

# CHINA

PICTORIAL

1 / 1985



Between the White Mountains and the Black River  
Ye Jianying — An Eminent Marshal

Xinjiang Pioneers  
The Spectacular Cock Cave in Guizhou



Mountains and Clouds, a Photo-Painting

An innovation in photographic art, the photo-painting pioneered by Hua Guozhang combines the realism of photography with the abstraction of traditional Chinese painting. The photo-paintings are created on high-quality rice paper or silk instead of on photographic paper. As a result, the images are more lifelike and vivid, and the works can be preserved for a longer period.

The traditional costume of the Manchu women living in the Songhua River valley is worn only on holidays or on the stage.



## 1 / 1985

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### Between the White Mountains and the Black River



"Between the White Mountains and the Black River," a new column for 1985, will feature a series of articles on the landscape, customs, products and development of the Songhua River valley in northeast China. "The Changbai Mountains—Source of the Songhua River" published in this issue is the first story in the series.

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### Ye Jianying —An Eminent Marshal

Popularly known as "Marshal Ye," Comrade Ye Jianying is a veteran proletarian revolutionary and a leader of the Chinese people's army. He resigned recently because of his advanced age and poor health. A brief account of his exciting life, highlighted by photographs, is carried in this issue.



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### Xinjiang Pioneers



After 35 years of hard work, the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, comprised of one million people, has cultivated vast stretches of barren land and set up 169 agricultural and livestock farms and many towns. Transforming the age-old wasteland into an oasis, the corps now produces one-fourth of the grain in Xinjiang.

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### The Spectacular Cock Cave in Guizhou



Guizhou Province, covered widely with carbonatite, is noted for its varied karst caves. The most spectacular is the Cock Cave in Zhijin County, where the karst formed over a number of stages to display all the principal features of karst landscapes in the world. Scenic spots covering an area of 350,000 square meters will be opened to visitors this spring.

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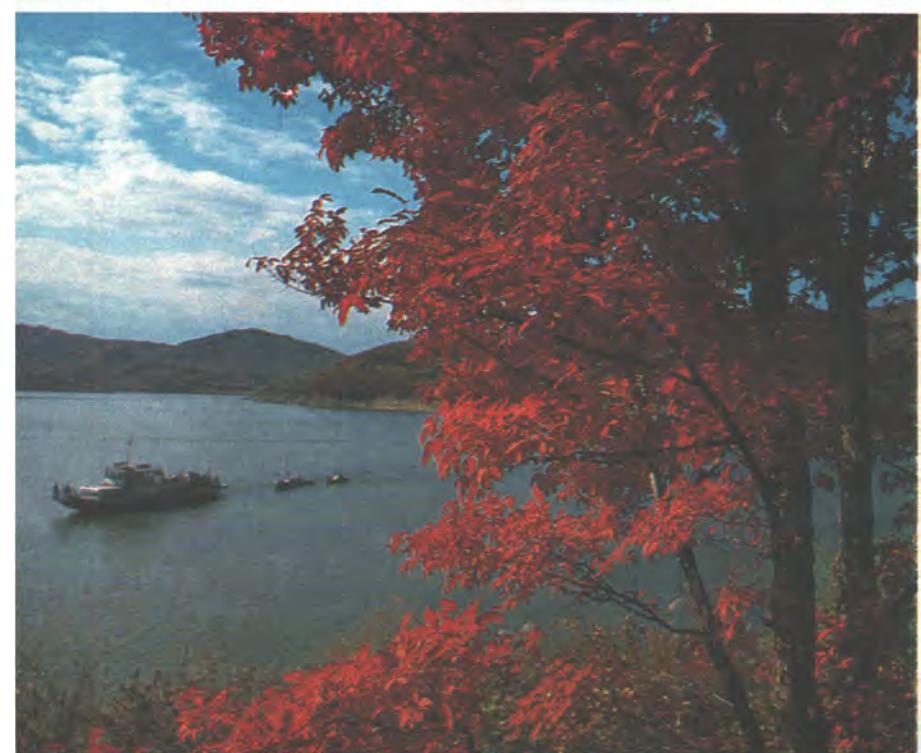
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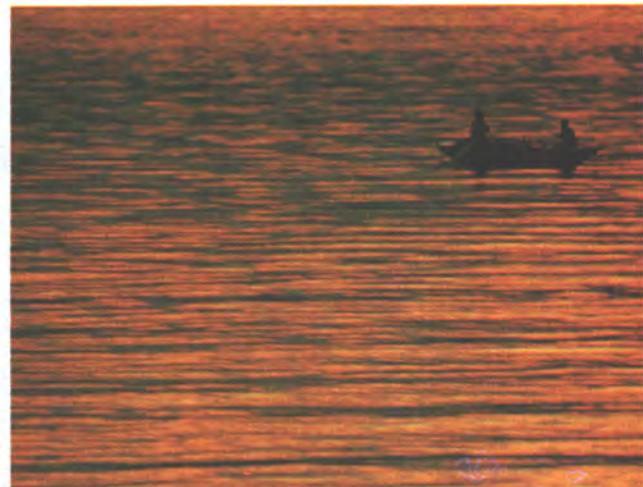
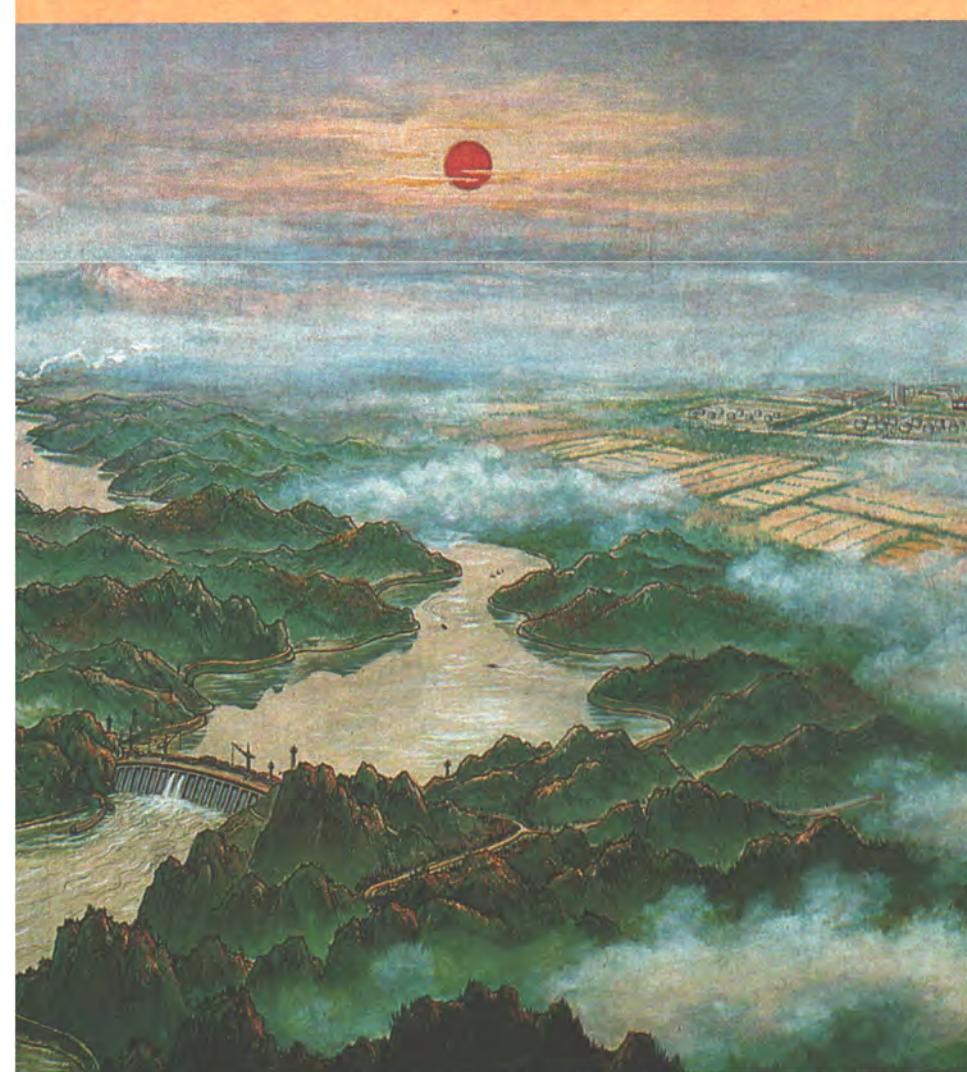


## Between the Whit and the Blac





# Mountains River



## BEGINNING with the current issue, *China Pictorial* devotes space to a 12-part series

entitled "Between the White Mountains and the Black River." One article will appear in each 1985 issue, covering the landscape, local production and development along the Songhua River, the longest river in northeast China. Stories will also describe the local nationalities and their customs. We sincerely hope that our readers will find the features interesting and informative.

The series' title refers to the Changbai (Eternal White) Mountains and the Heilong (Black Dragon) River. The phrase was first mentioned in the *History of the Jin Dynasty*, a book completed in the 14th century. Historically, the words generally refer to Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces. But more precisely, the expression denotes the Songhua River valley—an area dotted with vast plains and hills, covering land lying northwest of the Changbai Mountains to the Heilong River, the boundary between China and the Soviet Union. Rising in the Changbai Mountains, the Songhua River, together with its tributaries, traverses a vast area before pouring into the Heilong River.

The Songhua boasts two sources, one in the south and the other in the north. The upper section, the southern and main source, is called the Second Songhua River. It originates from Lake Tianchi in the Changbai Mountains, in southeastern Jilin. The Nenjiang River, the Songhua's largest branch and northern source,

begins in the Yilehuli Mountains in northern Heilongjiang Province. After leaving the source, the Second Songhua River flows northwestwards and crosses Jilin Province. It meets the Nenjiang at Sanchahe in Fuyu County. The section below Sanchahe is known as the Songhua River. At Sanchahe, the river turns to the northeast and winds through southern Heilongjiang Province and the narrow valleys of the Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains before emptying into the Heilong River at Tongjiang in the Sanjiang lowland.

The Songhua River, China's fourth longest after the Changjiang, Huanghe and Zhujiang, extends for 1,956 kilometers with a drainage basin of 545,594 square kilometers. On its way, the main stream is joined by many tributaries, including the Nenjiang, the Hulan, the Mudan and the Tangwang. With an abundant flow and rich water resources, the Songhua River supplies power generation, transportation and farmland irrigation.

The Songhua River valley features plains and low and hilly land. The terrain rises and falls gently with an average elevation of 150 to 500 meters above sea level. Located in a temperate zone, the valley has a continental climate. Winter lasts for seven to eight months a year, with the temperature sometimes dropping as low as 30°C below zero. The two-month-long summer is cool and rainy. Spring and autumn are short and windy.

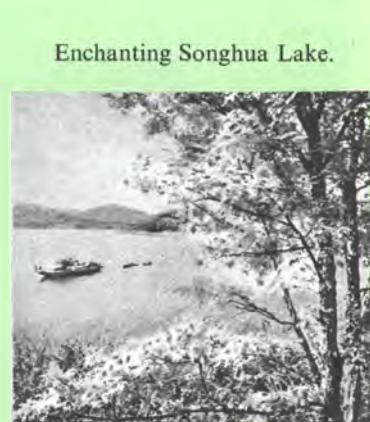
Vast in area and rich in natural resources, the

Songhua River valley features good transport facilities. Known as a granary, it is one of the richest regions in north China. Its fertile soil produces abundant wheat, maize, soybeans, sorghum and rice. The Changbai Mountains support an ideal forest zone while coalfields are located at Shuangyashan, Hegang and Jixi. The rivers and lakes abound with fish—common and silver carp, sturgeon and salmon. The area is also a principal producer of ginseng, marten pelts and antlers, three treasures of the Northeast. The Number One Motor Vehicle Plant and its branches and chemical, machine-building and paper-making factories operate in the cities of Changchun, Jilin, Harbin and Jiamusi. The Changbai Mountains and Lake Jingpo are two scenic attractions. Tourists throng the summer resorts in Harbin and Changchun when the weather is hot in other parts of the country. During the wintertime, visitors tour the cities to admire ice sculptures and scarlet kaffir lilies in bloom.

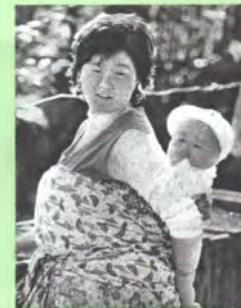
The Songhua River valley is one of the birthplaces of the Chinese nation. Since ancient times, people of the Manchu, Korean, Daur, Mongolian, Oroqen, Ewenki, Hezhe and Han nationalities have settled the valley to reclaim land and farm. With their unique histories and cultures, they have jointly created a brilliant civilization in the course of opening up China's northeastern border area.



The Lofty Changbai Mountains and the Endless Songhua River (traditional Chinese painting).



Enchanting Songhua Lake.



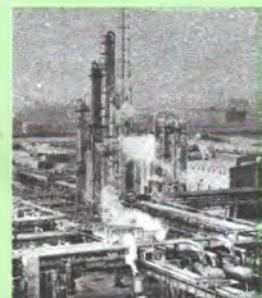
A healthy mother and baby.



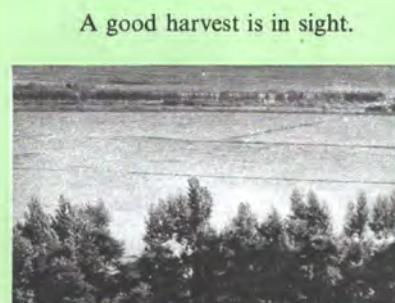
A celebration marking the founding of the Manchu Nationality Autonomous Township.



Lake Tianchi in the Changbai Mountains.



The Jilin Chemical Plant.

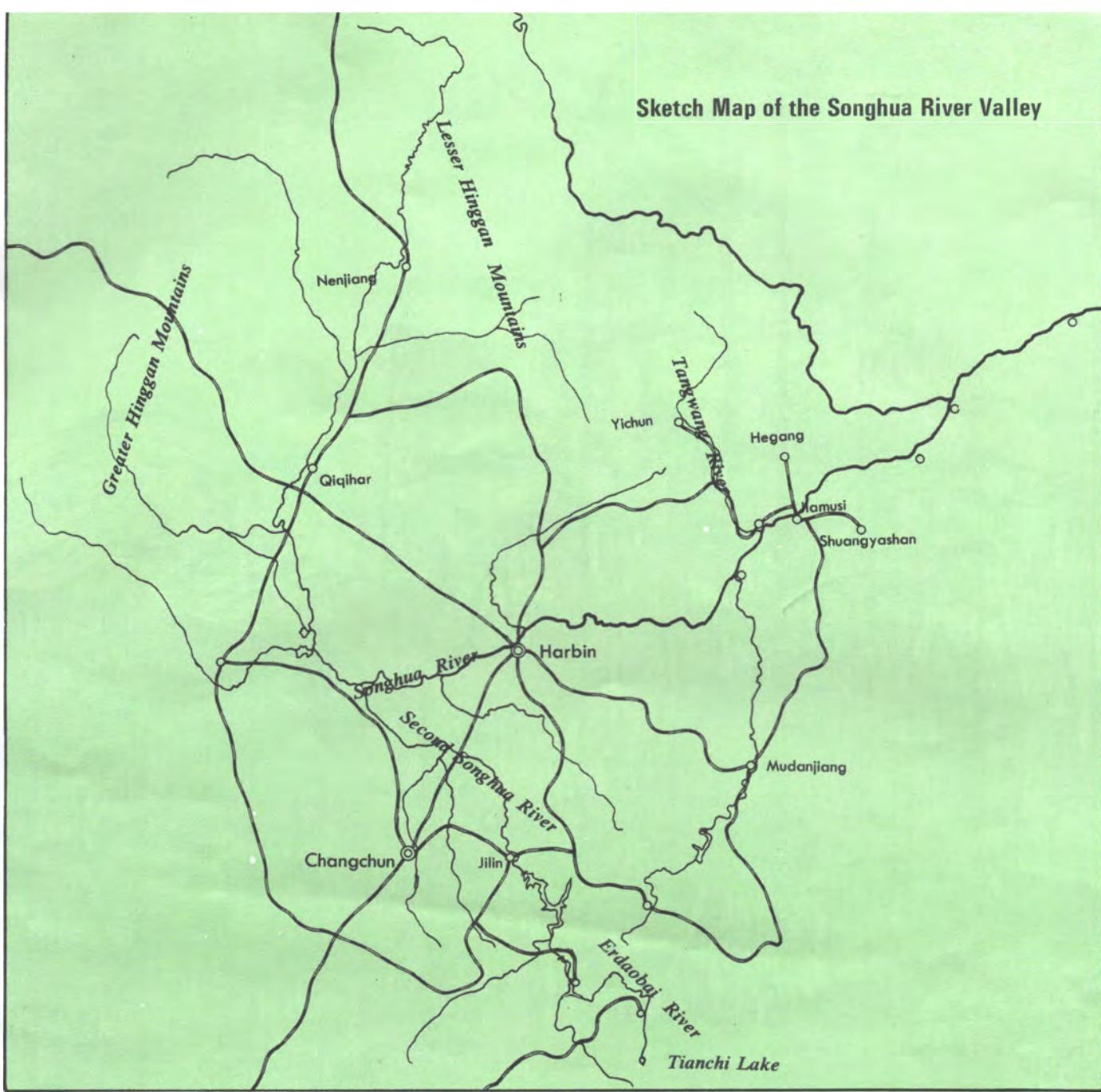


A good harvest is in sight.

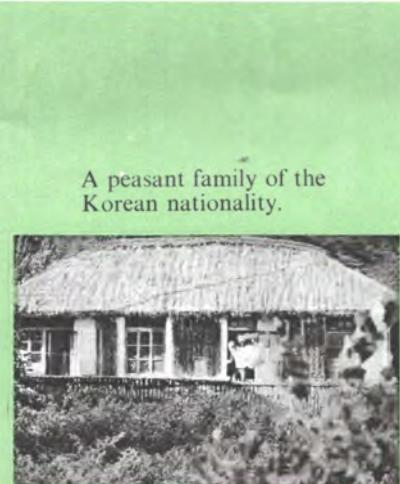


Ginseng, one of the three treasures of the Northeast.

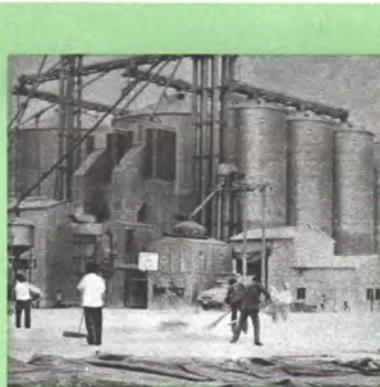
Sketch Map of the Songhua River Valley



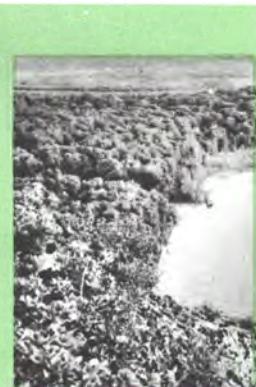
Changchun is known as a green city.



A peasant family of the Korean nationality.



Once called the Great Northern Wasteland, the Songhua River valley is now a granary.



On the Sanjiang plain.

The Yilehuli Mountains, the source of the Nenjiang River.



Hezhe fishermen.



A Liao Dynasty pagoda built in the 14th century still stands intact.

Harbin by the Songhua River.



Sanjiang at sunset.



## The Changbai Mountains— Source of the Songhu





# River

Tianchi Lake—source of the Songhua River.

## The Changbai Mountains—Source of the Songhua River

L YING in southeastern Jilin Province, the majestic Changbai Mountains rank among China's famous mountains. The peaks are dormant volcanoes, which have erupted three times since the 16th century. The latest eruption was in April 1702. The mountains are shaped in typical volcanic cones covered with greyish white and pale yellow volcanic cinders and snow the year round. Viewed from afar, the mountains are all white, hence the name Changbai (meaning eternal white). Ejecta piled around the volcanic vents to form a dozen peaks, all over 2,500 meters in elevation. The 2,691-meter-high Baiyun Peak is the highest point in northeast China.

Well-known Tianchi Lake, source of the Songhua River, was a product of volcanic eruptions. The famous Changbai Waterfalls plunge into a U-shaped valley on the northern slope of the Changbai Mountains. Steep cliffs and protruding rocks stand on either side of the valley, and the waterfalls appear to hang down from the sky like pieces of white silk. Beneath the falls is the Erdaobai River with a group of hot springs along the upper reaches. The waterfalls thunder and splash a fountain of spray 30 to 40 meters high, which looks like a mist blown by a mountain breeze. Above the waterfalls lies a 1,250-meter-long mountain stream known as the Chengcha or Tianhe River, which is the real source of the Songhua River. Water from Tianchi Lake flows into this river and rushes down, forming the Changbai Waterfalls, which empty into the Songhua River through the Erdaobai River beneath the falls.

The calm Tianhe River flows through a beautiful landscape covered with grass and colorful flowers. Limpid Tianchi Lake nestles in a broad valley. The summit of Longmen Peak affords a panoramic view of the lake. From the pinnacle, the lake appears like a big sapphire inlaid in the green mountains, or like a mirror reflecting the clouds and peaks.

The lake area has a vile climate with harsh winds blowing about 270 days a year. The average wind velocity reaches 11 meters per second. Sometimes sandstorms darken the sky and obscure everything. The unique geographical conditions and the unpredictable weather add mystery to the Changbai Mountains.

Tianchi Lake is an oval volcanic lake, extending 4.8 kilometers from south to north and 3.35 kilometers from east to west. The lake's surface covers 9.82 square kilometers. The average depth of the lake is 204 meters,

Every year large quantities of good quality timber are shipped out.



Felling trees.

with the deepest point reaching 373 meters. Supplemented by rainwater and underground springs, Tianchi Lake has never dried up, even in severe droughts. The lake freezes over from November to June, but, owing to hot springs distributed in the lake, some areas of the lake maintain a temperature of 40°C, even in midwinter.

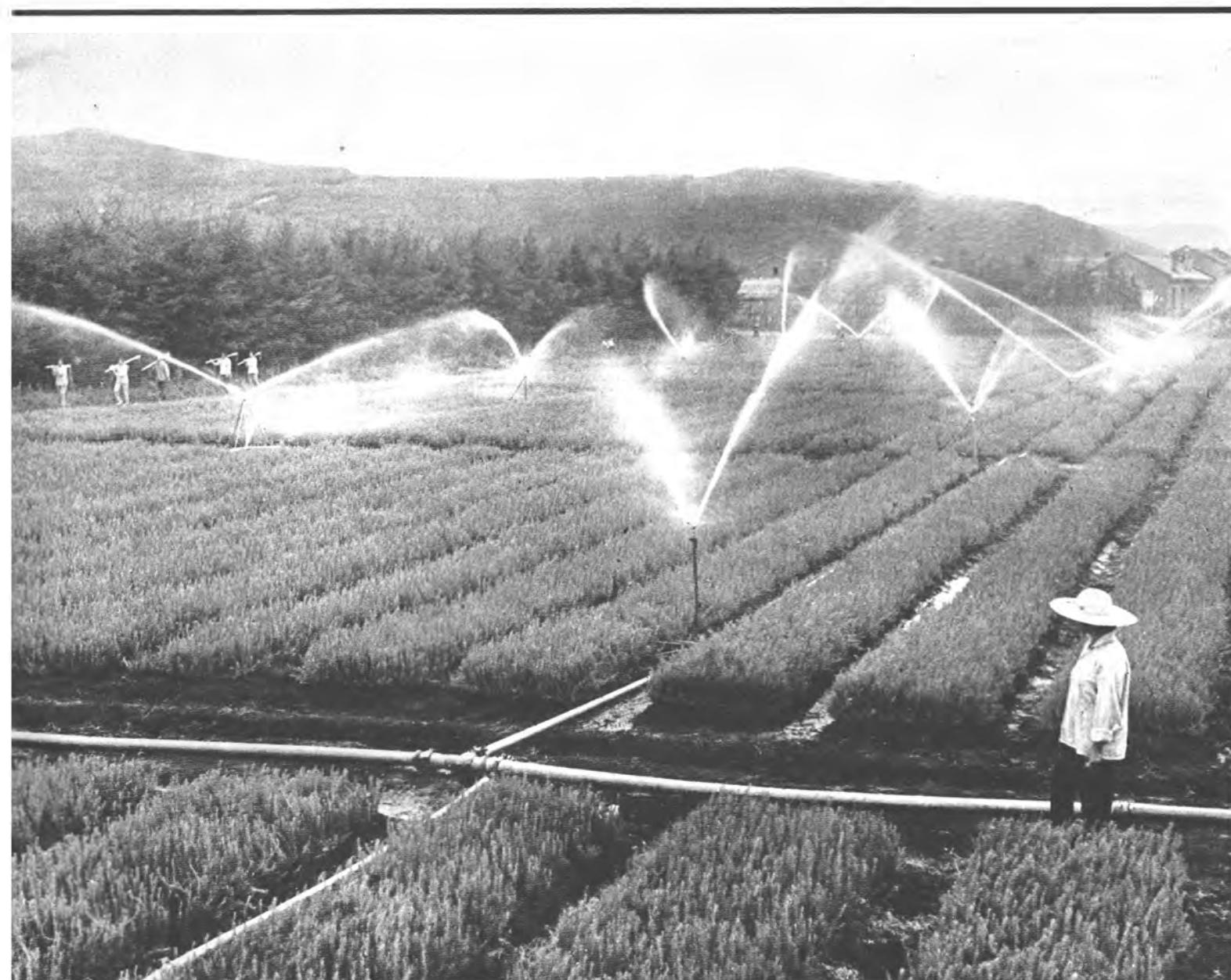
In autumn, the rice on the banks of the Songhua River turns yellow. The Changbai Mountains are dotted with red maple leaves, golden poplar leaves and tall white birches. Autumn is also the harvest season for Amur grapes and the fruits of the Chinese magnolia. Mushrooms sprout everywhere, and wild ginseng also grows.

The Changbai Mountains are one of the principal timber bases in China and a habitat for rare wildlife in Eurasia. Though the mountains are not very high, they are impressive because of their steep vertical configuration. Within a distance of 100 kilometers, four different vegetation zones

flourish—the mixed broadleaf and coniferous forests, coniferous forests, birch forests and alpine tundra. Usually, these four zones are distributed from the north temperate zone to the polar region, over a distance of several thousand kilometers.

About 1,300 to 1,500 varieties of plants from 110 families and 430 genera grow in the Changbai Mountains. Eight hundred types are economically valuable. Plants include European, Siberian, Korean and Japanese floras, along with tropical species introduced from south China.

In the early 1960s, in order to protect wildlife in the Changbai Mountains, the Jilin provincial government set up a 210,000-hectare nature preserve and a forest ecology study station in the mountains. In January 1980, the Changbai Mountains joined the United Nations' network of Mankind and Biosphere preserves. Since then, many Chinese and foreign researchers have conducted scientific surveys in the mountains.



The forestry bureau's seedling nursery. The bureau's management has improved to keep the forests evergreen.



The rare Manchurian tiger.

Winter hunting in the nature preserve  
is allowed only for research purposes.



Icicles.



Azaleas in the  
Changbai  
Mountains.





The Changbai Waterfalls.

The fruits of the Chinese magnolia can be used as a sedative and tonic.

Every summer, many birds come to the Changbai Mountains to breed.

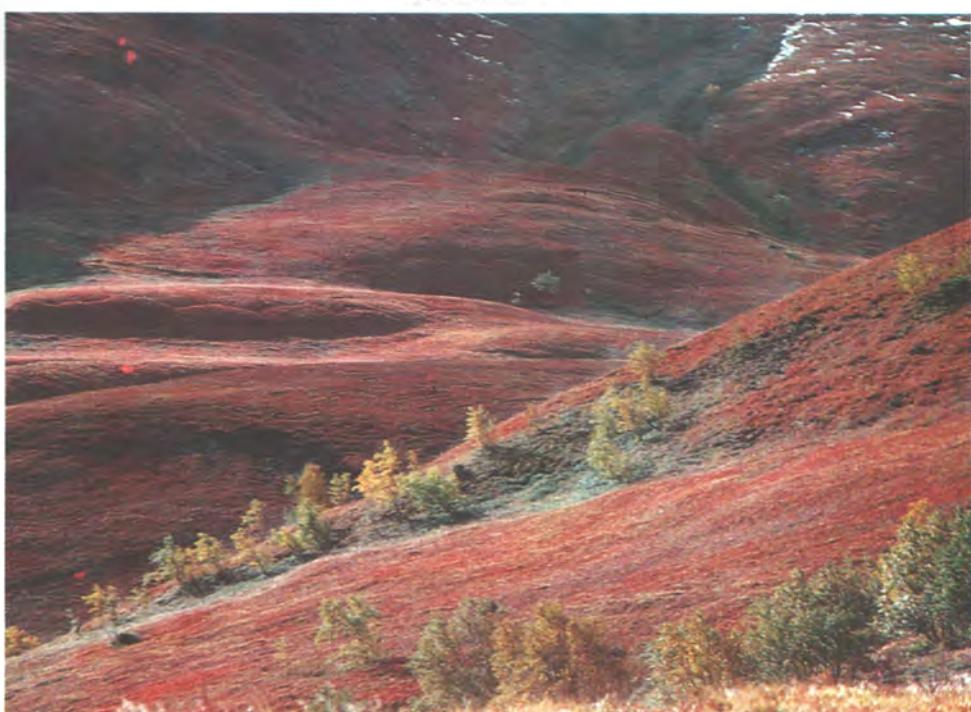
Alpine tundra.



Liver mosses.



*Hericium erinaceus*, a nutritious and delicious edible fungus.





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Today's Countryside

## A Small Village in the Taihang Mountains



Sun Jinhua, 82 years old, and her great-grandson. Sun left Wujie during a famine before liberation and stayed away for more than 30 years. Now her family of four generations lives in a two-story, 11-room cottage.

Young workers studying science and technology in  
the village's newly-established technical school.





Wujie village.

WUJIE is a remote village located at the foot of the Taihang Mountains in Qinyang County, Henan Province. At one time, the village suffered from droughts, floods, insect pests and plagues. During Qian Long's reign in the Qing Dynasty, a pestilence killed most of the villagers. Later, four brothers of the Chen family moved to Wujie from Taiyuan in Shanxi Province, and the village gradually flourished. Today, the village has 586 households and a population of 2,944. Ninety-nine percent of the residents are named Chen.

Wujie encompasses only 1,753 mu of arable

land, less than 0.6 mu per capita. As early as the 1950s, the village's Party branch secretary Chen Xiugong realized that it was impossible for the village to increase production and raise the peasants' living standards by relying sheerly on agriculture. In 1960, Chen organized skilled people to start sideline enterprises such as making firecrackers and bean noodles. Shortly afterward, the village bought its first tractor with income from these trades. In 1970, Chen set up a paper mill, which earned a profit of 150,000 yuan by the end of the year. With this money, the villagers built 11 pump wells and two canals,

which ensured stable crop yields despite drought or excessive rain. Wujie became one of the leading wheat-producing villages in the county.

In 1974, a salesman from the paper mill learned that there was a ready market for fiber glass-reinforced plastics. Chen Xiugong collected 30,000 yuan for a production team in the village to build workshops, and at the same time, sent people out to study techniques and invited specialists to give on-the-spot guidance. In less than five months, the workshops gained a profit of more than 300,000 yuan. The whole village was amazed by the success of the new operation.

Through examinations held every year since 1980, the village has chosen some high school graduates to study in the Shanghai Huadong Engineering Institute and other colleges. The first group of technicians has finished training and started work at the village-owned factories.



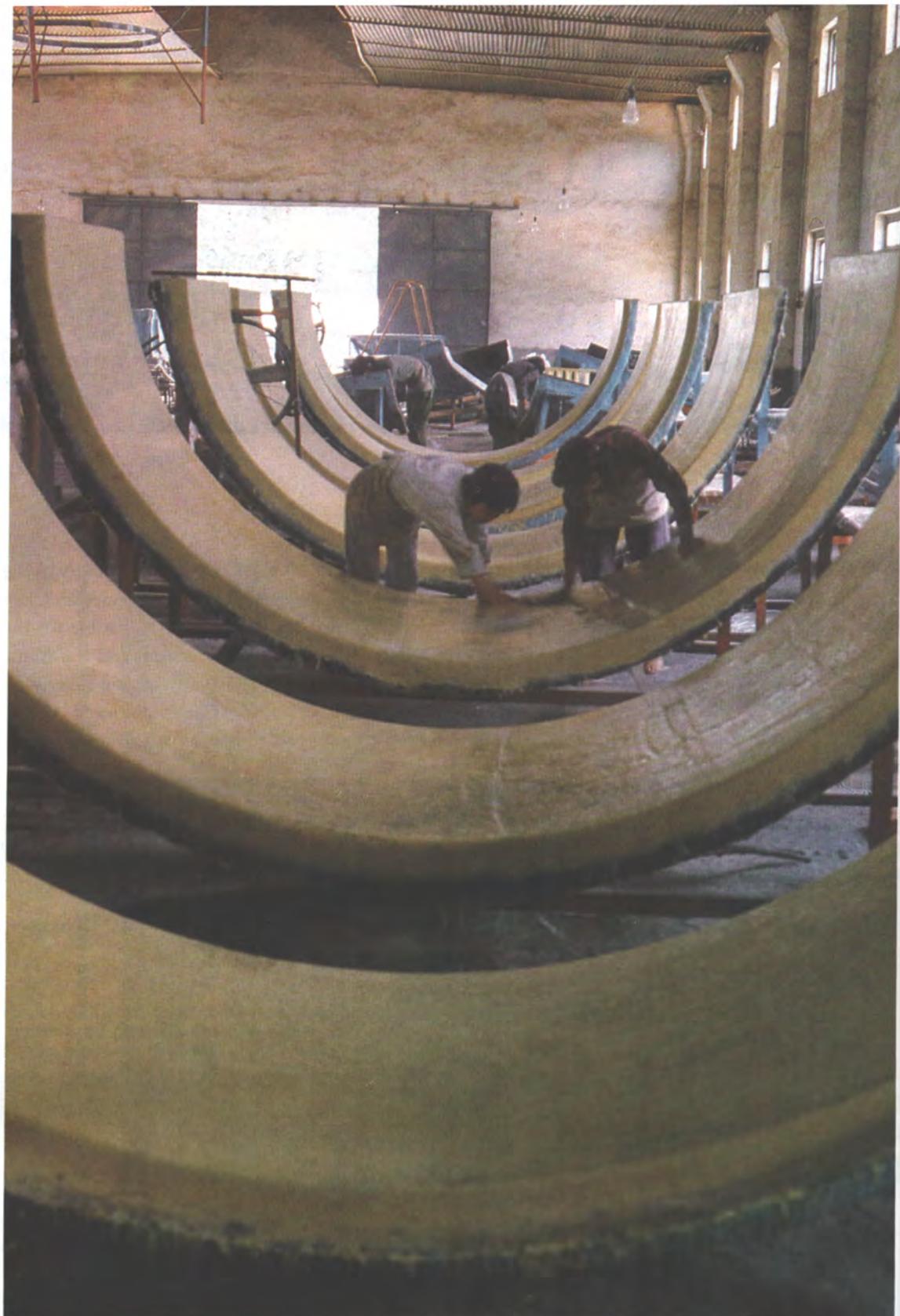
## A Small Village In the Taihang Mountains

The workshops enlarged their production to produce more than 80 plastic products, including cooling towers and containers. A special 11-meter-across kinescope screen made of fiber glass-reinforced plastic produced by a village workshop has been appraised by 70 specialists and professors from more than 40 scientific research institutes and colleges as an exceptional product reaching an advanced international level of technology.

In 1983, the total output value of the village's six fiber glass-reinforced plastic workshops exceeded 10 million yuan, accounting for 95 percent of the village's total industrial and agricultural production value. Most of the money was invested in chemical fertilizers, water conservancy projects and farm machinery. The village bought 20 trucks, 55 tractors, two harvesters, 14 seeders and more than 200 small farm machines. Since Wujie's entire farm production has been mechanized, only five percent of the labor force works in agriculture.

In recent years, many villagers built two-story cottages. A pension system, established in the village in 1982, pays villagers over 60 a monthly pension of 10 to 15 yuan. The village's kindergarten, primary school and middle school offer free child care and education. The local dairy supplies the community with fresh milk, which is free of charge to infants, the elderly, the sick and invalids. Three doctors staff the village clinic to provide around-the-clock medical care. Wujie's department store stays open from morning to evening. All these conveniences contribute to happy and comfortable lives for the residents.

A children's playground in the village.



The modeling shop of the fiber glass-reinforced plastic factory.

Fu Jingyuan (left), the designer of the large fiber glass-reinforced plastic cooling tower. Fu works for the Fourth Designing Institute of the Ministry of Machine Building and visits the village to solve production problems.



# Ye Jianying – An Eminent Army Commander

Article by Wu Xiuquan

ON many occasions since the 1930s, I have worked directly under Comrade Ye Jianying. I will never forget what he has done for the Chinese people's revolution and for socialist construction.

The name of Ye Jianying was on the lips of many people as early as the 1920s, when he helped Dr. Sun Yat-sen set up the Whampoa Military Academy and participated in the eastern and northern punitive expeditions against the warlords. After the failure of the Great Revolution jointly waged by the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, he supported the 1927 Nanchang Uprising led by the late Premier Zhou Enlai and others. Later, Ye directed the famous Guangzhou Uprising, heroically building the people's army under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

Early in the 1930s, Comrade Ye Jianying, then in his thirties, became an outstanding general of the Red Army (predecessor of the present-day People's Liberation Army). He was concurrently president and political commissar of a Red Army school, and later commander of the Fujian Army Units and chief of general staff of the Central Military Commission.

When the main force of the First Front Army of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army set off on the Long March, Ye commanded the column formed by personnel from the Central Military Commission in accomplishing an arduous strategic shift. He helped Liu Bocheng, then chief of general staff, organize the campaign to break through the enemy line on the Wujiang River. They seized Zunyi, where the Party Central Committee held a meeting, a vital step in the victory of the Chinese revolution. Ye wholeheartedly supported and firmly carried out decisions made at the meeting.

On the Long March, the First Front Army joined forces at Maogong in western Sichuan Province with the Fourth Front Army led by Zhang Guotao. According to the principles of

the Party Central Committee, the two army units were combined and reorganized into two divisions to travel the left and right routes on the march to northern Shaanxi. They crossed the Daxue Mountains and marshlands before arriving at Baxi and Aba in Sichuan. Opposed to the Party Central Committee's plan to attack the Japanese aggressors in the north, Zhang Guotao attempted to lead the Fourth Front Army he formerly commanded to re-cross the marshlands and return to the south. He demanded that the central authorities

change their decision, or he would resort to force. Learning this, Ye sent a report immediately to Mao Zedong, and the leaders were evacuated from the dangerous area.

After the Red Army triumphantly concluded the Long March and reached northern Shaanxi, Comrade Ye Jianying helped Mao Zedong and Peng Dehuai direct two victorious operations at Wuqizhen and Zhiluozhen. After outstanding performances at the Whampoa Military Academy and in the Northern Expedition, Ye was highly respect-



Comrade Ye Jianying.



ed inside and outside the army. The Party Central Committee sent him to educate and win over officers of the Kuomintang Northeastern Army captured in the battle at Zhiluozhen. He had heart-to-heart talks with them and aroused their patriotism. In this way, Gao Fuyuan, a regimental commander, shifted his ground and supported the Communist's proposal to fight the Japanese invaders. Upon release, Gao Fuyuan reported the Communist plan to Zhang Xueliang and Wang Yizhe, commanders of the Northeastern Army, urging them to unite with the Communist forces.

On December 12, 1936, Zhang Xueliang and Yang Hucheng (commander of the Kuomintang Northwestern Army), influenced by the Communist Party's policy of a united anti-Japanese campaign, put Chiang Kai-shek under house arrest and demanded that he end the civil war and act in concert with the Communists to fight against the Japanese. The Kuomintang leaders sent a cable to Yan'an, inviting the Communist Party's representatives to Xi'an to discuss anti-Japanese affairs. In Xi'an, Ye Jianying assisted Zhou Enlai in lengthy talks with the Kuomintangs, bringing about the peaceful settlement of the Xi'an Incident and a new Communist-Kuomintang cooperation in the

resistance against Japan. Accordingly, the Red Army was reorganized into the Eighth Route and New Fourth armies. He then assisted Zhou Enlai in directing the work of the Eighth Route Army's offices in the Kuomintang-ruled southern areas. In 1941, he returned to Yan'an and became chief of staff at the general headquarters of the Eighth Route and New Fourth armies.

During the anti-Japanese war, Ye Jianying, as a leader at the general headquarters of the Central Military Commission, initiated decisive proposals which, with approval from the Party Central Committee and Mao Zedong, formed strategic plans for the whole Party and the whole army. The anti-Japanese war was then at a stalemate. He read reports sent in from various localities and discovered that soldiers and civilians behind the enemy line had made many innovations and improvements in the strategies and tactics of guerrilla warfare. He summed up the information and, in the name of the military commission, sent it to the base areas for popularization. This caused serious blows to the Japanese invaders.

In 1943, the main force of the Eighth Route Army was at the front checking the enemy. Only 40,000 men were left behind to defend Yan'an, where the Party Central



① In the first eastern expedition in 1925 during the first revolutionary civil war period, Ye Jianying arrived at Meixian County, Guangdong.

② This photograph was taken in Jianning County, Fujian Province, in 1933 during the second revolutionary civil war. From the left: Ye Jianying, Yang Shangkun, Peng Dehuai, Liu Bojian, Zhang Chunqiang, Li Kenong, Zhou Enlai and Teng Daiyuan.



③ In August 1937, while attending a national defense conference in Nanjing chaired by Chiang Kai-shek, Ye Jianying (second from the left), Zhu De (right) and Zhou Enlai (second from the right) were guests at the home of Huang Qixiang (third from the right) and Guo Xiuyi. On the far left is Zhang Qun.



④ During the anti-Japanese war, Ye Jianying (center), chief of general staff of the Eighth Route Army, and Mao Zedong (left), chairman of the Party Central Committee, at the drilling competition in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region.

⑤ Comrade Ye Jianying addresses cadres on the counteroffensive of the People's Liberation Army at the northeastern battlefield.

⑥ In the summer of 1982, Ye Jianying met with the couple Li Hanhun and Wu Jufang. Both Ye and Li served in the Kuomintang's revolutionary army in the first revolutionary civil war.

⑦ At the Sixth National People's Congress held in the summer of 1983, some delegates honored Ye Jianying for his service as chairman of the Standing Committee of the Fifth National People's Congress. The picture shows a delegate of the Uygur nationality from Xinjiang presenting a Uygur hat to Comrade Ye. On the far right is Yang Shangkun, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission.



Committee and Chairman Mao stayed. Taking the advantage, the Kuomintang reactionaries mustered a troop of 500,000 strong to encircle the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border area. The Communist-led troops were greatly outnumbered by the Kuomintang forces. It seemed impossible to shatter the enemy attack by military actions. At this crucial moment, Chief of General Staff Ye struck on an idea for repulsing the enemy. He suggested to openly expose the enemy's scheme and mobilize the army and people in the liberated areas as well as progressive forces throughout the country to denounce the KMT's attempt at resuming the civil war. Using the information collected, the enemy's plan of action, its troop dispositions and marching routes were revealed. As a result, the Kuomintang reactionaries were forced to retreat. This plan demonstrated Ye's skilled use of political tactics and his talent as a military commander. He competently aided Chairman Mao Zedong and Commander-in-Chief Zhu De.

The war of resistance against Japan ended with the Japanese surrender. In January 1946, an agreement to stop the civil war was reached between the Chinese Communist Party and the Kuomintang. Later, the executive office under the Military Mediation Commission

was formed in Beiping (now Beijing). The commission consisted of representatives of the Communists, the nationalists and the United States. Acting as head of the Communist Party delegation to the office, Ye gained a thorough knowledge of the Kuomintang's conspiracy in preparing a new war. After the civil war broke out, he was called back to the Central Military Commission and became deputy chief of general staff in charge of the work of the rear-area Party committee.

I failed to work under the direct leadership of Ye Jianying for many years after the war for national liberation. However, we kept in contact and enjoyed cordial meetings. We were separated during the 10 years of the cultural revolution when I was imprisoned for eight years. By the end of September 1974, I regained freedom and attended the National Day reception, where I met Party and state leaders, including Zhou Enlai and Ye Jianying, then vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission. At that time, cadres experienced as staff officers and who had made a clean break with the Lin Biao counter-revolutionary clique were needed at the headquarters of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army. Ye recommended me for the post. With the approval of the Party

Central Committee and Chairman Mao, I was appointed deputy chief of general staff.

Ye supported the measures of army consolidation taken by Deng Xiaoping, chief of general staff. Ye also waged a resolute struggle against the perverse acts of Wang Hongwen, Zhang Chunqiao, Jiang Qing and Yao Wenyuan, known as the "gang of four." In October 1976, Ye Jianying organized the campaign to smash this counterrevolutionary clique, realizing the common aspiration of the entire Chinese population. This was another turning point in the history of the Chinese Communist Party, showing the boldness and insight of Ye as a veteran revolutionary. Later, he worked alongside other Party and state leaders to bring order back to the Chinese nation and sketch the blueprint of China's four modernizations program.

Ye's advanced age and poor health prevented him from continuing his work. He resigned his position as chairman of the National People's Congress in 1983. Now he is ill and bedridden. I deeply regret that I can not benefit from his further instructions, but I know that he exhausted all his energies for the Chinese revolution. What he has done will long be remembered, and the great causes he pioneered will surely be accomplished by the coming generation.





Rice paddies being harvested in the second regiment of the first agricultural division.

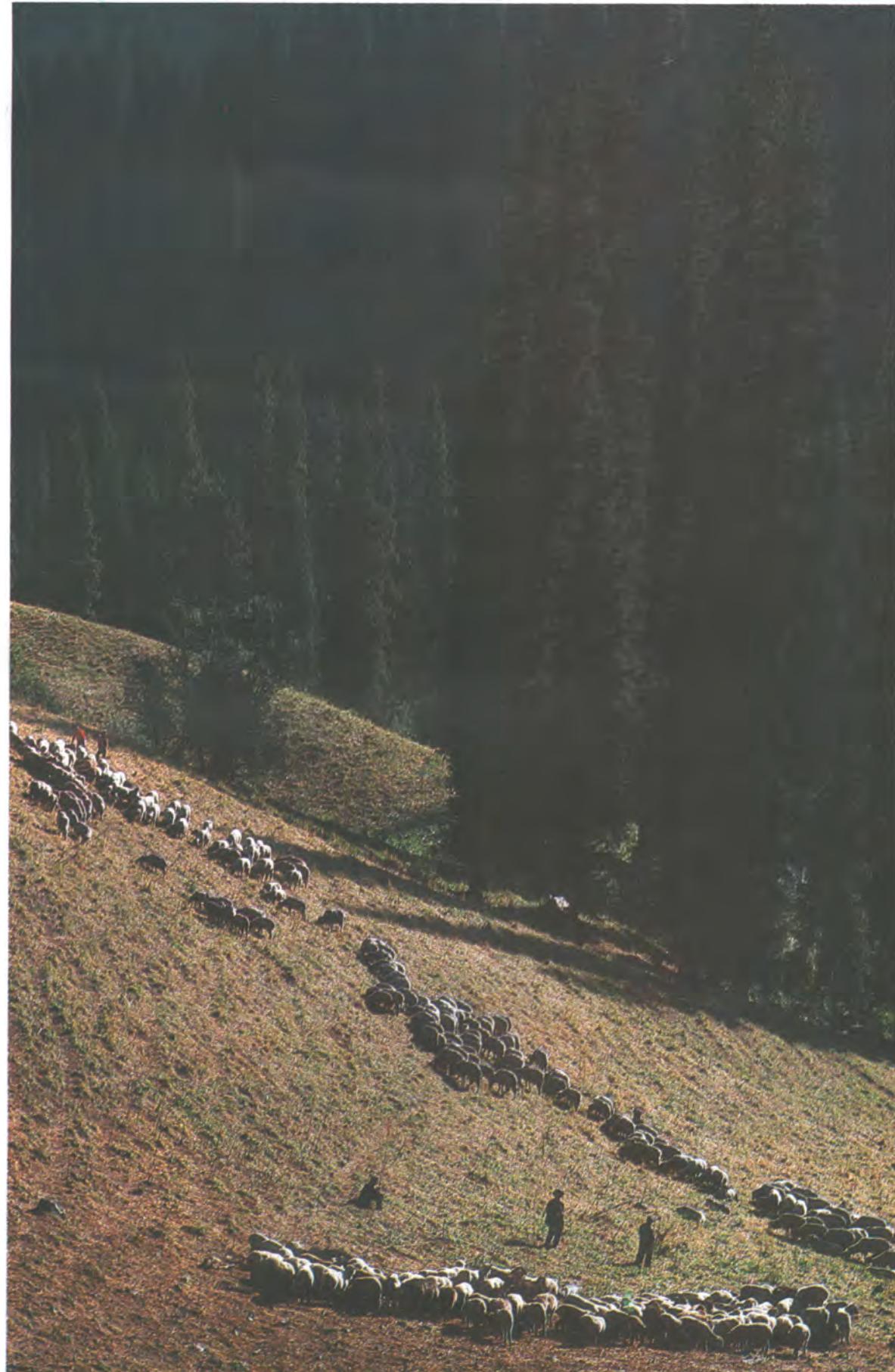
In 1984, the corps popularized the use of plastic sheeting in cotton planting over an area of a million mu.



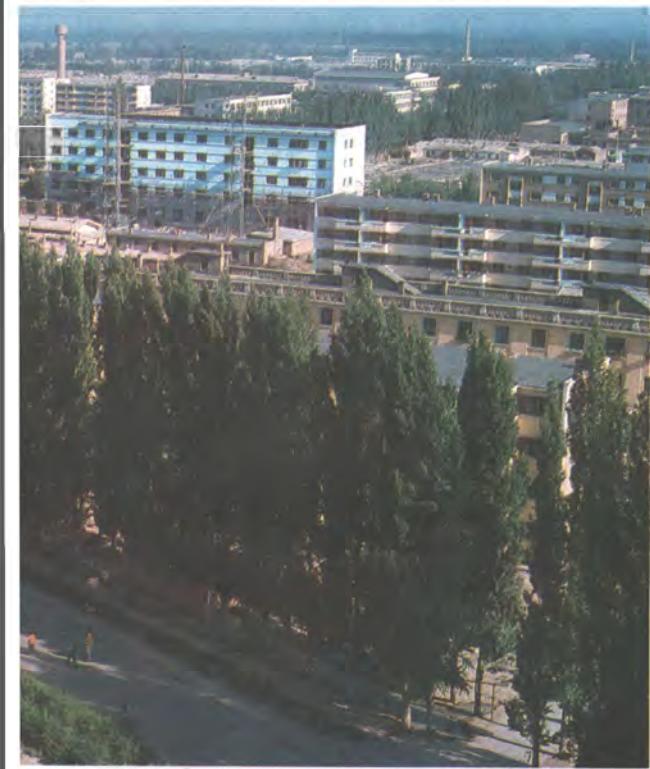


# Xinjiang Pioneers

Animal raising in the corps has made great headway. The number of livestock has been rising steadily in the last few years.



Shihezi, a new city built by the corps.





After 1976, the corps built a hydropower station and two canals in Kashi Prefecture with an investment of 50 million yuan. The projects irrigate 1.16 million mu.

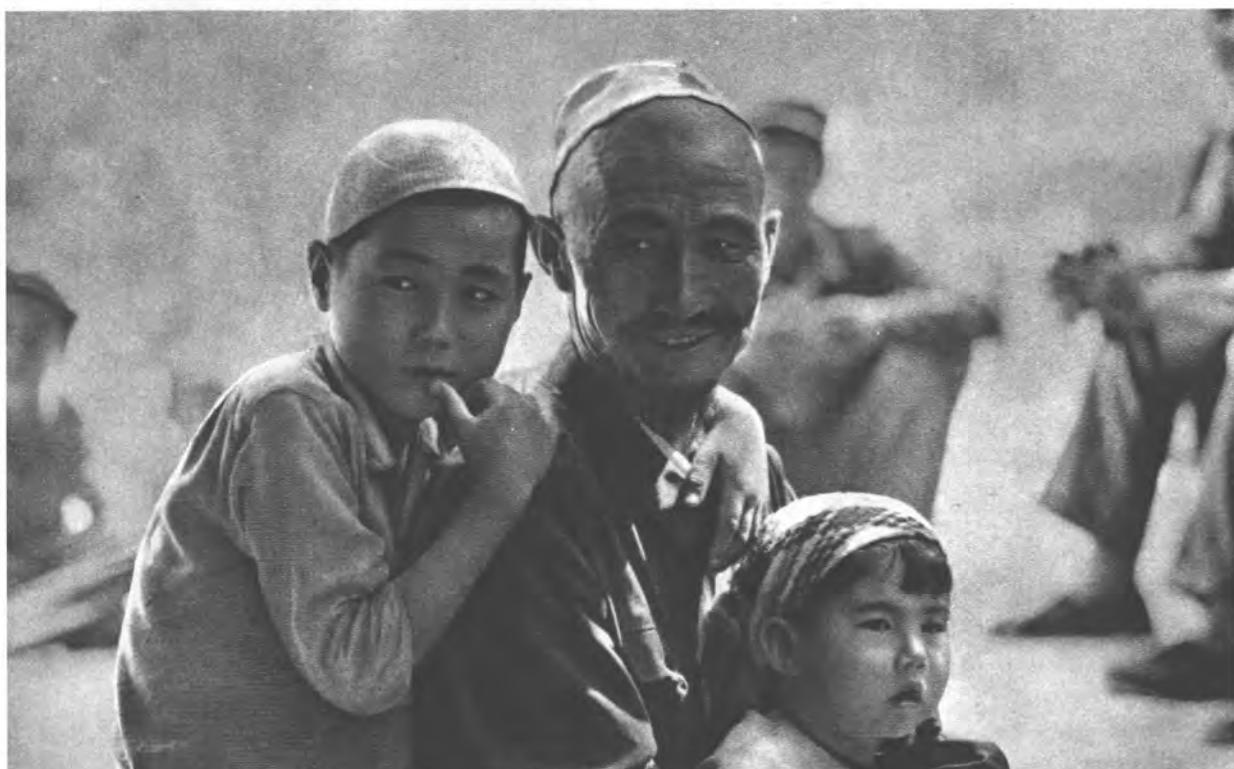
Kulban Abdura and his wife work on a minority branch farm.



Li Shuxian (center), who graduated from the gardening department of the Northwest Agricultural Institute in 1963, successfully bred the "ox horn pepper" and the "tetraploid Hami melon," which were awarded second and third prizes by the Ministry of Agricultural Reclamation in 1982.



Amet Resit, of the 51st regiment of the third agricultural division, earned more than 8,000 yuan in 1982 when the responsibility system was established.



**F**Ollowing the peaceful liberation of Xinjiang in October 1949, a People's Liberation Army detachment under General Wang Zhen entered the vast northwestern frontier region which comprises one-sixth of China's territory with a population of 13 million.

As they crossed the gobi on their way to the Tianshan Mountains, the soldiers were aware of their twofold duty: to guard the frontiers and reclaim the wasteland. Subsequently, a string of reclamation bases mushroomed along the perimeters of the Junggar and Tarim basins. In the primeval, uninhabited wilderness extending for thousands of kilometers, the army built improvements from scratch. They opened up millions of mu of barren tracts and founded a number of industrial enterprises. In a few years, the troops became more than self-sufficient in grain, vegetables, meat, oil and other daily necessities.

At the end of 1954, some of the PLA commanders and soldiers formed the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps which was reinforced by hundreds of thousands of young people from Shanghai as well as demobilized soldiers, workers and peasants from various parts of the country. Presently, the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps—the name has remained in use—boasts 169 agricultural and livestock farms, over 100 industrial and mining enterprises, and 500 universities, middle schools and primary schools. Both the corps total grain yield and industrial output value

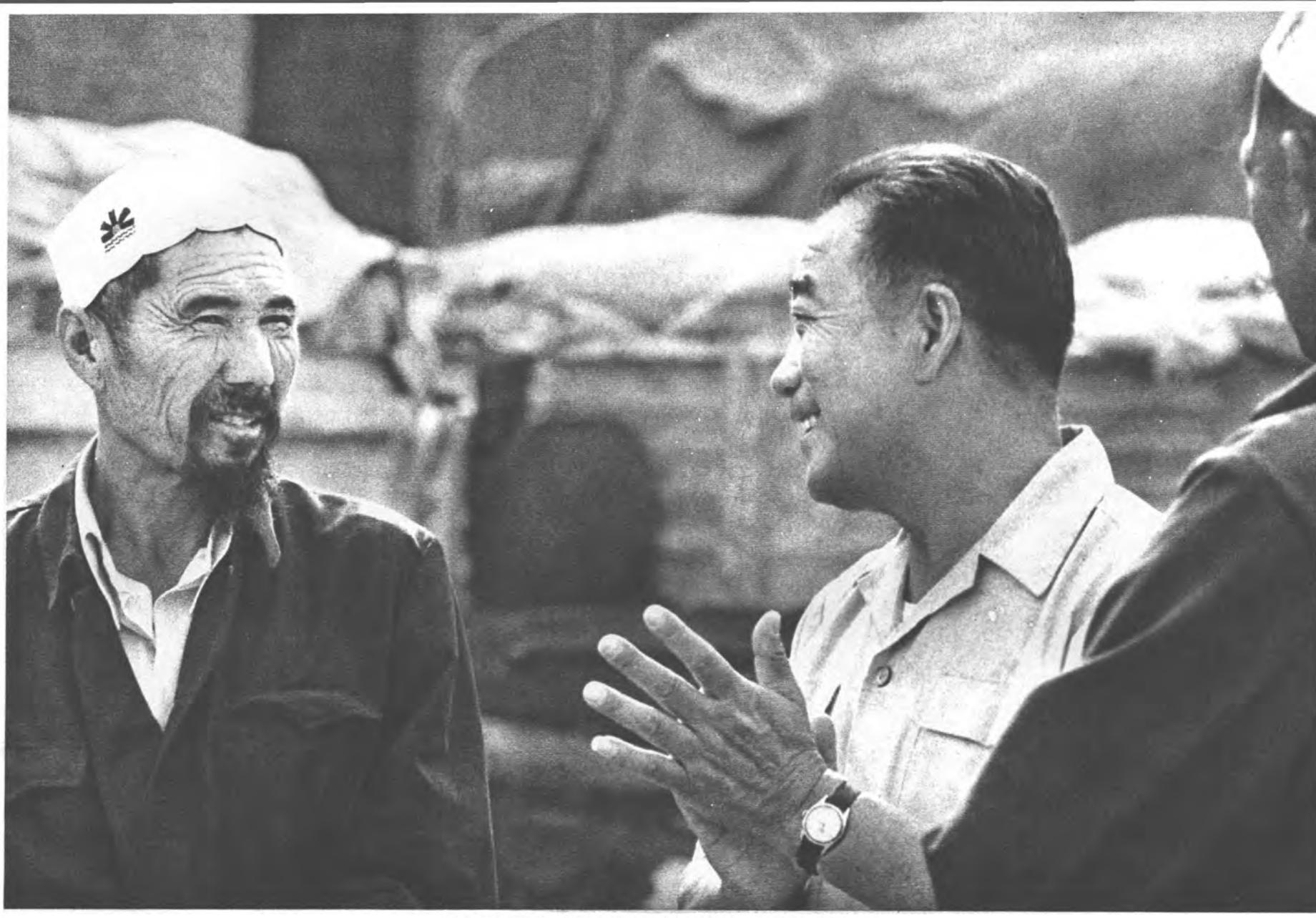
account for a quarter of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region's production.

The soldiers also planted thousands of mu of shelterbelts and fruit trees, and undertook large-scale water conservancy projects. They harnessed the Manas, Kaidu and Aksu rivers and built more than 100 irrigation works. The corps excavated 50,000 kilometers of canals, sank 7,000 wells and constructed 80 reservoirs and nearly 100 hydropower stations, which put 92 percent of the cultivated land under irrigation. As a result, several million mu of arid land in the Taklimakan Desert have been transformed into rice paddy fields, while two million mu of marshlands along the Manas have been turned into fields producing wheat, cotton, beets, melons and hops. Nearly a million mu of barren land in Shajingze and Qarqi have become high-yielding farms and orchards. Many of the reservoirs are stocked with fish, shrimps, crabs and lotuses introduced from the Changjiang River basin. Today, besides ensuring its own needs, the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps supplies the state annually with 200,000 tons of marketable grain, 5,000 tons of meat, eggs and poultry, and 40,000 tons of cotton, as well as an enormous quantity of vegetables and fruit, and thousands of varieties of industrial products.

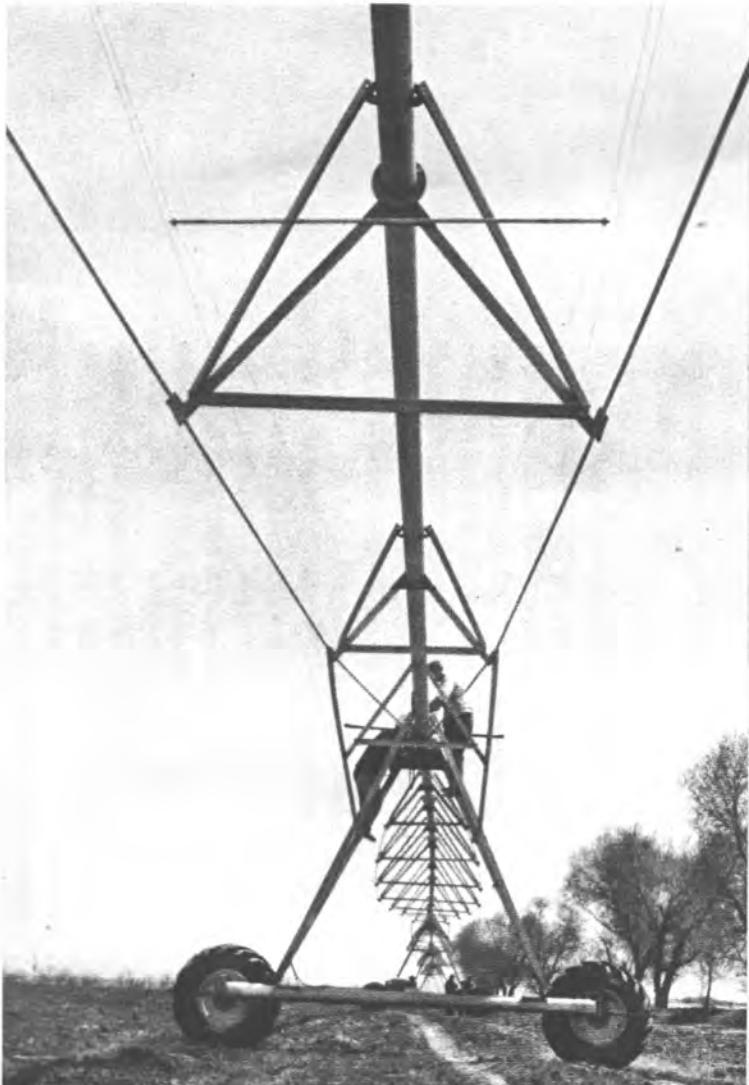
The Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps also helps the localities to develop production and trains scientific and technical personnel for the countryside. The corps' hospitals on various farms and pastures provide medical treatment to local farmers and herdsmen. "Minority wards" attached to these hospitals conveniently serve ethnic patients.

Following the reclamation of the desert and the emergence of oases, a number of medium-sized and small towns have appeared on either side of the Tianshan Mountains. They include Shihezi, Kuitun, Wujiaqu, Aral, Beitun and many others, all political, economic or cultural centers.

In the current upsurge of national economic reform, the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps is promoting all phases of the family responsibility system—combining agriculture with forestry and animal husbandry and handling agriculture, industry and commerce comprehensively. Land, orchards or livestock are contracted to individual families for specialized production.



Veteran soldier Xiao Fengrui (center) settled in Xinjiang following the garrisoning of the region by the PLA in 1949.



Sprinkler systems irrigate some areas.



Thousands of tons of fruit are shipped to various parts of the country.

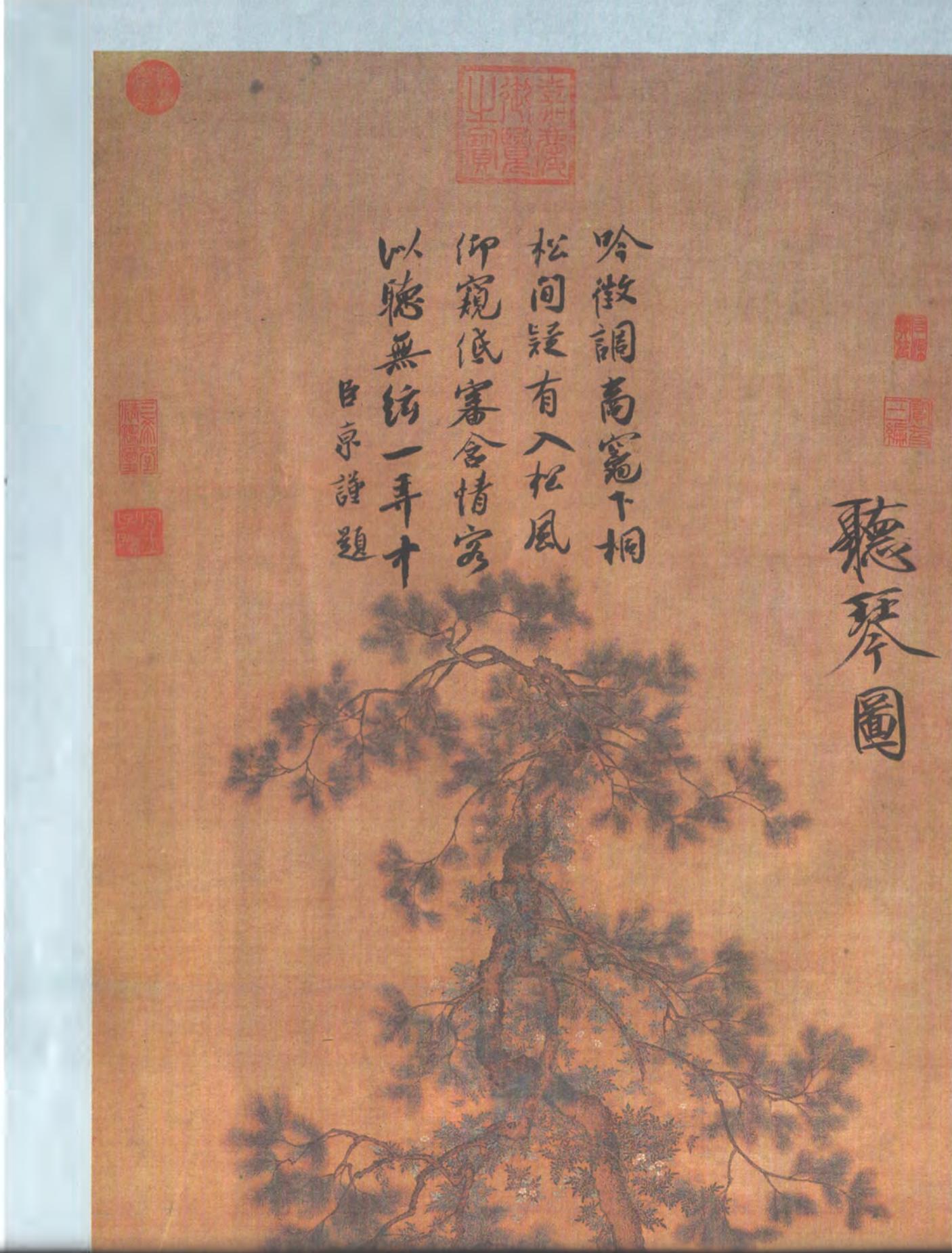


## “Enjoying the Zither”

An Ancient Chinese Painting

DEMONSTRATING superb artistry, Zhao Ji's Song Dynasty painting *Enjoying the Zither* vividly portrays a zither player and his listeners. The scene reveals the interests and aesthetic moods of the ancient Chinese aristocrats and scholars. In the garden setting, a flowery Chinese trumpet creeper festoons a tall pine tree. Complemented by delicate and graceful bamboo trees, the beautiful scene evokes a peaceful atmosphere. Under the pine tree, a man in a Taoist-style robe plays a zither while two officials sit on either side enjoying the music. The official in a red gown appears absorbed in the beautiful sounds of the zither. Wearing a blue gown, the other figure gazes ahead in deep thought. Both are intoxicated by the melody.

Song Dynasty (960-1279) painting inherited the brilliant techniques of the Tang Dynasty and also made innovations. More mature techniques appeared in portrait, landscape and flower-and-bird



scenes and expressing the painter's feelings. In the figures of the absorbed musician and the enraptured audience, the faces, expressions and gestures are lifelike renderings. The composition's symmetry and the antique, bright colors add to the calm, harmonious atmosphere. In the naturalistic picture, smoke appears to curl upward from an incense burner on the table, and the potted flower seems to release a faint fragrance. The pine and bamboo trees enhance the scene, suggesting to the viewer a secluded pine and bamboo grove filled with zither strains.

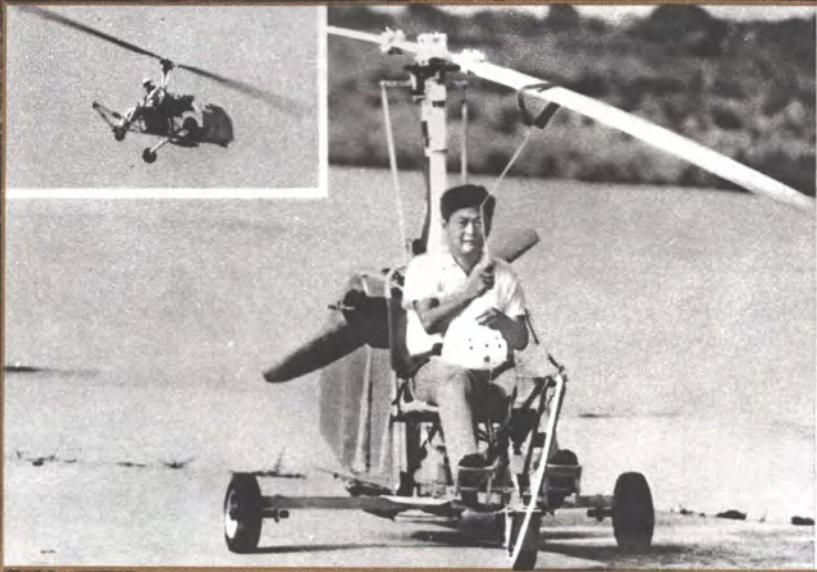
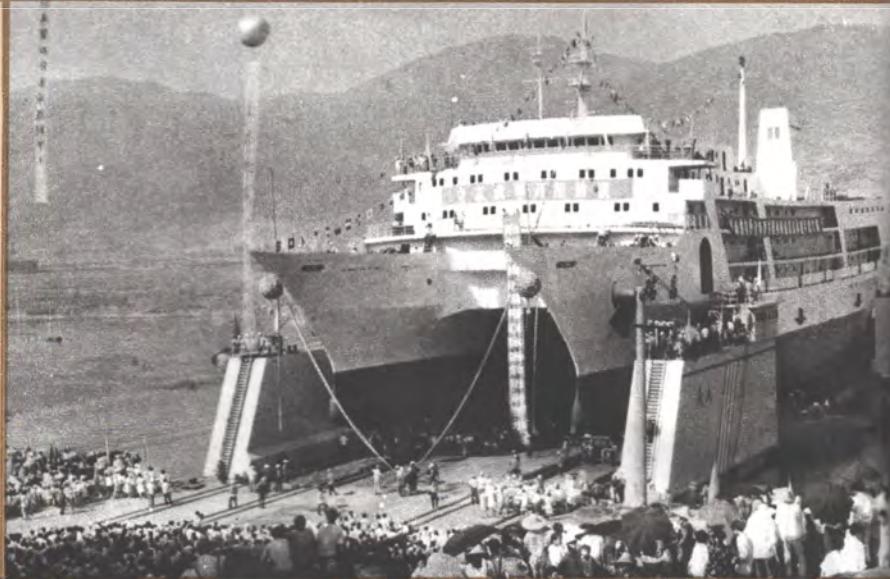
The three graceful Chinese characters in *Enjoying the Zither* were created by the painter Zhao Ji, who was Emperor Hui Zong (1082-1135) during the late Song Dynasty. This painting is undisputedly the work of Zhao Ji, and some historians assert that the zither player in the picture is Zhao Ji himself. As a young man, he deeply loved calligraphy and painting. He associated with Wang Shen, Zhao Lingrang and other artists. Zhao Ji was not only a skilled, versatile flower, bird, landscape and portrait painter, but he also appreciated art. When he ascended the throne, he recruited society's best painters to strengthen his royal academy. He advocated realism in painting, and urged painters to deeply investigate and accurately reflect life. During Zhao Ji's reign, ancient royal painting flourished with many talented and unmatched painters.

Zhao Ji left to the Chinese people a legacy of many famous works of diverse styles and themes. His masterpieces depict delicate beauty as well as plain simplicity. *Enjoying the Zither* represents his exquisite style. Although the painting contains traces of the royal court's affectations, the realistic style and the lifelike depiction reveal Zhao Ji's talent and the qualities of Song Dynasty painting.

*Enjoying the Zither* by Zhao Ji (Song Dynasty), silk scroll, 147.2 × 51.3 cm (in the Palace Museum collection).



## News in Brief



### Religion ▲ Buddhist Relics Returned to China

A skull fragment of Great Master Xuan Zang (602-664), an eminent monk in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), was brought to China from Japan last October by a Japanese delegation from the Faxiang Buddhist School. The relic was venerated by Chinese and Japanese monks in the Xingjiao Temple of Xi'an, the tomb of Xuan Zang.

Great Master Xuan Zang went to India in search of Buddhist scriptures in 629 and later became the father of the Faxiang School (one of the Buddhist schools in China). After his death, Xuan's skull was divided into six parts, one of which went to Japan.

### Transportation ► Extra-Length Bus

Made by the Shenyang Bus Company, this double-twist bus with a length of 22.4 meters can carry more than 300 passengers.



### Stationery ◀ A Huge Writing Brush

A huge writing brush made by the Beijing Pen Factory attracted visitors at the National Exhibition of the Four Treasures of the Study. Displayed were writing brushes, ink sticks, ink slabs and paper. The brush weighs about 40 kilograms when filled with ink, while its dry weight is 23 kilograms. The rod of the 2.9-meter-long brush is six centimeters in diameter, and the tip is 61 centimeters in length. Pictured is 67-year-old calligrapher Yang Xuanting using the brush to write the Chinese pictographic character for mountain.

## Shipbuilding

### ◀ China's First Twin-Hull Passenger Ship

Designed and made by the Jiangzhou Shipbuilding Factory in Ruichang County, Jiangxi Province, China's first twin-hull passenger ship was launched on August 30, 1984. Named the *Ruichang*, the 1,500-seat inshore passenger ship features modern equipment.



## Aviation

### ◀ Extra-Light, Rotary-Wing Aircraft

Assembled by the Jinzhou Extra-Light Helicopter Company in Liaoning Province, the first extra-light, rotary-wing aircraft in China succeeded in its test flights. Weighing about 100 kilograms, the aircraft has a carrying capacity of 150 kilograms and can take off vertically. The new plane will be used for aerial photography, crop-dusting, spotting forest fires and traffic inspection.

## Sports

### ▼ A Child Chess Player

Hou Dongming, a four-year-old chess player from Wushan County, Gansu Province, played more than 100 matches with amateurs last August in Lanzhou. After winning most of the games, he received great attention in chess circles. When Hou was three years old, he watched his elders play chess and became interested in the game. He often pondered chess techniques when he was alone.

Within half a year, he quickly progressed under the guidance of an expert chess player. Pictured is Qian Hongfa, a chess master in Gansu Province, coaching Hou Dongming.



## Innovations in the Countryside

### ▲ Brothers Open Plowing Service

In 1981, young farmer Zheng Liupei and his three brothers in Zijin County, Guangdong Province, collected 4,600 yuan to buy three tractors and opened a plowing service. The brothers plow fields for the local peasants during farming season and offer transportation services during the off-season. So far, they have earned 43,750 yuan. The convenient service is welcomed by families short of labor or animal power.



## Music

### ▲ Taiwan Violinist in Beijing

Chen Lilun, 19-year-old Taiwan violinist, performed in concert with China's Central Philharmonic Orchestra last August. He won the top prize in the youth division of the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition in 1983.

## Drama

### ◀ Beijing Opera Amateurs Perform in the Capital

Late last October, Beijing Opera performances were staged in China's capital to celebrate the 90th birthday of the well-known Beijing Opera master Mei Lanfang (1894-1961). Amateurs from the Mei Beijing Opera School presented exquisite performances. Participants included US artists Shen Huiqin from Los Angeles and Jia Lini from New York, along with Lu Kaizhang from Hongkong. Pictured is Jia Lini (left) and the famous actor Yuan Shihai playing the main roles in *The Brave King Parts with His Favorite*—a popular ancient Chinese drama.

# San Marino



Croplands crisscrossed by paths.



One of the three ancient castles topping Mount Titano.



A flower market in San Marino.



Women workers decorate porcelain wares.



**K**NOWN as the country within a country, entirely surrounded by Italy, San Marino nestles in the Apennine Mountains on the northern Italian peninsula. San Marino, with a population of only 22,000 and an area of only 61 square kilometers, is the smallest republic in the world.

Founded in 301 AD, San Marino has a long history. Traditional stories tell that a stonemason named Marinus from the island of Rab in the Adriatic established the tiny republic on Mount Titano. To commemorate the founder, the country and its capital were both named San Marino.

Mount Titano, a 756-meter-high solitary peak, is the cradle of the country. The hillsides are dotted with buildings and crisscrossed by roads. Viewed from afar, the hill topped by three ancient castles looks like a royal crown crested by three plumes. The three castles symbolize the republic, its beliefs and its freedom. From the summit of Mount Titano, the small territory presents an enchanting landscape of croplands checkered by roads and paths.

San Marino is a popular excursion spot for visitors from all over the world. Its climate is marked by snows in winter



and cool, refreshing air in summer. Flowers abound in spring and autumn. San Marino, the capital city resting on Mount Titano, has 5,000 residents. Churches, museums, hotels, restaurants and shops line the streets, attracting three million sightseers every year. Fifty percent of the state revenue comes from the tourist trade. The flourishing tourism has promoted a handicrafts industry. The shops feature a wide assortment of stamps, gold and silver ornaments, pottery, porcelain and wooden articles.

No individual leader heads the government of San Marino. Executive power rests with the council of state, composed of 10 members and two regents. The regents are elected from the 60-member legislative body, the grand council. In addition, two secretaries administer the domestic and foreign matters of the republic. The regents serve half-year terms and can not be reelected. At ceremonies on April 1 and October 1 each year, outgoing regents transfer power to the newly elected leaders. Former regents resume their lives as ordinary citizens and enjoy no special privileges. Many citizens of San Marino once served as regents.

The young people



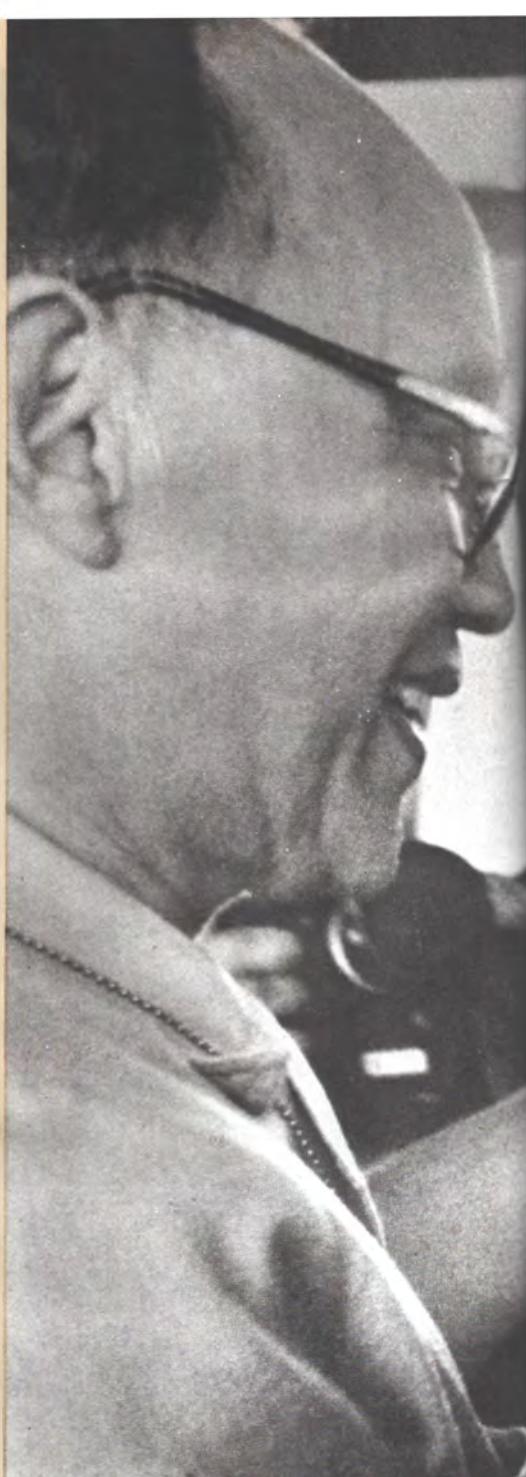
Students attending class at a local high school. The graduates are accepted by Italian colleges and universities.



The gold medal Xu won in the free pistol event.

Acknowledging the cheers as China's five-star flag is hoisted at the awards ceremony.

Sports reporters vying with each other to interview Xu Haifeng after he captured the first gold medal at the 23rd Olympic Games in Los Angeles.



## China's First Olympic Gold Medalist

CHINA'S first Olympic gold medal ever, and the first gold medal awarded at the 23rd Olympic Games in Los Angeles, was captured by marksman Xu Haifeng last July. His victory ended China's Olympic losing streak. People praised Xu as the nation's first Olympic champion, but only a few knew the rough road he travelled on the way to glory.

On August 1, 1957, Xu Haifeng was born at an army hospital on the coast of Fujian Province. His father, Xu Yinzhi, joined the People's Liberation Army in 1943 and was a battery commander. As a child growing up in the army barracks, Xu Haifeng loved slingshot shooting and dreamed of becoming a PLA soldier just like his father.

Later, Xu Haifeng returned with his parents to their native home in Anhui Province. While attending middle school in Hexian County, he twice applied to join the army. He was rejected both times because of his age. He graduated from senior high school in 1975, a time of turmoil in China during the cultural revolution, and was sent to work in the countryside. With the government allowance he saved over three years, he bought a Guangzhou-made air rifle. He practiced diligently and became a good shot.

Wang Zhenze was a coach of a prefectural shooting team in Anhui Province. In the spring of 1979, he recommended Xu Haifeng to Wu Wenxiang, the team leader, who took the young man in as an informal team member without a qualifying test. Wu also let Xu shoot a pistol instead of a rifle. The team leader's decision



Xu Haifeng poses with his former coach Wang Zhenze (left) and his former team leader Wu Wenxiang.

proved to be a vital step for the young shooter on his way to winning the Olympic gold medal. After two months of intensive training, Xu Haifeng placed first in one event and runner-up in another at the fourth Anhui provincial sports meet.

Unfortunately, Xu was not allowed to join the provincial shooting team, and he returned home to work as a clerk in the collectively-run Xinqiao Shop. He continued target practice in his spare time. At the fifth provincial sports meet held in the autumn of 1982, Xu used a Chinese-made pistol costing only 60 yuan and defeated competitors equipped with imported guns worth several thousand yuan. The next spring, he won the free pistol event and broke the national record at the east China regional shooting competitions. He continued to triumph in contests

both at home and abroad, although he was still not a formal member of the provincial team. After many years of repeated frustrations, Xu cultivated a strong will which benefited him on the shooting range.

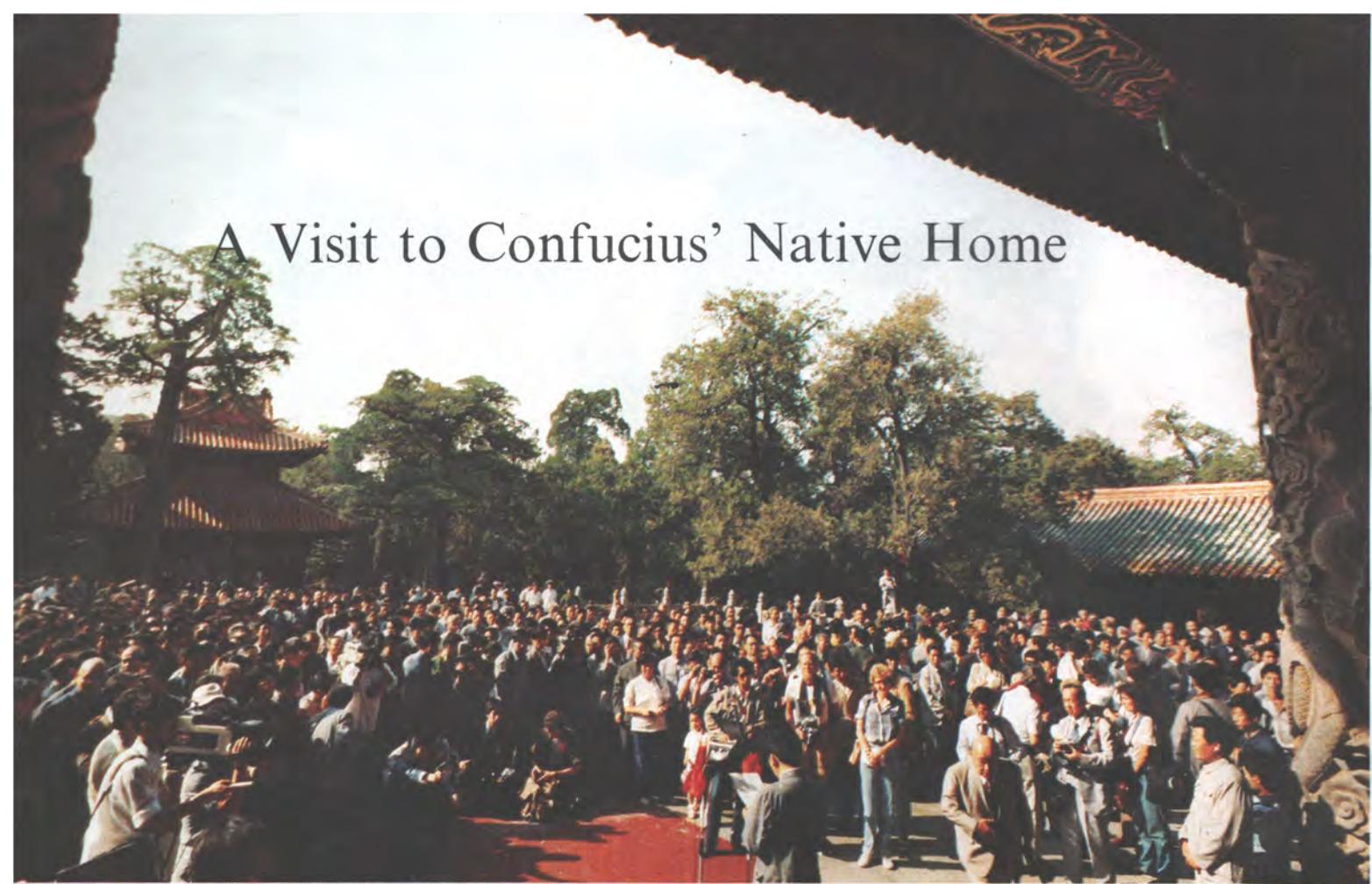
When the final round of shooting competition began at the 23rd Olympiad, sports fans in Xu Haifeng's hometown gathered around TV sets to watch. As Xu shook his head in disappointment after firing a bad shot, they heaved sighs of anxiety. "Don't worry," Coach Wang Zhenze calmly stated, "Haifeng has great self-control, and he'll surely shoot better." For the final shot, Xu spent five minutes taking aim. Four times he held up the pistol and put it down before releasing the trigger. His last shot hit its mark, and he outscored his opponents by one point to seize the Olympic gold medal.



Xu had this photo taken with his friend in 1978 after buying an air rifle with the money he saved over three years.



# A Visit to Confucius' Native Home



On September 22, 1984 (the 27th day of the eighth lunar month), the 2,535th anniversary of Confucius' birth, a ceremony unveiling a new statue of Confucius was held in Qufu.

The new image was modeled after a 1729 statue. The new sculpture features a more lively facial expression.



VISITORS toured the native home of Confucius (551-479 BC) in Qufu, Shandong Province, for the first time on September 22, 1984, the day the sage was born 2,535 years ago.

Early that morning, 400 gaily-dressed Young Pioneers assembled before the Voice of Gold and Jade Arch in front of the Confucian Temple's Da Cheng Hall, site of a ceremony to unveil a new statue of the scholar. As the band played welcoming music, the boys and girls began to sing and dance, waving bouquets to greet guests from Japan, the US, England, France, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as other parts of China.

Amid melodious ancient music, the door of the hall opened and the curtain rose slowly to reveal the newly-restored image of Confucius. Magnificently crowned and robed, and holding a jade tablet, the great teacher is depicted seated in state. The statue portrays Confucius, his eyes bright and piercing and his face eloquent with expression, as he lectures to his disciples. Sixteen scholarly figures lining both sides of the sculpture listen attentively to his instructions. Ancient musical instruments, bells, drums and chimes, decorate the shrine and hark back to the days when "disciples studied as Confucius sang, plucking his instrument."

After the ceremony, the guests viewed Confucius' bed chamber and the Hall of Holy Relics where two paintings attributed to Wu Daozi, master painter of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), show Confucius in official and ordinary dress. In addition, a series of 120 pictures by an unknown artist portrays the



Touring Confucius' garden in a carriage.

arduous life of the great sage. One of these, *Tyranny Is Fiercer Than the Tiger*, reflects Confucius' kindheartedness toward victimized women.

Confucius' residence rests just a few paces from the Dong Hua Gate. Escorted by reporters, Kong Demao, sister of Kong Decheng and a 77th-generation descendant of Confucius, accompanied Japanese friends from Ashikaga as they pored over exhibits. In Ashikaga, a temple is devoted to the worship of Confucius, and every election campaign is preceded by a visit to the Confucian Temple. On the eve of Confucius' 2,535th birthday, the Japanese city formed a friendship tie with Jining, the administrative city over Qufu. The visitors strolled through the palatial building filled with nine rows of courtyards and 463 structures. The guests admired the Shang and Zhou bronzes, official regalia, paintings, calligraphies and jewelry from successive dynasties. In the nuptial chamber where her brother Kong Decheng was married, Kong Demao entertained the audience with a detailed description of the ceremony.

In the quiet back garden, tall trees shaded visitors from the afternoon sun as they travelled along the cypress-lined holy path riding in double shafted, painted and canopied carriages, replicas of the originals used 2,500 years ago. The tinkle of bells and the clip-clop of hooves evoked the image of travel-weary Confucius, trudging from state to state to counsel benevolent governments. The tomb of Confucius lies, among huge tablets, in the center of the garden; to the east rests the grave of his son Kong Li, and to the south, his grandson Kong Ji is buried.

In the evening, notes of ancient classical music floated over Confucius' residence as bells and chimes sounded along with drums and flutes in the spacious courtyard. Amid leisurely rhythms, in a solemn and mysterious atmosphere, teachers and students from the department of art at Qufu Normal College performed ancient ritual songs and dances. *Adieu, My Native Land* expresses Confucius' indignations over the King of Lu's indulgence in pleasure to the neglect of state affairs. *Joy of Guests Dance* reproduced the extravagance of the Lu court. The soiree ended with an instrumental piece singing the praises of the

mountains and rivers of Qufu, keeping alive the memory of the past and looking forward to the future. The last movement, "The Spring Sunshine of Jueli," features the line, "Will a blade of grass ever repay the sun's great warmth!"

Confucius, the great thinker and educator who edited and compiled ancient classics and made great contributions to the advancement of China's civilization, will always remain dear in the memory of the Chinese people. A tour of Confucius' native home will be sponsored every year in Qufu for those who wish to refresh the sacred memory of the great sage.

A court dance of the Lu state.



Performing ritual songs and dances of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

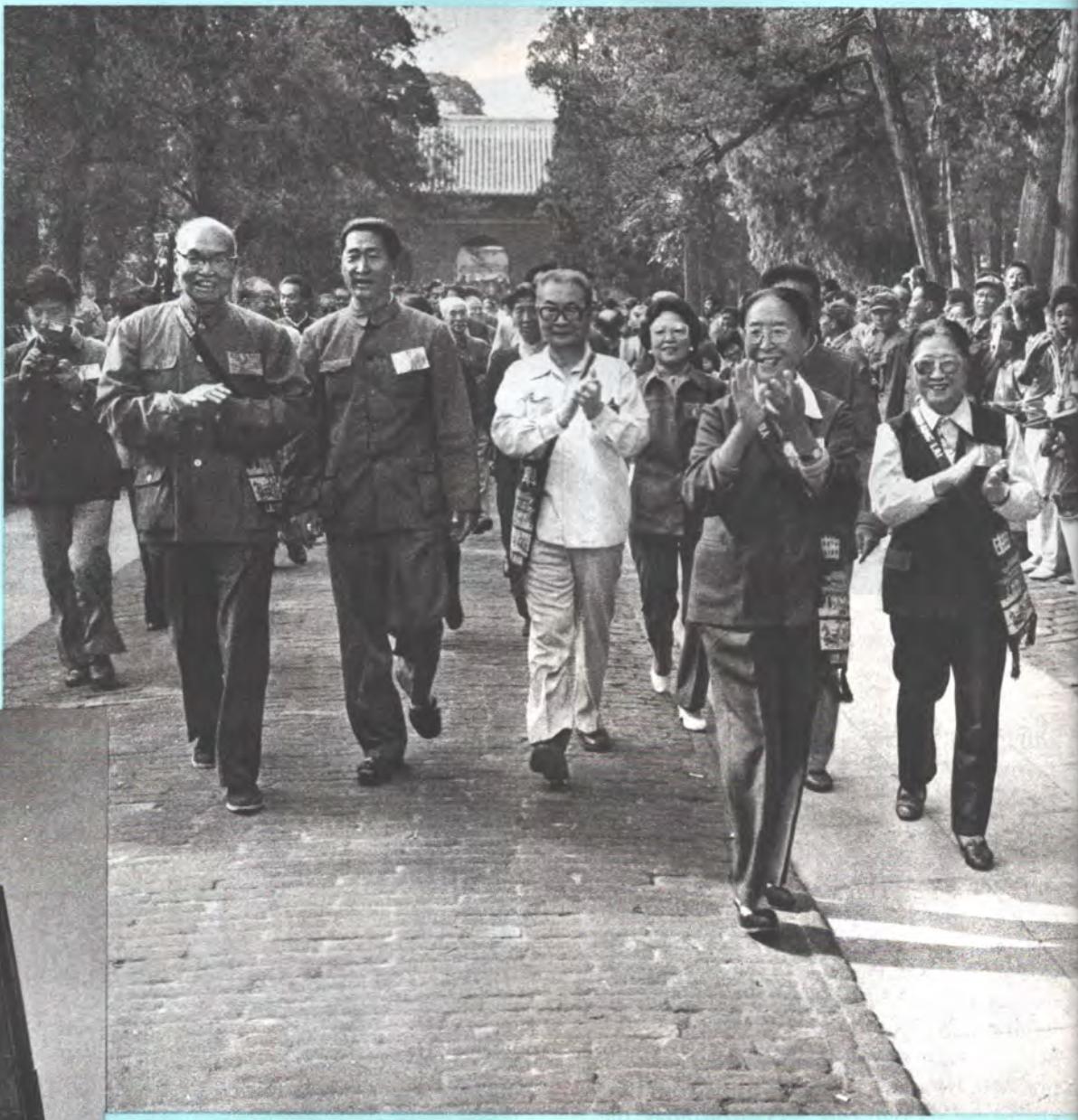


# Kong Demao in Qufu

LAST September, Kong Demao, a 77th-generation descendant of Confucius (551-479 BC) and a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, returned to Qufu in Shandong Province to participate in a forum on Confucius' educational thought and to tour Confucius' native home.

Confucius, the preeminent educator and thinker of ancient China, was born in Qufu more than 2,500 years ago. Since then, his descendants have lived there from generation to generation. Kong Demao spent 17 years of her early life in the Confucian mansion. She last visited Qufu in 1936 to attend the wedding ceremony of her younger brother Kong Decheng.

Kong Demao and her daughter in front of an image of Kong Demao's mother.



Kong Demao (2nd from the left) with two other descendants of Confucius, Kong Lingren (far left), vice-chairman of the Shandong Provincial PPCC, and Kong Xiangjing (3rd from the right), member of the Jining Municipal PPCC. Liu Changhou (2nd from the right) is a member of the Qufu County PPCC.



Kong Demao and other guests were warmly welcomed at the unveiling of the restored statue of Confucius in Da Cheng Hall.



Kong Demao pays respects to Confucius' tomb with her daughter and son.



Kong Demao introduced the mansion to Japanese friends from Ashikaga, which formed a friendship tie last September with the city of Jining where Qufu is located.



Confucius and his ideas were attacked during the cultural revolution, and many of the structures and relics at the Confucian homesite were damaged or destroyed. The unveiling of a restored statue of Confucius took place in Da Cheng Hall in the Confucian Temple on the morning of September 22, 1984. The hall looked more resplendent after recent renovations. In the center stood the sculpture of Confucius, flanked by 16 disciples. On display were a shrine with tablets and scrolls and an altar holding ritual wares and musical instruments in their former order and splendor. "The restoration of Confucius' statue and the discussion of his thoughts in his native home by scholars and specialists from all over the country are downright abnegations of the cultural revolution," said Kong Demao.

In Qufu, Kong Demao was given a cordial welcome by the local people and administration. She met other descendants from other parts of the country as well as some former servants from the Confucian residence. Kong Demao was reunited with two childhood playmates, Liu Chenghou, a former page in the study, and Zhang Peiying, daughter of Kong Demao's wet nurse. They rambled through the mansion, reliving the experiences of their youth.

Kong Demao speaking at the forum on Confucian educational thought.

The fish pelargonium planted by Kong Demao in front of the mansion has grown up.

Kong Demao paid respects to Confucius' and her father's tombs in the back garden with her son and daughter. They also visited Nishan, Confucius' birthplace, some 30 kilometers from the county seat, and the cave where the great sage lived immediately after his birth.

During her stay in Qufu, Kong Demao returned again and again to see the rear part of the mansion where she had grown up. Things remained as they had been when she lived there. Emotions welled up inside Kong Demao as she viewed her mother's image and her father's and younger brother's calligraphies. Kong Demao had an elder sister and a younger brother. They all lived and grew up together. After the death of her parents and elder sister, her brother Kong Decheng became her only blood relative. After Kong Demao was married and left their house, Kong Decheng often wrote poems to express his memories of his sister. In 1948, Kong Decheng met his sister in Nanjing and then departed for Taiwan. Since then, for 36 years, the brother and sister have not seen each other. Now advanced in age, Kong Demao longs to see her brother and looks forward to the day when they will be reunited and return together to their native home to worship their ancestors.

# Takins in China

Calf of the black Bhutan takin, which inhabits the Himalayas in Tibet.



Fir bark, bryophytes and lichens are the major foods of the golden takin in winter.

A path trod by takins feeding on bamboo leaves.





The habitat of golden takins in the Qinling Mountains.

A campsite for studying takins established by China's Northwest Near-Extinct Animal Research Institute. The researchers have studied takins for 10 years.

The yellow-brown Sichuan takin lives only in Sichuan and Gansu provinces.

The golden takin with white or golden hair is found only in the coniferous and broadleaf forests of Shaanxi Province.



## Takins in China

THE takin is one of three rare species of animals (with the panda and the golden monkey) living in China's mountain forests. Classified between the sheep and the ox, the takin is an endangered species. To protect this animal, China has rated the takin as a principal animal for protection and has set up 10 nature preserves in Sichuan and Shaanxi provinces. Weighing from 200 to 300 kilograms, the takin is comparable in size to the yak or the Yunnan buffalo. The takin is about two meters long with a sheep-like figure, a short tail, a large, broad face and a long beard hanging from the lower jaw.

Found only in Asia, the takin has four subspecies: the Bhutan takin in the Himalayas; the Mishmi takin in India, Burma and China's Yunnan Province; the Sichuan takin; and the golden takin in the Qinling Mountains. Only a few hundred of each type remain, mostly in China. The Sichuan takin and the golden takin are found only in China. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources has named the golden takin as one of the world's rare animals to be preserved.

The Chinese people have given the takin vivid folk names. It is called "golden takin," "white sheep" or "spiral-horn sheep" in the Qinling Mountains and "group ox" or "salt-eating animal" in west Sichuan. These names reflect the takin's shape, food and living environment.

The takin lives among coniferous and broadleaf forests and alpine meadows at elevations of 1,500 to 4,500 meters above sea level. In winter, it ranges slightly lower for food. The male takin often lives independently. August and September are the takin's mating months, and one or two calves per litter are born in February and March. Within one year, the calves grow to 50 or 60 kilograms, reaching sexual maturity after three years. In summer, the takin feeds on 40 varieties of grasses. In winter, it eats mainly bamboo leaves or fir bark and often licks rock salt in winter caves or from the saline-alkali soil.

The takin, along with the musk ox which is only found in North America, is an ancient ungulate classified between the ox and the sheep. The takin's origins, evolution and relationship to other species are interesting subjects for biological research.

Adult takins usually measure two meters long and weigh 200 to 300 kilograms. August and September are the mating months. Pictured is a mating scene.



## Pleurotus Sajor-Caju

In recent years, a new variety of edible mushroom the *Pleurotus sajor-caju* has been widely grown in China. About 500 varieties of wild edible fungi exist, but only a dozen types can be bred artificially, such as *Agaricus brumescens* (common cultivated mushroom), *Lentinus edodes* (straw mushroom), *Volvariella volvacea* sing, *Pleurotus ostreatus* (oyster mushroom), *Hydnellum erinaceum* (hedgehog fungus), tremella and *Flammulin velutipes*.

The *Pleurotus sajor-caju* belongs to the phylum Eumycophyta (true fungi) of the Agaricales. The mushroom is delicious and contains eight kinds of amino acids with a high quantity of protein, vitamins, sugar and minerals. In 1974, an Indian scholar C.L. Jandaik collected the *Pleurotus sajor-caju* from a tree in the southern Himalayas and grew the fungus using the tissue-dividing method. The output was low when the *Pleurotus sajor-caju* was first cultivated.

Now, the *Pleurotus sajor-caju* is grown in India, Thailand, Singapore, Australia and Hongkong. China's Fujian Provincial Science Academy of Agriculture introduced this species in 1980. Now, China leads the world in the output of the *Pleurotus sajor-caju*. It is raised in 28 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan, Yunnan, Liaoning and Jilin provinces and Beijing municipality grow the *Pleurotus sajor-caju* over large areas.



The stage when the mushrooms grow out of the base is called "the coral period."

The *Pleurotus sajor-caju* grows on a base made from ears of maize.



Water must be sprayed at the appropriate time during the cultivation period to maintain ideal humidity.



An outdoor mushroom bed in the countryside of Fujian Province.



Peasants on the outskirts of Beijing make bases for growing mushrooms. Cottonseed hulls are the best fertilizer for cultivating the *Pleurotus sajor-caju*.

## Ginkgo Trees in Taixing

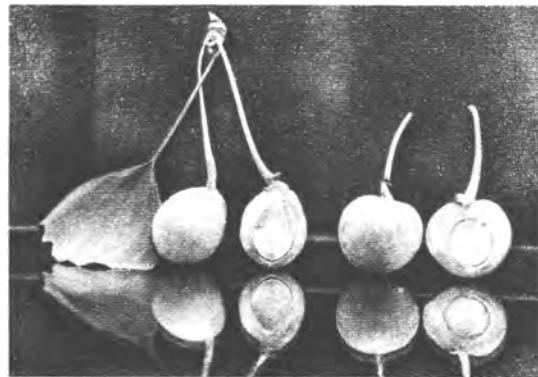
**A**MONG the famous near-extinct plants and animals, the ginkgo tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) together with the giant panda and the dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), which survive only in China, and the redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), which only grows in the United States, have existed in the world for almost 200 million years. These species along with a great variety of other organisms once flourished over a wide range during the early geological ages. Later, their populations drastically declined, living on the brink of extinction in a few separate areas.

The ginkgo, the sole survivor of the *Ginkgo* genus of the Ginkgoaceae family, is a deciduous, dioecious tree with a tall, thick trunk. The wild ginkgo tree usually grows on the flat ground at the foot of mountains. The ginkgo acquired a Chinese name meaning silver apricot because the fruits resemble apricots dusted with white flour. Oval in shape and with a thin, hard and white shell, the fruit is known as *baiguo* in Chinese, meaning white fruit.

From the stock cultivation to fruition, the ginkgo tree requires 20-30 years to grow. The wild ginkgo tree needs even more years to reach the fruiting age. For this reason, the tree is popularly called the "grandfather-and-grandson tree" in China. This folk name suggests that the grandfather plants the tree and the grandson picks the fruit.

The ginkgo tree can live for many years. In China, there are many ginkgo trees several hundred or even 1,000 years old. From northeast China to Guangdong and Guangxi in south China, the wild ginkgo trees range as widely as other fruit trees. However, the ginkgo tree is only planted over a large area in Taixing and Zhenze counties of Jiangsu Province, Xiaoxian County of Anhui

The female ginkgo tree yields more fruit after artificial pollination.



Ginkgo trees are divided into a number of varieties. Pictured are two varieties: Dafuzi and Jiangyan (left).



An age-old ginkgo tree in the Taixing countryside.

Province and Zhuji County of Zhejiang Province.

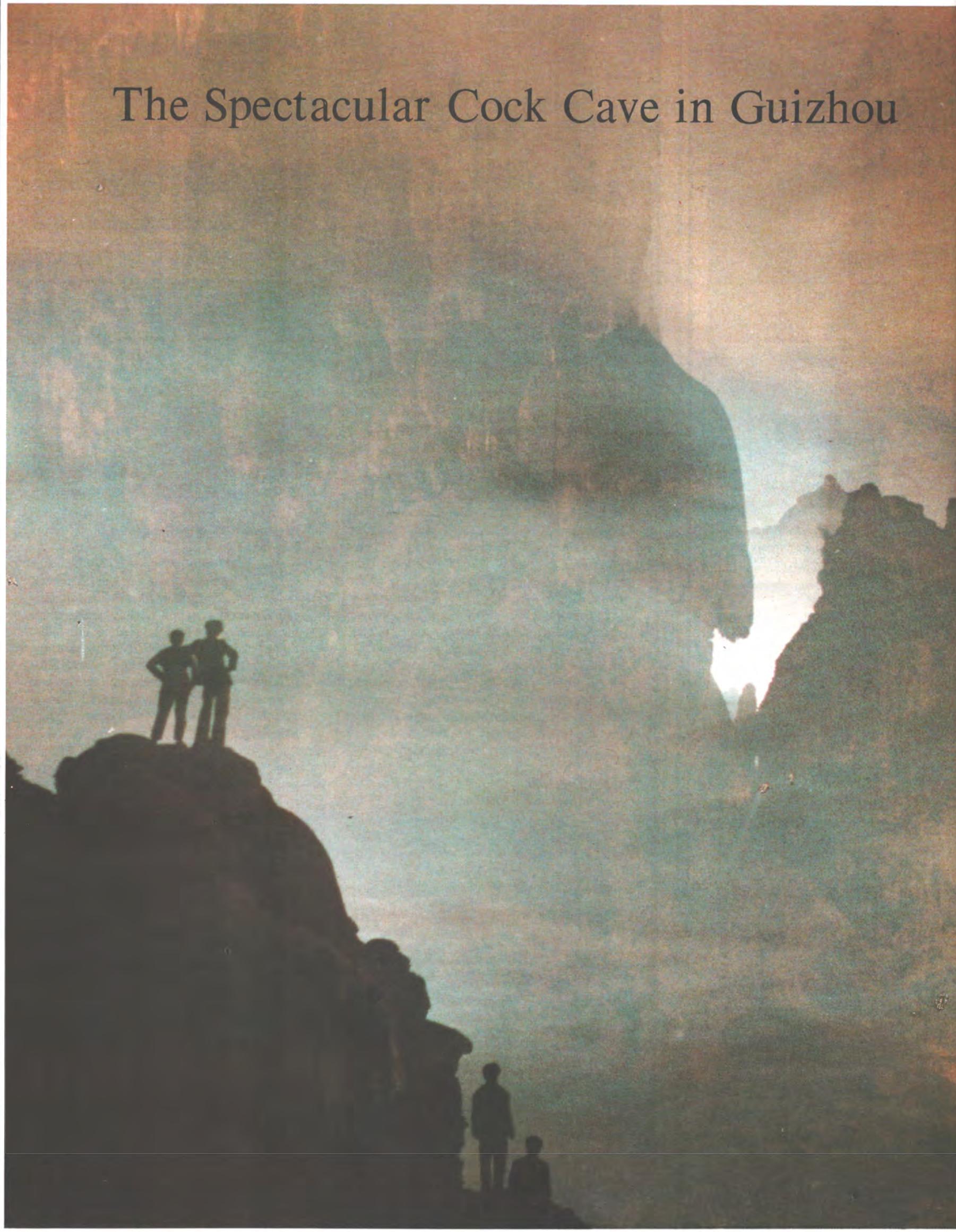
The seed of the ginkgo tree is edible when roasted. The meat inside the shell is tender, refreshing and aromatic; however, overeating can cause poisoning. The fruit skin contains tannin extract, which is used to tan hides. Light yellow in color with a close grain, the ginkgo tree's wood is a fine material for building, furniture making, wood carving and other handicrafts. The seed can be used in traditional Chinese medicine to reduce phlegm, asthma and coughing.

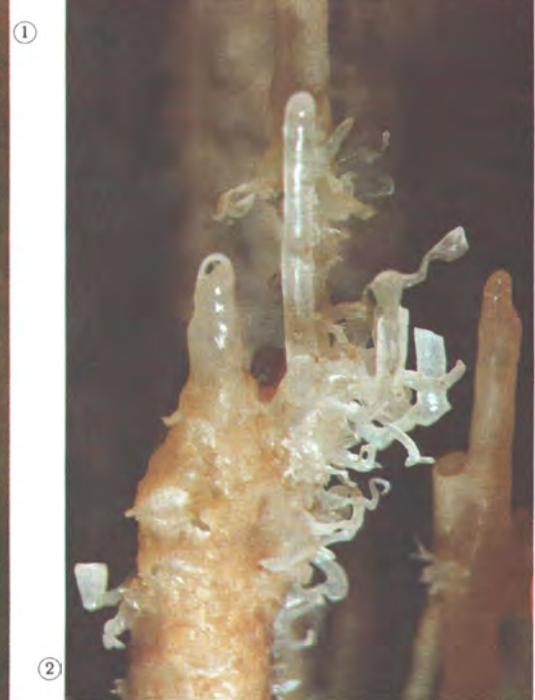
Taixing County boasts 50,000 ginkgo trees. The largest, over two meters in diameter with an umbrella-shaped top, is estimated to be 1,000 years old. Most of the 60,000 fruiting trees are between 80 and 90 years old. In recent years, the local peasants planted more trees and improved grove management. The county yields 1,500 tons of ginkgo seeds annually.

A Taixing carpenter creates carved ginkgo furniture.



# The Spectacular Cock Cave in Guizhou





① A 60-meter-tall cavern within the Cock Cave.

② The "curling stone." Anchored to a stalactite, the thin-walled, water-filled center curls upward. World cave researchers have studied its formation.

③ The spectacular world of the cave.

④ A "silver tree" formed of transparent crystals.

**I**N the southwestern province of Guizhou, carbonatite is widely distributed, with outcrops accounting for 70 percent of the total area of the province and one-quarter of the subtropical karst area of the world.

The recently-discovered Cock Cave is located in the 1,300-meter-high Zhijin mountain pass in Zhijin County, about 150 kilometers from the provincial capital Guiyang. Scheduled to be open to visitors this spring, the karst area features eight scenic zones, including the Curling Cave and the Stone Bamboo Garden, extending seven *li* and covering an area of 350,000 square meters. Developed over a number of stages, the accumulations encompass all the principal forms of karst landscapes in the world. The tallest cave is 150 meters high and 173 meters at its widest, and is filled with stalagmites, pinnacles, carved stone screens, geysers and misty underground lakes.

The discovery of the Cock Cave represents the new achievements of Guizhou karst researchers over many years. Apart from its scientific value, the cave also forms a fascinating scenic zone together with other karst caverns, waterfalls and extensive growths of azaleas. Under the unified plan of the Guizhou Tourism and Resources Planning and Leading Group, the Guizhou Karst Research Center and the Guizhou Photography Center, the Cock Cave will unveil its mysteries to Chinese and world visitors this spring.



The 19-meter-high  
“golden rooster.”

The “despot’s helmet,”  
formed by carbonate wa-  
ter dripping on the drop-  
stone, reveals the phases  
of growth in karst caves.

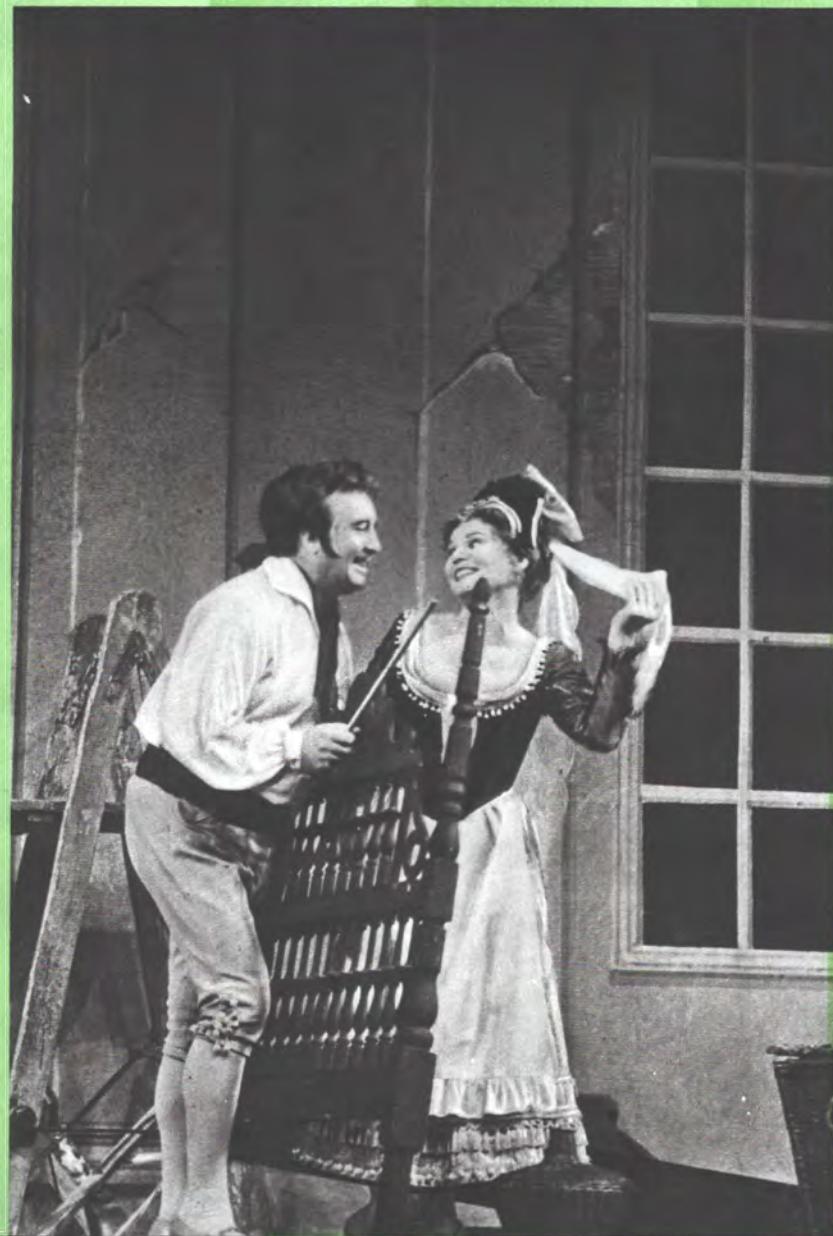
A street in the Capital of Heaven Cave.



# Bavarian National Opera Artists in China

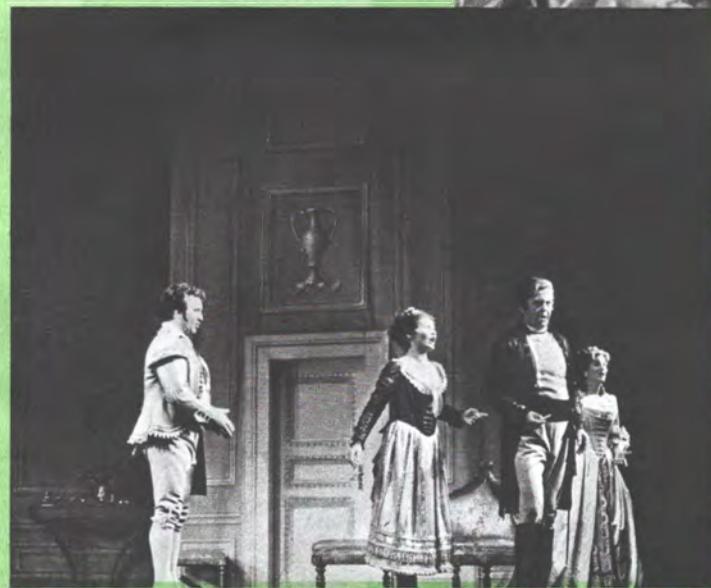
ARTISTS from the Federal Republic of Germany's Bavarian National Opera House entertained Chinese audiences last autumn in Beijing's Tianqiao Theater. They performed *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Magic Flute*, two famous operas composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Figaro, the comic servant in *The Marriage of Figaro*, is a familiar character to Chinese audiences. In the French play by Beaumarchais, *Le Mariage de Figaro*, Figaro was a clever, confident and decisive character who sharply satirized the foolish Count. Representing the capitalists in France's 18th century revolution, Figaro fiercely attacked decadent feudalism. Napoleon Bonaparte once said that *The Marriage of Figaro* was a revolution that went into action. In adapting the play into an opera, Mozart expressed a strong sense of right and wrong and of love and hate.



Figaro assures his lover, Susanna, that he can deal with their vicious master, the Count (from *The Marriage of Figaro*).

After overcoming obstacles with his own unswerving will and the magic flute's help, Prince Tamino finally meets Pamina (from *The Magic Flute*).



Using their wisdom, Susanna and Figaro rid the count of his suspicions about the Countess's unfaithfulness (from *The Marriage of Figaro*).



In *The Magic Flute*, adapted from a German folk fairy tale, Mozart praised those who boldly seek happiness and expressed his beautiful belief that good will ultimately defeat evil.

The German singers successfully portrayed the strong characters of the shrewd, staunch Figaro, the charming, cunning Susanna and the fickle, despotic Count in *The Marriage of Figaro*. In *The Magic Flute*, the German artists brilliantly sang the roles of the lofty Sarastro, the Queen of the Night (representing evil), and the devoted lovers Prince Tamino and Pamina.

The world-renowned Bavarian National Opera performers gave rich and expressive interpretations of Mozart's beautiful music. Their superb artistry was enthusiastically applauded by the Chinese audiences. The cultural exchange helped strengthen the friendship between the Chinese and German people.

# Changchun



The scarlet kaffir lily is the honorary flower of Changchun.

**C**HANGCHUN, capital of Jilin Province, is conveniently located on the central Songliao plain in northeast China. Featuring railway, highway and air connections with other parts of the country, Changchun serves as an important communications hub for Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning provinces. Blessed with a pleasant climate and covered with trees, this "spring city outside the Great Wall" is one of China's 15 key economic centers. Changchun's population totals 5.8 million with 1.7 million living in the urban districts.

Changchun's industry, commerce, science, technology and culture flourish. The city's strong industrial base includes enterprises producing automobiles, tractors, railway coaches, optical instruments, electronics, foodstuffs, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, building materials, textiles and metals. There are more than 2,800 factories all over the city turning out some 3,000 types of products. The heavy trucks, tour buses, railway coaches, subway cars, tractors and optical instruments made in Changchun are renowned all over China. More than 100 products, including cotton yarn, garments, acrylic blankets, plywood, rubber and cloth shoes, potassium ferricyanide, cigarettes, rugs and canned vegetables, sell in 60 countries and enjoy quality reputations in international markets.

The alluvial Songliao plain, formed by the Songhua River flowing northeast of Changchun, ranks as one of the country's leading grain bases. Soybeans, maize, sorghum, millet, rice, red beans, sunflowers and beets grow as principal crops. Yushu, Nong'an, Dehui, Jiutai and Shuangyang, under the jurisdiction of Changchun, together with the suburban areas of Changchun, raise enormous flocks of chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits and sika deer, ingredients for Changchun's delicious cuisine. White melon seeds, honey, edible fungi, wild vegetables and medicinal herbs, as well as tonics made with ginseng, pilose antler and *Astragalus membranaceus* please customers at home and abroad.

Changchun boasts 19 institutions of higher learning, 49 polytechnic schools and 64 scientific research institutes, as well as a substantial engineering, designing and construction work force.

To speed up Changchun's economic development, the city is now open for economic cooperation with entrepreneurs, businessmen and financiers all over the world. Planned projects, totalling 180, include the production of automobiles, electronic instruments, machinery, processed foods, textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, building materials and metals. Overseas Chinese, residents of Hongkong and Macao and foreign businessmen are welcome to visit Changchun to discuss opportunities. Foreign ventures in Changchun with exclusive or joint investments will receive preferential treatment. The city will provide facilities and protect the legitimate rights and interests of the enterprises. As long as advanced technology and on-time delivery are guaranteed, Changchun will give priority to purchasing technology and equipment offered by investors in Changchun.

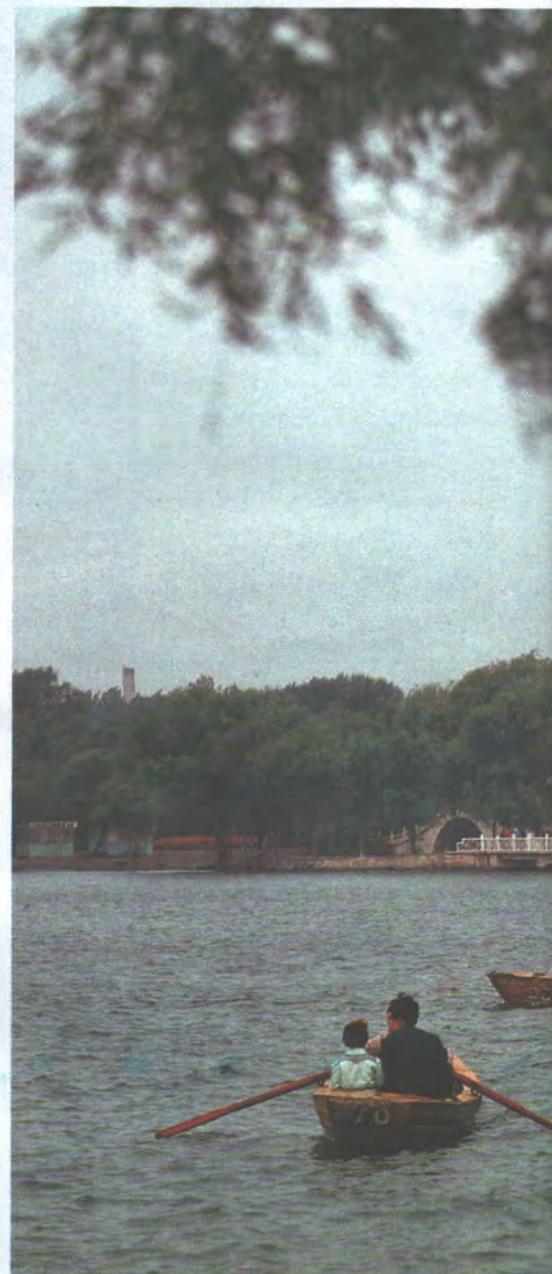
For more information, contact the Office of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, the People's Government of Changchun Municipality.

Address: 57 Stalin Street, Changchun, Jilin Province

Tels: 27964, 25325, 24142

Cable: 1903

Contacts: Liu Youxiang, Sun Chengye, Wu Yulin

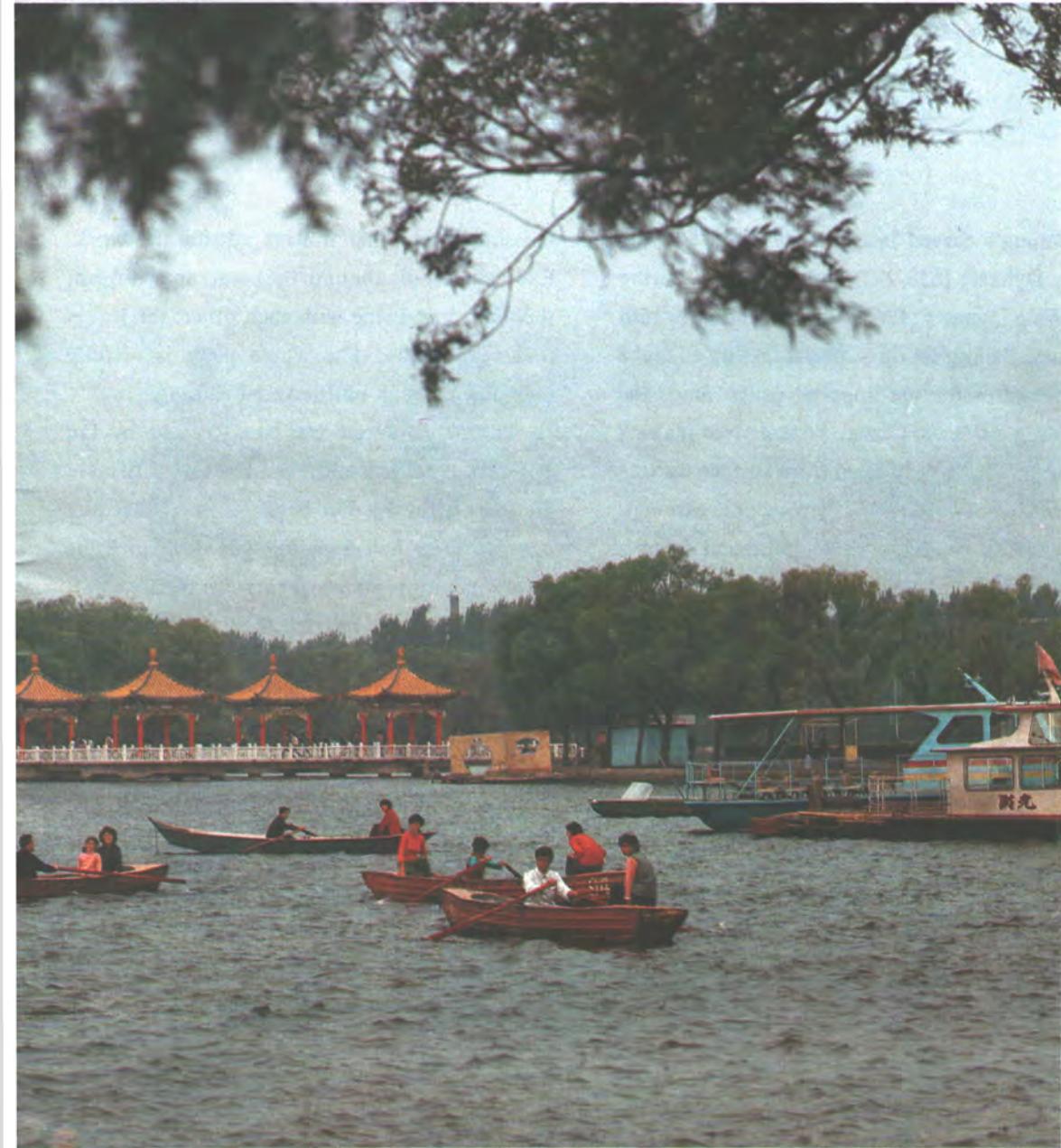


Nanhu Lake.



Prized ginseng and pilose antler candies are produced by the Laomaosheng Bakery and Confectionery.

# Opens to Foreign Investment



Liberation brand trucks manufactured by the Number One Motor Vehicle Plant.



Red ginseng wine, a famous product of the Chuncheng Distillery.



①



②



③



④

- ① Tonics containing the essence of deer tail and royal jelly are highly nourishing.
- ② Small tractors on the assembly line.
- ③ Canned food made by the Number One Bakery and Confectionery.
- ④ Rubber shoes manufactured by the Changchun Rubber Plant.



Famous craftsman Du Binchen, the creator of the flower basket tray.

CHINA is the birthplace of lacquerware. The earliest known lacquerware, with an ink-dyed exterior and a red interior, was produced during the Yao, Shun and Yu periods, 4,000 years ago. Now the oldest extant examples of lacquerware are 3,000-year-old relics of the Shang Dynasty (16th-11th centuries BC).

Carved lacquerware is made by coating wooden or bronze bases with many layers of milky sap from the lacquer tree. Sometimes tens to hundreds of layers are applied. Then, various designs are carved with sharp knives, cutting through the lacquer at a depth of several dozen millimeters. After drying and polishing, the lacquerware is shining, sturdy, durable and resistant to acid, heat, alkali and corrosion. The works feature beautiful shapes, rich decorations and graceful styles.

## Beijing's Carved Lacquerware: The Flower Basket Tray

Handicrafts



Beijing's carved lacquerware started in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and flourished during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). In the early 15th century, Beijing set up a special factory to make lacquerwares for the imperial court. Since the founding of New China, lacquerware-making techniques have developed from surface carving to relief, openworked and stereoscopic carvings. Varieties of products have multiplied from a dozen to hundreds. In recent years, artists have combined lacquer carving with jade, ivory, gold, silver and enamel carving to produce brilliant new works.

One beautiful lacquerware tray features an openworked flower basket decoration. The tray is 20 inches in diameter with 600 layers of lacquer. A bamboo basket filled with tree peonies, Chinese roses, osmanthus blooms, plum

blossoms and other flowers adorns the work. Exquisite details abound: the petals appear fresh; the twigs intertwine with each other; the leaves fold realistically. The whole piece is artfully rendered through multilayered carving.

This lacquerware tray was created by Du Binchen, a 68-year-old, well-known craftsman. At the age of 13, Du began to study lacquer carving. Over half a century, he developed the technique of openworked carving. Before creating the basket tray, he collected over 100 varieties of flowers for designs. He coated the base with two layers of lacquer each day for one year. He finished the project in another year, using the techniques of perforation, relief and stereoscopic carving. In the spring of 1984, his work won a gold medal at the Leipzig International Fair in the Democratic Republic of Germany.



## Medicinal Foods

### Angelica and Mutton Soup

With this issue, *China Pictorial* begins a new series about medicinal foods.

Medicinal foods combine Chinese cuisine with traditional Chinese medicine. The idea originated with the time-honored use of food therapy, which joins food and medicine to enhance the curative powers of both.

Based on the theories and practices of traditional Chinese medicine, medicinal foods function primarily by strengthening the human body's resistance to disease and by correcting imbalances between the organs caused by disorders. The ingredients used, therefore, are mostly foods and drugs with nourishing or recuperative effects.

Certain medicines must be prepared beforehand in order to extract the elements necessary for the recipes. However, ingredients which serve both as food and medicine involve simpler preparation.

The Editor

Listed originally in the *Jingui Collection of Prescriptions* by the preeminent Eastern Han physician Zhang Zhongjing, this remedy fortifies the body and enriches the blood. The soup is especially recommended for postpartum women suffering from blood loss during childbirth, abdominal pain or coldness in the limbs.

Makes ten small bowls.

20g angelica roots and rootlets, 20g ginger roots, 500g mutton, 15g scallions, 15g rice wine, 3g salt, 1g prickly ash, 1500g cold water.

Clean the angelica roots and cut into thin slices. Cut the rootlets into small sections and enclose the rootlet pieces in a gauze bag together with the prickly ash. Cut the ginger roots into thin slices and chop the scallions.

Wash the mutton and place it in a wok. Add cold water and cook over high heat until it boils. Skim off the froth. Scoop out the mutton, rinse and slice it into thin pieces.

Reheat the soup in the wok until it boils. Add mutton, ginger and angelica slices, scallion pieces, rice wine and the bag of prickly ash and angelica rootlets. Reduce heat and simmer until the mutton is well done. Filter out the impurities with a piece of fine gauze. Add salt and heat for a few moments.

To serve, ladle the soup and mutton into small bowls and sprinkle with ground pepper. One or two bowls are recommended for each serving. Patients running a fever or suffering from dropsy should abstain from eating this soup.

Dried angelica root, which contains volatile oil, vitamin B<sub>12</sub> and other elements, produces a tranquilizing effect and inhibits uterine contractions. Angelica root also treats blood deficiencies, abnormal or painful menstruation and rheumatism.

## Stamps

The Humble Administrator's Garden  
in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province

- ① The Tower of Reflection as seen from the Pavilion of Two-Sided Views.
- ② The Loquat Garden.
- ③ The Rippling Water Courtyard.
- ④ The Hall of Distant Fragrance and the Jade-Reclining Veranda.



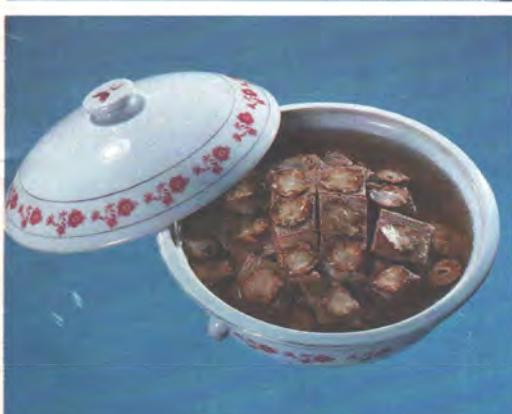
A short-legged stove (7 inches).



A pavilion stove (15 inches).



The openworked lacquer tray features a flower basket design. It measures 20 inches in diameter.



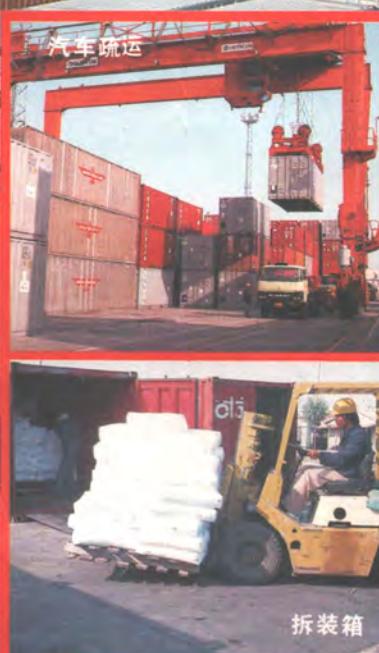
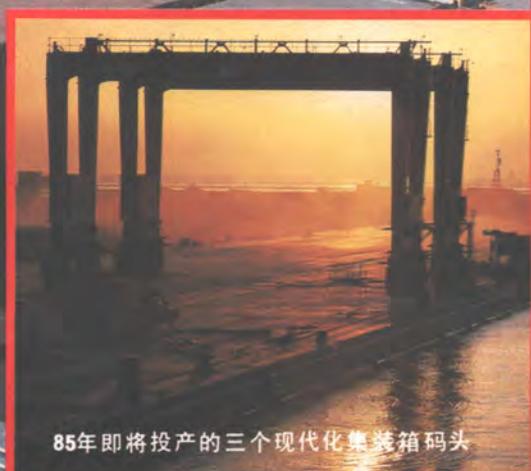
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