. They have made a marked advance as keener observers and in both recognizing a picture and the technical ability to capture a rare shot.

OUTSTANDING both in subject and artistically and winner of one of the three gold medals is a shot of a farm woman in her kitchen. The photographer, Zeng Yue, out to photograph new farm housing construction in Guangdong province, by sheer accident saw and snapped through an open doorway a scene which expresses very well the peasant's feeling of satisfaction with things going well on the farm. He titled it with a line from a poem by the eighth century poet Du Fu, "Preparing a Meal for Guests with New Grain". The woman is kindling the stove in her spacious southern-style kitchen, and the main lighting comes from a tongue of flame from the stove and rays of sunlight through the window. Fish, just-washed vegetables and the new-crop rice piled on bamboo trays in the foreground contribute to the picture of plenty.

Preparing a Meal for Guests with New Grain  
*Zeng Yue*

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS





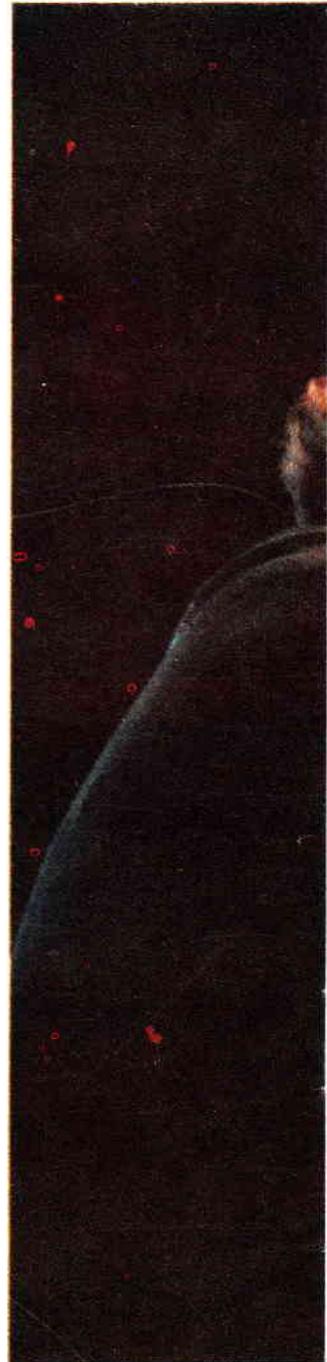
Red and White

*Fan Yuxiang*



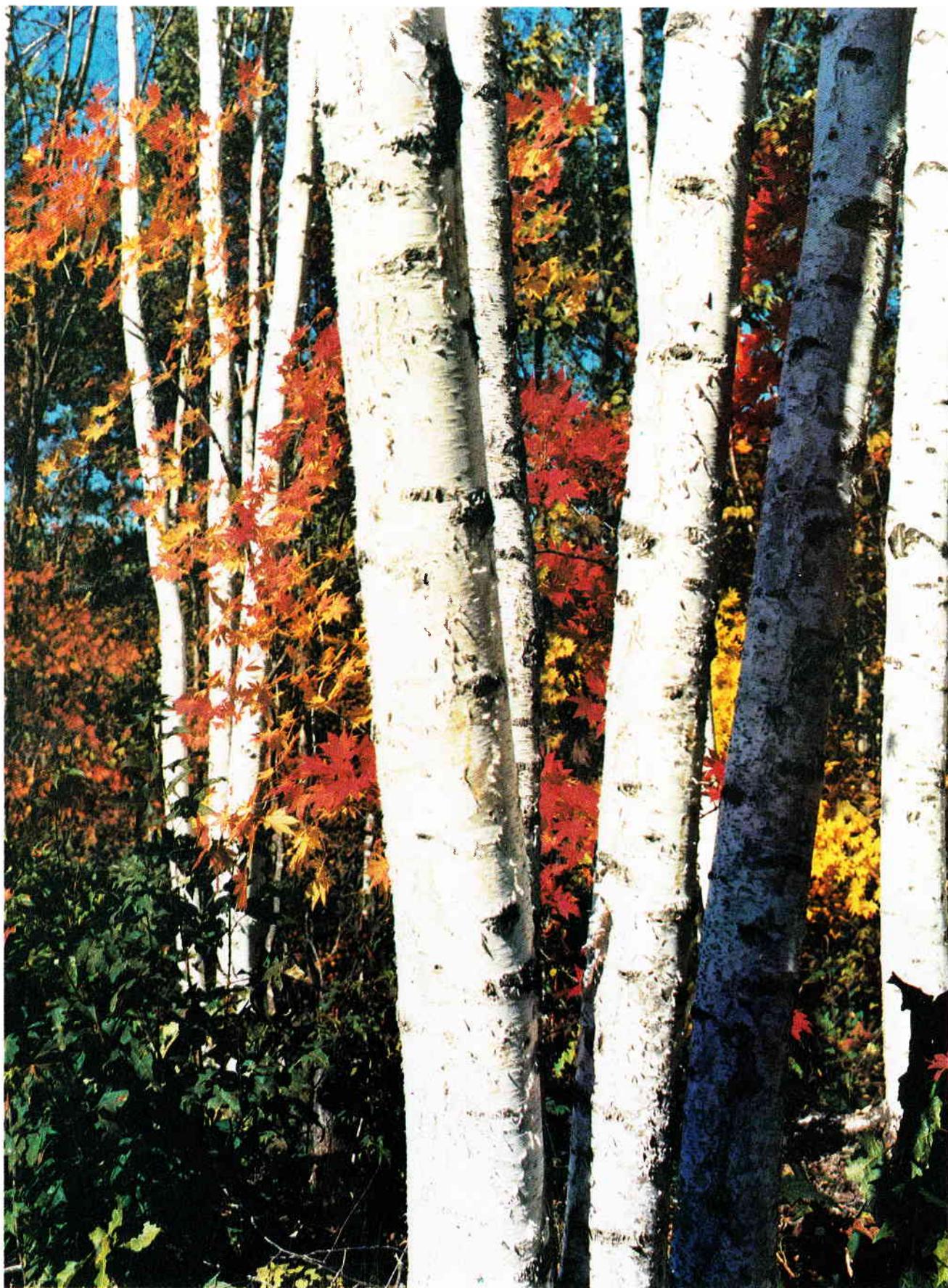
She Hopes...

*Fan Dong*



It's Ninty-Nine Percent Perspiration *Zheng Yongqi*





Autumn Comes to the Birch Forest

*Lang Qi*

This shot was snapped with available light. The kitchen itself is rather dark but with the reflection of the strong "floodlight" streaming in from the window helped to brighten up the whole. Though the contrast in the lighting was very strong, the dark part came out well because of the accurate exposure. The leaping flame in the stove pit, the lingering steam from the boiling pot, and the woman's moving hand holding the straw helped to make a somewhat still shot full of motion. The use of a wide angle lens for this rather close shot enabled the photographer to cover everything in the kitchen he intended to and attain a greater depth of field so that everything in both foreground and background is in focus. The slow speed he chose permitted a fuller exposure of the flame, and this highlight is what lends the poetic quality to this otherwise low-key picture.

In "It's Ninety-nine Percent Perspiration", also a candid shot, photographer Zheng Yongqi has caught two dancers just after rehearsal and still covered with perspiration, which in the stage lighting glistens against the background of the darkened theater. His unromanticized, down-to-earth view of an often too-glamorously-portrayed world is a breakthrough in theme.

Photos of children attracted many viewers. "Two Little Mischiefs", winner of one of the 15 silver medals, is a candid shot of two little boys trying to weigh themselves on a farm scale.

The show also included works by photographers from Hongkong and Macao of technical excellence and unusual style. "Red and White", a silver medal winner by Hongkong photographer Tan Yuxiang, strikes a note of restful quietude. Like an elegant painting, it pleases both the eye and the mind with its bold combination of the brilliant red cherries with the white teaset and its perfect use of lighting.

It's like an oil painting, people say when they see "Autumn Comes to the Birch Forest", and indeed this picture with its rich pattern of colors does seem to have the

texture of an oil. By creating a composition of a few branches of red maple leaves against two large birch trunks, with the green of younger trees behind, mainland photographer Lang Qi has captured that fleeting moment just as summer is turning into autumn.

**P**HOTO realism as social criticism or praise has not been widely used in the new China, so a picture of this type is significant. "Out of Step" shows the feet of several young women seated on a park bench — in new leather shoes, which now in China are considered highly desirable. But in contrast to their spanking-neat modernity

is the litter of sunflower seed hulls they have dropped on the ground.

From a positive angle, a photo named "Starting with Myself", showing girls helping two blind people across the street, implies that one should not wait for campaigns or institutionalized assistance, but take the initiative in being kind and helpful whenever needed. Unfortunately, with the erosion of values resulting from circumstances during the "cultural revolution", such warnings are necessary. Here is a new role for photography in China. □

**ZHANG SHUICHENG** is a photographer for *China Reconstructs*.

Two Little Mischiefs

Zeng Yue



# Li Yizhi—Pioneer in Taming China's Rivers

WANG HUZHEN

**L**AST February a number of people gathered in Beijing to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Li Yizhi, the man who is virtually the father of modern hydraulic engineering in China.

Water control, particularly in the central plains area which is drained by great river systems, has always been of vital importance in this country to avert floods and provide irrigation. For much of history, indeed, Chinese engineers were innovators in the devising of dams, dikes and waterways. But by the beginning of the 20th century this had changed, and there was virtually no engineer trained in modern water control methods.



Centenary:  
Li Yizhi  
(1882-1982)

involved and design structures to do the jobs that needed to be done.

Textbooks in foreign languages were used only as short-term expediences. Professor Li insisted that Chinese-language texts be developed as quickly as possible, and wrote a number of them himself. Students were frequently taken on field trips and surveys of the country's river systems.

In the seven years Professor Li taught at the school, its graduates included such distinguished hydraulics engineers as Xu Xinwu and Mou Tongbo, Song Xishang (now living on Taiwan) and Chen Kejie, Pu Liangchou and Shen Baixian (all three now in the United States). During those same years he founded the School of Water Control and Highway Engineering in Shaanxi, which later became the agricultural water control department of the Northwest Agricultural College. Today its graduates play key roles in the province's water control efforts.

## Irrigation and Flood Control

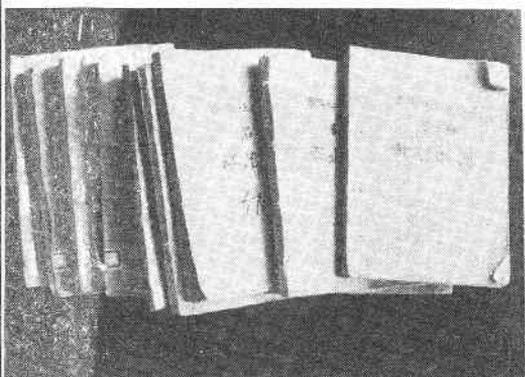
With the Hehai Hydraulic Engineering College developing well, Professor Li resigned to become the head of water control projects in Shaanxi. The northern part of the province, covered by a thick plateau of loess soil, was very arid — even wells several dozen meters deep often failed to find underground water. Periodic droughts forced peasants off the land to wander about in search of a living. The Huanghe (Yellow) River and many of its tributaries cut through the region, but they were lower than the plateau and to tap them for irrigation would require fairly massive irrigation works.

Professor Li and his assistants made in-depth surveys of central

lege of Engineering. He formed close contacts with Hubert Engels and Otto Franzius, two of the leaders in this field, and explored their laboratories. He investigated the most advanced hydro-projects in Europe, always with the intention of applying the methods he learned in the service of his own country.

Returning to China in 1915, he decided that a top priority was to train a contingent of engineers and technicians. Through his efforts the Hehai Hydraulic Engineering College was founded in Nanjing, the country's first such modern institution. As one of the early students at the college, I was fortunate enough to be taught by Professor Li.

In those days there were no modern water control projects to be studied in China, and no hydraulics textbooks written in Chinese. Professor Li assembled structural models and samples of building materials to show students the basic principles of hydraulics. We learned to calculate the forces



Part of Professor Li's many writings on hydraulics.

All this was very much on the mind of Li Yizhi, a native of Shaanxi province, when he graduated from Beijing University in 1909 and went to Germany to study hydraulics at the Royal Col-

**WANG HUZHEN**, member of the Science Council of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, is former dean of the Institute of Water Conservancy and Hydroelectricity and advisor to the Ministry of Water Conservancy.

and northern Shaanxi and drew up plans for irrigation networks. But the unsettled political situation and the conflicts between local warlords made it impossible to raise funds for the projects. Then, from 1928 to 1930, a severe drought hit the province. Vast stretches of land lay barren. The roads swarmed with refugees and soon began to be strewn with the bodies of those who had starved to death.

Professor Li's plans gained the support of Yang Hucheng, then head of the provincial government, and some funds were collected from international charitable institutions and overseas Chinese. The building of the Jinghui Canal and a dam in central Shaanxi began in 1931 and was completed the next year, bringing 33,000 hectares of land under irrigation and transforming the lives of the local peasants.

In 1931 both the Changjiang (Yangtze) and Huaihe rivers overflowed, breaking through dikes in countless places and flooding vast tracts of cultivated land. Li became chief engineer of the Flood Relief Commission. Transferring a number of technicians to direct dike repair, he also recruited several hundred thousand refugees to work on the projects — thus providing relief jobs for them and many enthusiastic hands in the construction. He organized the work so well that it was completed the next year, far earlier than anyone had expected.

In 1933 and 1935 respectively, he supervised the start of construction on the Luohui and Weihui canals in central Shaanxi. The Weihui project proceeded smoothly, with closure of the great dam at the canal head completed by 1938. The other project was delayed many times. A 5-kilometer tunnel had to be dug through a mountain, and the 1937 Japanese all-out aggression against China created a great shortage of equipment. The canal's builder did not live to see it completed.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Professor Li served on a number of commissions and advisory bodies concerned with the taming

of China's major rivers. He presented a number of plans for water control projects based on his surveys in different places, but most could not be realized at the time.

### Written Legacy

Professor Li wrote a large number of articles on different aspects of hydraulics and to promote the taming of China's rivers for the benefit of the people. A collection of some of his most important works will be published shortly, for they are still of great value to water control experts.

One of his major insights was that river systems were organic wholes, and had to be studied and treated comprehensively. The Huanghe River, he noted, frequently broke through dikes and changed its course. The root cause was the large accumulations of silt in the river, which was carried down from its upper and middle reaches. The answer, therefore, was not concentrating simply on the lower reaches as was the case in the past decades, but considering the entire river. He also argued for comprehensive attention to flood prevention, navigation, irrigation and hydroelectric generation.

In March 1938, after a long illness during which he continued to work and visit construction sites, Professor Li died in Xi'an.

His dedication to relieving the sufferings of the people through taming the rivers, his plain unassuming lifestyle and his patriotic opposition to the Japanese aggression had gained him great respect. People lined the streets of Xi'an as his funeral cortège passed.

He was buried at Jingyang, north of Xi'an, and local residents immediately volunteered to build him a tomb — which they finished in two days. More than 5,000 peasants — who themselves had experienced the droughts and floods he had struggled to conquer — came to his burial, and many thousands more paid respects at his tomb over the years.

After the founding of the new China, projects that he started were completed under the people's government. The irrigated area in Shaanxi now amounts to 1,260,000 hectares; no dike breaches have been reported along the Huanghe River for many years. All across the country water control projects of many kinds have been built, some by his students and others incorporating his ideas. Comprehensive flood-control, irrigation, navigation and hydropower projects such as Gezhouba on the Changjiang River, the largest of its kind, have been built or are under construction.

More than any tomb, these are his real legacy. One can only wish he could have lived to see so many of his dreams come true. □

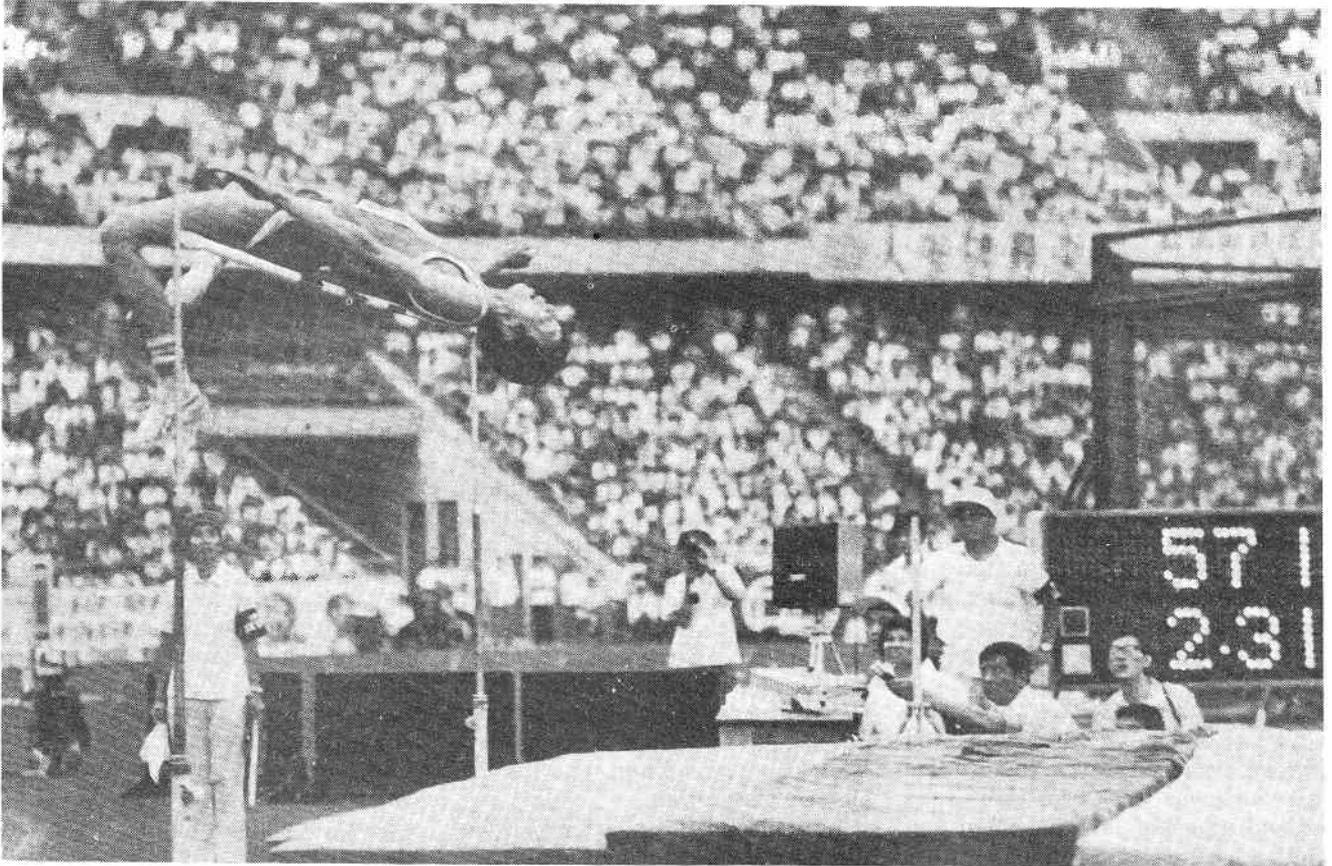
The Dihe Dam of Professor Li's Luohui Canal, completed after his death.



# International Invitational Tournaments

Zhu Jianhua clears 2.31 meters to break his own Asian record of 2.30 meters.

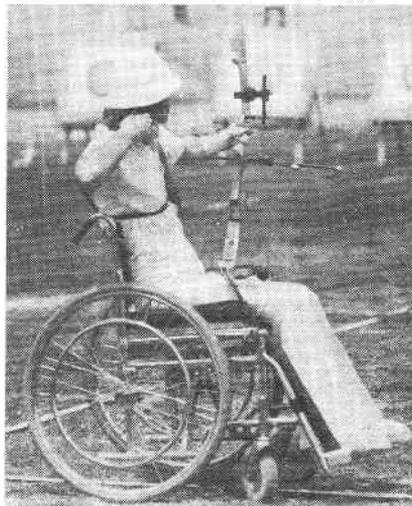
*Zhou Tiexia*



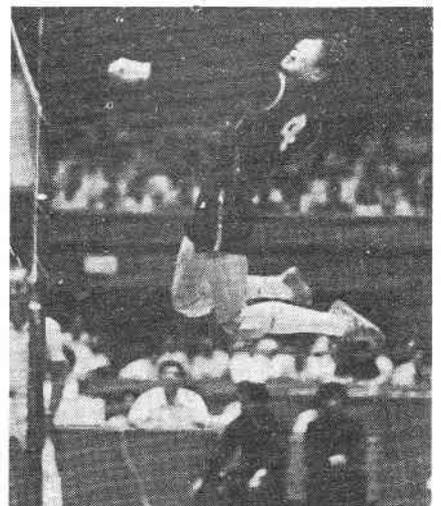
The men's 110-meter hurdles race.  
*Zhou Tiexia*



Neroli Fairhall, New Zealand archer,  
competes from her wheelchair.  
*Tang Yumin*



Xu Zhen, one of China's ace spikers.  
*Guan Tianyi*



LAST summer a series of international invitational tournaments were held in China in preparation for the upcoming Ninth Asian Games. In June alone there were three high-level tournaments in track and field, men's volleyball and archery.

### Track and Field

Attending the 1982 Beijing International Track and Field Meet were athletes from ten countries — Czechoslovakia, Finland, India, Japan, Romania, the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and China. Some 130,000 Beijing sports fans attended despite three days of rain.

Zhu Jianhua, 19, represented China in the high jump event, clearing 2.31 meters in the first trial to break his own Asian record of 2.30 meters set last year in Japan. His goal now is to break the world record of 2.36 meters, which he just missed this time, but will attempt again at the Asian Games.

In the women's 400-meter hurdles, Chizuko Akimoto of Japan, 21, set another Asian record of 58.50 seconds, 0.74 seconds better than the old mark set by China's Zhang Huifen.

Many experienced foreign athletes were generous in sharing know-how with young Chinese players. Ilona Slupianek, an East

German woman shot-putter, helped Shen Lijuan correct the positioning of her body and throwing techniques. A Soviet 100-meter hurdle world title holder, Vera Komisova, studied Dai Jianhua's movements and gave her a number of tips. The tournament as a whole was valuable to Chinese athletes for the experience it gave them in international competition. Some young people are still rather nervous when going up against formidable foreign teams and consequently don't perform to their full ability.

### Men's Volleyball

The international men's volleyball competition in Shanghai included some world powerhouse teams — Brazil (third in last year's World Cup), China (fifth), and Japan (sixth) plus other strong teams from the U.S., Canada, Yugoslavia and France. China's Youth, Shanghai and Jiangsu teams also participated.

Compared with their showing in last year's World Cup Competitions, China's Men's National Team played calmly and effectively, winning all seven matches for a first-place win. Though the Brazilian players seemed off their form and were beaten by both Japan and China, they took second place and will remain a team to watch in future world competitions. The third-place U.S. men's team hasn't the record of its

women's team, but they used to advantage their height and all-round competence.

### Archery

An international archery competition was held at Shijiazhuang in Hebei province, southwest of Beijing. Neroli Fairhall, a New Zealand girl who took part in the contest, has to get around in a wheelchair. She impressed everyone with the skills she'd mastered in spite of her disability and came in fifth in the double-round individual event.

Contestants came from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, India, Italy, New Zealand, Singapore, the U.S. and China. At the end of four days of competition, the Korean Women's Team and the Italian Men's Team had captured first place with total point scores of 7,356 and 7,378. O Gwang Sun of Korea won the women's individual double-round event with 2,543 points and Kyosti Laasonen of Finland led the men with 2,510 points.

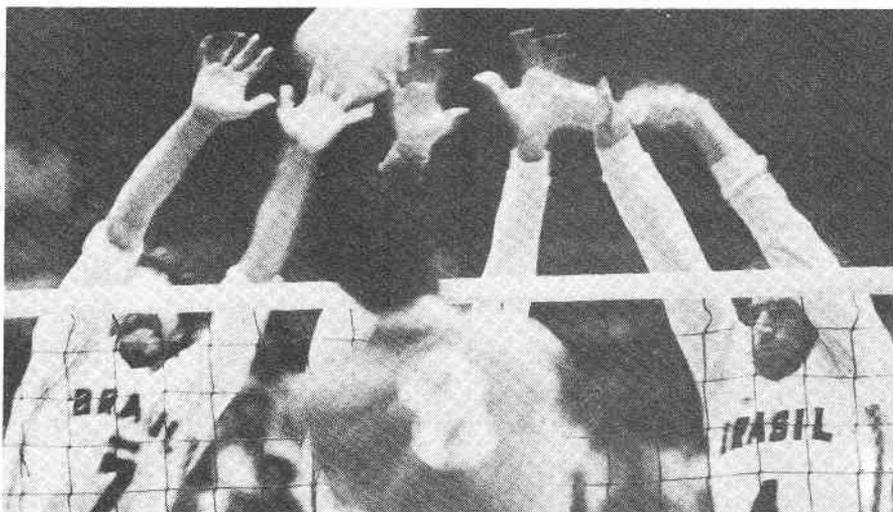
For two-thirds of the Chinese participants, this was their first try in international competition. Owing to lack of experience, they were overanxious and didn't do well, though the women's team did capture the runners-up spot and the men placed sixth. □

Archers from the U.S. and Italy talk shop.  
Tang Yumin



In volleyball, the Brazilians fail to block a shot by a Japanese player.

Shen Huizhang



# The Children's Own Newspaper

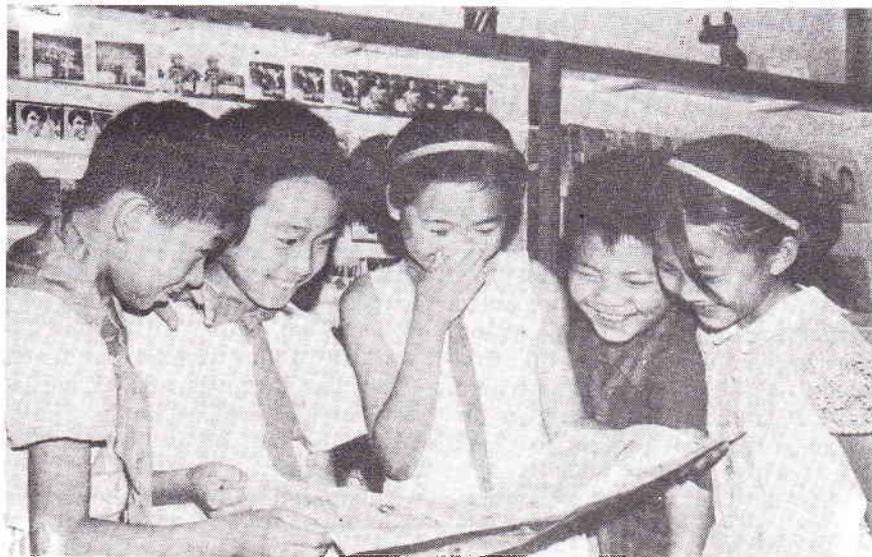
JIANG JINGWEN

THE weekly *Chinese Children's Journal* has a regular circulation of between 9 and 11 million, the largest of any national newspaper. Written for children 9 to 13, the journal started publication in 1951. Its easily understandable language, color pictures, attractive layout and responsiveness to readers' needs and interests have a lot to do with its popularity.

## Popular 'Personalities'

Some of the special columns are written as if by imaginary characters whom children find it easy to identify with or confide in. "Little Reporter" (who flies about in a helicopter with camera at the ready) covers notable developments in China's socialist construction and world affairs. One column, for example, was an "eyewitness" look at the Gezhouba Dam project on the Changjiang (Yangtze) River, the largest and most ambitious project of its kind.

The "Clever Grandpa" column answers kids' questions about



In the reading room at China's National Children's Center.

Wu Chuping

science: "Why do we have dreams?"; "How does a space-ship return to earth?"; or "When my ears feel hot, does it mean that someone is cursing me?" Once, the column received a letter from 11 Hebei province kids saying that all

young people should be encouraged not to harm beneficial birds, disturb their nests or steal their eggs.

Intrigued, the journal sent a reporter to Hebei to find out the background of the suggestion. It turned out that the 11 youngsters

## Familiar Characters from the Newspaper:



Little Reporter



Dear Older Sister



'Little Tiger'



Clever Grandpa

had once been the terror of the local bird population. However, after learning in a nature study class how important birds were to the local ecology, they had become enthusiastic protectors of their feathered friends. The journal publicized the story, and in response many readers wrote to say they had made studies of birds in their communities and were building birdhouses and feeders.

Children all over China confide their problems and worries to the "Dear Older Sister" column. One Shanghai primary school girl wrote: "In addition to classwork, I have a lot of homework every day. I can't get to bed before 11:00 and have to get up at 5:00. I'm always tired and I'm losing weight. . . " A journal editor went to investigate the situation. She found that in some schools children were seriously overburdened with work.

The column made a special appeal to schools and education departments to pay more attention to children's health and to relieve their burdens. The letters that started to pour in reveal the journal's influence with educators as well as kids. A Guangxi student reported: "We used to have lots of homework on Sundays, but not any more since our teacher read your column." One group of kids wrote: "We're happy that our school is supporting more sports activities. New basketballs, ping-pong balls



Small Red Flower

Little Hedgehog



小刺猬

亲爱的少年朋友们:

这是一个十分感人的真实故事,它是一首  
一展展的冲雷,是一曲行为美的赞歌。

它写出了少先队员之间的真挚友谊和团结,反映了在一个同志遇到困难时,中队集体给予的温暖和幸福。



少年朋友们,在开展“五讲、四美”活动中,让同志的友谊和团结,集体的温暖和幸福,在少先队员心中深深扎根吧! 知心姐姐

## 真挚的友谊 集体的温暖

一九七九年,欢庆少先队建队三十周年的活动刚结束,内蒙古包头市回民小学四(1)中队听到一个不幸的消息,中队女委员范素琴得了骨癌。同学们愣住了,“三天前她还在区庆祝大会上担当扩音手,这怎么可能呢!”

家长决定带素琴到北京做最后的诊断。临行的前一天,全中队三十六名同学,来到了素琴家。素琴还不知道自己得了重病,她对同学们说:“我要在天安门前照张像,带回来给你们看。”大家强忍住眼泪安慰她:“你的病很快就會好。”

素琴走了,她把三十六颗红领巾的心也带走了。同学们天天盼望素琴的来信,素琴的爸爸终于来信了,信上说,诊断结果与包头的相同,为了挽救生命,素琴要割掉右腿!

从小喜欢唱歌跳舞的素琴,长大后当一名舞蹈演员。把右腿割掉,这对她是多么沉重的打击呀!

这时,素琴住在医院,还不知道要割腿。她照常病房里擦桌、扫地,逗着同病室的小病友玩。后来,她发现爸爸来探视的次数多了,而且每次都抚摸着她的右腿,眼角滴满泪水。素琴预感到将要发生什么事情,心慌了。她摇着爸爸的肩膀说:“爸爸,我得的是什么病呀?什么病呀?”爸爸没回答。

这时候,素琴收到中队的来信,信中说:“亲爱的素琴同学,少先

队颁发了队长、队委标志,我们把中队委标志寄给你。戴上它,你就会感到全中队的同学时刻和你在一起,你就能经受住任何考验!”



害怕,还安慰爸爸:“我割掉一条腿,还有一双手,一双眼,长大照样能为人民工作。您不要为我伤心。”

手术后的剧痛,难以忍受,素琴就蒙住头,不让自己出声。是什么力量使她这样坚强呢?原来她的枕头下面珍藏着那枚中队委标志呢!

经过一段治疗,素琴回到了包头。她一时还不能到校上课,为了使她在家休养好,中队齐心协力帮助她。第二小队队长张晓翼、李芙蓉给她讲故事,说笑话。素琴一高兴,也唱起歌来。她兴奋地说:“你们一来,我就不寂寞了。”

素琴在医院与疾病做斗争的精神,使同学们深受感动,中队委员会决定召开一

次“红花开遍中队”的队会。同学们用车把素琴从家里接来,把红花戴在她的胸前。大家唱起了《红领巾之歌》:“……我们的旗帜火一样红,星星和火把指明前程,和平的风吹动了旗帜,招呼我们走向幸福的人生……”素琴唱着,眼睛里闪烁着希望的光芒。她激动地说:“辅导员,让我也来唱支歌吧!”大家一齐鼓掌欢迎。她用英语唱了一首《生日歌》。大家心里明白,素琴这是在用歌声宣布:我要让自己的生命重新开始!

去年暑假以后,素琴能上学了。那一天,同学们一大早就去接她。当她走进校门的时候,激动得流出了泪花。她觉得,没有比这一天更幸福了。

从此,金小红、马少梅和邓彩霞等同学担负起接送素琴的任务。素琴上厕所不方便,王萍等几个同学把搀扶她的任务包下了。素琴为了少打扰同学,就尽量少喝水。同学们劝慰说:“可不能这样啊!”

……落下了,梁会平、杨国栋教她学语文,王萍、阎勇杰帮她补数学,邓芳给她讲英语。“小老师”讲课耐心又细致。

素琴在医院与疾病做斗争的精神,使同学们深受感动,中队委员会决定召开一

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提早把她送到电影院,安排在最好的座位上。同学们去公园,大家没忘记素琴。

十月的一天,草原小英雄来到学校。看到玉荣阿姨笑着走路的时候,素琴激动地说:“也要放假,也要走路!”问:“长大了干什么?”她说:“我要当教师,要用心血浇灌祖国的花朵。”在老师的关怀下,素琴以的毅力刻苦学习,期中考试,成绩平均得了九十多分。

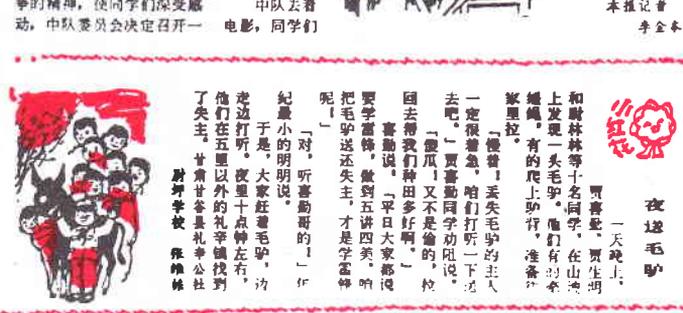
然而,癌细胞扩散了,今年五月五日,病魔夺去了素琴的生命。同学们向素琴告别时,大家把准备好的红领巾和队长标志围在她身边。

素琴生命的火花虽然熄灭了,但少先队员们结战斗,象那闪闪的火炬,却把队旗插得格外鲜艳夺目。

本报通讯员 李金全



小刺猬 赵月识稿



夜迷毛驴 贾生明

The lively layout of the 'Chinese Children's Journal.'

and badminton shuttlecocks have been bought."

### Moral Lessons with Humor

One of the most popular comic strips is "Little Tiger," chronicling the daily adventures of a lively boy. Little Tiger is clever, studious, honest and brave. He respects older people and helps those smaller than himself. He does have faults—he is often careless and likes to outshine others—but is quick to correct his mistakes when they are pointed out.

Young readers find Little Tiger and his friends very funny, but the cartoons also present important moral lessons without heavy-handed preaching. The comic-strip hero is a good model for kids—a child like themselves who is not perfect, but who tries hard and who, without being a prig, is not afraid to stand up for good behavior even when his peers are pulling the other way.

A wide range of themes are covered, including respect for teachers and older people, good study habits, concern for public hygiene, helping others and

honesty in returning lost articles. The cartoons have had a definite influence. Last year a thousand "Learn from Little Tiger" groups were formed among Young Pioneers in Beijing alone.

Two other columns feature the imaginary characters "Small Red Flower" and "Little Hedgehog." The former singles out and praises good deeds, while the latter points out faults and shortcomings. The points are often made humorously. The "Little Hedgehog" column once carried a cartoon about cheating and lying. In the first frame, a boy tells his teacher, "I forgot and left my homework at home." In the second frame, the boy answers his father about the same homework, "Oh, I forgot it at school." From the side, Hedgehog comments: "So where is it, at home or at school? You're only cheating yourself!"

### Science and Art

The "Children's Garden" column helps cultivate an interest in science and the scientific attitude of careful observation, testing, and respect for facts. It often carries

accounts of youngsters' experiments and construction of scientific devices, or letters from the budding scientists themselves.

Liu Weihong, a first-year student at Beijing's Middle School No. 50, recently wrote a paper about his kitten, Mimi. He reported in great detail the animal's physiology, eating habits, abilities and conditioned reflexes. Soon another cat-owner from Shaanxi province wrote to say that some of his observations differed from those of Liu Weihong. Other children around the country then began to study and record facts about their pets, and offer their conclusions to the column.

The Art and Literature page of the journal, besides sketches and paintings, carries stories and poems written by children's writers and by children themselves. The journal also acted as the Chinese sponsor for a 1980 UNESCO international children's poetry contest and a 1981 letter contest sponsored by the International Postal Union.

The response to both contests was overwhelming. Nine-year-old Liu Qianqian from Hubei province was an international prizewinner for his poem "Don't Ask Why?" and Zhao Shuang, a 14-year-old junior middle school girl from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, won a gold medal for her letter about a rural postwoman (see the March 1982 *China Reconstructs*).

### The Best Judges

The editors of the journal pay a lot of attention to feedback from their young readers. After each issue is published, some children are invited to the office to talk with the editors. They give their opinions on every article, picture and headline. In many schools across the country, kids' correspondence groups have been organized to discuss and report back to the journal any criticisms and suggestions. Young readers also write individually. In 1981 alone the editorial department received nearly 700,000 pieces of mail, including letters and articles submitted for publication. □

Young critics offer advice to the editors.

Shao Yan



# The Return of the Jade

WEI TANG

**T**HE DUKE of Qin, which was the most powerful state during the Warring States period, learned that the Duke of the State of Zhao had acquired a priceless piece of carved jade. The Duke of Qin coveted the jade and in 283 B.C. sent an emissary to Zhao offering to trade 15 cities for it. The Duke of Zhao was reluctant. He knew that if he accepted the offer Qin would not really give up the cities. But if he refused, the powerful Qin armies would probably attack Zhao. Someone advised him to consult with Lin Xiangru on this dilemma.

Lin Xiangru, who came from a poor family, was a steward of one of the court eunuchs. Though not an important person, he was known to be brave and resourceful and a man of his word. He had also shown considerable ability as an envoy.

"If we refuse Qin out of hand," Lin Xiangru told the duke, "it will look as if we are in the wrong. But if we give Qin the jade and its duke does not hand over the cities, it will be they who are in the wrong and this will be to our advantage. Let me handle the matter."

**W**HEN Lin Xiangru reached Qin, he ceremoniously presented the jade to the duke, who was delighted with it. He looked at it this way and that and passed it among his retainers and the court ladies for them to admire. Everyone congratulated him for having got such a good thing. However, in the joy and excitement, Lin Xiangru was ignored and nothing was said about the 15 cities. Finally Lin said to the duke, "This is indeed a very good piece of jade, but it has a flaw. You will not be able to detect it unless

you look at it carefully. Let me show it to you."

The duke believed him and handed back the jade. As soon as he had it in his hands, Lin withdrew a few steps and took a stance beside a pillar. "I brought this jade because I thought your majesty would keep your promise," he said with a great show of anger. "But you have taken the jade without even a mention of the 15 cities. What kind of trick is this? Now the jade is in my hands. If you try to seize it, I will smash my head against the pillar and the jade with it."

The Duke of Qin immediately apologized and called for a map to point out the location of the 15 cities.

**L**IN XIANGRU knew that the ruler still had no intention of giving up the cities, but he had another plan up his sleeve. Since early times jade had been revered for its power to impart virtue, and was used for ceremonial purposes. Lin Xiangru said, "Before I brought this jade here, the Duke of Zhao fasted for five days and

held a solemn ceremony. I therefore hope that your majesty will do likewise before I present it to you." The Duke of Qin promised to do so.

But that night Lin Xiangru had one of his men, disguised in rags, secretly take the jade back to Zhao. After five days, the Duke of Qin held a grand ceremony for reception of the jade. At it, Lin Xiangru said to him sternly, "The State of Qin has had some 20 rulers and none of them were known for keeping their word. They all relied on power and oppressed the people. Considering that and my recent experience, I'm afraid of being tricked again so I have had the jade taken back to Zhao. To get it, you must send your emissary to Zhao. If you turn over the 15 cities first, the Duke of Zhao will certainly not refuse to give you the jade. As for myself, if you wish to punish me, I am prepared to suffer the severest punishment."

The Duke of Qin was furious, but he decided it would be unwise to kill Lin Xiangru, for if he did

*(Continued on p. 72)*



"Give up the cities or I'll smash the jade."

HUANG WENYAN

## Lesson 22

## Learning Chinese

玛利: 我学了好几年汉语,可有时  
 Mǎlì: Wǒ xuéle hǎo jǐ nián hànyǔ, kě yǒushí  
 Mary: I studied quite a few year Chinese, but sometimes  
 说的话不适当,不合  
 shuō de huà bú shìdàng, bù hé  
 say words not suitable, not fit  
 中国人的习惯。  
 Zhōngguó rén de xíguàn.  
 Chinese people's habit.

小王: 这是学外文常碰到的  
 Xiǎo Wáng: Zhè shì xué wàiwén cháng pèngdào de  
 Xiao Wang: This is learning foreign language often met  
 问题。在不同的场合,  
 wèntí. zài bùtóng de chǎnghé,  
 problem. At different circumstances,  
 对不同的对象,说的话,  
 duì bùtóng de duìxiàng, shuō de huà,  
 to different hearer, said words,  
 运用的语气都不一样。  
 yùnyòng de yǔqì dōu bù yíyàng.  
 use manner all not alike.  
 就拿问候来说,中国  
 Jiù ná wèn hòu lái shuō, Zhōngguó  
 Just take greetings to speak (of), Chinese  
 汉族人见面说“你好”,  
 hànzú rén jiàn miàn shuō “nǐ hǎo”,  
 Han people (when) meet say “you well”,  
 在蒙族牧区还要说  
 zài měngzú mùqū hái yào shuō  
 at Mongolian pastoral area also want to say

“牲畜好”、“草场好”。  
 “shēngchù hǎo”, “cǎochǎng hǎo”.  
 “livestock well”, “pasture good.”

玛利: 中国许多地方见面除了  
 Mǎlì: Zhōngguó xǔduō dìfāng jiàn miàn chúle  
 Mary: Chinese many places (in) meeting besides  
 问好以外,还爱问  
 wèn hǎo yìwài, hái ài wèn  
 asking well, (people) also like (to) ask

“吃饭了吗”、“上哪儿去”。  
 “chī fàn le ma”, “shàng nǎr qu”.  
 “ate meal”, “toward where go”.

这应该怎么回答?  
 Zhè yīnggāi zénme huídá?  
 These should how answer?

小王: “吃饭了吗”大都在饭前或  
 Xiǎo Wáng: “Chī fàn le ma” dàdōu zài fànqián huò  
 Xiao Wang: “Ate meal” mostly at meal before or  
 饭后的一段时间问,  
 fàn hòu de yí duàn shíjiān wèn.  
 meal after a period (of) time ask.  
 可以回答“吃了”或者“没呢”。  
 Kěyǐ huídá “chī le” huòzhě “méi ne”.  
 Can answer “ate” or “not yet”.

至于“上哪儿去”可以  
 Zhìyú “shàng nǎr qu” kěyǐ  
 As for “toward where go” can

具体说去什么地方,也  
 jùtǐ shuō qù shénme dìfāng, yě  
 specifically say go what place, also  
 可以笼统说“去买东西”,  
 kěyǐ lǒngtǒng shuō “qù mǎi dōngxi”,  
 can in general say “go buy things”,

“玩儿去”、“看朋友”,怎样  
 “wánr qu”, “kàn péngyou”, zěnyàng  
 “play go”, “see friend”, however  
 回答都可以。这只是一种  
 huídá dōu kěyǐ. Zhè zhǐ shì yì zhǒng  
 answer all right. This only is a kind  
 打招呼的方式,说话人  
 dǎ zhāohu de fāngshì, shuō huà rén  
 (of) greeting manner, speaker

并没有刨根问底的  
 bìng méiyǒu páo gēn wèn dǐ de  
 certainly not have dig (into) root ask bottom

意思。  
 yìsi.  
 meaning.

玛利: “上哪儿去”在我们国家是  
 Mǎlì: “Shàng nǎr qu” zài wǒmen guójiā shì  
 Mary: “Toward where go” in our country is (a thing)

不该问的。还有“多大年龄”  
 bùgāi wèn de. Hái yǒu “duō dà niánlíng”,  
 should not (be) asked. Also have “how great age”,

“多少工资”、“在哪儿工作”  
 “duōshao gōngzī”, “zài nǎr gōngzuò”  
 “how much salary”, “at where work”  
 等等,特别是对女的,更  
 děngděng, tèbié shì duì nǚ de, gèng  
 etc, especially is to women, further

不能问人家的岁数,可是  
 bù néng wèn rénjiā de suishu, kěshì  
 can't ask someone's age, but  
 跟中国人交往,对比较  
 gēn Zhōngguó rén jiāowǎng, duì bǐjiào  
 with Chinese people exchange, to relatively  
 熟悉的人,问这些所谓  
 shúxī de rén, wèn zhèxiē suǒwèi  
 familiar people, ask these so-called  
 “私人问题”好象没什么  
 “sīrén wèntí” hǎoxiàng méi shénme  
 “private questions” seems not (much of a)  
 关系。  
 guānxi.  
 matter.

小王: 嗯。中国人说“老先生”、  
 Xiǎo Wáng: Èng. Zhōngguó rén shuō “lǎo xiānsheng”  
 Xiao Wang: Yes. Chinese people say “old gentleman”,  
 “老同志”表示对年纪大的  
 “lǎo tóngzhì” biǎoshì duì niánjì dà de  
 “old comrade” express for age great  
 人的尊敬,可有些国家  
 rén de zūnjìng, kě yǒu xiē guójiā  
 person respect, but have some countries  
 老人也不爱听“老”字。  
 lǎorén yě bù ài tīng “lǎo” zì.  
 old people also not like hear “old” word.  
 所以学习一种语言,必须  
 Suǒyǐ xuéyí yí zhǒng yǔyán, bìxū  
 Therefore, learn a kind (of) language, must  
 了解那个民族的文化  
 liǎojiě nà ge mínzú de wénhuà  
 understand that nation's cultural  
 传统、风俗习惯及人的  
 chuántǒng, fēngsú xíguàn, jí rén de  
 tradition, custom, habit and also people's  
 心理。这样有助于提高  
 xīnlǐ. Zhèyàng yǒuzhùyú tígāo  
 psychology. Thus (can be) helpful improve  
 运用这种语言的能力。  
 yùnyòng zhè zhǒng yǔyán de nénglì.  
 using this kind language ability.

### Translation

Mary: I've been studying Chinese for quite a few years, but sometimes I can't say things properly in the Chinese way.  
 Xiao Wang: This is a problem often met in learning a foreign language. Under different circumstances and speaking to different people, what you say and how you say it differ. Take greetings for instance. Han Chinese people would say, “How do you do?”; but in pastoral areas Mongolians also say “How is the livestock?” and “How is the pasture?”  
 Mary: In many places in China, besides asking about health people also ask “Have you eaten?” and

“Where are you going?” in greeting. How do you reply to these?

Xiao Wang: “Have you eaten?” is mostly asked around meal-time. You can answer “Yes” or “Not yet”. As for “Where are you going?” you can reply with the specific place, or give a general answer: “Shopping”, “Out for fun”, or “To see a friend”. You can answer in either way, as this is only a kind of greeting and the speaker isn't asking seriously (literally: not going to the root of the matter).

Mary: In my country we don't use the question “Where are you going?” in this way as a greeting. Questions like “How old are you?” and “How much is your salary?” and “Where are you working?” are also not asked. Especially to a woman you must not ask her age. But in exchanges with Chinese people, it seems not to matter if you ask someone with whom you're fairly familiar these so-called “private questions”.

Xiao Wang: Yes. Chinese say “old gentleman” and “old comrade” to show respect for older people. But in some countries even elderly people don't like to hear the word “old”. Therefore in learning a language you must understand that nation's cultural traditions, customs and habits and the people's psychology. Doing this helps you improve your ability to use the language.

### Notes

#### 1. Time phrases.

A time phrase after a verb shows how long the action lasts, as in **Gōngrén měi tiān gōngzuò bā xiǎoshí** 工人每天工作八小时 (Workers work eight hours every day). If the sentence has an object, it can be said in two ways: **Wǒ xuéle wǔ nián hànyǔ** 我学了五年汉语 or **Wǒ xué hànyǔ xuéle wǔ nián** 我学汉语学了五年 (both mean: I have studied Chinese for five years).

#### 2. Asking about age.

For young people and children, **Nǐ duō dà** 你多大 (How old are you); for elderly people **suishu** 岁数 (age) is put at the end: **Nín duō dà suishu** 您多大岁数 (Nín is a polite form of nǐ.)

#### 3. Hǎo 好 for quite a lot.

It has this meaning when used before **duō** 多 (many) and **jǐ** 几 (a few). **Wǒ xuéle hǎo jǐ nián hànyǔ** 我学了好几年汉语 (I've studied Chinese for quite a few years); **Jīntiān wǒ jiā lái le hǎo duō kèrén** 今天我家来了好多客人 (Today quite a lot of guests come to my family).

### Everyday Expressions

1. 运用	yùnyòng	use, apply
运用词语	yùnyòng cíyǔ	use words
运用方法	yùnyòng fāngfǎ	use a method

灵活运用 **líng huó yùn yòng** flexible application

2. 爱 **ài** love, like  
 爱孩子 **ài hái zǐ** love children  
 爱劳动 **ài láo dòng** love labor  
 爱看电影 **ài kàn diǎn yǐng** like to see films
3. 笼统 **lǒng tǒng** general  
 笼统地说 **lǒng tǒng de shuō ...** generally speaking ...  
 笼统地解释 **lǒng tǒng de jiě shì** explain in general terms
4. 招呼 **zhāo hu** greet, say hello to; call  
 跟他打招呼 **gēn tā dǎ zhāo hu** say hello to him  
 招呼他 **zhāo hu tā** call him
5. 除了...以外 **chú le ... yǐ wài ...** besides, with the exception of  
 除了每天工作以外... **chú le měi tiān gōng zuò yǐ wài ...** besides working every day ...  
 除了红的以外... **chú le hóng de yǐ wài ...** with the exception of red ones ...

### Exercises

- Answer the following questions in Chinese.
  - How do you ask the age of a child? Of an older person?
  - Give several common greetings.
- Write Chinese characters for the pinyin.
  - 我有 **hǎo duō** 个中国朋友。
  - 这种花瓶太贵, 要 **hǎo jǐ** 块钱。
- Complete the following sentences using the time adverb in brackets.
  - 明天我不上班, 要休息\_\_\_\_\_。(一天)
  - 他在银行工作了\_\_\_\_\_。(二十年)
- Read the following passage.

有些国家人们在交往中一般都不问“去哪儿”、“多大年龄”、等等,可是在中国,人们见面经常把问“去哪儿”作为打招呼的一种方式。在中国说“老先生”、“老同志”,“老”表示对年纪大的人的尊敬,可有些国家老人也不爱听“老”字。的确,在不同的场合,对不同的对象,说的话,运用的语气都不一样。

## THE RETURN OF THE JADE

(Continued from p. 69)

he might never get the jade and relations between the two states would be affected. Reluctantly he allowed Lin Xiangru to return to Zhao.

THE Duke of Zhao was very pleased with Lin's feat and soon made him prime minister. Lin's promotion, however, was a source of great irritation to another minister, the renowned general Lian Po. Now Lian Po was really a very upright man who had rendered outstanding service to his

state, but he had one big shortcoming—he was vain and arrogant. He could not tolerate the fact that Lin Xiangru, from a poor family, should now hold a higher position than himself. He bad-mouthed Lin all over the place.

Lin tried to stay out of his way. At state meetings he deliberately avoided sitting on the same side as Lian Po so that it would not be too obvious that he took precedence in seating. One day when he was out in his chariot he saw Lian Po's chariot coming toward him along the narrow road. According to rank, Lian Po was supposed to pull over to let Lin, as a higher official, pass. But Lin ordered his driver to pull into a small side lane so that Lian Po could go first.

Lin Xiangru's subordinates could not understand his attitude toward Lian Po. "Do you think I'm afraid of him?" Lin said. "Was I afraid of the fierce Duke of Qin? I want to get along with Lian Po because we are both officials of Zhao. If we work together, Qin will not dare bully us, but if we're at odds, it will be easier for Qin to invade us."

These words reached Lian Po's ears. He was deeply moved and regretted the way he had acted. To express his apology, he took off his shirt and went to see Lin Xiangru. On his bare back was a load of the prickly branches of the "chastisement tree" used for whipping people. Kneeling before Lin, Lian Po said that he should not have let a matter like personal fame and fortune turn him against Lin Xiangru. "I did not recognize your magnanimity and am heartily sorry for what I have done. You have every right to scold me and beat me."

Lin, too, went down on his knees. "You are very hard on yourself, general. Let us share the burdens of state together." They embraced and after that worked side-by-side to build up and defend their state, so for a long time Qin did not dare to invade Zhao.

Told in Sima Qian's *Historical Records*, this became one of the best-known stories from Chinese history. A Peking opera, *The Reconciliation of the General and the Prime Minister*, based on it is still played today. □



Drawings by Lin Kai

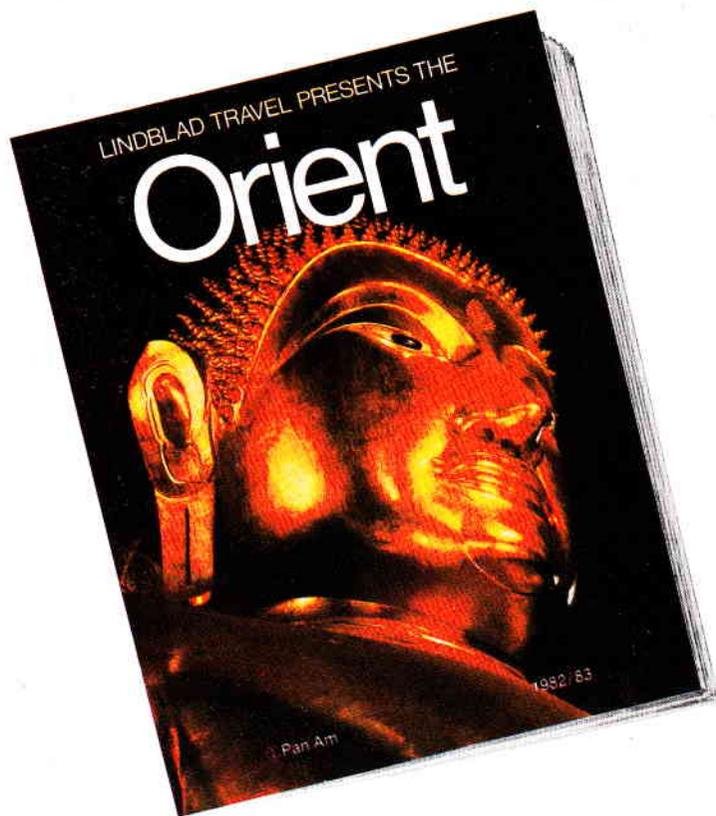
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China Reconstructs No. 10, 1982

International Drinking Water Decade

Cluster of Nine Planets



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Fire control



## STAMPS OF NEW CHINA

### Fire Control

A set of special stamps entitled "Fire Control" was issued on May 8, 1982.

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Both stamps measure 30 × 40 mm. *Perf.* 11.5 × 11. Color photogravured. Serial numbers: J. 76 (2-1) to (2-2).

### Cluster of Nine Planets

On March 10 and May 16, 1982, all nine planets of the solar system orbited into a relatively small fan-shaped area at one side of the sun. This astronomical phenomenon usually occurs only once every several hundred years. Two clusters in one year is most extraordinary. The event was marked by a special stamp entitled "Cluster of Nine Planets" issued on May 16, 1982 with a denomination of 8 *fen*. It measures 31 × 52 mm. *Perf.* 11.5. Color photogravured. Serial number: T. 78 (1-1).

### International Drinking Water Decade

The years 1981 to 1990 were designated by the 35th United Nations General Assembly in 1980 as "International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade," with "clean water and adequate sanitation for all by the year 1990" as the goal by the end of that time. In support, the Chinese Post Office has issued on March 1, 1982 a commemorative stamp entitled "International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade."

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