

China Reconstructs

中國建設

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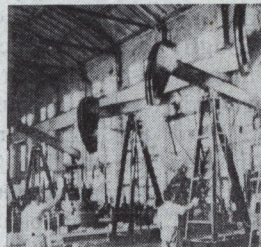
Cover Pictures

Front: Shipyard worker Wang Hongxun
Back: Bohai Offshore Drilling Platform No. 5, built by the Dalian Shipyard. Wang Hongxun

Articles of the Month

New Trends in Foreign Trade

Volume and value are up; manufactured goods are overtaking raw materials as major exports; in imports, the emphasis is on technology. A detailed look at changes in foreign trade, and the reasons for them. Page 13



A Village's 45 Years

Eminent socio-anthropologist Fei Xiaotong, visiting Kaixiangong for the third time over 45 years, uses it as a microcosm through which to view the history of ups and downs, present prosperity and future problems and prospects of the rural areas in general. Page 24



Fashion Scene in Beijing

The new fashion consciousness seems here to stay, though it has critics as well as supporters. An exploration of the deeper meanings behind style changes and attempts by the textile and clothing industries to keep up with new demands. Page 67



Chinese Shipbuilding Revives

Dalian Shipyard, its products now sold in the international market, leads the way in China's shipbuilding boom. Page 19

Ancient Weapons

Bone, stone, bronze, iron and steel — recent excavations have helped scholars trace the history of weaponry and developments in metallurgy and craftsmanship since the Stone Age. Page 58



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Beginnings, Growing Pains and Prospects

CHEN HANSHENG

FOR this the thirtieth anniversary of *China Reconstructs* I have been asked to set down some of my recollections. I will begin by explaining how the magazine was born. Before the establishment of the People's Republic of China, there was civil war between two forces — one led by the Communist Party headed by Mao Zedong and one led by Chiang Kai-shek. When the revolutionary side won and Chiang fled to the island of Taiwan, two general notions arose in the world. One was the realization that China had asserted her nationhood, and the other was pure and simple fear of communism. Among prominent Americans, to take one example, General Evans F. Carlson and Edgar Snow represented the first view, whereas official policy-makers then gave expression to the second. A similar duality of views occurred in other parts of the world.

It was to explain the realities of the new China to people abroad that Soong Ching Ling, the widow of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and a major participant in China's united government, initiated the publication of this magazine, which began as a bi-monthly in English. Premier Zhou Enlai supported this endeavor and at a dinner in March 1951 asked me to help organize a staff for this purpose. In April of that year I went to Tianjin to invite Li Boti, then a reporter for Xinhua News Agency, to come to Beijing to make the necessary preparations. Soong Ching Ling invited Israel Epstein and Elsie Fairfax-Cholmeley, who had worked with her in the China Defence League in the years of the Anti-Japanese War (1937-45), to come from New

York. They arrived at the end of July to help with the preliminaries and the actual production. By the time the first issue appeared in January 1952, several members of Madame Sun's China Welfare Institute in Shanghai were working on promotion and distribution. Before we had our own photo and art department, Gu Shuxing, a talented photographer, worked indefatigably to secure pictures and advised on layout.

I wish also to mention some members who served on our Editorial Board. It was headed by Jin Zhonghua, the then editor-in-chief of Xinwen Daily News in Shanghai. Madame Li Dequan, the then Minister of Health who was the widow of General Feng Yuxiang, Wu Yifang, the then President of Ginling Women's College in Nanjing, and Qian Duan-sheng, President of the College for Legal and Administrative Studies were active members of the Board. At the suggestion of Premier Zhou

I served as the vice-chairman. The contents of every issue of the magazine were discussed and decided by the Board.

The new bi-monthly did in fact clarify a number of misunderstandings about China current in many countries at that time. A reader in Southeast Asia wrote us, "Since the publication of *China Reconstructs*, some neutral people I know have radically changed their former wrong views of China into new ones which are favorable to China. This... is partly due... to the descriptions and information so factually given." A British reader wrote from London that he did not find us one-sided, saying, "It does you credit that you inform your readers that there has been a critic, rather than to claim that 100 percent of China's visitors were 100 percent satisfied with everything they saw."

In those years our magazine was barred from circulation in the United States. The U.S. government listed *China Reconstructs* among publications non-admissible into the country, and postal offices and customs authorities were instructed to destroy any copies that came into their hands. Furthermore the Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department stipulated that subscribers

The author with Elsie Fairfax-Cholmeley, one of the magazine's original staff members. Zhang Shuicheng



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