

**Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964**  
*After the Middle Ages Comes the Renaissance!*  
**Special Topics**

**China Trip March 10 to April 1, 2011**

by Hope Justman and 9 MHC 1964 classmates and three spouses

Ideas about Hope leading a hiking tour were conceived at our class reunion in May 2009. Hope Whitaker Justman had recently published *Guide to Hiking China's Old Road to Shu*. This began a year and a half of planning for trekking the ancient stone paths between Chengdu and Xi'an, for about 20 days. Jane Emerson handled much of the logistics from the US side, while Hope was arranging Chinese hotels, transport and guides. Hope had spent parts of 10 years doing in-the-field researching of this road to Shu (built about 300BC), the people, and history along it. She shared this passion not only with us but also with the people there. Many of them live along pieces of the road and use it daily, making their way to school and market.

We were literally off the beaten track, our feet touching history with every step, walking on ancient giant stone slabs nestled between rows of giant Cypress trees planted centuries ago. Hope gave us reason to be optimistic and open, thanks to her fabulous book, her reprise of great 19th century travelers, her delight in the cuisine, and her enthusiasms. Hope's experiences, expertise and friendships led us to places, people, and culinary experiences beyond our dreams. Her reputation brought mayors out of their offices, along with photographers and reporters. For our 20-some dinners, Hope & Jane would select 4-8 "Specials".

Hope plans to lead another, similar trip. Feel free to contact her: [hjustman@yahoo.com](mailto:hjustman@yahoo.com)  
Members were Edie PRENTICE Mendez, Wendy LYCAN Jackson, Barb DALLINGER Crowell, Lenore WADZINSKI Yousef, Sarah ALLEN Mowitt, Jane SHILLING Emerson, Gail SIMONS Humphreys, Priscilla MORSE Huston, Ellen MANFREDONIA Nutter, and husbands: Dave Nutter, Mike Emerson and Steve Humphreys.

The China story photo stream starts with statues and maps, including historical and humorous pictures. It continues with people and kids, shadow puppets, markets, pandas, buildings, opera players, bronze bells, temples, and schools. Many of the pictures show flagstones of Shu, and the re-created Plank Roads built into steep riverbanks. Older illustrations come from Hope's archives; most are from sites we toured. Photos were contributed by 6 of the travelers. There are about 150 photos with Captions. Passing your mouse over will show Captions, and the name of the site/town where photo was taken. During 'slideshow' mode, there is an option on Lower Right to dis-

play Captions. Viewers are permitted to download these photos. Pictures are mostly chronological, ending with a 3 Gorges (Yangzi river) cruise and Hong Kong.

Wendy, Edie, Hope, Priscilla, and Jane have expressed a willingness to answer questions.

For more information you can also visit Hope's website at [chinasgreatroads.com](http://chinasgreatroads.com).

### **Essential Itinerary with notations relating to the Photo Album:**

**Chengdu** - Wen Shyu Temple Tea Garden , Qintai Road, Shizilou Hot Pot Restaurant, Panda Center, Chengdu mall, Temple of Martial Marquis, Jinjiang Hotel, Ginko Restaurant, Opera

**Chengdu to Puan** - Green Cloud Corridor hike (missing bus), Qiqushan Temple, Wulian - 1/2 hr hike and bridge, tunnel, Jiangle Hotel for 3 nights, Miss Li and her home, Sword Gate Pass and garden plantings, around Jianmenguan, Street Market and parades

**Puan to Langzhong** - hike, burial mound, rape fields, picnic, new road (paving in progress), 3-wheeled concrete truck, visiting Miss Li's friend, Huaguang Tower, Zhang Fei Temple courtyards, Examination Hall , lost path and steep descent hike from Pagoda and Buddha temple , then Great Buddha Temple of Tang Dynasty, St. Patrick's Day, silk quilts, Qin Family Courtyard Hotel, puppet show

**Langzhong to Guangyuan** - bye to Ms. Li, hello to Mr. Chen (his Library), lunch as guests of the Guangyuan Press, pre-school visit, Mr. Chen's home, dinner with Mr. Chen & Director of Tourism, 3 nights in Phoenix International Hotel. Thousand Buddha Cliff section of Old Road, Tiger's Mouth and plank road along Jialing River, Last dinner with Mr. Chen

**Guangyuan to Hanzhong** - wild bird vendor, Hanzhong Museum for Road to Shu exhibit

**Hanzhong to Feng Xian** - Modern dam on Bao River with reconstructed plank road, ring bell with big tree trunk, cold lunch in snowy mts , Zhang Liang Temple, snow chains are shared among truckers, Dinner at Feng Cheng Da Sha and discussion with

government officials, 2nd School visit, popcorn, hospital, fine Crafts Center, Dept Store, night lights & water show

**Feng Xian to Xi'an** through snowy mt. passes - Visit in home of Mr/Mrs Zhai, traffic jammed in snow, Expressway from Baoji to Xi'an, Forest of Steles Calligraphy Museum, hotel at South Gate. Terracotta "Worriers", Huagua Hot Springs gondola, Little Goose Pagoda, Bell Tower, lamb stew at Tongshengxiang Restaurant, Shaanxi Grand Opera House dumpling dinner and show fly to Chongqing and Yangzi River cruise ship - (largest city of the world - 34 million people) Stillwell and Flying Tigers Museum, a cave on 2nd cruise day - Small boat up narrow gorge with manual rowers/trackers on old tow path. 3rd day - Cruise to Yichang, Three Gorges Dam, Three Travelers' Cave, short Speedboat up secondary gorge fly to Shenzhen (New Territories) and bus to Hong Kong - Tea at Peninsula Hotel, YMCA Salisbury Hotel in Kowloon, Hong Kong-Kowloon ferry, Funicular up Victoria Peak. Barbara at the Hong Kong Appeals Court, Lunch at Ned Kelly's Pub including Edie's son Derek, dinner at Wu Kong Shanghai Restaurant

Submitted by: Wendy Jackson

Added: 10/1/11