

# China

Learning from Taching  
—The March Toward Modernization

# Reconstructs

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SEPTEMBER 1977





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### COVER PICTURES:

*Front:* Wu Chuan-ching, promoted from leader of Drill Team 1202 to vice-chairman of the Drilling Headquarters Revolutionary Committee, works on the derrick whenever he can.

*Back:* New look of Yen-an (woodcut) *Ku Yuan*

*Inside front:* Singing of our happy life.

*Inside back:* Spray-irrigating wheat fields in the Tsuichiao commune, Honan province.

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Chairman Mao Memorial Hall, viewed from the south.

# Chairman Mao Memorial Hall Building

**T**HE MEMORIAL HALL for Chairman Mao Tsetung stands at the southern part of Tien An Men Square in the heart of Peking, with the Monument to the People's Heroes on its north, and on its south Chien Men, the old city's great front gate.

In October 1976 the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng passed a deci-

sion to build a memorial hall in which Chairman Mao's body would be preserved in a coffin of crystal so that future generations would be able to see it. The site would be a reminder of his unequalled contribution to the founding and building of the new China, a place where from his memory the people could draw strength to carry the proletarian revolution he pioneer-

ed in China through to the end. On November 24 Chairman Hua inaugurated the construction, filling in the earth around the foundation stone. Six months later the building was completed.

The hall is 33.6 meters high and 105 meters square. Its base is a four-meter-high two-tiered platform faced with red granite, a special product of Shihmien



# Completed

Staff Reporter

county, Szechuan province. The base, which extends beyond the building itself, is surrounded by carved white marble balustrades with designs of the *wan nien ching* evergreen plant in bas-relief. This is meant to symbolize the Chinese people's determination to keep the red state founded by Chairman Mao firm as the rock and long-living as the evergreen plant.

The flat roof with two tiers of golden-yellow tile cornices is supported by granite pillars rising from the base, 12 on each side. Beneath the cornice between the pillar capitals are glazed cream tiles with a sunflower design. The marble blocks above the northern and southern entrances are embossed with the gold characters "Chairman Mao Memorial Hall" in Chair-

man Hua Kuo-feng's handwriting. The walls of the hall are faced with buff granite. Design and coloring, which stress national characteristics, are in harmony with the other buildings in the square.

Flanking the approaches to the northern and southern entrances are four group sculptures of workers, peasants and soldiers. Between the southern entrance and Chien Men, 30 red flags — 15 on either side of the square and one for each of the 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions of the People's Republic of China — represent the idea of the people of each place holding aloft the banner of Mao Tsetung Thought in their

forward march. The surroundings are landscaped with pines, cedars and cherry, pomegranate and kumquat trees.

### Contributions for the Hall

During the construction the worksite headquarters received letters from people all over the country offering their services.

Twelve PLA soldiers guarding an island outpost in the Yellow Sea sent 12 large glistening white oval stones in a wooden box wrapped in red cloth, with a letter asking to have the stones set somewhere around the hall as a symbol of them standing watch for Chairman Mao and their determination to defend the country.

Peasants of Han, Tibetan and Yi nationality in the Anshunchang commune on the Tatu River in Szechuan province sent 17 bricks of polished stone in white, buff and green. When the Red Army under Chairman Mao passed through this area on its Long March in the thirties, 17 young soldiers of the advanced unit had ferried across the river in the thick of enemy fire to open the way.

PLA men stationed on the Fukiens province coast sent bottled sea water and sand from Taiwan Strait. The mountaineers who scaled the world's highest peak, Qomolangma Feng, in 1975 sent

one of the rocks from the summit. The Uighurs of Yutien county, Sinkiang, sent a 106-kg. piece of white marble. A newly married couple, both workers in Yingkou, Liaoning province, sent the gold ring from their wedding. In the letter with it they said that the gold could represent only a fraction of their deep feeling. From Tangshan, where people are rebuilding their homes after the severe earthquake, came soil from their fields. The people of the old revolutionary base Yen-an sent earth from Date Orchard where Chairman Mao once lived and water from the Yenho River.

These tokens, symbols of the people's deep feeling for Chairman Mao, have been put to good use.

During the construction thousands of people came day and night to do volunteer labor. There were veterans of the Red Army who had been on the Long March with Chairman Mao, and of the Eighth Route Army who had fought against Japanese aggression, central and municipal leaders, combat heroes and labor models. All delegates to the national conferences on learning from Tachai and Taching did a stint on the site. Even old people and children came and worked. Stonecutters, carvers, carpenters and artists from different places wrote to the construction headquarters offering their skills.

A retired carpenter named Chu Chiu-sung in faraway Yunnan province boarded a train with his tool box, traveled six days to get to Peking and headed straight for the worksite where he put in volunteer labor for many days. "Chairman Mao saved me from a bitter life," he said. "Now I want to pay tribute to his memory by helping to build this hall."

So great was the number of people requesting to work on the site that many were allowed to put in only half an hour or ten minutes. Long or short, it was an unforgettable experience for everyone.

### Nationwide Support

The 18 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions called upon to supply the building materials and equipment sent their best, and the railroads turned on the green light all the way for transporting them. Quarrying of the granite, marble and stone needed to pave thousands of square meters were done in a very short time.

Camphorwood from the south was needed. Peasants of Miao and Tung nationality in Kweichow province went into the mountains and selected the trees one by one. Among them was a 200-year-old camphor tree in Chinping county. Red Armymen had stood guard under this tree when the troops passed through the place on its

Wang Hsueh-li (third from right) studies a construction plan with workers and cadres.



People of China's minority nationalities doing volunteer labor on the memorial.



Long March. A Red Army announcement calling on the Miao people to rise and fight the Kuo-mintang reactionaries and signed "Mao Tsetung, Chairman of the Central Soviet Government, and Chu Teh, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army" had once been pasted on this tree. After liberation it was named the "Red Army tree". Now the peasants felled it and sent it to Peking. In its place they erected a monument in memory of Chairman Mao.

In factories where orders had been placed, priority was given to building the several thousand pieces of machinery and equipment to be installed in the hall. Strictest control guaranteed top quality. The Karamai Oil Refinery in Sinkiang produced a special kind of oil for the Shanghai Refrigerating Equipment Factory No. 1 in the shortest possible time.

### Designers and Builders

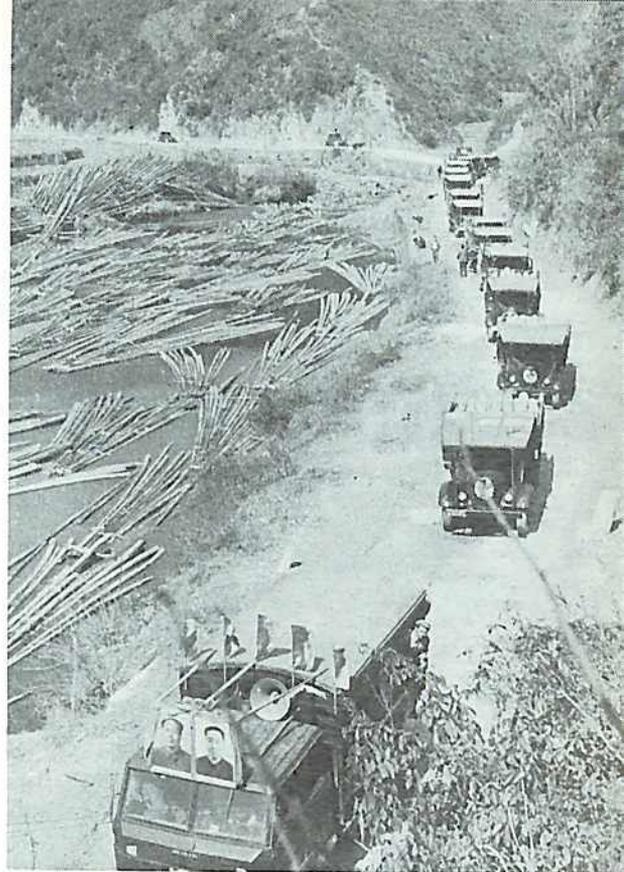
More than 70 people from eight provinces and municipalities took part in the planning and designing. They widely solicited opinions and ideas from workers, peasants and soldiers as well as professionals. Many suggested that the design should embody the idea that Chairman Mao lives in the hearts of the people, that the architecture

should express the wisdom and greatness of Chairman Mao and his unparalleled service and closeness to the people. It should also show the love and respect of the Chinese people and the revolutionary people of the world. The designers' collective effort and encouragement in the form of letters from workers, peasants and soldiers and draft drawings sent in by technical personnel enabled them to finish the design for the entire project two months ahead of schedule.

Construction of the building went on through one of Peking's coldest winters and difficulties were many, but work proceeded at a record pace.

One of the outstanding workers on the site was Wang Hsueh-li of Peking Construction Company No. 6. Wang had begged for a living before liberation. In the new society he became a Communist Party member and labor model. Deputy director of a sub-section, he could rarely be found in his office. He worked alongside the builders almost all the time, did the work of several people, always appeared at the most difficult places. They called him "the iron man on the site"\* and described him as one who can never stay idle. He and some others designed a mold that greatly speeded a part of the structural construction.

Phanthog (center), first Chinese woman to scale the world's highest peak from its north side, and Kunga Pasang (right), another mountaineer who went to the summit, both of Tibetan nationality, present a rock from the summit.



The finest pine in the Ching-kang Mountains on its way to Peking for the memorial hall.



Workers in the Tsinan Granite Quarry, Shantung province, delivered their order ahead of schedule.

Responding to the call to learn from Taching and its outstanding worker Iron Man Wang, hundreds of men and women on the worksite went all out to do exceptionally good work. When the tower cranes were forced to suspend operation during a strong wind, workers and engineers consulted together and devised measures that made it possible for the cranes to operate in gale-force winds.

The construction was completed with the work of thousands of unsung heroes working conscientiously at ordinary tasks.

\* About Iron Man Wang of the Taching oil field see story on p. 24.

# Hua Kuo-feng as a Political Instructor of a Guerrilla Unit

WANG KO-HUNG and WU TZU-HAI

THE Japanese imperialists had already occupied the north-east. After the Lukouchiao Incident on July 7, 1937, they pushed their way farther into China. Instead of resisting, the Chiang Kai-shek government handed over large pieces of territory to the invaders. Taiyuan, capital of Shansi province, fell to them the same year.

It was a time of national crisis. In the autumn of 1938, Hua Kuo-feng, then 17, determined to fight the invaders and help save the country, joined the anti-Japanese guerrilla unit in Chiao Cheng county, his home in central Shansi. Chiao Cheng was on the edge of the Communist-led Shansi-Suiyuan Base Area. For eleven years until the country was liberated in 1949 he fought in the Luliang Mountain area. During this period he served as head of the county's resistance association, then head of the county propaganda department and military committee, then secretary of the county Party committee and political instructor of the county's military force.

## Guerrilla Tactician

In spite of the hard conditions of the war years, Hua Kuo-feng kept up his study of Chairman Mao's works. He carried coarse paper editions of *Analysis of the Classes in Chinese Society*, *On Protracted War*, *Get Organized!*, *In Celebration of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the October Revolution* and other works. After a 50-kilometer march during the day, he would often read while

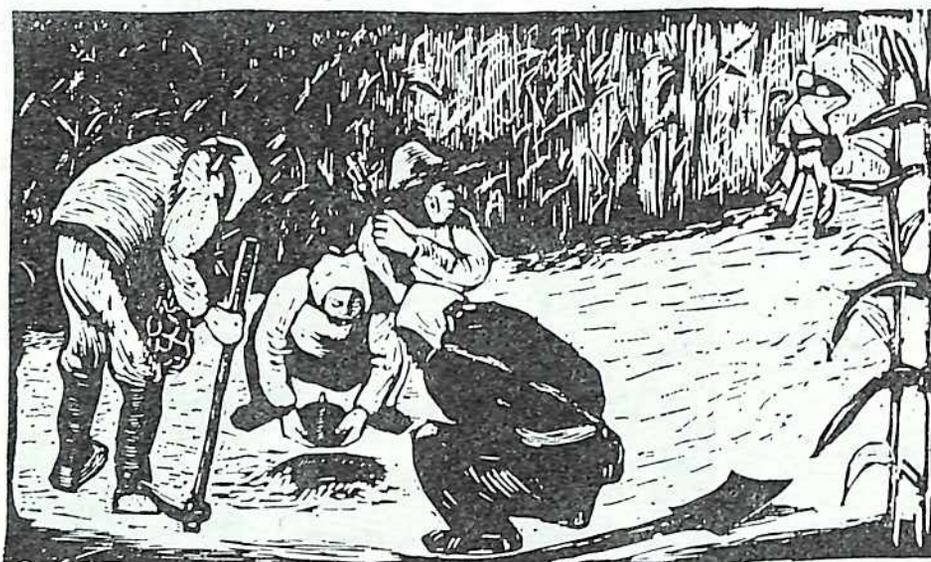
the others were asleep. Sometimes the peasants in whose homes he stayed would quietly go out and stand guard while he studied. Mao Tsetung Thought and revolutionary struggles steeled and tempered Hua into an outstanding commander loyal and devoted in serving the nation, the class and the Party.

One summer day in 1941, Hua and a messenger set out for a mountain valley to organize the people there to counter an invader's mop-up campaign. A day's walk brought them to a hamlet where they stopped and ate their food. "Where shall we put up for the night?" the messenger asked. "This village is right on the road and too exposed," Hua said. "Let's sleep on the mountain. The summer night isn't long."

At daybreak gun shots woke them. They looked down and

recognized their own comrades from the Chingsu-Taiyuan county government crossing fire with the Japanese near the hamlet. They saw that the county comrades were outnumbered and would be overwhelmed without help. The two of them only had a rifle, a pistol and some hand grenades. "How many bullets have we got?" Hua asked. "About fifty," his companion said, "but the enemy is close and we'd be exposed the minute we fired." Hua said, "We're Communist Party members and we have to help." He picked up the rifle, rested it in the fork of a tree and fired a number of shots at the enemy. Thinking they were being ambushed, the Japanese turned and fired at the mountain. Hua and the messenger kept changing positions and firing. This pinned the enemy down until county forces arrived to drive them off.

Laying Mines (woodcut) Kuo Chun



Hua Kuo-feng quickly developed a good grasp of Chairman Mao's strategy and tactics on guerrilla warfare — proceeding from long-range and general interests and exercising initiative and flexibility. There was a period when Hua's unit was active in Kaicha, a town west of Chiao-cheng county, raising provisions and funds for the Eighth Route Army and hitting at the enemy whenever they could. Japanese troops were stationed in Chiao-cheng and a stronghold outside Kaicha. These forces threatened the whole Shansi-Suiyuan Base Area.

Once an Eighth Route Army unit laid siege to Chiao-cheng for an entire night but the enemy held out stubbornly. Hua Kuo-feng and his men, fighting in coordination with the regular army, were worried that a long drawn-out battle would exhaust the troops and ammunition. He called his cadres together for a discussion. Everyone agreed that the Japanese in the town had probably asked for help from their troops at the stronghold outside Kaicha. If Hua's men intercepted these reinforcements, it would be much easier for the main force attacking Chiao-cheng.

His armed work team cut the telephone lines between Chiao-cheng and Kaicha, buried mines along the road and set up an ambush at five o'clock. Three hours later the enemy came in sight. Bicycling in the front were 50 Chinese puppet troops, behind them eight mounted Japanese soldiers. When they entered the trap a bugle sounded, mines and hand grenades exploded, and Hua's men sprang out and fought hand-to-hand. The puppet soldiers surrendered but the Japanese wheeled their horses to get away. "Shoot the horses!" Hua Kuo-feng shouted. Four Japanese were killed, the others captured. The guerrillas took two machine guns, 30 rifles and four pistols. The entire action lasted only 30 minutes, but gave the main force the help it needed.

#### In the People's Interests

Struggles around Chiao-cheng county were complex. The people



Ambush (woodcut) Liu Kuang

not only had to deal with the Japanese and puppet forces but with local bandits, mostly local hoodlums and stragglers from the army of the Shansi province warlord Yen Hsi-shan. They looted and bullied the people, and caused much unrest and trouble in the base area. Hua Kuo-feng and his men decided to suppress these bandits.

One day they learned that some bandits might be putting up for the night somewhere between Wenshui and Chiao-cheng counties. Hua and several armed work team members headed for Panghsing village a kilometer from Kaicha, only to find that the bandits had shifted to Wuling village in Wenshui county. Though tired from the day's marching, they borrowed bicycles from the local people and hurried on to Wuling village. There they surrounded the courtyard where the bandits were staying while Hua climbed over the wall into the yard and opened the door. The men moved quickly to the house. Through a hole in the paper window Hua saw eight bandits sleeping. Jumping through the window, they captured all of them.

In the summer of 1943 a militia leader reported to Hua Kuo-feng that Japanese and puppet troops

from the Chingyen stronghold seized 500 oxen, donkeys and sheep from a nearby village. "This is our fault," Hua said. "We let down our guard. It's the busy farm season, how can the people do without their animals? We must get them back." His scouts reported that the animals were being held in the yard of the puppet village council near the stronghold. Hua worked out a plan and at midnight the men started out.

As they approached the stronghold Hua positioned some of the men where they could train their machine guns on the gun tower and lay mines outside the drawbridge. He and the others stole into the village and found the yard. One man climbed over the wall and opened the gate. Eight puppet soldiers were asleep in the yard and a huge pot of beef and mutton was simmering over a fire. Hua's men quickly subdued them and tied them up, took six guns and herded the animals out of the village. The enemy, probably remembering their experience with mines, never came out of their gun tower.

#### 'Squeeze Out the Enemy'

In 1941-42 the Japanese launched over 30 mop-up campaigns against the Shansi-Suiyuan Base Area. They set up strongholds every-

where and, burning, killing and looting, tried to seize more territory. During this time, Chiang Kai-shek, secretly working with the Japanese, unleashed his second anti-communist campaign. The Shansi warlord Yen Hsi-shan also moved against the Communist-led forces. The situation was critical for the base area and the Shensi-Kansu-Ningsia Border Region on the west bank of the Yellow River was also threatened. Connections between the Party Central Committee in Yen-an and the base areas behind enemy lines were seriously impeded.

From Yen-an Chairman Mao instructed the Shansi-Suiyuan Base Area to squeeze out the enemy. Encouraged by the positive note of his instruction, the people in the base area were ready for action. Hua Kuo-feng arrived at the Chihlan-Chingyen-Kuchiao area to head its anti-enemy committee. The Japanese had erected a large number of strongholds there and the struggle was difficult. First Hua organized the people to study Chairman Mao's *On Protracted War* and other works on guerrilla warfare, and then called on everybody to think of ways to fight. Soon every man, woman and child was talking about how to squeeze out the enemy.

Hua Kuo-feng raised the slogan: "Every family learn to lay mines, everybody learn how to set them off." The people formed co-ops to make them. Militiamen stole into enemy areas and smuggled back sulphur. The peasants made saltpeter, melted down iron temple bells. People devised mines made of stone and clay. Soon all the mountain paths, river banks and roads around the enemy's strongholds were mined.

Hua had straw scarecrows made and put in fields on the mountains and at crossroads. As soon as the enemy set out from their strongholds sentinels took the scarecrows down. This was the signal for the people to hide their grain and go into the mountains. The Japanese arrived one day to find only scare-

crows lying on the roads. Furious, they kicked them to pieces. The next day more scarecrows appeared in the same places. Again the Japanese marched out. But this time when they touched them they blew up in their faces.

Hua and the militiamen often went right up to the enemy gun towers and shouted to the puppet soldiers to stop serving the invaders. They punished the worst traitors. One of these was a puppet soldier nicknamed Big Yellow Dog who set fire to houses and killed people in every mop-up. The people hated him. At a decision of the county Communist Party committee, one night Hua and several militiamen caught him on patrol duty and executed him.

Chihlan was a tiny mountain village but situated on a vital communications line. On the day of the mid-autumn festival in 1942, the Japanese set up a gun fort on the mountaintop several hundred meters above the village and stationed a company of troops in it. This was the farthest the enemy had penetrated into the base area. Order came to squeeze it out.

Constant armed harassments were one method. Hua Kuo-feng also organized the masses to cut off the enemy's provisions and water supplies. The enemy got its food from two other strongholds, but most of it by looting nearby villagers. To counter this, the army and militia ambushed the enemy's grain carts. They also helped the peasants who were forced to supply it. The villagers would come, pretending to bring grain — gunny sacks stuffed with straw — to the strongholds. Half way there hidden militiamen would leap out, fire off a lot of shots and shout at the top of their voices. The peasants would run away and then report to the enemy that the "grain" had been seized by the Eighth Route Army. This way the enemy got no grain but could find no fault with the people either.

One day Hua Kuo-feng was helping the people of Tungta village hide their grain when word

came that the enemy in the Chihlan gun fort were on their way to seize the grain. There was no time to evacuate it and they were far outnumbered. Hua told the village cadres to get on with the evacuation while he and several dozen militiamen hurried toward Chihlan. At the foot of a mountain they heard shouts and knew they had run into the enemy. Quickly they hid in the bushes and waited until the Japanese passed by. Then they marched on the double toward Chihlan. The enemy had barely got to Tungta village when they heard shots in the direction of their gun fort. They hastily turned around and headed back. When they arrived panting, there was not a soul there. By then Tungta's grain had been moved to safe places.

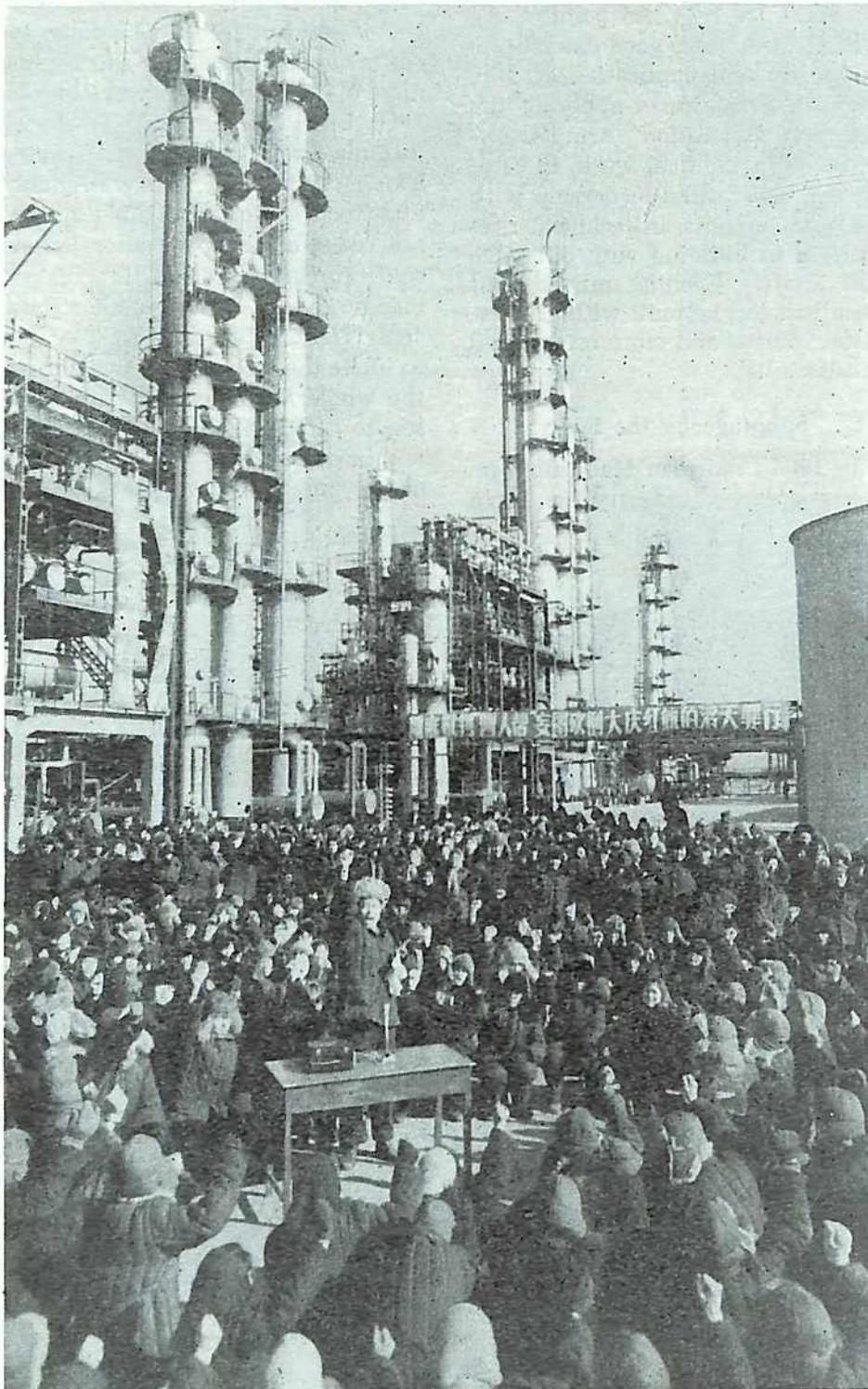
By the spring of 1943 the Japanese were finding it difficult to maintain supplies. Their telephone lines were being cut, their patrols frequently wiped out, their men picked off by snipers. Once while they were drilling inside their camp there was a shot and the drill officer dropped dead. The Japanese got so jittery that the sound of a rifle shot would make them pick up their machine guns and fire at random, wasting ammunition.

The enemy's dilemma increased as the weather grew hotter. They dared not leave the fort, yet there was not enough food and water. The fort became a prospective tomb. One mid-summer night in 1943, they set fire to their fort and fled. During their flight they lost many men in ambushes set by Hua and the militia.

In many other places in the Shansi-Suiyuan Base Area, enemy forces had been squeezed out. The elimination of the Chihlan gun fort by Hua Kuo-feng's forces won special mention in a report to Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee. Chairman Mao telegraphed instructions to all districts to learn from the Chihlan example in order to force back the enemy and expand the base areas.

# A New Phase in Learning from Taching

CHUNG PING



Taching workers criticize the "gang of four" for trying to discredit their achievements.

CHINA'S GOAL before the end of the century is to modernize agriculture, industry, national defense, science and technology and build up a strong socialist country. To reach this goal, the Chinese people led by the Central Committee of the Communist Party under Chairman Hua are using the experience of the Taching oil field in the development of all their industrial enterprises.

Why Taching? Because its workers and leaders have been outstanding in their use of Mao Tsetung Thought to guide its development and in breaking a path for industrialization suited to Chinese conditions. Spreading the Taching experience will enable China to accelerate her economic growth.

New China laid the basis for a socialist industry by confiscating bureaucrat-capital and transforming capitalist industry and individual handicrafts. While a socialist public ownership system of the means of production has been established, there has always been a sharp struggle between the Marxist and revisionist line on how to build, develop and manage industries.

In the early years, because of lack of experience and the influence of Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line, some enterprises followed capitalist methods of management. During the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57) industry followed Soviet Union practices—the one-man (director) leadership system, material incentives, specialists running the factories. Constantly summing up the positive and negative experience in building socialism at

home and abroad, Chairman Mao evolved theory, line, principles and policies for running socialist industry. Much of this he outlined in comments he wrote in 1960 on the Charter of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company. These were a criticism of the management methods of the Magnitogorsk Iron and Steel Company of the Soviet Union.\* He established some basic principles: politics in command and stronger Party leadership; progress through mass movements; cadre participation in labor; worker participation in management; reform of irrational rules and regulations; close cooperation of leaders, workers and technical personnel; and technical innovation and revolution. This was the first time in the development of Marxism that socialist principles for running industry had been put forth so comprehensively.

By thoroughly putting these principles into practice from the

\*The Magnitogorsk methods stress one-man leadership by the director instead of Party leadership, material incentives instead of politics in command, reliance on a small number of specialists and complex rules and regulations instead of technical revolution by the masses of workers.

Weavers at the Changchow Cotton Mill No. 11, Kiangsu province, swap skills to raise productivity.



very beginning, the Taching people were able to open up and expand a modern oil field with high speed and quality. This blazed a trail for socialist industrialization in China, a way entirely different from the methods of the capitalists and revisionists.

Premier Chou En-lai paid great attention to the development of Taching. On behalf of the Party Central Committee and Chairman Mao, he visited the oil field three times. In his report on government work at the Third National People's Congress in 1964, he pointed out that Taching set a good example in the study and application of Mao Tsetung Thought, in applying the People's Liberation Army's experience in political work, in integrating centralized leadership with mass movements, in technical revolution, in building with diligence and thrift. Taching proved that socialism can be built with greater, faster, better and more economical results.

#### Sabotage by the Four

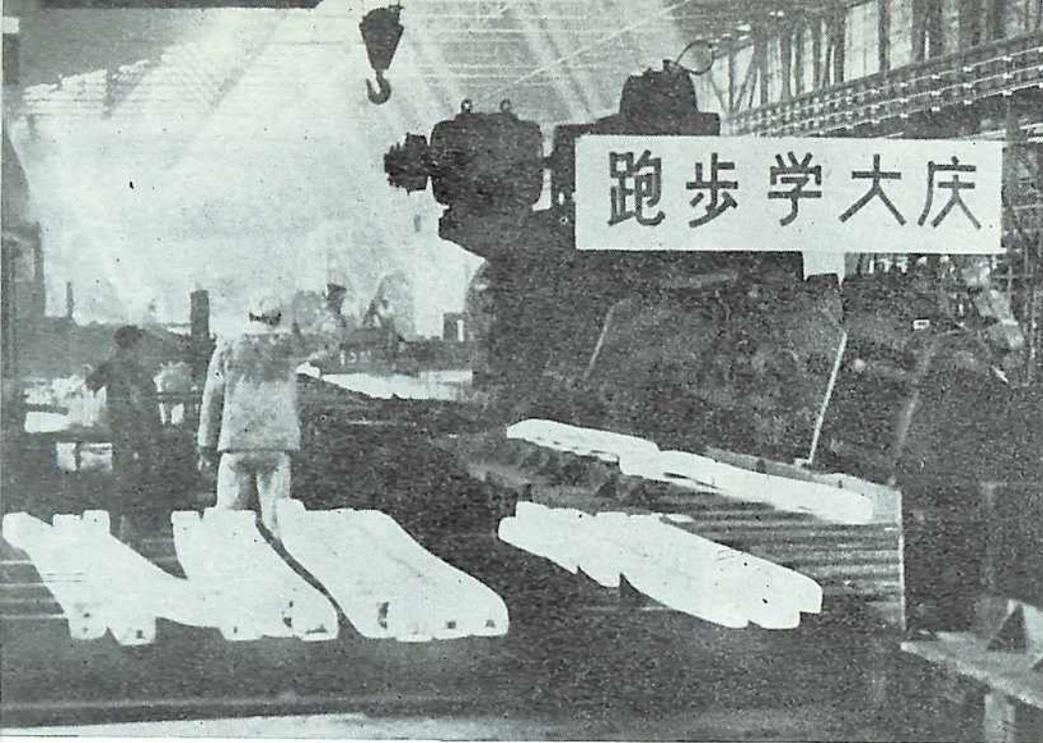
In 1964 Chairman Mao called on the people in industry to learn

from Taching. Energetic responses led to rapid advances in industry. These advances were made through struggle against the interference and sabotage of revisionists Liu Shao-chi, Lin Piao and members of the "gang of four".

The campaign to open up Taching had begun in 1960 when the Khrushchov revisionists were attacking China on many issues. One of them was China's methods of developing her economy. Echoing the attack, revisionist Liu Shao-chi called the Taching campaign "sheer chaos" and ordered a slowdown to "an orthodox pace". At the beginning of the cultural revolution in 1966, Lin Piao and Chen Po-ta, in league with Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan, attacked Taching. "It's a black flag, not red — a fake pacesetter," they said. "Its cadres are bad, its achievements grossly blown up." They sent "fighting groups" to Taching to incite the workers to "overthrow the whole lot of leaders" and persecute "Iron Man" Wang Chin-hsi and large numbers of revolutionary cadres and model workers.

Later, as they stepped up their efforts to seize power, the "gang of four" accelerated their attempt to discredit Taching. Chairman Mao reaffirmed the oil field's good work in 1973 with the words "Taching has done a good job" but the gang claimed that capitalism was being restored there. When the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius began in 1974 Wang Hung-wen sent Chang Hung-chih, a trusted follower of the gang, to Taching to form a faction and fan up an anarchist trend with the slogan, "Kick out the Party committee and make revolution!" The aim was to throw the oil field into disorder and seize power from Party committees at every level. The working class at Taching fought the gang's henchmen off and defeated the attempt.

In 1975 in his report on government work at the Fourth National People's Congress Premier Chou called on the people to deepen the mass movement to learn from Taching in industry and Tachai in agriculture. The State Council and



Under the slogan, "Speed up learning from Taching", Anshan Steel workers have been raising production levels.

governments at the province, municipal and autonomous region level made preparations to convene a national conference on learning from Taching. The "gang of four" tried to prevent the conference. "Learning from Taching is not the important thing at the moment," Chang Chun-chiao said and told his subordinates in Shanghai, "Let them go ahead with it. We'll concentrate on our own business and ignore them." The gang forbade Shanghai's industrial people to visit Taching. When the State Council nevertheless arranged for Shanghai workers to go there, the gang's people told them, "All right go, but keep a cool head." On returning these workers were instructed to analyze the Taching experience "from the Shanghai viewpoint".

Chiang Ching seized upon *The Pioneers*, a feature film based on the Taching oil field, and attacked it for "glorifying revisionism". She listed "ten major errors" and banned it, not forgetting to persecute the film's scriptwriter.

Controlling the mass media, the gang suppressed reports on Taching's accomplishments and instead published article after article discrediting everything it did. Chang Chun-chiao called Taching's management system "a typical example of controlling, restricting and suppressing the masses", "a model of doing all production and no revolution". The Taching people

had applied Chairman Mao's philosophical concepts in *On Practice* and *On Contradiction* to their work with good results, yet Chiang Ching said, "All this about Taching 'pioneering with two essays' is false." Leaders who did a good job of both political work and production were labeled as "hard-working capitalist roaders" who should be overthrown. Workers and technical personnel who translated their sense of socialist consciousness into a highly responsible attitude in work were attacked for being "blind oxen". Anybody who talked about doing a good job in production was charged with neglecting revolution. In short, any big effort to develop socialist production the gang labeled a crime.

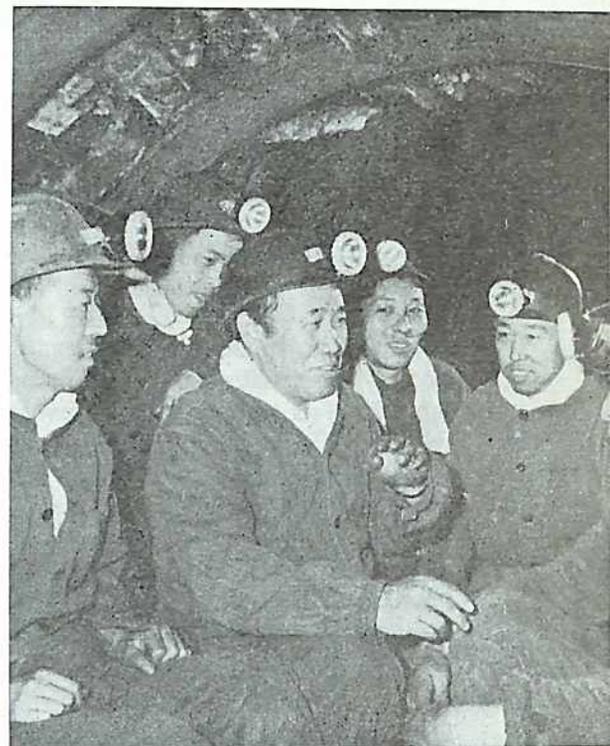
#### Advance through Struggle

The men and women of Taching, however, withstood all pressures and attacks. They were able to do so because they armed their minds with the principles in Chairman Mao's philosophical writings, the Party's basic line and the general line for building socialism. They firmly carried out the instructions of Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee and resisted whatever ran counter to Mao Tse-tung Thought.

They fought against pressure from Liu Shao-chi's gang to slow down and got the oil field producing in record time. When Lin

Piao and the "gang of four" worked for "overthrowing the whole lot of leaders" and "all-out civil war", Taching's leaders and rank and file stuck together and continued to function. When the gang urged, "Don't produce for the wrong line", the Taching workers retorted, "Going all out to build socialism is the right thing to do, a credit and an honor. Nobody can stop us." They stayed at their posts and worked hard to maintain steady and high production in oil to meet the rising needs of the country.

In the same spirit, workers in many other industrial units in the



Leaders of the Machiakou Mine in Tangshan go among the rank and file to organize socialist emulation campaigns.

country stood up to the four's pressure, stubbornly continuing to learn from Taching and keeping up production.

#### New Starting Point

The fall of the "gang of four" lifted a great weight from the backs of the people. Industrial workers in all branches couldn't wait to restore and increase production.

To Chairman Hua Kuo-feng the movements to learn from Taching in industry and from Tachai in agriculture were a vital step in thoroughly repudiating the four



The passenger section of the Yungtingmen station, Peking Railroad Division, holds monthly appraisal sessions for its emulation campaign.



Truck output at the Szechuan Motor Vehicle Plant has risen substantially since the interference of the "gang of four" was smashed.

and promoting all-round growth. When the National Conference on Learning from Taching in Industry was called by the Party Central Committee from April 20 to May 13, 1977, he spoke to the delegates about the significance of industry learning from Taching and how to carry out the movement. Vice-Chairman Yeh Chien-ying also spoke. Over 7,000 delegates discussed these speeches and reports by other central leaders. They toured the Taching oil field and studied the people's methods of work. They exchanged experience on how they learned from Taching and fought against the "gang of four". If all industries in China work in the Taching way, they concluded, industry will develop faster and contribute more to modernizing economy.

Back in March 1949, in his report to the second plenary session of the Party's Seventh Central Committee, Chairman Mao had pointed out that the task was to "steadily transform China from an agricultural into an industrial country and build China into a great socialist state".

At a meeting in 1956 Chairman Mao, comparing Chinese conditions with those of the United States, told Chinese leaders that China should catch up with the U.S. economically in 50 to 60 years. "This is an

obligation," he said. "You have such a big population, such a vast territory and such rich resources, and what is more, it has been said that you are building socialism, which is supposed to be superior; if after much ado for fifty or sixty years you are still unable to overtake the United States, what a sorry figure you will cut! You should be read off the face of the earth. Therefore, to overtake the United States is not only possible, but absolutely necessary and obligatory. If we don't, we the Chinese nation will be letting the nations of the world down and we will not be making much of a contribution to mankind."

In 1963 Chairman Mao proposed a program for building a powerful modern socialist country. Thus, at the 1964 Third National People's Congress, Premier Chou announced a two-step plan for developing the economy—first build an independent and comprehensive system of industry and economy before 1980, and second modernize agriculture, industry, national defense, science and technology before the end of the century, putting China in the front ranks of the world. Premier Chou reiterated this two-step plan at the 1975 Fourth National People's Congress.

Now, in his talk at the 1977 learn-from-Taching conference,

Chairman Hua again pointed out that it was the historical mission of the Chinese working class and Chinese people to build China into a great modern socialist country in the next two decades. Not only should Taching continue to expand, he urged, China should open up at least ten more Taching-size oil fields before the end of the century. More than a blueprint for the future of the oil industry, it was a call to make an overall leap forward in the entire economy.

Conference members compared their own work units with Taching, looked for gaps, and proposed plans and measures to catch up with it. The Ministry of Petroleum and Chemical Industries took up the challenge to construct ten more Tachings and surpass the United States in oil production before the year 2000. It proposed to do this by making all enterprises under the ministry Taching-type units in three years. The Ministry of Coal Industry proposed making all mines and related enterprises Taching-type units within five years and double national coal production in ten years.

Plans were drawn up at the conference to turn one-third of the country's industrial enterprises into Taching-type units within the current five-year plan (1976-80). Socialist labor emulation campaigns

are already underway between different provinces and regions, between cities, and, within different industries, between factories, teams

and individuals. Laggards are catching up, pacemakers are moving faster. Quotas are being overfulfilled and records being

rewritten constantly. Everywhere labor productivity is climbing steadily. An economic leap forward is in the making.

## STAMPS OF NEW CHINA

### Industry Learns from Taching

THE National Conference on Learning from Taching in Industry, held from April 20 to May 13, 1977, is expected to be a milestone in promoting China's industry to a new stage. On the opening day of the conference the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of four commemorative stamps.

Stamp 1. A Taching oil worker denouncing the "gang of four" at a wellhead criticism meeting. The slogans on two red streamers in the background read: "Adhere to the Principles in the Two Essays" (Chairman Mao's *On Practice* and *On Contradiction*) and "Deepen the Movement to Expose and Repudiate the 'Gang of Four'". Vermilion, salmon, lemon, blue, indigo and buff.

Stamp 2. Drilling in a snowstorm, showing the Taching workers' revolutionary spirit of hard work in order to contribute to socialist construction. The slogan on the right reads: "It's Glorious to Go All Out in Building Socialism." Cobalt, deep blue, vermilion, salmon and brown.

Stamp 3. A design with a Taching oil worker carrying a red banner unfurled and a phalanx of workers on the march, symbolizing the rapid development of the movement to learn from Taching in industry. The slogan in the center reads: "Strive to Build More Taching-type Enterprises!" Vermilion, orange-red, buff, light blue and cobalt.

Stamp 4. A scene of thriving socialist construction with factories, a good harvest and a satellite being launched into the sky. At the upper left different types of Chinese workers are shown looking forward to a bright future. The slogan at the lower left reads: "Strive to Realize the

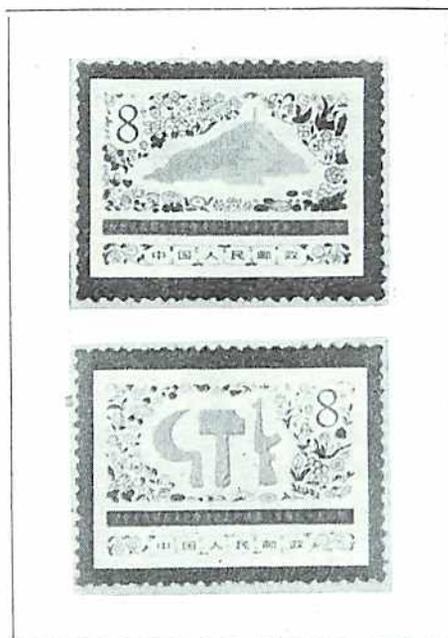
Four Modernizations." Lemon, yellow, vermilion, salmon and deep blue.

All stamps are of 8 fen denomination and bear a legend in red in the upper left corner reading: "National Conference on Learning from Taching in Industry". Size: 60 × 27 mm. Perf. 11. Color photogravured. Serial numbers: J. 15 (4-1 to 4-4).

### Commemorating Yenan Talks 35th Anniversary

ON MAY 23, 1977, the 35th anniversary of Chairman Mao Tsetung's *Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art*, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of two commemorative stamps.

Stamp 1. In the center is a silhouette of the hill and pagoda at Yen-an, where Chairman Mao gave his famous talks in 1942. It is surrounded by a design of flowers symbolizing proletarian revolutionary literature and art, like a hundred



flowers blossoming in profusion. Scarlet, mauve, yellow-green and gold with a green border.

Stamp 2. A design of a hammer, sickle and rifle surrounded by flowers symbolizes the workers, peasants and soldiers whom, as Chairman Mao pointed out in his talks, literature and art should serve. Scarlet, mauve, yellow-green, and gold with a brown border.

All stamps are of 8 fen denomination and bear the legend in red on a gold background, "In Commemoration of the 35th Anniversary of Chairman Mao's *Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art*". Size: 40 × 30 mm. Perf. 11. Color photogravured. Serial numbers: J. 18 (2-1 to 2-2).



Piping oil to supply the country.

## Notes on Taching-1

# Getting Oil at High Speed

Staff Reporter

**M**Y EXCITEMENT grew as the Peking-Tsitsihar express crossed the northeast plains, bringing me closer to Taching, the oil field that 15 years ago ended China's dependence on oil from abroad. Today the exploits of the men and women who pioneered the field are familiar in every household in China and the entire country is emulating the Taching way to industrialize.

I met one of these pioneers right there on the train, in the same car. She was about 40, an oil technician who went straight from university to Taching in 1960, the year the field's first oil well came in.

"Been there ever since?"

"Yes, it's my home now. But 17 years ago you couldn't even find

the name on the map. It used to be called Sartu, and there weren't more than a dozen families in that whole wilderness. Now Taching has half a million people from practically every province and autonomous region in the country."

### Major Features

The growth of Taching, one of the biggest oil fields in the world, is marked by at least ten major features:

- Taching disproved the old theory that China had poor oil reserves, confirmed Chinese geologists' theories on petroleum geology and led to Chinese methods of exploration. These methods brought in oil three years after

survey, breaking a new trail in petroleum exploration for China.

- Taching's crude oil production has risen steadily at an average rate of 28 percent a year. It is now producing six times more than in 1965, the year before the cultural revolution.

- With Taching and other fields, China is not only taking care of her own oil needs but has begun to export it. In 1976 she supplied more than 40 countries and regions with oil and oil products.

- Taching has developed production processes and techniques suited to Chinese conditions and equaling the best in the world. These have made it possible to maintain stable and high production from the beginning.



Careful briefing as the shift changes.

- Taching has doubled its refining capacity and increased the number of its oil products to over 40. In the seventies a million-ton capacity chemical fertilizer plant and plants for making synthetic ammonia, ammonium nitrate, acrylonitrile and polyacrylic fiber began production.

- Taching has completed more than 50 research, development and innovation projects of advanced world level.

- It has accumulated a large amount of funds for the state. Profit for the last 17 years exceeded state investment by 14.3 times. Profit for 1976 alone was enough to construct two Taching-size oil fields and two petrochemical plants.

- Taching was built as a new type of socialist oil base integrating industry and agriculture, town and country.

- New findings from exploration inside and around Taching show that the oil field can be expanded.

- Since 1963 Taching has helped China's growth in oil

A three-way cooperation group of leader, engineer and workers discuss insulating equipment against freezing cold during the erection of the chemical fertilizer plant.

production by providing 56,000 trained cadres and workers and quantities of equipment to new oil fields.

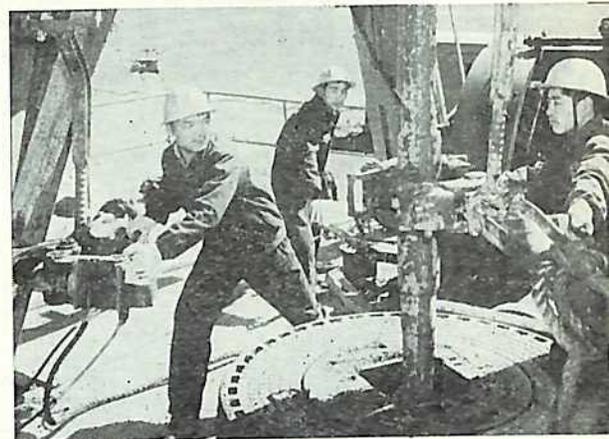
#### Industry Through Campaigns

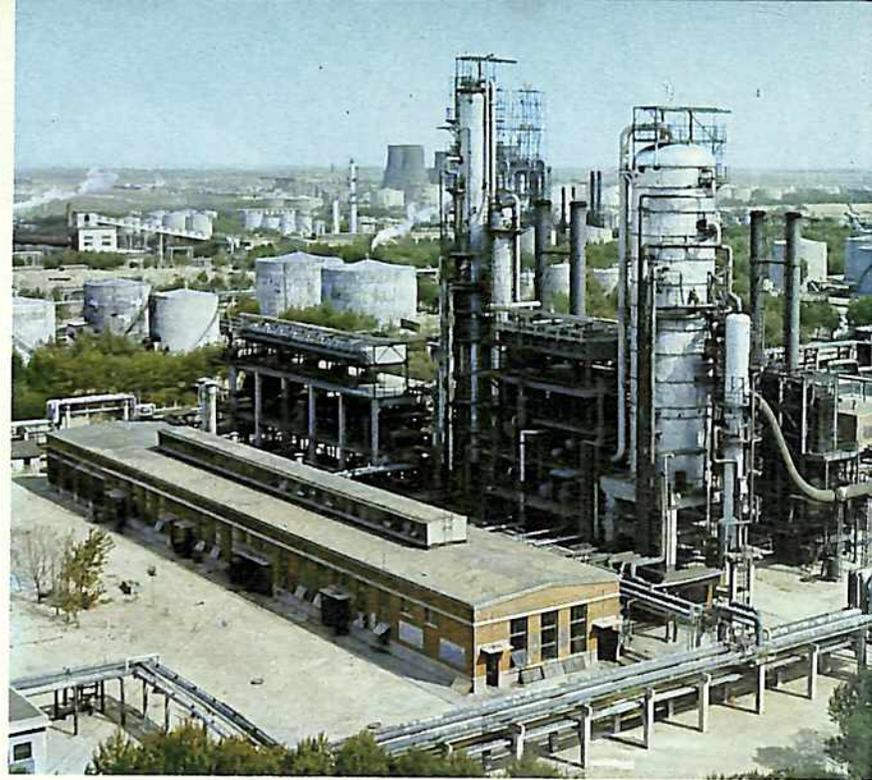
Getting off the train at a small station midway between Harbin and Tsitsihar I traveled 70 kilometers south to an area of intense activity in odd contrast to the empty wilderness around it. Derrick machinery roared as bits bored into the earth. Installation men rapidly capped completed wells. There were red flags everywhere and trucks of all kinds. My first view of Taching was a new section of the field being opened up. The sound and action made me think of a military campaign.

Campaigns, in fact, are a tradition at Taching. To the task of opening up a new field or building a major project Taching's workers apply Chairman Mao's military



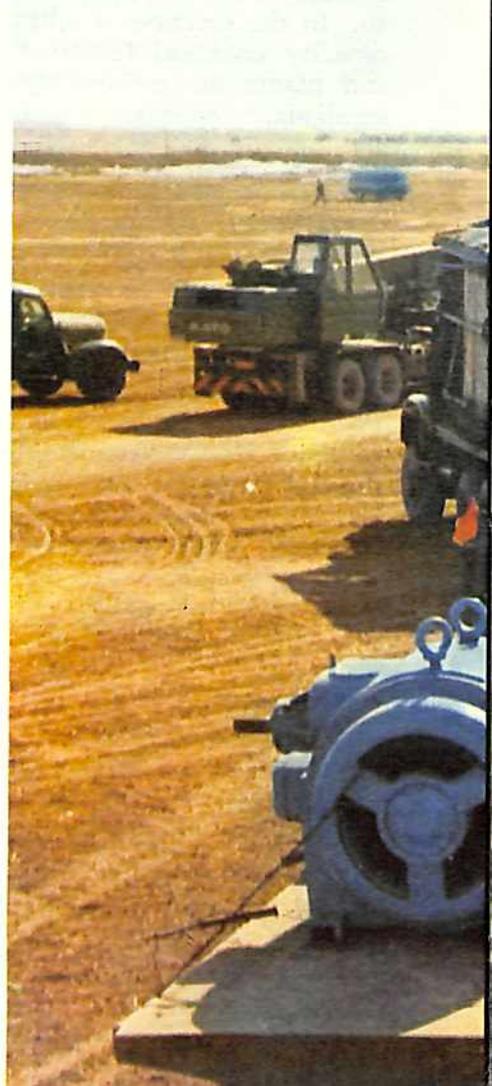
Men of Drill Team 1205.





Repairing a water injection well.

Members of an extraction team compare and analyze notes and data.





The Taching Oil Refinery.



Moving to open up a new field.

tactic of concentrating a superior force to destroy enemy forces one by one. Under the leadership of the field's Party committee, they concentrate manpower and resources to complete a project in the shortest possible time. This is a mass-movement method.

Three such campaigns were launched in the last few years. They were designed to open up the field's northern section, adjust and tap the full potential of the old sections, and construct a huge million-ton capacity fertilizer plant. For the campaign to open up the northern section in 1973, plans were drawn up in March, 20,000 people were concentrated for the "frontlines", drilling began in April and oil was struck in 98 days. In the following two years this section's productive capacity exceeded that built up in the old Taching from 1960 through 1965, and speed and quality were higher.

"Of course we are much better equipped now for our campaigns," the section director said. "With experience and innovation we can now install complete wellhead equipment seven times faster. In the pioneering days the pipes were laid by manual labor. Shovels were the only tools for digging and filling ditches. Now in one hour a ditching and pipelaying machine we built ourselves does the work it once took a hundred people a whole day to do."

"But," he added, "more machines and resources haven't made us give up the tradition of 'pioneering with two essays' and the spirit of hard struggle." To Taching workers "pioneering with two essays" means applying the dialectical materialist views in Chairman Mao's *On Practice* and *On Contradiction* to solving problems in work. This is their guideline in all campaigns.

### World Records

Naturally Drill Team 1205, originally led by the famous "Iron Man" Wang Chin-hsi, was in the thick of the campaign to open up the new area. Young men wearing aluminum hats skillfully changed a drill pipe in one minute. It used to take three. Not far

from the team's derrick were movable buildings where the men slept, studied and relaxed. One of these was the team's history room, its walls covered with at least eighty citation banners.

Team 1205 was formed in 1953 at the Yumen oil field in Kansu province. In the past 24 years it has drilled a total of 861,000 meters, equivalent to one-seventh the distance to the center of the earth. It exceeded 100,000 meters for the year 1966, topping United States and Soviet Union records. In 1971 it did 127,000 meters and set a new pace by completing a 1,200-meter well with one drill bit in one day. Today the team is drilling a dozen times faster than it did in the fifties.

Asked how they have been able to achieve this speed, the team members' answer is: "One example, three magic weapons."

The example, Iron Man Wang. Every member of the team tries to be like him in studying the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Chairman Mao, in learning to "pioneer with two essays", in daring to challenge nature, the class enemy and revisionism, in being ready to "give twenty years of life to get the oil field producing", a famous quotation from Iron Man Wang.

The three magic weapons are three kinds of ideological education — in Mao Tsetung Thought, in class consciousness, and in the Taching tradition of pioneering with hard struggle. This education gives the workers a high proletarian class consciousness and an invincible spirit in the face of hardship.

Drillers of Team 1205 have been asked, "You don't get extra pay for working so hard. Aren't you wearing yourselves out for nothing?" Their answer, "If you look at things with the work-for-pay viewpoint, maybe you'd be right. But the way we look at it, pay has nothing to do with it — we're doing this to contribute to the final liberation of mankind from exploitation. So it's not that we work too much but too little."

With Team 1205 setting the pace, a mass movement to equal and

surpass the advanced, has been pushing production to new highs. Team 1202 exceeded 100,000 meters a year (with its highest monthly record topping 16,000 meters) and was awarded the title "The Eversharp Sword". An all-woman drill team bettered 36 of its own records to reach 10,000 meters a month. Team 1266, an average crew, set its 1973 quota at 30 wells and fulfilled it in early September. With a hundred days left, its 43 members immediately reset their quota to 43 (one well per person). The new goal was reached on December 14, putting the team in the forward ranks. Without pausing, the drillers set still higher sights for the next year in order to catch up with the best in the field.

Every year a meeting is held at Taching to commend advanced units and individuals. For 1976, 64,000 individuals, 840 departments, and 4,700 teams and groups received honors.

### Masters of the Field

The Taching people's high sense of responsibility is an important aspect of their high-standard performance. Stories of a well crew in the central area illustrate this.

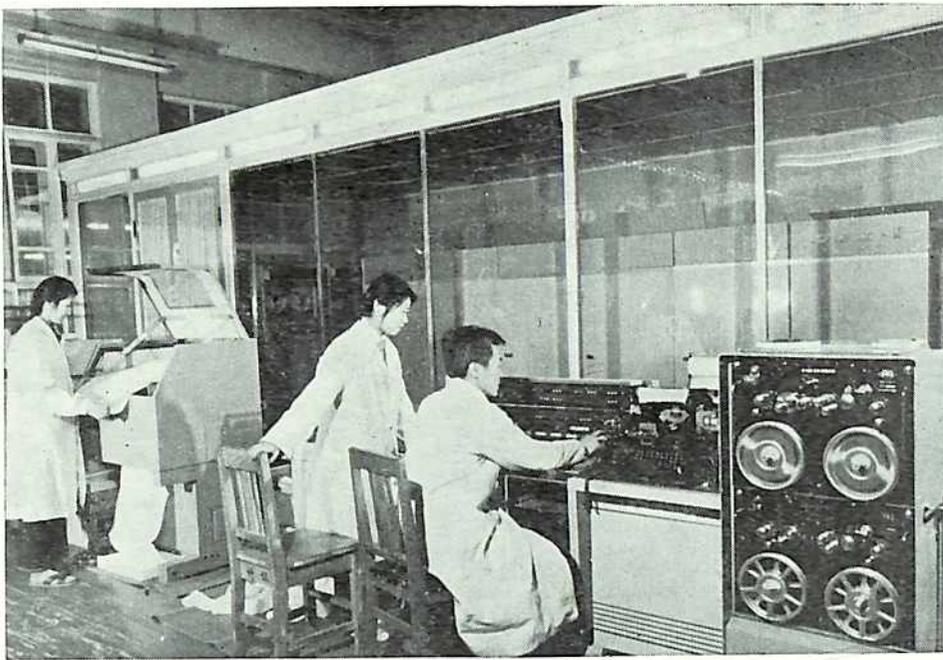
One evening extraction worker Lin Lang-yao set out from his home at ten o'clock at 30° C. below zero in a blizzard to walk to the well site two kilometers away to catch the 12 o'clock shift. It was hard going. Suddenly he sank into a pipeline ditch over his head in the snow. When he finally got out his padded shoes were missing. Go back home for another pair? His fellow workers were waiting to be relieved. He went on through the storm, reaching the well at 11:55 p.m.

Wang Yu-chuan, 52, an extraction worker since 1960, is in charge of ten wells and all have been cited as advanced wells. In 1967 a wave of anarchism incited by Lin Piao and members of the "gang of four" hit the oil field.

A study session in Volume V of the *Selected Works of Mao Tsetung*.

Oil well fracturing.





Petroleum technicians working on data computation.

One day while Wang was cleaning paraffin from the pipes several people came up to him, pointed at the Regulations for Work Responsibility posted on the wall and said, "Hey, old man, don't you know these regulations were drawn up by revisionist Liu Shao-chi? Tear them down!" Wang went on with his work as if he hadn't heard.

"Don't you know following these regulations means heading for revisionism?"

Wang turned on them, "What the hell do you know about these regulations? Let me tell you something! We workers drew up these regulations so we could keep the wells in good shape and produce more oil. That's for socialism, not revisionism!"

Not knowing what to say, the men tore the paper down and left. "You can tear it off the wall," Wang shouted after them, "but you can't erase them from our minds! Nothing you do can take away our sense of responsibility!"

The 99-member crew Wang belongs to operates 44 oil wells, 13 water wells and a pumping station. For 17 years not one member has ever left his or her post without leave, not one well has ever been closed down, production has never stopped even for one day, and there has never been

an accident. Each shift has filled its 21-item data charts accurately and completely. Well production generally drops after a few years due to the decrease in underground pressure. The workers of this crew, with revolutionary spirit and a scientific attitude, carefully follow the process of water injection, production and potential tapping by separate zones, and have maintained the original pressure in every stratum so that production has remained steady for 17 years. The crew has consistently overfulfilled daily, monthly and yearly quotas and doubled its daily output since 1965.

#### Research and Development

Iron Man Wang once said, "A country should have pride of the people, a collective should have fighting spirit, a man should have the will to succeed. With these we can build whatever we need." These words have inspired Li Hsueh-cheng of the petrochemical plant's Refining and Manufacturing Research Institute to attempt to make sophisticated equipment.

In 1974 the plant put in a new installation for producing the principal material for the manufacture of polyester fiber. But production could not start because a key piece of equipment was patented by a foreign firm which would not sell it to China. The

plant asked its own research institute to design and make this equipment. An eight-member group of workers, engineers and leaders tackled the task. Li Hsueh-cheng was one of them. Guided by the ideas in Chairman Mao's *On Practice* and *On Contradiction* and drawing upon his 20-year experience as an instrument operator, Li went at it with one heart and mind. A workable design for restructuring the existing equipment was found. They assembled and installed the new equipment in 18 days. Operation was successful on the first test and the result proved to be of advanced world level.

A glass-lined piping that resists clogging by paraffin was developed by another veteran worker, Chang Chung-cheng, now head of the No. 2 department of the Extraction Technology Research Institute. It is now in wide use.

Taching's two research academies and 11 research institutes operate under the principle of close integration with production. They are staffed by 11,000 geologists, engineers, technicians and experienced workers. Fifty-nine percent of them are workers, whose practical experience complements the intellectuals' theoretical knowledge.

University graduate Wang Teh-min found that a calculation method commonly used abroad did not accurately interpret Taching's underground data. He went to the wells and experimented with the help of workers. In the evenings he pored through the literature. Finally, after two years, he worked out a calculating method suited to local conditions.

At Taching, research and development is the concern of both professionals and the masses of workers. Every work post is considered a base for experiment. Workers participate widely in the annual underground survey to keep close watch on changes in oil and water movement. On this basis plans for steady and high production are drawn up for each well. This combination professional-mass effort provides a solid foundation for the oil field's high-speed growth.

# Worker-Peasant Villages

Staff Reporter



A worker-peasant village near the oil refinery in Taching.

WANG TEH-FU didn't go straight home after the meeting honoring advanced units and individuals. He headed for the management committee of the worker-peasant village he lived in. He had a lot to say to the people running the village. In fact, he thought to himself, he wouldn't have been able to concentrate on his work and contribute his bit to oil production if they hadn't organized a new kind of community living.

He thought of his early home life in the oil field with his wife and two children in the early sixties when thousands of people from all over the country had arrived on this wild prairie all at once. His wife got up at four every morning, got the children dressed and fed, held the youngest

one on her arm while she ate a cold corn cake, then left them at home and hurried off to join other wives in opening up farmland. Even so, she was usually late when she got to the fields.

Wang was in charge of drill pipes in an area far from home. He came back home once every two weeks. The first thing he had to do when he got there was to go two kilometers away to buy groceries and supplies. Then he helped with washing, cooking and taking care of the children. He often lost his temper. "I'm kept busier at home than where I work," he complained. "Here I'm shopper, cook, nurse and odd-job man all in one."

"Oh?" his wife retorted. "You only work eight hours a day. I work from early morning to late at night. You have only yourself

to look after but I have to look after the two kids as well. Why don't you take one of them with you and see what it's like? Fair enough?"

Wang tried to talk her into giving up farming. "I'm a grade-three worker," he said. "I can easily support us. You don't have to work. Stay home and look after the kids. That's a full-time job."

"You mean only men are good enough to work outside the home for socialism? Women can't contribute more to socialism than just being housewives?"

The couple's problem was solved after the wives, many of whom had been commune members or had held jobs before coming to Taching, got together and organized a kindergarten, school,

clinic, branch food and department stores in the village. With the children going to kindergarten and school, and shopping now within walking distance, Wang's wife was not only able to work in collective farming but had time to go to night school. Every year since 1969 she has been cited as a pacesetter. In 1975 when Wang was away from home in a campaign to open up a new oil field, his wife wrote to tell him to work in the "Iron Man" spirit (see story on p. 24) and not to worry about the family. Everything was fine, she told him, and when there were problems she got help from others.

At the village management committee office he told the women leaders, "I want you to know that a lot of credit goes to you people. You've done just what Premier Chou En-lai recommended, building these worker-peasant villages into a good, solid base for the oil industry, combining industry and agriculture, town and country. Your work helps push production and improves everyday life. We've got a lot to learn from you."

### All-Round Growth

There are three kinds of worker-peasant villages in Taching. The first are built close to established

production units such as oil extraction teams. The second are built on the edges of the oil field and serve mobile units such as drilling teams. The third are built in farm areas but close to big plants such as the oil refinery and the fertilizer plant. There is housing for unmarried workers and working couples closer to the factories.

This setup makes it possible for workers to get to work easily and to help with farming during busy periods. The women work near their villages in collective farming, service trades or the 100 small auxiliary factories. When more hands are needed in opening up a new oil area, the women help lay pipes and build roads.

Youngsters go to village schools which combine classroom learning with practice in industrial and agricultural production. After graduation they go to work for about two years in specially organized school-graduate farming brigades. Then they are assigned work in the oil field.

Aging workers and those who become ailing or disabled are given light work within their capability in the worker-peasant villages and continue to receive their full wages.

Since the early sixties 55,000 Taching wives have entered

agriculture. They have opened up 20,000 hectares of prairie land. They have raised 300,000 tons of grain, 490,000 tons of vegetables, 5,000 tons of meat, 7.5 tons of eggs, 250 tons of fruit and 3,000,000 fish. They have been supplying their own grain for 13 successive years. They are basically self-sufficient in vegetables and add one kilogram per capita per month to the meat supply for the oil workers. The village where Wang Teh-fu and his family live harvested 6.7 tons of corn and 3.6 tons of wheat per hectare in 1976. In its vegetable garden an average cucumber weighs one or two kg., a tomato 250 grams. There are 252 pigs.

The policy of combining a developing industry with country living for its workers has brought thriving agriculture to this former wilderness in the north. It has created great wealth for the state, cut down the amount of food the state has to supply the oil field, and greatly improved the life of the Taching workers and their families. Family income goes up every year. Most families that used to have financial difficulties now have savings of at least 100 or 200 yuan in the bank.

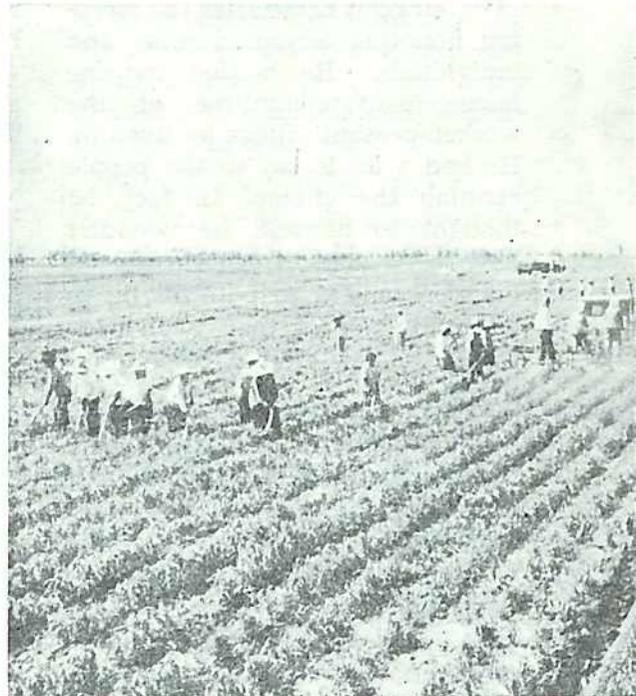
### The Family Base

In the worker-peasant villages which is part of a new kind of so-

Li Fa-lan (center), vice-secretary of the Party committee of an oil field construction headquarters, and other women go to do farm work.



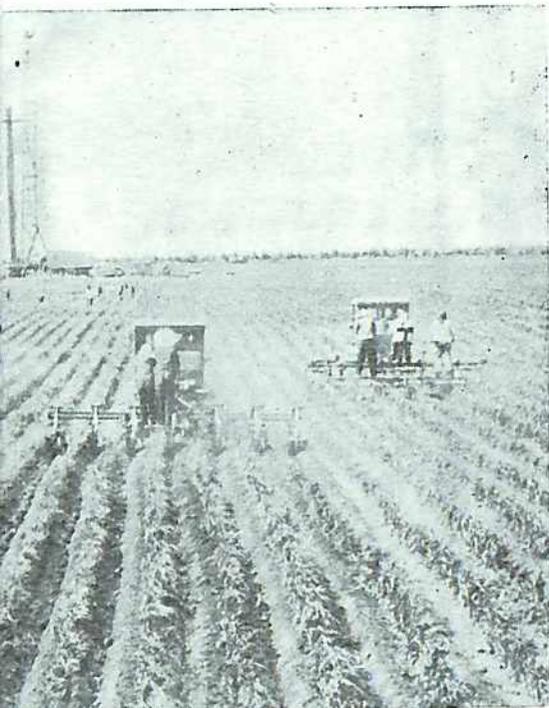
Women work in fields near a drilling derrick.



cialist industrial area, there are about 100 kindergartens at no cost to parents except several yuan a month for the children's meals. A typical nursery-kindergarten in one of the villages I visited consists of low bungalow-type buildings around a tree-shaded playground. All the teachers and staff workers were originally housewives. Parents can send their children for the day or the week. There are 250 boys and girls from two months of age to seven years.

How do parents feel about leaving the really young ones for a whole week? The answer can be seen in the nursery section. This is a lively, noisy place in four large rooms linked with interior doors. The air is fresh and everything is neat and clean. Each baby has its own cradle, over which hang plastic elephants, pandas and so on. A nurse paces up and down the room, holding a baby in her arms and trying to lull him to sleep. "He fusses and cries and won't go to sleep unless we rock him and cuddle him," the nurse says. These women recognize the children's great need of love and warmth.

The children get plenty of meat, eggs, milk and vegetables. In winter fresh vegetables are supplied at low prices by the village's



greenhouses. Every morning a doctor from the village clinic comes to the kindergarten to look at the children and treat any illnesses. Parents are notified promptly if a child needs more than ordinary attention.

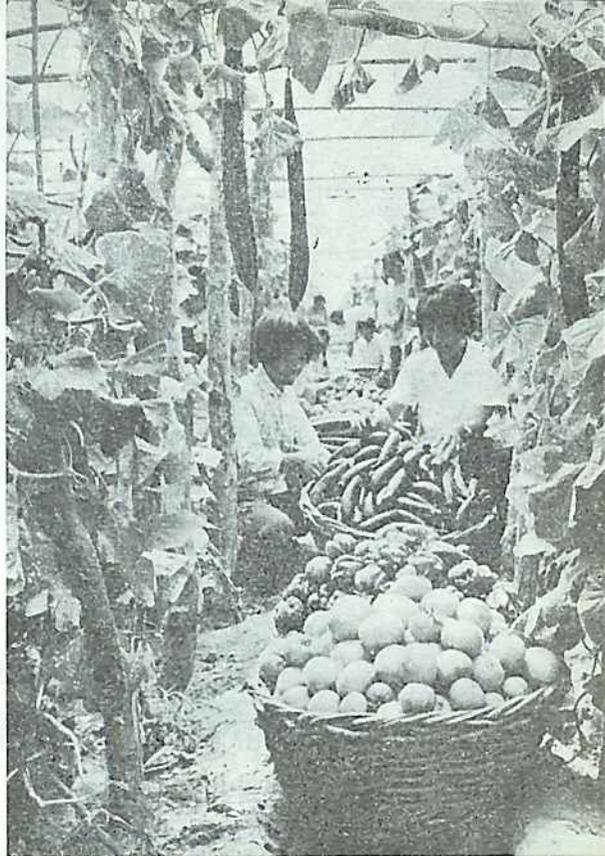
The clinic in this village has 40 beds and is open to all residents. Of its 38 staff workers, 19 are doctors of both Chinese and western medicine. It has departments of medicine, surgery, E.N.T., acupuncture, gynecology and obstetrics. Medical and surgical cases can be handled. Serious cases are sent to one of the oil field's several big hospitals. As with enterprises elsewhere in China, workers have free medical care and their family members pay half the low medical costs.

The village clinic also has a "home ward" system — doctors and nurses make daily visits to the ill, old and disabled at home to give injections and supervise their medical care. Such attention has enabled one worker who had been paralyzed for two years to recover and go back to work. "Imagine getting free medical care right here at home," a home-care patient said. "It wouldn't be possible without the leadership of the Communist Party and the socialist system."

The village clinic gives all residents a general checkup every year and keeps a medical record for each person. Preventive measures and prompt treatment keep chronic and epidemic diseases under control. This has directly contributed to the growing work attendance figures everywhere in the oil field.

The women also run service establishments, including bakeries and shops to make oil, wine, soy sauce, vinegar, bean curd and bean noodles. They build houses. Rent-free housing is assigned to all cadres and workers according to the number in the family. The average Taching family has a two or three-room house. Residential districts are scattered far apart on the prairie where air is clean and clear.

Ten items are free to Taching families — housing, water, elec-



Hotheouses produce abundant vegetables for the oil field.

tricity, central heating, cooking fuel, baths, kindergarten and nursery, schooling, movies and bus rides.

Mass participation in collective work has trained thousands of women cadres. In the past dozen years nearly 3,000 of the former housewives who went into agricultural production and service trades have joined the Communist Party and 1,600 have become cadres in the worker-peasant villages. Eight are members of the Taching oil field Party committee and the revolutionary committee. Some are vice-secretaries of Party committees at headquarters level. Three are high-level leaders, one in the Heilungkiang Provincial Party Committee, another in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemical Industries and the third in the Ministry of Coal Industry.

But no matter what their rank, such leaders continue to be paid at the general level of working women in the villages, their income about that of a grade-two oil worker. The whole pay system is designed to restrict bourgeois right, help reduce other differences between workers and cadres, and prevent the cadres from becoming divorced from the masses and turning revisionist.



Wang Chin-hsi studying Chairman Mao's works.

# THE STORY OF IRON MAN WANG

**I**N 1959, while Wang Chin-hsi was a worker at the Yumen oil field in northwest China, he came to Peking to attend a national conference of labor heroes. He saw buses in the streets with big inflated bags on top.

"What are those things for?" he asked.

"Coal gas to run the motors," he was told. "Our country's short of oil."

"I'm an oil driller and that hit me hard!" Wang said at a later conference. "Imagine a big country like ours without oil — and I had the nerve to ask why!"

During the conference he learned that a new oil field had been discovered in the northeast. This was Taching. He immediately asked to go there and help open it up.

As soon as they got off the train near Taching, Wang and his fellow workers went to headquarters and demanded where the well site was. When he was told, he and his comrades headed off across the prairie. "Let's get the rig set up and begin drilling," Wang said. "Nobody's going to call us 'oil poor' anymore!"

In the old society Wang Chin-hsi was a beggar at the age of six, leading his father who had been blinded by the brutal treatment of a landlord. At eight, barefooted and his body wrapped in a tattered old sheepskin, he had herded a landlord's cattle and sheep in the

On the derrick platform.



mountains, and was often beaten. At fifteen he was pressganged to work as a coolie at the Yumen oil field. Here he was also beaten, sometimes with whips and metal clubs, by overseers, oil-field police and American technicians. His body was seldom without welts and bruises. Only in new China, when the country was freed from the system of exploitation of man by man, did he come to know the dignity of being a master of one's own country.

Now, in answer to Chairman Mao's call, a campaign was about to start to give China a real oil industry. "I wish I could smash the strata with my fist and make the

oil flow!" Wang said when he saw the wide empty prairie at Taching, covering a vast pool of oil.

Taching in March was still freezing cold. Thousands of people came to that empty prairie with no roads, no houses, not enough trucks and equipment, and hundreds of other problems.

In line with Premier Chou En-lai's instructions, the oil field Party committee called on the workers and staff members to study Chairman Mao's *On Practice* and *On Contradiction* and apply the principles in them to their work. Wang Chin-hsi and his team spent several nights discussing what the principal contradiction was and

how to cope with it. "There are all kinds of difficulties in opening up an oil field," they concluded, "but the biggest difficulty confronting us is our country's shortage of oil. This is the principal contradiction. If we don't solve this contradiction, the imperialists and modern revisionists will use it to get a stranglehold on us. No matter what it takes, we must get this oil field producing as quickly as possible."

Wang and his team were told to wait around until the drill rigs arrived. But other equipment had come and when he saw it piled high at the station without enough hands to move it, he and his crew pitched in to help. When the first rig arrived a few days later it weighed 60 tons and could not be unloaded from the train because there were not enough cranes and tractors. "Well, men," Wang said, "if conditions are right, we'll go to work. If they're not right, we'll make them right and go to work anyway. We'll move that rig even if we have to carry it or drag it."

Ropes, crowbars, iron tubes, wooden poles — every tool they could find. Pulling, shouldering, prying, lifting. Wang began a work chant that later became a song:

*When we oil workers give a roar,  
Even the earth shakes three  
times.*

*When we oil workers push and  
pull,*

*Sky-high troubles bow and bend.*

*Hai-so, hai-so, hai-so, hai-so!*

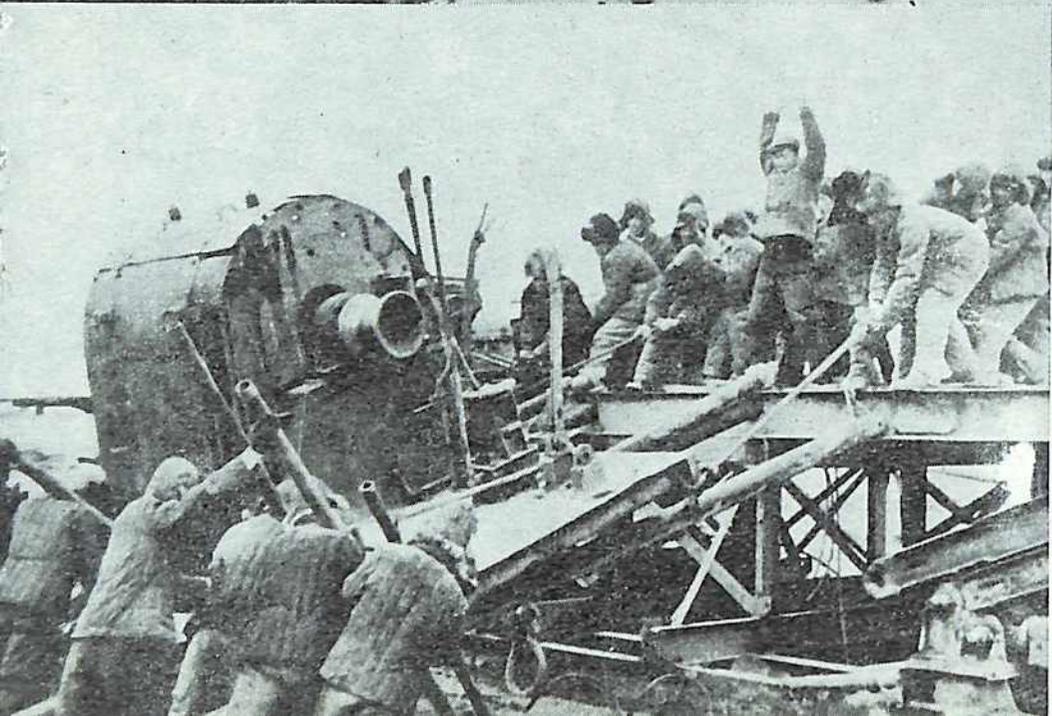
Throughout the day the chant went on — and the monster rig moved, off the train, out of the station, onto the prairie, out to the drill site. By nightfall, the 40-meter derrick stood upright to challenge a prairie that had been flat since time began.

The next problem was water for the drilling. Pipelines, of course, were not yet laid.

"Can't waste time," Wang said. "We'll carry it here with whatever we've got."

◀ Wang Chin-hsi (with raised arms) and fellow workers moving the first drilling rig in the pioneering days of the Taching oil field.

The Iron Man mixing cement and mud with his arms.



"Nobody ever drilled for oil with water brought in with basins and pails!" someone said.

"Well, in our country we're going to do it!" Wang replied. And with the help of a few peasants, they broke the ice on a nearby pond and carried water in basins, pails, kettles, old fire extinguisher cases, even their metal work helmets. Wang, a pail in each hand, was always trotting and running. In this way they accumulated 100 tons of water and began drilling. On April 14, 1960, Wang climbed onto the platform, grabbed the lever and shouted, "Begin!" Six days later, Taching's first well came in amid wild cheers.

### Man of Iron

On May 1, when Wang's team was moving their derrick to a new site, a shifting drill pipe struck him in the leg and knocked him unconscious. When he came to and saw the men crowding around him with tears in their eyes, he said, "What are you crying for? I'm not made of clay. A little knock isn't going to break me. Let's get this derrick moving." He got to his feet to direct the work, while the blood stained his trouser leg.

Wang was sent to the hospital. But as soon as he was able to get around on crutches, he left the hospital and, in the rain, walked back to the second well.

He went right to work, hobbling around on his crutches. Several days later, the well blew with a deafening roar, bushings and parts shot up into the sky and oil, gas, water and mud blasted out. Unless the well were capped, the derrick would be destroyed and fire break out. There was no barite to use and Wang ordered cement. Bag after bag was dumped into the mud tank, but there was no mixer and the cement sank to the bottom. Wang suddenly threw away his crutches, jumped into the waist-deep tank and began mixing the cement with his arms. Several young men also jumped in. The mixture worked and, after a three-hour battle, the well was stopped. When Wang was helped out of the tank, his leg hurt so much that he collapsed.

Wang Chin-hsi seldom left the well site, even for meals or sleep. He ate cold corn cakes at the well and slept in the open with his sheepskin coat pulled over him.

Once he said, "I'd give twenty years of my life to get this oil field going."

His determination and ability to take hardship so moved some nearby peasants that one of them said, "Your team leader must be made of iron!" The name stuck and spread all over the field. Slogans began to appear: "Learn from the Iron Man! Be a Man of Iron!" These slogans still inspire today's oil workers.

On June 1, 1960 the first train of crude oil rolled out of Taching. By 1962 the field was in full production. In 1963 China became basically self-sufficient in petroleum. Never again would she depend on imported oil.

### More Struggles

In the autumn of 1962 the revisionist Liu Shao-chi and some of his followers visited Taching. They called the campaign to bring in oil as "sheer chaos" and "not the way to build industry". They tried to slow things down to an "orthodox" pace by cutting back the financing. Furious, Wang Chin-hsi said, "What's wrong with a campaign to bring in oil? How do you get an

At a celebration meeting, Wang Chin-hsi (right) and other labor heroes on horseback with leaders holding the reins for them.



oil field going quickly without hurrying? How are we going to deal with imperialists, revisionists and other reactionaries if we don't get oil in a hurry?" In spite of Liu Shao-chi, the Taching workers kept up their speed.

In China's countryside, Liu Shao-chi was urging the peasants to "go it alone", a move which

He's got fame, reward and position, all vested interests which keep him from wanting to make revolution anymore." Lin Piao and his followers sent an "investigation team" to Taching, bent on proving that Taching's achievements were phony.

One night in a packed meeting room many oil workers who had

room where they tried to force him to sign a statement admitting that Taching was not a red flag. "I didn't have much schooling," Wang shouted in rage, "but I can read these words. You're not going to make me sign even if you put a knife to my throat!"

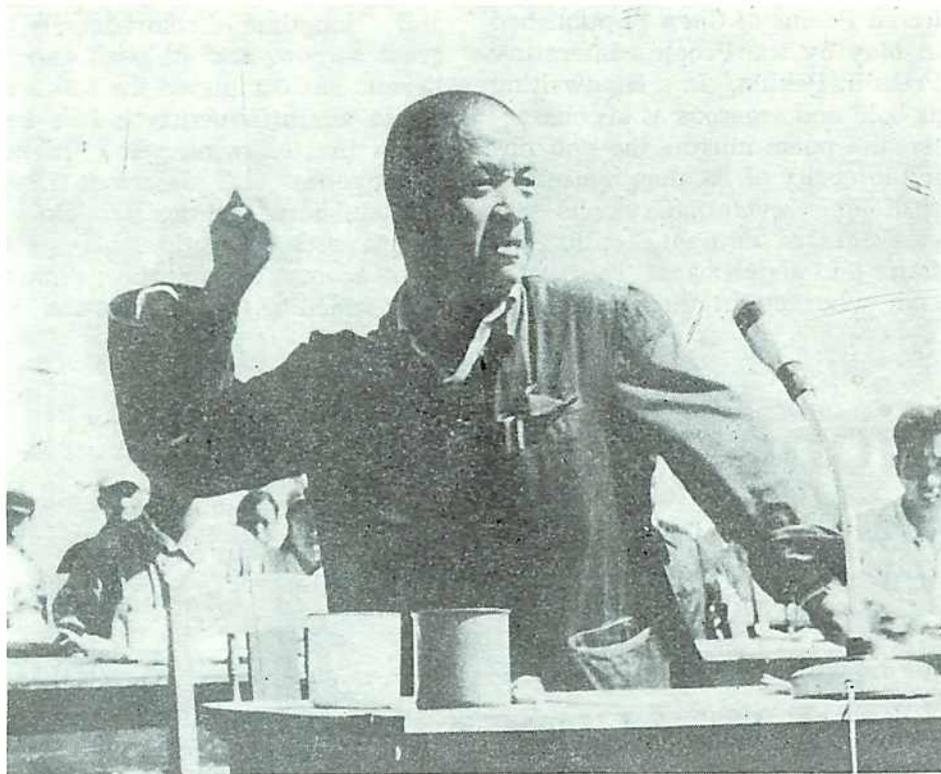
In May 1968 when the Taching revolutionary committee was set up, Wang Chin-hsi was elected a vice-chairman. In April 1969 he was chosen to attend the Ninth National Congress of the Party, and there he was elected a member of the Central Committee.

### A Selfless Spirit

News of the discovery of a new oil field kept Wang Chin-hsi sleepless with excitement for several nights. At a meeting called by the Taching revolutionary committee to discuss how to assist in opening up the new field, Wang said, "The new field must be built up at high speed. Chairman Mao said we must be prepared against war and natural disasters, and do everything for the people—and more oil is part of this. Let's give them the best of everything, people, materials and equipment. We must make sure that whoever we send can cope with the hardest problems and come out the winner." Wouldn't this slow down Taching's own rapid expansion? "No," said Wang. "It may mean a heavier load for us but it's an honor to shoulder heavy loads. It will be a challenge to expand Taching and help open up new oil fields at the same time."

On November 15, 1970 Wang Chin-hsi died of gastric cancer at the age of 47. His last words to his fellow workers were, "Comrades, study Chairman Mao's works well. Unite to win still greater victories. Never forget class struggle. The Taching red flag was raised by Chairman Mao. Keep that red flag flying."

In response to a call from the Taching Party committee, a mass movement to learn from Iron Man Wang spread. More and more Iron Man-type workers and cadres are emerging to speed the growth of China's oil industry.



"Whoever dares to slander Taching will get smashed!"

would break up the collective ownership of the people's communes. At the field, Wang Chin-hsi went around to the drill teams to explain Chairman Mao's teachings about the communes and why "only socialism can save China". At the call of the oil field Party committee, he helped organize the oil workers' families into worker-peasant villages, the first ones in the Taching oil base. (See p. 21)

During the cultural revolution which began in 1966 Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line came under fire. Wang was among the most active in criticizing it. Then Lin Piao and members of the "gang of four", class enemies hidden in the Party, took up where Liu Shao-chi left off and launched a new attack on Taching. Chang Chun-chiao, one of the four, said, "Iron Man Wang is behaving very poorly.

taken part in the pioneering campaign talked about how they had opened up the field, exposing these enemies' talk as slander. One man jumped up and interrupted by shouting, "As a red flag, Taching is a fake, Iron Man Wang is a phony!"

Wang Chin-hsi removed his sheepskin coat, stood up and said, "It doesn't make any difference whether I'm made of iron or clay, but nobody is going to call the Taching red flag a fake. Taching is a red flag because its working class built it up the way Chairman Mao said it should be built. Whoever dares to slander Taching will get smashed!"

Unable to make Wang knuckle under, the anti-Taching forces incited some people into seizing him and locking him up in a secret



Chen Yi and his wife Chang Chien.

*Heavy snow weighs down  
the pine,  
But straight and proud it  
stands.  
When the snow melts you  
will see  
Its unbowed integrity.*

THIS poem, "The Green Pine", the first of Chen Yi's "Quatrains Written on Winter Nights", appears as the frontispiece of *Selected Poems of Chen Yi* published in May by the People's Literature Press in Peking. In a handwriting as bold and vigorous as his character, the poem mirrors the unbending integrity of the man himself — a lifelong revolutionary who was persistently militant, optimistic, frank and aboveboard. This was a man who fought through furious

proletarian revolutionary line. He made indelible contributions to the proletarian cause in the military, political and diplomatic fields. On January 6, 1972 Chen Yi died of cancer. Chairman Mao attended the memorial meeting on January 10, listening in pained silence as Chou En-lai spoke of Chen Yi's life.

The poems in this first edition were selected and compiled by Chang Chien, Chen Yi's wife and longtime comrade. With great sorrow, and ill with cancer herself, she completed the task and wrote an introduction before her death the following year. In the introduction she describes Chen Yi's stubborn lifelong struggle for the Chinese revolution, his heroic fight against cancer, the calmness with which he faced death, and the

## Revolutionary and Poet

Notes on 'Selected Poems of Chen Yi'

TUNG SUNG

storms with unflagging determination.

Chen Yi was a proletarian revolutionary of the older generation whom the Chinese people loved with the greatest warmth. Born in Szechuan in 1901, he joined the Chinese Communist Party in 1923. On August 1, 1927 he fought in the Nanchang Uprising led by Comrades Chou En-lai, Ho Lung, Chu Teh, Yeh Ting and Liu Po-cheng. After its defeat he and Chu Teh led their troops through more battles and hardships to the Chingiang Mountains in 1928 where they united with Mao Tsetung's troops which had carried out the Autumn Harvest Uprising. From then on Chen Yi fought all his life for the Chinese revolution under Chairman Mao's leadership.

In the long revolutionary wars that brought victory in 1949 and in the hard work of socialist revolution and construction afterward, Chen Yi supported and defended Chairman Mao and held fast to his

tremendous sense of loss felt by his old comrades-in-arms and other revolutionaries throughout the country. These comrades urged her to publish Chen Yi's poems. Greatly encouraged, she wrote in her introduction, "I heightened my fighting spirit and determined, like Comrade Chen Yi during his illness, to work ceaselessly until my last breath. I began selecting and compiling his poems while I was being treated with radiation and medication after an operation."

The volume contains 150 titles of the 350 he wrote. These cover the period from 1929 to 1966, including the years of the Red Army (the Second Revolutionary Civil War, 1927-1937), the war against Japan (1937-1945), the war of liberation (1946-1949) and the period of socialist revolution and construction after the founding of the new China. Also included is the only known copy of Chen Yi's letter, dated March 8, 1942, to Jakob Rosenfeld, an Austrian doctor who had asked for a brief account of Chen Yi's life.

Because Chen Yi was a genuine revolutionary, his poems were rev-

"The Green Pine", first of the "Quatrains Written on Winter Nights", in Chen Yi's own handwriting.

大雪壓青松青  
松挺且直  
要知  
松高潔  
待到雪  
化時  
陳毅

olutionary. Many of those written during the long revolutionary wars reflect the hard twists and turns of the revolutionary road; the leadership of Mao Tsetung; the love and loyalty the proletarian revolutionaries of the old generation gave to Chairman Mao, the Communist Party and the people; and their hatred and contempt for the reactionaries, imperialists and revisionists. The feeling is movingly sincere, all the more so because of the simple and fresh language. Here one sees vivid scenes of Chen Yi's military life — straightforward loyalty to the proletarian cause, persistent battles, tireless and conscientious work.

Reverses and hard conditions did not dampen his courage and belief in victory. In 1936 during the years of guerrilla warfare behind enemy lines, he was seriously wounded. Surrounded by enemy troops on Mt. Meiling on the Kwangtung-Kiangsi border, he faced capture. In the face of death, he penned this poem to the Party and the people and hid it in the lining of his uniform:

*So what if my head falls today?*

*Revolution is hard; it takes a hundred battles.*

*I shall rally my comrades of old in the nether regions,*

*A mighty host to wipe out the King of Hell.*

*Beacons have blazed in the south ten long years;\**

*My head may be stuck up on the city gate,*

*But you who live on must redouble your efforts:*

*News of your victories will be our paper coins.\*\**

*This revolution has been my home;*

*Though heaven rains blood, slaughter eventually ends.*

*Today our just cause claims our lives,*

*Sowing flowers of freedom over the earth.*

\*The period from 1927 to 1936, when the poem was written, which saw the beginning of agrarian revolution, armed struggle and the establishment of revolutionary bases in the rural areas under Chairman Mao's leadership.

\*\*In old China, paper coins were burned as offerings to the dead.

The true qualities of a proletarian fighter are voiced in his "Thoughts on My Sixty-third Birthday":

*A single individual counts for nothing;*

*All power comes from the Party and the masses.*

*Thinking over the decades of my life,*

*I am sorry it's gone with much not done.*

*In the years remaining to me*

*I'll continue to follow the right road.*

*Who can live a hundred years?*

*Old Peng Tsu is only a legend.\**

*I write this poem for courage  
And to say what I think and feel:*

*Great is the truth of Marxism-Leninism,*

*It is becoming the faith of the whole world.*

For years, as a Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chen Yi was Premier Chou En-lai's right-hand man. Many of his poems speak of the friendly relations between the people of China and other countries developed under the guidance of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in international affairs. He praises the people's unity in the common struggle against imperialism, social-imperialism and superpower attempts to dominate the world. The volume contains poems written during his visits to countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. Here one finds the rumblings of the battle drums of resurgent Africa, the majestic pyramids of Egypt, thoughts on looking at the moon from a palace roof in the Republic of Sudan, "white torrents pouring down sheer green cliffs" in Kathmandu, and the brotherhood of "drinking water from the same river" with the people of Burma.

On a visit to Africa in 1964, with the continent in revolutionary ferment and the eyes of the world's working people watching their struggles approach victory, Chen Yi wrote the poem "Africa":

\*According to a Chinese legend, Peng Tsu lived 800 years.

*The deserts and snow mountains are awakening,*

*The oceans and seas surge with the wind of spring.*

*Old colonialism fumbles for new disguises*

*While the people's heroes are rising,*

*Knowing their struggle will bring victory.*

*Be on guard — keep the gun in your hands!*

*Black Africa is becoming red Africa,*

*Colonialism is weakening throughout the world.*

*Gold and ivory are returning to their owners,*

*Eagles and kingfishers regain their forest home.*

The counter-revolutionary Lin Piao clique and the "gang of four" hated Chen Yi bitterly. While he was alive they ruthlessly attacked and persecuted him. After he died they continued to slander him. They disparaged his poems and suppressed their publication. The Chinese people, however, love them. Ignoring the ban, they copied them down, recited them and passed them from hand to hand. Only after the "gang of four" was overthrown by the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng did his poems begin to appear in newspapers and magazines. Though the *Selected Poems of Chen Yi* was compiled and finished by Chang Chien in 1973, the public's demand for publication could only be met this year.

Chang Chien composed two poems to Chen Yi as a postscript to the volume. In these she wrote:

*Though stricken with the same malady, I spurred myself on.*

*Culling the works you left behind, I saw your life battles.*

...

*With this volume in my hand, I recall your daily life,*

*Your strong high spirits emerging from the lines.*

Chen Yi died five years ago. As the Chinese people read his poems today, their love and respect for this veteran revolutionary grows deeper.



Scientists from the Yunnan Province Research Institute of Tropical Plants on a field trip.

# Making Tropical Plants Serve Socialism

TSAI HSI-TAO



Yunnan Province Research Institute of Tropical Plants.

**R**ICH SOIL and much rain make the 100,000 square kilometers of the Hsishuangpanna Tai Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan province a huge natural botanical garden of tropical and subtropical plants. Many of them are special to the region and date back to ancient times.

To open up this treasure house of plants and make it serve the building of socialism, the Yunnan Province Research Institute of Tropical Plants was set up in 1959 in Mengla county at the southern tip of the prefecture. Situated deep in a forest and surrounded on three sides by water, it is staffed by 400 people who study industrial plants, plant communities, acclimatization, classification, plant chemistry, and the breeding of seeds for farm crops. In addition to laboratories, there are 60 hectares of experimental grounds on which we grow more than 1,200 different plants. There are trees 30 meters high, others with trunks that can only be encircled by four or five people with outstretched arms. They are entwined by vines or covered with epiphytic or parasitic orchids, dendrobium and other creeping flowers and fruits.

In the oil crop section there is a large area of *Hodgsonia macrocarpa*, a wild oil-bearing plant dis-

covered not long ago which is being domesticated. Its vines climb tall trees and 70 percent of the kernel of each fruit is edible oil, a clear substance tasting like lard, which gives it the popular name "lard fruit".

Typical tropical fruit trees thrive in the experimental orchard. There are rambutan, breadfruit, egg-yolk fruit, balata and mango, also more than a hundred plants introduced from Latin America and West Africa, including coffee, cacao and kolanut. The "mystery fruit" tree (*Synsepalum dulcificum Daniell*) from West Africa bears peanut-sized berries. If these are eaten first, sour things eaten afterward will taste sweet instead of sour.

An eye-catching plant growing in a pond is the royal waterplatter, cultivated from seeds introduced from the Amazon River basin. It has lush flowers and fruit and a huge platter-like leaf strong enough to hold up to 20 kilograms of weight.

The experimental grounds also contain sections for starch plants and medicinal herbs. At blossom time of the tall ilang-ilang tree, a source of valuable aromatic essences, the whole area is filled with fragrance.

## Field Study

Yunnan's 15,000 species of plants range from the frigid to the tropical zone and have long attracted

the attention of botanists of the world. In the early 1950s the people's government set up a botanical research institute in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan. I worked in this institute. My job was mainly lab work, studying the chemical composition of plants, verifying classification and writing papers.

In 1958 the country's industry and agriculture were moving ahead in big leaps under the general line of going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism. We botanists were also working hard to build up our country. We would be able to contribute more to this, not by merely studying specimens in labs but by going where the plants grew and, with help from the local people, opening up plant resources and studying ways of utilizing them.

In 1959 the institute sent me and 14 young people to the primeval forests in our present site 700 kilometers from Kunming. Here about 4,000 species of tropical herbs, climbers, epiphytes, parasites, woody and water plants grow in valley rain forests, limestone rain forests and mountain evergreen forests. The government had already established plantations in the area for tea, rubber, medicinal herbs, aromatic and timber trees. We were led by the institute's Party committee. With the help of the local people we cleared the brush and began growing tropical

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**TSAI HSI-TAO**, botanist, is head of the Revolutionary Committee of the Yunnan Province Research Institute of Tropical Plants.



Loosening the soil in an oil palm grove by machine.

Coralbean Senegal.

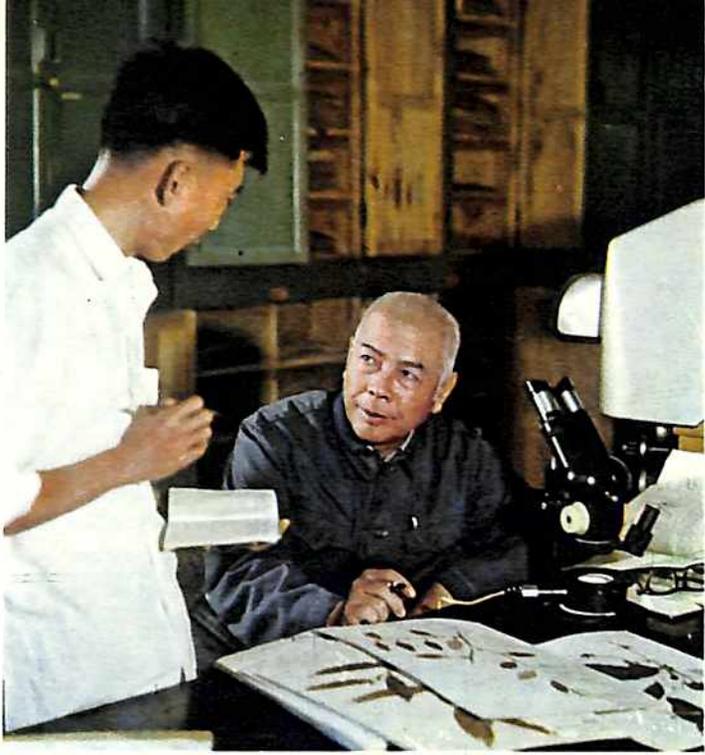


Variegated leafcrotton.



A flame tree blossom.





The author (sitting) and a young researcher discuss a newly discovered medicinal herb.



A year after seeding, these laran saplings are already averaging 4.38 meters in height.



Nursing the shoots of wild plants being domesticated.



Royal waterplatters.

Chinese hibiscus.



Grand crinum. Red amaranth.



industrial crops. Over the years the establishment grew to its present size.

### Serving Socialism

The revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao tended to divorce science from production. During the cultural revolution we analyzed and criticized this and became more determined to make our scientific work serve proletarian politics and socialist production, as Chairman Mao had always stressed. We selected our research topics to answer the needs of production and construction, and in our work incorporated the ideas and opinions of producers and users as well as the researchers. Of the more than 100 projects we have completed so far, 12 contributed significantly to industry, agriculture, health work and national defense.

In the winter of 1969 we learned that there was an urgent need for a certain type of anti-freeze for lubricants. A research group of cadres, scientists and workers spent two months exploring the forests in 20 counties for a raw material which could be used in making it. We collected 24 plant specimens. After careful lab analysis we found that the kernel of one of them had a high content of the material we sought. The local people helped us find this plant in abundance. The anti-freeze made from this material keeps lubricants from congealing in temperatures as low as 50° C. below zero.

We recently succeeded in introducing guar (*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba* (L.) Taub.) whose beans make an excellent base for a special gum used in improving the production of declining oil wells. The plant is now being cultivated in several places in Yunnan province.

To help expand the production of timber we are cultivating seven kinds of fast-growing trees. The laran (*Anthocephalus chinensis*), locally called "miracle tree", grows to 20 meters in seven or eight years

and provides one cubic meter of timber per tree. It is being grown in all the southern provinces.

The domestication of *Dracaena cambodiana*, source for a Chinese medicine called "dragon's blood", has been an important contribution to health work. For over a thousand years Chinese traditional doctors have been prescribing "dragon's blood" to stop bleeding, stimulate circulation, diffuse extravasated blood and help muscle growth. The medicine had always been imported. Both foreign and Chinese ancient medical literature stated that "dragon's blood" is made either from dragon dracaena (*Dracaena draco*) of East Africa or devil rattan (*Daemonorops*) of Southeast Asia, and that no such plants existed in China. In 1971 we set aside the books, left the specimen rooms and for a year scoured the main forests in southern Yunnan, collected plants of the same genus as the dragon dracaena.

One day in the home of a local traditional doctor we saw a piece of purple-red wood, a characteristic of the *Dracaena* family. With his information and the help of local Tai peasants, we climbed a steep cliff and discovered huge groves of wild dracaena trees. I was so happy that I climbed the trees with the young people to collect samples. The trees have been identified as *Dracaena cambodiana*. From the resin-containing xylem we succeeded in extracting a good supply of the substance used in making "dragon's blood". Tests showed the chemical composition practically the same as the East African "dragon's blood".

### A Mass Line

Our work, from survey to experiments, was carried out with the help of local peasants of the different nationalities of the region. They gave us their knowledge and influenced us with their class consciousness. Once an elderly Lahu man took us over some dangerous cliffs to find a certain kind of plant. When we thanked him he

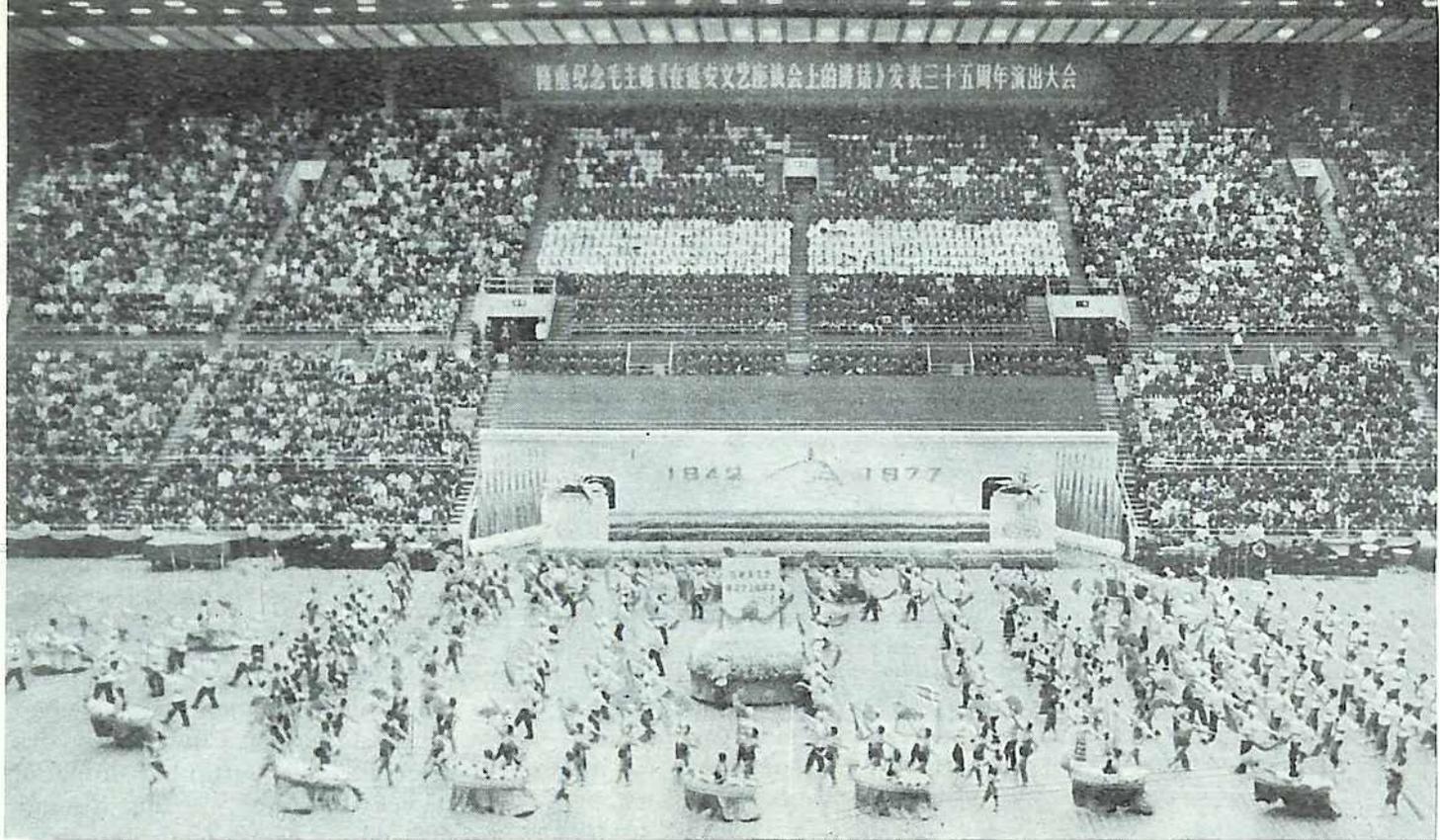
said, "In the old society you couldn't make me take this dangerous trail even if you give me nine head of cattle. But you are doing research for socialism and I'll help you even if it means risking my life."

A third of our staff is always out working in the villages with the people. We have run short courses to train peasants in the interplanting of rubber trees with shrub plants, the prevention and control of rice pests and diseases, and weeding with chemicals.

Most of the 300,000 known higher species of plants in the world grow naturally. Only about a hundred or so have been cultivated as farm crops. We have domesticated or acclimatized many useful wild tropical plants. We have discovered nearly a thousand plants which can be used for medicine, oil, essences, timber, dyes, fibers, starch and gum. Many of these are being domesticated in our experimental grounds.

The *Dracaena cambodiana* saplings we transplanted from the mountains are growing well. So are the malabar glorylily, *Amomum xanthioides*, long pepper and chaulmoogra trees. Also thriving are the 70-meter *wang tien* tree (*Parashorea xishuanbannanensis*) and valuable timber trees such as Malay bushbeech, Burma toon, *Paramichelia*, chittagong chick-rassy, Szechuan beadtrees and *Mesua ferrea*. With careful management the "lard fruit" vine has been flowering and bearing fruit ahead of time. Industrial crops introduced from abroad are all flourishing.

We experimented with multi-layered plant communities to give each species the full benefit of sunshine, rain and soil fertility. Beneath the rubber and other tall heavy-foliage trees we grow *Panax pseudo-ginseng*, rauwolfia, *Amomum xanthioides*, tea bushes, and camphor, cassiabark, coffee and cacao trees. All have yielded good crops.



Massive yangko dance at the Capital Stadium in Peking.

## Yenan Talks Commemoration

# *The Arts Liberated*

WEN YI

The yangko sketch *Brother and Sister Reclaim Wasteland*.



THE 35th anniversary of the publication of Chairman Mao Tsetung's *Talks at the Yan'an Forum on Literature and Art* in May became the occasion for a joyous outpouring by people in the cultural field, now freed from the restrictions of the hated "gang of four", and reaffirmation of the principles in the talks.

Chairman Mao's talks laid down for literature and art the orientation of serving the workers, peasants and soldiers. They pointed out the necessity for people in the cultural field to integrate with the working people. The talks became the guiding light for the development of proletarian culture in China. Over the past 35 years people in the cultural field have worked hard to put these principles into practice, joining the struggles



A scene from *The Rising Sun*: Taching workers' families bring the harvest from their collective farming to an exhibition about Taching.

of the workers, peasants and soldiers and trying to remold their world outlook in the process. As a result a number of revolutionary artists and writers of one heart with the working people did develop, and many good works were created. These people and their works made a contribution in China's new-democratic revolution and socialist revolution.

This year, on 60 stages in the capital, between May 20 and 31, both professional and amateur troupes put on a stunning display of performances — plays, operas, songs, dances, music, ballads, storytelling, comic dialogues, acrobatics and various forms of local opera. Troupes also went to factories, mines, communes and army units.

At a forum held in Peking both veterans who had personally heard Chairman Mao give the talks in Yen-an in 1942 and amateurs and professionals who came to the arts after liberation or during the cultural revolution engaged in lively discussion about the improvement in the situation after smashing the "gang of four" and the achievements in the revolution in literature and art guided by Chairman Mao's talks. The gang's sabotage of this revolution and their opposition to the ideas in the Yen-an talks were further exposed and roundly denounced.

The celebration also featured the biggest art exhibition since liberation, with a total of 764 works, including some of the best produced since 1942.

#### Hundred Flowers

One of the major events was a huge show in the Capital Stadium on the evening of May 23. Twenty-seven professional and amateur troupes from Peking, Taching and Yen-an, with some 2,000 members,

took part. Items included both the best that has been created since Chairman Mao's talks and some of the newest: choral works, dances, *yangko* sketches, dramatized songs, and other items characteristically Chinese such as the dragon dance, the dance of the clinking rings, the boat dance and the dance of the fans. The new numbers took as their themes the victories for Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, the achievements of Chairman Hua, the people's jubilation at the downfall of the "gang of four" and the good situation taking shape in every field since then.

The performance was a vivid manifestation of Chairman Mao's principles of "letting a hundred flowers blossom; weeding through the old to bring forth the new" and "making the past serve the present and foreign things serve China".

At one time a hundred dancers appeared to perform the *yangko*, a folk dance popular in northern Shensi province which quickly became a symbol for the new life resulting from liberation. Once, while Yen-an was the headquarters of the Communist Party Central Committee, a *yangko* group had danced to Chairman Mao's resi-

A scene from the play *Growing Up by the Yenho River*.



dence at Date Orchard to wish him a happy new year and he had warmly praised this dance form. For the Spring Festival of 1943, a group, inspired by the Yen-an talks' message to go among the workers, peasants and soldiers, had created *Brother and Sister Reclaim Wasteland*, a *yangko* sketch growing out of the *yangko* dance and involving dramatized singing. It reflected the movement for production at that time, and was enthusiastically received by the masses. This May this same *yangko* sketch was restaged by an amateur troupe from Yen-an.

came in for a special ovation as a successful example of stage art that serves the working people.

The play describes the courageous struggles of Taching's workers and their families to build up a new type of socialist oil center through self-reliance and pioneering hard work in accordance with Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. They created a new form of community life which meets the requirements set by Premier Chou for mining and oil centers, that they combine industry with agriculture, combine town and country,

When the play was finished in the winter of 1965 the Taching Party committee decided that it should be acted by the Taching workers themselves. The cast included drillers, refinery workers, extraction workers, those who farmed the land between the wells and others. Their lively, unaffected acting established a warm relationship with the audience. The play was acclaimed as soon as it was staged. Between winter 1965 and November 1966 it was performed two hundred times in Taching, Peking and other places before 250,000 people. Party Central Committee leaders, including Premier Chou and Vice-Chairman Yeh Chien-ying, saw it and gave the cast much encouragement.

The "gang of four", however, were bent on pulling down this red flag, Taching, which had been raised by Chairman Mao himself. They sabotaged and finally killed the play just as they were to do later with the feature film about Taching *The Pioneers* and the documentary *Battle for Taching*. On trumped-up charges the traitor Chiang Ching had Sun Wei-shih, the playwright, put in prison, persecuted and maltreated, which led to her death. Now, ten years later, after the "gang of four" was smashed, the play *The Rising Sun* has been "liberated", Comrade Sun's name officially cleared and her integrity and achievements and her suffering at the hands of the gang made known to all.

Last April during the National Conference on Learning from Taching in Industry, the play was put on in Taching by an amateur troupe and Chairman Hua, and other leaders commended the cast. In May the Taching troupe came to Peking where they performed the play as well as some songs, dances and other numbers which they themselves had created. Their show was another victory over the gang and an example for future works growing out of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

#### Lie Shown Up

Also staged during the celebrations were selections from *Driven*

(Continued on p. 48)



A scene from the dance drama *The Dagger Society*.

An amateur group's performance of the dance "The Pacemakers" pictured how the Chinese people are vying with each other to do their utmost in building socialism. "Chairman Hua Visits the Taching Oil Field" sung by a chorus of Taching workers and their families was loudly applauded. The performance concluded to the rhythm of a waist-drum dance, "Drumbeats of Victory".

#### Play on Taching

Many good works which had been banned by the "gang of four" made their reappearance on the stage to cheering audiences during the commemoration. The play *The Rising Sun*, performed by an amateur troupe from Taching,

facilitate production and improve everyday life. The play likens this new socialist thing to the rising sun of a new dawn.

The play was written by the late Comrade Sun Wei-shih while she was vice-head of the China Youth Art Theater. Inspired by Chairman Mao's teachings that intellectuals should go among the working people, join in their struggles and become one with them, and by the views of Premier Chou, she traveled to every corner of the Taching oil field, lived and worked with the workers and their families and drafted the script with them. She often read sections to them and revised it according to their suggestions.



The Canadian Brass Quintet gave performances from March 11 to 23 in Peking, Wuhan, Changsha, Shaoshan and Kwangchow. They played a number of European classical pieces, modern Canadian compositions, and works by European and American composers. Their artistry revealed a precise style, beautiful coloration and clear development.



*Cultural Notes*

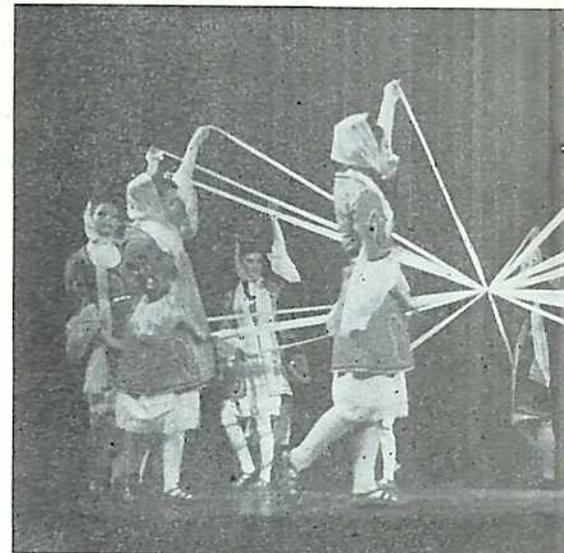
## Foreign Artists Tour China

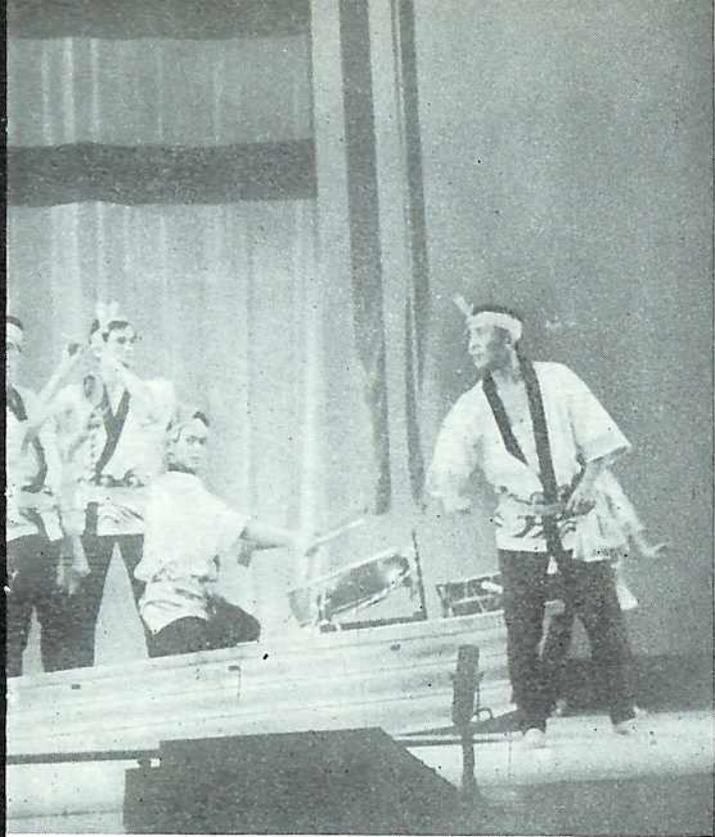
ARTISTS from six countries performed on tours in China this year between March and June. They were the Canadian Brass Quintet headed by David Haber, the Japanese Sinseisakuza Theater led by Miho Mayama and Kokichi Makimura, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra from the Federal Republic of Germany led by conductor Karl Munchinger, the Yugoslav "Abrasevic" Folk Song and Dance Ensemble led by B.

Perkovic and J. Dasic, the Norwegian pianist Kjell Baekkelund, and the Romanian "Muresul" Folk Song and Dance Ensemble under Moldovan Iulius.

Their performances (covered by live television) were warmly welcomed by Chinese audiences, who felt that their tours strengthened the understanding and friendship of the Chinese people and the people of the six countries.

The noted Norwegian pianist Kjell Baekkelund gave recitals in Peking and Shanghai from May 15 to 30, playing works by classical and contemporary European composers. His keyboard style pays strict attention to detail and is easy, fluid, simple and dramatic. Chinese audiences were deeply impressed.

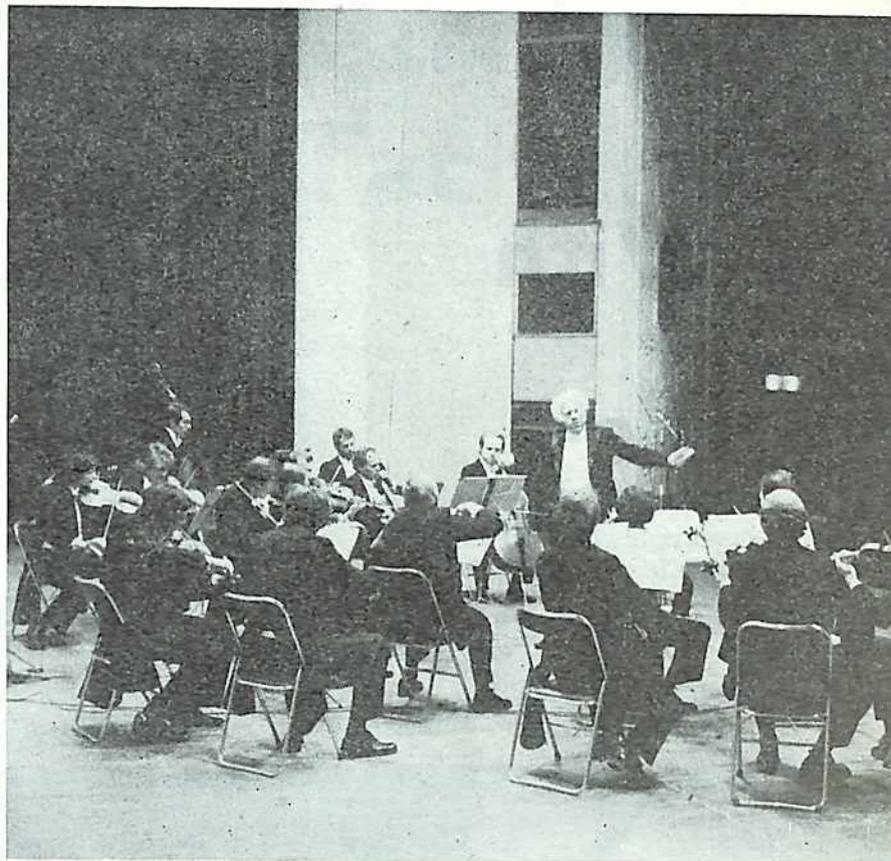
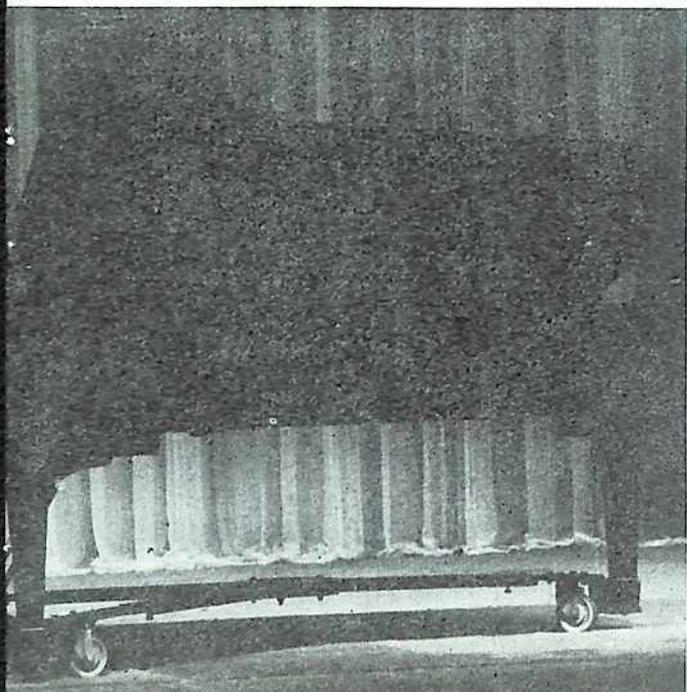




The Sinseisakuza Theater from Japan in a scene from "So-ran Bushi", adapted from a Hokkaido folk song, showing the Japanese people's struggle to recover Japan's four islands in the north from a foreign power bent on world dominance. Dressed as fishermen, the performers sing the net-drawing work chant in a fishing boat. From the mast hangs a slogan: "The Northern Territories Are Ours." The Sinseisakuza Theater played in Peking, Sian, Yenan, Nanking and Shanghai from April 1 to May 1, bringing Chinese audiences Japan's rich and colorful folk songs and dances.



The Yugoslav "Abra-sevic" Folk Song and Dance Ensemble in a scene from "Women of Macedonia", a dance depicting the confidence and gaiety of Yugoslav working women washing textiles. The ensemble brought a wealth of national folk songs and dances to stages in Peking, Changsha, Nanchang and Hangchow between May 14 and June 8.



The Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra under the famous Karl Munchinger gave concerts in Peking and Shanghai from April 6 to 14. Their program included superb renditions of German and Austrian classical works dating from the late 17th to early 19th century performed with a distinctively expressive style and depth of tonality.



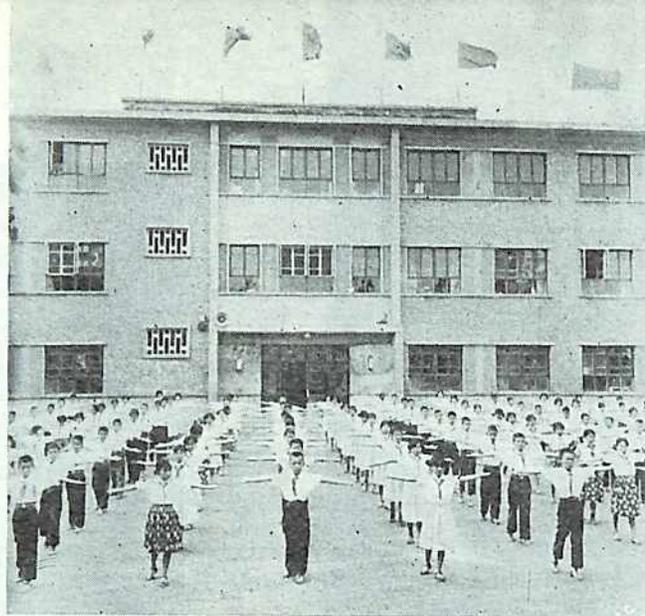
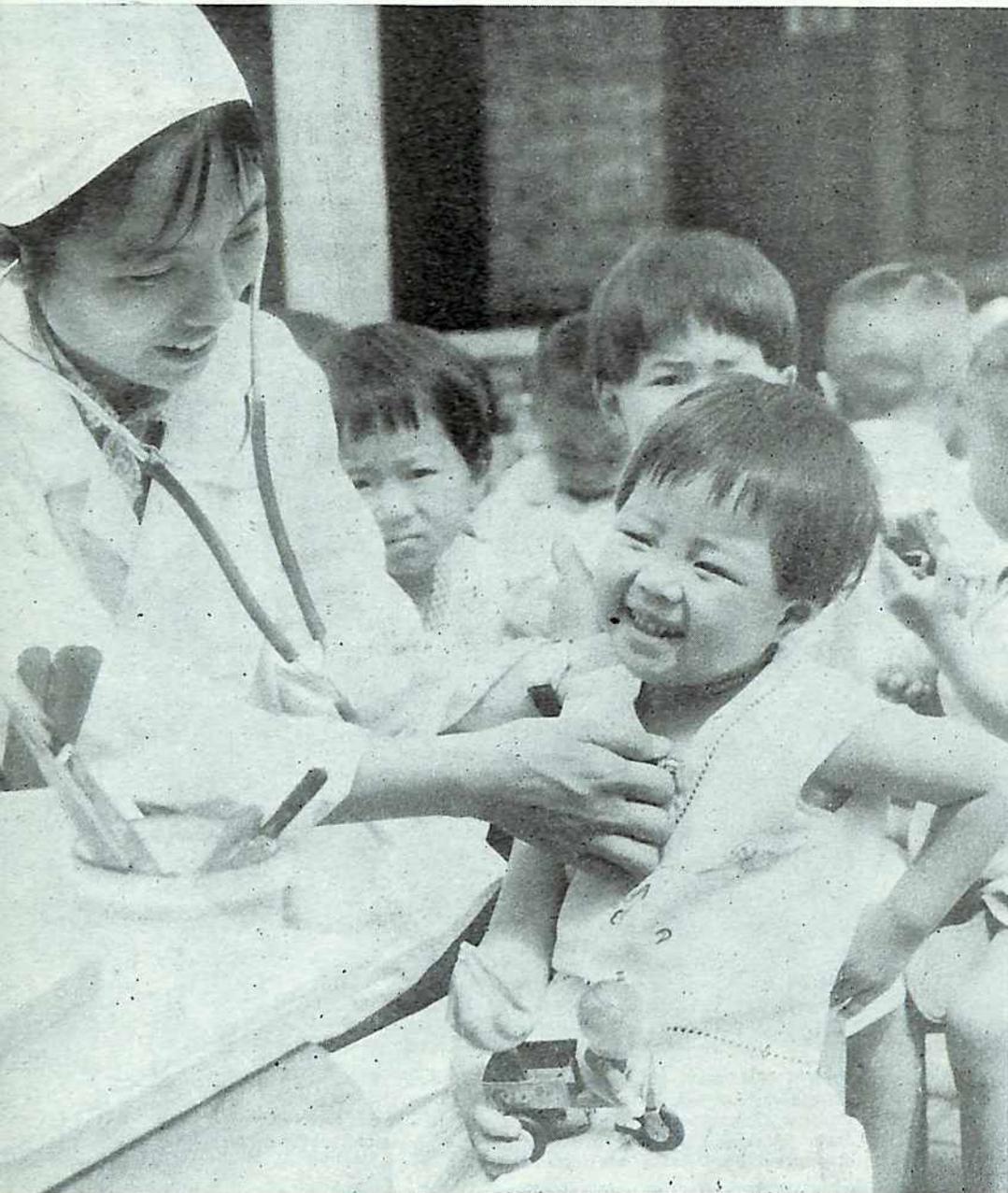
Angela Moldovan, of the Romanian "Muresul" Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, sings a folk song, "Heroes Cross the Danube". Touring Peking, Chengchow, Wuhan, Nanning and Urumchi from May 27 to June 21, the ensemble brought performances permeated with the strong national flavor of Romanian life.

With  
the

# Earthquake Orphans

A regular checkup.

Staff Reporter



Morning exercises.



**T**HOUSANDS of children were orphaned in the earthquake that struck the Tangshan prefecture east of Peking on July 28 last year. They are being cared for in three schools set up specially for them in Tangshan, Hsingtai and Shihchiachuang, all in Hopei province. Recently this writer visited the Yuhung School for them in Shihchiachuang. Room and board, clothing, medical care and all other expenses are covered by the state till the children have finished middle school.

Shortly after the quake the Communist Party committee of Shihchiachuang received an urgent request to set up a school for orphans from Tangshan. The committee promptly urged all units in the city to regard this as a trust from Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee and cooperate in doing the job well.

The Municipal Workers' Political School and Kindergarten No. 2 nearby in the eastern part of the city were converted to housing for the children. Work on a 3,200-square-meter classroom building was begun even before the design was completed. More than a hundred schools, factories, hospitals and government offices sent experienced personnel to staff the school. When a cook in a factory heard he had been transferred there he went directly from work to the new school. Women from 50 residents' committees worked far into the night making mattresses and quilts. Department store workers brought things needed by the orphans, even hairpins for the girls.



Noon nap.



A middle-school class in session.

The first group of 160 orphans arrived on September 8, which was mid-autumn festival on the lunar calendar. The first secretary of the municipal Party committee and other leaders were on hand with the traditional mooncakes, apples and candy for them. The next day a welcome meeting was to be held in a downtown theater. Teachers and others were busy preparing all day. Tailors worked overtime making new clothes for the children for the occasion in dozens of styles and sizes.

When the youngsters were ready to leave for the theater the next morning, a department store worker named Chao saw that one boy's shoes did not fit well. He hurried back to the store, picked up the right size and got to the entrance of the theater before the bus arrived. When the boy got off Chao helped him change his shoes.

### Their New Home

One enters the school by a road that leads straight to the playing field in the center of the compound. To the right are the classrooms, library, laboratory and clinic, and to the left are the dormitories, kitchen, dining hall, laundry and bathhouse. It houses 433 children, three kindergarten, ten primary and four middle school classes. Since children spend all their time there, the living quarters are more spacious than those in other schools.

I arrived at lunch time to find the children enjoying their meal seated four or five to each low blue table with a number of teachers around to see that everybody got enough.

It was like family dinner hour on a grand scale.

Now the children seem adjusted and happy in their life at the school, but it was not always so. When they first came the horrors of the earthquake and the loss of their parents had left many of them in emotional shock and stress. They were ill at ease in their new surroundings, some often burst into tears for their parents, some were dazed and others wanted to go back to Tangshan. Every thunderstorm or high wind would send some rushing out of doors fearing another earthquake, and they would not come back to the rooms to sleep. The 230 teachers and staff members did their best to give them a feeling of security and get them accustomed to the new life. They gave up their own sleep to care for the sick. The cooks made special dishes for children who had no appetite.

One of these adults was Chang Pai, who had been a teacher at the "East Is Red" Road Primary School in Shihchiachuang. He and his wife had been so moved at the plight of the many children left parentless at Tangshan that they had offered to adopt an orphan as soon as they heard of the disaster. When he learned that a school would be set up for them in the city, he was the first to volunteer to help out there. He moved into the school and now takes care of a number of small children in addition to teaching junior middle school classes.

Sun Li-hua, a five-year-old boy, refused to eat or answer questions when he arrived. Teacher Chang

treated him like his own child, feeding him, helping him wash and change his clothes. At night he slept beside the boy. After a few days Li-hua began to warm up to him and to play with the others. Teacher Chang still lives at the school today.

### Devoted Care

An Wen-ching, a third-grade girl, told me that one night the ten



Tung Yu-kuo, head of the school, with the children.



Kindergarten children.

children in her room thought a big rainstorm meant another earthquake. They threw on their clothes and stood ready to run out of the building. The principal and some teachers came in and told them that

no earthquake was expected in Shihchiachuang and that they should go back to sleep. The adults explained that they would be told if there were any signs of an earthquake. After this incident the school decided that whenever there was a storm additional adults would stay with the children.

Five of the children were babies under one year. A staff of nine was assigned to give them 24-hour care. Hung-hung, about six months old, had been thrown from a three-story building by the quake and found by a People's Liberation Army team. When she was sent to the Yuhung School she was so thin and small that she was barely able to cry. There was some doubt as to whether she would survive. The nurses gave her intensive care round the clock. Gradually her face took on color and she began to show some spirit. She began to talk and walk. As she had not yet been identified they called her Tang Yuhung — red flower cultivated by the Communist Party. Now at 18 months she is a healthy child and is everyone's baby sister at the school. The children all like to pick her up and play with her.

Youngsters and adults alike call Tung Yu-kuo, 51, head of the school, "Secretary Tung", for he was formerly secretary of the Party branch at middle school No. 2 in Tangshan. Fifteen members of his family were killed in the quake. He resolved to put all his strength into running the school well. Though he suffers from high blood pressure, he has yet to take a Sunday or holiday off. Wherever he goes he is surrounded by children plying him with questions. The toddlers in the nursery tug at his clothing and raise their arms to him to be picked up.

### Children of a Heroic City

The people of Tangshan, undismayed by the quake, have gone all out to restore production and rebuild their homes. While putting their full efforts and enthusiasm into the work, they never for a moment forget the orphans in Shihchiachuang. The Tangshan Party committee sends a delegation to visit them on holidays.

During the Spring Festival last February the delegation came with fruit, cookies, candy, nuts, toys and picture-story books bought out of donations from people in Tangshan and other parts of the country. The delegation told the children about efforts to get the factories at home back into production.

The school had every child photographed individually or with brothers and sisters. Each child kept one, and a second copy went back to Tangshan with the delegation. Wang Shih-yi, who is in the second year of junior middle school, showed me his picture. "I'm sending one to the folks back home so they can see how well we are being cared for. Then they won't worry about us," he said.

Like other schools in China, Yuhung has all kinds of extracurricular activities. It helps its charges learn about their revolutionary tradition. For instance, the older children visited Hsipaipo village in nearby Pingshan county where the Party Central Committee had its headquarters just before moving to Peking on the eve of countrywide victory in the revolution in 1949. They saw the place where Chairman Mao delivered his well-known speech to the second plenary session of the Party's Seventh Central Committee held there in March 1949.

The teachers use stories from the children's own experience to help them understand the communist spirit and the new relations between people in socialist China which brought help from all directions. This is part of their education in love of country and the collective. That the children live a settled and happy life is shown through their blackboard newspapers, songs, dances and letters to the people in Tangshan. I think Cheng Hsi-tung, in the first year of junior middle school, must have expressed a common feeling when he told me, "We lost our parents in the quake but we have 'relatives' all over the country. Eight hundred million people showed their concern for us. To thank them I am trying to study hard, learn to serve the people well and become worthy to carry on the revolution."

## SPORTS

# Tai Chi Chuan

ANY EARLY MORNING on east Changan Boulevard in Peking when it is still misty and quiet, rows of people can be seen in Tungtan Park making slow and gentle movements in unison, following a teacher. They are learning tai chi chuan and this is the Tungtan Park tai chi chuan coaching post.

Hsu Liang-kai, a retired 68-year-old cadre, is in charge of this post. White-haired and robust, he supervises the teaching of tai chi chuan to more than 200 people from all walks of life in Peking. These include factory and office workers, retired people, clerks and students. They practice one hour early in the morning before they go on to work.

Tai chi chuan is a form of boxing designed to promote physical fitness. It consists of a sequence of slow, sustained movements, performed in slow rhythm, which bring hands, legs, feet and body into balanced play. It requires physical and mental concentration and is excellent for limbering up muscles and joints, eliminating fatigue and for restoring body systems to normal function.

As an exercise, tai chi chuan can be traced back to the 16th century. After liberation, the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission studied its movements and devised two routines—a simplified one of 24 movements and the full 88-movement tai chi chuan. Students start with the simple and go on to the complicated. Posters showing the movements and booklets explaining them were published. Coaches were trained. Since the cultural revolution many more people have taken part in the exercise. In Peking 80 coaching posts have been

# n for Everyone

set up since 1974 in parks, squares and open space. Over 10,000 people take part.

The Tungtan Park coaching post was formed in May, 1975 in line with Chairman Mao's principle of actively promoting physical culture and building up the people's health. Learners don't pay any fee.

Tai chi chuan is suitable for both old and young, but the people who are weak or suffering from chronic illnesses like it best. There are many examples of its benefits.

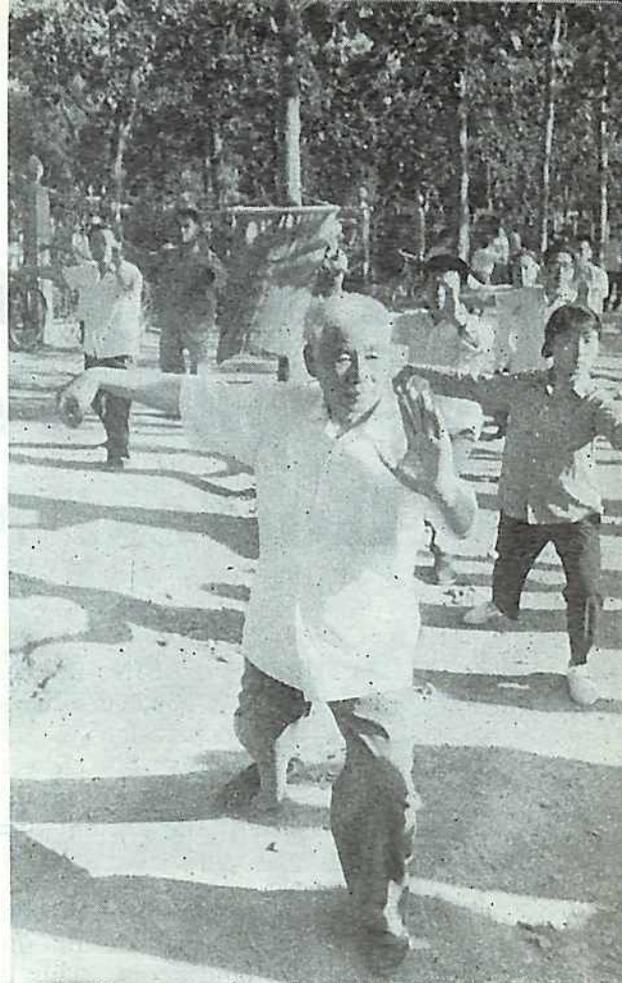
Chen Chi-ming is a middle-aged worker in the Peking Machine Tool Plant No. 6. "I would have been handicapped the rest of my life if I hadn't done tai chi chuan," he said. In 1975 when he was 40 years old, he had a cerebral hemorrhage which paralyzed his right side and made speech and walking difficult. He was afraid he would never go back to work. Once when he was on his way for acupuncture treatment at the Peking Hospital across the street from Tungtan Park, a tai chi chuan announcement caught his eye. Hopefully, he signed up for a class. As he began to learn it, he couldn't remember the movements and his arms and legs were clumsy. He wanted to quit but his classmates and teacher encouraged him and he stuck it out, slowly learning it movement by movement. Gradually he felt better and more confident, persisting in coming to the park every day before his acupuncture treatment whether the weather was good or bad. He recovered completely after a half year of tai chi chuan, an example of the usefulness of combining physical exercise with medical treatment. Today he cycles to the park every morning before work.

He also practices sword and cudgel exercises.

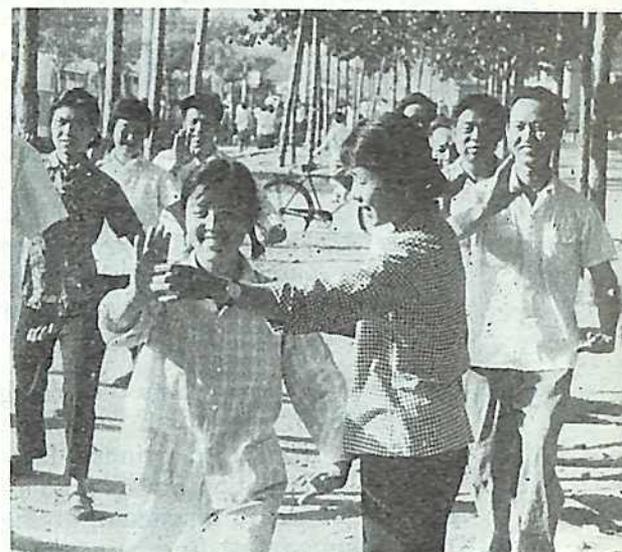
Hou Shu-chien, a retired woman worker of 58, is a newcomer in a group learning the 24-movement simplified tai chi chuan. "I have been retired for three years," she said, "because of coronary heart trouble. I used to have to phone my husband to come back from work to look after me when I had an attack. When Chairman Hua called on us to take class struggle as the key link and redouble our efforts to raise production, I realized that my husband should be free to put his whole attention on his work. So I began this class about a month ago in addition to my medical treatment. I still can't do the movements accurately but I have a better appetite and sleep better too. I don't have the heart pain anymore."

The six coaches in the Tungtan Park post were recruited by the East City Physical Culture and Sports Council. They are workers, teachers and retired workers. They go there to teach tai chi chuan at half past five every morning, including Sundays. They also spend their own time giving make-up lessons to those who missed lessons. Hou Ying-hsuan, a young woman welder in the General Internal Combustion Engine Plant, is one of the coaches. She always arrives at the park on time for her class, even when she's on night shift. This impresses the students, who work all the harder. Hsu Liang-kai and Hou Ying-hsuan were among the outstanding coaches of Peking last year.

Led by the East City Physical Culture and Sports Council, coaches from Tungtan Park and other posts in the district got together, broke down tai chi chuan movement by movement and worked out a running commentary to go with it. This helps beginners understand and remember what they learn. It used to take six months to learn the simplified tai chi chuan, now it takes only three months. When a group finishes their course, a district demonstration is held so they can learn from each other.



Learners following the movements of the leader, Hsu Liang-kai.



Hou Ying-hsuan teaching tai chi chuan.

The Tungtan Park post has trained 1,200 people in the past two years. Graduates popularize tai chi chuan in their neighborhoods. The council has organized classes for coaches. Recently the Peking television station invited teachers from the Tungtan post to give a series of lectures and demonstrations. Hou Ying-hsuan has also been invited to teach foreign friends at the International Club.

# The Turfan Basin — China's Lowest, Hottest Spot

THE TURFAN BASIN, China's deepest, is a 50,000-square-kilometer fault-depression in the Tianshan Mountains of eastern Sinkiang. It was a key point on the northern route of the ancient Silk Road.

The basin contains the lowest point in China and one of the earth's lowest land spots. This is at Ayding Lake, a salt lake whose name means "Moonlight Lake" in the Uighur language, probably because its white color gives the impression of moonlight shining on it. The surface of the lake, which covers 50 km. from east to west and five to seven km. from north to south, is 154 meters below sea level. The highest of the mountains surrounding the basin, Bogdo Ula in the north is over 5,000 m. above sea level and snowcapped the year round. On the south the Chol Tagh Mountains are generally between 600 and 1,500 m.

The high mountains enclosing the basin to the north and west shield it from cold winds. Heat from solar radiation builds up here and is not easily dispersed, giving the basin a sizzling six-month summer. From June to August the temperature averages above 38° C., and 47.6° was once recorded, making it the hottest place in China.

The hottest spot in the basin itself is Flaming Mountains, bare slopes of red sandstone in the middle of the basin where temperatures reach 75° C. The blazing sun makes the red rock sparkle like dancing flames, hence the name. Approaching travelers are greeted with a blast of hot air that makes them steam. It is said that Flaming Mountain in the 16th

century mythological novel *Journey to the West*, describing the pilgrimage of the monk Hsuan Tsang to the west in search of Buddhist scriptures, is based on this place.

The basin presents a varied natural panorama of desert, gorges, sand dunes and oases. It is fertile if irrigated. It embraces Turfan and Shanshan counties and part of Toksun county.

## Karez and Forest Belts

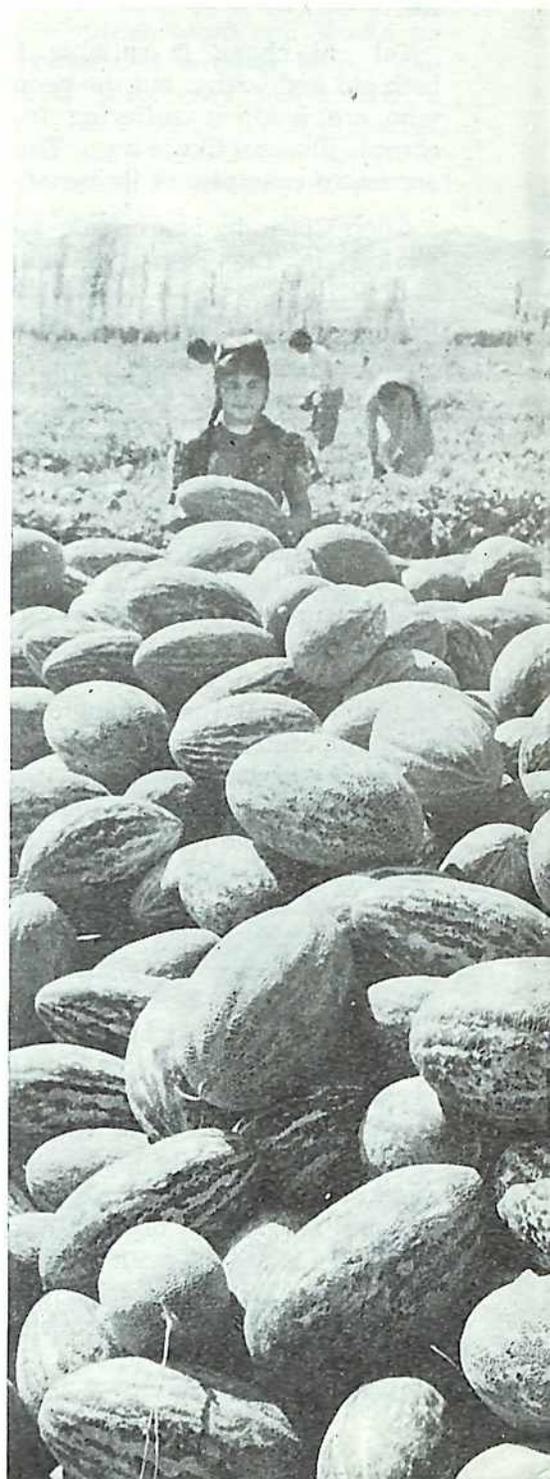
Rain is scarce in the Turfan Basin, only 16-30 millimeters a year, and evaporation so rapid that even if 100 times as much fell, it would be lost. There are often thunderstorms in the sky, but no rain reaches the earth because it has evaporated in midair. There are also grade-eight winds thirty or forty times a year in Turfan county. Drought and wind-blown sand are a big problem for the local people.

What save the Turfan area and make it usable for agriculture are its reserves of subterranean water. Large quantities of runoff from melting snow on the Tianshan Mountains to the north seeps into the ground. In their long struggle with drought, the working people of Uighur, Han and Hui nationality living there have created karez underground channels to utilize this water.

Starting at the foot of the Tianshan Mountains vertical shafts are sunk at intervals of 20-30 m. and their bottoms are linked by a tunnel leading into the center of the depression, where shallow channels bring the water out of

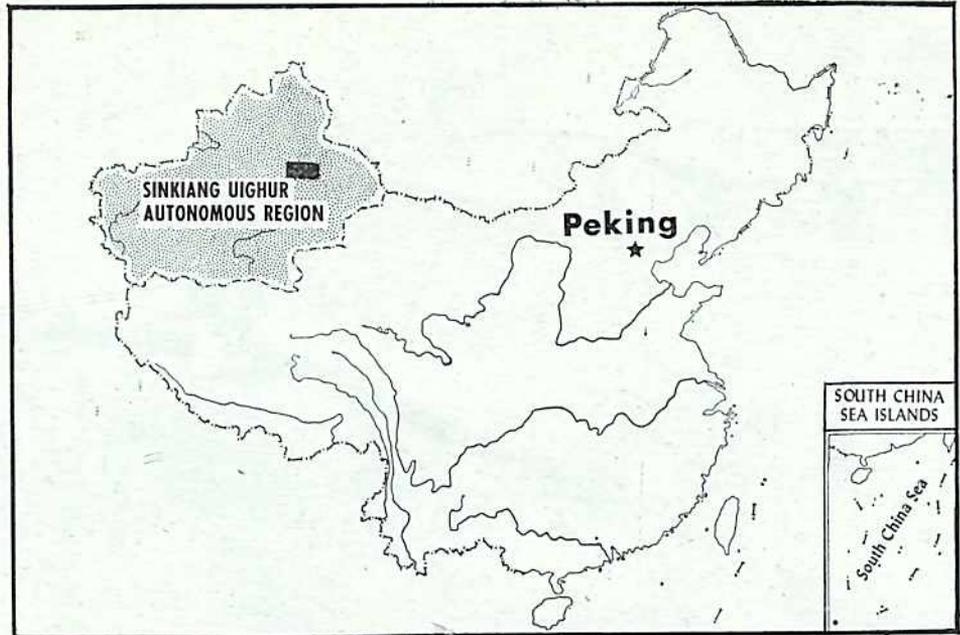
the ground. Most of these channels are about three km. long. The longest is 30 km. There are over 1,000 of them in the area totaling over 3,000 km. Together with their vertical shafts, they are a formidable project.

After liberation the people of various nationalities living in the area employed the strength of their socialist collective economy to build some larger surface canals. These cut through high mountains and desert land to bring snow water straight from the Tianshan. The people worked on them over a dozen winter and early spring slack seasons.

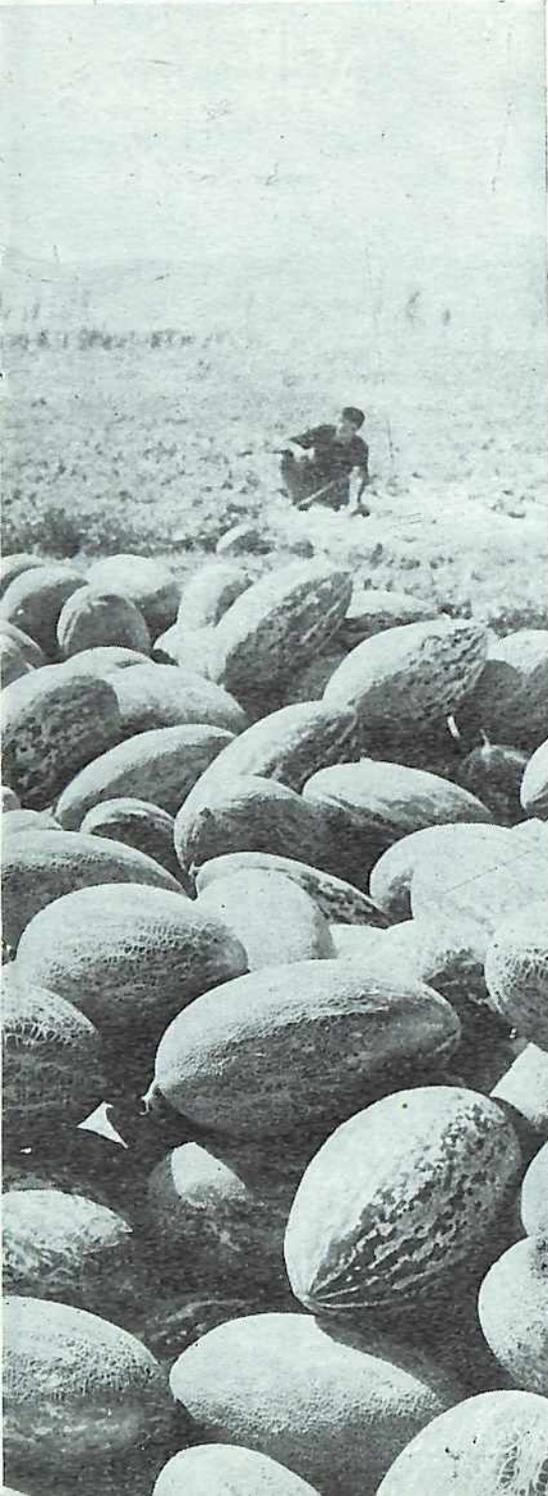


Since the cultural revolution began in 1966 over 2,000 wells have been sunk in the area, further enlarging land under irrigation.

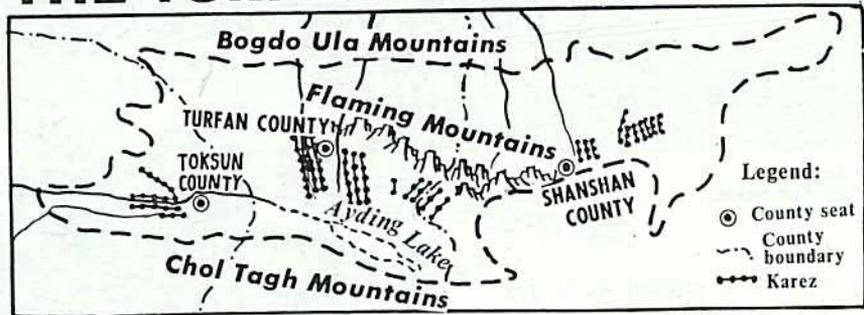
Every year the people have a tree-planting campaign to build up forest belts to block the wind and hold down the sand. Afforestation takes a lot of hard work — leveling sand dunes, digging ditches and protecting the saplings from the wind. In 1964 they started to plant their first main forest belt where the wind was strongest. It consists of five channels lined by 10 rows of trees to create a belt 20 m. wide and 3,800 m. long. Since then they have planted more



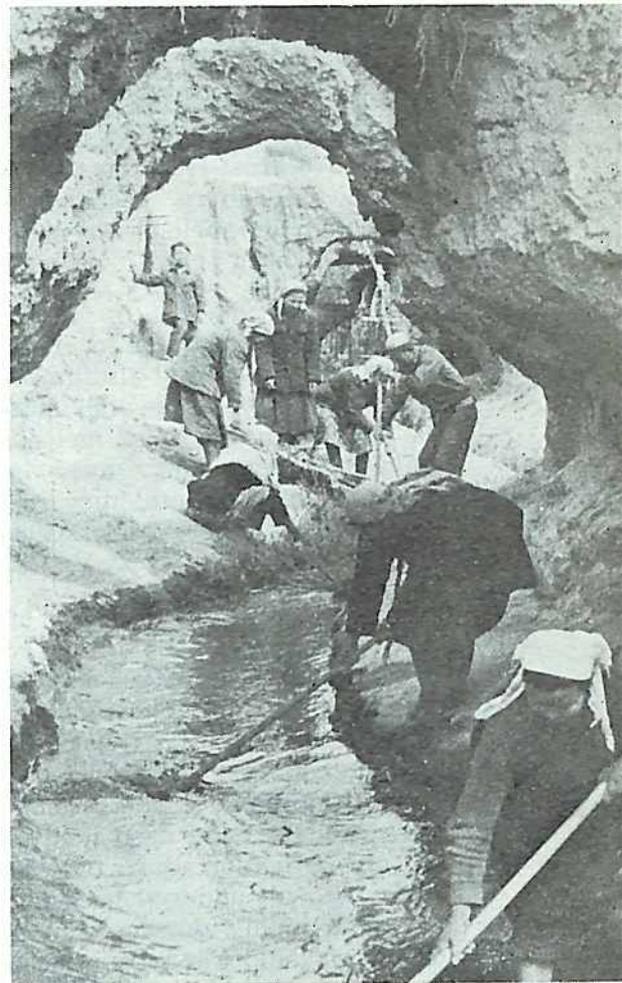
Hami melons in Shanshan county.



## THE TURFAN BASIN

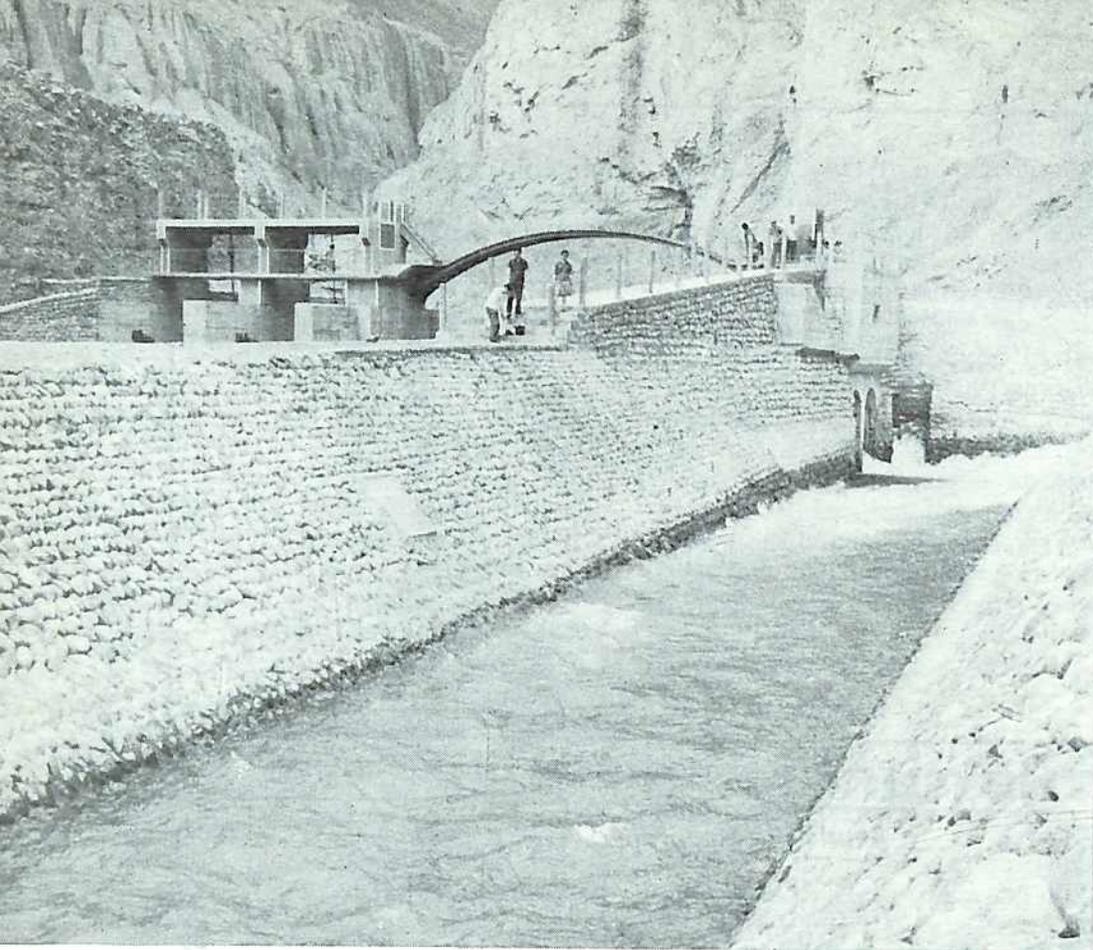


Members of the Five Star commune repair a karez.



such forest belts, which greatly reduce the effects of windstorms on oases. Behind these main forest belts come belts of Russian olive, elm or Sinkiang poplar trees. Some belts are an ingenious arrangement of these along with mulberry and apricot trees. The poplars block the high winds and the Russian olive trees, the low ones. Turfan county alone has over 3,100 protective forest belts totaling 1,300 km. They enmesh 70 percent of the fields and keep winds of grade eight or nine basically under control.

The indomitable people of Turfan have pushed back the desert, recovered land previously abandoned to the sands and leveled dunes to make new fields. On the eve of liberation no more than 20,000 hectares of land in the basin was arable. Now there is over 50,000. Agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and sideline occupations have developed over the past dozen years. Grain and cotton output increases yearly. Turfan county produces four times



Tarlang Canal deep in the Tienshan Mountains.

as much grain and cotton as it did just after liberation in 1949. Some brigades get grain yields of over 7.5 tons per ha.

### Cotton, Grapes, Melons

The Turfan area receives over 3,000 hours of sunlight a year and has 220-270 frost-free days. In addition to China's best long-staple cotton and melons and fruit, it grows wheat, corn, sorghum and sesame seed.

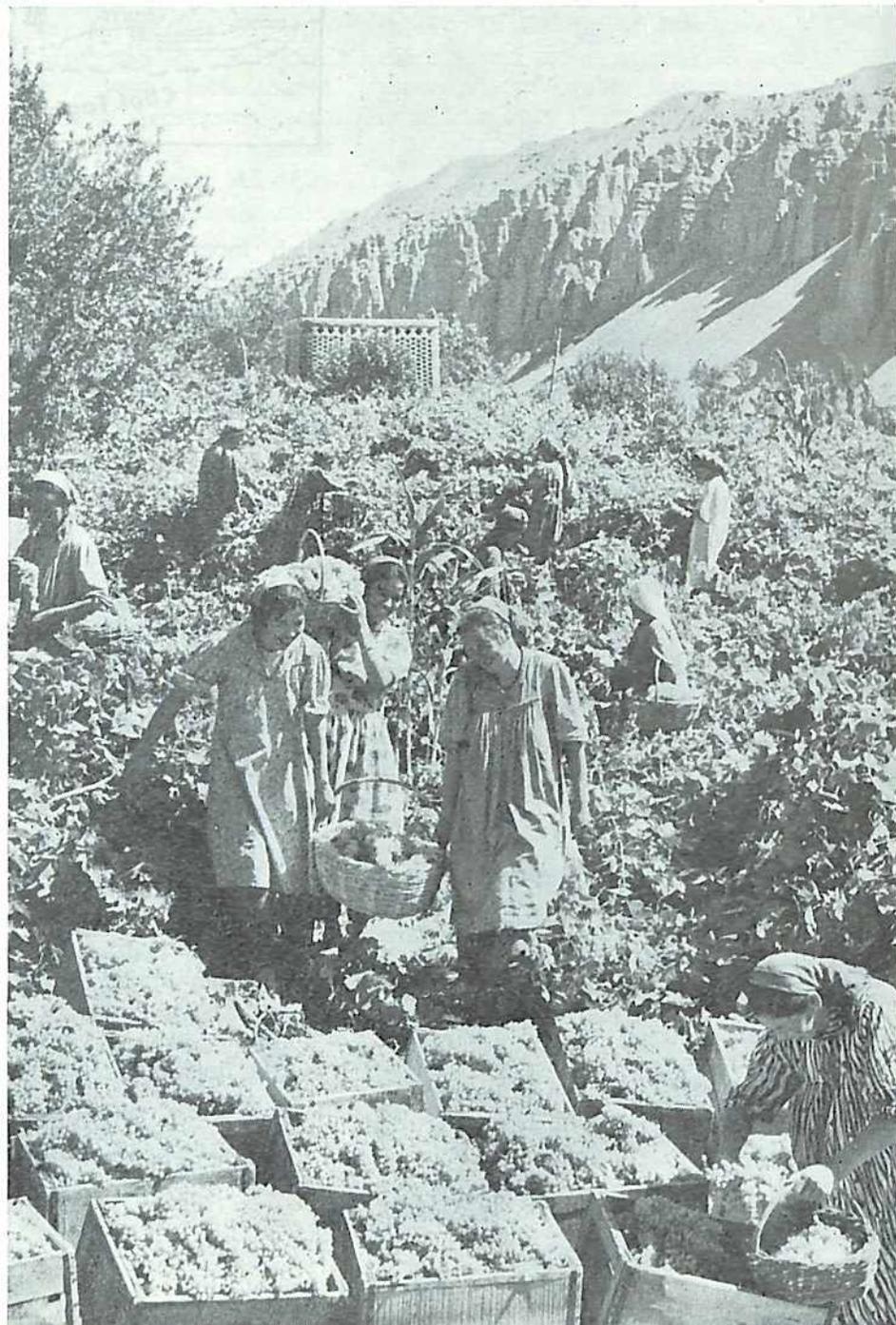
The area is famous for its Hami melons and grapes, and also grows watermelons, apples, pears, apricots and peaches. Hami melons, cultivated there for over a thousand years, are soft, juicy and fine-textured, with a high sugar content.

There are over 40 varieties of Hami melon. They contain 15-17 percent sugar and the largest weigh over 15 kg. The best melons come from around East Lake in Shanshan county. They thrive on heavily alkaline soil where nothing else can live and need neither rain nor irrigation during their 100-day growth under the blazing sun. The highly developed root system brings up water from more than a meter below the surface.

Turfan's white seedless grapes contain 20 percent sugar. Dried as raisins they do not change color or lose sugar. Such varieties are rare in the world.

There are about 3,000 ha. of grapes in Turfan and Shanshan counties, five times as much as before liberation. With other fruits and melons these account for over 10 percent of these counties' cultivated land. Advanced scientific methods of management have greatly raised productivity. High-producing vineyards yield 75 tons per ha. Every commune and brigade in the Turfan area has vineyards and orchards and each family has its own arbor. In August the area is a world of grapes.

Harvesting Turfan grapes.



## Lesson 7

## Autumn in Peking

北京的秋天，天空晴朗，天气不冷

Běijīng de qiūtiān, tiānkōng qínglǎng, tiānqì bù lěng  
Peking's autumn, (the) sky is clear, (the) weather not cold

也不热，风景美丽。人们都喜欢到

yě bù rè, fēngjǐng měilì. Rénmen dōu xǐhuan dào  
also not hot, scenery beautiful. People all like (to go) to

公园去玩儿。

gōngyuán qu wánr.

parks go have a good time.

### 1. Words made up of two or more characters.

Many Chinese words such as 人 rén (person) and 到 dào (to) are made up of only one character. Others need two or more characters to express a single idea, like 公园 gōngyuán (park) and 办公室 bàngōngshì (office).

Some character-combination words have meanings related to those of the individual characters. 天 tiān (sky) plus 气 qì (air) form 天气 tiānqì (weather). 公 gōng (public) added to 园 yuán (garden) makes 公园 gōngyuán (park). The proper name 北京 Běijīng (Peking) is also created from two related characters: 北 běi which means north and 京 jīng which means capital. The city was given this name in 1420 during the Ming dynasty when the capital was moved from 南京 Nánjīng (southern capital) in the south.

The meaning of other character-combination words is entirely different from that of the characters, as in 东西 dōngxi (thing), which is composed of 东 dōng (east) and 西 xī (west).

### 2. The "r" sound on the end of words.

In 普通话 pǔtōnghuà, or the common language, which is based on the Peking pronunciation of the dialect spoken in north China, a number of words are pronounced with a retroflex "r" at the end indicated by the character 儿 and an "r" in the phonetics. This often changes the pronunciation. Thus 玩儿 wánr (play) is actually pronounced wár. Other examples are:

花儿 huār → huār (flower)

一点儿 yidiǎnr → yidiǎr (a little)

一会儿 yihuǐr → yihuǐr (a moment)

3. Uses of the word 玩儿 wánr. In its most common usage 玩儿 means to play as in 孩子们玩儿娃娃 Háizimen wánr wáwa (The children are playing dolls).

It is also added to some sentences to convey the sense of "having a good time", as in 人们都喜欢到公园去玩儿 Rénmen dōu xǐhuan dào gōngyuán qu wánr (People like to go to the park) and 你有时间请到我家来玩儿 Nǐ yǒu shíjiān qǐng dào wǒ jiā lái wánr (Please drop in at my house when you have time).

4. Predicate without a verb. In Chinese the predicate can be composed of an adjective without the verb 是 shì (to be). In our text above, in 天空晴朗 tiānkōng qínglǎng (the sky is clear) and 风景美丽 fēngjǐng měilì (the scenery is beautiful) the adjectives 晴朗 and 美丽 form predicates. In the negative form of this type of sentence 不 bù (not) is placed before the adjective. For example, 天气不冷也不热 Tiānqì bù lěng yě bù rè (The weather is neither cold nor hot).

For Advanced Students:

### 今日龙须沟

北京居民 jūmín (inhabitants) 中的一些老年人都还记得 jìde (remember), 三十年前城南有一条臭 chòu (stinking) 水沟 shuǐgōu (ditch)。这条沟虽然有个美丽的名字——龙须沟 Lóngxūgōu (Dragon Beard Ditch), 可是沟里全是污水 wūshuǐ (dirty water) 和烂泥 lǎnní (soft mud), 有时还有死老鼠 lǎoshǔ (rats) 和死猫 māo (cats), 散发 sànfā (spread) 着臭气。沟的两旁有许多破烂的房子, 住着成千的劳动人民。他们经常受到饥饿 jī'è (hunger) 和疾病 jíbìng (disease) 的威胁 wēixié (threat)。多少年来这条臭沟没有人管 guǎn (take care of) 过, 因为在旧社会劳动人民的居住环境是没有人过问 guòwèn (pay attention) 的。

新中国成立后的第二年——1950年, 改善 gǎishàn (improve) 环境卫生的工作就开始了。人民政府 zhèngfǔ

(government) 在这里修了一条下水道 xiàshuǐdào (sewer), 把原来的臭沟填 tián (filled in) 平, 上面修成平坦 píngtǎn (smooth) 宽阔 kuānguò (broad) 的马路 mǎlù (road)。在路的一旁修起了一个水清如镜 shuǐqīngrújǐng (water as clear as mirror) 的金鱼池 Jīnyúchí (Goldfish Pool), 周围种上了许多树。劳动人民住进了新屋, 不但有了清洁 qīngjié (clean) 卫生的环境, 而且空闲 kòngxián (leisure) 的时候, 还可以在金鱼池旁休息、散步。

### Dragon Beard Ditch Today

Some old people among Peking's inhabitants still remember that 30 years ago in the southern part of the city there was a stinking

ditch. Though it had the beautiful name of Dragon Beard Ditch, it was full of filthy water and mud and sometimes even dead rats and cats polluting the air. Thousands of working people lived in a lot of dilapidated houses on both sides of the ditch. They were often threatened by hunger and disease. For years nobody did anything about this stinking ditch because in the old society nobody paid attention to the environment in which the working people lived.

In 1950, the year after the founding of new China, work to improve environmental hygiene began. The people's government laid a sewer here, filled in the original stinking ditch and on top built a smooth, broad road. On one side of the road they built Goldfish Pool with water as clear as a mirror and around it planted many trees. The working people have moved into new houses. Not only do they have clean, hygienic surroundings but in their free time they can rest and stroll on the banks of Goldfish Pool.

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to Join the Liangshan Rebels, a pioneer in the revolutionization of the old opera, presented in Yen-an not long after Chairman Mao's talks. While retaining the form and style of the old Peking opera, it deals with a theme of rebellion against oppressive officials during feudal times. When Chairman Mao saw this opera in 1944, he was very pleased and wrote a letter to the troupe commending them for the fine job. "You have restored historical truth, and thus a new life is opening up for the old opera. . . . The initiative you have taken marks an epoch-making beginning in the revolutionization of the old opera. . . . I hope you will write more plays and give more performances, and so help make this practice a common one which will prevail throughout the country."

The "gang of four", however, in order to claim that the revolution in Peking opera was achieved by Chiang Ching singlehanded, that she had "opened up a new era in proletarian literature and art", completely denied that any progress was made in creating proletarian literature and art for China after Chairman Mao's talks in Yen-an.

A number of examples that prove the contrary were performed during the commemoration. They

included: *Brother and Sister Reclaim Wasteland* and *Husband and Wife Learn to Read*, yangko sketches reflecting the new life in the Yen-an countryside during the war against Japanese aggression; the original opera production of *The White-haired Girl*, from Yen-an days depicting the Chinese peasants' struggles before liberation; *The Dagger Society*, a national-style dance drama portraying the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal armed struggle of the people of Shanghai during the Taiping Revolution in the 19th century; *Red Guards of Hunghu Lake*, an opera about the life and struggles of the people in the Hunghu Lake revolutionary base in Hupeh province during the Second Revolutionary Civil War (1927-1937); *The Battle at Paotzuwan*, a play on the production movement started during the resistance to Japan, in response to Chairman Mao's call, by the army and the people of the Shensi-Kansu-Ningsia Base Area to overcome the Kuomintang reactionaries' economic blockade; *Sentinels Under the Neon Lights*, a play about how a People's Liberation Army unit resisted corrupting influences after moving into Shanghai and continued in the people's army's tradition of simple living and hard struggle; *The August First Storm*, a Peking opera about the Nanchang Uprising on August

1, 1927. During the war with Japan, the liberation war and the various political movements since liberation all these works aided in "uniting and educating the people" and in "attacking and destroying the enemy" as Chairman Mao urged the arts to do. All these the "gang of four" slandered and banned.

Among new items at the May celebrations were: *Growing Up by the Yenho River*, a play by the China Drama Troupe showing the spirit and daring of young people growing up in the revolutionary atmosphere of Yen-an during the resistance and liberation wars; *Song of the Proud Poplar*, a dance drama portraying the courageous struggle of Yang Kai-hui, comrade-in-arms and wife of Chairman Mao, who died a martyr's death for the revolution; *Fierce Storm*, an opera about the struggle over the two lines within the peasant movement during the First Revolutionary Civil War (1924-1927); *Hope*, a play reflecting the hard work and struggle of China's oil workers, their resistance to the "gang of four" and their sticking to grasping revolution and promoting production; *Boundless and Dangerous Waters*, a play describing the life of navy-men and exposing the gang; and *When the Maple Leaves Turned Red*, a satire on the gang.



