

SNAPSHOTS



Yang Yinke walks on a mountain road to deliver mail to villagers in Pingshun county in North China's Shanxi province.



Yang delivers mail at Tihou village in Pingshun county on Jan 17.



Yang Xuying, Yang Yinke's wife, sees him off at Fotang village.

THE MOUNTAIN MAILMAN



The shoe soles that Yang's wife has prepared for making new shoes for him.

High-altitude postman has been delivering the mail along lofty path for 30 years

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The zigzag road in the remote Taihang Mountains is very familiar to Yang Yinke. The postman, now 60 years old, has climbed it for three decades in his job delivering mail to villagers deep in the mountains.

Yang has been working as a postman in Pingshun county, North China's Shanxi province, since 1987. Every day, his work starts early in the morning — usually 5 am, when he leaves his home in Fotang town. He gets to the post office on the mountainside

at around 8 am, collecting papers, mail and parcels. Then, with a stick and a bag, Yang spends the rest of the day climbing from village to village, delivering mail along the rugged path. It is around sunset when his work comes to an end.

Over 30 years, Yang has worn out scores of postbags and many pairs of shoes. It is reckoned that he has traveled a distance of around 200,000 kilometers over the years.

"Making sure that the goods are delivered on time and safely is the core of my job, and I remember this every day when I am working," Yang said. "I hope we can find a successor before my retirement."



After finishing delivery at the foot of the mountains, Yang has noodles for lunch.



Yang Yinke, carrying a large delivery bag, walks in the Taihang Mountains. PHOTOS BY ZHAN YAN / XINHUA