

First Lady Visits a

PEKING — (AP) — Bare-headed, as usual, Pat Nixon braved a North China snowstorm today to visit an agricultural commune where she mingled with schoolchildren, observed winter time cultivation of vegetables and saw a 68 year old woman getting an acupuncture treatment.

The First Lady walked through intermittently heavy snow that glistened in her hair, moving down alleys and across furrowed fields at the 6000-acre Evergreen People's Commune west of Peking.

Mrs. Nixon was captivated by the schoolchildren she saw, marveled at the growing of out-of-season vegetables under glass and even tried futilely to make friends with a rather dirty hog in a sty.

She seemed most surprised, however, to observe in the commune clinic the ancient Chinese medical treatment based on the insertion of long needles into the flesh.

The two young women who give the treatment told Mrs. Nixon they attend to about a dozen patients a day. They showed her a gray-haired woman lying on her side on a cot with more than half a dozen needles protruding from her right arm and leg.

Lived on Farm

The woman said those limbs had been so numb before she began a week-long series of acupuncture treatments that she could hardly walk around her small home. Now she can cook, she reported.

"We wish you well," Mrs. Nixon told her.

"It didn't look painful," she remarked as she left the clinic.

The pig Mrs. Nixon tried to entice within petting distance was corralled outside spotlessly clean cottage.

Warned by a reporter that the pig might bite, Mrs. Nixon said she lived on a farm as a girl and "I once raised a prize-winner—second prize."

But the pig ignored her entreaties, and finally she leaned into the sty to throw him a chunk of cabbage.

Almost everything Mrs. Nixon saw at the commune — except acupuncture — reminded her of something back home.

Visiting two classrooms —

Commune

second-grade multiplication and a music class with a simple but melodic organ — recalled her days as a schoolteacher.

Ping Pong

In another schoolroom, two 10 year old boys were playing table tennis with rather unimpressive results. Pointing to the table, the First Lady said: "We have one in Florida, and we do play Ping Pong."

Following Asian custom, Mrs. Nixon clapped her hands as children rose and applauded her when she entered the classrooms.

To the 8 year olds learning multiplication — several of them gave wrong answers while she was there — Mrs. Nixon said she brought greetings from all the children of America.

Shakes Hands

The music pupils serenaded her with a song about "Our Great Leader Chairman Mao" and a number called "I'm a Little Member of the Commune."

On leaving each class, Mrs. Nixon shook hands

with many of the youngsters, but with her own variant of an Eastern gesture. She clasped the little hands between both of hers as she pressed her palms together in a gesture resembling prayer.

"They're very adorable," said Mrs. Nixon as she kissed several children on the cheek and patted one on the head.

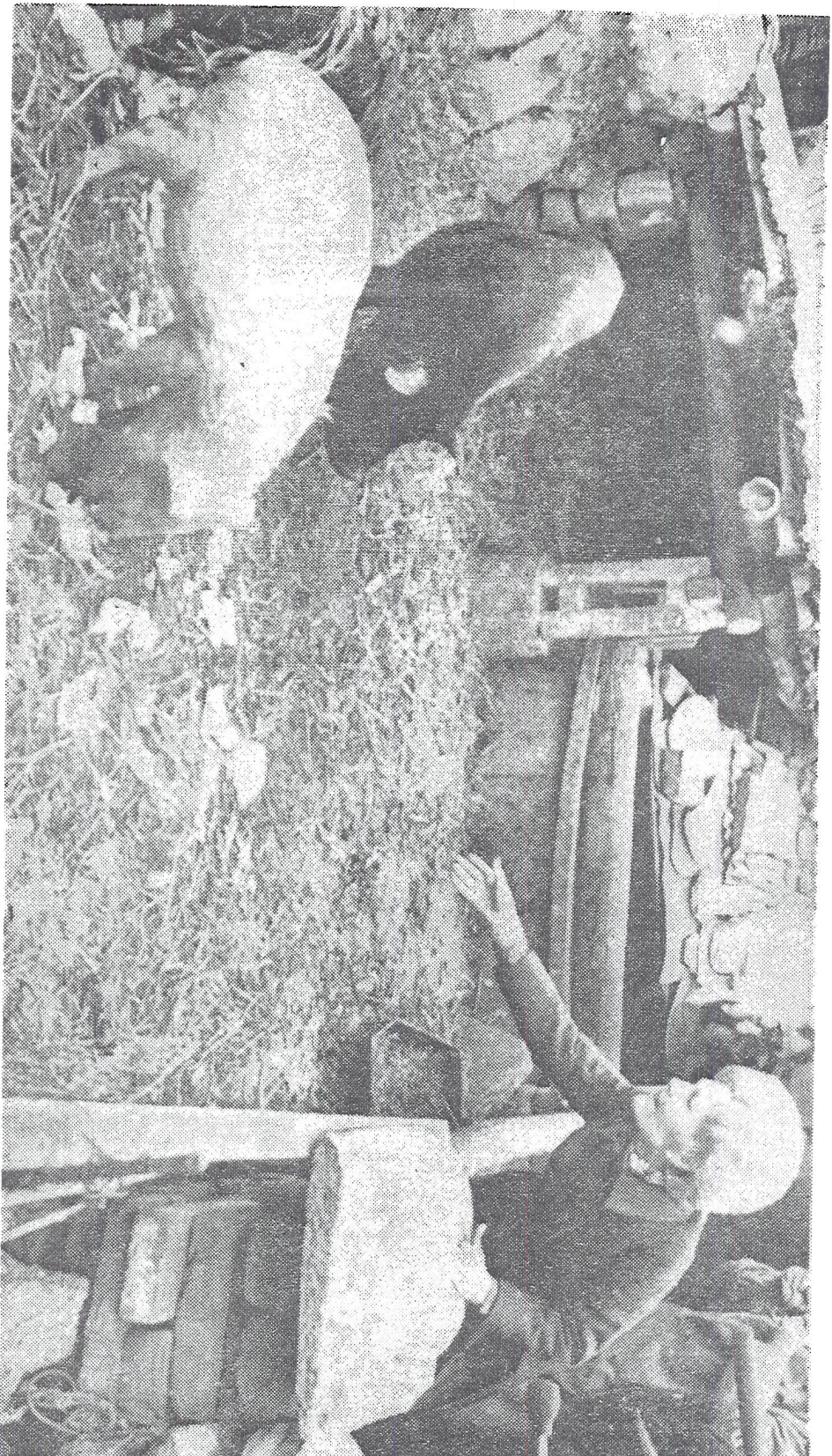
She was taken into a simply furnished home, with kitchen, dining room, living room and bedroom all in one. Cooking was done over coals, but the house had electricity — and the ubiquitous portrait of Mao Tse-tung on one wall.

Enjoyable

The First Lady sat at the kitchen table, chatted with the housewife and again recalling her farm days, remarked, "I enjoyed it very much."

She concluded her 90-minute tour at one store where dry goods and sundries were sold and another filled with inviting fresh produce.

At a clothing counter, she



Mrs. Nixon, who used to raise pigs herself as a girl, fed cabbage bits to the commune's porkers

—AP Photo



THIS COMMUNE CHILD DIDN'T LIKE PUBLICITY
The First Lady met this tot, wearing flu mask, at store

—AP Photo

talked to a woman who was Mrs. Nixon, pointing to a so, the First Lady told her,
trying to decide on a blouse. pale blue number. "Buy this "You made the right
"This one I like," said one." When the woman did choice."

