

The Author of the Classic *Inside Red China*  
Now Tells Her Personal Story

# MY CHINA YEARS



The Reminiscences of an Extraordinary Woman  
Who Observed Firsthand the Revolutionary  
Birth of a Modern Nation

**Helen Foster Snow**



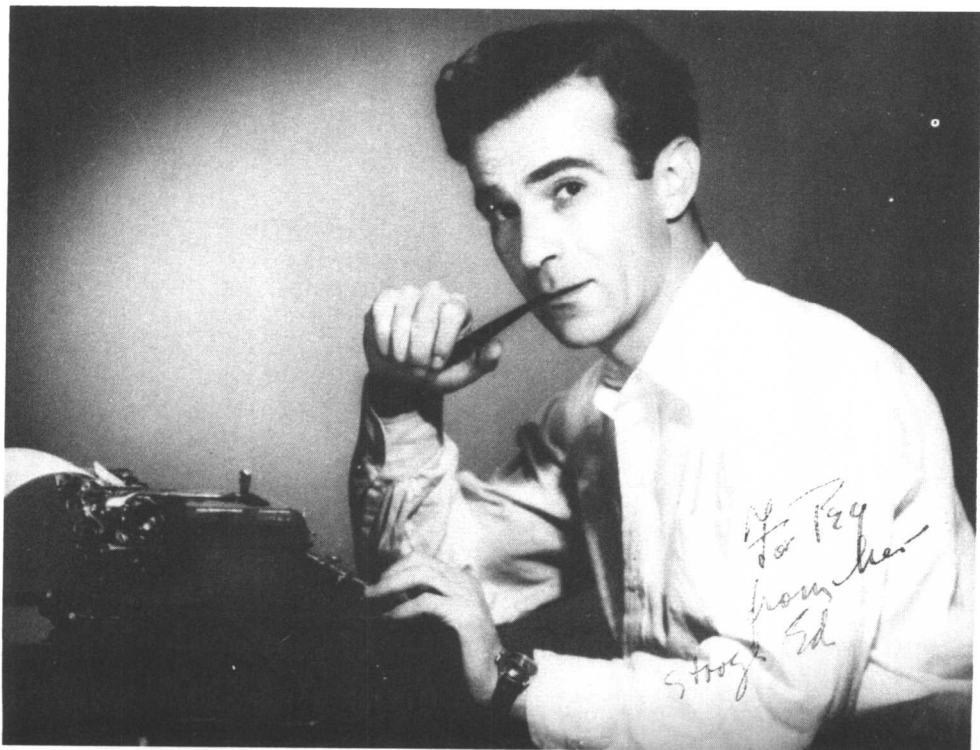
Before I left the United States for China, I sat for a formal portrait.

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Above: In the "golden, glamorous Orient," with the statue of the Laughing Buddha in Hangchow, 1931.

Below: "For Peg from her stooge Ed" reads the inscription on the first picture of himself Edgar Snow gave me. "Peg" was one of my nicknames.





"Ding hao!"

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The ministrations of massage amah Mei were relaxing after a hard day's work.



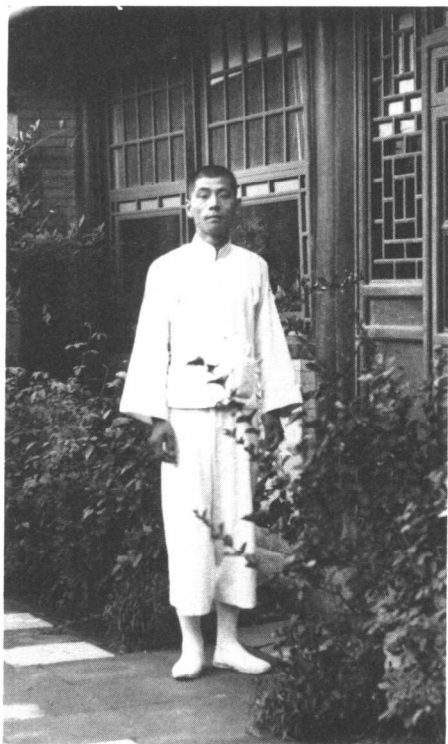
On the eve of our  
wedding, December 1932

Photograph by Sanzetti, Shanghai,  
from the Helen Snow collection

Honeymoon shuffleboard  
on the *Canada Maru*,  
January 1933, wearing the  
red-white-and-blue scarf  
which was to see a lot of  
action



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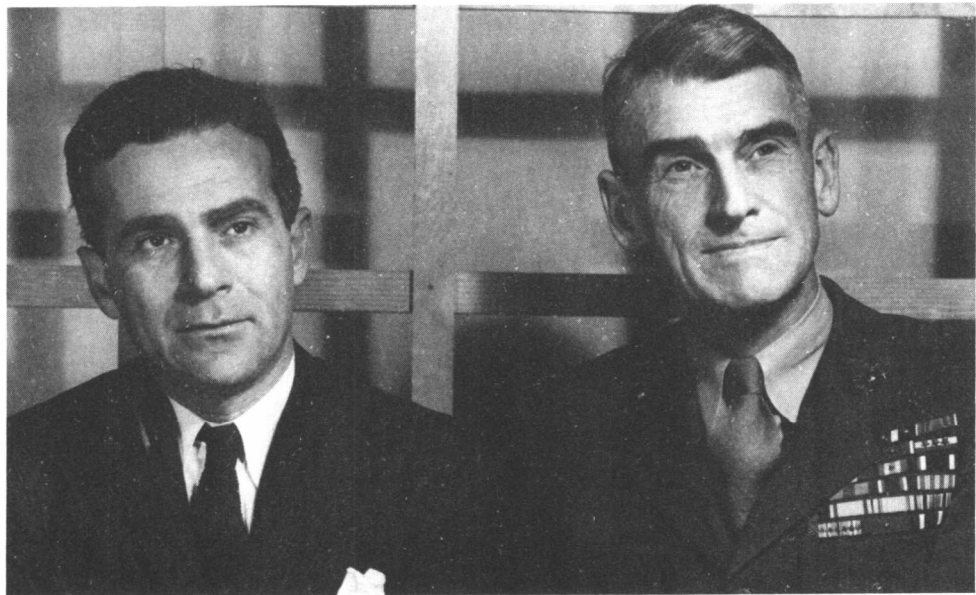


*Above left:* Teilhard de Chardin snapped this picture with my camera, by the old Jesuit astrolabe atop Peking's Tartar Wall.

*Above right:* Former rickshaman Shen I-pei, Number 1 boy at our first home in Peking.

*Below:* At home in Hait'ien, relaxing in beach pajamas and kimono with our greyhound, Gobi





Above: Edgar Snow with Evans Carlson, whose World War II Marine Raiders served to put the term *gung ho* into the English language



Left: With visiting author Pearl Buck.



Right: Our servant Ch'en with Gobi at No. 13 K'uei Chia Ch'ang in Peking



Among the prime movers of the December 9th student movement were: *(above left)* Chang Chao-lin, in student gown and Western hat; *(above right)* David Yui, in uniform in Yenan; *(below)* plotting strategy, Constance Chang at left, Huang Hua and Ch'en Han-p'o in goggle helmets, unidentified woman at right

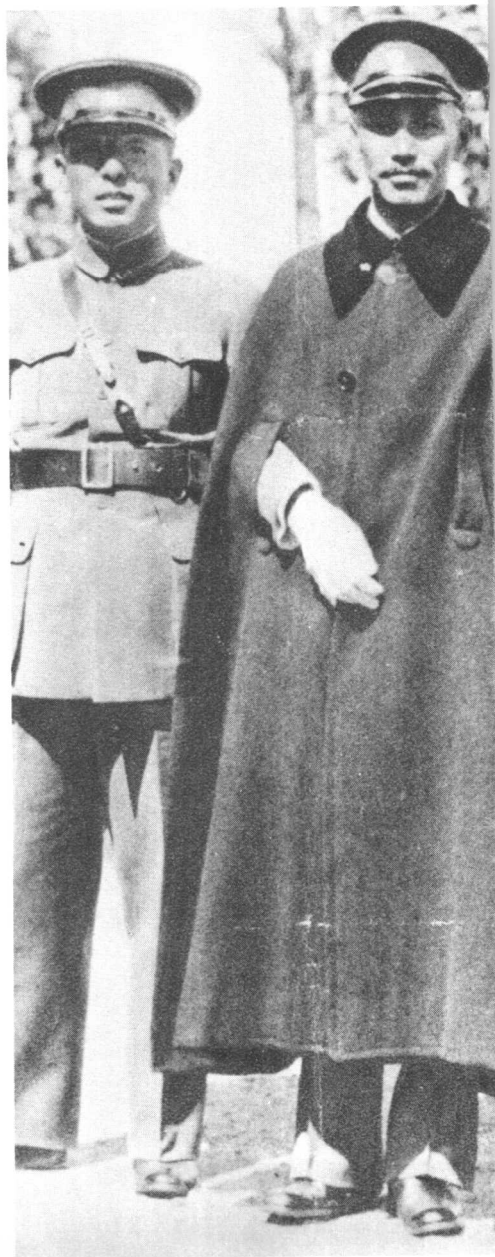






With Jim Bertram on the beach at Peitaiho

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek at right,  
Young Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang on the left





May 1, 1937: a mass meeting at the village of Yun-yang, where I stopped on my way from Sian to Yen-an. At lower left you can make out the red-starred caps of two Communist soldiers; in the foreground, the bound-footed women of the village; at right center are the uniformed children of the village school, backed by the banner-carrying men. By 1949 the Communists had won all China with meetings of this type: slogans, banners, and songs.



*Above:* Kempton Fitch, having delivered me to Sanyuan, appears to be eyeing the Red guard's cap covetously. *Left:* Mao Tse-tung, Chu Teh, and Agnes Smedley, in Yen'an



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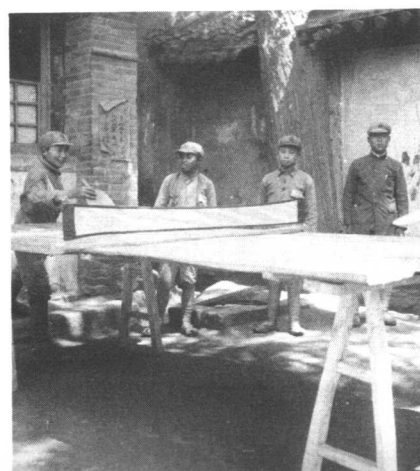
*Above left:* With General Chu Teh in Yen-an, 1937

*Above right:* With Chu Teh in Peking, 1972; K'ung P'u-sheng, one of the December 9th students, is in the background.



*Below left:* With K'ang K'e-ching, Chu's wife, in Yen-an

*Below right:* Ping-Pong was always popular with the Red armies.



Helen Snow collection

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Above: The crossed flags of the United Front. Below: The Kuomintang sign on this wall near Yanan welcomes Red soldiers to come over to the government side. Beneath it, I chat with a group of Tungpei soldiers who have done just the opposite, leaving Chiang Kai-shek's army for the Red armies.



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This is a famous photograph in China, in the museums now along with Ed's portrait of Mao. From left to right: Lin Po-ku, Mao Tse-tung, Chu Teh, and Chou En-lai, at the time of the United Front negotiations in Yen-an, 1937



Photograph © Helen Foster Snow, distributed by Magnum Photos, Inc.

My bodyguard Ko Sun-hua, on the road from Yen-an to Sian



We were both exhausted but happy in Tsingtao in October 1937.



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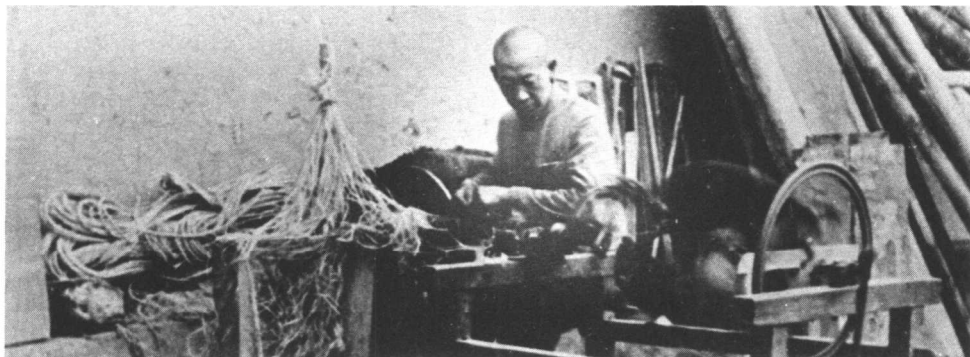
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*Left:* Rewi Alley

*Below:* Spinning yarn in one of our gung ho industrial cooperatives. The machinery used was also made in a gung ho cooperative.

Helen Snow collection



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China's famous Soong sisters (in dark coats) in Chungking during World War II. At left is Mme. Sun Yat-sen (Ching-ling); center, Mme. Chiang Kai-shek (Mei-ling); right, Mme. H. H. Kung (Eling). One thing they all agreed upon was support for our cooperatives.



*Above:* Farewell to China, December 1940. J.B. Powell, at right, entertained us at the American Club in Shanghai just before I boarded ship for home.

*Right:* The picture that Hollywood photographer Piver put in his window, because it "looked like Joan Bennett"

Photograph by J. A. Piver, from the Helen Snow collection







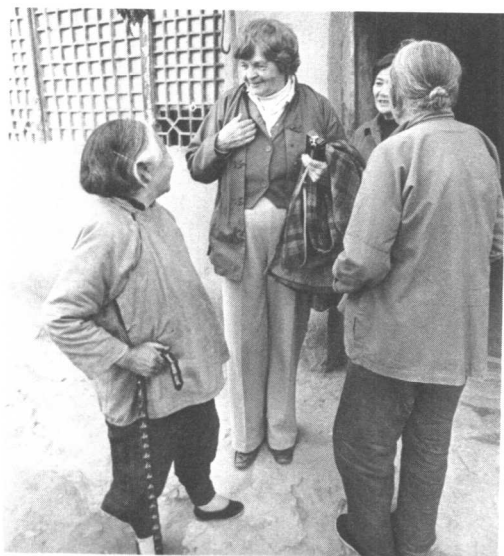
Photograph © Tim Considine



*Top:* Reunion in 1977, at a New York reception for my old student friend, China's Foreign Minister Huang Hua.

*Above:* I finally deliver Mao's letter to Teng Hsiao-ping in Washington, 1979, more than forty years later.

*Left:* Pao-an, 1978



Photograph © Tim Considine