

China Reconstructs

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• **Everything for the Children**

• **Remembering
Soong Ching Ling**



• **CANTON OPERA'S NEW LOOK**

• **Workers' Life Improves**



Soong Ching Ling with some small friends.

Zhou Youma

VOL. XXXI NO. 6

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Ye Wanchang, national champion swimmer, coaches a little girl.	Zhou Youma

Articles of the Month



Children Are Everyone's Concern p. 4

The entire society is being mobilized to contribute to children's physical, intellectual and moral well-being.

In Memory of Soong Ching Ling p. 10 & 32

Activities commemorate the first anniversary of her death. The head of Shanghai's Children's Art Theater recalls founder Soong Ching Ling's involvement with their work.



Ending Leprosy in China p. 26

Dr. Ma Haide (George Hatem), who has helped wage this battle for decades, tells of the goal, the elimination of the disease by the year 2000, and of the advances already made.

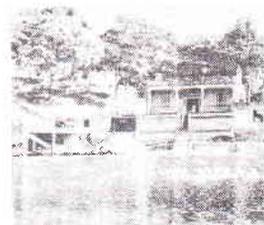


Canton Opera p. 12

A look at themes and traditions of this local opera style, samples of which will be seen shortly on a tour of North America.

Today's Xikou p. 18

Now flourishing, this country town in Fenghua county, Zhejiang province, was the ancestral home of Chiang Kai-shek and his son Chiang Ching-kuo, and in line with China's policy of national unification and reconciliation their home and the family tombs are well cared for.



'Smoke City' Cleans Up Its Air p. 30

Lanzhou in the northwest had a huge air pollution problem — and the will to do something about it.

Socialist Clean-up

IF people who have visited China in the past few years were to return today, they would find the cities cleaner and in better order. For instance, on the busy Beijing shopping street of Wangfujing, littering or spitting are seldom seen. These bad habits inherited from China's past had almost disappeared in the first post-liberation decade, but crept back into public life during the "cultural revolution."

People are politer, too. Buses are still overcrowded during rush hours, but today one rarely hears people pushing or quarreling. Shoppers in stores find more smiling faces behind the counters. Along the city's main boulevards, traffic is as busy as usual, but with much less blowing of horns and far fewer traffic violations and accidents.

These rapid improvements are due to the "Civic Pride and Courtesy Month," a nationwide campaign launched in March against the "Three Ds" — dirty environment, disorderly behavior of all kinds, and discourtesy in service.

Millions upon millions of Chinese, including Communist Party Chairman Hu Yaobang and Premier Zhao Ziyang, have turned out to sweep the streets. A series of regulations and educational programs have been set up to consolidate the progress made so far.

To us in China, this is not a trifling matter, but part of the long-term task of achieving a higher level of socialist ethics and morality. It institutionalizes the movement begun February last year to promote the "five stresses and four points of beauty" (stress on decorum, manners, hygiene, discipline and morals, and beautification of mind, language, behavior and environment). It has already helped greatly to improve the social atmosphere.

In the 1950s and the early 60s, foreign visitors were full of praise for the Chinese people's spirit of collectivism, their high moral values, and the good order in Chinese society. Unfortunately, these fine traditions were seriously undermined during the ten years of turmoil, and it will take time to restore them completely. But even minor things like eliminating littering and spitting are part of our determined efforts to achieve a high level of ethics while developing a higher standard of living. Ours is a socialist modernization — concerned with the spirit of caring for others, the collective and all society.

BUT cleaning up our streets is only a small part of building up a new socialist code of a conduct. We also must clean up all types of dishonesty and corruption. Cases of smuggling, bribery, graft and other

economic crimes are being exposed, investigated and punished. Some involve Party and state officials, even high-ranking ones. This is regarded as particularly serious, a breach of responsibility and faith by those entrusted by the people with leading positions. A number of these culprits have been tried and sentenced. Under new provisions of the criminal code adopted in a recent session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, serious economic crimes will be punishable with penalties ranging up to death. The drive nationwide against corruption has won strong popular support. In some cities people set off strings of firecrackers to celebrate the arrest of a particularly notorious official.

A basic cause of the increasing economic crimes is the erosion of the Communist Party's style of work during the ten years of disorder. Though crime of all kinds is not nearly as prevalent as in some capitalist countries, in a socialist land the increase is intolerable. Things began to turn for the better in recent years, but the after-effects remain. It will be some time before a return to high standards occurs.

Another reason is the influx of unhealthy tendencies as a by-product of our open-door policy in economic and cultural exchanges with the West, coupled with abuse of flexible economic policies at home. The influx of foreign luxuries has been a strong temptation to mercenary practices by some people who seek privileged access to these goods. The advantages of open-door policies for China's modernization are obvious and not subject to change. We want to import modern techniques and ideas, but not the diseases of modern societies.

An old Chinese saying goes, "when a rat runs across the street, everybody cries, 'kill it!'" China is fighting economic crimes in order to clear the road for socialist modernization. The new feature is that every case is dealt with strictly according to law and established policies, not by the upheaval of mass movements. Commentators abroad who try to portray the anti-corruption drive as a new "purge" or "power struggle" misunderstand, or distort, the underlying reality. □



Young Pioneers during 'Civic Pride and Courtesy Month.'
Papercut by Hu Xizeng



Soong Ching Ling

Your supplement in memory of Soong Ching Ling impressed me deeply. This woman fighter working for China's liberation is not well known here. She carried on with strength and firmness the cause pioneered by Dr. Sun Yat-sen. I have added this supplement and the *Pictorial Biography of Lu Xun* (published by the Beijing People's Fine Arts Publishing House) to my bookcase.

RUDOLF DIETRICH

Attenburg, German Democratic Republic

Socialist Economy

"Basic Forms in the Socialist Economy" (January 1982) is well-written and accurately explains the logic of economic mechanisms and the aims of China's new policies. It also points out the impossibility of analyzing and transforming the economy through a homogeneous economic pattern. China has made great progress, has abandoned a rigid and inflexible attitude and is doing things in a more logical and concrete manner.

The article makes proper use of figures to elucidate its points. Moreover, it is appropriate to put the story in the middle of the magazine. A polit-

ical and economic article in the first pages would bore readers.

ANTONIO DELGADO MIJE
Sevilla, Spain

We've wondered how important it is to put "appealing" articles up front. Do people read from front to back or simply turn to what interests them most? Readers' opinions would be most welcome.

— Ed.

Edgar Snow

Thank you for remembering Edgar Snow in the February issue. Without that brave man's *Red Star Over China* none of us would have known the truth about Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Zhu De and others. Never in the history of mankind has so much been done for humanity.

China Reconstructs has over the years kept me enlightened on the great progress China has made.

PIERRE A. QUIN

Oaxaca, Mexico

Tell Both Sides

I was delighted to read the sentence "Students have gradually learned not to accept unquestioningly the conclusions of even the most famous historian" in the article "Fudan University: New Clubs, New Ideas" (October 1981). This is not a big thing, but shows a positive evolution of mentality.

I cannot stress enough how much more credible your articles appear when they don't limit themselves to the good

sides of things—a systematic criticism in the West of news reports from the East.

JEAN-MARC BORIE
Parmain, France

Population

I have carefully read the article "Population Planning in China" in your February 1982 issue. In my opinion China's policy toward her population is one of great importance. So I hope that you will be able to coordinate your efforts to achieve the goal. This will not only benefit the Chinese people, but also gladden those who are concerned about the people's welfare.

RAFAEL CASTRO MENDOZA
Chepen, Peru

Tianma: "Heavenly Hemp"

Together with 24 others from the Singapore Shipping Association, I toured your lovely country in November and bought some of the medicinal herb *Tianma* on the advice of colleagues, who heard that it is good and very scarce. One of them even told me that *Tianma* given to children would improve their intelligence.

As we are all unsure of what the herb should be used for, it is a nice coincidence to come across the article about Dr. Xu Jintang's work on *Tianma* (November 1981).

Your fine magazine is most interesting for those who are eager to know more about China.

CHAN KIM LIM
Singapore



Children spruce up a traffic control box. Xiao Li

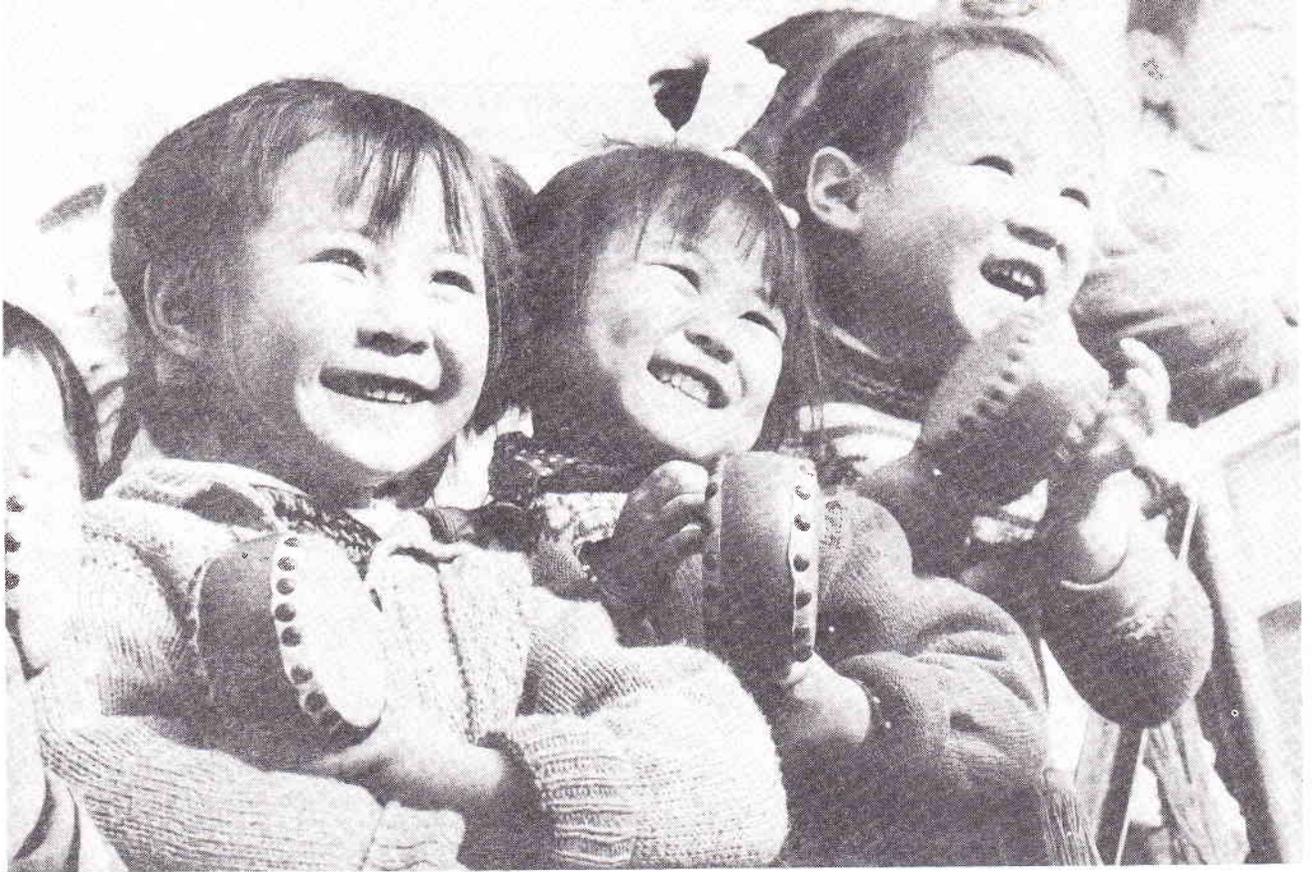
Sketchbook

'Please take this seat, Old Comrade!'

Yang Dian'an



Everyone turns out to clean up public places. Hong Huang



In Fengyang county, home of the famous flower-drum opera, tots get their first lessons on the local instrument.

Yu Xingbao

Children Are Everyone's Concern

HU DEHUA

CHILDREN under 15 account for 300 million of China's population. They are the flower and future of the country.

The All-China Women's Federation and other groups have in the past few years launched a coordinated effort to improve all work concerned with children's physical, intellectual and moral welfare. A liaison committee composed of representatives of a number of government departments and citizens' voluntary organizations has been formed, with chairman of the Women's Federation Kang Keqing as its head. The State Economic Commission has helped establish a group specially concerned with the production of children's food, clothes, toys and other daily necessities. A Children's Culture

and Art Association has been set up with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture.

Food for Young Minds

A new children's film studio in Beijing, with renowned film actress Yu Lan as its director, is now producing films for young people. Last year some 180 of the general-circulation films were judged suitable for children, and in addition there were a number made specially for them; 9 feature films, 25 documentaries, 33 stage adaptations of children's plays, and 16 on science. Television programs for children have increased to 27.

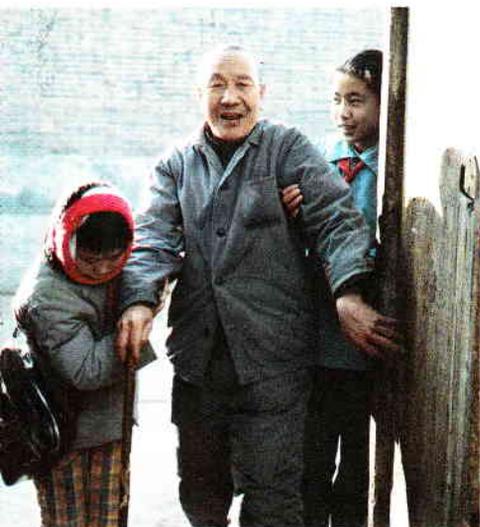
One popular new film from the children's studio is *Su Xiaosan*, about a street urchin who becomes a dedicated guerrilla fighter. Since hero Su Xiaosan is at one point a street performer, the film's

director visited a dozen acrobatic troupes before he found young apprentice Chen Xiaolei to play the title role.

The year 1981 also saw a new high for publication of children's books — 2,500 new titles published, 100 more than in 1980. There are now five children's publishing houses around the country, and general publishers elsewhere have upped their output of books for young people. Editors specializing in such books have increased from 200 to 600 in just three years.

Books are often issued in series, and there are now 70 such series for various age groups. Eighty-four volumes of the *Junior Encyclopedia* have been published; the whole set will run to 200 volumes. Young readers have snapped it up, and parents and teachers regard it as invaluable in introducing young

HU DEHUA is secretary of the All-China Women's Federation Secretariat.



Young Pioneers are expected to help others.
Liu Chen



At Weihai Park in Shandong province.
Zhou Youma



At a national children's performing festival.
Liu Chen



Liu Li, one of Beijing's Young Pioneers.

Liu Chen



Fang Bihui, a specially awarded teacher, with her students. *Liu Chen*

After-school reading in Hefei, capital of Anhui province. *Xie Jun*



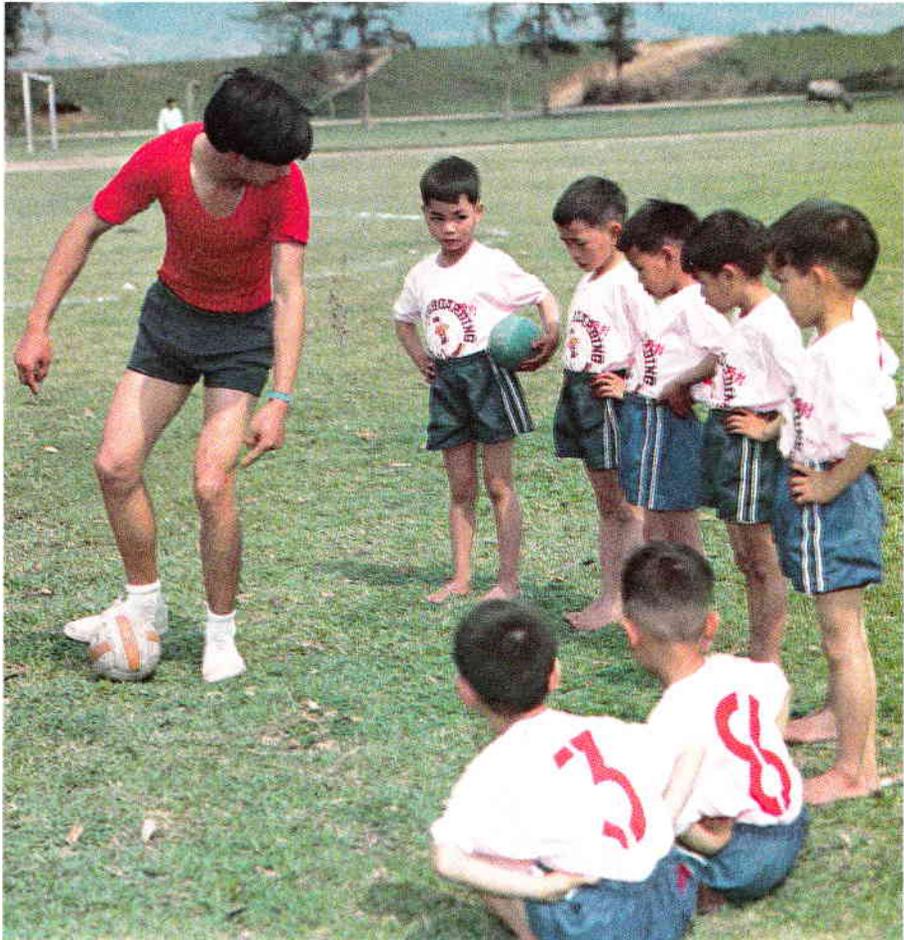
Minority nationality students observing sunspots at the Beijing Planetarium. *Liu Chen*





A girl from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region competes in the 1979 national skiing contest.
Guan Tianyi

Students spend some of their spare time in public service projects.
Liu Chen



Small footballers from Meixian county, Guangdong province, listen attentively to their coach.
Zhou Youma

Liu Zongxin, 13-year-old Peking Opera student, is made up for the role of an ancient general.





Filming an outdoor scene for 'Brother Yingsheng' made by the China Children's Film Studio.

Care from birth: Babies suffering from jaundice receive a form of phototherapy at the International Peace Maternity and Child Health Hospital run by the China Welfare Institute in Shanghai.

Yang Botao



people to the world of knowledge. Last summer, when the Central TV Station sponsored a series of quiz contests for middle-school students, all nineteen top winners were dedicated readers of the encyclopedia.

All this activity is in sharp contrast to the years of the "cultural revolution," when nearly all children's books and periodicals were eliminated. Today, in addition to 13 special newspapers, there are over 60 children's magazines. The respected *Chinese Children's Journal*, founded 30 years ago, now has a circulation of 11.1 million copies. One out of every three or four children in China's cities is a subscriber, as are a large number in the countryside and readers in Hongkong, Macao and countries of Southeast Asia.

The Journal was the Chinese organizer for international poetry and writing contests recently sponsored by UNESCO and the International Postal Union. Millions of entries were received from all over the country. Nine-year-old Liu Qianqian from Hunan province was national winner of the poetry contest, and 14-year-old Zhao Shuang from Xinjiang won a gold medal in the International Postal Union contest for her "A Postwoman's Day" (see January 1981 and March 1982 *China Reconstructs*).

Serving Children

Hundreds of new "children's palaces" have been set up — centers for extracurricular sports and recreation, scientific and cultural activities. In addition, there are thousands of smaller neighborhood children's centers. In Beijing the Guan Yuan, a former private residence with spacious grounds, is being converted into such a center. It will have its own auditorium and movie house, facilities for all sorts of games, art studios, laboratories and workshops.

The newly formed Children's Daily Necessity Association is organizing experts all over the country to do research on and guide production of better foodstuffs, clothes and toys for children. Brain-teasing puzzle cubes, cylinders and rods are now in mass pro-

To Mold the Future

Song Ching Ling

Work with children is always work to mold the future, for it is to the young that the future belongs. Therefore, it is the duty of the older generation not only to win the battles for progress in their own time, but to prepare the succeeding generations to take up the struggle and carry it forward under new conditions.

In this process of preparation, material surroundings are important, and as a rule the best should go to the children. But much more important is the ideological instruction of the young people. They must be given a purpose in life, one which links their individual future with that of the advancement of all mankind. Standards derived from a correct world outlook must be set up for them whereby they can judge between right and wrong, between the just and the unjust, between truth and untruth. Above all, they must absorb the lessons of man's long history of struggle, in which he has fought against all odds to rid the relations of man to man of exploitation, oppression and war.

(From "Bringing Up Builders of Communism," June 1963 *China Reconstructs*)

duction. Toy factories have geared up to turn out more and better playthings of all kinds; Liaoning province has tripled its 1980 output. In some cities, vitamin-fortified cakes and candies are being produced experimentally.

Inspired by the national call to do more for children, people everywhere have given their special skills and resources, and their spare time, to the service of young people. Engineers at the Beijing Nonferrous Metals Design and Research Institute turned their talents to designing a number of new amusement park rides — such as Rocket to the Moon, Flying Elephant, Galloping Horse and Snow Sledge — which are gradually being installed in parks across China. Urban workers have designed and made many toys and teaching aids; rural people have refurbished village kindergarten quarters; parents everywhere have volunteered to be story tellers and school helpers.

Medical personnel, in coordination with schools, have set up new systems for regular check-ups and keeping of health records. New

emphasis has been placed on detection, prevention and care of such problems as trachoma, spinal deformation and parasites. Dental and eye care have improved.

Early Childhood Education

In-depth research on problems of the crucial period from infancy to age six have been undertaken at the urging of the Women's Federation and government bodies, and greater efforts are being made to help parents understand this stage of growth.

There are now more and better nurseries and kindergartens. To augment the public and collective ones, some private ones have been formed, mostly run by retired teachers and cadres who want to contribute their remaining years to the fostering of the younger generation.

One of these is Zhang Shuqin, a retiree from the Harbin No. 1 Alcohol Factory. She discovered that children of working parents in her neighborhood were not getting adequate care. With her husband's consent, she turned part of their

(Continued on p. 15)

Soong Ching Ling Remembered

Staff Reporter

MAY 29 this year was the first anniversary of the death of Soong Ching Ling (Madame Sun Yat-sen), Honorary President of the People's Republic of China and founder of *China Reconstructs*. During the past year people all over the country have found many ways of commemorating this beloved patriot and stateswoman and recalling her life of service to the Chinese people. They include films, plays, a permanent exhibition and the opening of her residence as a national memorial.

Films and Teleplays

Our late Premier Zhou Enlai once called Soong Ching Ling "the

gem of the nation," and this became the title of an hour-long documentary on her life, one of six made to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the 1911 Revolution last October. *Soong Ching Ling — Gem of the Nation* vividly brought out her role as Dr. Sun Yat-sen's closest comrade-in-arms and reliable aide, and her dedication to carrying out his revolutionary ideals.

Not long ago noted film star Bai Yang, preparing to play Soong Ching Ling in an upcoming film, visited many of her old friends to seek details of her life and personality. The film will focus on Soong Ching Ling's struggles for

the revolutionary cause from the death of Sun Yat-sen in 1925. Veteran actress Bai, conscious of the historic importance of the role, is determined that her portrayal will do justice to the reality and spirit of this great woman.

A new TV play shown early this year, *A White Handkerchief*, through the story of how Soong Ching Ling rescued and helped raise two orphans of revolutionary martyrs, demonstrates her love and concern for the younger generation. She has also been featured in other literary and dramatic works. The film *Dong Biwu — A Veteran Revolutionary* tells how Communist leader Dong Biwu (1885-1975) and Soong Ching Ling fought against and publicly repudiated those members of the Kuomintang who betrayed Sun Yat-sen's principles in 1927 by breaking the united front between the two parties and massacring many Communists and other revolutionaries.

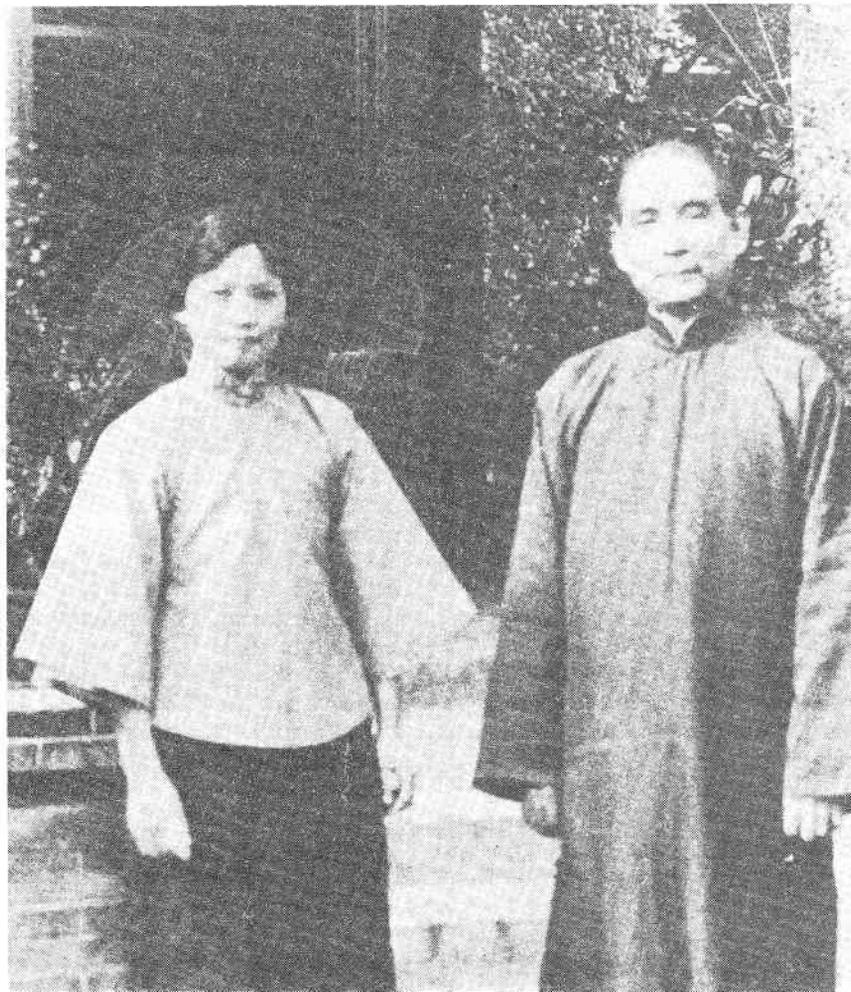
Books and Albums

A clothbound volume, *In Memory of Soong Ching Ling*, was recently issued by the People's Publishing House. It includes a biography with some 90 photos, articles by close friends and leading personalities in many fields, and tributes from foreign leaders at the time of her death.

In the 1950s and 1960s this same publishing house printed some of Soong Ching Ling's own writings, including *The Struggle for New China* and *Selected Works*. New editions are planned, in which some previously unpublished material will be added.

The Cultural Relics Publishing House is preparing a picture album,

Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Soong Ching Ling in Shanghai, 1922.





On a 1955 visit to India, Soong Ching Ling is greeted by delegates from 26 women's groups.

also called *In Memory of Soong Ching Ling*, with some 400 photographs of her life and activities, detailed explanatory notes, a brief biography and a chronology. Because her life was so closely linked with China's 20th century history, this documentary evidence will be important in future studies of the long struggles of China's democratic and socialist revolutions.

Monuments and Exhibitions

Soong Ching Ling's tomb in Shanghai's International Cemetery was completed and opened to the public in July last year. In addition to a great many Chinese visitors, a number of overseas Chinese, compatriots from Hongkong, Macao and Taiwan and foreign friends have come to pay their respects. The Shanghai municipal government is now enlarging the Soong family graveyard and planting evergreens and shrubs such as

camphor, red plum and cassia — all favorites of Soong Ching Ling. There will be a square in front of her tomb where visitors can gather.

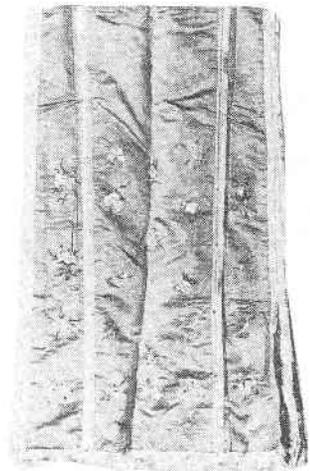
Both the Shanghai tomb and Soong Ching Ling's residence in Beijing have been made national memorial sites. The residence has been opened to the public, along with the Shanghai home where she lived with Sun Yat-sen, as well as for years afterwards. At the Beijing house, many personal mementoes and hundreds of photographs are on display. Folk artists in Tianjin and other places have designed craft pieces in styles she particularly liked, including duplicates of her paintings on embroidered handkerchiefs and porcelain plaques.

People at home and abroad have sent treasured mementoes to be part of the display. One in particular shows her great generosity and concern for international solidarity. It comes from Roger

Ariyoshi, son of the American friend of China Koji Ariyoshi, who had visited Yan'an during the Anti-Japanese War and was later imprisoned at home because he defied McCarthyism. At that time Soong Ching Ling sent her own wedding gown to the family, asking that it be sold to raise funds for a legal defense. Greatly moved, they stored it away, and Roger presented it to the Chinese government when he visited China in 1981.

From many quarters came other donations. They included not only many of her letters but also wrappers, addressed in her own handwriting, to friends in the U.S. to whom she mailed *China Reconstructs* — as she did to scores of them each month for many years.

The display at her Beijing residence opened on the first anniversary of her death. Invited to the inaugural ceremonies were government leaders, notables from many fields, and friends and relatives, including some now living abroad. The exhibit has two sections. One gives a chronological view of her family, childhood, youth, marriage and revolutionary activities. The second covers her efforts after 1949 in government posts, in work on behalf of women, child welfare and world peace, and in founding and carrying on *China Reconstructs*. □



The wedding gown Soong Ching Ling once donated to raise funds for an old American friend of China.

Cultural Relics Publishing House

Canton Opera

PENG SHOUHUI

A *yueju* opera troupe from Guangdong province is on tour in North America this month at the invitation of people of Chinese origin living in the United States and Canada. Here is a brief outline of this type of opera — known to many English speakers as Canton opera after the capital of the province, Guangzhou (Canton).

Yueju originated some 160 years ago in the time of the Emperors Yong Zheng and Dao Guang (early 18th to early 19th centuries) of the Qing dynasty. It gradually evolved out of the local operas of several other provinces and the folksongs of Guangdong. It is the most popular of the local opera forms in the *yue* dialect regions of Guangdong and Guangxi.

As increasing numbers of Guangdong people began to go overseas to make a living in the mid-18th century, *yueju* began to appear abroad. In fact it is found wherever people from Guangdong live in fairly large communities —

PENG SHOUHUI is a reporter for Yangcheng Evening News in Guangzhou, Guangdong province.

Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, the United States, Canada, Mexico and Cuba.

Experts on *yueju* estimate that there were about 5,000 items in the traditional repertoire, of which 1,500 are extant today. In subject matter, *yueju* is grouped under the headings of history and legends, local stories, actual life, and foreign themes. Classified according to form, there are the "originals," the "excerpts," the "outline operas" (in which the actors improvise as they go along on a basic outline story), and the "new improved" types.

MANY of the basic melodies (*changqiang*) originated in the operas of Anhui and Hubei provinces and Peking opera. A special feature of *yueju*, however, is its frequent use of folk melodies and music of Guangdong and other southern provinces, with verses of the opera dubbed in. New tunes are also written.

Another feature of *yueju* is the inclusion of western instruments in the orchestra. Early orchestras

consisted of traditional Chinese instruments such as the *erxian* (two-stringed guitar), *sanxian* (three-stringed guitar), *yueqin* (moon-shaped guitar) and drums. By the 20th century, however, saxophones, cellos and violins began to appear, considerably improving the quality of the music. The *erhu*, a two-stringed fiddle with a mellow, expressive tone, has also become important.

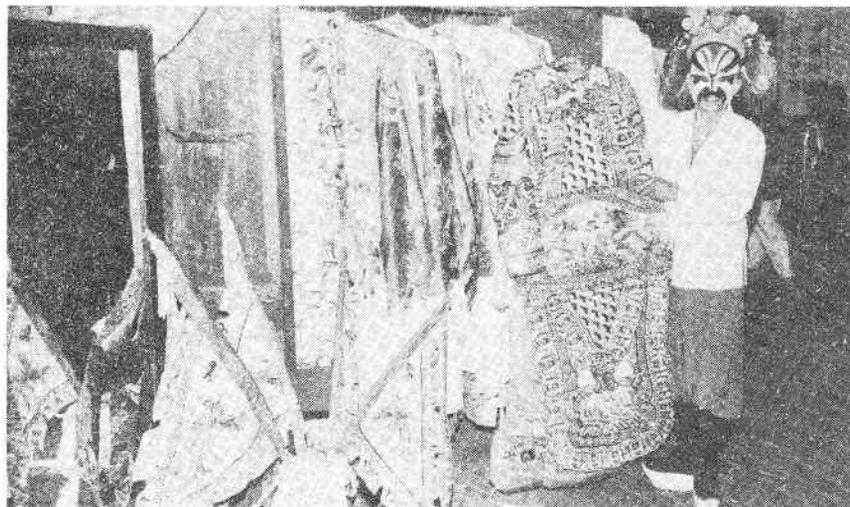
This contrasts with the rather fixed and rigid formulas governing the composition of many other types of opera ensembles. The *yueju* accompaniment is subdivided into the wind-and-string and percussion sections. Gongs, cymbals and drums serve to unify the tempo of the opera and highlight dramatic moments. It is said that a good orchestra is half of the opera.

The hand-to-hand combat, gymnastics, posture, "high-platform" acrobatics and Shaolin boxing in *yueju* are based on the style of martial arts popular in south China. The *wusheng* (martial role) actors also lay stress on *qi-gong* (special breathing exercises) and control of facial muscles. *Yueju* actors also practice eye movements and the swirling of long hairpieces.

Yueju has undergone many modifications and improvements since the founding of the new China in 1949. In 1956, after watching *Searching the School*, the late Premier Zhou Enlai described this opera form as the "ormosia of the South" — after those exquisite, brightly colored beans used for decorative purposes in the southern part of China.

THE opera suffered heavily during the "cultural revolution" — in fact, virtually ceased to exist. It revived again in 1976.

For its North American tour the Yueju Troupe of Guangdong



A 'painted face' actor with the elaborate general's costume he will wear onstage.



A 'xiao sheng' (young man) role played by Chen Xiaofeng.



Hong Hong plays a 'qing yi' (young woman) role.



Hong Xiannu as Jiao Guiying in the opera 'Burning Incense.'



'The Pampered Princess,' with Hong Hong as Princess Feng Xia (sixth right).



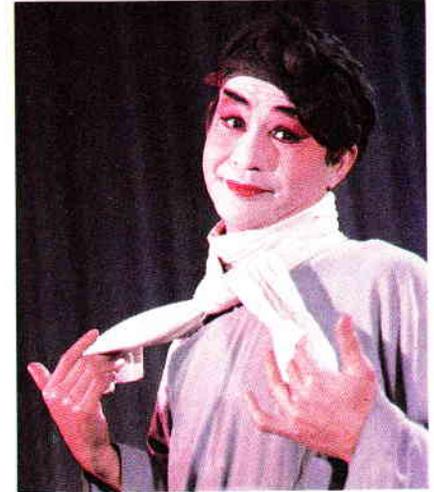
Huang Zhiming in stage general's regalia in a 'wu sheng' (warrior) role.



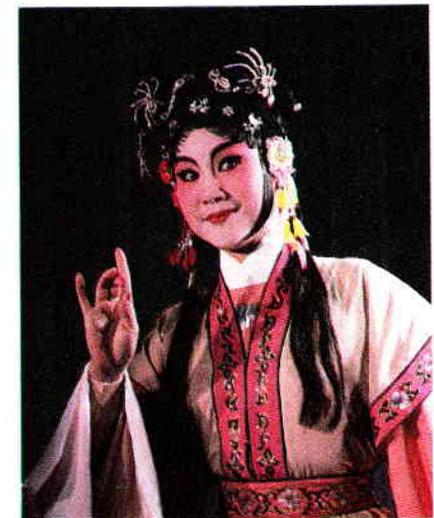
Ye Weixiong strikes a pose in a 'hua lian' (painted face) part.

Scene from 'Searching the School,' with Hong Xiannu as Cui Lian (left) and Chen Xiaofeng as Zhang Yimin.

The versatile Huang Zhiming in a 'chou sheng' (clown or petty villain) role.



A 'xiao dan' (pert young girl) played by Luo Chuhua.



selected four full-length operas and six excerpts. The full-length ones are *Searching the School*, *Burning Incense*, *The Beauty and the General* and *Lotus Lantern*.

Searching the School is representative of the new-type *yueju* operas of the post-liberation period. It was adapted from an "outline opera" of the *qiong* opera of Hainan Island and has been made into a film. For the tour, noted *yueju* performers Hong Xiannu and Chen Xiaofeng have been cast in the leading female and male roles. Their singing is rich and subtle.

The leading role in the excerpt *Li Huiniang* is played by Hong Hong, who is Hong Xiannu's daughter and an up-and-coming actress. To do a good job in the scene *Rescuing Scholar Pei* she paid a special visit to actress Hu Zhifeng who plays that role in Beijing opera.

Other *yueju* performers on the North American tour are veteran actor Liang Jincheng, well-known for his broad repertoire and fluent delivery, the famous *xiaosheng* (young man role) actor Lu Yan-sheng, and young actor Huang Zhiming. □

The drummer is the director of the Canton opera orchestra.

Photos by Zhang Shuicheng



Children Are Everyone's Concern

(Continued from p. 9)

house into a kindergarten, collecting a small fee to cover expenses. By the end of the year she had 160 children, employed 16 young women as aides, and had acquired an organ, accordion, tape-recorder, washing machine and some quilts. The children are well fed, well clothed and cared for, and have even begun to learn reading and writing. Now more neighborhood parents want to send their children there, and the Harbin government has allocated 30,000 yuan to build a two-story building which will accommodate 300 children.

The quality of preschool education has increased with the employment of more middle-school graduates as teachers (previously, many kindergarten staff members were older women with little education). The Women's Federation has helped organize training courses for nursery and kindergarten personnel.

About three-fourths of China's children, however, do not attend nurseries or kindergartens, but are cared for at home. Across the nation, nineteen family education research groups have been set up whose special concern is the welfare of these children. In many areas, committees of experts and experienced parents have been formed to discuss problems and make reports. Films and TV programs on child care have been produced, and books such as *The Family Education Encyclopedia* and *Essentials for Parents*.

The Beijing Women's Federation has organized meetings for textile workers at which "model mother" reports are delivered and discussed. Fathers as well as mothers are eager to attend, and meetings are packed.

The Children's Fund

The China Children's Fund was formed in July 1981. Its sponsors include the Women's Federation, the All-China Overseas Chinese Association, the All-China Association of Industry and Commerce and

eight other organizations. The Children's Fund will be used for such things as children's libraries, science labs and sports and recreational facilities.

Some government departments, enterprises and institutions donated their 1981 surplus administrative expenses to the fund. Seventeen theatrical troupes and many renowned performers held benefit performances. Well-known painters contributed paintings to be sold for the cause. Letters expressed the donors' warm concern. Wang Wei, a PLA soldier stationed in the northwest border region, wrote: "My monthly subsidy is not much, but please accept this 50 yuan as my gift for the children."

An anonymous 400 yuan donation came with the note, "This is what I saved while studying and working abroad. The children are more in need of money." Wu Muzhen, a peasant woman from Shazhou county, Jiangsu province, sent money she'd been going to spend on new clothes. Her letter said, "I want to show my concern for the next generation. I hope they grow up quickly and play a part in making our country prosperous."

Hemp-spinning expert Feng Yunhe donated the 1,000 yuan award he had won for a new invention. Liu Ying, a woman Red Army cadre, gave her life savings of 40,000 yuan. A brother and sister named Li from the Central Party School contributed 3,800 yuan they inherited from their mother.

China's children are living up to the hopes and expectations of their elders. Moving stories about primary school pupils caring for elderly people or handicapped classmates have appeared in many newspapers. Children were among the vanguard in the nationwide "Civic Pride and Courtesy Month" last March. Young Pioneers are often to be found cleaning streets and alleys, or otherwise improving the public environment. They have also been very active in the national tree-planting campaign. Like young trees themselves, they are growing straight and healthy under the loving care of the gardeners. □

Streamlining the Government Structure

A SWEEPING REFORM of China's government organizations to overcome bureaucratic tendencies and facilitate modernization has been underway since early this year. The State Council's restructuring plan, approved by the National People's Congress, is being realized step by step. The process of change has been orderly and systematic, with routine work in various fields being carried on as usual. Current plans call for the administrative structure in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions to be streamlined next year.

Aims of Reform

The purpose of restructuring is to get rid of the intolerably low efficiency resulting from over-staffed and overlapping administrations which have become barriers to rapid national progress in many fields. Clear and reasonable divisions of work are being established. At the same time, overage officials are being encouraged to retire and new age limits being set so that members of leading bodies will gradually become younger, more educated and professionally more competent.

According to the plan, at the top levels there will be two vice-premiers instead of the present 13. A new standing committee of the State Council comprising the premier, vice-premiers, a number of state councilors and a secretary general is being set up. The committee will make decisions on important work and provide leadership. The newly designated position of state councilor will be equal to that of vice-premier. Some standing committee members will also head ministries or commissions. When necessary, state councilors may be in charge of work in certain fields or of some special task of great importance. They may also re-

present the premier in diplomatic activities.

Ministries and commissions under the State Council have been burdened with too many deputy-heads, many of them advanced in years. Among the one minister and 20 vice-ministers of the Third Ministry of Machine-Building, eight were over 65 and the oldest over 70. The same was true, to varying degrees, in other ministries. The State Council plan stipulates the number of vice-ministers should be between two and four. At the next lower level, the directors and deputy directors of each department or bureau will also total two or three. Under normal conditions, the age limit for a minister will be 65, and for vice-ministers and department or bureau directors, 60.

The plan is to abolish and merge overlapping organizations. The 98 ministries, commissions and agencies under the State Council will be merged and reduced to 52, and their staff cut by one-third.

A Good Start

By March, twelve ministries or commissions had been restructured.

The Ministry of Power Industry and the Ministry of Water Conservancy were merged into the new Ministry of Water Conservancy and Power.

The Ministry of Commerce, the All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives and the Ministry of Food became the Ministry of Commerce.

The State Import and Export Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Economic Relations with Foreign Countries and the State Foreign Investment Commission were merged into the new Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

The Ministries of Chemical, Coal, Textile and Light Industries re-

main as before, but their internal structure has been simplified and staff reduced.

The total number of ministers and vice-ministers in these units has been reduced from 117 to 27, the original 180 departments and bureaus reduced to 112, and the 617 department and bureau directors and deputy directors to 304. The average age of the ministers has dropped from 64 to 57. That of department and bureau directors is down from 59 to 53. Leading cadres who have attended college have increased by 17 percent. Overall, staff has been cut by 33 percent.

The new Minister of Water Conservancy and Power, Qian Zhengying, and one of her three vice-ministers are among the country's top professionals in this field. In the Ministry of Coal Industry, the average age of the five top leaders is 54. Two of the vice-ministers are new — young men with impressive professional qualifications promoted from grassroots units. One is Ye Qing, 49. A graduate of Huainan Mining School in Anhui province, he has been a chief engineer and deputy director of a bureau of mines. The other is Hu Fuguo, 44, who graduated in 1964 from Fuxin Mining Institute in the northeast and has worked as a technician, engineer, director of a coal mine and deputy director of the Shanxi Provincial Coal Management Bureau. Before coming to the ministry, he acted as director of the Xishan Bureau of Mines in the same province.

Liu Yi, 51, the new Minister of Commerce, headed financial and trade departments in Shandong province in east China for many years before becoming a vice-minister under the old structure. Vice-Premier Chen Muhua, 61, heads the newly established Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade. She has held



Hu Fuguo (left), new Vice-Minister in charge of coal, talks with model worker Hou Zhanyou of the Kailuan Coal Mines in Tangshan.

Shao Hongjie



New Minister of Commerce Liu Yi (center) and Vice-Minister Jiang Xi (right) examine baked goods during a conference on production of Western-style light refreshments.

Bai Liansuo

leading positions in this field for more than 20 years.

The restructuring of the twelve units has proceeded smoothly and set an example for other ministries. The task of streamlining the State Council will probably be accomplished earlier than anticipated.

Fitting Tasks to Abilities

Depending on age and health, redundant personnel will retire, serve their old departments as advisors or attend special training courses to renew their professional and managerial skills.

After retirement, veteran cadres will still have access to certain documents and the right to participate in certain meetings, and enjoy the same welfare benefits. The state hopes that they will continue to pass on their knowledge to the younger generation in various ways. Those who have financial difficulties will be given subsidies by the state.

Those who become advisors, freed from day-to-day administrative tasks, can concentrate on investigations of various kinds, research and other special assignments.

These veteran cadres have made many contributions to the Chinese revolution and socialist construction. Setting the interests of the state above everything else, they

have warmly supported the important decision to streamline the government structure. Beginning in October 1980, 15 aging vice-ministers of the Third Ministry of Machine-Building and the Ministry of Coal Industry resigned from their posts either to retire or to become advisors. Their applications for retirement were approved by the State Council.

As for staff reductions, all units have been given target figures, some of which have now been met. The new Ministry of Water Conservancy and Power now has a staff of 720, a 50 percent reduction. Except for the veteran cadres who retired or remained as advisors, the excess personnel are now being rotated through a series of training courses and temporary job assignments, after which their records will be assessed before permanent assignments are made. Later remaining ministry personnel will attend courses so as to raise the quality of their work overall. Other ministries are gradually doing the same.

Increasing Efficiency

The streamlined administrative structure and procedures are beginning to show results. Formerly, approval of proposed technical projects used to take months. Each city's or province's plans had to be submitted first to the State

Council's industrial and communications departments, which approved and passed them on to the State Economic Commission. But that was not the end, for a number of other bureaus and departments—such as the Ministry of Finance, the General Bureau of Materials and the People's Bank—had to be consulted. Plans traveled from office to office, with many delays as questions were raised and consultations held.

Early this year a new system went into effect. Officials from a number of ministries and departments met together to consider the plans of each locality in turn. Problems were solved on the spot and approvals given. For Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin, the whole process took about five days apiece. Most of the plans of the provinces and autonomous regions required no more than ten days for final approval.

Altogether about 3,000 renovating plans were reviewed and approved in a very short period. Thus the various local authorities could immediately get started on the projects instead of waiting for months while the plans dragged themselves through different, bureaucratic levels.

Examples like this will undoubtedly multiply as the reform of the administrative structure continues. □



Today's Xikou.

Yu Defu

Chiang Kai-shek's Hometown Progresses

ZHEN SHAN

XIKOU is an attractive coastal town in Fenghua county, Zhejiang province. Picturesque in scenery and rich in resources, it is the ancestral home of Chiang Ching-kuo, top man of the Kuomintang in Taiwan and his father Chiang Kai-shek. Like all China, it has moved forward greatly.

The town is entered through the Wuling Gate, an arched structure with the flying eaves of the south. Left of this is Wuling Hill, beautiful with trees and flower-lined walks, and the newly-restored Leting (Happy Pavilion). Here stand the ruins of Wenchang Tower, which was bombed during the War of Resistance Against Japan. From the top of the ruins one can see mulberry trees and bamboo groves south of the river. Under

the Diaoyu (Fishing) Bridge nearby, the water is so clear that countless fish are easily seen.

NOT far away is the old Chiang family home; the tomb of Mao Fumei, mother of Chiang Ching-kuo; and the tomb of Chiang Kai-shek's own mother. It is these places that Communist Party Chairman Hu Yaobang recently invited Chiang Ching-kuo to return to visit in the effort to speed the reunification of China.

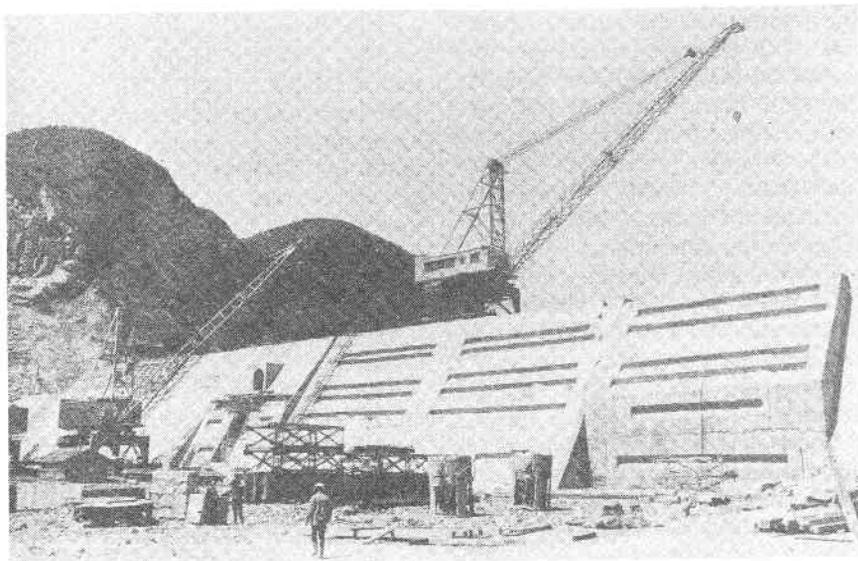
Perhaps the best scenic spot in the Xikou area, the Miaogao Terrace, is reached along a winding road. Here, among sheer cliffs and overhanging rocks, a thundering waterfall plunges a thousand feet, paints rainbows around a great rock, then drops again. From a small bridge, a cool spray strikes the faces of onlookers.

Xikou's one street stretches about a mile along the Shanxi River. Thirty years ago there were only a few small shops selling rice, salt, cloth and household articles. Apart from a school and the Chiang home, the houses were old and simple.

Today the town is different. There are many new buildings. Several dozen shops and a department store sell a great variety of goods. A hotel, restaurant and theater add to the signs of prosperity.

Tingxia reservoir at the foot of Xuedou mountains.

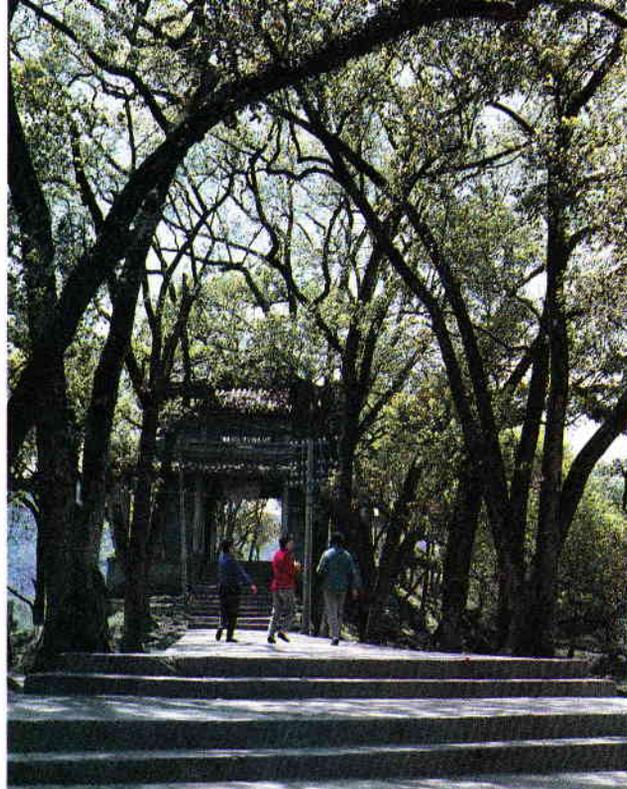
Xinhua







A waterfall plunges down into Sanyin Pool. *Xie Jun*



Leting (Happy Pavilion). *Xie Jun*



Nimble-fingered workers at the Xikou Embroidery Factory. *Xie Jun*



Xikou Silk Mill. *Xie Jun*

In the old days there were only a few small manufacturing shops and only 50 workers. Today, 30 factories make farm machinery, microelectric instruments, plastics, embroidered silk and food products, some of which are sold abroad. Six of these factories, run by the county, have 1,400 workers.

Across the river in the foothills of Mount Wuling, a 153-million-cubic-meter reservoir built with state funds will be completed this year. It will irrigate large areas of farmland, provide power for factories and homes, and supply water to nearby cities and towns.

Xikou has not just built factories. It has also taken big steps in culture, education and health care. In the old society there were only 600 students. There are now 2,400. Balanced progress is making the town a good place to live. □



Tomb of Mao Fumei, mother of Chiang Ching-kuo.

Ye Lin

The Medicinal Herb Angelica

DENG QUANSHI

ANGELICA (*danggui*) is a herb often included in a prescription using Chinese traditional medicines.

Taking three years to mature, the herb produces a large, fleshy root having a slight bittersweet taste. It has a mildly supportive function in treating abnormal menstruation, rheumatism, ulcers, bruises, fractures and strains.

Angelica is grown widely in Gansu, Sichuan, Yunnan, Shaanxi, Guizhou and Hubei provinces. But that raised in Gansu's Minxian county (thus *mingui*) is famous for its top quality. This county's angelica makes up 80 percent of China's export of the herb each year.

The fine quality of *mingui* angelica owes a great deal to Minxian county's particular natural conditions and the local people's experience in cultivating it. The county lies among deep valleys and moun-

tains ranging up to 3,600 meters. It gets 700 mm. of rainfall annually. Though humid, the county does not have long rainy seasons. Though winters are cold, the freezing period is short. The soil is sandy loam, fertile and soft.

These conditions are highly favorable for growing angelica. Long tradition has endowed the local peasants with sophisticated techniques of cultivating it. Every family has a small plot. A county angelica research institute helps improve quality.

THE use of angelica in the treatment of diseases can be traced back to the Han dynasty 2,000 years ago. The *Handai Yijian* (*Briefs on Medicines of the Han Dynasty*) uncovered in Wuwei county, Gansu province, records its use in prescriptions. Zhang Jingyue (1562-1639), a famous Ming dynasty doctor, further described the herb and its functions in *Jingyue's Collected Writings* published in 1624. Analysis today

shows that it contains volatile oil, sugar, and vitamins.

To build up health, the Chinese people like to steep it in white wines or use it in cooking chicken and mutton. New products containing angelica have appeared such as cigarettes and wines. The Fuci Pharmaceutical Plant in Lanzhou makes angelica tablets in great demand at home and abroad. In 1981 the plant began turning out drinks containing angelica. □

Choosing batches for export.

Min Zhongjie



DENG QUANSHI is a reporter in Gansu Branch of Xinhua News Agency.

Living Standards Rising

THE Chinese government began readjusting, restructuring, consolidating and improving the economy in 1979. This has raised living standards.

Agriculture and light industry have been accelerated. Energy utilization is more rational. The energy, transport and building industries have moved ahead. Production has been readjusted in the chemical, machine building, metal and other heavy industries. Some capital construction projects have been curtailed. Foreign trade has been expanded.

The readjustment is stressing the development of science and education, the importance of urban construction and environmental protection, economic results and a rapid increase of national income. It has solved problems such as emphasizing production quotas without taking account of cost; too much rigidity in management; over-extension of capital construction; disproportion in agriculture, light and heavy industries; and serious defects in investment and distribution. At the same time the economy has been put on the path of steady growth.

IN the past three years the state expanded the decision-making powers of industrial, transport and commercial enterprises, readjusted rural economic policies and put various forms of production responsibility into effect. This has produced remarkable progress in the development of the economy and the city and rural markets.

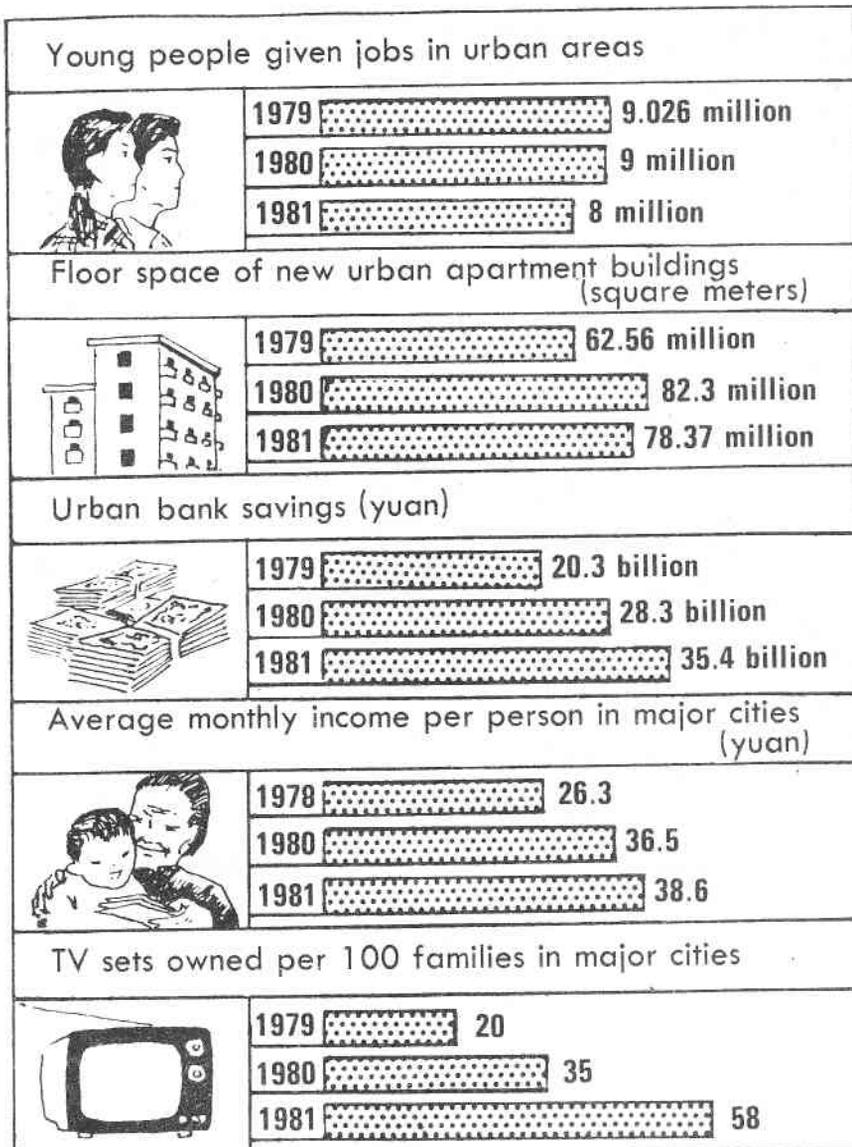
Meanwhile, the state took direct measures to raise urban and rural living standards. It increased its purchase prices of most farm and sideline products, raised wages and salaries of workers and staff, applied bonus systems, created more jobs for young people and built new apartments in the cities.



Collective enterprises such as this snack shop in Sheyang, Liaoning province, have provided many jobs for young people and needed services for the general public.
by Jiang Keyun

Enthusiastic buyers look over different brands of washing machines. The Shanghai No. 10 Department Store sold 573 of them last January alone.
by Xia Daoling





The improvement in living standards can be seen in five areas:

1. Employment for young people in urban areas.

During the "cultural revolution" China's economy suffered great losses. It was difficult for young people to get jobs after graduation. In the past three years the government opened many new avenues for production. About 26 million young people who had waited for jobs before 1980 have been assigned work in state and collectively owned enterprises.

The number given jobs was over 9 million in 1979, 9 million in 1980 and 8 million in 1981.

2. The rapid growth of the average income of workers and staff.

Since 1979, the average income per capita has increased greatly. This is due to the increase of wages and salaries by the state, the bonus system and the growth of employment. A survey of 8,715 households in 46 major cities shows that in 1981 the average income per person in the total population of these cities was 38.6

yuan, or 46.8 percent more than in 1978, actually 30.8 percent if the rise in prices is taken into account. At present the lowest cost of living per person in the cities is about 20 yuan.

3. A higher demand for consumer goods such as TV sets, radios, wrist-watches, bicycles and sewing machines.

The above survey of 8,715 city households reveals that more than half the families had TV sets, 3.2 times more than 1978; there were 1.25 bicycles per family, 13.4 percent over 1978; 70 sewing machines per 100 families, an increase of 32 percent; 241 wrist-watches, an increase of 27.4 percent; and one radio per family, an increase of 61.2 percent.

4. The improvement of urban living conditions.

From 1949 to 1978, housing took only six percent of the total annual investment in capital construction. The proportion of investment in housing has increased each year: 14.8 percent in 1979, 20 percent in 1980 and 25 percent in 1981. Total floor space completed was 220 million square meters. By the end of 1981 residential space per person averaged 5.3 square meters, 0.9 square meters more than 1980.

5. The rapid increase of bank savings in urban areas.

Bank savings in urban areas were 20.3 billion yuan in 1979, 28.3 billion yuan in 1980 and 35.4 billion yuan in 1981. Fixed deposits also show remarkable growth. In 1981 it accounted for 80 percent of total bank deposits, of which the fixed deposits of three and five years were 40 percent. Both total bank deposits and the proportion of fixed deposits in 1981 were the highest since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. □

Zhaxilhunbu, a Major Monastery

SUN MINGZHEN

A GAINST a backdrop of snow-crested mountains and a roof-of-the-world sky, the golden top of the ancient Zhaxilhunbu Monastery in Tibet's second largest city, Xigaze (Shigatse), glitters in the sun. Long one of the main lameries of Tibetan Buddhism's Yellow Sect, it now also has the biggest number of monks.

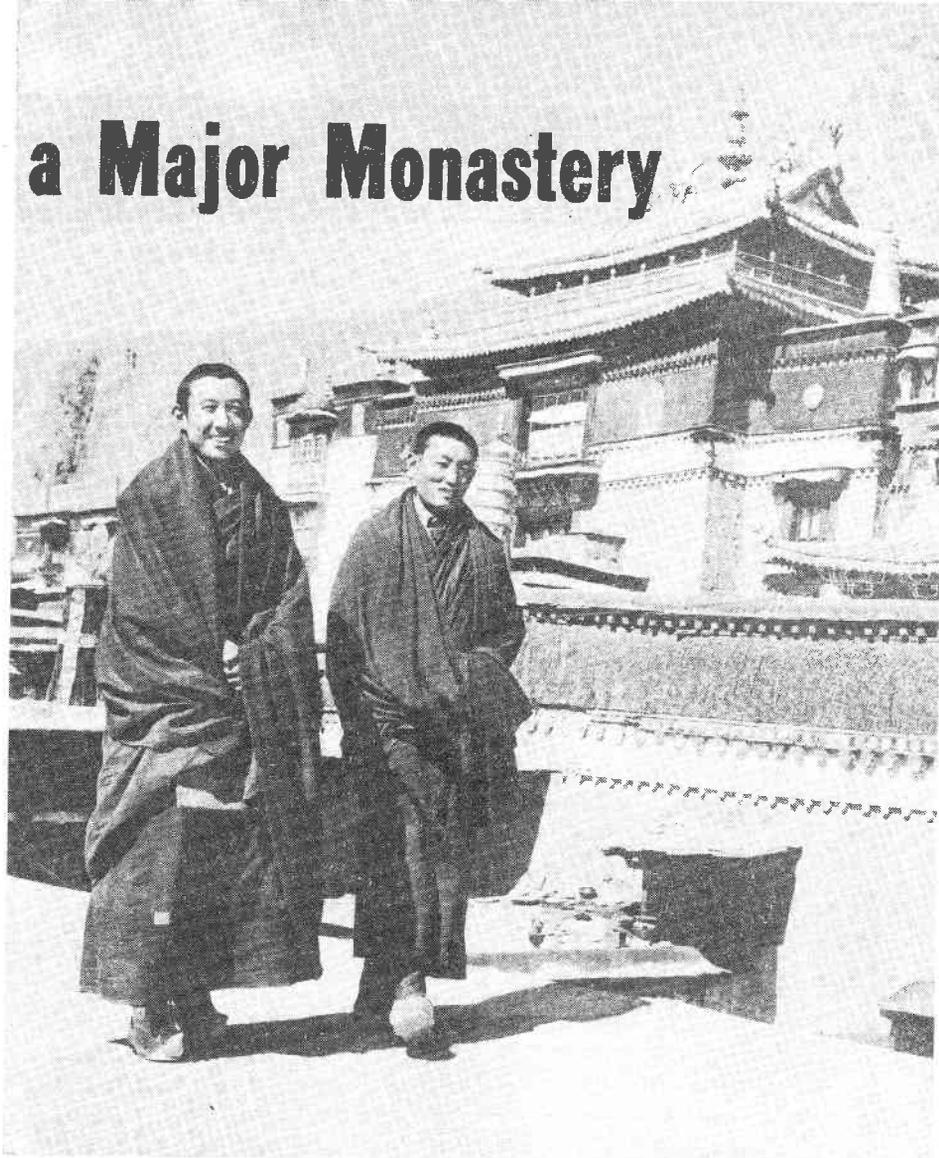
Changes of History

Its construction was started by the first Dalai Lama in 1447 and completed 12 years later. The name means fortune and solidity. In an area of 170,000 square meters it has 4,000 halls and rooms, and ten thousand gilded images. A giant statue of the Maitreya Buddha 26 meters high, contains 12 tons of bronze and 300 kilograms of gold.

In 1660 the fourth Banqen (Panchen) Lama became Zhaxilhunbu's 16th abbot. From then on, a succession of Banqen Lamas lived there. This made the monastery western Tibet's religious, political, economic and cultural center, for feudal rule was a combination of lamas and nobles.

As in all Tibetan monasteries, the lamas were locked in a rigid stratification by a thousand and one interdictions and taboos. There was a court to try infractors and 15 prisons where penance was enforced with horrifying instruments of torture. The high lamas ruled, the lower lamas were oppressed and exploited.

Today the first thing a visitor sees is believers making their donations. In twos and threes,



Strolling in the monastery ground.

Liu Qiangang

holding prayer beads and prayer-wheels they come and go from the various doorways. In the corridor of the main hall are people with bags, *zanba*, *qingke* barley flour and money or butter wrapped in paper. A lama inscribes the name of the giver.

Worshippers come every day, and thousands on festivals and religious days. Donations amount to 60,000 yuan a year. In addition, the lamas earn 200,000 yuan from their work. The state contributes about 250,000 yuan a year, and more if some big repair is needed. Since 1973 the government has given the monastery 780,000 yuan for special repairs.

Democratic transformation in Tibet after 1960 brought reform in

Zhaxilhunbu. Of its original 4,000 lamas, the majority left the monastery for lay occupations. Those who were homeless or unwilling to leave it remained. The old internal class oppression was abolished and lamas gained equal status. A democratic management committee was elected. This group oversees religious activities, historical research, productive work, welfare, the protection of cultural relics, security and other monastery affairs. Today it is headed by Yangxi. The present 575 lamas, aged from 30 to 76, represent the largest present monastic community not only in Tibet but in all China. They have a better life than their counterparts of previous centuries ever knew.

SUN MINGZHEN is a reporter of the Xinhua News Agency in Tibet.

Visitors usually see Exoteric Hall, noting that it is the monastery's biggest prayer center and also that the lamas reciting scriptures here are considered to be of a lower order of scholastic and religious attainment. Later, Esoteric Hall will be seen.

When this reporter asked the difference between the two, an elder lama explained, "They are two disciplines of Tibetan Buddhism. Briefly speaking, the exoteric is the cultivation of oneself with a doctrine more easily understood by the ordinary people, while the esoteric is the deeper, more intricate doctrine."

All lamas in the Yellow Sect study the exoteric. Only a small number of outstanding lamas who have a will for further study are admitted to the esoteric. We have for instance the 73-year-old Zhaxi Punco, who attributes his poise and liveliness of mind to his long study, meditation and cultivation.

A Lama's Day

The lamas in the Exoteric Hall sit on crossed legs in patchwork vestments chanting. In the afternoon they return to their cells. Their leading lama, Jiebu, 69, who entered the monastery as a ten-year-old child, has reached high attainment in Buddhism after 50 years of discipline. His small room is tidy and neat, furnished with cushions, a chair, and a pair of wooden wardrobes with golden dragon in relief. A simple quilt covers his bed. On a desk are a clock, a thermos bottle and books of scriptures. A glass-framed picture hangs on the wall.

He gets up at seven, he says, and begins reciting the scriptures at eight. After breakfast at nine thirty he continues reciting until eleven o'clock. In the evening from six to eight he recites scriptures again. If there are more prayers in the afternoon, more recitations are added.

In the time left for themselves, lamas do research in scriptures or read, just water the flowers or rest. There are 29 prayer halls.

The Esoteric Hall enshrines many deities flanked by drums, cymbals

and great religious brass horns, some of them nearly 12 feet long.

Monastery Life

The democratic management committee, established after the reform, handles the monastery's work, life and religious affairs. Three hundred elder learned lamas are responsible for religious routines such as the chanting of the sutras, meditation, prayers and the burning of incense. Different kinds of religious work provide each such lama with 30 to 45 yuan a month; in addition to a state free grant of grain, yak butter and vegetable oil to each lama. He also receives part of the donations, which can run to 20 yuan.

About 200 lamas work in the monastery's agriculture, animal husbandry and sideline activities and are paid according to their work. A lama named Qiangba took this reporter to the place, where the monastery conducts its sideline occupations. One production team makes articles including butter churns, furniture and Tibetan-style stoves. Other groups mill flour, do sewing and make noodles and vermicelli. In addition there are a fruit garden and a hothouse outside the monastery. These activities added 160,000 yuan to the monastery's income in 1980, and still more in 1981.

Lamas engaged in the monastery's agricultural and stockbreeding sideline are paid according to their work. In 1980 the highest annual individual income was 700 yuan and 500 kg. of grain, the lowest 400 yuan and 150 kg. of grain. Many of the lamas have bought watches, bicycles and tape recorders.

Although the monastery has dining rooms, each lama has his own kitchen utensils if he wishes to cook for himself. A fairly well-equipped clinic provides medicine and treatment. Its seven doctors of Tibetan, traditional Chinese and Western medicine have been trained from among the monks. Each lama gets an annual checkup and serious cases are sent to the district hospital. All medical treatment is free.

The monastery has 24 old lamas who need extra care. They live together and special persons look after them.

Historical Research

In a quiet two-story building, a 14-person group does research on the history of the Zhaxilhunbu Monastery. These are learned lamas, and include three living buddhas and a *gezi*, a Buddhist equivalent to doctor. They work with ancient scriptures, records, the biographies of the Banqen Lamas and other documents. Their aim is to compile a detailed history of Zhaxilhunbu Monastery. In fact, because of the former many-sided importance of this institution, it will also be, to a great extent, the religious, political and cultural history of western Tibet over several centuries. □

Lamas doing research on the ancient scriptures in the monastery's collection. Tudeng

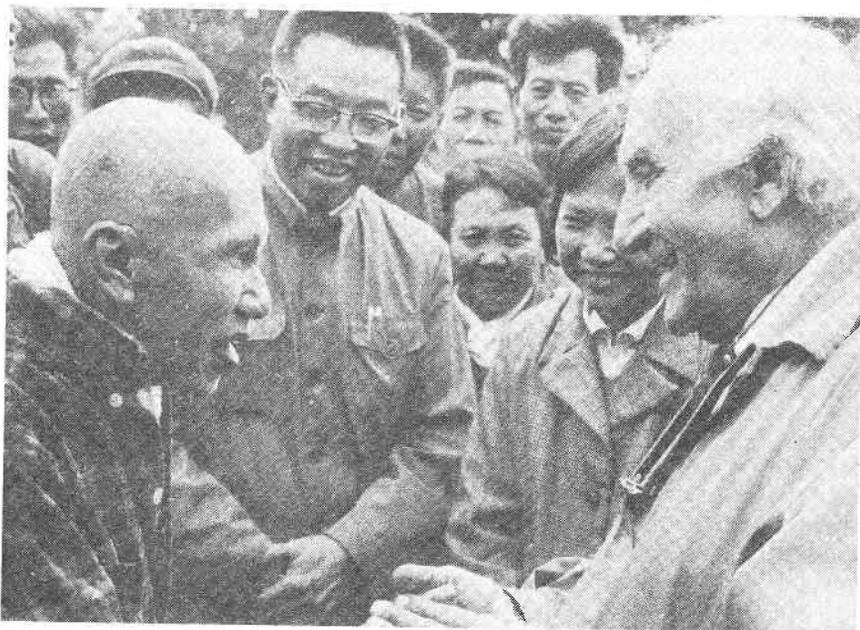


Lama Jiebu watering flowers. Tudeng



China's Fight to End Leprosy

MA HAIDE



Greeting an overseas Chinese from Canada who returned to China for treatment.

THEY stood on a hill in Guangxi, south China, with the setting sun behind them, waving goodbye with raised hands deformed by missing fingers, some with simply knobs at the end of an arm. Our medical team had just visited and examined these patients at one of the few leprosy villages which existed at the time of the 1949 liberation. Neglected for years, they waved us off with rising hope that at last something would be done for them.

This pitiful scene of the very early 1950s lives vividly in my

DR. MA HAIDE (GEORGE HATEM), a Chinese citizen of U.S. birth, is now leading a group of Chinese leprologists on an extensive tour, under the auspices of the Damien Foundation, which will take them to Japan, the U.S.A., Britain, Belgium, Switzerland, India, Thailand and Burma.

memory of our first nationwide medical campaigns to eradicate the many scourges that had revaged pre-liberation China. My own post was in the struggle against leprosy and venereal diseases. VD has indeed been wiped out (except in the one province, Taiwan). As for leprosy, we are still working to reach our goal of completely eradicating it by the year 2000. This aim was set by the Second National Leprosy Conference held in Guangdong province, south China, in November 1981.

The Conference reviewed accomplishments to date. In 1949 there were an estimated 500,000 cases nationwide. At present there are around 200,000 cases. Endemic areas have been steadily localized. New cases among children and adolescents have declined marked-

ly. In the opinion of the conference delegates, the goal of complete eradication by the end of the century was a realistic one, and they made concrete plans for its implementation by the health departments of their respective provinces.

History and Distribution

Leprosy in China has a known history of over 2,000 years. The earliest surviving description is in the medical classic *Nei Jing* of the Warring States period (403-221 B.C.). Symptoms and remedies were recorded in the medical literature of succeeding dynasties and in traditional folktales. Recently, prescriptions for treatment inscribed on bamboo slips were excavated from the tomb of Magistrate Xi (262-217 B.C.) in Yunmeng district, Hubei province, near present-day Wuhan.

Leprosy, or Hansen's disease (as it is also known) is endemic in parts of China. Incidence is higher in the coastal provinces, along the Changjiang (Yangtze) River and in the southwest. It occurs among minority nationalities; medical teams have found it among the Li and Miao people on Hainan Island and the Zhuang in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, as well as among the majority Han people.

Guangdong, Guangxi, Jiangsu and Shandong, with a combined present population of about 246 million, are the four areas with the highest endemic rates. Between the mid-1950s and 1980s, some 223,000 cases were found and treated there. Today there are fewer than 29,000 cases under treatment. The prevalent rate has

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS



A former leprosy patient drives a hand tractor at a Guangdong hospital.

dropped from just under 1 per 1,000 to 1.4 per 10,000.

An Organized Approach

This reduction was achieved by applying the four major principles of China's health work: full coverage of the population; an emphasis on prevention; combined use of Chinese traditional and modern medicines; and popular health movements. On the public health side, well-tried methods were used: education, mass and spot surveys to locate patients, isolation of infectious cases (necessary at an earlier time), appropriate treatment, prophylaxis of contacts, and organized field follow-ups.

Uneven geographical distribution has always been a feature of this disease. A survey in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region after 1949 turned up only 34 cases. In the far northern province of Heilongjiang only 868 patients have been found in the past 35 years, 96 percent of them immigrants from other places. Geography also affects treatment and control; these have been much more difficult in the mountainous southwest region, where many different ethnic groups are scattered

in remote spots, than in the more accessible coastal provinces.

With the number of new cases decreasing to less than one in 10,000 (or even one in 100,000, as in Hainan), the old mass surveys to detect new cases came to be a waste of manpower. As an alternative, health authorities in some places now reward barefoot doctors or other medical workers for every new case they find.

Patients are also encouraged by rewards to report on their own. More important, they are promised anonymity, free treatment at home or in a local clinic, and no isolation from the community. The latter is no longer medically necessary or practised — except in rare cases or for short-term supervised treatment.

China's anti-leprosy network is organized vertically from the Ministry of Health down to the provincial, prefecture, county and commune level. Originally it included some 1,100 leprosy stations, leprosariums, hospitals and leprosy villages. With the decrease in case-loads, and in the practice of isolation, many of them are being amalgamated or phased out.

Technical and scientific leadership on a national scale is the responsibility of the Institute of

Dermatology and Venereal Diseases under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, where I worked for 15 years. Over the past 30 years some 10,000 specialized leprosy workers have been trained. Barefoot doctors and other grass-roots medical people participated in our mass surveys; they are still tied into the network through their role in detection, prevention, treatment and follow-up of individual cases.

Treatment

We have not yet found any effective Chinese herbal drug which is specific for leprosy. Chalmougria oil (esters) was used in China, India and other parts of the world up until the 1940s; I prescribed it to treat my first leprosy patient over fifty years ago. Today the much more effective sulfones such as Dapsone, Sulphetrone, Thiambutosine and Rifampin are used. Clofazimine, effective in some cases, is still not readily available.

In recent years a Chinese herb, Lei Gong Teng (*Tripterygium Wilfordii* Hook F), has been used successfully on reversal type I reactions, with results similar to those obtained with corticosteroids. Combined treatment involving specific leprosy drugs, herbs and

Deputy Minister of Health Huang Shuze (left foreground) and Ma Haide tour Si'an Leprosy Hospital, Guangdong.





A cured patient in need of rehabilitation. Dr. Yang Lihe and Ma Haide.

acupuncture to reduce nerve pain is being investigated in hospitals and research institutions.

Most anti-leprosy drugs we employ are produced here in China. Reconstructive surgery for deformities, prevention and care of foot ulcers, orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery, treatment of affected eyes and provision of prostheses are done on a small scale.

Isolation of "open" multibacillary cases was stressed in the 1950s and 1960s, during which China built many specialized institutions with a total of 86,000 beds. They helped greatly to isolate infectious cases and control the disease. Now, as I have noted, the new therapies make it possible to arrest such cases rapidly, so that isolation is no longer needed, with very few exceptions.

Conquering Fear and Prejudice

In the 1980s, therefore, one of our main problems is to overcome the centuries-old dread of leprosy and to replace it with an up-to-date scientific attitude. If we can do this, detection of the relatively few remaining cases will be easier because patients will be more willing to report, and non-isolatory treatments will be more readily

accepted by the public at large.

A further problem is to rehabilitate the tens of thousands of patients who have been cured — to relieve their disabilities, deformities, ulcers and other stigmata and so enable them to return to social and economic life. This is a giant task; much remains to be done.

Visiting leprosy institutions all over the country, I have been deeply moved by the courage, tenacity and ingenuity with which former patients have overcome severe physical handicaps. One has become a specialist on leprosy himself, and now works in one of our hospitals. Another taught himself to write and has published several short stories — all the more remarkable because his writing hand is little more than a claw with stumps of fingers. Still another is combatting public ignorance on the subject through popular articles for the press.

Moving stories of needless self-sacrifice point up the need for better public education. One mother of an only son voluntarily stayed on at the leprosarium after she was well; she feared that her daughter-in-law would ask for a divorce if she ever learned that her husband's mother had once had leprosy.

At the Spring Festival in 1982, I visited the leprosy hospital at Wang Du in the northern province of Hebei to spend this traditional family holiday with patients who could not go home. I brought medicines and small gifts from the Ministry of Health Antibiotics Institute, and this sparked a discussion of what the Ministry could do for them.

Publicity

A neatly dressed middle-aged male patient complained about a radio broadcast from Tianjin that described leprosy as "highly infectious" and "hereditary," which he knew was untrue. The program had aroused doubts and anguish among his four children. Could the Ministry issue a disclaimer? (This was later done.)

An older man, exhibiting his "claw" hand, hoped that the Ministry could launch an educational campaign "at all levels and especially among the cadres" to explain that deformities, ulcers or even "open" wounds in treated leprosy cases could not infect other people.

Unfortunately, some patients are not so knowledgeable about their own disease. After giving a brief talk on the patterns of infection, I demonstrated my point by shaking hands and examining patients with ungloved hands. A little later, I was sitting with others in the recreation room when a man came up and asked me hesitantly if I would shake his hand. I responded with a hearty handshake. He told me it was the first time he had shaken hands in 20 years! He had not wanted to infect others.

That evening I left the hospital with the provincial and county health officials who had accompanied me. The patients waved goodbye, as had those others on the hillside in Guangxi so many years ago. But now, what a world of difference. The patients at Wang Du were nearly all cured. Most would be returning to their homes, jobs and families.

I am writing this article on Hainan Island, after visiting a

leprosy village in its southern part run by the control service of the local county. Except for the dormitories, workshops, wards and clinic, it might have been any ordinary village amid its groves of coconut palms, mango, papaya and breadfruit trees. A nearby rubber plantation, now being expanded, supports the medical facilities.

A Novel Solution

The village once had over 1,000 patients; by late 1981 the number was down to 350. The story here was fairly typical. Past campaigns and surveys had discovered most of the area's active cases, and the great majority had been completely cured. Only residual cases remained, with deformities needing rehabilitation. Also staying were some other inmates who no longer had roots in their own communities, or still feared discrimination.

For such people, the hospital has found a novel solution. Unattached men and women who were cured have been encouraged to befriend and marry one another, and helped to set up their own households in a satellite hamlet. By the time of my visit, 62 married couples lived there. The main street is lined in typical Hainan style, with one-story dwellings with small bamboo-and-mat sheds behind them for cooking and eating. Yards are used for growing vegetables and raising chickens and pigs.

The hospital continues to take care of the medical needs of the villagers, who still receive their regular state subsidy, though now they are less dependent on it. One couple have only one leg between them—the other three being artificial. Still, they are busy and happy, own a bicycle and raise chickens. Other couples with similar handicaps occupy themselves with farm work, basket-weaving, or ordinary household chores.

Dr. Chen, head of the hospital and one of my old students, informs me that this way of handling the residual population has been adopted by other institutions and is spreading to other provinces. In some villages where all patients

have been cured, the population is elderly. They have been converted into ordinary old age homes.

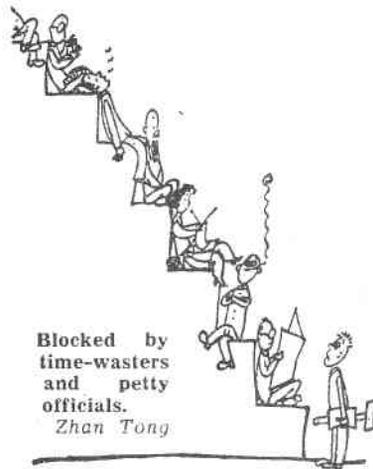
In most counties of northern Hainan, control measures have reduced the incidence of new leprosy cases to one in 200,000 or one in 300,000. According to Dr. Chen, an all-island conference has decided that they can better the national goal—by eliminating the disease by 1990. There is a great deal of rehabilitation work, too, to be done, involving about one-third of the cured cases.

Dr. Chen and I recalled the old days—1956, when the hospital

was set up, and 1958, when I and the rest of our medical team had worked here to train thirty Hainan medical students in VD and leprosy control. Most of those students are now the heads of county medical services, or in charge of leprosy control work in hospitals.

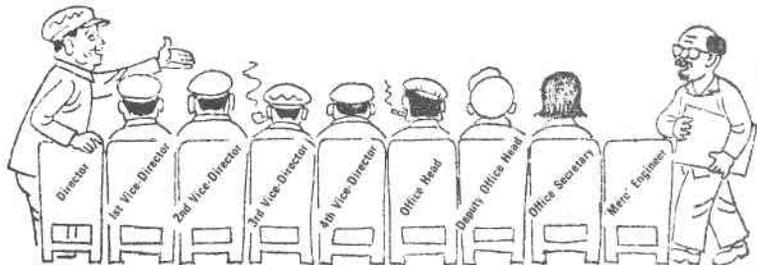
VD has been completely wiped out. Leprosy is well on its way to extinction, as it is in the rest of China. To rid the country of all eradicable diseases has been the constant aim of our People's Ministry of Health. Step by step, it is nearing fulfillment. □

Wit and Barbs



Cadres 'linked' by gifts, bribes and favors — and 'linked' again when caught.

Zhang Bing



Last place.

Jiang Peifeng



Lanzhou's air is much cleaner now.

Xie Jun

'Smoke City' Cleans Up Its Air

DU LIGONG

LANZHOU, a new industrial city in northwest China, used to have the unhappy nickname of "smoke city" because of its air pollution problem. In the winter of 1977 things reached a crisis. All over town chimneys belched black smoke which hung overhead like a cloud and settled on every indoor and outdoor surface. Even on fine days it was dark by 5:00 p.m. People forgot what it was like to see the clear blue sky.

The health hazard was severe. Average concentrations of dust and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere reached 2.44 and 0.61 milligrams per cubic meter. At its worst, Lanzhou's pollution ex-

ceeded London's in 1952 — the year of that city's killer smog during which some 4,000 people died of respiratory diseases. In Lanzhou, deaths from certain types of respiratory and heart diseases doubled from 1976 to 1977. And even basically healthy people had trouble breathing and were plagued by minor illnesses.

Workers applied for transfers to other places. Visitors got out of town as fast as they could. People wrote angry letters to the authorities demanding that something be done.

A Timely Lesson

Lanzhou's air pollution is now greatly reduced, thanks to concerted efforts by the local govern-

ment, enterprises and ordinary citizens. But the problem, and its solution, gave all of us some needed lessons on the importance of environmental protection.

Industry had grown rapidly in Lanzhou. Located there were some of China's largest chemical plants and oil refineries. They contributed greatly to the city's, and the country's, prosperity. But for a long time the emphasis was merely on increasing production. There was little understanding of the relationship between health and environmental protection. Industrial chimneys and household stovepipes poured wastes into the atmosphere to the tune of 300 tons of dust and 1,300 tons of sulphur dioxide daily. The figures doubled during winter months, when

DU LIGONG is director of the Lanzhou Environmental Protection Office.

families used coal stoves for heating as well as cooking.

Our city is situated in a long, narrow valley on the upper reaches of the Huanghe (Yellow) River between mountains to the north and south. The air is unusually still, with few winds or air currents. In frequent temperature inversions, hot polluted air gets trapped near the ground by layers of motionless cool air above. So clean air is particularly difficult to achieve.

Attacking the Causes

Once the problem was recognized, city, provincial and state officials agreed that immediate action was necessary. Some proposed solutions were dramatic but not very practical: installing huge air blowers on nearby mountaintops, or dynamiting openings in the mountains to provide natural ventilation. Another suggestion was that coal not be used at all as a fuel, but only as coal gas for cooking or as a power source to generate electricity.

It was finally decided that pollution must be controlled at the source. But since the national government, in a period of nationwide economic readjustment, could not provide much money for

the effort, the city would have to rely mainly on its own resources.

The whole project got underway in 1978. Major measures included the installation of filters to reduce atmospheric pollution, installation of central heating systems in residential areas to replace individual coal stoves, and conversion to anthracite and other low-sulphur coals. The use of liquefied petroleum gas for cooking has been popularized.

By the end of 1981, some 80 percent of the city's factories had renovated their boilers to reduce the amount of coal needed and filter out major pollutants before they could reach the atmosphere. Engineers are working to develop more advanced devices. Facilities to treat and recover waste gas have been installed in the oil and chemical industries. In the past, oil refineries burned off waste gas at the rate of 500 kilograms per hour. Its recycling has both saved raw materials and improved air quality. Yellowish nitrogen dioxide emissions have been reduced by 94 percent.

Long-Term Measures

To bring air pollution under control, the city has adopted legal, economic and administrative

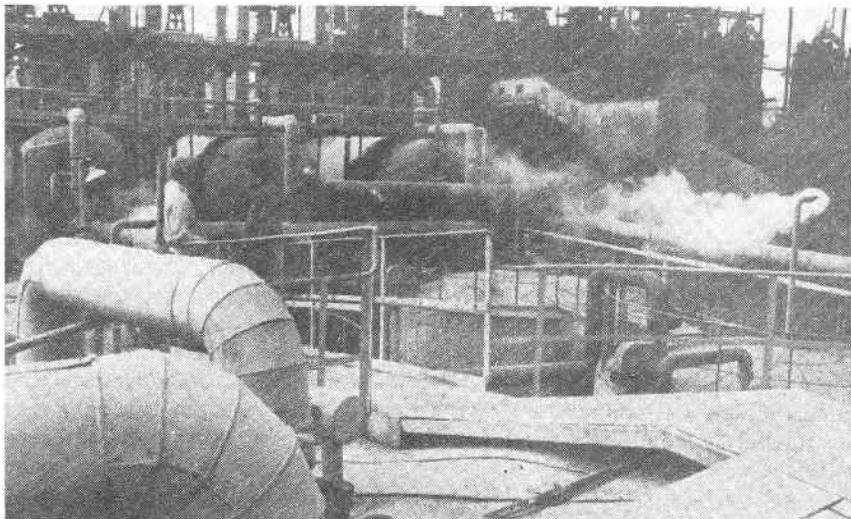


Central heating systems in residential areas have cut down on the pollution from individual coal stoves.

Li Shengcai

Carbonized water recycling facilities built by Lanzhou Chemical Products Company.

Li Shengcai



measures. Units and individual families whose chimneys emit smoke in excess of state-set criteria are penalized. Inspection teams regularly visit factories and residential areas to see that filtering equipment is up to standard.

Factories which were the heaviest polluters were given four choices: shut down, suspend operations while you solve your emission problem, switch to the manufacture of other products, or move out of the city. Most units and individuals were well aware of the problem and happy to cooperate.

Lanzhou isn't smoke city any more — though it will always have to pay strict attention to pollution problems. The air is cleaner and more wholesome. The sky is blue, and the sun shines down on green grass and trees. Respiratory disease rates have been greatly reduced. Citizens — not to mention officials in charge of the problem — can now breathe freely again. □



In 1979 Soong Ching Ling meets with the players after the first Beijing performance of 'Children's Hearts.'

Children's Art Theater

REN DEYAO

THE Children's Theater of Shanghai was founded by the late Honorary President of the People's Republic of China Soong Ching Ling on April 10, 1947. For more than thirty years she gave it every possible help and encouragement—something those of us connected with the theater will never forget. On this first anniversary of her death, we renew our memories of the leadership and inspiration she gave us.

Spiritual Nourishment

In 1947 Shanghai was under the dark rule of the Kuomintang. Starvation, disease and degradation threatened large numbers of poor children. Soong Ching Ling, deeply concerned, collected funds from progressive people in China and abroad to start a children's welfare station under the auspices of the China Welfare Fund (predecessor of the China Welfare Insti-

tute) which she headed. It provided poor children with clothes and medical care, and taught them to read and write.

But she felt, this was not enough. The children's spirits needed nourishment as well. A theater especially for children could give them sound values and a vision of the future, in a lively and popular form. The first group of performers was chosen from among the sons and daughters of the poor. They were trained in acting skills and given an important goal: service to children.

At schools, villages and street corners, the troupe began to perform free of charge such progressive plays as *The Watch*, *The Little Circus*, and the dance drama *Brother and Sister Reclaim the Wasteland*, which originated in the Liberated Areas led by the Communist Party. Angered, the Kuomintang authorities who then ruled Shanghai tried to shut down the theater. They failed—in part because of Soong Ching Ling's prestige, but also because of popular support for our cause.

REN DEYAO is director of the Children's Art Theater under the auspices of the China Welfare Institute.

People regarded the theater as a "little boat in the dawn," and hoped it would quickly get under full sail in the bright sunlight of a new day. The troupe did its best to live up to these expectations, and by the time of Shanghai's liberation it had acquired a lot of experience in educating children and bringing them happiness.

Soong Ching Ling's 'Pearls'

With the establishment of the new China, the Shanghai troupe became the country's first professional theater for children. The theater added many new performers, again chosen from poor families. Soong Ching Ling helped get veteran performers to train the newcomers, and took great interest in their welfare. She often came to watch them rehearse and invited them to her home to talk about their work.

Gratified by their progress, she arranged for the troupe to give performances in Beijing, to which she invited Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai, Vice-Chairman Liu Shaoqi and other Party and state leaders. Their enthusiastic response meant a great deal to the young players, as did Chairman Mao's invitation to perform for Beijing's children at Huaren Tang (then the most important hall in the capital).

After that performance, Soong Ching Ling took the performers to her home and served them a cake she had baked herself. Watching the hostess and her happy guests, one of the older people present remarked, "They are like pearls on your palm."

A Modern Fairy Tale

In 1957 the Children's Theater was renamed the Children's Art Theater. During this period it added a number of plays to its repertoire—Chinese and foreign, revolutionary stories and fairy tales. The performing hall was rebuilt. New playwrights, directors, performers, musicians, backstage and administrative staff joined the troupe.

By 1966 the theater had developed its own distinctive style and had become enormously popular among children, who found its plays very exciting, and among parents and teachers, who appreciated its work of educating children as well as entertaining them.

But then came a serious threat. The theater, like many other good institutions, was unjustly attacked during the "cultural revolution." A work team under the influence of the gang of four came to the theater, derided everything the troupe had achieved, and announced a plan to merge it with another unit. People were deeply upset. At this critical point Soong Ching Ling paid a visit to the theater. The work team would not let her inside, so she stopped at the gate, looked out of the window of her car for a time, and then quietly left. The news that she still supported the troupe spread quickly among theater people, and was as welcome as a warm breeze in the dead of winter.

Her short visit, as it turned out, worked like magic. The work team suddenly withdrew and the merger plan was canceled. This was enormously heartening to the saddened staff. Though the troupe could not operate as usual, it would not be disbanded and its resources scattered.

Renewal

In 1976, Soong Ching Ling was in Shanghai for the first Spring Festival—Chinese New Year—after the fall of the gang of four. As her token gift to the theater she sent a large fish and a New Year cake—symbols of longevity and celebration. Every troupe member understood. She was hoping that the "pearl on her palm" would glow again.

Soon the theater regained lost ground, and the laughter of children in the audience rang out louder than ever. In March 1979 the troupe produced in Beijing the new play *Children's Hearts* (about a good teacher and her influence on her students) to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the People's

Republic of China. Soong Ching Ling attended the opening night together with a large crowd of Beijing children. Afterwards she greeted the performers with a huge basket of flowers. They accepted her warm compliments with tears in their eyes.

At her urging, the troupe continued to turn its attention to the bad effects of the "cultural revolution" on the younger generation. She wrote us about the many children she had seen fighting, being rude, impolite and unruly, and smoking. What could we do to help educate these misguided young people?

One of our answers was the new play *Song of Good Friends*, which had a long run and was very popular with children and their

elders. This play brought to life the ten new rules for primary students, such as respect for teachers and hard work, and showed how necessary they were for everyone's welfare. The great pity was that Soong Ching Ling, who had inspired the play, never got to see it. Before our first performance she was laid low by the mortal illness that took her life.

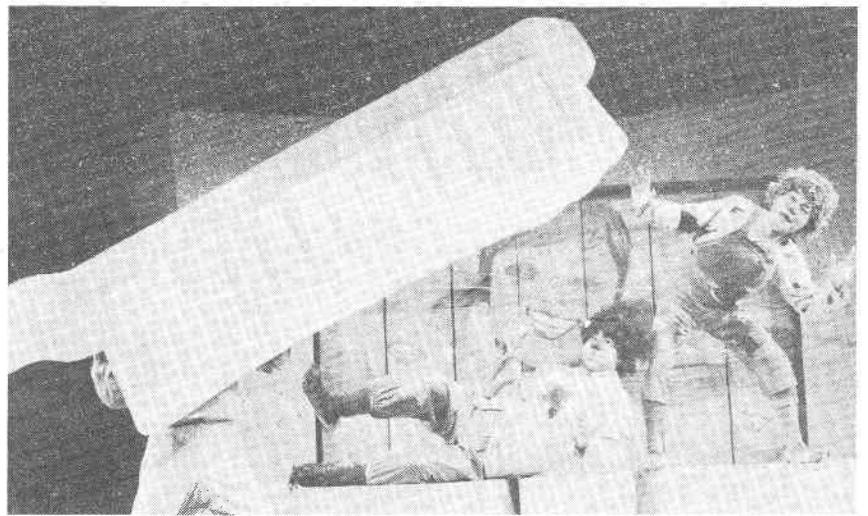
In talking to us about her intentions in founding our troupe, Soong Ching Ling said that she hoped that this special children's theater would combine education and cultural recreation, influencing young people through lively and significant images. We shall never forget her words, or our special task of serving China's children. □

Staff of newly renamed Children's Art Theater poses at the front gate, 1957.



Giant toothbrush vanquishes germs in 'Song of Good Friends.'

Yun Hua



The Chinese Economy

— Problems and Prospects

XU DIXIN

CONTINUED readjustments brought considerable success in the overall picture of China's economy in 1981. Grain output came close to 1979's record of 332 million tons. The value of textile output rose 17 percent. Light industry and textiles accounted for over 50 percent of total industrial production. The crude oil production target of 100 million tons was met ahead of time.

Retail sales increased 9 percent. Trade at rural market fairs rose about 8 percent in the third quarter (28 percent over the same period in 1980). Highly important, after three years of effort state revenue and expenditure was brought into fairly close balance.

Problems

Progress, however, has brought real problems to the surface.

1. While new forms of production responsibility have increased

XU DIXIN, economist, is vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and director of the Economic Research Institute.

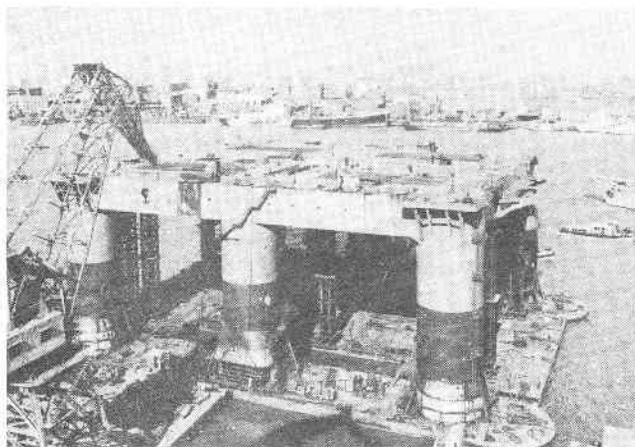


Economist Xu Dixin. Zhang Jingde

the enthusiasm of the peasants and raised their income, they have also made population control in the countryside more difficult. Able now to support more children, peasants tend to contribute to a rising population growth rate in some areas. Since eight out of ten people live in the countryside,

great difficulties lie ahead unless rural population growth is controlled. The government is vigorously promoting family planning and a "one child per couple" policy. In some rural areas family planning pledges are made at the same time as production responsibility contracts are signed.

2. With many industries and enterprises, cost accounting and the drive for profits has resulted in greater production but lowered quality. The contradiction has been hidden by market shortages and a consumer purchasing power that is increasing faster than the available supply of goods. Some enterprises have already instituted more rigid quality controls, market studies and emulation drives. The government has even ordered factories turning out sub-standard items to suspend production and straighten things out within a specified time. However, it is also imperative to start with basics such as the improvement of technical training and initiating regular technical proficiency assessments.



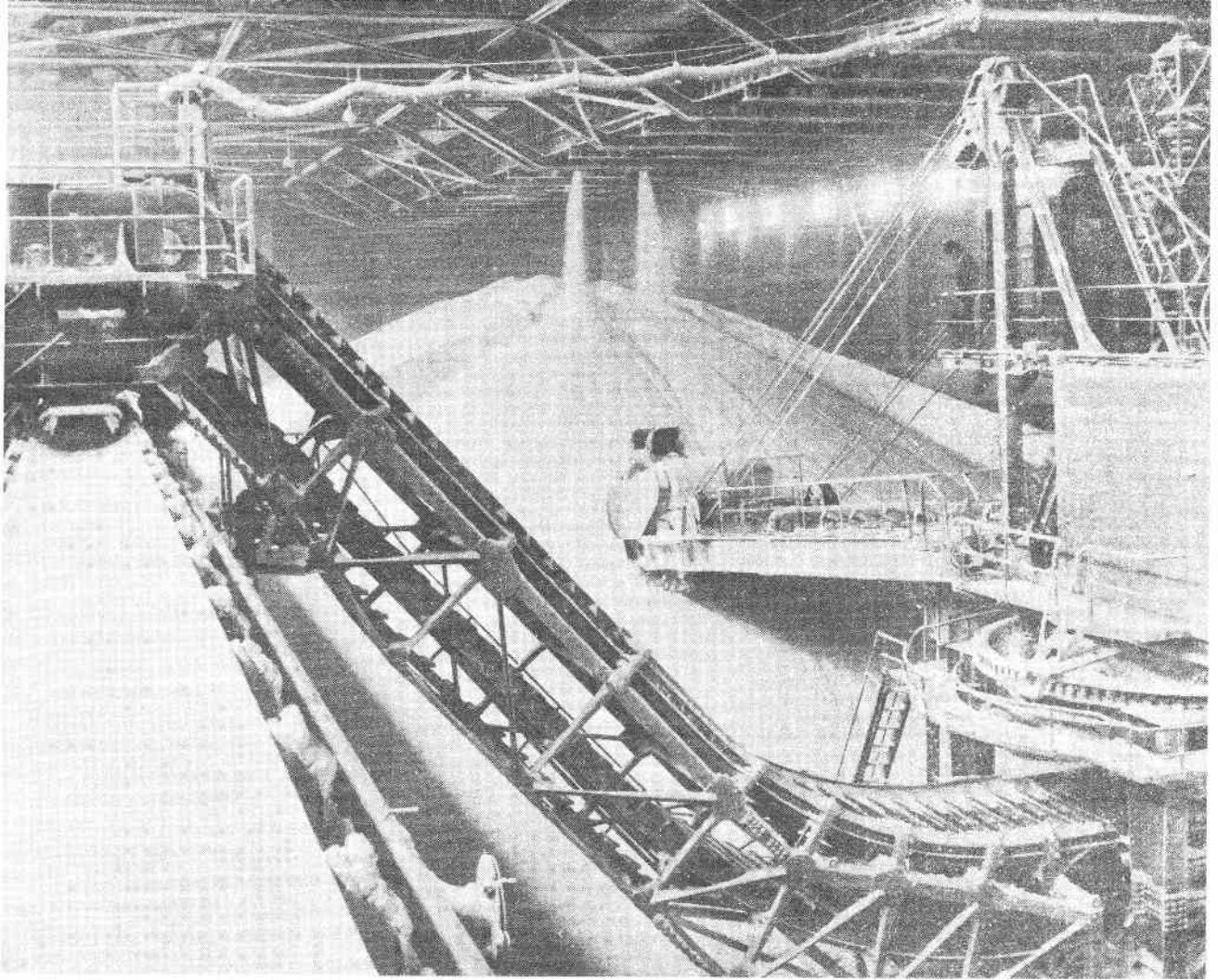
The Kantan No. 3 semi-submersible oil rig, China's first, constructed by the Shanghai Shipbuilding Plant.

Xinhua



Commune members enthusiastically support current agricultural policies. Priorities for the next few years include increased application of modern science and technology to farming.

Xinhua



With some key equipment imported from Japan under the open-door policy, the Sichuan Chemical Works has upped output of high-grade fertilizer to serve agricultural needs.

Xinhua

3. In the past China put exaggerated emphasis on heavy industry. In turn, heavy industry overstressed new projects instead of serving agriculture and the manufacture of consumer goods directly related to people's needs. These errors are being corrected and some results achieved. But reorienting heavy industry, improving the quality of its service to agriculture and consumer goods production, and broadening its adaptability to the modernization of the national economy is a long and arduous task.

4. Inflation in 1981 was considerably less than in 1980, and prices were much more stable. However, the basic road to greater price stability is the increase of consumer goods production together with the prevention of arbitrary price hiking and the indiscriminate charging of costs in

order to increase profits and bonuses. Tighter controls on market fair prices should be put into effect. Illegal practices by middlemen, such as buying hard-to-get goods and selling them at inflated prices should be halted. Regulations issued in January this year for stabilizing market prices and penalizing speculators and price manipulators are having results.

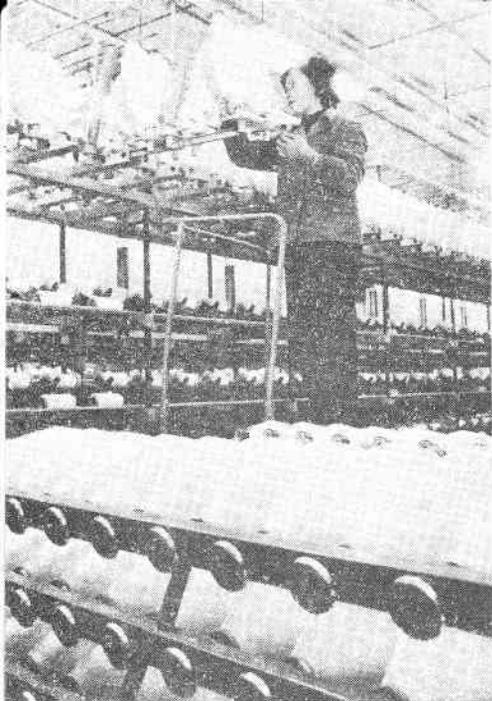
5. The balance in state finances attained in 1981 came mainly through cutbacks in expenditure. It was a hard-won achievement. But cutbacks alone cannot be relied on to maintain fiscal balance. They should be combined with the more dominant factors of increased production and revenue. This requires that readjusting and reorganizing the national economy be done well. Moreover, increased economic return from expand-

ed production must come only on the condition that quality standards are rigorously maintained. Inefficiency and enterprise losses must gradually be eliminated so that fiscal revenue steadily increases.

Prospects — 1982

The outlook for China's national economy in 1982:

First, there will be continued progress in the readjustment of the proportional relations between the different sectors of the economy as well as within each sector. There will be further improvements in the structure of industry and enterprises, and in their products, technology and organization. Heavy industry, for example, which in the past produced mainly for capital construction, will manufacture more goods for agri-



The building of new petrochemical plants and renovation of old ones will mean more and better synthetic consumer goods at lower prices.

Xinhua

culture, light industry, energy, communications, and commercial and service departments. In this way it will attain a more rational product balance better adapted to the needs of a healthily developing national economy.

In another example, one of the measures to rationalize the structure of enterprises is to shut down those which give poor economic returns, combine them with other enterprises or change them to other lines of production. There will also be further progress in economic management this year. If such reforms are maintained, it is highly possible that the growth rate of China's gross industrial and agricultural production will surpass last year's 4 percent.

Second, there will be continued improvement in the production and economic responsibility systems in agriculture and in state-run industrial and commercial enterprises.

The economic responsibility systems will further mobilize the initiative of workers and staff members in enterprises. The areas of economic responsibilities of enterprises to the state and of workers and staff members to their enterprises will be more

exactly defined and better understood. The enterprises' responsibilities, rights and interests will be better integrated.

This will help eliminate the "eating from the common pot" and the "iron rice bowl" mentality—the first being the egalitarian system under which wages and salaries remain the same whether a person works or not, how much, how well or badly, and even if the enterprise operates at a loss; the "iron rice bowl" (another term for "job" in Chinese) being tantamount to a life-long position since salaries are paid irrespective of the quantity or quality of work done.

Third, agricultural and light industrial output will show fairly large margins of increase. If there are no particularly serious droughts or floods, agriculture should make new breakthroughs. Light industrial production will probably surpass 1981 by 12 percent. The new chemical fiber plants at Liaoyang, Sichuan, and Tianjin will undoubtedly boost the light and textile industries.

Fourth, in spite of continued readjustments, heavy industrial output, which had been declining, began to rise again in the last quarter of 1981, and will rise further in 1982 as the shift is made to service orientation and

technical reforms. Energy sources, already aided by production increases at the Daqing, Shengli, Liaohe, Nanyang and Sichuan oilfields, will be given a boost by progress in the new offshore fields of the Yellow and South China seas. The Gezhouba project on the Yangtze (Changjiang) River, where the first 170,000-megawatt generator went into operation last year, will add to available power.

Fifth, price rises were 6 percent in 1980 but fell to 2 percent in 1981. With the expected increases in agricultural, industrial and, in particular, consumer-goods production, the price rise in 1982 is likely to be smaller. However, a large drop in the near future in the prices of some commodities, for example vegetables, will be difficult.

Sixth, state revenue and expenditure will probably remain at its present near-balance, which is to say that the deficit will be more or less on a par with that of 1981. Elimination of the deficit hinges on the efforts of the entire nation, a rise in production, increases in national income, and economy in spending.

Though there are many difficulties to be overcome, one may take an optimistic view of China's

Though many have responded to the government's call for one-child families, population growth remains an urgent problem, particularly in rural areas.

Xinhua



economic situation in 1982: it will undoubtedly be better than 1981.

The Ten Principles

The ten principles for future economic construction presented by Premier Zhao Ziyang in November 1981 fit China's needs and actual circumstances. The "Leftist" line of the past was wrong. In the name of building socialism, its very aims and objectives were sabotaged and the material welfare of the people brought to stagnation or decline. It ignored China's realities and called for capital construction on a scale far beyond the means of the state and the people. It blindly pursued "high speed," but paid no attention to cost accounting or economic returns.

Regarding the relations between agriculture, light industry and heavy industry, the ten principles first call for speeding up the development of agriculture through the application of correct policies and scientific farming. Agriculture, the basis of China's national economy, has made rapid advances in the past several years due to the various responsibility systems in production. But the application of modern science and technology to agriculture still lags behind.

Diesel engine class at the Shenyang Locomotive Plant; an advanced, technically trained workforce is an important component of the modernization drive.

Xinhua



Chinese Cookery

Diced Chicken with Chili Pepper

(Gong Bao Ji Ding)

- $\frac{4}{5}$ lb. spring chicken meat
- $\frac{1}{3}$ lb. peanuts
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup vegetable oil
- 3 large dried chili peppers
- 15 grains Chinese red pepper (Hua Jiao) or other red pepper if not available.
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 slice ginger
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon scallions (in 1 cm. lengths)
- 1 clove garlic
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon MSG
- 3 teaspoons soy sauce
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vinegar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon sugar
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch mixed with 2 tablespoons water
- 2 teaspoons rice wine (or sherry)
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons stock (or water)

The systems described as "eating from the common pot" and "iron rice bowl" practiced for many years in state-run enterprises is highly damaging to the socialist state economy. Both originate in egalitarianism, which in itself violates the socialist principle of "to each according to his work." Getting rid of these systems calls

Dice chicken meat into 1.5 cm. cubes. Chop dry chili peppers fine. Quarter scallions. Slice garlic. Bake and skin peanuts and fry in oil over a low flame until brown.

Mix chicken cubes with salt, 1 teaspoon rice wine, 2 teaspoons soy sauce, 1 tablespoon cornstarch mixture and 1 tablespoon oil. Let marinate for ten minutes.

Make sauce by mixing in a bowl the rest of rice wine, soy sauce, cornstarch, MSG, scallions, ginger, garlic and stock.

Heat oil in a skillet over a high flame until it smokes. Add dry chili peppers and Chinese red peppers, fry until brown. Add chicken cubes and stir-fry. When chicken changes color, add sauce. Stir until sauce thickens. Add vinegar and peanuts. Mix well. Remove to serving dish. Serves four. □

for overall readjustment of the economy, perfecting the economic responsibility system, streamlining work organization, tightening financial discipline and eliminating waste. If successful, these measures will enable economic departments to get the greatest economic results with the minimum of expenditure. Distribution of the material wealth produced must fairly balance the interests of the state, the collectives and the individual.

No country in the world can exist behind closed doors. While adhering to a policy of self-determination and self-reliance, China must utilize foreign funds and import new technology for the building of a modern socialist economy.

The ten principles also require raising the scientific and educational levels of China's work force. This is indispensable not only for improving the people's material circumstances but also for raising their cultural and spiritual life. Only a high ideological level can guarantee that China's civilization grows with a socialist orientation, develops a socialist attitude toward labor and builds up a high social morality. □

Devoted to Country —and Countryside

BAO WENQING



Lu Keke helps apply makeup for young amateur performers. *Hong Feng*

LU KEKE is head of Huarong Commune's Cultural Center in Echeng county, Hubei province, in central China. Recently he turned down an offer that might have given him a richer and more luxurious life, but would have taken him away from his work and his homeland.

Lu's college professor parents had left China for the United States on the eve of the 1949 liberation, leaving the year-and-a-half-old boy and his older sister in the care of their maternal grandparents in an Echeng county

BAO WENQING is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs. Here she continues a series of profiles of rural cultural workers begun in our May issue.

village. When the grandfather died, the state and the commune supported the grandmother and the two children. The family had run up a debt of 500 yuan to the production team for grain, but this was canceled in view of their difficulties. Lu has never forgotten the warmth and concern of socialist China as he was growing up.

A Choice to Make

In 1979 he received a letter from his father Bao Jiacong, now a professor of psychology and owner of a successful real estate business in the United States. (Though his own original surname was "Bao," Keke had adopted that of his maternal grandfather.) Professor Bao wanted his son to come and live in America. Lu Keke happily exchanged letters with his new-found family, but postponed making a decision.

In May of 1981 a car drove up to the cultural center. It brought Keke's uncle, Bao Jiawen, now a professor of mathematics at North Carolina State University, who was in China to give a series of lectures. He tried to persuade Keke to come join his family in the U.S.

It was a hard decision for the young man. He had never really known his parents, and one part of him longed for this grand family reunion. On the other hand it would mean leaving his vocation and the motherland which had done so much for him.

In the nearly 20 years since he had graduated from middle school, he had diligently learned the skills he considered necessary for a good rural cultural worker—acting, directing, playwrighting, musical ac-

companiment, and drawing. Once he was asked to direct a modern play. Learning that the same play was being performed in the nearby city of Wuhan, Lu went there to see it. All the tickets had been sold, so he stood outside in the cold for three hours watching the performance through a window. His own production was a big success with the peasants.

So much of his time and energy is devoted to his work that he often neglects his own household chores, not to mention his private plot. He has been known to practice traditional opera acrobatics until he was black and blue. Over the past dozen or so years he has written about 10 full-length plays, 60 short ones and many popular skits.

Some of his scripts have been published, others have been awarded prizes at provincial and county drama festivals, and many have been performed by communes and brigades throughout the area. Six of his paintings were selected for art exhibitions. Last November he was elected a member of the county people's congress.

A Happy Family

Keke's wife Lu Peilan is a hard-working and clever woman of village origin. At 14 she began to take part in amateur theatricals. She has since played many leading roles on stage and on television. In 1980 her acting won a prize at a national rural drama festival. Like her husband, she is now a cultural worker paid by the state.

The couple were married during the "cultural revolution," at a time when Keke was mistreated and isolated because of his background. But Lu Peilan had a strong sense of justice and right and wrong. She took him as her husband despite the pressure of opinion. Their two children are now 8 and 12, and Keke's aging grandmother is an important member of the household. Their life is happy and peaceful.

Keke's final answer to his uncle was obviously no. The uncle was sorry to hear this, but as a Chinese

himself, he could understand Keke's devotion to the motherland. "Each one must do what he thinks is right," he said. "I'll try to explain your decision to your parents."

Keke hopes that his relatives abroad will be at ease about him.

As part of his country and the Chinese people, he wants to grow in strength along with them and to share their happiness and sorrows. Someday he may visit his parents abroad. Better yet, he hopes they will come to see him, and their homeland, once more. □

Jinshan Peasant Painters and Their Teacher

BAO WENQING

FOLK paintings by the peasants of Jinshan county, just outside of Shanghai, are known and appreciated both in China and foreign countries. The man responsible for organizing and guiding their work is Wu Tongzhang, 48, a staff member of the county's cultural center.

Folk Art Interests

Though Wu's professional training is in the more formal Chinese

traditional school, and a number of his works in that style have been exhibited, he has always had an interest in and respect for the county's folk artists. As a young boy there, he was fascinated by the folk clay sculptures, folding-paper toys, sugar-paste figures and paper lanterns made by the peasants. At festivals he was thrilled by the colorful costumes of the lion and dragon dancers and the stilt-walkers. When two nearby tem-

Wu Tongzhang coaches village artists.



ples were being refurbished, he spent his after-school hours watching the artists paint murals and sculpt temple statues.

In those days all the girls in the county learned embroidery. Every new bride was expected to bring with her a dowry of embroidered pillow cases and other articles she had made. Original designs and fine workmanship were prized. With Wu's interest in art, he was often asked to examine the girls' work and create new designs.

After completing junior middle school, he entered for the Shanghai Special School of Fine Arts. Upon graduation, he joined the People's Liberation Army as a cultural worker. During his over 20 years in uniform, he traveled to many parts of China, collecting and studying samples of local folk arts.

Returning to civilian life in 1972, he joined his native county's cultural center. He organized classes for amateur painters. He also spent a lot of time and energy promoting rural folk arts, assembling the finest examples from different areas and encouraging young people to preserve traditional skills.

In 1977 he led a study tour of cultural workers to Zhejiang province. Village grandmothers brought out their most cherished pieces of weaving and embroidery work to show to the group — which was tremendously impressed with the wealth of creative talent in these peasant women.

Peasant Painters

In teaching amateur painters, Tongzhang realized that the peasants had a rich tradition to draw upon which had little to do with classical schools of painting. The latter stressed fairly realistic rendering of figures and accurate perspectives. Folk arts, particularly embroidery, took their subjects from nature — flowers, birds, fish, insects and human figures — but they freely exaggerated certain features and ignored conventional perspectives. Blocks of bright colors were used liberally for contrast.

Instead of trying to teach them "fine drawing" and perspective, Wu encouraged his amateurs to

turn their imaginations loose on folk art forms. His job was to offer guidance, to help them sort through their images and achieve good composition. Their confidence increased as they realized their teacher respected and valued their work, and a new style based on popular traditions was born.

Today the county art group includes white-haired grandfathers in their 70s and teen-aged girls. The women in particular have applied their wealth of practical experience in embroidery and paper-cuts to painting. Gao Jinying, a young woman who was skilled in embroidery before she ever picked up a paintbrush, is a promising artist. Her first painting was called "Celebrating National Day." Deriving its style from a traditional mosquito-net border, it displayed against a red background a number of jubilant figures doing lantern, dragon and boat dances. The striking colors and sense of motion give it a dynamic life that many mature artists might envy.

Recognition

A collection of Jinshan peasant paintings went on exhibit in Beijing's Chinese Art Gallery in April 1980, and they have since been shown in Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States and Japan. An album of the best, published in Japan, was very popular.

Wu Tongzhang is particularly delighted about one "folk artist" — his wife Zhang Xinying. For many years he lived alone in the countryside; his wife and children lived in Shanghai, where she worked in a factory. In 1980 she retired and came to live in Jinshan, so now the couple are together all the time instead of visiting back and forth. In her spare time she began to study painting in the local style. Her "Flying a Kite" and "Corner of the Kitchen" have won much appreciation. □

Football Strengths and Weaknesses

HUANG HE

CHINA just missed its chance to play in the World Cup Soccer finals in Spain this summer. Fans were of course disappointed, particularly in view of the marked improvement in Chinese football over the past several years. The players themselves regretted the missed opportunity to compete at top international levels and improve their skills. But football is becoming one of China's most popular sports, and the lessons learned this year may bring our team to the finals—or even higher—in the future.

No Firecrackers This Year

Near the end of the preliminary rounds, China had practically secured a place in the finals, and could be dislodged only if New Zealand not only won a final match with the stronger Saudi Arabian team but also scored five points in the game. Most observers thought such an upset highly unlikely. An Argentine newspaper had already listed China as one of the 24 finalists, and here at home many fans had bought firecrackers, expecting to celebrate China's chance to go to Madrid. Millions of Chinese gathered in front of television sets on December 19, 1981—only to

watch Saudi Arabia lose to New Zealand by 0-5. In the tiebreaker on January 10 this year, New Zealand beat China 2-1.

On their return home, China's players were not made the scapegoats for people's disappointment. In fact they garnered considerable sympathy, and appreciation for getting as far as they had. After a 24-year absence from international tournaments, the team had not done badly. They had beaten the stronger Korean and Saudi teams by 4-2 and 2-0. They had made a particularly strong showing against Kuwait, holding this all-Asia champion team scoreless for a 3-0 win.

People in China also think it good that the players are not finding excuses for their failure, but rather analyzing their own weaknesses and training hard for international tournaments still to come.

Strong and Weak Points

At home and abroad, followers of football in China have noted that the national team's overall technique is not bad. Some of its players are fast, dextrous and highly skillful. Rong Zhihang has been called the "football king of Asia" and the "Chinese Pelé." He is one of the

Pupils of a primary school in Lüda, northeast China, practice dribbling.

Xinhua





An outstanding play by goalkeeper Li Fusheng as China beats the Asian champion Kuwaiti team 3-0.

Huo Jianying

continent's outstanding players in controlling the ball, breaking through the opposition and organizing attacks. Right forward Gu Guangming and goalkeeper Li Fusheng also enjoy Asia-wide reputations. In style, Chinese football is considered to have many of the good features of the South American game. One weakness, as many people have pointed out, is that however accomplished in technique and impressive in exhibition games, the team plays a "soft" game in actual competition.

In the Asia-Oceania Qualifying Matches for the World Soccer Cup, China's footballers played some fine games and made commendable progress. But people felt there were still vestiges of over-diffidence in their three matches with New Zealand (one tie 0-0, and two losses, 0-1 and 1-2).

In the first game, top player Rong Zhihang was injured by a member of the New Zealand team, so he had to sit out the second match. Not only did this put the team at a disadvantage, but it also seemed to demoralize them psychologically. This is a reflection of their "softness" in competitive situations and of their lack of experience in world championship play.

A change in the playing schedule was another factor in China's failure to make the finals.

Originally the matches of all the four strong teams in the crucial qualifying stage were to have been played simultaneously. But China was too easily persuaded to play two of her games earlier than the others, thus putting her players at a disadvantage. However, the most important factor in the losses to New Zealand was undoubtedly the team's lack of real power. If it had really been stronger than New Zealand's, either in skill or fighting style, it would have had no problem winning under any circumstances.

In attack, the team has not found effective ways to deal with one-to-one situations and close defense in the penalty area. In defense, our fullbacks are somewhat weak in individual skills and the sweeper lacks seasoning. These weaknesses are readily apparent when the players face stronger teams.

Football Fever

The qualifying contests gave a real boost to public interest in the game. Millions watched every match and football became a prime topic of conversation. Even as the team was losing its chance to go to Madrid, children all over China were saving their money to buy footballs and urging their fathers to teach them how to play. Proud parents dreamed of their offspring growing up to win honors for their country on the

football field. Recently two young Guangzhou women each mailed me sums equal to two months' wages, and asked me to buy whatever was needed by the national team. They wrote: "We are bursting with enthusiasm and want to do what little we can."

At a football coaching conference held not long ago, participants unanimously agreed on the importance of training our players not only in individual skills, but in a "dare-to-win" spirit against any opponent. Liao Chengzhi, Honorary Chairman of the China Football Association, has called for a nationwide training drive for this "king of sports."

Sixteen cities and districts in China sponsor major football teams, and more than 500,000 people play the game at various levels. Primary school football competitions have been started in 600 counties. In the last two years, Beijing and Tianjin primary school champs won high praise from Italian coaches who watched them play.

This year, the "August First" team (with an average age of 14) scored two goals against the Shenyang Army Youth Team (average age 17), though they ultimately lost to the older players. Our young people are acquiring skills and developing their fighting spirit, and we can look forward to some exciting play in national and international competitions. □

HUANG HE is a reporter for 'Sports News.'

Chu Tunan— Promoter of Friendship

ZENG SHUZH

*Thirty years the voice of
friendship,
A new chapter arduously pio-
neered.
Peace and progress, history
spanned,
An unshirkable moral duty.*

THESE are the words of a poem written by Chu Tunan in January this year for the 30th anniversary of *China Reconstructs*. Clear and concise, they were meant to encourage us who work for cultural exchange between China and foreign countries. But in fact they epitomize the life, work and aspirations of Chu Tunan himself.

Chu Tunan, 83, is a kindly, much-respected elder, an erudite scholar and writer. In 1954 he was elected president of the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. Today he is vice-president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, Chu Tunan has visited many countries and participated in various international peace conferences, making friends abroad and building understanding and friendship between the Chinese people and people all over the world. Yet he only talks about what others have done and rarely mentions his own contributions.

Scholar and Activist

Chu Tunan was a graduate of the Beijing Higher Institute for Teachers (today's Beijing Teachers University) and spent many years in teaching and academic research. He has achieved much in the study of Chinese history, lecturing on the subject in the 30s

and 40s. He has also translated foreign literary works, among them Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, Gustav Schwab's *The Most Beautiful Legends from Olden Times* and Nikolai A. Nekrasov's *Who Can Be Happy and Free in Russia?*

In the dark days of the old China he joined the democratic movement. After the war against Japanese aggression broke out, he taught at a college in Kunming and at the same time took part in activities demanding democracy in state politics. Like most college professors of the time, he was poor. In 1942 he published a collection of essays called *Alarm Bell*, in those terror-filled times a militant protest against oppression.

He was one of the earliest leaders of the China Democratic League, which united intellectuals in an effort to win democracy. Today he is still one of its vice-

presidents. He is also on the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. In those days he showed much concern for young people's vocational activities and their ideological growth, winning their respect and love. Today, he still concerns himself with the young people with whom he comes in contact.

Though deeply attached to China and her people, Chu Tunan also respects and loves the people and cultures of other countries, and is a social activist dedicated to promoting international cultural exchange and friendship.

Visit to Latin America

In the first years after 1949, few countries had diplomatic relations with China. Due to the imperialist blockade and propaganda, many people abroad had only a bare

Visiting Beijing in 1960, famous Chilean painter Jose Venturelli (2nd left) presents old friend Chu Tunan with one of his paintings.



ZENG SHUZH is a staff reporter for *China Reconstructs*.

minimum of knowledge or understanding of China. They were bewildered and mystified by the great changes taking place in this ancient country. There were many wrong ideas and prejudices.

In 1956, a delegation of singers, dancers and Beijing opera artists visited Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. As president of the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Chu Tunan led the group. Recalling their arrival at Santiago in Chile, Chu Tunan said, "We were the first emissaries of friendship from the new China to arrive in South America. Our mission was to establish friendly contacts with the people and tell them about the new China's achievements. But we knew little about South America. Many questions and misgivings crossed our minds as we set foot on this great continent."

Making Friends

A hearty welcome awaited them in Chile. Salvador Allende, then leader of the Chilean Socialist Party, the famous poet Pablo Neruda and many others gave them a warm reception. Allende personally drove some of the delegation from the airport to their hotel.

"Wherever we went during our visit in Latin America," Chu Tunan said, "we were deeply impressed. I will never forget the magnificent mountains and gorges, the warm and spirited people, and their strong desire for friendly contacts with China." At that time no country in Latin America had established diplomatic relations with China. Now, 16 have embassies and more maintain economic and cultural contacts.

Chu Tunan has always received friends from abroad with the greatest enthusiasm. In 1981, when the well-known Chilean painter José Venturelli and his family came on a visit, Chu Tunan brought his daughter along to meet the Venturellis and their daughter Paz, who had studied in China. He had never taken his children to functions connected with foreign relations. "But," he remarked, "our generation has become



Touring the Mau Ran Rong hospital in Pyongyang, DPRK.

friends and I hope the younger generation will do the same."

In these last 30 years, Chu Tunan has also visited many parts of Asia and played host to many personages and delegations from these countries. Last year he gave a dinner for a delegation of the Japan-China Association for Cultural Exchange. Talking with Kyuhei Muraoka, deputy chief of the Association, he mentioned how in the 60s Muraoka had postponed his wedding and honeymoon to be with a Chinese delegation headed by Chu Tunan. The Japanese admired his excellent memory.

In 1978, he led a delegation to Britain, Belgium and France, where he visited old friends and made many new ones. In Scotland he went to see Dr. Joseph Needham, head of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding, internationally renowned scholar and author of *Science and Civilization in China*. Then nearly 80, Dr. Needham came to the railway station to welcome the delegates and arranged for them to visit a branch of Cambridge University and his own laboratory.

In Edinburgh he met George Young, who had been a priest at the Qiaoergou Catholic church in Yan'an in Shaanxi province in the 30s and had lived 30 years in China. Young described to Chu Tunan how 40 years ago in Xi'an Zhou Enlai had received all the foreign missionaries then in Shaanxi province. Zhou Enlai, he

said, told them that there was both freedom of religion and freedom not to believe in religion in the anti-Japanese base areas led by the Chinese Communist Party — a policy still in effect in China today.

In Belgium the delegation laid a wreath at the tomb of Queen Mother Elizabeth who had contributed much to Sino-Belgian friendship. The queen mother,

'Welcome to Japan!' A Chinese friendship delegation is greeted by Japanese notables.



already advanced in age, had visited China in 1964 in spite of many obstacles of the time, and on returning to Belgium helped bring about the establishment of diplomatic relations with China.

In France, Chaban-Delmas, former President of the National Assembly enthusiastically recalled to Chu Tunan his visit to China during which he had talked with Premier Zhou Enlai for seven or eight hours.

In 1980 Chu Tunan, although in his eighties, once again led a delegation to the Korean Democratic People's Republic, and with great emotion noted how well this neighboring country had rebuilt after the ravages of a devastating war. In the spring of 1981, he headed a delegation to Romania. One of the places he visited was



With Ion Popescu-Puturi, Chairman of the Romania-China Friendship Association.

Timisoara, a garden-like city famous for its wine and roses. His hosts humorously informed him that its girls were unwilling to marry away from their town.

Among Overseas Chinese

During his visits abroad, Chu Tunan has had many contacts with overseas Chinese. Their love of their home country impressed him. In Latin America, his delegation was invited to the homes of some overseas Chinese. The older people spoke of their hometowns in China, childhood memories, how they had left in the face of disaster in the old days, and the hardships they had gone through in estab-

lishing themselves abroad. Some had taken foreign citizenship and married local people. Many of the young people were already second or third generation. In spite of their many years abroad, however, the older people had not forgotten their native land and did their best to keep their children conversant in the language, writing, customs and habits of their ancestral land. Their homes, decorated in the style of their hometowns, had pictures and ornaments featuring pines, bamboo, plum blossoms and cranes.

Local Chinese told Chu Tunan that the delegation was the first they had seen from their motherland—and it was the first time they had seen South Americans giving such a welcome to Chinese nationals. They were thrilled at the way cultural emissaries from China were received. Local people, especially the young, were captivated by the Chinese songs and dances, and particularly by the Monkey King done in Beijing opera. The overseas Chinese saw that their motherland had become strong and they no longer felt like isolated wanderers in foreign lands.

Chu Tunan noted that local overseas Chinese had helped the delegation greatly during their visit to South America. Young people laid aside their businesses or studies to accompany the delegation, acquaint them with local customs, translate for them or act as guides. Some remained at night in the hotel where the delegation was staying to see to the comfort of their kinsmen. Others helped to make contacts with local people.

During visits to Burma and other Southeast Asian countries in the early 60s, Chu Tunan talked with many overseas Chinese. These people had worked together with the local people to develop these regions and their societies. Every family had a history of pain, sorrow and arduous struggle—a history deserving respect and admiration. They had formed indissoluble bonds with the local population, especially in their struggles for national independence. In Southeast Asia one hears

everywhere stories about the friendship between overseas Chinese and the local people. Chu Tunan still receives warm, earnest letters from those he met during his visits.

Simple Way of Life

Chu Tunan talks very little about himself and his personal life. People who know him intimately say he is warmhearted, though as strict with his children as he is with himself. In spite of his high position, he refuses special privileges, his driver noting, for example, that he never allows his children to use the car assigned to him by the state.

Since his wife's death three years ago he has been living in Beijing with his youngest son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. His daughter Chu Zexiang, who works at the Dynamics Institute of the Academy of Sciences, comes on Sundays with her husband and children to see him. Two other sons work in different cities.

Chu Tunan resides in an old-style Beijing courtyard. Once the housing department wanted to whitewash it, but Chu Tunan thought the government expense unnecessary. It was only after explaining that it was routine maintenance and much persuasion that he finally agreed to let them whitewash the house, on condition that the home of another family in the courtyard be done at the same time—he would not let it be done just for himself. His house is the same one he moved into when he was transferred to Beijing in the early 50s.

Every morning Chu Tunan goes to his office at the Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries in the center of Beijing. If he has some other duty, he invariably phones his office secretary and explains the circumstances. In the afternoons he reads and writes at home. He lives a simple, well-regulated life. Friends speak of his warmth and sincerity in his relations with people. During holidays and festivals he often drops in to visit his colleagues. His way of working and living sets a good example to others. □



Fight scene in the Peking Opera, 'Eight Immortals Cross the Sea.'

Weng Naiqiang

A Westerner Looks at the Chinese Stage

J. NORMAN WILKINSON

I first visited the People's Republic of China in 1954, when, as a member of the British Merchant Marine, I spent a week in Qingdao (Tsingtao). At that time there was no chance of my seeing any Chinese theater. Over twenty-six years passed before I was able to visit China again, but this second visit (1980) was made with the deliberate intention of seeing as much theatrical activity as possible.

In Shanghai I saw the Shanghai Magicians and Acrobatic Troupe at the Little Theater. The admission was remarkably inexpensive for those of us accustomed to the high prices of theater seats in America. My ticket cost six *jiao* (about forty U.S. cents). Currently in New York, the cost of one ticket can equal the average monthly wage of a Chinese worker. I was also to notice, in each theater I visited, that the only latecomers were Westerners.

As always, I was to find all seats occupied by a true cross-

section of the city: students, children, peasants and factory workers, even grandmothers with their babysitting charges on their laps. It is wonderful to see such interest in live theater by people of all ages. Even in auditoriums that could accommodate some 2,000 people, all seats were full. In the U.S., even in modest houses of some 600 seats, many would be unoccupied.

The Little Theater's orchestra included ten musicians and filled the pit in front of the stage. Music played constantly during the performance of over two hours—recorded and live, Hawaiian, Western, and Chinese. The orchestra played such instruments as the trumpet, piano, and oboe, as well as the traditional Chinese fiddles, clappers, cymbals, drums, and gongs.

Magic and Local Opera

There were twelve acts in all, played without an intermission, a curtain being drawn between each act while a young lady announced

what was to follow. The troupe numbered fifteen in all, with a male and a female magician heading the bill. Everybody participated many times, appearing and reappearing to perform their magical tricks or to assist other members of the company. There were tricks with paint and with water, with live ducks, goldfish, and rats, with ropes, whips, cannons, robots, sedan chairs, and rockets. Clown acts helped to relieve the tension.

I found that Chinese audiences laugh easily and often. They are also noisy, compared to Western audiences; the Chinese are inclined to vocalize their enjoyment. They chatter a lot during the performance, but it is an outward show of their appreciation.

Two nights later, still in Shanghai, I visited the Great Theater of the People, a house of 2,000 seats. The three-hour performance was of a local Shaoxing opera, *The Beauty Betrayed by Her Lover*, in a version by Tian Han. Well-known actress Fu Chuanxiang played the leading role.

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The opera concerns a poor scholar, Wang Gui, who marries a rich beauty, Guiying, and then has to leave her to go off to the city to sit for examinations. He is successful, but now finds that he prefers city life; he is also tempted into taking a new wife. When his first wife receives the news, she despairs and takes her own life. In the underworld she encounters a devil and his impish assistant, who promise to help her. She visits her ex-husband's study. He is understandably astonished to see this woman he had believed dead. She reveals herself as a ghost, and the opera ends with the cowering scholar being led off to his fate by the wife, the devil, and the imp.

Technical Feats

The opera featured the rich and colorful traditional costumes; the mime, energetic acrobatics and numerous symbolic sleeve movements; 6-inch high shoes and false beards, long and black, on many male characters; the choreographed fight scenes; the alternation of sung and spoken dialogue; comedy; and the constant playing of the orchestra (drums, cymbals, Chinese pipes and fiddles).

I was very interested in the technical perfection of the performance. Classical Chinese stage lighting has been general illumination, sufficient for the audience to see clearly. Now I was watching lights that helped add atmosphere and mood to the show. A marvelous scene took place in the scholar's study, when the ghostly wife reveals her new powers. With fast-swirling sleeve and body movements, Guiying "made" lamps come on and off, caused different colored lights to flash, and turned the stage from illumination to total blackness and back in split-second timing. I could appreciate the concentration and expertise of the light technicians.

The sets were beautiful, in radiant reds, blues, blacks, and golds—the opposite of the relatively bare stage that used to be used in traditional Chinese opera: a table, a couple of chairs, a curtain at the rear. There were many

scene changes of elaborate handsome pieces: gates, archways, tapestries, tables, and statues. Each time we saw the sky, clouds rolled across it.

A scene handled with great comic skill was the reluctant separation of husband and wife, before the scholar-calligrapher leaves for his examinations. They parted, and then came rushing back to each other's arms numerous times, to the great delight of the entire audience. Eventually the husband leaves, and "galloping" sounds in the wings tell us the scholar is heading for the capital on horseback. The wife, through eye movements and gestures, follows his imaginary progress through the audience.

The only use of the traditional exaggerated painted-face make-up seemed to be for the devil and the imp. The imp entered first, turning full somersaults while carrying a lighted lantern at the end of a curved stick. Then the devil came on in an equally acrobatic style, often coming to an abrupt halt after some furious gravity-defying movement and posing fiercely on one leg.

This was a highly entertaining production, technically perfect, colorful, energetic, and exhausting.

Peking Opera

In Nanjing the People's Theater, I saw *Two Lovers Linked by Fate* performed by the Shanghai Peking Opera Company. Again I noted the capacity audience; in this case 1,500 seats were filled.

The People's Theater, which looked to be at least seventy years old, had a red, a light blue, and a dark blue curtain respectively at each portal, moving upstage. All were used at some time in this opera for the "before the curtain" scenes that alternated with the splendid indoor and outdoor scenes, when the whole stage would be resplendent with beautiful furniture, archways, trees, a drawbridge, walls, statues, and pagodas.

There was an orchestra pit, but it was not used for this production.

The six to eight musicians sat in the left wing space and encroached on the acting area with no attempt to hide themselves. Once more, musical accompaniment was to fill every scene: drums, cymbals, gongs, flutes, fiddles, and clappers.

Our seats were equipped with earphones for instantaneous translation of the stage dialogue by our guide. I had a program and, with the aid of my guide, was able to obtain a brief synopsis of the plot. I then ignored the headphones, which can be an uncomfortable hindrance, and settled back to enjoy the show—which, due to



Leaping over a city wall—a piece of painted cloth on a wooden frame passes for the wall.
Weng Naiqiang

the actors' pantomimic skill, was clearly understandable.

In Peking Opera there are four main types of character: *sheng* (male lead), *dan* (female lead), *jing* (painted face), and *chou* (clown). The large cast included many *jing* and *chou* roles, some with long and luxuriant beards, several of which were highly comic, jutting straight out (rather than down) from the face. There were even two drunken clowns, which must be a very recent inclusion considering the numerous bans and stage reforms over the past thirty years.

Peking Opera is a comprehensive art, consisting of singing, spoken dialogue, acting and acrobatics. The actors must excel in the magnificently energetic acrobatic scenes of

sword play, when each performer, resplendent in his gorgeous costume, moves around the stage at high speed.

Briefly, the plot concerns a girl street-entertainer Hua Bilian (Bi) who is bullied by a rowdy passer-by and his cronies. A young man Lo Hongxun (Hong) comes to her aid, but, as is revealed in the numerous escapades of this opera, *she* is much more able to help *him*, for she has wonderful powers. She is able to fly, and to fight four men or more at one time.

The most spectacular outdoor scene was one depicting Hong's house. A long wall stretches diagonally across the stage, the house behind it. It is evening, and three firebugs appear. They place themselves downstage, speed upstage with a series of somersaults, and each, in turn, clears the six-foot wall without touching it. After a moment there is a tremendous explosion and the house is in flames. It is beautifully timed business, effectively executed, and much appreciated by the audience.

A mute notices the fire and "calls" unintelligibly for help. This becomes a big comic scene as he pantomimes his reenactment of the crime and gives a description of the culprits. The actor becomes more and more frustrated as he

fails to make would-be rescuers understand.

The opera uses numerous special effects: the heroine "flying" in several scenes; her eight-foot climb in act two as she floats quietly up a wall to an overhead lamp and "blows it out" without disturbing her enemy's sleeping wife; lighted lamps that explode as this "wonder woman" points her finger at them; curved swords that attempt to impale the heroine as they spring from hidden slots in a wall.

When Bi is discovered searching the bully's study, she has to fight a frenetic battle with four men, who stand one at each of the four corners of the room and hurl bamboo javelins at her. She fields every one with her arms, her legs, her feet, even flicking them backwards over her head, and all fly cleanly back to the throwers. It is a most amazing feat, exceptionally fast-paced and totally error-free. Bi then shins at high speed up a pillar to escape, while arrows burst from inside the pillar as she touches certain spots, giving the impression that the arrows come from her pursuers below.

Acrobatics

The following week in Beijing, I visited the 1,500-seat theater the Fifth Club to see the China Acrobatic Troupe. Once more there



With clever movements of their bodies and wooden paddles, performers reenact all the stages of a river journey by small boat.
Di Xianghua

was a full house. The entire company was very young, except for the hostess, a female magician possibly thirty years of age, and an older male magician of some fifty years. There were gymnastics, juggling, clowning, magical tricks, balancing, and a wonderful finale of twelve performers on one bicycle. The energy and verve, dynamism and skill of everyone in the company made for another thrilling theater evening.

I was familiar with the Chinese theater but had never seen performances in its own homeland until this 1980 visit. What I found were tremendously energetic performances by dedicated professionals, the stages a mass of swirling color. Lively plots were enhanced by the skill and enthusiasm of the performers amid a mixture of mime, elegant costumes, painted-face make-up, and false beards; beautiful sets, special lighting and sound effects, acrobatics, and high speed combat rounded out the picture.

The Western theater has its pageantry and color, too, its Shakespearean banners, costumes, and sword fights. It has Greek tragedy, the problem plays of Ibsen and Shaw, numerous comedies, musicals, and avant-garde experimental dramas. But I do not think we can match Chinese stage actors for their sheer energy and acrobatic skill. □

Banners embroidered with wheels indicate that the performer is riding in a cart.
Weng Naiqiang



The Furniture Industry

WU DONGYAN

IN most parts of China, if you ask a young couple to name their most important practical priorities before marriage, the answer is "first housing, then furniture." A good set of furniture (mainly including a wardrobe, bed, sofa, desk and small dining table and chairs) has become the symbol of a prosperous life for ordinary families.

In the last four years there has been a real housing boom both in cities and countryside. With new space to fill, the demand for furniture has become acute. State-owned furniture factories have expanded production—the number of people employed has grown from 300,000 to 350,000 since 1978. Still, supplies are well short of need. The real keys to future growth will be the current efforts to increase raw materials sources,

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mechanize and modernize the industry, and eliminate waste.

Both quality and variety are improving considerably. Though many styles are still basically utilitarian, more attention is now paid to aesthetics. Wooden pieces may be decorated with carved patterns or inlaid with designs of bone, marble or mother-of-pearl. Fabrics for sofas and other upholstered pieces often feature dragons, phoenixes, mandarin ducks or other well-loved traditional figures. A variety of materials is now in common use, including wood, steel, bamboo, rattan, hard and soft plastics.

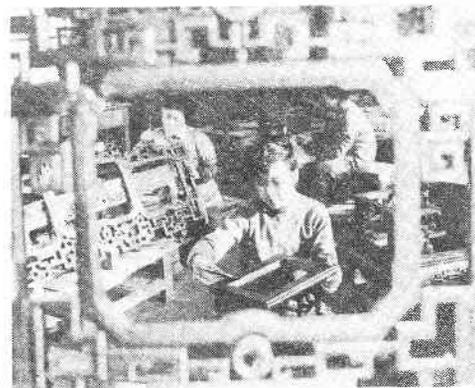
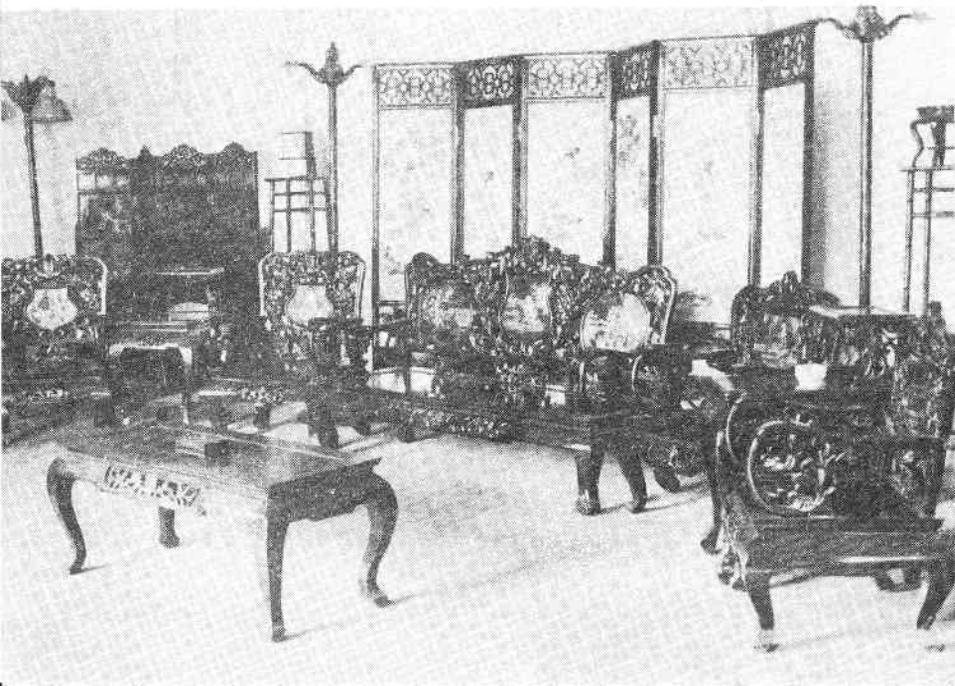
Small-Space Pieces

Certain types of furniture are very popular because of the small living spaces in Chinese homes—folding tables and chairs with tubular legs, sofa-beds or other multi-purpose pieces, or items

made up of modular units which can be rearranged at will. A Beijing factory, for instance, produces a piece consisting of three modular cabinets and a base in which a TV, radio-tape recorder, clothes or other things can be stored. A similar Shanghai-designed unit has found a ready market not only at home but in Hongkong and Macao.

A Nanchang plant has come up with a three-unit set with fifteen separate pieces. The first unit consists of a wardrobe, chest of drawers, bookcase and cabinet; the second of a desk, TV table and several cabinets; and the last of a sofa-bed with two small detachable cabinets. All the parts are standardized and can be replaced separately if damaged.

Many customers like the idea of complete suites of furniture in the same design and color combination, and factories are responding to the need. Shanghai's Friendship Wooden Furniture Plant now



Mahogany furniture inlaid with silver produced in Shandong's Weifang is a century-old tradition, now used for ceremonial receptions and for export.

Liu Shuguang and Han Zifu

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

turns out an 11-piece matching set that is so compact it can fit into a 12-square-meter space without crowding.

National Tradition

The craft of fine furniture-making in China can be traced back to the Shang dynasty (16th-11th century B.C.), and advanced greatly during the Spring and Autumn period (770-476 B.C.). Lu Ban, a semi-mythical skilled carpenter of the period, is credited as the inventor of many tools used to this day. Later centuries saw further developments in design and technique. Styles of the Tang dynasty (A.D. 618-907) were famous in many parts of Asia. To this day the Japanese call mahogany pieces "Tang-style furniture." The elegance of Tang design can be seen in the painting of the 10th century "Han Xizai's Evening Party" by Gu Hongzhong, which shows in great detail the furnishings of a high-ranking official's residence.

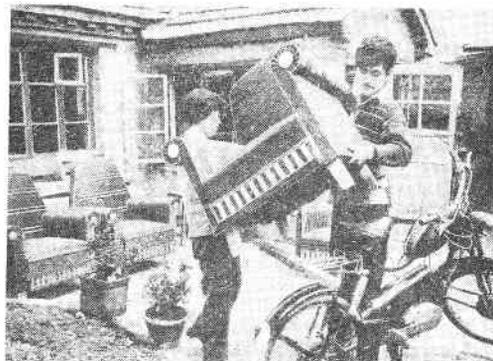
The Ming dynasty (1368-1644) was another high point of fine craftsmanship; in the Qing dynasty (1644-1911) period styles became ornate and overelaborate. After the Opium War (1840-42), Western furniture was imported into China, and some of its design features incorporated into Chinese pieces.

Traditional workmanship was of a very high order. Techniques of handling hardwoods brought out the natural beauty of the grain. Sophisticated joining methods were employed (about 40 different kinds of tenon-mortise joints were in common use.)

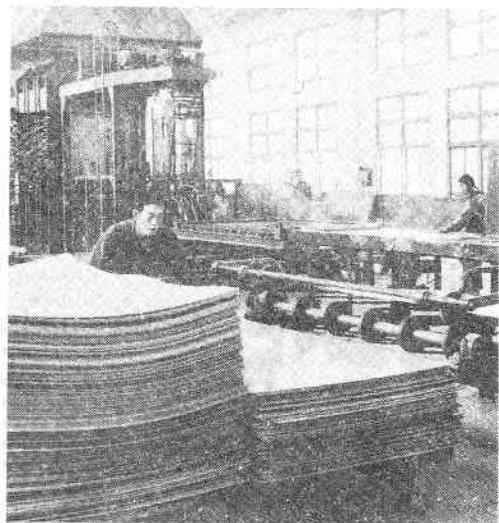
Modern furniture styles try to combine practicality with the grace and elegance of the past. Some particularly elaborate pieces are made mostly for the export trade. One example is a sofa currently made in Shanghai. Comfortably modern, with an inclined back, its overall lines are traditional. The skirting board and armrests are of fine wood carved in a Ming design of over 100 individualized dragons. At the front of each armrest is a dragon head with a "pearl" in its mouth.

Upgrading the Industry

A major reason for the present shortage of furniture is a scarcity of lumber. Steel products are sufficient in quantity, but inadequate in variety. The use of plastics is limited by their high price. Current efforts by the forestry industry to increase yields and afforest barren areas should help solve the lumber problem in the future. New petrochemicals industries will undoubtedly bring down plastics prices.



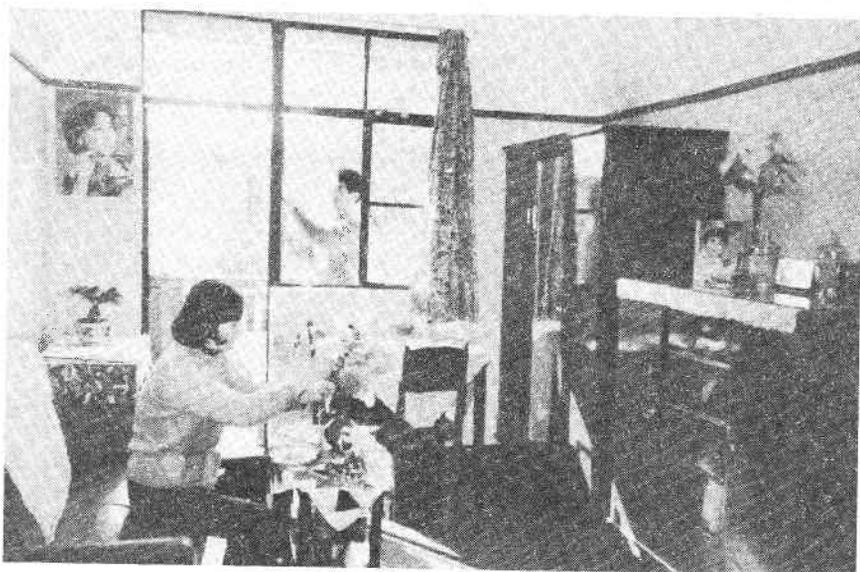
Armchairs made by Yu Denghai (right), a young man waiting for a job assignment, are popular for their out-of-the-ordinary style. *Fan Huichen*



In Yong'an county, Fujian province, fiberboard is produced from waste lumber. *Xinhua*

Newlyweds furnish their home with loving care.

Yang Putao



Meanwhile, the furniture industry has some problems of its own to solve, mainly inadequate mechanization and waste of raw materials. Traditional manufacturing methods are slow, and in some cases only 40 percent of the lumber is utilized in the finished pieces. Modernization of the industry is a top priority.

Some 60 percent of the 3,000 state-owned furniture plants across the country are now at least partially mechanized, and new techniques and equipment are rapidly being introduced. Elimination of waste is promoted, and new materials such as fiberboard

(Continued on p. 72)



Song Shuchun of Guoji Shudian presents 'A Collection of Song Dynasty Paintings' to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her visit to the Chinese exhibition.

At the Delhi World Book Fair

CHEN DE

INDIA'S Fifth World Book Fair was held in New Delhi earlier this year. Five of us attended as representatives of Guoji Shudian (China Publications Center). After the fair we made a brief business trip to Bombay, the second largest city in India. We were glad to be there at a time of improving relations between China and India. Our experiences during the three-week stay, especially the warm feelings of the Indian people for the Chinese people, impressed us deeply.

The first of these book fairs was organized in 1972 to mark UNESCO's International Book Year. The current show, as the previous ones, took place in New Delhi's Fair Grounds (Pragati Maidan). This picturesque cultural center includes groves of

coconut palms, verdant lawns and spectacular fountains in the middle of a lake surrounded by flowering trees. Visitors were treated to music played over loudspeakers.

The stalls of participants from 29 countries were arranged in six halls. Ours was in the Arab Pavilion overlooking the lake.

After inaugurating the fair, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi visited the Chinese stall, and other Indian government leaders also stopped by. During the fair, the Indian television network broadcast a feature about the Chinese book display. Guoji Shudian was awarded first prize for the best display among foreign participants.

Thousands of Indian visitors came every day. Many stopped to ask about the latest developments

in China, or to write warm comments in the visitors' book: "Absolutely breathtaking," "Please provide more information about China and spread Chinese literature to make us understand you better." The New Book Center, Guoji Shudian's agent in Calcutta, had their stall behind ours in the Arab Pavilion and sold a lot of Chinese books and art works. The Indian people's friendly wish to know more about China will spur us to do a better job in publishing and circulation.



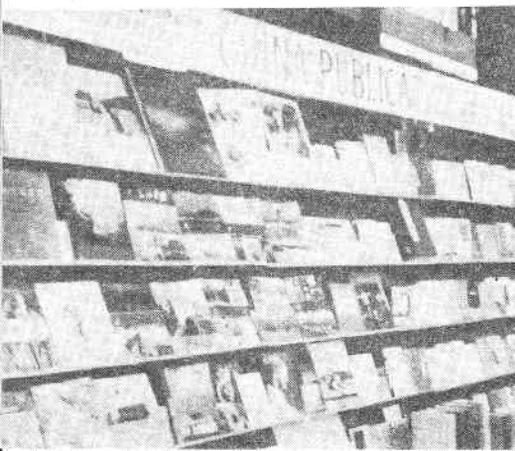
Accepting first prize for the best foreign display from Indian Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe.

We were warmly received by Indian friends from the moment we set foot on their country's soil. Personnel of the Indian National Book Trust, organizers of the fair, ensured that our arrangements went smoothly. Mr. Satya Prakash, a graduate of Jawaharlal Nehru University and some of his schoolmates took care of our stall throughout the fair. Many Indian colleagues invited us to their homes. Mr. Amar Nath, managing director of Star Publications PVT, Ltd., treated us like family members and looked after us in every possible way. He often drove us to the fair or back to our hotel. Before our departure from Bombay he and his wife took a night flight from New Delhi to bid us farewell.

The friendship between the peoples of China and India has deep

CHEN DE is a staff member of China Reconstructs.

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS



The Parapsychology Controversy

CAN some people read another person's mind at a distance? Manipulate objects without touching them in any way? Sense colors or shapes through their hands or feet or ears? The possible existence of paranormal powers was first raised among European scientists more than a century ago. Over the past two years the question has been hotly debated in China.

On March 11, 1979, the *Sichuan Daily* published an article about 12-year-old Tang Yu from Dazhu county, Sichuan province, who claimed to be able to read written material with his ears. Soon similar cases were being reported from other parts of the country, and scientists, medical experts and educators began to give their opinions.

The *People's Daily*, in May 1979, was the first to criticize the "ears can read" report as ridiculous and unscientific. It also carried a piece by a distinguished educator who dismissed the claims as sheer fantasy not worth refuting. The newspaper followed up by carrying a report from the Sichuan Medical College that Tang Yu was simply playing tricks like a magician, and the issue seemed about to die.

BUT many people who had seen demonstrations were not convinced. They preferred to believe what they saw with their own eyes, and did not think a boy so young could fool them so

cleverly. People kept uncovering phenomena which they claimed could not be explained by present-day science, and reports continued to be published.

In August 1980 a forum on parapsychology was sponsored by the monthly journal *Nature* in Shanghai with participants from over 20 colleges, medical and scientific research institutions. Twelve children claiming to have paranormal powers gave demonstrations of "reading" letters or figures with their hands, feet, ears, noses, and even armpits. A number of observers took the demonstrations very seriously. A few colleges and universities established research groups on the subject. Some scientists considered that a major scientific breakthrough had been made, and preparations got underway to establish a National Society of Human Body Science.

The January 1981 issue of *China Reconstructs* reported on the debate. It carried an article citing the interest in paranormal phenomena, but also expressing the skepticism many people still felt about the authenticity of many of the demonstrations.

In May 1981 a second forum on the subject was held in Chongqing, Sichuan province. Some scientists made presentations linking paranormal powers with the theoretical basis of traditional Chinese medicine, and argued that such powers were no mystery, but part of an

advanced scientific understanding of the functions of the human body. Reports were given on what were stated to be cases of mind-reading at a distance, of seeing through solid objects, and of remote control of another person's actions.

Nevertheless, a number of scientists continued to express doubts, calling "parapsychology" a pseudo-science. They pointed out that the evidence of one's own eyes is not necessarily true without further investigation and analysis, and that some people are rather gullible and easily duped.

IN October 1981 the State Science Commission set up a special group to study the phenomena. The group undertook detailed investigations of the claims conducted under scientific conditions and began to issue materials, including reports showing that many of the cases were based on deception.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences sponsored a public hearing in February of this year. The reported cases were analyzed, and the great majority of them shown to be unfounded. Credulous belief in paranormal powers was criticized. The day after the hearing, February 25, *People's Daily* summarized criticisms made, reviewed the news coverage of the past several years, and said that in its opinion there was no solid evidence for the existence of paranormal powers. Nevertheless, the debate goes on in scientific and lay circles, and experimentation continues regarding what has become a highly emotional issue. □

historical roots. Cultural exchanges go back several thousand years. Both countries, with their splendid ancient civilizations, had the same experience of long subjection to colonial oppression. During the hard years of struggle for national freedom, our two peoples sympathized with and sup-

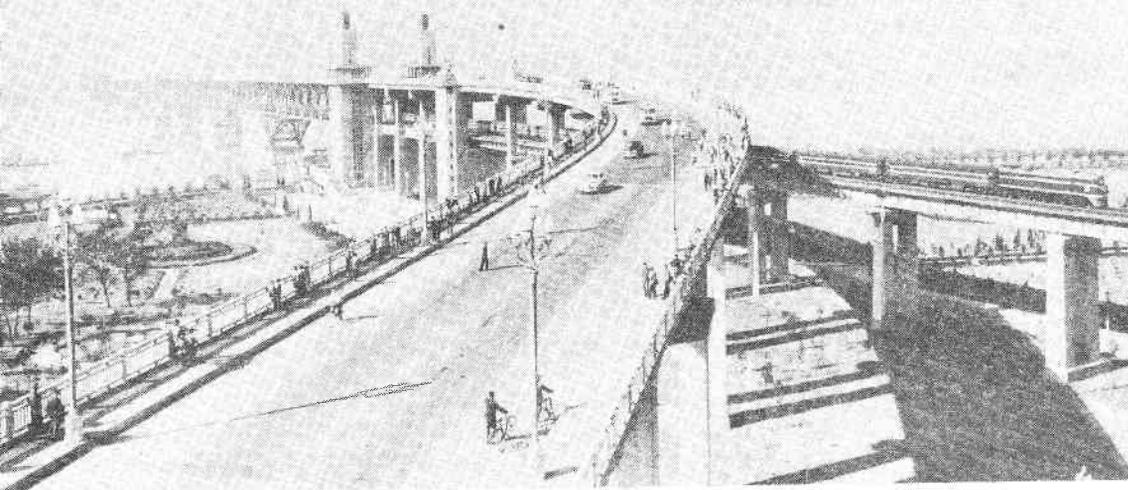
ported each other. After winning independence, each has been building up its own country. Now, as developing countries of the Third World, we have common problems of national development and a desire to preserve peace that is threatened by superpower

clashes. These and other mutual concerns have linked us closely together.

We came home convinced that the traditional friendship between China and India will grow stronger and deeper in the years to come, as is the fervent hope of both our peoples. □

Highway Bridges in China

XIAO ENYUAN



Changjiang (Yangtze) River Bridge at Nanjing.

NEW China has built thousands of bridges since 1949 — more than 3,000 kilometers of highway bridges alone, plus a large number of railway and combined types. The Changjiang (Yangtze) River, for centuries a formidable barrier between north and south, is now spanned by seven, the Huanghe (Yellow) River by 54. Fifty have spans of 100 meters. Twenty are more than a kilometer long.

In the past 33 years the country has mastered construction methods for complicated geographical sites and different weather conditions, gained design and advanced calculation experience, produced the necessary materials and equipment for very large bridges, and trained its own engineers and scientists in bridge construction and management.

Bridge construction has a long history in China. Many stone bridges were built over 1,000 years ago. The most famous is the 37-meter Zhaozhou Bridge in Hebei province, which dates from 605 A.D. A pair of small arches on each end of the main arch were unique for its time. The Luoyang

Bridge in Fujian and the Xiangzi Bridge in Guangdong, each a half kilometer long, are 800 years old. The designers had to contend with wide, deep rivers, typhoons and tides, and at the same time guarantee the passage of boats — problems not easy even for today's engineers.

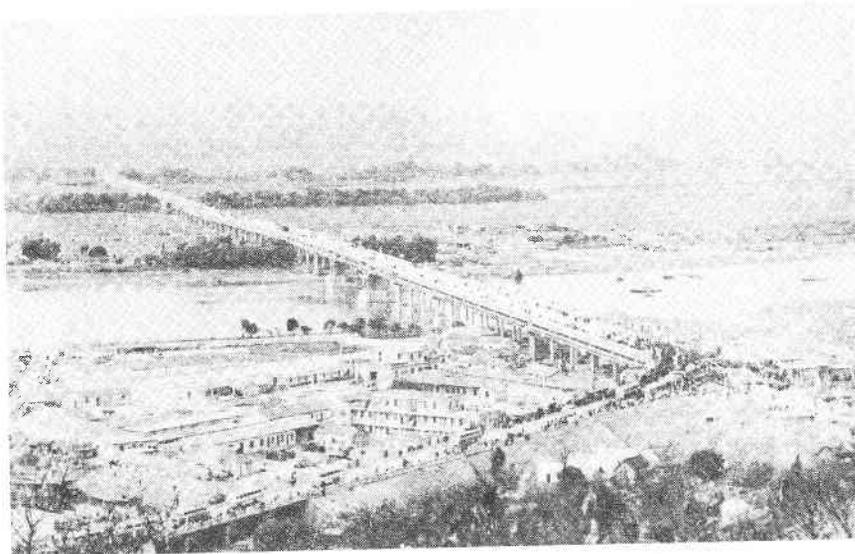
Bridge building, however, like everything else in China, declined in the century before 1949. In the early 50s, Soviet bridge experts

introduced their technology and design standards.

BY the end of the decade, the development of highways made such bridges technologically obsolete. Just as the need for modern bridges was urgent, the Soviet Union severed its technical aid, and bridge building in China was on its own.

The first go-it-alone efforts were on repairing traditional stone arch bridges and building

Jiangsu's Huaihe River Bridge, carrying a highway and oil pipeline, is the biggest of its kind in China.

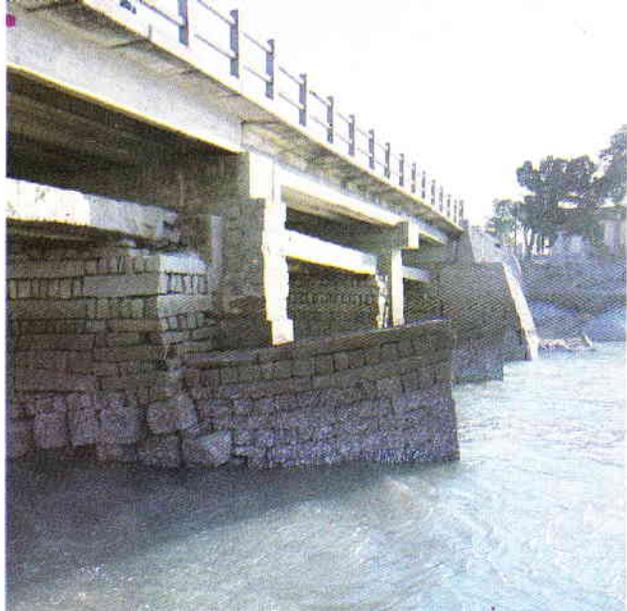


XIAO ENYUAN is assistant chief engineer of the Highway Planning and Design Institute of the Ministry of Communications.



Xiangzi Bridge in Chao'an county, Guangdong province, was started in the 12th century but not completed for 300 years.

Xie Jun

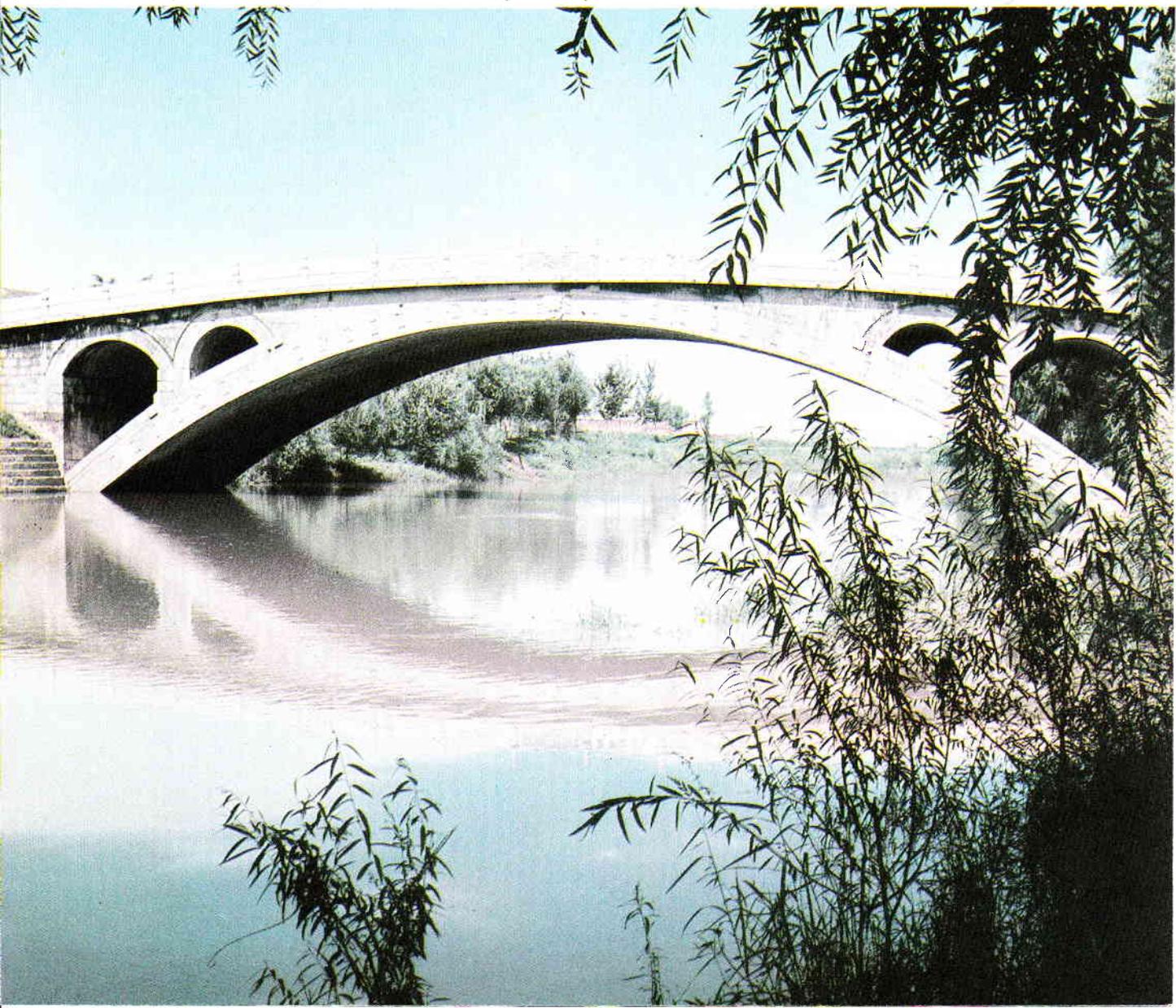


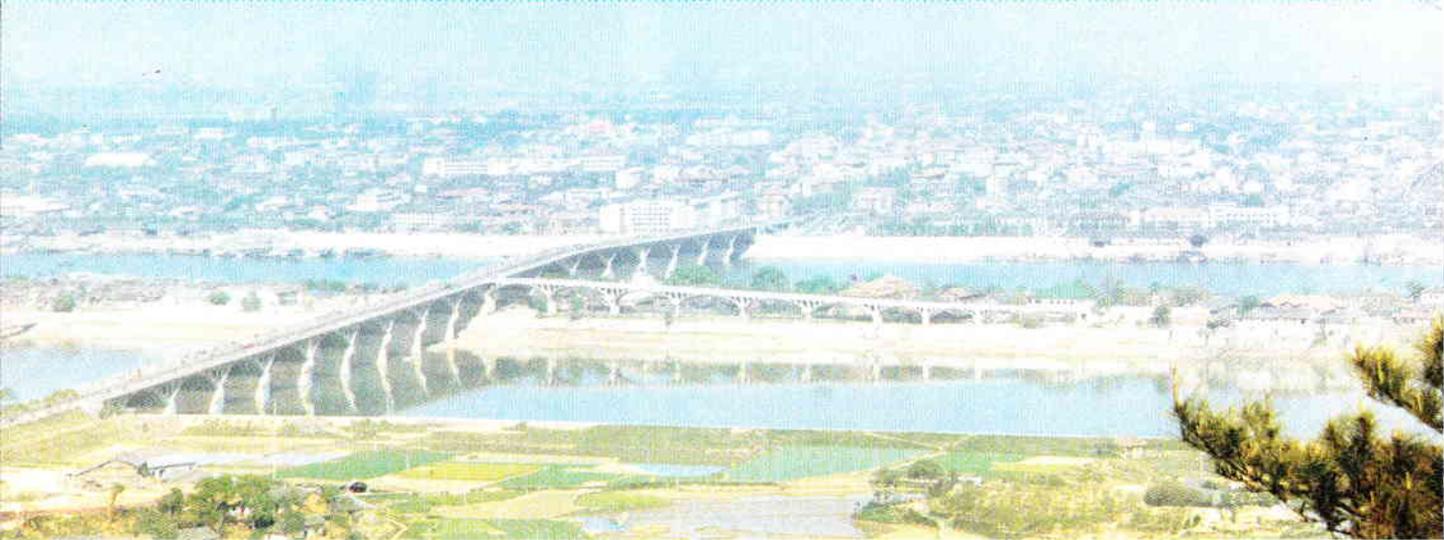
Luoyang Bridge in Quanzhou, Fujian province, dates from 1059. The pillars are the original ones; the superstructure modern.

Wang Hongxun

Zhaozhou Bridge, Hebei province, built in 605.

Zhang Shuicheng





Xiangjiang Bridge in
Changsha, Hunan province.
Xinhua



One of the six bridges over the
Jinsha River built in the
mid-1960s. *Yuan Kezhong*

Bridge over the Jialing River
connects the two halves of
Chongqing, largest city in
Sichuan province.
Sun Yunshan



new ones. In 1959 the three-arch, 30-meter stone bridge in Yan'an and the single-arch, 60-meter bridge in Hunan were completed, representing a breakthrough from strictly traditional methods. In 1961 Changhong Bridge went up in Yunnan with a single arch spanning 112.4 meters, three times as long as the main arch of the ancient Zhaozhou Bridge. These bridges, new in structure and line, also saved steel. Graceful, their construction contributed to bridge design.

Stone arch bridges, however, have their bad points. They are impractical for weak geological foundations and use too much labor. Design turned to two-way curved-arch bridges built with prefabricated reinforced concrete parts. The arch is replaced with arch ribs kept in place with cross beams. Small curved-tile arches are laid between each pair of ribs. The ribs form the longitudinal curve and the arches the transverse. Thus the bridge supports weight in two directions and its load capacity is considerably increased. It is easy to build and saves materials.

SOON after the first bridge of this type was built in Wuxi, Jiangsu province, in 1964 its use spread to other parts of the country, including the plains where the soil is soft and loose. By 1978, over 4,000 such bridges had been built, totaling 500 kilometers in length, or one-sixth of all bridges in China.

The design and building methods of the two-way curved-arch bridge led to the reinforced concrete box-arch bridge soon seen over many rivers. It gave better safety in construction and improved quality.

In the mid-60s, when the Panzhihua Iron and Steel Company was being built in Sichuan, six bridges were needed over the Jinsha (Golden Sands) River. It was decided to use steel arches, steel suspension, and reinforced concrete arches spanning 180 meters. The current was too swift and deep for piers to be sunk. Adopting foreign experience, low-alloy

steel produced in China was used. Sections were welded in the factory, then put together with high tensile strength bolts at the site. China learned to construct large-span continuous steel truss and prestressed concrete bridges.

In 1978 the Ministry of Communications issued standards for bridges with spans under 40 meters, which improved quality, eliminated cracking in reinforced concrete and extended bridge durability.

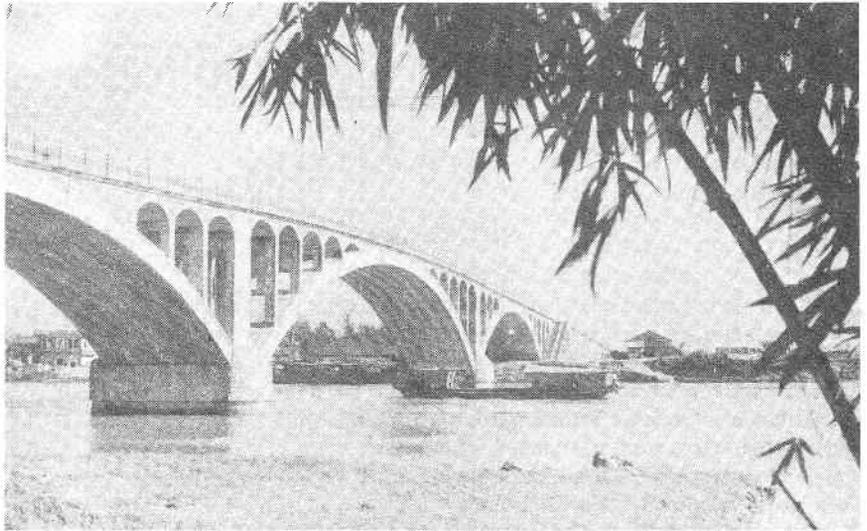
In 1970 a bridge with 144-meter spans was built over the Wulong River in Fujian province. In 1980 another, with 174-meter spans, was completed over the Changjiang at Chongqing. A third, also over the Changjiang, with 170-

meter spans, is now under construction at Luzhou in Sichuan.

THE continuous prestressed concrete bridge can stand relatively strong earthquakes and is adaptable to modern construction methods. Recently introduced in China, it is being widely used. The eight-arch Shayang Bridge, with 110-meter spans, now under construction in Hubei is of this type.

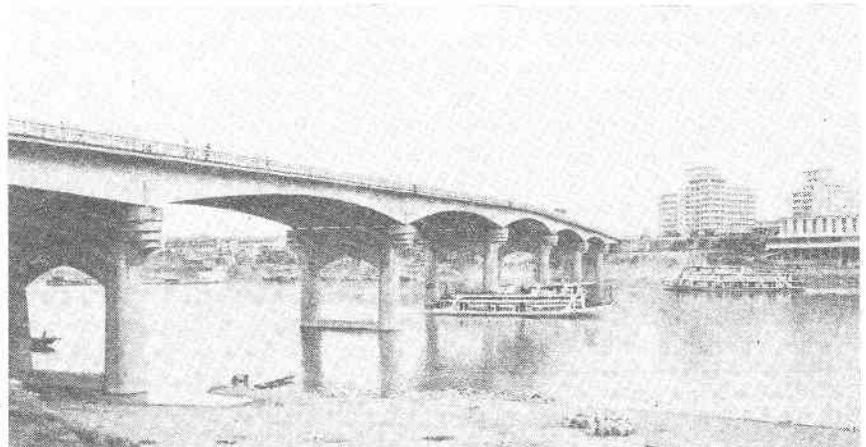
The cable-stayed bridge is used much in the world today because it permits longer spans, reduces its weight and saves materials. With technical exchanges and experience, China has built several bridges of this type, with 100 to 200-meter spans. □

Bridge in Nanhai county, Guangdong province.



The Yongjiang River Bridge in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Photos by Xinhua





Chen Ying (left), assistant researcher of the Genetics Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, checks up on plant growth.

Yang Wumin

Genetic Engineering Produces New Rice Strains

SHI SUODA

AFTER five years of effort Chinese scientists have succeeded in creating improved strains of rice through genetic engineering. The method involves working directly with rice pollen instead of seeds, and these achievements have put China in the forefront internationally in such agricultural research.

Grown in a Test Tube

The first step is to remove pollen from the stamens of selected plants and place it in test tubes containing an appropriate culture medium. Under controlled temperature and illumination, the pollen begins to divide and multiply until microscopic yellowish translucent cubes called callus appear. In about a month, these have grown to a size a little larger than pinheads, and are transplanted into another medium.

SHI SUODA is an assistant researcher with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

After another 20 days tiny shoots can be seen. These are "monoploids" — their reproductive cells have only one set of chromosomes, and if allowed to grow into full-size plants they could never bear seeds. One of the most important stages of the process is to turn these shoots into "diploids" by genetic engineering. Working through microscopes, scientists accomplish the exacting task of grafting into each reproductive cell a complete second set of chromosomes.

About a month after this, the seedlings cultivated under artificial conditions are ready to be transplanted into rice fields, where they will blossom and grow seeds exactly like conventionally bred plants. The advantage of laboratory breeding is that, once the basic method had been worked out, the process is simple and economical. It shortens the breeding period, improves the quality of the strain, and cuts down on

the use of land, labor power and materials.

This method was first used successfully on tobacco pollen in the 1960s. Beginning in 1970, cooperative experiments on rice strains began in several places — the Genetics Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Crop Breeding and Cultivation of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Beijing Botanical Institute and the Crop Institute of Shanghai's Academy of Agricultural Sciences. True diploid plants were achieved by 1974.

New Techniques

But culture media in common use around the world at that time were not entirely satisfactory. Growth rates were slow, a key obstacle to developing a process that was commercially efficient. Meanwhile, several Chinese scientists were developing better culture media. Assistant researcher Zhu Zhiqing of the Beijing Botanical Institute produced synthetic culture medium N_6 ; Ouyang Jun, assistant researcher of Genetics Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, came up with another, that was particularly suited to rice pollen.

After 1976, working with the new media, scientists achieved much more rapid growth rates. To date, 81 improved strains of rice have been thus developed, and the resulting plants flourish on some 90,000 hectares of Chinese soil.

Not content with what they have already accomplished, researchers are looking for more ways to make science serve agriculture. A contingent of younger scientists with both theoretical knowledge and practical experience has been trained. In recent years Chinese experts have attended a number of international conferences and regularly consult with foreign colleagues. They have earned increasing respect internationally. However, they themselves caution that this promising new method is still in its infancy with many technical problems still to be solved. □

China's Neolithic Period

AN ZHIMIN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL study of China's Neolithic period started about the beginning of this century, but in all the years before the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, only some 300 sites had been investigated. The 6,000 sites which have been explored since then give sharp testimony to the great advances in the field over the past 30 years and to the extensive remains left by these early cultures. We now have a generally complete picture of the development and interrelationships of the various culture groups, though future discoveries will undoubtedly refine and extend our knowledge.

China's Neolithic or New Stone Age people lived in settled villages and depended mainly on agriculture and animal husbandry. They used tools of stone, bone and wood. Their ceramics and carved stone work can impress us even today with their beauty and sophistication. The period lasted from roughly 6000 to 2000 B.C., and in its later stages coexisted with the earliest of China's great Bronze Age civilizations.

Pre-Neolithic

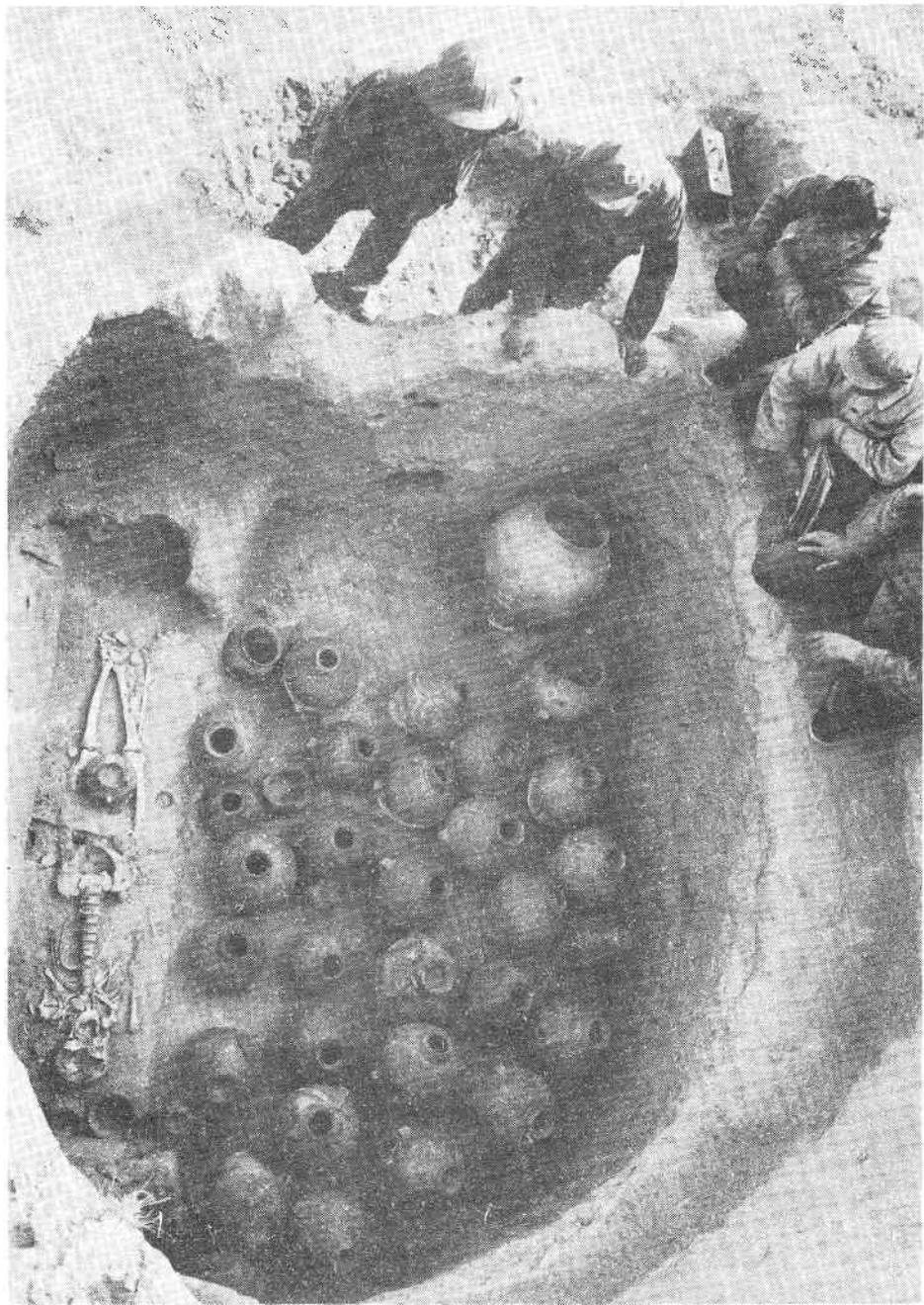
The hunting and gathering peoples of the Old Stone Age left behind them many relics of their existence in the form of shaped stone tools and weapons such as arrowheads and spearpoints. Remains of this kind become even more numerous from the Middle Stone Age, but undergo an abrupt decline following the development of agriculture. Nevertheless, a small proportion of such items

continued to exist during the entire Neolithic period and as late as the Shang dynasty (16th-11th century B.C.).

In north China, shaped stone tools have been found widely distributed from the northeast to

Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang in the far west. They belonged to many different periods and cultures. Some Chinese types are quite similar to those discovered in parts of northeast Asia and northwest America, thus confirm-

Contents of the Liuwan Tomb, Qinghai.



AN ZHIMIN is director of the First Research Department of the Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Prehistory and editor of the magazine 'Archaeology.'

Chronology of the Neolithic Period in the Huanghe and Changjiang River Valleys

	Upper Reaches of the Huanghe	Middle Reaches of the Huanghe	Lower Reaches of the Huanghe	Lower Reaches of the Changjiang	Middle Reaches of the Changjiang	
Bronze Age	Siba Culture	Shang	Shang	Shang	Shang	1 000 B.C.
	Qijia Culture		Longshan Culture	Longshan Culture	Longshan Culture	2 000 B.C.
Neolithic	Majiayao Culture	Yangshao Culture	Dawenkou Culture	Liangzhu Culture	Qujialing Culture	3 000 B.C.
	Dadiwan Culture			Majiabang Culture	Yangshao Culture	Daxi Culture
		Peiligang Culture	Cishan Culture	Qingliangang Culture	Hemudu Culture	
	6 000 B.C.					

ing earlier hypotheses about the movements of peoples. In some places similar types of worked stone have been uncovered dating from as late as the 12th and 13th centuries A.D.

In the south and southwest, sizable remains have been uncovered in Tibet, Yunnan, Guangdong and Jiangsu in the lower reaches of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River.

Early Neolithic

Breakthrough discoveries in the late 1970s at Cishan (Hebei prov-

ince), Peiligang (Henan province) and Dadiwan (Gansu province) have filled in many of the blanks in our knowledge of this early period of development. All are within the broad central plains region. Peiligang has been carbon dated at 5500-5200 B.C., Cishan at 5400-5100 B.C., and Dadiwan at 5200-4800 B.C. Some 40 different village sites have been uncovered in these areas.

Village ruins are generally 10-20,000 square meters in area. In some places semi-underground cave dwellings were found; caves were also used for storage. Finely

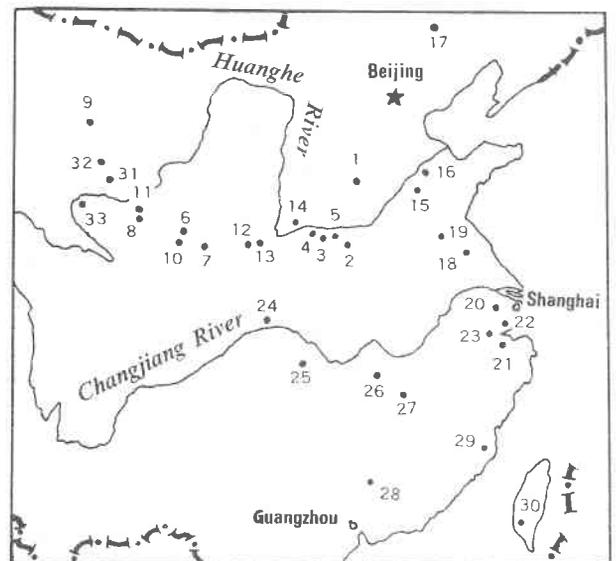
made grindstones and pestles, narrow arch-shaped stone spades and other implements testify to a developed agricultural economy, as do the remains of domesticated pigs and dogs. Carbonized millet shows that this traditional crop of the loess central plains of China was a principal grain from the beginnings of agricultural development. Hunting, fishing and gathering supplemented the farm economy.

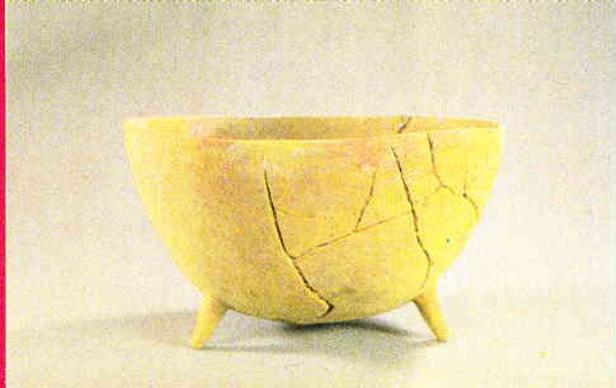
Clan cemeteries were found near many village sites, 114 graves being uncovered at Peiligang alone. Most were single burials, with a



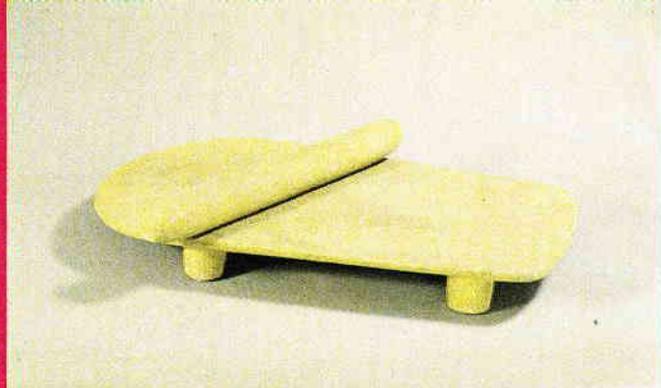
1. Cishan
2. Peiligang
3. Miaodigou
4. Yangshao
5. Erlitou
6. Dadiwan
7. Beishouling
8. Majiayao
9. Siba
10. Caijiaping
11. Qijiaoping
12. Banpocun
13. Jiangzhai
14. Xiwangcun
15. Dawenkou
16. Longshan
17. Hongshan
18. Qingliangang
19. Dadunzi
20. Chenghu
21. Hemudu
22. Majiabang
23. Liangzhu
24. Daxi
25. Qujialing
26. Shanbei
27. Yingpanli
28. Shixia
29. Tanshishan
30. Fengbitou
31. Liuwan
32. Shangsunjiazhai
33. Gamatai

Palaeoanthropologist Pei Wenzhong (center) and the author (right) at the Peiligang remains.





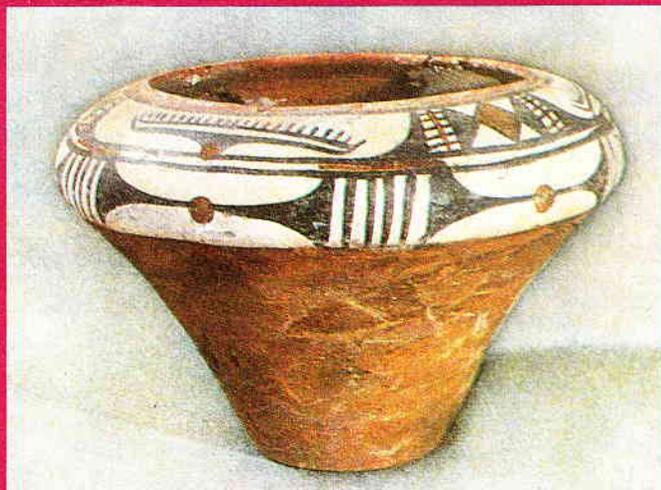
Peiligang culture tripod bowl.



Grindstone of the Peiligang culture unearthed at Peiligang, Xinzheng, Henan province.

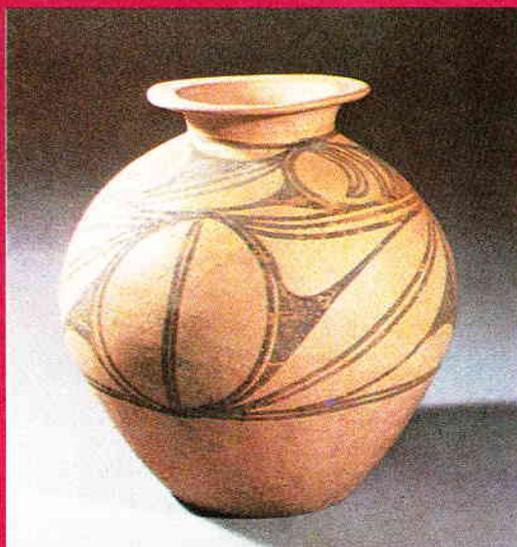
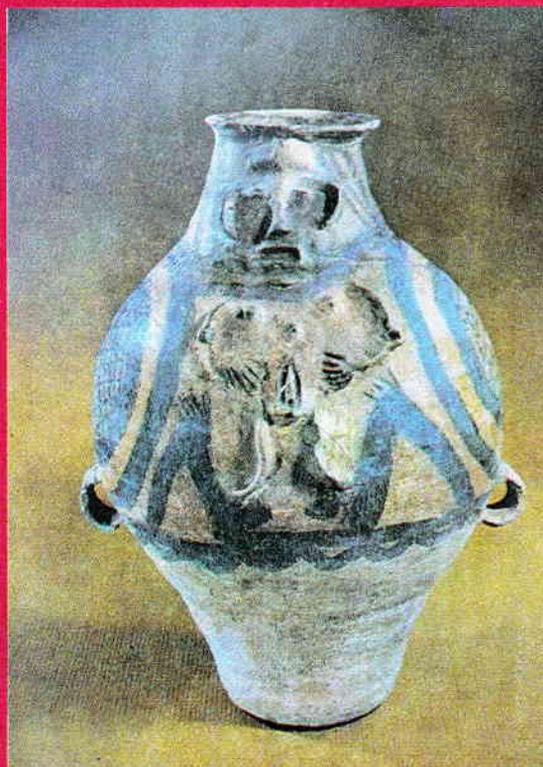


Amphora with characteristic early design incised with cords, Yangshao neolithic culture; unearthed at Jiangzhai, Lintong, Shaanxi province.



Yangshao wide-mouthed jar, Dahe village, Zhengzhou, Henan province.

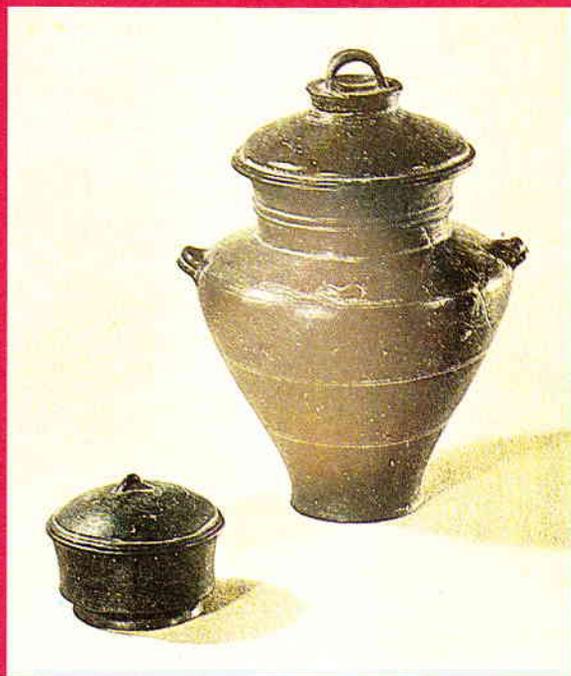
Majiyao tapering jar with multi-colored figures, from Liuwan, Ledu, Qinghai province.



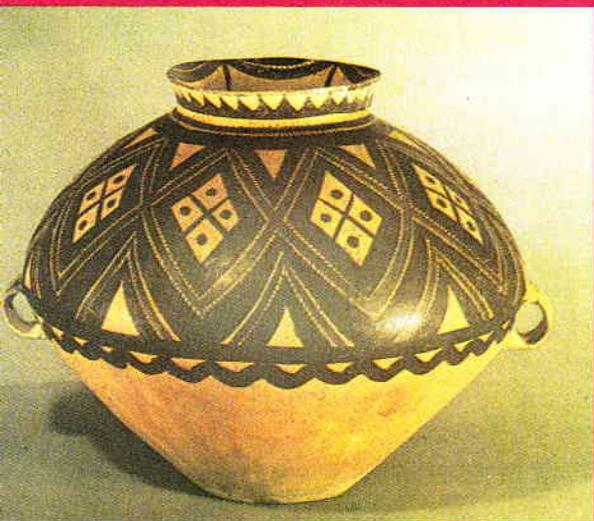
Circles and curves form an abstracted bird motif, Majiyao neolithic culture, from the Qin'an Mountains, Gansu province.



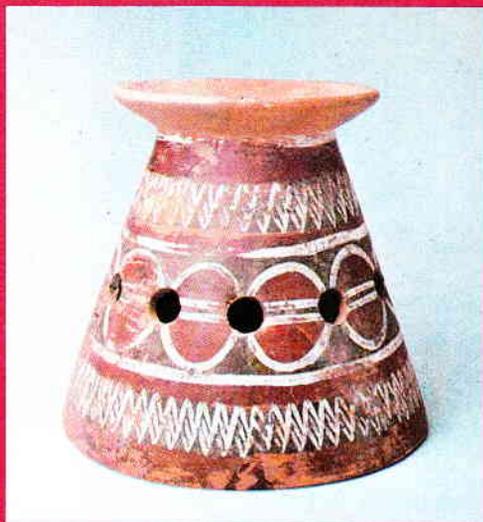
Animal-shaped water vessel from Sanlihe, Jiaoxian county, Shandong province.



Longshan culture black earthenware jar and bowl, Sanlihe, Jiaoxian county, Shandong province.

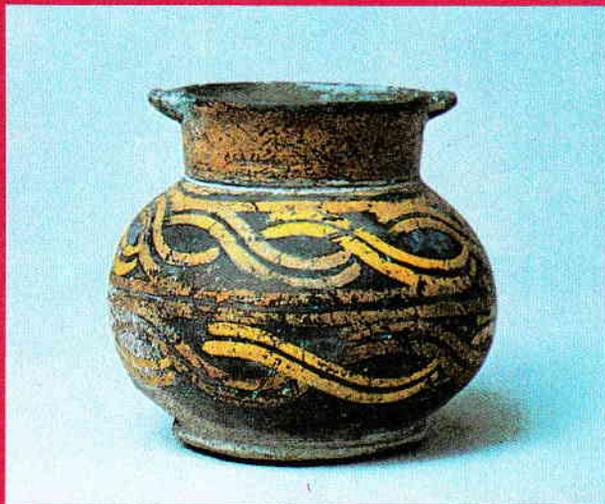


Exquisitely proportioned vessel of the Hongshan culture unearthed at Mt. Zhizhu, Chifeng, Inner Mongolia.



Symmetrical geometric design, Dawenkou culture, from Dadunzi, Peixian county, Jiangsu province.

Interlocked curves on a jar, Liangzhu culture, Chenghu, Wuxian county, Jiangsu province.



Graceful spirals embellish the inside and outside of a footed bowl, Qujialing culture, from Qujialing, Jingshan, Hubei province.

few doubles. The cemeteries are densely concentrated and systematically laid out. Pottery and stoneware, and at Dadiwan the lower jawbones of pigs, were found buried with the bodies. The size and nature of the burial sites are further evidence of the settled life of the people and suggest something of their cultural beliefs.

Ceramic remains were found in all three areas, and in some places primitive pottery kilns. The pottery was hand-cast, uneven in thickness and fired at relatively low temperatures. Peiligang produced mainly plain ware of red clay. Most Dadiwan pottery showed designs produced by impressing cords into the wet clay, a style also found at Cishan. The first painted ceramics so far discovered in China also come from these two areas—zigzag patterns painted on large jars, two-handled flasks, bowls and tripod vessels of various kinds. Yu-type vessels (large, wide-mouthed bowls with footed stands) were typical of Cishan.

These early Neolithic cultures were predecessors of the more advanced cultures which are grouped under the name Yangshao (derived from the name of the village where the first such site was discovered).

Yangshao Cultures

The Yangshao period extended from about 4500-2500 B.C. The major sites center around the middle reaches of the Huanghe River in the central plains. Painted pottery of varying degrees of complexity is the outstanding characteristic of these different cultural groups. Carbon 14 dating, stratified remains at various sites, cultural relics and the pottery styles themselves have helped us to reconstruct the sequence of development and the relations among the different groups.

Agriculture was relatively advanced in the Yangshao period. Millet, corn and vegetables were the principal crops. Villages ranged in size from tens to hundreds of thousands of square meters. The Jiangzhai site at

Lintong, Shaanxi province was surrounded by a defensive trench. A spacious square occupied the center of the village. Five large structures and a number of smaller houses surrounded the square, their doors facing it. East of the trench were three clan graveyards for adult burials (children's corpses were placed in urns and buried near the houses). Graves were regular in shape and faced west; everyday pottery was buried with the dead.

Changing Styles

Styles of painted pottery varied from place to place, and also changed over time. One of the earliest sites, Beishouling in Shaanxi province, shows relatively little painted ware, mostly on the rims of bowls. Remains from the later Banpo site near Xi'an are greater in quantity and more elaborate in design. Human faces, birds, frogs and fish were reproduced; the somewhat later triangle designs from the same site may be abstractions of the earlier fish design.

The painted pottery of Miaodigou (Henan province) was even more elaborate and elegant. Major patterns were based on geometric forms: arcs and dots, triangular whorls, curves and rhomboids. During the later part of the period, represented by such sites as Xi-wangcun (Shanxi province) patterns became simpler and painted pottery more rare.

Majiayao in Gansu province is west of the major Yangshao sites. It dates from 3200-1720 B.C., later than the Miaodigou culture, which may have influenced it. Majiayao's distinctive painted pottery, characterized by spirals and fluid linear designs, is among the most beautiful of China's ancient ceramic works. The Hongshan culture (western Liaoning and northern Hebei provinces) shows a number of similarities to the Yangshao cultures; its remains include incised pottery and finely worked stoneware.

The Qingliangang (Jiangsu province) and Dawenkou (Shandong province) cultures, between



Container lid in the form of a human face unearthed at Caijiaping, Gansu province.

the Huanghe and Huaihe rivers, date from 4800-3700 B.C. and 3800-2200 B.C. respectively. They are closely related culturally, and Dawenkou also shows a certain influence from the Yangshao cultures. For instance, most Dawenkou pottery is of delicate and elaborate shape, but unpainted; yet a few examples of Yangshao-style painted ware have also been found there.

Ceramic vessels from the Shixia Tomb in Guangdong province.



So far some 1,500 gravesites have been uncovered at Dawenkou. These demonstrate the culture's sharp class distinctions. Only a few simple burial accessories are found in the small graves of the common people. But the large tombs of the wealthy include wooden outer coffins, great numbers of ceramics, stone and bone ware, and exquisitely carved ivory and jade.

Longshan Cultures

The Longshan cultures (2300-1800 B.C.) succeeded the Yangshao cultures, and were more widely distributed over the whole Huanghe River Valley and neighboring districts. At one time this cultural group was believed to have a single source, and to have developed from east to west, but more recent discoveries disprove this theory. The Longshan peoples actually inherited the traditions of a number of cultures all over the area, and in turn mutually influenced one another.

Longshan villages were generally bigger than their Yangshao counterparts. At the Baiying site near Tangyin, Henan province, the 46 houses excavated were laid out in a grid running east-west and north-south. House foundations were built in layers. The houses are mostly round, and show signs of a gradual development from semi-underground to surface construction. Walls are of mud or adobe, and floors are of rammed earth covered with a thin layer of lime to protect against dampness. The use of lime in this way started during the Yangshao period and became even more popular during the Longshan era. Funerary urns for children were found buried within the house foundations or near dwellings.

The main crops were still limited to millet and corn, but the variety of farm tools increased, along with the quantity and variety of domesticated animals. Besides stone spades and knives, wooden pitchforks and sickles of stone and shell have been found.

The carving of jade and other stones was important. Highly

polished black pottery became the major style. In the later part of the period, pottery wheels came into widespread use, and the craft reached its peak in fine, egg-shell thin ware in elaborate shapes and many sizes.

Although the major phase of the Longshan period ended around 1800 B.C., the Qijia culture (Gansu province) and others in the area of Shandong province endured to around 1500 B.C. Just as the Longshan cultures inherited the traditions of Yangshao, the Bronze Age Erlitou culture (Henan) inherited Longshan. Erlitou represents an early phase of the Shang dynasty (16th-11th centuries B.C.) and is also culturally related to the Zhou dynasty (11th century B.C.-256 B.C.). Archaeologists also believe that the Longshan cultures are closely connected to the Xia dynasty (21st-17th centuries B.C.), about which little is known. Thus the Longshan cultures are the immediate predecessors of China's great Bronze Age civilizations of the central plains area.

Yangtze Valley Cultures

Southeast of the central plains, in the Changjiang (Yangtze) River Valley, rice was the principal agricultural staple. The Hemudu culture (Zhejiang province) is China's oldest known rice-growing site, dating from between 4400-3200 B.C. and nearly contemporary with the Yangshao cultures.

Scattered remains of wooden structures at Hemudu show that wood was employed in construction. Ground stoneware was common, and bone- and wood-working highly developed. One shovel recovered was made from the shoulder blade of a buffalo. Economically, fishing and hunting were important supplements to agriculture, and dogs, pigs and water buffalo were domesticated. Pottery was relatively primitive, mostly black earthenware fired under low temperatures. Surfaces were polished, imprinted cord patterns were common, and a few simple animal and plant designs appeared.

The Majiabang (3700-2700 B.C.) and Liangzhu (2800-1900 B.C.) cultures, both in the Zhejiang area, were basically similar to Hemudu, but there are also parallels to the Dawenkou and Longshan cultures. The Longshan influence can also be traced at Qujialing, Hubei (2600-2200 B.C.). Judging from the forms and patterns of its painted pottery, however, Daxi (3800-2400 B.C.), located on the middle reaches of the Changjiang River, was more closely related to the Yangshao cultures.

South China

The early cultural remains of south China (before 2000 B.C.) are noteworthy because pottery-making was fairly developed in what were basically hunting-gathering societies, an unusual combination. Such sites have been found in Jiangxi, Guangxi, Guangdong, Fujian and Taiwan provinces. Simply formed clay vessels, many impressed with cord patterns, were baked at low temperatures. Chip- and ground stone implements were common. But there are almost no signs of agriculture or the domestication of animals.

Agriculture developed between 2000-1000 B.C. in this area, as shown by the remains of rice and farm tools uncovered from various sites. Ceramics also advanced both technically and artistically. The pottery model of a house discovered at Yingpanli (Jiangxi province) reveals much about contemporary construction methods, in particular the long-ridge, short-eaved roofs which were popular in many parts of Asia in ancient times.

Other important sites include those at Shanbei (Jiangxi province), Shixia (Guangdong province) and Tanshishan (Fujian province). The latter culture shows striking similarities to the Fenbitou site on Taiwan, notably in their common cord-decorated orange pottery, black earthenware and painted ware. This indicates that as far back as this people of the mainland had already crossed the Taiwan Strait and, settling there, continued their cultural tradition. □

Mount Lushan

CAI QIN



A famous viewing point — the pine and rock opposite the Cave of the Immortal.
Xinhua

MT. LUSHAN, towering between Lake Poyang and the Changjiang (Yangtze) River in Jiangxi province, is well-known in China for its magnificent waterfalls, weird peaks, ever-changing clouds and cool weather in mid-summer. Thousands of Chinese and foreign tourists come here every year.

The mountain covers 250 square kilometers and is more than 1,000 meters tall. The ancients used to believe that immortals had come here, built cottages and lived a life of meditation and self-cultivation. Lushan means "cottage mountain." Geologists believe the mountain was thrust up in a drastic movement of the earth's crust 70,000,000 years ago. Today, mists from the lake and river often hide Lushan.

Mt. Lushan is now easy to reach by bus from Nanchang, 175 km. away, or an hour and a half by car from Jiujiang on the river. Before liberation there were no roads on the mountain, only a flight of a thousand steps to the top along which struggling bearers carried the rich in sedan chairs. Today, though paved roads wind around the mountain to the peak, people still like to climb the twisting paths.

In the summer when it is 34° C. in Jiujiang on the river, it is only 23° C on Mt. Lushan, and even

cooler in the morning and evening. Halfway up the mountain the heat and dryness disappear and the air becomes cool and fresh.

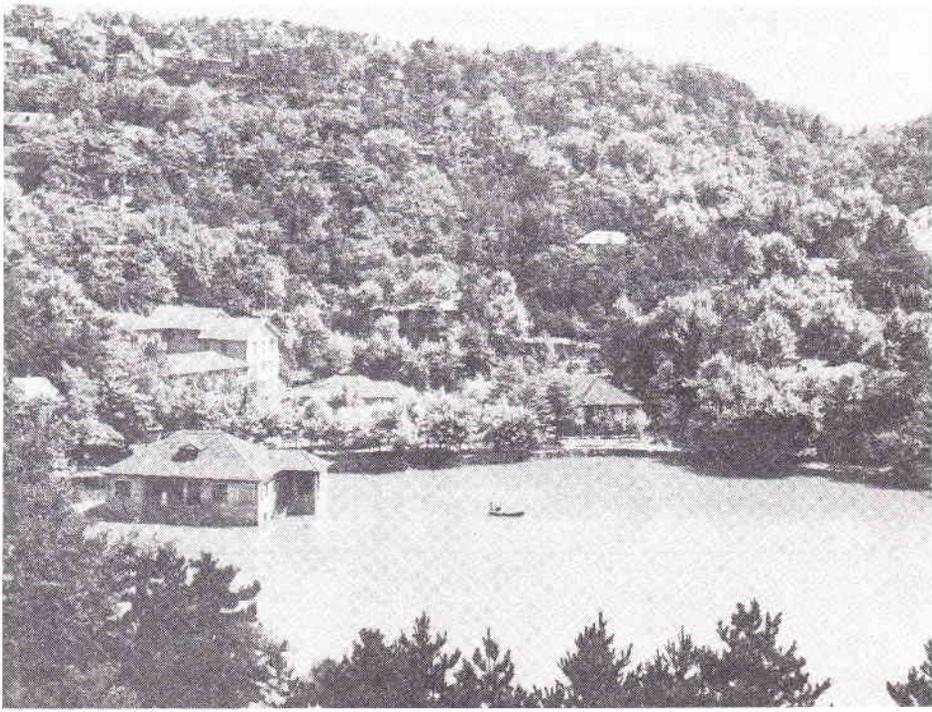
Guling, facing a deep valley on one side and circled by hills, is the center for visitors to Lushan. Guling's small parks, groves of trees, and neatly arranged streets, shops, hotels and restaurants make it look like a mini-city. From here more than a hundred famous scenic spots can be seen on five tour itineraries.

THE first passes Small Heavenly Lake, an expanse of clear water lying on a hill top. On a cliff at the lake is a pavilion with a bird's-eye view of the Changjiang and a great sea of clouds. The clouds and mists of Lushan are considered more beautiful than those of other famous mountains in China. Around Small Heavenly Lake they change more quickly and mysteriously, sometimes quiet and smooth as white silk, often pouring like rivers over the peaks. Three kilometers below the lake is a pair of waterfalls, the Wangjiapo Shuangpu, plunging into a deep pool like crystal dragons.

Another trip first passes Flowery Path in Shancheng Park. Here, flower beds, grass and trees are backdrop for a stone tablet in a pavilion with the characters Hua Jing (Flower Path), which was excavated in 1928. They are said to be in the calligraphy of Bai Juyi

Sanatorium on Mt. Lushan.

Xinhua





Lushan Botanic Garden. Shen Yantai

(772-846), a famous Tang poet. On the east side of Flowery Path is a large artificial lake named Violin Lake from its shape. It is filled with streams from a mountain spring that look like the violin's strings. Near the lake is Brocade Valley (Jinxu Gu), a place of strange crags and cliffs covered with pine and cypress, a scene typical of Lushan's landscapes.

In the valley is the Cave of Immortal where Lu Dongbin, an immortal in ancient legends, lived.

Inside is One-Drop-of-Water Fountain which has been dripping for a thousand years. This trip also leads to Big Heavenly Lake, deep and crystal clear. Southeast of it is a high cliff jutting up out of the ground like a dragon ready to leap into the sky. This is the famous Dragon Head Cliff (Longshou Ya).

The third trip includes a theater, museum, botanic garden and beautiful Lulin Lake, the first of the artificial lakes built on Mt. Lushan. A dam 32 meters high constructed in 1955 holds the water. The shore is shaded by trees, among them a Japanese cedar and a ginkgo, both 40 meters tall. A stone tablet under them says they were planted by a monk 1,000 years ago. Ahead is Hanpo Kou, the best place from which to view the mountain and the lake. Here, from an umbrella-shaped stone pavilion with carved beams and pillars and a tower, one can see the rolling hills, peaks and all of Poyang Lake. This is the best place to watch the sunrise over the lake.

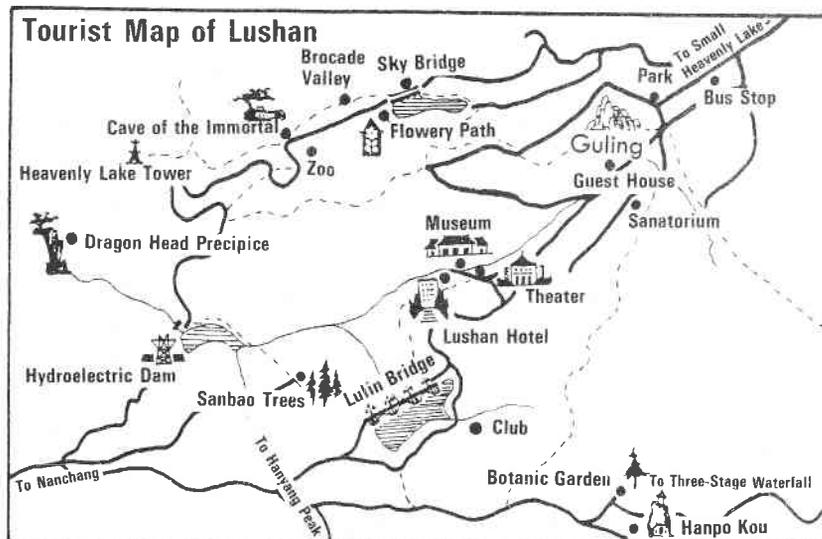
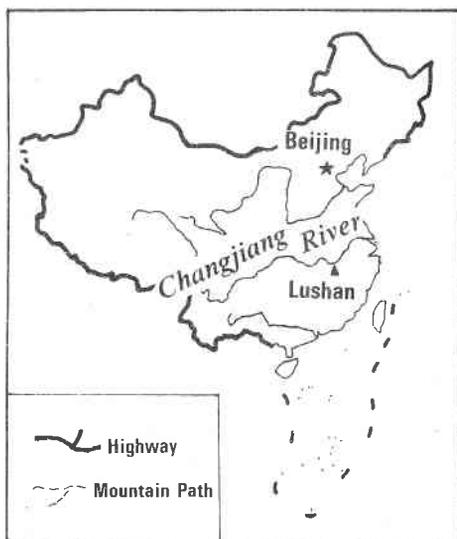
At the end of this trip are the Five Old Men Peaks and Hanyang Peak—the highest on Lushan—at 1,474 meters. Many historical sites are here. Legend says that King Yu Cliff is the spot where Yu the Great stood observing the Changjiang while he was

working on his plan for flood control.

In the foothills of the Lushan are many fascinating places. The Dongling Monastery, built in 384, one of China's eight biggest monasteries. The Thousand-Buddha Pagoda built in the Tang dynasty. The White Deer Cave, a study built between 937 and 942, where famous scholars gave lectures. Three-Stage Waterfall, the biggest of Lushan's 15 cascades, its three steps formed by ancient glaciers, its beauty the subject of many well-known poets.

In the busy seasons when the Lulin Hotel, the Lushan Guest House and 70 other hotels are full, local organizations, schools and residents in Guling open their buildings and homes to visitors.

Because of the healthy climate and beautiful surroundings, the government maintains four sanatoria—Donggu, Xigu, Lulin and one near a hot spring. Thousands come every year for modern physiotherapy. Doctors teach sports and such exercises as *taijiquan* and *qigong*. Tours are also organized for patients. Like the hot springs at Bath in England and Huaqingchi in Xi'an, Lushan's hot springs contain valuable minerals. The springs discharge 400 tons of water every day at 62° C, effective for such diseases as dermatosis, arthritis and tracheitis. □

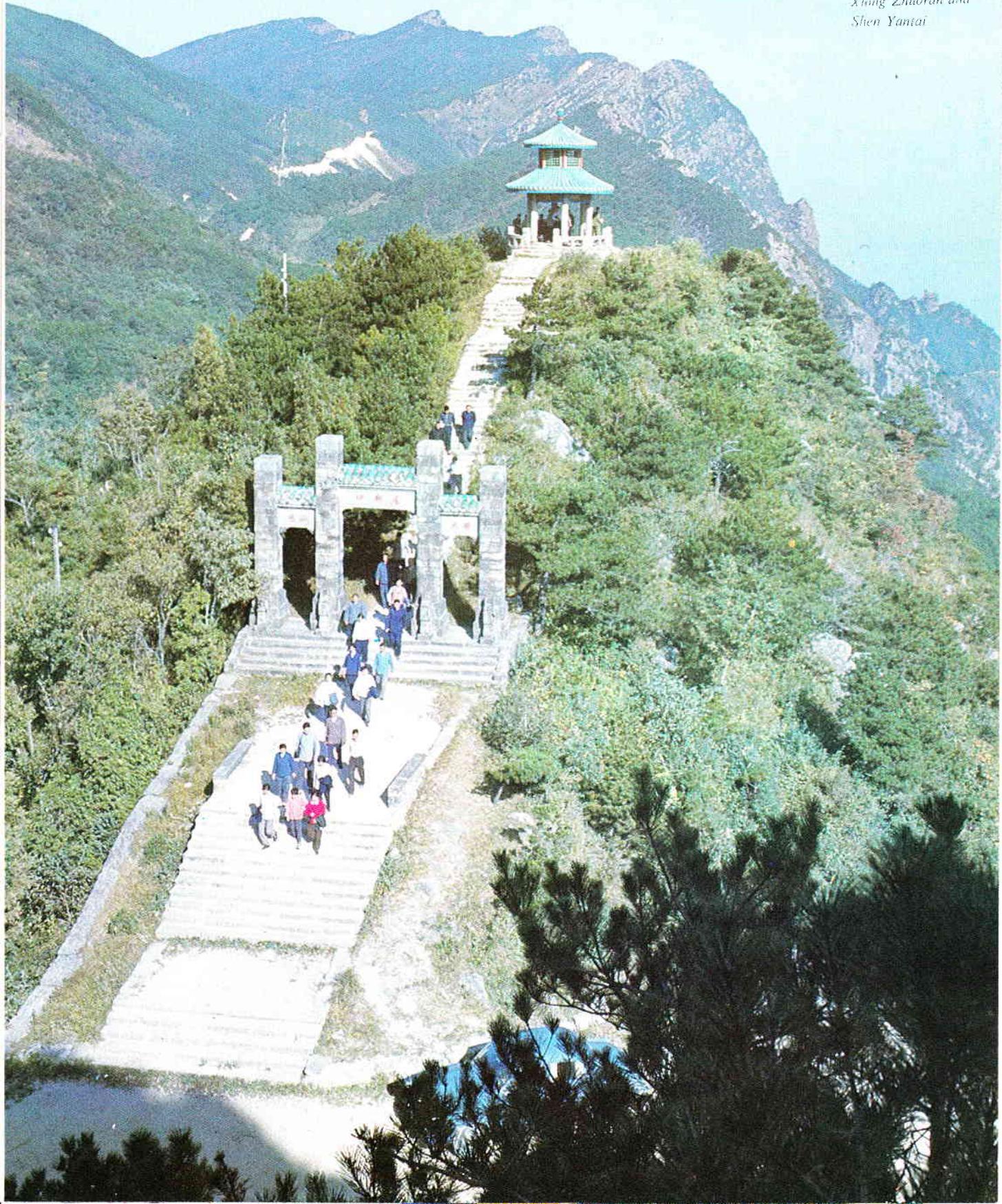


Sketch by A Bao

Hanpo Kou, a favorite spot
for viewing sunrises over
Poyang Lake.

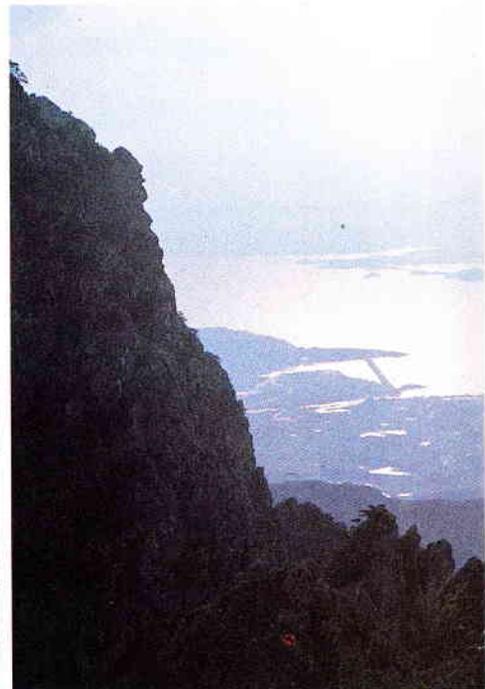
Mt. Lushan

*Photos by
Xiong Zhuoran and
Shen Yantai*

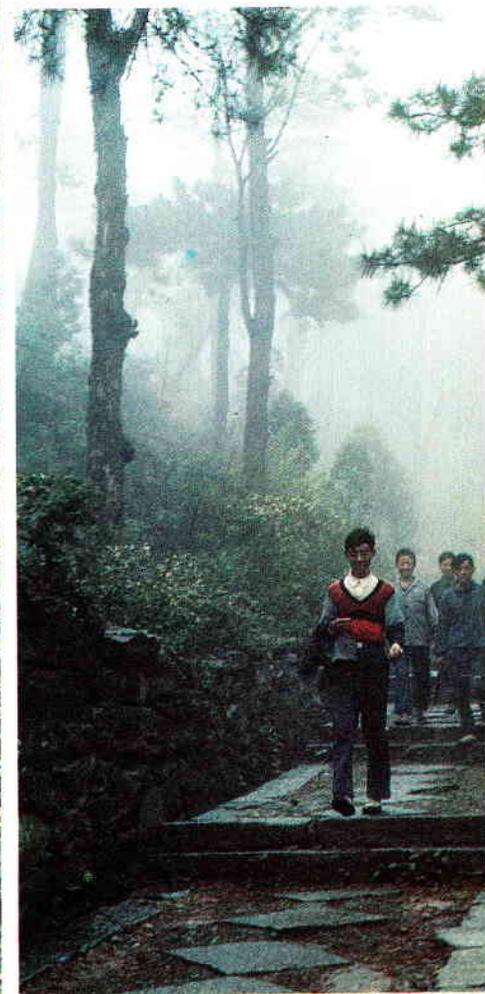




Three-stage waterfall.



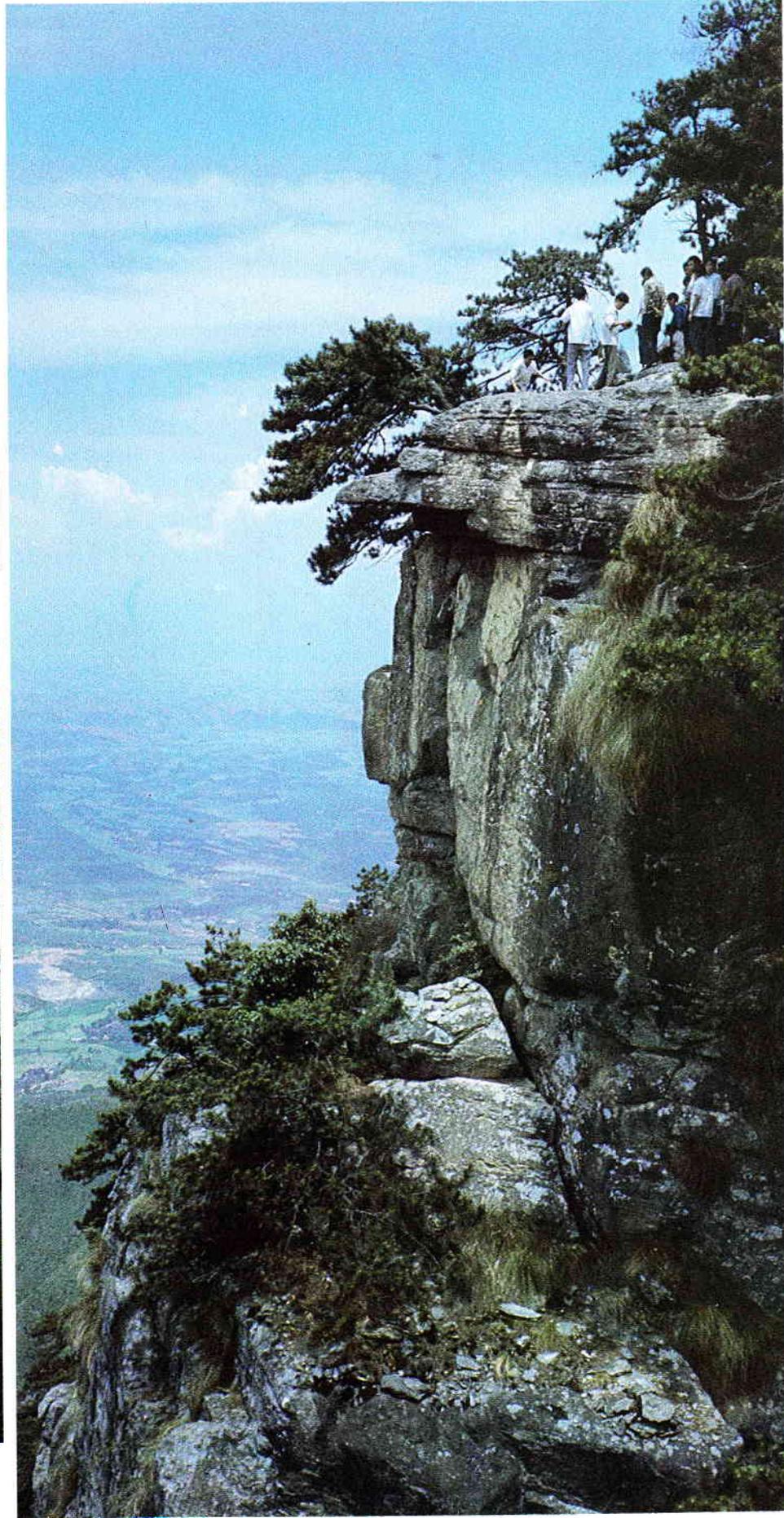
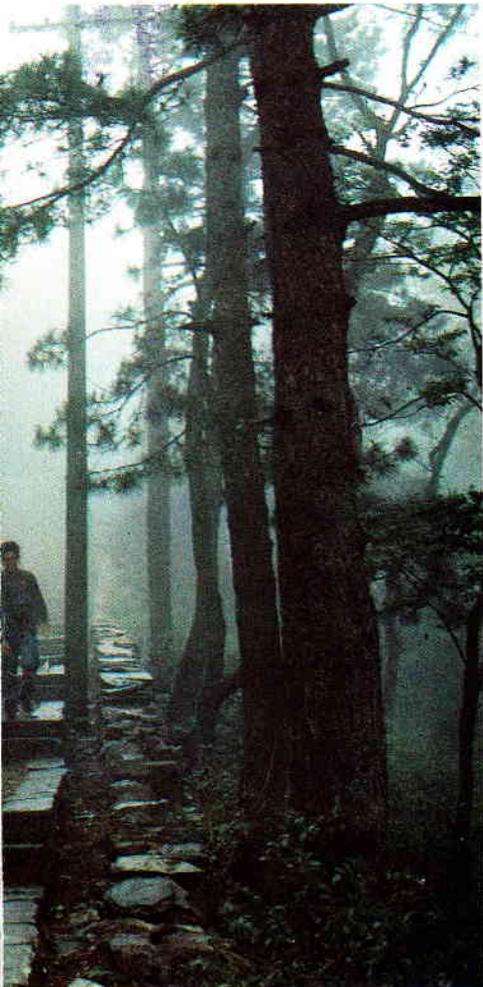
Bird's-eye view of Poyang Lake.



Dragon head precipice.



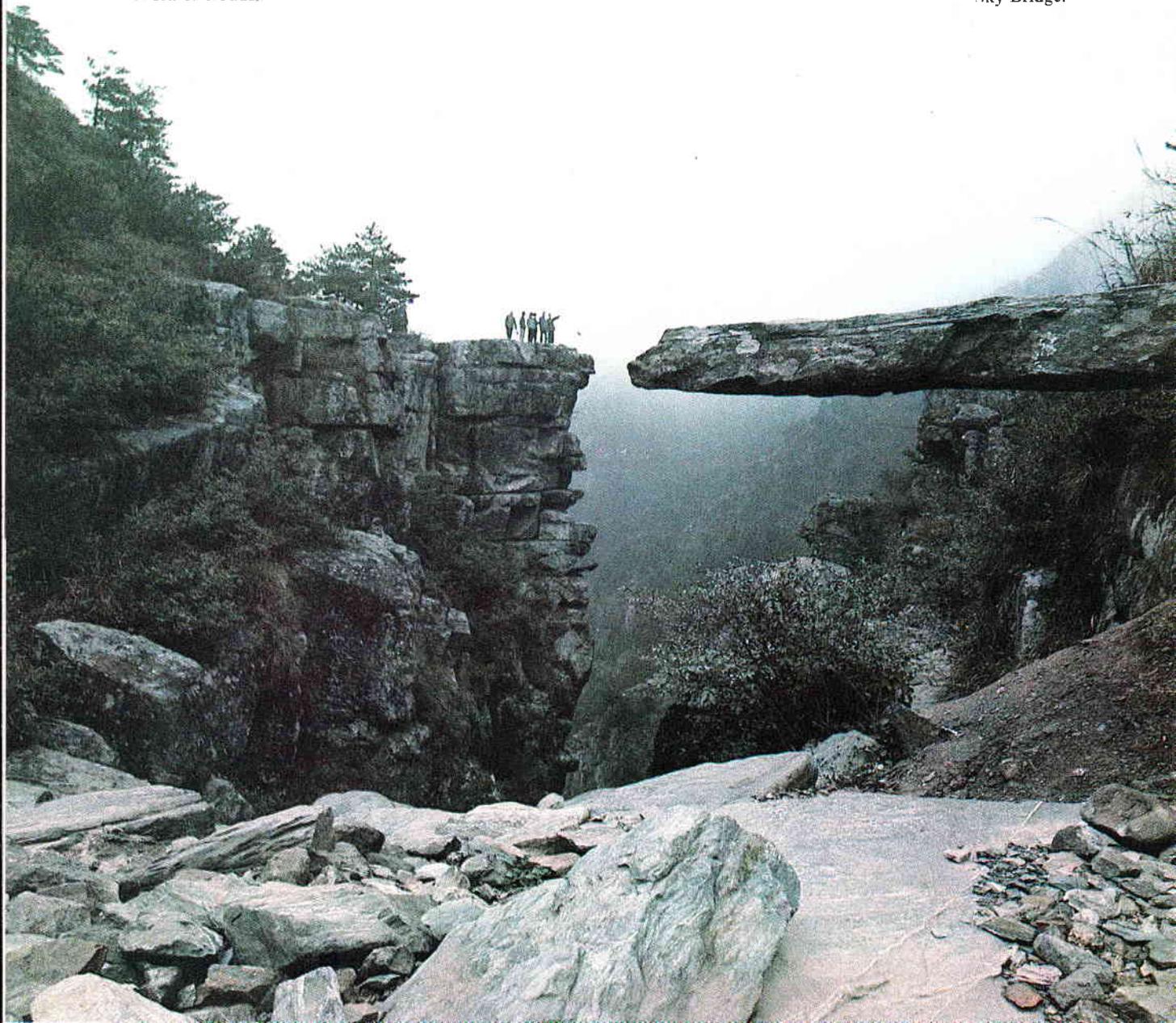
Strolling through a misty forest scene.





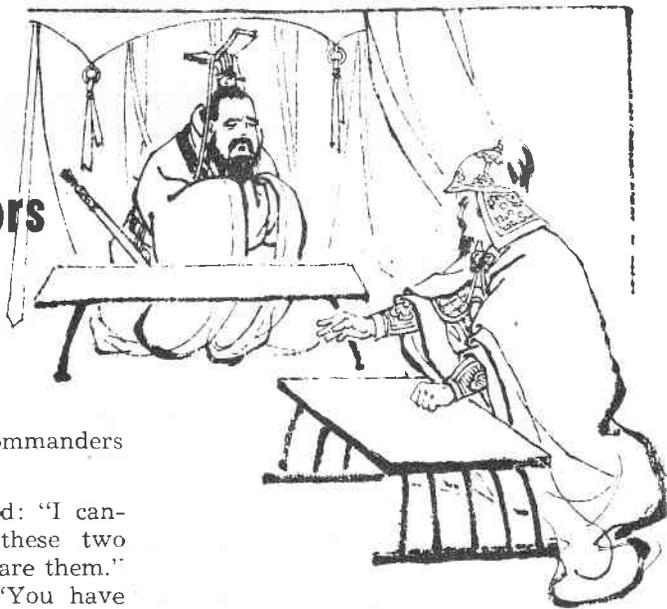
A sea of clouds.

Sky Bridge.



Sun Wu and the Women Warriors

WEI TANG



SUN WU (known to history as Philosopher Sun, or Sun Zi) was a great military strategist of the 5th century B.C. A native of the state of Qi, he was once summoned by King He Lu of the state of Wu in the lower Changjiang (Yangtze) valley. "I've read all of your thirteen articles on military strategy and tactics," said the king, "and I want you to command my army, at least on a trial basis." Sun Wu willingly accepted.

But the king wanted to test his abilities. "Would your training methods work even with women?" (Sun Wu had claimed that discipline was the key to any army's effectiveness.) With Sun Wu's agreement, the king assembled 180 of his concubines to be trained. Sun Wu divided them into two companies and appointed two of the king's favorites as company commanders.

The women were asked whether they knew their right hands from their left, and back from front. Then Sun Wu told them how to carry out military orders: "When the drum signals a left turn, you must turn to your left; when it signals a right turn, turn right. At the 'about face' signal, turn completely around." So the general raised his battle-axe, the drum signaled a right turn—and the women stood there and laughed.

"Perhaps the rules are not clear and you are not familiar with orders. That's my fault." Sun Wu patiently reiterated the rules and the drum sounded again. And again the women laughed and made no move. "The first time was my fault," said the general. "But now I have repeated the instructions and you still do not follow, so the blame is on you." He or-

dered both company commanders executed.

THE king was stunned: "I cannot live without these two women! I hope you'll spare them." But Sun Wu replied, "You have appointed me your commanding general, and I must exercise a general's authority." The executions were carried out, and the next-ranking women appointed commanders. The orders were given again, and this time the terrified women followed instructions exactly.

Sun Wu turned to the king: "The women's companies are now at your service." The unhappy king said, "Please return to your house. I don't want to see any more." The general then asked gravely whether the monarch's professed admiration for good military strategy was only talk, or was he willing to put it into practice? King He Lu took the point and confirmed Sun Wu's authority. The women's troop, which started as a joke, later became an effective fighting force.

With Sun Wu at their head, the Wu troops defeated the powerful

state of Chu in the west and occupied its capital, thereafter threatening the states of Qi (in what is now Shandong province) and Jin to the northwest and becoming a dominant power in the area.

The story of Sun Wu and the women warriors appears in the *Historical Records* written by Sima Qian in the 1st century B.C. The exact dates of Sun Wu's birth and death are not recorded. His father was a high official of the state of Qi who fled that country after a disagreement with the authorities and lived as a hermit with his young son in the Luofu Mountains.

KING He Lu is said to have respected talented people. He invited Sun Wu to his court on the advice of his senior counselor Wu Zixu. After 30,000 Wu troops under Sun's command had defeated a huge Chu army of 200,000, the king offered his general an important position and great wealth. But Sun refused, and when the fighting was over he took with him only several cartloads of brocade which he distributed to people along his way back to the Luofu Mountains.

The history books record no other details of Sun's life, but his book, *Sun Zi's Art of War*, has become a classic down through the centuries. The principles he expounded are considered so relevant that they are studied today not only in China but in military academies around the world. □



Drawings by Yang Yongqing

HUANG WENYAN

Lesson 18

Firecrackers

约翰: 小张, 你快出来, 你
Yuēhàn: Xiǎo Zhāng, nǐ kuài chūlai, nǐ
John: Xiao Zhang, you quickly out come, you
听外边爆竹声不断,
tīng wàibiān bàozhú shēng bú duàn,
listen outside firecracker sound no interruption,
咱们去看看吧。
zánmen qù kànkān ba.
(let) us go look.

小张: 唉, (走出屋子) 你
Xiǎo Zhāng: Ai. (zǒuchū wūzi) Nǐ
Xiao Zhang: Uh-huh. (walk out room) You
第一次在中国过春节吧?
dìyī cì zài Zhōngguó guò Chūnjié ba?
first time in China spend Spring Festival?
一到春节孩子们都
Yī dào Chūnjié háizimen dōu
Once at Spring Festival children all
喜欢放爆竹。
xǐhuan fàng bàozhú.
like (to) set off firecrackers.

约翰: 平时不放吗?
Yuēhàn: Píngshí bú fàng ma?
John: Usual time not set off?

小张: 遇到喜庆事也放, 但是
Xiǎo Zhāng: Yùdào xǐqǐngshì yě fàng, dànshì
Xiao Zhang: Encounter joyous affair also set off, but
过春节放爆竹
guò Chūnjié fàng bàozhú
spend Spring Festival set off firecrackers
表示送旧迎新, 是
biǎoshì sòng jiù yíng xīn, shì
(to) express send (off) old greet new, is
民间的老习俗了。
mínjiān de lǎo xísù le.
folk old custom.

约翰: 为什么你们中国人叫
Yuēhàn: Wèi shénme nǐmen Zhōngguó rén jiào
John: Why (do) you Chinese people call
它们爆竹呢?
tāmen bàozhú ne?
them "explosive bamboo?"

小张: 最初人们用竹筒装上
Xiǎo Zhāng: Zuìchū rénmen yòng zhútǒng zhuāngshàng
Xiao Zhang: At first people use bamboo tube put in

火药, 点着以后, 发出
huǒyào, diǎnzhe yǐhòu, fāchū
gunpowder, ignite after, give out
爆裂的声响, 以示
bào lie de shēngxiǎng, yǐ shì
explosive crack's sound, to show

庆贺, 所以叫爆竹。
qīnghè, suǒyǐ jiào bàozhú.
celebration, therefore call "explosive bamboo."

后来, 人们用纸筒代替了
Hòulái, rénmen yòng zhǐtǒng dàitìle
Afterwards, people use paper tube (to) replace
竹筒, 品种不断增多, 但
zhútǒng, pǐnzhǒng búduàn zēngduō, dàn
bamboo tube, variety constantly increase, but
仍习惯地称为爆竹。

rénghé xíguàn de chēngwéi bàozhú.
still customarily call "explosive bamboo."

约翰: 那群孩子每人拿着一大
Yuēhàn: Nà qún háizi měi rén nǎzhe yí dà
John: That group children every person hold a big
串, 劈里拍啦地响个
chuàn, pī li pā lā de xiǎng ge
string, cracklingly and splutteringly sound
不停, 也叫爆竹吧?
bùtíng, yě jiào bàozhú ba?
without stopping, also called firecrackers?

小张: 那是把一个个小爆竹
Xiǎo Zhāng: Nà shì bǎ yí gè gè xiǎo bàozhú
Xiao Zhang: Those are have one by one small firecrackers
编连成串, 所以也叫
biānlián chéng chuàn, suǒyǐ yě jiào
braid into string, so also called
鞭炮。
biānpào.
whip crackers.

约翰: 还有什么样的?
Yuēhàn: Hái yǒu shénme yàng de?
John: Also have what variety?

小张: 还有烟火。你看, 那个孩子
Xiǎo Zhāng: Hái yǒu yānhuǒ. Nǐ kàn, nà ge háizi
Xiao Zhang: Also have fireworks. You look, that child
放的就是烟火。有的
fàng de jiù shì yānhuǒ. Yǒu de
set off just is fireworks. Some

烟火 不仅 能 喷出
yānhuǒ bùjǐn néng pēnchū
fireworks not only can spurt out
五颜六色的 火花, 还能
wǔyánliùsè de huǒhuā, hái néng
colorful sparks, also can
发出 鸟叫 的 声音。 还有的
fāchū niǎo jiào de shēngyīn. hái yǒude
give out bird cry sound. Also some
腾空 升起 后, 从 里边 飞出
téngkōng shēngqǐ hòu, cóng libiān fēichū
rise sky leap up after, from inside fly out
很多 小 降落伞, 满天
hènduō xiǎo jiàngluòsǎn, mǎntiān
very many small parachutes, full sky
飞舞, 十分 好看。
fēiwǔ, shífēn hǎokàn.
fly dance, extremely beautiful.

约翰: 真 有 意思! 咱们 也 去 买
Yuēhàn: Zhēn yǒu yìsi! Zánmen yě qù mǎi
John: Truly have interest! (Let) us too go buy
一点 爆竹 放 吧!
yídiǎn bàozhú fàng ba!
a bit firecrackers set off!

小张: 好啊!
Xiǎo Zhāng: Hǎo a!
Xiao Zhang: Good!

Translation

John: Xiao Zhang, come out quickly. Listen, lots of firecrackers are going off outside. Let's go and have a look.
Xiao Zhang: (Walking out of the house) It's your first Spring Festival in China, isn't it? At Spring Festival, children like to set off firecrackers.
John: Do people do this at other times?
Xiao Zhang: Yes, when they have something to celebrate. But setting off firecrackers at Spring Festival to send off the old and greet the new is a popular old custom.
John: Why do you Chinese call them "explosive bamboo?"
Xiao Zhang: At first people put gunpowder into a bamboo tube and ignited it to give out an explosive sound for celebration. Later paper tubes replaced bamboo tubes and varieties of firecrackers increased. But by custom people still call them "explosive bamboo."
John: Each of those children holds a long string of explosives popping off in sequence. Are they also called firecrackers?
Xiao Zhang: Those are made of many small firecrackers. They're called whip crackers.
John: Are there any other kinds?
Xiao Zhang: There are also fireworks. Look, that child is setting off fireworks. Some not only give off colorful sparks, but imitate sounds like birds' chirps. Some shoot into the air and eject many small parachutes that flutter in the sky. Very beautiful.

John: This is really interesting. Let's go buy some firecrackers and set them off.

Xiao Zhang: Fine.

Notes

1. LáI 来 and qù 去 for coming and going.

As in English, if the direction of the action is toward the speaker, the verb láI 来 (come) is used, and if away from the speaker, qù 去 (go) is used: Tā lái kètīng 他来客厅 (He is coming to the living room): Tā qù kètīng 他去客厅 (He is going to the living room).

Lái 来 or qù 去 can also be used after verbs such as jìn 进 (enter), chū 出 (go/come out), shàng 上 (go/come up), xià 下 (go/come down), ná 拿 (take), guò 过 (pass), and huí 回 (return) to show directions: Tā jìnlai 他进来 (he comes in); Nǐ chūqu 你出去 (You go out); Tā zǒuchū lai 他走出来 (He walks out).

Lái 来 or qù 去 should follow the object of the sentence:

Tā jìn kètīng lai 他进客厅来 (He comes into the living room); Tā zǒuchū wūzi lai 他走出屋子来 (He walks out of the room); but not Tā zǒuchū lai wūzi 他走出来屋子。Nà zhǒng yānhuǒ néng pēnchū wǔyánliùsè de huǒhuā lai 那种烟火能喷出五颜六色的火花来 (That kind of fireworks can give off colorful sparks); lái 来 may be omitted in this sentence: Nà zhǒng yānhuǒ néng pēnchū wǔyánliùsè de huǒhuā 那种烟火能喷出五颜六色的火花。

2. Ordinal numbers.

Placing dì 第 before a number makes it an ordinal number: dìyī 第一 (first), dìèr 第二 (second). But in some cases ordinal numbers are not used. For instance, Liù yuè yī rì 六月一日 (June first) instead of Liù yuè dìyī rì 六月第一日; yì niánjí 一年级 (first grade) instead of dìyī niánjí 第一年级。

Everyday Expressions

- 遇到 yùdào meet, come across
遇到朋友 yùdào péngyou meet friends
遇到机会 yùdào jīhuì have an opportunity
遇到困难 yùdào kùnnan come across difficulties
- 表示 biǎoshì show, express
表示关心 biǎoshì guānxīn show concern
表示欢迎 biǎoshì huānyíng express welcome
表示感谢 biǎoshì gǎnxiè express thanks
- 发出 fāchū send out, issue
发出通知 fāchū tōngzhī issue an announcement
发出命令 fāchū mìnglìng send out an order
发出电报 fāchū diànbào send a telegram

4. 喷 pēn spurt, spray
 喷水 pēn shuǐ spurt water
 喷火 pēn huǒ spurt flame
 喷漆 pēn qī spray lacquer

Exercises

- Answer the following questions in Chinese:
 - When a speaker is outside the room, how should he ask another person inside to come out?
 - When a speaker is in the room, how should he ask another person inside to go out?
- Write out the Chinese according to the phonetic alphabet.
 - 我买 lai 一件毛衣。
 - 妈妈走进我的屋子 lai。
 - 他拿 qu 了妹妹的东西。
 - 她带回一架照像机 qu。

- Fill in with lái 来 or qù 去.
 - 他进屋子 _____。 (The speaker is in the room.)
 - 哥哥上楼 _____。 (The speaker is downstairs.)
 - 我妹妹跑回家 _____。 (The speaker is at home.)
 - 朋友们走进客厅 _____。 (The speaker is in the living room.)

4. Read the following passage.

春节到了，孩子们都放爆竹，我觉得很有意思。我的朋友告诉我，春节放爆竹表示送旧迎新，是民间的老习俗了。他还告诉我爆竹这个名字的来历 (láilì origin)：因为最初人们用竹筒装上火药，点着以后，会发出爆裂的声响，所以叫爆竹。后来，虽然用纸筒代替了竹筒，但仍然习惯地称为爆竹。

中国湖南生产爆竹、烟火最著名，已经有几百年的历史了。

我喜欢放爆竹，也喜欢看烟火。

The Furniture Industry

(Continued from p. 49)

and chipboard (both of which utilize scrap wood) are substituted in some cases for raw lumber. Plants are also becoming more specialized. Two large enterprises now produce joining and ornamental parts for the industry, and some provinces and municipalities also have set up special paint and glue factories.

To promote modernization, a national information clearing-house and standardization center have been established, and an industry journal, *Furniture*, is now being published. Local research institutes have also been set up. Future craftsmen and designers are trained at a special college and a number of technical schools set up by the government. The Central Institute of Arts and Crafts has established a course in furniture design, and a number of training courses are run by the Ministry of

Light Industry and by various provinces and municipalities.

The state has adopted some measures to control sales so that scarce furniture is allotted to those whose needs are greatest. Commercial departments distribute to factories and other organizations furniture coupons for items in greatest demand. The organizations then allocate the coupons to their workers according to need — young people about to get married are given priority.

Collective and Individual Sources

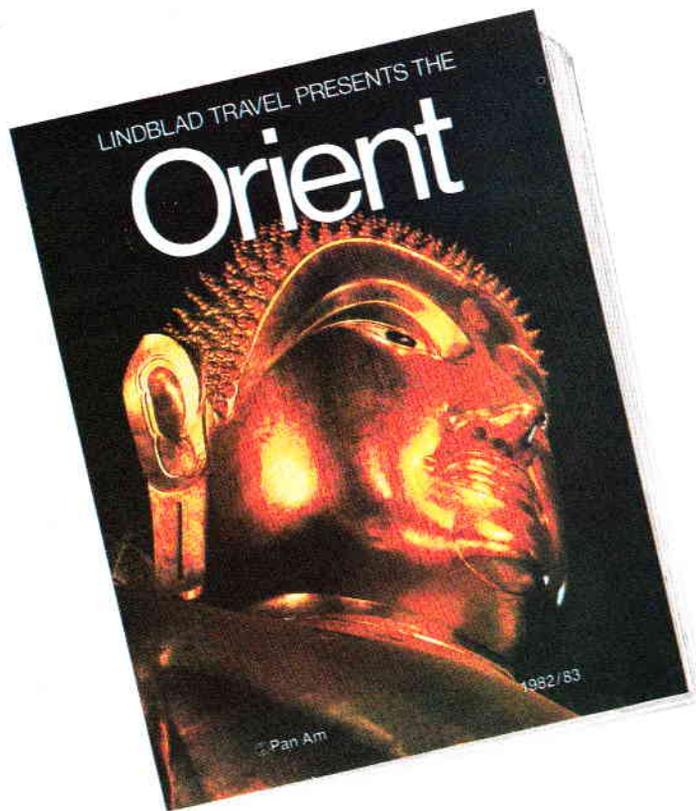
Current policies also allow collective enterprises and some individuals to make and sell furniture without coupons. Many of the collectives are run by young city people waiting to be assigned jobs. Individual peasants and city-dwellers make furniture at home, often as a sideline to their regular employment.

In Harbin, some 200 people along Pingfang Street produce homemade sofas, and the street has been nicknamed "Sofa Street." In Anshan, a flourishing furniture market has sprung up in Youth Street.

In the last two years, the more than a hundred cooperative workshops in Beijing have been providing 10 percent of the total citywide sales. During the same period some 40,000 pieces of furniture made by individuals were sold in the city's eleven free markets. In the past almost all furniture in the city was sold in state-owned stores, these now handle only 72 percent of the total. Collective and individual production thus provide a useful supplement to the state industry, and jobs and income for peasants and city-dwellers. Apart from this, many young bridegrooms build separate pieces, or even entire sets, of furniture for their new homes. □



Wuyi Mountains, Fujian province. *Traditional Chinese painting by Yang Qiyu*



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The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications has released "Ancient Coins of China (2nd Series)." All of the coins date from before the time of China's first unification in 221 B. C. The markings, in archaic scripts, usually show the coin's value and the place where it was minted.

Stamp 1, Guilian (Monster Mask) Coin, 4 fen.

Stamp 2, Shovel Coin Inscribed "Shu," 4 fen.

Stamp 3, Shovel Coin Inscribed "Xia Zhuan," 8 fen.

Stamp 4, Shovel Coin Inscribed "Han Dan," 8 fen.

Stamp 5, Pointed Knife Coin, 8 fen.

Stamp 6, Knife Coin Inscribed "Ming," 8 fen.

Stamp 7, Knife Coin Inscribed "Jin Hua," 70 fen.

Stamp 8, Coin Inscribed "Yi Liu Hua," 80 fen.

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