

II - 66 - 7. The New York Times, October 6, 1944.  
Yenan, A Chinese Wonderland City On 3 Kinds Of Time,  
Has One Clock.

Friday Oct 6, 1944  
THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## Yenan, a Chinese Wonderland City On 3 Kinds of Time, Has One Clock

*Burning Punk Sticks Mark Hours in Hospital,  
Gasoline Is Unrationed, Food Also Is  
Plentiful, Shows Are Free*

By BROOKS ATKINSON

By Wirelens to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

YENAN, China, Oct. 3 (Delayed)—Here are some oddments from this corner of the world:

1. Yenan has a population of 40,000, of whom 28,000 are associated with Chinese Communist, civilian or military organizations. The population includes 975 peasant households, 880 merchants and 473 shops.

2. Women and children as well as men wear shapeless long trousers, tunics and limp cloth caps. Strangers have to look carefully before proceeding.

3. Yenan has three kinds of time—Shanghai, which is an hour faster than Chungking; Yenan, which is twenty minutes slower than Chungking and Chungking. But since there are almost no watches or clocks working in Yenan, no one knows what time it is by any system, which makes the ordeal of getting up mornings less harrowing than normal. Giefang Rhpao, which is the local newspaper, has one clock that runs if stood in a particular position. Having no clocks of any kind, the International Peace Hospital marks off the approximate hours on a stick of punk that thus burns time. The head doctor says: "We are on punk time."

4. Very little money is used in Yenan. The value of money is tied to the price of millet. All Communists are paid in millet, rice, cloth, cooking oil, matches and other daily necessities. But Yenan is suffering from an inflation that puzzles the comrades, who have had little experience in finance. The money value of millet has increased more than 100 per cent since the first of the year.

### Caves House a University

5. The physical plant of Yenan University consists of several rows of caves on a terraced hillside.

6. Since everyone has to take part in the general production program yards are planted with tomatoes, corn, tobacco and other individual crops. The commonest flowers now blooming are cosmos of giant size and morning glories.

7. Yenan's common birds are buzzards, magpies, crows and English sparrows.

8. At dances, which are common, women invite men to dance. This is a dangerous practice that involves considerable loss of masculine sovereign rights.

9. Yenan is the only city in China that does not ration gasoline. Oil wells two days' journey to the north produce more gasoline than Yenan's ten trucks burn. A gasoline plant was reclaimed from an abandoned Standard Oil project.

10. There are two Central Government generals stationed as liaison officers in Yenan. They lead lonely but imposing lives.

### Soot Ink for Newspapers

11. The local wine, pai kanrh, is somewhat fierier and more objectionable than South China's mao tai.

12. The richest man in Yenan was a peddler a few years ago. Recently he has made a fortune smuggling goods in and out of unoccupied China.

13. The circulation of the local newspaper, 8,400, is limited by Yenan's capacity to make newsprint from grass, straw, &c. It has four flat-bed presses that are operated by hand. The ink is manufactured from soot. The paper prints all the news services and radio broadcasts off the air with home-made radio equipment. The radio current is supplied by three men turning home-made hand generators.

14. Two foreigners who married Chinese wives feel very happy about the whole thing. The wives like it, too.

15. When the room boy is not carrying "wash face warm water" he is spinning cotton thread on a wooden wheel.

16. The Yenan area has a 100 per cent food surplus this year.

17. Although the border region is largely self-contained and self-sufficient, it has to import cotton cloth, iron, office paper and medicines.

18. Because of the shortage of metals, most shovels and rakes are made of wood.

### Bells Jingle on Caravans

19. An excellent troupe of actors plays dramas of social significance nearly every night free. Last week it played a drama of peasants and guerrillas trying to harvest a crop in an enemy-occupied district. Tonight it will play a war drama translated from the Russian Korneicik.

20. Most of the factories work ten hours a day.

21. Although the peasants here are poor they decorate the lead animals in caravan trains with stunning red plumes and strings of sweet-toned bells.

22. Old coins, useless, are being melted for the manufacture of bullets. Some of these coins are more than a thousand years old.

23. Because of the abundance of draft animals, few peasants carry burdens on their shoulders and backs. If a load has to be carried on human shoulders, two peasants likely will share it between them.

24. Yenan's current pet is a jeep flown in by an American military mission. The jeep fords rivers, climbs hills and jumps ditches, and always is in a good humor. Some children call it a foreign horse, others an airplane, which is a new mechanical toy they are none too sure about.