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Bronze and Silver Bells

A gift presented to President Kim Il Sung by Indonesian President Sukarno in April 1965.

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Front Cover: President Kim Il Sung's birthplace at Mangyongdae

Photo by Ra Phyoung Ryol



Back Cover: Ulmil Pavilion in spring

Photo by Ra Chung Hyok

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For the liberation of the country

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The People's Country



President Kim Il Sung among workers (April 1961).

PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG IS THE founder of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. On the occasion of the 103rd anniversary of his birth, the Korean people look back on his revolutionary exploits with deep emotion.

To build a people's country whose master is the working people was Kim Il Sung's ideal and desire. Undergoing the sorrow of the stateless nation to the marrow under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists (1905–1945) in the early 20th century, he organized and waged an armed struggle to defeat the aggressors and regain the lost country. In those years the people's revolutionary government, the first of its kind, was established in the guerrilla bases of the liberated-area form thanks to his leadership. As the government that was in the people's

hand and served as the champion of the people's right and freedom, it gave land to the peasants, equal right to the women as the men and enforced free education at Children's Corps schools and free medical service at hospitals in the guerrilla bases. The establishment of the government in the guerrilla bases was valuable experience for Korea in instituting the government and enforcing democratic reforms after its liberation on August 15, 1945.

After national liberation the agrarian reform was the first to be executed. At the time nearly 80 percent of the Korean population was peasants. They had no or little area of land while the landlords who accounted for a tiny percentage of the population were possessed of a great area of land with which they were exploiting the peasants. On ►



Peasants enthusiastically support the Law on Agrarian Reform.



A free medical care system was established in the wartime.

▶ March 5, 1946, the Law on Agrarian Reform in North Korea was proclaimed, and now the land owned by the Japanese state, individual Japanese, pro-Japanese Koreans, traitors to the Korean nation and the landlords possessed of more than five hectares per household, and the land that was tilled not by the owners but by the tenants was confiscated and given gratis to the peasants who had no or little land under the banner of “Land to the tillers!” With this the centuries-old desire of the peasants to do farming in their own land was accomplished with credit.

Then, a succession of democratic laws came including those on nationalization of major industries, sex equality and labour, and the campaign against illiteracy went ahead with the involvement of all the people. Democratic policies were executed continuously in later years.

The Korean people have emotional memories of how the free medical care system was introduced. The free medical care was established during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953) which was decisive to the destiny of the country. In an attempt to strangle the DPRK that was less than two years old, the US imperialists hurled more than two million-strong forces into the Korean war including 15 of its satellite nations, Japanese and south Korean troops along with a huge amount of war materiel. In January 1952 when all things had to be directed to the effort for victory in the war, Kim Il Sung learned that quite a good amount of fund was needed to get rid of the aftereffects of the US imperialists’ germ warfare. He said that they should spare no expense if it was for the sake of the people who were fighting for the victory in the war in the front and rear, that it was necessary to introduce free medical care though they were in a difficult condition, and that nothing was more valuable in the world than the people’s lives. Ten months later a Cabinet decision was promulgated on the introduc-

tion of free medical service and a universal free medical care system based on State expense was instituted in January 1953. Thus all hospitals in the country offered free service, and even preventive and curative establishments of the Korean People’s Army looked after civilians free of charge. Referring ▶



► to this fact, a foreign dispatch reported that “Although the US is devastating Korea by showers of bombs, Korea has flailed the US in the face by a buster equivalent to ten atomic bombs.” The free medical care system has since been invariably maintained with further improvement.

The free education that was given in part after national liberation became universal after the war. Although every penny counted for the rehabilitation projects after the three-year war, Korea introduced universal compulsory primary education in 1956, and universal compulsory secondary education in 1958—both for free. And it proclaimed that universal free education would begin from April 1, 1959. Thus, to say nothing of schooling for children, all forms of social instruction based on study-while-working courses and adult education were placed at the burden of the State. At present all children learn to their heart’s content thanks to the universal compulsory 12-year education.

The agricultural tax in kind was abolished in 1966, and the taxation system was completely repealed by a historic law in March 1974. Like this, the State policies for the people increased year after year.

All the Korean people are now enjoying happy



People cast a yes vote at the elections to the 13th Supreme People’s Assembly.

life thanks to the popular policies. They work according to their hope and ability and are legally provided with working conditions. The eight-hour working day, off-day, paid holiday, maternity leave and other measures are in force. Sanatoriums and holiday camps are found at scenic spots across the country.

The country provides housing to the working people for free. In recent years alone a large number of modern apartment buildings went up including those for teachers of Kim Il Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Technology, those in Changjon Street and Wisong Scientists Residential District. The country is forcefully pushing housing projects to meet the growing demand of the people.

The citizens of the DPRK are given equal right to participate in elections transcending the differences in sex, occupation, degree of wealth and knowledge, political view and religious belief. Ordinary people are elected to the Supreme People’s Assembly to deal with State affairs. Among the deputies are industrial and farm workers, intellectuals, sportspersons, and people from all other walks of life.

The people-centred socialist system that is ruled by the popular masses as masters of the State and society and serves their interest faithfully is the dear home of the Korean people. It is over 20 years since Kim Il Sung passed away, but the Korean people invariably hold him in high esteem as the eternal President of the DPRK, determined to firmly defend and further exalt their socialist country, the invaluable revolutionary inheritance of the President.

Won Chung Guk

The Changjon Street.



Story About Kimilsungia

THERE ARE NUMEROUS kinds of flowers on the earth all round the year. Kimilsungia, the immortal flower, is not simply a beautiful part of nature developed by the botanical science. There is a significant story about the birth of the flower.

In early November 1964 Sukarno, President of Indonesia, paid a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Kim Il Sung, leader of the DPRK, gave sufficient answers to a number of questions his guest raised, including the experience in the building of an independent national economy which the Indonesian leader was keenly inter-

ested in.

In April the following year Kim Il Sung paid an official visit to Indonesia. The Indonesian government declared the day the Korean leader arrived in the country as a day off in the capital city of Jakarta so that hundreds of thousands of Indonesians turned out to the airport and the streets in holiday attire to offer a warm welcome. Sukarno went up to the staircase of the plane and accorded a warm welcome to Kim Il Sung. Then he made sure that the Korean leader was given a VIP seat in the platform of the Indonesian Provisional People's Consultative Assembly.

Holding Kim Il Sung in high respect, the Indonesian President did his best to give him a hearty welcome. He accompanied him in his visit to local places and paid special attention to his escort.

On April 13 he guided Kim Il Sung to the Bogor Botanical Garden. It is located in a sloping area some 200 metres above sea level, scores of km away from Jakarta. A celebrated A-class botanical garden that had come into existence nearly 150 years before, it was called "Flower Garden of Indonesia."

When Kim Il Sung got to a stand in a greenhouse of the garden, the Indonesian President



The Gold Award and diploma conferred on Kimilsungia at the international orchid competition of the International Horticultural Exposition 2011 Xi'an China.



► took a potted flower from the director of the garden and showed it to Kim Il Sung, asking how he liked it. The pinkish deep purple petals of a smart shape like the butterfly, the blossoms hanging gracefully from the half-moon-like bending scape giving a noble sense, the bamboo-like strong stem, the stretching green leaves—all these were quite attractive.

Kim Il Sung, wearing a bright smile, enjoyed the blossoms for a good while before saying it was really beautiful.

The Indonesian President told that the flower had been newly bred by a botanist of his country, and went on, “Mr. Premier Kim Il Sung, we hope to call this rare and beautiful flower *Kimilsungia* after your august name.”

Kim Il Sung thanked him and politely declined the request, saying that he had done nothing so great as to let them call the flower after his name.

But Sukarno would not give up his determination. When they returned to Jakarta, he made another official request to Korean officials for the matter via the Indonesian courtesy chief.

This was how *Kimilsungia* was born in the world. It was widely known with its registration in an international orchid society based in Britain in April 1982.

Korea set up a *Kimilsungia* greenhouse in its Central Botanical Garden in 1979 whose mission is to multiply, distribute and study the plant. This is the centre of the cultivation and distribution of the flower. Based in this centre, the Korean scientists



Kimilsungia festival is held annually.

and technicians pushed ahead with scientific research in its growing and distribution. Later similar bases were established in the Biological Engineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences and provincial botanical gardens.

Following the demise of President Kim Il Sung in July 1994, the *Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia* Exhibition House was opened on the beautiful Taedong River, covering a dozen thousand square metres.

Pyongyang holds *Kimilsungia* festivals in a grand style on the birthday of the President and other important occasions, and they have been annual events since 1999. They are participated in by all state establishments and individual people who grow the plant and even overseas Koreans and foreign floricultural companies and individual persons. At the festivals they present experience in the cultivation of the plant and those who present superior blossoms are accorded prizes and awards. The festivals render

great service to the celebration of the Day of the Sun while promoting the greatness of President Kim Il Sung around the world and the effort to develop and disseminate the techniques of cultivation of *Kimilsungia*. The exhibition house's tissue culture laboratory produces seedlings of *Kimilsungia* and sends them across Korea and foreign countries and regions.

The Korea *Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia* Federation formed in 1995 was extensively reorganized into the *Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia* Committee.

Kimilsungia flowers are now found in Indonesia, China, Japan, Germany, Guinea and many other countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. It received the top award at the 7th China Floricultural Expo and the diploma and trophy at the international orchid competition of the International Horticultural Exposition 2011 Xi'an China. It has been given a good deal of international awards and prizes.

Jong Kyong Bok

Thanks to My Socialist System

I AM A MAN OF OVER 70. But I didn't expect I would be as excited as a young man who has just fulfilled his hope. Last year my country built the wonderful Wisong Scientists Residential District and gave the flats to scientists including me for free. Looking round the well-furnished flat, I was overwhelmed with emotion. Later when I took my granddaughter of school age to Wisong Primary School, I found it so marvellous and thought it would develop so many talent. Then, it reminded me of my past, encouraging me to tell the world how I could build my career.

I was born the first child of a clerk's family in the then Orang Subcounty, Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province, just two years before national liberation (August 1945). As I was the only son of six children, my father was very strict on me. He often told me to study hard to be able to contribute to the building of a new Korea. The image of my father working as a bank accountant aroused my curiosity for maths in my childhood. As I grew up, I got more interested in the magic relations between numerical figures and I was full of determination that I would study harder than anybody else when I was in school.

But a war broke out due to the US imperialists in June 1950. Childish as I was, I felt very depressed to think that I could not go to school because of the war. But school started soon even in the flames of the war, and I enrolled primary school on September 1 that year and learned at school full of hope.

Immediately after the war in 1953 my family moved to Chongjin and I finished junior middle school there in 1958. That year, my father died and my mother fell ill in bed. My sisters were still very young. So I inwardly gave up my hope to go to high school. Yet I could not help envying other children their good luck to go to high



► school without any worry thanks to their parents' support.

At that time I had fortune on my side: In October 1958, the State law *On Enforcing Universal Compulsory Secondary Education and Preparing Compulsory Technical Education* was adopted and a government decree was announced that the universal compulsory secondary education would be administered gratis all over the country on and from November 1 that year. I cannot forget the image of my sick mother smiling brightly for the first time in her sickbed. She was very happy to see me excited. At that time, however, I didn't know what benefits I would receive as a student.

I finished school with top honour and was qualified for the entrance examination for

Kim Il Sung University in 1961. I was very happy but on the other hand I was troubled with a worry. I was the only boy in my family, so if I was away there would be nobody to look after the family.

But that was a needless worry. When I enrolled the university, I found the students who were burdened to look after their families were treated like workers with a job. As I was a university student, my family received provisions from the State almost for nothing. And the school uniforms were given at a low price according to the number of students per household. As there were five students in my family, we paid only 20% of the price for our uniforms. Moreover, college students received scholarship. All the benefits I got in 1961 were given although the economic conditions of the country were crucial.

But it was out of my concern at that time. Later, however, seeing this system intact even during the time called Arduous March and forced march, I was often surprised at the tremendous State burden.

I left the university in 1966 and was assigned to work at the State Academy of Sciences as I had wished. I was full of determination to repay the State benefit by attaining great ability and scientific and technical successes. Since then I have worked as vice director and director of the Maths Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences and in other important positions. All my life has been related with scientific research, accompanied by joys and disappointment over research.

They usually say that I am one of those few people who have won a successful career. They prefer to

call me candidate academician, professor, Doctor or Merited Scientist out of their respect. They often talk about my exploits—I worked out a number of innovative ideas overturning existing formulas when the West Sea Barrage was under construction, thus helping finish the project earlier and reduce the volume of labour a great deal. I made some careful mathematical calculations with a firm scientific conviction.

Some young people often talk about my successful mathematical calculations in my first three years in my research institute when I helped finish a hydro-power station project in a short time by some simple mathematical calculations. (The project was in danger of cancellation at the final stage because all the elements of waterway tunnel were unstable.)

As they say, I have worked hard in the world of mathematics. I have tried hard to work out the answers that our country and era required. If the titles show the height of the glory of a man, I could say that I am the happiest. But I don't think it is the due fruit of my efforts. If I had not realized my wish of education, what would I be now?

When some people told my granddaughter that she would distinguish herself at school as she has a grandfather who is a famous scientist, I said, "I am not a man of gift but a man brought up by the grateful system of education. I believe that all the pupils of this school fully furnished with educational conditions will grow up into able workers and contribute to the development of the country."

*Candidate Academician
Jong Jae Bu*



Blessed Children

NOT LONG AGO WE visited the Pyongyang Orphanage that had moved into a new building on the picturesque Taedong River in Pyongyang.

Passing the front gate we saw the children doing exercise to the tune of a song in the morning sunshine. They had all chubby cheeks.

"It seems only yesterday that my children came to this palace-like house on buses decorated with flowers amid warm welcome of the Pyongyang citizens in November last year," said Headmistress Choe Song Ran, guiding us into the entrance hall. "At that time all mothers in the city moved to tears to see our buses pass through the streets. Even small children turned out with their mothers to give a wave to my children. The scene is still lingering in my eyes."

In the hall we saw the stairs and walls painted with many interesting pictures from animations like *A Squirrel and a Hedgehog* and *The Clever Raccoon Dog*. It seemed as if we were in a fairy-tale world.

Choe led us to the clinic with specialist departments including those of internal treatment, surgical treatment and dentistry, and sick-rooms. We first dropped in at the dentist's. There was a dinosaur-shaped facility which I thought was likely to arouse curi-

osity among the children rather than fear of treatment. Other rooms were also equipped with the most advanced facilities and the dispensary was full of various kinds of valuable medicines.

We went into the indoor wading pool in which was a water gun and a water slide and a swan-

shaped boat on the water. Dipping hands in the water we felt warm. The headmistress said, "On a visit to my orphanage, our national leader Kim Jong Un dipped his hand in the clear water of this pool and pointed out the temperature of the water to be provided." She went on to say, ►



▶ “The children forget the passage of time when they play in the water in pretty swimsuits and water-glasses.”

We then looked into the children’s exercise room, the playroom and a nature observation room. In the exercise room there were a midget pingpong table, mini-backstops, a trampoline, boxing gloves and the like, and the playroom was full of various kinds of toys. In the nature observation room consisting of four parts of all seasons, I saw the

stuffed animal specimens arranged for each season. Now we went into the education room of Junior Class C on the first floor. On the front wall a rabbit-shaped clock ticked on, and children were seated around a round table listening to their teacher’s explanation on pictures. Not to interfere with their class, we first went into a bedroom quietly. There were thick but light pretty-patterned quilts on the double-decked beds. Coming to the education room again, we

soup and several kinds of dishes were given in the meal time. She continued, “Our national leader told us that he would send much more toys and amusement facilities and children’s favourite goods enough to fill up our big storehouse.”

Every place and all the things of the orphanage made us fully realize how benevolent the care for the orphaned children was.

Coming down to the ground floor, we could hear the children sing.



heard teacher Jang Myong Hwa ask the children, “What place do you like most in this palace-like house?” “It is the nature observation room where we can see a wild boar with a sticking-out snout and a deer.” “I like the playroom with many toys.” There came out mischievous voices here and there. At the time, a voice called out, “I like the dining room.” Then several voices joined it, shouting, “Me, too.” Song Ran told us that sweet cake, Eskimo pies, nutritious sour milk, doughnuts, chestnuts and the like were usually supplied in the snack time while boiled nutritious rice,

*Let’s sing loudly, we are
the happiest.
We are all in the
great embrace.
We are under the care
of the Sun.
We are under the wing
of the Star.*

Hearing their singing, I thought, “Who would believe they are orphans?”

Picturing the future of our prosperous country, we left the orphanage.

Ri Sun Nyo



Duty

THE DOCTORS OF THE KAESON Polyclinic, situated in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, are held in respect among the local residents.

In early January, the polyclinic carried out a general medical examination for the inhabitants in its charge. Before it, the head of the polyclinic Kim Ok Hui urged her doctors to carefully examine each inhabitant in the neighbourhoods in their charge and find out patients in good time. Doctors visited every family with their health management records, and found out the patients in their early stage and took proper measures for diagnosis and treatment.

When doctor Ri Yong Hui examined the people in Neighbourhood Unit No. 27, Kaeson-dong, she noticed a strange thing about Cha Song Hui's condition. She asked Cha about her feeling, but the answer was "No problem."

Soon the doctors of the polyclinic had a discussion about the case and diagnosed Cha with breast cancer. They immediately took a necessary step and transferred her to the Breast Tumor Research Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. Cha received an operation and recovered soon.

Section doctor Choe Mi Yong noticed some in-

habitants with caries during examination. Now she examined all the inhabitants' oral condition in the neighbourhood in her charge and then in the area of Kaeson-dong in the polyclinic's charge. In this course, she found out tens of patients with oral troubles including caries and arranged intensive care for them.

In addition, Kim Kwang Suk, a department chief at the polyclinic, has been taking care of an old woman named Kim In Sun, who is a war veteran and honoured disabled soldier of the neighbourhood in her charge, for over ten years. When In Sun was seriously ill with high fever several months ago, Kim looked after her with all her heart. Whenever her family told the doctor several times they would take care of her themselves, Kim, claiming that it was her duty to treat her, stayed up by the sick bed for over ten days. Thanks to the sincerity, the old woman got well.

Meanwhile, having worked out a concrete plan by weeks and months for periodic inoculation of children and other services, the polyclinic conducted active information about hygienic needs. The doctors went to neighbourhood units to give intelligible explanation of common knowledge of diseases and their folk remedies as well as preventive and curative medical care. In particular, they put stress on information regarding prevention of infectious diseases like the Ebola virus-caused disease which is rapidly spreading in the world. Their activities are also to be seen on their way to and from work.

Some time ago, the doctors received a letter from a country man who had been treated by the polyclinic during visit to his relatives in Pyongyang. He thankfully wrote that though he had had an illness all of a sudden, he had been cured of his disease completely thanks to the devotion of the doctors there and the benefit of the free medical care system, and that now he was working in good health. That's not the only letter of thanks to the doctors.

They say, "Whenever we receive such a letter, we feel pride in our job and renew our determination to work hard true to our duty."

Jo Yong Il



Sporting Tour of Masik Pass Gets Popular



THE SKI RESORT ON MASIK PASS IN CENTRAL Korea was a great attraction this year as it was last year. The typical sporting tour took place in multifarious ways. The skiing which is of the greatest interest helps you learn ►





► basic skills on the easy and intermediate slopes before going over the difficult trails to enjoy adventurous movements. The ten trails down from the summit of Taehwa Peak rising over 1 360 m above sea level are 40–120 m wide, and 1 700 m long on average, the longest being as many as 5 000 m. Ski instructors offer kindly

lessons for warming-up and basic movements. You can learn to ski in two days at the earliest and a week at the latest if you are helped by the instructors. Skiing is not the only fun here. The snowmobile can take you up to the top of Taehwa Peak in ten minutes. You can enjoy sledging, figure-skating, speed-skating and

even hockey in the skating area. Survey of the snowscape of the pass on the chair lift helps you feel immense magnificence while the scene of the sunrise viewed from Taehwa Peak is one of the peculiar elements of the sporting tour of Masik Pass. Kind-hearted service is also offered in the Masikryong Hotel ►



► which is friendly with nature and smells of a mountain region. Rooms are arranged in a cosy way so that the guests can enjoy their stay by families and individuals, and diversified recreational services are offered by means of the swimming pool, the beauty salon, the barber's, the games room and the dancing hall.

Another attraction is the cuisine. All kinds of dishes including those made with wild vegetables picked in the mountain area are prepared with the use of the Masikryong spring water.

The transportation infrastructure is also conveniently laid so that the tourists can move to other resorts easily.

The ski resort is a favourite place of Korean and foreign skiing enthusiasts who enjoy contests of skiing skills and share friendship.

Many of the skiing enthusiasts who enjoyed themselves on Masik Pass last winter are looking forward to the coming winter.

Rim Ok

Echoes of Whistle

BELIEVING IN THE PEOPLE AS IN GOD and regarding them as his teacher, Chairman Kim Jong Il worked faithfully for the sake of the people all his life, keeping it as his motto to serve them.

In the mid-1990s when the socialist setback was sweeping, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was faced with indescribable trials and ordeals, such as devastating natural calamities and the imperialists' moves to economically isolate and stifle the country through blockades. At the time the imperialists blabbered about the possible "crises in May," saying that the DPRK would not survive them in May 1996. The Koreans found themselves at the crossroads of remaining an independent nation and falling a stateless nation.

At this juncture Chairman Kim Jong Il inspected the Dwarf Pine Post of the Korean People's Army on the first morning of 1995. Looking round the post, he said with a gruff voice that he was there although he knew the children were waiting for him anxiously to attend their New Year's Day artistic performance, and that he got on the road of Songun because he wanted to use the gun to tell that the sound of the children's singing would continue to ring far and wide as long as he was there to protect them.

From then on the Chairman kept himself on the road of Songun. The road led to anywhere there were KPA soldiers, including Mt. Osong where you are exposed to the danger of falling down the precipitous cliff if you make a slip while climbing up, the Cho Islet which is far across the rough sea, and the ex-

tremely dangerous Panmunjom Post.

Thanks to his Songun-based guidance great defence capabilities have developed, which any formidable enemy dare not touch.

One February day when the nipping cold wind was blowing, Kim Jong Il inspected Height 351. There he met two soldiers on duty. Understanding how they stood guard, he felt the cotton-padded winter coats they wore. Then he asked commanding officers to put more cotton in their coats. Still worried about the soldiers, he stressed the need to supply the service personnel with the winter coats which were free from crisscross-patterned stitches as the needle holes might let in the wind.

Likewise, at all places he visited he urged that the KPA commanding officers should have a warmer heart than anybody else and refrain from feeling satisfied with the improvement of the soldiers' living condition. He was relieved only after he made the rounds of barracks, mess halls, storehouses and the like.

Under his loving care the soldiers knew the value of the gun more keenly and felt great pride in their military service. Determined to undertake both national defence and socialist construction, they made a breakthrough in each of the major sectors of the front for the building of a thriving nation, working miracles.

Kim Jong Il's road of Songun was not for national defence alone. It was associated with his patriotic devotion and determination to safeguard the socialist country which was the heritage of President ►

► Kim Il Sung and to help the people lead as happy a life as anybody else in the world. One day, recollecting his “forced march” by train, Kim Jong Il said that he seemed to have become accustomed to making a forced march while based on the train and that he thought he would not be able to go to bed at home without worry until the people were well off.

On January 30, 2011—it was recorded as the coldest day of the year—the Chairman visited the February 8 Vinalon Complex. Pulling and breaking the vinalon cotton with his hands for test, he was satisfied that the cotton was of better quality than it was the previous year. As if imagining the people who would be pleased to have clothes made of the cotton, he wore a broad smile. He was just like a mother who works hard to provide better clothes to her children and put them forward proudly.

In the following August when the Dog Days fell, he visited the complex again. Seeing vinalon cotton and vinalon ropes piled in heaps, he said satisfactorily that the vinalon ropes are useful for off-shore culture as they are little different in toughness even if they are wet.

Inspecting the complex once more in October that year he expressed his satisfaction again, saying he was now relieved to see the wonderful sight of the white vinalon cotton coming out.

This was not an exceptional story. When looking round a mineral water factory and a fruit farm, he tasted the water and fruits himself. Visiting the Pyongyang Vegetable Research Institute and the Pyongyang Floricultural Research Institute, he asked earnestly to supply the people with fresh vegetables and fragrant flowers all the year round.

He was more pleased than anybody else to see sound fish prepared to be supplied to the people, and to hear factories and power stations being under construction for the improvement of the living standard.

He went into underground mining faces in thousands of fathoms to see the workers down there, and in the countryside he kindly took the farm workers by their muddy hands and talked with them about farming matters. Wherever you go, you can see the highrise apartment blocks, poultry farms, foodstuff factories, public recreation bases, stockbreeding

farms and fish farms. These are all indicative of the Chairman’s warm care and devotion.

On December 15, 2011 he, enduring the oppressive strain of mental and physical fatigues with difficulty, went round the Kwangbok Area Supermarket, which marked the last of his field guidance. After assessing the quality of some cosmetics for women, he walked over to the counter of household goods. Seeing frying pans he said with pleasure that they would be favourite with women at home as they were of good quality and easy to use. Then, he looked round the clothes, shoe and bag counters before getting to the cap counter and the sock counter. He appreciated the styles and colours of knitted caps. Taking a pair of women’s socks, he said women would like it when the supermarket sold such socks in summer. With a bright smile he said he was feeling it warm inwardly although it was a cold day because he saw the supermarket filled with goods.

Cherishing his noble mission of working for the happiness of the people, he took a measure to supply fish to the Pyongyang citizens before he left for on-site guidance by train in the closing days of his life.

The whistle of his train was heard anywhere in the country, giving courage and stamina to the whole nation. The land was rezoned wonderfully into standard sizes all over the country as befitting that of the socialist nation, gravitational waterways were dug and rural villages changed into admirable socialist communities. The Kanggye Spirit and the Torch of Songgang came to limelight, epitomizing the way to brave any trial and ordeal with one’s own effort. The CNC project was fulfilled which marked the industrial revolution in the new century, while artificial earth satellites were successfully launched. Kim Jong Il’s devoted efforts laid solid foundations for the Korean people’s happy and civilized life.

The whistle of the train Kim Jong Il used to take while giving field guidance energetically is still echoing forcefully in the mind of the Korean people, encouraging them to dash forward towards the final victory of the struggle to build a prosperous nation.

Choe Chol Jin

With a Noble Sense of Duty

A Stone's Throw

ONE DAY IN FEBRUARY 1996 Chairman Kim Jong Il asked some commanding officers of the Korean People's Army to go along with him to inspect Height 351, which was one of the very dangerous front-line posts exposed to the enemy's gunfire at any moment. Apprehensive about his safety, the commanding officers earnestly asked him to reconsider the visit.

Saying that he should go there as it was so dangerous, he headed for the height in the snowstorm. At last he arrived at the top of the height where they could see the wire entanglements along the Military Demarcation Line and concrete walls and the enemy's posts behind them.

The Chairman asked about the distance to the enemy's post. Learning it was 1 200 metres, he said it was a stone's throw.

An officer asked him to leave the dangerous place as the enemy's recoilless guns were aimed at the height all the time.

In fact, on the previous day, too, the enemy committed an armed provocation by firing

scores of bullets and shells. Kim Jong Il, however, seeing the enemy post, said that though the enemy's recoilless guns were aimed at this height he was not afraid because his stout soldiers stood guard. He stayed on the height for a good while and put forward special ideas to complete operational and tactical preparations to cope with the enemy's aggressive scheme.

Title of DPRK Hero

One February day in 2000 Chairman Kim Jong Il talked knee-to-knee with KPA commanding officers, when he spoke highly of a unit's successful fulfillment of a training task, which was the first of its kind in the new millennium. (The miraculous achievement became well-known in the whole army.) He proposed to give official commendations to the unit's officers who had made feats in training and confer the title of DPRK Hero on the unit's commander and its subordinate unit's commander who had set a new model in combat training. The KPA commanding officers were surprised.

The leader said that in the

past many KPA officers and men had been awarded the title of Labour Hero for their services in the socialist construction and defence projects, but that there had been few who were awarded the title of DPRK Hero for their exploits in training. That was a pity, he said and continued that the army must put primary attention to the operational and combat drills and that higher official commendations must be given to the officers and men who trained themselves hard usually.

He emphasized that the commanders of the abovementioned unit should be given the title of DPRK Hero, not the title of Labour Hero which was usually conferred on people who made feats in the socialist construction or defence projects.

Following his instruction that in the wartime soldiers fighting bravely are heroes while those doing exercises well in ordinary days are heroes, the title of DPRK Hero was conferred on the unit's commanders who had made innovations in the combat and political training in the new millennium.

Later, the military personnel engaged themselves in training more enthusiastically. □

70 Years of Wonders

THE 70-YEAR CHRONICLE of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) is filled with miraculous events. Since its foundation the WPK has defeated challenges of the imperialists and advanced socialism by trusting and relying on the popular masses. Miracles ever known in history took place over the years.

When the US imperialists ignited the Korean war in June 1950, the WPK inflicted ignominious defeat on the aggressors and defended the freedom and independence of the country honourably by mobilizing the entire army and all the people for the sacred war to repulse the enemy. The war broke out, when it was less than five years since the Korean people embarked on the building of a new society, and also less than two years since the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was founded. Miraculously, however, the young Korea defeated the US imperialists who had undergone no defeat in their 110-odd aggression wars overseas and emerged as leader of the capitalist countries by dint of their largest ever capital, technical and military potentialities after World War II.

After the war, the WPK wrought consecutive miracles in all sectors of the economic construction by encouraging the Korean people to make the Chollima upsurge. The workers of the then Kangson Steel Works turned out 120 000 tons of steel billets a year with a blooming mill whose annual rated capacity was 60 000 tons, and those of the then Kim Chaek Iron Works produced 270 000 tons of pig iron with equipment with an annual rated capacity of 190 000 tons.

Recollecting the time, President Kim Il Sung said, **"I trusted the people and decided to break through the difficulty by**

relying on them and immediately after the December 1956 Plenary Meeting paid a visit to the Kangson Steel Works. ...

"I explained to the [workers] the country's situation, the decision of the Plenary Meeting and the need for steel to undertake more construction and strengthen defence capabilities, and then appealed to them to increase the production of rolled steel by 10 000 tons over and above the original plan by tapping reserves if they trusted the Party and supported it. Hearing my speech, the men stood up shouting cheers and expressed their resolves to produce 90 000 tons of rolled steel that was required by the Party."

The steel production of the country increased 3.4 times and rolled steel production grew 3.6 times in four years from 1957 to 1960.

In this period, the workers in the machine industry made the first tractor and truck of the Korean brand by their own efforts, while the workers of the then West Pyongyang Railway Works manufactured the first Korean electric locomotive.

The builders of Pyongyang constructed a huge number of modern dwelling houses by assembling a flat every 14 minutes. This was later called Pyongyang Speed. A foreign critic, who visited Korea at that time, wrote that he was afraid of going around alone in Pyongyang because he could not judge direction as new buildings went up one after another on both sides of the street he strolled during his ten-day stay.

Thanks to the fury enthusiasm of the Korean people, the industrial output grew at an average rate of 19.1 percent every year in 1957-1970, and thus the industrialization of the nation was carried out in no more than

fourteen years. Considering that it took other countries a full century or more to carry out industrialization, Korea's success meant a miracle. It was the materialization of the Party's trust in the people and the people's absolute confidence in the Party.

Then, how is it that the WPK has defeated all manner of challenges resolutely and wrought miracles? It is attributable to the Party's ideological and volitional unity with the people. The unity was a successful support to the Party in the 1990s when it firmly safeguarded the Korean socialism and national sovereignty from the imperialists' concentrated offensives following the breakup of socialism in a number of countries.

By bolstering up the harmonious whole of the Party and the people as firm as a rock during the time decisive to the destiny of the nation, the Party won victory after victory in the confrontation with the imperialists and put the nation in the proud position of a member of the artificial earth satellite manufacturing and launching club, and a nuclear state. In recent years the WPK brought about a new heyday of construction by united efforts of the army and the people, flatly frustrated the imperialists' desperate moves of aggression and safeguarded the independence and dignity of the country.

The harmonious whole of the Party and the people which has embroidered the WPK's 70-year history with miraculous events, is being further consolidated by the supreme leader Kim Jong Un who is making sure that the work of the Party as a whole is consistent with the popular-masses-first idea. A new chapter of the WPK's history is being written.

Sim Chol Yong

The Seeds of the Revolution Sown over a Wide Area

(Excerpts from President Kim Il Sung's reminiscences With the Century)

WE ADVANCED A NEW LINE OF DISSOLVING the narrow guerrilla bases in the form of liberated areas and launching into wider areas for active large-scale operations; we brought this line up for discussion at the Yaoyinggou meeting in March 1935. The overwhelming majority of the military and political cadres attending the meeting supported it fully.

We were determined in 1935 to close down the guerrilla zones because it was a requirement of the objective and subjective circumstances prevailing in those days. We could say that the guerrilla zones set up along the Tuman River had fulfilled their mission and tasks. The greatest task of the guerrilla zones had been to protect and train the revolutionary forces and, at the same time, to lay firm political, military, material and technical foundations for further expansion and development of the anti-Japanese armed struggle. But, at that time we had not defined the period of the fulfilment of the task as three or four years. We had only thought that the shorter the period, the better it would be.

In the heat of the armed struggle the army and people had become unconquerable fighters. The guerrilla army which had had several dozens of soldiers at the outset had now developed into a people's revolutionary army with enormous strength that was capable of large-scale battles to defend the guerrilla bases and of attacking cities. The people's revolutionary army accumulated a wealth of political and military experience, the experience of fresh, original guerrilla warfare.

The revolutionary ranks became united into a great family that no force could ever break through arduous struggle against factionalism and Left and Right opportunism. A firm mass basis for the armed struggle and Party building was laid and the anti-Japanese allied front with the Chinese people became unbreakable—all these successes were won in the three to four years after the guerrilla zones were

established.

The revolutionary situation in the Jiandao area in the mid-1930s required the Korean and Chinese communists to change their line to cope with the developments in the new age.

The anti-Japanese guerrilla bases in Jiandao were in a tight siege in 1935, too. That year the enemy's siege reached its apex. While we had decided to come to a finale in the revolution by changing our lines, the enemy attempted to achieve a decisive victory in their purge of "communist bandits" by tightening the siege to the maximum. The Japanese imperialists mobilized hundreds of thousands of their crack troops, encircled the guerrilla zones in double and triple rings and launched a "punitive" attack every day to stamp all the living creatures there off the face of the earth. The enemy's main scheme to break the relations between the revolutionary army and the people lay in its policy of the concentration village. In accordance with this policy the people living in all the administrative districts outside the jurisdiction of the people's revolutionary government were driven into the concentration villages surrounded by earthen walls and forts whether they liked it or not to lead a mole's life under such immoral laws as the five-household joint surveillance system and the ten-household joint responsibility system, subject to the medieval order.

How [the enemy] schemed to sow the seeds of dissension and estrangement between the residents of the concentration villages can be seen from the five-household joint surveillance system alone. They formed a group of five households and, if one of them was found to be communicating with the guerrilla army, they punished all the households in that group; in the worst cases, they killed all the people of the five households. This was the notorious five-household joint surveillance system.

The administrative officials, armed police and army strictly controlled food grains to prevent even a pound of rice from getting out to the people's revolutionary army. When the people went to work beyond the earthen walls, the police searched their

► lunchboxes to see if they had extra rice for the “communist bandits”, and indiscriminately deprived them of their lunchboxes if they had more than their share. The peasants living in the concentration villages were not allowed to go beyond the walls before dawn even though they wanted to begin work earlier to deal with the arrears of field work, and they had to be back before dusk. It was almost impossible for the revolutionary army to expect any food supplies from the people in the concentration villages. The farm products from the guerrilla zones could not satisfy the food demands of the soldiers and the inhabitants. Worse still, the enemy incessantly hampered their farm work. The crops as well as the people became objects of their scorched-earth operations. They trampled sprouting crops, burnt growing crops, harvested and carried away ripe crops by mobilizing armed men. This was a mean hunger operation and strangling siege for starving the army and people to death in the guerrilla zones whom they were unable to annihilate through arms.

The Yaoyinggou meeting marked a turning-point for the people’s revolutionary army to switch over from strategic defence of the guerrilla zones to a new stage of strategic offensive. Thanks to the decision of the meeting, we were able to leave the narrow guerrilla zones to greet a new age in which we could energetically conduct active guerrilla warfare with large units in the vast area of northeast China and Korea. The arena of the people’s revolutionary army activities, which had been confined to the five counties in Jiandao, would expand dozens of times. Needless to say, the wider the scope of our activities became, the deeper quandary the enemy, blockading the narrow area, would find themselves in. It would be comparatively easy for them to surround the five counties, but it was quite a different matter with the several provinces in northeast China. So far they had had an easy time of it, cooped up in fixed areas after encircling the guerrilla zones, but from that time on they were forced to fight battles which had been unprecedented and had not been dealt with in military manuals, treading on the heels of the people’s revolutionary army.

The enemy described our evacuation of the guerrilla zones as “signifying the decline of the communist bandits in Jiandao” as a “result of the thoroughgoing punitive operation of the Imperial Army through dispersed disposition”, but they had to recognize it as a voluntary act based on new tactics for switching over to large-scale guerrilla actions and as

an offensive measure. This new strategic measure made the enemy uneasy, striking terror into them.

The correctness of the measures for dissolving the guerrilla zones was verified in life by the process of the overall development of the history of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle, which glorified the anti-Japanese revolution that was on the upswing in the latter half of the 1930s and which was waged dynamically for the finale of the country’s liberation.

The units of the people’s revolutionary army, after dissolving the guerrilla zones on their initiative, launched into wider areas, frustrating the enemy’s attempt to corner our resistance forces into the narrow mountainous area in Jiandao and to stifle them. The large and small units of the people’s revolutionary army undauntedly defeated the enemy’s numerical and technical superiority in the vast areas of south and north Manchuria and the northern region of Korea. The people’s revolutionary army’s dissolution of the guerrilla zones in the form of liberated areas and advancing into wider areas was a great event of launching out onto a vast plain from a valley.

While organizing and conducting the evacuation of the guerrilla zones we appreciated our people’s sense of organization and steel-like discipline and their faithfulness to the revolution and indefatigability, and became confident that we would emerge victorious in any difficult circumstance if we mobilized such people and guided them properly.

Once a people rise as a single unity to combat injustice at the risk of their lives, no blockade or scorched-earth operation will succeed against such a people. This is a convincing lesson demonstrated by the history of the international communist movement.

The United States, Japan and other modern imperialist states are now blockading our country in the political, economic and military spheres. But the Korean communists have a sufficient amount of vitamins of the Juche type with which to frustrate that blockade. The attempt to conquer the Workers’ Party of Korea, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Korean people by military means or to stifle them politically and economically is a wild daydream, like an attempt to break a rock with an egg.

After the evacuation of the guerrilla zones, small units and political workers actively infiltrated into the homeland. The seeds of the revolution were sown in the vast lands of Manchuria and Korea. □

The Building Boom in Korea

IN KOREA THE BUILDING industry is now in full boom, changing the appearance of the land. The banks of the Taedong River which meanders through the capital city of Pyongyang have undergone a great change with new structures like the twin apartment houses for the teaching staff of Kim Chaek University of Technology, workers' dormitory of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, high-rise apartment buildings in Changjon Street, People's Open-air Ice Rink, Ryugyong Health Complex, Rungna People's Pleasure Ground and

Rungna Dolphinarium, Munsu Water Park, and cosy Pyongyang Baby Home and Pyongyang Orphanage.

In addition, there are new apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Il Sung University, Unha Scientists Street, Wisong Scientists Residential District, Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp with a colonnade looking like open wings of a swan on the shore of the lake, Masikryong Ski Resort, modern Mirim Riding Club, grand Songdowon International Children's Camp, October 8 Factory, a model of industrial establish-

ments, Korean People's Army Military Hardware Museum and Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum. All these monuments went up in three years.

Now the Korean people enjoy skiing down the low, medium and high ski runs at the Masikryong Ski Resort, see the stunts of dolphins at the dolphinarium, and amuse themselves at the Munsu Water Park furnished with wave pools in all seasons. They can also do riding exercises at the Mirim Riding Club. At the Okryu Children's Hospital there is a roll book for the children who take lessons ▶





The Munsu Water Park.

► at the school in the hospital while getting treatment.

In May last year the Songdowon International Children's Camp was rebuilt and the 29th batch of children were admitted. They comprised over 300 children from different countries including Korea, Russia, Vietnam, Tanzania, Ireland and Nigeria. The camping term was not long, but colourful and merry activities in the camp left an indelible impression on all the campers. Komyakova Elizabeth Andreyevna, a Russian girl, said, "I want to let my parents see what a wonderful place I have been to. So, on the first day of my arrival I took photos of the blue sea, sandy beach, aquarium with fantastic tunnel tanks, aviary, and outdoor wading pool with a steep water slide and

so on." Linus Jamal Faustin of Tanzania said, "During our camping days the midsummer sun of Korea was beating down, but I was unaware of it. It was partly because nearly all of the buildings and facilities are wave-shaped with blue colour, giving a fresh feeling. Busying myself with so many amusement facilities, I didn't know how time passed. Sea bathing was good, but I took more delight in the video games hall, 4-D simulation cinema and indoor stadium, and at the wading pool. They've given me endless joy and pleasure."

The Pyongyang Baby Home and Pyongyang Orphanage are located on the picturesque Taedong riverside looking like a palace of children. All the nursing rooms, education rooms, exercise

rooms, intellectual play rooms and other rooms are arranged as in a fairy tale with everything necessary, and equipped with different kinds of amusement apparatuses and playthings to the delight of children. The family members of the teachers and researchers who moved into the apartment houses for Kim Chaek University of Technology teaching staff were ravished with joy to see their new homes furnished with all necessary furniture. Researcher Wi Ryong Hwan who moved into flat No. 3, 46th floor, first entrance, says, "An old saying goes that it is a good house that is well sited and has a good well. But the first-rate apartment houses have been built for the scientists at this scenic spot on the bank of the Taedong River

The Rungna Dolphinarium.



thanks to the Workers' Party of Korea's loving care for us. Everything seems to me like a dream. I keenly feel my duty as an educator."

The Russian newspaper ►

At Construction Site

ONE AUGUST DAY LAST year the DPRK national leader Kim Jong Un inspected again the construction site of the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp. Earlier he had initiated the project and made field investigations two times in person to select the best place for the holiday camp. The Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp named by him was near completion.

The construction site wore completely different looks in months to the surprise of the visitors. The leader came to see

it in May last year, too, when he spoke highly of the builders and gave an instruction to build the camp as a monumental edifice which would be superior to any of the kind. In order to carry out his instruction, the builders wrought a miracle by pushing the project at the Korean Speed, the speed of upswing.

Looking at the construction site with satisfaction, Kim Jong Un highly praised the builders, saying that well begun is half done, and that it seemed the holiday camp was already completed like a picture

scroll spread out. He expressed satisfaction acquainting himself with details of the construction of several buildings like a service complex and holiday houses. Saying that there were not many days left until October 10 (the founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea), he earnestly asked to provide scientists with an excellent holiday camp by pushing ahead with the project as scheduled.

His words encouraged all the builders to work a new miracle. □

► *Patriot* wrote in an article:

"Today Pyongyang resembles a gigantic construction site. Just as cogwheels engage each other, there is a foundation work going on for an apartment house on one hand, while another apartment house is open to receive new resi-

dents on the other. Comprehensive recreation centres are opened to the general public one after another. All these apartment houses, cultural and welfare facilities, and service centres are the projects inspected first by Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of

the Workers' Party of Korea, after he took office... After all, the mission of the WPK and the DPRK government is to serve the people to the full in keeping with the revolutionary idea and cause."

Sim Chol Yong

The Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp.



Mother's Life

(Continued from the last issue)

PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG went on to say, "Man cannot be free from the influence of environment. How painful it must have been for you Mother Kwan Rin to lie close in the attic of the house of a Chinese for three years to elude the pursuit of Japanese ruffians and reactionary Chinese warlords. Anyway, you are fortunate to have survived under the protection of the Chinese without getting caught by the enemy.

I understand you are 75 this year. My mother would be 80 if she were alive. She was really a good mother. Whenever I came home with my friends, she would take care of them like her own sons. After the death of my father, she threw herself into the revolutionary activities with more ardour. She organized the Anti-Japanese Women's Association and actively rallied women around it. She devoted her whole life to the revolution. When I founded the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, she came out to see the guerrilla men with

rifles on their shoulders though she was sick. She patted them on the back as they were standing in line, encouraging them with the words that as boys they should fight in arms. I saw the last of my mother on the day when I dropped in at my home for a little while before starting on an expedition to south Manchuria with the newborn guerrilla army. When we returned from south Manchuria in the autumn of that year, she had already passed away and my brother Chol Ju was away on the revolutionary movement. After we embarked on the revolutionary activities, we got much help from Chinese comrades. I think you know that Zhang Weihua and his family actively supported and helped my father and uncle in their revolutionary struggle to win back the lost country, and then myself in my revolutionary activities..."

Then the President spent a long time telling me about the removal of the graves of his father and mother from China to Korea and about Jang Chol Ho, Kang Je Ha, the Rev. Son Jong Do and Ryang Se Bong. That day I had the honour of having dinner with

President Kim Il Sung, and the dinner party was also attended by the Chinese ambassador. Gazing at me, the President praised me highly that I was a heroine of the anti-Japanese war for Korea's independence, the first woman fighter of our country who took part in the struggle with arms and a mother to the revolution. So I said in reply that I could join up in the independence movement because Kim Hyong Jik guided and encouraged me. Now the President talked about his efforts to locate me ever since the liberation of the country and the influence my activities in the Independence Army had exerted on him. Listening to his affectionate words, I felt a strong longing for Kim Hyong Jik, the leader whom I had respected more than anyone else, and Kang Pan Sok whom I had regarded like my real elder sister.

Back to the guesthouse that evening, I could hardly calm down from my excitement and agitation caused by the meeting with the President. Kim Hyong Jik would often say to us adherents of the independence movement that fighters should always have a ►

► high aim. And today his great idea of Aim High has been translated into reality in the motherland by his son President Kim Il Sung. The greatness of his idea came home to my heart that I could not appease my rising emotion. The idea of Aim High was not a common precept but a fundamental guideline for national independence and prosperity; it was the unchangeable opinion and motto of Kim Hyong Jik who had dedicated himself to the struggle for the country. The lines of his poem *Green Pine on Nam Hill* flashed across my mind. So, I mumbled its verses unawares:

*Do you know, friends,
The green pine on Nam Hill?
The rigours of snow and
 frost may strike,
But life'll return with
 warm sunshine
When spring comes round.*

*What is it we live for
If we fail to liberate the
 country?
I will persevere on the road
 of independence
Even if my body were torn
 to pieces.
Trust me, fellow countrymen.
My sons will go on fighting*

*if I fail.
When the spring of
 liberation comes
To the 3 000-ri land of
 golden tapestry,
My dear country Korea,
 give cheers
"Long Live Independence!"*

Later, I visited my dear native place Suphung and met my younger brothers and sisters. I travelled round the historic sites of the anti-Japanese struggle in North Phyongan Province, Janggang Province and South and North Hwanghae provinces, telling the younger generations what had happened half a century before. During my sojourn in the homeland, I toured the picturesque Mts. Kungang and Myohyang, underwent medical examinations, took a rest at a hot spring, and had a set of gold false teeth put in. When I was returning to China after my significant visit to Korea, senior officials of Korea and Chinese embassy members saw me off at Pyongyang Station. And when I arrived at Beijing, officials of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Korean embassy officials met me at the station. Staying at a guesthouse in Beijing, I visited the Summer Palace, Gugong, Tiananmen Square, Zhongshan

Concert Hall, Applied Fine Arts Factory, Jingshan Park and other places. A few days later I came back to Xi'an. Since then the government organs of all levels in Shaanxi Province showed great concern for me. They invited me to various functions and elected me to the Political Consultative Conference of the province to fill a vacancy.

I had been living quietly as a housewife of an ordinary family, but now I came to enjoy the benefits of rebirth amidst the respect and love of all people. So, I often wondered whether I was only dreaming or awake. Then I recollected our patriotic forerunners who waged the anti-Japanese struggle for independence forming volunteers' armies and then turning out in nationwide uprisings under the slogans of "Defend the Country and Save the People" and "Expel the West, Expel Japan," but ended in a dismal failure at the cost of bloodshed, because they did not have a great leader and the national power was weak. Looking back on my past life, I felt a strong impulse to nestle into the embrace of the dear motherland and the warm bosom of the great man.

(To be continued)

Admirable Girl Workers

SEVERAL YEARS HAVE passed since the inauguration of the rayon workshop of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. One of these days we met some model workers at this mill.

Yarn winder Kim Jin Hyang

When Jin Hyang started to work at this mill in 2010, she first took charge of a cop-winding machine. She had heard that the mill had girl workers who became famous for having woven a lot of cloth, but never heard of anyone becoming a model worker by winding thread well. That was why she was not attached to her job, and did not work hard.

One spring day in 2013, she happened to meet Labour Heroine Mun Kang Sun who was widely-known across the country. Mun told her a story, "When I began to work at the mill, I only envied the model workers, thinking it impossible for me to be as good a worker as them. As time went by, I realized what kind of people they were. I saw them working faithfully whether their efforts were recognized or not. They did their best to contribute to the improvement of the people's standard of living by producing more cloth. The country put them forward as model workers and Labour Heroes. At the time I made up my mind to develop myself like them. I worked harder and harder. I believe you'll be a good worker."

A great change came in Jin



Kim Jin Hyang.

Hyang's work. With a determination to work as Mun said, she first tried hard to master her machine and learn the order of scores of thread drums by heart. Later, in spite of her short period of time at the mill, she came to be one of the skilled hands and finally carried out her annual task ahead of schedule last year.

Weaver Han Un Jong

Un Jong is one of the youngest model workers in her workteam. She is unusually attached to her job and works as hard as anyone else. She is wont to say, "Seeing the threads woven into cloth, I see with my mind's eye the people



Han Un Jong.

who are happy to have the cloth I produce. So, I'm never tired, though I thread my way between

machines all day long."

In early May last year, a hostel was newly built for the girl workers of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. Going round the hostel in which they would live, all the workers were choked with tears. Un Jong was also tearfully thankful for the benevolent care of the Workers' Party of Korea that had erected a new home like a hotel or a palace for the workers. Entering the corridor painted with their favourite colours of light pink and pale yellow, the girls were fascinated, and people having a chat on sofas in the corridor looked like guests in a hotel. Large-sized LCD TVs and karaoke were set in the halls on every floor. If somebody used them, it seemed as if delightful songs would come to sing of the pleasant work. The hostel also had a bath house, a dining hall, a library, a clinic, amusement and recreation and other facilities for the full convenience of the workers.

To live up to the Party's expectations, I ought to weave more and more cloth and overfulfil my task day by day.

With the determination, Un Jong devoted her heart and soul to production of much more cloth than ever before. She proposed to take charge of several machines and made innovations day by day. Last year she finished her annual task ahead of schedule.

The mill is now producing many workers like Jin Hyang and Un Jong.

Sim Yon Ok

A Visit to the KPA February 20 Factory

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED the newly-refurbished Korean People's Army February 20 Factory. The factory with scores of neatly-arranged production buildings whose walls are decorated with clean tiles had a true appearance as a foodstuff maker. In the compound I found thick and tall trees stand in lines as a block of military parade.

General Manager Paek Song Nam said, "When Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un vis-

displayed clearly the integrated control system of the factory.

Production instructor Ri Chol Hun said, "This system was established by the concerted efforts and wisdom of the teachers and researchers of the automatic engineering department of Kim Chaek University of Technology and other scientists and technicians. It gives simple and detailed information to help understand the whole of production and operation instantly and manage them while

equipped with lines of large and small facilities and various tanks in series. Kim Chol Un, assistant chief engineer who was there for inspection, said, "Almost all the equipment are domestic products, including scores-of-metres-long screws installed in the grinding process at the condiments workshop and the toffee production equipment at the saccharification workshop. Those equipment are favourite with the workers for their high operational safety." ▶

A canned meat production process.



An instant rice production process.



ited my factory in November last year he said that the trees are an exemplary sign of the factory's history. And he recalled with deep emotion the great efforts President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il had made for the soldiers' food supply."

Hearing him I first stepped towards the newly-built information room for production control. A large-sized LCD screen caught my eyes. It looked like the one in the satellite tracking station and

seeing the screen." He went on to say that a few controllers give optimum orders by process-control computers at workshops and units, thus arranging production activities on a scientific basis. His words were full of pride and joy working at the sophisticated place.

Next I made the rounds of workshops of condiments and saccharification, and the instant rice production process. All the processes from the input of raw materials to package were



► He continued to say in delight that the condiments workshop produces high-quality bean paste two times as much as that before the modernization project and that with a half of the old labour force.

The next leg of my visit was the general processing workshop. There I saw several automatic processes producing soy sauce, which tastes like meat, and biscuits. The most pleasing sight was a flow-line canned meat production process. When I was struck with admiration, seeing the cans churned out, the general manager said, "Because of the properties of the raw material,

we used to do the job of putting an equal amount of meat in each can manually. But in the recent modernization campaign the managers, technicians and skilled workers of my factory wonderfully developed a top-notch meat-filling machine with the concerted efforts of the relevant units, saying that there should be no failed empty link in the chain project to put the factory on an automatic and unmanned basis. Building on that success the workshop developed other devices needed for completing the meat-filling machine with its own efforts, and renovated a broth feeder in keeping with the

actual situation. In this way my factory realized the integrated automatic and unmanned process for canned meat production."

I could hear similar stories from the workers full of pride in their own resources at butter, edible oil and other workshops.

When I left the factory, the general manager said, "Our national leader put forward my factory as an archetype and standard of technical modernization. Without resting on our laurels we'll pool our strength and wisdom to produce a greater amount of quality foodstuff."

Chae Kwang Myong

A meat-flavoured soy packing process.



A biscuits production process.



No Pain, No Gain

TODAY A NEW CHAPTER of the development of fishery is opening in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The staff of the Fishing Information Research Institute of the Fisheries Branch under the State Academy of Sciences are burning with a determination to help enrich the people's dining table.

Last year Kim Man Hyok, researcher of the institute, went to a fishing station. There he happened to hear from the fishermen that the fish detector in use had a number of disadvantages in the marine work. Actually, their detector was equipped with a computer monitor instead of the Braun tube display. As a result, it was possible to display the depth of each water layer and their colour, but it could not demonstrate its efficiency to the full due to the instability of computer system and poor power supply in the working conditions on the ship. The fishermen knew it was a little inconvenient, but they thought they could stand it because the combination of the de-

tector and the computer meant a leap forward in improving the efficiency of the detector. Though the fishermen regarded it as petty troubles, the researchers reproached themselves as they were lagging far behind the global trend in the development of the fish detector.

Now they set a target of improving the detecting efficiency remarkably by attaching an ARM processor to the detector following the global trend. The road to success, however, would not take shape despite their strenuous efforts. The devices that they had thought were perfect could not resist the sea wind and salinity long. In particular, the study of an operating system of the detector built in with the ARM processor, the key to the research project, was to start from scratch. Some of the researchers aired the opinion that they had to tackle the task after they had made full preparations, including the obtaining of reference data. Head of the institute Pak Il Chol argued, "I know the

road we go is an untrodden one. But let's think about the fishermen sailing rough seas for the sake of the people. If they had sat idle waiting for ripe conditions, they could not have caught such a large amount of fish to the delight of the people. We should remember that we are also responsible for the supply of fish to the people though we are working in the institute."

They braced themselves up. A researcher read a dozen technical books to simplify and minimize devices for interface, transmission, power pack and others though he did not specialize in hardware.

The researchers did not hesitate to travel hundreds of kilometres to obtain materials necessary for the manufacture of a device. With a stand to invent everything in the Korean style they developed a new operating system to be exclusively used for the fish detector.

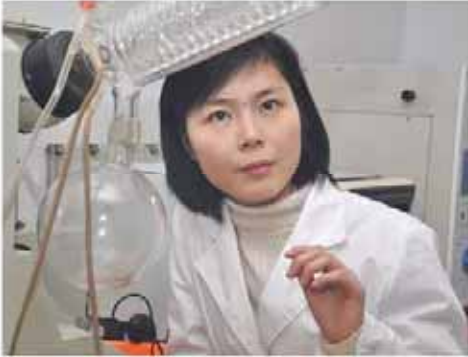
The detector they made measures more correctly the distance from a fishing boat to a school of fish, the depth and size of it, and the kind of fish if possible. (All this information is to be seen on the display.) The detector was registered as national sci-tech achievement in November last year, and was highly evaluated at several sci-tech exhibitions.

Old fisherman Choe Ha Jun said before a noticeboard introducing the news titled *The Joy of Full Load of Fish*, "We are courageous because we know we are backed by scientists. They are always working with us."

Kim Un Jong



Fluorine Phytic Acid Gives Vitality



NOT LONG AGO I HEARD the following conversation in a trolley-bus on the Pyongyang Railway Station-Ryonmotdong line.

"This morning," an old man said, "I played badminton with my grandson in a park and I feel refreshed. I think it is partly attributable to the magic of the fluorine phytic-acid pill I've taken. I take the pills regularly. In the past I used to have aches on my knees whenever I stood up from the seat. I got pains in my legs soon after I walked a short distance. But now I am free from the troubles."

A young man nodded, and explained as if he were a professional doctor, "Fluorine is an essential microelement indispensable to our body. I've also taken those pills which have highly antibiotic properties and cell-increasing efficiency. They really have good things."

The pill which is winning public favour was developed by the Medical Science and Technology Exchange Company of the Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University.

Researchers Kim Chol Ho, Kang Ok Gyong and others made painstaking efforts to develop the drug and apply it to the treatment. At first they buckled down

to the study of local fluorination with an aim to prevent caries, Riggs' disease and tartar and remove the foul smell in the teeth. Using a proper amount of fluorine in a short time of brushing teeth prevented the loosening of the root of teeth gradually and the decay of the teeth while removing the smell. Be-



cause fluorine kept the cells in the teeth from decaying and protected the teeth from germs with its high antibiotic efficiency.

They, however, were not content with the success. They had another idea. *When we use the principle of fluorine protecting teeth, we would be able to prevent the process of degeneration of bones and make the bones strong. Then it would be conducive to the promotion of health of the people who are in poor condition and have much trouble in their activity due to the bone diseases including osteoporosis.*

That was their unanimous thought. Soon they started the study of the general fluorination to apply fluorine having high cell-increasing efficiency to the body. Generally, when people become senile, they have difficulties in using their arms and legs owing to aging. The researchers found the reason for this problem in the decreasing of the efficiency to revive bones. Building on their

research successes from the local fluorination they conceived an idea to make a pill applicable to the bone which ensures the balance of the whole body. Fluorine is poisonous when people absorb too much of it. Experiments went on to know the relevant amount. Adding phytic acid could help making a good drug for treatment, the researchers thought. Now they intensified their research into the materials which are rich in Korea.

All the processes including the fluorine treating process, phytic acid treating process, and their combination and the package of pills were a difficult undertaking requiring latest science and technology. But they succeeded in developing the pill made of fluorine and phytic acid (it is efficacious in treating diabetes, hypertension and arteriosclerosis) in the long run. The administration of the drug ensures stable and long medical efficiency within the body and removes all kinds of bad smells from the body. The drug is made from natural materials without any chemical substances like prednisolone, so it has no side-effects. It increases the speed of restoration of cells faster than they go bad in the bones and prevents loss of calcium, thus revitalizing the vigour of the aged.

The demand for the drug is on the increase. Researcher Kang Ok Gyong says, "The pill is a fruition of the ten-odd years of strenuous efforts and high enthusiasm. I think that the pill could not have come into existence if we hadn't regarded the pains of the patients as ours. We're going to continue to develop this field to make a health food."

Kim Kwang Myong

A Man of Strong Will



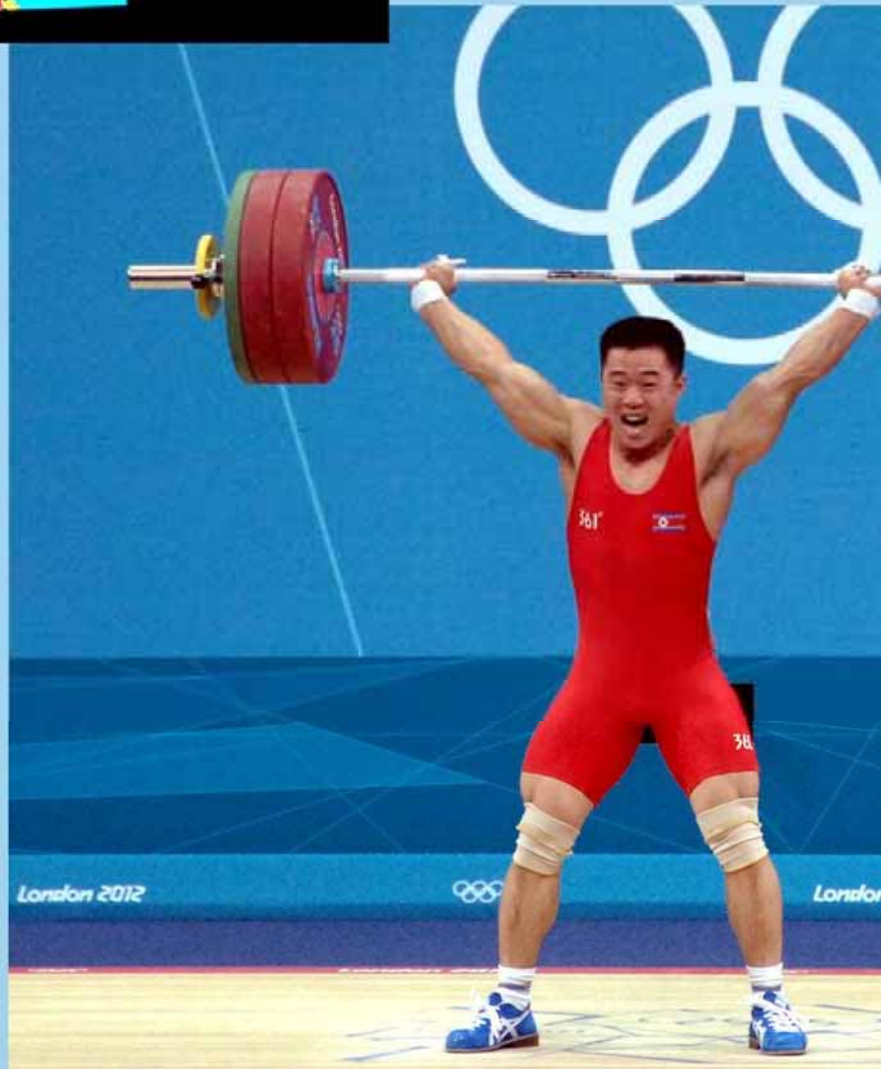
turned with laurels of victory from international games. Offering congratulations to him in the letter, the old teacher encouraged him to get well soon and return to the weightlifting arena to continue to add to the glory of his hometown and motherland.

After reading the letter Un Guk recollected the bygone ▶

Kim Un Guk, gold medalist at the 62 kg category of men's weightlifting at the 30th Olympic Games.

IN 2013 THE ASIAN Weightlifting Championships was held in Kazakhstan. In the men's 62 kg category Korean player Kim Un Guk collapsed trying to perform the second jerk. With his high records in snatch and the first round of jerk he had won three gold medals, but now he had to return home for intense treatment.

The period of treatment was a crucial moment for him. Some people lamented that it was all up with him, and others were of opinion that as he had already won many gold medals in international games and was loaded with honours, he might leave the sports ground now. Un Guk himself was lying in bed obsessed with the thought that he could never raise the barbell again. One day he received a letter from Choe In Su, instructor at the Samsok District Juvenile Sports School in Pyongyang. Choe was his unforgettable old teacher who had taught him weightlifting and let him know the weight of the barbell. He would send him congratulatory letters when he re-





Kim Un Guk, winner of the 62 kg category of men's weightlifting at the 17th Asian Games.



► days; the kindergarten days when he played in the water with his pals, the day he had a photo taken in happiness after receiving the new school uniform from the State and the day he hid behind others in fear of a preventive injection. He also thought about his instructor. He was a strict man who urged Un Guk to finish daily training target without fail. The instructor often said, "You know the weight of the barbell isn't only a weight itself. The honours of your hometown and the motherland rest on the barbell. Feeble men aren't qualified to hold the barbell." He made stern demands on Un Guk whenever he fell down from exhaustion. The day Un Guk was leaving for the sports team, he said, "I hope you'll cherish dearly the memory of your native town wherever you go. And remember that your beloved hometown, your school, your parents and your friends are watching you all the time." Bearing his teacher's words deep in his mind, Un Guk spent the days of training. Thinking his parents, teacher and friends were gazing at him, he felt reassured of victory on the arena of contest.

They'll be disappointed if they know I am in despair, and if I fail

to rise up, the gold medal for 62 kg category will be missing. At this thought, he felt an impulse to jump out of the bed. Instructor Pak Ki Song was delighted to hear that, saying that he had believed Un Guk would surely brace himself up. From the next day he began training lying in his bed. While undergoing treatment, he made progress step by step in training with the help of his instructor. Seeing him devoted to painstaking training, the doctor in charge gradually understood his mind. In the whole period of treatment he never rested even a day from training. Before long he took part in competitions again. Last year when he participated in the 17th Asian Games, many people were surprised and expressed misgivings. In the contest he broke all the previous records and made a new record in the category of his body weight. After the Asian Games, he entered for the International Weightlifting Championships and won first places in snatch and jerk, and, as a result, first prize for the overall games.

He is a man of strong will. When people ask him the secret of his success, he says, "I see my honour in the honour of my motherland." □

Korea University of Physical Education

WITH PUBLIC INTEREST for sport rising in Korea, the Korean athletes are making a good showing in international and national games. This is partly due to the sincere efforts of the teachers and researchers of the Korea University of Physical Education.

The university was established in Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang as Pyongyang College of Physical Culture in September 1958. Later in October 1990, it was renamed into the present one. With its establishment, it became possible to conduct physical education on a scientific basis for the first time. Its gymnasium, with a floor space of over 10 000 square metres, houses courts and rinks for field and track training, gym exercises, weightlifting, calisthenics, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, boxing, wrestling, judo, and swimming pool.

Since its founding, the university has turned out large numbers of athletic teachers, coaches, physical education scientists and officials. It has many persons with academic degrees or titles—academician, professor and doc-

tor—and hundreds of scientific treatises, textbooks and reference books are written every year for the development of physical education science and technology of the country. The students are taught in diverse realistic ways by combining theoretical lectures and practical training. In addition, the teachers are not only improving the quality of instruction by intensifying the scientific researches on physical culture like the training control methods and indices of selecting athletes, but also have introduced the computer support system in athletic teachings and training and help the athletic experts and sports enthusiasts across the country to raise their knowledge about sport through distance learning. The university has developed new subjects of study like athletic vital dynamics and applies them in bringing up reserves of sportsmen.

A great number of its graduates have become Labour Heroes, People's Athletes, Merited Athletes and Athletic Master-hands thanks to its good education.

Conspicuous among them are People's Athlete Kye Sun Hui, a Labour Heroine and quadruple world judo champion, and People's Athlete An Kum Ae, and their coach Ryu Ju Song. So, sports experts and amateurs call it "a fine sports school fostering excellent coaches" and "a school focusing the attention of the whole nation amidst the enthusiasm for sport."

Today the university is playing a big role in making sports mass-based and a part of everyday life and in developing the athletic science and technology in a Juche-oriented way.

O Chang Bok, academician, professor and doctor at the university, said, "Now the enthusiasm for sports is running high across the whole country. Public interest in sports is rising and everybody is eager to take part in them and master scientific methods of athletics. I think it is our duty to find out correct methods of physical education and develop them to suit the obtaining atmosphere."

Sim Hyon Jin



Swinging and Seesawing

AMONG THE KOREAN people's favourite folk games are the swinging and seesawing which are helpful to developing physical strength and bravery. By applying these folk games, the National Circus created and presented some national acrobatic pieces like *Two-person Swinging*, *Three-person Swinging* and *Seesawing* long time ago.

A dozen years ago the circus created new program *Swinging and Seesawing* by further developing national features and artistic representation of the acrobatics and combining swinging with seesawing, as required by the developing reality and people's cultural and emotional standard. When the idea was first presented, some people voiced uneasiness, saying it was very dangerous as the acrobats had to perform difficult technical movements by flying from the swing down to the seesaw and vice versa. There were many discussions to remove dangerous factors and complete a new program as early as possible. In the course of this, there were proposed training methods suitable for the Koreans' constitution and good plans to make it a promising program of the circus. According to the training plan, the acrobats set out to make full-dress training. Availing themselves of the advantageous condition in which a good proportion of the team had used to be seesawing and swinging performers, the directors gave a primary attention to making the performers display their individualities. The acrobats solved through training some difficult technical and artistic problems including aerial somersault over the seesaw, trapezing while performing aerial stunts over the plank, and combination of acts of the performers in piggyback.

When this program was completed by the sincere efforts of the



A scene from the 11th Wuhan International Circus Festival.

acrobats and directors, the audience gave a wild applause to the acrobats who performed smart and skilful technical movements to the tune of an interesting folk song. Some years later, the performance was favourably commented upon at an international circus festival. For the National Circus, it was the most popular, essential program, and brought fame to Sim Jong Chol, Ri Myong Chol and other acrobats.

On the other hand, the circus pushed ahead with the effort to perform perfect technical movements of greater difficulty while giving life to national sentiments. Examining their past performances, the acrobats and directors found out weak points and established more scientific training methods to overcome them. Along with this, they added artistic features to the high-level and difficult movements by carrying out acts of passing through a 10-metre-high ring in the air and five backward somersaults while jumping from the swing to the plank, and created new technical movements. A great effort was given to the creation of musical and acting models suited to the national form. Training of young

acrobats was an important concern.

Now we can participate in the international arena. With such courage, they made thorough preparations and took part in the 11th Wuhan International Circus Festival held in Wuhan, China in November last year. When they appeared on the stage, the announcer told the spectators to watch them to see the level of the Korean national acrobatics. The Koreans' thrilling and artistic movements to the light and cheerful tune were more than captivating to the spectators. The acts performed by young acrobats, aged around 20, including Paek Hyang and Jong Kum Byol were also quite fascinating. The program was awarded the top prize of the festival.

Director Chae Nam Chol says, "On this occasion we are convinced that our national circus can secure supremacy. In the future, we'll create more programs of the national style showing our nation's wisdom and bravery to contribute to the development of our country's acrobatics."

Jo Song I

Korea Association for Supporting the Children



DAYS AGO A REPORTER of the Korea Today talked with Han Hui Suk, chief secretary of the Korea Association for Supporting the Children. Excerpts:

I think it's very important to protect and promote the health of children. Will you please tell me how the children in this country are faring?

It is regarded as a very important thing in the world to bring up the children in good health for the future of the country and development of the human race. In our country the laws such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Act of Public Health, Democratic People's Republic of Korea Act of Nursing and Upbringing of Children and Democratic People's Republic of Korea Act of Children's Rights are in force providing a legal guarantee for social policies to ensure the children's health and their living conditions.

Children's health care is a concern of the whole society promoted by the institutions of treatment and preventive medicine for children, hygienic and anti-epidemic establishments, homes, day nurseries, kindergartens and schools. This has brought about a great improvement in the children's health, nutrition and living conditions. The government has built the Okryu Children's Hospital as a comprehensive centre for treating the children's diseases,

furnishing it with modern medical appliances. All the expenses are borne by the government.

I'd like to know about the recent activities of the association.

Our association, established on November 21, 2013, helps the government in its work to safeguard the children's rights and improve their health, nutrition, intellectual development and other life services for all of them to grow up healthily and happily. Treating all alike in its activities irrespective of political view, religion, race, nationality, age, sex and physical handicap, it doesn't seek commercial profits. The association began its work by visiting the nursing homes, children's hospitals, day nurseries and nutriment producing factories to ascertain the children's needs in their health, nutrition, education and life. There, we investigated in

detail the health, physical growth and intellectual development of each child. Paying great attention to the nutrition of children in particular, we estimated the nutritive value of milk powder in its production processes and discussed the measures to supply good nutritious foods.

We have opened local offices and children's clinics in many places to render services. Our association is concerned more about remote places and the districts crowded with women. Meanwhile, the mobile clinics are yielding great results. They not only solve problems arising in the children's health care all over the country from the capital to the provinces but also provide medicines and nutrients to the retarded children. The efficient operation of the information diffusing room pleases the women a great deal. The lectures on such technical problems as nutritive conditions and their adjustment during pregnancy, nutrition management for children by ages, treatment and nourishment of sick children, and essential conditions for intellectual development

The chief executive of the Save the Children International and her party visit the Korea Association for Supporting the Children.



Attachment

ONE OF THESE DAYS I was walking along a street in Pyongyang, when I saw a man in front of me greet a woman who was coming from the opposite direction. She looked puzzled unable to recognize him.

"You're working at the Changgwang Health Complex, aren't you?" the man asked.

The woman's face brightened. Perhaps her doubt was dispelled. "Yes, I'm," she answered.

"Is your complex closed today?" the man asked.

"Yes. You're to come tomorrow," she replied.

The man passed away, but the woman stood there for a moment.

Overwhelmed with my professional curiosity I turned back and approached her to address her. I was interested in her job at the Changgwang Health Complex.

Now I was told she was Kim Hyon Ok working in the service section of the complex.

I asked, "Do you know the man you've just greeted?"

She answered, "I often come across this kind of happening. You know I can't recognize all the people I serve. I have to treat thousands of people a day—young and old. The man I've just met must have been a customer to my complex."

Kim told me the following story.

She began to work at the complex fifteen years ago. One day a few months after, an elderly man who was stepping out of the door

came back and asked Kim, "How much was the fee for the service I've received?"

Hearing the answer, he introduced himself as professor of Kim Il Sung University, and said that the service fee was the same as it had been ten years before and that he would tell his students about what he had experienced in the complex.

One day a worker from Janggang County, a secluded mountain region, talked of his impression from his enjoyment at the service complex while on a tour of Pyongyang. He said, "This countryman has cast off the country shell in this palatial house."

Foreigners visiting the house were surprised to know that it serves ordinary working people.

As days went by, Kim got more attached to her job and she wanted to let all the people know how the complex came into existence and how the clear water was drawn there. As an establishment set up in the central part of Pyongyang more than 30 years ago for the service of wading, swimming, bath, haircutting, massage, beauty treatment and face treatment, it is a comprehensive hygienic and recreational centre that was and is one of the best of its kind. The State provided it with latest water-purifying facilities on several occasions. So, it is a great public attraction.

Kim began to put down what she saw, heard and thought at her job. A song tale, a narrative, and



other works she created received favourable comments at contests of artistic presentation by work-teams. Her colleagues loved and supported her, bolstering her enthusiasm for creation. Her husband and children were always the first to read her works and gave her pep talk. Several essays of hers were carried by newspapers, and typical of them are *Thinking of the Day of Inauguration*, *Reflecting the Clear Water* and *On the Birthday*. At present she is engrossed in writing a medium-length novel which deals with the effort of the managers and workers of the complex to keep it in a better condition and improve the standard of service.

She said, "While reading and writing, my cultural attainment has grown up and I have become able to offer better service. Many of everyday things are described in my novel as they are. The people's favourite house is training me as a literary fan and writer."

Rim Ok

► have broad appeal to them.

I think the association has many things to do in future. What is your plan?

Our association is still young, and so we must work hard to develop its abilities. We have to strengthen its material and technical faculties to meet the needs of the children's health, nutrition, intellectual development and

living conditions. It's planning to exchange advanced methods and techniques of curing children's diseases and good experience in the work of supporting the children through international meetings and seminars, and technical lectures and overseas training schemes. Recently many international organizations including the Save the Children International

and the World Health Organization are cooperating closely with us. We hope that experts, organizations for supporting the children, national associations, social organizations, and individual personalities of other countries will come out in good earnest to cooperate with the Korea Association for Supporting the Children. □

After Many Years

By Ri Hui Nam

(Continued from the last issue)

JONG GU SAW HER ROUND face suddenly turn frigid. Her perilously trembling lips seemed ready to blast a sharp protest at any moment. It was not difficult to know how she had ferried out the truth. Surely, she must have heard it from anybody but Kyong Hun. Jong Gu knew he was not such a kind of person as to talk of it. He could hardly speak of it either. Ok Gum must have watched what Kyong Hun did after he was transferred the truck, and learned everything.

Jong Gu felt as if something unwelcome about him had come to light. On the other hand a strange feeling of displeasure began to rise in his mind—like a thin mist in summer. If the shop manager had not showed up there at the moment Jong Gu could have been left in quite a perplexity. The manager called out to Jong Gu, “Hey, Jong Gu, what’s the delay? You’ve got to go to the field quickly. You know the transport of iron ores is already strained.”

As if saved from a danger, Jong Gu jumped into the driver’s cab and took the wheel. Then, he said to Ok Gum, “Let me tell you something later, Ok Gum.” He stepped the accelerator of his truck hard to make haste to the field.

At that moment Kyong Hun

came back from the maintenance shop. Like a man in an urgent situation, he ran after the leaving truck, calling Jong Gu.

Jong Gu, looking back with his head thrusting out of the window, shouted back, “What’s the matter?”

“I’ve to finish the maintenance of the truck. I’m afraid there’s a bad noise.” Kyong Hun said, gasping for breath. As a matter of fact, he had a good ear to pinpoint the wrong part of his truck.

“Don’t worry. You can’t transport ores if you are concerned about petty things,” said Jong Gu and drove off.

Kyong Hun stood in disappointment.

Trucks ran past him in succession.

Jong Gu looked back after a distance, and saw Kyong Hun standing as if frozen to the ground. And he could clearly see Ok Gum beside him. Their images came into his sight so achingly that he turned his face away.

Such a thing happened frequently.

Many years later, however, Jong Gu seldom looked back upon it with remorse. It now felt strange to him. It seemed he was afraid to recall his unpleasant past things. Or he had probably clean forgotten of the past with the passage of 15 years.

Many untraceable memories flashed in his mind. He felt some-

thing unhappy would befall him. And the sense of guilt stole into his mind.

2

It was already five hours since Jong Gu left the Musan Railway Station. The train was running forcefully through the deep curtain of darkness. Jong Gu slowly closed his eyes again leaning against the window frame. The train wheels were making soft and monotonous sounds like a music piece without any rise and fall, as if talking of a worrisome thing over and over. The invariable sound was like that of hooves of a running horse from afar. Perhaps it was a lullaby to soothe the passengers into sleep. People began to fall asleep one by one. The young couple in the opposite seats were also having a dream leaning against each other. The woman’s head was lying on her husband’s shoulder—it might be a sign of her happiness or longing for caress from her husband. There came a snoring sound from somewhere. But the girl beside Jong Gu was doggedly delving into a book in her hand without any words. Her eyes looked both clever and sharp—like that exploring a world of mysteries. The rather long lashes shivered sometimes and her mouth was a little open as if ready to make any exclamation at any moment. ►

► Jong Gu let out a thin sigh beside himself. The scene of his reuniting with Kyong Hun in Musan flashed into his mind clearly.

They met at a mining ground where black rocks of ores soared here and there. It was a grandiose land on the ridge that rises as many as 800 metres above sea level. The peaks were dotted all over the ridge like warships on the sea and they were seen below the feet of the two friends.

When Jong Gu went there, Kyong Hun was repairing a shock under the loading platform of the truck. His hands were smeared with oil and he smelled diesel strongly. His elongated face looked quiet and gentle as it had been in his youthful days. His meek eyes remained as they had been although he had lived all his life in the rough mountain of iron ores.

"You're still engrossed in the truck," Jong Gu said after they exchanged a few warm greetings.

"What else can I do? I've learned this kind of work alone, you know," Kyong Hun replied pleasantly with a smile, rubbing his hands with a duster.

Jong Gu looked at his friend thoughtfully. They had been both drivers of the large truck in the old days, but now one of them was general manager and the other was still a worker. What a contrast it was!

Jong Gu felt proud of his career beside himself. Kyong Hun, however, was in no way diffident in front of his friend who was general manager. Not that he

behaved proudly. He kept nothing but a friendly manner.

Perceiving such an attitude, Jong Gu felt rather ashamed of himself for his pride in his career. It would be wise to return to their old friendship away from the conception of the rank.

"Well, I met your wife at the guest house yesterday," Jong Gu said, "and I find her still young. I hear your eldest son is in the army."

"That's usual for any family," Kyong Hun responded.

"Your wife is very proud of you driving a truck on the ridge all along," Jong Gu complimented.

"Ho-ho-ho. That's a joke. By the way, come and stay with us at my home this evening. You don't mind visiting a worker's home as general manager, do you?" Kyong Hun invited.

"Of course not. I'll be there as a friend, not as general manager," Jong Gu replied.

"Good. To tell the truth, my wife and I have talked of you a lot. We were sometimes disappointed that you never communicated with us after you left here," Kyong Hun said, his mild eyes glimmering with the pleasure to see his friend.

Jong Gu felt moved. "You're a good friend, indeed. By the way, isn't it difficult for you to drive the large truck?" he asked.

"It isn't so easy as it was when I was young. I started my life here and I know I have no other alternative but to complete it here," Kyong Hun said.

"Don't talk like that," Jong Gu said. "I respect you. It's not so easy

to work with the truck for life."

Jong Gu meant it. From the first moment he reunited with Kyong Hun, he had been strongly impressed from his great change. Although Kyong Hun remained the same in appearance and kept the same memory of the youthful years, his qualities seemed to have changed completely. It was not because he kept the life's devotion to the truck in the mine. Jong Gu was perceiving the fact that there was something great about his friend's life.

Abruptly, the sight of Cholsan Peak from the window of the guest house flashed through his mind. The great creation of nature, the gigantic peak harbouring an inexhaustible deposits of iron ores, the sky-scraping summit of the peak in rosy glow—these were all reminding Jong Gu of his friend's image. It was something he had been unable to imagine earlier. He could not tell what brought such a fresh image to his old friend who had been so silent and ordinary.

"I find myself reconsidering many things now that I see you still working here for all these years. Those things I thought right seem to be regrettable, and some things make me conscience-stricken. Something I could not recognize in the past comes to my attention now. This is probably the life. It is something to be recognized after many years."

Jong Gu was not exaggerating his thought. What was underlying all those words was the many memories of his feelings of guilt towards his friend.

(To be continued)

Mt. Paektu (2)



Lake Chon on Mt. Paektu.

Physiography

MT. PAEKTU HAS QUALITIES OF A TYPICAL alpine climate as it rises high above the sea. The Mt. Paektu area is the coldest in Korea and the climatic change is serious. On the shore of Lake Chon calm is abruptly changed by a storm that brings rain cloud. Dark clouds hanging over the earth vanish somewhere in a flash and there appears a clear and blue sky. Rain changes suddenly into hail and hailstones as big as a fist come down hard and fast as often as not to such an extent that you can hardly discern the world. When the hailstorm is over, the flowers moistened by rain come into full bloom in the sun on one hand, and pure white snowflakes suggestive of winter fly down on the other. Such a phenomenon presents itself several times a day.

The daily range of temperature in the Mt. Paektu area is wide in winter and small in summer. According to the data observed at the top of Janggun Peak the temperature range is the widest in January with the average 7.5°C, and is the narrowest in July with the average 4.8°C. The coldest month is January and the hottest month July.

At the summit of Mt. Paektu the spring season begins toward the end of May and there exists considerable difference in daily distribution of temperature. The lowest temperature presents itself at about five o'clock early in the morning. As the morning sun shines over the summit first, the temperature at the top begins to rise earlier than in other parts. Distinctive of this mountain is that winter is long, for spring sets in late and autumn early.

The cold in Mt. Paektu in winter is very rigorous. In the season the temperature hovers around -40°C. The annual average relative humidity in the mountain is 74 percent. As far as the annual change of the relative humidity is concerned, it is the highest in summer and then autumn and it is low both in spring and winter.

Mt. Paektu is situated in an alpine region and the ground around it is formed of a level basaltic plateau. Therefore, in this mountain, the wind blows much harder and its direction changes much more complicatedly than in other regions. In the vicinity of Lake Chon there rises waterspout over and over again.

Visible all over Mt. Paektu are a lot of large or ►

- ▶ small lakes and springs including Lake Chon on the top of Mt. Paektu. After the formation of a crater in the Paektu volcano water gathered there. This is how a lake came into being. At the beginning the diameter of the crater was far smaller than it is now. It was



not so deep, either. But later, with the explosion taking place several times somewhere deep under the ground, the crater caved in and became lake-shaped as seen today. Lake Chon is incomparably deeper and greater than all other Korean natural lakes both in the depth and volume of water. It is 9.16 km² in area and its maximum depth of water amounts to 384 metres.

Tal Gate is one and the only place where the water of Lake Chon flows out on the surface. Passing Jangbaek Falls 67 metres in height the water feeds into Erdaobaihe river of China. The water of Lake Chon flows into a valley south of Janggun Peak and finds its way to Paektu Falls, thus forming the fountainhead of the Amnok River.

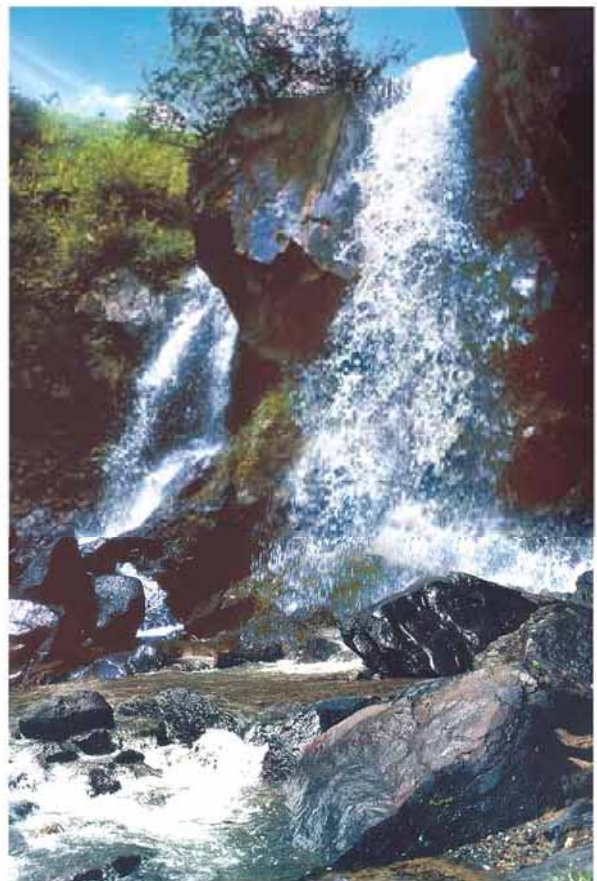
In Mt. Paektu there are the Paektu Spa on the shores of Lake Chon, the Jangbaek Spa, the Jeun Spa, etc. To be seen in the mountain are falls that issue from Lake Chon. When going up along the Amnok riverside via Chongun Rock, there is Paektu Falls 20 metres high. Icicles hang in multitude from the rocks around the falls even in spring when flowers are in bloom and in autumn when mountains are all covered with red or yellow leaves, thereby forming a wonderful scene in the alpine grassland. Visible in this mountain is Sagimun Cascade that falls in torrents, shifting its course thrice at regular intervals.

One kilometre east of Paektu Falls, there are two falls called Hyongje Falls where two streams drop side by side over a rocky cliff. Another falls is to be seen near the Paektusan Secret Camp in the So-baeksu Valley. It falls down a slightly inclined cliff that stands 50 metres in height. It takes its rise from Lake Chon and is regarded as the highest and the most spectacular among the falls in Mt. Paektu.

Springs gush out in over 50 places in and around Mt. Paektu. Among the springs taking its rise from Lake Chon are the source of the Amnok River, the Paektusan Secret Camp Spring, the Pongsudong Spring, the Sinmusong Spring, the spring at the Mubong Shower Bath Site, the source of Sandaobaihe river, etc. In Mt. Paektu there are two kinds of springs: those coming from Lake Chon and those from other sources. There are striking differences between these two kinds in the process of outward flow, water temperature, and in the change of the quality of water.

Generally speaking, the water of Lake Chon leaks out through three places, that is, the upper reaches of the Amnok River and the Tuman River, and Sandaobaihe river. The annual outflow of over 17.9 million cubic metres of water feeds into the Amnok River and the Tuman River. □

Hyongje Falls in Mt. Paektu.



Korean Folklore Museum



Folk Arts

IN THE HALL WE ENTERED there were materials and relics of national arts including folk music and dance and national musical instruments from the primitive ages to the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910).

Pointing at old documentary data on songs and singing and dancing, the guide said, “The Korean people who have an over 5 000-year-long history have developed their national culture admirably. In this course, a variety of beautiful national arts have been created.” Pointing to the showcase of bone flutes of the primitive ages, she continued, “Music was created and developed in the working life of people in the early days of human society. Primitive men engaged in the conquest of nature, expressed their simple desire and emotions of joy and sorrow in the first forms of music like shouts and cries. In the late period of the primitive ages they invented musical instruments to make simple sounds with animal bones, horns and skins and bronze bells.”

Looking round the musical

instruments of the ancient times like *konghu*, we listened to the story of the ancient music. In the ancient times various forms of musical art including song, instrumental music and singing and dancing were developed, and in the periods of the Three Kingdoms (277 BC–AD 676) and the feudal Koryo (918–1392) and Joseon (1392–1910) dynasties all fields of folk music were further developed and enriched.

Folk music can be divided into song and folk instrumental music. Typical of the folk songs in the ancient times are *Konghuin* and *Yongsinga*. Written and composed by Ryo Ok, wife of boatman Kwangnijago of ancient Joseon (early 30th century BC–108 BC), *Konghuin* is an elegiac and pathetic song expressing the sorrow of the oppressed and maltreated people. “*Hwangjoga*, *A Miller’s Song* and *Hoesogok* are the best tunes of the period of the Three Kingdoms,” the guide said and explained the folk songs of the Three Kingdoms period. *Hwangjoga* is a song about the pure love of a pair of lovers likened to a pair of bush warblers. *A Miller’s Song* is a musical piece which is said to



A bone flute.

have been played by Paekkyol, a master-hand at the musical instrument *komungo*, in imitation of the sound of pounding rice in the mill, for his wife who was grieved about want of food on the eve of the New Year. *Hoesogok* with the byname *Song of Aso* was a labour song created and sung widely by the handweaving women of the Kyongju area. Besides, there were songs of the period of the Three Kingdoms such as *Taewonsong* and *Kyerimyo* which showed the national power and social life at the time.

Seeing the remains of the musical instruments of the Three Kingdoms period including *kayagum* and *hyangpipha*, we heard about the folk songs after the period of the Three Kingdoms. During the feudal Koryo and Joseon dynasties, the folk songs were

▶ developed in a more-diversified way. The song *Hansongjong* created in the Koryo period sings of the beautiful nocturnal scenery of the Kangnung area with Kyongphodae, one of the eight scenic spots of Kwandong. Typical songs in the days of Joseon are *Pongjuktharyong*, *Arirang* and *Kanggangsuwollae*. *Arirang*, a folk song very popular with the Korean people, represents the grudge of the working masses for the exploiting system and their desire for happy life. *Kanggangsuwollae* was a song made and sung during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598) by the Korean women who kept watch on the Japanese rogues stealing into their land from the sea. Seeing the pictures of the mural paintings of the Tokhung-ri tomb and the painting *Muakdo* (Court Dance and Music) of Kim Hong Do, a famous painter in the 18th century, we learned that folk play and music were developed in Korea a long time ago. “The Korean nation’s musical instruments which had been made in various types in the ancient times were further developed during the Three Kingdoms, and in the periods of the Koryo and Joseon dynasties, many kinds of new musical instruments came into being to express our people’s feelings and sentiments,” said the guide before the display stand of national musical instruments like flute, *thungso* (six-holed bamboo flute), *kongo* and *masanggo*. The national musical instruments can be divided into wind, stringed and percussion instruments. Flute, *tanso*, *jodae*, *thungso* and *saenap*

are wind instruments; *konghu*, *haegum*, *kayagum*, *ajaeng* and *yanggum* are stringed instruments; and *janggu*, drum, *kkwaenggwari* and *jing* are percussion instruments. The national musical instruments of Korea have a long history. This is evident from different types of drums and horns used in the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), the picture of the scene of musical playing in the mural painting of Koguryo King Kogukwon’s mausoleum, the picture of the mural paintings of Tomb No. 1 in Jangchon showing the performance of five- and four-stringed instruments and the historical documentary data on various stringed instruments of Korea.

The guide told us about folk dances before the counter displaying the relics and data of mask dance. “The primitive dances started with simple movements were developed into various forms of folk dances in the ancient times and the period of Three Kingdoms, showing people’s sentiments and local features. The folk dances created by the Korean people comprise working life dance, social life dance, and folk mask dance,” said the guide. We looked round the display stand of *janggu*, *para*, *jing* and *abak* which had been used in the dancing and singing of peasants and historical records about the sword dance of the days of the Three Kingdoms. The guide said, “*Apakmu* is a folk dance reflecting the emotions and fine custom of the Koguryo people. *Tondollari*, also a folk dance, was popular among the people in

North and South Hamgyong provinces centering on the Pukchong area.” Referring to the mask dance of Korea with a long history, the guide explained that the mask dance came into being in the primitive ages, and reached a certain level like *Kiakmu* in the time of the Three Kingdoms. In the 7th and 8th centuries (the period of Palhae and late Silla) such a high-level mask dance as *Choyongmu* appeared. In the period of Joseon dynasty the mask dance spread widely in the country. Typical of it were the mask play of Hwanghae Province in the western coastal area, the *Sandae* play in the middle part of the country, and the *Okwangdae* play of the southern coastal area. Most famous among them was the Pongsan mask dance of Hwanghae Province. We saw the picture of a scene of the Pongsan mask dance and various masks used in the dance. This dance was a satire deriding and sneering at the fast and depraved life of the feudal rulers.

On display at another stand was a scene of the puppet show *Hungbu and Nolbu* adapted from the classic novel *The Tale of Hungbu* (18th century). “The folk arts created and inherited by our people are now developed into many works of literature and art which are national in form and socialist in substance,” the guide concluded. We left the museum, full of pride in our nation that has a long history and brilliant culture.

Jo Yong Il
(The end)

Data on folk songs and dances.



Jo Hon's Loyalty

JO HON (1544–1592) WAS a bureaucrat in the time of the Feudal Joson Dynasty (1392–1910). He fought as commander of a righteous volunteers' army during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598).

From the time before the outbreak of the war, the Japanese attempt to make a raid on Korea became undisguised. In this connection Jo insisted upon the strengthening of national defence.

In March 1591 Hwang Yun Gil and Kim Song Il went to Japan as government envoys. Returning home, senior envoy Hwang Yun Gil belonging to the Soin faction reported to the King that Japan would surely make an inroad into Korea in future while junior envoy Kim Song Il belonging to the Tongin faction reported that Japan would not invade Korea, intentionally distorting the fact so as to offer opposition to the Soin faction.

At that time Jo Hon, dwelling on the inevitability of Japan's invasion of Korea, suggested to the King that preparations should be stepped up to cope with the prevailing situation. This was not the first time he had ever proposed to the King to take a firm attitude toward Japan.

In 1586 Japan went so far as to impertinently demand of the King of Korea to pay a visit to the insular country and arrogantly insisted that Korea dispatch an envoy to its land. Indignant at this, Jo Hon sent the King a letter in 1588 asking to turn down the arrogant demand of Japan. At that the King ordered that the letter was thrown into the fire,

leaving the letter unanswered.

Unable to break his will, Jo went to the royal palace with an axe in his hand, trying to present a similar letter to the King, but for this matter he was exiled to Kilju.

In the place of his exile, Jo heard that Hwang Yun Gil and Kim Song Il were slated to be sent to Japan as envoys. He sent up a memorial to the King once again in opposition to it. His letter, however, could not reach the King, as it was turned down by the provincial governor for the reason that its contents were too serious.

This time, on hearing that Japan was preparing for an inroad into Korea, Jo could not stand it. Though he had been to a penal settlement on account of his memorial to the King, he sent another memorial.

Reading Jo's letter, the King burnt it up and gave no reply to him, saying, "This man has been to a penal settlement for his crazy letter. But he is now going mad again, instead of coming to his senses. He is, indeed, a blockhead with no sense of shame."

Extremely mortified to hear of the King's words after three days and unable to dampen his spirits, Jo bumped his head against the cornerstone of a pillar. People took hold of him and dissuaded him from doing so, saying that it was an excessive behaviour. But he kept on hitting his head against the cornerstone, saying, "How can I hope for living as a subject who has failed to help the King to follow the right path?"

In April 1592 the Japanese began to invade Korea at last. On

receipt of this news Jo went to war, wearing a sword at his side, though he was ill in bed. He organized a righteous army in Okchon and called upon the people "to rise as one to smash the enemy for the sake of the country" by issuing a written appeal to various parts of the country. Early in August that year he, in command of some 1 700 volunteers, drove out the enemy who had taken Chongju by force. At the end of the same month he left in command of 700 volunteers in order to make attack on the Kobayagawaled unit and the Tachibana-led unit—they were the enemy's main force stationed in Kumsan. At that time he sent a letter to Kwon Ryul suggesting a joint operation, but it was just on the edge of going into battle that there came a reply letter from Kwon Ryul proposing the putting off of the appointed time.

One of Jo's subordinates suggested making a temporary retreat and straightening up the ranks. But the commander set in upon the enemy's position and fought a death-defying battle, saying, "How could a man wish for living an ignoble life on account of a national crisis we are now in? This is the very land for me to die in." In this battle he fell in action together with other volunteers including his son while fighting bravely against the aggressor troops who were attempting to creep into the Jolla provincial area.

In recognition of his meritorious services in war, the Feudal Joson Dynasty government conferred the posthumous rank of the Minister of Interior. □

Root Cause of Tension in Korean Peninsula

RECENTLY AN EXTREMELY dangerous situation has been prevailing in the Korean peninsula in which any accidental armed conflict might flare up into a total war. This is rendering the international community very worried and intent on the effort to ensure peace in the peninsula. As the region is located in the place of strategic importance in the Asia-Pacific where great powers' interests are entangled, the outbreak of a war in the peninsula will immediately spread to neighbouring countries, drawing the world into a nuclear war.

In order to ease the tension in the peninsula and create a peaceful environment, large-scale war exercises should be discontinued in south Korea. War rehearsals ceaselessly staged every year in south Korea are the root cause of the escalating tension in the peninsula and the danger of nuclear war. The United States conducts the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises with the south Korean puppets annually. Mobilized in these drills are hundreds of thousands of troops—US troops from the US mainland, the Pacific region and Japan, as well as the GIs in south Korea and the south Korean forces, and even military personnel of the American vassal nations. Sophisticated means of nuclear war of the US are also put in. Washington misleads the world by describing the exercises as “transparent and defensive,” but their offensive nature is getting more blatant year after year. Such military games are evoking serious apprehension of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its

neighbours, and driving the situation in the region to the brink of war.

The present reality shows that what is essential in alleviating the tension and ensuring a peaceful environment in the peninsula is to terminate the Americans' military exercises in south Korea. The ceasing of war exercises may lead to an atmosphere of dialogue with the tension receding, and this in turn may find a way to overcome the crisis. It is needless to say that there cannot be dialogue in such a gruesome atmosphere in which war drills are staged against the dialogue partner.

The DPRK, with a sense of its responsibility for the Korean nation and its duty for global peace, made proposals to the US for halting annual large-scale joint military exercises in south Korea and directed sincere efforts to this end. Last year it put forth crucial proposals for guaranteeing peace in the Korean peninsula on its own initiative. None of them, however, have come into practice due to the US's pursuit of an anti-DPRK policy. The US should desist from pursuing the anachronistic policy hostile towards the DPRK, discontinue war exercises which are development of the policy, and boldly make a policy switch.

The US has long pursued the policy to stifle the DPRK by force of arms for 70 years, but it has earned nothing but disgrace and defeat. It is foolish to think they could succeed in carrying on the policy which has proved unsuccessful so far. Over the six years of tenure the Obama Administration has maintained the policy

of “strategic patience,” whereby to wait with “patience” for the change in the DPRK—abandonment of its nukes first—while denying dialogue and imposing pressure and sanctions on it. The policy, however, backfired on the US, resulting in the DPRK's consolidation of its position of the nuclear nation. Now it is severely denounced in the US as “careless policy” and “completely failed policy” which has exposed the Americans' safety to “greater threat” while leaving the DPRK to improve its rocket technology and make small-sized nuclear warheads successfully.

Today the military potentialities of the DPRK are incomparably greater than ever before. The harder the US persists in following the hostile policy against the DPRK waging military games in south Korea ceaselessly, the more miserable plight it will find itself in. The south Korean puppets' clinging to nuclear war drills against the fellow countrymen in collision with the aggressive outside forces is an extremely dangerous act of inviting disaster. The south Korean authorities should discontinue all war moves including the reckless military exercises they conduct with foreign forces, choose to ease the tension and create a peaceful environment in the Korean peninsula.

All the nations that aspire to global peace are advised to have a correct understanding of the acute and urgent question of peace in the Korean peninsula and spare no efforts to check large-scale war games in south Korea.

Kim Hyon Ju

Why All the Fuss About Human Rights?

IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR THE THIRD Committee of the 69th UN General Assembly passed an anti-DPRK resolution on human rights, forced by the US that mobilized even those nations that originally stood against its motion by iron fist and politico-economic pressure. The forced pass of the “resolution” despite the opposition of many nations was a result of a sinister scheme of the US. It was aimed at instigating an anti-DPRK sentiment in the international community by defaming the DPRK and accomplishing the policy of aggression of the DPRK by keeping south Korea under its tight control by means of nuclear weapons. In the final analysis, the US intends to erase the socialist Korea from the world map. The monster of war pushed by the American lackeys under the American control is approaching the socialist Korea closer and closer.

In the past the US resorted to the policy of sanctions and pressure alone without any dialogue with the DPRK according to its policy of “strategic patience” which prescribed waiting until the DPRK surrendered renouncing all its nuclear activities and weapons.

The policy backfired on the US. The DPRK’s potentialities strengthened further. A Western politician, describing any hard-line attempt to put up a showdown against the DPRK as a vain policy, commented, “To think the DPRK would break under a rigorous international pressure is as absurd an idea as to believe you can trap brilliant stars in the sky.”

It was the US that found itself in a tighter corner with the passage of time. The situation came to such a pretty pass that even some American politicians gave a scornful comment that the Obama Administration’s aggressive DPRK policy—which went by the common label of “strategic patience”—was a “policy of thoroughgoing failure” that pushed the DPRK’s strengthening of its system and attaining of nuclear weapons.

Now the US finds it hard to attack the DPRK head-on as it is afraid of the DPRK’s defence capabilities developed through Songun politics. And to stand the losing state in the current confrontation is too much for the US.

The way the Americans chose to escape from the perplexing situation was just to make a fuss about the “human rights situation in the DPRK.” Alexander Vorontov, a section chief of the Institute of Oriental Studies under the Russian Academy of Sciences, once disclosed in his article that the US uses “human rights” as the primary weapon for attacking those nations that go against its imperialist end of aggression.

Take the Korean war of 1950 for example. Soon after the People’s Republic was founded in Korea in September 1948, the US started the Korean war by mobilizing multinational forces including those of its 15 vassal nations, south Korea in particular, and the Japanese militarists. The war, however, ended in the DPRK’s victory.

There are a lot of instruments of surrender submitted by the Americans to the Korean people decade after decade. US President Johnson sent the DPRK a letter of apology in the name of the US Administration following the incident of the capture of its armed spy ship *Pueblo*, when he lamented that it was the only letter of apology left in history since the birth of the US.

Over the years of the DPRK-US confrontation the US imperialists submitted letters of apology to the DPRK in succession. Coping with the acute confrontation with the imperialists and the rigorous situation in which the powers’ high-handed and arbitrary pursuance is prevailing, the DPRK has acquired greater capabilities.

The US and its lackeys’ “human rights” campaign is aimed at making up a pretext for armed intervention by smearing the DPRK as “region of human rights violation” in the UN arena. All this is ultimately geared to rid the DPRK of its sovereignty and independence.

When the Cold War came to an end, the US lost all its pretext and excuses for aggression and war, so it began to style itself as advocate of human rights as a means to continue with its policy of aggression and war. As if it were a missionary of human rights, it wielded its sword of military intervention against other countries. The US carried out the Yugoslavian war in 1999 under the signboard of “protection of human rights and minor ethnic groups.” In the current century it waged the Afghan and Iraqi wars and gained the control of the nations by force of arms, while arguing it would bring liberty, democracy and prosperity to the people of the countries. But all the fields of war for “protection of human rights” were ravaged into a zone of ruined human rights.

The US has a scheme to repeat such a technique of aggression in the Korean peninsula. If the Americans, carried away with the “omnipotence of power,” choose absurdly to resort to military violence against the DPRK, the “arrogant myth” of the “only superpower” about the attack with no backfire will fall off like the leaves in late autumn.

Rim Hye Gyong

The Lessons of World War II and the Issue of Peace in the Korean Peninsula

IT IS 70 YEARS SINCE THE END OF WORLD War II, the most disastrous and atrocious war in human history. Recalling it, the world public keenly realizes the horrors of war and the value of peace. Human history records over 14 500 large and small wars, but none of them was so large in scale as World War II, which took a stupendous toll of human lives and property. Mankind learnt serious lessons from the war which brought about unprecedented carnage and destructions. They were that a weak nation falls a victim to the aggressors without exception, and that unless the international community strives to check the aggressive acts of the imperialists, another world war will be unavoidable.

A long time has passed since the end of the Second World War. But today the imperialist aggressive forces are acting high-handedly and arbitrarily with a sinister design of world supremacy. Experts on international issues are positive that another world war will be a nuclear war for the first time in history. Nobody knows where a new world war would break out, but the public attention is concentrated on the Korean peninsula, because the great powers' interests are entangled in the peninsula where military tension is constantly on. Therefore, peace in the Korean peninsula is important in safeguarding world peace and preventing a new world war.

The United States is the culprit endangering peace and security in the Korean peninsula. When World War II was at its height, the US marked the peninsula out for a major battlefield for its world supremacy. With the end of the war it split Korea into two regardless of the intention and aspiration of its people, imposing on them the pains of national division and the tragedy of antagonism. It is no secret that the US regarded the Korean peninsula as a "dagger" to cut Asia, a "big chunk of meat," and a "bridgehead to the Asian continent" and schemed to ignite the third world war—a nuclear war—with invasion upon the DPRK as a start. The United States is the war criminal who after the Second World War worked out the "A.B.C. Plan," a plan of invasion on the Far East with an eye on Korea, Manchuria and Siberia, and started the Korean war

(June 1950– July 1953) to carry "A" plan into effect.

The US checked scores of times the plan of immediate use of nuclear bombs during the Korean war and later in case of start of a second Korean war. Along with this, it carried on joint war exercises consecutively in south Korea all the year round under the names of "annual defence" and "peacekeeping," in preparation for preemptive strikes against the DPRK. Last year, it conducted Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military rehearsal with the application of the "tailored deterrence strategy" aiming at the nuclear preemptive strike. Mobilized in this war exercise were almost all the commanding posts of the US troops to be dispatched to the Korean front in case of emergency, the officers of the puppet south Korean forces higher than regiment commanders of the three services, the central and local administrative organs and the munitions industries and civil businesses in south Korea as well as various military equipment including means of nuclear strike.

Such manoeuvres of America are an open nuclear blackmail on Korea and a frontal challenge to peace in the Korean peninsula. This is why Korea has taken possession of war deterrents in order to put an end to the nuclear war menaces of the US and guarantee peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. Commenting on this, experts on international issues have expressed their view that the danger of nuclear war is on the wane in the peninsula due to Korea's possession of nuclear deterrent. As Korea has the nuclear deterrent, the hostile policy of the US against Korea based on nuclear blackmails has fallen a cropper. After all, Obama Administration's policy of "strategic patience" has come to grief.

Then, the US contrived the "human rights" issue of Korea in an attempt to justify its military provocation and win international support, misleading the world public. Owing to the US's reckless policy of aggression to stifle Korea, the risk of war is going from bad to worse in the Korean peninsula, and this reminds the world public once more of the lessons of World War II.

Kim Yong Un

Dialogue and Confrontation Are Incompatible

SEVENTY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE Korean nation, a homogenous people of the same blood who lived in the same territory, boasting a 5 000-year-long history and a brilliant culture, was divided into north and south by outside forces. The history of the divided nation witnessed a bloody war sparked off by foreign forces in 1950 and then a period of national reconciliation and unity early in the 2000s when the north and the south worked together to open the gate to national reunification. For the Korean people who have lived long in a tragic situation of national division, the aspiration towards the country's reunification is intense like anything.

The question of Korea's reunification which originated in the division of the territory by the foreigners at the end of the Second World War resides in realizing national union by reuniting the severed nation into one and establishing the sovereignty of the Korean people. The inter-Korean relation is of a temporary and special nature, distinct from relations between different countries; it will end in reunification. Since the country was split, its two parts have followed different roads of development for a long time while maintaining different ideas and political systems. They are anxious for reunification alike, but refuse to discard their respective ideology and system. Externally, too, they have developed relations with foreign countries in their own way. Consequently, the geopolitical interests of other countries in the Korean peninsula differ from each other. This peculiar situation urgently calls for an approach to reunification acceptable to both sides and harmless to the security of the countries concerned. To this end, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has consistently advocated dialogue against confrontation, détente against tension in its endeavours for reunification. In this course, the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity were agreed upon by both sides in 1972 as the cornerstone of reunification and the July 4 Joint Statement was issued.

In June 2000 a north-south summit talk was held for the first time and the north-south joint declaration was announced. The joint declaration opened up a new era in the national reunification movement by proclaiming that the country should be reunified independently under the idea of *By our nation itself*.

In the June 15 Joint Declaration the north and

the south, acknowledging that the federation at a low level proposed by the north and the commonwealth system proposed by the south for the reunification of the country have something in common with each other, agreed to work together along the lines of reunification. This was the common line of action for reunification agreed upon by the north and the south for the first time in the history of national division characterized by a vicious cycle of mistrust and confrontation. And the Declaration for Development of North-South Relations and Peace and Prosperity was an action programme for national unity adopted at the north-south summit talk on October 4, 2007. It was a comprehensive agreement for development of the inter-Korean relations and peace and prosperity of the nation. After the adoption of the historic north-south joint declarations, eye-opening events took place to open the gate to reunification by the concerted efforts of the nation—frequent dialogues and contacts, connection of the severed railways and roads, repatriation of former unconverted long-term prisoners, reunion of separated families and relatives, and establishment of the Kaesong Industrial Park as a token of inter-Korean economic cooperation.

After that, too, the DPRK made sincere efforts for national reunification. But obstacles and difficulties were placed in the way of the country's reunification by the US and the south Korean authorities. This is evident from the events of last year. The DPRK made every possible effort to relax the super-tense north-south relations from the outset of last year to accomplish reunification, the ardent desire of the fellow countrymen. The south Korean regime, however, carried out aggressive joint war exercises against the north in succession with the US, and wound up the year with the anti-DPRK "human rights" rumpus.

Contrary to the outside forces that are gaining exorbitant profits from the division of Korea, the Korean people are suffering the pains and distress of national division generation after generation. For them, therefore, national reunification is the supreme task that brooks no delay. It is the consistent stand of the DPRK to strive for the improvement of the inter-Korean relations in future, too, joining hands with anyone without calling his past into question if he has a high regard for the nation and seeks after its reunification.

Kim Il Bong

Kaesong White Pine

THE KAESONG WHITE PINE (*PINUS bungeana*) is an evergreen needle-leaved tree on a hillock in Yongang-ri, Kaesong City. It is 17.5 m tall, 3.45 m round at the base trunk and 4.7 m at the breast height. And the trunk is 1.1 m in diameter at the bottom.

A 600-odd-year-old tree, it has 4 limbs at the height of 2 m, which are some 1.8 m round each. As numerous twigs come out from the branches in all directions, the tree looks like a big umbrella.

The bole bark is grayish white and the leaves are

dark green. The needle leaf is 7-9 cm long and 1.8 mm in diameter. The needles gather in groups of three. The tree has both male and female flowers. The stamens are yellow and elongate and they hang from new twigs in groups. The cone, shaped like an egg, contains 50-60 seed scales. The seed is elongate and dark chestnut-coloured on one side and light brown on the other.

The Kaesong White Pine is registered as State Natural Monument No. 390. It is worth scientific research as it is unusually strong and grows well. □



