



Special to the Desert Valley Times
 J. L. Bowler teachers enjoying some traditional Chinese architecture. They are, from left, Mary Ellen Keeton, Lana Hess and Jamie Jones. In the photo at right, Blaze introduces the Desert Valley Times to a Chinese reader.



Bowler mascot tours the sights of China

Blaze the Bighorn, the mascot of J. L. Bowler Elementary School, is touring China with several Virgin Valley teachers. Here is his first report.

Bowler bighorns landed in this ancient city for their first step on a trek through China. Dense fog and smog blanketed the city upon their arrival. Two of the first words uttered by the tour guide reminded Blaze of one of his main concerns for the Little Bighorns: global warming. The average tem-

peratures in China are on the rise, and the population of Beijing swelters just as the Little Bighorns cook in the parched Southwest.

Beijing is an ancient city with a history that dates back to 220 B.C. Two dynasties coexisted in the 12th

century and one, the Sung, established Beijing as its capital. China was governed by emperors, who are like kings, from 1664-1911. In 1949 the Communist Party came to power under the dictatorship of Mao Tse Tung. The Chinese people did not

have it easy under his rule. Some Chinese honor him as a great man while others are glad his time has passed. China's government is still Communist, however the people have more freedom than before.

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The Chinese people are trying to deal with many changes which are happening quickly in their society. In order to find work and a "better life" thousands of Chinese migrate to big cities like Beijing. They bring 700 cars a day into an already crowded city! People turn off lights and raise air conditioning to save on energy, just like the Little Bighorns do in their

homes. Bicycles used to be the main form of transportation, and it took a year's wages to buy one. Today everyone wants a car, a computer, and their own home.

Blaze has found that Chinese people are gracious, friendly, and enjoy the opportunity to speak English as they sell their wares. Next he is going to climb the Great Wall, and he hopes you'll be reading about his adventures!