



The Illinois Billiard Club

"The Country Club of Pool and Carom Billiards"

8446 Archer Avenue - Willow Springs, IL 60480 - 708-839-1331 - www.IllinoisBilliardClub.com
Lessons - Leagues - Tournaments - Memberships - Private Functions
1975 - 29th Anniversary - 2004

"The Art of Creative Conception"

by Jim Parker

"To successfully create and fulfill an idea of lasting value that had never before existed is an art. And when achieved more through one's inner love of humanity than commercial endeavors, you can expect a masterpiece."

China, a nation of superlatives ... the world's most populous country, the third largest country in area, a 4,000 year-old culture ... and as a nation in

whole, an endless mosaic of peoples and lands that defies generalization. From peasants farming their small plots of land in the countryside, to the ever-

exploding populations of booming coastal cities, the Chinese people forever remain united by close family ties. Efforts by the Communist government

to limit couples to one child are widely flaunted, and as economic growth enriches more Chinese, other governmental strictures are being ignored as well.



Courtesy of National Geographic, Photograph by Reza

Through the lens of a camera and eye of a prolific photographer a story of human endeavor and creative conception is seen to the fullest. Taking his cue from capitalism a creative Uygurian entrepreneur wheels his portable pool table along the back mud-roads of his little village, inviting all comers at 20 cents a game.

While China's contributed much to world culture within its some 4,000 years it was not until 1949 that its economy began to progress when the New People's Republic of China faced a starving, war torn and unemployed population. By 1993, the Chinese economy had grown to the third largest in the world. Industry is expanding while agriculture continues as the nations major activity. A current economic plan focuses on growth of agriculture, industry, science, technology and national defense.

Marco Polo, thirteenth century Venetian adventurer was one of the first Europeans to travel ancient China's Silk Road that thrived until the opening of sea routes during the 17th century. When first discovering the fabled oasis cities of ancient China, Polo recorded; "Everything necessary for human life is

here in the greatest plenty ...cotton, flax, hemp, grain, wine, and other articles."

The powerful khanates that once flourished along the Silk Road since the second century B.C. have long since faded into myth and obscurity yet their cosmopolitan legacy survived. Greek Hellenism, Indian Buddhism, and later, Middle Eastern Islam all trickled through the deserts and wind carved mountains of Xinjiang, spread by wandering armies, caravans and pilgrims. Today, a vast patchwork of ethnic groups, and with the Uygurs the largest, inhabit China's autonomous Northwest region of Xinjiang; that lies between Kyrgyzstan and Tibet.

It is here on the dirt roads of Borlata; one of many scattered villages within Xinjiang, that through the lens

of a camera and eye of a prolific photographer a story of human endeavor and creative conception is seen to the fullest. Taking his cue from capitalism a creative Uygurian entrepreneur wheels his portable pool table along the back mud-roads of his little village, inviting all comers at 20 cents a game.

To many that might briefly gaze upon this picture, they see merely a street peddler selling whatever his fare, and to others, a homeless man scratching out a meager existence of nickels and dimes he might chance upon throughout the uncertainties of his day. And to others again, is seen a scoundrel, a street villain or trickster set out to entrap his unsuspecting patrons into the loss of their days wages.

Yet to those of more in-depth intellect and understanding of business

and human nature this photograph expresses quite a different message indeed. They see a man all too proud to ever ask society for handouts and pose unfair claims for public aid, and a man also, all too humble to think of others in any other way than how he might serve them. To these people, this clearly is a man with an honorable goal and the human determination to see it through. A man who by his own creative conception and physical actions, has upon a stage of his nations centuries of political and economic struggles, turned an aging pool table, a few crooked cues and a burlap bag of old billiard balls into a glowing masterpiece of human endeavor.

"Planning a special event and you'd like your guests to enjoy more than just a great meal? Or will your next private function range from a wedding reception to a retirement dinner and you'd prefer hosting your event at a more uniquely memorable and entertaining facility? Well then, leave the party planning up to the gal's and they'll come up with a winner, every time!"

Top right photo: For the Illinois Southwest Cook County Girl Scouts of America it was a Sunday breakfast buffet at Bonnie's Dining & Banquets and the Illinois Billiard Club of Willow Springs IL, then followed by lessons in both carom and pocket billiards.
Top left photo: Event organizer Mrs. Tina Stanton (center) shows the girls that a Mom's forever important roll is teaching her children how to stay on the ball ...In far more than just the challenges of a billiard game, but more importantly, the challenges within life itself.

