

Red China...Mao Outranks Confucius

Business in Diocese

Joseph R. Quigley has joined Boller-Clark Agency Inc., as an account executive. Quigley, with 16 years experience in the insurance field, served four years as claims supervisor with the Hartford Insurance Group.

A Rochester native, Quigley is a 1945 graduate of Charlotte High School. He received his B.A. from St. Bonaventure University in 1950 and his L.L.B. at LaSalle Extension University in 1960. The son of Dr. and Mrs. Harold J. Quigley of Rochester, he resides with his wife the former Shellah Hurley of Rochester, and their four children at 56 Kenwick Drive, Henrietta.

Red China's checkered love affair with Mother Russia has the lyric quality — so far as Peking is concerned — of the song refrain "I get along with you very well," Dr. Saifuddin Malik says, in effect.

"I didn't see a single beggar on the Chinese mainland; there is virtually no unemployment, and the people look healthy."

A native of Pakistan, Malik is a 35-year-old associate professor of Asian studies at Rochester Institute of Technology's College of General Studies.

Against well-meaning advice and even warnings, he overcame considerable red tape in making a one-man visit to the controversial country of Mao Tse-tung, chairman of the Chinese Community party.

Malik, armed with a Pakistani passport and (finally) permission of the U.S. State Department, spent only four days there — but he is one of the very few non-Communists from this country, if not the first in recent years, to make it. One reaction:

"The common man in China is completely opposed to Russia and demonstrations are staged to prove it. There was, for example, a huge such demonstration in Shanghai when I was there."

He feels that Peking has "very successfully asserted her independence" from Moscow.

RIT's widely-traveled Dr. Malik, whose wife Sarwat is a physician in internal medicine at Genesee Hospital in Rochester, is a citizen of Pakistan, which maintains not only diplomatic but "very friendly" relations with Red China. On the subject of Mao, he says:

"Mao is considered a living deity; Jesus Christ and Confucius are nothing. That's the attitude of the average Chinese, who thinks basically in terms of what Mao has achieved for him. Such a personal dignity that he couldn't get under Chiang Kai-shek."

"Development of the atomic bomb, obviously, a matter of national pride."

"Under Mao, there appears to be little real poverty. For the poor man's need is in his stomach, and Mao's government fills that need, earning deep respect and even reverence."

"In traveling around, I didn't see the smallest bit of land that was not under cultivation. And there's no dearth of manpower."

Malik explained that the minimum wage in Communist China is \$30 monthly, in American money terms, but that a one-room apartment costs less than \$2 a month, a two-roomer little more than \$2.

Food is so cheap that it costs the equivalent of only four to five pennies a meal. What kind of a meal? "A large bowl of plain rice, spiced either with curry or some meat."

Professional people such as doctors, engineers, scientists and professors earn up to 400 yuan monthly (2.37 yuan equals \$1).

Medicines are free. Luxuries are virtually nil. Nowhere did Malik see a civilian-owned auto. Bicycles are the means of transportation, and perhaps represent a status symbol. Train service is excellent, in some ways better than in the U.S. Malik rode 1,000 miles in 33 hours on a steam train from Shanghai to Canton.

Anything to drink in the dining car? "Yes, beer, and something else; I don't know what the latter was." In any event, it was libation lost, for Malik

neither drinks nor smokes. He doesn't drink because it's not only against his religious practices, but a "bad habit" anyway.

Once aground, the touring RIT professor traveled mainly by countryside areas where between 20,000 and 30,000 persons live in and farm communes. Surplus produce is turned over to the "county" — meaning the next higher administrative unit.

"Commune property is owned by the people," Malik noted, "not by Peking."

Ninety per cent of the women work but are not forced to, Malik says; living conditions appear relatively comfortable and "I saw no emaciated or undernourished people."

"A good restaurant meal, a full one cost me between \$1 and \$1.25," he says. "There was no tipping. And no American money allowed; it had to be converted into Chinese currency at the China Bank of Shanghai right after I arrived, then reconverted when I was leaving. Matter of fact, in all the Asian countries in which I've traveled, the American dollar was quickly accepted — except in Red China."

Bank tellers would immediately produce a document saying "Since 1958, the U.S. has violated and threatened Chinese air space and territorial waters, and has indulged in other acts of aggression. Therefore we must refuse to convert your money."

"In Red China," Malik stressed, "the United States seldom is referred to as such, but rather as 'Imperialist aggressor.' As for Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalist Chinese on Formosa, they are disowned as American puppets, regardless of any blood ties."

He visited some universities where the Communists' own version of American "history" is taught, along with foreign languages including English. One university in particular impressed Malik and he mentioned to one "well-placed person" there: "You must indeed be proud of this building." The answer was: "Not so much the building itself, but because I carried bricks on my own shoulders to help construct it."

Malik incidentally saw no

American publication in Red China. But Chairman Mao and articles about him were in abundance. Even in hotel rooms — such as the Hoping (Peace) Hotel in Shanghai, there was this message from Mao adorning letter-head stationary for guests:

"All reactionaries are paper tigers."

"In appearance, the reaction-

aries are terrifying, but in reality they are not so powerful."

"From a long-term point of view, it is not the reactionaries but the people are really powerful."

Malik ran into a Red roadblock when, after investing some \$300 in a tape recorder, he tried to arrange an interview with Premier Chou En-lai.

"Too busy," was the answer. "Too busy with nation-building activities and the progress of cultural revolution."

Malik obtained U.S. clearance for his unique journey — such clearance being necessary to get him back into the U.S. — through the offices of Rep. Frank Horton and ex-Rochesterian William Macomber, then assistant secretary of state for Congressional Affairs.

His summer odyssey also included Moscow, Iran, Afghanistan, Thailand and Hong Kong.

Malik has a Ph.D. from McGill University in Montreal, and M.A. and B.A. degrees from University of the Punjab in Lahore, Pakistan.

He has taught and lectured at Rosemont College in Philadelphia, McGill and Loyola in Montreal, in Pakistani colleges.

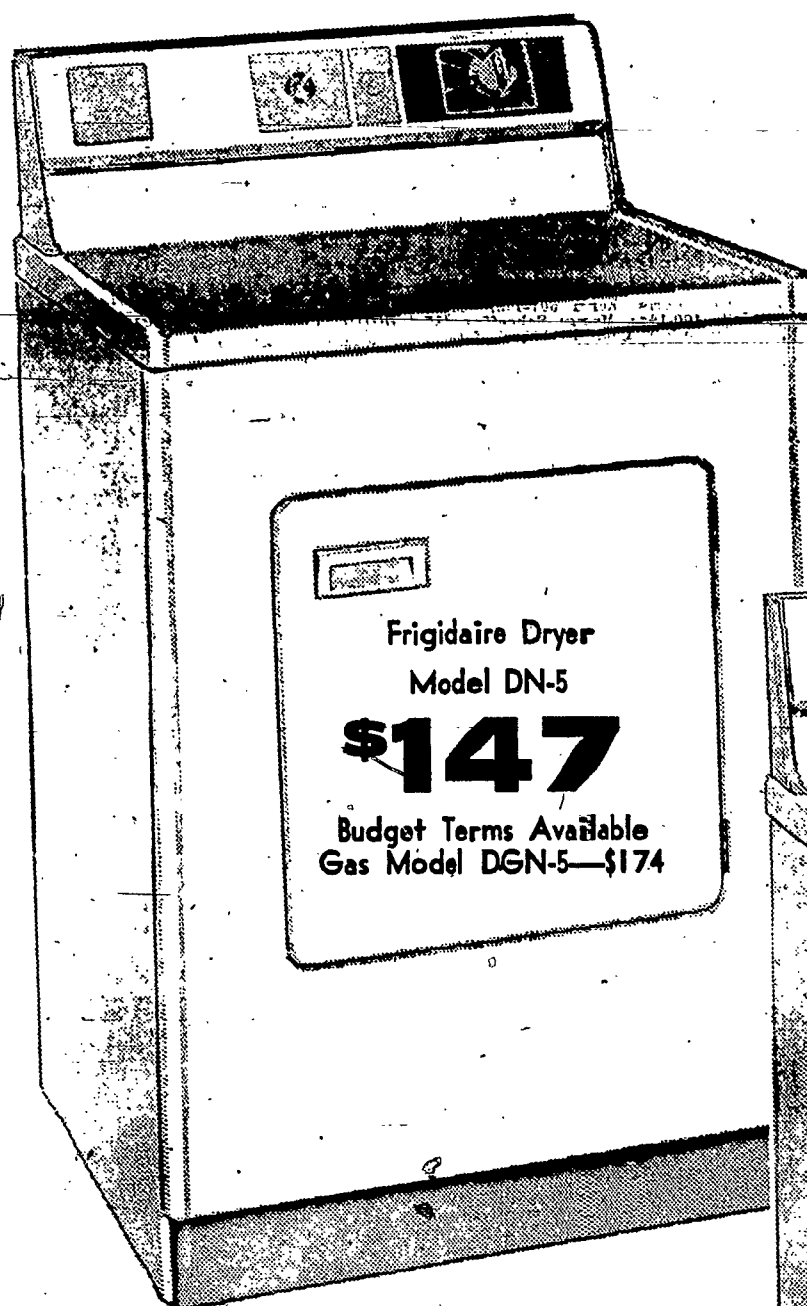


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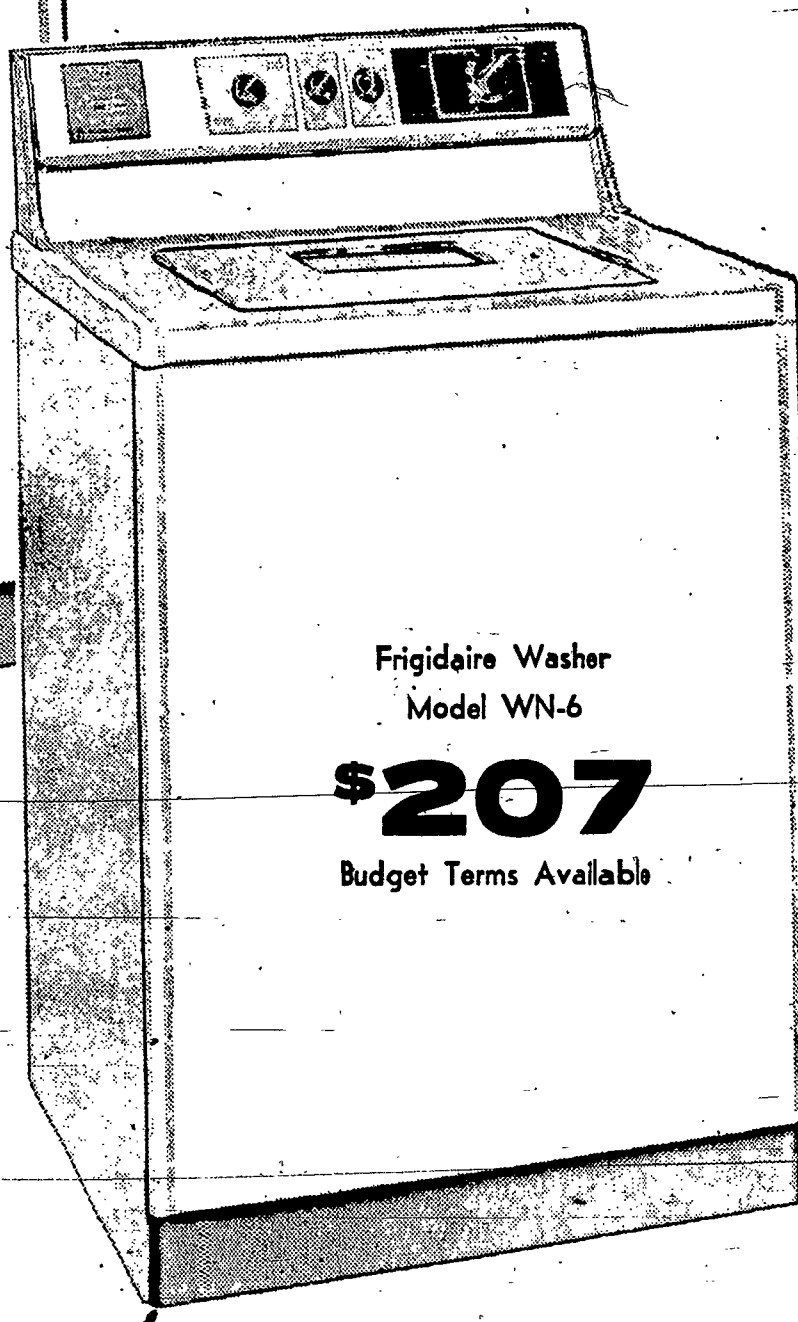
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