

**NEW FACE ON THE RED**

The Paddle Wheel Princess, newest star of the Red River Excursions Ltd., made her maiden voyage on the Red River in Winnipeg Thursday. The Princess, designed to carry 250 passengers, is the second paddle wheeler on the R.R. The Paddle Wheel Queen, launched last year, can carry 400 passengers. (CP-Wirephoto)

## Thinking Of Chinese Students Probed By Budding Journalist

Per Kronvall, 19-year-old student and budding journalist, son of the Swedish ambassador to Poland, has just completed a month-long visit in China as a member of a Swedish educational project. He reports on his talks with students at Peking University and what he learned of their thinking.

Written for The AP By PER KRONVALL

The first evening I spent at Peking University I came into a political discussion with my Chinese acquaintances. I didn't know how freely I could express myself, but I might destroy the little friendship between us. So I sat quietly and listened and became amazed at how ill-informed they were on many things—on some things completely wrong.

When they noticed how quiet I was, they began more and more to quote (Communist leader) Mao Tse-tung's works until the "discussion" came to a standstill when one of the students asked me about my country. So I started to talk about Sweden—how the country looked, what kind of food we ate and so on. Students all over the world are curious and Chinese students are no exception. Then came the question I was waiting for:

"But the Swedish workers aren't they very poor?"

He said it more as a fact than a question. So I began to describe a working family I knew back home. The family had a house of its own, a summer house, a car, a small sailboat and so on. They all eyed me suspiciously.

"If he is so rich that he has a car and everything, how many servants does he have?" one of them asked.

"He does not have any servants," I replied.

"Who does all the cleaning and the cooking?" the same man asked.

I explained to them about dishwashers, washing machines and other modern conveniences. I explained how a deepfreezer worked—one takes out a frozen bread loaf, lets it defrost and then it is fresh. They all burst out laughing. I asked them whether they believed me or not.

"No, of course not," one of them said politely, "but we have ice-boxes in China, too!"

**DISCUSS SPORT**

The conversation then switched to other subjects such as a table tennis tournament between Sweden and China. I had heard that the Chinese were the world's champions because the players study Mao Tse-tung's works thoroughly. So I asked whether I could become a world champion if I studied sufficiently. They would not promise that I would become a world champion but said I would be very good.

Next day I accompanied two male students to the Revolutionary Museum in Peking. The first thing that greeted us was a gigantic picture of Communist party Chairman Mao. They both began to talk very enthusiastically about him. We walked around and looked at different objects portraying how had it been before the Communist takeover in 1949. Said the students:

"Thanks to Mao Tse-tung, we don't have that any more!"

In the exit hall there was an exhibition of political drawings. In addition to the usual anti-American drawings, the cartoons were mostly against the Christian churches. Outside the museum I walked through Peking's "Red Square" and my friends showed me the place where Mao stands during May Day parades. I asked whether Mao was still in power, and they both seemed surprised.

"Of course, he is; who else would it be?" they replied.

Later, on a bus back to the university, we passed a Roman Catholic church. I asked whether it still was open. They said it was but that no one ever went there.

"If you went there would you be criticized by other students during political meetings?" I asked.

"Yes, of course. If anyone goes to the church he is so mixed up that other people must despise him."

**UPSET BY NEWS**

During my stay in Peking I met some students regularly. One evening they were upset about a report that the Americans had bombed a hospital in Hanoi in North-Viet Nam. I said perhaps it had been a mistake by the bomber in the plane. No, they were convinced that the Americans had done it on purpose.

"Do you really think that all Americans are bad people?" I asked.

"No," one of them replied. "As Mao Tse-tung says, 90 per cent of the Americans are good. It is only (President) Johnson and his regime we hate."

"But the people have chosen him to rule their country," I said.

"Well, the American people think he is good because he gave them a lot of money," one Chinese said.

"Think of it," another said, "five per cent of the world's people should control 50 per cent of the world's raw material."

"What do you think can be done about it?" I asked.

"Before the world can live in peace American imperialism must be crushed," a student said.

"Your country has nuclear weapons; why don't you use them?" I asked.

"China does not want war and we will never be the first to use the atom bomb."

**ASKED ABOUT WAR**

"Do you think there will be another war?" I asked.

"Yes, America will attack China but we will beat them. Americans are bad soldiers. You can see that in Viet Nam. Some soldiers don't want to do Johnson's dirty work. It is the same thing everywhere. American imperialism is infiltrating all over the world. Look what they had done in Indonesia. They are killing people of Chinese descent."

"But," I said, "there are always two views on everything, and you don't read or hear what the Americans are saying on different world problems."

"Yes, sometimes our newspapers quote what Johnson has said," one of them said.

"Do you think it is good that you only get to read Chinese newspapers?" I asked.

"It is always interesting to read what others have to say even if it is wrong. I was surprised by his answer and then he added: 'American and other newspapers from the West are filled with lies, and if we cannot buy them in China there must be a good reason for it.'"

On another occasion we started talking about girls. I asked one student what girls he considered pretty.

"A Chinese student does not think about girls," he said.

"Be a little realistic," I said. "All men like girls."

"Anyways, it's forbidden to marry when you are attending the university," he said.

It only means trouble for Chinese students if they get steady," he explained. "They don't get expelled but they would be criticized at meetings. If you compare students in Communist China with students in other Communist countries the Chinese seem to have narrower views. They never dance or go out and have fun on the town, drink beer or sing in the streets."

**DRINKS MOUNT UP**

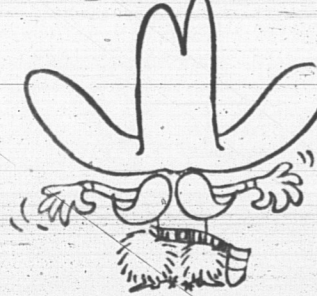
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