

Former Shanghai/Chungking/Taipei Rotarian Aid Mainland Refugee Chinese Intellectuals to Taiwan

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George Ashmore Fitch (費吳生) and wife Geraldine

This is the story of George Ashmore Fitch (費吳生) (1883-1979), born in an American missionary's family at Soochow (*Suzhou*) (蘇州), Imperial Ch'ing (大清國), who was an active member of Shanghai Rotary Club (上海扶輪社), and the Club's president in 1930-1931. During the Imperial Japan's full scale aggression to the Republic of China (中華民國), he moved to China's War-time Capital Chungking (*Chongqing*) (重慶) in 1939, and George became the President of Chungking Rotary Club (重慶扶輪社社長) in 1942-1943, with his profession carrying on as the Fraternal Secretary to China of the Y.M.C.A. (Young Men's Christian Association) International Committee since 1909. George was famous in the Second World War history. When the Nanking Massacre (南京大屠殺) occurred in 1937-1938, George, who was head of the Y.M.C.A. there, served as administrator of the International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone. He witnessed the tragedy and compiled a diary and filmed some of the atrocities committed by the Imperial Japanese Army in Nanking in December 1937.

After the War, George served Y.M.C.A. in Seoul of Korea. Prior to his next move to Taipei, Taiwan (臺灣省臺北市), in the 1952, George as a Seoul Rotarian was decorated the highest Order of the Republic of Korea by President Rhee Syng-Man (大韓民國李承晚總統) in recognition of his many years of distinguished service in the fields of education, culture, and welfare, and for his unselfish sacrifices. The Fitches went to Taipei, Taiwan, in 1952-1963. George as a Taipei Rotarian was the Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, Inc. (ARCI) Far East Representative. The ARCI resettled some 12,500 on Taiwan, 2,300 in U.S.A., and several hundred in other parts of the world. Geraldine had 4 years there as Consultant Editor of the China's Government Information Office. In supporting the work of ARCI by George, Geraldine wrote the stories and appealed for supports from Rotary clubs by contributing an article 《Brains at a Bargain – They belong to thousands of Chinese escapees from behind the Bamboo Curtain》 in the December 1956 Issue of 《The Rotarian》 Magazine. The article is attached herewith after Page 2. Prior to the reading, it is better to learn more about what was the ARCI.

Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, Inc. (美國援助中國知識人士協會) (1952-1970)

Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, Inc. (ARCI) was born as a “non-profit, non-political, non-partisan, non-sectarian voluntary relief agency” with four aims: (1) to aid in the “resettlement and rehabilitation” of refugee Chinese intellectuals; (2) to distribute aid without discrimination (any form of anti-Communist politics was acceptable); (3) to increase public awareness of the “oppressed and imperiled people in Asia” and thereby facilitate aid; and (4) to raise and disperse the funds necessary to achieve these goals. It was founded in 1952 by a group of Americans under the leadership of Walter H. Judd (周以德), United States Congressman. The purpose was to restore new life and hope to refugee Chinese leaders, including highly qualified educators, engineers, physicians, agronomists, accountants, and other. During the civil war between the Nationalist Party (KMT) (中國國民黨) and the Communist (中國共產黨) in China before 1950, hundreds of thousands refugees flooded into Hong Kong via the Kwangtung (*Guangdong*) Province (廣東省). Thousands of the then homeless Chinese intellectuals had been trained in the United States and still had friends or family there. A survey of refugees conducted by the American University Club of Hong Kong suggested that thousands had graduated from universities in the United States or from U.S.-affiliated church schools, colleges, universities in China. There was the urgent need to help saving this great human resources from not to be lost. In 1951, Eugene K. Moy (梅其駒), a pillar of the Chinese American community and a man with close ties to KMT officials, recruited John Leighton Stuart (司徒雷登), founding president (1919-1945) of Yenching University (燕京大學創始校長), China, to chair a new Committee for Emergency Aid to Chinese Intellectuals. After premature publicity, the original ad-hoc committee enlisted the aid of Walter H. Judd to lead a new organizing drive. Judd was a doctor and a Congressman. Before being elected, he had lived for years in China as a medical missionary. He was an ardent supporter of China’s President Chiang Kai-Shek (蔣中正總統) and the KMT and during his tenure in the United States House of Representatives was always out front on any issue that involved anti-Communism and China. Initially, Judd and the new committee had no trouble finding prominent Americans to support their work, and they sent a survey mission to Hong Kong to investigate the situation.

Despite claims of being non-political, ARCI from the outset openly presented itself as an asset for the Free World in the Cold War, a stance visible even within its stated rationale for its limited scope. Chinese intellectuals not only had scientific and technological know-how that the West wanted to deny to the Communist government, but they would ideally also be at the heart of rebuilding efforts in China after the collapse of the Communist regime—an event presumed to be just over the horizon.

Although the literary project and development corporation both became major projects for ARCI, its primary work—the part that had the most unqualified access to government funds—was always focused on facilitating the relocation of stranded refugees. ARCI spent the next few years trying to find overseas jobs, housing, and transportation for Chinese intellectuals, supported by USEP grants. Unlike similar projects in Europe, however, most of the potential destinations for the Hong Kong refugees had long, sometimes storied, histories of denying entry to Chinese migrants. As a result, ARCI personnel initially were overly sanguine about the possibility of a positive reception for Chinese refugees overseas, suggesting their location of registrants in Taiwan and across Southeast Asia.

Over the next few years, the practical tasks involved in moving intellectuals and their families to Taiwan became a significant portion of ARCI’s work. Once ARCI made the difficult decision to focus on Taiwan repatriations, it looked past transport to scouring the island for potential work and housing. At the height of the resettlement operations, ARCI even took responsibility for building housing units, including a block of temporary apartments outside Taipei that became known as “Juddville” (以德新村) and housed refugees in transition. ARCI also distributed milk to children; offered job counseling; and explored building a clinic in Taipei, Taiwan.

Brains at a Bargain



*They belong to thousands of Chinese escapees
from behind the Bamboo Curtain.*

By GERALDINE FITCH

Author and Lecturer; Wife of Rotarian

“NEXT!” the soldier with bayoneted rifle shouted.

The long queue waiting at the border where Red China touches free British territory moved up one step as Mr. Yang took his place before the scrutiny of the Chinese Communist officer and extended his exit permit.

“Name?”

“Yang Yen-chi.”

“Age?”

“Forty-two.”

The ferretlike eyes of the officer measured him from head to foot.

“Why do you want to go to Hong Kong?”

“To call on my aged father’s friend, and ask for the money he owes.” (Yang had rehearsed this reply in his mind many times.)

“His name?”

“Chow Ta-chun.”

“What is his business?”

“An import-export company called Ta Wah.”

“How much does he owe your father?”

“Five thousand Hong Kong dollars, Comrade.”

The penetrating eyes gave him one more searching look. Since his exit permit was in order, the officer made a sign to his deputy, one step behind him, and the aide scratched something on a piece of paper.

“One more question. Are you coming back?”

“Of course, Comrade,” Yang replied without hesitation. “As soon as I get the money, I’ll bring it back to clear the debt my father owes the Tax Bureau.”

The officer wrote the date on the permit and returned it to him.



Photos: (top)
Tien Hsia;
(left) author

One of thousands of trained Chinese now working for low pay at unaccustomed tasks. This man, a tuberculosis victim, does embroidery piecework. . . . The photo in color shows refugee huts on Hong Kong hillside.

Pocketing it, Mr. Yang proceeded, not too fast nor yet too slowly, to the bridge spanning the river between mainland China and the British New Territories.

At the bridgehead he turned to take one long last look at his homeland.

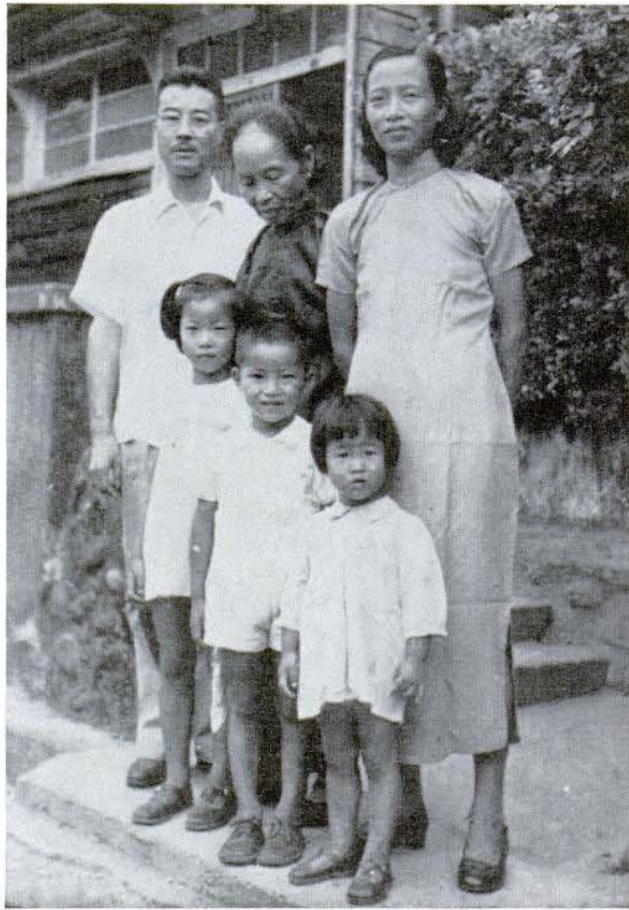
He did not expect to see it for a long, long time—if ever.

So one of China’s mainland millions cast his vote against the Red regime in the only way he could—with his feet. The path from Communist China, like other paths from other satellites the world over, is well worn. Millions from Bamboo and Iron Curtain countries where elections are a farce cast their votes against tyranny by their flight to freedom.

This modern refugee from Communist tyranny in Asia happened to be an engineer. Trained in

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The Sius—a Case in Point

One of the nearly 12,500 technically trained Chinese whom Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, Inc., has resettled is Henry Siu, an engineer, shown here with his family. He is now plans manager of a chemical-fertilizer plant in Taiwan. . . . Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, Inc., is a private, philanthropic, and nonpolitical organization founded in 1952 by a group of Americans under the leadership of Walter H. Judd, U. S. Congressman. The purpose: to restore new life and hope to refugee Chinese leaders, including highly qualified educators, engineers, physicians, agronomists, accountants, and others.

two universities of the U.S.A., Mr. Yang was a prime target for liquidation unless willing to capitulate completely to the new regime. But Yang chose freedom.

What reception awaited Engineer Yang beyond the border of Red China? What job would he find after leaving all and risking his very life in flight? Where would he live in overcrowded Hong Kong unless in those squatter villages which disfigure many hillsides in the Crown Colony? Could he get to America, where he had achieved his engineering proficiency, and if so would Amer-

icans be interested in his plight?

Yang Yen-chi found his father's friend living in poverty. There was no glimmer of hope from him. For weeks he sought employment as an engineer. For other weeks growing into months, he walked the streets seeking any kind of work that would fill his rice bowl. The last I could learn about this technically trained engineer who chose freedom, he was working intermittently as a stevedore on the Hong Kong water front. Because of malnutrition he had contracted tuberculosis.

Out of the million and a quarter

Chinese who have escaped the Bamboo Curtain into Hong Kong and Kowloon across the bay, some 20,000 registered with Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, Inc. (ARCI), organized to preserve the educated Chinese for the benefit of the free world. How many perished from disease and destitution before ARCI was organized, no one can say. Among the registrants were 77 alumni of Columbia, 57 from the University of Michigan, 43 from New York University, 15 from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and scattered others from 69 American colleges and universities. There were 3,855 educators among them, 521 journalists, 369 engineers, 178 agronomists, 177 doctors, 172 physicists, to tabulate the leading professions.

All manner of bottlenecks have been broken by the voluntary organization ARCI, spark-plugged by United States Congressman Walter H. Judd, and directed in the Far East by a veteran Rotarian (who has probably organized more Rotary Clubs in Asia than any other one man) George Fitch—yes, my husband.

In three years ARCI has resettled nearly 12,500 of these technically trained Chinese in the free world at the amazingly low per capita cost of \$91. This feat appears a near-miracle when one realizes that it involved finding jobs and housing for them, and covers the overhead of the three offices in New York, Hong Kong, and Taipei. No other refugee work in the world can match this record. The secret is that most of the jobs have been found on near-by Formosa.

But there is a limit to resettlement and job possibilities on the overcrowded Isle Beautiful. Besides the 8 million Taiwanese (Formosans) and 150,000 tribespeople of the island, 2 million refugees came there with the Nationalist Government when the mainland fell to the Reds. Since then 30,000 internees from Indo-China, 6,000 guerrillas from Burma, 14,000 Chinese POW's from Korea, 18,000 *évacués* from the Tachens, and 2,000 from Nanchi Island, plus more than 11,000 "intellectuals" resettled by ARCI,

have almost upset the applecart of Free China's economy. American foreign-aid experts say the island is now supersaturated from a population standpoint. And babies are born every day as in other countries. Professional positions are as scarce as teeth in Taiwan's turkeys.

Here is where Rotary comes in. With its "Service above Self" motto, Rotary was once known all over China. Among the educated registrants listed in ARCI's files there may indeed be refugee Rotarians from Shanghai, Hangchow, or Chungking. Certainly there are many like Engineer Yang in whose technical education America has made an investment totalling millions. All of them decided at great personal risk to leave homes and business behind them, and cast in their lot with the free world. There are places where they are needed. It is only a matter of finding them.

How sorely the technician is needed the world around! Here in these highly educated Chinese it has a pool many nations can draw from. You, Mr. Rotarian, in whatever continent you dwell, ask if there is an answer here for



Photos: (pp. 18-19) Daisy Atterbury

Madame Chiang Kai-shek at Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals relocation center at Taipei, Taiwan. With her: American Ambassador Karl Rankin (center), an honorary Rotarian, and George Fitch, husband of author and ARCI Far East representative.

you and an opportunity for a person much deserving one.

Before ARCI was formed, Yang Yen-chi chose freedom—and found only destitution. Last year a resettled registrant wrote ARCI, "Without your help, we could obtain *nothing but waiting!*" Too

many, risking their lives for liberty, voting against Communism with their feet, have obtained "nothing but waiting." Rotarians can help save this invaluable pool of talent by helping a deserving refugee and his family obtain a foothold in the free world.

The Hammer and the Anvil

*You must rule, and gain,
or serve, and lose.
Hit, and be the hammer,
or taking blows, the anvil.*

THIS quatrain was the guiding motto of Hitler, Nietzsche, Treitschke, and Von Tirpitz. It was written by Goethe.

Now, Goethe was a good and great man, whose whole life was one of service. How then could he write such drivel? The answer is that he translated it from the Arabic, without indicating that he believed it. He may have intended it for a character in one of his plays, to be spoken by some arrogant young "Junker."

He knew well enough that Nature's forces work in couples, that a hammer is no use without an anvil, that a wise ruler guides those who serve, that those whose life is service are the salt of the earth. It is of particular interest to Rotarians, because their

life is dedicated to service. They do not believe that one must "serve and lose." On the contrary, they have faith in the efficacy, the character-forming influence of service, which will render "profit," if by that ancient word we mean reward, not only materially, but in spirit, in mental satisfaction.

As a salesman, Frank Woolworth was a failure, but when he conjured up the idea of service to his customers by letting them choose their wares, knowing the price beforehand, without haggling or bargaining, he made millions.

Every young man, if he be ambitious, passes through the stage of wanting to be the hammer, and refusing the rôle of the anvil. It is when he becomes mature that he sees the half-truth of the idea. Of such men a Rotary Club consists, or should consist.

—G. A. LEYDS, Rotarian, Capetown,
Union of South Africa, in the
Capetown Newsletter



1963年費吳生博士80歲華誕

中華民國第三任行政院院長何應欽一級上將

賀詞

Congratulatory Speech

delivered by General Ho Ying-Chin**

on Dr. George Ashmore Fitch's 80th Birthday (1963)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today is the 80th birthday of the dearest friend of China, Dr. George A. Fitch. Meanwhile, it is the ninth anniversary of Freedom Day, the 23rd of January. Since we celebrate the birthday for such a great friend of China on such a great day, our feelings of rejoicing and excitement can hardly be expressed in a few remarks.

As we all know, Dr. Fitch is the Westerner who has lived in China with five generations. The contributions made by his family in the field of education as well as medical and relief service are known to almost every Chinese. In the eighty years since his birth in Soochow on this day in 1883, Dr. Fitch has spent most of his time in China and dedicated most of his effort for the benefit of the Chinese people.

During this period, China was in a state of chaos and revolution. Thus Dr. Fitch not only eye-witnessed the commotion of the despotic rule, but also suffered the depredation of Japanese invasion. Now he is still living together with us in this anti-Communist base, Taiwan, and trying his utmost to assist us in fighting for our freedom and democracy. From his contributions made to our Chinese people, we may say that the entire life of Dr. Fitch has been closely attached to the history of China and the life of all our Chinese people in these dozens of years. It is hardly possible to tell during the past several decades how many people have been benefitted by Dr. Fitch, either directly or indirectly. Though we cannot give an exact figure in this regard, fragmentary material tells us that at least 250,000 Chinese refugees have received his care and protection during the massacre perpetrated by the Japanese invaders in Nanking in 1937.

Later, at the request of Dr. H. H. Kung and with the help of the Industrial Cooperation Association, Dr. Fitch successfully made some 150,000 evacuees from the front turn out innumerable products to meet the civilian and military demands in the rear. When Dr. Fitch took up his work at the YMCA, millions of Chinese soldiers received the kindest service from the workers under his

direction. This is the deepest impression I have had of Dr. Fitch, and it was the period I should be most gratified to him for his noble service. As at that time there were no such organizations as the War Area Service Corps and the Friends of Armed Forces Club. Dr. Fitch did solve for us many war area services which formed a serious problem really hard to find a satisfactory solution. During recent years Dr. Fitch, through the ARCI program, has provided adequate resettlement for more than 12,000 people in Taiwan and arranged to resettle more than 2,000 people in the United States and other free areas. These figures represent only a portion of Dr. Fitch's generous service for the Chinese People. However, we can see that Dr. Fitch has rendered the services most urgently required by the Chinese people. Therefore, it is most appropriate to call him the dearest friend of China.

From Dr. Fitch's whole life, we know that his friendship and service to the Chinese people are not only innate. This spirit can be said to be the materialization of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's philosophy, "the purpose of life is for service." It is also the realization of human ideals as set up in our Chinese ethics.

From the religious point of view, it is the true development of Christianity. This is the good virtue which deserves our respect and imitation.

Dr. Fitch loves China as well as her people. Thus he is also loved by our Chinese people. I trust that on his 80th birthday not only do we invoke blessings for Dr. and Mrs. Fitch here today, but also other Chinese people who know or have been favored by Dr. Fitch, even though they are still left behind in the Communist area are certainly praying for this esteemed couple. We earnestly hope that after their planned trip to Australia, they will come back and continue to serve our Chinese people. We particularly hope that since Dr. and Mrs. Fitch have personally eye-witnessed the birth of the Republic of China and fought for the survival of our country, they will see with their eyes the accomplishment of our anti-Communist national recovery and rehabilitation. These are the unanimous wishes of our Chinese people for our dearest friends, Dr. and Mrs. Fitch.

Now may Dr. and Mrs. Fitch together with the Republic of China enjoy the pleasure of longevity!

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*** General Ho Ying-Chin (何應欽一級上將): Republic of China's Premier 1949; Minister of National Defense 1946-1948; Chief Military Mission to U.S.A. 1946-1948; President Chiang's representative in accepting Japanese surrender in China Theatre 1945, and so forth.*

