

英 语 学 习

(一九八一年合订本)

外语教学与研究出版社

读 物	Trial of Lin-Jiang Cliques Begins	(3)
	THE CHIMNEY SWEEP	Isaac Singer (5)
	My Dear Aunt (A Play)	Donn Byrne (8)
	AIRPORT (长篇选载)	Arthur Hailey (13)
	Thoughts on a Fifth Anniversary	(40)

阅读与欣赏 夹叙夹议的文体

——介绍富兰克林的一篇散文..... 沈同治 (38)

对照阅读 罗密欧与朱丽叶..... (12)

汉诗英译 城东早春..... (唐) 杨巨源 (46)

语法 疑问代词 what 能提哪些问题?..... 赵德鑫 (17)

科技英语 1980年出国进修预备人员英语统考试题..... (24)

词 汇 to lay an egg..... 阎振海 (20)

一个与中国有关的英语成语..... 陈文伯 (22)

译者足戒 “造化的召唤”..... 静 之 (21)

外报选刊 London Times Papers to Close if Not Sold..... (57)

Our Busy Director..... 钟 言 (59)

问答栏..... 刘承沛 (61)

编后记..... (11)

39 Steps (4) — A story in pictures..... (63)

漫画之页..... (4)

Riddles..... (62)

初学园地

SNOW WHITE (Part I)	(47)
The Biography of Malcolm X (I)	Arnold Adoff (51)
Evening (A poem)	(41)
Same to Eye, Different to Mind	(41)
But the Chinese Did!	(60)
动词句型介绍	林克美 (55)
错在哪里?	易草木 (50)
考考你	鲍步乐 (49)
歌曲 Mary Had a Little Lamb	(44)
小翻译	(41)
填空练习	(42)
你会区别吗?	(43)

Trial of Lin-Jiang Cliques Begins

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon on November 20, 1980, the President of the Special Court under the Supreme People's Court,¹ Jiang Hua, took his place in court. Then Jiang Qing and the nine other defendants were brought in.

The opening session was devoted to reading out the indictment.² Huang Huoqing, the Chief Procurator³ read out the document which was 20,000 words long.

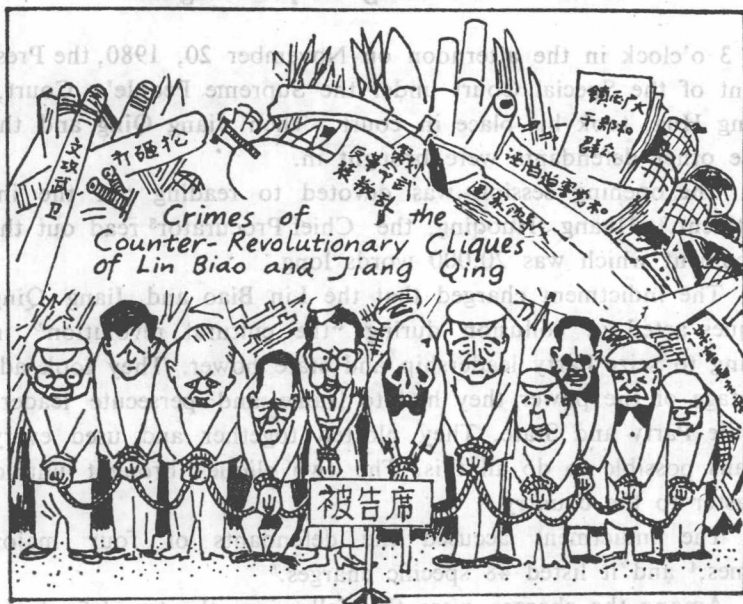
The indictment charged that the Lin Biao and Jiang Qing cliques acted in collusion during "the cultural revolution" in trying to seize Party leadership and state power. They took advantage of the power they had to frame and persecute leaders of the Party and State. They plotted together and used every means possible to do all this. The two cliques brought untold disaster to the country.

The indictment accused the defendants of four major crimes,⁴ and it listed 48 specific charges.⁵

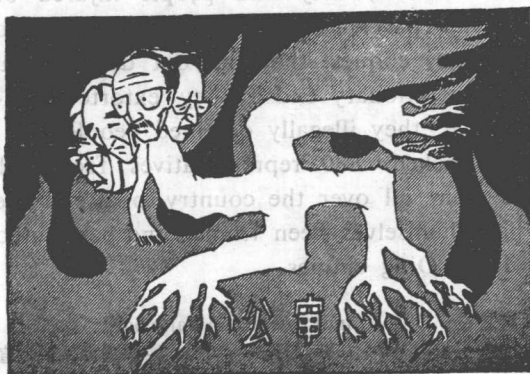
Among the charges were the following: the ten defendants tried to overthrow the government and split the country; they prepared for an armed rebellion; they had people injured or murdered; they framed and persecuted people; they organized and led counter-revolutionary cliques; they put out demagogical propaganda for counter-revolutionary ends;⁶ they extorted confessions by torturing people; they illegally detained people.

The courtroom was packed. 880 representatives from all walks of life had come from all over the country to attend the trial. Many of them had themselves been framed and persecuted by the Lin Biao and Jiang Qing cliques.

1. 最高人民法院特别法庭庭长。 2. indictment [in'daitmənt]: 起诉书。
3. 检察长。 4. 四大罪状。 5. 四十八条罪行。 6. 他们进行反革命宣传煽动。



A Mountain of Proof by Miao Di



Raging Flames
by Chang Tiejun

THE CHIMNEY SWEEP

Isaac B. Singer

There are knocks and knocks. A knock on the head is no joke. The brain is a delicate thing, or why would the soul be lodged in the brain?¹ Why not in the liver or, if you pardon me, the gut? You can see the soul in the eyes. The eyes are little windows for the soul to look out of.

We had a chimney sweep in town, nicknamed Black Yash.² All chimney sweeps are black — what else can they be? — but Yash looked as though he had been born black. His hair was spiky and black as pitch. His eyes were black, and his skin could never be washed free of soot. Only his teeth were white. His father had been the town's chimney sweep, and Yash inherited the job. He was already a full-grown man, but he wasn't married and lived with his old mother, Maciechowa.³

He came to us once a month, barefoot, and every step would leave a black mark on the floor. My mother, may she rest in peace,⁴ would run to meet him and let him come no further. He was paid by the town, but the women would hand him a groschen⁵ or a slice of bread after he had done his work. That was the custom. Children were terrified of him, although he never harmed anyone. And while he was the chimney sweep, the chimneys never caught fire. On Sundays, like all Gentiles, he would wash up and go to church with his

* 艾萨克·巴什维斯·辛格是美国当代犹太作家，一九七八年曾获得诺贝尔文学奖。他于一九〇四年出生在波兰一乡间小镇，一九三五年移居美国。他的主要作品有《傻瓜吉姆佩尔》、《市场街的斯宾诺莎》、《卡夫卡的朋友》等短篇小说集；长篇小说有《莫维凯特家族》、《卢布林的魔术师》等。本篇故事写扫烟囱的约什因偶然磕了头部，变成了一个能洞察别人一切隐密的人，使大小贪官污吏惊恐不安，也使盗贼无法作恶。因此，故事从一个侧面反映了旧时波兰的社会生活。

1. or why would the soul be lodged in the brain? 不然的话，灵魂为什么会寓于头脑之中呢？（犹太迷信认为灵魂存在于头脑之中）。 2. Yash [joʃ]: 约什。 3. Maciechowa [ma:tʃə'hovɑ:]: 玛切霍娃。 4. may she rest in peace: 愿她安息吧。（西方风俗，提到故去的亲友时常这么说，以示尊敬）。 5. groschen ['grəʊʃən]: 格罗申（波兰旧时流通的一种硬币）。

mother. But, washed, he seemed even blacker than before;⁶ maybe that's why he had never found a wife.

On Monday — I remember it as yesterday — Feitel⁷ the water carrier came in and told us that Yash had fallen off Tevye Boruch's⁸ roof. Tevye Boruch owned a two-story house in the market square. Everybody felt sorry for the chimney sweep. Yash had always clambered over the roofs as nimbly as a cat, but if a man is fated to suffer a misfortune, it cannot be avoided. And it had to be the tallest building in town, too.⁹ Feitel said that Yash had struck his head, but had not broken any limbs. Someone had taken him home. He lived on the outskirts of town, near the woods, in a ramshackle hut.

For a while nobody heard of Yash. But what did a chimney sweep matter? If he could no longer work, the town would hire someone else. Then one day Feitel came again, with two pails of water on his yoke, and said to my mother, "Feige Braine,¹⁰ did you hear the news? Yash the chimney sweep has turned into a mind reader."¹¹ My mother laughed and spat. "What sort of a joke is that?" she asked. "It's no joke, Feige Braine," he said. "It's no joke at all. He is lying on his cot with a bandaged head and guessing everybody's secrets." "Have you gone crazy?" my mother scolded. Soon the whole town was talking about it. The knock on Yash's head had loosened some screw in his brain, and he became a seer.

We had a teacher in town, Nochem Mecheles,¹² and he called Yash a diviner. Who had ever heard of such a thing? If a knock on the head could make a man a seer, there would have been hundreds of them in every town. But people had gone there and witnessed it with their own eyes. A man would take a fistful of coins from his pocket and ask, "Yash, what have I got in my hand?" And Yash would say, "So many three-groschen coins, so many fours, sixes,

6. But, washed, he seemed even blacker than before: 但是, 他洗过之后似乎比没洗时还要黑。 7. Feitel ['faiṭl]: 发依特尔。 8. Tevye Boruch ['tevjə 'borəh]: 特夫耶·波勒。 9. And it had to be the tallest building in town, too: 而且偏偏从镇上最高的楼房顶上摔下来(意为真是倒大霉了)。 10. Feige Braine [feig 'bra:ine]: 费格·布拉依奈。 11. mind reader: 能看出别人思想活动的人。下文中的 seer 也是此意。 12. Nochem Mecheles ['nohəm mə'helas]: 诺荷姆·莫海勒斯。

kopecs."¹³ The coins would be counted, and everything was right to the last groschen.¹⁴ Another man would ask, "What did I do last week at this time in Lublin?"¹⁵ And Yash would say that he had gone to a tavern with two other men. He described them as if they were standing before him.

When the doctor and the town authorities heard the story, they came running. Maciechowa's hovel¹⁶ was tiny and so low that the visitors' hats touched the ceiling. They started questioning him, and he had all the answers. The priest became alarmed; the peasants had begun to say that Yash was a saint. A little more, and they would have started taking him around on pilgrimages, like an icon.¹⁷ But the doctor said he was not to be moved. Besides, no one had ever seen Yash in church except on Sundays.

Well, there he was lying on his pallet, talking like an ordinary fellow — eating, drinking, playing with the dog his mother kept. But he knew everything: what people had in their breast pockets and in their trouser pockets; where this one had hidden his money; how much that one had squandered on drink¹⁸ the day before yesterday.

When his mother saw the rush of visitors, she began to charge an admission price of a kopeck per head. She got it, too. The doctor wrote a letter to Lublin. The mayor of the town sent in a — what do you call it, now? — a report, and highly placed personages came down from Zamosc¹⁹ and Lublin. The governor himself was said to have sent a deputy. The mayor became frightened and ordered all the streets cleaned up. The market-place was swept so clean that not a stick or a straw remained on the ground. The town hall was hastily whitewashed. And all because of whom? Yash the chimney sweep. The house of Gitel²⁰ the innkeeper was in an uproar — who had ever dreamed of such important guests?

(to be continued)

13. so many fours, sixes, kopecks: 多少个四格罗申硬币, 多少个六格罗申硬币, 多少个一戈比硬币。 14. everything was right to the last groschen: (数后)一分不差。 15. Lublin ['lu: bli: n]: 卢布林(波兰东南部一城市)。 16. hovel [havl]: 矮小简陋的住房。 17. A little more ... like an icon: 再过不久, 他们本来会象带着圣像一样带着他去四处朝圣的。 18. how much that one had squandered on drink: 那个人喝酒又花了不少钱。 19. Zamosc ['za: mo: st]: 扎莫希奇(波兰一城镇)。 20. Gitel [gitl]: 吉特尔。 (兰 关注释)

My Dear Aunt

by Donn Byrne

Characters

HARRY ['hæri]: 哈里

JANE [dʒein]: 珍妮

AUNT MARY ['mæri]: 玛丽姨妈

AUNT AGATHA ['ægəθə]: 阿加莎姨妈

MAID: 女仆(名叫 Dora)

NEIGHBOUR: 邻居

POSTMAN: 邮递员

Scene I

(Harry and Jane are at home.¹ Harry is watching TV. Jane is sitting at the table. She is writing.)

HARRY (looking at Jane): Come and watch TV, dear.

JANE: No, I want to finish these letters. I've written to Aunt Mary and now I'm writing to Aunt Agatha.²

HARRY: To Aunt Mary and Aunt Agatha?

JANE: Yes, Why not? I've written to Aunt Mary and I've said bad things about Aunt Agatha. Now I'm writing to Aunt Agatha and I'm saying bad things about Aunt Mary! I write two letters—but I put the same ideas in them.³ It's easy!

HARRY: Yes, of course it's easy ... but is it a good idea?

JANE: A good idea? Of course it is! They love my letters! Look,

* 珍妮为了得到她两位姨妈的钱财，当面说好话，背后则搬弄是非。两位姨妈偶然发现这一情况后，将计就计，终于揭穿了珍妮的伎俩。这个短剧内容较好，情节有趣，语言生动，可读可演。材料选自英国 Longman 出版社的结构读物丛书。

1. at home: 在屋里，在家。at home 有几个意思，这里等于 in the house; 另如 I've left my glasses at home. (我把眼镜拉在家里了。)

2. I've written to ... to Aunt Agatha: 我已经给玛丽姨妈写了信，现在正给阿加莎姨妈写信。write 在这里作“写信，写信说，函告”解，后面带 to; 口语里 to 可省去，如 John wrote me that he was staying with his uncle in Hongkong. (约翰给我写信说他呆在香港他叔叔那里。)

3. I write two letters—but I put the same ideas in them: 我写两封信——但信里的意思却一样。珍妮在这里泛泛而谈，所以动词用现在一般时。

they're old and rich, and one day they will die and I want their money!

HARRY: Well, I want their money, too, but...

JANE: Oh, Harry, listen! (*She gets up.*) Aunt Mary and Aunt Agatha live in the same town, but they don't meet. They quarrelled. I can't remember the year because I was very young then. But they quarrelled, and now they don't speak. So I can send the same letter to them and they are very, very happy. And one day I'll be happy too — because I'll get their money. Now I want to finish my letter to Aunt Agatha.



One day you'll put the letters in the wrong envelopes.

(*Jane returns to the table and sits down. She writes for some time.*)

JANE (*getting up*): Well, I've finished.

HARRY: And have you invited your aunts this month?

JANE: Yes, of course I've invited them. But not on the same day!

HARRY: And what have you said to them?

JANE: Do you want to hear? I'll read Aunt Mary's letter to you.

4. now they don't speak: 现在她们彼此不说话。 5. I'll read Aunt Mary's letter to you: 我把写给玛丽姨妈的信读给你听听。

(Jane reads one of the letters.)

Dear Aunt Mary ... How are you, my dear aunt? Are you well? The weather is very bad these days, so take good care.⁶ Wear warm clothes ... Aunt Agatha takes good care — of her money! She doesn't light a fire in her house because she doesn't want to spend any! Oh, that woman! But I don't want to tell stories.⁷ It isn't nice. When can you come and visit us? Can you come on March 21st? We want to see you very much. Harry sends his love. I send my love too.

Jane

HARRY: And your letter to Aunt Agatha?

JANE: The same, my dear, the same! But of course, I've written: "Aunt Mary takes good care ..." And I've invited her on March 28th.

(Jane puts the letters in envelopes.)

HARRY: One day you'll put the letters in the wrong envelopes. Your aunts will get the wrong letters⁸ and then they'll quarrel with you.

JANE: Oh, I take good care ... (She looks at the clock.) Half past five already! I must go and post these letters. Then they'll arrive on Monday. Will you come with me?

HARRY: Well, I'm watching this game on TV ...

JANE: Oh, all right. I'll go and post the letters without you. You make some tea. I need a good cup of tea now.⁹

(Jane goes out of the room. She returns in a quarter of an hour. Harry has made the tea and is watching TV again.)

JANE: Well, I've posted the letters. I was just in time¹⁰ and the letters have already gone. Oh, I'm tired!

HARRY: Sit down and drink your tea, then. (Jane sits down.) This is a very good game.

JANE: Football again! I don't like football.

HARRY: Well, there's a film at half past seven.

JANE: A film? That's nice.

HARRY: Yes, and it's good, too. I've seen it. It's about a woman ...

6. so take good care: 所以(希望您)多多保重。下一行的 takes good care — of her money 应解释作“(阿加莎姨妈)看重的是——她的钱”。 7. tell stories: 瞎说,乱说,搬弄是非。

8. Your aunts will get the wrong letters: 你两个姨妈收到的信不是写给本人的。 9. I need a good cup of tea now: 现在我得好好地喝一杯茶。 10. I was just in time: 我刚好赶上(寄信)。

编 后 记

本刊“扩大篇幅致读者”刊出后,我们收到了全国各地读者大量来信,对刊物内容、版面、印刷等方面提出了各种建议和改进意见。对于广大读者对我们的关心和支持,我们表示衷心感谢。我们一定认真考虑各方面读者的意见和要求,努力使本刊更好地为广大读者服务。欢迎大家继续提出各种改进意见。

本刊 1981 年封面是由外文出版社何佩珠同志设计的,特此表示感谢。

代 邮

应刘承沛同志要求,读者提问请寄本刊编辑部,请不要寄给他本人,以免贻误。

本刊每月 23 日出版,从未误期。各地读者未能按时收到刊物,可能是由于刊物在运输、投递或收发中耽误了。

编辑部不办理书刊邮购业务,请读者勿在信中夹寄现金或邮票来,以免丢失。

she has a rich aunt and she wants her money. (*Jane looks at Harry but he is not laughing.*) ... Then one day the aunt gets a letter. There are horrible things in the letter.¹¹ So the aunt quarrels ...

JANE: Oh, stop it, Harry! The film isn't about that. (*Harry laughs but Jane does not laugh.*)

JANE: You just want to frighten me. You're horrible! Well, you can't frighten me.¹² I haven't put the letters in the wrong envelopes.

HARRY: Can you be sure?

JANE: Of course I'm sure. I take very good care.

HARRY: But you can't be sure! And the letters have gone.

JANE (*getting up*): I'm not going to listen to you, Harry. You just want to frighten me. All right. There's a very easy answer. I'll phone Aunt Mary. I'll phone her on Monday and then I'll be sure.
(*Jane gets up and goes out of the room.*) (to be continued)

11. There are horrible things in the letter: 信里(说了她)许多坏话。horrible 在口语里作“讨厌的,很坏”解,在这个短剧里多次出现,值得注意。 12. Well, you can't frighten me: 哼,你吓唬不了我。 (汪耀江 注释)

罗密欧与朱丽叶

Romeo and Juliet

到了半夜，罗密欧和他的同伴走了。可是过不久他们就找不到他了，因为罗密欧把他的心留在朱丽叶的家里了，他走不开，就从朱丽叶住的房子后面一座果园的墙头跳了进去。他在那里默默地想着刚刚发生的恋爱，想了没多久，朱丽叶从上面的窗口出现了。她的卓绝的美貌就象东方的太阳那样放出光彩。这时候，映在果园上空的暗淡月色在这轮旭日的灿烂光辉下，看起来倒显着憔悴苍白得象是怀着忧愁的样子。朱丽叶用手托着腮，罗密欧热切希望自己是她手上的一只手套，这样他好摸她的脸。她一直以为只有她一个人在那儿，就深深地叹了口气，然后喊出声：“啊！”（待续）

It being midnight, Romeo with his companions departed; but they soon missed him, for, unable to stay away from the house where he had left his heart, he leaped the wall of an orchard which was at the back of Juliet's house. Here he had not been long, ruminating on his new love, when Juliet appeared above at a window, through which her exceeding beauty seemed to break like the light of the sun in the east; and the moon, which are horrible things in the letter. So the sun shone in the orchard with a faint light, appeared to Romeo as if sick and pale with grief at the superior lustre of this new sun. And she, leaning her cheek upon her hand, he passionately wished himself a glove upon that hand, that he might touch her cheek. She all this while thinking herself alone, fetched a deep sigh, and exclaimed, "Ah me!"

长篇选载

A I R P O R T

by Arthur Hailey

《航空港》是美国当代著名小说家阿瑟·黑利所著。它描述美国中西部某国际航空港在一次大风雪袭击中发生的一系列事件。这里选载的是英国 Longman 公司出版的简写本，各章的题目是注释者另加的。

Snowstorm

At half past six on a Friday evening in January, Lincoln International Airport was open, but it was in difficulties.

The airport, together with the entire Midwestern United States, had been hit by the worst storm in years.¹ It had already lasted for three days. Now troubles, like spots on a sick, weakened body, were beginning to break out everywhere.²

A truck carrying two hundred dinners was lost in the snow somewhere on an airport service road,³ and so far the search for it had been unsuccessful.

At least a hundred flights were delayed, some by many hours.

Out on the airfield runway three zero was out of use.⁴ It was blocked by an Aero-Mexican jet⁵ which lay sideways across it. The front wheels of the plane were stuck in the deep mud which lay under the snow near the edge of the runway. Aero-Mexican had tried hard for two hours to move it, but without any success. Now they were asking TWA⁶ to help them.

1. The airport, together ... in years: 这个航空港同整个美国中西部一起遭受了一场多年罕见、非常严重的暴风雪的袭击。 2. Now troubles, like ... everywhere: 这时候，麻烦事儿就象体弱病人身上的丘疹一样，开始在全身迸发出来。 3. an airport service road: 航空港辅助道路。 4. Out on the airfield ... out of use: 机场外头远处的 30 跑道不能再使用了。 runway three zero, 30 跑道（即跑道的罗盘方位是 300 度）。 5. an Aero-Mexican jet: 一架墨西哥航空公司喷气式飞机。 aereo, 是西班牙语，等于英语里的 aero。 6. TWA [缩] = Trans World Airlines: (美) 环球航空公司。

The loss of runway three zero made the work of Air Traffic Control⁷ even more difficult than usual. With twenty planes waiting to land, they were delaying take-offs.⁸ The airfield seemed to be full of waiting aircraft. Inside the main passenger terminal⁹ too, there were crowds of impatient people waiting beside their piles of baggage.

Even the large notice on the roof of terminal — LINCOLN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT — was hidden by the snow.

Mel Bakersfeld¹⁰ was surprised that the airport was still open. Mel was the airport general manager. He was a tall, powerful man. At the moment, he was standing by the Snow Control Desk,¹¹ high in the control tower. Usually you could see the entire airport from here. Only Air Traffic Control had a better view.

Tonight you could see only a few lights. This was an unusually hard winter. The storm had started five days ago in the Colorado Mountains,¹² and then swept across a large part of the United States. It brought with it strong winds, freezing cold and heavy snow.¹³

Maintenance men with snowploughs cleared the snow as it fell,¹⁴ but by now many of them were terribly tired. The storm seemed to be winning.

Danny Farrow¹⁵ was at the Snow Control Desk, talking to the Maintenance Snow Centre¹⁶ by radio phone.

'We're losing ground.¹⁷ I need six more snowploughs out there.'

'Oh sure, sure,' an angry voice replied. 'Six more snowploughs! We'll get them from Father Christmas! Any more stupid ideas?'

'We sent four ploughs out to find that truck,' Danny said. 'If they haven't found it yet, they'll just have to try harder.'

An explosion of anger came over the radio phone in reply.¹⁸

7. Air Traffic Control: 空中交通管制(站)。 8. With twenty planes...take-offs: 因为二十架飞机等着要降落, 他们把(别的飞机)起飞时间推迟了。 9. passenger terminal: 候机室(厅)。 10. Mel Bakersfeld [mel,beikəs'feld]: 梅尔·贝克斯菲尔德。林肯国际航空港总经理。 11. the Snow Control Desk: 雪控办公室。 12. the Colorado [kələ're:dou] Mountains: 科罗拉多山脉。 13. It brought with it...snow: 这场暴风雪带来了大风、严寒和鹅毛大雪。句中的两个 it 都指 storm。 14. Maintenance men...as it fell: 雪下得很大, 维修人员随时都用扫雪机在扫雪。 15. Danny Farrow ['dæni 'færou]: 丹尼·法罗。雪控办公室工作人员。 16. the Maintenance Snow Centre: 扫雪维修中心。 17. We're losing ground: 我们顶不住啦。 18. An explosion of...in reply: 无线电收话器里传回了勃然大怒的声音。

Mel knew how easily tempers were lost under these conditions. These men were highly trained, and they were working as hard as they could.

The maintenance man's voice came on the phone again.

'We're worried about that truck too, Danny. The driver could freeze to death. He won't die of hunger, if he has any sense!'

'This search will block the service roads,' Danny told Mel. 'You'll get plenty of complaints about that.'

'I know,' Mel said. Airport managers were used to complaints. The most important thing was to save the life of the driver. For a moment, he wished that he could sit down and help Danny. Mel needed action. The cold weather was making his bad foot — an old war wound from Korea — ache. Then he realised that Danny could work better on his own.¹⁹

He telephoned Air Traffic Control.

'Any progress on the Aereo-Mexican jet?'

'Not yet, Mr Bakersfeld.'

'Is the runway still blocked?'

'Yes.'

This airport needs more runways, Mel thought. This proves it.²⁰ The trouble was, there were plenty of people who disagreed with him, and they were more powerful than he was.

'And another thing,' he was told. 'As runway three zero is blocked, planes are taking off over Meadowood.'²¹ The complaints have started coming in already.'

'Oh no!' Mel said. He was tired of hearing complaints from the people who lived in Meadowood. The airport had been built long before their houses, but they never seemed to stop complaining about the noise. As a result, the runway nearest to Meadowood was used only under special conditions. On the occasions when it had to be used,²²

19. on his own: 凭他自己的力量; 独自。 20. This airport needs ... proves it: 梅尔认为, 航空港需建更多的跑道, 事实也证明了这一点。Mel thought 前后的两句用了一般现在时, 这是现在颇为时行的没有引号的直接引语, 说明他心里的想法。类似的用法下文甚多。 21. Meadowood [medouwud]: 美多伍德 (地名)。

22. On the occasions when ... used: 当这条跑道非用不可时。由关系副词 when 引导的从句作定语, 修饰 occasions。

pilots were told to reduce the noise made by the engines on take-off. It was possible to do this, but most pilots considered it to be foolish and dangerous and hated being told to do it. In any case, it had not stopped the complaints from Meadowood.

‘How many complaints have there been?’ Mel asked.

‘At least fifty.’

‘Don’t they know there’s a storm and we have a runway out of use?’

‘We try to tell them, but they don’t want to listen. I hear they’re holding a meeting tonight to decide what to do next.’

More trouble! Mel thought.

He asked: ‘Is my brother on duty tonight?’

‘Yes.’

Mel’s brother Keith²³ worked in Air Traffic Control.

‘Is he all right? Does he seem nervous?’

The other man hesitated before he replied. ‘Yes, he is. More than usual. I wish I could tell him to rest, but we’re short of men already.’²⁴

‘I know, I know,’ Recently Mel had been very worried about Keith.

He put the phone down, and thought again about a note he had received fifteen minutes before. It was from Tanya Livingston.²⁵ She worked for Trans America,²⁶ and was a special friend of Mel’s.

The note warned him that the Airlines Snow Committee,²⁷ led by Captain Vernon Demerest,²⁸ was going to blame Mel for the many flight delays. They were going to accuse him of inefficient management.²⁹

Captain Vernon Demerest was one of Trans America’s most experienced pilots. He was married to Mel’s sister Sarah.³⁰ The Bakersfelds were a real ‘aviation family’.³¹ In spite of the family connection, however, Mel and Vernon were not friendly with one another. Recently

23. Keith [ki:θ]: 基思。梅尔胞弟，空中交通管制站雷达操纵员。 24. I wish I could ... already: 但愿我能叫他去休息，可是我们人手已经不够了。前面分句用了虚拟语气，表示一种愿望。

25. Tanya Livingston ['tænjə 'lɪvɪŋstən]: 塔尼亚·利文斯顿。环美航空公司工作人员。

26. Trans America: (美) 环美航空公司。

27. the Airlines Snow Committee: 航空公司扫雪委员会。

28. Vernon Demerest ['vɜ:nən di'meərəst]: 弗农·迪梅雷斯特。航班二机长，梅尔的妹夫。

29. to accuse him of inefficient management: 指控他管理不善。

30. Sarah ['særə]: 萨拉。弗农的妻子。

31. aviation ['eɪvɪ'eɪʃən] family: 航空世家。