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COLLEGE FILES
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Corres.
Chen, Grace 1944-1947
Chen, Gwang-lin 1946
Chen, I-djen 1945
Chen, Mary 1945

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Grace Chen
1944-1947

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American Church Mission
95 Shulin Kai, Kunming
September 24, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Boulogny: (Treasurer of Woman's Auxiliary of N.C.)

I promised Bishop Chen that I would write to thank you and all the members of the N. Carolina Woman's Auxiliary for your generous help in providing an educational fund for Grace, the Bishop's oldest daughter. He has already received two amounts from you, the first of US\$475.39 and the second of US\$103.70. Bishop Chen is deeply appreciative of your help, and I know he would write to you himself if he were not so pressed with administrative duties and short of help in his office.

Grace is a Sophomore this year in Ginling College, Chengtu. Since my arrival in Kunming two months ago, I have been hearing from her right regularly, as I am much closer to her and communications are so much better from here than from Marlin. During the summer vacation she felt rather homesick and took on three jobs so that she wouldn't have time to think too much about her family. She worked part time as treasurer during the summer term of High School, part time in the college library, and spent about two hours every afternoon doing some typing in the Dept. of Sociology.

She is taking a pre-medical course and she will be very busy this term, as she is taking several science courses with laboratory periods every afternoon. She is an excellent student and hopes to go to the best medical school in China and also to study in the States some day. She is a fine Christian girl, too, with ideals of true Christian service. There are many now, Christian students in the college, of course, and soon after her entrance Grace wrote that she could be like "the light and the salt". I am sure she would be a good influence wherever she is.

I also want to thank you on behalf of Miss Laura Clark for your help to Grace Chen. She was very fond of Grace and was so anxious that she should have a good education. Just before she left _____? for Shanghai, she sent me some funds to be used for Grace's traveling expenses to Chengtu. She also wrote saying that she had hoped to appeal to the Woman's Auxiliary for assistance in Grace's educational fund. It was this letter that emboldened me to write to her sister, Mrs. Gordon, though I did so with a great deal of hesitation, as I know how many appeals you must get during these difficult days. I wasn't prepared for such a generous response, and I do thank you with all my heart. I have tried recently to send a message to Laura Clark through the International Red Cross in Shanghai, and I put a work in that about your helping Grace as I knew it would make her very happy. I hope that she will receive the message. The last word I had from her two months ago was that she was getting along all right, keeping cheerful as usual. May peace come soon to this poor suffering world so that she and others may be released and enjoy the freedom that rightly belongs to them.

With deep appreciation and all good wishes,

(Signed)

Very sincerely yours,

Louise Magdalene

Sister C. T.

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Jan. 2nd '45
Ginling College
Chengtou China

Dear Mrs. Peoples:

It is a great honor to me that I can have the chance to know you and to write you on the recommendation of Sister Louise. I am deeply grateful to you and other friends of the North Carolina Women's Auxiliary for all your kindness.

Having heard from Sister Louise that you would like to know something about my recent life here, I am going to tell you a little concerning my course of study and also some of my activities in the college. I have been in Ginling already a year and a half. The president of our college is Dr. Wu Yi-fang who is very famous in China and known by many Americans. This college is originally in Nanking, the capital of China, before the war. There are more than three hundred girls in our college; most of them came here as refugees from their lovely homes which are in the occupied China now. I love this college because of her family-like college life and so do the other girls. According to my interest and ambition, I take pre-medical as my major here. If there will be no war, I shall enter the Peking Medical Union College as soon as I finish my pre-med course in Ginling, since P.U.M.C. will not be reopened until the war is over. Nobody can know definitely when the war will be ended. Besides, to enter P.U.M.C. the only way I can possibly choose is to study medicine in America, but it is perfectly impossible in the war time too. I can't really know what I shall do if there is no medical college for me to enter. Perhaps I shall be forced to change my major in Ginling and graduate as a Biology major first. In any rate, I shall try my best.

Out of classes I spend most of my time for college activities, especially the religious activity. Being the representative of our college to the Christian Union here, I am quite busy with lots of things to do. Now we are going to work on a plan for the Spring Conference in this Winter Vacation time. Instead of being a worker for the Sunday School last year, I became a member of the morning choir in our campus this year. The choir which I take part is the best one in Chengtu. Every Sunday morning we are responsible for the music of the service in the Union Church; sometimes we would go out to sing songs for our friends of American air force here. The consolation of music make them more cheerful. Besides these activities, I am also in charge of our college consumer's cooperation this term. This Christmas we raised a subscription of eleven thousands dollars for our brave soldiers in the front as a Christmas gift for them. Isn't wonderful? Of course I am very busy with lots of these activities, but I like to work and being a little more busier. This is the only happiness of living. If there is any other thing you want me to tell you, please let me know. Thanks!

Here I am sending you with my picture which was taken only a week ago. It isn't an ideal one but I want you to know what do I look like. If we can meet some day, then you can easily recognize me without any questions.

A Christmas and New Year Greetings to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Grace Chen

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95 Shu Lin Kai, Kunming
January 9, 1945

Dear Mrs. Peoples,

I have delayed answering your good letter, which came just before Christmas, in order to send you the enclosed letter and picture, which arrived only this afternoon. I asked Grace to write to you, sending the letter to me, as I thought it might need some explanation and I also wanted to save her paying the postage on it.

I think her letter is clear except for the second from the last sentence on the first page. What she means is that if the Peking Union Medical College has not reopened by the time she finishes her pre-medical course, her only other hope or choice would be to study medicine in America; but she is afraid that, too, would not be possible during the war. There are other medical colleges in Chengtu, but none with as high standards as P.U.M.C. I have advised her to consult her Dean of Studies, and I hope that she will continue her course at Ginling. By the time she has finished it, perhaps P.U.M.C. will have reopened.

You will be glad to hear that Grace won first prize in November in an oratorical contest held among ten colleges and universities in Chengtu. She has evidently inherited this gift from her father and mother who are both excellent speakers.

I sent your letter on to Bishop Chen, and I hope it will reach him some day. Ordinary communications between Kunming and Maolin are rather badly disrupted, but I was able to send your letter along with some others across the lines by air through a friend. Bishop Chen is so busy and has so little help in his office that you may not hear from him for sometime, but I know he deeply appreciates the help which the N.C. Woman's Auxiliary is giving him.

We are being urged to leave China, and since my furlough is already a year overdue, I plan to go home in the spring. If I should happen to go to your part of the country sometime, I hope I shall have the pleasure of meeting you. My home address is Bethany Home, Glendale, Ohio

With all good wishes to you for the new year and again many thanks to you and all the members of the Woman's Auxiliary for your continued interest in Grace,

Sincerely yours,

Louise Magdalene, S.C.T.

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WOMAN'S AUXILIARY TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. E. G. Peoples, President
Oxford, N. C.

Mrs. C. H. Cheatham, Secretary
R.F.D. 3
Oxford, N. C.

Oxford, N. C.
Feb. 12, 1945

Dear Mrs. Mills:

You asked me to let you know more about the Woman's Auxiliary interest in Grace Chen. It is a rather long story, but I shall take pleasure in telling it. For several years we in the Diocese of North Carolina have had an item in our budget for United China Relief. Because of this, the Christmas cards sold for this purpose were sent to me. They were very beautiful and I bought them for two years, my interest in China growing all the time. Then in the fall of 1943, I attended the General Convention of our Church, and had the privilege of hearing and seeing Dr. Wu. Also, there in Cleveland, we heard Dr. Newton Chiang. By this time, our interest was aching to do something. Not long after I got home I had a letter from Mrs. W. J. Gordon of _____? telling me of Grace Chen's need which she had learned of through Sister Louise, as the enclosed letter explains. Here was our opportunity, but how to proceed I did not know. We operate on a budget - the year was nearly over - I was then a new president (In the first year of my term of three). We had had several special appeals and I didn't like to make another. I wrote Mrs. Gordon that I'd make the appeal at each of our nine fall District Meetings and request that the offering be for this cause. This was done. Also at these same meetings we had reports from the General Convention telling of Dr. Wu's address on Christians and World Order, and of Dr. Chiang's appealing story. Our women were touched, and long after the meetings, the money continued to come in until the grand total of \$579.09 was reached, and we were all so amazed and thankful. This was sent to Ginling in 1944 and I suppose is the amount to which you refer and for which Sister Louise is thanking us. Then last fall, when we had our Executive Board meeting, we felt we wanted to help Grace straight through college, and it was then we put \$200.00 a year in our budget for her for as long as she needs it. I wrote to Sister Louise to try to find out whether this was enough to ensure that she could stay in college, also to ask her to have Grace write us, as we felt we really wanted to know her. Last week I received the answer from Sister Louise and a letter from Grace. In both they spoke as if there were no doubt of her continuing, but if you could help me find out whether this is really enough, I'd appreciate it. With money of so little value in China, I'm afraid this is very inadequate and they hate to say so. We have a balance on hand from 1944 which we expect to assign in April, and if Grace needs anything at all, we'd like to know it. We want her to feel perfectly free to develop without being worried at all about finances.

I think I'll send you all the letters and ask you to please send them back, as the recent ones haven't even been made known to our Auxiliary yet.

Of course, the World Day of Prayer was also one of the main contributing causes to our interest in Ginling and China.

This is too long a letter, but I waited until I had time to tell you the whole story.

Very sincerely,

Leah G. Peoples
(Mrs. E. G. Peoples)

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Ginling College
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N.Y.
February 20, 1945

Miss Elsie Priest
Ginling College
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Priest:

For reasons revealed in the enclosed correspondence, money has been raised for Bishop Robin Chen's daughter by the North Carolina Diocese of Episcopal Women. Up to the fall of 1944, \$579.09 had been sent out to China, and we are assuming that this is the NC\$24,000 that was received through Miss Lamberton sometime in the first six months of 1944.

Because Dr. Wu was expecting a contribution from the New Jersey Episcopal women, and did not know anything about a gift from the North Carolina women, she thought that this \$24,000 N.C. was from the New Jersey women. She had chosen two Episcopal girls to share the benefits of the New Jersey gift, which is a Memorial Fund in honor of Bishop Roberts' sister. Therefore, when the \$24,000 arrived, not specifically designated for Grace Chen, Dr. Wu divided it between the two girls she had chosen, viz., Grace Chen, daughter of Bishop Chen, and Shen Sung-wei, daughter of Bishop Shen Tz-kao.

As far as we can find out from this side, the above is the situation. If it corresponds with the facts as you know them on the field, it becomes clear that an adjustment in favor of Grace Chen is due.

Any funds that come through the Episcopal Treasurer in China, Mr. Arthur Allen, as an "Edith Roberts Memorial Fund" are really intended for scholarship. This is the money contributed by the women of the New Jersey Diocese in honor of Bishop Roberts' sister, and they raised it as a scholarship fund for an Episcopal girl at Ginling. As I have said above, Miss Shen Sung-wei is one of the girls chosen to receive this scholarship aid. The adjustment to Grace Chen could be taken from this fund, because Shen Sung-wei has received a part of the North Carolina money which was intended entirely for Grace Chen. The New Jersey money, originally allocated to the two girls, can be used entirely for Miss Shen, since Miss Chen is now provided for.

I realize that before you receive this, you may have had all these facts, but I am sending this information to you in order to get the whole matter clear.

Cordially yours,

CSM:ef

Mrs. W. Plumer Mills

Enclosures: Copy of letter from Mrs. Peoples to Mrs. Mills, dated Feb. 12, 1945
Copy of letter from Sister Louise Magdalene to Mrs. Bouligny (Treas. of Woman's Auxiliary of North Carolina), dated Sept. 24, 1944.

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February 20, 1945

Mrs. Arthur M. Sherman
281 Fourth Avenue
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Sherman:

Enclosed I am sending you a copy of the material about Grace Chen which came to me from Mrs. Peoples. I greatly appreciate her writing me so fully about their interest in Miss Chen, and I am indeed happy to know that she is so well taken care of.

From this correspondence it seems clear to me that the NC\$24,000, which has been paid through Miss Lamberton to Ginling, was really the gift from the North Carolina Diocese and intended for Grace Chen. Dr. Wu was expecting funds from the New Jersey Diocese, which she planned to share between Grace Chen and Shen Sung-wei, and so she divided this amount between these two girls. It would therefore seem that an adjustment should be made in favor of Grace Chen, and this can be arranged through the treasurer's office.

Since the North Carolina Diocese is caring for Grace Chen so adequately, it seems to me that Bishop Shen's daughter would be the logical one to benefit from the New Jersey Memorial Fund to Miss Roberts. I have not heard from Dr. Wu that she has received anything from this fund through the Episcopal treasurer in China. I suppose, however, that it has been paid to Ginling as Mr. Allen receives it. Since it was not specifically designated as a "Scholarship Fund", it may be that Dr. Wu has not used it in that way. This, of course, will have to be straightened out with her.

I have not written to the New Jersey women as I had no definite information about the girl that they were helping. It would have been a pity to get them interested in Grace Chen only to find that she is being supported by another group. I am now writing to them and telling them all I know from Dr. Wu's letters about Bishop Shen's daughter, as I am assuming that she will be the beneficiary of their gift.

I am enclosing a copy of the summary of the whole situation which I am sending to Miss Priest, the Treasurer in China.

Cordially yours,

Enclosures

Mrs. W. Plumer Mills

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February 21, 1945

Mrs. E. G. Peoples
Oxford
North Carolina

Dear Mrs. Peoples:

I greatly appreciate your writing me so fully about the connection between Grace Chen and the women of the North Carolina Diocese. You have given me just the information I needed. I am happy indeed to know that this fine girl has the warm interest of your group behind her, assuring her of the means to finish her college work.

You ask whether the U.S.\$200.00 a year that you have budgeted for her will be sufficient. It is very difficult to answer, as the economic situation changes so rapidly. However, Dr. Wu at one time said that \$200 was approximately what was needed by a girl for a year. I therefore think that you are really providing adequately for Miss Chen when you send her this amount.

I am returning the letters you sent me. Thank you for sharing them with me. I have taken the liberty of having the picture copied, as we like to have on file the photographs of as many Ginling girls as possible. When the photographer returns your picture, I will send it to you.

Cordially yours,

Mrs. W. Plumer Mills

CSM:ef

Enclosures: Return of

Miss Chen's letter of Jan. 2, 1945
Sister Louise's letter of Sept. 24, 1944
Sister Louise's letter of Jan. 9, 1945

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院學理文子女陵金
GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING CHINA

Chen-I
(Grace)
(1947)

室公辦長院
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 20, 1947

Isaac Starr, M.D.
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Starr:

It gives me pleasure to recommend to you Miss Chen-I (Grace I. Chen) who is applying for admission to your College of Medicine in the fall of 1947.

Miss Chen will be graduated from Ginling College next June with a major in Biology. When she first entered the College, she planned to take a pre-medical course in preparation for entrance at Peking Union Medical College. However, as the war continued to prevent the re-opening of that College, Miss Chen decided to complete her College course first. She is still definitely interested in going into Medicine and wishes to come to America for her training.

Miss Chen has maintained a high standing in the class, and has been very active in student affairs. She has won several prizes in oratorical contests. During the past year, she was the chairman of the student self-government association--Hou Sun Twan. Recently, she was one of the student delegates at the preparatory meeting for the All-Asia Student Conference which is to be held next August, and she was chosen to be the leader of the group.

Miss Chen has a good command of the English language and is capable of taking up medical courses taught in English. Her background and experience make her aware of the need for well-trained personnel in the medical field in China. I feel certain that she will contribute valuable service in this field if she is given the opportunity to take her training in America. We shall be very grateful, therefore, if you find it possible to give her application favorable consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

YFW:hp

Yi-fang Wu
President, Ginling College

0799

February 25, 1947

MISS CHEN-I (Grace Chen)

Although Miss Chen-I (Miss Grace Chen) has one more semester to complete at Ginling College before she will be a Ginling alumna, she has already shown that she will measure up to the high standard already set by that outstanding group of Chinese women.

Miss Chen is the daughter of Bishop Robin Chen (now in America) of the American Church Mission, and Mrs. Chen, a graduate of St. Hilda's School in Wuchang. Her elder brother, a graduate of Tsing Hwa University, is employed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. One sister is a freshman at Ginling College, another, a student at the Ginling College practice school, and the third attends a Christian primary school in Nanking.

Miss Chen entered Ginling College four years ago, after completing one year of middle school at McTyeire School in Shanghai and one year at St. James' School, Anhwei, Wuhu. Her qualities of leadership were immediately recognized by her fellow students at Ginling College. She was elected president of her freshman class. During her sophomore year, she was chairman of the student cooperative store. When she was a junior, she was chairman of the Student Welfare Committee. Now, a senior, she is chairman of the Hou Sun Twan, the student-self-government organization. Through this organization, dormitory rules are adopted and enforced, athletic competitions arranged, and cultural and social service activities organized. One of their projects is a night school for servants on the campus, with classes in reading and writing Chinese, arithmetic, hygiene and recreation. Miss Chen has been awarded several scholarships, one from Wilson College, and one from the American Church Mission.

As chairman of the Hou Sun Twan, Miss Chen was chosen as a member of a delegation of Chinese students who recently attended a preparatory conference of Asiatic students in New Delhi, India. Miss Chen was away from the campus 33 days. The delegation traveled by plane between Shanghai and Calcutta, and by train from Calcutta to New Delhi. During their stay in India, they visited many famous places - the Taj Mahal, Ghandi's home, Tagore's School, Lady Irwin College, and other educational institutions.

The purpose of the meeting was to lay plans for the organization of the Asia Student Union which will hold its first meeting in New Delhi in August. The preparatory meeting was called by the All India Student Congress.

Miss Chen was the only woman member of the Chinese student delegation, and, likewise, the only woman student at the conference. Others in the Chinese delegation were Liang Chen-chang, Central University, Nanking; Sun Chi-shih, Fu-Tan University, Shanghai; Chuang Shu-jen, Chung Shan University, Canton; T'ziao Kwan, Szechuan University; Chan Kuan, of the San Min Chu I Youth Corps, who acted as interpreter for the party, and Miss Li Man-kwei, former professor of Ginling College, the adviser. Also at the conference were one delegate from Iran, one from Arabia, one from East Africa, two from Malaya, two from Indonesia, five from India. Miss Chen was chosen the leader of the Chinese delegation.

Prominent speakers at the conference were Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who gave the opening address, Ambassador and Mrs. Asalfani, Mr. Kriplani, president of the People's Congress in India, and Mrs. Neidu, an Indian poet.

Miss Chen said the purpose of the organization is to promote the general welfare and cultural development of Asiatic students, to increase their educational opportunities through the exchange of scholarships, and to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between student groups in Asia. Three sub-committees were appointed to draft a constitution, to formulate a statement of the aims and scope of the organization, and to draw up a program to be carried out during the preparatory period.

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When asked what impressed her most about the conference, Miss Chen said, "The interest of Indian students in political affairs, especially in Indian independence." "Do you think the organization will be an effective one?" I asked. "If it remains a student organization, free from political influence, I think it will help to promote friendship and understanding," she replied.

Miss Chen was chosen as chairman of the preparatory committee for the opening meeting in August. Two sub-committees - a fact-finding committee and a committee on credentials - are at work on membership for the conference. Miss Chen is hoping to go to America to study medicine next year, and may not be able to attend the meeting. Nevertheless, she is busy with plans for getting her committee started on its work. Ten delegates are to be chosen from China to attend the meeting, and Miss Chen hopes a satisfactory method of selecting them will be found so that they may represent different areas of China, different sexes, and different religious and educational groups. Her committee also plans to recommend to the San Min Chu I Youth Corps a plan for exchange scholarships, to promote organizations of students in China to study Asiatic student affairs, and to print a periodical through which the Chinese Students' Movement may become more effective and China better known in other countries of Asia.

When asked why she chose to come to Ginling College, Miss Chen said, "There are three reasons. First, because Dr. Wu is the president, and all students in China admire her as a leader. Secondly, because I like the home-like atmosphere of a Christian college. Thirdly, because, in China, a woman has a better opportunity to develop her interests in a woman's college. In co-educational colleges, most of the opportunities go to the men students."

Judging by her achievements, Miss Chen has proved her point.

Helen Plaum

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Chen Gwang-lin

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GINLING COLLEGE
Chengtou, China

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT Miss Gwan-lin Chen has been a regular student at
Ginling College for two years, from the fall of 1943 to the summer of 1945,
a part of her last term's work being incomplete because of illness. She
was majoring in English Literature and her record follows:

Dates	Course Titles	Weeks a year	Periods a week	Credits	Grades
1943-44	Freshman Chinese	36	3	6	83
	Freshman English, 2nd half	18	4	4	92
	Sophomore Composition for Eng. Majors	18	3	3	81
	Principles of Economics	36	3	6	86
	Ethics	18	2	2	65
	General Chinese History	36	3	6	86
	General Mathematics	36	4	8	75
	Subfreshman Physics	18	6	0	75
	Subfreshman Chemistry	18	5	0	82
	Singing and Fundamentals of Music	18	1	0	75
	Military Nursing	18	2	0	89
	Physical Education	36	4	2	66
	1944-45	History of English Literature	18	6	6
First Year French		36	3	6	73
Logic		36	2	4	72
Survey of Philosophy I		18	3	3	70
Sophomore Composition for Eng. Majors, II		18	3	3	77
Physical Education		36	4	2	77
Shorthand		18		2	83
Introduction to English Poetry		18	6	0	Incomplete
Junior English Composition		18	2	0	Incomplete
Philosophy Survey, II		18	3	0	Incomplete

A total of 3 credits was deducted because of overcuts

Grades are on the percentage basis with 60% as the passing grade.
To graduate a student must have a total average of at least 70%.

Registrar.....(signed) Shao Bao Fu-nien.....
Dean of Studies.....(signed) Ruth M. Chester.....
Date.....January 30, 1946.....

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[Feb. 8, 1946]

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Miss Chen Gwang-lin studied at Ginling College from 1943 to 1945. She majored in English and did good work. We had every reason to think her advanced work would be much better than average, and were sorry that circumstances necessitated her withdrawal before she had finished her sophomore year.

(Signed) Florence A. Kirk

Florence A. Kirk
(Head of the Department of
English, Ginling College)

Chengtu, China
February 8, 1946

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(Laretta)

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10 Prospect St.
Northampton, Mass.
Sept 22, 1945

Dear Mrs. Mills,

I had wanted so much to visit you while I was in New York. When Yang Jing-shung called you up she asked me if I wanted to speak to you. I told ~~her~~ I did not want to speak to you over the phone. I wanted to call on you myself. But five days passed away too fast; and I have to leave New York yesterday without seeing you.

Eting met me at the station yesterday afternoon. And she is going to come for me this afternoon to take me to see some of the deans and chairman of committees. Registration begins today, but I shall have to register tomorrow. I don't know a thing about the courses yet.

Northampton is a quiet place. It is the right place for study. I cannot help thinking how any one could have any work done in New York. I am very glad that Dr. Mu had chosen Smith for me. If I can arrange to get my M.A. within a year I shall not leave Northampton until next summer.

Very sincerely yours

Tsotta J. J. Chen

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Mary Chen
1945

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院學理文子女陵金
GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING CHINA

Mary C. C. Chen
[ind.]

室公辦長院
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The New York School of Social Work
Willard Straight Fellowship
Columbia University
122 East 22nd Street
New York 10, New York

This is to certify that I have known Miss Mary C. C. Chen since 1934. During the war years--1938-1944--in Chengtu, it was my privilege to work closely with her; she, as organist, and I, as choirdirector, for most of those years. During this time, I gave her some instruction in organ.

Since her graduation from Ginling College, Miss Chen has been deeply interested in many forms of social work. She organized Sunday Schools and training classes for the teachers, and young people's groups in the church and in the University of Nanking. In Chengtu, she took important responsibilities for the University Middle School, and was the acting dean of women in the University in addition to teaching English in the University. She has been a constant helper to her brother, President Chen, of the University of Nanking, and advisor to countless students. She has done active work in the Y. W. C. A., and has been chairman of the Ginling College Alumnae for a number of years. Her interest and very practical aid is never lacking in any good cause.

Miss Chen wishes to have the opportunity to study social work so that she may continue with work for children and in personal relationships. I know of no one whose years of faithful service in so many fields have so clearly earned for her--if it may be granted--a period of study and refreshment. She has rare charm, loyalty, sincerity, faithfulness of purpose, and an amazing capacity to care for people and to bring about understanding in difficult situations. An opportunity for her to study will certainly count high in personal service in future years in China.

It, therefore, gives me great pleasure to recommend for your consideration Miss C. C. Chen for a scholarship to the New York School of Social Work.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Stella Marie Graves
Acting Head of Music Dept.
Ginling College

SMG:hp

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DEC
1945

Mary Chen (G.C. '23)

Mary Chen has done a splendid piece of work in connection with a refugee school on this campus of West China Union University. She has done this-as an extra- in addition to full-time teaching on the staff of the University of Nanking. Various times she has begged to be released from the arduous work involved in her supervision of this Middle School, but there never seemed to be anyone else available, and even now they wish her to continue in the capacity of Finance Minister, as it were, of the institutions. To be relieved of the actual administration will leave her very much freer than before.

The common name it is known by, when translated from the Chinese, is rather formidable: "The Middle School for the Children of the Faculty of the University of Nanking." However, since there are not supposed to be Middle schools on this University campus, it is officially known as "War-time Classes for Refugee Students." As such it is recognized by the Ministry of Education.

It was in 1941. Because of the frequent bombings in Chengtu most Middle Schools had moved out into the country. Some University of Nanking families found that they could not send their children away because of the high cost of transportation. Some had not sufficient bedding to let the children go. Two families often employed one teacher, a tutor, but the result was that not all subjects were taught. A few families made the suggestion that this system ought to be enlarged so that several families might cooperate and have their children taught together. This was decided upon.

Then the problem began. Where could the teaching be done? Refugee families had one or two rooms at most. The group got permission to use the classrooms of the University of Nanking when regular university classes were not using them. At other times, verandahs and living rooms were pressed into use. Who would be THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR? The committee doing the planning asked Mary Chen if she would headup the work. She refused, for she was not interested in administration,

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and already was doing full time English teaching in the University of Nanking. She felt, after several refusals, that she had to accept, for they would not take "No" for an answer. Who would do the teaching for the six years Of Middle School they decided to organize? The teachers must be the parents themselves, generally the fathers who were already doing full-time work at the University of Nanking; the mothers were more and more involved with household duties, for prices were soaring, and servants could not be afforded.

So the new venture began. It did not go too well. The new teachers were often late, because they had first to see to their university responsibilities. The students had to do a good deal of travelling around, and this lost time, and brought up problems of discipline. It had been agreed that the parents be responsible for classes, but not for discipline after the classes, but these were normal boys and girls, and they loitered at times. There came protests: flowers were picked, birds stoned! Mary said she used to say in reply, "How do you know they are our children?" The answer came, "They look like it." The children using classrooms at the University must not disturb the Officers and teachers near by! Mary said that when classes were let out, the children were like wild young things. She said, "Of course, that was natural. We Sympathized with them, and hated to try to keep them quiet, but we knew too that the University staff needed to be protected from them also." The quarters were woefully inadequate: 2 rooms at the University of Nanking, and two tiny rooms partitioned off on a porch - large enough to accomodate eight students, if the teacher stood in one corner and did not move! The teacher had difficulties when it rained! Teachers' pay was laughable - \$2 an hour! It was not enough for rickshaw fare, but no one complained, for were they not serving their own children? There were the understandable difficulties in such a school: parents were hardly impartial when it came to their own children! This called for tact and courtesy on Mary's part, if the difficulty was to be smoothed out.

So affaris went along until two years had passed. Then for the first time, a full-time teacher was engaged. She came for one-quarter of the salary she might have received elsewhere, but her husband had a good position, and she was willing to serve

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in this way. However, she could stand the strain only one term; The following semester, two full-time teachers were hired. The school was growing. They needed more space. Faculty members were solicited for donations, donations for chairs, books, and other minium equipment. Mary did much of this soliciting. "At first, I was terribly embarassed to ask for money." We had all kinds of chairs, all shapes and colors and sizes, but they suited the purpose. Mary said, "I used to talk to the students and say, 'Our soldiers are fighting at the front. They are suffering. We are fortunate, for we are peaceful and comfortable. These chairs are good enough for us in war-time and we have no right to grumble.'" We were assailed by applications for children outside our faculty families to attend the school. We had begun with children of full-time faculty members of the University; then we had extended the privilege to part-time members; now we extended it still further, making four conditions for entrance:

- 1) Sufficient seating capacity; 2) parents can help in teaching or other ways;
- 3) children of families closely related to the University, for instance, the Radio Station; 4) 1 child only from each of the friendly institutions around us.

By the beginning of the third year we found we had to make new arrangements. The classrooms were altogether too small. It was too difficult to manage the children so close to University classes. We decided to build. "I spent the whole of that summer in trying to get land for a school site. I walked here and there, interviewed land-owners, and often felt it was hopeless." Finally, the radio Station quite near the campus lent a piece of land and we felt we could go ahead. "We had no money to build! the prices were jumping. On my own responsibility I went to the Bank and borrowed 300,000 dollars for six months - with the President, Dr. Chen, and some other faculty members as guarantors. The building went ahead: six classrooms and a small office, made of the plaster and mud with bamboo supports, and thatched roof. We soon found out the strength of our building. The students in their vigor broke through partitions, sate on arms of seats until they crumpled - it was cheap furniture, for were we not soon going back to Nanking?" Now they engaged eight full-

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time teachers, with 20 part-time teachers (chiefly parents) and regular departmental Heads.

A few months ago there was an urgent need for an assembly room. When they had the Monday morning Memorial Service, the students had to stand for the full hour, and similarly on other occasions when there was a general assembly. "I felt we had to provide a general hall. We had accepted these children as students. We had a duty to them. Almost every Assembly day one or two or three students fainted. It was not that the sun was so hot, but the sun combined with poor health and deficient vigor, they did not get sufficient food, for were they not refugees? They were unable to stand the strain of standing such a long time. The need was urgent."

We needed an Assembly room but where was the money to come from? As before, I went to the bank and borrowed \$300,00. At this time we had to pay for one large room an amount equal to what we had to pay for our entire school a few months previously. Formerly, the \$300,000 had been raised easily by donations of faculty and friends. Now it was very different. It was the fall of 1944 when the political situation was very tense, and there seemed a danger of imminent Japanese invasion. No one wanted to contribute. I spent hours every week interviewing possible contributors, and felt the horrors of being a beggar. The day came when I knew that I would soon have to meet the note at the bank, and I did not have the money. I prayed, "God, you know our situation. You know I have done this for a good cause. I leave it in your Hands."

"The political situation quickly eased, and people seemed eager to give. We got several times the amount we needed: now we had money for the actual building, for furniture - both for the new building, and for the teachers' use in their rooms - and for repairs, a growing amount, since we had gotten only second-grade furniture and textbooks."

"Now as we begin the fifth year, we have almost 200 students (176 last semester), with about equal numbers of boys and girls. Last semester we paid teachers only \$50. an hour for part-time work, a very small amount. Now we have come to the principle of paying according to the University standard."

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"The students are very active, according to the teachers. They have an abundance of questions to ask. Teachers say they need to prepare a great deal more to meet these classes than those in most schools. The students are bright, and very much alive. They make a good laboratory for us."

This summer Mary again raised the question of resigning from her administrative position. She said her health demanded it. They did not agree to resignation, but asked if in addition to her full-time English teaching she would be willing to look after the finances of the Middle School, and she finally agreed.

And now the school looks forward to returning to Nanking. The episode of refugee life will soon come to an end.

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