

第76篇 [閱讀報紙廣告衍生的故事] [A Story from Reading Newspaper Ad ]

命題大意：如題。

寫作大意：敘述六十年代從報上廣告消息取得台北新店碧潭吊橋工程的往事。

ASSIGNMENT: 3/17/2004

Look in Classified Section of a newspaper. Write a story about something that is for sale.

WRITINGR3/24/2004

When I started my mechanical engineering consultant business in the late 1960s, I hired a young lady secretary to take care of office work including check the classified section of the newspaper hunting for jobs. One day she reported me with an ad in her hand showing the suburban government Singdian city near Taipei inviting an engineering service to repair the Bitong suspension bridge crossing a valley river which I knew. After a study I contacted the official in charge and found the fact as follows:

The bridge was constructed 50 years ago in the Japanese occupation time now worn out and dandling over the river valley, It had been banned to traffic causing much inconvenience to the residents in that area, especially school boys and girls had to ride ferry to cross the river for schooling. Some people proposed to dismantle that bridge and construct a new one that would take one year or two. (There was a bridge on the lower side about two miles away.) Another group of people proposed to repair the bridge as soon as possible. Both sides were debating fiercely. So they advertised for an engineering consultant to justify.

I immediately went to the site for detailed study and purchased two books to study, one in English another in Japanese, to equip. After a study I found the bridge was repairable. I made a proposal to take the job. The opposite side supported by a senior engineering consultant, (Guobing Wu, graduated from the London University UK, with Dr. Degree, allegedly a bridge expert) rose to against me. We had a debate in a conference confronted as follows:

1. Dr. Guobing Wu; "The bridge had been used over 50 years, too old to be in service now even repaired."

Simou Wen: "There is no time limit of a bridge. The service condition decides the servicing age. Based on my study, the bridge in the present condition is repairable" .

2. Wu: "How do you know the bridge is repairable?"

Wen: "I have checked the components of the bridge and made calculations, find the factor of safety being over 4. The related drawing, reference books and calculations are here for reviewing."

Following that, officials (among them some were engineers) and Wu checked the document could not find any thing wrong.

3. Wu: "What material of the bridge rope is assumed in your calculation?"

Wen: "Referring from the Mechanical Engineering Handbook, zinc galvanized plough steel wire rope is supposed to use"

4. Wu: "Fifty year ago, there was not such zinc galvanized steel rope in use in the world"

Wen: "You are not true; such material has been use for more than one hundred years. I have checked the rope at the end anchoring point and found out the material meets the specification shown in the book. It is easy to

test the rope by scratching a little bit the wrapping material and test the exposed surface with hydro chloride acid. If there are bubbles rising, it is zinc galvanized"

5. Then the official in charge said: "Let's go for a test and check the evidence. "

The test was showing bubbles rising. Simou was awarded the job of design and repair work supervision. Simou thanked his secretary for her finding the job from the classified ad.

Remarks: The bridge is still in good condition up to now. It has been decollated as one of the sightseeing spots in the Taipei area. The keynote method to stabilize the originally shaking status of the bridge was to reinforcing each of the connecting points of the vertical rope to the horizontal bridge beam with two pieces or clamp hooks bolted together as shown on the attached drawing.

碧潭吊橋修復工程承辦記。

鎮長卓XX，對方工答7b師為吳國炳。我曾設計巧妙方法將橋身鎖定不搖擺。監工曾爬繩梯到塔頂檢查。隨後庭堅也爬上。讚他有種。我僱用的工程師不敢上向。