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He was one of the organizers of the Meat Type Beef Foundation carcass cutout contest (the first carcass evaluation contest held in the country) from which came the first retail chart showing the yield of each cut.

In 1981 Hellbusch, a member of Alpha Gamma Rho, was presented with the Jerry Litton Memorial Award for Achievement in Agriculture during AGR's annual National Western Stockman's banquet.

A charter member of National Cattlemen's Assn., Hellbusch has worked closely with that group's marketing committee. He also was one of the organizers of the Mountain Plains Meat Club and has received numerous awards from industry and civic groups for his outstanding work. In addition he's been a contributor to leading livestock magazines over the years and still does assignments.

Hellbusch, now retired, lives at Aurora, Colo.

I hadn't given much thought to taking a tour of China until my younger sister who operates a travel agency told me she had a group lined up to go. They were leaving Oct. 15 and would go into China on the 19th from Hong Kong, then spend two weeks there visiting seven areas. After some arm twisting I decided to join them (30 people) and am, indeed, very happy I did.

We left Hong Kong for Beijing (Peking) the capitol of China, arriving there in the late afternoon. We had been assigned a hotel near the airport which is quite a distance from the center of the city. Because of limited hotel space you do not know where you will be staying until you arrive. The hotels vary in quality—some are first class while others are adequate—but all are clean, furnished with quality towels etc., as well as clean linens and bed covers. Our hotel was fairly new, modest in appearance and comfortable and the Chinese food was tasty.

The next morning we climbed into a Japanese-built tour bus and headed for the city and some of its historical structures such as the Forbidden City, Summer Palace,

It is estimated there are three million bicycles in Beijing alone, an average of two for every five persons. We read in the English language CHINA DAILY that last year 13 million bikes were produced with a goal of 19.5 million in 1982. A bike costs about \$100 (U.S. equivalent) which amounts to two or three months' wages for the city workers. There are many repair shops in every city and we were told that most repairs are made while the owner waits.

In addition to all the bikes and people there were small carts filled with bricks, vegetables and many other items and pulled by a man walking between two shafts. That isn't all. To add to the confusion were groups of small wagons piled high with a variety of items pulled by a small mule on the tongue with a small horse (and sometimes two) in the lead taking up their share of the street.

Pigs on Bicycles

Many of the bikes had racks on the back for hauling various items and on one such bicycle I saw two fat hogs tied down and headed somewhere for slaughter. They were calm and quiet and I learned later that pigs

CHINA IMPRESSIONS

A look at China, its land and its people, through the eyes of a man whose life has been devoted to agriculture in this country.

by Cecil E. Hellbusch

Temple of Heaven and others. Our guide spoke reasonably good English but, I suppose due to inexperience, gave us very little information about the area except the specific subjects we were scheduled to visit.

Bicycles, Pedestrians by the Thousands

I wasn't quite prepared for what we saw as we entered the heart of the city and it seemed for sure that we were going back into time. The streets are wide in Beijing (which is not the case in other China cities) because, we were told, the Mongols who laid out the city made sure the streets were big and broad enough to allow them to gallop their ponies full speed through the town. It was an experience just to see thousands of men and women riding bicycles (both 2- and 3-wheelers) going both ways in the streets and our tour bus wending its way down the street with the driver constantly honking the horn to warn bicyclers he was coming. The riders never look back as there aren't any cars and only a few small trucks on the streets. There were also hordes of pedestrians. You felt like you were being surrounded.

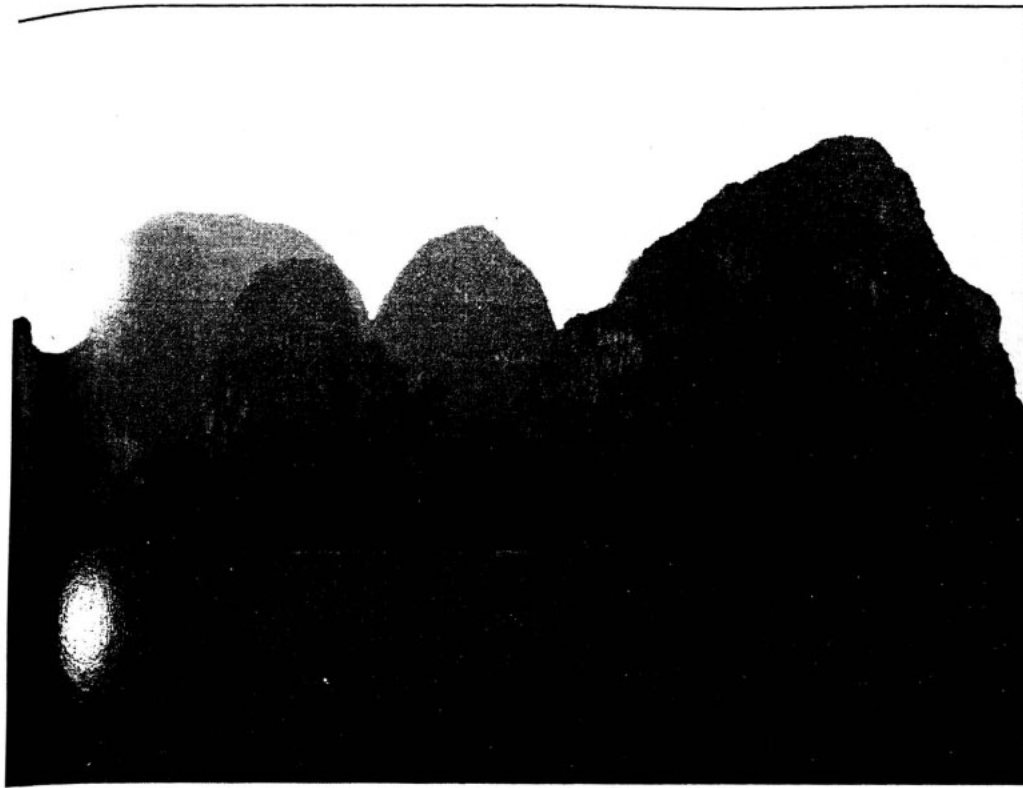
are confined to small pens and likely become pets so are not a problem to transport. We didn't see many pigs or, for that matter, other livestock on the trip.

China has a total area of 3,700,000 square miles, one hundred thousand square miles more than the continental U.S. A great deal of the land is desert, hilly or mountainous—not suited to agricultural use. It is hard to believe, but less than 15% has been under cultivation and very little more is available to farm. This is the reason the highly fertile areas must be planted to crops consumed by the population rather than set aside for livestock grazing.

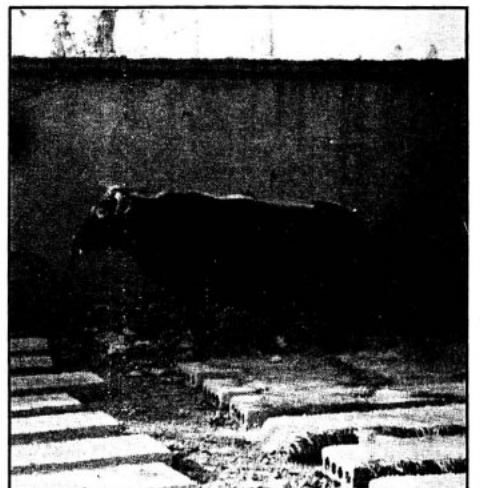
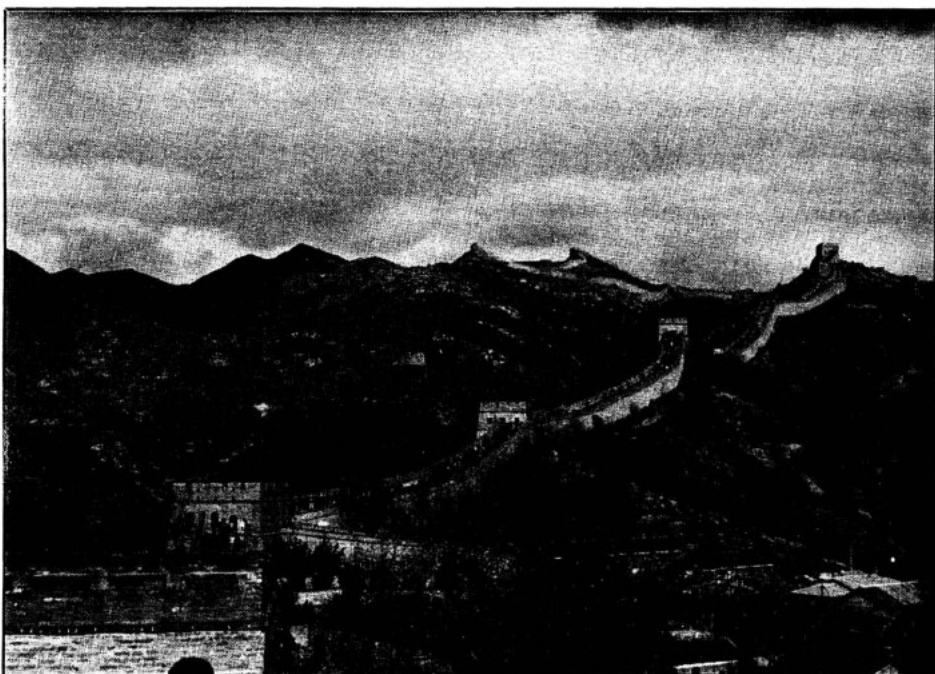
Major mountain ranges in China run from west to east (U.S. mountains run north to south) and the major rivers—the Yellow, the Yangtze and the Hsi—also flow from west to east. In their fertile valleys lie most of the arable land and the major population and industrial centers.

Barely Enough Food

China, a nation of one billion people with some 12 million added each year, has a struggle to produce enough food to ward off



According to Hellbusch, the city of Guilin was beautiful. Near there he saw this Chinese grazing a water buffalo on a ridge in a rice field. Beautiful, mystic limestone hills fill the background (top left). This primitive method of transporting materials flourishes in modern China (center left). The Great China Wall is 1,500 miles long and is wide enough to accommodate six horses walking abreast. Built under the reign of Ch'in Shih Huang, first emperor of a unified China, its purpose was to protect the vast land from barbarians to the north (bottom left). Vegetable stands are familiar sights on the streets of the cities. Every square inch of tillable land is devoted to crops—including vacant lots in the cities and spaces between buildings (top right). Since any available land is planted to crops, China has little in the way of livestock industry. Hellbusch saw only this type of bovine, a beast of burden, on his China trip (bottom right).



famine. The Communists have had control of the country since 1949 and have made food production their top priority. For some 50 years before 1949 the country had been ravaged by war, and death and famine were common. Through land reform and establishing communes food production was gradually increased and with more equitable distribution of this food the peasants are now much better fed. Time will tell how far the communist system will take the country into progress and prosperity. The Russians have had much longer to increase their standard of living but have not made the progress expected. They have spent most of their gross national output on preparation for war while neglecting consumer goods. Who knows what the Chinese will do?

Rice, Wheat but Few Animals

The food basket of China runs from the central part of the nation east to the coastal areas. The "rice belly" areas are in the Yangtze and Pearl river deltas and every possible acre is planted to vegetables, rice and some tea. Steep hills are terraced and planted. All vacant lots in the cities are used to grow food, and vegetables grow in space between apartments and other buildings in all the cities.

The area north of the Yangtze river has a colder climate, less moisture and is less productive, but here is where most of the wheat is harvested. Northern diets contain more wheat and less rice.

The development of a beef cattle industry in the central half of the country would take

The tour took us to five areas in the interior and two along the coast and we had a chance to see a good sampling of life in the rural areas. I saw less than a dozen head of beef cattle and they were of nondescript origin and looked like they were beasts of burden. We saw two or three flocks of fat-tailed sheep and goats near the Great Wall as this area is mountainous, not tillable, so it can be used to graze sheep. There were a few very old-type hogs confined to small pens near some of the walled-in small huts the people lived in, so I came to the conclusion that animal agriculture is not important in producing food in central China. All the fertile land is needed to produce grains and vegetables, the staples in the diets of the one billion people. They just cannot afford to set aside land for grazing livestock. It is a possibility that some time in the future China may import some red meat but the beef would have to be nonfed to suit their Chinese dishes.

an enormous amount of time, energy and capital and the importation of seed stock would take a long time. I also believe it would be a real task to educate the people how to handle cattle and make them profitable.

Red Meats not Important

Red meats are but a small part in the diet of the Chinese with fish, chicken and some pork predominating. Mutton is produced and eaten in the western and northern sections of the country, but because of transportation problems as well as lack of refrigeration very little finds its way into the population centers.

The Tibet Autonomous Region which is in the western part of China accounts for about one-fifth of the region's livestock, according to PEOPLES DAILY. An article said there are now more than four million animals in the region, up from 3.7 million in 1980.

There was some building activity in every city we visited and there is great need for housing in the cities. Building was done, however, in a crude way, and is slow. We saw very few cranes for lifting materials. Brick and rock are the materials used; in all our travels we saw few forests to provide lumber. Building materials piled up in the cities looked like they had been there some time. Almost every group of buildings we saw everywhere was surrounded by a brick or rock wall.

The article also said animal by-products are the main source of income for the Tibetan peasants and herdsman. They are allowed to decide what and how many animals to own and how to sell them. The animals produced are mainly sheep, as they are more adaptable to range conditions in that area. Yak are also produced in numbers.

Sheep are produced in Inner Mongolia (an area north of Beijing on the Mongolia border) and mutton is a staple in the diet there, according to a report in the CHINA DAILY. The report also said horses, goats and some cattle are raised with the horses used to herd livestock. One brigade (comparable to a county in the U.S.) was reported to have 11,000 head of animals in its area, so the numbers are not significant. The horses are smaller than western horses, probably about the size of the little Indian ponies found in the west at the turn of the century.

Rinsed Lamb, A Delicacy

Lamb is a delicacy in Beijing in the autumn, coming from the Inner Mongolian area and only the loin and plate is used. It is called "rinsed lamb" and the parts are sliced into thin slices, then cooked in a hot pot placed in the center of the table. The rim of the hot pot is filled with chicken broth and heated with charcoal. We dipped the slices of lamb in the boiling broth for a few seconds, removed them, dipped them in a condiment and ate the meat. It was delicious.

It was reported in the Oct. 24, 1981, edition of the CHINA DAILY that Lin Hugia, the Minister of Agriculture, told a national conference on agriculture (held in Beijing Oct. 21) that animal husbandry should become more important in the national economy.

Animal husbandry, he said, accounted for only 14.2% of the 1980 agricultural output. He called for more growth in food processing.

Early to Bed, Early to Rise

There is very little entertainment and amusement available to the people so they retire early and are early risers. They are up at dawn and begin their bicycling and walking the streets, some to work and others, it seems, just for the heck of it. Young people gather on river banks, parks and other places early in the morning and practice tai-chi chuan, Kung Fu, sword fighting, jogging and other exercises. This mass display of physical culture is one of the most universal aspects of life in the cities of China. We visited a university in Jinan and the students were exercising to music, perhaps for their visitors' benefit.

However, we noticed the pace is very relaxed; the people ride their bicycles at a very moderate speed and seem to be in no hurry when walking. This is quite different from the hustle and bustle which dominates cities like Hong Kong, Taipei and Tokyo. The Chinese, though, have little incentive to drive themselves since extra income is limited.

After viewing the scene in the cities and in the country, I soon came to the conclusion that it could be summed up like this: "The peasants have little incentive as their tomorrows will be just like their todays." A visitor to China wrote, "somehow it always seems like Sunday in China."

Seed beds are prepared by manpower applied to long-handled hoes with long blades and the seed is broadcast by hand or, in the case of grains in the north, by small drills. All rice and vegetables are harvested by hand and rice is threshed with a small drum-like machine operated by hand.

The majority of the people live and work in the area where they were born; they need permits to travel, then have to return to their point of departure. Vegetables and other foods are transported to the city markets by hand carts, carts pulled by little horses and mules or by bicycles, usually 3-wheelers. The state can haul materials and food by rail but in most areas locally produced food is consumed and little is hauled across country. Refrigeration is nil.

China's Great Wall

The second morning of our visit to Beijing we drove the 50 some miles north to see the Great Wall. We were all quite excited about seeing one of the world's most talked about wonders as well as one of its greatest tourist attractions. About 10 miles before we started up the mountain to Pataling Pass where we were to stop for our first contact

with the wall, we caught our first glimpse of it and it gave us goose pimples.

What a thrill to see this beautiful structure built by Ch'in Shih Huang, first emperor of a unified China (259-210 BC) by conscripting untold thousands, maybe millions, of laborers to consolidate formerly disconnected walls and ramparts into an impregnable fortress that went over mountains and valleys for 1,500 miles. It was reconstructed during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 AD) and beyond a doubt was the highlight of our China tour.

The Wall was built wide enough for six horses to walk abreast and originally it was 19 feet wide and 22 feet high with battlements every quarter of a mile or so. It is indeed a tribute to the abilities and imaginations of the emperors and laborers of that time.

There are many sections of the Wall that are crumbling and present day China has no reason to keep the 1,500 miles in repair. It was built to keep the barbarians to the north out of the country who eventually made their way into Beijing anyway, so today the section at the Pataling Pass in the Yang Shau mountains has been rebuilt and kept in repair to make it a major tourist attraction.

The cultural revolution lasted 10 years (1966-76) and during that time everything came to a standstill so this accounts for the lack of progress. In one city I would say there were some 25 men working at digging what looked like a sewer line. Men were in the bottom of the ditch filling a bucket with dirt while men on the top winched the bucket out and dumped it. What a way to dig a sewer line—but when you have that much man power available that is the cheapest way to do it.

Guilin (Kweilin)—A Beautiful Area

Anyone planning a tour of China must be sure their itinerary includes a visit to the city of Guilin (Kweilin) and the picturesque area around the city. We arrived at the airport after an early departure from Shanghai and from the air we knew we were in for a tour of one of the most scenic areas in the nation. We weren't disappointed.

Guilin is in a subtropical region and is nestled among some of the most beautiful hills you can imagine. In prehistoric times the area was covered by an expanse of sea and the landscape was created by the erosion of the limestone surface, creating steep isolated hills, caverns and underground caves. The majestic limestone mountains rise straight up from the ground or water, creating scenes that leave a lasting impression. The town itself (one-half million people) has in its environs many of these state-ly formations making it one of China's most distinctive areas.

A highlight of our visit to the area was an all-day excursion down the lazy Li river on a triple-tiered river boat. It was a restful journey and as we floated down the river the scenery on both sides of the river was beyond description. We saw river boat people fishing the waters; sampans were abundant as well as junks; villagers living on each side of the river had flocks of ducks swimming and feeding in the water. Bamboo growing along the banks framed the river into a scene you would expect to see in a movie.

When in Shanghai we were taken on a cruise down the Huangpu river to where it empties into the mighty Yangtze and this took us along the huge Shanghai harbor. This is one of the largest ports in the world and we expected it to be a busy one. This was not the case. There was very little activity and some of the big boats looked like they had been inactive for a good long time. This indicated China does not have the commerce with other nations you would expect. It was a beautiful trip and we had a chance to see quite a bit of the city's skyline. It is the largest city (11 million population) in the nation and one of the largest in the world.

Relics of Oldest Civilization

Even though 80% of the population lives in rural areas it is in the cities where you see most of the cultural relics handed down by the Emperors. Here you see the intricacies of life as lived by people in the world's oldest civilization. Nearly every city has historic Buddhist temples and tombs of past rulers. Beijing is especially rich in such historic artifacts. However, there are two areas where some very special historic artifacts have been uncovered. One is at Changsha, located in about the center of the central part of China and the other is near X'ian, about an eight hour train ride northwest of Changsha, on the Yellow river.

It was in 1972 when three tombs dating back to the Han dynasty (206BC-220AD) were excavated on the eastern outskirts of Changsha. They proved to be among the most important finds in modern history and the most interesting find was the corpse of a Han lady, which was so well preserved that the muscles, skin and internal organs retained some elasticity. When you view this spectacle you can't believe how this body was entombed with such meticulous care and how long it must have taken.

6,000 Figures Guard a Tomb

During the Tang dynasty (618AD-907) X'ian (Sian) was the capital as well as one of the world's largest and most civilized cities. Recent excavations near there unearthed many well-preserved artifacts of that era.

Among them were some 6,000 Qin pottery figures of warriors and horses and these life-sized terra-cotta figures even have varied expressions on their faces. The warriors carry real copper weapons like knives, swords, spears and dagger-axes. The excavation site is larger than a football field and is covered by a hangar. It was, indeed, a "site" to see.

This excavation is near the tomb of emperor Chin Shihuang; these figures were to guard him in after life. Also a short distance from X'ian are the Hua-Ching pools where in 1936 Chiang Kai-shek was captured by the Communists and forced to sign an agreement to join forces with them and fight the Japanese. Also near X'ian we saw the bath tub used by the famous "Precious Concubine," favorite of the Tang emperor who came here for her beauty baths.

We were taken to see a carpet weaving factory in Shanghai and watched the workers complete the weaving process from start to finished carpet. We were told most of the wool used was imported from Australia. The carpets were beautiful but lacked somewhat in quality of workmanship. They would all be exported, many to Hong Kong. We also were taken into a big workshop where mostly women were doing hand embroidery with silk thread on silk fabric. The designs were well done and the finished product was very colorful. There were women on another floor—just as skillful—using sewing machines to embroider on sheets, pillow cases, etc. It was also very interesting to visit a factory where workers were skillfully carving intricate figures out of jade and ivory using grinders run by motors with belts attached.

I am sorry to say the working conditions for these people were not the best. The buildings and rooms were drab, the lighting was poor and in the carving rooms there was considerable dust. Respiratory and lung diseases must be common among the workers as they get older.

Some Travel Tips

If you decide to join a group and tour China consult your travel agent or talk to someone who has been there. Question them about the kind of clothes to pack, what kind of shoes to wear, medicines to take and the many more things you will need to know. Fall is the best time to go and it will mean you will hit both warm and cold weather so the kind of clothes you take is important. Don't take any fancy clothes, you won't need them. It is a strenuous tour as there will be hundreds of steps to climb and you will be out early, so get yourself into shape before you go. 