CHINESE ANIMAL YEARS

Chinese folklore says that all the animals were invited to visit Buddha, a wise, revered teacher. When only twelve animals arrived, they were honored by having a year named after each one. My birth year is in the year of the ox, but I wish I were in the year of the rabbit. Have fun matching up your family with the animal that goes with the year they were born.

WHO IS MEI-MEI?

Stephanie Hsu, a young pianist from Boston, inspired the pictures I painted of Mei-Mei. Even though Stephanie has never lived on a farm, she knew just how to communicate with my hen Pansy. She lived in Hong Kong, China when she was little.

FISHING BIRDS

On the Li River, fishermen glide on thin bamboo rafts, fishing with the help of their trained cormorants. The cormorants swim under water and catch a fish in their beaks. They can't swallow the fish because of a band on their necks. The cormorants give the fish to the fishermen in exchange for a tidbit, perhaps the tail of the fish.