

campus

China open to world, author tells A&M crowd

By MARCY BOYCE
Battalion Reporter

China has begun to open its "eyes and ears, if not its heart" to the outside world both economically and culturally as it strives to create a more modern society, China expert Dr. Ross Terrill said at Texas A&M University Thursday night.

Author of "800,000,000: The Real China," Terrill shared his impressions of the new China in the MSC Great Issues presentation of "The Future of China after Mao."

Based on his extensive travel through China, he said there is now a new attitude toward foreigners, coupled with a somewhat pro-American mood. For example, he said he observed readings of Walt Whitman's poetry at which the Chinese people wept with emotion as it was translated.

"Sure it was because of the poetry, but I also think it was because here was something from America," Terrill said.

Industry is also the target of drastic change. Whereas before, an air of competing with other countries pervaded all activity, Terrill said that now notices on factory walls encourage competition between units within a plant, safety standards and product quality. Moreover, they have initiated a system of bonuses for superior production and output.

"The bonus system is making a great difference in the spirit of the country," he said.

Not only have industry and business experienced a change in policy. Entertainment and culture have been depoliticized, he said, and performances at the cinema and theater now make no reference to military or political affairs.

For example, Terrill said, a shooting gallery in a park once sported American soldiers as its targets. But on his recent visit, he said the soldiers had been replaced by giraffes and ducks.

Terrill said the Chinese are seeking a balance in their policies. They realize they will have to take some steps toward democracy to achieve modernization, but at the same time they stress the importance of maintaining centralization.

In fact, Terrill said, he views these steps toward democracy as a demand for constitutionality, a gov-



Dr. Ross Terrill, who has authored a book on China, told a crowd at Texas A&M Thursday night that the country is opening to the world in its efforts to create a more modern society.
Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

ernment of laws, not man, accountability of officials, a period of steady policy, and due process before the law.

There is a now certain amount of frankness from the Chinese press and in some instances, even from government officials, he said.

"They are walking this tightrope — admitting that the problems of China are fundamental. The frankness is good but the analysis, in many cases, is sobering," said Terrill.

Although last year was a good year economically for China, Terrill said raising the standard of living for

a billion people will be difficult.

In addition, increasing trade with the west will create a deficit as a need for certain goods, such as oil drilling equipment, is fulfilled, Terrill said. But, he continued, the Chinese are willing to pay this because they view their country as an emerging power which will in time create a trade surplus by exporting to the third world countries.

Terrill said he believes there are reasonable prospects for a period of steadiness in the Chinese political system, but it will be a long march, much longer than Mao's march in the past.

Engineering group elects prof to post

Dr. Neilon J. Rowan, civil engineering professor and Texas Transportation Institute research engineer, has been elected vice president of the International Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Rowan was elected at the Institute's annual meeting in Canada in late September. He has served on the organiza-

tion's board of directors and held all offices in the Texas section of ITE. Rowan was named Transportation Engineer of the Year in Texas for 1978.

The Institute is a professional service organization. It serves 6,300 traffic engineers, transportation engineers and other professionals in the U.S., Canada and 57 foreign countries.

Aggie-designed hospital set to be built in Guatemala

Construction is about to begin on a hospital deep in the jungles of Guatemala that will operate almost entirely on sunlight.

The 50-75 bed facility was designed by a Texas A&M University graduate student and associate professor in architecture and environmental design for an area where access to electricity is limited and materials must come from the immediate area. The two men, Curtis W. Haynes and Professor George

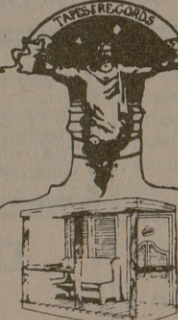
J. Mann, took on the project for an Alabama-based evangelical association.

The result was an ambulatory clinic and hospital resembling the thatched huts typical of the mountainous Central American nation. Total cost is estimated at over \$1 million and will house bases for dentistry, nutrition, preventative medicine, prenatal and infant services, as well as a mobile clinic, and should be able to serve 150 people per day, Mann said.

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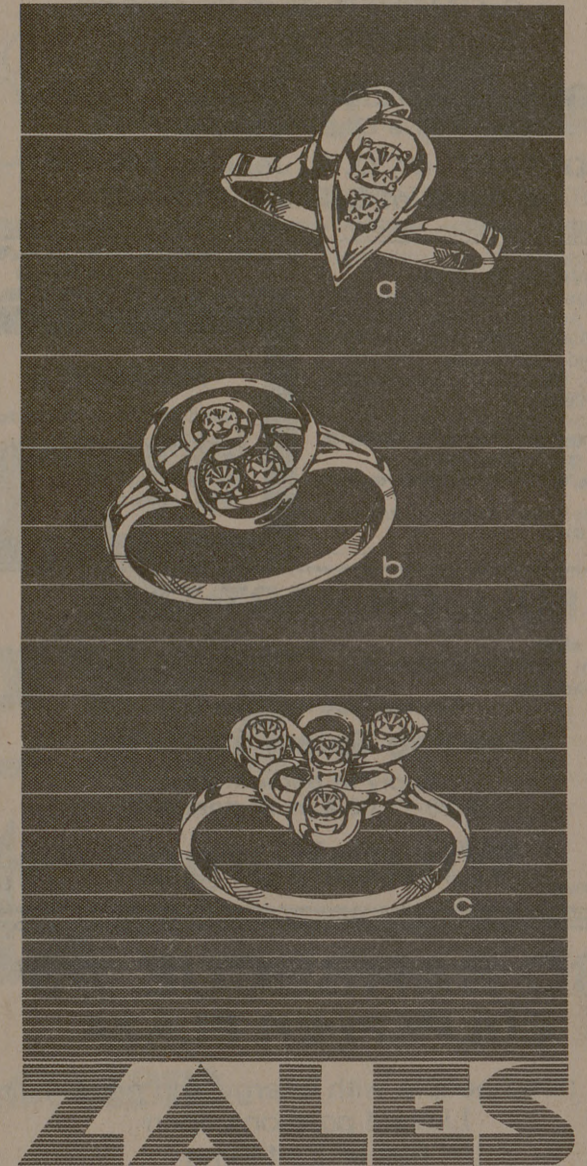


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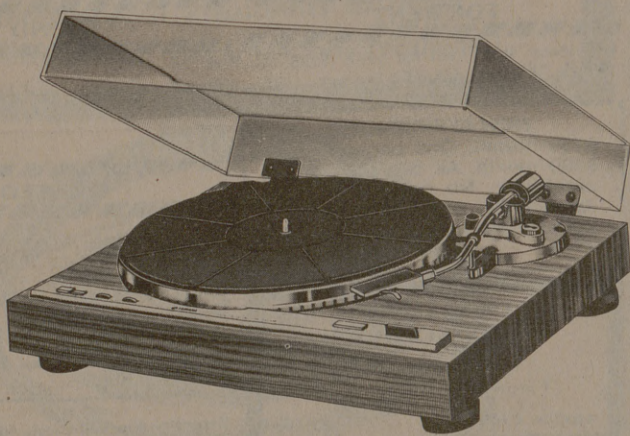
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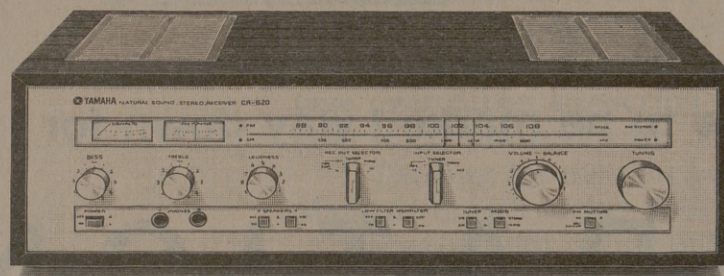
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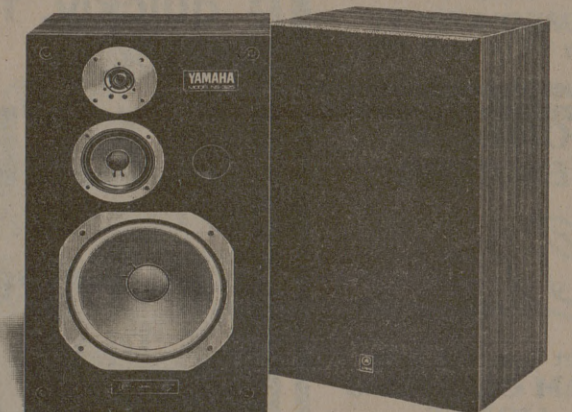
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