

Eyewitness Leaves Dying City; Can Shanghai Be Revived?

Editor's Note: Fred Hampson, chief of the Associated Press staff in China, is on his way out of Red China. He sailed Dec. 9 from Shanghai and this is the full dispatch which he wrote on that day as he said goodbye to a Shanghai whose Red rulers forbade him to send news after Oct. 6. It was relayed through Japan. Hampton is en route to Hong Kong by way of Japan.

By FRED HAMPSON

Aboard the Sir John Franklin in the Whangpoo River, Dec. 9 (Delayed)—Four years ago last September I saw Shanghai for the first time from a U. S. army bomber as it circled to land at Shanghai's Kiangwan airfield.

Today, with very mixed emotions, I said goodbye to Shanghai from the deck of this blockade runner, whose port superstructure was punctured with shell fragments by a blackading Nationalist warship.

Between those two dates I don't suppose any city on earth—possibly excepting Berlin—has seen such tremendous upheavals. In that interlude Shanghai became the communists' biggest single conquest.

One is tempted to say that we left a dying city. It is certainly in bad shape and getting worse. But I have seen it mauled and looted and maladministered too many times to write it off lightly as a dying city. It is amazingly resilient.

It may even survive Chinese communism. But the trends have got to change.

If things continue the way they are going now, it will become a Chinese village housed in the dead husk of a metropolis.

Shanghai was the product of imperialism, of foreign control, of that strange encroachment called extra-territoriality. When imperialism's day was done it became a legacy the Chinese never were quite able to manage.

To western eyes, it began going to pieces from the moment the Chinese moved in right after the war in 1945 and took it over.

During the last six months under the communists, it has changed character again.

Today it is crowded with commissars, big and little, who are devoted to an ideal that doesn't seem to fit Shanghai and who are, in the main, high-minded and honest—and incredibly inefficient.

Without attempting to go into details on the question whether communism can succeed in a city like Shanghai, it still seems to me Shanghai represented a high water mark of modernity in China.

Shanghai is now being sacrificed. This product of the west, which helped pull China out of its ancient feudalism and demon-

strated what western methods could do, has been vilified by the communists because of its imperialist background and because it depends on "imperialist trade."

There seems to be no disposition by the new authorities to examine and ascertain just what services the greatest of the treaty ports performed for China. But only to look at the evils attendant on its growth.

The saddest phase of this farewell to Shanghai was wrapped up in a small group of Chinese who saw us to the ship with their brave bouquets of flowers for the departing foreigners despite the glowering disapproval of communist guards.

This group of Chinese seemed to me to represent the beginning of a solid middle class in China which could have grown and brought greatness to China. They were the product of Shanghai. They had absorbed the best of the west and mixed it compatibly with their oriental natures.

They had modest but good homes. Their children were in school. They had learned professions and trades. They could earn enough at them to maintain themselves with pride and decency. And they had done it on their own—no kin ties with the rich, no political connection, no special privilege except their own abilities.

They were Koo and Tsang



Trapped—Mickey Holloway, 2-years-old shows how he was making a face at his sister, Shirley, when he got his head caught in a banister. Birmingham, Ala. firemen released him with the judicious use of a crowbar. He told photographers he wasn't scared, but kept his head a respectable distance from the banister. (AP wirephoto)

and Pan and Chen. For the last four years they worked for the Associated Press in Shanghai. Now they are out of work. The gates of their professions and trades are closed unless they can somehow get into the party machine and wear grotesque cotton uniforms, send their kids to the "correct" schools and live on a few dollars a month and a regimented rice allowance. At present they are living on severance pay which can last only a few months at best.

I guess they are the despised bourgeois who must be crushed down to become part of that vague horde—the proletariat—above which one is not supposed to want to rise.

These are to be destroyed. A millenium has arrived. Its record so far in Shanghai—a city normally of 6,000,000 inhabitants—is 1,000,000 unemployed.

Court Hears Star Spangled Banner Made in Brewery

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 16 (P)—Was the Star Spangled Banner made in a brewery?

Maryland's court of appeals heard this version of history Wednesday in a dispute over the Star Spangled Banner Flag House in Baltimore.

It was there that Mary Pickersgill made the flag that flew over Fort M'Henry in 1813 and inspired Francis Scott Key's national anthem, historians generally believe.

She completed the huge banner in the roomier confines of a nearby brewery, argued lawyers for one side in a lawsuit.

This was denied by the Star Spangled Banner Flag House association, which said the flag was completed in a warehouse.

The state's highest court heard arguments in a condemnation suit by which the city of Baltimore seeks to take over a three-story red-brick rooming house next door to the flag house, now operated by the association as a public shrine.

The property would be converted into office space for the flag association as part of a plan to create a memorial square as "an inspiration" to patriotism.

"Into dates and history will be instilled a soul," said city solicitor Thomas N. Biddison.

Attorneys for Annie Flaccio, owner, of the rooming house, said the city has no right to take over the property.

Attorneys Hyman Ginsberg and Louis R. Milio cast doubt on the history of the flag house itself by stating it was "supposedly" the house where Mary Pickersgill made the flag which is reputed to have inspired Key.

They quoted a Maryland guidebook as stating that the flag was finished in a brewery.

"It could, of course be argued that the brewery in which the flag was finally completed is entitled to as much glory as the so-called flag house," they said.

Biddison quoted a flag association statement that the flag

was so large "that it became necessary to obtain permission to spread the materials out on the large floor of a neighboring warehouse for cutting and sewing."

Ginsberg and Milio gave the size of the banner as 42 by 30 feet. Biddison said it was 29 by 36 feet. All agreed it had 15 stripes and 13 stars.

At any rate, the owner's attorneys argued, the house next door, "all hands admit, had nothing to do with the Star Spangled Banner."

The court took the case under advisement.

Saint Paul to Present Pageant

The annual Christmas pageant of the Saint Paul's Episcopal Sunday school will be presented Sunday at 5 p. m. The pageant, under the leadership of Miss Jean Quickenden, will be held in the church. A cordial invitation is extended to parents and friends. Following the pageant the Christmas party with a Santa Claus and tree will be presented in the parish house.

Polk Club Leaders Called to Dallas

Dallas—The Polk county 4-H local leaders association will meet Tuesday night at 8 o'clock in the county court house in Dallas, announces Stan Fansher.

"One does not cease to be patriotic in every sense of that word, nor does he stop loving his country or the flag of that country," by objecting to the loss of the rooming house, they said.

The court took the case under advisement.

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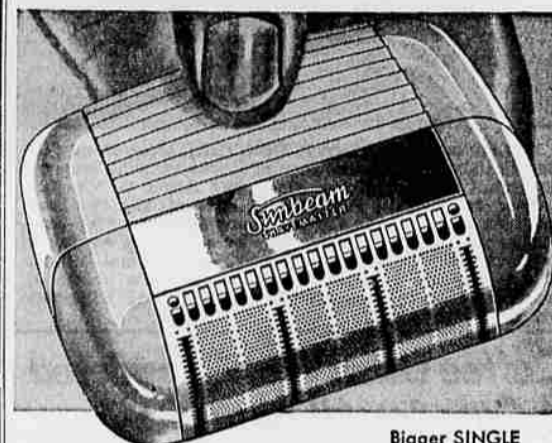
There will be a discussion of the plans for the coming year and a question box pertaining to the organization of new and old 4-H clubs for the coming year.

All local 4-H leaders, their husbands or wives, and other interested persons are welcome to attend this meeting.

Vested Choir Appears

Silverton—The second in the series of Evening Choral programs at the First Christian church is to be given Sunday, December 18, beginning at 8 o'clock, by the vested choir of 30 voices directed by Mrs. Frances Willard-Ployhart as a pre-Christmas observance at the church.

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CHIN-UPPERS SERVE FISHERMEN. Fred and Bernice Camp of Stayton, who met as wheelchair members of the Chin-Up Club, have established a thriving Oregon business, despite their physical handicaps. Eight years ago Fred began tying trout fishing flies. Today the Camps operate the Camp Tackle Co., with Stayton and Portland shops serving America's sports fishermen. The firm, employing more than a dozen persons, catalogues 400 varieties of flies and 25 of spinners. Both Fred, who is Stayton's Chamber of Commerce president, and Bernice are enthusiastic over cooperation they've received from the Stayton Branch of the First National Bank.

MEAT IS THEIR DISH. As an Eastern Oregon livestock marketer, Samuel E. Hill saw the need for a wholesale meat service in Pendleton. Three years ago he purchased a small "custom" slaughterhouse, serving only the individual needs of owners of hogs, cattle and lambs. With the help of his wife and son, Clinton J. Hill (now a New York art student), Hill extended the business by providing fresh and cured meats for nearby markets and restaurants. Now the Hill Meat Co. is in enlarged quarters and provides seven non-family jobs. The firm continues to advance its growth through helpful services of the Pendleton Branch of First National.



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