

MY LIFE STORY

PRESENTED TO:

MR. GEORGE SCHERTZER

ALUMNI SECRETARY

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

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BY:

CHUN C. LEE

B.S. In M.E. '27; M.E. '32

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Chun C. Lee
1070 Post Street
San Francisco, California

MY LIFE STORY

To begin with, I have to mention a brief history of my father. He was a learned man who came to San Francisco from Canton, China, in the early days before I was born. Before he came to the United States, he was in Hong Kong, where he joined the first Revolutionary Party, which was founded by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen who was later the Founder of the Republic of China. During all the years in San Francisco, my father was engaged in Chinese herb and drug store business in China town. In the mean time he took part in the propaganda work for over-throwing the Monarchy of the Manchurian Government who ruled and suppressed the people tyrannically for three hundred sixty years.

In 1911, when Dr. Sun Yat-Sen was still in the United States, he directed and ordered to start the first Historical Revolution in Canton, China. My father was the only over-sea who went back from the United States, to take part in that revolution. He joined the other revolutionists in Hong Kong, and they all met in Canton. The first gun of the Revolutionary war that was fired in Canton, was on March 29, 1911.

During the war, my father was captured twice on the same day and yet he was able to escape without bodily harm. This first Revolutionary War turned out to be an unsuccessful one. Seventy-two of the patriotic revolutionists were captured and then beheaded. Those who were beheaded, were written down in the history as heroes for sacrificing their lives for the Republic of China. The whole nation paid tribute to them every year on the day of their death, March 29th. 19

After the frustration of the first revolutionary war, the survivors fled to Hong Kong as their temporary hide-outs.. At that time, my father took me away from school where I had only one year of Schooling and sent me to stay with some of the top Revolutionists as a messenger boy., because no one could be hired, foreverything was done secretly. I was the only one who could walk in and out freely from the house. At that time I was only eight years old. Therefore, I had a chance of getting acquainted with those Revolutionists who later became Generals, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Governors of the Provinces, the Magistrate and the Mayors, and etc.

In 1911, China proclaimed as a Republic of China, and she was recognized by all the Nations of the World. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen was the first President; and my father was the first Magistrate of Yangkong in Kwangtung Province. 19

In 1912, my father resigned his position as Magistrate for he thought that he had done his share for the country and the people. Shortly he went to Nanking for cultivating a vast piece of fertile land at the outskirts of the City of Nanking along side of the Yangtze River. In order to cultivate that land it required a large capital. Therefore a Farming Incorporation was organized, and my father was nominated as the general manager. 191

In the same year, 1912, my father was sent by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen to the United States to lecture to the Chinese, on the first revolutionary war in Canton. He took me with him, instead of my older brother, who at the time was three years my senior, when I was nine. When we arrived in United States, he took me to the Chinese herb store in China town. It was during the Chinese New Year. He introduced me to some of his old friends in San Francisco, and from them I received sixty dollars as my New Year's felicitous money. It was customarily given to a small boy like me during these celebrations. This was the first money I had ever received in the United States. 191

About a month later a friend of my father's took me to Berkeley, California, where I stayed in a Chinese Methodist Church, with other Chinese College students. During this time my father was making speeches in the East. 191

This was the first church that I had ever stepped into in my life. I bought the foods and cooked my own meals there, and I slept on the tables after the evening English class was over.

One evening, a Chinese cook from a nearby boarding house, came to study English, and he asked me if I wanted a job in his place. Without hesitation, I was joyfully accepted by his offer. He gave ^{ME} a nice room, and all I had to do for him was to peel potatoes and a few of kitchen chores. He paid me four dollars a month. In the evening he and I went to the same Church to learn English.

It was time for me to enter School, so a student of same Church helped me to register in McKinley Grammar School on Haste Street. I could not sleep the night before, because my heart thumped repeatedly through-out the night, fearing the teacher would ^{ask me} questions. ^{THAT I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND,} I was admitted to the first grade, , and two months later, I was sent to low third. This was perhaps because I was good in arithmetic.

After I had completed one term of school, I picked fruit along the Sacramento River, with one of the Church Chinese students. I received 90 cents a day for eleven hours of sweaty work, heat up to 115 degrees. One ^{SUDDENLY} day, ^{CAME BACK FROM EAST AND} my father [^] stopped by the farm where I was working in Courtland. He met me with great surprise. Being a renowned revolutionist at that time, my father was greeted by the small Chinese community of farmers. Knowing that I was his son, the Chinese operations, for whom I worked, immediately paid me the same wages as the others,, \$1.10 per day. They said I was too small to do a man's job, but I thought different.

My father left me on the same day he arrived, after he had made a brief report on the first revolutionary war. I did not know how to be sad or to shed tears at that moment as I had acted the same way to my mother, when I left her. It was a silent sadness for me to see my father leave me., for at my young age I should have had parents care, instead of living alone in a Foreign country, besides earning my own living. Unfortunately this was the last time my father was to ever talk to me. He left San Francisco, for Nanking, and brought, and took with him, some farming implements and machinery, for his farm.

After earning about thirty dollars, the three months of summer I returned back to school, with enough money for a year's expenses. Surprisingly to say, the Principal of the School put me in low fourth grade instead of high third. I never missed one word in spelling, or any problem in arithmetic, for the whole term., and was promoted to low fifth instead of high fourth.

I stayed in this grade for over two months, ^{ONE DAY,} the Principal, ^{MR. CLARK,} came to talk to our teacher concerning me. So, the following week I was promoted to low sixth. It was again on account of my perfect spelling, and the speed in arithmetic. ^{IN THE SIXTH GRADE,} I was the speediest one in the class for adding a single column of figures. One day my teacher announced to the class, that she had taught in the same class for fifteen years and had never seen anyone like me.

Toward the end of the term our class challenged the high sixth for the Championship of the school. Fortunately, I beat the girl who was a defending Champ, and our class won the pennant that was given by the Principal. The score was 22 to 21. ~~Later score tied, until~~ ^{So} I beat the best one. Friends and classmates were curious about how I could add that fast. I demonstrated in Churches, Y.M.C. A., and Schools whenever they invited me to do so. Throughout all the years I must have demonstrated hundreds of times.

Few years ago my classmate Mr. Paul L. Haager, '27, came to San Francisco to see me after ~~thirty~~ thirty-six years. The first thing that he wanted ~~was for~~ me to do was to add a column of figures, and I did. He said I still had my 'touch'.

It was before my father went back to Nanking, Yuen Shi-Kai, formerly a Premier to the dethroned King, Shen Tung, ~~of whom~~ was ~~about~~ three years old, wanted to proclaim himself as King of China. It was an opposition to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen who was the first President of the Republic of China. The Governor of Nanking ^{General} ~~General~~ Chang Shien, a strong supporter of Y uen Shi-Kai, kept a watchful eye on my father. Thus, he denounced my father as a conspiracy of the third revolutionist against Yuen Shi-Kai. One evening in August, 1914, General Chang Shien sent fifty soldiers with a warrant to arrest my father.

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The soldiers besieged the farmhouse and took my father away, leaving my mother and my two brothers behind with, ~~unprecedented~~ ^{UNPRECEDENTED} fear. Friends of my father's in Nanking immediately took action to help him by presenting petitions to General Chang Shien. General Shien ignored all the petitions. My father's indictment was to be beheaded by order of General Chang Shien. Then a final petition was led by an ardent American friend of my father, whose name was Dr. Bailey, together with a group of prominent American Chinese overseas. Dr. Bailey was at that time a Professor of Agriculture and Mathematics at Ginling University of Nanking. With this final petition, my father was acquitted, after he had suffered severely from torturing.

Dr. Bailey lived and taught Schools for more than fifteen years in China at the time he knew my father. All his children were born and raised there. After my father was out ~~out~~ ^{OF} jail, Dr. Bailey came to Berkeley to look for me, after my father told him that I was there. He found me in the Church. The next day he invited me to his place and sadly told me, while his eyes were wet with tears, about my father being tied to a post for fifteen days in the jail supposedly to be beheaded if the last petition was not accepted. He advised me to stay in school, and furthermore he would go to some Churches to raise money for me instead of taking a school job because he thought that

I was too small to work. I thanked him for his thoughtfulness, but I was strongly declined on his help. In turn he accepted this.

My father immediately went to join Dr. Sun Yat-Sen in Japan for the third revolution against Yuen Shi-Kai after he was acquitted in Nanking, in 1914. I received his last letter from Tokyo, Japan, telling me to leave School and to earn money to send home to support my mother. He further said that if he could succeed this time, I would have a chance to continue my schooling. I was too young to know how to make any decision, but I had to obey his orders. So I left School in the middle of the term., and found a job in a large cafeteria in Berkeley by doing the kitchen chores. The pay was low and I was hardly able to save enough money to send home. In the mean time, I kept up my study by taking lessons from a private tutor.

It was in the winter of 1914, there was a special column of news in all of the San Francisco Chinese newspapers, saying that General Lee Kay, my father, was killed by a bomb during a fierce combat between the third revolutionists and the Yuen Shi-Kai's army in Toi Shan, Kwangtung Province. At first, I did not believe it, but later a friend of my fathers' came and told me it was true. This was unbearable sad news for me, and for my folks at home. This might mean the end of my education in this country. I would have to return home without knowledge, and no accomplishments, and thus no future for me. I read further in newspapers how his comrades, sat at his side and heard his last mumbled words, while he was in great agony from wounds, saying, " I have a son in America."

I recalled my last ~~visit~~^{MEETING} with him, at the summer ranch, on his final return to China. In later years, his history was officially recognized by the Komingtany Party of the National Government with distinguished honors, as one of the heroes, who had sacrificed his life for the Republic of China. He died at the age of forty-two, with a General's title.

Under the tutorship of the private coach for the year I was working in cafeteria, I learned mathematics, American History and English, in seventh and eighth grade's standings. Since I was unable to earn enough money to send to my mother in China, I decided to return to school. I wrote to my mother about this, and she agreed with me, that an education was essential for my future. I refused to enter either the seventh or the eighth grade. Instead, I wanted to enter the first year of High School. So I went to the Board of Education to inquire as to how, I could do this, without a Grammar school diploma. I found I had to take the required examination. There were six persons, including myself, taking this examination, and I passed. By permission, I was entitled to be a first year High School student. Finding the examination not too hard, especially in mathematics, I made an audacious attempt to go to the Board of Education again, for permission to enter second year of High School instead of the first. They agreed, but another examination had to be passed. This time they let me take Algebra and English only., and ^{AGAIN} I passed.

1914-

This time they sent ^{me} to Berkeley High, as a second ~~grade~~ ^{YEAR} student., in 1918. In the school, I participated in Baseball, Football and in Basketball. After my second year, my mother insisted on me sending money home again, because the fruit store, that my elder brother had, went out of business. So again, I had to quit school to fulfill my mother's expectations.

I found a job in a boarding house in Berkeley as a kitchen helper. The boarding house was run by a ^{SCHOLARLY} ~~schollary~~ lady by name of Miss Aldelaid Smith, a Wellesley College graduate. The boarders were all High School lady teachers. Miss Smith was a principal and teacher of her own private School of High School standing. She taught mathematics, and her classmate at Wellesley, a Miss Maud S. Severance taught French, Latin and English.

One day, Miss Smith asked me why I was not attending school. I explained ^{TO HER IN} details, ^{IN THE MEANTIME,} and she helped me on Math, while Miss Severance taught me English. So in 1920, I prepared to go back to school again, after I had sent a little money home. I explained to Miss Smith I could only work part time for her, ^{IF I EVER WANTED} to return to school. She agreed with me.

Instead of re-entering Berkeley High as a Junior, they admitted me as a Senior in University High in Oakland, California. I had a heavy schedule, taking Civics, Economics, Analytical Geometry, Physics and Chemistry. Miss Smith was very kind to me and treated me like her own people, and helped me whenever I needed help in my lessons. Later, I told her about my father, and who he was. This brought to her mind ^{THAT SHE ONCE GAVE} piano lessons to a Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's daughter.

In spite of the heavy schedule in my Senior year at the University High, I managed very well with every subject, except Civics, which I must pass in order to graduate. Knowing that I was unable to make the grade in Civics, I might as well quit my schooling there. It was not exactly that I did not know the subject well, but I blamed the teacher who failed me. Consequently I left school a month before graduation. I told this to Miss Smith, and that I would quit school. She was astonished, and strongly objected of my decision., and asked me what I had planned to do. Then I told her I would go back to work on the farm to earn money to send to my mother. She stymied me from leaving her for she needed my help in the kitchen. So she helped me to prepare to take the State Board Examination for entering University of California. I admitted to her, that it would be very difficult for me to pass sixteen High School subjects including a foreign language of German., However, she said she had confidence in me, especially the mathematics. So I took the examination, and fortunately passed all the subjects except Civics. In spite of this, I was admitted as a Freshman. I took agriculture as my major. After a year, I transferred to Mechanical Engineering, because I thought engineering would be a better future. Being a self-supported student, I forced myself to take less units than other students.

During the year of 1922, when I was a Sophomore, a Government Scholarship was given to me by the Governor of Kwangtung Province, in China. This scholarship was given to me, because I was a son of a Revolutionist,, and arranged by my elder brother, who was the Magistrate of Yan Chun at that time. I was supposed to receive in U. S. dollars, \$100.00 per month for four years, however, I never received this money because of the internal political situation in Canton, ^{WAS SO UNCERTAIN,} and the many changes of Governors during this period.

Dr. Bailey returned to American, from Ghina, and searched for me in Berkeley, ~~since~~ ^{AFTER} not seeing me since Grammar School. This time he met me when I was a Junion in the University . He gave me some ingenious advice to leave the University, and the kitchen chores, and ^{TO} enter Marquette University in Milwaukee where I could absorb more experience , by attending a Co-operative Institution. He advised that many Chinese students had returned home, with high scholastic standings, but often found themselves in lack of practical experience. So he arranged for me to work with the Worthington Pump Manufacturing Company in Cudahy, near Milwaukee, and at the same time attend Marquette University.

I took Dr. Bailey's advice and left the University of California, and Miss Smith in January 1924, for Milwaukee. Found a room in the Y. M. C. A., and immediately contacted the Worthington Company., and the next day, to the Marquette University for Registration.

The Dean advised me that I could only enter as a Sophomore instead of a Junior as I had been at U. C. ~~California~~. There were four Sophomore subjects that I had to make up in order to be a Junior, such as English, Economics, and such subject were not required for Engineering students at U. C. So I decided not to register for I could not afford to spend an extra year there, as that would mean a year's expenses for me. So I wrote to Dr. Bailey about this situation. In about a month he sent me a recommendation letter to go to the Cleveland Automobile Manufacturing Co., in Cleveland, Ohio, where he had arranged for me to work as a training student. At this same time, I was told that Dr. Baily, had also recommended eighty Chinese college graduates in this country to take this same training, at the Ford Automobile Mfg. Co, in Detroit, Michigan., He ~~was~~^{was} a well-known friend to the Chinese students in this country., altho he considered me his best friend, due to my father, besides saving my father's life in Nanking.

I was unable at this time to except this training job in Cleveland, due to lack of money, so I found a job in a large Chinese Resturant in Milwaukee, ^{AS A BUYER} and worked there for two months, then left in March 1924, for Cleveland, living in YMCA there. Reported to work at the automobile factory immediately., with full intention of finding a College to complete my courses in Engineering. 19

One day, when there was no work, I went to the Cleveland Public Library to look through some Bulletins on the various Universities.

When I picked up the Ohio Northern University Bulletin, I read the entire engineering curriculum, and found it to be the right University for me, to continue my education without any loss of time. I sent in my application to this College, and shortly received a reply of acceptance as a Junior., in Engineering. This made me very happy knowing that at last I would be able to secure education in the field needed, and finish my higher education.

In August 1924, I arrived in Ada, where this college was, and immediately registered. There were four other Chinese students all of whom were in the College of Engineering., and I was the only Junior, they were Seniors.

During my schooling, I lost no time joining the Freshman Football Team. The people enjoyed watching Chinese play football. Dr. Thomas Smull took a great interest in me in sports, because he, himself, made his fame for Northern, as a great athlete. When Basketball season came, I went out for that, too. So I earned my numerals in the sports that I participated in.

In the meantime, I wrote to Dr. Bailey that I was attending the Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio, that I needed work, as my money was exhausted. Again I received a favorable reply recommending with an enclosed letter to Willys -Overland Auto Co., in Toledo, where he had made all arrangements for me to work as a training student. So, I left Northern, after only three quarters, and reported to work. I found four other Chinese in this training jobs, of whom were recommended by Dr. Bailey.

I worked through-out the whole plant, the assembly line, and then on to testing of engines. Back and forth to school and work.

In the ~~summer~~^{Spring} quarter of 1926, I played on the Varsity Baseball Team in which Professor ~~Meredith~~^(?) ~~Meredith~~^{Roderick} was the coach. He assigned me the honor of pitching in the game against Ashland College, in dedicating of a new Baseball diamond in the West Field of the Campus. We won that game in eleven innings by a score of 2 to 1. Coach ~~Meredith~~^{Roderick}, Dr. Newton and Dr. Smull were at the game, and they were elated through out. In fact, it was one of THE best games that I had ever pitched.

In my High school days, I was the only pitcher for five years on a Chinese Baseball Team in America, which was organized in San Francisco. We played and I pitched against some of the fast Semi-pro teams in California. The team disbanded after I left California. In Toledo, I pitched for several Class "A" sandlot teams. In 1928-29, I coached a Semi-Pro Football Team of the Federation League, named Sugar Bowl. I suppose I was the only Chinese who~~ever~~ coached a Semi-Pro Football in America. In Toledo, I was quite popular among the sport fans.

In my last Winter Quarter of 1926-1927, I was absolutely broke, and I was unable to pay my tuition for that Quarter.

Mr. Smith, the Treasurer, knew of my financial condition, and he permitted me to pay in deferred payments and for which I did. There was one subject in the Engineering curriculum which was given only once a year, that I had to take in that Quarter, before my graduation with class of 1927. Had I not of taking it at that time, I would have to wait for another year which would mean both time and money. I was so poor then, that I could only afford to spend thirty cents a day for my meals. I would eat only soup and crackers, in a little hideaway resturant, and was very weak. In spite of the hardship, I passed all the subjects that I took.

I left the Campus for Toledo again for continuing my training with Willys-Overland, right after the winter Quarter, of which was my last scholastic year at the Ohio Northern University.

It was in June 1927, when I took a day off from my work to attend the graduation ceremony. This occasion was a life time thrill to me for receiving my Engineering Degree from the great Ohio Northern University. When President Dr. Smith was conferring the Degree to me, the hidden tears in my eyes seemed to give me the reluctant feeling of leaving my Alma Mater. I was happy, proud and thankful as much as I was sad at that very moment. I thought back to all those years of struggle for a higher education, that finally ended at the Ohio Northern University. After Commencement was over, every graduate had his or her parents gathered together in congratulating one another. ~~I looked~~

I looked around, as I stood in front of the Lehr Building, alone, when suddenly a young lady approached me and said, " May I take your picture?" I stood there with my diploma in my hands, while she took my picture. (I still have that picture in my Album) Thirty-eight years later I learned that one of my classmates, Mr. Paul L. Hoager, asked that the young lady ^{to} take my picture. Before I left Ada, I bid good-bye to all acquaintances; and especially Professor Ivor S. Campbell, and Dr. Thomas Smull. Then I took a last glance at the Campus and hurriedly boarded the bus for Lima, and from there to Toledo.

Returning to Willey's-Overland, they shifted me to Pontiac, Michigan, with Wilson Machinery & Foundry Co., where I was assigned to do the repairing work on the Willy's Knight engines. Later I did the testing on these same engines. Six months later, they sent me back to Toledo again., and this time was assigned as Foreman on the assembling line as my last lap of work with Willy's-Overland, after three years of training.

After obtaining my education, training, work and enjoyment in the United States for seventeen years, I prepared to return to my home in China, in January 1929. Arrived in Seattle, taking my ship, American Lines, to Hong Kong. Prior to my departure in Toledo, both fo the International Harvester Co., of Chicago, and the Reo of Flint, Michigan, offered me jobs, ~~after reading the wonderful write-ups in the Toledo Blade newspaper.~~, but of course, I had to refuse, because my folks expected me home.

As the Steamer pulled out of Seattle pier, I was thinking of the seventeen years, I had spent in the wonderful country of the Land of Liberty, and I took my last look at America. After 21 days, at sea, I arrived in Hong Kong on January 25, 1929. While waiting on the Pier for my luggage, a man came to me, and introduced himself as one of my relatives. His name was Chan Kong ~~Yan~~^{YEU} Then he introduced me to my sister-in-law, her children, my younger brother, and another young lady, a Mrs. Poon, a friend of my family. I could not recognize any of them, and my younger brother was a baby in my mother's arms, and my elder brother was not yet married, before I went to America. Everyone was very happy, as we took a river boat to Canton, arriving the following morning. My mother patiently waiting at the door, tears flowing from her rosy cheeks, and I trying to hide mine. My elder brother and family lived with my mother.

Ha, My elder brother was the Magistrate of Yang Chun, ^{AT THAT TIME} which was far away from Canton.

At last! I came home with triumph, a worthy son, with a Degree of learning from America. My mother and sister-in-law prepared a big welcome dinner that night, with invited neighbors. After dinner, I told my folks and friends how I went through all the past years in America, especially mending my own socks and buttons on my coats. My mother listened intently and occasionally she brushed away her tears, and smiled thru them.

The following morning, while I was still in bed, Dr. Ne Pak Leume , a City Council called on me, bringing with him an appointment from the Mayor of the City, ^{FOR ME} to work as the city Engineer. I was ~~supremely~~ ^{EXTREMELY} surprised to have a job without any effort, especially when I had never met the Mayor ^{BEFORE}. My salary was stipulated on the appointment as \$300.00 per month. My mother thought I should receive more than this., due to my education abroad, in America. However, as for me, I was more than satisfied with this amount to begin with.

The following morning, I went to see our Mayor in the Municipal Building. He greeted me kindly and joyfully. He told me how he had learned of my coming back to China, through a Mr. Kuo Ying-Fun, who was the Chief Staff of the Central Government.

Incidentally, Mr. Kuo took the same steamer from Shanghai to Hong Kong he and his secretary were in First Class Cabin, while I was in the Third Class. After I had arrived in Hong Kong, his secretary a Mr. Luk, a former colleague of my father, met Mr. Chan Kong Yet on the street., and related the news to Mr. Kuo Ying-Fun.

Mr. Kuo a highly educated man and was also a revolutionist of Note, although he did not directly participate in the combat of any war, as my father had. Mr. Kuo spoke highly of me, and told me that he would get a private tutor to teach me the Chinese Literature. I declined this offer. Then he talked of my father and how my father left him one evening , to join the battle front in which my father was a General.

*Continued
Jan 1972*

Since I had never met the Mayor before, my introduction to him as an Engineer could have been Mr. Kuo's influence, because he, Mr. Kuo, was the backer of the Mayor. The Mayor and I held a lengthy conversation, mostly concerning my education and experience., and that I had come back just in right time. He told me he graduated at the Syracuse University, in America, Class of 1916, and majored in Political Science, via a Scholarship through the Government. During the first Revolutionary War in Canton on March 29, he was indirectly helped the Revolutionists. After he returned from America, he was immediately joined with Dr. Sun Yat-Sen for unifying China., and held a high position in Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's Headquarters. Copy 1/6

The Mayor's name was ^{Mr} Lin Wan-Koi, a man of forty-five. He was very popular as a Mayor, because he was honest and eager to work for the good of the people by building new industries. He strongly defied and reproached those for avarice in his administration. His position as a Mayor, was appointed by the President of China. This was his second year. He knew my brother, and was one of the supporters on my brother's position as a Magistrate. He explained to me the engineering work I had to do, in the City Waterworks, which was recently taken over by the Municipal Government, two months ago. Everything in the Waterworks, needed improvement. I was one of the engineers, with three Commissioners in charge. The Chief engineer was a graduate of Purdue University in America.

1929

During my work there, I made frequent reports, to our Mayor in person, as he instructed me to. I reported the waste of coal from the poor method of firing in the boilers; and the waste of labor in general. He told me of the poor management ^{OF THE FORMER COMPANY} that caused bankruptcy, and could not fulfill the City Government requirements, to improve both the quality and quantity of the water.

The daily analysis of the City water made by the Public Health Department, demanded my attention. Death rate from typhoid was very high. To improve and remedy this, chlorine gas should be used to kill the typhoid germs in the water, so my first steps were for this improvement. Shortly we installed the chlorine system, and the rate of death was gradually reduced, as was reported.

For years there was never enough water to supply the entire city, only enough for each district by turn. The population of the city at that time, was about 900,000. Consequently, I suggested to our Mayor to build a new rapid sand filter plant along side of the existing old type slow sand filters. I estimated we needed a plant to produce 2,000,000 gallons of pure water per day. The Mayor sanctioned my plan, and thru the Municipal Purchasing Department, the machines for the new Plant, were bought from England.

In three months time, I was promoted to Chief Engineer. That was not all, at the same time, I was also promoted as one of the three Commissioners for one of them, ~~was~~ ^{was} shifted to another Department to make room for me. I was then holding two

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positions at the same time. The Mayor also appointed me as the Chief Engineer and Commissioner of the Municipal Bus Dept. So I was busy with four jobs on hand. I spent most of my time doing the surveying work for the new waterworks, and at same time making improvements on the existing one. I surveyed for the correct location for laying the new main pipe line from the plant to the water tower.

In spite of all the engineering work, I had to do on hand, I thought I could do something more for the young people, especially those who had no chance to go to College, by opening a Technical School, like those that existed in America. First of all, I had gathered seven of my colleagues, who were willing to teach, on the side. They were graduated from Purdue, University of California, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio State, M. I.T., Tri-State and Cornell. With this help, I decided to open the school in a week's time, and the enrollment began. It was a night school, commencing from seven to ten o'clock. I named the school "Canton School of Engineering." I was the Founder, Principal, and teacher. Together with other teachers, we offered regular curriculums for both mechanical and Civil Engineering in a three year course. I rented a total of six floors of a newly built building for our class rooms. To my surprise, 125 students enrolled, in spite of only one week's advertisement. Mechanical Engineering students could have their training at the Waterworks machine shop; while

Civil Engineering students could help the surveying work for the new waterworks.

Our ~~new~~ Mayor heard of ~~school~~^{IT} and praised me for opening this School, and donated some equipments.

In 1930, the City of Canton changed it's ranking by the Central Government from an ordinary Municipality to a special one. This is what our Mayor had been fighting for, from the Politicians in the Central Government. The Mayor's rank and all the Directors of the Municipality were automatically elevated to higher ranks. The Mayor, surprising^{ly} to say, recommended me to the Central Government for the appointment from the President, as the Director of the Canton Municipal Public Utilities. I was the youngest man to ever hold a high position as this. I took the office, March 1930, just about a year after returning from America. The Public Utilities governed the Public Telephone, Electric and Power, and of course the Waterworks., plus the City Buses, Vehicles, Licences of Drivers, Street Lights, Street Advertisements, and Examining Vehicles., and etc.

A year later, the New Waterworks, about completed, the Mayor gave orders to change the form of the Administration, to having a Manager, instead of three Commissioners. Many of these Commission tried to get this position of General Manager of the Waterworks., however, he, the Mayor appointed me to take it. By^{THE} end of 1931, the new Waterworks was completed, with a supply of 10,000,000 gallons of pure water per day. The Mayor was very proud of his selection of mandating me to complete it in due time.

Before the new Waterworks was built, water could only go up as high as four-~~storey~~^{STOREY} buildings. Now, it could reach up twelve-storey-buildings, and there was no shortage of water any more.

During this time, I thought it was worthwhile for my Alma Mater to know what I had been doing by utilizing my engineering knowledge which I had obtained from the Ohio Northern University. I wrote a thesis with complete layout of the new Waterworks in hope of receiving a Professional Degree in Mechanical Engineer from my Alma Mater. The said Degree was mailed to me in 1932, after my thesis was approved. With this Degree, my moral courage was even higher, as a 'go-getter'.

In 1930, the President of the Kwangtung College of Technology appointed me as a part time Professor. I accepted the position because the location of the College was within walking distance from the Waterworks. I taught Hydraulics and Hydraulic Machinery.

In 1932, after a long period of controversy over the inefficiency of the City Electric and Power Company, the Mayor finally decided to take it over for the same reason as he did to the Waterworks Company. The name of the Company was changed to 'Municipal Electric and Power, and it was in charge by four Commissioners appointed by the Mayor, and I was one of the Commissioners. In 1933, the Commissioner form of Administration was changed to General Managership. There were more politicians fighting for this position because it was a large Organization. To my surprise, the Mayor appointed me as the General Manager.

I was able to manage all the positions at the same time, such as Director of the Municipal Public Utilities; Member of the Municipal Council; General Manager of the Municipal Waterworks; General Manager of the Municipal Electric and Power; Principal of

the Canton School of Engineering; Professor of Kwangtung College of Technology. I was really as busy as a bee. I had to go all those places except Sunday. In the Municipal Council, the Mayor was the Chairman, and all the six Directors of the Municipality were automatically Councils. At that time, I was the youngest Director of them all.

I never ^{FORGOT} the sports, too. In 1931, I organized and coached an American Football Team, and also as a player, that played in Canton for the first time in history. We played all three games with the famous Lingnam University. My purpose was to show the public how the American Football was played. I paid \$1,500.00 for the cost of the two complete teams' uniforms which were bought and shipped from America. It was the biggest crowd ever witnessed a football game. I also organized Basketball and Baseball League in the City, and I contributed many trophies in my name to the winners. I also played Basketball and I did some pitching too.

In 1933, the Mayor, Mr. Lin yan-koi, was elevated as the Governor of Kwangtung, and its Capital was in Canton. A new Mayor, Mr. Ching Tin-Kuo was appointed. He was a graduate of University of California. He changed four of the six Directors, but I remained the same. He was Mayor for only nine months. Then another new Mayor, Mr. Liu Chi-Wen, took the Office who was closely related with Mr. Kuo Yin-Fun. Mr. Liu Chi-Wen had resigned his position as Mayor in Nanking, the Capital of China, to come to Canton as Mayor. I again held my positions as usual. Therefore, I was the only Director who served under three different Mayors while all other Directors were replaced.

One day, the Governor, Mr. Lin Wan-Koi, called me to his Office for a general discussion as to recruiting more engineers for the Provincial Reconstruction Department, ^{WHICH WAS} under his supervision. This Department covered Highways, Bridges, Dams, Hydro-Electric Power Plants, Factories, etc. Most of the engineers in the Re-
construction Department were recommended by me. At the same time, we discussed putting an automobile assembling plant in Canton, because I had had the training in this line. He agreed and wanted ^{ME} to write to Willey's-Overland in Toledo, Ohio. I followed his instruction and wrote a lengthy letter explaining our interest in opening a Plant. After exchanging of many letters, the Vice-President

of the Toledo plant, suddenly arrived in Hong Kong. During this particular time, Canton, was affected by the Military turmoil from the neighboring Province of Kwangsi. He sent me a telegram from Hong Kong, asking me whether it was advisable for him to go to Canton at this critical time. I immediately took the telegram to the Governor for further advice. This advice was for the VICE-President of Toledo plant, to remain in Hong Kong for a while. Instead of waiting, he made a trip to the Philippine Islands., while ^{HE WAS} there, Willey's died in Europe, so our plan was dissolved.

Governor, Lin Wan-Koi with his untired efforts, made the City of Canton into a modern industrial center of the Kwangtung Province. In three years' time, under his administration, there were seven newly established large factories and plants operated and owned by the Government. These plants consisted of Sulphuric Acid;, Caustic Soda, Cement plants, Gasoline Distillation, Iron and Steel; Beverage Brewery and textile. The Governor appointed me as one of the three Directors, of the Cement Plant, ^{IN ORDER} to control THE production of all the plants, ^{HE} organized ^A Kwangtung Provincial Enterprises Commissions. I was to take charge of the technical departments of all these plants. During this period of holding seven jobs already, I had to work on Sundays, as the Plants were on non-stop operations. There was one more Plant Governor wanted, it was the Charcoal Producer Plant. So once again, he called me to his office and asked me to design a charcoal producer for

generating the charcoal gas to run automobile engines, using as a substitution for gasoline. I hesitated this offer due to the many accessories to be put into such a generator. I had heard of the charcoal used to run automobiles during the first World War, in France or Italy. Finally, I looked up the Books in Chemistry that I had in my private library, and studied the nature of the gas that could be produced from charcoal. The next step was to apply my knowledge from the mechanical point of view. The first design ~~It produced~~ ^{WAS} failed to produce the kind ^d of gas and finally ~~after~~ the twelfth one, was ^A successful ^{ONE}. I had only time ^{DO THE} to test in workshop at night, and had several engineers to test for me. Then the design of Carburetor which took me some time to think, ~~one~~ ^{BUT THE FIRST ONE}, turned out to be ~~the original~~ ^{A SUCCESSFUL} one.

I borrowed a city bus, and installed the complete unit of the charcoal producer to make the gasoline engine run. On level road, when the bus was loaded with 40 adults, it could maintain a maximum speed of 60 miles per hour. With the same load, it could go 8 miles per hour on a 15% grade of slope, which was quite a feat. The results of these tests were widely published by the City newspapers. My name was known all over. I sent a Model of it to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in New York. They in turn put it in the N. Y. Scientific Library for display, and at the same time they published it briefly in the A.S. M. E. Magazine

Shortly afterward, I received letters from Czechoslovakia and Italy, asking for the complete design of My Charcoal Producer.

The Governor, Mr. Lin Yan-Kor, was greatly ~~impressed~~ ^{ADMIRED} over my success, and he gave me a citation for this invention, and gave me also, \$20,000.00 from the Provincial Government of Kwangtung. Later, the complete Charcoal Producer was patented in the Ministry of Economics.

After all the fabulous excitement of the Charcoal gas run automobile was over, there was still another, I had always wanted to design. A small air-cooled 4-Cylinder gasoline engine that would run a small two passenger car. So, I worked on it day and night in my spare time for a year and a half. When I put the engine on test for the first time, I never thought that it could run. ~~Yes~~ I was proud of this new ^{ENGINE FOR IT WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY ME} ~~invention~~, and I claimed it was the first engine of this kind in China. However, later I lost ^{ALL} the calculations and blue prints, ^{AND THE ENGINE TO} ~~by~~ the Japanese soldiers, when they invaded Canton. All I have left, is an original photographed picture of this engine.

In 1935, Governor Lin Yan-Koi, ordered the Reconstruction Department to build a factory for the mass production of My Charcoal Producer, and it's accessories. The Provincial Government would give me 4% of the selling price on every Producer sold as my royalty.

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A few months before the Japanese invaded Canton, in the year of 1935, Governor Lin Wan-Koi was elevated to a position by the President of China, Mr. Lin Sum, as the Minister of the Ministry of Audits in Nanking. When he left Canton to take up his new post, he asked me to go along. As a Mayor, he had done more for the people than the preceding Mayor; and as a Governor, he built more plants and productive factories., than any Governor in the Country. He deserved to be of his meritorious work during both of his administrations in Canton. Personally, he gave me the credit for helping him on the engineering side. All the posts that I held at that time, were appointed and supported by him. He, ^{WAS} ~~being~~ my superior, ^{AND} I thoroughly enjoyed my work for seven years in the Municipality. The position of a Minister in China, was similar to that of the Secretary of State in the United States. 193

In December 1930, Mayor Lin Wan-Koi, officiated our Wedding before a crowd of more than one thousand friends and colleagues in the largest Hotel in Canton. Our Wedding dinner was served to about one thousand persons. My wife was a Head Nurse of a Private Hospital before we were married. She graduated from a famous American operated Nurse School and Hospital in Canton.

~~After my wedding~~ ^{In 1936,} I quit all my positions in the Municipality for the work with the Ministry of Audits, Minister Lin Wan-Koi. My Engineering School was now in charge of ^{BY} one of the Trustees. 19

Minister Lin Wan-Koi appointed me as ~~an~~ ^{AN ENGINEERING} Specialist in the Engineering Auditing Department, without any rank to my name. As a rule, a person must be a high ranking official before, in order to become A Specialist. Minister Lin Wan-Koi believed that I had to work myself up, because it was a new position for me.

Then in 1936, the political situation seemed gloomy for us, when the Japanese soldiers began to invade China. When the enemy was getting closer to Nanking, all the Central Government Departments were ordered to move to Chungking, a war time Capitol. Chungking is one of the largest cities in the Province of SZetsin, which is located in the North-west part of China, and is the largest Province. Because of the transportation difficulties, only those of the high officials could move to this city. Under such circumstances, Minister advised me not to go with him until further notification. 143

My wife and I decided to move to Hong Kong, and wait and see what this situation would be, instead of moving back to Canton, as the Japanese army would eventually invade that city anyway. We had no chance to take any of our belongings before leaving Nanking, except little personal things. Naturally, all the calculations and blue prints for the design of my air-cooled gasoline engine, and furniture, were left behind.

We safely arrived in Hong Kong after a lengthy waiting for transportation from Shanghai. It was my first time without work, since my return from America, seven years ago. 1936

During the time we were in Hong Kong, I wrote a pocket-size book in Chinese on "How to Detect Troubles and Repairs of Automobiles." It was published and sold in Hong Kong and in China.

In six months, I received a letter from Minister Lin Wan-Koi in Chungking asking me to return to my work for the Ministry. Once again we packed our small belongings, took the Steamship from Hong Kong to Haiphong, and from there we traveled by truck or bus whichever we could get hold of. Transportation was bad at that time, nothing was certain. As we went along, we had to be alert when the Japanese bombers were above our heads. Sometimes, we had to dodge here and there for cover. After our dangerous trip, we arrived in Chungking.

While making this trip, I saw many of trucks and buses running on the highways with the installations of my Charcoal Producers. This made me very proud, especially at this time of need. When we were reaching the outskirts of Chungking, about 6 o'clock in the morning, we met the air-raid. It was extremely difficult to find a place to live. We decided to stay at the Y.M.C. A, located outside of Chungking, because it was safer. 1936-3

I reported to Minister Lin Wan-Koi, and he advised us to move into the city. This was very advisable, as the YMCA was bombed, and several other places we had lived, also, after of leaving.

Finding it hard to locate a decent place to live, I decided to build a small house of our own within the compound of the Ministry, of which was granted by permission by the Ministry. ~~THE~~ ^{THE} compound composed of office building, staff quarters, a fish pond and a small forest, making the place look scenic. We began to build our small house along the edge of the fish pond. we sued We used one foot depth of rice straw for the roof, for the purpose of holding the debris from bombings.

A month later the Ministry of Communications, sent a representative, of the high ranking official to ask me to teach automobile design, automobile driving, and repairs in their ~~WAR~~ ^{WARTIME} training school and workshop. The man said they had bought my pocket-size automobile repairing books, and knew that I was in town. I told him that as yet, we didn't have a place to live, as our house, wasn't finished, and he said he would take care of us, by building us a house in the area of compound of the training school, however, we decided to remain building our own house.

The students who had College Engineering knowledge took the automobile designing course;, while the High School students took the repairing and driving courses. These students were given free lodging and free of any tuition., and I received only a small monthly allowance, as I was receiving my regular salary from the Ministry of Audits. There were five other teachers, besides me.

After a few months, there were about four hundred students who finished the driving course, and they were immediately employed by the Government. In the meantime, the Ministry of Communications appointed me to take charge of the driving and the repairing departments.

We moved finally in the small house, that they built for us, while our own house, we continued to build. Conveniently, the Ministry of Audits was only a block away from the Training School. Three months later, we moved into our completely finished house, and we were happy in this, as the School house was too small.

Air raids and bombings were getting heavier everyday, and we could not sit down steadily on our work. So one day, the entire compound of the School ground was bombed and the house we had lived in before, plus the repairing shops were all leveled to the ground. How lucky we were, for the house we had lived in was bombed, just ~~xx~~ after moving into our own. Several days later the Ministry of Audits also was severely bombed, and all the staff living quarters were swept into the fish pond; and the trees looked like a pompadour hair cut. Our new house was still standing, undamaged except the windows and the straw carpets inside, were gone, due to the vacuum incurred. However, the roof was intact, due to the rice straw absorbing the severe shock.

The Ministry of Audits ordered those who had families to move into the country side., which was ten miles from Chungking. I remained in our little house, while I had to move my family of three young children, Billy, Anna and Mabel, ^{AND MY WIFE} to a country house on a small hill full of pine trees. We obtained our water from a small creek at the foot of this hill. When there was heavy bombing in the city, I usually went home, to this house, on foot, after the bombing was over to see how my wife and children were getting along. In 1943, the enemy bombed the city and some of the country places, where my family lived for 7 days and seven nights, a non-stop mission. We slept in the dugouts, and had to sneak out to do our cooking.

In 1943, Minister Lin Wan-Koi had an intention to promote me for there was a rumor in the Ministry. He sent me with an accountant to the North-Western Provinces to inspect all the engineering projects which involved a large amount of budgets on Highways, The Yellow River Conservancy, Waterworks, Electric and Power, etc. It was not an easy trip, for we met air-raids all the way and we had to dodge for our lives. We returned to Chungking after six weeks of unpleasant trip. In spite of that, I saw two old historical places that I had never dreamed of seeing, the last gate of the "Great Wall of China", and ^{"1000 BUDDHISTS BUILT IN"} the "1000" caves of a small sandy hill. It was said that those temples were built

by the individual Buddhist Worshippers who passed through there.

A month later after I came back from the inspection trip, Minister Lin Wan-Koi had recommended my name to the President, Lin Sum, for a new appointment for me in the Ministry as a Senior Auditor and concurrently the Director of the National Comptroller. The rank of this position was the second highest in the Central Government.

In 1944, my family moved back to the city to live, because there no bombing for nearly six months. We could buy meat to eat and build up our health a little bit after we were starved from not eating meat.

After suffering from that bloody war for eight long years, the war was finally ended in 1945. Then all the Central Government officers were ordered to move back to Nanking. I moved my office first, and then my family moved later.

In January, 1949, the Communists invaded Komingtang the National Government, making all of us look rather dismayed. We again ordered to move all the Central Government offices to Canton, as a temporary capitol. My family and I were glad to be in Canton again. I went to visit the Waterworks which looked just the same as before, and the top-shaped water tower of my idea situated on the top of a hill could be seen from afar, was also the same.

Knowing the National armies were rapidly retreating all the way, it would not be for long for the Communists to reach Canton. The Central Government offices were immediately reduced in the staffs to the minimum. I decided to move out of there. So I handed in ^{MY} resignation to our new Minister of Audits. My superior, Minister Lin Wan-Koi, suddenly died in his office in Nanking, just before the Communists started to invade Nanking.

In March 1949, I hurriedly moved my family from Canton to Hong Kong, without knowing what to do. We again lost everything, and we had no money on hand. Fortunately, our friends in Hong Kong let my family stay in their home temporarily, and had to sleep on the floor. The following days after our arrival in Hong Kong, I got a job from Manners Engineering Ltd., as an assistant manager. The general manager, a Mr. R. La Sala was an old friend of mine, when we were in Canton. He not only gave me a job, but he also gave me and my family an apartment to live in. Shortly afterward, he also ^{APPOINTED} ~~hired~~ me as the supervisor of the steel rolling mill in concurrent. I held those two positions for almost six years. Then the business went bad, and the best way for me to do, was to resign.

In 1955, a position was offered to me by the A. R. C. I. (The American Chinese Refugee Incorp.), as the Principal of the Great China English College. I took the position for only six months because the said Incorporation was run out of funds. Therefore it was ordered to close by the Head Office.

Two weeks later, a newly established private English High School which was owned by a friend of mine wanted me to teach Mathematics. In the mean time, the Christ's College wanted me to be their Principal. So I stopped teaching in my friend's School, and went to Christ's College as the Principal. Then in 1956, the Tak Ming English College wanted me as their Principal also. In order to take both Positions as principal at the same time, I divided my time in the morning at Christ's College, and in the afternoon, at Tak Ming English College. I also taught Physics and General Science in both Colleges. I was also a part time Professor at United College, and I taught Mechanical Drawing and Machine Design.

In Hong Kong, we learned that the United States had passed a new Refugee Act. To accept this golden opportunity, I intended to apply to bring my family to the United States. So in 1955, my application was filed in the Hong Kong American Consulate. We waited until 1958, when Miss Maud E. Severance who was once a teacher of Miss Adelaide Smith's School in Berkeley, strongly encouraged us to come over. At that time, she lived in Alhambra near Los Angeles, and she asked the Methodist Church there to sponsor us.

In 1959, we left Hong Kong for the United States by air through the aid of A.R.C.I. (American Refugee Chinese Incorp.). I gave up all the positions of the two English Colleges and the Professorship at the United College with the understanding that if I should return within six months they would keep the positions for me. The Head Office of the ARCI is in New York, and it is organized by the Founder of Dr. Walter Judd, Senator from the

State of Minnesota. Mr. Travis Fletcher was in full charge of the Office in Hong Kong, and he was very zealous in helping the Chinese Refugees.

We landed in San Francisco, as our destination, and I immediately began seeking employment along the engineering line. Only the Heald College in San Francisco of the Engineering Department offered me a Professorship to teach four subjects in all. There was one subject on Jigs and Fixtures design that I could not teach, therefore, I had to decline this offer. It was just after six months of searching for a position, and that I thought I would be forced to return to Hong Kong to continue my educational work as I did before. 195

One day, a local prominent Chinese of my senior, was willing to help me make a loan from a local Bank in order to buy a small liquor and cigar store for me to work instead of going back to Hong Kong. I accepted his kindness, because his father and my father and he and I were good old friends before. Of course, the kind of business was against my will, because I was brought up from Church, and I never smoked nor drank alcoholic beverage, and yet I had to sell them for a living.

Inspite of working sixteen hours a day, through out the year for over eight years, I lost no time in the store of doing other things, too. I spent nearly four and a half years on

my Physics Manuscript while I was on duty in the store. The Manuscript composed of 520 solved problems. It should be a good reference book for technical men. This was not all, I also wanted to create something else, worth while for other people to work on, which might help the Society. So, last year, I tried my ability to write several popular songs and they were selected and recorded by a New York song Publisher. The total cost for me for these recordings, together with the promotion, was about \$2,600.00. I am hoping in time, that my records will sell in large volume, so that I can give a portion to my Alma Mater as a gift.

In conclusion, I wish to look back to how my parents let me live alone in these United States, for seventeen years, of self-support, beginning as a child. I am thankful for my early back-ground in the early days in America, by living a Christian life., which gave me the strength , the determination, and the courage to make myself a worthy man. My last step of education of which I had proudly gone through, was at the Ohio Northern University. It was this Institution, that taught me to withstand hardships, serve humanity, and to lead me to the betterment of society. I am proud of my Alma Mater, and I always remember how to repay her, as the old Chinese sayings "Remember the source of the water, when you drink it."

All the achievements that I made from 1929 to 1936, such as the Charcoal Producer, and it's accessories to run gasoline

engines as a substitute for gasoline; and the air-cooled gasoline engine, were entirely out of my dreams. I designed the Charcoal Producer with no idea whether it would work or not, and the same for the air-cooled gasoline engine.

Though the achievements were small, the idea was enormous. To have something accomplished as a pioneer in that part of the Hemisphere, I should be proud of myself for being one of the sons grown up from the source of the Great Ohio Northern University.

Passing my acquired knowledge learned at Ohio Northern University, to my three children, has extended their interest in schooling. Bill, my son, has Degrees in Engineering, and my two daughters Anna and Mabel, both have ^{THEIR DEGREES IN} Business Administration.

- THE END -