



深入至财启路尾段! Deep into Chye Kay Road End

罗弄白浪路
Lorong Pulang

财启路
Chye Kay Road

财启路尾段

Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1949 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright

罗弄白浪路
Lorong Pulang

财启路
Chye Kay Road

财启路尾
Chye Kay Road End

叶建德、叶安发居住在财启路最尾段，佔地6-7英亩，土地是向一潮籍地主购买，叶家拥有规模极大的养猪场，村尾养鸡业者规模最大为叶文南与炳惠兄弟，主要是生产鸡蛋及小量肉鸡，此外农场鸡粪用途大，可售卖给附近农民作为肥料。其隔邻叶添福也是鸡农。

早期廖火土家务农，幼年兄弟姐妹都得协助参与农活，廖火土追述当年农活最为辛苦的是徒步到三公里路外的成邦园一带养牛场购买牛粪，用扁担挑两大铁桶牛粪肥料再徒步回家。

Yap Jian De and Yap An Fa stayed at the end of Chye Kay Road. The size of their land was about 6 to 7 acres, purchased from a Teochew landlord. The Yap Family owned a large pig farm, Yap Wen Nan and Yap Bing Hui owned the largest chicken farm in the tail end of the village, supplying eggs and meat. Chicken droppings were also useful in those times; these could be sold to villagers to be used as fertilizers. Their neighbour, Yap Tian Fu, also owned a chicken farm.

In the early days, Leow Hea Tow's family were farmers. Along with his siblings, he would help out at the family farm. The toughest part about farming was walking 3km to Simpang Hng to purchase cow dung and then using wooden shoulder poles and big metal cans to bring the dung back as fertilizer for their farm.

The many sights and sounds of Chye Kay Road

photo credit: 胡开国 廖叶 廖火土 廖椒福



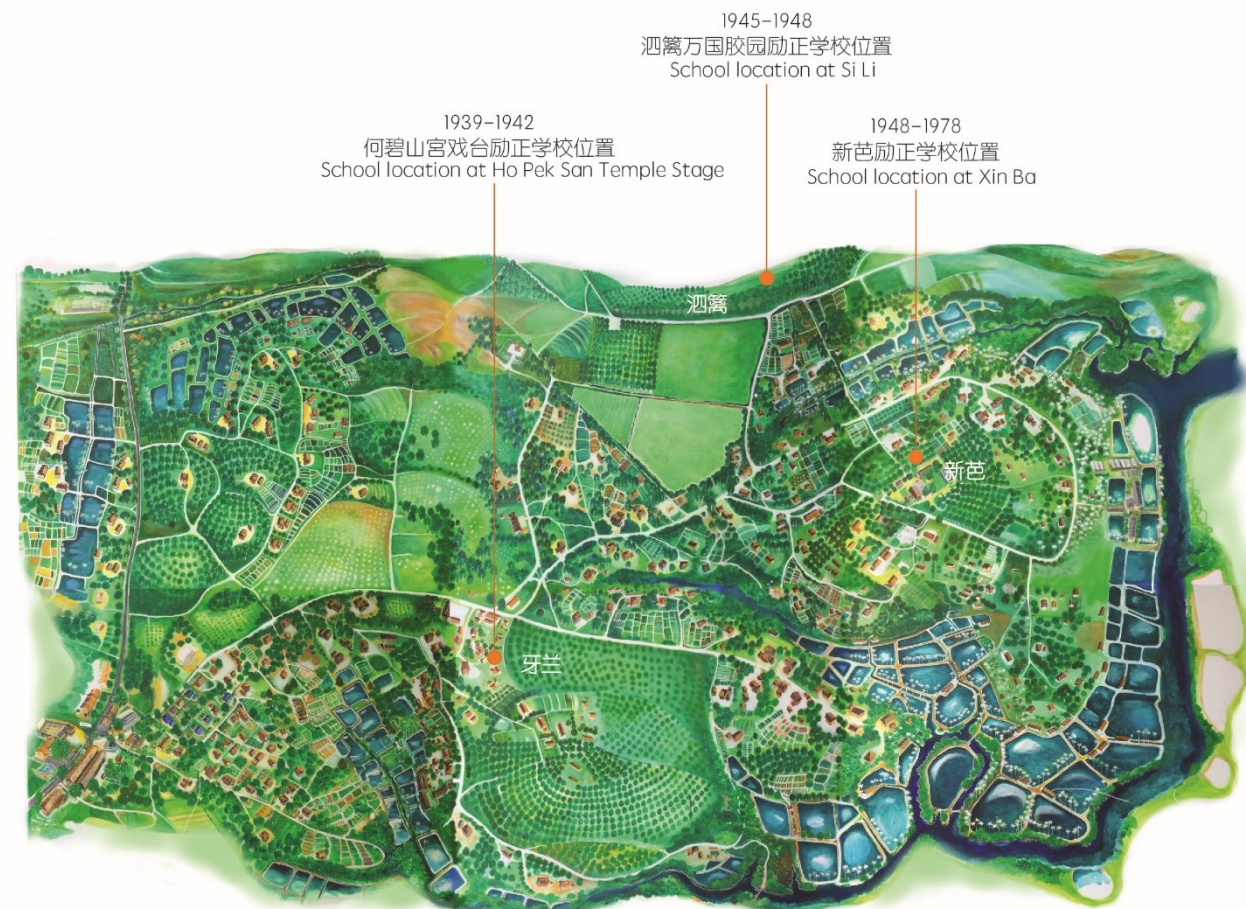
那故乡的泥土
 再回首已人去楼空



In a blink of an eye, the houses and roads are now empty







励正学校三迁的位置图
Map of Lee Cheng School's three different locations over the years

Lee Cheng School motto
Diligence, frugality, perseverance and honesty



School location at Ho Pek San Temple

陈树泉，财启村垦荒先驱陈降之长子，热心推广村内教育工作，最早在住家鸡寮旁边搭建一草房充当私塾^①，由黄年峰执教，学生十多人，随着学生人数的增加，在陈树泉与乡村父老提议下，于1939年创办了励正学校，正式邀请黄年峰主持校务，受委任为第一任校长，初期学生人数尚不足与及缺乏资金，未能搭建校舍，就地取材以牙兰何碧山宫戏台作为课堂，戏台上下层只以简陋木板间隔开，其幼弟黄年章于次年1940年加入执教，当时教师工作全属义务不受薪，只以学生提供的“束脩”^②维持生活。

Tan Chu Chuan was the eldest son of one of Chye Kay Village's pioneers, Tan Kang, and hence was a firm advocate for bringing education to the rest of the village. He built a small hut beside his chicken farm for the sole purpose of making it a private school, where he invited Ng Lian Hong to teach. Over time, the amount of students increased. After a series of discussions, Tan Chu Chuan and other villagers officially opened Lee Cheng School in 1939, and Tan Chu Chuan appointed Ng Lian Hong as principal. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding for construction, they used Ho Pek San Temple's stage as temporary classrooms. In 1940, Ng Lian Hong invited his brother, Ng Lian Chong, to be a teacher at the school. During this time, both Ng Lian Hong and Ng Lian Chong did their jobs on a voluntary basis, and did not receive any salary, instead receiving remuneration from families of the students paid in kind within their means.

① 私塾：旧时民间在私宅所办的学堂
束脩：指老师接受贫困的学生用物品（如农作物等）代替学费



陈树泉
励正与励德学校创办人
Tan Chu Chuan, founder of
Lee Cheng School and
Lee Teck School

位于牙兰的

励正学校



黄年峰校长
Principal Ng Lian Hong

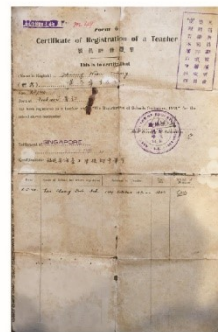


黄年章
Ng Lian Chong

位于泗篱的励正学校 Lee Cheng School at Si Li



保留日军的军事贮存办事处为励正学校
A building left by the Japanese, as a food collection point during the war was used as Lee Cheng School



1940年的教员证书
Certificate of
Registration of a
Teacher in 1940



黄年章 Ng Lian Chong (摄于培英学校)

日治时期，黄年峰校长病逝，一切学校活动停办。直到1945年日本投降，财启村民原本想拆掉泗篱胶园内日军粮食贮存办事处，取其建筑材料作为己用，当时在市区商行当文员的黄年章获悉消息，急忙由市区赶回财启村，联同乡村父老一同劝阻村民，成功把日军建筑屋保留下来充当临时校舍。泗篱励正位于成邦路万国胶园内三百米处，地势高又处于交通要道，因而当年被日军选为战略地点，有一座二层楼亚答浮脚屋及一些工作平房，黄年章着手整理复校事务，在各路口胶树上张贴手写招收学生海报，义务协助处理校务约半年时间，顺利完成其兄黄年峰的复校遗愿。

During the Japanese Occupation, Ng Lian Hong fell ill and passed away. Hence, all school activities stopped until the Japanese surrendered in 1945. After the surrender, one of the buildings in the village, which was built by the Japanese as a food collection point, was due to be torn down by villagers, who wanted to use the materials to build their own farms. Upon hearing this news, Ng Lian Chong, who was a shop clerk in the city at that time, rushed back to the village and together with some elderly in the village, managed to dissuade the villagers from demolishing it and successfully retained it to use as a temporary school building. He then started distributing posters around the area to recruit students for the school. Ng Lian Chong volunteered at the school for 6 months, re-establishing Lee Cheng School at this new location, fulfilling his brother Ng Lian Hong's last wishes.



卓九臣 Zhuo Jiu Cheng

"1946年励正学校以泗篱日军留下的浮脚屋办公处复课，黄年章校长在胶园各处大胶树张贴《招生通告》，我们三兄弟都报读了，我在这里读了三年课。当时老师是黄鹤友与林秀润。记得1946年学校举办了游艺晚会，节目有歌舞表演，学生表演了《武七兴学》与《包青天》，合唱了苏武牧羊。当时学校每周必有周会，黄校长会带领学生诵读孙中山遗嘱及训话。"

"In 1946, Lee Cheng School resumed classes in the stilt house left by the Japanese army. Principal Ng Lian Chong put up student recruitment notices in all the prime locations around the rubber plantation, and my brothers and I enrolled. I studied there for three years. At that time, the teachers were Huang He You and Lin Xiu Run. I remember the school also held a carnival that same year, where we had song and dance performances, and the students performed "Wu Qi Xing Xue" and "Bao Qing Tian", and sang "Su Wu Mu Yang". The school also had a weekly meeting where our Principal Ng Lian Chong would lead the students to recite Sun Yat-sen's last will and Testaments."



卓锦平 Toh Gim Peng

"我于泗篱学校上过两年课，清楚记得当年课堂墙壁挂着孙中山的照片，黄年章老师教学很严格，学生诵读诗词有误，就会被罚站。我记得日治时期，这建筑是日军贮存室，我会到这里拔取"鸡草、羊蹄草"喂鸡，当时食物短缺，这里枯树胶干长有许多野生菇类，我们常来采摘食用，记忆中泗篱励正只使用3年就已开始摇摇欲坠，后就搬迁校舍至新芭。"

"I attended Lee Cheng School located at Si Li for two years. I distinctly remember a photo of Sun Yat-sen on the classroom wall and our teacher, Mr Ng Lian Chong, being very strict - whenever students were unable to read the poems correctly, they would be punished. During the Japanese Occupation, the Japanese used this building to store food, and I often came here to pluck chicken grass and Lilac Tassel to feed our chickens. At that time, food supplies were scarce and since there were many wild mushrooms growing from the rotten trunks of the rubber trees on the school campus, we often plucked and ate them. From what I remember, the building had started to falter after only 3 years of use, and the school was later moved to the New Village Area (Xin Ba)."



鸡草
Chicken grass



一点红又叫羊蹄草
Lilac Tassel flower



胡开国 Hu Kai Guo

"我曾经在泗篱学校上课，学校为两层楼浮脚屋，上层为高生班，底层为低年级学生，记得有次模仿一位潮州老师的乡音，触怒老师，被重打手掌至伤了指节，以为回家可向家长告状，谁知却又再次被父亲责骂活该。"

"I used to study at Lee Cheng School at Si Li. The school is a two-storey stilt house. The higher primary classes were on the upper level whereas the lower primary classes were on ground level. I remember that I once imitated the accent of a Teochew teacher and ended up being caned by the teacher. I went back to complain about it to my parents, thinking they would take my side but alas, my father gave me a lecture instead and fully agreed that I deserved to be punished. I shouldn't have said anything!"





陈传恭校长
Principal Tan Tuan Kiong



陈校长摄于学校花园
Principal Tan at the school gardens

位于新芭的励正学校获得白松春先生捐献胶园地段，再由村民齐筹款建造而成，最早期校舍为长形亚答屋，只有三间课室，两班级共用一课室，校舍后方为教师办公室，衔接教师办公室有一校长室与校长休息室。未婚前，陈传恭校长一直居住于此。最尾端则是厨房及教师用餐室。

学校离街口很远，但学习环境清幽，四面皆是绿油油树木，远离闹市的嘈杂声，听到的只有悦耳虫鸣鸟叫声。除了四周果园胶林，学校校园内也处处种植红毛丹树，几棵百尺高的木麻黄，一个热带鱼培育研究园，还有一个拥有圆型与葫芦型鱼池的小花园。除了绿化的环境，体育设施也不少，一个完整规格的篮球场，一个硬泥地小球场，也可打羽毛球，一个跳高跳远的沙池，单杆架及全村独一无二的乒乓练球室，室内也有具备柔体操运动训练器材如木马、双杆与软垫等。



向校长与老师们致敬！

Kudos to all the Principals and Teachers

photo credit: 洪步英老师 王亚本老师 陈校长夫人 励正校友

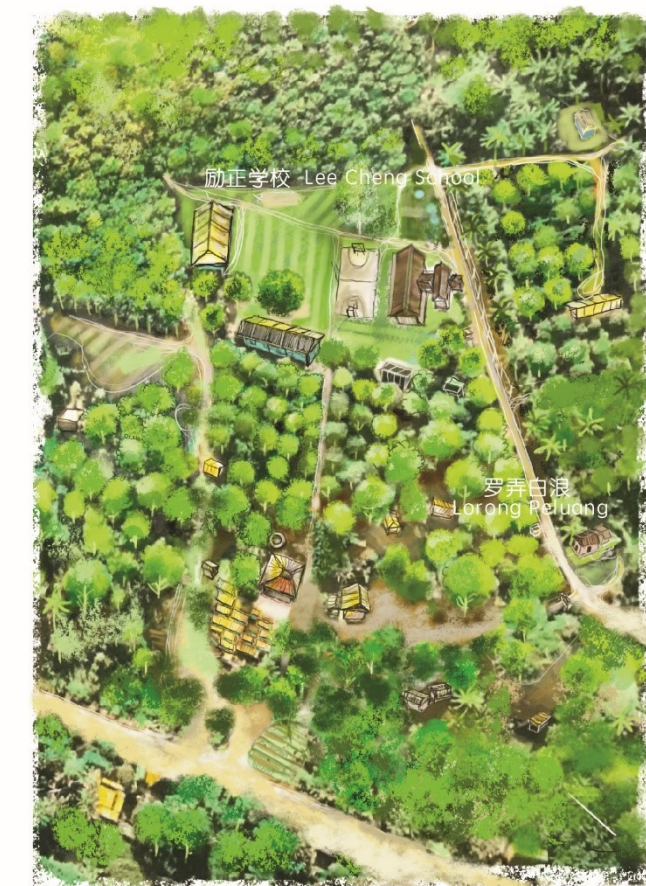
Lee Cheng School at Xin Ba

Due to Mr Bai Song Chun's generous donation of a portion of his rubber plantation land, and the villagers' fundraising efforts, Lee Cheng School was successfully constructed. In the beginning, the campus was made up of long attap houses with three classrooms. One classroom was shared by two classes, and the teachers' office was situated behind the school building. Connected to the teachers' office was the principal's office and resting quarters, and before he got married, Principal Tan Tuan Kiong resided in the principal's resting quarters. At the very end of the school campus were the kitchen and teachers' dining room.

The school was very far from the main entrance of Chye Kay Road, thus it was surrounded by greenery, and was far away

from the noisy urban traffic; the only "noise" were from birds and insects, and this serene environment was good for focusing and studying. There were also many rambutan trees on campus, and three casuarina trees that were 100 feet tall. There was also a tropical fish research corner, and a garden with both a circular and a gourd-shaped fish pond. Greenery aside, there were also many sports facilities on campus, like a standard sized basketball court, a small football field that could also be used to play badminton, a sand pit for long jump and high jump practice, pull-up bars and the village's one and only table tennis training hall. The hall was also equipped with various gymnastic equipment like parallel bars and gymnastics mats.

*Conducive and peaceful environment
Surrounded by greenery*



环境清幽
翠绿环抱

红毛丹树下是食堂

The canteen under the Rambutan trees

学校不设食堂，午休钟声一响，学童们瞬间个个裂开笑容，操手刀冲出课室，全体排队集合在校长室旁那两棵红毛丹树下向卓妈妈报道，卓妈妈每天用两大竹篮子，盛装点心糕点，还另加热水壶与大锅清汤或红豆汤水，摆放在红毛丹树下，这里就是学校的就地食堂，学生倒很守秩序的点买食物，你的是乌打粿，我的是椰浆饭、米粉面，拿着点心，三三两两蹲在树荫下，享受着学校里最美好的片刻。

Lee Cheng School did not have a proper canteen building for the students, so when the bell rang for recess, the children would happily rush out of their classrooms and queue under the rambutan trees next to the principal's office to buy their food from Auntie Zhuo. Auntie Zhuo would bring two large bamboo baskets filled to the brim with snacks and goodies as well as a hot water flask and pots full of either cheng tng or red bean soup to the rambutan trees everyday, and this became the school's makeshift canteen, where students would queue to buy their favorite food, like otah, fried noodles and my favourite nasi lemak. After getting their food, the students would squat under the shade of the trees to enjoy their favourite food during what would become one of their fondest memories of school.



翻山越岭来上课

Over the hills and down the river

"我住华顺芭，清晨需摸黑上下山坡，路经不少池塘再越过柴桥头木桥，遇到下雨涨潮时，这座木桥会被淹没，水流又急，我得脱掉鞋子，拉高裙子，拔只芋叶当伞，小心翼翼的过河，过了河，还有一段路才能抵达学校，半途又可能遇上牛群、兇狗挡路，又要绕道而行，经常到了学校，白鞋已经变成泥黄色，这真是段难以忘记的童年求学经历！"

"I lived at Bah Soon Pah, and would often have to make my way to school in the wee hours of the morning, climbing over various hills in the dark. After passing many ponds, I would still have to cross the Chai Qiao Tou wooden bridge, which would often flood and be submerged in rapid waters on rainy days. When that happened, I would have to take off my shoes, hike up my skirt, use yam leaves as a makeshift umbrella and thread carefully across the submerged bridge. Even after that ordeal, I would still have a long trek to school, and if I was really unlucky, I would encounter a rabid dog or a herd of cattle blocking the road and would have to take a detour! Often, my white shoes would have turned to brown muddy shoes by the time I'd arrived at school - what an unforgettable childhood experience!"



胡秋燕 Or Chew Yan



刷牙齿运动 Teeth brushing exercise

A vibrant school life

那年，那个菜篮书包
让我很为难
The year Ireluctantly
used a straw basket
as a school bag



普遍有赤脚学童来上课
Students coming to school barefoot
was not an uncommon sight



彩旗绿茵下

使尽浑身解数

学校运动会，从帮忙老师拉绳张挂三角彩旗，在草场上以白薯粉划分跑道至由校长室抬出大大小小亮闪闪的奖杯奖品，步步过程真叫学生期待，把白色运动恤前后别上号码，心跳声加速，暂时放弃友谊，比赛第一，至今想起，还会感觉无比兴奋，多姿多彩的项目如赛跑，接力赛，跳高跳远外，还加入有趣的竞技项目如麻布袋赛跑、两人三足赛，最独特的莫过于脚车赛慢，骑得越慢越好，当然脚车需要自备！

At the annual sports meet, from helping the teachers decorate the field with colourful triangular flags and using white flour to mark the running tracks, to bringing out the shining trophies and medals from the principal's room, the students would be thrumming with

excitement watching it all unfold. After pinning their number bibs on their white sports tees, all was fair on the racing track – winning came first, then came friendship!

It was an incomparable kind of excitement to just watch the variety of sports activities happening in that one day, from the more conventional like track and field, relay races, high jump, long jump to more interesting games like sack races, three-legged races and the most unique activity of all – the slow bike race, where the slowest biker would win and participants had to provide their own bicycles!



*The annual sports meet
Under the colorful flags, on the green fields, everyone put in their best effort to win*



閃避黃雨 Avoiding the yellow rain

当年的旧校舍，支撑亚答屋顶的圆木柱，被大木蜂造巢钻得千疮百孔，经常有小木屑散落下来，最恐怖的情况是大木蜂拉屎，把那黄白的臭屎洒在课本上，幸好同学们都懂得用塑胶袋，日曆纸保护课本封面。遇上刮风下雨，亚答叶片被吹得一掀一盖、破洞处雨水滴漏，小漏则拿牙齿保健活动赠送的牙杯暂时盛着，大漏则会形成小瀑布，全班则乱成一团，搬椅搬桌，学生乐得课堂变游乐场，没法上课！

The old school building had round wooden pillars supporting the attap roof, which became damaged by carpenter bees that drilled holes into the pillars to build their nests. This act of drilling would often form a shower of sawdust that rained down on the students. What made it even worse was the fact that the carpenter bees would also often defecate as they drilled their nests, and the smelly yellow defecation would splatter all over the textbooks that students would use. Thankfully, the students knew by then to use plastic covers to protect their textbooks from damage.

On rainy days, the attap roofs were often blown out of place, forming holes in the roof that led to leakage. For small leaks, we often used rinsing cups given to us during the national dental health campaign to collect the water. Bigger leaks tended to form mini waterfalls, which in turn would bring the classrooms into disarray, as everyone would move desks and chairs around to avoid getting wet. On days when this happened, students would often be secretly happy as classes would be disrupted and the classroom would be turned into a playground of sorts!

《木》后推手！



School Renovations Safety comes First



学校筹建委员们于主席陈来发住家开会
The School Committee members had a meeting at the house of Chen Lai-Fa, who was the chairman

在学校课室内办宴席筹款
Fundraising in the classroom

photo credit: 洪步英老师 王亚本老师 陈校长夫人 勵正校友



校董卓泉负责重建总工程
The School's Director, Toh Poh, was responsible for the reconstruction of the school

校董与陈校长亲力亲为参与重建工作
The Director and Principal Tan were personally involved in the hands on work during the reconstruction



由于早期校舍简陋，经历二十多年风雨侵打、虫蚀蚁蛀，栋梁多已朽枯，有倒塌之虞，学校于六十年代初成立建校委员会，拆除亚答主建筑。

Perhaps due to the crude foundations of the school building, the school became extremely dilapidated and weathered over the course of more than 20 years of erosion and infestation. Eventually a school committee was started in the 1960s, committed to demolishing the old building and reconstructing a newer, sturdier one.



迎接
焕然
一新
校舍



Welcoming the revamped school campus — photo credit: 勵正校友



前左起：周昭娣、王宝端、陈秀娇、林美丽、鄧老师、卓美环、黄瑞英、黄玉金、胡丽风
中左起：马炳福、王黎明、杨国清、卓明珠、杨细妹、胡丽香、廖水清、陈亚心、胡荣炎、陈金德、廖木泉
后左起：白明发、王光明、余联兴、戴明喜、杨锡全、胡龙远、卓文南、黄耀天、卓永国、谢金华、廖目全、廖甲申
缺席同学有张学大、林振泉、廖良德、彭亚福、胡业炳



即使你不认识他，你肯定也找得到爱搞笑的谢金华！
Even if you didn't know him, I bet you can spot the mischievous boy, Xie Jin Hua!

A reunion of schoolmates after 40 years



The Invincible Table Tennis

60年代的乡村学校，能为推广乒乓运动，特别建造一座乒乓活动训练室，拥有八张乒乓桌，年复一年，源源不断的为我国栽培出杰出的乒乓球员与国手，堪称得上是新加坡乒坛的一大奇迹，这成功故事的幕后功臣，励正的陈传恭校长，老师与学校董事们都应该得到表扬与肯定。

我为这群当年付出巨大努力投入训练，为我国争取无数荣耀的乒乓球员们说声谢谢，财启村因你们而留下光辉！

Finding a kampung school with a specially built table tennis training room with eight ping-pong tables was already considered a momentous task in the 1960s. Now imagine having that, along with the ability of the school to train outstanding table tennis players and national players for Singapore, and you have a miracle. The hero of the success story behind the scenes, the principal of Lee Cheng School, Tan Tuan Kiong, alongside the school teachers and directors, should be commended and affirmed.

Here, I would like to thank the group of table tennis players who have made great efforts to train and achieve much glory for our country. Chye Kay Village shines because of you.

左起白莲花、陈传恭校长、廖春花
From left, Peck Noi Hway, Principal Tan and Liow Choo Whatt

photo credit: 王亚本老师 陈传恭校长夫人 白莲花 廖春花 陈雅慧

简陋的乒乓训练室，栽培出众多杰出的球员与乒乓国手
A simple table tennis training room, with shabby tables cultivated a number of outstanding players and ping-pong national players.



六十年代两朵花，白莲花与廖春花代表我国东征西讨，立下不少汗马功劳，为我国争取无数锦标...
In the 60's, the village's two champions, Peck Noi Hway and Liow Choo Whatt, represented Singapore in countless table tennis competitions, winning a plethora of trophies and titles for our country.



廖春花
Liow Choo Whatt

白莲花
Peck Noi Hway

白莲花递送第五届东南亚半岛运动会圣火
Peck Noi Hway was one of the athletes that participated in the passing of the torch at the 5th Southeast Asian Peninsular Games





历届乒乓辉煌记录

40-50年代
罗秀英，王甜都是乒乓好手，几乎囊括全国小学女子赛冠军，王金鍊，陈文俊，则是小学男乒乓球赛冠军。

60年代
1961年，胡秀民为全国最年轻乒乓冠军。廖春花，杨秋莲，白莲花，卓水锦为国家女队代表。年仅12岁的廖春花，打败了当年大名鼎鼎的馬來西亞选手王状妹，震撼新马乒坛。

1967年2月，在曼谷举行的第四届东南亚半島运动会，白莲花表现优异，夺得女子单打冠军及双打季军。8月在我国乒总于羽球馆主办的亚洲乒乓球锦标赛廖春花和杨秋莲为国家女队代表，白莲花与卓水绵为少女队主将。

1969年，仰光举办的第五届东南亚半島运动会，白莲花夺得女子单打冠军及双打的双料冠军，还连同廖春花，卓水绵一起获的女子团体亚军，同时也获得1969年全国荣誉奖（个人奖项）。

70年代
1971年，吉隆坡举办的第六届东南亚半島运动会，白莲花共夺得四个奖牌，男女混合双打冠军，女子单打，双打及女子团体季军。

1973年，新加坡举办的第七届东南亚半島运动会，白莲花获得双打冠军及单打季军。

1975年，曼谷举办的第八届东南亚半島运动会，白莲花获得双打冠军。

photo credit: 王亚本老师 陈传恭校长夫人 白莲花 廖春花 陈雅蕙

1979年，雅加达举办的第十届东南亚运动会，廖福梅获得单打季军。

80年代
1983年，新加坡举办的第十二届东南亚运动会，廖福梅获得单打及双打季军。

1987年，陈雅蕙于印度新德里举行的第39届世界乒乓球锦标赛上，以直落三局淘汰前欧洲冠军，苏联的瓦莲京娜·波波娃，并打入女子单打32强，名震一时。与此同时新加坡女队也在排名第22，那是当时我国在国际乒坛史上最好的成绩。同年，陈雅蕙和队友一起夺得了东南亚运动会女子团体金牌。陈雅蕙曾被列为亚洲排名第29位乒乓选手，是我国第一位在亚洲赛中享有排名的女球员。

财启村堪称孕育乒乓国手的摇篮，从六十年代的廖春花，杨秋莲，白莲花，卓水锦，七十年代的廖福梅，卓彩敏，白锦珠，廖莲梅，到最后一批国手的白素燕，杨宝莲及陈雅蕙等，前后共培育出十多位国手，他们都代表我国在国际赛上，爭得无数荣誉，是全村人的骄傲，是财启村之光。



廖福梅
Leow Hock Moi

"怪拍" 陈雅蕙
Tan Ah Tee, nicknamed
"Peculiar Bat"

The 40-50s

Luo Xiuying and Wang Tian were not only table tennis players, they were also National Primary School Girls' Champions. Wang Jinlian and Chen Wenjun were the Primary School Boys' Champions.

The 60's

1961
Hu Xiumin was the youngest Singapore National Table Tennis Champion. Leow Choo Whatt, Yeo Chiew Noi, Peck Noi Hwoy and Toh Chuwe Gim were all representatives of the Singapore National Women's Team. Leow Choo Whatt defeated the famous Malaysian player Wang Zhuang Mei in a stunning turn of events when she was only 12, which shocked the Table Tennis Associations on both sides.

1967
Peck Noi Hwoy performed well during the 4th Southeast Asian Peninsular Games, held in Bangkok, Thailand in February of that year. She won gold medals for the Women's Single category and Bronze for the Women's Doubles category. In August of that year, the Singapore Table Tennis Association hosted the Asian Table Tennis Championships. Leow Choo Whatt and Yeo Chiew Noi were representatives of the National Women's Team whereas Peck Noi Hwoy and Toh Chuwe Gim represented the Young Women's Team.

1969
At the 5th Southeast Asian Peninsular Games held in Yangon, Myanmar, Peck Noi Hwoy won gold medals in the Women's Singles and Women's

Doubles categories and also obtained a silver medal for the Women's Team category. Her team included Leow Choo Whatt and Toh Chuwe Gim. She also awarded the Meritorious Award (Individual) in the same year

The 70's

1971
In the 6th Southeast Asian Peninsula Games held in Kuala Lumpur, Peck Noi Hwoy swept away 4 medals, a Gold Medal for the Mixed Doubles category and three Bronze medals for the Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and Women's Team categories.

1973
The 7th Southeast Asian Peninsular Games was held in Singapore, and Peck Noi Hwoy won the Women's Doubles Championship and achieved third place in the Women's Singles category.

1975
At the 8th Southeast Asian Peninsular Games held in Bangkok, Peck Noi Hwoy won the gold medal for the Women's Doubles category.

1979
Leow Hock Moi won the bronze medal for the Women's Singles category in the 10th Southeast Asian Games, held in Jakarta.

The 80s

1983
Leow Hock Moi won the bronze medal for both

the Women's Singles and Women's Doubles categories in the 12th Southeast Asian Games held in Singapore.

1987 onwards
In the 39th World Table Tennis Championships held in New Delhi, India, Tan Ah Tee defeated former European Champion, Valentina Popova, of the Soviet Union, in three straight games and made it to the last 32 in the Women's Singles. At the same time, the Singapore Women's Team comprising of Tan Ah Tee and her team player were also ranked 22th in the overall placing. That was Singapore's best result then.

In the same year, Tan Ah Tee, together with her teammate, clinched the gold medal for Women's Team for the Southeast Asian Games.

Tan Ah Tee was ranked the 29th female player in Asia. That was the first time a Singapore player made it to the list.

Chye Kay Village was the cradle of the national table tennis players, from Leow Choo Whatt, Peck Noi Hwoy, Toh Chuwe Gim, and Yeo Chiew Noi in the 1960s; Leow Hock Moi, Toh Sai Miang, Peh Gim Choo, and Leow Lian Moy in the 1970s; Peh Sock Yee, Yeo Poh Noi, and Tan Ah Tee, who were the final batch national players. All in all, it had cultivated more than ten national players, who had represented Singapore in many international competitions, set new standards for sports in our country, and won countless honours. They are the pride of Chye Kay village.

Our past Glorious Achievements in Table Tennis

威震六十年代张永祥杯冠军

财启村内最早拥有篮球场的是励正学校，在六十年代，学校翻新时，把泥地球场铺上洋灰，加强照明灯光，工程由师生及村民联手包办，洋灰地在一天内漏夜铺设完毕，新球场顿时成为村民每晚交流的活动热点。

励正校友最初组织 " 励友 " 球队，后联合励德校友成立了 " 振华 " 队，振华队在六十年代是支篮球强旅，曾经夺得全国张永祥杯冠军，名振一时，球队也曾以胡文士咖啡店名称 " 胡振安 " 参加再兴杯商业球赛。1964年振华红黄两队分获张永祥杯冠军和季军。

Lee Cheng School was the first school in Chye Kay Village to have a basketball court. When the school was rebuilt in the 1960s, teachers, students and villagers joined hands to refurbish the basketball court, where they laid cement over the muddy ground and added lighting to the court. The project was completed in a day, and the new basketball court became a hot spot for villagers to mingle every night. Lee Cheng alumni initially formed the "Li You" team, and later merged with Lee Teck alumni to form the "Zhen Hua" basketball team. The Zhen Hua team was a strong basketball team in the 1960s and won the national Zhang Yong Xiang Cup Championship. The team also participated in the commercial "Zai Xing" Cup under the team name "Hu Zhen An". In 1964, "Zhen Hua" Red and Yellow team won the Zhang Yong Xiang Cup as champions and second runners up respectively.

photo credit: 卓锦和 卓锦平 卓湘格 林翠芸

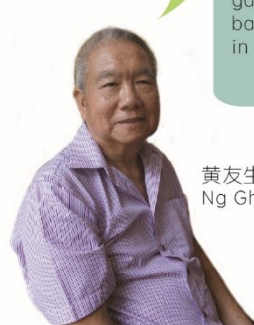
我是振华黄队后卫球衣号码是9号，当年主队振华红五虎将有王金鍊，陈三贵，王炳秋，王木昇，胡庆文。记得三贵技术了得，百发百中，是球队灵魂人物。

I was from Zhenhua Yellow team as a defender and my jersey number was 9. The main team back then, Zhenhua Red Team, consisted of five excellent players - Wang Jin Lian, Chen San Gui, Wang Bing Qiu, Wang Mu Sheng, Hu Qing Wen. I remember Chen San Gui was the soul of the team, as he had 100% accuracy in his shots.

我们财启青队球员包括了财启村3所学校的校友，教练是陈三贵，印象深刻的一场比赛是参加全国女英篮球比赛，英式篮球打法大不相同我们硬着头皮上阵，还夺得季军。

Our Chye Kay Green team included alumni from all three schools in Chye Kay Village. The coach was Chen San Gui. The most memorable game that we'd ever played was the National Women's Netball Competition. Although Netball is very different from basketball, we braced ourselves and put up a tough fight, winning the bronze medal in the end.

我也是打后卫，我们多数在傍晚时分聚在励正小学练球。I was also a defender. I remember most of us often gathered at Lee Cheng School basketball court to practice in the evening.



黄友生
Ng Ghim Kwee



廖同成
Leow Tong Seng



林翠芸
Lim Tsuey Yun



70年代财启女篮球队 70's Chye Kay Women Green Team



1964年振华红黄分别夺得张永祥杯冠军和季军
In 1964, "Zhen Hua" Red and Yellow team won the Zhang Yong Xiang Cup as champions and second runners up respectively.

Undisputed basketball champion in the 60s

振华红

队员: 林福荣、卓添宝、卓添顺、陈三贵、王炳秋、胡庆文、王金鍊、叶朝屋、黄友生、白三德、廖同成、王荣魁、卓精坚、王木昇

振华黄

队员: 卓树林、卓琳华、卓玉山、胡清池、卓玉芬、黄友发

财启村队

励正70年代少年篮球队

队员: 卓福安、卓庆云、陈三福、胡龙远、陈四美、林耀兴、卓庆国、卓永通、梁狮胜、卓贵和、卓亚辉、卓和庆、彭亚福、卓远东等曾以《财启村》名参加高立人杯赛，也曾参加在励正举行的义顺少年杯
领队: 廖椒福

财启青队

至70年代末，由励正励德校友组成了财启青队（女子组）

教练: 陈三贵

队员: 李秀英、卓丽娟、王丽柳、林宝凤、胡柳青、林美香、王丽蓉、廖丽明、林翠芸
曾参加全国英式女篮西，取得季奖杯。





全国著名的养鱼村

孔雀鱼改写财启村历史



财启村励正校长陈传恭带动了全村人养殖热带孔雀鱼的风气。陈校长在课余时间，在校园开辟一小段殖园，研究用洋灰倒模制作鱼池、繁殖分池、饲料混配及培育新品种等技术，他自行摸索，凭着坚韧毅力，克服万难，难能可贵的是，他把研究成果，毫无保留的与村民分享，让孔雀鱼与观赏鱼繁殖业，成为全村的主要生计，声名远播，吸引了不少海外买家，在全国热带养鱼业里，财启村占了总出口量的百分之二十二，为我国赚取不少外汇，这也大大改善了村民生活，幕后英雄，陈校长功不可没！

Lee Cheng School's Principal, Tan Tuan Kiong, pioneered the breeding of tropical guppies within Chye Kay Village. During his spare time, Principal Tan started breeding guppies in the school grounds, studying various breeding techniques, such as using cement to make fish ponds, breeding pools, mixing different feeds for the fish as well as experimenting with rearing new breeds of guppies. Through his independent study, he overcame obstacles and did not hesitate to share his results with the rest of the villagers, making guppy and ornamental fish breeding the main source of livelihood in the whole village. Over time, Chye Kay Village built itself a reputation for such fish breeding and attracted a large crowd of overseas buyers. During that time, Chye Kay Village accounted for 22% of the total tropical fish exports in Singapore, vastly improving the life of the villagers. Principal Tan thus became a truly indispensable part of the village's success!

photo credit: 陈传恭校长夫人

Singapore's famous fish farming village
These guppies rewrote the history of Chye Kay Village



热带鱼研究园前身是学校小农场
The Tropical Fish Research corner was formerly a school farm





热带鱼养殖业 Tropical fish Farming

简介几种养鱼方式
A summary of several fish farming methods



洋灰鱼池
Concrete fish pond



《土池》，采用快速的箱网养殖方式
Breeding guppies in fish ponds with netting yield a higher quantity of fish



玻璃鱼缸养殖法，孔雀鱼的色彩较艳丽
Raising guppies in fish tank resulted in better quality fish with vibrant colours



卓永春于财启村鱼场 Toh Eng Choon at her family's Fish Farm at Chye Kay Village



卓瑞兴 Toh Swee Hing

"我20岁开始对饲养孔雀鱼感兴趣，一般养鱼方式有用玻璃鱼缸，洋灰模鱼池，洋灰池需要天天换水补充氧气，到后期村民利用淡水鱼池，以"箱网"方式快速养鱼，应付市场上的需求。"

"I started being interested in the rearing of guppies at the age of 20, and the most common method of rearing guppies was to use glass fish tanks and cement fish ponds. However, cement fish ponds required farmers to change their water and pump in oxygen daily, and in the later days, villagers started using freshwater fish ponds with netting to increase the efficiency of production to cope with market demand."

卓瑞兴 Toh Swee Hing

photo credit: 卓瑞兴



79年卓瑞兴夺得全国孔雀鱼比赛冠军
In 1979, Toh Swee Hing won the National Guppies Competition

The family legacy carries on

1978年，大部分村民搬迁至淡滨尼养鱼，租约二十年，2000年土地租约期满后，当时由于我国土地有限，营运成本高等因素，不少财启村养鱼户另寻到邻近东南亚国家如马来西亚、印民等地发展，例如林耀新、洪亚真迁移至马来西亚，白能春、廖同成也曾经往印尼从事养殖与水草生产，留驻在本地的有杨秋茂、秋成的新大陆鱼场，兄弟除了提供热带鱼转口批发，也把鱼场布置成家庭休闲娱乐场所。

In 1978, most of the villagers moved to Tampines area to continue their fish farming, with their lease on the land being about 20 years. In 2000, when the lease expired, many Chye Kay fish farmers chose to move to neighbouring Southeast Asian countries to continue their fish farming business due to restricted land space and high operating costs in Singapore. Lim Yiow Sin and Ang Ah Chin moved to Malaysia, while Pek Leng Choon and Leow Tong Seng started aquaculture and aquatic weed production in Indonesia. The brothers Yeo Chieu Mong and Yeo Chiew Seng remained in Singapore, and while maintaining their tropical fish farming business, they also converted their Mainland Tropical Fish Farm into a leisure recreational area suitable for families to relax in and enjoy.

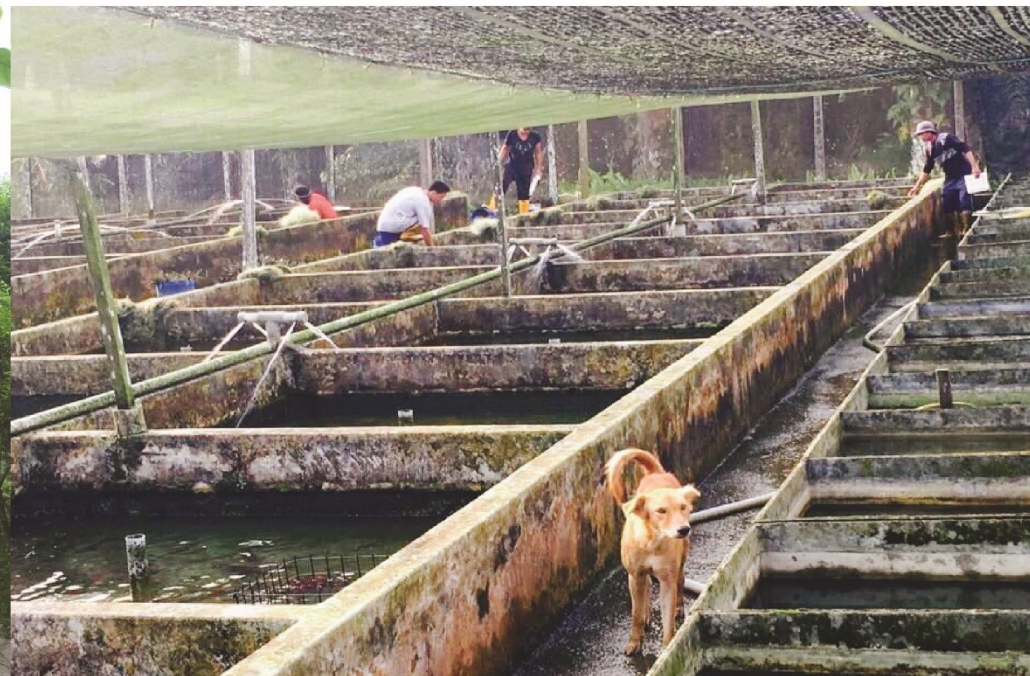
photo credit: 洪亚真 新大陆鱼场 白能春



杨秋茂、秋成位于巴西立的新大陆鱼场
Yeo brothers' Mainland Tropical Fish Farm at Pasir Ris



白能春于林厝港的日昇鱼场
Pek Leng Choon's Sunny Aquarium Company in Lim Chu Kang



洪亚真位于柔佛州拉央拉央的养鱼场
Ang Ah Chin's fish farm in Layang Layang, Johor



洪亚真 Ang Ah Chin

生离死别
炮火洗礼的一代人



父亲黄年章
My father Ng Lian Chong



二伯父黄年峰
My second uncle, Ng Lian Hong



1940年登陸证 Landing Permit

父亲黄年章，字永健，福建省晋江县安海镇人，1940年24岁，为躲避中国战乱，拎了个皮箱，辗转由家乡福建安海南下投靠他二哥，也就是我二伯父黄年峰。

二伯父是黄家三兄弟中率先下南洋讨生活，当时在实里达公校执教鞭，课余时间与蒋德九等人在义顺港脚组织了工余青年体育会，创办了善友社，推动义顺港脚体育与康乐活动，1937年中日战争爆发，他积极参与由陈嘉庚领导的南洋华侨筹赈祖国难民总会，为洪水港筹赈分会的正文书，负责策划推动宣传工作。二伯父多才多艺，除了兼教话剧，诗歌朗诵，口琴及球类，他还能编能导。他联同善友社社员，积极以话剧在义顺港脚乡村间举办筹赈活动，活动有月捐、售卖纪念章、卖花、义演等，为支援中国抗日运动竭尽全力。二战之前，在三巴旺十二英里的励正学校担任校长，他另一神秘身份是中华民族解放先锋队成员，那是一个未经注册，备受殖民地政府关注的团体，专门对付采购日货的本地商人。父亲曾畧追述："二哥交游广阔，在洪水港非常活跃，尤其是抗战时期，更是神秘，极少返家。"

当日军迫近新柔长堤消息传到，筹赈会人人岌岌可危，分会副会长蒋壬江在紧急时刻安排一刘姓会员把分会所记录、历届职员表、集体照及信件撤走（战后获知刘氏把文件全部烧毁），这一聪明与及时的举动，确实让分会各理事免去杀身之祸，就连最活跃的分会文书兼中华民族解放先锋队成员的二伯父也避过肃清大屠杀，逃过一劫。但他不幸在日治时期，患上肺炎逝世，留下短暂，有意义却也神秘的一生！



Parted in life, separated by death, the generation
that went through the baptism of war



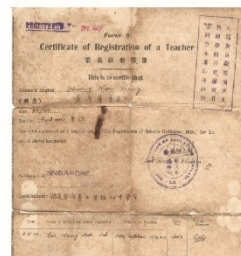
In 1940, my father Ng Lian Chong, a native of Anhai Town, Jinjiang City, Fujian Province of China, came to Singapore to seek refuge with his second brother, Ng Lian Hong, when he was 24 years old in order to escape the war happening in China.

My second uncle, Ng Lian Hong was the first of the three brothers in their family who came to Singapore. At that time, he was teaching in Seletar Public School. During his spare time, together with Jiang De Jiu and others, he organized the Youth Sports Club at Yishun Kangkar to promote sports and recreational activities in the area. He was also the founder of the Sian Yew Sia Association. When the second Sino-Japanese War broke out in 1937, he actively participated in raising funds for the South-East Asia Federation of the China Relief Fund, led by Tan Kah Kee. He was appointed as the Chief Secretary for Jing Shui Kang branch of this Relief Fund, responsible for planning and promoting fundraising activities to aid the Chinese against the Japanese invasion. My second uncle was very talented, he could write, plan, direct and teach dramas and

poems. He was also good at playing the harmonica and all sorts of ball games. Together with the members of the Sian Yew Sia Association, he actively organized fundraising events that involved monthly donations, sale of medals, sale of flowers, and charity performances, making every effort to support China against Japan. Before the Second World War reached Singapore, he was hired as the principal of the Lee Cheng School. He had an alter ego however, as a member of the Chinese National Liberation Vanguard. It was an unregistered group that received the attention of the colonial government and it targeted the local businessmen who purchased Japanese goods, whom they saw as traitors. My father once said: "My second brother had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances and was very active in Jing Shui Kang. During the war, he was even more secretive and mysterious and rarely returned home."

When the news of the Japanese army approaching Johor spread, every member in Jing Shui Kang branch were all in a dangerous situation, as they were all fighting against the Japanese. The vice president, Jiang Ren Jiang, arranged for a member with the surname Liu to remove all the records, documents and photos from the branch. This clever and timely action saved the members from being persecuted by the Japanese. Even my second uncle who was so active in the anti-Japanese movements and who was a member of the Chinese National Liberation Vanguard team managed to escape from the Sook ching massacre. Unfortunately, he died of pneumonia during the Japanese occupation, having lived a short, meaningful but mysterious life.

成家立业
扎根财启



父亲毕业于福建晋江海养正中学，南下与二伯父在陈树泉设立的私塾义务教书，兄弟皆居住在街口陈协成咖啡店后陈家房屋，陈树泉的母亲，义祖母梁四枝视他们俩兄弟如亲子，疼爱有加。日治时期，父亲曾被捉去日军厨房工作，一日在被两名日军押送到潘家村，为日军准备晚餐途中，忽见两日兵对天大哭，原来是获知日本投降消息，父亲乘机开溜，一路沿山路逃回财启村。战后父亲完成年峰伯父复校（励正学校）的遗愿后，曾短暂在马来西亚当教师，再返回新加坡市区当文员，也曾合伙经营酱油业、制作布袋行业，最后在港脚培英小学执教直至退休。

My father, Ng Lian Chong, graduated from Yangzheng Secondary School in Anhai Town in China. He started teaching in Lee Cheng School when he first arrived in Singapore. Both he and his second brother lived in Tan Chu Chuan's house behind Tan Hiap Seng coffee shop. Tan Chu Chuan's mother, god grandma Liang Si Zhi, treated them like her own sons. During the Japanese occupation, my father was forced to work in the Japanese army kitchen. One day, under the watchful eye of Japanese soldiers, he was sent to the Phua Village to prepare dinner for their army. On the way there, he saw his escorts suddenly stare into the distance and start to cry bitterly. Because the soldiers paid no attention to him, he seized the opportunity and escaped, trekking through the dense forest and finally reaching home. It was only then that he learned that the Japanese had surrendered. After the war, my father fulfilled my uncle's last wish to reinstate Lee Cheng School. He briefly served as a teacher in Malaysia, and then returned to Singapore as a clerk. He also started a partnership in trading soy sauce and producing gunny sacks before finally working as a teacher in Poi Eng School, up until his retirement.

Started a family and
planted his roots in Chye Kay



门牌、脚车牌、电视牌、狗牌，
牌拿得越多，根扎得越深
Door licence, bicycle licence,
television licence, dog licence
The more licences we had,
the more rooted in this place we got



Started a family and planted his roots in Chye Kay

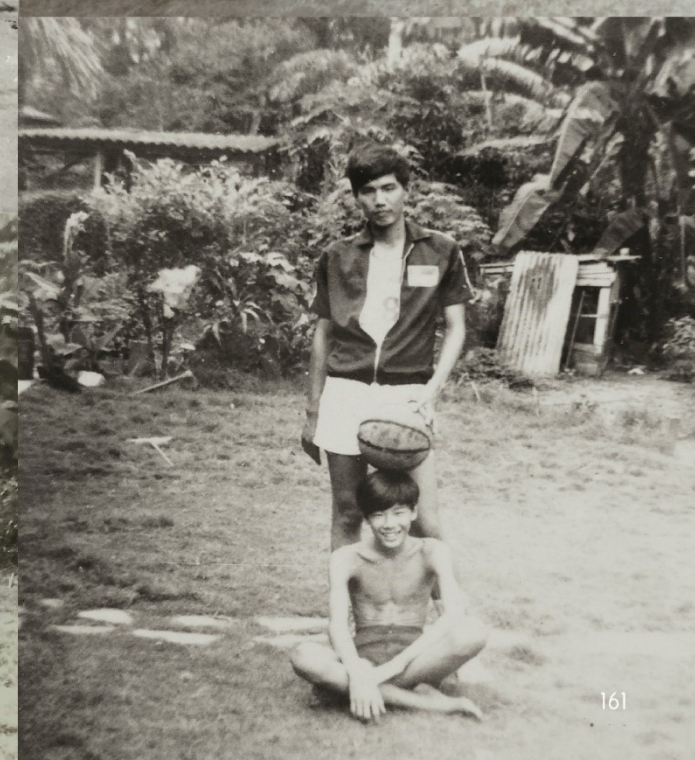


结婚证书 Marriage certificate



父亲迟至34岁与才与母亲洪枝（洪璇璣）结婚，迁入陈树泉新芭建立家园，母亲虽错过求学机会，但格性善良大方，任劳任怨，与村子里里外外建立良好的关系，也为性格寡言不善交际又忙碌为生活奔波的父亲，省去后顾之忧，村民总爱以“先生娘”称呼她，如今年届九十四高龄的母亲，脑海里老忆起财启村里的乡亲好友，总是重复唸着当年协助照顾我们的义祖母梁老嫲一家人如五叔、六叔、二嬸阿奶、义姐阿丽与经常帮忙买菜的加扬伯、克义、来发与及赠送榴莲的允伯等村友，言语之间，流露出深深的感激之情。。。

My father was 34 years old when he married my mother Ang Kee. After marriage, he moved to Tan Chu Chuan's Xin Ba to establish a home. Although my mother is illiterate, she is kind, generous and hardworking. She established a good relationship with all the villagers in Chye Kay Village. My father was an introvert and was always busy making ends meet. Hence, my mother would take care of the domestic matters in the house to give my father peace of mind, so that he could throw himself into his work. The villagers always addressed my mother as "Sian Xi Niu" which literally means "wife of a teacher" in Hokkien. Now, at 94 years old, my mother still remembers the folks in Chye kay Village, repeatedly telling us how the members of the Tan family, such as god-grandmother Liang, uncles, aunty Ah Nai, sister Go Li and many others, helped us a lot in the past. She also mentioned Uncle Jia Yang, Ke Yi, and Lai Fa who often helped to buy groceries and lastly Uncle Woon who often gave us durians. Her words are always filled with deepest gratitude when she recalls stories about them.



终于圆了回乡梦
父亲朝思暮想的故乡

Fulfilled my father's dream - a trip back to homeland
The hometown that my father yearned to return to, day after day.

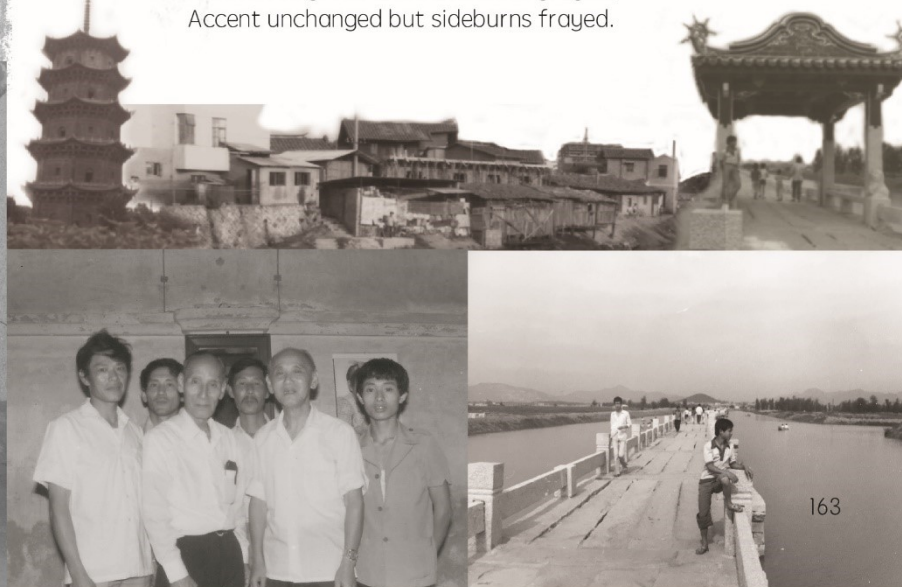
一别半个世纪，《鹭江号》缓缓入港，父亲已泪盈满眶，激动得久久不能自己！
After half a century of not returning home, when the ship "Lu Jiang" slowly entered the harbour, my father's eyes brimmed over with tears, he was so excited that he could not regain his composure for a long time...



1985年，生命中唯一的一趟回乡，父亲问我“让我留在家乡安老可好？”我当时的坚持让我一生不能释怀！
In 1985, the only time he ever returned to his hometown, my father asked "Let me stay and spend the rest of my days here, ok?" To this day, I can't help but cast doubt over my decision in insisting that my father return to Singapore at that time.



少小离家老大回，乡音无改鬓毛衰
I left home green and came back grayed;
Accent unchanged but sideburns frayed.



处处闻啼鸟
财启村养鸟达人

Birds Farming

乡村地方，一般都喜欢养几只小鸟当宠物，普遍见到的是八哥、鸚鵡、斑鳩、斑文鳥这类容易捕捉的本地飞禽，尤其是爱学人语的八哥鸟，更是家家户户皆有，真正爱鸟之人的则选择饲养如长尾、画眉、金丝雀、红耳鹎、斑鳩等鸣鸟。

我大哥黄扬天，称得上是财启村的养鸟达人，自幼就受到外公影响，一有学校假期，就随着家在杨厝港路六巡的外公到处捕捉俗称“大号小号火鸚”的珠颈斑鳩和斑姬地鳩，1969年他开始业余试养观赏鸟彩凤、金丝雀，屡战屡败却没击倒大哥对养鸟的兴趣，后来他干脆放弃正职，全心投入研究饲养火鸚（小号），以本地火鸚和印尼及泰国火鸚配种，成功配育出纯度高达80巴仙的优良第五代火鸚品种，在本地养鸟界里，套上YT脚环的火鸚，可称得上是本土优良品种。



In the kampung, many villagers used to keep a few birds as pets. More commonly kept are local birds that can be easily caught, such as oriental magpie robins, doves, scaly breasted munias and especially talking birds like mynas which can mimic the speech of humans. The myna was so popular, almost every household had one!

Villagers who were real bird lovers would choose to raise songbirds such as the white rumped shama, garrulax canorus, canary, red-whiskered bulbul and dove. My eldest brother, Ng Yong Tiam, was considered an expert in raising birds in Chye Kay Village. He was influenced by our grandfather since he was a child, and from a young age, he would follow our grandfather, who stayed at Yio Chu Kang Village, to catch spotted and zebra doves during the school holidays. In 1969, he started to raise budgerigars and canaries

during his spare time. He failed many times but it did not eliminate his interest in raising birds, and he later gave up his job to devote himself to researching and breeding the zebra dove. He started his experiment in cross breeding local zebra doves with Indonesian and Thailand breeds and built his own bloodline of zebra doves, producing an 80% pure bred zebra dove with excellent singing quality. In the local bird farming industry, the zebra doves that he bred, recognizable by their “YT” foot ring, are recognized as birds of a good breed.



photo credit:黄扬天



本地与远至日本报纸报道
Reported in local and Japanese newspaper



梦回寒舍

景物依然清晰如昨日



My Humble Home



The memory of the scenery is still as clear as if I had just seen it yesterday

甜甜的水果联系着浓郁乡情



屋后是五叔陈福星的鸡寮与百株红毛丹园，于财启村开垦新芭时期栽种，自我懂事时已经是满园成树，株株皆是果皮艳红易剥，种籽小颗，果肉厚实爽脆又“脱肉”上佳品种的红毛丹。红毛丹一年结果两次，成熟时，红艳艳、沉甸甸的红毛丹，一串串把枝干都压弯了。

丰收季节也是陈家总动员时刻，身手敏捷的亚棕嫂（葡萄）披着头巾，提着长竿剪，一株过一株，忙碌的剪下串串果实，小孩们则协助拾起散落满地，连枝带叶的串串红毛丹，清除多余叶子，捆绑装箩，等候采购商大罗厘运载，摘採季节，一时间满园喜笑声、剪刀声交织一片，充满热闹的丰收气氛怎能少得了我呢？我的任务是爬上树“协助清除残留树梢上的散粒红毛丹”，当然，“认真”工作多天，高甜燥热的红毛丹令小肚子胀风腹疼又便秘多时。



Rambutan Season

甘榜人喜欢拿种植水果互赠分享
Kampung villagers loved to share and exchange the fruits of their labour

一串串，牵引着你我曾经的缘分

Behind the house were our fifth uncle, Chen Fu Xing's, chicken coop and orchard which consisted of 100 rambutan trees. These trees were planted when the forest was first cleared for cultivation in Chye Kay Village. The harvested fruits were always sweet, thick, juicy, and of top notch quality. There are two annual harvesting seasons for rambutan.

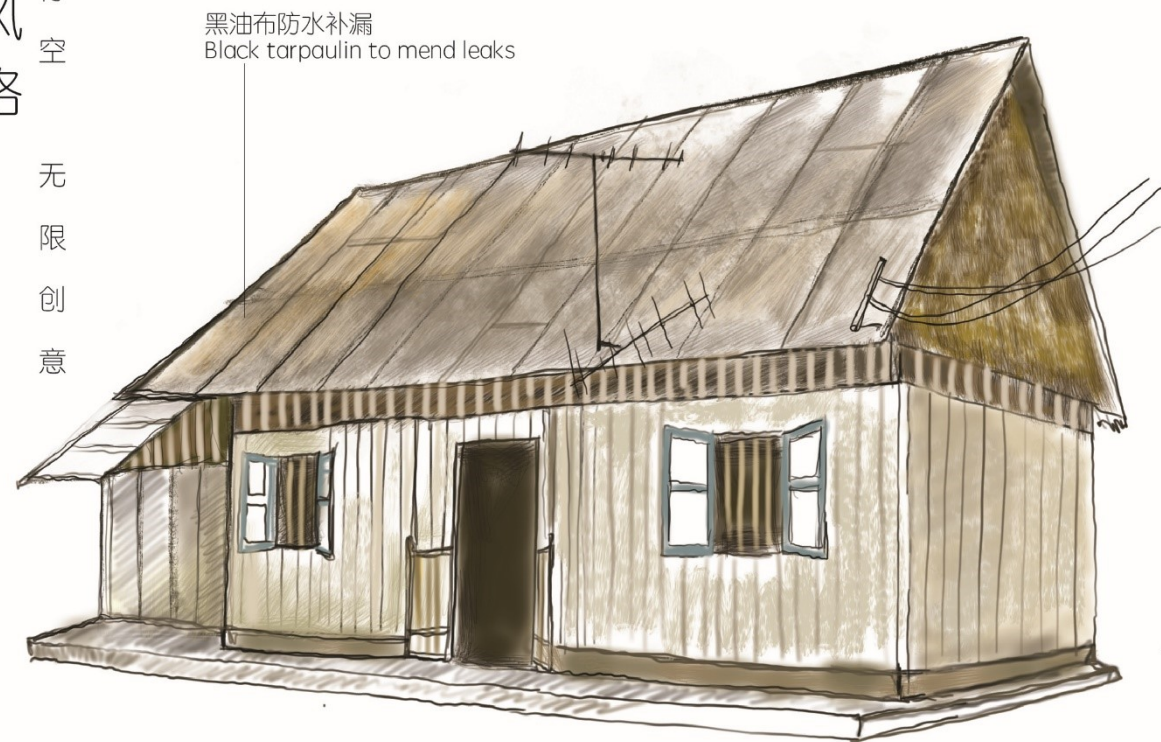
The harvesting season was also the season for every member of the Tan family to be put to work – Auntie Ya Zong would wrap a headscarf around herself and carry a long bamboo with a cutter attached, swiftly cutting down bunches of rambutans, while the children would help pick the bunches up from the ground, remove the excess leaves, and bundle them into a big basket for the wholesaler to collect and distribute for sale. I set myself a task, which was to climb up the tree, get the loose rambutan fruit that were still stuck amongst the branches and “collect” them in my belly. The harvesting season was when the orchard was often lively and full of laughter. Rambutan is a ‘heaty’ fruit, and so after I had “worked seriously” for a few days, the side effect was always a painful, bloated stomach, and constipation for a few days..





kampung architecture
Building without limits

常见的乡村建筑模式
Commonly-seen housing
architecture in the village



Eileen Ho住家



陈忠江住家 Tan Tiong Kang's house IIIc Chye Kay Road



内有乾坤的典型乡村房屋
Secret construction methods hidden within the country houses
photo credit:卓瑞兴

从十八世纪末甘蜜工人简单的茅草屋，到十九世纪初的亚答屋，屋顶以黑油布 ⑤ 东补西贴（补漏）的简陋屋，发展到屋子扩建翻新，开始有洋灰墙漆上美丽蓝白线条，红或蓝顶盖的坚固沙厘（锌板）屋，你可感受到六十年代生活脉搏的跳动，生活显著改善，村民日渐富裕，家庭人口的增加，不少村民会增建新屋，厨房扩张向外移、把鸡寮翻改为孩子结婚新家，时代也造就了不少建筑师傅，如卓报、陈金虎、廖丁山、廖锦堂等。

In the 18th century, houses were simple and made from thatch, where the gambier workers resided. In the 19th century, villagers moved in, building houses from attap. As the village prospered and its people became richer, the houses became reinforced with wooden planks, cement walls and stronger zinc rooftops. Some houses were even painted in vibrant, rich colors. Life in the village became better and better as time passed, and the population of the village grew as well. Villagers would then extend their house or convert their old chicken coops into additional living spaces for their houses. Eventually, because of this, the village grew to have some architects, such as Toh Poh, Chen Jin Hu, Yao Ding Shan, and Liao Jin Tang.

photo credit:Eileen Ho Tan Lan Sim 卓瑞兴

这间锌板屋看不出有什么特别之处，但当你知道在五六十 年代，它制作过程是在工厂先开料切割，再运送到乡村里 组装成型，过程除了锌板屋顶之外，整座屋子没用上钉子， 你会佩服卓报师傅高超的手艺，卓师傅早年在中国拜师 学艺，从倒茶扫地的小学徒到学得一身好功夫，他也是励 正学校重建的总工程师。

This house does not look like much from the outside, but it is prefabricated in a factory and then assembled onsite without the need for nails except for the rooftop – a huge feat in 1950/60s. The engineer behind this design was Toh Poh. He learned this art from a master back in China, and he was also the overall in-charge for the renovation of Lee Cheng School.

⑤ 黑油布Black tarpaulin 用于建筑防水补漏
Used in construction for waterproofing work and to mend leaks

村民会把破旧鸡寮改成新婚房子
Converting old chicken coops into additional living spaces



卓报 Toh Poh

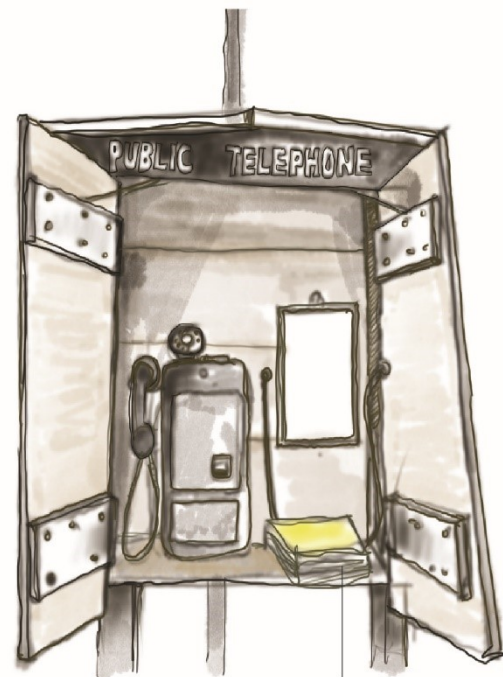


没有手机的时代

整个村子等你来电

在整个财启村，只有三个公共电话亭，我所知道，一个在文清杂货店旁和另一个就是周亚来杂货店旁！

In the whole village, there were only three telephone booths. The two that I knew of were next to Wen Qing's Provision Shop and Chew Ah Lai's Provision Shop!



公共电话亭
Telephone booth

《黄色》电话簿
Yellow Page



An era before mobile phones!



公共电话亭的长龙
A long queue at the public telephone booth



少见的私人电话机
A rare personal telephone



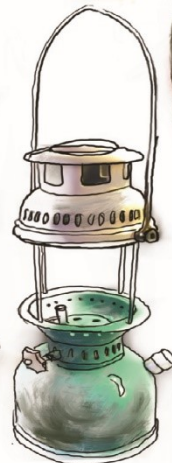
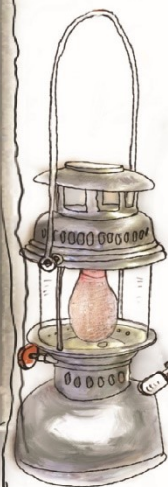
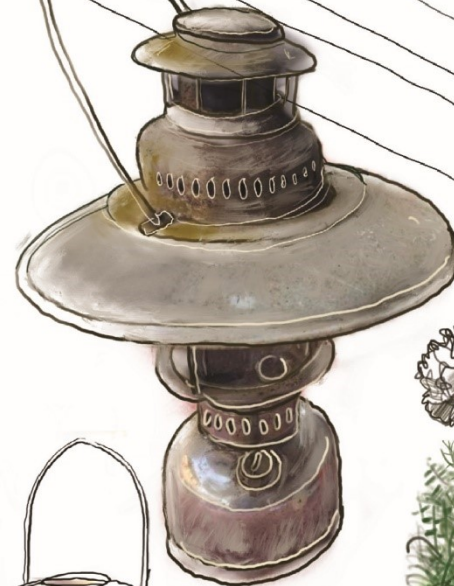
70's 电话机
Public telephone in the 70's

电话亭都放置一本厚厚的黄页电话簿，在无住家电话机的年代，傍晚时分，鱼商都得排队等候与地球另一端的欧美商家接洽生意。你能想像这种情况吗？真佩服村民靠这简单工具，养鱼生意还能作到“频频棒棒”^①。反观现在手机网络发达，却生意难做！

Aided with a thick yellow pages book to the side of the telephone booth, fish farmers would often queue up in the evening just to call their business partners over in western countries due to time zone differences. It is rather impressive how these fish farmers could still maintain such bustling business relying on such simple technology, while businesses in this day and age struggle to stay afloat even with such advanced technology!

① 频频棒棒—福建话，指有声有色

携带上厕所的小煤油灯
A portable oil lamp to bring to the toilet



私人发电厂 Privately owned small power plants

乡村有几家私人发电厂，在罗弄白浪这一带，余基正经营的私人发电厂，柴油发电机置放在一间通风小屋，靠井水冷却系统，收费以每户每盏灯计算，电费平均每月大约五、六元，傍晚五点开始供电到早晨，有时因马力不足，而出现断电情况！

The village had a few privately owned small power plants, and the one at Lorong Peluang was owned by Yu Ji Zheng. The plant ran on diesel, and the generator was placed in a small well-ventilated hut, and relied on water from a well to keep the generator cool. Electrical bills were charged according to the number of lamps in each household, and the bills were often 5-6 dollars a month. The generator would often be started at 5pm till the next morning. Occasionally, there would be a power outage whenever the generator did not have enough horsepower.

私人发电厂
Privately owned power plant



锦堂家

袅袅炊烟升起

母亲那熏黑的厨房



A thin trail of smoke wafted from my mum's charcoal black kitchen



火炭烫斗

我笔直的白色校服，全靠这台乌黑火炭烫斗，当然还有老妈子啦！
My crisp white uniform was all thanks to this old charcoal iron, and of course, my mother's efforts!



乡村以木材当廉价燃料炊煮，一般会向建筑材料枋廊购买一罗厘的“榔头榔尾”不合规格的剩木头，再自行劈成小块当燃料。乡村的厨房，四壁肯定是被烟熏到乌漆墨黑！

We used firewood as cheap fuel to cook, and would often buy a full lorry load of leftover wood from the timber merchant and chop them into small pieces for fuel. Our kitchen walls were often soot covered from all the smoke from cooking!

劈柴是老爸每日功课
My father and his daily task of chopping wood



赞！

老师夸我热爱劳动！
My teachers used to praise me for my energy and for being such an outdoorsy kid!

那口清澈井水 曾经是赖以生存的泉源

1940s 井水 Well Water

50年代前，财启村尚未有自来水供，村民得自行掘井寻找水源。我们家那口井，井深二十来尺，得用手抛铁桶汲水，井水冰冷干净，清澈得可看见一条小鲤鱼悠游其中，洗衣烧菜、冲凉全靠这一口井，在50年代，励正小学教师们喜欢借用这口井，洗澡以及打水供学校厨房炊煮用途。

这口井曾发生一场意外事件，由于井口只离地一米，邻居亚棕嫂在打水时，失去了平衡而跌落井中，在呼救无门情况下，最终使尽全力自行爬上来，逃出生天。

Before the 1950s, there was no tap water supply in Chye Kay Village and villagers had to dig their own wells for their own source of water.

The well in our house was 20 feet deep, and we had to use an iron bucket tied to a string just to collect water. The well water was always ice cold and clean and if you looked a little closer you could always see a single small koi swimming in it. Everything depended on it – our laundry, cooking, showering etc. In those days, the teachers of Lee Cheng School always came to get water from this well for cooking in the school kitchen as well as to bathe with.

Accidents did happen at this well. As the well was only 1m tall, one of our neighbours, Auntie Ya Zong, lost her balance while trying to fetch water from the well and fell inside. There wasn't anyone around to help her at that time, so it took all her strength to eventually climb out of the well by herself. What a narrow escape!

The village's source of life - the well



大咸菜瓮装井水供冲凉用

1955s 公共水喉处 Public Standpipes



1955至59年期间，乡政局开始重视乡村的食水供应，在财启村设立了三处公共水喉，免费提供清洁食水。一直到1960年，政府全面铺设地下水管网，财启村开始有清洁便利的自来水供应。

Between 1955 and 1959, the Rural District Committee set up three public water taps in Chye Kay Village to provide clean water to the villagers for free. In 1960, the government laid a comprehensive underground water pipe network, and Chye Kay Village began to have a clean and convenient tap water supply.

1960s 自来水供 Tap water Supply

母亲为了家，挑水造成背脊骨歪斜永久的损伤。
Due to the many years of fetching and carrying water for the family, my mother suffered permanent damage to her spine.



自制玩具那自得其乐的日子



弹玻璃珠 Flick marbles



穷乡僻壤，购买玩具是件奢侈的事，动手制作玩具，是唯一选择，打扁汽水盖，再打两孔穿线，就可玩旋转盘对战，尝试把对手的拉线割断分胜负！木枪制作也很简单，摘採各种小花果就可当子弹使用。”美禄”罐穿绳，瞬间让自己增高成无敌铁甲人！

In our remote and poor village, buying toys was an unattainable luxury. The only option we had was to make our own toys by flattening bottle caps, hammering two holes in them and threading a string through, after which you'd swing the caps and try to cut your opponent's string with it. Making wooden guns was also very simple, and our "bullets" were just little fruits plucked from plants all around the village. Additionally, you could string up some Milo cans, step on them like stilts and you would instantly be taller and transformed into an invincible robot!

Self-made toys Self-satisfying inventions



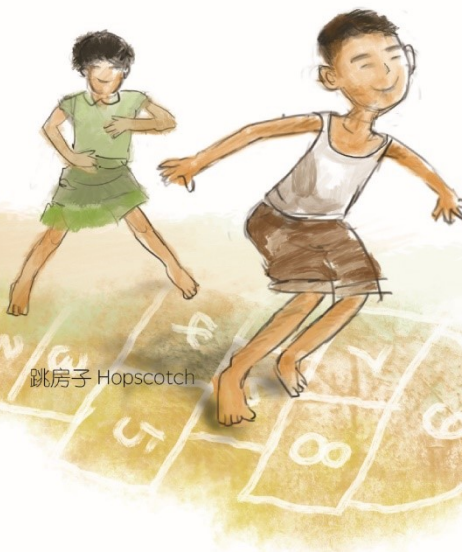
捉迷藏 Hide and seek



跳皮筋 Zero point



瞎子摸象 Blind mice

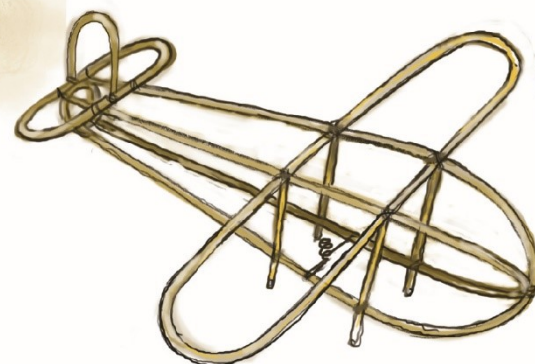


跳房子 Hopscotch

小学老师教导手工，会考虑与照顾到家境不富裕的学童，经常采用乡村現成的材料，例如中秋节制作灯笼，灯笼骨架可到竹林砍伐竹子获取，又鼓励学童收集日常废弃的橡胶圈、空牛奶罐，汽水瓶盖等制作手工，天马行空，创意任由你发挥！是否无意中传达了废物利用及环保的观念呢？

When teachers taught arts and crafts in school, they would often take into consideration the poorer children in the village, and would thus often use materials that were readily available in the village.

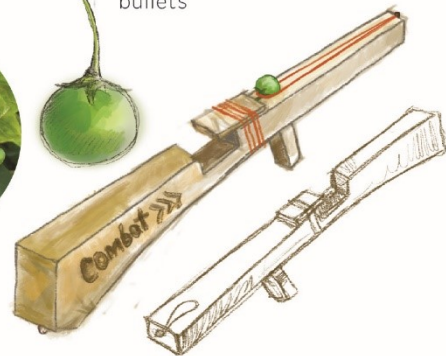
For example, in making lanterns for the Mid-Autumn Festival, teachers would form lantern structures out of bamboo harvested from the forest. Students were also encouraged to collect discarded rubber bands, milk cans and bottle caps daily, and use these materials creatively to create a handicraft of their own! Perhaps these lessons have inadvertently influenced my own attitudes towards waste utilization and environmental protection.



这类果子子弹最强！



自制木枪与各类小花果子弹
Self-made wooden guns and various small fruit bullets



铁臂阿童木Astro Boy

介绍一下，这是我11岁时花5小时制作出来的铁罐阿童木，长得确实有点出入…50年后的今天，我轻松以网购了我儿时心愿！This is the Astro Boy I made using tin cans when I was eleven. I spent 5 hours on it! I know, it looks a little different... 50 years later, I easily bought one online!

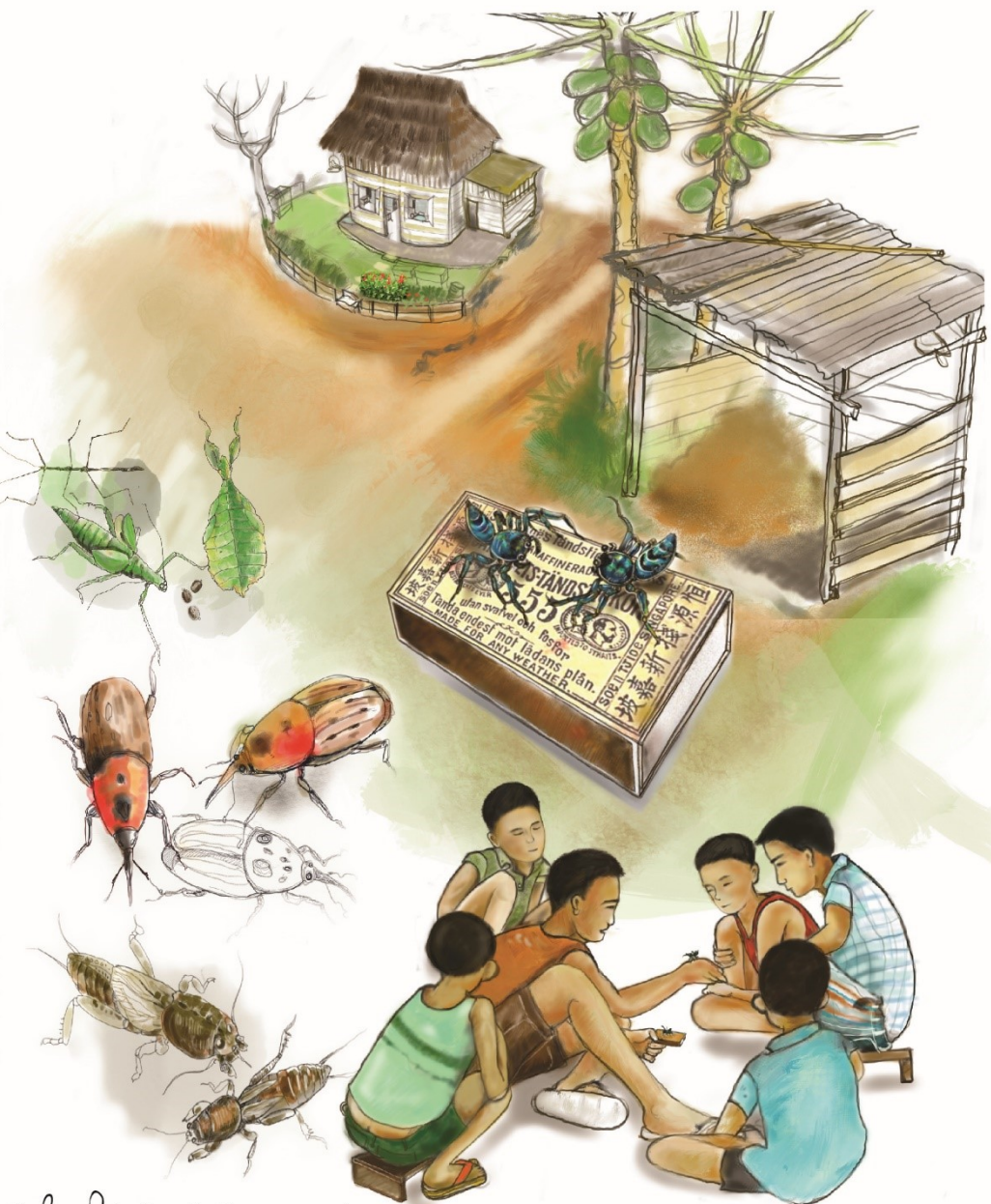
鸟语花香 细听蟋蟀昆虫鸣叫

童年不乏趣味玩意，只需四处走走瞧瞧，动动脑筋，翻翻叶子土堆，不难找到蜘蛛、蟋蟀、蚂蚁、蚱蜢等，或到刚被锯下的椰子树干，捕捉那红棕象甲虫（椰龟），捉到靛蓝乌亮的雄蜘蛛，夹在班兰叶，收养在火柴盒，明天与玩伴再斗个三百回合。草堆下找到的蟋蟀，喂养在玻璃瓶中观赏，夜深聆听它鸣叫声，除了斗蟋蟀外，养殖的小蟋蟀也是画眉鸟的最爱。

Childhood in the village was filled with endless possibilities. You just had to walk around and have a little creativity to find fun. One could turn over the leaves and dirt mounds and it was not hard to find spiders, crickets, ants, grasshoppers, or catch red palm weevils in the recently chopped trunks of coconut trees. One could also try catching the indigo-blue male spider, placing it on a pandan leaf and putting it in a matchbox to let it fight against a friend's spider the next day.

We often kept and fed the crickets we found under piles of grass in glass bottles and listened to their sounds at night. Besides being kept for fighting, crickets were also a favourite to keep and to feed wood thrushes.

Birdsong and floral fragrances
Listening to the insects call



Reacquainting myself with the birds - Who are the natives and who are the new immigrants?



蓝喉蜂虎 Blue-throated Bee-eater



白胸苦恶鸟 White-breasted Waterhen



棕背伯劳 Long-tailed Shrike



普通翠鸟 Common Kingfisher



长尾夜鹰 Large-tailed Nighthawk



蓝胸鹇 King Quail



褐喉花蜜鸟 Brown-throated Sunbird



红耳鹎 Red-whiskered Bulbul



爪哇文鸟 Javan Munia



白腰鹊鸂 White-rumped Shama



画眉 Garrulax Canorus



朱背啄花鸟 Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker



灰腹绣眼鸟 Oriental White-eye



黑枕黄鹂 Black-naped Oriole



鹊鸂 Oriental Magpie Robin



斑扇尾鹇 Malaysian Pied Fantail



灰缝叶莺 Ashy Tailorbird

谁是原住民

谁又是新移民

万物生生不息，感谢你们与我并肩同行！
In the circle of life, everything comes and goes, Thank you for walking with me all this time

后记 Afterword

I remember how this all started. I remember sitting behind my father as he sketched on his A3 sketchbook his impression of his old village. Page after page, line after line, 18 year old me watched as my father drew a village so familiar to him, yet so unfamiliar to me. In fact, I think that was the first time I'd ever heard the name "Chye Kay Village". Sure, up until then, my father had certainly told me a fair share of stories from his childhood growing up in a village, but it'd always – as far as I can remember – been a nameless village. Just a village, not the Chye Kay Village.

Remembering that now, and seeing how far this project has developed and touched the lives of so many others, I certainly am one proud daughter. The name "Chye Kay Village" alone reignites such fond memories in such a huge community of locals, a community that has so much to say, so much to share and reminisce about, and even for someone who's never lived in it, I feel like I'm a part of it too.

Still, my relationship with Chye Kay Village and this book has been – and still is – a strange one. My father wrote this book with the idea of family at the core of its goals. On one hand, he wanted this book realized to help my grandmother with her Alzheimer's, hoping to perhaps bring back some long lost memories, hidden away in the

dusty corners of her now aging mind. On the other, he wanted to introduce my brother and I to a village that was such an integral part of the person that my father is today, to reconnect us with our distant roots and to bond with us on a deeper level. In fact, even though he may not admit it, his asking us to translate the book from Mandarin to English was also a rouse to ensure that we truly read and digested the core content of the book, and had the history of our family ingrained in our minds. And as tedious and meticulous as the translating process was, I don't regret doing it one bit. Here I am, 23 years old, and finally able to visualize the childhood that shaped my father, connect with and find a new respect for the granduncle I never met, find pride in the family history built by my resilient and brave grandfather, and be filled with an overwhelming love for the hard worker that is my father...and all of this, from a village I'd never seen, but whose land I still live on.

It's been a long journey for this book, my father and the community of people within which the memories of Chye Kay Village resonates and for what its worth, Retracing Footsteps Home – Chye Kay Village is a book that has certainly found its spot in my family history, and in a way, in the roots of my heart.

Cheery Ng

When I was first given the task of translation for my dad's book, I was inclined to believe that it was only short passages, with a few factual sections in between. When I later realised the scope of it, I won't lie, I was hesitant at first. It seemed like a lot of work, and as a working adult, I was doubtful that I would have the time to complete the translation, particularly also due to the fact that I was not as proficient in the Chinese language as my dad was, which would increase the difficulty of translation. However, it was hard not to rise to the challenge when I realised that my whole family would be helping out in this endeavour. It was, after all, a dream of my dad's but also a gift from him to my grandmother – his mother.

I also realised it was a chance for me to get to know my family history more, given that I had never really been particularly interested in my dad's kampung childhood. I also found out that his book would have my grandfather's story in it too. It was a good chance overall to get closer to my roots, and help my dad fulfil his dream as well. Hence, I set to work. It was no easy task, given that many of the translations involved facts and old kampung names, which required much research and fact checking, and not simply just translating from Chinese words to English. There was an added layer of tediousness to the whole process when amendments to the Chinese text kept coming in, and hence new English translations were necessary. Yet despite all these, my entire family continued to chip in with all our efforts, trying to complete this labour of love. It was good family bonding, and no matter how dull the translations got sometimes, it felt nice knowing our whole family had each other's backs.

This book was also an eye opener for me in more ways than one, like how I came to know more about my family's roots. I read and translated my grandfather's story, about how he came to Singapore from China and how he came to be a teacher. But the story didn't end there. I was a willing listener to the stories my dad

told about my granduncles, about their work as a community volunteer, but even more interestingly, about their life as a resistance agent during world war two. Not everyone can say they had family that were resistance agents or actively fought against the Japanese during those times of strife! Eventually translating the book wasn't just an effort to help my dad reach his dreams, but also a dive into my colourful family background, a background that I did not know even existed until now.

I also realised how different life is now as compared to kampung life then. We currently live in highly digital age, where everyone has a smartphone and easy access to the internet. Instead of connecting face to face, we connect via the internet. While this is not necessarily a bad thing, it's very different from the kampung days where people would interact and connect via socialising face to face. Both are methods of networking, but one cannot deny that there's a certain human touch with socialising in person instead of via our screens. Also, I daresay childhood during the kampung days was much more exciting. There always seemed to be so much to do! One could go fishing in the streams, catch insects, watch the wayang shows or generally just go around town socialising and gossiping. From the stories my dad told, it felt as though there was always a new thing to do every day!

To end it off, this book is a labour of love from my family to yours. To the younger readers, I hope reading this book will be as enlightening of an experience as it has been for me. Perhaps it would even establish a deeper bond between you and your parents, as they would probably have lived through this kampung life and can regale you with their own tales. To the older readers, I hope this brings you a sense of nostalgia and melancholy like it did for my parents, as though taking a time machine back to your childhood days for a short while. I hope you enjoy it!

Maximillian Ng

陌生又熟悉的财启村 The Unfamiliarly Familiar Chye Kay Village

财启村，这个对我来说既陌生又熟悉的名字。陌生，因为在我认识它以前，它已烟消云散。熟悉，因为这个名字从35年前我认识我先生开始，从他口中听了不下数百遍。每每叙述财启村的点点滴滴时，他总是双眼发亮，语带兴奋的详细数说，恨不得把我即刻拉进他的回忆里，后又无限唏嘘感叹儿时甘榜已不复存在，无法让我身历其境。我也只能在他兴奋述说时凭想像去试着感受财启村的魅力。奇妙的是，通过他的绘本，财启村在我面前活灵活现的活了起来，在细读绘本时，我也仿佛跟着在财启村里活了一回。两本绘本是我先生花约五年多呕心沥血之作。这五年来他无时无刻手不离“苹果”（手机，平板及电脑），一向早睡的他这五年来却夜夜伏笔到凌晨一两点。就连出国旅游也多选邻近落后国家，不去游山玩水而是在偏僻乡村钻来钻去寻求灵感及寻找似曾相识的角落，希望能唤起深藏在记忆里不曾浮现的回忆。望着对简陋又异味冲天的乡村厕所而丝毫不觉猛拍的老公，不由得被他对财启村的热忱与执着深深的感动着。。。

Chye Kay Village – a name that is both unfamiliar and familiar to me. Unfamiliar, because it had long vanished into thin air before I came to know it personally. Familiar, because from the day I met my husband 35 years ago, I’ve heard its name come from his lips countless times.

Every time my husband talked about his memories of Chye Kay, there’d be a sparkle in his eyes and an excited tone in his voice as he recounted story after story, eager to pull me into the embrace of his own nostalgia. Each time, however, his reminiscence would end with a sigh and a melancholic comment on how unfortunate it was that the village had ceased to exist before I got to experience its splendour first hand; All I could do was try to imagine Chye Kay Village’s charm through his descriptions of it. The most magical thing is that finally, through my husband’s illustrated book, the Chye Kay Village of my imagination came to life, right in front of my eyes. When I read the book for the first time, I felt like I’d genuinely lived in Chye Kay Village once. These two books are the result of my husband pouring out his heart and soul for five years, during which I’d never seen him without his tools, writing and drawing till the late hours of the night. Even in traveling he chose to visit rural villages, trying to find inspiration in foreign yet familiar corners, in hopes that they’d evoke more memories of his village, hidden deep in the recesses of his mind.

And as I watch my husband being so unbothered and engrossed in taking photos of a rustic, old, smelly village toilet for reference for his book of this place, I can’t help but feel deeply moved by his passion and love for Chye Kay Village.

王丽美 Libby Ong



鸣谢 Acknowledgement



2019年3月9日与10日，财启村故事在忠邦城展开首展 The first exhibition of Chye Kay Village at Chong Pang City In March 2019

财启村首展于忠邦城 The first exhibition of Chye Kay Village at Chong Pang City

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Retracing footsteps home...Chye Kay Village



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历史是人类活动的印记，也是文化教育的方向盘。因此，一切有关历史的缅怀，探讨与研究，都是弥足珍贵的。

了解过去，省思既往，可以更踏实地迎接未来，创造更美好的明天

History is the imprint of mankind, and the compass which leads our very education.

The nostalgia, discovery and research of human history remains incredibly valuable.

To understand the past and to reflect upon it is the first step into building a better future.

邱祥林 励正学校老师