

October 13, 2015

Dear Lynda,

It has been almost 35 years since this amazing trip occurred. Here are the materials that I brought home, my diary, the groups more formal trip report, and many slides - with descriptors. As you look through these materials, please call if you need anything. Perhaps someone may be interested in an interview.

Even today I have strong memories - the usual bicycles and smog. But here are a few that have persisted

- ① Many of the women scientists whom we met had children who were caught in the Culture Revolution shut down of the schools. By the time the schools reopened these children had lost out on the opportunities of the ever going to the University. They were heart broken.
- ② The rationing of goods. We could buy anything and everything with the "funny money," the hard currency. But even we needed a ration coupon if we wanted to use ~~the~~ the yuan Chinese money.

- ③ We met several national treasures, the people who had made the Long March. They were the only chubby people we met. Everyone was on food rationing.
- ④ The Mao mausoleum - It is hard to verbalize the reverence from the Chinese who filed through to pay homage.
- ⑤ How unbelievably poor people were. And thin. Food was rationed and people looked slightly malnourished. Our group of 16 women ate more meat in one day than an average Chinese person ate in a month.
- ⑥ The whole country, hotel rooms, trains, carts on the street, building equipment was 1935.

I hope someone will be able to make good use ~~in~~ of these materials - they represent a snapshot of China in the Spring of 1981

Best regards
Cath Plinke