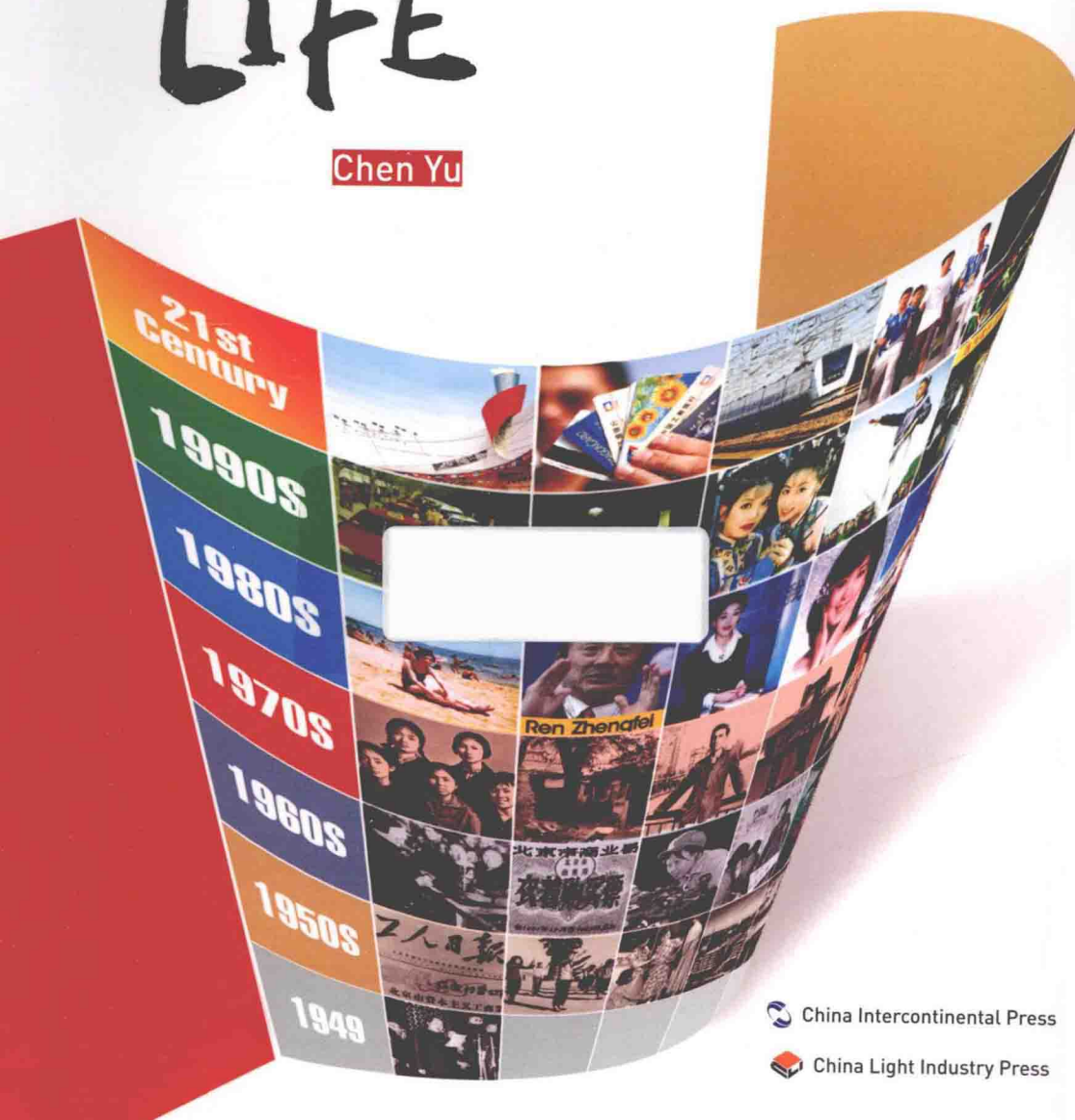


MEMORIES OF CHINESE LIFE

Chen Yu



 China Intercontinental Press

 China Light Industry Press



MEMORIES OF CHINESE LIFE

Chen Yu



China Intercontinental Press



China Light Industry Press

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

中国百姓生活记忆:英文/陈煜编著;刘晓霜,李娜,刘燕译.
—北京:五洲传播出版社,2014.9

ISBN 978-7-5085-2894-6

I. ①中… II. ①陈… ②刘… ③李… ④刘…
III. ①社会生活-概况-中国-1949~2014-英文 IV. ①D669

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2014)第214678号

中国百姓生活记忆

出版人:荆孝敏

编 著:陈 煜

译 者:刘晓霜 李 娜 刘 燕

策 划:刘忠波

责任编辑:苏 谦

装帧设计:北京正视文化艺术有限责任公司

出版发行:五洲传播出版社

中国轻工业出版社

地 址:北京市海淀区北三环中路31号生产力大楼B座7层

邮 编:100088

电 话:010-82005927, 82007837

网 址:www.cicc.org.cn

承 印 者:北京华联印刷有限公司

版 次:2014年9月第1版第1次印刷

开 本:720×965mm 1/16

印 张:20

字 数:200千字

定 价:138.00元

Contents

Memories of Chinese Life

1949

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Many things needed to be done | 1 |
|-------------------------------------|---|

Memories of Chinese Life

1950s

| | |
|--|----|
| Chinese tunic suit replaced the western-style clothes and chi-pao | 5 |
| Fashionable “Lenin Coat” | 7 |
| Girls keen on bib overall | 9 |
| Little swallow wearing color clothes: “platye” | 10 |
| Food coupon starts the coupon era | 11 |
| Residence booklet to control influxes into the urban area | 14 |
| Free public eateries | 15 |
| Dusky and greasy “row houses” | 16 |
| Water supply station in Shanghai lanes | 18 |
| Walking-based transportation | 20 |
| “Dangdang Bus” reminds pedestrians to keep away from cars with bells | 21 |
| Cartoon dance needs a “big brother” | 22 |
| A divorce is hereby granted as mediation failed | 23 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Rural women have a bath in the bathhouse for the first time | 25 |
| Transferring Shanghai haircutters to open Silian in Beijing | 26 |
| National steelmaking movement..... | 27 |
| Wronged sparrow | 29 |
| Women were bashful when doing radio calisthenics | 30 |
| Merit students | 32 |
| The first national salary reform | 33 |

Memories of Chinese Life

1960s

| | |
|--|----|
| The food substitute movement: Man-made meat essence and appeasing hunger with chlorella | 37 |
| Lying-in women provided with a lump sum subsidy of 1kg of eggs..... | 39 |
| Quota supply of vegetable, shallot, ginger and garlic..... | 42 |
| Umbrella and alarm clocks were also supplied with coupon..... | 44 |
| “Three years in new, three years in old and three years in patched” | 46 |
| No white buttons for white suit in Beijing..... | 49 |
| Red Guard hairstyle | 52 |
| State Council cuts sales of lipstick in China..... | 53 |
| Renovating Fangua Lane | 54 |
| Nine-storey Anhua Building nicknamed “high-ranking official building” | 56 |
| From honeycomb briquette to gas tank..... | 58 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Forever, Phoenix and Flying Pigeon | 59 |
| First Beijing subway built secretly | 60 |
| We don't accept tips | 62 |
| <i>Hundred Thousand Whys</i> | 63 |
| Learn from Daqing Oilfield for industrial production and learn from Dazhai for agricultural production..... | 64 |
| Follow the good example of Lei Feng | 66 |
| RMB4 as cash gift and 1 kilogram of candies as betrothal present | 68 |
| Newly-married couples bowed to the portrait of Chairman Mao Zedong..... | 69 |
| Each family has the Little Red Book | 71 |
| Badge bearing Chairman Mao's profile worn on the chest..... | 74 |
| Loyalty dance..... | 75 |
| The Red Guards take public transportation for free across the country to exchange revolutionary ideas..... | 76 |
| Open-door schooling: Learning industrial production, agricultural production and military affairs..... | 78 |
| Educated youth go and work in the countryside and mountainous areas | 80 |
| "Barefoot doctor" helps the local people | 83 |
| Eggs as "cash" | 85 |

1970s

| | |
|---|-----|
| “With Dacron inside” | 87 |
| Police officers chase young people wearing bell-bottoms | 89 |
| Pierre Cardin and 12 models debuts at Beijing Cultural Palace of Nationalities | 90 |
| A hubbub of voices in the tube-shaped apartments | 92 |
| Earthquake shelter-tents set up by making use of every single space | 93 |
| The “Stone Gate” residence, not a “new horizon” | 95 |
| The Bund, the dimly-lit paradise for couples | 96 |
| First 3,000 boxes of bottled Coca-Cola delivered to Beijing | 98 |
| Eight model operas entertain 800 million people in eight years | 99 |
| Chinese movies are like news summaries | 101 |
| <i>Sandakan 8, Proof of the Man and Kimi Yo Funme No Kawa O Watare</i> | 103 |
| Popular but not vulgar picture-story books | 105 |
| 36 “legs” and “three betrothal presents with wheels and one with sound” | 107 |
| Shanghai products sell well | 109 |
| The first TV commercial for ginseng tonic wine broadcasted at the first day of the Lunar Year | 110 |
| Resumption of university entrance examination with an application fee of RMB0.5 | 111 |
| Overseas Chinese students make a stir in the United States | 114 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Villagers of Xiaogang Village fingerprint for all-around contract..... | 115 |
| Watching CCTV News becomes a habit..... | 117 |
| All Chinese people listen to the Legend of Yue Fei told by Liu Lanfang | 117 |
| Fragrance of puffed rice on the street | 118 |

Memories of Chinese Life

1980s

| | |
|--|-----|
| Red dresses are in fashion..... | 121 |
| Chinese models get attention | 122 |
| Bikini tells us the best thing in life is freedom | 124 |
| City Beauties Pageant, the beginning of beauty contest | 125 |
| Suits for rent..... | 127 |
| Fake collar, production of the “face” | 129 |
| Jeans closed the door to college..... | 131 |
| Warm and light military coat | 132 |
| Five stresses and four points of beauty | 134 |
| Say goodbye to dark yellow face | 135 |
| Short curly hair and wavy hair..... | 136 |
| Noodles in Yuebin Restaurant fascinated foreign reporters | 138 |
| “If I can open a Maxim’s in Beijing, then I can also open it on the Moon!” | 140 |
| Yili Fast Food Restaurant: Cups, spoons and straws of cold drinks were all disposable | 141 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| People even hold wedding ceremony in KFC..... | 142 |
| I want good wine with coffee..... | 144 |
| Bars there are quiet | 146 |
| Garrulous Zhang Damin faces housing tension | 147 |
| Urban residents can buy houses..... | 149 |
| “I would rather have a bed in Puxi than own a room in Pudong” | 152 |
| In the Great Wall Hotel, only the dust outside the window was made in China..... | 153 |
| Tour guide borrowed a khaki Zhongshan suit | 153 |
| Riding a motorcycle is cool | 155 |
| Individuals can also buy cars | 156 |
| Cassette recorder invigorates family dancing party..... | 158 |
| Disco in vogue | 160 |
| Karaoke “changed the night of Asia”..... | 162 |
| Unforgettable “decadent sound” | 163 |
| The release of Cui Jian’s song – <i>I Have Nothing</i> | 164 |
| <i>The Shaolin Temple</i> causes Kung Fu fever | 166 |
| Someone could not bear the “Misty Poems” | 167 |
| Chinese were proud of the women’s volleyball team | 169 |
| The road of life becomes narrower and narrower..... | 170 |
| With high paraplegia, Zhang Haidi learns four foreign languages by herself..... | 172 |
| The frog sunglasses from Atlantis..... | 173 |
| “Palm phones” as big as a brick..... | 175 |
| Civilians had the right to buy gold rings and gold necklaces | 176 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Panic purchasing | 178 |
| The villages owning televisions | 181 |
| Girls asking for too many things for the marriage | 182 |
| “Honeymoons” and “marriage trips” | 185 |
| “The firstborn is allowed, while the other babies are forbidden” | 187 |
| “Incompatibility” was a legal reason for divorce | 189 |
| Divorce agreement for a merry parting..... | 191 |
| The passionate prediction of <i>The Third Wave</i> | 192 |
| No.001 Doctor Ma Zhongqi..... | 193 |
| People were afraid of telling others that they were RMB10,000 a year household | 194 |
| The first group of individual households | 195 |
| Township enterprises, a new force suddenly rising | 197 |
| Suspension from duty without pay | 198 |
| “Let’s go into business” | 199 |
| <i>Follow Me</i> : the fever of learning foreign languages in China | 201 |
| Never stopped talking with a foreigner at the English corners | 203 |
| The pencils and erasers used by TOEFL candidates came from America | 204 |
| Time is money, efficiency is life | 205 |
| It is convenient for people to carry resident identity cards..... | 206 |

1990s

| | |
|--|-----|
| The deliberate holes on jeans..... | 209 |
| The brand apparel shop..... | 210 |
| Cultural T-shirt – with slogan printed on the chest..... | 211 |
| Underwear-style dress..... | 213 |
| Fashionable casual clothing..... | 214 |
| Cosmetics & skin-care products..... | 215 |
| Japanese fashion fans..... | 216 |
| The Korean fashion mania..... | 217 |
| Food coupons quit historical stage..... | 219 |
| The “vegetable basket project”..... | 221 |
| “Fried bean curd and beef with cayenne pepper”..... | 222 |
| Fresh seafood becomes common air freight..... | 223 |
| Buffet made many people “hungry in, full out”..... | 224 |
| The event of Starbucks in the Forbidden City..... | 225 |
| The night market..... | 226 |
| Articles of luxury..... | 226 |
| “Did you buy a house?” becomes a common greeting..... | 227 |
| Property management company and owner committee..... | 229 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| The state encouraged individuals to buy cars | 230 |
| Wedding in the air | 231 |
| Parents hate the Internet cafe | 232 |
| Personal handy-phone system (PHS)..... | 233 |
| QQ and MSN – keeping the secrets of work offices | 234 |
| China becomes the 145 th country with five-day workweek | 235 |
| White-collar and petty bourgeois..... | 236 |
| In the 1990s, the petty bourgeois became very popular..... | 237 |
| DINK..... | 237 |
| The foreign blockbuster vs the New Year movie..... | 239 |
| The “Adam and Eve” sex shop..... | 240 |
| Stock exchanges return | 242 |
| The supermarket revolution | 244 |
| The hard life of non-local female job-seekers | 246 |
| China’s first directly elected township head | 247 |
| Essay Revival..... | 249 |
| Chinese Football League A..... | 250 |

21st Century

| | |
|---|-----|
| Bellyband on the street..... | 253 |
| APEC Summit makes Tang suit famous..... | 255 |
| Xiushui Street in the north, Xiangyang Road in the south | 255 |
| Residence permit replaces temporary residence permit..... | 258 |
| From 3G telecommunications to 4G..... | 259 |
| SOHO, BOBO, or IF: Which group are you in?..... | 261 |
| Property income structures an olive shaped society | 262 |
| Artificial beauty | 262 |
| “Harvard Girl” moving parents holding high hopes for children | 263 |
| Who moved my cheese | 265 |
| Homosexuality is no longer seen as a mental illness..... | 266 |
| The lawsuit for sexual harassment..... | 267 |
| New marriage law limits “having a concubine” | 268 |
| Marriage without unit proof..... | 269 |
| “Super Girl”, sing as my pleasure..... | 270 |
| Plastic limit an order against “white pollution” | 272 |
| 900 million farmers bid farewell to 2,600 year old tax on grain | 273 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| High-speed rail: Maximum speed up to 486.1 km per hour | 274 |
| “Golden Week” lets people play | 276 |
| Enhancement of individual income tax exemption..... | 277 |
| Credit cards have altered the tradition of “no pay, no goods” | 278 |
| Watching Wang Zhizhi, Yao Ming and the Chinese NBA | 279 |
| WTO helps China realize its auto dream | 281 |
| Strongest nail house: real estate rights shall not be infringed..... | 283 |
| Huawei incident and the new Labor Contract Law | 284 |
| SARS, let us live another way | 286 |
| We are all Wenchuan People: May 12, 2008 | 287 |
| “Bird’s Nest” feast | 290 |
| Narrow dwelling | 293 |
| China during the Financial Crisis | 294 |
| “Better City, Better Life” | 295 |
| From Weibo To WeChat..... | 295 |
| Outbound tourism for ordinary people | 297 |
| The era of leftover women..... | 298 |
| PM2.5 | 299 |
| Mo Yan..... | 301 |
| Two-Child | 302 |
| Running towards the “Chinese Dream” | 303 |

Memories of Chinese Life in 1949

Many things needed to be done

On October 1, 1949, 300,000 servicemen and civilians held the founding ceremony in Tiananmen Square, Beijing. Mao Zedong read the announcement of the Central Government and solemnly declared the founding the People's Republic of China to the world.

The China Economic Yearbook 1981 published some economic data for 1949, including:

In 1949, China had a population of 541.67 million, a birth rate 36‰, a death rate of 20‰, and life expectancy was 35 years.

Other figures included:

Gross output value of industry and agriculture: RMB46.6 billion;

National revenue: RMB35.8 billion;

Total retail sales of consumer goods: RMB14.05 billion;

Raw coal: 32 million tons;

Electric power generation: 4.3 billion kWh;

Crude oil: 120,000 tons;

Steel: 158,000 tons;

Cloth: 1.89 billion meters;

Sugar: 200,000 tons;

Grains: 113.20million tons;

Cotton: 445,000 tons;

Oil plant: 2.564 million tons;

Aquatic products: 450,000 tons.

Industrial products in 1949: sewing machine 2,000 sets;

Radio sets: 4,000 sets

Bicycles: 14,000

With this information, per capita data can be easily calculated, which makes it easy to see how backwards and poor Chinese society was in 1949.

In 1949, the per capita annual gross output value of industry and agriculture was only RMB86; per capita annual national revenue was RMB69.29; per capita annual total retail sales of consumer goods were RMB25.94; per capita annual raw coal added up to 59kg; per capita annual electric power generation was 7.9 kWh; per capita annual crude oil 0.2kg; per capita annual steel production 0.29kg; per capita annual cloth 3.49 meters; per capita annual sugar 0.37kg; per capita annual grains 209kg; per capita annual cotton 0.82kg; per capita annual oil plants 4.7kg; per capita annual aquatic products 0.83kg.

If calculating in details, we can reach the following conclusions:

The Chinese people in 1949 could only have 0.572kg grains, 0.013kg oil plants, 0.017kg meat and 0.0023kg of fish per day per person.

In the same year, the country suffered from drought, frost, plagues, storms, hail and floods. Floods were especially serious, resulting in about 100 million *mu* of arable land being drowned and 20 million victims.

The People's Republic of China, newly founded, started “post-war economic recovery” under conditions of extremely poor economic foundation. The country was very poor and backward with people living in harsh conditions. Many things needed to be done. That was the reality of New China of that time.

Against poverty and backwardness, industrious and brave Chinese people worked hard to develop the economy and rebuild their homes independently and wholeheartedly and created miracles one after another and the most beautiful picture.



On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong declared the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Tiananmen Gate tower.

Provided by Beijing Municipal Archives