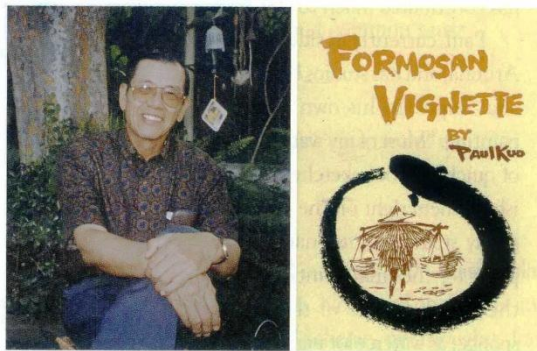


Formosa Vignette - Part B



我畫水彩

郭博修

我的水彩作品一大半是根據現場的速寫畫成，而不是當場描繪自然景象的。通常使用140磅的法國水彩畫紙，在開始作畫之前，先以海棉把整張紙弄濕。畫紙的表面有了水份，以水彩顏料刷底就容易多了。

至於畫筆，我喜歡用三寸寬的國畫用扁筆(刷子)以及美國製的一寸寬短刷子。當然也使用粗細長短不同的水彩筆。

對我來說，作品整個畫面的「氣氛」比它的「真實性」重要，因此爲了求得畫面上較佳的效果，我往往不重視細節。

我一開始作畫(四開大的水彩)約在十五分鐘之內就察覺這一幅水彩畫是否畫壞了。如果我覺得畫下去沒有什麼「起死回生」的可能，就馬上扔掉，如果開始塗塗改改，把死馬當活馬醫的話，這一幅水彩畫就很難保持乾淨。

尤其使用透明水彩時，必定失去其透明度。我始終記得一句名言：「畫水彩如同說謊，說得越多越容易出紕漏」。並且爲了不過份依賴作畫過程中的「偶然性」我都事先經過一番構圖上，明暗對比上的安排。

ABOUT MY PAINTING

Most of my watercolors grow out of quick outdoor sketches instead of finishing them right on the spot and end up with copying nature.

Unlike other watercolor artists I usually wet the entire surface of the Arches watercolor paper (mainly "cold press", 140 Lb.) using a sponge. As most of you know watercolor pigment spreads better while it is wet.

The wide and flat Oriental brush known as "Hake brush" is my favorite. It helps me to do a quick job in covering a big area. I frequently use a smaller flat brush called "Aquarell".

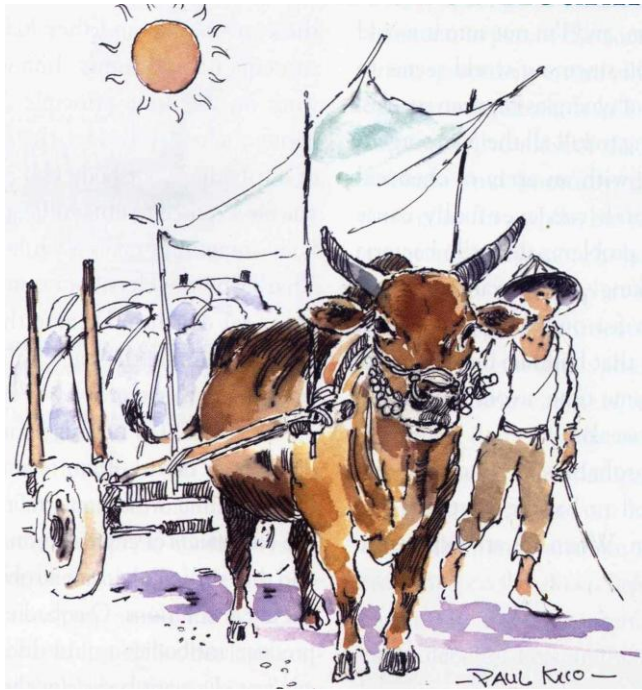
I also use various round brushes made by Grumbacher in the United States.

Since the atmosphere means a lot more than likeness as far as I am concerned, I sometimes ignore small details.

It usually takes about fifteen minutes painting time to be able to tell if I have "blown" it, should this happen I throw it away because after a long struggle my painting will only get dirty or muddy. I always remember that painting watercolors is like telling a lie, the more you work on it the worse it gets.

In order to get clear cuts and clean touches I plan (or design) the whole picture ahead of time so that I do not have to depend too much on "unpredictabilities".

Summer 1978



Meal Time

Stocks, Soups, and Porridges



Fermented and Marinated Vegetables





Tropical heat-aid: "The heat is here to stay, so try this in your Waring blender. The Papaya Cooler is an ice-cold melon liquefied into a delicious drink. You can also add a dash of ice cream."



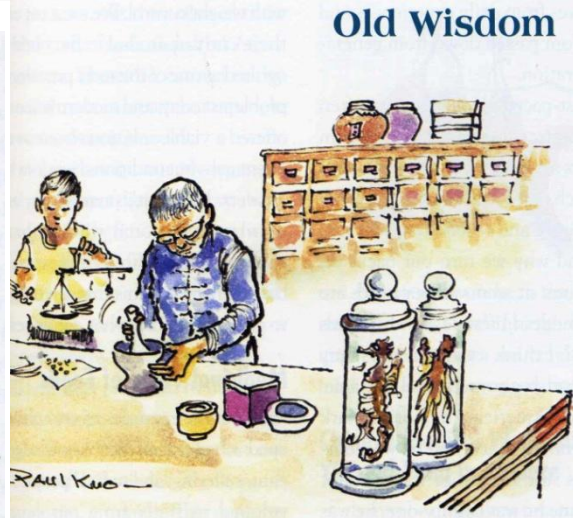
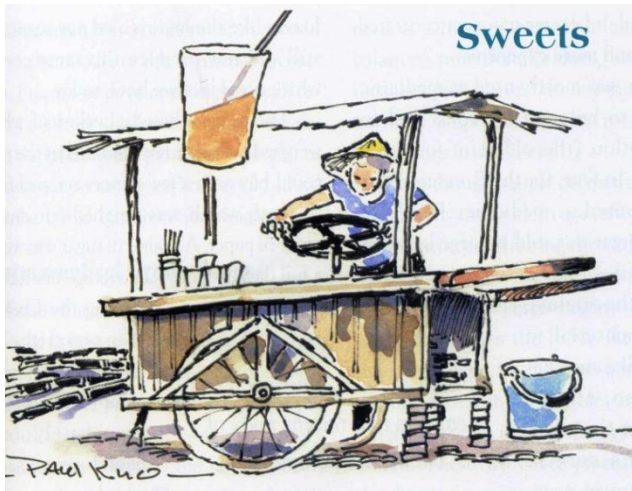
Cola grandfather: "The ancestor of all soft drinks is the Taiwan Medicinal Tea. Summertime stands offer dozens of varieties guaranteed to cool the body, refresh the soul, and ward off summer complaints. The lotus root concoction is famed for cooling you off in the summer."



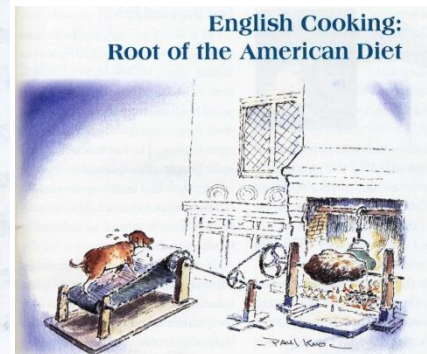
Summer squash: "This jumbo size melon is really a winter squash, a year-round favorite for delicious Chinese soup. Come summertime this squash furnishes a well-known street-side 'kool-aid' "



Sweet jawbreaker: "Chewing real sugarcane strengthens the jaws, cleans the molars, and maybe breaks the front teeth. You spit out the pulp, swallow the mildly sweet juice, and bite off another hunk. You may have three more feet to go."



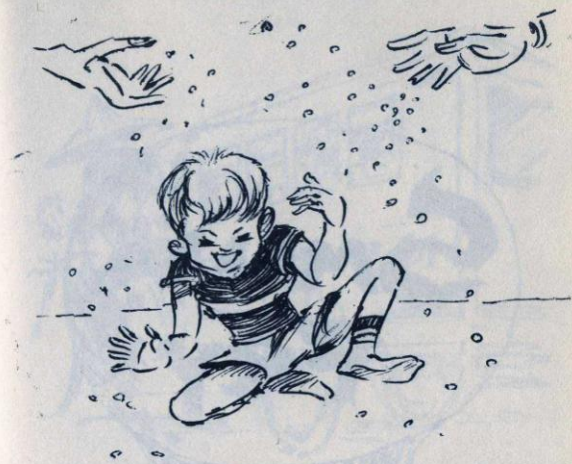
Old Wisdom





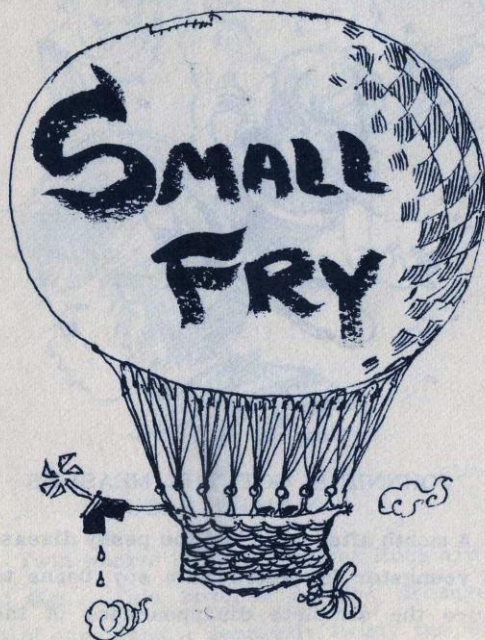
DOUBLE WHAMMY

Twin whorls in baby's silken locks are a bad sign. This reverse cowlick presages fits of anger and a generally twisty temper.



JOHNNIE'S GOT THE MEASLES

A month after he's had the pesky disease the youngster is pelted with soy beans to insure the complete disappearance of the spots. NAMRU please note.



BUS DRIVER'S DREAM

This is the Taiwan bus for the kindergarten set. Some people refer to it in the vernacular as the "dog catcher's cart." Be that as it may, this vehicle has one decided advantage over the more plush models of the West. The driver is on the outside, safely away from the little monsters.



MINUTE MICHAELANGELO

In this deft sculptor's hands brightly colored rice paste is turned into legendary heroes, pretty girls, even tanks and jets. Don't try to mail these home though. They will mildew and crack before the boat has left Keelung.



SUGAR CANDY

The kids are enthralled by this sidewalk artist. He blows sugar into molds to make three-D animals which sell for a few dimes.



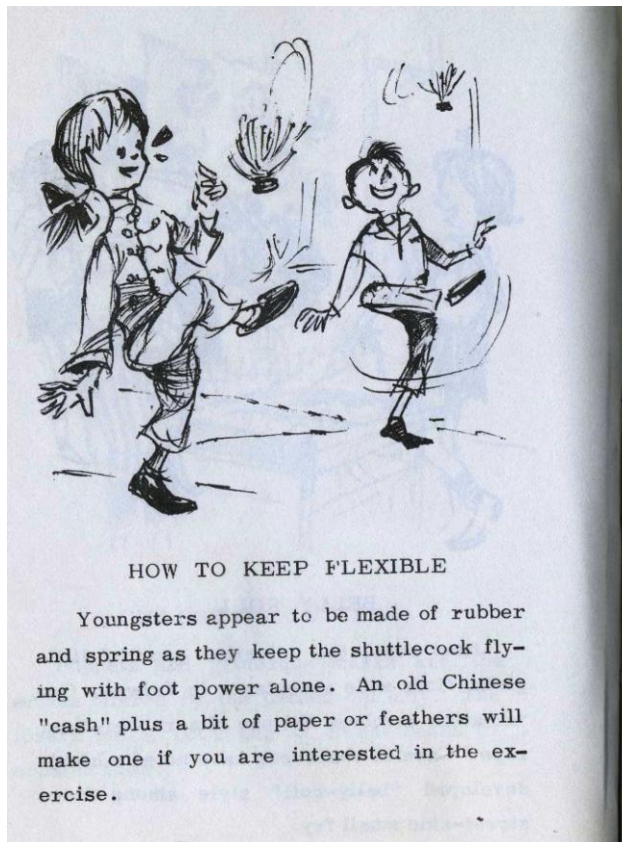
CHILDREN'S LOTTERY

Puppets and grotesque masks are the prizes offered by the patient old lady. The losers get a little bag of sweet beans to console them.



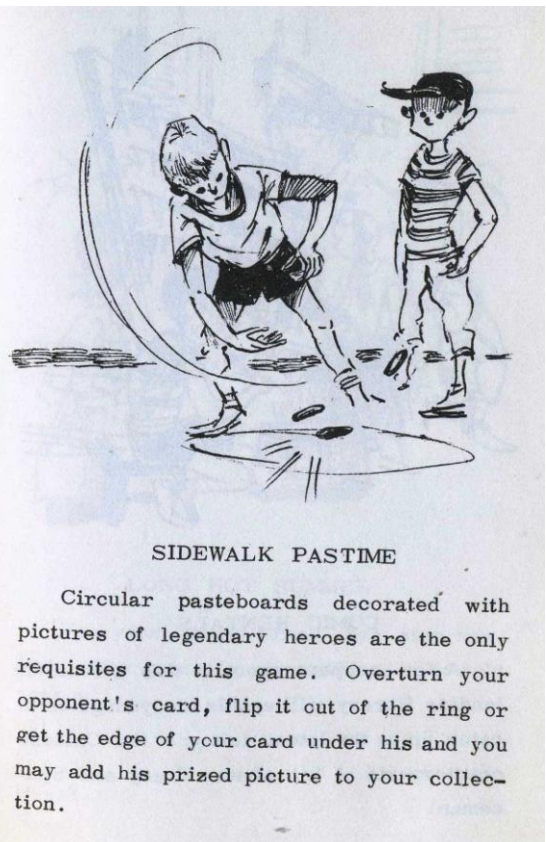
BELLY ROLL

Jump rope, the universal game of little girls, finds wide acceptance in Taiwan. One variation involves the use of a rubber-band rope. Careful observers have noted a highly developed "belly-roll" style among these street-side small fry.



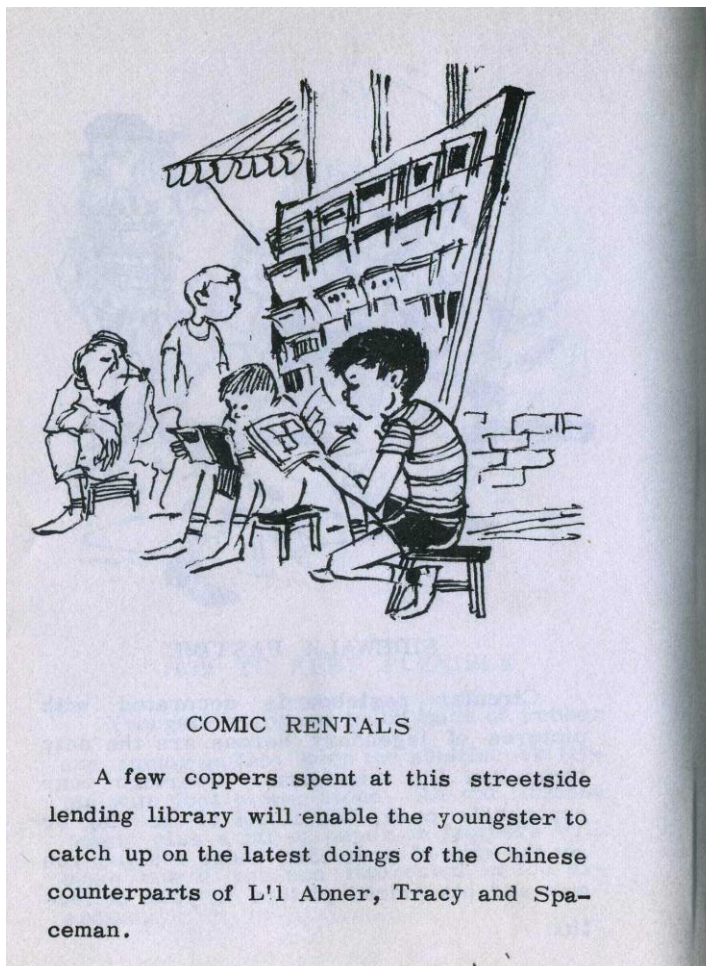
HOW TO KEEP FLEXIBLE

Youngsters appear to be made of rubber and spring as they keep the shuttlecock flying with foot power alone. An old Chinese "cash" plus a bit of paper or feathers will make one if you are interested in the exercise.



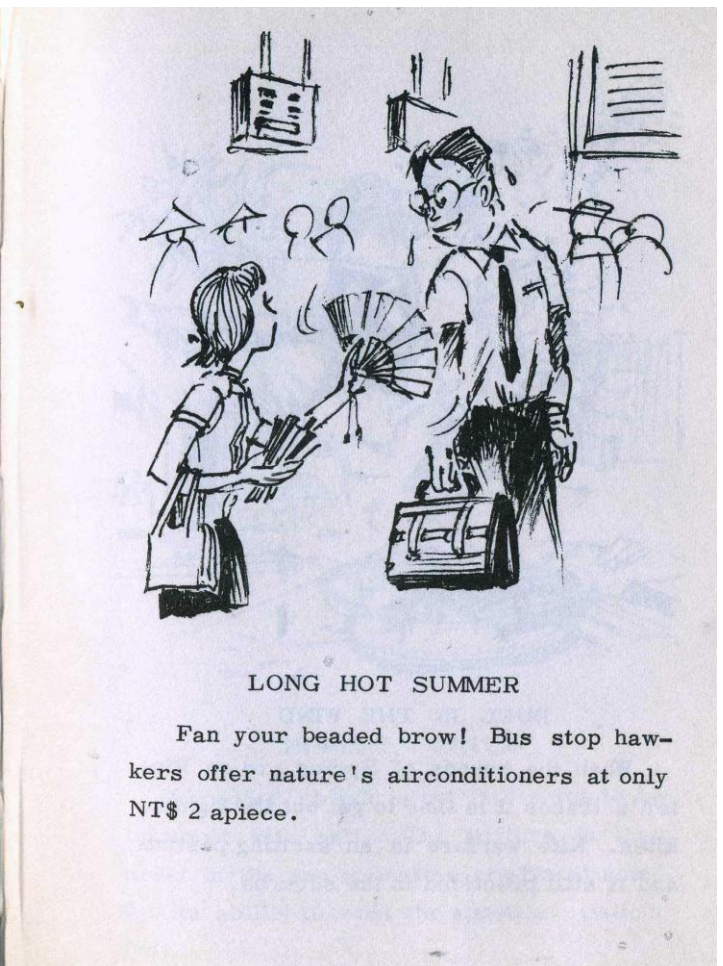
SIDEWALK PASTIME

Circular pasteboards decorated with pictures of legendary heroes are the only requisites for this game. Overturn your opponent's card, flip it out of the ring or get the edge of your card under his and you may add his prized picture to your collection.



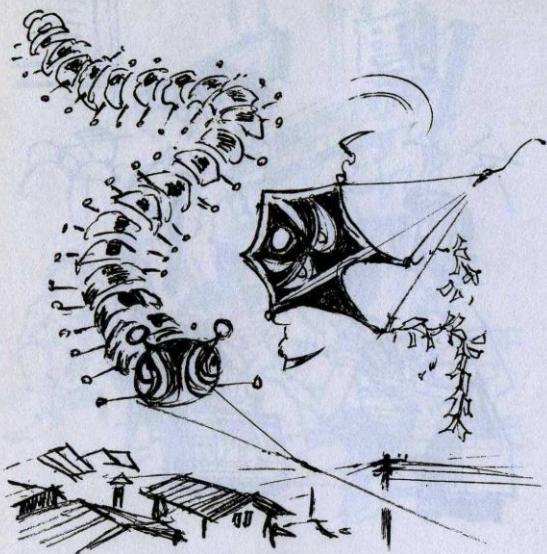
COMIC RENTALS

A few coppers spent at this streetside lending library will enable the youngster to catch up on the latest doings of the Chinese counterparts of L'l Abner, Tracy and Spaceman.



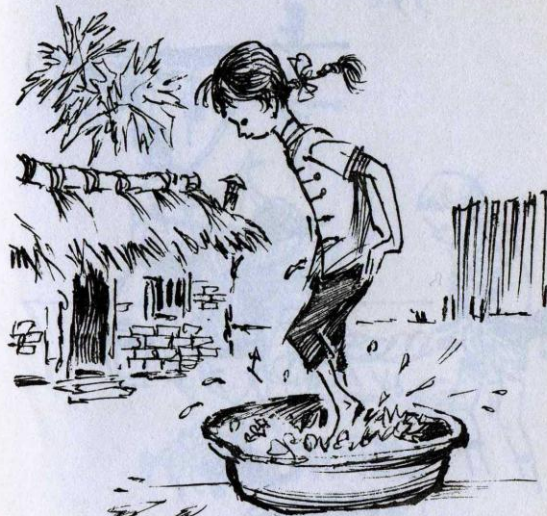
LONG HOT SUMMER

Fan your beaded brow! Bus stop hawkers offer nature's airconditioners at only NT\$ 2 apiece.



DUEL IN THE WIND

When the hounds of Spring are on Winter's traces it is time to get out the fighting kites. Kite warfare is an exciting pastime and is still practiced in the suburbs.



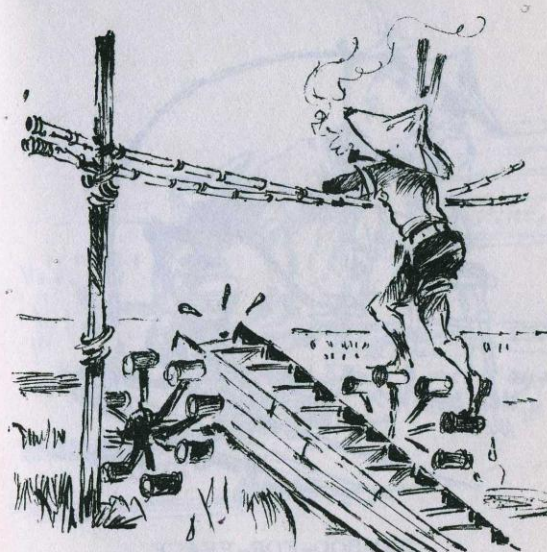
HOMELY CUSTOM

Shredded radish is put into a tub to be trampled with salt. The mixture is then dried in the sun to make a condiment noted for its ability to whet the appetite. Quite a feat.



YON SOLITARY TAIWAN LASS

"Behold her, single in the field, reaping and singing by herself." The Taiwan farm girl must be complimented on her colorful kerchief and flaming lipstick, bright touches to an otherwise dull work day.



WATERWHEEL

This contented farmer eschews the gasoline pump and floods his paddy with a waterwheel completely made of wood. What was good enough for grandpa is good enough for him.



BAMBOO-FOR-PEACE

This Taiwan belle has been assigned the task of flooding the paddy. The lazy thing has rigged up a Rube Goldberg so she can do the job in Southern comfort.



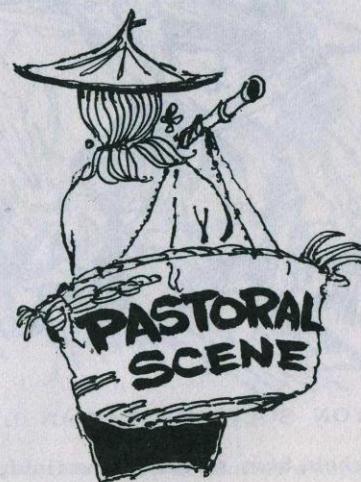
FERTILE TAIWAN

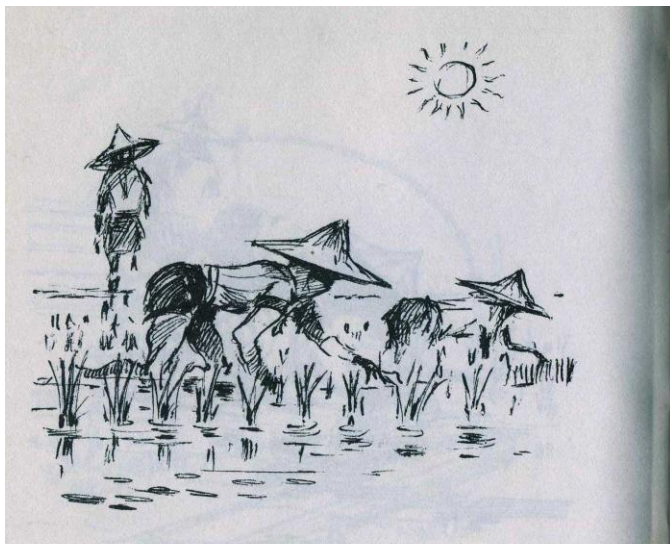
Two crops of rice a year is common in most parts of Taiwan. Here the rice seedlings are planted in the wet paddy. It's a back breaking job, but Taiwan's rice bowl must be filled.



LOOK, NO CLOTHESLINE!!

In Taiwan clothes are hung to drip and dry on bamboo poles. This eliminates clothespins and discourages laundry snatching. The washing goes up early to make the most of the feeble winter sun.





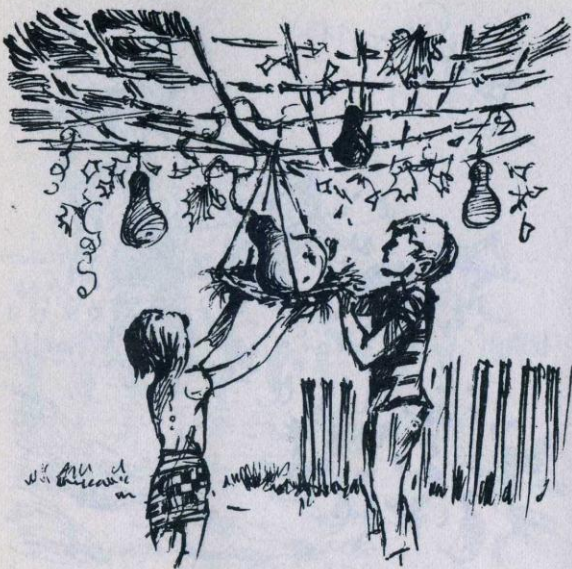
WEEDING TIME

One of the more disagreeable farm tasks is weeding the flooded rice paddies. In the north this is done on hands and knees. In southern Taiwan the farmgirls use a staff to support themselves and do it all by fancy footwork.



DUCK HERDER

It takes a patient man to ride herd on this bunch of quacks all day long. Shallow rivers and fallow paddies are favorite spots for keeping ducks. Sooner or later they wind up on the table.



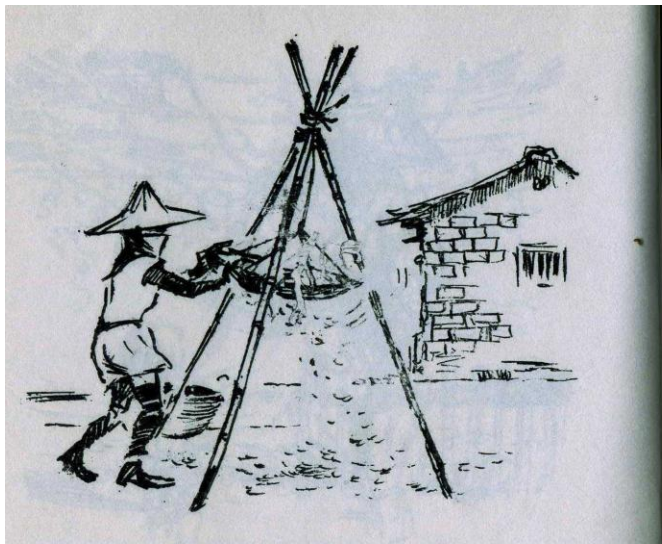
HORTICULTURAL FIRST AID

The bottle gourd vine is a great shade producer and is favored for sheltering the sunny side of the house. This Texas-sized specimen has gotten out of hand and has to be hung up in a sling. Prize watermelons often get the same treatment.



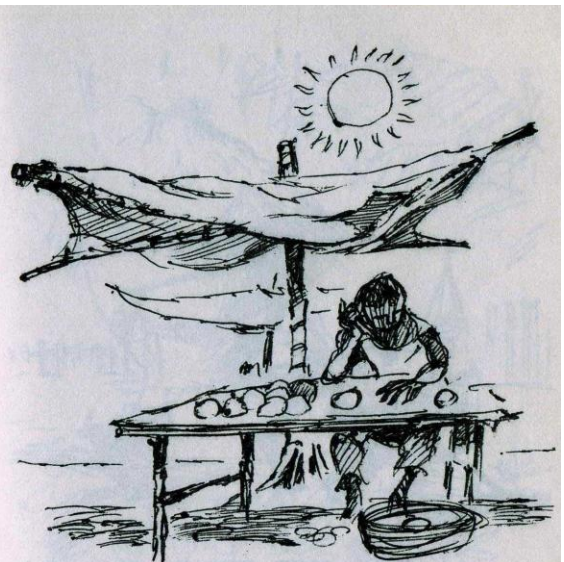
SNAKES IN THE PADDY

When the harvest is all completed and things have stagnated for a month or so, it is time for the farmers to catch the paddy eels. They trample over the muddy fields and the slippery critters obligingly jump up to be caught.



SIFT THEE AS WHEAT

In Taiwan the figures of winnowing, threshing floors, useless chaff and golden grain come to life before our eyes. These lassies utilize the prevailing breeze to get bits of straw and dirt out of the last harvest of the year.



UNDER THE VILLAGE TARP

The sun blazes down on the southern half of Taiwan. No windmill this, but a special sunshade designed to protect the roadside vendor and his customer.



RICE BIN

A picturesque part of Central and Southern Taiwan scenery is this rice bin. A huge wicker basket is first made and then covered with clay. Topped with a grass roof it serves as an inexpensive storage place for grain.



IRRIGATION PATENT

Spring is here and the water boy is kept busy wetting down the freshly planted vegetable seedlings. It looks easy, but did you ever try to lift two of those fully loaded buckets?



TO MARKET, TO MARKET

Oink, oink! This porker got a little too hefty, so it took two farmer acrobats to cart him off to slaughter. But he had his hour of glory before he became a prize-pai-pai porker.



THIS LITTLE.....

The tender sucking pig is on his way to market in a wicker pullman. A few sprigs of green protect piggy's tender skin from old sol's burning rays.



AND BE A FRIEND TO MAN

Providence designed the water buffalo for Taiwan. Neither sun nor rain can impede his omnipowerful low gear. All he asks at the end of a day is a handful of cane grass and a brief cooling-off period in a nearby pool.



LITTLE FISHES' NEMESIS

Nothing edible escapes. This fisherman uses a micro technique to net the small fish that inhabit the roadside ponds and drainage canals.



HARVEST MEALS

In Taiwan the rice harvesting begins in early summer and lasts till late autumn. The workman is worthy of his hire, and gets a special supply of calories. It is customary to bring hot meals and snacks to the harvest crew five times during the working day.



COTTAGE IN THE FIELDS

The fiery noonday sun can prove too much even for the hardy Taiwan farmer. Temporary thatch shelters provide a dark and cooling shade for weary workers' tea break.



SWIG IN A STICK

Southern farm maidens carry a spot of refreshment in a section of bamboo. Water and tea served in the absence of cola.



AERIAL PADDIES

The studly Taiwan farmer has worked an agricultural miracle with mud and rock. His cleverly constructed terraces rise in graceful curves and cover mountainsides with lush crops of rice.



TRAMP, TRAMP, TRAMP!

Beans, black, green and yellow, are often flailed out of their pods. These Southern belles do it the Arthur Murray way with rhythmic boogie beat.



HARVEST TIME

"Summer ends now; now, barbarous in beauty, the stocks arise". Hopkins would have enjoyed Taiwan with its multiple harvests. Peng Lai rice is removed by treadle worked machines, Tsai Lai is flailed off into a shielded basket.



KEELUNG CLOGS

Keelung's 200 inches of rain per year demand a very high wooden clog which keeps the wearer's feet dry, even in a cloudburst. The common clogs especially the ones decorated with enameled designs do very well for shower or garden use.



DROLL BEASTIES

These furry novelties are often sold as souvenirs at mountain resorts. They are made of parts of the ergot plant, a medicinal herb which promotes the clotting of the blood.



CRUSTY CRUSTACEAN

Shrimp and prawn abound in local waters. Tungkan is the center for the monster variety which approaches lobster tails in size and succulence. For those who prefer such things, the beasties can be mounted and serve as excellent dust-catchers.



HARD OF HEARING, DEARIE?

Though not recommended by doctors, this wicked looking weapon is sold as an ear dewaxer. The cotton ball is used to soothe the aching eardrum after the operation.



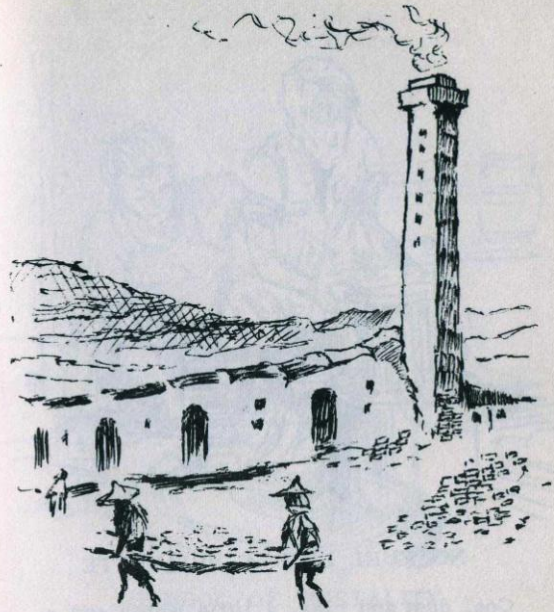
FOR THE MAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING

The Chinese back scratcher is the last word in comfort. Originally designed for getting inside stiff padded garments this modern convenience has become an item of export and a world-wide curio. Latest intelligence reports that a factory in Brooklyn has undertaken their manufacture.



MOSQUITO BEWARE

Citronella oil, a Taiwan export, is distilled from special grasses grown on Taiwan mountainsides. Industry finds many uses for this oil, it may even end up in my lady's perfume.



BRICK YARD

Firing bricks is one of the world's oldest industries. Taiwan is covered with brickyards and there seems to be no limit to the number of bricks that can be absorbed by Taiwan's building boom.



NO FUEL LIKE A BRIQUETTE

Coal dust and clay, a little water and a lot of sweat go into the making of these tight little heat packages. Once lit they keep going for hours. When the core of this reactor is burned up it may be thrown on the ash pile with no danger from radioactive wastes.



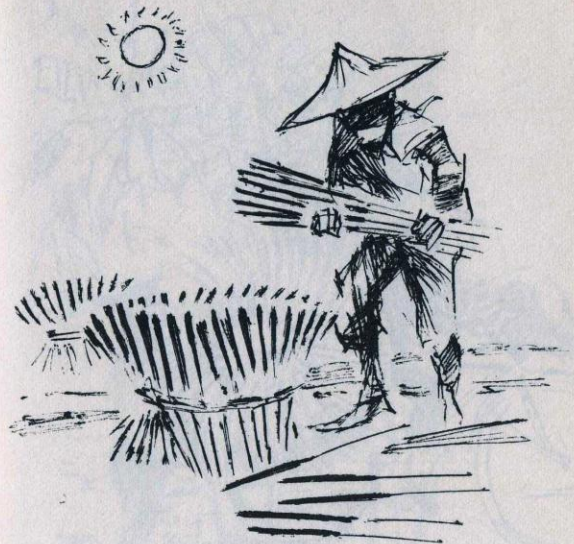
SYMBOL OF MORTALITY

"Who the potter, pray, and who the pot?" The Taiwan potter utilizes the inertia of a heavy stone wheel to keep the mass of clay spinning. In a few seconds his skilled fingers have formed the graceful curves of a wine jar.



SUN DRIED

River beds and open fields often display a weird assortment of drying racks. Nine times out of ten it will be rice flour noodles out to air. Old sol does the work of dehydrating them and the occasional dust and grit just add to the flavor and body.



SYMBOL OF WORSHIP

The annual consumption of joss sticks in Taiwan must reach astronomical figures. Their main purpose is for worship in temple and shrine. However, the burning punk is sometimes used to repel mosquitoes or substitute for a bicycle light.



HATS A LA TAIWAN

A frame of split bamboo covered with tough bamboo leaves makes up the Taiwan farmer's hat. This useful article can be had for a few New Taiwan dollars. On the way to market new hats are stacked and rolled into huge doughnuts.



END OF THE ROOSTER

This gent is not in pain, he is just offering to buy rooster appendages at prime prices. These feathers wind up in glossy black dusters. On the mainland this proud plume once served to distinguish private pedicabs from the public variety.



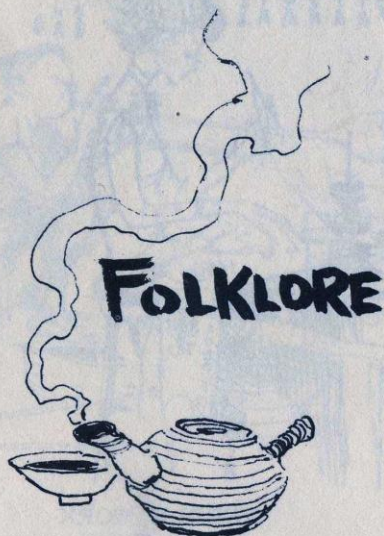
BLOW HARD

This gentleman needs a strong pair of lungs and stout cheeks. He spends the day blowing bottles and vials. Medical ampules are often made by girl blowers.



NEEDLE WORK

With patient fingers and sharp eyes these girls work at banners and antependia for Taiwanese religious festivals. They specialize in silver and gold dragons, padded out to three dimensions and furnished with real glass eyes.



PRIMITIVE DEPILATOR

Country women use twisted threads to remove surplus hair from the brows and forehead. This sure-fire method hurts a bit but it has been in use for centuries.



AND THEN THERE WERE

A few weeks before New Years employers often hold a special party for their help. The unsatisfactory employee gets notice of his dismissal by having the chicken's head pointed directly at him.



STRONG BARGAINING POSITION

The bride-to-be's maternal uncle must come to the wedding or the ceremony just won't come off. Since the gentleman is in a rather key position the bridegroom must handle him with kid gloves in order to insure his attendance.



DEVIL CHASING

The incurably sick are often thought to be possessed by devils. In some nearby bamboo grove an offering is made to the devil. Meat, eggs and rice are exposed and paper money is burned in the hope of obtaining relief.



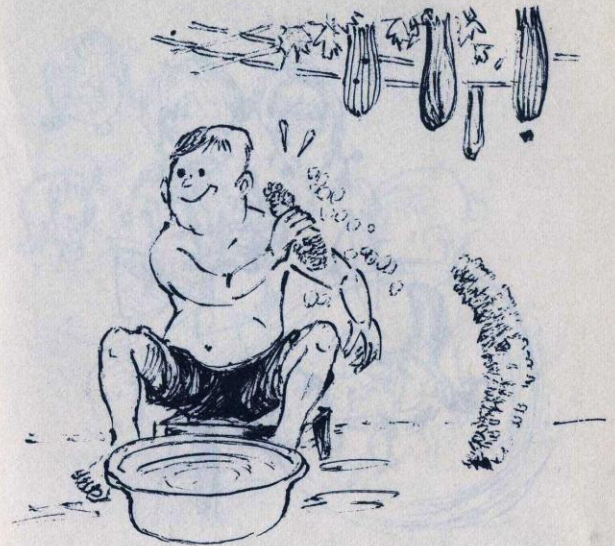
SEVEN SHOWLESS WEEKS

The soul of the deceased is thought to remain under the platform of the stage, suffering and supporting it for seven weeks. Hence, during this period of mourning near relatives of the dead man may not see a show or attend a movie.



...LIKE A CIGARETTE SHOULD!

Trends in the mountains these days show that the shift is away from the name brands to the solid hand rolled stogy. Production will be upped as soon as the custom catches on among the plainswomen.



RUB A DUB DUB

Plant a few of these green summer gourds. The thick foliage will shelter your house from the scorching sun, and the inner fiber makes an excellent bath sponge.



SIN OFFERING

In order to make reparation for an evil deed the offender marks his name on the back of a turtle and sets it free. The turtle lives for a legendary 10,000 years piling up merit for the one who saved its life.



MALE INSURANCE

Pork tripe is recommended as a diet for the mother plagued with a prolonged procession of daughters. This remedy will insure a male heir and prevent the home from becoming a women's world.

Continue to Part C