

**VOICE OF  
GOM-BENN  
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窈窕婀娜



姗姗步出

時裝表演前的準備 ↑



美女華服  
相影輝



英文書記、副主席、主席講話時之態 ↓

春宴席中的一角 ↑





When the first restaurant got too small to accommodate his many customers, Bing and his wife, Ting, built their new establishment called Bing's Cathay Inn, also on Highland Avenue. They worked there from 1956 until his retirement in 1974.

In addition to being a restaurateur, Bing and some friends turned to the banking business. Together they formed and opened the American Security Bank in 1972. He was on the Board of Directors and sold his share of the partnership in 1981 so he can really enjoy his retirement.

Uncle Bing is a very civic-minded individual. Because San Bernardino has been so kind to him, he has also done a lot for that city. He donated a piece of property to San Bernardino for use as a city park and he has also formed a scholarship foundation for well-deserved students.

\* During the past year, the Gom-Benn Village Assn. had accomplished another project--that of raising money for the remodeling and refurbishing of the only school in Gom-Benn Village.

During one of the Bing Tew Wongs trips back to China, a discussion came up in the village that the school was in need of great repairs. One of the officials mentioned to the visitors to see what can be done to raise money for the school.

At one of the monthly meetings of the Assn., Bing Tew brought up the subject he had encountered in the village back home. The consensus of the Assn. members was that we put the question of the fund raising to a vote. The motion was passed and seconded that a drive be started to raise money for the school. And we are very happy to announce that the project has been very successful.

In the three to four short months since the drive started, we were able to collect over \$22,000 from the local Gom-Benn villagers. The Assn. itself donated \$10,000, making it a total of \$32,000 collected thus far. The money, since then, has been sent back to China to get the remodeling started.

At the present time, the school is a one-story building housing the first grade to the sixth grade. After the remodeling, they hope to have a three-story building to include the junior high classes. The ceilings in the present structure are very low and the floors are of natural material--dirt. They hope to enlarge the classrooms during the remodeling so that the ceilings would be higher and windows larger so that it would not be so hot during the summer. At the time the school was built years ago, they lacked money and building materials; hence, the school was built "just to get by."

\* Mr. Lui Wong and Mr. Tung D. Wong spent a lot of manhours going to the different residences and businesses of the former villagers for their contributions. Special thanks to these two men for their share of hard work as it is not always easy to find these people at home. And our heartiest congratulations to everyone of you who contributed to make this project a success.



\* Mr. and Mrs. Lui Wong added another grandchild to their family. Their son, Frank, and daughter-in-law, Joyce, became parents of a baby boy, Jonathon. A month-old party for Jonathan was held at the Kin Hing Restaurant in Alhambra on 11/14/82. Good food was enjoyed by everyone at the party.

\* And speaking of grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Wong claimed that title when their son and daughter-in-law presented them with a baby boy, Ryan Dereck, June '82. The grandparents had a month-old party at the recreation hall where Ryan's parents live.

\* Courtney Lisanne Wong, daughter of Ben and Debbie, made her debut into the world on 12/16/82. She tipped the scale at 7 lbs. 9 ozs. and made the Bing Tew Wongs grandparents for the third time. Her paternal great grandparents are the Hong Sam Wongs of Los Angeles and maternal great grandmother is Mrs. Chew of San Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Quon are Courtney's maternal grandparents from San Diego. Said Aunt Shirley: "I have waited 18 years to become an auntie again." And Aunt Margie said: "This is my first niece and I have waited a long time for her." A month-old baby banquet was held at the Golden Palace Restaurant for Courtney 2/6/83.

\* The Wing Yow Wongs took a trip to Washington, D. C., Boston and Chicago last autumn to visit friends and relatives. After visiting their many acquaintances on the east coast, their daughter, Sue, a famous designer for California Girl went on to Japan, Hong Kong and Hankow, China, to look at silk fabrics and other materials for her designing business. Her clothes are sold at Robinson, Bullock's, and Neiman Marcus.

\* Our annual Gom-Benn Chinese New Year's Banquet was held at the Miriwa Restaurant last March, 1982. The turn-out was tremendous and we want to thank Shirley Hoskin and Cindy Wong for a job well-done in recruiting models who modeled clothes designed by Sue Wong. We were certainly pleased with the way our models modeled those clothes. There were over 400 people who attended the banquet and enjoyed the fashion show and good food.

\* James Wong, son of Man Sang Wong, has been travelling through Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand and other parts of the Far East to gather information for forming his own jewelry designing business.

\* The father of Sun Yu Wong passed away in Los Angeles 10/30/82. Since the relatives of the deceased were all in China, the daughter and her husband took care of all the arrangements for the funeral and burial of her father at the Chinese Cemetery 11/6/82.

\* From the Inland Empire comes news that Bing S. Wong graduated from San Bernardino High School with an honorary degree on 6/17/82. Uncle Bing, as he is known to all of the local Gom-Benn people is what we can refer to as "local boy made good."

Bing came to the United States and San Bernardino City at the young age of 13. Shortly after his arrival, he started to work at the Yee Cafe as a dishwasher and busboy and went to school during the day. He had a total of three years of schooling before he ventured out on his own and owned and operated his first restaurant on Highland Avenue in 1940 until 1956. We can still remember Nancy and her little sisters using footstools to elevate themselves up to the kitchen sink to do the dishes.



\* Andrea Wong, daughter of the Bing Wongs of Los Angeles, is another college graduate during the past year. After her Dec. graduation from Cal State, L. A., in 1982, Andrea went to work at the Bushnell School for the Handicaps in Highland Park. She teaches grades 2 through 6. Good work, Andrea, as it takes a dedicated person to deal with handicapped children.

\* And Ken Wong, uncle of Andrea, and son of the Hong Sam Wongs of Los Angeles also graduated from college last summer. Ken is now working in computer science in an Orange County firm.

\* The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tung On Wong, Thelma Ann, became the bride of Randall Shelton Tong on 9/18/82 at the First Chinese Baptist Church. A reception was held at the Fellowship Hall immediately after the wedding and a banquet was enjoyed by all who witnessed the afternoon ceremony to watch Randall and Thelma become one at the Tai Hong Restaurant.

\* Hawaii seems to be the place to go "to get away from it all." Last March, the Ray Gins went back to Hawaii for the second time. They visited the islands of Oahu, Kuauai, Maui and the big island of Hawaii. They haven't been able to find the perfect month to go over there yet as it rained the whole time they were in the big island. Debbie and Ben went over there for the umpteenth time last year during their one-week vacation from the restaurant. And Lui Wong was also over there last July to visit his daughter.

\* Then, Mr. and Mrs. Bing Wong, along with their son, Arthur, and daughter, Andrea, also visited the islands. According to Leland, Arthur's and Andrea's brother, "after babysitting these kids, they need a vacation" referring to his and Dorothy's two children, Dorenda and Erik.

\* While he was in a vacation mood, Lui Wong went on a tour to Taiwan with some of his friends. This was his first trip to Taiwan since he left China to come to the United States. He used to be in the Chinese Air Force during the China-Japan War. While there, he looked up some of his buddies and was shown different areas of Taiwan. Then he rented a car and went cruising around that island.

\* Mr. and Mrs. Bing Tew Wong of West Covina went back to China and their home village for the fourth time last September. They left Los Angeles on 9/15/82 for a two-week vacation to their native land and were in Gom-Benn Village on 9/25/82 for three days. They left Gom-Benn for Canton to accompany Debbie's parents, aunts and uncles who were also in China to visit their own village. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Quon (Debbie's folks) Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wong and Mr. and Mrs. Roland Lim were happy they had an opportunity to visit the house they lived in briefly before they migrated to the United States.

\* Last summer, our Assn. President, Karl Lee, went on a business trip to Hong Kong. While there, he took the opportunity to return to Gom-Benn Village for a four-hour visit. He also visited his old school where he was a principal in the early fifties. There are quite a few of Karl's old students now residing in the Los Angeles area.



Did you know that Mrs. Joyce Wong, wife of Y. H. Wong, and daughter-in-law of the Lui Wongs, is not only a full-time housewife and mother, but she is quite fluent in the English language as well. Thanks to Joyce, we were able to get alot of the translating from the Chinese language to English for our Gom-Sing Magazine last year. There is a deadline we have to meet for publication of our magazine and she did a tremendous job for us. We understand she also translates for some of the firms in Chinatown.

\* Speaking of the Gom-Sing Magazine, which first issue started in 1933 back in the Gom-Benn Village, these magazines go to different parts of the United States where there are former villagers residing, and into Canada and to Hong Kong. These people look forward year after year to receiving these magazines to keep them abreast of the comings and goings from within the Assn. and also of their local cousins. That is one of the reasons we like you young people to send in articles which you might want to share with your cousins.

\* On July 18, 1982 the Wong Family Benevolent Assn. celebrated the 31st anniversary of their moving to their own building at its present site. Refreshments were served to all who attended the anniversary fete. At the same time scholarship awards were given out to the following people: Alex and Evelyn Wong, offsprings of the William Wongs of Arcadia. Evelyn received 2nd prize, which was a \$200 scholarship, and her brother, Alex, received 3rd prize -- a \$100 award. Incidentally, Evelyn is now furthering her studies at USC in the premedical field.

Other recipients of the Wong Family Scholarship Funds were Glenn and Stacey Wong, son and daughter of the Ging Wongs, owners and operators of Kwong Hing Lung grocery store. Glenn received \$300 and Stacey received \$100. Both of the recipients showed their appreciation by donating \$50 apiece back to the Wong Assn.

Glenn is returning to UCLA to do postgraduate work; Stacey is presently working and living in Palo Alto; Leslie is working for her Uncle Gin, a well-known architect; Brian is still in New Mexico with the Loveless Medical Research Center and Lester is still at U.C. Davis majoring in Pathology. And last but not least, Ronald Chinn, older son of Art and Alma Chin, will be going to UCLA on a fellowship. He had been employed by Hughes Aircraft for a time.

\* Robert and Kathleen Gin, son and daughter-in-law of the Raymond Gins have just recently moved back to Hanford where Bob is a practicing attorney for the Griswold Law Offices. Bob graduated from McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento with Distinction and Order of the Coif on May 29, 1982. After his graduation, he stayed on to prepare for the State Bar Examination in July. After the State Bar, he and his wife moved back to Hanford where they first met seven years ago. Kathy returned to teaching -- her profession -- before she and Bob moved to Sacramento for his law studies.

\* Paula Lee, daughter of the Karl Lees, recently went to work at the Bechtel Engineering Firm. While at the University of California, Berkeley, Paula majored in Civil Engineering and also in Material Science. She graduated cum laude and was hired by the Bechtel firm shortly. You may remember, Bechtel is the firm which Secretary of State George Schultz headed before he left to join the Reagan Administration.



\* Mother's Day started back in 1913 when the United States Congress declared the second Sunday in May to be a day set aside to honor all mothers on HER day; hence, 5/10/13, was the beginning of a national holiday for mothers. Now, there are approximately 43 countries around the globe that have adopted that day to honor their mothers also.

About five years ago, the Gom-Benn Assn. Youth Group came up with an idea which we have observed ever since. They started a Mother's Day buffet luncheon for all the mothers and grandmothers of former Gom-Benn villagers. This event is usually held a week before the actual holiday. Food for this buffet is prepared by the youth group, and we want to express our appreciation for their thoughtfulness and good food.

The Assn. also want to thank the following people for their donation to the luncheon: Bing S. Wong, 3 apple pies from Marie Callendar's Pie Shoppe, Ben and Debbie Wong, tea cakes, the Bing Tew Wongs, fried rice, Rick and Shirley Hoskin, jello, Mr. and Mrs. Hoy Yuen Wong, tea cakes, Kam Wah Restaurant for their famous chow mein, Dearl and Judy Sai, their scrumptious chicken salad, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Lee, for their homemade "ma tai go." Margie and Terry Tam, for their homemade custard and Raymond Gin, for his shrimp chips.

\* Oops, all the calories that we consume during the holidays. In addition to our Mother's Day buffet, we also have a Moon Festival luncheon and a Thanksgiving Day buffet. The Moon Festival luncheon is usually held a week before the 15th day of the 8th month in the lunar calendar. Moon cakes which are only available during this period are given to relatives and friends. This holiday, plus Chinese New Year, is the only holiday where the young and old congregate to celebrate. Again, we want to thank the following people who donated goodies for the occasion. Young Chong Lung, 2 crates of apples and 2 boxes of moon cakes, the Bing Tew Wongs, for "nor mine rice", Kam Wah Restaurant, chow mein, Kai Wah Wong, 2 dozen cans of soda, the Karl Lees, "woo how tay", Shirley and Rick Hoskin, almond flavored jello and Mrs. Roy Lim, a box of moon cakes.

\* And then, our Thanksgiving luncheon which was held on 11/21/82 from 12:00 to 3:00 P.M. was attended by a good crowd of Gom-Benn sisters and brothers. As usual, Mrs. Tung D. Wong carved the turkey for us and Ray Gin is getting to be quite professional in his new role of a soda jerker. He made the fruit punch which was not too sweet nor too weak. Well done, Ray. Our menu that afternoon included turkey with dressing, soy-sauce chickens, apples from Ying Chong Lung as well as a case of oranges, homemade pumpkin pies from the Karl Lees, 3 apple pies from the Bing S. Wongs via Marie Callendar, biscuits, candied yams and fruit punch from the Ray Gins, fried rice from the Bing Tew Wongs, 3 pans of chinese tea cakes from the Harry Wongs, more Chinese goodies from Hicky and Virginia Wong and chow mein from the Kam Wah Restaurant. The president of the Wong's Family Benevolent Assn. as well as Mrs. Lun Gin and Hon Jin each donated \$10 to our Assn. Thanks alot - we really appreciate your generosity.

rather than the "dog-eat-dog" philosophy, and so companionate relationships easily ensued--regardless of gender.

After graduation, I accepted a job with a design/construction firm back here in Los Angeles, ready, eager, and willing to accept any challenges thrown at me. Having worked during each of the preceding four summers, I was prepared for the "real world" (or so I thought).

My first day at work was an experience I will always remember. Reporting for my first day, I was practically inundated by the torrential rains which hit Southern California, which made me feel as though I had never left Northern California. After all the paper work had been completed and filed, I proceeded to my project assignment eager, yet apprehensive. Upon my arrival, I found that not only was the Engineering Group Supervisor to whom I was to report in a meeting and his assistant out of town, but also that no one else had any clue as to who I was or what I was supposed to be doing there. Hardly a triumphant beginning.

Naturally things got better (I could not see how it could be worse), despite section assignment shifts, seating arrangement shifts, and above all, having to wake up at 6:00 in the morning. And so, here I sit pondering my life's goal.

Career decisions are not easy ones to make and often, one finds that the chosen profession is not the right profession. Although I cannot see myself doing pipe support calculations for the rest of my life, I cannot say that I have made the wrong career choice. And although I enjoy the subject matter itself, I still cannot say that it is my life's ambition. Who really knows his life's ambition? At any rate, I'm still young--I have time to decide if I want to do something else, when I "grow up."

\* \* \* \* \*

(JOKE TIME)

Where do sheep get their hair cut?  
At the baa-baa shop.

Why did the turtle cross the road?  
To get to the shell station.

What's Irish and sits in your backyard?  
Patty O'Furniture (pattio furniture).

Don't complain about having to read these dumb jokes--  
we could be reading your article instead! We need your input!



## ON WORKING HARD (OR HARDLY WORKING)

by Paula Lee

Sitting at my regulation office desk, reading through my standard specifications for structural steel design, I often wonder to myself, "is this my life's ambition?"

Admittedly, I had not even heard of engineering until my junior year in high school. Like most stereotypical Asians, I had been drilled since childhood of the importance of education, and the positive correlation between education and finding a good job. Fortunately, I found school to be quite enjoyable--even entertaining-- and so my "road to success" seemed unhampered. Up to that year however, I dreamt the typical fantasies of a deluded teenager, of entering the more glamorous professions when I "grew up."

Soon, impracticality turned to pragmatism; such are the pitfalls of high school and preparing for reality. High school was much less entertaining than junior high school, I think due in part to all the "heavy-duty" decisions one must make. It is rather mind-boggling to me now how I managed to remember which exams to take, where to take them, which college required which tests, let alone remember even to apply to college. As a result, reality clouded over fantasy and it was time to seriously consider a career choice (marrying wealthy did not seem very realistic at the time).

I first learned of engineering in physics class during my junior year. I had always liked math and science, and so I was prepared to tolerate, if not like, physics. I found that I thoroughly enjoyed physics, more than any other class before. In physics I found that I could actually apply mathematical concepts to solve real-life, practical problems. It was here that I heard of engineering as, of all things, my physics teacher had been an engineer.

And so my course was set, my path taken, and my college carefully chosen. Before long, I was off to U.C. Berkeley-- the first time I had been away from home for any prolonged period. Apprehension and anxiety ran rampant in my then 17-year old mind, but before I knew it, the arduous years at Berkeley were over. At Berkeley, I gained valuable knowledge, garnered memorable experiences, and learned some very valuable lessons, especially in the art of living.

The woman engineer has always been regarded as somewhat of a novelty as women comprise less than 10% of total engineers, but happily, the numbers are increasing. Probably the one thing I was unprepared for was that of meeting very few other women; this due to our small numbers. It was fortunate that, for the most part, engineering majors believe in the communal-information-and-support system,



## REFLECTIONS OF A COLLEGE STUDENT

by

Jerri Hoi

Four years can go by fast! As I reflect back on my last four years as an undergraduate at Stanford University, I ask myself what is the most significant thing I've learned. I can definitely say that it is not the detailed formulas of physics or famous literary pieces written by English authors. For me, the most significant thing which I have learned is less tangible, less concrete. I've learned to be independent.

Being independent has always been one of my primary goals. Since I am female and the youngest child in the family, I have always had guidance and advice. My parents, traditional and protective, practically always had control of many areas of my life. I'm not saying that that is bad. Their intense love is what motivates them to act in such a caring way. However, I often felt the need to arrange my own affairs and to have control of my life. This yearning to be independent greatly contributed to my decision to go to college away from home.

Upon arrival at school, I realized that I had found an ideal environment to achieve my goal. Although there were Resident Fellows and Resident Assistants responsible for the well-being of dormitory members, they did not take me by the hand to show me around. On my own, I had to learn about the campus, the location of my classes, the procedure for registration and payment of tuition. Since I knew no one, I needed to be bold in making new friends. My work-study job also helped me to become financially responsible. I also became responsible for organizing my time, a skill which I have found to be invaluable in the life of a college student. The key to success is knowing how to balance times for studying, chatting with friends, participating in group or community activities, sleeping, etc. These factors, as well as others, have contributed to my learning to be independent.

In my case, it was definitely beneficial to attend college away from home. For others, it may not be. A person needs to evaluate his or her goals and the resources which the home or school environment can offer. An intelligent decision can then be made, taking into consideration parental wishes as well. Fortunately, my parents recognized my need to be in an environment such as the Stanford University campus. As a result of my four years there, I have achieved my goal of independence.

Presently, I am faced with the decision of whether or not to remain at home or again go away for my graduate education in law. As of now, I have not yet made this decision, but after re-formulating my goals and evaluating the benefits of the home versus the school environments, I will gain insights upon which I can make a wise decision.