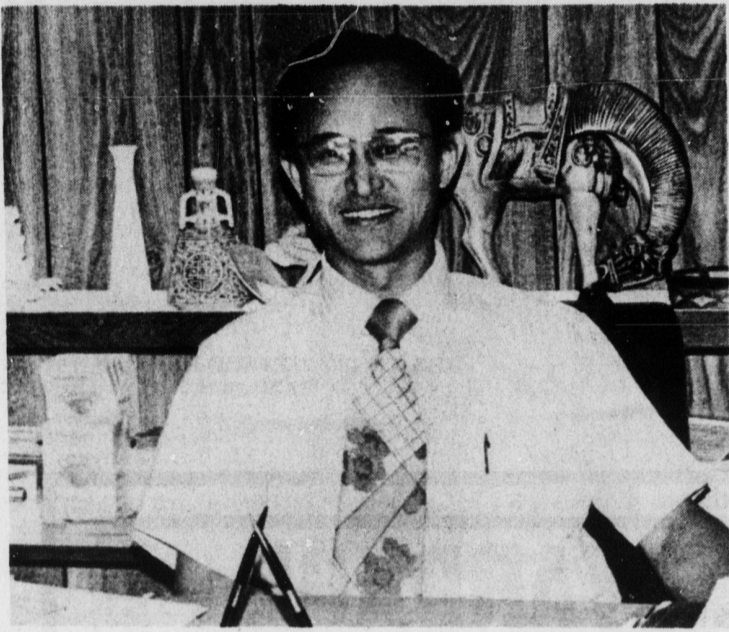


Chens Now Happy Americans, KMers



DR. CHEN AT WORK — Dr. Fang K. Chen is pictured at his desk with numerous Oriental decorations in the background. Dr. Chen, who recently became a naturalized U. S. citizen, and has begun the practice of obstetrics and gynecology.

Former KMer Goforth Wins Leadership Award

A former Kings Mountain woman, Frances Goforth, and co-author with Dr. Howard Richardson of New York City of four Broadway plays, has won the coveted "Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans Award" from the Editorial Board of American Biographical Institute, a Division of Historical Preservations of America.

Miss Goforth, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Goforth of Kings Mountain, has been selected to appear in the 1976-77 edition of community leaders and noteworthy Americans "in recognition of past achievements and outstanding service to community and state."

The award was presented recently in New York City where Miss Goforth is employed by a leading Fifth Avenue dress shop.

Two recent plays that the Goforth-Richardson team has authored were "Ark of Safety" which was presented at Mars Hill College and drew wide acclaim in reviews and from audiences, and the second, "Evening Star," a senior citizens play — a play not only about senior citizens but of them. The play premiered in Kingsport, Tenn. in May.

The playwrights in "Evening Star" created living characters of the elderly — the loved and unloved — the altruistic, the protected and pitied, and put them in the setting of a home for retired actors. One of the characters in the play, a man in his 80's but with perpetual youth, said, "There are old men at 25 and boys at 60. There is springtime and winter. There is you and me."

Whereas in most plays the parts of older characters are played by younger actors made up to appear old, in "Evening Star," the actual ages must match the stage ages, explains Frances.

"There is a growing concern for the needs of the elderly. One of those primary needs, apart from physical or financial, is the need for opportunity — opportunity to develop and use existing talents and to cultivate new ones," she said.



Lib Stewart

"Because only a small percentage of the elderly have any basic knowledge of the arts, they must be educated and trained in the joys and responsibilities of performing," she continued.

"It is a matter of adjusting the arts to them and not trying to adjust them to the arts," she declared.

The Kingsport premier of "Evening Star" was sponsored by the Senior Citizens Theatre which started a little over a year ago with three persons.

Joan Hensley, cultural arts director for the City of Kingsport, says she believes the Goforth-Richardson play is the only such play anywhere in America today. She was so filled with excitement about her group presenting the play that she brought together the playwrights and players, arranged their visit to Kingsport and exposed them to the remarkable little troupe of actors at Senior Citizens Center who presented the play to large and appreciative audiences.

The playwrights were captivated by what they saw, Frances told Kings Mountain friends, since this was the finest opportunity they had seen for older people to engage in theatrical work. They offered their script of "Evening Star."

Dr. Richardson also wrote "Dark of the Moon," about an Appalachian witchboy, and he and Frances are now at work adapting the play for television.

Miss Goforth got her start in the theatre when she was a member of Carolina Playmakers at UNC in Chapel Hill. After teaching in this area she pursued her writing career in New York City, combining her love for writing with her dressmaker skills which she inherited from her mother.

Newcomers to Kings Mountain, Dr. and Mrs. Fang K. Chen, became naturalized U. S. citizens recently and it was the happiest day of their life.

The Chinese couple and their three sons, typical boys and quite Americanized, are living in an apartment at Colonial Arms until their new home is completed on Garrison Drive.

"We can hardly wait to get in our new home where the boys will have more room," said Ann Lin Chen, pretty young woman who has given up her nursing profession to become a full-time homemaker, and loves it. Mrs. Chen also took the American name "Ann" instead of An-An.

Dr. Chen opened an office to practice obstetrics and gynecology in a clinic he shares with Dr. Sam Robinson near Kings Mountain Hospital in January, moving from Lincolnton, where the Chens lived a year, to Kings Mountain.

"We love Kings Mountain and find it an ideal place to raise our children," said Mrs. Chen.

And, apparently the boys, Daryl, age eight, and twins, Peter and Paul, five, love their new home. Daryl will be a third grader in the Fall and Peter and Paul will attend Trinity Day School.

Dr. Chen described his recertification program in this country as almost a complete retraining program in the field of medicine as he sat in his panelled office where he displays the more than two dozen certificates, one of which he is extremely proud which honored him as a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He specialized in obstetrics and gynecology at Harvard Medical College after finishing ungraduate school and medical school at Taiwan University and was on the staff of Catholic Medical Center.

Both natives of the Republic of China, the young couple left early in life when the Communist regime took over in the late 40's. An-An was brought to Taiwan by her family and Dr. Chen was brought to Korea and then to Taiwan where they met and married. Dr. Chen came from Korea as a teenager to the island of Formosa, Taiwan, and he and his family from Taiwan to the United States eight years ago to New York City.

Dr. Chen, 34, was highly complimentary of the training and experiences he received in New York but both parents agreed that a big city is not the best place to raise a family. "That's why we like Kings Mountain so much" said Mrs. Chen.

It took five years of applications, interviews, and study of this country before the Chens were eligible for certificates of naturalization. The "big" day was May 25 in Western District Court, Charlotte.

"We learned about the different branches of government," recalled Ann, and studied the U. S. Constitution.

Dr. Chen laughed when he recalled some of his conversations about politics and told the story to KM Hospital Administrator Grady Howard of their trip to Texas when they were surprised to find cowboys but "no Indians."

Will the personable couple decorate their new home in Oriental style?

"Not necessarily," says Mrs. Chen, who likes the American style in decorating and entertaining. She has used several Oriental pieces to decorate her husband's office and reception



CHEN FAMILY — Dr. and Mrs. Fang K. Chen and their children, Paul, on his Dad's lap, Peter, Mrs. Chen and Daryl are pictured at the Doctor's clinic in Kings Mountain. The Chinese couple recently became naturalized United States citizens.

area and still enjoys serving Oriental dishes and visiting Oriental restaurants.

The young Chens, however, prefer American hotdogs and hamburger any day of the week to Chinese cooking.

Mrs. Chen, who lists music as her hobby, is taking piano lessons and has enrolled in

speech classes at Gaston College since moving to Kings Mountain. She prefers popular music and Dr. Chen prefers the classics. Dr. Chen also lists music as a hobby but good-naturedly admits he relaxes after a hard day at the office by watching the television.

Dr. and Mrs. Chen have enjoyed meeting new friends and visiting in area churches since they arrived in Kings Mountain and have entertained a Chinese family from Gardner Webb College on numerous occasions.

Ann has promised to let me taste her Oriental cooking when they move into their new home.

Ann shares with Mirror-Herald readers two of her favorite recipes:

WINE CHICKEN

- 1 whole chicken
- 5 T salt
- Cooking wine (red or white) one bottle
- 1. Chicken and water put in pan cook about one hour well done.
- 2. Take out chicken all body spread salt throw out the water.
- 3. Cut big piece about nine piece put it in the big jar add whole bottle cooking wine. Cover well.
- 4. Change position once a day about three days may service cut small piece.
- 5. Keep in cool place. Only can keep 20 to 30 days.

TOMATO JUICE COCKTAIL

- 1 qt. tomato juice
- 1 large onion sliced
- ½ T salt
- 2 T sugar
- 1 T worcestershire
- ½ cup chopped celery
- Mix and let stand couple of days, Strain and serve.
- (From Ann's Kitchen)



ORIENTAL DECOR — Ann Lee stands in front of a group of Oriental plaques and a Chinese calendar in her husband's office. The Oriental theme is featured in Dr. Chen's office and reception area.

Story And Photos

By Lib Stewart