

Will Blaze make it to Shanghai?

J. L. Bowler Elementary School
Through the mist the sun rises, casting light on silhouettes of towering hillsides. A cacophony of birds' songs pierce the air. Bells resound in the distance, and villagers' voices can be heard chanting through the clouds. As the sun rises a rainbow in green greets the eye. It is morning on the Yangtze River, the "River of Heaven."

The third longest river in the world is so called because it is believed that its origins are so far away that they may come from heaven. Fueled by rainfall and glacial melt, the Yangtze Valley is home to one third of China's population and one in every 12 people on the earth.

Relatively new to the river is the Three Gorges Dam, a

construction feat rivaled by the Panama and Suez Canals. When finished, there will be a two-way, five-lock system which will be the culmination of expertise from throughout the world.

Blaze, his teacher friends, and traveling companion, Bonnie Boyce, found themselves astounded by their surroundings as they took a three-day journey down the Yangtze River under the watchful eye of Joe Xu of China Plus Tours. The journey has become a vacation for both mind and soul as myth and mystery weave into the tapestry of modern China. Unfortunately Blaze was last spotted grazing on a mountain top with some new four-legged Chinese friends. Will he make it to Shanghai?



The sun rises over the Yangtze River in China.

Submitted

We have something to smile about!

- Teeth Whitening
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Preventive Dentistry
- Dentures
- Gum Therapy
- Root Canals
- Extractions
- Crowns
- Implants
- Bonding and Veneers

Most Insurances Accepted. Payment plans available.
Most Credit Cards Accepted.
Emergencies Welcome



COSMETIC DENTISTRY
DENTAL

1301 Bertha Howe Suite #5 Mesquite, NV
702-345-2299
Theresa Woolridge-Olson, DDS.

Smiling Oral Health One Smile at a Time!

Blaze picks China to help Bighorns for the future

J. L. Bowler Elementary School
Why China? With so many fascinating destinations in this vast world to choose from, why did Blaze and the Bowler Bighorns select China as a basis for summer study? Look around where you are sitting right now and see how many things you can find within five minutes that say "made in China." It's all about the future and the role China will play in the lives of the Little Bighorns.

Under the dictatorship of Chairman Mao, China was closed off to the world from 1949 until the mid-'70s. Even before Mao's takeover, the Chinese people suffered through a civil war. This led to a Communist government. The Second World War brought atrocities inflicted

by Japanese aggression. Both of these traumatic events have left scars upon the psyche of the people. Chinese citizens who grew up within the past 60 years lived quite differently than their American counterparts. Food was scarce; poverty abounded. Worst of all, personal freedom did not exist under Mao. It is frighteningly reminiscent of totalitarian governments we see in today's world, societies built upon fear in which liberty and democracy do not exist.

Upon the death of Mao, a gradual change came to China. Although the government is communistic, capitalism thrives. Hence we find so many items with the "made in China" labels. Education and free enter-

prise reign in today's China. Children attend public school and dream of a college education. The academic competition for higher education is fierce. Teachers traveling in China are given the utmost respect; modern China understands the importance of knowledge. The people Blaze and his friends met are serious about their respect for America's concept of personal freedom and their keen desire to become a vital part of the global economy.

It's this very enthusiasm that is a two-edged sword. How will the world cope with this giant as it continues to awaken? China is a vast country with a population of well over a billion people. A

• see BLAZE page 32

Blaze gets a new suit



Blaze gets a new suit with the help of some friendly Chinese salesladies.

Submitted

BLAZE

From page 30

city of 300,000 is considered a village. Economically it continues to grow; with the U.S. being one of the country's main consumers. All of this will greatly impact the lives of Little Bighorns. They will be better able to deal with the coming changes if they have some basic understanding of China. One of the biggest challenges for teachers is to provide instruction which will help students cope with what tomorrow will bring.

Blaze and the Bowler Bighorns continue their travels in China to do just this; they are hoping the information they give to the students this coming year will help the children understand similarities and differences between the cultures. Next, Blaze and his entourage will sail up the Li River where he hopes to see many water buffalo (somewhat distant cousins of the desert bighorn sheep).