

第 38 篇 [第一次工作時的回憶] [First Day on the First Job]

命題大意： 第一次工作時的回憶。

寫作大意： 回想1945年 到 汽車修理廠工作時的情形

ASSIGNMENT: 3/19/2003

Do you remember your first job? Describe what you looked, felt and acted like on the first day.

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It was May 15,1945, in the Sino-Japanese war (1937-1945) time, I arrived at Mawanmiao Automobile Repair Factory (馬王廟汽車修理廠), Guiyang (貴陽), southwest China, a base to repair all the Dodge trucks of the government previously imported from USA , I was 24 years old , just discharged from the one year drafted interpreter service in the army. Before the conscription, I had finished a 3 1/2 years academic in a university, majored in mechanical engineering. After the service, I was awarded a diploma of bachelor degree by the government. I looked a little skinny, wearing kakis dress, with full black hair, sparkling eyes and tender cheeks. I was excited to get the job.

I first contacted the plant manager to complete the entry processes. He then introduced me to see the production superintendent. To improve the production efficiency, the plant had adopted a system to break down all the received "sick trucks" into sub-assemblies then reassemble them on the production line, with well prepared truck parts. The first day I was assigned to be in charge of the disassembly section. Two months latter I was transferred to serve as the acting head of the parts manufacturing department. The following is a briefing on what I now remember on the first job:

1. There was a motto saying "one drop gas, one drop blood!" in that time. Engineers of the private section used the alcohol and charcoal produced gas to substitute a part of the gasoline for some trucks. Many commercial trucks were equipped with a charcoal gas producer mounted on the left side behind the driver's cabinet. (See attached picture).
2. We used a lot of home made auto parts including Babbitt metal bearings for crankshafts and crankpins. Condemned oil drums were extensively used as steel sheets in our manufacturing.
3. China had long been using the European system to have the driver seat in a car on the right side, and cars to be driven against the left road side. The old system was officially changed to the American type on July 1 1945. The U.S. rushed many military vehicles into Chinese territory from Burma by that time. The steering system in all cars originally running in the country were altered from right to left in a short time.
4. The war ended three months later. Nine months after that, I left the first job and shifted to the aero engine factory in the same province but in a different location.