

New China Hand Discovers 3-Month

By HUGH A. MULLIGAN

PEKING (AP) — The subways in China's capital are newer, cheaper—two cents a ride—and more mugger-free than in New York, but it's a longer wait between trains.

The last one was three months ago.

Foreign correspondents stationed in Peking say that the 15-mile system inaugurated three years ago is having technical trouble. The cars don't fit close enough to the platforms, or vice versa, and they keep losing commuters on the tracks.

Other underground sources say the trains make such a screeching roar under the streets that they frighten the many cart horses and donkeys into upsetting their wagonloads of night soil and what not and bolting off to berserkville.

While the Chinese subway engineers are back at the drawing board in the old rectification camp, the 16-station

line occasionally is opened for the edification of foreign visitors or to take some of the party faithful joy riding. The palatial underground stations also serve double duty as civil defense bomb shelters.

DOWN through the centuries, the Chinese image makers have always had a marvelous facility for names. In the Forbidden City of Ming and Ch'ing Dynasty palaces, which the presidential party visited today, there is the Gate of Supreme Harmony, the Palace of Heavenly Purity, the Hall of Earthly Inter-course, the Temple of Listening to the Birds and the Palace of Abstinence.

Since the revolution, the Communists have added to the Imperial Palace compound a Hall of Mental Cultivation, a Hall of Receiving Successful Scholars and a Pavilion of Introspection.

Perhaps in nostalgia for the visit by the White House press corps they will set aside a Pa-

vilion of Pushing Photographers, a Pleasure Dome of Double Daring Pundits and a Lake of Delight in Prime Time Exposure.

POST office lines in Peking, as an impatient Paper Tiger press has learned, are a lot slower than in New York or Washington. Chinese stamps have no glue. The clerk at the window hands you a stamp, a paste pot and a wet towel.

The Chinese hosts may also have overestimated the vigor of the American press. They installed a badminton court, Ping Pong tables and a bowling alley in the cellar under the press room and haven't had a single customer.

With the nearest golf course 1,000 miles away, the press has worked off its excess energy reaching across the table with ferociously poised chop sticks and jumping up and down in place for the endless "gombay" (bottoms-up) toasts.

One poignant moment at the Peking duck banquet given for the newsmen came when White House press aides and representatives of the New China News Agency nervously exchanged toasts to truth in journalism.

But with all the Mao signs and slogans around town, toastmasters and presidential speech writers have had no difficulty finding inspiration.

President Nixon's "seize the hour" Mao quote in his toast to Premier Chou En-lai Monday night is right on the billboard outside the windows of the guest house where he is staying.

For instant table repartee, there are fortune cookies with quotations from Chairman Mao.

PEKING IS probably the

only metropolis in the world with seven million people and no morning or evening rush hour.

Traffic lights work on the principal of a boat approach-

Wait for Subway

ing a drawbridge—blow your horn and the cop in the booth obligingly switches the light to green.

In Mao's classless, revolutionary society, all army

ranks and insignia have been abolished, but visiting reporters soon learned to tell the officers from the men. The officers have pockets in their uniforms.