

Chinese Red Prison Story Now Told

EDITOR'S NOTE: While the Russian Communists are trying Francis Gary Powers on spy charges in Moscow this week, the story of another spy trial and prison sentence is being written in Tokyo. It is the first person story of Bill Yim, a Chinese reporter employed by United Press International in Hong Kong, who was released last month after a year in prison

in Canton. Yim tells how he was picked up by Communist security police while on assignment in China and charged with spying. Here is the first of two dispatches about his experience.

By **BILL YIM**
United Press International
TOYO (UPI) — The Chinese Communists imprisoned me for

one year on trumped up spy charges. They knew they were wrong. I knew they were wrong. I lost one year of my life, but now I am back in freedom.

At 7 a.m., July 19, 1959, I had crossed the border from Hong Kong into Red China on a news assignment. One year, nine days, two hours and 20 minutes later I crossed back again.

For one year, I never slept in the dark. The single, unshaded light bulb in my prison cell glared throughout the night. For one year I never saw another prisoner, although I am sure there were 1,000 in the same Canton jail.

Runs Around Cell
For that year I sang to myself, danced or ran around the cell to preserve my sanity. During that time I belonged to the Communists. They had my body. But they wanted my mind. They finally released my body. The never captured my mind.

The story I want to tell is the truth about the Communists—and their own complete disregard for the rights of individuals and their contempt for the principles of freedom and equality.

My Westernized name is "Bill." My Chinese name is Yim Yuen Lo. I was born 24 years ago in Kiangsi Province of mainland China. My family fled to Hong

Kong during World War II when I was three. I have lived in Hong Kong since, working after I finished school, first for a European news agency and then for United Press International.

To Interview Downey

In July, 1959, I was assigned to go from Hong Kong to Canton for an interview with William Downey, younger brother of John Downey, an American citizen serving life imprisonment on espionage charges. Younger Downey had received special permission to enter Red China and UPI wanted me to interview him.

All arrangements for the trip were made through the China Travel Service, a Communist or-

ganization in Hong Kong. I paid them \$41 and they bought my train ticket, made hotel reservations and arranged for their representatives to meet me in Canton.

I told them fully about the purpose of my trip. They gave me permission to take a camera and typewriter. I received a tag for my label so the Communists at the Canton railroad station would spot me.

The next day I crossed the border into China without difficulty although I answered many questions from the border inspectors. I told them I intended to stay only two or three days.

Child's Birthday Starts Hobby-Business Here

By **ROBERT SHRALUKA**

A child's birthday has started a new and rapidly growing business in Decatur. One of the children of the Gerald Gehrig family of 1121 Master Drive asked for a hamster for a birthday present.

That was in February, and now in mid-August the Gehrigs have of Fort Wayne's most prosperous stores, such as Eavey's and Wolf and Dessauer, want all the hamsters the Gehrigs can sell them to put on sale for their customers.

Mrs. Lois Gehrig, who is the "manager" of the hamsters said that after they are bred the babies are born in about 14 days. They are nursed for about three weeks, and after about four more days they are bred again. The males make better pets, since the females are usually cross. Usually a female has seven litters a year, with the litters anywhere from nine to thirteen.

Very Clean
A hamster, when it reaches full growth, which takes about three or four months, isn't as big as the average person's fist. They are a very clean animal and sunflower seed is their favorite food, although they eat corn, carrots, potatoes, or just about anything that is given to them. They require no sunshine and do most of their sleeping in the day, waking up at night to run around in their cages.

dig and chew. The reason they chew so much is to wear off their teeth which grow so rapidly that they must keep them worn.

There are four colors of the little fellows—cream, albino (white), golden and saddle, which is brown with white around the stomach. They require no water as they get most of their water from the vegetables they eat, such as carrots, etc. Hamsters have a large pouch on the side of their mouth in which they store food. The small rodent will take as many as 30 or more sunflower seeds, store them in their pouch and then take them to the back of the cage and hide them under the lettuce leaves.

Wonderful Pets
A hamster normally lives no longer than three years, and it is rare if it lives that long. They make wonderful pets and are very clean and certainly aren't very expensive to feed. In just a few short hours of being around a person they are tame and will sit in your hand or crawl along your arm.

The Gehrigs are selling them for only one dollar and a large cage can be bought for three dollars or a smaller one for one dollar. The Gehrigs also furnish a book on the care and feeding of a hamster along with a purchase.

Gets Good Service

A flood hit the area. On the three-hour train ride to Canton, I took pictures of the high water and of Red army soldiers, peasants and workers at the four stations where we stopped.

Two very friendly travel men met me at the station and took me to the Huachia Hotel, where I got the best room in the house. I paid for the taxi, but the driver refused a tip as did the travel service men.

I tried immediately to contact Downey but without success. Everyone pleaded ignorance of his whereabouts — that day and the next. So I went sightseeing, taking pictures of streets, houses, people, traffic and construction—typical tourist photos.

They my Hong Kong office advised me that Downey was leaving Canton. I was told the reason I could not reach him was because I had not contacted the New China News Agency, although I am sure the agency knew I was coming.

Confiscate His Papers
I made plans to return to Hong Kong, but at 11:30 that night a hotel waitress told me the security bureau wanted to talk to me. I took a taxi. Two Communists were waiting for me, young men about 25, dressed in white sports shirts, slacks and rubber shoes.

To my astonishment they accused me of illegal entry into China as an American reporter. They said I should have reported to the security bureau. They confiscated my papers, warned me not to communicate with anyone or attempt to leave Canton and to come back the next day.

For the next seven days I was interrogated, usually at night. Afterwards I was allowed to return to my hotel. I decided I had to notify Hong Kong. I called a taxi and said I wanted to go sightseeing. When I got about two blocks from the cable office I had the cab stop and walked the rest of the way.

Calls For Help
"Date return unknown." I cable UPI. "Need help." I signed the cable, "Ivyman," because in Hong Kong they knew I liked Ivy League clothing. I picked up my taxi, rode around the city and returned to

the hotel to wait for a phone call from Hong Kong. It never came. The next day, I tried to put through a call myself. That did it.

Within minutes, a security bureau official entered my rooms. "So you wanted to call Hong Kong," he said. "Haven't you forgotten our discipline?"

I was taken back to the security bureau for the last time. I had decided to "confess." I was afraid for my life and I wanted to survive, not only for myself but so I could tell my story.

Yim Signs Paper
The Communists accused me of working for a "U. S. imperialist propaganda organ" and collecting military, economic and political information. I admitted to "violating the sovereignty of the Chinese Peoples Republic." That seemed to be enough.

After half an hour, the Communists produced a paper authorizing my arrest. I signed it, then wrote: "I do not know the reason for my arrest."

A door was opened and in walked the hotel waitress I had known. She carried my coat, camera, typewriter and a Peiping review magazine I had bought. The Communists had me check my possessions. Then they drove me in a Jaguar automobile to the brick-walled prison.

(Tomorrow: Yim tells of his show trial six months after imprisonment and of his "reform" before he was released.)

Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea on the island of Hawaii rise more than 30,000 feet from the sea, bottom and are the world's tallest mountains if measured from base to peak, according to the National Geographic Society.

Estimates say there is at least one big game animal in Wyoming for every resident of the state.

The number of women drivers in the United States increased 14.3 per cent between 1957 and 1959, a survey by the Automobile Manufacturers Association showed.



The mature woman who is also petite will welcome fashions like this one for fall. Taupe dress of textured crepe knit is done in blend of Cresslan and nylon to prevent stretching or sagging. Classic cut emphasizes slim lines. — By GAIL DUGAS, Newspaper Enterprise Women's Editor.

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