

Reporter Tells of Experiences During Year in Red Chinese Prison

Editor's note: While the Russian Communists are trying Francis Gary Powers on spy charges in Moscow this week, the story of another spy trial and prison sentence is being written in Tokyo. It is the first person story of Bill Yim, a Chinese reporter employed by United Press International in Hong Kong, who was released last month after a year in prison in Canton. Yim tells how he was picked up by Communist security police while on assignment in China and charged with spying. Here is the first of two dispatches about his experience.

MEDFORD MALL TRIBUNE

SECTION B

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1960

PAGES 1 to 8

By BILL YIM
Tokyo - (UPI) - The Chinese Communists imprisoned me for one year on trumped up spy charges. They knew they were wrong. I knew they were wrong. I lost one year of my life, but now I am back in freedom.

At 7 a.m. July 19, 1959, I had crossed the border from Hong Kong into Red China on a news assignment. One year, nine days, two hours and 20 minutes later, I crossed back again.

For one year, I never slept in the dark. The single, unshaded light bulb in my prison cell glared throughout the night. For one year I never saw another prisoner, although I am sure there were 1,000 in the same Canton jail.

Runs Around Cell
For that year I sang to myself, danced or ran around the cell to preserve my sanity.

During that time I belonged to the Communists. They had my body. But they wanted my mind. They finally released my body. They never captured my mind.

The story I want to tell is the truth about the Communists - and their own complete disregard for the rights of individuals and their contempt for the principles of freedom and equality.

My Westernized name is "Bill." My Chinese name is Yim Yuen Lo. I was born 24 years ago in Kiangsi Province of mainland China. My family fled to Hong Kong during World War II when I was three. I have lived in Hong Kong since, working after I finished school, first for a European news agency, and then for United Press International.

To Interview Downey
In July, 1959, I was assigned to go from Hong Kong to Canton for an interview with William Downey, younger brother of John Downey, an American citizen serving life imprisonment on espionage charges. Younger Downey had received special permission to enter Red China and UPI wanted me to interview him. All arrangements for the



NEWSMAN RELEASED - Chinese newsman Bill Yim, shown with his mother in Hong Kong after his release, spent more than a year in Canton, China, in a Communist

trip were made through the China Travel Service, a Communist organization in Hong Kong. I paid them \$41 and they bought my train ticket, made hotel reservations and arranged for their representatives to meet me in Canton.

I told them fully about the purpose of my trip. They gave me permission to take a camera and typewriter. I received a tag for my lapel so the Communists at the Canton railroad station would spot me.

The next day I crossed the border into China without difficulty although I answered many questions from the border inspectors. I told them I

intended to stay only two or three days.

Gets Good Service
A flood had hit the area. On the three-hour train ride to Canton, I took pictures of the high water and of Red army soldiers, peasants and workers at the four stations where we stopped.

Two very friendly travel men met me at the station and took me to the Huachia Hotel, where I got the best room in the house. I paid for the taxi, but the driver refused a tip as did the travel service men.

I tried immediately to contact Downey but without success. Everyone pleaded ignor-

ance of his whereabouts - that day and the next. So I went sightseeing, taking pictures of streets, houses, people, traffic and construction - typical tourist photos.

Then my Hong Kong office advised me that Downey was leaving Canton. I was told the reason I could not reach him was because I had not contacted the New China News Agency, although I am sure the agency knew I was coming.

Confiscate His Papers
I made plans to return to Hong Kong, but at 11:30 that night a hotel waitress told me the security bureau wanted to talk to me. I took a taxi. Two

Communists were waiting for me, young men about 25, dressed in white sports shirts, slacks and rubber shoes.

To my astonishment they accused me of illegal entry into China as an American reporter. They said I should have reported to the security

bureau. They confiscated my papers, warned me not to communicate with anyone or attempt to leave Canton and to come back the next day.

For the next seven days I was interrogated, usually at night. Afterwards I was allowed to return to my hotel. I decided I had to notify Hong Kong. I called a taxi and said I wanted to go sightseeing. When I got about two blocks from the cable office I had the cab stop and walked the rest of the way.

Calls for Help

"Date return unknown," I cabled UPI. "Need help." I signed the cable, "Ivyman," because in Hong Kong they knew I liked Ivy League clothing.

I picked up my taxi, rode around the city and returned to the hotel to wait for a phone call from Hong Kong. It never came. The next day, I tried to put through a call myself. That did it.

Within minutes, a security bureau official entered my rooms.

"So you wanted to call Hong Kong," he said. "Have-n't you forgotten our discipline?"

I was taken back to the security bureau for the last time. I had decided to "confess." I was afraid for my life and I wanted to survive, not only for myself but so I could tell my story.

Yim Signs Paper

The Communists accused me of working for a "U.S. imperialist propaganda organ" and collecting military, economic and political information. I admitted to "violating the sovereignty of the Chinese Peoples Republic." That seemed to be enough.

After half an hour, the Communists produced a paper authorizing my arrest. I signed it, then wrote: "I do not know the reason for my arrest."

A door was opened and I walked the hotel waitress I had known. She carried my coat, camera, typewriter and a Peiping review magazine I had bought. The Communists had me check my possessions.

Then they drove me in a Jaguar automobile to the brick-walled prison.

Tomorrow, Kim tells of his show trial six months after imprisonment and of his "reform" before he was released.

Public Should Be On Guard for Gyps

A warning to the public to be on guard against the "ten top gypts" was issued today by Don McNeil, manager of the Medford chamber of commerce.

He referred to a feature article in the July issue of Changing Times magazine which lists the ten leading schemes and practices currently exploiting the gullible, as reported to the national better business bureau.

They are deceptive drug, device, cosmetic advertising; questionable franchise deals, especially in vending machines; mail order sale of dubious gadgets and garden supplies; unsound earn-money-at-home schemes; high pressure home improvements; fictitious list and comparative prices; bait ads; unordered merchandise schemes, especially in charitable appeals; telephone sale of doubtful securities; and photography schemes.

"Consumers can best be protected against the minority in business which engages in questionable practices by dealing with firms of known reliability," McNeil stated. "If there is any doubt about it, appropriate inquiry should be made in advance."

Tipsy Tower-Climber

Says Judge is Right

Paxton, Neb. - Carter Prysock, 26, in court after he scrambled up a 200-foot tower over the South Platte river, agreed with the charge of intoxication. "I never could have made it if I'd been sober," he admitted to the judge who fined him \$50.

LEVI'S CASUALS

Here's the ruggedest fabric in Continentals!



LEVI'S Mark I CONTINENTALS

in Wash and Wear GRIZZLY CORD

So handsome! You'll look your best in the flattering fit of LEVI'S Mark I Continentals! Slim, beltless and pleatless, with extension waistband and adjustable elastic side tabs, offset pockets and finished cuffs!

So tough! They're tailored in rugged, heavyweight Grizzly Cord—an extra-heavy wash-and-wear bedford cord that wears as well as it looks! Lots of popular campus colors to choose from, too!

about \$5.95

See them—try them—buy them at your favorite store!

LEVI'S CASUALS

GRIZZLY CORD CONTINENTALS

OLIVE GREEN OR ICE BEIGE
MEN'S SIZES 29-36
street floor

5.95

BOYS' SIZES
lower floor

4.98



Congratulations

PARKER & LUCILLE WOODS

On the Opening of Your Fine New Medford Store!

220 EAST MAIN ST.

We are proud to have had a part in the planning, building and furnishing of this handsome new store in Medford. This is, we believe, a fine example of good designing and planning for the utmost comfort and convenience of shoppers. May we suggest that you drop in at Parker and Lucille Woods' smart shop today and see how attractive and functional it is. We know you'll be pleasantly surprised.

BAKER PAINT & WALLPAPER CO.

1945 W. Main - Ph. SP 3-1062

Carpeting & Floor Tile Installed by
Dyke's Floorcovering
Medford - - - Grants Pass

All Ceramic Tile Contracted by
MODERN TILE CO.
2456 Nieto Way - Ph. SP 3-4170

PARRISH CONSTRUCTION CO.
1057 Court St. - Ph. SP 2-8111

Air Conditioning & Lighting Installed by
Trowbridge & Flynn
214 W. Main - Ph. SP 3-6241

Parker Woods Leon's . . . 220 East Main

Grand Opening Specials!

A Special Factory Concession Makes This Possible in Famous Brand Wool Capri Pants, in Skirts and Matching Fur blend Sweaters—At Great . . .

SAVINGS!

SKIRTS \$6.99
Values To \$10.98

SWEATERS \$6.99
Values To \$10.98

WOOL CAPRIS \$7.99
BEAUTIFUL PLAIDS
Values To \$14.98

WOODS Parker Woods Leon's
220 East Main
Phone SP 2-5847

