

哥倫布華人史

Chinese in Columbus: A History

Sponsors:

Chinese Culture Link, Inc.

Ohio Contemporary Chinese School

Asian Festival

Co-Sponsors:

University Libraries, The Ohio State University

Institute for Chinese Studies, OSU

Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, OSU

Asian American Studies Program, OSU

Department of History, OSU

National East Asian Languages Resource Center/Chinese Flagship Program, OSU



Committee Members:

Yung-Chen Lu (鲁永振), Jason Ma (马京升), Chi-lin Yu (俞济琳)
Siu-Leung Lee (李兆良), Robert Hsieh (谢作长), Kuang-hong Hsu (徐贯宏)
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Max Xu (徐登科), Minru Li (李敏儒)

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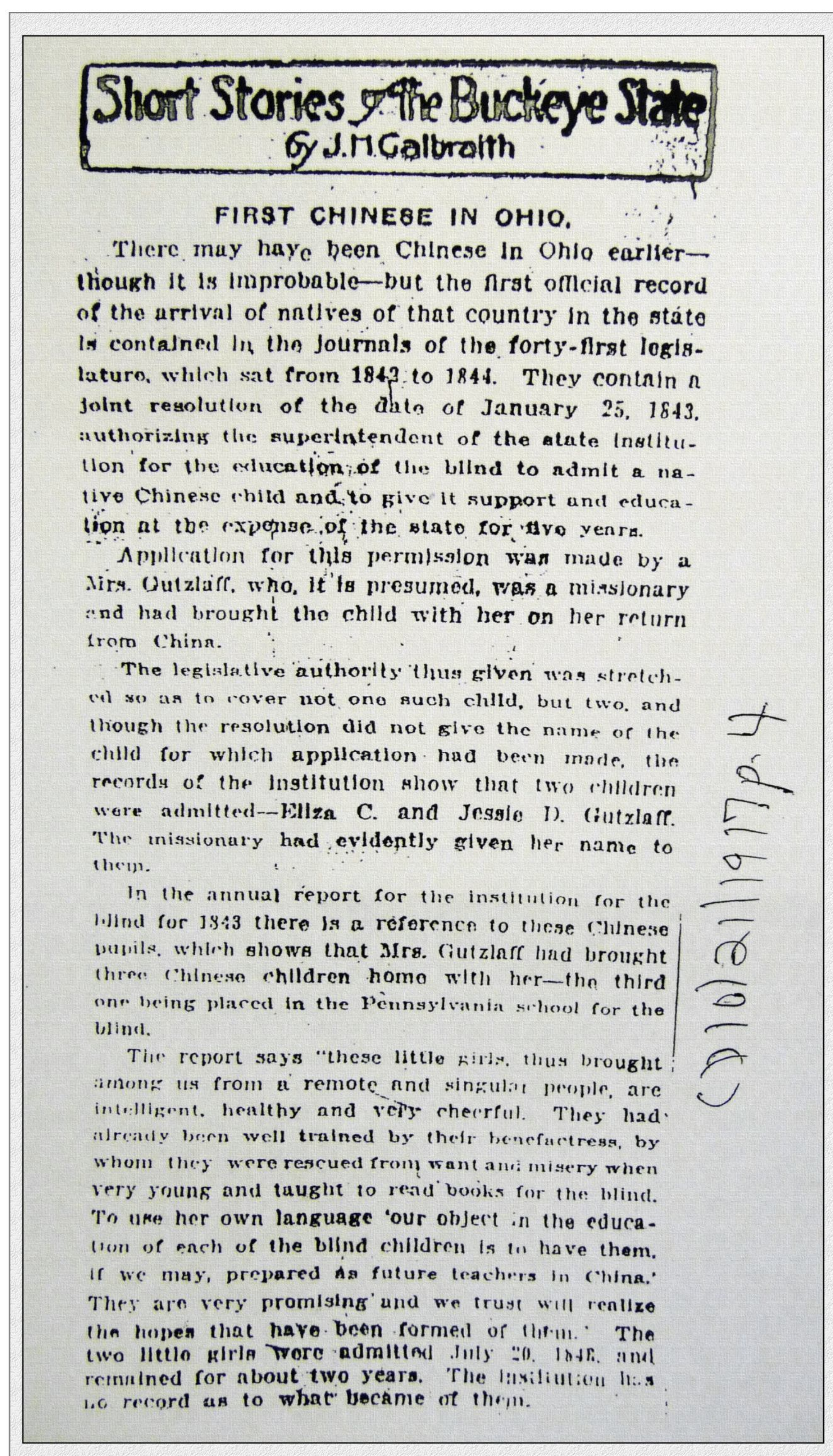
Chinese Americans are celebrating jointly with all Columbus residents the 200th anniversary of our City.

Columbus offers Chinese Americans some of the best opportunities in a friendly environment that embraces cultural diversity, which they could not find elsewhere.

Since the founding days, Columbus has been the final destination of many Chinese Americans after a long search. At a population of only 0.8% of the city of Columbus, Chinese Americans have been contributing to the culture and economy of Columbus, with many achievements significant nationally and internationally.

Here, we would like to share with you some historical landmarks of Chinese Americans in Columbus.

EARLY SETTLEMENT



1843

The first official record of the arrival of natives of China in the State is contained in the Journals of the forty-first legislature, which sat from 1843 to 1844. A missionary brought two Chinese girls with her on her return from China. (opposite)

1883

First Chinese restaurant, Tea Store, opened.
Owner: LEE Ben Hop

1897

Chinese Ambassador,
WU Ting-Fang, visited Columbus on April 23.

1898

First Chinese laundry opened.
Owner: Hing Hop Address: 38 E. Rich St.

Chinese population in Greater Columbus Area

Census Year	population
1860	2
1870	2
1880	8
1890	8
1900	13
1910	52
1920	113
1930	140
1940	125
1950	224
1960	671
1970	1,348*
1980	5,410*
1990	3,412
2000	5,746
2010	13,174**

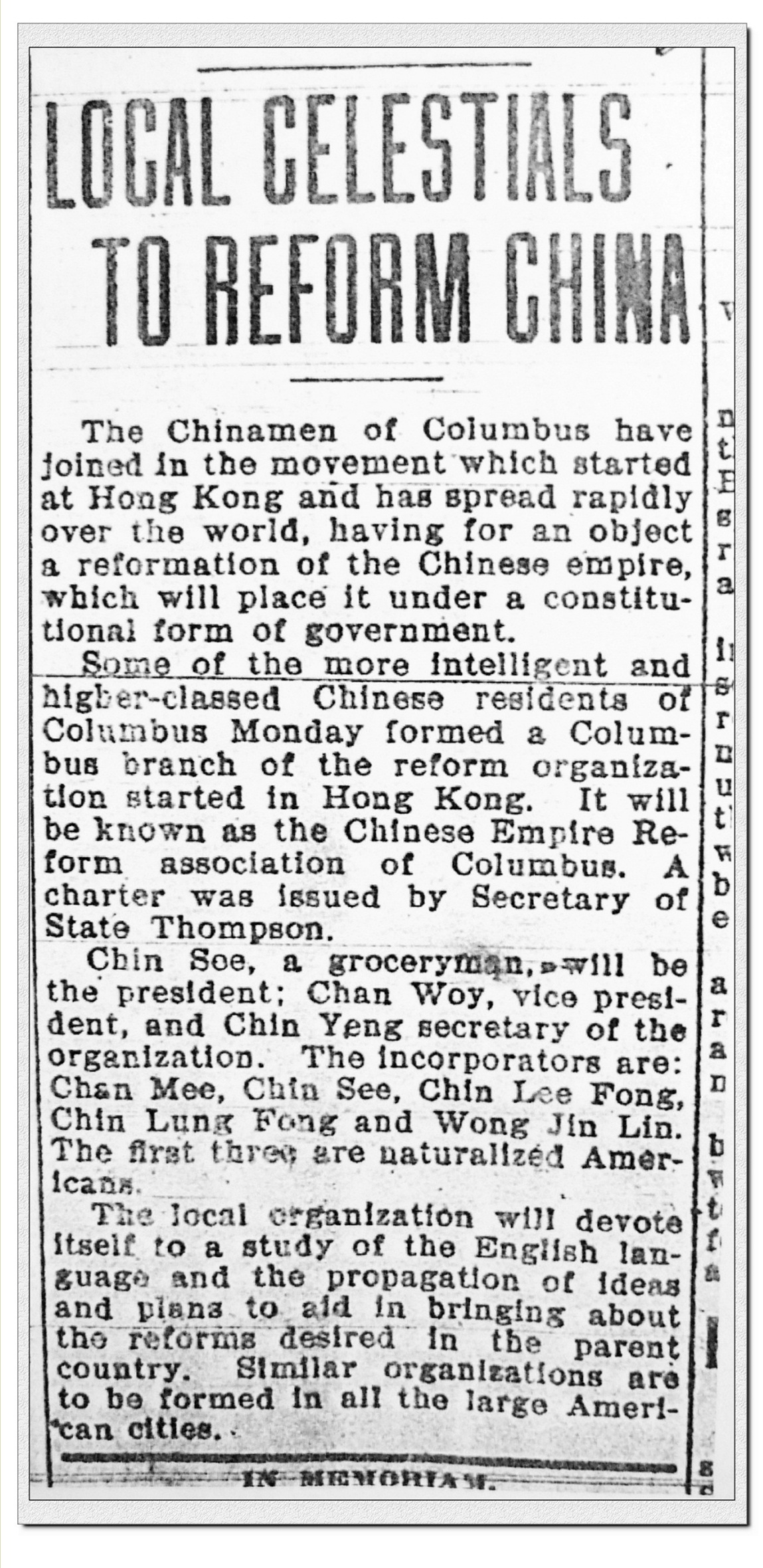
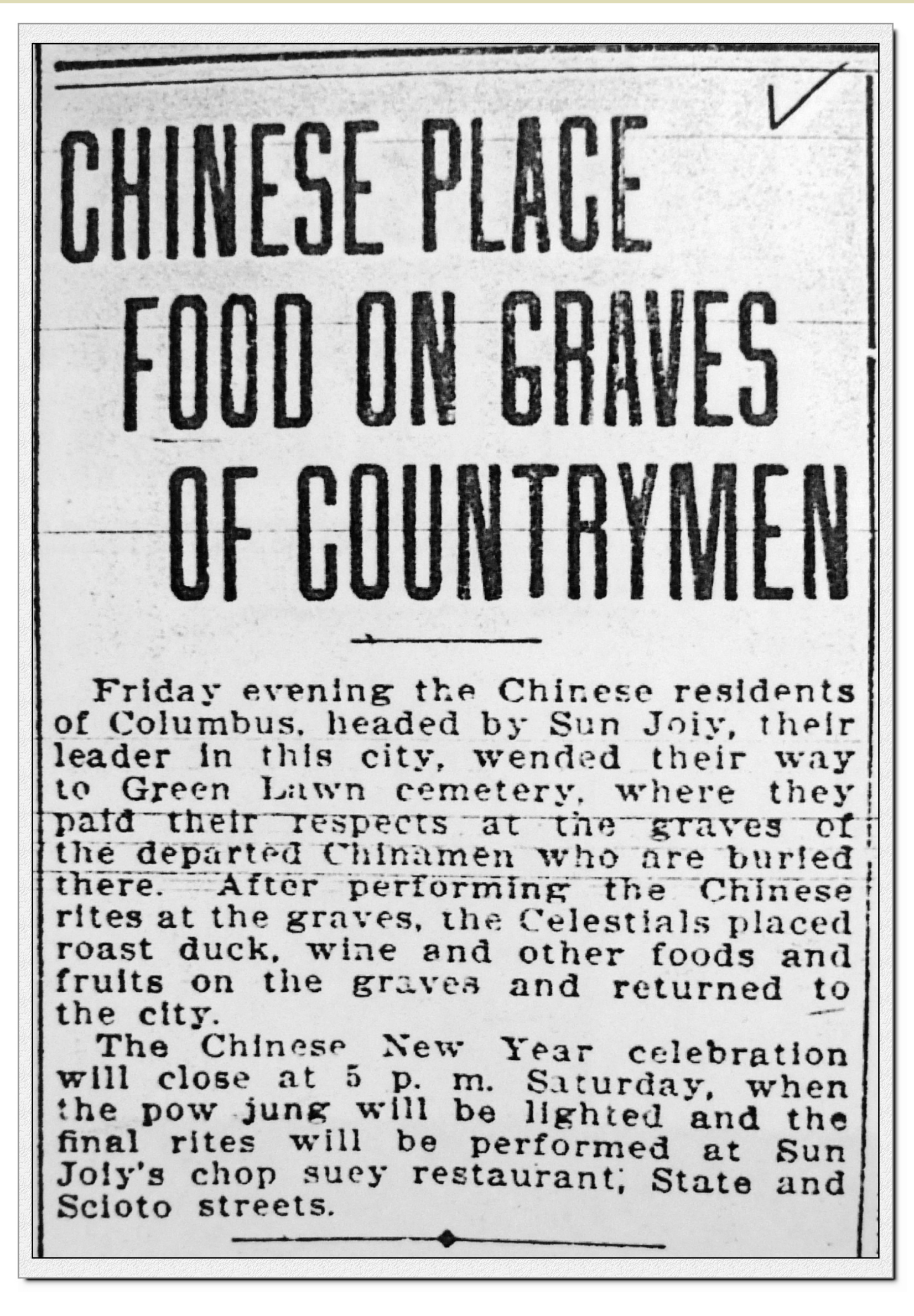
* All Asian population combined, data for Chinese descendent unavailable.
** Not including university students from China, which may add up to 20,000, if included.



1905

• The First Chinese baby, CHAN Wing, was born in Columbus. His father, Mr. CHAN Loo, came to the US in 1895 then moved to Columbus in 1903; and his mother, Mrs. CHAN, was the only Chinese women in Columbus by then. (opposite)

• Year 1905 also marked the first Chinese New Year Celebration in Columbus, reported by *Columbus Citizen* on Feb. 4th. (below)



1906

First Chinese political organization Chinese Empire Reform Association, (The Bo Wong Wuly 保皇會), by Tom Wong Tru, was established in Columbus. (up)

1907

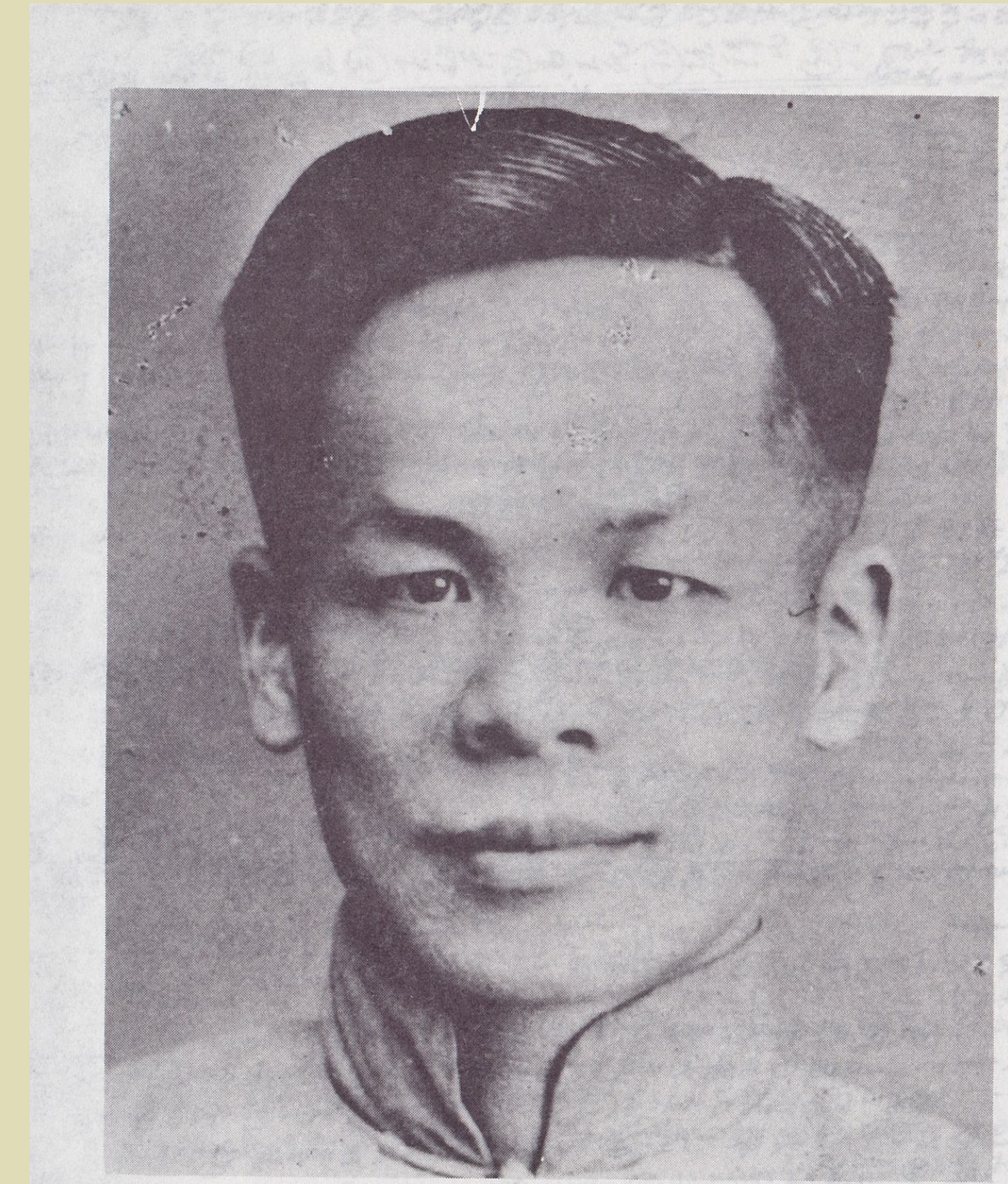
The first burial of Chinese immigrant, CHAN Tack, took place at Greenlawn Cemetery.

1908

First Chinese student, CHAN Louie, 7 years old, with address 423 E. Long street, went to public school.

1920s

John Sung (宋尚節) was a Renowned Chinese Christian evangelist who played an instrumental role in then revival movement in China and Southeast Asia during the 1920s and 1930s.



主僕宋尚節博士

In 1920 he was sent to America for his higher education. He studied at Wesleyan University of Ohio and The Ohio State University. As a brilliant student, he earned a doctorate degree in chemistry in five years. His chemistry essays and research documents can still be seen at the University Library today.

Mr. Sung went back to China in 1927 and became the most influential evangelist in modern Chinese history.



(圖七) 主僕宋尚節1920~1923年在俄州威斯理大學攻讀化學，此圖乃威斯理大學硫磺泉之風景照片。

Ohio Wesleyan University, where Mr. Sung studied Chemistry. (up)

The first Chinese Christian church – Columbus Chinese Christian Church (CCCC) was founded in May 1976. In the decade prior to the founding of the first Church, many Chinese students and scholars at OSU had already formed fellowships and Bible study groups. Following the footsteps of Rev. John Song, Rev. Peter Ning came from Taiwan and became the first pastor of CCCC. Today, CCCC become one of several Chinese Christian churches with regular attendance of over 600 worshipers.

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR SEMESTER REPORT OF				
Sung, Siang Ch				
Subject	Semester Hours	Grade		
Math 201	2	A	28	
Math 207	2	A	28	
Chem 213	4	A	28	
Phys 205	5	A	28	
French 101	4	B+	28	
French 101	2	A-	28	
			計	
			前	
			季	
			成績	
SIGNIFICANCE OF GRADES				
A, excellent B, good C, fair D, poor (warning) E, unsatisfactory F, failure I, incomplete				
SEM. END. N. 12-19-21				

(圖十) 這是主僕宋尚節一九二一年在俄州威斯理大學第一學年兩季的學習成績卡，因為成績好被校方允許三年讀完四年課程。毛筆字是主僕人親筆字。

A copy of Mr. Sung's transcript from Ohio Wesleyan University. (up)



(圖九) 主僕宋尚節一九二〇年夏在俄州孟城南方旅館打工。

Southern Hotel in Mansfield, Ohio, where Mr. Sung used to work. (up)



First Chinese Christian Church in Columbus, established in 1976 (up)



Today's CCCC (up)

There are over 600 regular worshipers every Sunday at CCCC. (down)



1930s (cont'd)

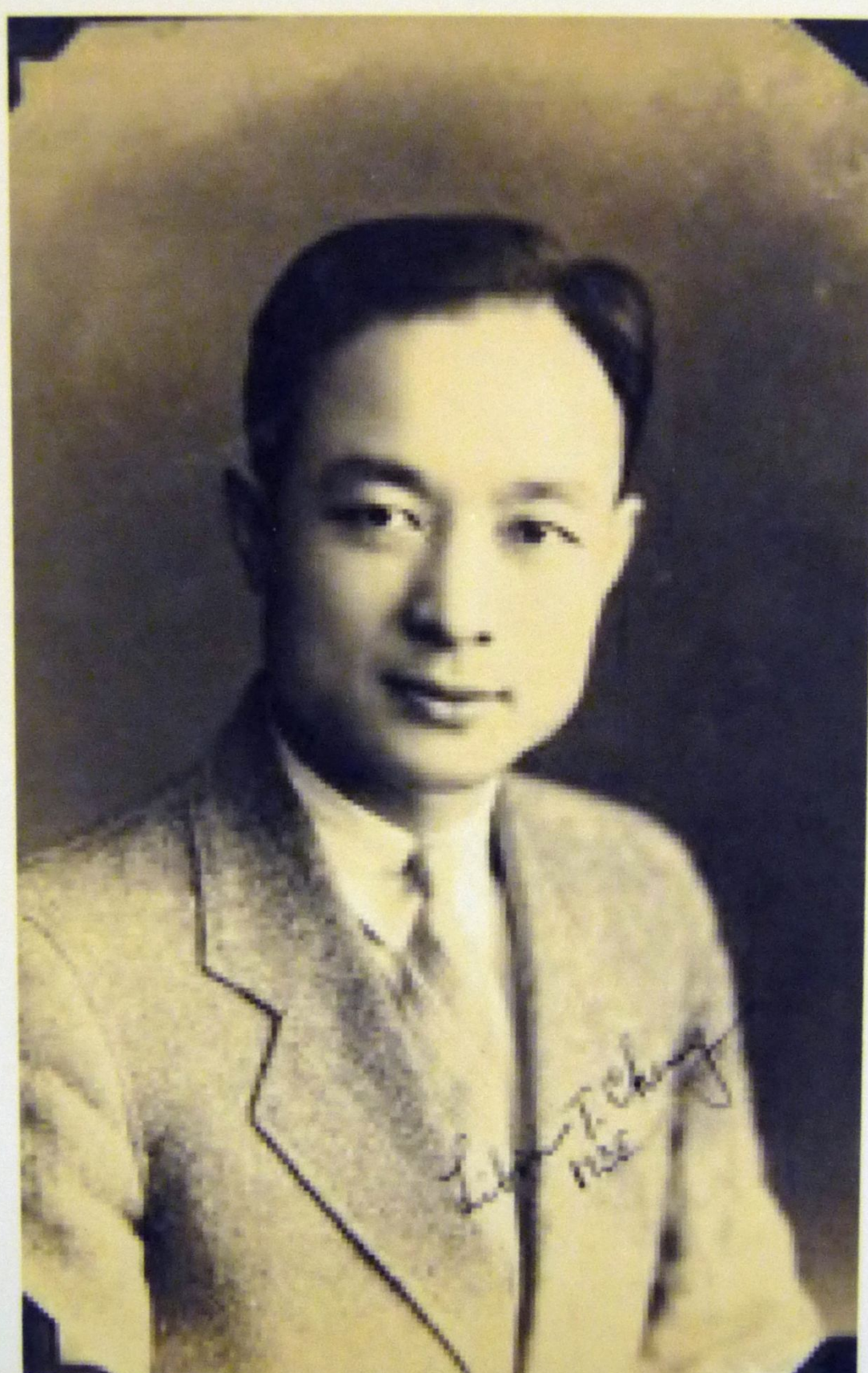
Business of the Chinese immigrants was booming. At one time, there were more than 40 Chinese laundries, but food service slowly took over to become the most popular business among Chinese immigrants.



Kim Yee's Laundry at 1243 Highland St. (*left*)
Far East Restaurant, by Walter Ming, at 2525 E. Main St., later moved to 2801 E. Main St. (*right*)

Ohio State University was only one of a few State Universities to accept foreign students in the 1900s. With the help from Mr. Kim Yee, there were several Chinese students enrolled in OSU in 1925.

Zheng Ji



Zheng Ji in 1935

A notable OSU alumnus from early years is Dr. ZHENG Ji (鄭集), who came to OSU to study biochemistry in 1930. Upon returning to China with a Ph.D. degree, he successively served as a professor at the Central Medical School, where he established a biochemistry research institute to train graduate students in 1945.

This was the first formal organization in China to teach biochemistry to graduate students, training a large number of students who went on to work in a variety of fields.

Another notable OSU alumnus is Dr. Kwan-Yau Tang, who obtained Ph.D. degree from OSU in 1928, and became the first Chinese professor at Dept. of Electrical Engineering at OSU. There is a K. Y. Tang Memorial Fund established in 1962 and is still benefiting OSU today.



Dr. Tang, the 4th from left, in a Dept. of Electrical Engineering faculty meeting in 1949

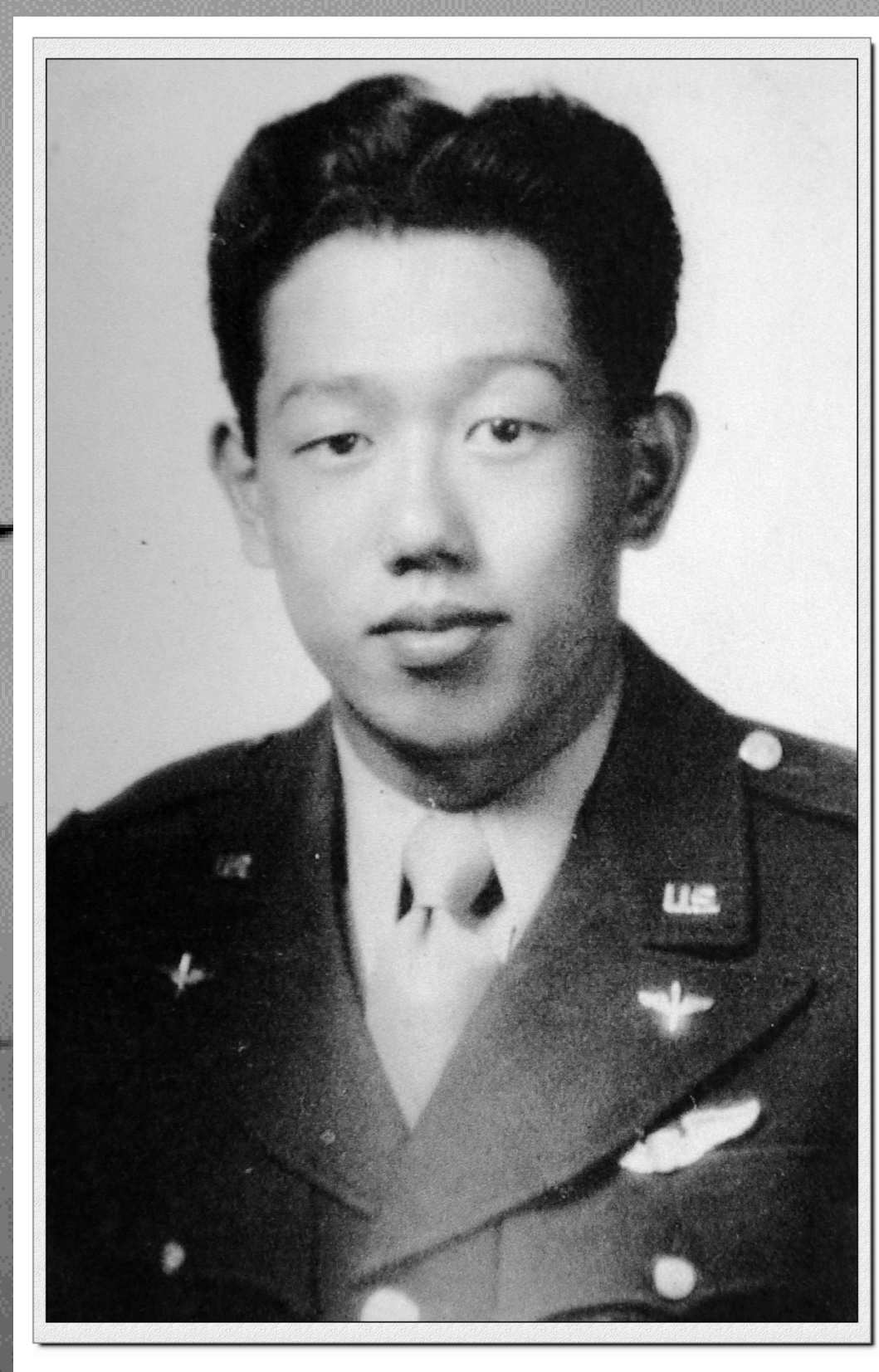
WORLD WAR II ERA

1940s

World War II broke out in the late 30s and both US and China were involved in fighting against the Empire of Japan.

As a direct result, Chinese Exclusion Act, a law passed in 1882, was repealed in 1943, after China and the U.S. became allies in WWII. But unfortunately, the limiting quota for Chinese immigrants had not been removed until 1965.

The racist laws barred Chinese immigrants from owning land or property, marrying whites, working in the public sector and testifying against whites in court.



George Chin, son of Doak Goo Chin, enlisted in the US Army at a Lieutenant in WWII. (left)



King Yi Ming, son of Walter Ming, owner of Far East Restaurant, showed a slogan, which read: "Columbus Chinese War Work Committee. Military First, Victory First." (right)



First Chinese Youth Delegation from China visited Columbus on October 4, 1938, and was warmly welcomed by Mayor Gessman and local Chinese. (up)



Chinese Ambassador to the US, Dr. HU Shih (胡適) visited Columbus on March 20, 1942, posed for a picture with local representative Walter Ming, Governor John Bricker, and Mayor Floyd Green. (up)



First Chinese Aviation Lady, Ms. Lee Ya Ching, flew to Columbus in 1942, and was greeted by local Chinese people in front of Far East Restaurant. (up)

AFTER WORLD WAR II

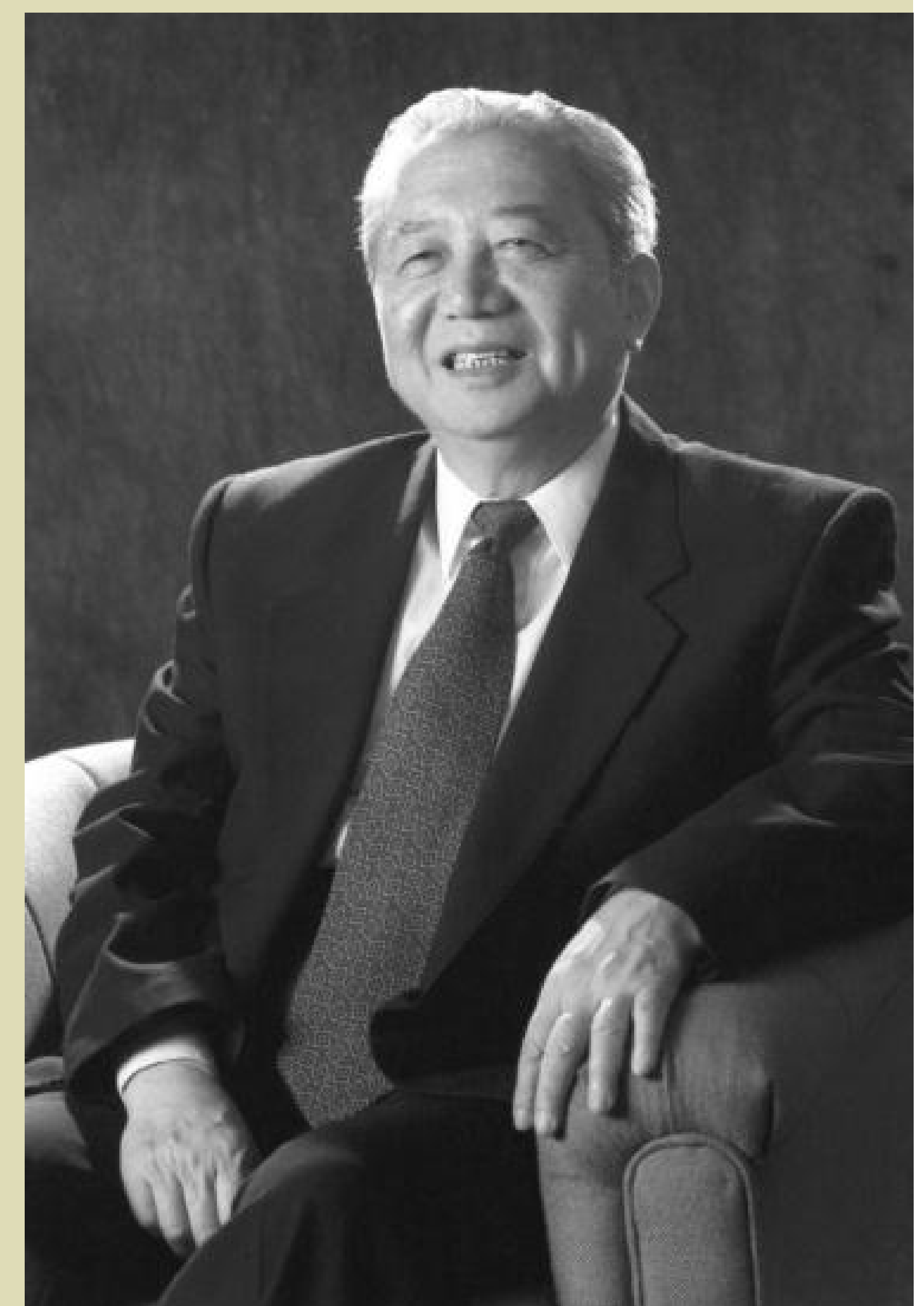
1949

With major combat in the Chinese Civil War ended, on October 1st, 1949, MAO Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China.

1951

Dr. MIN Enze (閔恩澤) graduated from Ohio State University with a Ph.D. degree.

Dr. Min is a renowned Chinese expert in petrochemical catalysis. He was elected an academician of Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) in 1980, a member of Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in 1993, and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) in 1994. He is a senior engineer, and serves as the chairman of academic committee of the Institute of Petrochemical Science of China Petroleum and Chemical Corp.



Dr. Min received the State Preeminent Science and Technology Award in 2007, the most prestigious scientific prize awarded in China.

1972

U.S. President Richard Nixon visited the People's Republic of China, which was an important step in formally normalizing relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

AFTER CHINA OPENED THE DOOR

1979

This is the year marked with significance in the US-China Relationship. On January 1st, 1979, the United States went to diplomatically recognize the People's Republic of China. And later in early 1979, Mr. DENG Xiaoping undertook an official visit to the US.

As Mr. Deng made it clear that the new China's priorities were economic and technological development, China sent out its first tier visiting Scholars to US. Among these elite scientists was Dr. Yuanfang Zheng (鄭元芳), who came to the Ohio State University and later became the first graduate student of OSU from China after Culture Revolution. He obtained his MS and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering in 1980 and 1984. Dr. Zheng has been Winbigler Professor and the Chair of Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering at OSU.



Dr. Zheng (first from left) with friends at Mansfield, Ohio, 1980

1980

The first Chinese school, Columbus Chinese Language School (哥城中文學校), now Columbus Chinese Academy, was founded on Lane Avenue.

美中科协
Middlewest Chinese Science and Culture Association (MCSCA)

1. MCSCA was formed in 1993 in Columbus.
2. Members are Chinese professionals, scholars, and students coming to the U.S. after the Cultural Revolution.
3. The mission of MCSCA is to promote Chinese science and culture in the great Columbus area.
4. MCSCA also facilitates exchange programs between the U.S. and China.
5. Since 1993, MCSCA has organized or participated in numerous activities as shown here.



Chinese Ambassador from New York met MCSCA members

Celebrate the 10th anniversary

1993

The Midwest Chinese Science and Culture Association (美中科協) was founded in Columbus.

1994

Ohio Contemporary Chinese School (OCCS, 俄亥俄現代中文學校), an educational and cultural institution, was founded by volunteers.

OCCS aims at introducing Chinese language and culture to Chinese, their children, and the general public. OCCS believes that the insight of cultural diversity strengthens mutual respect and understanding, and the appreciation of each other's cultures.

OCCS is a prominent community institute and has supported local community activities, such as the Worthington International Friendship Association, Worthington Spelling Bee competition, Ohio Chess Tournaments, etc.



2010 Independence Day Parade organized by OCCS



A picture of OCCS flute class, June 2011

In 2007, several key volunteers of OCCS formed a non-profit organization, Chinese Culture Link (CCL, 俄亥俄中國文化中心), to promote social and cultural activities with the aim of enhancing understanding and friendship between Chinese American and other ethnic groups.

Since 2008, OCCS, CCL, and four Chinese schools from other cities in Ohio have jointly organized successful annual Chinese Festivals, each attracted thousands of visitors from around Ohio and surrounding States. This event provides the opportunities to experience the splendor of Chinese culture and the spirits of Chinese Americans in Ohio.



pictures of all performers of 2011 Chinese Festival (left) and a dance performed by OCCS students (right)

1995

The first CSAUS (全美中文學校協會) national convention was held in Columbus, Ohio in October 1995.

Representatives from Culture and Education Division of the Oversea Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of China and Department of Education of China made a special trip to the convention. It was the first time they paid close attention to Chinese education in the U.S.

More than 100 representatives from Chinese schools across the United States attended the convention. Dr. WANG Jianjun (王建軍) was the Chairman of the convention's Organizing Committee.

So far, a total of nine Chairs of Board of Directors have been elected. Among them, two are from the Ohio Contemporary Chinese School: Dr. WANG Jianjun (Chair, the second Board of Directors) & Dr. MA Jingsheng (馬京升) (Chair, the sixth Board of Directors).



pictures from the first CSAUS national convention, Columbus, Ohio, 1995

2003

The Historical Marker to commemorate Chinese soldiers participating in the American Civil War (1861-1865) was established at Franklin Park, Columbus, by officials from the City of Columbus, Ohio Historical Society and Organization of Chinese Americans - Columbus Chapter. This is the first and only marker in the US of this nature.



2006

"Celebrating Diversity" was held by OCA-Columbus Chapter to honor people with special contribution to the local Chinese American community.

2008

Theresa Lee (衛小玲) is one of three awarded "Women Making History" by Franklin County for her service to the Asian American community.



2012

Dr. Yung-Chen Lu (魯永振), founder of the Asian Festival, received MLK Award in 2012.

This is the first Asian to receive Governor's Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award.

The award ceremony took place on January 12, 2012 at the Capitol Theater of the Riffe Tower.



2005-2011

"Avatar" is historically the first American animated TV series and movie made with genuine Chinese calligraphy, authored by Dr. Siu-Leung Lee (李兆良).

Avatar , winner of 11 international and national awards, is distributed in 12 countries.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Chinese American Association of Central Ohio (CAACO)

CAACO was founded on June 16, 1983 with purposes of:

- To unite and promote common interests of all Chinese Americans residing in the cities, villages, and counties of central Ohio.
- To improve the welfare of Chinese in American society by means of cooperative activities and mutual assistance.
- To promote ethnic harmony through education, economic, social and legal endeavor.
- To undertake other community-wide activities.



Ohio Union of Alumni Associations from Universities in China

俄亥俄州中國高校校友聯合會

Founded on June 19, 2009, the Ohio Union of Alumni Associations from Universities in China (OUAAUC) represents the young generations of Chinese people in the USA, With the mission to unite all the Alumni and to make full use of available resources of the all OUAAUC to create an open and stable platform for all alumni.



Celebration of the 60th National Day of China

Ohio Women Organization

俄亥俄妇女联合会

(OWO) is the first of its kind Chinese women organizations in the Ohio history. The purpose of the OWO is to build a warm and strong home for all women who need help, knowledge, or resource for their successful business and happy life. Its ultimate goal is for the betterment of women .



The first gathering on March 8,
International Women's Day

BBAC

歌城菩提佛學社

BBAC was founded in 1991. It provides a premises for those who interested in studying Buddhism or just seeking spiritual purification or liberation of emotional vexations. It regularly invites masters of various Buddhism traditions to come to its Columbus center to teach. Teaching and discussion sessions are conducted in English and Chinese as well, encompassing meditation, sutras of Zen, Mahayana and Theravada, and special subjects. Members come from various countries/regions including Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Japan and United States.



A Group Picture after Dharma Talk by
Venerable Kaiyin at BBAC, April 2011

Tzu Chi

慈濟公德會

Tzu Chi is a Buddhist organization with a teaching emphasizing on "Big Love", which manifests in action as its members heavily involving themselves in local charitable activities. Tzu Chi's good deeds to a great extent helps convey to the Columbus public a message that the local Chinese communities are not only contributing to the city in the form of education, food services and so forth, but also involved in charitable endeavors. And that exemplifies the kind and compassionate aspect of the Chinese Characteristics.

