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COVER PICTURES:

Front: Tang Chun-yin,
model cotton grower in the
Tungting Lake area.

Inside front: Salt produced
at Kilantai Salt Lake, Ning-
sia Hui Autonomous Region.

Back: Parachuting exhibi-
tion near Peking.

Inside back: Waterfall over
Yun Pu Bridge, Mount Tai,
Shantung province.

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陈翰笙同志：

我们在组织、采访 **工人干部登月新**

稿的过程中，得到你们的热情支持和帮助，谨表示感谢。这篇稿子已发表在《中国建设》本期上。现赠送杂志 **壹** 本，请收。

希望今后不断地给我们帮助和指导。

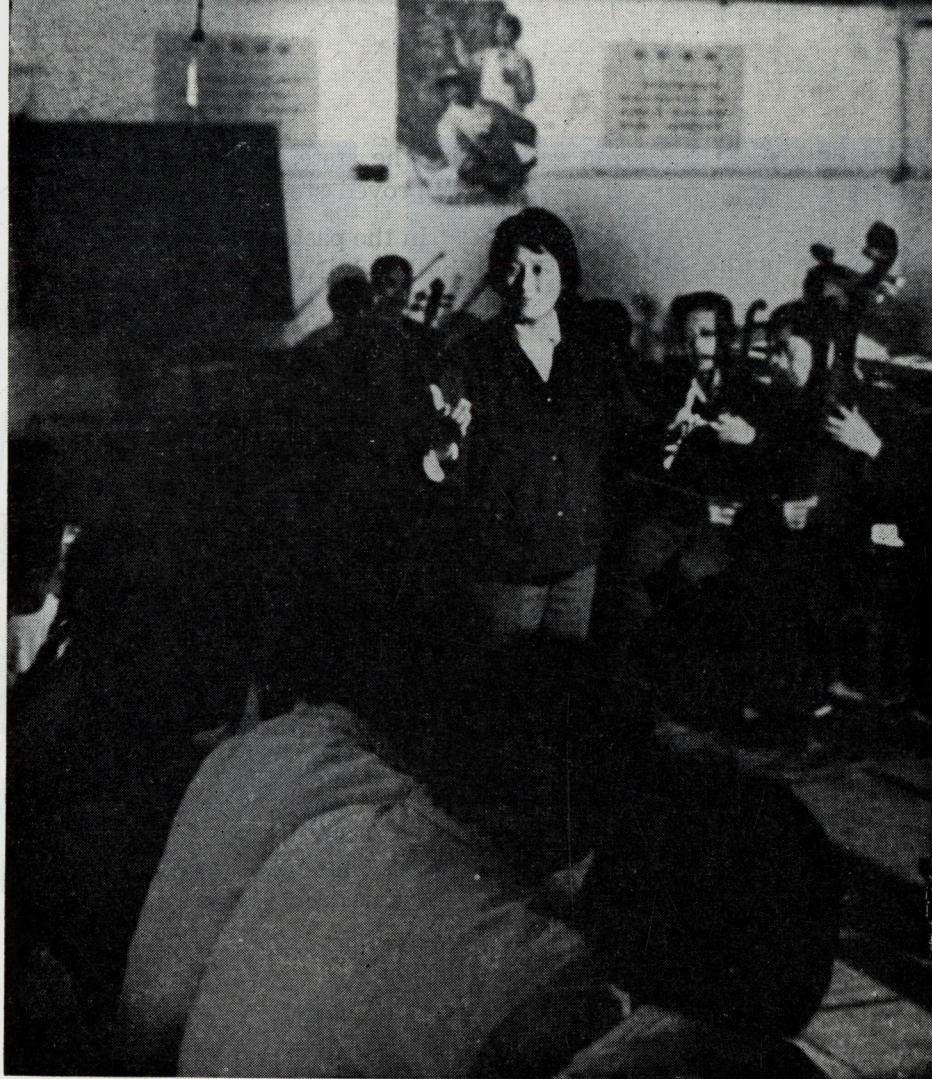
此 致

革命敬礼！

《中国建设》杂志社

业务组

一九七 **三** 年 **九** 月 **廿** 日



Sheng Yueh-hsin performs for factory workers.

Peasant Girl Now a Trade-Union Leader

CHEN HAN-SENG

Sheng Yueh-hsin (right) discusses welfare problems with a worker.



EARLY this year, when thunder brought spring rain to the city of Shanghai and camellias blossomed in its parks, I was there to spend my holidays. One evening I attended a theatrical entertainment by a factory union. I was struck by the fine performance of a woman who was, I discovered later, a trade-union leader.

She was Sheng Yueh-hsin, 32, acting the heroine in the play *Song of the Dragon River*. As Communist Party secretary of the Dragon River brigade she convinces brigade members that they should sacrifice their 3,300 *mu* of wheat so that 90,000 *mu* of drought-stricken land belonging to other brigades upriver can be saved.

A few days after the performance, I met Sheng Yueh-hsin herself.

I wondered, by what path did this daughter of a very poor peasant family become a leader, a good organizer and administrator, of part of Shanghai's working class?

It can be said there were three turning points in Sheng Yueh-hsin's life: her entrance into school at the age of nine, her becoming a worker at twenty-one, and finally her becoming a union leader about a year ago.

Yueh-hsin's family lived in the village of Lung Wang Chen east of Shanghai, working a small two-and-a-half *mu* plot of land rented from the landlord at a high rate. It was difficult to support the family, Yueh-hsin, her brother of eleven and sister of thirteen. Her father tried to find work in the city but failed, for unemployment was very high.

In 1949 when she was nine, the Chinese people liberated themselves and the imperialist lackey Chiang Kai-shek fled to the island province of Taiwan.

After the People's Liberation Army liberated Shanghai in May 1949, Yueh-hsin's father got work as a carpenter in a Shanghai shipyard. Shortly afterward he joined the army to help liberate the Ningpo district and the Choushan Islands of Chekiang province. When this was accomplished, he

went back to work in the shipyard. Last year he retired at 60 with a pension of 58 yuan a month. It was in his army days that he came to understand the importance of education and decided to send Yueh-hsin to school. The improvement in the family's financial situation was a second factor. In the land reform in 1950 Yueh-hsin's father received the two-and-a-half *mu* they had rented from the landlord, and they no longer had to pay rent.

After Yueh-hsin graduated from high school, she went to work in a small factory making cakes and candy. Soon she was made an accountant, then in 1964 a cashier. Later she was sent for a three-month course of basic medical training and when she returned to the factory took on duties in its clinic. Now she did her tasks as a cashier in the mornings and in the afternoons divided her time between the clinic and work in the factory.

She began to take part in the cultural revolution in August 1966. Two years later she was elected to her workshop's leading group, its revolutionary committee of five men and two women. Yueh-hsin worked hard at her job, her special task was to organize various kinds of publicity work. She frequently visited the workers' families and talked with the women. During this period she was a delegate to a national conference called by the Ministry of Commerce in Peking.

Sheng Yueh-hsin is now on the staff of the trade union of the Cake and Candy Trading Company, which administers seven factories, including the one where she first went to work, and 110 shops selling cakes and candy.

Yueh-hsin told me that in the interests of the working class the union had been reorganized after the cultural revolution. It now takes part in administering all the company's production, looks after the welfare and education projects for the workers, and organizes athletics and theatrical entertainment. Today the union, larger than before, has several thousand members. Of its four leaders — three men and Sheng Yueh-hsin — one, 34, looks after general ad-

ministration and political affairs. Another, 39, supervises the workers' political and professional studies. The third, 28, handles athletics. Yueh-hsin's task is to organize and train workers for theatrical and other entertainments. She also handles publicity for birth control and family planning among the women.

"I owe my life, my education and the position I hold which enables me to serve our people — all of these — to the socialist revolution in our country. Had it not been for the overthrow of Chiang Kai-shek, my father would not have found work in the shipyard. His

wage and the fact that land reform released us from paying rent to the landlord, enabled my brother and sister and myself to get an education. Otherwise we would still be illiterate."

I asked her what she has learned from her fellow workers in the factory. "Oh, a lot!" she answered. "I have learned how to be responsible to the people and how best to serve them." Then she added, "I am proud to hold my present position as a union leader, because we workers now govern ourselves." Sheng Yueh-hsin was expressing a feeling common among the rising generation of leaders in China.

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