



MANGYONGDAE

Along with the eight scenic spots of Pyongyang, Mangyongdae has been renowned for its natural beauty from olden times.

The highest hill in the region is Mangyong Hill. It is so called because it commands a bird's-eye view of the surrounding area. Mangyongdae was named so as it is a village nestled at the foot of the hill.

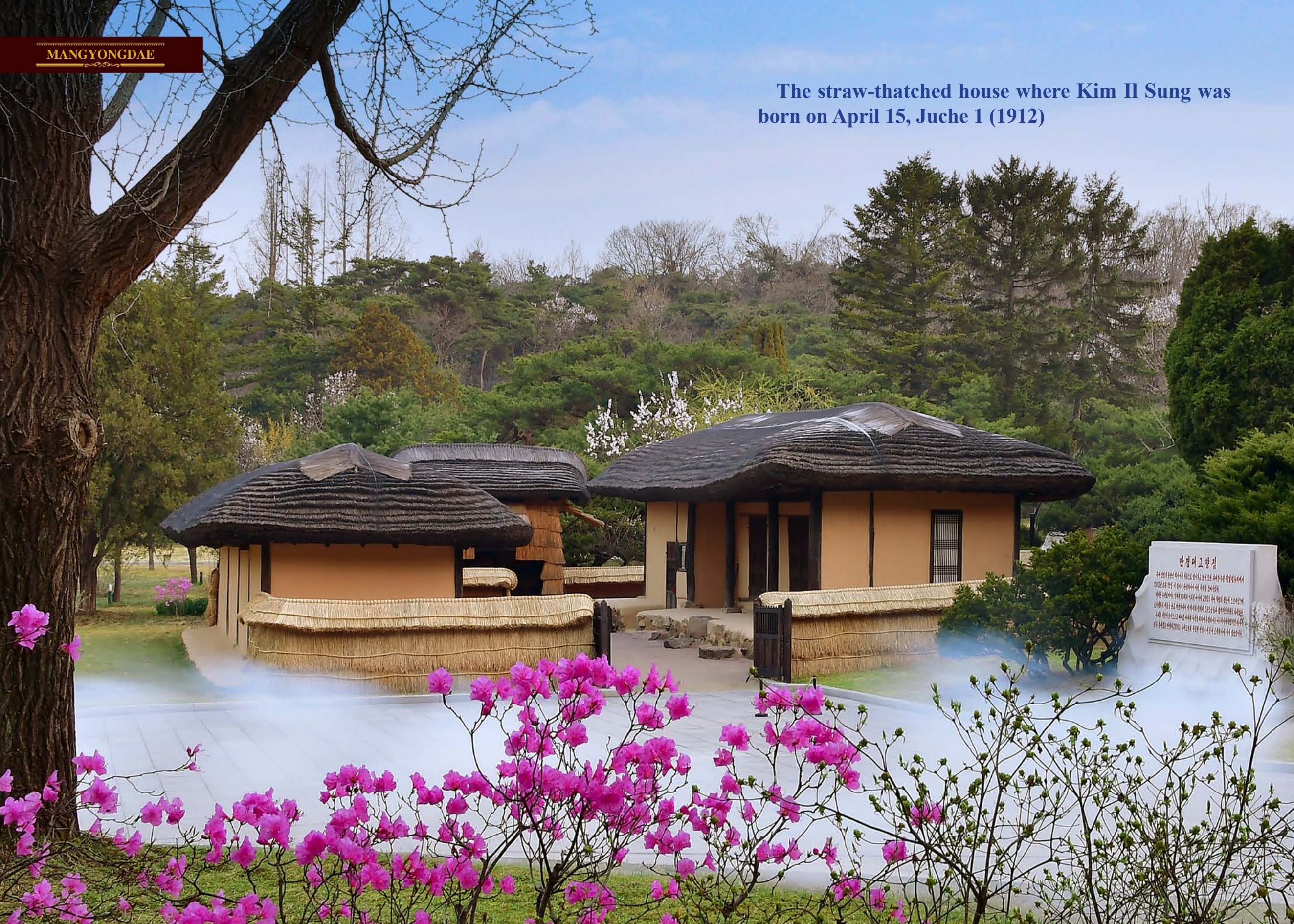
Preserved in Mangyongdae are Kim Il Sung's native home where he was born and spent his boyhood and his family lived from generation to generation, as well as relics including the Sliding Rock, Warship Rock and Wrestling Site where he used to train himself physically and mentally in his childhood.

Every year many Koreans and foreigners visit the place to have a better understanding of the history of Kim Il Sung's revolutionary activities and his family. Foreign visitors call it a place where the great sun rose and a revolutionary school which trains people into genuine revolutionaries and indomitable fighters.





The straw-thatched house where Kim Il Sung was
born on April 15, Juche 1 (1912)





Mangyongdae before Korea's liberation

Before Korea's liberation Mangyongdae was a small rural village of about 20 households. Kim Il Sung's family settled here at the time of his great-grandfather Kim Ung U. He had worked as a farmer in the walled city of Pyongyang. He was so poor that he became a grave keeper for a landlord and moved to the grave keeper's house at Mangyongdae in the 1860s.

Kim Il Sung left his native home in Juche 14 (1925) with a high ambition to liberate Korea.

He liberated his country on August 15, Juche 34 (1945) and returned home after 20 years.

After he delivered a speech on his triumphant return home before the Korean people on October 14, Juche 34 (1945), he visited his native home at Mangyongdae 20 years after he had left it.

Members of the Mangyongdae family had left home to fight for the independence of Korea, but Kim Il Sung was the only one who returned home after liberation.

So, when he came back to his native home, his grandmother rushed out of the brushwood gate and asked him, tearfully in his arms, why he had returned alone without his parents and brothers.





Main room



Wall Clock

Kim Il Sung recollected in his memoirs *With the Century*: “While I was spending my childhood at Mangyongdae, my grandmother always regretted that we had no clock in our house. Although she was not a covetous woman, she was very envious of clocks hanging on the walls of other houses. In our neighbourhood there was one house with a clock.

“I have heard that my grandmother began to speak enviously of that clock after my father began attending Sungsil Middle School. Because we had no clock, every morning she would wake up before dawn after a restless night and, guessing the time, quickly prepare breakfast. It was 12 kilometres from Mangyongdae to Sungsil Middle School, so my father might have been late for school if she had not cooked breakfast early enough.

“Sometimes she would prepare a meal in the middle of the night and, not knowing if it was time for her son to leave for school, sit looking out through the eastern window of the kitchen for hours. At such times she would say to my mother, ‘Go and find out what time it

is at the house behind.’

“However, my mother would not enter the house, reluctant to bother the people there, but would squat outside the fence waiting for the clock to strike the hours. Then she would return and tell grandmother the time.

“When I returned home from Badaogou, my aunt inquired after my father before telling me that whereas my father had a hard time walking a long way to school every day, it would be good for me to go and stay at my mother’s parents’ home at Chilgol, as the school was nearby.

“My family could not afford the clock my grandmother so desired until national liberation.”

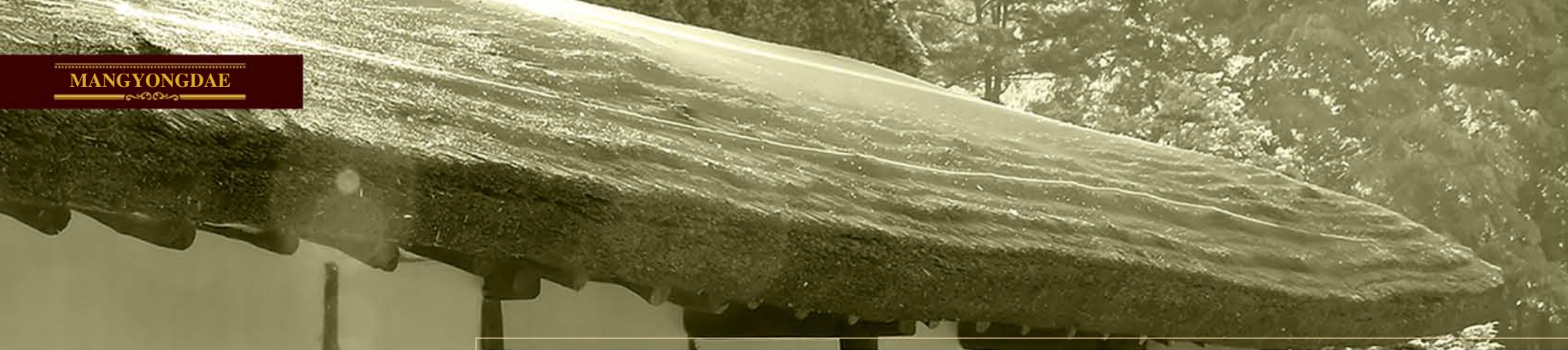


Main room



Upper room





Kitchen





Farm implements and household goods used by Kim Il Sung's family



Shed

Misshapen Jar

Kim Il Sung's family was so poor that his great-grandmother could not afford to buy a proper jar. So she bought a misshapen jar at a very cheap price in 1874.

Later she recollected: When I was buying this jar, others laughed at me, but I shed tears of blood in my heart; but the day will surely come when we could tell the tearful story of the jar after arranging jars of good quality beside it.





Shallow well



Pine Tree and Ash Tree

In his childhood Kim Il Sung often climbed the pine tree and ash tree to catch a rainbow.

Sliding Rock and Warship Rock

In his early years Kim Il Sung used to train himself physically and mentally playing on these rocks with his friends.



Sliding Rock



Warship Rock



Wrestling Site

Kim Il Sung trained his body and cultivated wisdom while wrestling here with his friends.

Wrestling Site



Spring Site and Learning Site

Kim Il Sung frequently came to this spring with his father to drink from it and take a cold rubdown with a wet towel. The Learning Site is a place where he used to study, nursing a high ambition for the revolution.



Spring Site



Learning Site



Angling Site

Angling Site

Whenever he visited Mangyongdae during his days at Changdok School, he would come to this place and educate the villagers including young people to take a right path while catching fish.



Numerous Koreans from home and abroad and foreigners visit Mangyongdae every year.





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