

The Story of Lanchow Rotary Club (蘭州扶輪社)

the Club that had been Provisional for Seven Years

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1 October 2016



Street scene of Lanchow in 1946

《The Good Samaritans at Lanchow, China》 was an article published in the July 1947 Issue of 《The Rotarian》 magazine (*see the full text attached below on Pages 11-12*). This two-page report gives a comprehensive description on the humanitarian, medical and health services dedicated by such a strong but small club of less than 30 members---Lanchow Rotary Club (蘭州扶輪社). No wonder, the first municipal mayor (1941-1946) T'sai Meng-Chien (蔡孟堅) was a former Rotarian, while the second mayor (1946-1949) Sun Ju-Nan (孫汝楠) joined the Club and served as one of the vice-presidents.

Other than the remarkable services reported, this former Lanchow Rotary Club, with total life time of 7 years only (1943-1950), held 2 records which are still not yet broken, until today, in the so many decades of the Rotary China History:

- (1) It had been provisional for 7 years -- The above-mentioned article disclosed that: “*The Lanchow Club was organized provisionally in 1936, but war conditions kept it from being formally admitted to Rotary International until 1943.*”
- (2) The most far-western located Rotary Club within the greater Chinese territories.

The Seven Years of Provisional Status

Minutes of a special meeting of the Board of Directors, Tientsin Rotary Club (天津扶輪社), held on Thursday, 29 October 1936 at 2 p.m.: *“In response to a letter received from the District Governor, the Board of Directors agreed that the Tientsin Rotary Club act as a Sponsor Club to the new club which they propose to form at Lanchow, Kansu. Dr. Wang, the District Governor, will be approached to appoint T. T. Tao of this Club as a personal representative for this piece of work. Rotarians who have business contacts in that part of China will also be approached to inform the Secretary if they know of any business men in Lanchow who will make suitable members.”* The story of Lanchow Rotary Club began in the fall of 1936.

In the 1930's Lanchow (Lanzhou), Kansu (Gansu) Province, Republic of China (中華民國甘肅省蘭州), was a center of Soviet influence in northwestern China. During the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945) Lanchow, linked with Sian (Xi'an) (西安) by highway in 1935, became the terminus of the 3,200 km (2,000 mi) Chinese–Soviet highway, used as a route for Soviet supplies destined for the Sian area. This highway remained the primary traffic route of northwestern China until the completion of the railway from Lanchow to Ürümqi, Sinkiang (Xinjiang) (新疆烏魯木齊). Lanchow was the traditional eastern terminus of the Silk Road and the key to Chinese control of Central Asia and northern Tibet. It is located on the Yellow River near the western end of the Great Wall, and at the eastern end of the Kansu corridor (*see pictures on Page 13*). The municipality of Lanchow was not yet established until 1941.

After the full scale of Imperial Japan's aggression to China commenced on 7 July 1937 at Peiping (北平), Lanchow was likely the headquarters of 8 War Areas. Beginning on 11 November, considerable Soviet Russian aid to the Chinese came through Lanchow, making it an important strategic bombing target for the Imperial Japanese. Lanchow and its airfield, then located near the city center, were heavily bombed by the Imperial Japanese Air Force.

On 1 November 1937, the 96-97-98th District Governor Dr. Fong Foo-Sec (龐富灼博士) sent a telegram to Rotary International: *“Provisional Rotary clubs were organized at Lanchow and Nanchang some time ago. Due to the war, they were dissolved. But I am trying to keep in touch with them.”*

Several months later, Governor Fong received the updates from Lanchow. It was the report by Tientsin Shou dated 7 May 1938: *“Since the departure of T. T. Tao and L. H. Davies, Mr. C. H. Shui, Director of Hsipei Salt Administration Office, has been elected as President of the Club, Lanchow, while I take up the office of Secretary and Treasurer concurrently. ... So, the membership remains the same as 8 persons.*

... As most of the residents are transients, politically and otherwise, it is difficult to enlist new members and keep them long. The Club meets regularly every other Thursday. It was suspended twice or thrice during last November and December when the city was threatened by air-raids.

Since the outbreak of the war, the cost of living in Lanchow has gone up by leaps and bounds. Only well-to-do people can come and take refuge. The indigent classes pass through here

occasionally in bands of tens to hundreds. They ask for alms from official and private organizations and wander on. So far the Club has not participated in any public relief work.”

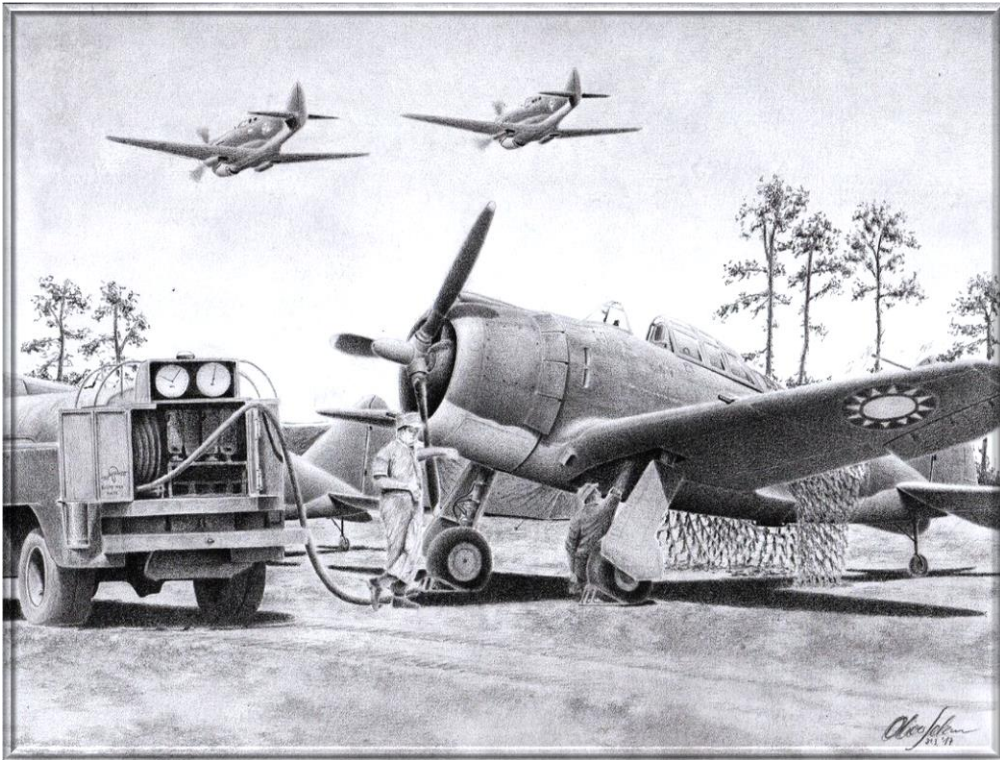
Responding to Club Secretary Shou’s report, on 22 June 1938, Governor Fong gave instruction to his special representative in Chengtu (*Chengdu*) (成都), Bishop Ralph Ansel Ward (黃安素主教) who was commissioned for the Rotary extension in the western China: “Mr. P. H. Linn of the Salt Revenue Bureau in that city is an old friend of mine, as we studied together in the University of California and Columbia. I did not know that he is in Lanchow and neither did I know that he knows anything about Rotary. From a Rotarian in Lanchow he learned that I am serving as district governor and wrote me the following interesting observation:

{Now a word about the Rotary Club formed by a handful of local dignitaries who endeavor to make it an exclusive affair. Yes, with them there have been two American missionaries and a German merchant. But they have been there to make friends rather than propagate Rotarianism. The Chinese members hold their bi-weekly luncheon just as they have been messing since they have known each other. On these occasions, there are no invitations, no speeches and no business meetings. At this bureau there are an Oxonian, a Californian, a Columbian and a dozen Tsinghua, Yenching and St. John’s graduates, some of whom would be glad to be Rotarians if assured of a welcome. The local club of returned students among whom are teachers, doctors, lawyers and office workers could furnish a score of Rotarian aspirants. But on the Rotarian door there seems a placard saying, “Men of no or low official standing need not apply.” No wonder the Club has not grown in size or spirit since its birth some twenty months ago.}

The provisional Rotary Club of Lanchow has been organized for nearly two years and should have applied for a charter long before now. I have wondered a great deal as to why the organizing work was going so slowly. With the outbreak of the war some of the members left for other places and new ones were taken in, but its membership stays at about 8, I believe. Most likely Mr. Linn gives us a correct analysis of the trouble when he said that the group there is exclusive. In Mr. Linn’s opinion there is no lack of suitable material to build up a good club in Lanchow. I feel sure that you will be able to help them get over this difficulty and put them on the right track.”

After the visits by Bishop Ward, the three-year-old Lanchow Provisional Club had increased its membership from 14 to 22 since July 1938, a very neat increase. By profession this group represented government service, both civil and military, consular service, education, science, medicine, banking and various industries. In spite of the abnormal times, the members met fairly regularly and their interest in Rotary had been on the increase. Last winter they instituted a “Winter Clothes Fund” campaign and a sum of \$2,000.00 (Chinese currency) was raised for the benefit of the under-clad in their community. Another project, out of their own pockets the members donated about \$700 for purchasing medicines at the disposal of a local medical group under the Club’s supervision. The medical supplies were bought in Shanghai through the courtesy of Dr. Szeming Sze (施思明博士), General Secretary of the Chinese Medical Association, Shanghai Branch (中國醫學會上海支會總行政秘書), and a member of the Shanghai Rotary Club (上海扶輪社).

The Air Force of The Republic of China



There was a particularly heavy raid over Lanchow on 20 February 1939 that was contested by volunteer Russian pilots. In the wake of Wuhan Campaign (武漢之戰) in 1939, the Chinese War against Japanese Aggression entered its second phase. At the time, the Chinese Air Force was short of planes and its personnel were waiting to be trained adequately. All units were fighting and undergoing trainings concurrently while Japanese forces were trying to decimate China's air assets by raiding their basing in Lanchow. Within the year of 1939, Japanese forces raided Lanchow 39 times, all confronted by Chinese Air Force (see photos on Page 4), and Chinese air fighters knocked down over 20 Jap planes. The biggest victory was happened from 12th to 23rd February with 15 kills. However, by the time war broke out in the Pacific in 1941, the flow of Soviet Russian supplies had dried up due to the German invasion of western Russia.

Lanchow Club, on 29 September 1939, prepared to apply for admission from Rotary International by these elected officers: (1) President: Tientsan Shou, Telegraph Administration Office, Lanchow; (2) Secretary: C. C. Chen, Northwest District Salt Administration.

Regrettably, *“The Provisional Rotary Club of Lanchow is taking a little bit more time to develop itself before applying for a charter. As the hostilities prolonging and more prominent and professional men moving into the Interior, Lanchow reports meetings with groups of visiting Rotarians. Such visitors from the older clubs along the coast are not only helpful to the new Club to swell its attendance, but they also contribute to it substantially in the way of inspirations and suggestions.”* Reported by the 97-98th District Governor Dr. Yen Te-Ching (顏德慶博士) to Rotary International President on 11 October 1939.

Under the air battles in the sky, Lanchow Club carried on with its mission of service. In the November 1939 Issue of the 《Far Eastern Rotary Review》, the official regional magazine, there was the report: *“LANCHOW -- After a couple of air raids which came upon the city invariably in midday, the Club has changed its meeting hour from noon to evening. Of late the urban population has deemed it available to thin out, and not a few of our fellow members have joined the exodus for the country around. The Club as well as the city presents a lonely aspect and our attendance record has been anything but encouraging.*

Despite this seeming inactivity on the part of the members, a good deal has been done in community service by their better-halves. In the nation-wide Soldiers' Winter Clothing campaign, no less than 10 Rotary-anns of Lanchow have joined forces and in the space of 2 weeks have netted 10 thousand odd dollars for the benefit of our underclad compatriots at the front.”

Few months later in April 1940, Governor Yen sent his optimistic report to Rotary International President: *“The Provisional Lanchow Club is almost mature for formal inauguration. With a good list of members meeting regularly, it is hoped that before long they will be in a position to apply for a charter. It is still unable to comply fully with certain prescribed procedures, adjustments will have to be made before formal application.*

A number of cities in the Yangtse Valley in Central and West China and several cities in North China along the coast and in the Interior provide excellent prospects for extension of Rotary

movement, nothing definite, however, can be expected at present till peace is fully restored in the country.”

Though still “provisional”, Lanchow Club carried on actively with regular meetings as well as publication of bulletin with its high literary standard and its scintillating gems of humour and philosophy. The Lanchow scribe was particularly gifted in its lyrical descriptions of Chinese banquets, of which the fellow-Rotarians in far-off Kansu appear to be connoisseurs.

The Provisional Club of Lanchow met on 15 February 1940 in the spacious drawing-room of the Bank of China as the guests of Rotarian Cheng En Ching, who was Manager of the Bank, over fifty Rotarians and guests present. The occasion was notable for the presence of the Mongolian Prince, ruler of the Alxa Banner (阿拉善旗), with his consort. The prince proved to be an entertaining speaker, using fluent and flawless Mandarin.

At the Lanchow Club’s meeting on 29 February 1940, a notable visiting Rotarian was Y. Fay of the Sian Rotary Club (西安扶輪社), Director of the Shensi Salt Administration (西北鹽務管理局陝西分局局長).

On 6 June 1940 the provisional Lanchow Club held its regular evening meeting at the house of Rotarian Hsu Yuan Feng who lived about three miles out of town at the Western Park, on an estate called the New Village. In two respects the gathering was a “stag party”, for the main course at the banquet was a superb cut of venison, and the traditional dish of deer tendons—long-famed as a table delicacy, and reputed to be rich in vitamins A, B, and D— also graced the board. The speaker and guest of the evening was Mr. Ho I Min of the Land Tax Bureau, and this gentleman turned out to be a vegetarian, so that some plain food had to be prepared for him!

Another Rotary Year began on 1 July 1940. New officers were duly elected and assumed their offices: (1) President: T. C. Li, Special Commissioner, Office of Foreign Affairs, Kansu Province; (2) Vice-President: Tientsan Shou, Directorate of Telegraph Administration, Lanchow; (3) Secretary: Peter Shih, Young Men’s Christian Association, Lanchow; (4) Treasurer: Y. Y. Cheng, Bank of Communications, Lanchow.

Club Secretary Peter Shih, serving also as Chairman of the Club Service Committee, reported on the organizing work which had been entrusted him at a previous meeting. According to his statement, the classification of certain members had been re-adjusted and the membership revised to 18 active and 1 honorary. The application for membership in Rotary International was brought up for deliberation. Shih was told to get the necessary papers fill in and bring them to the next meeting for final action.

This Lanchow Club exemplified fine spirit and made progress. It met regularly and carried on a number of activities, though in a provisional status. The Club carried on through thick and thin. Each and every of the 18 members served as a pillar to support the constituency of the Club.

The year of 1941 was the turning point for the Lanchow people toward a better life with less air raids horror. The Soviet Russia had diverted the military defense in the Eastern Europe war

front, while the Imperial Japan had concentrated its aggression in the countries along the western and southern Pacific. Commencing 1 July 1941, the Central Government decided the establishment of the Lanchow Municipality. The first mayor T'sai Meng-Chien (蔡孟堅), a former Rotarian, was appointed to the city and began the urban constructions. Hence, the political and social environments were much more favourable for the Rotary activities. The provisional Lanchow Club carried on its services for another 2 years.

"The prospects for another attempt in putting up a new, or rather reviving club at Lanchow are however far better. Rotarian R. S. Hall, former Chairman of Sian Club, is taking a business trip to Lanchow and will most probably stay over for more than two months. I have asked him to contact 5 or 6 old Rotarians there that I know of, and am quite sure they will be willing to help and cooperate with Hall in making the thing a success. We all believe this new seed will grow, and grow rapidly." Dr. Chengting T. Wang (王正廷博士), Administrative Advisor for China, gave his opinion to Rotary International General Secretary Philip Lovejoy on 14 April 1943. During the War since 1937, the two dozens of Rotary clubs operating at most of the treaty ports in China were suspended, from Peiping in the north down to Hong Kong in the south. The 3 Rotary districts in China were not functioning and no governors were elected from. In lieu of such situation, Rotary International appointed an Administrative Advisor to look after the several clubs that were still active in the western and southwestern China. Dr. Wang, sitting in Chungking Rotary Club (重慶扶輪社), was the first Governor of the Rotary International 81st District in 1935-1936, President of National Red Cross Society of China (中華民國紅十字會總會會長), Member of the International Olympic Committee, the former China's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Birth of Lanchow Rotary Club

On 8 November 1943, Rotary International Secretariat sent out this notice to all Directors of the Board and requested for consent:

"From Dr. C. T. Wang, Administrative Adviser of Rotary International for the Rotary Clubs in China, we have just received the following cablegram:

{Lanohow Rotary Club effectively organised November fourth with twenty-two members representing eleven major classifications. Officers are President W. Y. Fei, Vice-President T. Y. Djeng, Treasurer H. P. Chang, Secretary Harold Lin. Above with W. H. Tsehang, C. T. Huang, C. T. Sun form board directors. Formal application for charter being mailed. Due unavoidable postal delay suggest you grant charter on receipt this wire and mail same my Chungking address. As prepared revisit Lanchow soon after receive charter. Kindly wire reply Chungking.}

A provisional Rotary club was first formed in Lanchow in 1936 and our records show that it has been meeting quite regularly ever since. However, due to conditions resulting from the war in China, this provisional club has delayed its formal application for a charter. Since Dr. Wang took over the post of administrative adviser a few years ago he has been working on

this club and the above quoted cablegram would seem to indicate that he has finally get it properly organized. Mail service from and to China is so slow these days that you will perhaps wish to follow Dr. Wang's suggestion and act on this application without awaiting the formal documents."

The request was duly approved by the Board of Directors, and the Charter No. 5689 was granted on 11 November 1943 to the Rotary Club of Lanchow in the Republic of China.

According to the formal Application Form, the Provisional Rotary Club of Lanchow, Kansu Province, China, was duly organized by an authorized representative of Rotary International on 4 November 1943 with 22 charter members of multi-nationalities, each representing a different business or professional service. Officers were: (1) President: Fei Wen-Yao; (2) Vice President: Djeng Ta-Yung; (3) Secretary: Harold Ling; (4) Treasurer: Chang Hsueh-Pin; (5) Sergeant-at-Arms: K. A. Tsou. Three other directors were: (1) Tschang Wen-Hsi; (2) Huang Chao-Tung; (3) Sun Chi-Ting. Regular weekly meetings were held on every Thursday, at 12:30 p.m. in the premises of the Officers' Moral Endeavor Association (勵志社).

Here below, to Dr. Chengting T, Wang, is the Special Representative's Report dated 11 November 1943 by Raymond S. Hall (Charter member and first secretary of the Nanking Rotary Club, and former member of the Tsinan and Sian Rotary Clubs):

"This Club was officially organized by me on 4 November 1943 with 22 charter members. The population of this community is about 200,000.

Records show that a Provisional Rotary Club of Lanchow was organized in 1936, with the Tientsin Rotary Club as sponsor club, but evidently without the advice and assistance of a District Governor or his special representative. Although the Club held bi-weekly meetings for three or four years, during which time there was much correspondence between it and the district governors, concerning the matter of securing a Charter, and although an application for charter was made in 1939 and the sum of CNC\$770.00 was remitted to the District Governor, Dr. Yen Te-Ching, still no charter was issued to this provisional club. Due largely to this reason and to the death or departure of a number of the most active members, the interest of the members steadily decreased, the meetings became less frequent and irregular, and about two years ago the Club became practically defunct.

Have seen requests by Dr. Yen, W. H. Tan, and your goodself, to act as Special Representative in the effort to survive and re-organize the Lanchow Club, the transfer of my regular work to Lanchow in the fall of 1943, made it possible for me to carry out your desires in this matter. I found there were now in Lanchow at least six men who had been Rotarians elsewhere, principally in Sian, who were keen to have the Club revived, as well as several members of the former Lanchow Provisional Club. Accordingly in October last, I convened three meetings of the Preparatory Committee, on October 16th, October 26th, and November 3rd, on which last occasion you were present. Having secured signed application for Charter Membership from twenty-two (22) eligible candidates, the organization meeting was held in the Farmers Bank Building on the evening of 4 November 1943.

With the benefit of your presence and encouragement, the organization of the Club was effected, the Constitution and By-laws adopted, and the officers and directors elected, as indicated on the accompanying application.

The Club now seems to be off to a good start, and having endeavored to comply in every aspect with the requirements for a charter, we greatly appreciate your recommendation that the charter be granted, and if granted, that you will endeavor to present it to the Club in person.”

List of Charter Members

- (1) Chang Hsueh-Pin (張雪賓), Manager, Ya Hsi Industrial Bank
(Former member of Tsinan Rotary Club 濟南扶輪社)
- (2) Chao Hsi-Meng (趙惜夢), General Manager, Northwestern Daily News (西北日報社社長)
- (3) Djeng Ta-Yung (鄭大勇), Manger, Bank of Communications (交通銀行)
- (4) Fei Wen-Yao (費文堯) (西北鹽務管理局局長)
Director, Northwest District Salt Administration
(former member of Sian Rotary Club)
- (5) Raymond S. Hall (郝瑞滿), General Secretary, Young Men's Christian Association
(Charter member and first secretary of the Nanking Rotary Club 南京扶輪社, and former member of the Tsinan and Sian Rotary Clubs)
- (6) Huang Chao-Tung (黃兆桐), Chief Secretary, Northwest Highway Admin. (西北公路總局秘書)
(former member of Sian Rotary Club)
- (7) W. S. Kan (甘文升), Director for Kansu, Chungghwa Post (甘肅郵政管理局局長)
- (8) Ku Tsu-Teh (顧祖德), General Manager, Kansu Trading Company
- (9) Lee Lu-Hong (李魯航), Manager, Ministry of Finance Trade Bureau, Lanchow
- (10) Harold Ling (林天鶴), General Secretary, Officers' Moral Endeavor Assn. (勵志社)
- (11) Miao Chao-Feng (繆超鳳), Chief Engineer, Northwest Telegraph Administration
- (12) Lou Chao-Nien (樓兆念), Manager, Ta Yee Trading Company
- (13) Edward E. Rice (芮思), Secretary, American Embassy
(former member of Foochow Rotary Club 福州扶輪社)
- (14) Sung Cho (宋恪), President, Kansu College (甘肅學院院長)
- (15) T'ao Kuei-Lin (陶桂林), General Manager, Fu Chi Construction Company
- (16) Sun Chi-Ting (孫繼丁), Director of Transportation, Northwest Highway Admin.
(former member of Sian Rotary Club)
- (17) Tschang Wen-Hsi (常文熙), Manager, Bank of China (中國銀行)
(former member of Sian Rotary Club)
- (18) K. A. Tsou (祝欽墩), Asst. Director of Transportation, Norwest Highway Admin.
(former member of Sian Rotary Club)
- (19) Ts'ui Su-Hsien (崔叔仙), Manager, The Farmers Bank of China (中國農民銀行)
- (20) Wang Cho-Min (王作民), Commissioner, Lanchow Customs
- (21) Wong Shih-Chung (汪時中) (西北鹽務管理局副局長)
Co-Director, Northwest District Salt Administration
(former member of Sian Rotary Club)
- (22) Yang Chi-Ching (楊齊青), Assistant Manager, Central Bank (中央銀行), Lanchow

Charter Presentation

The Charter Presentation Meeting was planned under the guidance of Dr. Chengting T. Wang (王正廷博士), Rotary International Administrative Adviser for China, and Director 1944-1946. Preliminary arrangements for celebrating Charter Night were elaborately made by the Program Committee in order to observe the event festively and with appropriate dignity. The Presentation was held on the evening of the 5 August 1944 at the Grand Hotel, a nice place of rendezvous in Lanchow. Before the meeting was called to order, guests had the pleasure of visiting the photo exhibition sponsored by the Soviet Union Consulate.

In order to introduce the Club to the community, municipal and state dignitaries were invited as guests of honour. General Koo Chen-Lun, Governor of Kansu Province (甘肅省政府主席谷正倫上將), Lieutenant-General Ma Buh-Tsing, Garrison Commander (河西防務司令馬步青中將), Mayor T'sai Meng-Chien (蘭州市市長蔡孟堅), Messrs. Chao Lung-Ven, Cheng Tung-Wu and Cheng Hsin-I (甘肅省建設廳廳長張心一), High Commissioners of the Provincial Government, were present and seated at the head table with the Administrative Advisor. Among other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Ledowsky, Mr. and Mrs. Anchkoff of the Soviet Union Consulate. Total attendance was 195 persons. All lady guests were clad in evening dresses a la mode.

The dining tables were arranged in four rows with the head table in the front. On each table was placed a round paper bearing the Rotary Wheel emblem, which indicated the number of seat of each guest. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Club President L. T. Chen, who briefly expressed his gratitude in behalf of all Rotarians for the presence of the guests. After that the Club Secretary called the roll.

Mayor T'sai Meng-Chien who was seven years ago also a Rotarian delivered a speech on 《The Good Influence of Rotary Club》. *“With the four objects of Rotary in mind, people will have better understanding of other peoples,”* Mayor T'sai said.

After having toasted to the health of the leaders of the Allied nations, Dr. Wang, the Administrative Adviser, delivered an interesting speech on 《The Ideals of Rotary》. He classified the Service into three kinds, viz., instinctive, compulsory and voluntary. *“By nature,”* he said, *“the parents rendered service to their children and this kind of service may be classified as instinctive service.”* *“People worked for their daily bread and the service thus rendered is compulsory in nature,”* he continued. *“Prompted by a desire to help others, people render such beneficial service to a community voluntarily, this is the ideal of the Rotary,”* Dr. Wang emphasized.

As soon as Dr. Wang concluded his speech, he presented the Charter No. 5689 to President L. T. Chen amid the applause of the audience. President L.T. Chen then thanked the Administrative Adviser and assured him that members of the Lanchow Rotary Club will endeavor their utmost to translate the ideals of Rotary into action as desired by the Rotary International.

The entertainment time was Theatrical Performance of a play entitled 《The Iron Bow》 staged by the Victory Theatrical Club, the amateurs being employees of local banks.

The Good Samaritans at Lanchow, China



SPRAWLED along the right bank of the Hwang-ho—or Yellow—River in Northwest China is the city of Lanchow, capital of the Province of Kansu. A community of 500,000 Mongolians, Mohammedans, Turkestanians, and Chinese, it is the chief market for the minerals, grains, tobacco, and fruit produced in the Province. Also it manufactures coarse cloth and woolen goods, being the only notable industrial area in the region.

Eight years of devastating war left Lanchow, as it left all China, with a great complexity of problems. One of the most pressing is the need for medical services. How Chinese ingenuity and the Lanchow Rotary Club are helping to ease that problem is what this brief story is about.

Take the matter of ingenuity. At Northwest Hospital, headed by Dr. Charles Chang, Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club, you will see an electrically lighted dome over the operating table which was built of pocket mir-

DR. CHANG checks up on a most grateful patient, a farmer who feared a broken shoulder might keep him from working again.

A WARD view in the Northwest Hospital, showing one of the three beds which Rotarians of Lanchow furnish.



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rors set in a base of plaster. Surgeons wash their hands in running water which comes from a can fitted with a rubber tube and clamp, and anesthetics are administered with a contrivance made of an inner tube and a bicycle pump.

Nothing is wasted. Helen Kennedy Stevens, representative of the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China, who recently visited Lanchow, tells this story about that: In 1941, when the war caused the population to sift out into the countryside, seven Japanese airplanes were shot down near the city. Every scrap of aluminum and other metal that could be salvaged from those smashed planes was converted into surgical instruments and other hospital equipment.

The head of the hospital's nursing school works 12 hours a day, and then spends the hours from 2 until 4 in the morning reading microfilm journals and textbooks. During that time the town's lights are out, and there is sufficient electrical current for reading.

Lanchow Rotarians are actively supporting their community's hospital by providing full care and beds for three patients.

The Lanchow Club was organized provisionally in 1936, but war conditions kept it from being formally admitted to Rotary International until 1943. In the meantime, however, the few members (the roster has now increased to 24) raised funds to clothe some of the community's ill clad in 1939. That same year funds were donated to provide medicine which was distributed under Club supervision. Then, in 1940, when air raids thinned out the population, the wives of ten members joined forces and raised \$10,000 (Chinese National) for the benefit of their poorly clothed compatriots at the front.

Besides its hospital project, for which funds were recently raised by conducting a local art and photography exhibit, the Lanchow Rotary Club supports an anti-trachoma clinic and various other civic-betterment programs. Oftentimes the funds are realized by benefits, lectures, and other entertainments.

The Club's 1946-47 Vice-President, Sun Ju Nan, Mayor of Lanchow, is working in close cooperation with the Governor of the Province on plans to develop a modern agricultural and reforestation program and to obliterate the opium traffic. Funds are available for the installation of a modern water-supply system to replace the unsafe use of the Hwang-ho's yellow water, but a pipeline and material shortage is holding up construction.

But they'll find how at Lanchow!



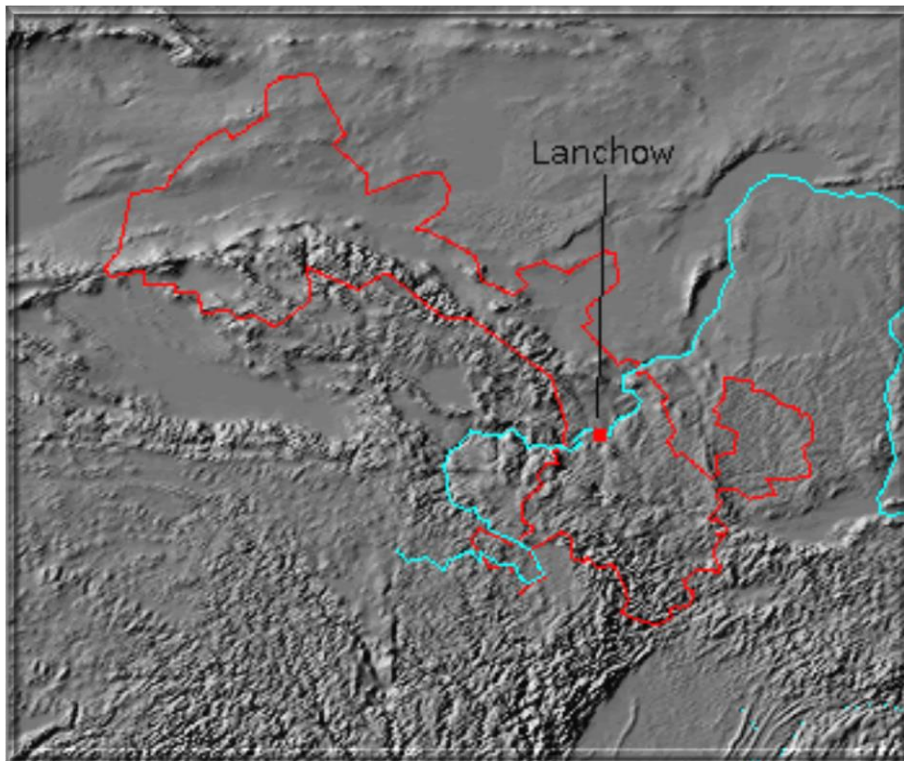
ALL DAY long these boys and donkeys trudge from the Hwang-ho (Yellow) River to the hospital, hauling water which must stand 24 hours to let the silt settle. After that it must be boiled. . . (Below) Lanchow Rotarians and their families meet at a tea house near the city.



美商亞細亞公司



Sketch territorial map of The Republic of China

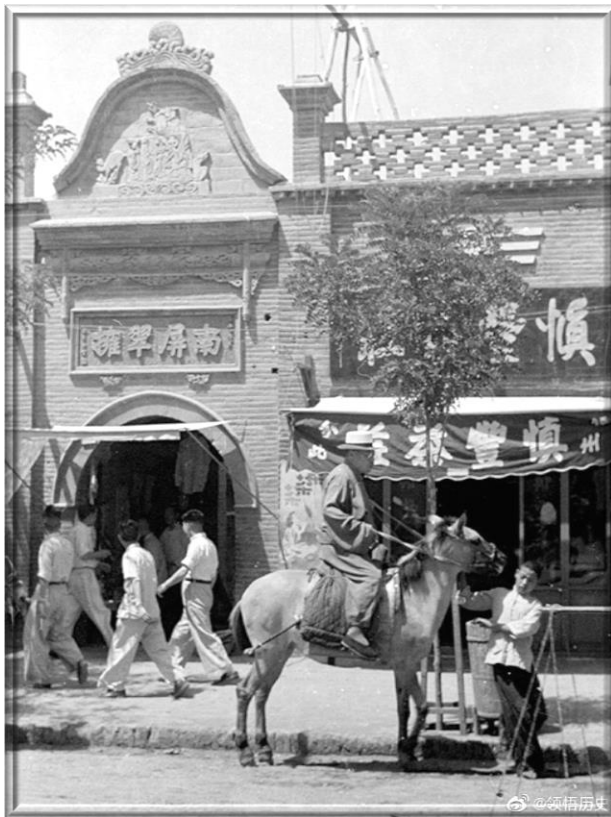


The location of Lanchow at the Yellow River with Kansu Province boundary in red.



蘭州市市長(1946-1949)孫汝楠、柴木蘭伉儷

Rotarian Sun Ju-Nan, Lanchow Mayor (1946-1949) and Mrs. Sun



Street scene of Lanchow in 1946



Street scene of Lanchow in 1946



The American bridge over the Yellow River, Lanchow