

Our Man Hoppe

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Dick Makes A Big Find



Arthur Hoppe

"DICK, DEAR, you really are working too hard. I do wish you'd try to get away."

"Let me be perfectly candid about this, Pat. I am planning a trip. I am planning a trip to China."

"Oh, that's nice dear. You'll have such fun talking over old times with the Generalissimo and Madame Chiang."

"Not that China, Pat. The other China."

"The other what?"

"The other China. You know, the one Truman, Acheson and the Democrats lost 25 years ago."

"You found it, dear? How very clever of you. The Democrats must be dying of embarrassment. Where had it been hiding itself all these years?"

"Just inside Outer Mongolia and over the hill from Nepal. It's not a place you'd think to look."

"I'm so glad you found it, dear. I noticed the globe in your study is fully round again and it looks much better."

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"THANK YOU, Pat, thank you. Naturally, I wished to inspect my find. So I sent my most trusted aide on a globe circling trip. At one stop he secretly snuck off the Peking, unbeknownst to a soul, to wangle me an invitation to dinner."

"How ingenious, dear. I just knew Spiro couldn't really be playing golf day after day in all those foreign places. He must be very proud of the way he deceived the press."

"Not, Spiro, Pat. Henry. Spiro was very busy discussing freedom of the press with the heads of various totalitarian regimes and studying the examples of leadership set for American Negroes by African military dictators."

"I'm glad Spiro has other hobbies than

golf. Were the lost Chinese happy you had found them at last?"

"I cannot, of course, speak for all 800 million of them, Pat. But they have accepted my invitation to invite me for a visit. I have thus announced that I will undertake this journey for peace for the benefit of all mankind."

"Gosh, Dick, if you could sign a treaty of friendship with 800 million Chinese it would certainly be a blow to those dirty Commie rats in the global Red conspiracy."

"Let me set the record straight, Pat. These Chinese are dir . . . That is, they are, rightly or wrongly, of the Communist persuasion. But I have long felt peace is not a partisan issue."

"How long have you felt that, dear?"

"Ever since I learned how popular my proposed trip has made me. The Republicans are jubilant. The Democrats are speechless. Every columnist and commentator in the country envisions a new era of human brotherhood and universal understanding."

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"OH, THAT'S wonderful, dear. I'm so proud of you for finding China after all these years."

"Well, to be perfectly frank, Pat, there are problems. Our right-wing allies are uneasy. Our European friends are concerned we are turning toward Asia. So is every Japanese exporter. The Russians, suspicious we are conspiring against them, may sabotage the SALT talks, thus increasing the danger of nuclear war. And Chiang Kai-shek has at last asked us to unleash him — so that he can invade California."

"Oh, Dick, are you sure finding China was a good thing?"

"Confidentially, Pat, for the first time in 25 years, I'm beginning to think Truman and Acheson were right to lose it in the first place."