

traveled with them, arranging tours and visits. When they went to operas or plays, there were guides on a one-to-one basis who would interpret for them. Few Americans travel in China (only 1500 have visited Yenan since 1949). Although their Chinese guides said they would welcome American visitors, they also pointed out that China does not have the facilities to accommodate many tourists. The Milgroms had their names on the list for two years in advance. They had to file practically a full life history with their application to go, and when they arrived, their "responsible people" had read and memorized it.

They spoke of transportation. There are no private cars, only those owned by the government. Bicycles everywhere. When they traveled by train, they rode on the "soft seat train". In one huge airport, theirs was the only plane, but several hundred Chinese were on the terminal balcony and the Chinese and the travelers exchanged the gesture of friendship - smile and clap your hands. Everywhere are huge pictures of Lenin, Marx, Engels, Stalin, and Mao. When they visited schools, there were banners saying "Welcome to our American friends". The children are beautiful and happy, and even the smallest sang for their visitors, the songs obviously political. At sixteen they go to the farms as "production brigades". If a young person wishes to go to college, he applies to go and must be voted on by even the most humble worker in the commune. For those chosen, college is free.

Henry Milgrom was especially interested in the health care system and in the "barefoot doctors" who give first aid, recommend healing herbs, teach basic health habits, and dispense birth control information. For more complicated problems, there are clinics and beyond them the hospitals. In a Nanking hospital they saw an operation in which acupuncture was used to deaden pain and the patient was conscious throughout the thirty-minute surgery.

The Milgroms both spoke of there being no crime, no drug problem. If a person's behavior is out of line, his group works with him through group criticism. Should a professional person get out of line, he may be sent to learn what the masses must endure and may be assigned a job such as street cleaning to make sure he understands and can sympathize with their problems. In China today agriculture and food are the #1 priority. The land is arid and most of the necessary irrigation is done by hand. Mountains have been literally chipped away by thousands of people so the land can be cultivated. As Henry Milgrom pointed out, the Chinese make do with what they have and don't owe any other country anything.

This was not a luxury trip, not an easy one, not for travelers who expect the same conveniences they enjoy at home, but every day was interesting. And to hear Henry and Ruby talk about it is fascinating and opens windows for us to an unfamiliar world.

HERE'S ANOTHER new restaurant to try in the Wilmington area - open about a month - THE BRIDGE TENDER, Airlie Road on the Sound, Wrightsville Beach. (phone 919-256-4519).

Well-named, it overlooks the drawbridge (which is the only access into Wrightsville Beach) and four marinas, all on the Intracoastal Waterway. (Great fun to watch the Anheuser-Busch "Eagle" pass under the bridge and maneuver its 100 feet to tie up to one of the docks, under our watchful eyes!)

House specialty is Prime Rib, but dinner menu runs the gamut from chopped sirloin through a 20 oz. prime rib to two 7 oz. lobster tails! Luncheon menu, which we sampled, was equally varied. This reporter considered the prices reasonable on both menus; fine food, well served and appetizing (crab salad was all crab); lots of atmosphere and nice touches such as the mini-loaf of bread with whipped butter; and the supreme test of a really good restaurant, good hot coffee quickly refilled! They've a small deck off the lounge where you can enjoy the view with your pre-dinner drink. Mid-week an excellent time to try it, but if weekends are your thing, the attractive hostess suggested between 5:30 and 6:30 before their rush hours. Brand new, and already they're very busy, which should tell you something. Try it, you might like it, too!

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