

CHINESE METHODS FURNISH CONTRAST FOR MORROW COUNTY MAN

Somewhere in China,
May 23, 1944

Heppner Gazette Times,
Heppner, Oregon;
To the Editor:

Now that I have acquired a permanent address, although I had to travel half way around the world to do it, please change my subscription to the Gazette Times from Olympia, Wash to my APO address. Mrs. Alfred has been carefully reading the paper and sending me selected items, but I feel that the paper would be a lot of company for me if I had it to read here in far-off China.

Perhaps some of my friends might be interested in some of the experiences I have had here so I'll give you some of my impressions. Of course we have always known of China as an agricultural country, but to one accustomed to farming on the scale it is carried on in Morrow county with its vast wheat fields and power farm machinery, the difference is surely striking. Here all work in the fields is done by hand except the plowing. This is done with a plow fitted out with a share that resembles a huge cultivator shovel and drawn by one water buffalo. The plowing is done when the field or paddy is covered with at least a foot of water. Each field in itself is no bigger than an ordinary garden lot at home and is enclosed by a dike to keep the water on it. Maintaining the water level makes it necessary to carry out a system of terraces that extends as far as the land is cultivated, often high up on the hills.

The harvest is all done by hand and the threshing with flails, then finally crops are taken to market packed on little burrows or more often on the backs of the farm people, men and women alike.

Every available acre of the valleys is farmed and they are a beautiful sight when seen from the tops of the mountains that rise thousands of feet almost straight up from the floors of the valleys.

The people of course are very in-

teresting. Their patience and industry are remarkable. I have visited several old temples and the work that must have gone into the building of them with the tools at hand is beyond my comprehension. The delicately carved decorations around the altars, representing dragons and serpents and of course the gods themselves surely represent a lot of fine work. Also, these people are very fine stone masons. The bridges over the smaller streams are constructed of stone fitted into an arch in such a way that they will support quite a load.

I despair of ever learning the language although I am gradually picking up a few words. In the cities, however, there are always Chinese to be found, especially in the restaurants and shops who speak at least some English. Even the rickshaw men usually understand enough to know where a person wants to be taken.

Rice, of course, is the principal item of diet, although I have eaten several other typical Chinese dishes that I enjoyed. I am even becoming proficient in the use of

chop sticks due to the fact that I am now using them to eat with entirely.

There are many more items of interest that I have seen, but you have read of them in travel books described much better than I am capable of doing so I will send this along and look forward to receiving the paper. Please give my regards to any of my friends you may see.

Yours very truly
Frank C Alfred

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WE are pleased with the many friends we have made — housewives who have exclaimed over the nutritional qualities of all our meals. Menus are carefully planned to give you good, wholesome, nutritious foods. Breakfasts to give a mill or farm worker "something to work on." Lunches are always appetizing. Dinners are always a treat for hungry families. YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME. Come in soon!

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STAR Reporter

Friday-Saturday, July 28-29

Swing Out the Blues

Bob Haymes, Lynn Merrick, The Vagabonds, Janis Carter, Tim Ryan, Joyce Compton and the funniest youngest actor on the screen. A singy, tuney picture to set your heart laughing.—PLUS—

Beneath Western Skies

Smiley Burdette, Robert Livingston

From opening to closing shot this western is a straight line of action.

Sunday-Monday, July 30-31

Four Jills in a Jeep

Carole Landis, Kay Francis, Martha Raye, Mitzi Mayfair, John Harvey, Phil Silvers, Dick Haymes, Jimmy Dorsey and his Orchestra, and numbers by Betty Grable, Alice Faye, Carmen Miranda, and George Jessel

A musical romance from the Saturday Evening Post story based upon the hilarious adventures of Hollywood's first junket "over there."

Tuesday, August 1

Swingtime Johnny

Harriet Hilliard, Andrews Sisters, Peter Cookson, Tim Ryan, Mitch Ayres' Band

Those record making Music Maids are working the "swing" shift now. Also "Battle of Europe", preparation for invasion and excellent shots of bombing raids over Europe; Walt Disney cartoon in Technicolor.

Wednesday-Thursday, August 2-3

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

(In Technicolor)
Maria Montez, Jon Hall, Turhan Bey, Andy Devine

The most reckless rogues that ever rode bring sweep and action to this spectacle of the Mystic East. Also "Pagliacci Swing It" with Joe Reichman & Orchestra, vocals by Gene Austin.

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