

Grandpa, Bei-oo Chen was born May 4 ,1918 in Shanghai,China to a poor cook. When he was 8 years old, he lost both his parents . His uncle brought him and his 3 younger brothers to Fuzhou ,hundreds miles away from Shanghai, to live with his aunt's family.He went to school there, and after school worked hard at his uncle's restaurant.

When he was 16, he went back to Shanghai. Then he was on his own. He got a night job at Shanghai Daily News, and enrolled in a good high school. It was very hard time, and he cried a lot during the night, feeling lonely and being exiled, because he forgot most of the Shanghai Dialect.

After graduating from high school in 1937 , he got a job at a post office. In 1938 summer he went back to Fuzhou to visit his uncle 's family. There he read an advertisement announcing that a new 1-year old *medical* technical school welcoming those high school graduates who would like to serve people medically in the rural areas. He applied at once and was accepted. That Sept. he quitted his job and went to that new school.A year later the school was upgraded to Fugian Medical College.Now it is Fujian Medical University.

Another hard time for him. His only income was the fees paid by the local newspapers for his articles . His normal meal was rice and soy beans. When the check from the newspaper came,he would treat himself with pork chop or a couple of chicken legs.

Near the end of his junior year, one day a cook did something enraging the students. Everyone was yelling and stomping. Suddenly he walked straight to the cook and gave him a fist on his back . The teachers decided to expel grandpa at once. But dean He Chung-Lien said

no, and gave him 1-year suspension with a paying job at the college's library. That helped him a lot financially and enabled him to finish the medical school.

After graduation in 1944, he was appointed as assistant teacher of physiology at the college, his alma mater. He and Dean He said; "You are a totally different person when you play chess. Hope you'll face your life and your work like you play chess." Sadly they couldn't work together for long. Was it war, or fate? In late 1946, Professor Liang Xu-Mo asked grandpa to go with him to Tawan, because Liang was appointed head of physiology department, Taiwan University, and needed helper. So in Dec. 1946 they went to Taiwan. Grandpa worked at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Taiwan University (now the name is Taiwan Serum Vaccine Laboratory) till 1962. Though they worked in different places, Dean He and grandpa wrote to each other whenever they could. In 1978 he went to China visiting his aunt, giving lectures at his alma mater. Then he went to Sian to visit dean He who was the dean of the Sian Medical College then, Dean He offered him a teaching position there. He hesitated and didn't accept because he was not well there. Too quick the decision, Was it?

In 1962 spring Professor Liang asked grandpa to be a research fellow at the Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, and work as an acting director at the same time. He was given a newly built house. But in 1963 spring he got a letter from Dr. Charles A. Ely of Columbia University inviting him to do some research work there, and promising he could bring his family along. He didn't want to leave Academia Sinica and the new house. But for his two son's future he accepted the invitation reluctantly. Wrong decision? God ~~knows~~ !!

KNOWS

He loved his country dearly. In his heart he always wanted to do something for his country. So in 1972 summer we went to Chinese Embassy in Ottawa, Canada to apply for returning to China. At the same time he didn't apply for the research grant. Several months later, the answer was, "Our government is not ready for you. Please wait a few years." That's the end of it. No grant. No home to return. The worst of it was that he was too proud to tell any one about it.

He loved his family very much too. When the children were young, we never went to see the adult-movie, only the ones for children. In the week ends we the whole family, we went to the parks, zoo, or country sides on two bicycles, each carried 2 people, or to the mountains, or invited friends with children to our home. Then he would play with the children. Sometimes he practiced hard to be a magician in order to entertain the children in the party. One summer he invited the neighboring children to come once a week to sing-along. He was the leader. Later Grand Aunt and King-sui told me that the children sang beautifully, but our boys were better. She lived with us before she went to Canada in 1962 summer.

In 1951 summer he went to U.S.A as a I.C.A. fellow. The allowance was not much. So he ate sardine sandwiches every day instead of dining out. The two foods he hated most in his life were soy bean and sardine. The little money he saved he bought second hand coats for himself and me, but new clothes and toys for the boys. Once I heard uncle David said to his friends, "My daddy bought this from U.S.A. ." , pointing to his new red pants proudly. In 1952, he was offered a

job to stay in U.S.A. But he refused because he didn't want to be alone.

When we first came to New York in 1964,nearly every weekend we went to someplace.Like the zoo,botanic,garden,world's fair,muse^uums,amusement parks,Statue of Liberty etc. He enjoyed it very much.

He was very astonished and excited that he could give away something he did not have, once in Taiwan, and again in U.S.A. Guess what ? The bride !!:)

He smoked a lot. Finally he got lung cancer. He struggled about 2 years and died on Febuary.15,1989.

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