

San Angelo
CITY of HEROES
Supplement

The Dragon's Gate



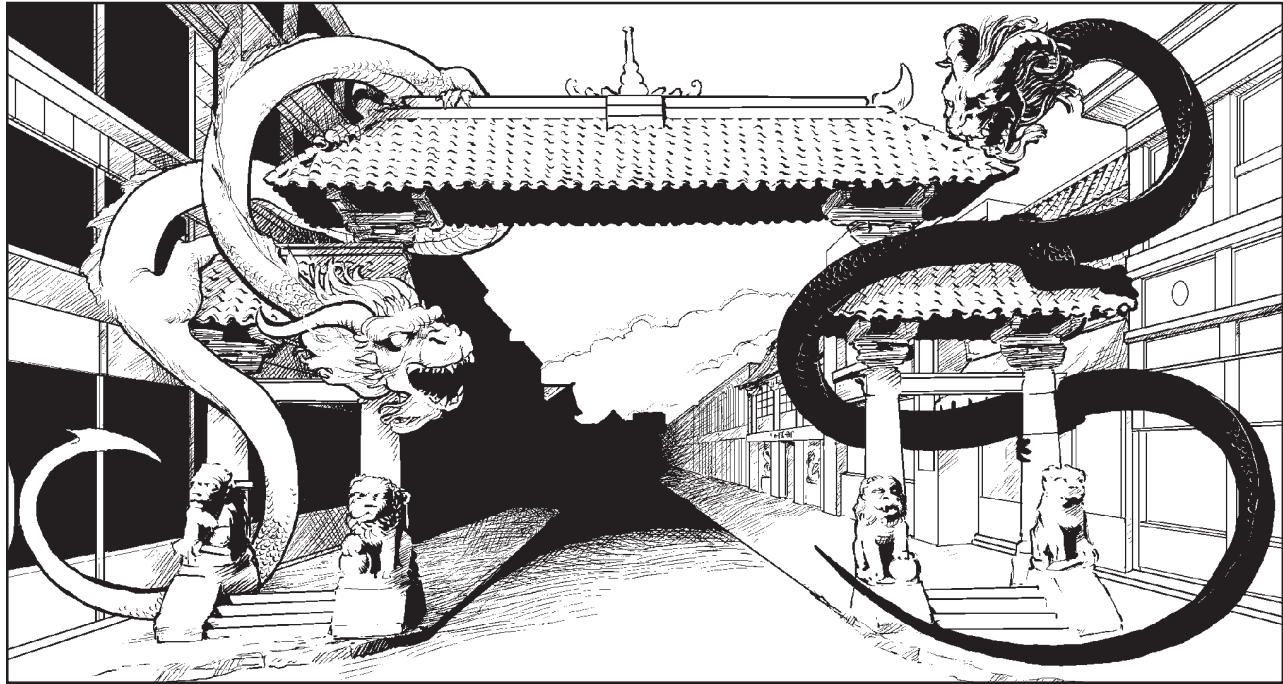
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The Dragon's Gate

San Angelo's Chinatown™



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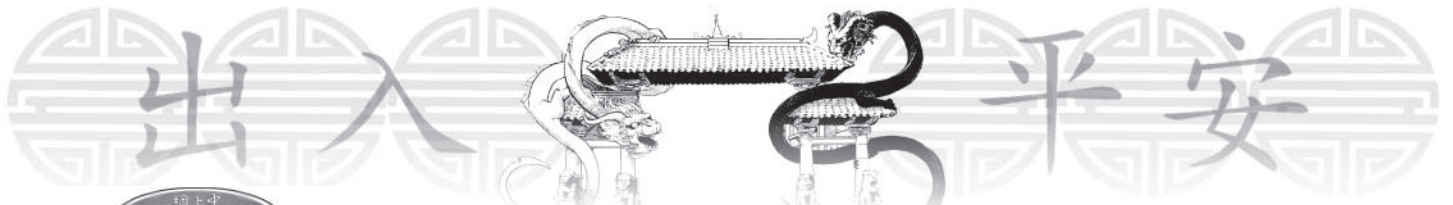
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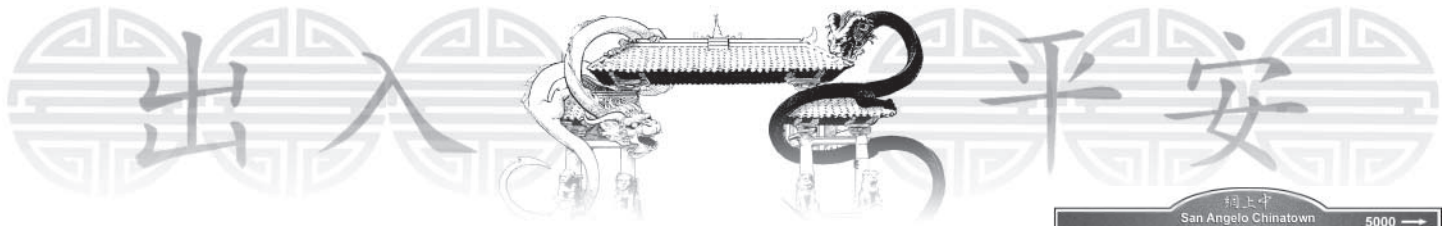
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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4	The Medical World	36
How to Use This Book	5	Wayne Street Free Clinic	36
Other Genres	5	Prominent Local Health Care Workers	37
Dark Heroes	5	Dr. Hanwoong Shyu	37
Pulp and Golden Age	5	Dr. Baobao Tom	37
Western	6	Other Health Care Workers of Note	37
Science Fiction	7	The Mystic Scene	37
THE CHANGING FACE OF CHINATOWN	8	Mystics of Note	38
History of Chinatown	8	Zoroaster Cho	38
Chinatown During the Old West	8	Tu Chen	39
Timeline	8	Chung Lin Foo	40
Pulp and Golden Age Chinatown	11	Jin Yao	40
Chinatown Today	16	Mystic Places	41
Chinatown's Outer Layer	16	Wong Taisin Temple	41
Inner Chinatown	17	Celestial Phoenix	41
Public Safety	18	Jade Dragon Warehouse	41
Law Enforcement	18	Mystic Artifacts	42
Staff Sergeant Thomas Lieh	18	Bow of the Archer	42
Police Operations in Chinatown	19	The Talon of Yama	42
The Courts	19	Mystic Traditions	42
Fire Prevention	20	Acupuncture and Alchemy	42
Wey Chen's Ambulance Service	20	Chi	42
Department of Health	20	The Political Scene	43
Chinatown Neighborhood Center	21	Civic Leaders	44
LIFE IN CHINATOWN	22	An Sheng	44
The Academic Scene	22	Tang Shai	45
Elementary Schools	22	Christine Nguyen	45
Nguyen Kim Memorial High School	23	Congress for Environmental Action	46
Higher Education	23	Other People and Organizations of Note	46
The Chow School	23	The Terminal	46
Henry Phillips	24	The Price of Progress	47
The Commercial Scene	24	The Professional Scene	47
Prominent Businesses in Chinatown	24	Banking and Finance	47
Nu Sing's Distributing Co.	24	First National Bank of Chinatown	47
East-West Employment Services	24	Other Banking and Financial Concerns	48
Shaou Ni Imports	25	The Legal Scene	49
Happy Fong's Genuine Chinese Laundry	25	Chinatown Attorneys in the Public Sector	49
Yuan's Dry Cleaner's	26	Lucas Wong and Associates	50
Yu Ling Outdoor Market	26	Other Legal Figures of Note	50
Other Businesses of Note	26	The Religious Scene	52
Business Leaders of Chinatown	28	Taoism	52
Qi Ma Lung	28	T'ien Tsun Temple	53
Ty Qui "Two For Ten Dollars" Sho	28	Han Chiuan	53
The Intellectual Scene	29	Wong Taisin Temple	53
Ning Fu Zan	29	Secular Taoists	54
Other Intellectuals of Note	30	Lisa Tsen	54
The Martial World	31	Buddhism	54
Martial Arts and the Tongs	32	Fu Shen Temple	55
Martial Artists of Note	32	Shintō	55
Wei Cheng	32	Christianity	56
Ho Cheng	32	Confucianism	56
Kam Hyongan	33	Other Temples and Churches of Note	56
Fen Lo	34	The Street Scene	57
Martial Arts Schools	35	Poverty and Homelessness	57
Iron Tiger Dojo	35	Benevolent Associations	58
Alder Martial Arts	35	Xui Sung Lee	58
Mandarin House	36	The Wealthy Scene	59
Red Chrysanthemum	36	Wealthy People in Chinatown	59
		Private Clubs	59



MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT, AND THE ARTS 61

Newspapers 61

Chinatown Express 61

 Suzy Chow 61

 Other *Express* Personnel 62

New China Gazette 63

 Other Reporters of Note 63

Radio and Television 63

 Television Personalities 64

 Kim Li Kim 64

 April Ming 64

 Dorothy Xiu 65

Entertainment 65

 Restaurants 65

 The Emerald Palace 65

 Taste of Szechuan 66

 Other Chinatown Restaurants of Note 67

 Night Spots 67

 Jade 67

 Ta Ch'eng-kung 67

 The China Gate 68

 Golden Mountain Tap Room 68

 Eighty Eights 68

 Sports and Recreation 68

 Sammi Yung 68

 Shadowed 69

 The Gym Nest 69

 Lucky Star Gaming Club 69

 “The Game” 70

 The Arts 71

 The Chinese Cultural Center 71

 Chinatown Historical Society 72

 New Shanghai Dance Theater 72

 Other Museums and Theaters of Note 73

 Artistic Personalities of Note 73

THE TONGS 74

The Wing Chao Tong 74

 Wing Chao Organization 74

 Wing Chao Members of Note 75

 Shudong Luu 75

 Edgar and Donald Pan 75

 Yiyan Ping 76

 Other Notable Wing Chao Figures 76

 Wing Chao Contacts and Associates 76

 The Watchers 78

 Wing Chao Sphere of Influence 79

 Wing Chao Territory 80

 Wing Chao Headquarters 80

 Other Wing Chao Buildings of Note 80

 Wing Chao Activities 81

 The Power Plant 82

 Wing Chao Criminal Activities 83

 Legitimate Wing Chao Activities 84

 The Jade Dragons Street Gang 84

 Johnny Lao 85

 Other Jade Dragons of Note 85

Choy Lok On Tong 86

 Choy Lok On Organization 86

 Choy Lok On Members of Note 86

 Kuang Ma 86

 Kian Lu 87

 Thomas Chung 88

 Choy Lok On Contacts and Associates 89

 Choy Lok On Sphere of Influence 89

 Choy Lok On Territory 89

 Choy Lok On Headquarters 90

 Other Choy Lok On Businesses of Note 90

 Choy Lok On Activities 91

 Choy Lok On Criminal Activities 91

 Legitimate Choy Lok On Activities 92

 The Wo Fat Street Gang 93

 Bobby Kwan 94

Qi Leong Tong 94

 Qi Leong Organization 95

 Qi Leong Members of Note 96

 Peng Ho Kajin 96

 Jui Mao Fu Sing 96

 Ching Su 96

 Other Qi Long Members of Note 97

 Qi Leong Contacts and Associates 98

 Warren Milthorp 98

 Barbara Wah 98

 Other Qi Leong Contacts of Note 99

 Qi Leong Sphere of Influence 100

 Qi Leong Territory 100

 Qi Leong Headquarters 100

 Other Qi Leong Buildings of Note 100

 Qi Leong Activities 100

 Qi Leong Criminal Activities 100

 Legitimate Qi Leong Activities 102

 Qi Leong Activities Outside of Chinatown 102

 New Qi Leong Business 103

 The Crimson Tigers Street Gang 103

 Tao Huang 103

ALLIES AND ENEMIES 104

Heroes 104

 The Eternal Warrior 104

 Li's Ghost 106

 The West Wind 107

Villains 108

 The Prowler 108

 The Shaman 110

 Kong Que Leng 112

ACTION! SYSTEM STATS 115

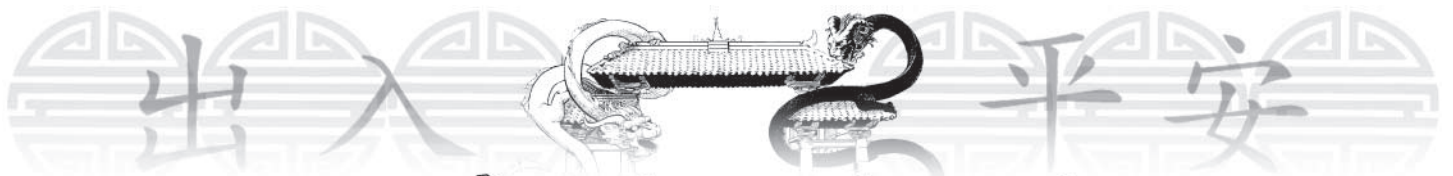
M&M SUPERLINK STATS 122

MAP OF CHINATOWN 126

Chinatown Map Key 127

OPEN GAME LICENSE 127





Introduction

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

“Chinatown? I love it, man. I go down there for lunch with the guys from the office at least once a month. We walk around and do a little window shopping on Canton Street. And my wife and I always try to catch the Chinese New Year parade in February. She loves the dancers. I love watching those guys maneuver inside that gigantic dragon! I mean, where do a hundred people go to practice marching in unison with a costume over their head, anyway? Golden Dome Stadium?”

— Doug Mansfield, 33, stockbroker

Many residents of the Golden City know only the public face of San Angelo’s Chinatown: the restaurants, tea gardens, and tourist-oriented gift shops that line Canton and Peking Streets. They enter via the ornamental dragon gate at the intersection of those two streets, and largely experience a stylized “East meets West” version of Asian architecture, culture, and cuisine—one that is carefully calculated to intrigue but not offend. They seek a taste of something different and a break from the ordinary, and usually depart satisfied, leaving some of their hard earned money behind in the process.

Other San Angelinos scoff at these dilettantes, and talk about finding the “real Chinatown.” They eschew the naked commercialism of the outer section of the district for its smaller side streets and byways. Here one can find open-air food markets, restaurants offering more authentic Asian fare, tiny “hole-in-the-wall” shops selling everything from medicinal herbs to musical instruments, and antique and jewelry stores specializing in items carved from jade, bone, or soapstone. Merchants and passersby converse mostly in their native tongues, while residents play mah jongg or practice tai chi in the local park.

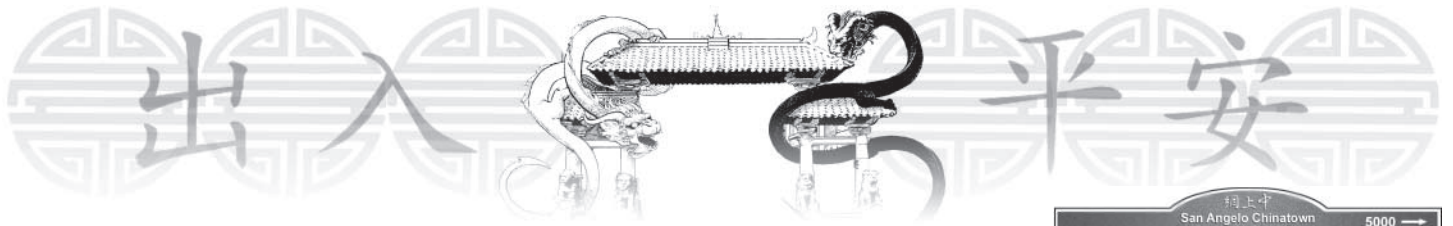
Yet even these people (and indeed most of the district’s permanent residents) don’t often experience the hidden Chinatown that emerges after night falls. In this Chinatown, mysterious individuals still know and practice the ancient mystic arts of healing, divination, and even conjuration, contacting and bringing forth creatures from the spirit world. Martial artists, trained not only in the time-honored techniques of self-defense but also in the killing arts, face off on rooftops and in back alleys. And behind it all, the three competing tongs, the criminal organizations that control much of the legal and all of the illegal in the district, engage in their nefarious deeds, locked in an eternal battle for supremacy. All this and more takes place beyond the dragon gate.

The Dragon’s Gate is designed for use as a supplement to *San Angelo: City of Heroes*, the city setting for superhero role-playing game campaigns published by Gold Rush Games. It focuses on one of the city’s most colorful districts, a neighborhood with many layers, and more than its share of dark and nefarious secrets.

Contained within these pages is a detailed description of San Angelo’s Chinatown district, summarizing both the high points of the district’s history and the neighborhood as it appears today. Scores of establishments and non-player characters are described, along with game statistics for key characters and gadgets that are presented. The people and places detailed in this book run the gamut of life in the district, and include public officials, businessmen and local shopkeepers, professionals, media personalities, and clergymen, as well as mystics, masters of the martial arts, and normal and super-powered heroes and villains. Particular attention is given to the Chinatown underworld, and the major personalities of the three secret societies (the Wing Chao, the Choy Lok On, and Qi Leong tongs) that are headquartered within its boundaries, and that conduct a wide array of criminal activities throughout San Angelo and in the world beyond.

The Dragon’s Gate incorporates many people and places that are described in *San Angelo: City of Heroes*. Thus, it is best used in conjunction with that book as a detailed adventure setting for an on-going *SA:CoH* campaign. However, as with *San Angelo: City of Heroes*, the people and places of this Chinatown can easily be adapted for use in any GM’s existing city. Virtually every major city in the U.S. has a Chinatown of some sort, but this area may not have been fleshed out in much detail in previous game sessions. *The Dragon’s Gate* provides GMs with an easy means of incorporating that detail, and offering the players a glimpse of their city that can be very different from the one they are used to.





OTHER GENRES

While primarily designed for use with four-color super-hero campaigns, *The Dragon's Gate* can also be adapted for use with other campaign genres, as the events in Chinatown's past make it an intriguing setting for role-playing historical genres, and the pervasive nature of the tongs make the district a natural for non-super-powered crime-fighters.

Dark Heroes

Chinatown's tongs are powerful underworld organizations with influence that is felt throughout San Angelo. They are involved in a variety of criminal activities (drugs, smuggling, prostitution) that provide fertile adventure possibilities for so-called "dark hero" or street-level crime-fighting. Each tong also has an affiliated street gang that guards its turf fiercely, and take on assignments that the tong leadership view as necessary, but with which they do not want to sully their hands: for example, shakedowns of uncooperative merchants, harassment of potential witnesses, vandalism, and arson. The Eternal Warrior, a hero described in the **Allies and Enemies** section of this book, is essentially a street-level character who has dedicated himself to protecting the innocent common folk of Chinatown from these sorts of abuses.

In addition, all three tongs have cultivated their share of friends in high places: politicians, police officers, even judges. Some of these men and women have willingly agreed to provide assistance in exchange for cash bribes or other favors, while others are coerced into cooperation through blackmail or threats against loved ones. These contacts, many of whom are described below, form a deep-seated web of official corruption that would be a perfect target for other types of grittier and street-level heroes, such as crusading reporters or newsmen. At the GM's discretion, the corruption detailed here can even be extended into the highest levels of San Angelo city government, all the way to the offices of the mayor, police chief, *etc.*

The Chinatown setting works best in campaigns in which superpowers exist, so that GMs can take advantage of the powered heroes and villains presented in this supplement. GMs interested in a more realistic, "no powers" campaign, however, can simply assume that the superpowered folk of San Angelo are busy pursuing their own global agendas, and rarely have the time or inclination to get involved in the affairs of ordinary society, if they have real powers at all.

GMs running low- or no-powers campaigns should find the sections of this book on Chinatown's public safety offi-

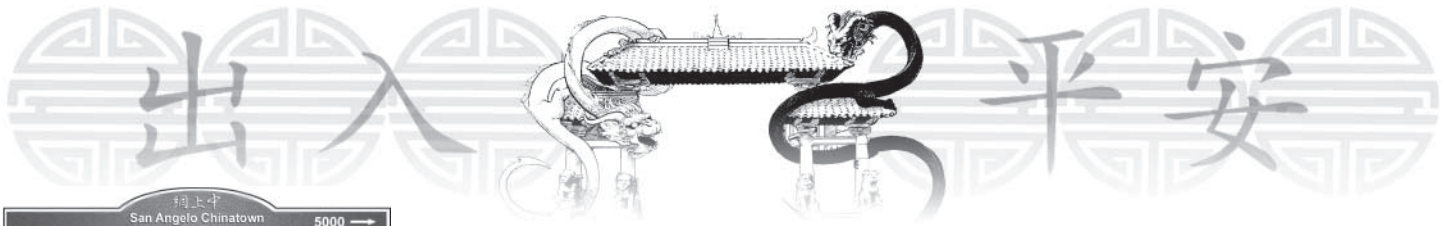


cial (police, fire, *etc.*), and the extensive write-ups on each of the three present-day tongs of particular interest. In addition, some of the organizations described in other parts of the book (such as Suzy Chow's *Chinatown Express*, the law office of Lucas Wong, or even the Chinese Cultural Center) would be excellent places for player characters to work. Indeed, some of the existing non-player characters affiliated with these groups could even be used as archetypes to be fleshed out and used by players starting out a new street-level campaign in Chinatown.

Pulp and Golden Age Champions

The two-fisted, high-adventure world of pulp-era heroes covers the time period from the early 1900s to the 1930s. In the city of San Angelo, this sort of hero is best typified by the exploits of the Argonaut Society, a loosely knit organization of explorers, air aces, archaeologists, and other adventurers that is described in *San Angelo: City of Heroes*. A number of members of the city's Chinese-American community also engaged in heroic feats during this time period,





Introduction

however, such as the 54 men who swore allegiance to Sun Yat-sen's General League and went off to fight for freedom in mainland China. Indeed, one of these men, then known as Samuel Chung, traveled extensively in China studying the ancient mystic arts, and, upon his return to San Angelo, rose to become the supreme leader of the Chinatown underworld as T'ien Lung, the Celestial Dragon.

Similarly, the Golden Age of Heroes began in San Angelo in 1936, when the first accidental temporal singularity somehow set events in motion that led to the origin of superheroes (see SA:CoH). It lasted until roughly 1950, when most of the age's heroes retired voluntarily, or were forced out of action by political events. During this time period a handful of solo heroes and at least one hero team faced off with vile arch-criminals, Nazi saboteurs, and other enemies on the streets of a younger, more innocent San Angelo. Once again, Chinatown was often in the forefront of these struggles, as T'ien Lung and his henchmen (at least two of whom also had substantial superpowers) were among the most prominent foes of the Liberty Corps, the hero team of the Golden Age.

As indicated in the timeline entries (beginning on page 8), the pulp and Golden Age periods were exciting ones in Chinatown's history, making it an excellent backdrop for a campaign set in one of these genres. The Hatchet Wars of the 1920s produced dramatic changes in the hierarchy of the tongs, and placed T'ien Lung and the Wing Chao firmly in command of the district; they also provided opportunities for criminals and crime-fighters alike to make names for themselves. Citizens of the neighborhood also had stakes in the events taking place in mainland China during this period. Characters could become affiliated with one of the factions vying for power, or come into contact with valuable treasures or powerful relics that had been smuggled out of China and into San Angelo for "safe keeping."

The battles between T'ien Lung and the Liberty Corps are merely examples of the types of conflicts that can be played out in Chinatown during a Golden Age of superheroes campaign. Other superheroes and supervillains can be readily injected into this environment, and indeed, one of the most interesting aspects of running such a campaign in a Chinatown setting is the fact that, for many of the district's residents, the roles of hero and villain may be viewed in

reverse. T'ien Lung and his minions were considered the neighborhood's protectors by most local residents, and were more likely to receive assistance from the man on the street than the outsiders of the Liberty Corps.

After the end of World War II a second powerful force entered the Chinatown district in the form of the diviner Hsi Feng, the "West Wind." The struggles between Hsi Feng and T'ien Lung that took place over the next several years were seldom directly seen by the common man, and occurred on the spirit as well as earthly planes. Nonetheless, they could potentially have had a great impact upon the nature of

life in Chinatown and San Angelo, as well as the world beyond. Again, player characters could become involved in these conflicts either as super-powered individuals or normals, and find themselves entangled in a complex web of intrigue where the stakes are nothing short of the secret of immortality.

A number of the institutions of Chinatown described throughout the text date back to this time period, and can be used in such a campaign with no or only minor modifications. In addition, several sections of this book have been specially annotated to provide information on the differences one might encounter in that aspect of life in the district during the Golden Age.

Western

The Chinatown district of San Angelo was founded in the frontier days, and could readily be used as a backdrop for some Wild West adventuring, such as *Gunslingers: Wild West Action!* GMs interested in reconstructing San Angelo during these days are directed to the timeline (page 8), which includes a number of entries concerning events that took place in and around the district during this period. Player characters could become disciples of Li or his successor, the first Eternal Warrior, and battle the forces of the tongs and the corrupt local government.

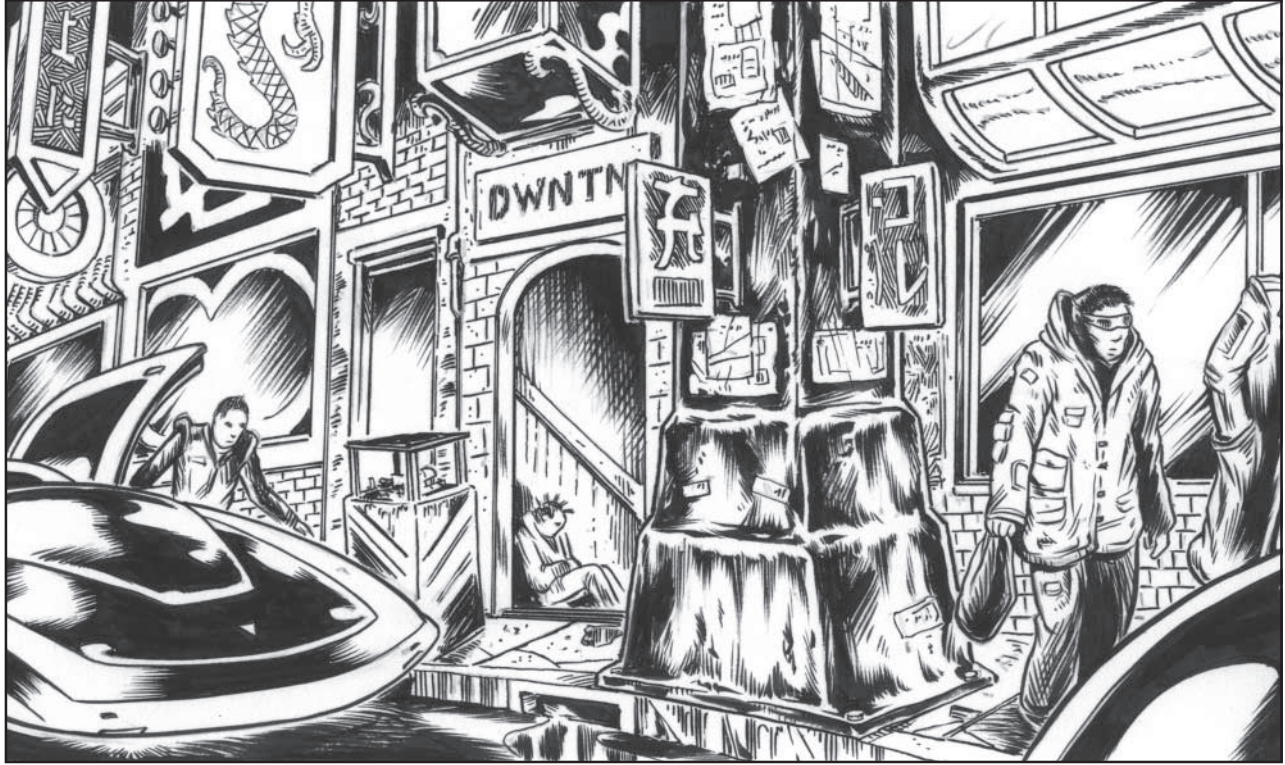
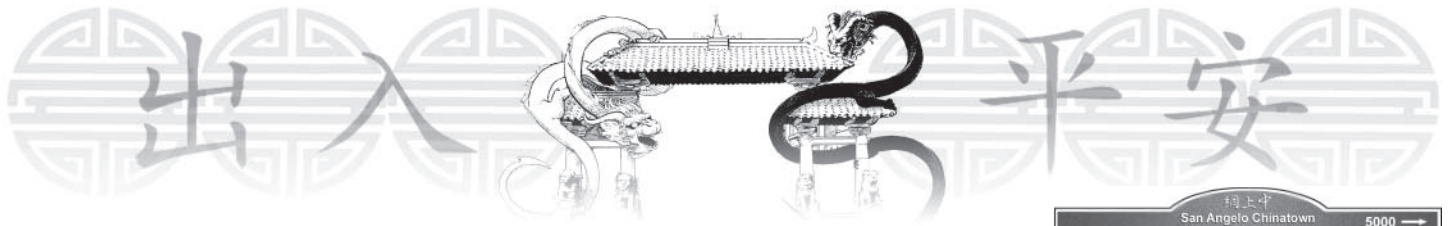
Conversely, they might wish to take on the role of lawmen in the period, whose assignment is to investigate and break up the tongs. If they are successful in this latter endeavor, they may even completely rewrite the history of San Angelo.

If running a campaign in this time period, GMs should bear in mind that the boundaries of San Angelo were much

"Do not listen to my grandson and his revisionist white devil's history. I was here in Chinatown during the War, and I can tell you that T'ien Lung, Hongji, and Guanjing Mee were heroes to the people of this district. They secured the release of relatives who were being held as political prisoners in China, and helped keep this community fed when essentials were being rationed city wide. Sky Ranger should have been prosecuted for the cold-blooded murder of Guanjing Mee, but when has there been any real justice for our people in San Angelo?"

— Jiuming Soo, 71, retiree





less extensive than during the modern day. Indeed, Chinatown itself was located several blocks north and east of its present location (covering an area from the east of present day Wayne Street to the San Angelo River, and north of present day Mandarin Street) prior to the fire of 1886.

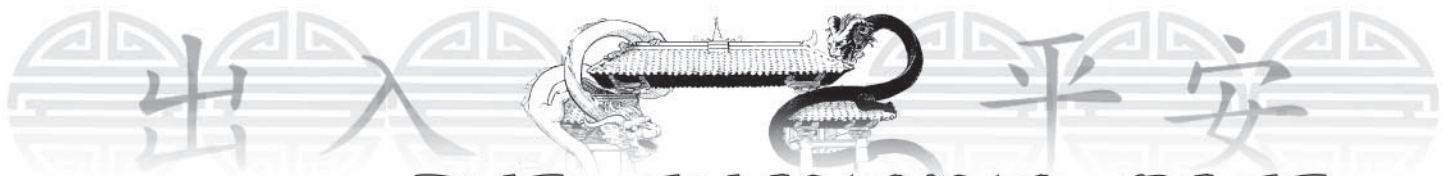
Science Fiction

Although San Angelo contains much in the way of high-tech industry that might form the backdrop to extrapolate the city into a futuristic or science fiction environment, precious little of these facilities are located in the Chinatown district. Then, as now, Chinatown would likely represent a little slice of the city that remains essentially unchanged from its oldest days.

The district that presently provides virtually no parking for automobiles would probably be no more accessible to

grav-speeders or mag-lev mass transit. If anything, living conditions would likely be even more crowded than they are today, unless large parts of the neighborhood were to be completely razed and rebuilt with post-modern skyscrapers.

The gang members who walk Chinatown's streets might be armed with beam weapons instead of knives and chains, but what of the tongs themselves? Will they be rendered obsolete by technological advances that make San Angelo a utopia? In a grimmer, post-apocalyptic world, they could have even more control over the lives of the local residents, who might be little more than "subjects" relying on the tongs for food, shelter, maybe even breathable air. Characters described in the *Mystical Chinatown* section of this book could take on mainstream importance as locators of needed resources, or carry their battles from the physical and spiritual planes into cyberspace.



The Changing Face of Chinatown

THE CHANGING FACE OF CHINATOWN

HISTORY OF CHINATOWN

San Angelo's Chinatown district has a long and storied history, dating back over 130 years. It has grown as the Golden City has flourished, and the course of its history has been impacted as well by the bursts of flux energy that have acted as the catalyst to the creation of super-powered individuals in San Angelo. Yet in other ways, Chinatown's East Asian heritage and unique perspective set the district apart from the rest of the city. In many ways, the district operates much as it always has, serving as a gateway to a world apart, a world of secrets and mystery.

The timeline running through this chapter briefly summarizes the important dates and events that comprise the history of Chinatown. Many of these events have had a profound impact on the local culture, and some still have repercussions in the present day. In addition, other events are described to provide background material for those GMs who would like to run a Western, pulp, or Golden Age campaigns set in San Angelo.

Chinatown During the Old West

San Angelo's Chinatown was founded in 1866, and came of age during the frontier period of U.S. history. Unfortunately, its early years were often tumultuous ones.

It is sad but true that Western cities did not exactly welcome Chinese immigrants into their communities with open arms, and San Angelo was no exception. The residents of Chinatown were generally viewed as unwelcome foreigners who were stealing American jobs. A variety of local laws were passed to restrict their rights and to keep their activities segregated from the rest of the community. And when conflicts between whites and Chinese did inevitably result, the Chinese resident could count on precious little justice from either Mayor Jebediah Clelland or town Marshal Lucius Lincoln.

It is hardly surprising, then, that the Chinese-Americans of San Angelo turned to age-old tradition to find protection—the triads, or secret societies, of their homeland. Known publicly as the Chinese-American Benevolent Society (CABS) and privately as the Wing Chao tong, a group

Timeline

This section provides a timeline of important dates and events in the history of San Angelo's Chinatown. Real world events are not listed, unless they have a direct impact on events in Chinatown.

Autumn, 1866: Roughly 200 Chinese Valley Pacific Railroad workers, mostly from the Kwangtung province of China, found San Angelo's Chinatown, erecting a collection of ramshackle wooden shacks south of the downtown area near the waterfront.

1868: Chinatown's residents pool their meager resources, to erect the T'ien Tsun Temple, dedicated to all the Chinese gods. A statue of Cheng Huan, the god of Canton City, is placed in its foyer.

1870: Shang Fong Lee opens a laundry, the first Chinese-owned business in the district.

March 9, 1871: After several months of increasingly hostile incidents between white and Chinese workers, a riot in Chinatown results in the deaths

of nine Chinese. Mayor Jebediah Clelland and Marshal Lucius Lincoln make little effort to identify and bring the killers to justice.

August 1871: Spearheaded by the leadership of recent Cantonese immigrant S'un Che, the Chinese-American Benevolent Society (CABS) is formed to protect the welfare of the Chinese-American residents of San Angelo. It soon becomes the basis of the Wing Chao tong, and expands its activities beyond protection to criminal activities such as illegal gambling, prostitution, and opium dens. It finds willing users of these services among prominent members of the white community of San Angelo, cementing its base of power.

June 7, 1873: A dozen

drunken white ruffians, who enter Chinatown declaring their intention to "burn the place down," are routed by a single long-haired Chinese drifter, known only as Li.

Summer, 1873: Li continues to protect Chinatown from outside assailants. He also finds several willing pupils among the neighborhood's younger male adults.

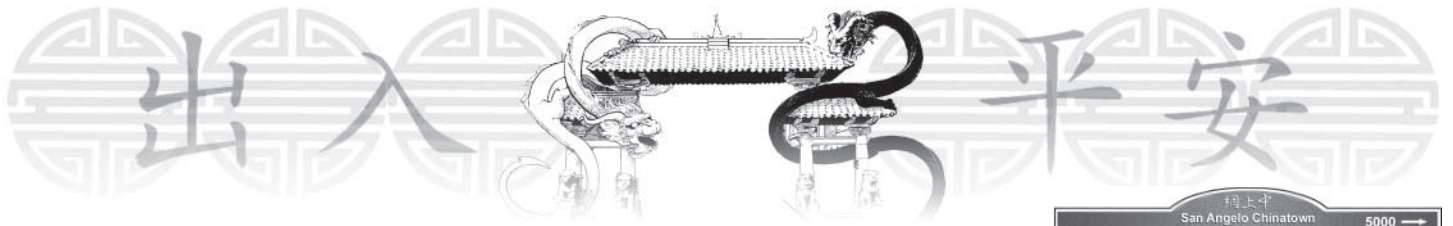
October 4, 1873: Marshal Lincoln arrests Li for assaulting Farrell O'Toole, the son of *Clarion* publisher Angus O'Toole, in a fight started by Farrell and several of his cronies. Two nights later, Li escapes from jail and flees the area. The marshal's house-to-house search of Chinatown is unsuccessful, but results in substantial property damage.

1876: San Angelo becomes a hotbed of support for Dennis Kearny's Workingman's Party of California, whose slogan is "The Chinese Must Go." The town council passes legislation that prevents contractors bidding on irrigation projects outside the community from using Chinese laborers.

1878: Li returns to San Angelo, with a shaven head, as An Wong, a seller of medicinal herbs. For the next 18 months, disguised beneath a mask and wig, he battles injustice. His opponents soon suspect that the interloper is Li, but are unsuccessful in exposing his secret identity, as Li receives support from several Chinatown residents.

September 19-21, 1879: Nan Hong, a young protégé of Li, is





of about 20 men, led by a one-time bandit leader from Canton province named S'un Che, took charge of defending Chinatown. They started quietly at first, resolving disputes within the neighborhood, and either breaking up fights or seeing that the rowdies who provoked them were dealt with at a later time. Within a few months, the tong's power had been sufficiently demonstrated to establish it as the unofficially recognized government of Chinatown.

Unfortunately, protection of this type came with a price. The tong brought order to Chinatown, but also brought opium dens, brothels, and gambling halls into the district, turning it into a playground for the city's most decadent citizens. And though the tongs defended their fellow Chinese against the capriciousness of white justice, they were also quite capable of inflicting their own harsh punishments should anyone attempt to defy their authority, or to engage in any sort of enterprise without purchasing their blessing.

Yet one man dared to stand against the power of the tongs, and earned a place in the legends of San Angelo that stands to the present day. The man known as Li first gained notice in June of 1873 when he dispersed a gang of white ruffians with a spectacular display of martial arts abilities. In the months that followed, he performed a number of other heroic acts in the community, never seeking any form of rec-



captured by S'un Che, tortured until he reveals Li's identity, and left for dead in an abandoned mineshaft outside of town. The Wing Chao leader approaches the town government, and offers to take care of their mutual problem for a price: \$10,000. The tong guns down An Wong in his shop and collects its blood money.

September 23, 1879: A mysterious figure garbed in a long hooded cloak rescues the unconscious Nan Hong and nurses him back to health on a small farm outside San Angelo. His convalescence takes several months. After his recuperation, he embarks on an intensive program of physical and martial arts training under the tutelage of the stranger, who never reveals his identity.

January 1, 1881: Nan Hong awakens to find Li's mask and wig on his bed-stand, and his

teacher vanished without a trace. He returns to San Angelo to fight evil as the Eternal Warrior.

1881: Rumors soon abound that the Warrior is not only a first-class martial artist, but has help from the spirit world as well. The Wing Chao loses several of its best men trying to defeat him, and spends most of the next decade seeking to thwart his opposition. In the meantime, the reappearance of a Chinese "champion" chills the relationship between the Wing Chao and the local white government.

1882: The U.S. Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Acts that severely restrict further Chinese emigration to America. This action increases hostilities between the white and Chinese communities. It also opens the door to a brand new criminal opportunity, smuggling illegal immigrants (often the relatives of existing Chinese-Americans)

into the country. A rising local tong, the Choy Lok On, begins to specialize in smuggling this valuable cargo, and the high price it extracts from its clients in money and loyalty greatly expands its local influence.

April 13, 1886: A fire of suspicious origin breaks out in Chinatown, destroying the majority of its buildings before spreading into downtown San Angelo, where it destroys 12 buildings and kills four. Within Chinatown, only the T'ien Tsun temple is completely undamaged. In the aftermath of the fire, those who took refuge in the temple tell a story of being warned by a young Chinese woman, a beautiful stranger who no one recognized. The priests of the temple declare the woman to be a manifestation of Dsohu Yung, the goddess of fire.

1886-7: Though a number of locals see the fire as an opportu-

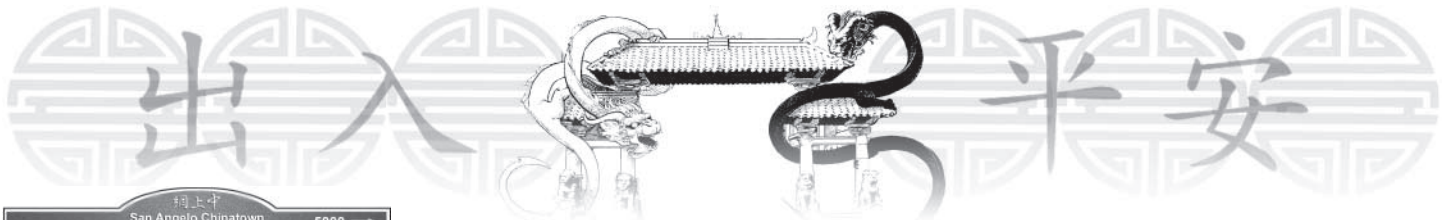
nity to get rid of Chinatown forever, local shipping magnate Parker Barnes defies death threats to lease a sizable parcel of land just west of Old Chinatown to the CABS. His motivations for doing so become more obvious in later years, as his then-fledgling opium addiction worsens and eventually consumes the family fortune.

October 9, 1889: A second story, with an ornately carved red and yellow altar dedicated to Dsohu Yung, is added to the T'ien Tsun temple.

February 15, 1891: A Methodist mission is opened on Peking Street in the heart of the new Chinatown. One of its activities is to provide English lessons for the district's children, and anyone else who wishes to participate.

1894: The formation of a Chinese-language school on Water Street, funded by CABS, marks





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000
The Changing Face of Chinatown

ompense for his deeds. Although he lived the simple life of a day laborer, he soon found himself teaching self-defense techniques to several of the neighborhood's younger adults. The CABS applauded Li's bravery publicly, but behind closed doors the Wing Chao seethed at the threat he posed to its control. Fortunately, the problem seemed to be taken out of its hands that autumn when Marshal Lincoln arrested Li for assaulting the son of one of San Angelo's civic leaders. Although Li escaped from jail before standing trial, he also fled from San Angelo.

Five years later however, Li returned to live in Chinatown in the guise of a merchant named An Wong. By night, he went back to combating injustice, wearing a mask and wig to conceal his identity. This time he fought openly against both the Wing Chao and the anti-Chinese bigots in city government, protecting the poor and helping the suffering.

Finally, by capturing and torturing one of Li's young supporters, the tong learned Li's secret identity, and went to the mayor with a devil's bargain, offering to murder Li in exchange for a blood price. The tong gunned down An Wong,

collected its money, and assumed the problem was solved. They could not have been more wrong.

Li's betrayer, Nan Hong, was rescued and brought back to health by a mysterious individual who also schooled him in the physical and mental disciplines of the martial arts. When his training was completed, he was given the mask and wig that Li had used, and returned to San Angelo to fight in his stead.

In the years that followed, the man now known as the Eternal Warrior carried on the good fight, and in times of danger often seemed to manifest other-worldly powers widely rumored to come from the ghost of Li.

The struggles between Li, the Eternal Warrior, and the tongs can form a continuing backdrop for an exciting *Gunslingers* campaign. In addition, the Chinatown of this era also contained several establishments offering the kind of entertainment that might attract all sorts of interesting characters, from notorious outlaws looking for a little rest and relaxation after their last job, to town leaders who don't want their nasty nocturnal habits revealed to the voting public.

Chinatown's first attempt to preserve its cultural and linguistic ties with China. The "Chinese School" is also the first formal schooling provided in the district.

1900: The Federal Census estimates the Chinese-American population of San Angelo to be just over 2,500. This changes little over the next 40 years due to restrictive immigration laws.

July 1, 1904: The First National Bank of Chinatown opens, and quickly becomes the center of financial activity in the district.

March 1909: The Chinese revolutionary leader Dr. Sun Yat-sen makes an extended visit to San Angelo, and delivers several speeches denouncing the Manchu dynasty and its infant emperor, Pu Yi. At the end of the month, a group of 54 local men swear their allegiance to Sun Yat-sen's secret society, the General League, and set sail for Japan where they undergo training in guerrilla warfare.

September 1912: The San

Angelo Board of Education opens its own segregated "oriental school" on Wayne Street. For the next several years, its attendance pales next to that of the Water Street Chinese school, as many Chinatown families resist assimilation.

April 7, 1913: Culminating years of careful investment, influence peddling, and outright blackmail, An Ma, the dragon head of the Choy Lok On tong, is elected chairman of the board of the First National Bank of Chinatown.

1915: When Sun Yat-sen is driven back to Japan following a successful revolution, an abdication, and an unsuccessful second revolution, the surviving members of the General League begin to filter back into San Angelo. Now skilled fighters, most join one or the other of the competing tongs.

June 1917: Construction of the Buddhist Fu Shen Temple is completed.

October 18, 1919: Samuel Chung, son of Methodist con-

verts, is the last of the former General League members to return home, after spending several years wandering through mainland China and studying the mystic ways of local shaman. He is initiated into the Wing Chao tong and begins to rise rapidly through its ranks.

April 1922: A branch of the San Angelo Public Library is opened in Chinatown. In a good will gesture, the Chinatown Mercantile Alliance (a front organization of the Choy Lok On) donates about 100 Chinese-language texts to the facility.

1924: Samuel Chung becomes the street secretary of the Wing Chao tong. He begins to aggressively expand the boundaries of the tong's criminal operations beyond Chinatown, building a profitable waterfront smuggling ring, and selling his own services as a contract hit man. Rumors begin to circulate about Chung's arcane abilities.

February 7, 1926: Chung is promoted to vice chairman of the Wing Chao tong, and assumes

the alias of T'ien Lung, the Celestial Dragon.

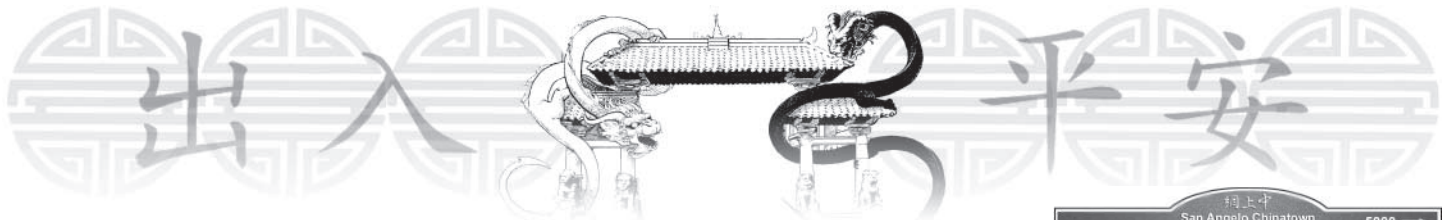
July 15, 1926: A negotiating meeting between the leaders of the Wing Chao and Choy Lok On tongs breaks down into a shouting match. Weapons are drawn, and the situation stops just short of violence as the Choy Lok On walk out. Afterwards, none of the Choy Lok On leaders can remember what incident provoked the argument.

July 23, 1926: In the early morning hours, axe-wielding members of the Choy Lok On attack a warehouse used by the Wing Chao's smuggling operations, killing three and stealing a valuable cargo of imported jade figurines.

July 25, 1926: The Wing Chao retaliate, ransacking a Choy Lok On gambling hall during peak evening hours. Several patrons, including a city councilman, are injured in the ensuing brawl.

July 31, 1926: A Choy Lok On raid on a Canton Street brothel spills out into the street, killing four innocent bystanders.

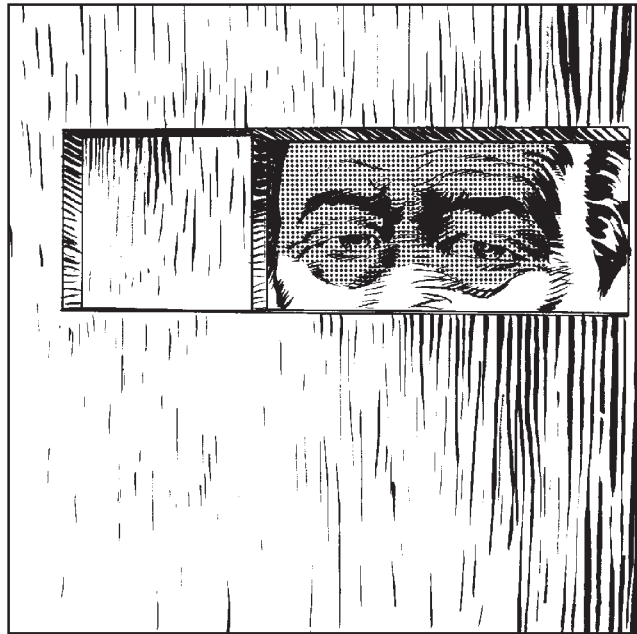




Pulp and Golden Age Chinatown

As the pulp age of heroes began in the 1920s, the population of San Angelo's Chinatown was not substantially greater than it was at the turn of the century, due to the strict immigration laws imposed against Asian-Americans by the federal government. Chinatown largely remained a ghettoized enclave, as virtually all of San Angelo's Chinese-American residents lived and worked within its boundaries. Yet the district also retained its image as a place where the white citizens of the community could go to raise Hell, thanks to the brothels, speak-easies, and opium dens run by the two competing tongs that operated within the district: the Wing Chao and Choy Lok On.

During this period, the control of the tongs over the neighborhood was basically undisputed. San Angelo's police force and courts devoted minimal effort to investigating or prosecuting crimes committed in the district, unless they involved



August 1, 1926: The *San Angelo Times* dubs the Chinatown conflict "the hatchet wars," and declares the district to be "unsafe for any law-abiding citizen to visit after dark."

August-September, 1926: As the Hatchet Wars continue to escalate, the police department places a midnight curfew on the district for the duration of the crisis.

Autumn, 1926: As the costs of the wars (in property damage, lives, and lost business) continue to mount for both sides, and neither tong can achieve an advantage, the fighting slows to a trickle, giving rise of hopes that the conflict might soon come to an end.

December 31, 1926: The dragon head of the Wing Chao tong, Sing Han-Fong, is murdered, dying in the arms of T'ien Lung. The rifle used to commit the assassination is found on a nearby rooftop, marked with the insignias of the Choy Lok On. The fact that the Choy Lok On denies any responsibility for the

assassination falls on deaf ears.

Winter-Spring, 1927: Thanks to the inspired strategies of their new leader T'ien Lung, the Wing Chao gains the upper hand in the wars, despite having smaller numbers and substantially lower financial resources. **May 29, 1927:** T'ien Lung and his henchmen stage a daring midnight assault on the Choy Lok On's stronghold, using his sorcerous skills to sneak past the outdoor sentries without being seen. By night's end, almost half of the Choy Lok On forces, including its dragon head and street secretary, lie dead or incapacitated.

May 30, 1927: The remnants of the Choy Lok On leadership come before T'ien Lung to sue for peace, and cede the Wing Chao control of several opium dens and brothels. They also promise to pay the Wing Chao \$250,000 in reparations over the next 12 months. The Hatchet Wars end, leaving the Wing Chao clearly dominant in the Chinatown underworld.

January 10, 1928: 43 mem-

bers of the Choy Lok On, angered by the unfavorable terms of the peace, splinter off to form their own tong, the Qi Leong.

April 25, 1930: The Emerald Palace restaurant, featuring fine Cantonese cuisine including dim sum and seafood dishes, opens on Canton Street. It quickly becomes popular with both visitors to the district and area residents.

1932: In an attempt to bring visitors back into Chinatown, T'ien Lung (through the Chinese-American Benevolent Society) underwrites the cost of an annual Chinese New Year parade, complete with music, floats, and a 250-foot long green and gold replica dragon manned by a troupe of 50 dancers. Over the years, the parade becomes a major highlight of San Angelo's annual calendar of social events.

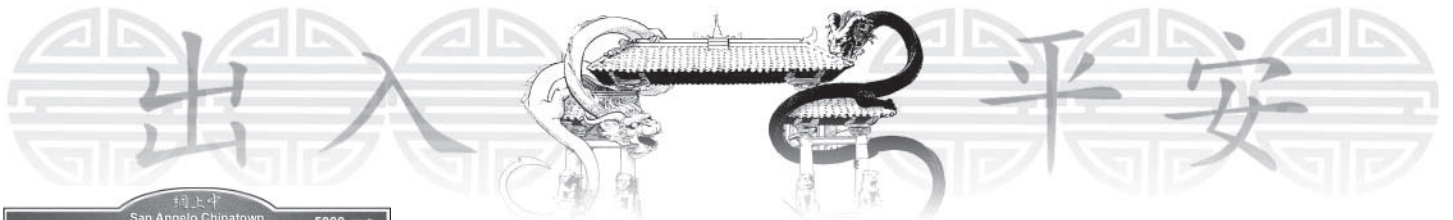
March 5, 1935: The Choy Lok On, hoping to restore the tong's shattered prestige in San Angelo, sends its English Secretary Kunlin Au to Peking. There he meets with Big Eared Tu, the criminal overlord who is also a

confidant of Chiang Kai-shek. The tong leader swears allegiance to Tu, and the tong begins a lucrative association, smuggling drugs from China to San Angelo and highly prized Western goods (such as copies of American blue jeans and household appliances, produced in Choy Lok On sweat shops) from San Angelo into China.

August 29, 1936: During the precise moment that a government lab accidentally creates the singularity that floods the world with a burst of "flux" radiation, T'ien Lung is in the midst of casting a simple divination spell. The flux precipitates a flare of mystic energy, knocking Lung halfway across the room. When he regains consciousness 12 hours later, he discovers that his sorcerous powers have been greatly enhanced.

September 17, 1938: T'ien Lung and the Liberty Corps have their first confrontation, battling to a draw along San Angelo's wharves. In the aftermath of the battle, Dr. Oblivion begins to





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 San Angelo Chinatown 5000
**The Changing Face of
 Chinatown**



white victims or were thought to present a threat to the city as a whole. This hands-off policy stemmed partly from the fact that a number of public officials were on the payrolls of one or the other tong. It also recognized the stark reality that most Chinatown residents would not cross the tongs to bear witness even if such an investigation did take place.

Thus when bloody warfare between the two tongs breaks out in 1926 in a series of pitched confrontations dubbed “hatchet wars” by the city’s newspapers, the rest of San Angelo merely ran for cover, and waited for the dust to settle. Mayor Ian McShane decried the “senseless violence” in public addresses, and the police placed a midnight curfew on the Chinatown district. In practice, however, they confined the bulk of their activities to the neighborhood’s perimeter, endeavoring to keep the fighting from spilling out into other parts of the city, and the city’s white citizenry out of harm’s way. Anyone conducting business within the district during that nine-month period, whether they were white visitors, local residents, or even tong members, literally risked life and limb on a daily basis.

spend time in Chinatown, trying to learn more about this man with mystical powers. He receives little assistance from local residents, however.

June 5, 1939: Two neighborhood teenagers, twin brothers named Hongji and Guanjing Mee, are playing on a tenement rooftop during a summer thunderstorm when Hongji is struck by lightning. As Guanjing takes his brother’s seemingly lifeless body into his arms and rails at the storm, he too is struck by lightning. Miraculously, both boys survive and begin to manifest strange abilities. Hongji can become a living manifestation of the power of storms, while Guanjing can summon or control the weather. The two are brought to T’ien Lung and become his apprentices, as the mystical arts give them the ability to turn these raw powers into focused effects.

August 1, 1939: The Mei Wah Club, a social and athletic organization for Chinese-American women, is formed.

October 8-14, 1939: Follow-

ing the portents of a divination, T’ien Lung learns that a group of five men and women, all former members of the Argonaut Society, may know the whereabouts of the Sword of Lu Yuan, one of the Eight Immortals. After two of the five are graphically murdered, the Liberty Corps is brought in to investigate, but is unable to prevent the death of a third member of the group before they learn what T’ien Lung is after. As the Corps members split up to stand watch over the two remaining targets, both groups are attacked by Wing Chao forces led by Hongji and Guanjing respectively. Colossal Man is injured in the battles, and Hongji is captured by Dr. Oblivion and subsequently imprisoned. T’ien Lung swears vengeance against the Corps, and Dr. Oblivion in particular.

February 1940: The Hing Yee Shipping Company, a front for the Choy Lok On, volunteers the services of one of its freighters to the U.S. Navy, to carry military supplies to Burma for

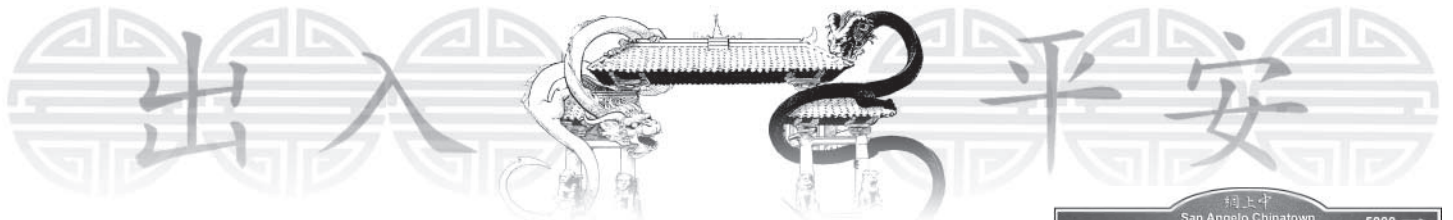
Chiang Kai-shek and his mercenary air force, the Flying Tigers. While in Burma, the ship is secretly loaded for the return trip with ancient Chinese relics and other treasures stolen by Big Eared Tu. Over the next two years this vessel, the *Tientsin Empress*, makes four more of these voyages.

April 8-10, 1941: These dates are known in San Angelo history as “The Great Storm,” but the official annals tell only part of the story. Torrential rains sweep the city beginning on April 8, raising the already high Del Oro River to dangerous levels. While public employees and volunteers work desperately to hold back the river, a jailbreak takes place at the California State Prison in Canfield during an intense lightning storm, and Hongji Mee escapes. As the Liberty Corps arrives on the scene, lightning strikes Dr. Oblivion and he falls into a coma-like trance. Over the coming days, the Corps’ forces are split. As Commando X and Nightingale watch over Dr.

Oblivion at Corps HQ, fighting off an attack from ninja-style tong warriors, the other members use their powers to keep the threatening flood waters in check. Dr. Oblivion battles with T’ien Lung on the astral plane, fighting to bring his spirit back into his own body. When he finally returns, he reveals that Guanjing Mee is creating the storm. The Corps unites and fights its way into T’ien Lung’s stronghold beneath San Angelo, breaking up the cabal that was fuelling Guanjing’s powers, and dissipating the storm.

1943: The U.S. Congress repeals the Chinese Exclusion Acts as the result of China’s alliance with America in World War II.

February 10-24, 1944: T’ien Lung captures Sky Ranger, but instead of harming him requests a meeting with the entire Liberty Corps. One night later, he tells the Corps he has received word that the Japanese are preparing a doomsday weapon that is to be launched at mainland China to



Although the Hatchet Wars ended in May of 1927 in a total victory for the Wing Chao tong and its new leader, T'ien Lung (the "Celestial Dragon"), the victors soon discovered that the end to hostilities didn't mean a restoration of business as usual. Outsiders still feared for their safety, and did not return to their old haunts in the same frequency or numbers. Profits from these illicit establishments dwindled, threatening to wipe out the gains won in the war.

To counter these difficulties, Chinatown (largely through the leadership and financial backing of T'ien Lung and the Wing Chao) began an arduous process of reshaping its public image. Illegal enterprises were moved to the inner sections of the district, out of the general public view. In their old place along Canton and Peking Streets legitimate businesses like restaurants and shops sprang up, many of them supported by tong capital (some of which was even loaned at non-usurious rates).

Suddenly in 1936 San Angelo's Golden Age also becomes the Age of Superheroes, as the burst of flux radiation released from a government laboratory experiment gone awry



spread a virulent plague. He asks the heroes to join forces with him to foil this plot, and they reluctantly agree. Beast Girl, Sky Ranger, and Nightingale travel to a deserted North Pacific atoll alongside the Mee brothers, and the quintet work together brilliantly to infiltrate the Japanese lab complex and destroy the diabolical device. Just outside U.S. territorial waters on the return trip, however, the Mees attack the Liberty Corps trio, all of whom have been injured in the earlier fight. In the ensuing struggle, Guanjing Mee is mortally wounded, but Hongji escapes the vessel in a life-raft, by raising a massive storm around the Corps' freighter. He is never seen in San Angelo again.

1945: Japan capitulates in August, ending the war in the Pacific. The War Brides Act results in the dramatic increase in the number of Chinese women entering America. The population of Chinatowns throughout the U.S. (including San Angelo) rises dramatically over the next

two years.

1947: Chiang Kai-shek appears to be victorious in the ongoing Chinese civil war, as his forces outnumber the Communist army five to one. The Choy Lok On share in the spoils of conquest, and increase their investments abroad. Peasants from the liberated areas, however, flee to the banner of Mao Tse-tung in droves.

September 29, 1948: The mysterious man known as Hsi Feng arrives in San Angelo from San Francisco, with a following of 10 men and women with peculiar abilities. He opens a small curio shop on F Street, and the entire group takes residence in the building's upper stories. Soon word on the street is that Feng is demonstrating an unhealthy interest in T'ien Lung's activities.

November 4, 1948: Chinatown politician Tsao Han is elected to the U.S. Senate, the first Asian-American to attain this high-ranking political office.

December 3, 1948: The

dragon head sends a group of tong soldiers to rough up Feng and discourage his curiosity, only to find that the shopkeeper and his motley crew are far from defenseless. Two tong members wind up in the hospital, while a third suffers from ghastly nightmares for months after the incident.

February-April, 1949: T'ien Lung initiates his own study of Feng, placing the shop and house under surveillance, and dispatching agents to San Francisco to dig into his past. Lung soon learns that this trail stretches back over 70 years, though Feng's appearance is that of man of early middle age.

1949-1950: The tide of the Chinese civil war turns, as the ever-growing Communist army puts the dispirited Nationalist forces on the run. By 1950, Chiang Kai-shek and the Koumintang have withdrawn to Taiwan as a government in exile, while Big Eared Tu and several of his Choy Lok On compatriots wind up in a Beijing prison

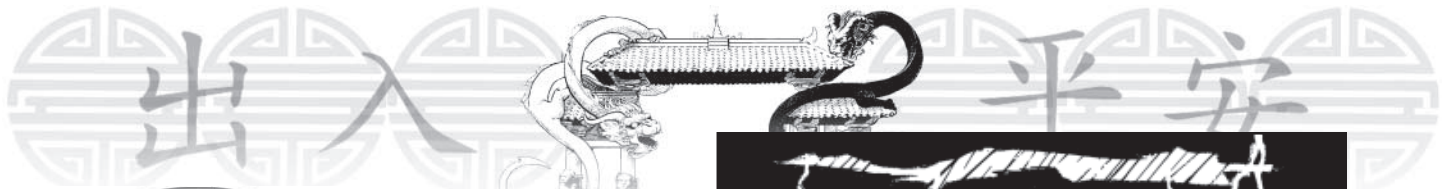
for re-education.

October 15, 1950: The trail of Hsi Feng's past leads to China, and T'ien Lung begins a prolonged negotiation with the new Communist government to obtain access to ancient population records. At the same time, Lung discovers a small library at the Wong Taisin temple that contains several interesting tomes describing an "elixir of immortality."

March 8, 1951: A number of businesses funded by Choy Lok On capital are nationalized without warning by Chairman Mao's ministers.

November 1952: After two long years, T'ien Lung's negotiators finally obtain enough information to strongly suggest that Hsi Feng has been alive under a variety of names for hundreds of years. The Dragon concludes that Feng must either possess the elixir of immortality or know how to create it.

January 1, 1953: Lung comes to Feng's curio shop and offers him \$2 million for the elixir.



桐上中
San Angelo Chinatown 5000
The Changing Face of Chinatown

unleashed a singularity that twisted the parameters of reality, and permitted the creation of a small number of super-powered individuals. Among that select number was the Wing Chao dragon head, T'ien Lung, who was struck senseless while casting an incantation at the precise moment the singularity was generated, and awakened to find his sorcerous abilities increased tenfold. Three years later, Lung met two brothers, Hongji and Guanjing Mee, who had been gifted through bizarre happenstance with the ability to raise the destructive powers of storms. He took them on as apprentices, and taught them to control their gifts.

Over the next several years, the trio did battle with San Angelo's first superhero team, the Liberty Corps, for control of Chinatown and San Angelo, with neither side holding the upper hand for long. Finally, members of the two groups briefly joined forces in 1944 for a secret mission in the Pacific, where they prevented the launch of a Japanese doomsday machine, the "super-kamikaze." Unfortunately,



Feng laughs at the offer, and gives Lung a seashell instead, telling him to "listen to the sea until his covetous heart is stilled."

January 2, 1953: The dragon head acts predictably to being spurned, ordering his street secretary to burn down Feng's home. The two torches dispatched by the tong return three days later, with no recollection of how or where they have spent the intervening time. Feng's building remains intact.

January 23, 1953: T'ien Lung delivers a terse note to Feng: "Share your knowledge, or prepare to lose that which you cherish." Feng sends the messenger back to the Dragon with a perfect white pearl, and a response: "Meditate and seek the clarity within the pearl, before your soul is lost forever."

January 25-27, 1953: T'ien Lung himself joins the surveillance of Feng, and he and two lieutenants capture one of Feng's "broken ones" when she emerges to take a walk. After undergoing 48 hours of gruelling torture and revealing nothing, the

captive dies, and is dumped in the gutter in front of Feng's house.

January 28, 1953: Unable to contain his anger, Feng teleports himself into T'ien Lung's private sanctum, brushing aside the sorcerer's wards and defenses as if they did not exist. The two fight, as the Dragon unleashes every trick in his arsenal to defeat the ageless one and take his secret. In the end Feng is victorious, and banishes T'ien Lung body and soul onto the elemental plane of fire.

February 15, 1953: With no trace of the Celestial Dragon to be found, Vice Chairman Dun Lee Eng takes over leadership of the Wing Chao.

May-July 1953: Senator Joseph McCarthy accuses his fellow Senator Tsao Han of being a Communist sympathizer. Although the accusations are baseless, Han must use every bit of his political influence in Washington to survive the smear campaign. Han is defeated when he runs for re-election the next year.

March 1956: FBI agents arrest Lee Hong, the eldest son of

the owner of a popular Chinatown restaurant, the Crimson Blossom. Based largely on his history as a vocal supporter of Mao Tse-tung, they charge Hong with espionage on behalf of the Chinese communists. Although Hong is acquitted of all charges after three years of legal maneuverings, trials, and appeals, the negative publicity causes the ruin of the Crimson Blossom, which declares bankruptcy in 1958.

June 10, 1956: The Chinese Cultural Center opens on Canton Street, providing the community with a beautiful place to explore its heritage.

October 30, 1959: Kuang Ma becomes dragon head of the Choy Lok On tong.

April 1965: Harvey Chow founds the *Chinatown Express*. The Chinese language weekly soon becomes the voice of conscience in the community, and a constant thorn in the side of the tongs.

July 1968: Peng Ho is the winner of an internecine struggle within the Qi Leong, and becomes its dragon head. He im-

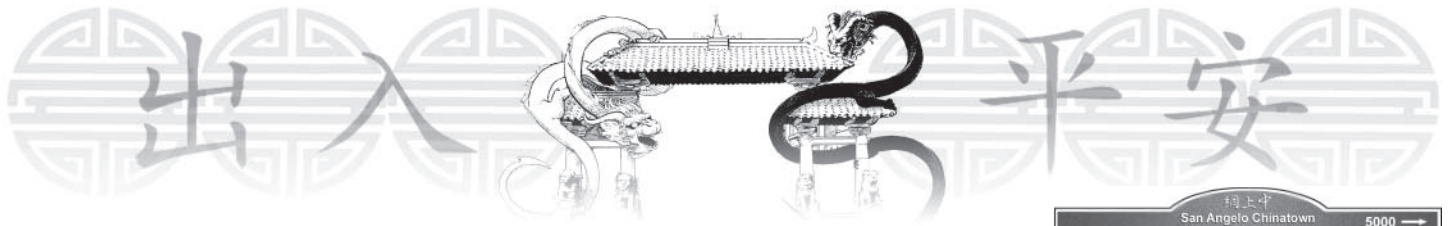
mediately expands the tong's drug activities in the bohemian quarter of the wharf area, and directly into conflict with the Wing Chao.

August 7, 1969: After a long hot summer of conflict, a hatchet-wielding hit man from the Wing Chao attempts to assassinate Peng Ho. Peng Ho fends off the attack, but loses the first two fingers from his left hand in the process. The attack unsurprisingly leaves him with an abiding hatred for the rival tong that lingers to this day.

October 3, 1972: A second major Chinatown tourist event, the Autumn Moon Festival (a street fair highlighting local performers, handicrafts and delicacies), is held for the first time. It immediately becomes a popular annual fixture.

May 1975: The Chinatown Historical Society, a non-profit institution dedicated to preserving Chinatown's cultural heritage, opens its doors in a modest building on Chan Street. It serves as a permanent home to thousands of unique Chinese-American artifacts dating back to pio-





the alliance collapses in the wake of this victory, and Guanjing Mee was killed during the fight that ensued.

As new laws removed the bars to Chinese immigration into America during and after the war, Chinatown boomed in an explosion of population and economic growth. The power of the Liberty Corps waned, as many of its members retired from crime-fighting to pursue other activities, and the group officially disbanded in 1948. T'ien Lung, feeling his hold over Chinatown secured as never before, turned his attention to more celestial matters. The sorcerer, whose enhanced abilities allowed him to hurl the veritable thunderbolts of the gods, now sought to attain godhood himself by uncovering the secrets of the Eight Immortals, great men and women of Chinese history who legends held ascended to heaven and became gods.

As T'ien Lung immersed himself in these researches, and committed large amounts of money and manpower pursu-

ing the flimsiest leads, the Choy Lok On and Qi Leong tongs seized upon his inattentiveness to expand the portions of Chinatown under their control. Although the Celestial Dragon roused himself long enough to force a halt to further incursions into Wing Chao territory, he eventually found himself confronted by a completely different sort of foe, as the mysterious mystic Hsi Feng moved into the district. Feng appeared to have already mastered the secret of immortality, but could not be convinced to share them with the Dragon, even when the latter threatened the coterie of strange associates, "the broken people," who lived and worked with Feng. When T'ien Lung's threats escalated to murder, Feng was finally stirred to take action, and in the climactic confrontation that ensued, Hsi Feng banished T'ien Lung from the earthly plane, an exile that remains in effect to the present day. With the disappearance of the Celestial Dragon, the Golden Age came to an end.

near times, including letters, photographs, and old newsreel footage.

1980: Teng Hsiao-ping, a leader with moderate views that were considered treasonous in the days of Mao, becomes chairman of the People's Republic. He opens the doors to a return of capitalism to China, in order to encourage much needed economic development. The once-burned Choy Lok On stays well away from any involvement with China, but Peng Ho and the Qi Leong take their place as American partners in certain illicit trading enterprises.

April 20, 1982: Yeung Pak Roh, a Korean immigrant, is convicted of murdering seven young women in and around Chinatown and receives the death sentence. Roh's attorney, Lucas Wong, continues to fight for Roh.

August 19, 1984: William Shihu (often misspelled "Shiyu" by non-Chinese) Yuan, grandson of T'ien Lung, is initiated as dragon head of the Wing Chao tong.

June 1989: Student protesters gather in Tiananmen Square in

Beijing to demonstrate in favor of democratic reforms. After they remain encamped in the Square for several days, military forces are brought in to suppress the demonstrations, killing hundreds in the process. Back in San Angelo, the Chinese Student Union at UCSA stages its own protest, seeking to have the mayor issue an official proclamation denouncing the Chinese government's action. The mayor and city council agree to do so, however, seven of the protesters are suspended by the university for committing acts of vandalism during the protest.

May, 1994: Two months before his scheduled execution, Yeung Pak Roh's conviction is overturned and he is acquitted of all murder charges when a new witness's testimony leads to the capture and conviction of the real killer.

May 5, 1995: During a solar eclipse, the young Wing Chao shaman Ting Xian Roh is seized by a bizarre inspiration, and decides to stare directly at the sun with his right eye through the entire event. The vision in this unprotected eye is permanently

damaged by this rash act, thereafter forcing Roh to wear wrap-around sunglasses in all but the dimmest light conditions. However, the experience also somehow opens Roh's mystical "third eye," which begins to give him glimpses into planes of existence beyond the material world. Roh begins to consult the libraries of the tong (that include the writings of T'ien Lung), the Wong Taisin temple, and the Chinatown Public Library, researching the art of astral projection.

December, 1996: Debbie Yuan discovers her father, William Shihu Yuan, is the dragon head of the Wing Chao tong. She leaves home, and establishes herself as the superheroine Lotus to combat the tongs and atone for her father's wrongs.

September 13, 1997: On a stormy Friday the 13th, Chinatown Historical Society Curator Dano Kung encounters the apparition of Chinatown's old protector Li, moving among an exhibit of Chinese artifacts from the Old West period. Over the course of several haunting

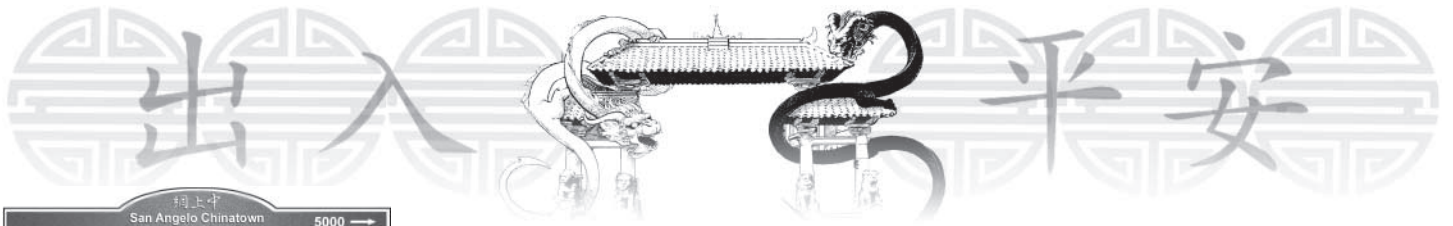
hours, Li convinces Dano to take up the long vacant mantle of the Eternal Warrior, and to fight for justice against the tongs of Chinatown.

March 11, 1998: After earning commendations for a series of high-profile arrests during a two-year stint in the homicide bureau, Sergeant Thomas Lieh is appointed to command the SAPD's new Chinatown neighborhood police substation.

May 29, 1998: The Qi Leong tong aids Su Lon Qui, a high-ranking leader of the Fu Sing tong in Hong Kong wanted for murder in his native land, in fleeing to San Angelo, where he assumes an alias as Ning Ti. Qui begins to work with the Qi Leong, particularly in regard to its international operations.

September 4, 1999: Ting Xian Roh successfully projects himself onto the elemental plane of fire for the first time. There, he encounters the exiled T'ien Lung, who has managed to survive and even prosper among the peculiar inhabitants of this plane. Lung requests Roh's help in restoring him to earthly form.





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 San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →
The Changing Face of Chinatown

CHINATOWN TODAY

Chinatown is a 50-square-block area of downtown San Angelo. It borders City Center to the north, the Wharves to the west, and the Riverfront district to the east. Chinatown contains some of the oldest buildings still in use in San Angelo, including some that were constructed in the late 1800s.

Chinatown is one of the most densely populated areas of the city, with an estimated total population of about 150,000 people as of the Federal Census in 1990.

Chinatown's Outer Layer

This area is the part of Chinatown that most of the other citizens of San Angelo see. The outer layers begin on Peking and Canton Streets. In recent years, the development of the Riverfront section of San Angelo has brought more visitors to the area along Peking Street. Businesses in Chinatown have taken advantage of this, and have rapidly expanded onto the adjoining north-south blocks of Kirby Avenue. The western end of Chinatown, bordering Front Street and the wharves, is the least economically developed part of the outer area. This portion of the district has not grown as quickly as the sections that border Downtown and the Riverfront.

The outer layers are the economic engine that powers Chinatown. Businesses depend on the shoppers and tourists that come to the area. To attract more tourist trade, some shops and restaurants have set up elaborate displays and dioramas depicting famous Chinese wonders and architecture. The Emperor's Choice restaurant contains a glass-encased diorama with a six-foot-long replica of the Great Wall, while the exteriors of several other restaurants including the Emerald Palace have been designed to resemble the palaces of ancient Chinese emperors. The Golden Buddha has a Chinese flower garden in its waiting area, complete with a 10-foot waterfall.

The outer areas of Chinatown are also where various parades, festivals, and holiday celebrations are typically held. The Chinese New Year parade, once sponsored by T'ien Lung, but now financed by a consortium of local Chinese businesses, still brings the largest number of visitors into Chinatown each year, however Chinatown also holds other major annual events, including the Autumn Moon Festival, and the June "Taste of Chinatown" street fair.

Because the image of the outer areas is very important to the merchants, great efforts are made to ensure things are quiet, safe, and friendly. Merchants keep their businesses well maintained and brightly lit. Signs in the outer areas are written in both Chinese and English. Stores and restaurants don't allow loiterers to hang around their establishments. While they are very friendly and polite to customers, shopkeepers watch out for street people and vendors, and are quite aggressive about making them move along.

In general, merchants in the outer areas won't do anything that could be "bad for business." They don't engage in price wars with each other, spread bad rumors about a competitor, or do anything else that might disrupt or harm another business.

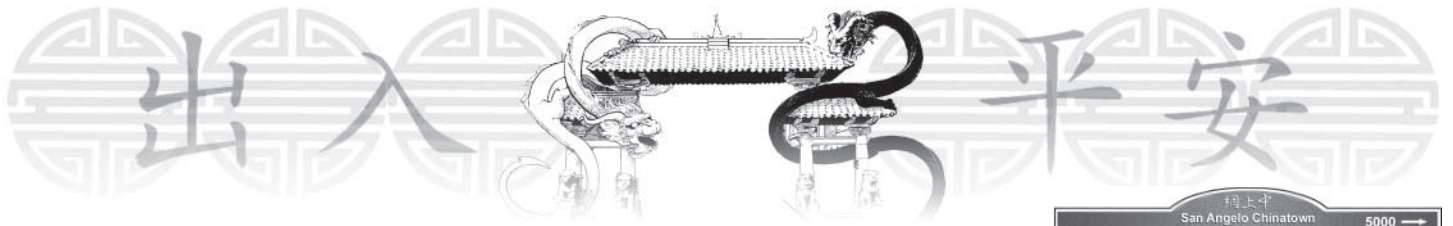
The tongs both enforce and obey this code of conduct. Since the tongs have legitimate businesses of their own in the outer area, and also use them to attract people to their illegal businesses, they see great benefit in making sure the code is enforced. They step in to settle disputes between merchants, or to bring a merchant that might be making trouble into line. In these situations they act as both judge and jury, and the merchants have little choice about accepting the outcome. If a shop owner does make too much of a fuss, tong retribution is quick. All three of the tongs use intimidation tactics and if that doesn't work, they won't hesitate to make an example by burning a troublesome merchant's business to the ground. While the tongs still employ all of their usual tactics in the outer area, they are more clandestine about showing themselves. If a problem needs to be dealt with, the tong and its gang members usually wait until the end of the day to take care of unpleasant business.

Tong members tend to hang out in places owned by their tong leaders. The tong leaders themselves tend to frequent outer-area businesses they don't own, both to make their presence felt and as a

Chinatown Population, by Race

Chinese	49%
Korean	12%
Vietnamese	10%
Japanese	10%
Cambodian/Laotian	8%
Thai	5%
Filipino	3%
Indonesian	2%
Burmese	0.75%
White	0.25%

Source: San Angelo Office of Economic Development



sign of approval to the merchants they visit. Tong leader William Shihu Yuan is known for bringing large groups to the restaurants of people who are loyal to him, and often invites people he deals with in his legitimate businesses on these excursions.

While members of the different tongs do frequent the outer areas of Chinatown in an unobtrusive fashion, tong-affiliated gang members are hardly ever seen in the outer area. One or two members might pass through to check on things or deliver a message, but they never hang around. Tong members only show up in force in outer Chinatown if there is a major incident, or if a rival gang from another area of San Angelo comes into Chinatown. Chinese gangs are under strict orders never to start fights in the outer areas, but are likely to jump in readily if one does occur.

Chinatown Economics

- Average household income: \$30,400
 - Percentage of households below poverty line: 6.8%
 - Unemployment: 5.9%
 - Median home price: \$115,000
 - Average monthly rent, 2-bedroom apartment: \$500 to \$625
- Source: San Angelo Office of Economic Development*

don't have as great a concern for the façades of their stores. Few if any storefronts have brightly lit or large signs, and what signs there are tend to be written only in Chinese, or in the native tongue of the shopkeeper. Some stores have no signs at all, merely displaying items they sell in their front windows or on small sidewalk displays, if they give any indication at all. Shops that sell items like herbal remedies, medicines, or curios often fall into this category, so one has to

know where they are located to find them.

Visitors who shop in the inner areas can get good prices for the items they purchase, but typically must know how to bargain to do so. Few local shopkeepers actually post prices, and most expect their customers to haggle. Those who don't haggle usually pay more than they need to, as shopkeepers are perfectly willing to take advantage of outsiders. While haggling is expected, overdoing it can get a person thrown out of a store, and prices for unique items like medicine, herbs, or magical ingredients are seldom, if ever, negotiable.

Inner Chinatown

While the outer areas of Chinatown go out of their way to make visitors *feel* like they are in the Orient, most people who have actually been to China believe that the inner areas of Chinatown more closely resemble what things are really like. The businesses of the inner area mainly cater to Chinatown residents, and deal with few people from other areas of San Angelo.

Passersby in the inner areas of Chinatown tend to be wary of strangers, and if asked a question often respond, "No speak English"—about a third of the time this is actually true. Merchants tend to be a little more cooperative after you buy something from them. In any case, however, it's wise not to ask for too much information, as that can raise suspicions.

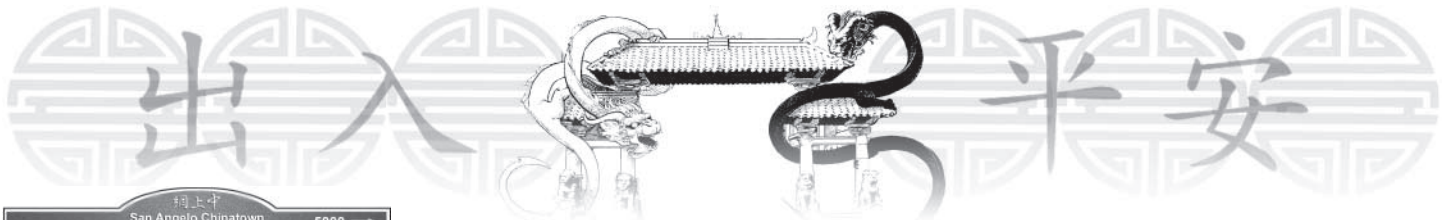
Outsiders who venture into the inner areas of Chinatown should know where they are going, what they are doing, and what the local rules of conduct are. Those who are willing to acquaint themselves with neighborhood customs, however, consider it well worth the effort. Only in these parts of Chinatown can one find specialized services or items like herbal remedies, curios, traditional martial arts weapons, authentic Chinese books, and antiques. People also come into the inner sections to purchase illegal fireworks that are sold by the street gangs of the tongs. Those San Angelinos who have discovered the inner areas of Chinatown usually regard the outer areas as a tourist trap. Nonetheless, even outsiders who frequent the district on a regular basis will tell you that you do have to be careful from time to time.

Members of the various street gangs of Chinatown can often be found hanging around different storefronts in the inner areas. This is the heart of their territories, and the gangs make their presence known to anyone who's around. An outsider needs to be careful when approaching these groups. Most of the gangs might hassle one or two individuals, but won't start a fight. If they see a larger group entering their territory, however, a gang is likely to confront the group, demanding to know why it is where it is. Gang members who don't like outsiders in their territories will make their feelings known, usually by shouting insults.

Most buildings in Chinatown's core are closely built old rowhouses that have first-floor storefronts and one or two apartments above. Streets in the inner area are often very narrow and poorly lit. Shops are often small, cramped and dingy looking. Unlike the outer areas, inner-area merchants

Getting jumped can be a bigger problem than dealing with the gangs. Because outsiders are assumed to have money, there are muggers in Chinatown who prey on them. This makes walking around in the inner areas very dangerous at night. Muggers usually strike from concealed positions, or ambush unwary persons from behind. Most muggers are not usually up for a fight, and run at the first sign of resistance, however one particular mugger (known locally as the Prowler) does fight if resisted.





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →
The Changing Face of Chinatown

PUBLIC SAFETY

Law Enforcement

To understand the nature of crime and law enforcement in Chinatown one must look at the outer and inner areas of the neighborhood as almost two different worlds. The outer area is clean and well organized, and while there are some street vendors and the occasional panhandler, it's mostly free of those who are considered undesirables by tourists. Gangs are never seen in force in the tourist area, and the streets appear quiet, well lit, and safe to walk. Why is it this way? Because the tongs want it so; tourism is the life-blood of Chinatown, and despite their differences the tongs will generally do nothing to endanger the tourist trade.

The inner part of Chinatown is quite different. This area, well removed from the tourists, has the outward appearance of a quiet neighborhood but is actually rife with crime. Scams, vandalism, and other minor crimes are common, while break-ins, drug dealing, and muggings occur often as well. There is even the occasional murder, although the homicide rate is lower than in other parts of San Angelo.

Most crimes committed in Chinatown involve either gangs or their tong benefactors in some way. Although most tong operations are conducted secretly, the gangs that are controlled by the tongs tend to act more openly in the inner part of Chinatown. Occasionally two tongs will go to war over territory or prestige, and when this happens the streets can run thick with blood. The mayor and city government have long been aware of what happens in Chinatown, but have felt limited in their attempts to stop it. While most of the past mayors of San Angelo have been content to let Chinatown run itself, Mayor Martinez has decided it's time to change things. He wants to send a clear message to the tongs that it is the city, not the tongs, that is really in charge of Chinatown. To back up his statement, he has increased funding to the police department for their substation, located in the heart of Chinatown, hoping that the increased police presence will reduce crime in the area.

The San Angelo Police Department's Chinatown substation (map location 1) operates around the clock, and acts as the "main office" to the patrol officers, detectives and other personnel that work in the southern portion of Sector 2. A lieutenant acts as commanding officer of the substation, which is similar to a "precinct house" in other cities. The storefront police building has only a single holding cell, which is used only for the temporary housing of prisoners, until they can be transported to the main jail downtown. The limited parking area is restricted to only official police

vehicles, which includes marked patrol cars and motorcycles, as well as unmarked cars used by detectives and "take-home" cars assigned to lieutenants and above.

The building also includes a number of offices that are used by representatives of other government agencies (housing officers, public health nurses, voter registration, *etc.*) on a rotating basis to provide community services.

Obviously, from its staffing level, fighting the tongs or supervillains is not its primary mission. Instead, it's thought that this small, police outpost, staffed almost exclusively by officers who are (at the least) bilingual, will help bridge the cultural differences between the residents of Chinatown and the rest of San Angelo, provide a higher level of service to the local residents, and improve relations between the Chinatown community and the police department. The customs of the Chinese people are sometimes in conflict with the law. Sometimes these differences are minor, such as Hue Fat's Pet Emporium, which occasionally sells animals that are on endangered species lists, or local grocers and restaurants that violate city health codes because of the way they prepare and sell food. Others culture clashes are of a more serious nature, such as the interaction between the community and the tongs. Many residents of Chinatown believe the tongs are the law, and won't cross them. In addition, these same citizens often view the police as outsiders who can't be trusted. By giving the San Angelo Police Department a smaller, friendlier, Asian face, it is hoped that these officers will be able to reduce the suspicions of Chinatown residents, and aid in investigations in the district that are conducted from full-size police stations.

Chief O'Shea recently appointed Sergeant Thomas Lieh as administrator of the Chinatown substation. Chief O'Shea is counting on the young officer, a lifelong native of the district, to bridge the gap between the people of Chinatown and the police. O'Shea doesn't care much about how Lieh goes about improving the cultural situation, just as long as he starts improving area crime statistics and making arrests.

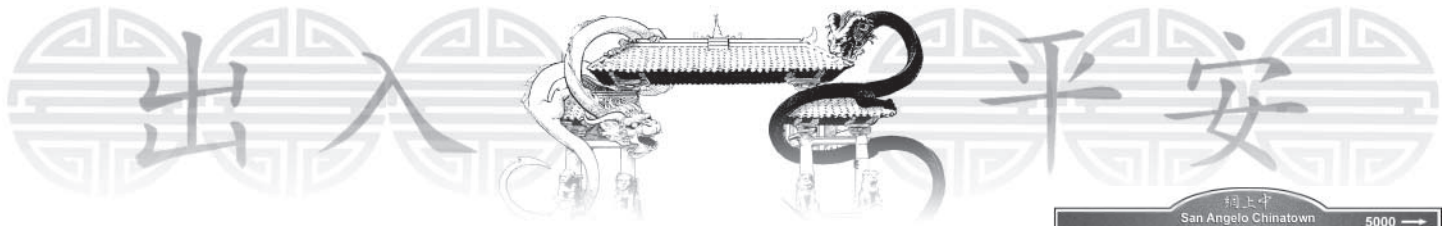
Sergeant Thomas Lieh

Supervisor, SAPD Chinatown substation

15 STR	17 DEX	14 CON	12 BODY	16 INT
15 EGO	15 PRE	16 COM	5 PD	4 ED
4 SPD	7 REC	34 END	40 STUN	

Abilities: Martial Arts: Shaolin Kung Fu; Bureaucratrics 12-; Combat Driving 13-; +2 with Pistols; +1 with Shaolin Kung Ku; Computer Programming 12-; Criminology 15-; Deduction 14-; Interrogation 14-; AK: Chinatown 14-; AK: San Angelo 13-; KS: Police Procedures 14-; Language: Mandarin (fluent conversation); Stealth 12-; Fringe Benefit: Local Police Powers





100+ Disadvantages: DNPC: Wife; Hunted: Watched by Tongs; Psychological Limitation: Obeys the Law; Psychological Limitation: Hates the tongs; Psychological Limitation: Arachnophobia

Notes: Born in Chinatown the son of second-generation American parents, Thomas Lieh knew from an early age that he wanted to be a policeman. He saw the respect given to the police by the citizens of San Angelo and wanted to earn that respect himself. His parents were supportive but worried about how their only son would be accepted in white society. Some of their fears were justified as Thomas was treated harshly by some members of the force, who even used racial slurs in his presence. Thomas never lost his direction, however, and concentrated on becoming the best police officer he could be. Although there are still occasional bigots to deal with, Lieh has become accepted within the department and is treated as an equal.

Today, Sergeant Lieh is a tough opponent for normal criminals and even minor supervillains. He is a proficient martial artist, with reflexes near the top of human capabilities. The most formidable abilities Lieh possesses, however, are his interpersonal skills: he has a knack for setting people at ease, and a confident manner that helps get him through tough situations. The toughest challenge he's currently facing is establishing a Neighborhood Watch program in Chinatown, something he's convinced would make a difference in the war against the tongs (which might be why he's finding so much resistance among the district's population).

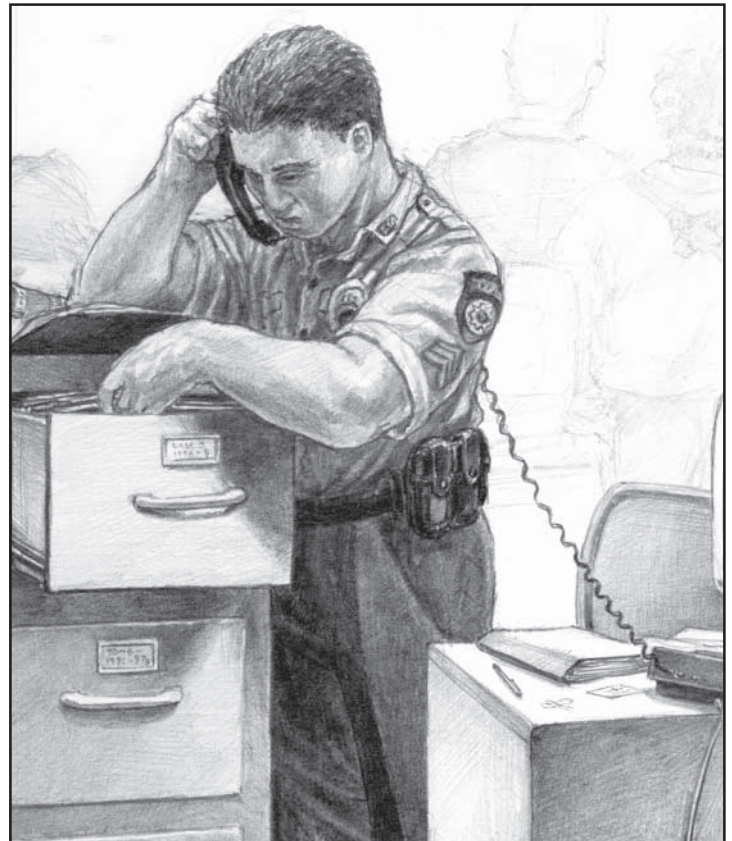
Police Operations in Chinatown

The community substation is not expected to handle major crimes, such as murder, gang wars, or any but the least of super-powered criminals. Conversely, the continuous presence of these officers walking and bicycling the streets has cut down on some of the most obvious street-level crime: open-air drug-dealing, street-walking prostitutes, and daylight burglaries.

If patrolmen from the substation encounter evidence of large-scale criminal activity, such as a drug-smuggling operation or an auto-theft ring, or if they hear hints of a brewing tong war, Sergeant Lieh coordinates operations with the appropriate section, such as the narcotics bureau, the Gang Task Force, the patrol division or PART.

The Courts

Criminals arrested in Chinatown are arraigned at the San Angelo Superior Courthouse. While rumors circulate that one or more of the trial judges are on someone's payroll, there has been no evidence to prove it. Of the judges who do



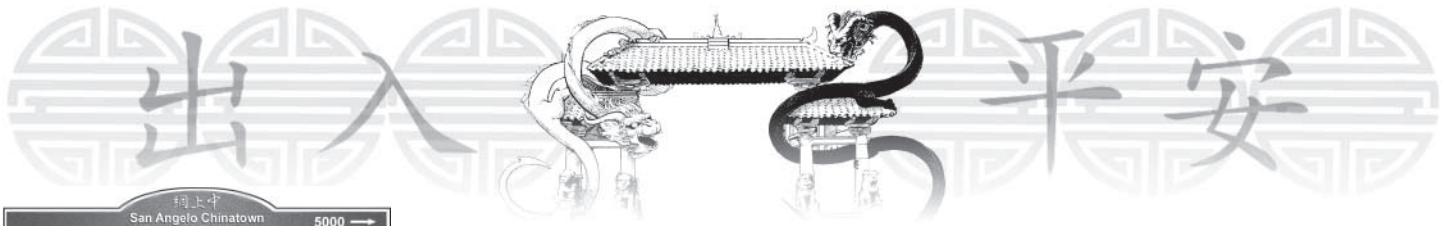
arraignments at the courthouse, Judge David Stein has been the most frequently criticized. His well-known reputation for lenient sentences to juvenile gang members has earned him the unfortunate nickname "Set 'Em Free Stein," and made him the judge of choice among young criminals and public defenders.

The tongs often employ high-powered defense attorneys, and they often manage to get their clients off on technicalities or reduced charges, despite the fact that they should see longer prison terms. Fortunately the tongs only employ their biggest guns when an important tong or gang member is arrested; if a low-level gang member or "runner" gets arrested, he often winds up with a public defender as his lawyer.

The real reason a lot of criminals walk out of the Superior Court as free men has nothing to do with corruption; many witnesses fail to show up for trials in tong-related cases, forcing judges to either postpone a trial or simply drop the charges.

While others have simply thrown up their hands over this situation, it's just made Sergeant Lieh more resourceful. He's not afraid to put his reputation on the line by entering into a pact with a witness in exchange for testimony. Based on old





Chinese tradition, these pacts amount to a solemn oath guaranteeing the protection of the witness and his family. Lieh has made such pacts in two previous cases, and gained the cooperation necessary to put a Qi Leong assassin and eight members of a Choy Lok On prostitution ring behind bars. The sergeant is well aware, however, that he must make good on his promises of protection over the long haul, for the elders of the neighborhood take such pacts very seriously. Should he break his word, Lieh would suffer an enormous loss of face among the people he is trying to win over.

Fire Prevention

Fire fighting is one of the most dangerous professions in the world. Chinatown makes this already dangerous profession even more so. With its narrow streets and closely built wooden row houses, Chinatown is one part of San Angelo where a burning building can become a burning block within a matter of minutes. Chinatown has some of the oldest buildings in the city, some dating back to the late 1800s. While nearly all of these buildings meet city codes, they still contain very old wiring and fixtures. Add the potential presence of tong-related arson and costumed, plasma-throwing maniacs and a firefighter's job becomes even more dangerous.

Because of the situation in Chinatown, two fire stations, Station 46 and Station 51, service the area. SAFD Station 46 is located across from the police substation and houses a fire truck, fire engine and a rescue truck, as well as a team of EMTs. Station 51 is located between the T'ien Tsun Temple and the First Bank of Chinatown, and is the base for an engine and rescue truck, and a team of EMTs. Both stations also have fire education offices.

One of the department's local celebrities is Firefighter Gabe Westerly, a former Vietnam war veteran who speaks both Cantonese and Vietnamese. Gabe became a firefighter after he returned from his tour of duty in Asia, and joined Station 51.

Known for his fearlessness, he's been both praised and reprimanded for attempting some very risky stunts on the job. One time he saved two children stuck on a broken fire escape by swinging down from the roof and grabbing them.

The locals think of him as a hero, and the media has done several special interest stories on him over the years.

Way Chen's Ambulance Service

Calling Way Chen's, the only ambulance service that directly serves Chinatown, can sometimes be a heart-stopping experience. The company has two ambulances, both of which are old but well maintained by Chen himself. In addition to Chen, two other drivers work for him. Because his staff can speak various dialects of Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Korean, his service is often called upon to deal with emergencies inside Chinatown. Chen and his drivers also possess an intimate knowledge of the streets of Chinatown.

The only time Chen gets in trouble is when he gets behind the wheel. This can happen if things are busy, or one of his other drivers has a night off. His driving skills are legendary within the Chinatown community, and the stories have even spread city wide. Despite never having an accident, he's been cited several times for reckless driving. In Chinatown he's often called "the Master of the High-Speed U-Turn."

Department of Health

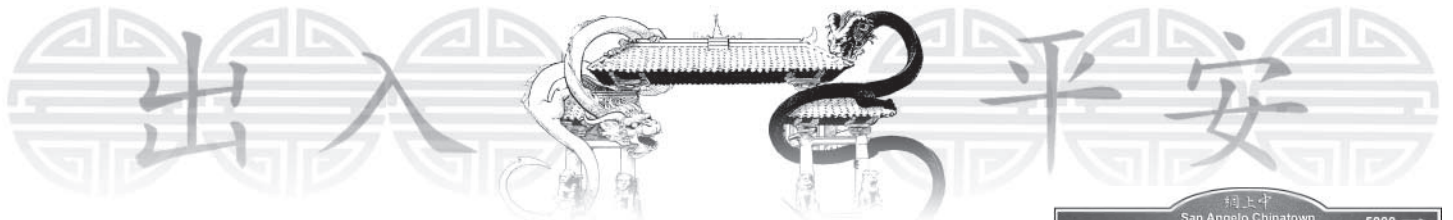
Chinatown is one of the many parts of San Angelo that the Department of Health likes to keep an eye on. Inspectors and other personnel consider the area dingy looking but clean. Because of the tight quarters and close construction of many of the buildings, there is a constant concern about the spread of vermin. Department personnel are constantly monitoring the Yu Ling market and various other areas of Chinatown for potential nesting areas or burrows. Unlike other city officials, residents of Chinatown are generally willing to help department staffers deal with any nests they do find.

Another part of Chinatown that the health department deals with is the local restaurants. Despite rumors, the restaurants of Chinatown are actually quite clean. Many establishments, such as the Ruby Dragon, a large dim sum restaurant located on Canton Street, are kept in excellent condition. Still, because many restaurants serve raw fish, inspectors have been known to make unannounced visits to check up on things.

The Department of Health has a Chinatown satellite office on Woo Street. There are currently 10 employees based out of this office, including six inspectors. In addition to its normal function of seeing to the sanitary conditions of San Angelo, the Department

"They don't pay me enough for this. The existence of super-types is a first-class headache for the CNC. How does one explain cultural adaptation to someone who can fire energy beams from his eyes, or sweep-kick a tractor-trailer? One member of the agency quit after being called in as a consultant during the trial of a Chinese supervillain. Many others in the CNC are, unofficially, leery as well. It's bad enough dealing with the tongs."
— Wayne Jing, 23, former CNC intern





ment of Health is also charged with the detection and prevention of outbreaks of disease or epidemics. If the city health department encounters anything it can't handle, a call for assistance is made to the U.S. Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

Chinatown Neighborhood Center

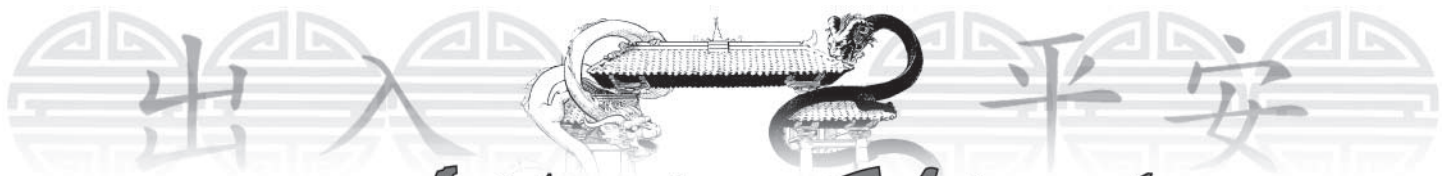
One of the many city-sponsored neighborhood centers in San Angelo, the Chinatown Neighborhood Center (or CNC) is designed to serve as a liaison between Chinatown residents and various city and county agencies. While the CNC itself has no legal authority, it can and does refer cases to various legal agencies.

The CNC does become involved with legal matters from time to time, but its main job is to provide information and a variety of services to the Chinatown community. These services include English and citizenship classes, job placement and training, and information on issues like minimum wage and other labor laws, day care, different classes being offered, and citizenship.

Zu Fen Ludso, a recent graduate of Lakeview Community College (see *SA:CoH*) in political science, is presently in charge of the center. She's replacing An Sheng, who is resigning to prepare for a possible run for Congress in the next election (see page 44).

Zu Fen's interest in community service started after she observed the tension and fear created by the Tiananmen Square incident, and more recently the return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule. During each situation the CNC office was flooded with people who were afraid they'd be forced to return to China.

While the CNC has helped the people of Chinatown, it has caused problems for some of the local businesses and the Wing Chao tong. Some employers were forced to improve working conditions and raise wages after the CNC filed public complaints and threatened to get the San Angelo Labor Board involved. William Yuan also believes that it was the CNC that tipped off local authorities about a small sweatshop he was operating. CNC connections to other agencies have shielded it so far from any reprisals, but people working at CNC still are careful about walking alone through the neighborhood at night.



Life in Chinatown

THE ACADEMIC SCENE

The question of how to properly teach the children of Chinatown has been a source of friction between the community and the city government for over 100 years. By the time the San Angelo Board of Education finally opened a segregated public school in Chinatown in 1912, a private Chinese-language school operated by the Chinese-American Benevolent Society had already been open for almost 20 years.

When the two schools began to compete for students, the city soon discovered that a significant portion of the community preferred the Chinese School's curriculum and style, which emphasized traditional values and featured many classes in their native tongue. At first, the city reacted angrily, threatening to recommend the state close the Chinese School down for violations of state and local regulations. Soon after, however, the Board of Education concluded that it could turn the neighborhood's decision to its advantage by spending next to nothing on the Wayne Street public school. Those children who lacked the financial resources to attend the Chinese School often received a marginal education at best, working with outdated textbooks and learning from teachers who had often washed out of other city schools. Still, the limited size of the Chinese School placed a hard upper boundary on the number of students who could attend it, so that, after the post-WWII population boom, fully 75 percent of Chinatown's children were relegated to the public schools.

In the late 1970s, the federal government started forcing cities around the country to upgrade and fully integrate their school districts. The people in Chinatown were happy to see some money finally spent on the Wayne Street school, but were opposed to having their children bussed to schools in other districts, so they once again started pulling their kids out of the public school system, floating a community bond issue to support a major expansion of the Chinese School facility on Water Street.

Today both the city and Chinatown are engaged in a difficult balancing act. On one side are the residents who don't want their children to be forced to completely abandon their

traditional culture, or be taught by outsiders. On the other is the city government, which doesn't want to give state or federal officials an excuse to intervene in the administration of the school system. Both sides agree that getting the feds involved would be bad for all concerned, so both sides are trying to find a way to compromise on the issues that still plague neighborhood education.

Elementary Schools

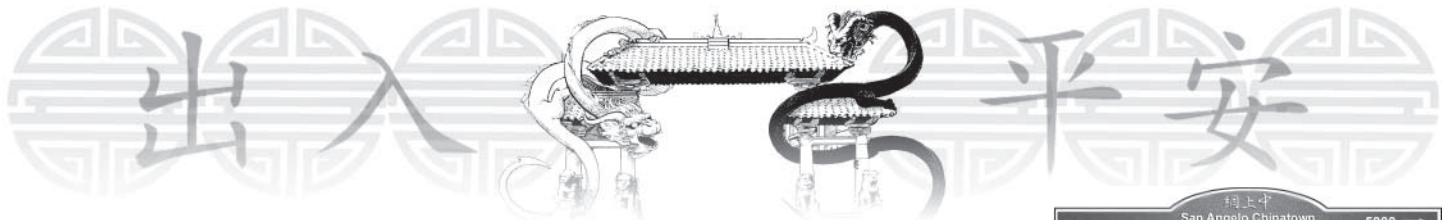
Chinatown has two public schools; the facility run by the city on Wayne Street, and a satellite junior high school for 7th and 8th graders that stands at the corner of Cameron and Kirby Streets. The junior high school accommodates students from both the Chinatown and Waterfront districts. The Wayne Street school was built with the primary purpose of teaching Chinese children English. The facility suffered decades of neglect as city leaders ignored Chinatown in general. The building did receive a significant facelift in the early 1980s, and its books and curriculum were upgraded to meet federal standards. Today the Wayne Street school satisfies all the criteria for a student to graduate; like other inner city schools, however, it sometimes just barely achieves those standards. The Cameron Middle School, created to ease severe overcrowding at the Wayne Street facility, is designed with the needs of the modern school curriculum in mind. It has a small gymnasium, adequate science lab space, and even a computer classroom where all students receive two hours of instruction per week.

CABS opened its own Chinese-language private school in 1894. At first, the city opposed the "Chinese school," and threatened to shut it down, but after seeing that the community was sending its children there anyway, the city backed down. From 1912 to the 1970s the Chinese School offered a much better education for Chinatown's children than the public system. Once the city began increasing the funding to the neighborhood school and added the middle school, the gap quickly closed.

Today the two major advantages the Chinese School has are that it still teaches Chinese as well as English to its students, and it offers a range of special enrichment classes on Saturdays. The cost of sending children to the Chinese School has become prohibitive for a lot of area residents; CABS does give scholarships and tuition breaks to some poorer students, but the cost is still too steep for many to afford.

"Hey, man, nice lookin' Lotus lunchbox yuh got there. Maybe tomorrow she'll fly down and save you from me. If not, you better be back here come noontime with your lunch money, or else."
— Guanjing Rao, 12, student





Nguyen Kim Memorial High School

The primary high school that serves the Chinatown district, although it bears the name of an Asian-American Korean War hero, is actually located a few blocks north of Chinatown in City Center, a few blocks east of the San Angelo Plaza Mall. It is a feeder high school that is attended not only by residents of Chinatown but by those from the Waterfront and some of the luxury apartment condominiums that dot the downtown area. Nguyen Kim High is adequately equipped, and possesses a quality core of teachers, particularly in its mathematics and science departments. The school is chronically overcrowded, and even with the addition of more classroom space in the school gymnasium and temporary trailers, some classes contain up to 50% more students than are called for by state guidelines. Most of the school's athletic teams must practice and play their games at other schools, making them true "road warriors."

Given the intermingling of Eastern and Western cultures in the student body, NKHS is plagued with an undercurrent of racial tension. Moreover, given the presence of young recruits of the three Chinatown street gangs under one roof, there is a fair amount of Asian-on-Asian violence present here as well. Vice Principal Richard Dacey has his hands full maintaining order in the halls on a day-to-day basis.



Higher Education

Chinatown itself is too small a geographical area to house a college campus, so most students who go on to college attend either San Angelo State or UC San Angelo. About 60% of Chinatown's high school graduates go on to college, a slightly lower percentage than the city average. Of that group, 20% score high enough to attend prestigious Ivy League-caliber schools.

The Chow School

In 1990 a vocational school was opened next to the Wayne Street school. Named the Chow School after the murdered newspaper publisher Harvey Chow, the school offers courses in electronics, auto mechanics, carpentry, refrigeration, heating and air conditioning repair. The school has become popular with

area students (including some adults), and classes usually fill up quickly. Most of the students that go to the Chow School aren't expected to go on to college.

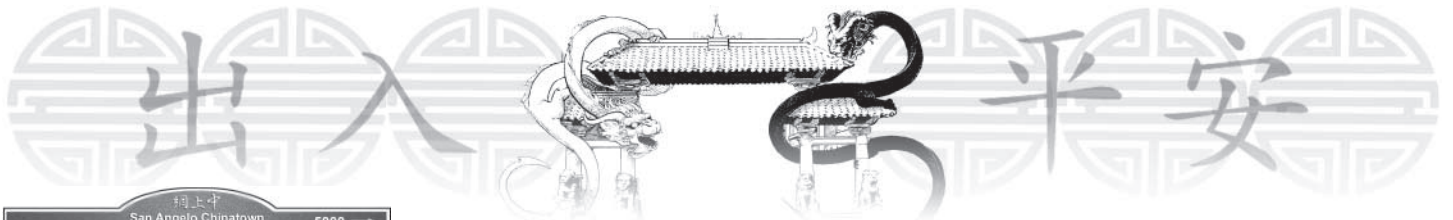
Henry Phillips

After graduating from Cornell with a teaching degree in 1996, Henry was impressed with San Angelo's efforts to improve its schools. Wanting to be part of it, Henry accepted a position as a computer instructor at the Cameron Street Middle School. So far he's not been disappointed in his choice. After going through the usual grief of being "the new teach," he's settled in and started impressing upon his students that computers are much more than machines used for playing games. Of course, he would likely be concerned to find out that two of his

recent students are members of a cadre of young hackers who call themselves the Saturday Night Specials (see **The Intellectual Scene**, page 30).

"Man, this sucks. Mr. Phillips caught me playin' Star Trooper during class. Now I have to write a program that writes 'I will not play games in class' 10,000 times or he's going to keep my CD."
— Mike Chan, 13, student





THE COMMERCIAL SCENE

While Downtown is home to most of the well-known and powerful companies in San Angelo, there are also some large and medium-sized businesses based in Chinatown. Most of these businesses were created to offer specific products and services to the Chinese community. Some later expanded outside of Chinatown to meet the needs of other parts of the city, but most are still local in focus.

Like the people of Chinatown, those who run the district's businesses like their privacy and don't take kindly to "outsiders" looking too closely into their affairs. Like American corporations, the Chinese companies that operate in Chinatown feel that the various laws created by the government can be burdensome. Unlike most U.S. companies, however, some Chinese companies will ignore laws they don't like. They do this by forcing their workers into a "code of silence," and are not above using physical threats and intimidation to enforce this code. These companies often hire illegal immigrants, knowing that they can take advantage of their precarious situation. Tongs and their gangs are often employed by these firms to act as their enforcers, or to deal with "troublemakers."

Investigations into these illegally-run businesses have been a double-edged sword for the overall Chinatown community. While exposing these companies and their activities improves the community, it also leaves a taint that many feel is unjustified. Because the authorities that perform most of these investigations are from other parts of San Angelo, Chinatown residents feel that people living in other parts of the Golden City receive a warped view of their area. To correct this, Chinatown civic leaders have been making efforts to show that most of the businesses in Chinatown are in fact ordinary, law-abiding enterprises that don't operate any differently than companies located in other parts of San Angelo.

Prominent Businesses in Chinatown

Nu Sing's Distributing Co.

Started in the late 1960s, Nu Sing's began as a small seafood distributor to different restaurants in and around San Angelo. At first most of the company's business came from

Chinese-owned restaurants, but as word spread about the high quality of Nu Sing's products, other seafood establishments also started placing orders. Today, Nu Sing's is the largest seafood distributor in San Angelo. Its namesake owner, now in his mid-50s, is still just as picky about the quality of the seafood he sells as he was when he started business.

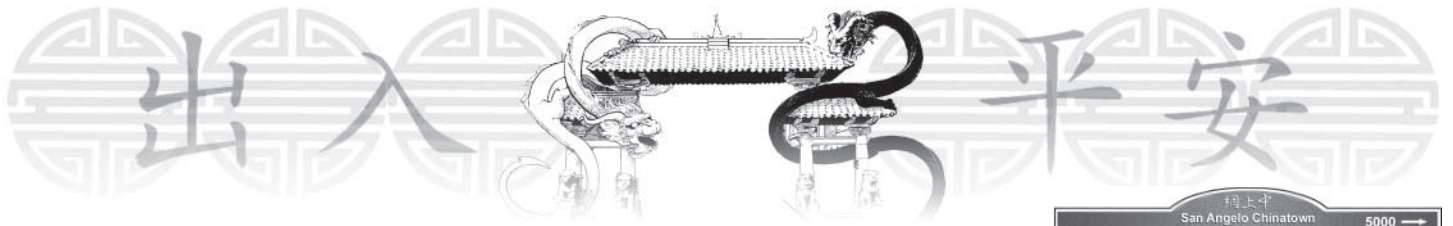
While Nu Sing is content with the success his company has achieved, his son Mike Sing is not. Having just returned to San Angelo after graduating from Harvard, Mike is eager to use his knowledge to "help" his father, whom he feels is too traditional and stuck in the old ways. Not believing that Nu Sing's is all it can be, Mike wants to expand into other imports. At first, Nu Sing quietly listened to his son's grand ideas, and even gave him permission to negotiate a deal to import some Far Eastern clothing lines for Barnes & Co., a local department store chain. The deals haven't been as profitable as Mike thought they would be, and have taken resources away from the rest of the company.

While his father has not said much, Nu Sing is disappointed with the results so far. Mike's constant griping about better ways to do things is also starting to wear thin with Nu. Being from China, Nu Sing always treated his parents with proper respect, and expects Mike to treat him the same way. The relationship between Nu Sing and his son has become strained, and the two men don't speak to each other much outside of work.

East-West Employment Services

This company was known as a small local employment agency named EBL, until it was bought out by East-West five years ago. East-West is a multinational employment service known for "bringing labor where it's needed most." Before EBL was bought, its main business was helping skilled Chinatown residents or immigrants find better-paying jobs. Since the buyout, East-West has expanded into new lines of business; now not only does the company help local people find work, but it also brings in skilled people from all over the world to work for various companies both inside and outside San Angelo. Using a worldwide network of offices, East-West has an almost limitless supply of people to fill needed positions.

Currently East-West is taking advantage of the shortage of skilled technical labor in the United States. To deal with the situation companies including Hyperdyne Computers, Infinity Software, and Taiyo Corp (see *SA:CoH*) have turned to East-West to meet their employment needs. East-West takes care of all the details for the employers including screening potential employees, securing work visas, and even doing various types of aptitude testing to ensure qualified



employees are assigned to jobs requiring them.

While East-West's reputation is mostly built on its high-tech workers, the company also quietly brings in hundreds of foreign nationals to do manual labor. East-West doesn't like to talk about this, or any other part of its business, and has a somewhat adversarial relationship with the press in San Angelo. Recent reports by Bobbie Goldblum and J.J. McAdams in the *San Angelo Times* revealed that East-West has made several large political contributions to organizations that will be opposing Rep. Cassandra Knight if she doesn't retire before the next election. East-West has taken a keen interest in a Congressional bill to expand the number of work visas currently issued by the government.

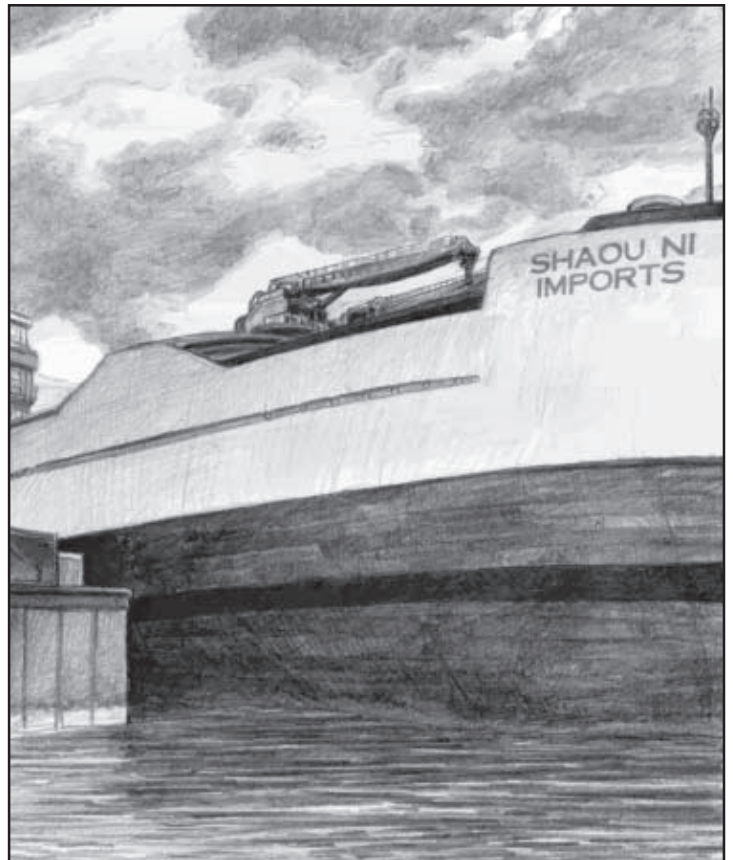
Since East-West bought EBL it has been involved in a number of business practices that are shady at best. It has drawn the ire of several local unions and Chinatown lawyer Lucas Wong. Union spokesmen complain that client companies of East-West are using East-West personnel to undermine unionization efforts at Taiyo Corp. They also believe that the companies are taking advantage of foreigners by paying lower salaries and providing fewer benefits.

It is believed that local East-West manager James Yi helped tong leader Peng Ho smuggle in various tong members from Hong Kong just prior to the Chinese takeover. The FBI is suspicious of a worker who recently came to Chinatown from Hong Kong named Ning Ti. Ti is believed to actually be Su Lon Qui, a lieutenant in the Fu Sing tong, one of the largest and most brutal tongs of Hong Kong. So far Ti's I.D. and passport have checked out, but he is being watched.

Shaou Ni Imports

The largest importer of Asian goods in San Angelo, this company is owned by Kuang Ma, dragon head of the Choy Lok On tong. Various authorities have tried for years to link SNI to the activities of the Choy Lok On but have always failed because the company itself is never involved with anything the tongs are doing; there have been occasions when SNI has reported equipment being stolen, only to have it found a few days later, but Kuang Ma makes sure that his legitimate businesses and the tong remain separate. No major tong operatives are ever seen in or near company property, and all gang members are under strict orders to stay away from all SNI locations, except in an absolute emergency.

If you buy anything in San Angelo that has "made in China" stamped on it, there's a good chance that one of SNI's ships brought the item in from the Far East. SNI's main business is trans-shipping goods up the Del Oro River. These goods often come from China, Taiwan, Korea, or the Philippines, and are picked up by SNI ships at various West-



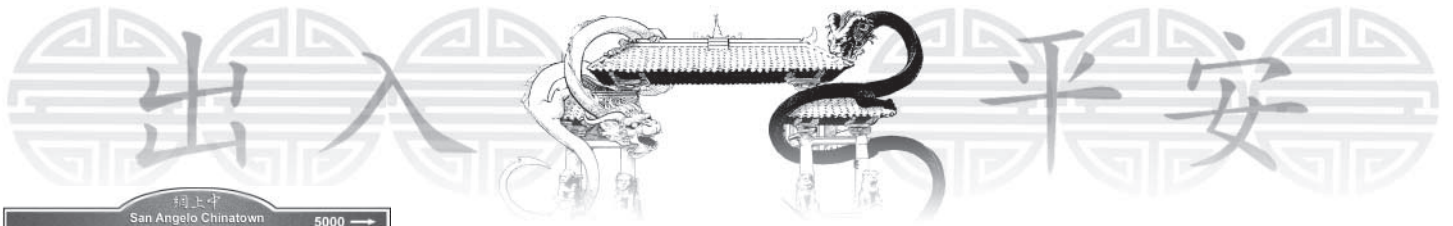
Coast port cities including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle, and brought upriver to San Angelo. While the company mainly does river transport, SNI does have a few ocean-going freighters as well. These ships usually are used to pick up cargo from distant ports up and down the Pacific coast, but they have been known to make their own trips to the Far East. SNI usually does bulk hauling, but will carry smaller cargoes instead of running empty.

Some California-based Coast Guard personnel suspect that SNI ocean freighters are being used to smuggle cargo into the U.S. It's believed that an SNI ship coming from the Far East rendezvous with one or two smaller boats. It off-loads illegal cargo onto the smaller vessels and the SNI ship continues on its way. Authorities believe that if SNI ships are involved they are only carrying small cargoes that are easy to unload and move quickly, such as opium or ivory.

Happy Fong's Genuine Chinese Laundry

Henry "Happy" Fong is a local entrepreneur who owns a chain of 13 dry-cleaning establishments located throughout San Angelo. He received his initial financial backing from





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →

Life in Chinatown

the Wing Chao tong, and remains one of that organization's legitimate business activities. The actual business concept that has led to Fong's success, however, is the product of his own warped vision.

The sales area of every one of Fong's dry-cleaning stores is outfitted and furnished to look like an old-style Chinese hand laundry from the '20s and '30s. Each Happy Fong's Genuine Chinese Laundry also provides quality results for a reasonable price.

Fong has long been considered a pariah by most of Chinatown's civic leaders and prominent liberals in city government due to his perpetuation of negative Chinese stereotypes that most would like to see buried and left behind in the archives of the Chinatown Cultural Center. Happy ignored their criticisms, moved his family into a 10 acre suburban estate, and used his profits to pay the tuition bills of his two daughters studying at Harvard and Princeton. In short, he has been laughing all the way to the bank—until six months ago, when Fong's laundries were served with a reverse discrimination suit by a 24-year-old white male, Arnold Kapler, claiming he was denied employment because of race.

The suit has gained a lot of notoriety in the local newspapers, and is scheduled to go to trial in the next few months. Because Kim Chung-Rodriguez (a flamboyant attorney who has several members of the Qi Leong tong on her client list) is representing Kapler, both Fong and his silent partner William Yuan suspect that the Wing Chao and its assets are the real target of the litigation.

Yuan's Dry Cleaners

Located both inside Chinatown and in other areas of San Angelo, these small dry-cleaning stores cater to the busy executive who needs or wants same-day service. Now owned by William Shihu Yuan, dragon head of the Wing Chao tong (see *SA:CoH*), the business was started by William's father Lu Sien Yuan. Under William the business has expanded from two stores to five. With the exception of the original store located on Canton Street, all the other stores are in City Center and Downtown San Angelo.

Each store doesn't actually do its own dry-cleaning. Instead delivery boys take items to a large warehouse inside Chinatown where they are cleaned and pressed. After the clothing is cleaned, it's either delivered directly to the customer, or back to the store to be picked up. William Yuan keeps an office at the cleaning factory and at the original store in Chinatown.

Like the other dragon heads, Yuan keeps the activities of his tong separate from his legitimate businesses. Very seldom is a known gang or tong member seen in or near any of the stores or the factory itself. Authorities suspect, however,

that some of the older delivery boys act as messengers and sometime even couriers for the tong.

Yu Ling Outdoor Market

One of the oldest farmer's markets in San Angelo, Yu Ling's started in the early 1900s as a small group of crude stalls on an empty lot, where local Chinese families came to buy food to prepare for their evening meals. Today the market attracts thousands of daily customers both from Chinatown and other parts of San Angelo. What started as a few stalls has evolved into a huge market where you can buy just about any type of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, and fish. In recent years, farmers have even started selling homemade pies, breads, and jams in addition to their regular crops. What's available in the market depends on the season. No matter what the time of year, merchants in the market still do things as they always have, bringing each day's produce or catch to be cut, cleaned, and sold.

As the market has grown, pushcart merchants selling non-food items like leather goods, sweaters, and a variety of other items have started setting up along the fringes of the market to sell their goods. This has upset some of the local shopkeepers, as the pushcarts tend to block the sidewalks, particularly along the narrow confines of Mandarin Street. Several merchants have complained to the Qi Leong tong about the problem, but the tong is still deciding what action to take, since it collects fees from both parties in the dispute.

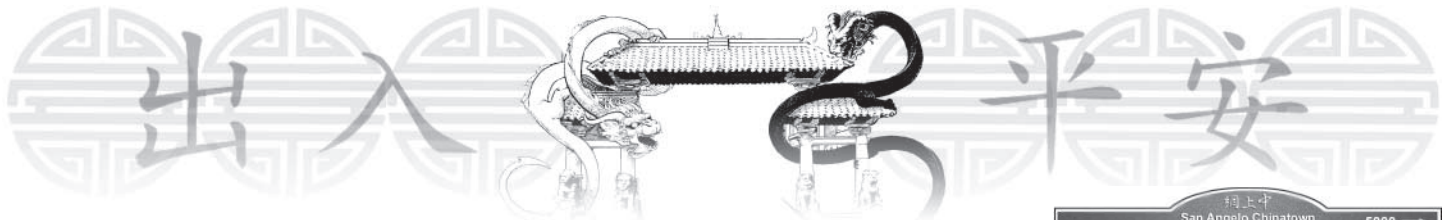
Other Businesses of Note

In addition to large businesses and restaurants, there are hundreds of small stores and shops in the Chinatown area. While most cater to either the local or tourist trade, several shops in Chinatown have gained reputations outside the district, and attract people from other parts of San Angelo to the area. These merchants are more at ease dealing with people from outside the neighborhood, and might even talk about various neighborhood rumors with customers they feel they can trust.

People who have developed long-term relationships with these merchants can sometimes purchase very rare items, or have specialized work done. Illegal items, such as fireworks and certain martial arts weapons, can also be located and bought, but only by a very trusted person. If a merchant doesn't have what a trusted customer is looking for, he'll refer that customer to other area merchants who do.

Hue Fat's Pet Shop: Located on Chan Street, Hue Fat's Pet Store is considered one of the most exotic pet stores in all of San Angelo. Hue Fat has an almost encyclopedic knowledge of how to care for many different types of ani-





mals, and his specimens always appear to be in good health. He's had a few problems with the SPCA and other organizations due to his desire to stock and sell the rarest and most unusual creatures. This has also led to several run-ins with local law enforcement. He's been cited on several occasions for selling endangered species including green Amazon boa constrictors and Salmon Island geckos in his store. Hue Fat maintains that the laws are "silly," but still wants to appear like he's cooperating, so he now keeps such specimens among his "private" stock available only to special customers.

Besides snakes and reptiles, Hue Fat also stocks a large selection of both fresh and saltwater fish. Recently, he expanded his saltwater area to include corals and live rock. Hue Fat maintains several aquariums for other local businesses, including a 125-gallon tank for the Golden Buddha restaurant. It's also rumored that he purchases even more exotic specimens for several wealthy private collectors, who have little regard for the Endangered Species Act or are in search of 'unnatural' creatures.

Choy's Imports: This large gaudy shop located off Woo Street is run by Mu San Choy, a short but sophisticated looking man who speaks fluent English. Locally Choy's is known for selling tourists "rare and expensive" Chinese items that were really made by inmates in Chinese prisons. For tourists, Choy's sells everything from little plastic replicas of the Great Wall to copies of Chairman Mao's "Little Red Book." Choy also sells T-shirts, hats, and other common tourist goods. While some might question the quality of these items, no one complains about Coy's cheap prices.

While Choy makes a decent profit from his tourist trade, he makes his real money from another part of his shop that few tourists ever see. This section, maintained in the building's basement, houses his real collection of rare East Asian art and historical artifacts. Choy only lets a few of his customers see this part of his inventory, and only when he's dealing with other experienced collectors whom he trusts.

Choy's private collection contains vases from the Ming Dynasty, Vietnamese art stolen during the fall of Saigon, original family jewelry belonging to the last Chinese emperor, and the like. Many who have seen Choy's private collection believe that some of the items are stolen or have been bought on the international black market. Choy is rumored to have contacts in China and many other Southeast Asian countries, including contacts in the governments.

He doesn't usually offer his services to other collectors, but if given a chance to acquire an interesting piece, Choy might take the commission. Choy travels around the Far East for months at a time, leaving the store in the hands of his Vietnamese assistant Yeung Kwok. While he is absent, the private collection remained locked up, and Choy pays trib-

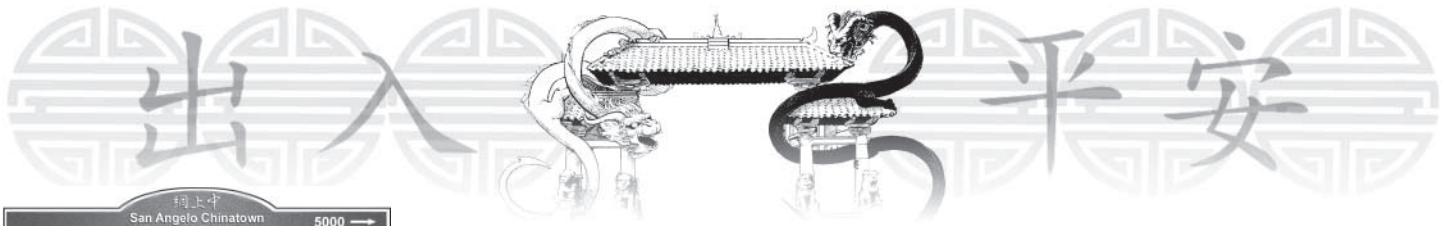


ute to the Wing Chao tong to see that it stays undisturbed.

Lu Sen's Nostalgia Shop: A tiny shop that's just off the corner of Wayne and Water Streets, most people first notice it because of the disco music blaring out of two large speakers near the front door. Ms. Sen, the storeowner, often dresses in '70s-style clothing while working. Lu Sen started her store mainly because she loves the '70s era, and found that other people seem to as well. At first, she sold things like incense and black light posters, but has since expanded into old movie posters, records, books and handmade clothing.

Today her shop is a place where many young people come and hang out. Other area merchants sometimes get upset at the rowdy behavior and loud noise, but for the most part Lu Sen is able to keep things under control. Lu Sen's shop is a good place to hear gossip about various things going on in Chinatown, especially gang activities; no gang members hang out at the shop, but a lot of their younger and non-affiliated friends do. The police keep a watch on things around the store, mainly looking out for anyone trying to recruit for the gangs.

Tou Pong: Deep in the heart of inner Chinatown there is a small basement shop in the middle of F Street. Few ever



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San Angelo Chinatown 5000

Life in Chinatown

notice it, as all that can be seen in its window is a small wooden carving of the yin-yang. This is the shop of Tou Pong, a former apprentice to T'ien Lung. Now in his late 80s, Pong lives quietly selling herbal potions and remedies to the people in the neighborhood. Unlike his former master, Pong never became powerful in the practice of magic, but instead found his talents lay in being able to create various kinds of elixirs and potions. After Pong was suddenly released from his apprenticeship by Lung's unexplained disappearance, he set off on his own to learn more of his chosen craft.

With the knowledge gained from years of study, he's now able to create a wide range of potions, from a simple healing potion to an untraceable poison. He usually keeps a small stock of basic potions on hand, but if someone requests a special potion, Pong usually requires the customer to get the needed ingredients.

Pong doesn't usually help people who are looking for things such as poisons except when they are referred by William Yuan. Since Pong is still protected by the Wing Chao tong, he reluctantly assists them, if nothing more than as a show of respect for his former master.

Business Leaders of Chinatown

Qi Ma Lung

Each day a dainty old woman can be seen walking from her neat home on A Street to the Yu Ling market to buy food and flowers for her family's dinner table.

While she's known to most people in Chinatown as "Ma," few would believe Qi Ma is the largest property owner in Chinatown. She and her husband Ki Nou started buying property in China-town shortly after it became legal for the Chinese to own land in California. They mostly bought the property to ensure that future Chinese immigrants would have a place to come to if they settled in San Angelo.

By not taking advantage of people, and by reinvesting their profits in more property as they grew older, Ma and her late husband managed to purchase nearly 20 percent of the total



rental properties in Chinatown. Today the value of those buildings, and the re-developable land beneath them, makes Ma a multi-millionaire, but she and her family refuse to flaunt their wealth, and still live the simple lives they always have.

Ma and her son, Phillip Po Lung, directly manage most of their buildings, and make sure that they comply with various city codes. Since many buildings owned by the family are very old, a great deal of time must be spent maintaining them. Part of the reason the family has been paying close attention to the condition of their buildings is that they expect the city to start taking a closer look at the family's properties.

For the past six months, Ma has been politely but firmly refusing to listen to offers to sell properties the family owns along Water Street. Both Ma and Phillip suspect that the offers are indirectly coming from Benjamin Morgan, one of the largest real estate owners in San Angelo (*SA:CoH*, page 135). Ma knows that Morgan was involved in several recent projects that converted old industrial buildings along the Riverfront area into luxury condos and artist studios. Ma thinks Morgan is looking to do the same thing in Chinatown.

Since Ma and her family refused the offers, things have happened that make them believe that Morgan is trying to pressure her into selling. Despite having a well-established business relationship with Ma, Prospect Bank recently refused to lend her funds to renovate one of her buildings near downtown San Angelo. She believes that the bank was pressured by Morgan to refuse the loan.

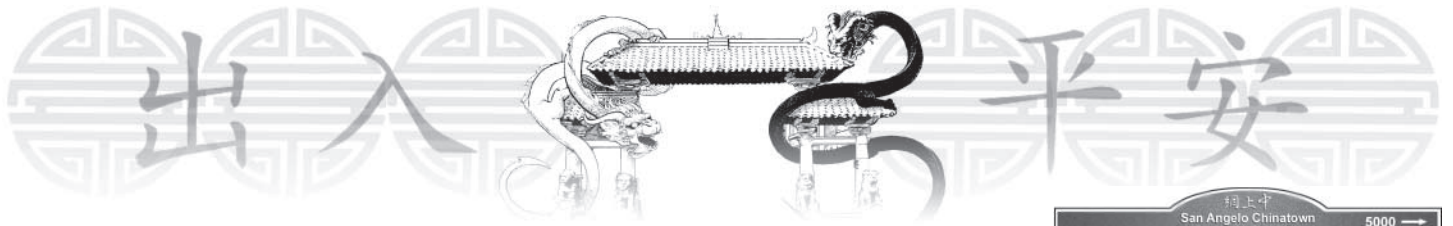
So far Ma and Phillip have kept the matter private, but Ma did speak to FNBC President Arthur Wu Tan about the situation, and he's offered to help. Ma knows that many people who used to live in the old buildings in the Riverfront district weren't able to afford the expensive new homes, and is determined that this will not happen to the people in Chinatown.

Ty "Two For Ten Dollars" Qui Sho

A true immigrant success story, Ty brought his family to San Angelo from Manchuria after WWII, with little more than the clothes on his back and a desire to succeed. Like many first-generation immigrants he started making money in the "rag business," selling inexpensive clothing from carts to people in Chinatown.

Unlike other street hawkers, however, Ty refused to sell poor quality goods. Knowing that young Chinese teenagers preferred American-style clothes, he made sure all of his carts were stocked with a wide variety of items. By 1960, Ty operated the largest number of clothing carts in Chinatown and downtown San Angelo. It was then that he decided to





open his first retail store called Ty's.

Today, Ty's stores can be found in malls and chic shopping areas from Seattle to San Diego. While he now sells to a much larger area, his focus is still the same: selling items in demand by teenagers and young college students at reasonable prices. This has made the chain a popular place among young people, and several competitors have tried to

imitate Ty's style. Even though his business has grown far beyond its original boundaries, Ty and his wife Li Hoi still live in the neighborhood, and younger members of the family continue to operate several carts in Chinatown as well.

The popularity of his stores is something Ty takes very seriously, and because his company is well known to young people he's careful about the image he keeps. In recent years he's gotten involved in issues associated with teenagers, such as volunteering to do a series of "drugs aren't cool" commercials for CDFA. He also sponsors various community events in San Angelo and other West Coast cities including fashion shows, concerts, and parties.

Ty got the nickname "Two For Ten Dollars" because he often shouted "New shirts! Six fifty each, or two for ten dolla!" as he pushed his cart through the streets of Chinatown. The nickname has stuck, and children still sing out this old phrase when they see him on the street.

THE INTELLECTUAL SCENE

Although a number of Chinatown residents work as scientists or researchers at San Angelo's best known consulting firms, such as the Horizon Institute, there are no think tanks located within the borders of the neighborhood. The district intelligentsia tend to be independents or members of loose-knit groups who gather informally.

Ning Fu Zan

While most in Chinatown are proud of their professions, Ning Fu Zan doesn't talk about his very much. This is because, if not for major plastic surgery, people might realize he's really the notorious Dr. Fu, a Chinese scientist and Japanese collaborator who performed experiments on both Chinese and American POWs during WWII.

Like the Nazis in Germany, Fu's goal was to create a new breed of super soldier by testing what happens to the human body when it's exposed to extreme heat and cold. With the permission of the Japanese High Command, Fu conducted cruel experiments on captured POWs and civilians. It's believed that several paranormal soldiers with artificially enhanced abilities were created as a result of Fu's work. The most famous of these figures, the Jade Dragon, turned against his creators in 1944 and fought against the Japanese until the end of the war.

Toward the end of the war Fu's secret laboratory near Peking was hit in an Allied bombing raid. Fu was horribly disfigured in the attack, but used this to his advantage. Fu had surgery done to conceal his true identity and acquired a set of forged papers. By helping the Japanese loot Peking and other parts of China as they withdrew, Fu was able to

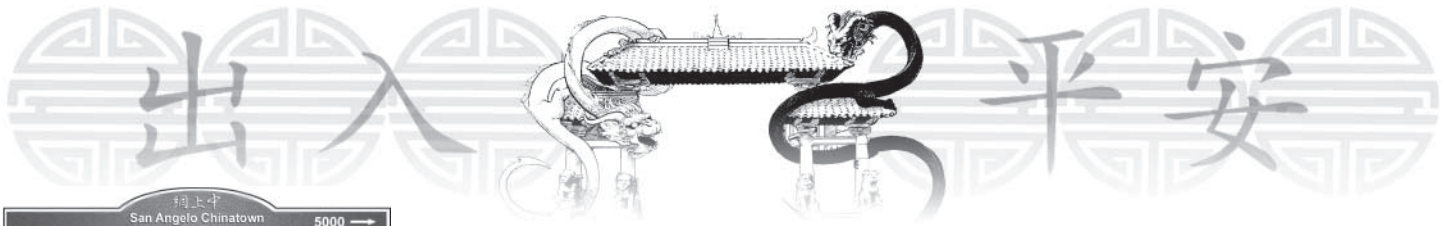


collect enough funds to escape to the United States. He choose to settle in San Angelo because it had a smaller concentration of Chinese who might recognize him compared to many of the coastal cities in the western U.S.

Today Fu is a bitter old man who feels he was betrayed. After the war he expected to emigrate to Japan to continue his work, but all his offers were refused, and he was warned never to set foot in that country.

He spent many long and frustrated years safely concealed in his new identity, working at a variety of low-level jobs in the R&D industry, until a representative of Eclipse Industries came calling in 1993. At first the company offered Dr. Fu a position at its defense research complex in Arroyo Verde. When he refused, however, it showed him certain information that could expose him, and Fu quickly changed his mind.





Even though Eclipse has let Dr. Fu begin his research activities again, it has limited what he can do and how he does it. Eclipse also wants Fu to concentrate his research into other areas of cybernetics. While appearing loyal, Fu despises his new employers, and is determined to have the last laugh. Stealing state-of-the-art equipment from Eclipse, he's started to quietly assemble his own laboratory in an abandoned factory along the waterfront. Once it's up and running, he'll again return to his own experiments, showing those who doubted his work that they were wrong, and proving once and for all that the world should fear Dr. Fu.

Other Intellectuals of Note

Xia Mie Lin: From an early age Xia Mie Lin had a consuming interest in learning how things could fly, and how to make them perform better. She built kites and balsa wood gliders, and at the age of 14 constructed a full-scale ornithopter that could actually lift her 10 feet off the ground! Her natural aptitude for aerodynamics and dedicated work ethic led her to receive financial support from the Chinese government to attend Stanford University.

Despite being exposed to Western culture, Xia Mie remained loyal to her homeland. Upon returning home, she lived a comfortable life in Beijing working for the Chinese government in the areas of advanced aircraft and space vehicle design. All that changed, however, when her brother and younger sister were killed during the Tiananmen Square demonstration. Seeing the cruelty the government showed to its own people, Xia Mie no longer wanted to help it in any way, and began to look for a way to escape from China.

Lin got her chance when she was asked to go to the Paris Air Show to examine new designs being produced in the West. Near the end of the show she managed to disappear from her hotel. Before the government agents sent along to guard Xia Mie realized she was gone, she had crossed the channel into Great Britain.

Since then she has moved from country to country, before winding up in San Angelo two years ago. Currently, Xia Mie is hiding in plain sight. She lives under her own name and works as a simple science teacher at the Chinese School, while teaching English during the evening at the Chinatown Neighborhood Center (page 21). While Xia Mie now opposes the Chinese government, she doesn't trust the United States much either. Xia Mie has not sought political asylum in America because she knows the U.S. would ask her for intelligence about various projects her former government was working on.

"It's not that the Chinese government doesn't want intellectuals. They just want intellectuals who are loyal to the Communist Party."
— Prof. Wan-Li Su, 52, physicist

Because she remains at large without political protection, the Chinese government is still looking to bring Xia Mie back home to stand trial as a traitor. Xia Mie Lin's abilities would also be immensely valuable to a local aerospace company such as Peregrine Aircraft, if only she could be convinced to return to the field she loves.

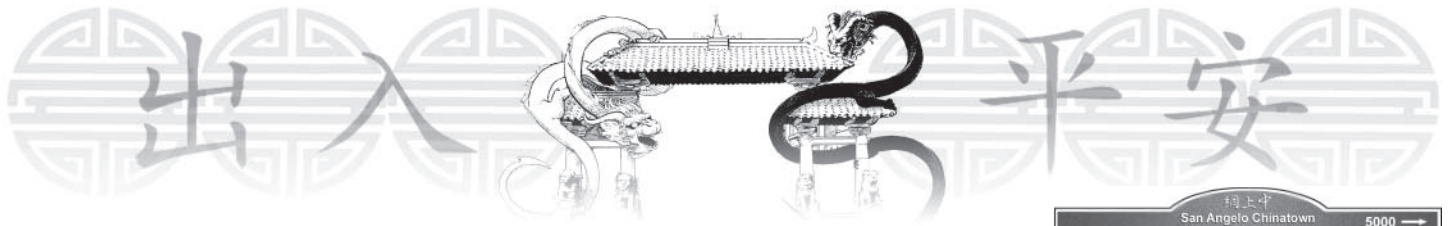
Vian Pnomheth: Vian, 28, is a young man of Thai descent whose older brother, Thao, operates a moderately successful restaurant in Chinatown. Vian was supposed to join the family business, but after attending San Angelo State, he found a new calling as a writer.

Working under the pen name V.I. King, Vian has published two highly successful techno-thrillers. The most recent book, *Zero Sum Game*, has caused another type of buzz as well. The book centers on a plot to burglarize the San Francisco Mint, and expert criminologists have commented that the plan is so ingeniously thought out that it might have a legitimate chance of succeeding in real life.

Though Vian loves writing, he despises the spotlight of celebrity so much that he has concocted an elaborate shield around his real identity. He employs an actor as a stand-in for cover photos, and makes no publicity appearances except on radio, under conditions he carefully controls. It is fortunate that he has a penchant for such anonymity, because the Wing Chao and Qi Leong tongs are both interested in recruiting his services as a criminal mastermind. He has thus far eluded their net, but may not be able to live in San Angelo much longer, as the tongs are accustomed to getting what they want, one way or another.

The Saturday Night Specials: This group, comprised of five Chinatown boys and two girls aged 15-18, is made up of high school students who met at a Chinatown Cultural Center seminar on computers and the Internet. It would be accurate to characterize the group as computer geeks or misfits in the hierarchy of high school popularity; it would also be accurate to characterize them as brilliant young programmers who have the normal teenage drive to do what they're not supposed to. The members of the Specials, working solo or in teams, have hacked their way into a number of proprietary corporate and government





computer networks, and even accessed classified files. To date, however, their snooping has not caused any real damage, and their intentions essentially have been innocent—they're not planting viruses or rerouting thousands of dollars into their own bank accounts, although they're certainly capable of doing so.

Through no fault of their own the Specials may suddenly find the stakes surrounding their recreational activity greatly increased. A Wing Chao tong member, Billy Wah, who encountered the Specials' work during his own high-tech hacking, has decided to use the Specials as a cover for his own computer theft of research secrets from Anderson Pharmaceuticals. He has left behind a copy of the Specials' signature: a graphic of a discharging handgun that appears on the victim's computer the first time he next turns it on. This means that the state police are seeking to identify the Specials for questioning regarding the theft, and that the FBI could even take an interest in the case (due to the interstate commerce implications of the stolen trade secrets). If the Specials don't find out what's going on before they are found out, their fun and games could quickly turn into stays in juvenile hall or prison.

THE MARTIAL WORLD

The martial arts, perhaps more than anything else, typifies the Orient in the eyes of most Westerners. This is reinforced by the plethora of movies that have been produced about the subject, from both Chinese and American sources. It is thus unsurprising that Chinatown is the center of the martial world with respects to San Angelo. There are over a dozen individual dojos within Chinatown's boundaries, teaching a wide variety of fighting styles. These establishments range from masters teaching private classes containing a handful of students from their homes, to chains such as Alder Martial Arts that have franchises throughout the city, and that offer a homogenized view of Eastern disciplines. Similarly,



the district's martial arts teachers run the gamut from true masters revered for their wisdom, control, and internal balance, to greedy hacks who can duplicate the flash of kung fu theatrics without understanding any of its inner beauty.

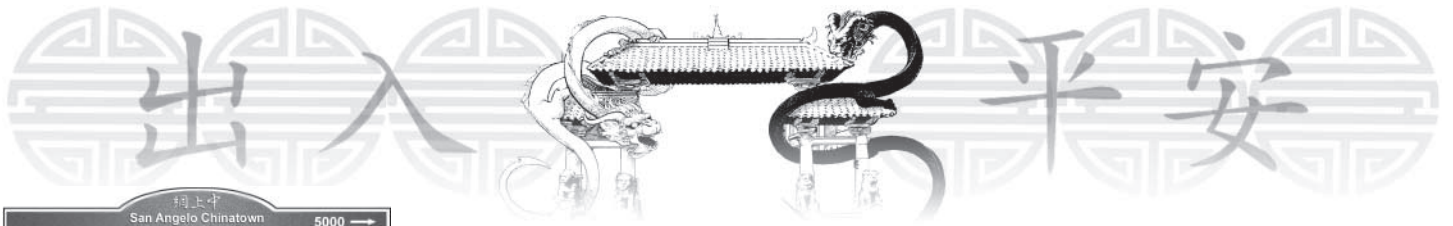
The study and practice of what is known today as the martial arts has been part and parcel of Chinese culture for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Most of these fighting styles either began as, or were influenced by, systems of meditation and discipline associated with various philosophies. Even today combat is philosophically only a minor part of these arts, in spite of the name. The main purpose of the martial arts was and is to provide a system of mental and physical discipline that can aid its practitioner in his search for personal enlightenment and success.

In spite of this intended focus on the development of discipline, a great many people today study the martial arts strictly for their self-defense (or offensive) potential. Others see mastery as a means of gaining respect from

"A week ago Saturday me and my girlfriend were up on the roof looking at the stars when I hear a noise in the alley. I look and there he was, the Eternal Warrior, fighting off three toughs who were messin' with this girl. He was like a whirlwind, duckin' back and forth like he had eyes in the back of his head, and using a garbage lid for a shield. He sent those bad boys running. I dunno, I guess I shoulda called the cops, but I was havin' too much fun watching."

— Bobby Hsieh, 22, delivery boy





others, as many people will pay respect (grudging or not) to those who wield power. In this view they are more often than not right, but in another sense individuals such as these miss an important side of the arts, as the ability to quickly put an opponent on the floor (or in a hospital) is only one of the benefits of true mastery of these arts.

Martial Arts and the Tongs

Most tong soldiers possess some degree of martial arts knowledge. The typical tong member, although he might be interested in the discipline and philosophical aspects of a particular style, is most definitely interested in the martial aspect of the martial arts. Practical and effective ability with a fighting style has kept many a tong member out of the hospital, morgue, or prison. It can also be said that such knowledge has put a number of tong members into those three establishments.

Several local dojos and studios teach fighting styles to members of the tongs. Indeed, some dojos have reputations as tong or gang recruitment areas. Street fights between students of the various Chinatown dojos are not uncommon. Most of these fights start over pride or other such emotions, but a number of these conflicts have been tong-related. In a handful of cases these brawls have involved entire classes of students, but such incidents are extremely rare and are always swiftly dealt with by the respective masters.

Not all dojos teach tong members. A number of prominent masters have refused, under any circumstances, to teach what they deem to be undisciplined thugs. In the past tong members have attempted to pressure these individuals into recanting, only to find that these masters are more than capable of defending themselves; intimidation is less than useless against the level of internal discipline that masters possess, and local hospital records are littered with tong soldiers who can testify to how effective physical assaults have been.

Other masters refuse to teach known tong members for more practical reasons; the patrolmen of the police substation have been known to keep some of the tong-affiliated dojos under surveillance. While the police see this as crime fighting, the masters often see this as the "white devils" making yet another attempt to infringe upon Chinese culture and interfere with their ways. They therefore do not teach anyone who could in their opinion bring unwanted and undesired attention upon them from the police or other government sources.

Martial Artists of Note

There are a number of masters of the martial arts residing within the borders of Chinatown. Most tend to keep to themselves when not teaching students, as their natures often run contrary to pretentiousness. However these individuals can be as varied in personality as they are in the styles that they know and practice; some are easily accessible, others less so, and a rare few are of the "Don't call me, I'll call you" persuasion. Most of the older masters tend to be long-time members of the community, and are highly respected by other residents of Chinatown. Newer masters, particularly those of Korean or Japanese extraction, are proffered the respect that they have earned, but do not command the position of "community leaders" that the older Chinese masters have earned. For some of this newer breed, their status may change with the passage of time as they grow into positions of greater respect. Others care little about recognition or status, focusing their energies on the search for enlightenment, while still others keep score by different means, seeking material wealth or the opportunity to prove themselves "the best."

Some noteworthy masters are detailed below.

Wei Cheng

One of the most formidable masters in Chinatown, Wei Cheng teaches only those who are already far advanced in their studies of kung fu. He is a master of Shao-Lin style kung fu, and never teaches any members or suspected members of the tongs. Unfortunately, Wei Cheng's brother Ho, in striving to outdo his older brother, has allied himself closely with the Choy Lok On tong. (Further details concerning Wei Cheng are found in SA:CoH)

Ho Cheng

Choy Lok On Trainer

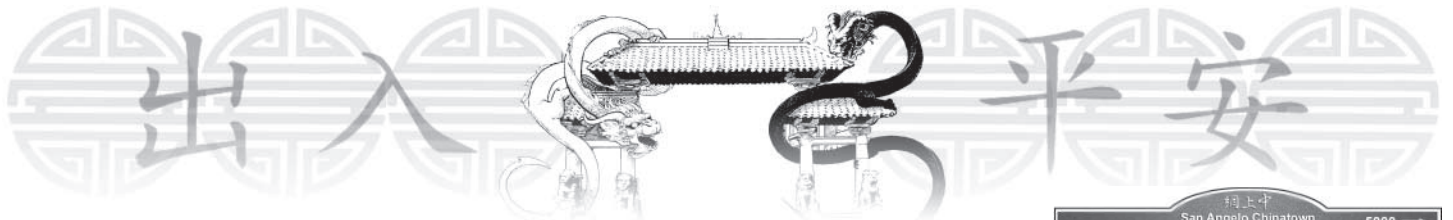
18 STR 16 DEX 14 CON 12 BODY 13 INT
13 EGO 20 PRE 14 COM 4 PD 4 ED
4 SPD 8 REC 40 END 34 STUN

Abilities: Martial Arts: Kung Fu; Missile Deflection (Thrown Objects); +1 with Kung Fu; Acrobatics 12-; Breakfall 12-; Combat Sense 12-; AK: Chinatown 14-; KS: Chinese Myths and Legends 11-; KS: Choy Lok On tong 12-; KS: Kung Fu 13-; Language: English (completely fluent, w/accnt)(Mandarin is native); PS: Kung Fu master 11-; WF: Common Martial Arts Melee Weapons

75+ Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: Angry; Enraged: Insulted 11-/11-; Hunted: Watched by Choy Lok On tong; Psychological Limitation: Hates brother; Psychological Limitation: Likes to fight

Notes: For decades Ho Cheng stood by as his brother Wei's





popularity rose in their community in China. Despite his magnificent prowess as a kung fu master, all the locals ever showed around Ho was fear, never the respect that Ho craved. No matter what Ho did or attempted, nothing seemed to narrow the prestige gap that existed between him and Wei. In 1949, when the Communists came to power in China, Ho saw his chance; he fled to the United States, hoping to make a new life for himself out from under the shadow of his brother, and carrying in his heart a burning desire to prove himself the better man.

When he got to America, he settled in San Angelo's Chinatown. He began teaching his kung fu skills to others in the neighborhood, and for a time everything seemed to be going well for him. Then, to his anger and dismay, Ho discovered that his brother Wei had also arrived in San Angelo, and opened his own school. It was just the way it had happened in China, all over again. This time, however, Ho planned to emerge as the pre-eminent master and the man that all would look up to, and he had found influential friends he believed could help make it happen.

One of Ho Cheng's first students was Kuang Ma, then a mere lieutenant of the Choy Lok On. Kuang Ma was searching for a master who would be willing to teach his "associates" the fighting arts without concerning himself about how these skills would be used. Kuang Ma had learned about Ho and his great rivalry with his brother. He approached Ho with his offer, emphasizing his great respect for the master's abilities, and the notion that together they could do great things. His approach worked like a charm. Ho Cheng agreed to take on Kuang Ma and his friends as students. Within the space of a few short years, Ho had become the premier trainer for the Choy Lok On tong and its soldiers, and Kuang Ma its dragon head.

Of course, Ho Cheng eventually found out who his new associates were, but by that point he did not really care. At last he believed that he had earned the respect he had searched so long to find. Of course his brother had another opinion, but then he always did. Wei has occasionally tried to make contact with Ho, to try and "make things right." To Ho this translates as "Put you in your place, brother," something he has had quite enough of.

Ho Cheng's school is located at the corner of E and Cameron Streets, in the heart of Choy Lok On territory. Indeed, members of the tong and the Wo Fat street gang are often seen at the dojo, either practicing their own skills or casing the room for potential new recruits. Ho Cheng teaches Hung Gar style kung fu, a very offense-oriented style that places a premium on aggressive tactics. His charges have no compunction about committing to its violent disciplines, and most would gladly lay down their lives for their master.



Kam Hyongan

Unaffiliated Kung Fu Master

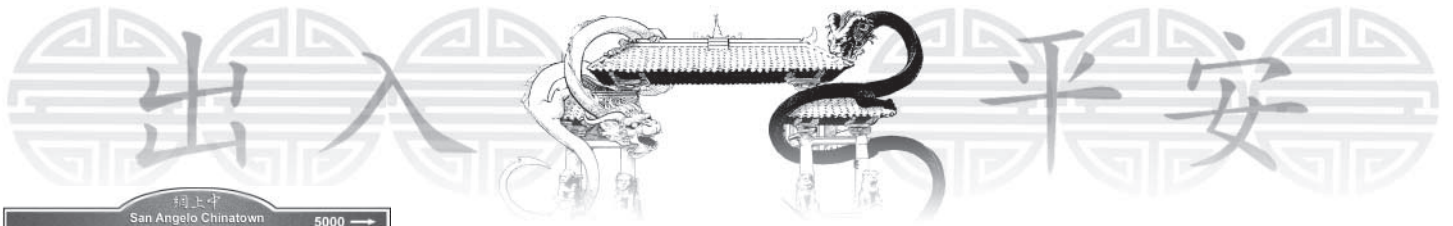
15 STR	18 DEX	16 CON	12 BODY	12 INT
15 EGO	17 PRE	10 COM	6 PD	4 ED
4 SPD	8 REC	38 END	34 STUN	

Abilities: Martial Arts (Shaolin Dragon Kung Fu; Block; Disarm; Dodge; Kick; Knife Hand; Legsweep; Punch; Throw; Use art with Axes, Maces, Hammers, and Picks, Blades, Staffs; +2 HTH Damage Classes); Missile Deflection (Arrows, Slings, Etc.); +1 with Kung Fu; Acrobatics 14-; Breakfall 13-; Combat Sense 11-; Defense Maneuver: I; KS: The martial world 11-; KS: San Angelo tongs 8-; KS: Shaolin Kung Fu 13-; KS: Shaolin Philosophy 14-; Language: English (completely fluent, w/accnt); PS: Kung Fu Master 11-; WF: Common Martial Arts Melee Weapons

100+ Disadvantages: Psychological Limitation: Code of the Chinese Master; Reputation: Fierce in combat; Hunted: tong soldier

Notes: Kam Hyongan is one of the newer faces on the martial arts scene in Chinatown. After a storied amateur career in Taiwan, Kam moved to America and made a solid living for the next 10 years on the Ultimate Fighting circuit,





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000

Life in Chinatown

employing a combination of kick-boxing and karate skills. He has rapidly built up a reputation as one of the rising stars of the martial arts world, and about a year ago he produced and starred in a successful home exercise video employing martial arts as an exercise regime. Currently a movie studio is wooing Kam to star in an action picture.

Kam opened a kung fu studio in Chinatown primarily as a tax write-off, and to give him a base of operations to shoot videos and maintain his fighting trim. With his busy schedule of acting and English lessons, personal appearance engagements, and the occasional Ultimate Fighting event, he is only in attendance at the studio about two days a week. Nonetheless, the Hyongan Studio is staffed with a number of other highly competent teachers, and takes its personality from its namesake owner: loud, feisty, and in your face. When two Wing Chao tong members attempted to force the studio to teach them, Kam put them both in the hospital with multiple fractures. Since then Kam has actually agreed to take on a handful of tong soldiers as students, but only if they act in a manner befitting a student and agree to leave their other activities outside his door.

Kam presently lives with his wife and two sons in a nicely renovated apartment condominium located down the street from his school. As the residual checks have begun to roll in, however, he is negotiating to purchase a prime piece of real estate in Falcon Bluff, a move that is not likely to sit well with the blue bloods of that neighborhood. He wants to keep his family, particularly his 12- and 10-year-old sons, away from any gang-related activities. His sons have no interest in the gangs, but the gangs have an interest in them. Both the Jade Dragons and Crimson Tigers have toyed with the idea of using the two boys as a means of gaining leverage over Kam (who could be a huge financial asset to a tong, as well as a fearsome fighter). The two brothers are generally capable of defending themselves (they are two of the best students their father has), and could call upon help from other teachers and students if threatened. Their father, of course, is always vigilant against threats to his family when present in the city.

At the moment, Kam's school is treated as neutral territory by all of the tongs. Although Kam has taken on a select few students from the tongs, while on his grounds they must leave all tong business and rivalries behind. Those who violate this simple axiom are expelled immediately.

Fen Lo

Aloof Kung Fu Master

15 STR 20 DEX 17 CON 15 BODY 15 INT
18 EGO 20 PRE 12 COM 5 PD 5 ED
4 SPD 9 REC 50 END 40 STUN

Abilities: *Chi Touch:* Telekinesis (5 STR); *Dim Mak:* Drain 1d6: BODY, Uncontrolled, Continuous; Can be stopped by KS: Chinese Healing roll at -5; Life Support (Longevity: Immortal); Missile Deflection (bullets & shrapnel); Serene Eternity (Fen Lo possesses the knowledge of most of the martial arts maneuvers known to mankind; the GM can give him a selection of maneuvers from the Ultimate Martial Artist or Ninja Hero as he sees fit; +5 Ranged Damage Classes); +3 with Serene Eternity; Acrobatics 15-; Breakfall 14-; Contortionist 13-; Defense Maneuver: I; AK: Chinatown 13-; KS: Chinese Geomancy 15-; KS: Chinese Healing 15-; KS: Chinese myths and legends 14-; KS: Internal Alchemy 15-; KS: Nerve/pressure points 15-; KS: San Angelo tongs 8-; KS: Serene Eternity 16-; KS: The martial world 12-; Language: English (completely fluent, w/ Accent)(Mandarin is native); Paramedics 12-; SS: Anatomy 14-; Combat Sense 12-; Eidetic Memory

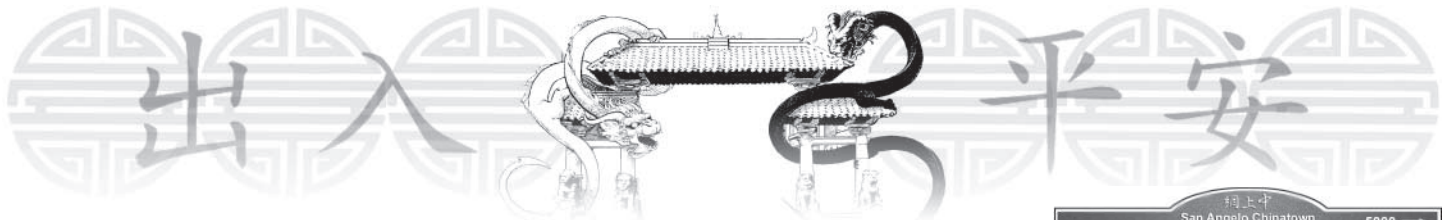
200+ Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: Serene; Psychological Limitation: Distaste for those who seek power for power's sake; Psychological Limitation: Protects sister

Notes: Not much is known about Fen Lo, although rumors, some of them quite dark, abound. Said to be a master of Chinese healing techniques, Fen Lo is also reputed to be one of those masters who has formed his own style. These two things are generally considered to be true. Then there are the rumors...



There are those who believe that Fen Lo is far older than he appears, having used techniques of internal alchemy to make himself immortal. A few believe that he is an assassin from an ancient Chinese martial order, said to predate (and perhaps to have inspired) the

Japanese ninja clans. A few, in whispered tones, say that he has even mastered the legendary art of *dim mak*. There are even people who say that Fen Lo is not even truly human, but is a embodied spirit or even a demon from the Chinese hells.



As is often the case, there is both truth and falsehood to be found in these rumors. Fen Lo is indeed old, approximately 140 years of age. He left China due to an uncomfortable feud that had been developing between he and a local warlord shortly before the fall of the last emperor of China and the rise of Sun Yat-Sen's short-lived republic. He is a master of internal alchemy, although he keeps this a secret for obvious reasons. He never was a member of an assassin's order, which is probably a fortunate thing, for Fen Lo actually has mastered dim mak, but has almost never used it.

Despite his formidable knowledge, Fen Lo is interested only in pursuing further enlightenment. He rarely takes on a student, and then only if the student possesses considerable internal discipline and a desire for true enlightenment, both of which Fen Lo respects. He initially refuses to teach anyone who seeks him out, as he believes that giving in to such impatience would impede learning. Only if the applicant can somehow convince him of his sincerity in a later visit will he relent. The nature of this proof could even take the form of a Quixotic quest to find something esoteric, such as "the purest water in all San Angelo." And of Fen Lo's students who later disappoint him are quietly told to leave, sometimes, if they showed promise, with a caveat to come back when they have learned more control. Those students who turn out merely to be power seekers in disguise are promptly dismissed, and those who refuse to accept their dismissal have been known to suddenly vanish from public sight.

Fen Lo lives in a small house on Chan Street. He had never married, and takes in boarders to pay the bills. He is a human being, not a demon or spirit, although if pressed severely he could certainly give a demon a fight that it would remember. Fen Lo does not have a dojo of any kind. When he does train a student, he does so in his living room, which can make for some interesting interactions with his boarders. Fen Lo seeks out students that he believes are worthy, and might even approach a martial-arts wielding PC, if the PC demonstrates a sufficient sense of altruism and desire for enlightenment.

Fen Lo has developed his own style of martial arts that he calls the Serene Eternity style. This style borrows heavily from Shao-Lin kung fu, and blends in elements of tae kwon do and aikido. It is a difficult style to learn, but is quite formidable. Serene Eternity concentrates heavily on Chi control and the arts of nerve centers and pressure points.

Martial Arts Schools

Besides private lessons and small groups taught by noted masters, there are a number of other schools and dojos within the borders of Chinatown that will teach the martial arts to the general public. Some of the masters of these establishments, while they are knowledgeable, have not yet attained a position of prominence among the community. There are also a few schools that are run by non-Oriental individuals.

These last schools are typically located in the outer regions of Chinatown, as the Chinese community does not welcome them in the heart of the neighborhood. A sampling of these schools is detailed below.

Iron Tiger Dojo

The Iron Tiger is a dojo that teaches Korean kempo, as well as tae kwon do. It is a fairly new establishment, opening only a few years ago. So far there has not been any real comment or response from the leaders of the community, and some have construed their lack of a public stance as a form of tacit approval. (In fact, the leaders of the Chinese community feel the Iron Tiger Dojo is unworthy of their contempt, let alone their respect.)

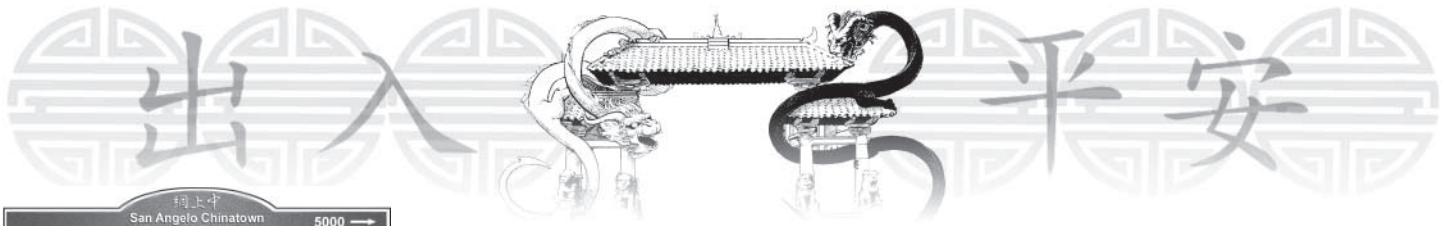
Three friends run the Iron Tiger. Although they are passable practitioners of the martial arts, they are hardly masters, and are in the business of teaching strictly for the money. Most serious students and masters of the martial arts know this and avoid the Iron Tiger. There are always a number of students, however, who assume that if the Iron Tiger is in Chinatown, it must be a far better school than some "cookie cutter" suburban chain. Most masters expect the Iron Tiger to eventually close down, or maybe even be run out of San Angelo if someone brings them up on charges of fraud. Even the tongs and gangs generally avoid the Iron Tiger; they won't even attack it, except maybe with eggs, and certainly do not train there.

Alder Martial Arts

The well-known chain (see *SA:CoH*) has a single school in outer Chinatown, on F Street. Despite a lot of bad press about being part of a mass-market chain of schools, Alder provides competent teaching. Alder might not be the most distinguished place to train, but it is certainly serviceable. The school in Chinatown offers kung fu and tae kwon do, as well as instruction in some Asian weapons. It is believed that a number of Chinatown gang members have learned their knowledge of the fighting arts at Alder's, but none of

"Remember back in 1992, when Ricky Chin beat Ji-jan Yu in the All-City Martial Arts Exhibition open division finals? I never saw a more even match-up in all the years they've held that tournament. Now they're both dead, killed out on the streets. All that potential wasted; that's the legacy of the tongs."
— Alex Wilder, 33, owner, Wilder Karate Center





them would ever admit to this, out of fear of losing face. Alder has the largest student enrolment of any Chinatown studio, helped in no small part by the mass media advertising it does. Most students are non-Orientals, although some Americanized Japanese, Koreans, and even a few Chinese can be found on the roster. The school has had a number of minor skirmishes with gang members, but the police have almost always responded promptly enough to deal with matters before they get out of hand.

Mandarin House

Mandarin House is one of the smaller schools in Chinatown, located on Wayne Street in the heart of the community. The school does not get a lot of publicity, which is just the way its owner likes it. Len Kwan, the owner, is a master of Shao-Lin Snake style kung fu. For some reason Kwan prefers to stay out of community life, indeed outside of the studio he is somewhat of a hermit. Kwan takes on a few students at a time. He does not accept gang or tong members as students, but on the other hand does not try to antagonize them. He is definitely worthy of the title of master, and students who he accepts can expect excellent training.

The tongs seem to have decided to leave Kwan alone, as his stated policy of total neutrality and non-involvement in tong matters suits them; it allows them to save resources and personnel to deal with other potential threats.

Red Chrysanthemum

There is one dojo that teaches Japanese karate along the outer border of Chinatown. A Japanese master named Koga Naramasa owns this dojo, the Red Chrysanthemum. There have been a number of unfortunate incidents involving the Red Chrysanthemum, including one student who was murdered in a drive-by shooting. Police strongly believe the tongs are involved. Master Koga has received threats of bodily harm, but is not overtly concerned about them.

"The patient, Victor Morse, claims to remember nothing of any criminal activities undertaken by his alter ego Shrapnel. Subject displays many of the symptoms associated with clinical schizophrenia—loss of time, disorientation, and violent mood swings. The only way to prove his claim, however, is to recreate the kind of stress that allegedly leads to the surfacing of the Shrapnel personality. Dr. Ryan is concerned that the titanium cuffs and reinforced cell won't be enough to hold him if we're successful, however..."

- Interview notes, April 7, 1998

THE MEDICAL WORLD

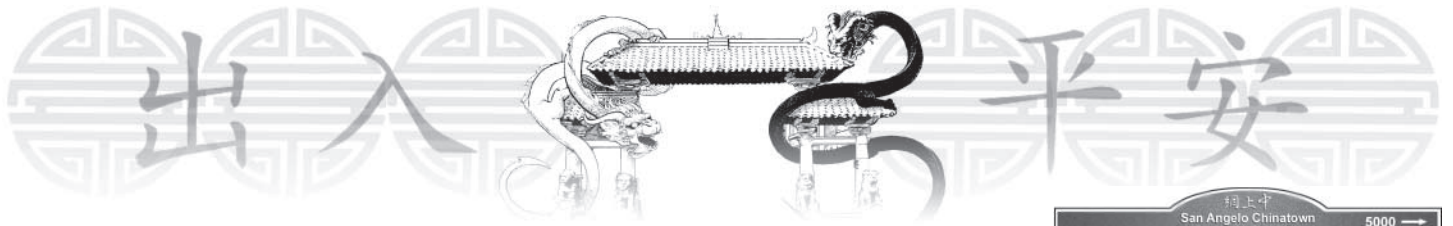
There is no hospital within Chinatown, although the Kelley Medical Center lies only a few blocks north of the district on B Street. A number of current and former residents of Chinatown work as doctors or nurses at KMC and at other hospitals throughout San Angelo.

Nonetheless, many local residents, particularly those of the older generation, prefer to remain in the neighborhood to find treatment for their maladies. Some use the services of the Wayne Street Free Clinic, while others seek out practitioners of other healing arts, such as acupuncturists, midwives, and traditional apothecaries.

Wayne St. Free Clinic

Financed largely by donations from William Shihu Yuan, the Wayne Street clinic provides a wide range of medical services to those members of the Chinatown community who cannot otherwise afford care. Although housed in somewhat cramped quarters, the clinic is equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and lab equipment and a pair of surgical units. Virtually all treatment must be provided on an outpatient basis, however, as the clinic has no real facilities for overnight stays.

Drs. Chan Fow and Gladys Li-Pan, along with a half-dozen nurses and office personnel, comprise the clinic's permanent staff. Both doctors speak Chinese and English fluently and have no idea that their funding is tied to the Chinatown underworld. Another two dozen doctors, including William Yuan's mysterious associate Dr. Theodore Yow, spend anywhere from a couple of hours to several days a week at Wayne Street as volunteers. Patients often must endure a long wait in an overcrowded waiting room, but generally have few complaints about the quality of care. In addition to drop-in and emergency care, the clinic also offers drug and sex education seminars in the neighborhood schools, and birthing classes for expectant mothers.



Prominent Local Health Care Workers

Dr. Hanwoong Shyu

Surgeon

12 STR 16 DEX 11 CON 12 BODY 17 INT
 16 EGO 16 PRE 11 COM 3 PD 3 ED
 4 SPD 5 REC 25 END 25 STUN

Abilities: Computer Programming 12-; Deduction 12-; High Society 12-; KS: Boating 12-; KS: Emergency Medicine 12-; PS: Physician 13-; SS: Cardiovascular Medicine 14-; Fringe Benefit: License To Practice Medicine

50+ Disadvantages: Age: 40+ Years Old; DNPC: Win, brother; Normal Characteristic Maxima; Psychological Limitation: Indebted To Wing Chao Tong; Reputation: nationally known doctor



Notes: A nationally recognized cardiovascular surgeon, Dr. Shyu is affiliated with University Medical Center and maintains a private practice in City Center with a well-heeled clientele. Her younger brother Win is an associate professor of East Asian Studies at UCSA and an outspoken critic of the repressive policies of the Chinese government. Three years ago, while on a sightseeing trip to China with a U.S. tour group, Win was detained and charged with espionage.

When Win's release proved unable to be obtained through official channels, Hanwoong turned to William Yuan for help, even though she had heard rumors of the latter's criminal connections. Yuan indeed succeeded where the others had failed and brought Win safely home. In return, Yuan told Dr. Shyu he might someday ask her to perform a favor for him. To date, the debt remains unpaid and the Shyus live in dread of when and what the "favor" might entail.

Dr. Baobao Tom

A clinical psychologist specializing in dissociative disorders (i.e., split personalities), Dr. Tom went through medical school in the early '70s on the Montgomery GI Bill, from his service in the U.S. Army, and spent a decade treat-

ing Vietnam War vets suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome. After mustering out of the military as a Major (pay grade O-5), the doctor turned his attention to researching the relationship of superpowers and secret identities to the onset of mental illness. He has published several articles on this topic in professional journals, and consulted with Dr. Philadelphia Ryan (see *Denizens of San Angelo*) and her Faraday Memorial Clinic (*SA:CoH*) on several occasions.



Other Health Care Workers of Note

Dr. Harry Sun: A graduate of UCLA Medical School, Sun has since shunned Western medicine and operates three successful acupuncture clinics in the Chinatown district. His Canton Street clinic has a predominantly white clientele, due to its proximity to the downtown financial district.

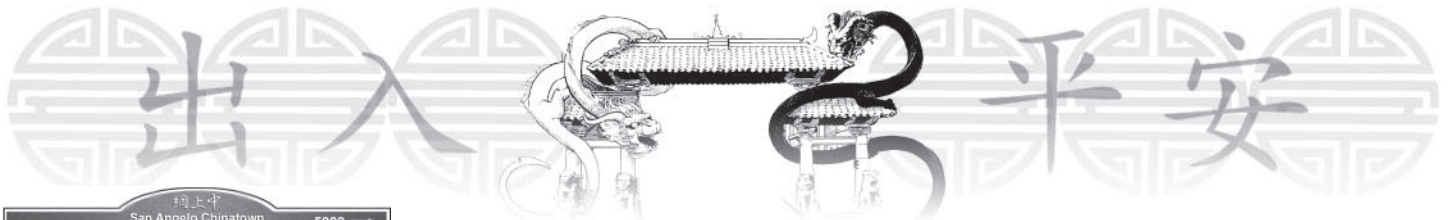
Wo Jin Yap: This 50ish midwife is well known and admired within Inner Chinatown for her services, but unknown by the San Angelo medical establishment. She speaks Mandarin Chinese and broken English, and hews strictly to the old ways. She is well versed in the use of healing herbs and potions, and relies on her own home-brewed concoctions to keep her chronic arthritis in check. Yap's only great heartbreak in an otherwise rewarding life is that none of her four daughters have chosen to follow in her footsteps and continue the family trade.

THE MYSTIC SCENE

Chinatown has always had a reputation for mysticism and exotic events, a reputation exaggerated by Hollywood sensationalism, but with a disturbing undercurrent of truth.

In fact, Chinatown is a mystical powerhouse, located on a major dragon path. The railroad workers who founded it drew upon the traditional practice of feng shui, discerning the optimum placement of objects, to identify the most auspicious orientations for their dwellings and temples. This





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000

Life in Chinatown

natural wellspring boosts certain magical practices within the Chinatown region.

San Angelo's dragon path runs for some 120 miles along the north-south magnetic axis, starting 29 miles south of the city. Although quite thin for much of its length, the path widens to encompass a three-block-wide strip of inner Chinatown before narrowing as it passes through Downtown, Midtown and Pleasant Grove.

The presence of the path enables easier accumulation of mystical energy used in spell casting, manifesting as a halved END cost for Chinese magics (from the practice of internal alchemy, to mystical combat spells of Chinese origin) initiated within its boundaries by mages who know specifically how to harness this energy (requiring KS: Chinese Geomancy at 13- or better). All of Chinatown's serious mages (Hsi Feng, T'ien Lung, Jin Yao, etc.) have their homes or laboratories located within the confines of the path. (see *Mystic San Angelo* for more information about Chinese magic in San Angelo.)

Mystics of Note

To the tourists who swarm along Canton Street all Chinatown is made up of small shops, restaurants, narrow streets with the occasional wide thoroughfare, and tall buildings with golden doors and mysterious ideographs. But scattered among the Chinatown streets and byways, the hum of magical energies can be felt by anyone with even marginal sensitivity, although it would take considerable talent to actually sort out all the individual threads and follow them back to their originators: some of the most powerful mystics in Chinatown have no wish to be found, and not all work for the betterment of mankind.

While not all the mystic characters in Chinatown move in the same circles, and may not even know each other by name or face, those of medium power are most likely to recognize each other by their power signature. Paradoxically, both those of very little

"Chinatown's really quaint, y'know? It's got such cute little stores, and they sell such funny things—they're like toys. This nice little man sold me a red fan with black characters on it, and said it would protect me from the heat. That was the summer of the heat wave, and y'know, I always thought I felt cooler when I used that fan."

— Pamela Kahn, 34, office worker

power and those of very great power are most likely to go unnoticed, because they broadcast minimal emanations, either from lack of power or the ability to conceal it.

Any player character visiting the district might run across one of Chinatown's mystics, not all of whom employ their arts to make a living. How much faith a character should put in their predictions, however, is left up to the player and the GM.

Campaign Tip

In the descriptions of the NPCs presented in this section, the Reliability roll is a guide to how often a mystic succeeds at his effect, even if it's involuntary. This is essentially the NPC's skill roll with his ability (rolled on 3d6). The Visibility rating is a guide to the likelihood that a character might run across one of them during a typical day in Chinatown. This is expressed as a modifier to any applicable skill roll used to locate the NPC, such as Streetwise, AK: Chinatown, or KS: Mystics.

Zoroaster Cho

Amateur apothecary

20 STR 18 DEX 17 CON 15 BODY 14 INT
14 EGO 15 PRE 10 COM 5 PD 5 ED
3 SPD 7 REC 40 END 34 STUN

Abilities: *Herbal Healing:* VPP (Magic Pool), 30 base + 3 control cost; Activation Roll 10-, Character Has No Choice Regarding When Or How Powers Change, Limited Class Of Powers Available - Healing effects only; *Martial Arts:* Tai Chi; AK: Chinatown 15-; KS: Chinese folklore 11-; KS: Chinese medicine 13-; KS: Herbalism 11-; Streetwise 12-

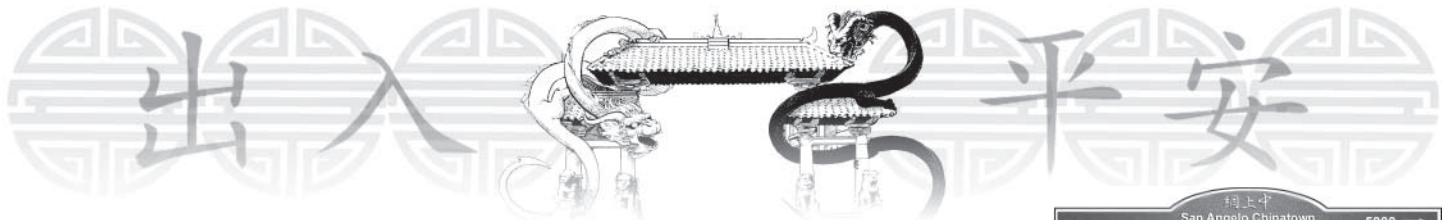
75+ Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: tall, extremely thin, half black, half Chinese; Psychological Limitation: Code Versus Killing; Psychological Limitation: Hates prejudice

Notes: Half black, half Chinese, Zoroaster lives alone on the rim of Chinatown on Water Street. A tall, scarecrow-thin man with extraordinarily deft fingers, Zoro is an outsider in his own neighborhood, since the Chinese (even American-born Chinese) tend



"Well, if you're out at night, walkin' maybe, I mean really late at night when it's quiet, some of those buildin's glow, man, and there ain't nothing reflected off 'em. They're glowin' from inside. Serious."

— Little Chang, 25, tong member.



to look down on him as half barbarian. Zoro is a tough survivor who grew away from a youth of petty thievery and street fights when his Chinese mother Min fell terminally ill in his late teens. He first learned of the power of herbal healing when she gave Zoro a broken coin to carry to the master apothecary, Jin Yao. When confronted with this token, Yao gave the teen a handful of mysterious herbs, instructed him on how to prepare a tea infusion, and told him to return again on the first day of each week.

The first time Zoro prepared the herbs, his mother rose from her bed and walked. As soon as his mind grasped the notion that this skill could make him a lot of money, however, Min faltered and fell. Zoro soon learned that his thoughts could greatly affect the power of his concoctions. His mother told Zoro that he possessed a gift, one that had resided in the male members of her family for many generations. During the remaining month of her life, she passed on to him what little lore her father had told her. Fascinated, Zoro also learned what he could from the apothecary. Unfortunately, Yao's indulgence lasted only those four additional weekly visits, until his mother finally passed on.

Since that day three years ago Zoro has attempted to continue his studies, reading, researching, and talking to whoever would talk to him. His knowledge remains spotty at best, his quest for knowledge blocked by his lack of connections in the Chinese society he was (at least partially) born into. Despite this, Zoro has continued to experiment with potions, and even provided healing draughts that have aided a few people in his building.

Cho has learned that he must control his thoughts while compounding his nostrums to concentrate on their desired effect, otherwise they fail or work about as well as aspirin. Lately his dreams have been disrupted by a disturbing notion: that if he concentrates on doing ill instead of good, his herb mastery could kill instead of cure. Zoro has tried to turn his mind away from such thoughts, but as his frustration increases about the lack of cooperation he has received, these negative images become harder and harder to dismiss.

Reliability: 10- (with unpredictable strength when they do work).

Visibility: -3. Zoro hasn't hung out a public shingle. His reputation is being spread by word of mouth.

Tu Chen

Magic Warper

15 STR	15 DEX	14 CON	12 BODY	12 INT
12 EGO	18 PRE	12 COM	5 PD	5 ED
3 SPD	7 REC	40 END	30 STUN	

Abilities: *Warping Magic:* Variable Power Pool (Magic Pool), 50 base + 10 control cost; Character Has No Choice

Regarding When Or How Powers Change, VPP Powers Can Be Changed Up to the Amount Absorbed (maximum 50); *Power Transfer:* Transfer 9d6 (all magic to VPP), Reduced Endurance (0 END), Persistent, Area Of Effect (27" Any Area); Limited Special Effect - magic (Common SFX), Always On; Martial Arts: Kung Fu; Acrobatics 12-; Breakfall 12-; +2 with Kung Fu; +2 with melee weapons; AK: Chinatown 13-; KS: Crimson Tigers 13-; KS: Qi Leong 8-; Stealth 13-; Streetwise 13-; WF: Common Martial Arts Melee Weapons, Common Melee Weapons

300+ Disadvantages: DNPC: mother; Hunted: rival



tongs; Psychological Limitation: Hates Wing Chao; Psychological Limitation: Unrealized magical powers

Notes: Tu Chen has not yet noticed the pattern that makes him an extremely valuable member of the Crimson Tigers street gang. In any struggle in which the Tigers encounter magic while he is part of the group, that magic, whether charm or spell, is disrupted and turns wild, to unforeseen, uncontrollable effect. Though Tu Chen is

blithely unaware of this special ability, the head of the Qi Leong tong, Peng Ho, has noticed and analyzed the pattern and is looking for a way to exploit it against the powerful Wing Chao tong. What has held him back so far is the fact that no one, not even very powerful mages, can say what effect Chan's power will have upon a spell.

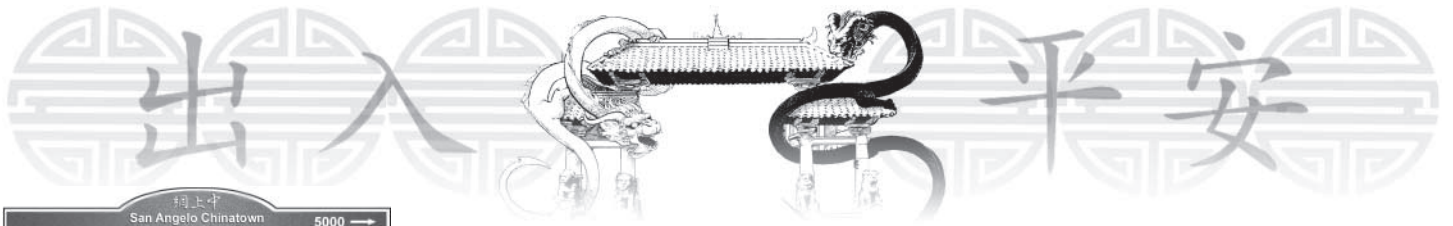
Reliability: 17- chance of disruption (virtually no chance of predicting effect).

Visibility: -5. Tu Chen is still utterly unconscious of his talent, however, any half-sensitive mystic will sense a wild power emanating from him.

Campaign Tip

Mary's talent can be exploited in an episodic way by establishing a link between Mary and a reporter for the *San Angelo Times* or another local newspaper. Depending on the needs of the campaign, Mary could be tracked by a reporter determined to investigate her utterances or befriended by a reporter who uses her as an oracle. She is an excellent conduit for the GM to leave clues (or misinformation) for PCs.





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Life in Chinatown

Chung Lin Foo

Wing Chao Magician

10 STR 18 DEX 15 CON 12 BODY 15 INT
20 EGO 10 PRE 10 COM 4 PD 3 ED
3 SPD 5 REC 30 END 25 STUN

Abilities: Telepathy 5d6; +7 Mental Defense (11 points); Conversation 12-; AK: Chinatown 14-; Oratory 14-; PS: Stage magician 13-; Sleight Of Hand 14-; Streetwise 13-



75+ Disadvantages:

Hunted: Choy Lok On tong

Notes: Chung Lin Foo may have drawn his name from a famous turn-of-the-century Chinese stage magician and his American impersonator, but his magic is entirely his own. His work for his patrons, the Wing Chao tong, is performed on two levels: the tong books him as a stage magician for client dinners and conferences, and while he entertains the crowd with parlor magic, he also reads the moods and sometimes the thoughts that

are moving through key members of his audience. Part of his stage patter contains code words that an assistant interprets and transmits by hidden microphone to the Wing Chao negotiator. The tong has been able to turn some very good above-board business deals by exploiting weaknesses its partners thought were adequately concealed.

Reliability: 12-

Visibility: 0. When not engaged in tong business, Lin Foo can often be found performing in one of the local night spots.

Jin Yao

Master Herbalist

12 STR 15 DEX 14 CON 12 BODY 24 INT
16 EGO 15 PRE 12 COM 4 PD 4 ED
2 SPD 5 REC 28 END 25 STUN

Abilities: *Herbalism effects:* Variable Power Pool (Magic Pool), 40 base + 7 control cost, 12 Continuing Charges lasting 1 Extra Phase each; Extra Time (1 Minute), IAF (herbs); AK: Chinatown 14-; KS: Chinese Alchemy 14-; KS: Chinese geomancy 14-; KS: Chinese healing 15-; KS: Chinese myths and legends 14-; KS: Herbalism 15-; SS: Biology 14-; SS: Botany 14-

75+ Disadvantages: Psychological Limitation: Helps community; Psychological Limitation: Seeks immortality; Reputation: Master herbalist

Notes: Jin Yao is generally acknowledged as Chinatown's master herbalist, whose reputation is based as much upon his encyclopedic knowledge of rare herbs as on his skill in preparing them. He runs an apothecary shop at the corner of D and Water Streets, where the three tong territories intersect. Those who enter this shop find shelf upon stacked shelf of tiny boxes, so dense that there is only a single walkway that threads through the shop. This clutter is deceptive, a show for the many tourists that swarm the area, and the shop is manned by a suitably aged, white-bearded stand-in who answers their questions and doles out harmless foul-tasting remedies.

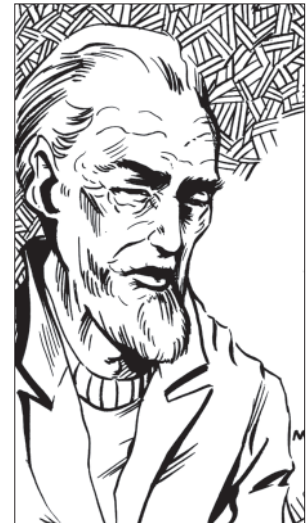
Any true seeker or informed associate will know to go in the side entrance of the shop next door, which in turn leads to a clean area with numerous neat drawers set into the wall, and a desk and workbench running the length of one wall. On the workbench are a number of small earthenware jars, a stack of notebooks, a mortar and pestle and a small flame in a saucer fed by oil. It is here that Jin Yao does his real work, compounding the commissions he receives.

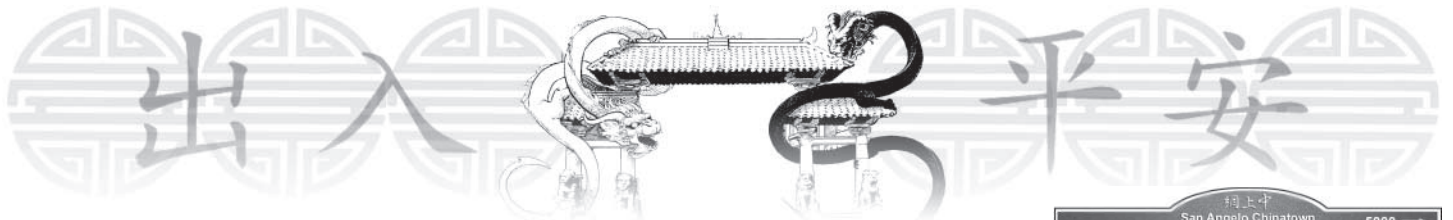
Yet even more important to him is the research those commissions finance: the pursuit of the pill of immortality. The fact that he has delved farther into the realm of nature than anyone else, and can concoct unguents and potions of extraordinary strength that can be used for almost any purpose, is secondary to Yao. Until he discovers the secret he seeks, all other accomplishments pale to insignificance in his eyes.

Yao accepts commissions from any of the three tongs, as well as from private individuals with the ability to pay, but has no compunction about turning down an assignment that he views as insufficiently challenging. Fortified by his own potions, he often goes virtually without food or sleep for weeks at a time. Jin Yao jealously guards the secrets of his trade, and never speaks of his grand obsession to any of Chinatown's other mystical practitioners. If he did, Hsi Feng might tell him that the secret of immortality can never be discovered by anyone whose desire for that knowledge is purely fueled by selfish pride.

Reliability: 16-

Visibility: -4. Although rumors of Yao's proficiency are rampant throughout Chinatown, so are the stories about his inaccessibility to the general public.





Other Mystics of Note

Red Flywisk: Actually Mary Tillwit, a short blonde woman in her 40s, she is convinced that she is the reincarnation of Red Flywisk, wife of the heroic Li Ching in the late Tang dynasty, a figure of legend. Regarded as a nuisance by the Chinese community, she's been escorted to the Chinatown limits three times by polite but forceful strangers, the tong enforcers. Other Chinatown mystics insist that the tongs not hurt her, however, because several times her "premonitions" have come true. When Red Flywisk looks out of her eyes, she speaks of things to happen in an ancient dialect that no one except the elders can understand.

Reliability: 8-

Visibility: +5. Mary spends most of her days in Chinatown, mostly on Canton Street or the Yu Ling open-air market, picking out ingredients for banquets she never holds, and decorations for palaces in the far past.

"That crazy woman thinks that all Chinese life comes out of a Charlie Chan movie. But when she was in my shop yesterday, she said, 'Old man, why are your children killing my children when together we could rule?' And then my heart squeezed me. Not only was what she said so very strange, but she was speaking in the dialect we used in my home village, words I hadn't heard spoken since I was a child. When she turned around again, she didn't even know she'd said anything."

— He Fan Shu, 87, tourist shop owner

Celestial Phoenix

In the heart of Chinatown stands a curio shop, the Celestial Phoenix, that deals in "mystical artifacts" from China. Most are merely trinkets, intended for visitors and tourists. Despite this, many of Chinatown's elders have a high degree of respect for Hsi Feng, the young man who runs the shop, due to his calm and balanced outlook, and his skill in debating philosophy. They would respect him even more if they knew the shop also serves as the sanctuary of a powerful Chinese sorcerer: the very same Hsi Feng, who is more fully described in the **Allies and Enemies** chapter.

Jade Dragon Warehouse

There are a number of buildings in Chinatown that are popularly believed to be haunted. One old warehouse, however, is home to a force far more malevolent and powerful than any ghost. The Jade Dragon Shipping Company went bankrupt 10 years ago. The main warehouse, already in dilapidated condition from lack of maintenance, fell into such disrepair that no buyer could be found. Still for sale, it remains slumped on the waterside, a festering sore no one wants to pay to demolish.

The truth of the matter goes deeper than simple bankruptcy. The owner of the shipping company was a sorcerer of some power who lacked the mental discipline to master his art completely. Seeking to widen his power, he summoned a powerful demon, Ti-Shen Mu, viceroy of one of the Yama Kings of the Chinese Hells, Yen-Lo-Wang, believing that he could control the creature. Instead, he was possessed by it. The creature controlled him utterly, possessing his body and directing him to

Mystic Places

The Wong Taisin Temple

On Water Street, across the road from the warehouses slumping down to the wharves, deep in Qi Leong territory, stands the Wong Taisin temple. Dedicated to the worship of the Eight Immortals, it is less showy and more poorly attended than its cousin the T'ien Tsun temple. Nonetheless, it is visited regularly by a number of civic and tong leaders. Some of these visitors have ulterior motives; the building's basement contains a library with an extraordinary collection of mystic texts on a variety

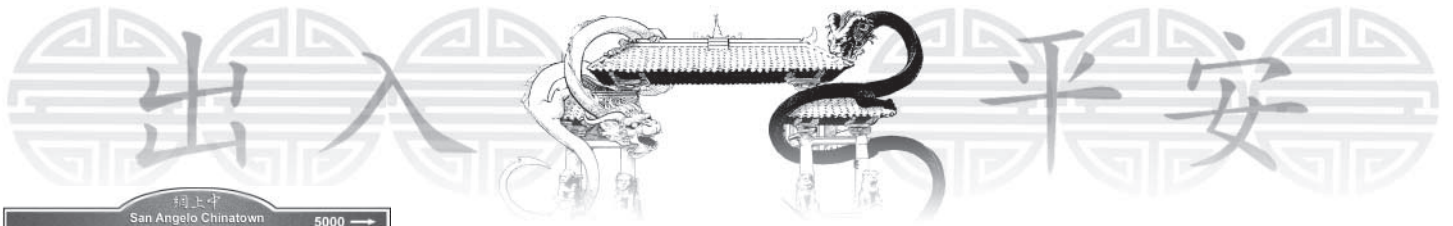
of subjects. It also conceals an entrance to a network of tunnels connected to the wharf cellars, the sea and eventually the storm drains under the city.

Chinese Temple Gateway to Nether World?

Suzu Mi, 29, Chinatown Express correspondent

This beautiful temple, the site of prayer and devotion by day, has become a place of fear by night. A resident changing a tire in front of the temple last Tuesday at midnight heard an indistinct roaring coming from inside the temple. The sidewalk and street began to shake with a vague rumble, then, just as the roar grew loud enough to clap hands to ears, there fell a deathly silence.

Ready to flee, the tire-changer, who asked that his name be withheld, says that he was frozen to the spot by that silence, and was released only by the shock of a single sharp report like a gunshot. He denies knowing anything that could produce such a rumble, since there is no subway in Chinatown. He also added that there was whispering all around him as he ran into the night.



spend all the company's assets in the construction of a gateway between the Hells and Earth. Ti-Shen Mu's energies burned out the sorcerer's body in a matter of weeks, well before the gateway could be finished. Without its host, the demon suddenly found that it was bound to the place of summoning by the wards the sorcerer had set up, which included the Talon of Yama (below) an item that draws power directly from the Hells. The Talon cannot be removed from the wards except by an outside agency. The demon is still scheming to gather enough spiritual energy to break the wards, and release itself to work its will across the globe.

Ti-Shen Mu, Chinese Demon: The only effective powers that this creature can use while trapped within the wards are a 9d6 Mind Control (ECV: 9) and a 2d6 Body Transfer (based on ECV). These powers are only usable on the grounds of the warehouse. If Ti-Shen Mu manages to free itself or trick someone into freeing it, its powers would be immense. The GM is encouraged to be particularly fiendish in designing this demon, as a point total of 500 or more would not be out of line. After all, this is a personal attendant to one of the lords of the Chinese Hells.

Mystic Artifacts

The Talon of Yama

A gold gauntlet with inlaid jade and ruby gemstones, this fabled item was supposedly stolen from a lord of Hell by Chinese sorcerers in early history. Imbued with the power of the Yama Kings of the Hells, the Talon has the power to command the dead. T'ien Lung searched for this artifact, believed to have been buried somewhere beneath Chinatown in the early 1900s. Thankfully he never found it. Even now, however, seekers of power still venture into the sewers and tunnels to search. Hsi Feng wishes to keep the item out of the hands of those who would use its power irresponsibly. Others are not necessarily that selfless.

The Bow of the Archer

In the Chinatown Civic Center a statue of Ch'ang O stands on one side of an archway and a bow hangs on the other. Tour guides point them out when telling the story of Ch'ang O, the goddess in the moon who stole the peach of immortality from her husband, Hou I, the archer who slew nine of the 10 rogue sun brothers at the beginning of the world. The bow appears to be a plain, albeit antique, wooden bow, but Mary Tillwit has proclaimed that this bow is the real artifact, and predicted that a bow that was used to kill nine suns could be used to kill a tenth, if wielded by someone with sufficient power.

Campaign Tip

Each GM will have to decide the authenticity of the Bow of the Archer on display in the Civic Center for his own campaign. If it is a replica, or a mis-identified historical item, then it will be protected by the normal alarm system of the Civic Center. If it is the real Bow of the Archer, with all of its devastating potential, Hsi Feng, and possibly other Chinatown mystics, will have added a set of magical defenses to the mundane ones.

Mystic Traditions

Acupuncture and Alchemy

A number of residents practice ancient Chinese arts of healing, such as acupuncture and Chinese alchemy. Although some of these arts are not mystical *per se*, they can be used to cross the boundaries between the mundane and the mystic worlds.

Alchemists in particular seek to purify the body and spirit through seven stages of consecutive development, believing that success in this will allow them to achieve immortality. Dark rumors suggest that those who attempt to achieve immortality and fail become half-dead versions of their former selves, who must drain the very life essence from others to re-balance their internal Chi. Most people laugh at this thought; the alchemists however remain silent when asked.

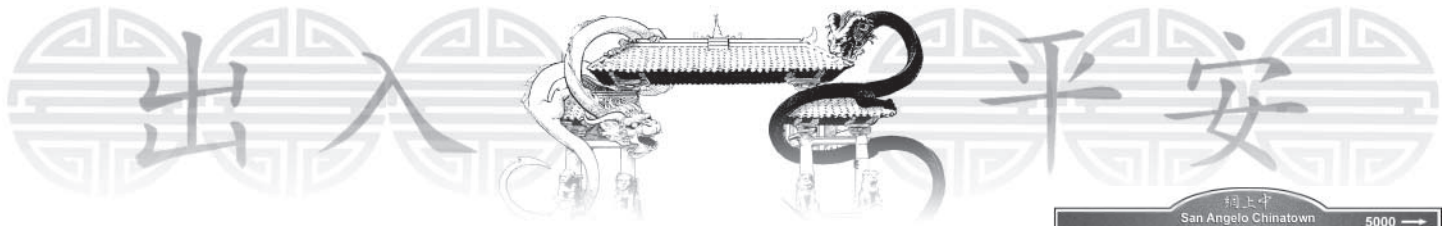
Most students of these arts have no such grandiose dreams of immortality; they merely practice the traditional methods of Chinese medicine. While not impressive on the surface, these arts are sometimes capable of medical feats that equal or sometimes surpass those of Western technological medicine.

Chi

Chi is a concept that originated in China's misty past. It is thought that the Shao-lin order of monks were among the first chi masters. Chi represents an individual's "internal spirit" or energy. Masters of chi have been rumored to be capable of using this energy for a variety of effects: healing, increasing their physical potential, levitation, devastating attacks, et cetera.

To a great degree, these claims are true. What is also true, however, is that these abilities require intense mental discipline, as well as years of study to master. Most people find that they do not have one or the other available, and so fail. Martial arts studies are often connected with chi in popular literature, and there is some truth in this. The martial arts are





not the only path to mastery of one's chi, however; there are many steps to enlightenment, not all taken in the light, not all taken for love.

THE POLITICAL SCENE

The political side of Chinatown is no less complex than any other facet of this community. In a great many ways it is even more involved. Politics is one of the few endeavors that cross all national and cultural boundaries. There are many faces to the political side of Chinatown. Not all of those who affect the political landscape of Chinatown are actual residents. There are many who have, for one reason or another, involved themselves in the political affairs of this neighborhood. Some politicians and activists have "taken up a cause," either supporting, or even opposing, certain aspects of the community's existence. The political activities of Chinatown residents skyrocketed in both amount and importance once Chinese-American citi-

"The Chinese invented bureaucracy, but Americans have had the honor of perfecting it."
— An Sheng, 36, Congressional candidate

zens received the right to own property, allowing local Chinese politicians to truly come into their own.

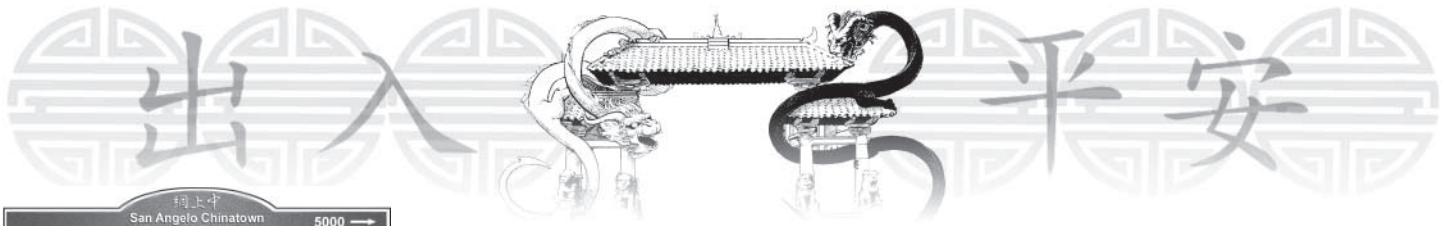
Most of the issues debated in the political arena in Chinatown are the same as those that affect every other community in the United States. Crime, education, civil liberties, the economy and gun control are all matters of concern. Interest in national or international politics is not as prevalent; most Chinatown residents are more concerned about their community and neighborhood, and could hardly care less about what some tinhorn dictator in the Persian Gulf does half a world away.

The one exception to the locals' apathy about international affairs is, of course, East Asia. Many of the district's eldest residents are somewhat annoyed at what appears to be the United States progressive abandonment of Nationalist China on Taiwan. Some of the local residents remember the Communist takeover first-hand, while others fled mainland China shortly before Chiang Kai-shek's ouster from power at the hands of Mao Tse-tung. These individuals typically loathe the Communist government for driving them from their homes, and consider that government to be made up of glorified thugs and tyrants. These attitudes were further reinforced by the tragedy at Tiananmen Square, when the Red Chinese government massacred pro-democracy protesters and social reformers.

Conversely, a number of the community's other citizens, particularly among the younger generations, consider Mao Tse-tung to be a hero and reformer. Inspired by the chairman's "Great Cultural Revolution," these young men and women consider the Communist regime to be one of the better things that has happened to the Chinese people, a force that has moved China into a position of great power and prestige in the modern world. This schism caused some serious problems during the '50s and '60s. With the fall of the Soviet Union and the new "openness" of the Chinese leadership (from Deng Xiaoping onward), Chairman Mao's words have taken on a less political and more social nature.

Regardless of which side (if any) an individual is aligned with regarding communism, virtually all Chinatown's Chinese residents strongly support American initiatives to normalize diplomatic relations with China. These efforts began in the early 1970s, when President Nixon opened trade with China, which had been effectively shut off since the Communist takeover. Improved relations have followed, though there have been some serious setbacks because of the Chinese government's human rights record.

Some members of the U.S. Congress, mostly on the Senate Intelligence Committee, wish to investigate closely some



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Life in Chinatown

of the affairs going on in San Angelo's Chinatown, especially in the import/export business. Some senators fear that these businesses are being used as fronts to either smuggle restricted technology into China, or to smuggle Chinese spies into the United States. The residents of Chinatown, remembering the McCarthy era, oppose any such actions, not having any desire to see a witch hunt unfold in their midst.

It has often been said that political power is often accompanied by an increase in financial power. Chinatown has been no exception. The finances provided by the new landowners helped enable the locals to gain political power. Perhaps nowhere more than in politics, money talks. This is even truer in modern times, where no average politician can get elected without exorbitant campaign expenditures. The end result is an almost symbiotic union between politics and finance. Politicians need money for their campaigns, and in return they take actions that will increase the well being of their constituents, which in turn generates more money.

A number of Chinatown enterprises (including the most powerful entities in the district, the tongs) have made campaign donations to local and federal politicians. While most of these contributions are not outright bribes (at least none where any hard evidence has come to light), there is most definitely a good deal of "influence peddling." This is not illegal; indeed, in the political world it is somewhat expected. Most local corporations and individuals stay within the strict legal limits with regards to the amount and nature of campaign contributions.

Almost since the beginning of the community, there have been prominent Chinese citizens who have led or influenced the political scene. While their motives for becoming involved are not always perfectly clear, these individuals, past and present, have had a dramatic influence on Chinatown, and a number of these people continue to influence the community to this day. Some of the more prominent locals involved in politics are listed below.

Civic Leaders

An Sheng

Honest Politician

10 STR	15 DEX	14 CON	12 BODY	14 INT
12 EGO	20 PRE	12 COM	4 PD	3 ED
3 SPD	6 REC	28 END	24 STUN	

Abilities: Martial Arts: Shaolin Kung Fu (Block, Disarm, Dodge, Kick, Legsweep, Punch, Throw, +1 HTH Damage Class); Conversation 13-; AK: California 11-; AK: Chinatown 14-; AK: San Angelo 12-; KS: Political world 12-; KS: State government 13-; KS: U.S. federal govern-

ment 11-; Language: English (fluent conversation)(Mandarin is native); Language: Spanish (fluent conversation); Oratory 14-; Persuasion 15-; WF: Handguns; Linguist; Well-Connected; Contact: Joseph Fong 13-; Contact: Senator Catherine Forbes 11-

75+ Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: personal magnetism; Psychological Limitation: Desires To Protect Chinatown; Psychological Limitation: Seeks Political Power



Equipment: .40 cal. S&W Sigma semi-automatic pistol (1d6+1 RKA, +1 OCV, clip of 10 charges, OAF).

Notes: An Sheng, considered by many one of the more prominent residents of Chinatown, is no stranger to the political arena. The nephew of Tsao Han, one of the earliest Chinese men to serve in the United States Senate, he saw at an early age how politics and the force of law had brought his family a long

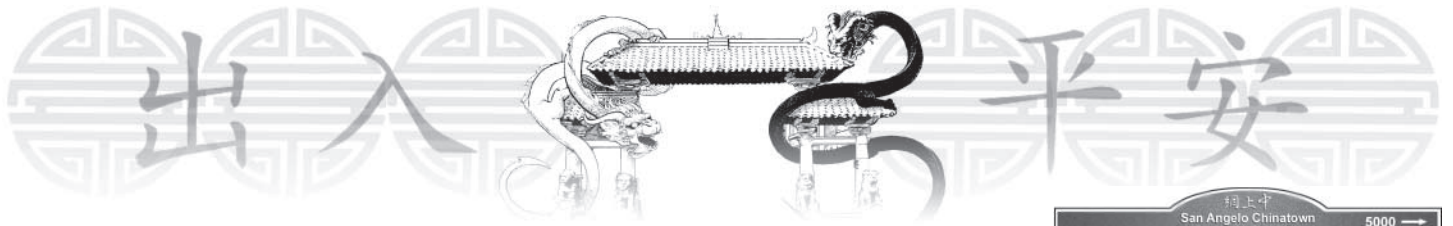
way in America. At the same time, he did not want to see his family or neighborhood become completely absorbed into American culture, losing their own cultural identity.

From college onward, he has displayed a talent for organization, as well as inheriting a good deal of his uncle's personal magnetism. These talents were put to good use in student government, as well as in several on-campus political groups. Eventually he graduated from U.C. San Angelo with a Masters degree in Political Science. After a few years working in community services, he has decided to pursue politics as a full-time career.

An Sheng is a handsome Chinese male in his early 30s. He always dresses in the latest styles of Western formal-wear when dealing with non-Chinese individuals. When at home, he wears traditional Chinese attire. Over the past several years, An Sheng has worked for a number of candidates and political action committees (PACs) that have made the maintenance of Chinese culture a part of their platform. These jobs have not only enhanced his political acumen and knowledge of parliamentary procedure, but also gained him a number of powerful connections on both state and federal levels. Recently, An Sheng has announced plans to run for the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives that is currently held by Rep. Cassandra Knight.

A member of the Republican Party, An Sheng is as conservative on financial matters as the majority of his party; on social matters, however, he is considerably more moder-





ate. This combination, once thought to be political suicide for a Republican in the Deep South or along the East Coast, has played quite well on the West Coast, such as during the term of California Governor Reagan. Most political pundits consider An Sheng a strong contender in the upcoming race.

When not campaigning or otherwise dealing with political matters, An Sheng lives in a rather austere house on Peking Street. His wife and two sons wholeheartedly support his political ambitions, believing that he is the best hope for the Chinese people in San Angelo. An Sheng is a student of the martial arts, and has two armed bodyguards to deal with any potential threat to his person or family. He does not seek power strictly for the sake of having it (although it doesn't hurt), but believes that amassing political power is the best way to help his community; personal power that he gains in the process is just a side effect.

Despite efforts by several people to influence him through bribery, An Sheng has proven to be a scrupulously honest politician. Recently, however, An Sheng has begun carrying a concealed pistol in addition to relying on his bodyguards; the political world is sometimes quite dangerous.

Tang Shai

Political Advisor

7 STR 12 DEX 12 CON 10 BODY 18 INT
 15 EGO 20 PRE 10 COM 2 PD 3 ED
 2 SPD 4 REC 24 END 20 STUN

Abilities: Conversation 13-; AK: Chinatown 15-; AK: San Angelo 13-; KS: Political world 11-; Persuasion 16-; SS: Psychology 15-

50+ Disadvantages: Psychological Limitation: Protects Chinatown community

Notes: Tang Shai is one of the oldest members of the community who is currently active in the political arena. His family fled China during the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1935 and came to the United States, although a number of his relatives remained in Shanghai. When the Communist takeover of his homeland took place in 1949, Tang Shai respected Mao Tse-tung for his ability to win the hearts and minds of the people, but just as strongly resented him for turning his homeland into a dictatorship.

Unaffiliated with any political party, Tang commands high respect throughout the community. His words carry an awesome amount of weight, and he can often be the deciding factor that sways an argument to a particular end. Cur-

rently, Tang seems to remain neutral with regard to many of the major events taking place in Chinatown, such as the Allied Chemicals controversy. Many in the community believe that he is simply gathering more facts about the situation before taking a position.

Tang is now in his 70s, and prone to some of the failings of age. He wears thick, horn-rimmed glasses and a hearing aid, and carries a cane with a handsomely carved dragon's head handle everywhere he goes. His mind, however, is as sharp as it ever was, and his grasp of human nature is almost preternatural. Tang always seems to be able to determine what people want out of an argument or deal. Despite this, he has never sought out political power, instead acting as an advisor to those who would act in the best interests of the Chinatown community.

He lives on the border of Chinatown and the downtown area in a small, unassuming house, and no longer has any immediate family living in the United States.



Christine Nguyen

Political Lobbyist

10 STR 12 DEX 12 CON 12 BODY 15 INT
 12 EGO 15 PRE 20 COM 2 PD 3 ED
 2 SPD 5 REC 24 END 23 STUN

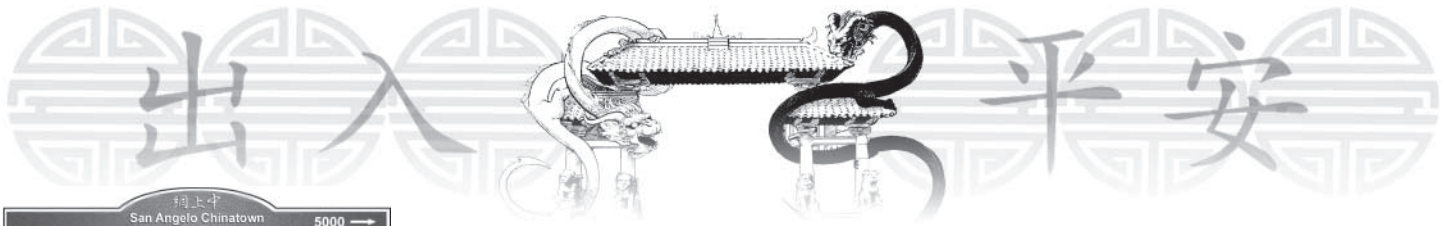
Abilities: Conversation 12-; AK: Chinatown 13-; AK: San Angelo 12-; KS: Political world 11-; KS: Corporate law 11-; KS: Environmental law 14-; Oratory 12-; Seduction 15-

50+ Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: Great Beauty; Psychological Limitation: Protects The Environment

Notes: Christine Nguyen, 29, is a relative newcomer to local politics. Although she has not been active in the political world long, she has nonetheless amassed a fairly substantial following. The daughter of a colonel in the South Vietnamese army, she emigrated to America with her father shortly before the North Vietnamese forces overran Saigon. Unfortunately, her mother was killed in the evacuation. Her father settled

"You think politics is dirty now? I remember '53, when McCarthy tried to paint Senator Han with his Commie brush. Back then you didn't need evidence like audio tapes or stained dresses. You just stood up and waved around a list of names and charges, and hoped something would stick. Han was clean but they destroyed him anyway, just because he had an Asian name."
 — Blossom Chu, 67, retiree





in Chinatown for reasons that still elude her. Some of her detractors hint that her father had dealings with one of the local tongs, using his former army contacts to supply them with military grade weaponry. Nguyen vehemently denies this claim; her father cannot comment, as he died in the late 1980s.

A beautiful young woman with long black hair and penetrating green eyes, Nguyen favors conservative business attire to keep the focus on the causes she supports, but still cuts a striking figure that undeniably attracts attention.

Congress for Environmental Action

One PAC that has set up shop in Chinatown is the Congress for Environmental Action. Headed by Christine Nguyen, the CEA was formed to protect the environmental integrity of San Angelo's older neighborhoods. One of its main efforts to date has focused on trying to get Allied Chemicals to close its Waterfront Terminal facility. The CEA has been gathering a lot of popular support behind it, and seeks to place a referendum on the county-wide ballot next election calling for the facility to be shut down. Currently the CEA is gathering money for a public-relations broadcast on local television stations, with the aim of gathering enough support to get state health officials, or possibly even a federal legislator, interested enough in the situation to launch an in-depth probe.

Several acts of vandalism have recently been committed against the CEA office on E Street, and a drive-by shooting attack was directed at Nguyen herself. Although she was not injured in the attack, the incident has made her suspicious of possible Allied Chemical involvement. The police investigation has so far found no proof to support these suspicions, but no other suspects have been identified either.

Other People and Political Organizations of Note

Democratic and Republican Parties: The Democratic and Republican Parties each have an office in downtown San Angelo. Within Chinatown, individual candidates will open store-front offices from nine months to a year before an election. An Sheng's base of operations is on Peking Street, and is currently being renovated and upgraded with

a view toward using it as his campaign headquarters in the upcoming election. Rep. Cassandra Knight's office is north of Chinatown in City Center.

Chinese Youth Coalition: This is a potentially powerful political force among the younger citizens of Chinatown. The group is presently comprised of about 30 Chinatown residents, all between the ages of 18 and 30, who either chafe at the "old ways" of their elders, or desire Chinatown to have more of the amenities that modern society offers. They have formed a loose political club to put forth their vision of Chinatown's future.

Unfortunately, thus far there has been more than a bit of confusion about just what their objectives are. Some members desire to see more modern conveniences brought into Chinatown, and believe the community must become more integrated with mainstream San Angelo society to accomplish this. Others want to receive the benefits of integration, but do not want to see their ethnic culture "corrupted" in the

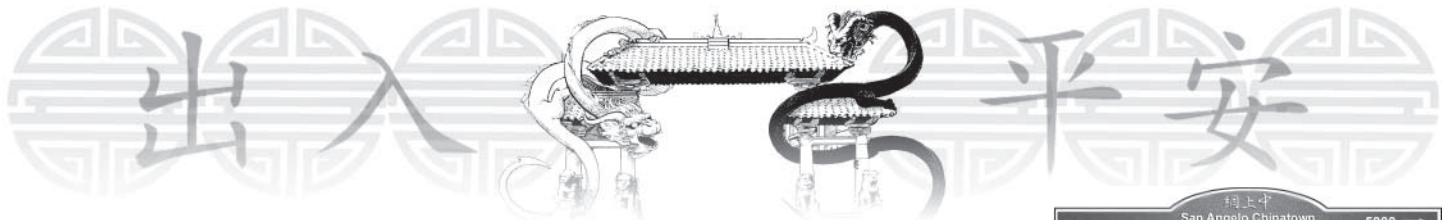
The Terminal

Allied Chemicals, a subsidiary of Eclipse Industries, has for decades operated a chemical tankage and transfer on the border between Chinatown and the Waterfront district. With the development and renovation of this district that has taken place in the last decade, the Allied terminal has become something of an eyesore. In addition, a massive chemical spill at Allied's major San Angelo plant in 1994 raised a great deal of local concern regarding the safety of the terminal site. Although there is no visible evidence of leakage or pollution since, the potential risk has a lot of local residents worried.

Terrence Martins, the CEO of Allied Chemicals, recently met with a number of prominent Chinatown businessmen and community leaders. He swore that the terminal's continued operation poses no health or fire hazard to Chinatown, but was equally adamant that the company has no plans to shut down or sell the facility. The CEO's position has baffled local political and industry leaders, as it appears it would be more economical for Allied to build a new state-of-the-art facility elsewhere, rather than maintain the outdated existing plant.

This situation could form the basis for a street-level or even a four-color adventure. Is Allied concealing something in the terminal's tanks, some nerve gas or toxin that could endanger San Angelo or the entire West Coast if it fell into the wrong hands? Or perhaps some other deadly or incriminating secret lies buried somewhere on the terminal grounds, waiting for some hero to reveal it to the world.





process. The membership's split between these two viewpoints has, to a great extent, paralyzed the Chinese Youth Coalition, preventing it from obtaining its goals. Should a strong leader emerge who could bring the CYC to consensus, however, the group has the money and the contacts to be much more influential.

The Price of Progress

A crisis that threatens the very fabric of Chinatown itself is being fought on battlefields where supers are not often found—the halls of city government and Superior Court. A group of outside real estate developers, led by Benjamin Morgan, have been attempting to purchase an entire city block of Chinatown and level it, building a modern galleria-style mall in place of the restaurants and shops currently there. When the local property owners refused to sell, the developers went to the mayor and city council trying to get the property seized by eminent domain.

This has started a vicious political battle. The developers claim that building the new mall will have many beneficial effects for the community and neighborhood. They argue that neighborhood crime will be reduced, and that the local residents will have a higher standard of living due to the increased revenues and hundreds of jobs that the Chinatown Galleria would bring to the area.

Of course, the residents of Chinatown see things in an entirely different light. Local families own most of the businesses and shops that would be displaced by Morgan's ambitious plan. These establishments are as much a family and cultural tradition as they are businesses. The locals have pledged to fight against the construction plan with every tool at their disposal. An Sheng has taken up the defense of the local neighborhood as part of his planned campaign platform, and many of the residents are rallying around him.

This situation can provide an opportunity for characters not often in the spotlight (reporters, attorneys, or political activists) to take center stage. This can be particularly handy for GMs whose characters have secret identities in one of these fields. However, this conflict can also involve more traditional hero types. Henchmen of the development forces might employ thugs or supers to intimidate the locals into selling, or public officials into voting their way. The tongs might retaliate in kind, putting heroes in the position of defending Morgan and his associates. And if the sale is ever approved so that the project begins to go forward, all Hell may break loose in Chinatown.

THE PROFESSIONAL SCENE

Most Asian-American families place a high emphasis on making the most of the educational opportunities that their children have been given in San Angelo since the national and local laws discriminating against the Chinese were repealed in the 1940s. As a result, many residents of Chinatown have obtained the training to forge a place for themselves in San Angelo's professional community as doctors, lawyers, teachers, and financiers. Chinatown's contributions to the medical and educational professions are discussed in the sections of this book covering the Academic and Medical Scenes, while prominent local financial institutions, law offices, and lawyers are detailed below.

Banking and Finance

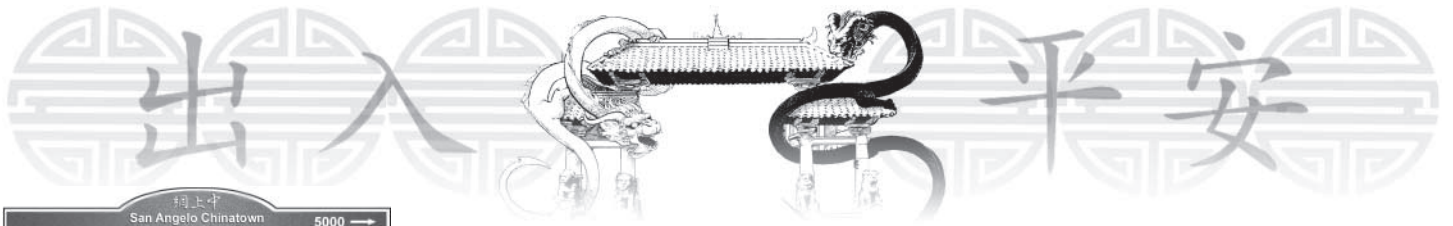
In the early years of its development, Chinatown was forced to develop its own locally-based financial institutions, as most of the city-wide banks were either indifferent or hostile to the district's needs. Today, even though a sizable percentage of its prominent professionals and businessmen reside outside the confines of Chinatown itself, and outside banks have actively pressed to gain a foothold within the Asian-American community, the old habits die hard, sometimes with good reason.

First National Bank of Chinatown

Founded in 1904, the First National Bank of Chinatown has long been the center of financial activity in the district. It was created as a means of pooling the then-limited resources of the Chinese-American community and harnessing them to support local development. Given the nature of

"So this lawyer, Carpenter, calls me every week for six weeks, trying to buy my property. By the time he's done, he's offering me twenty grand over market value. I tell him 'thanks, but my teahouse is right here on the first floor.' Next thing I know, the Board of Health guy comes by unannounced to inspect for rats, and the building inspector just happens to be in the neighborhood to check my heating pipes for asbestos. Same thing happened to Mr. Yap next door. I'm telling you, the fix is in downtown."

— Bien Lu, 46, proprietor, Mimoso House



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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →
Life in Chinatown

that time period, much of the First National's original capital came from the secret societies that controlled crime in Chinatown, thus it is unsurprising that San Angelo's tongs have always had a great deal of influence (sometimes overt, sometimes quietly behind the scenes) over the decisions of the FNBC.

Although the First National is still headquartered in its original location at the corner of Kirby Avenue and Water Street, the bank building itself was completely razed and rebuilt in 1950, and extensively renovated again in the mid-'80s. The eight-story concrete block building is modest compared to the skyscrapers of City Center, but it constitutes the tallest structure in Chinatown, and the closest thing to first-class office space in the district. FNBC occupies the first, second, and half of the third floor, and has its executive offices on the top floor, offering a wonderful view of the San Angelo River. A number of other leading members of Chinatown's business community have offices in this building as well.

Besides the main office, the First National today operates five branch offices in and around downtown San Angelo. It holds total deposits in excess of \$1.7 billion, including the pension funds of San Angelo Dockworkers Union #347, and employs nearly 1,000 people. Although the mainstay of the bank's business remains its commitment to support Chinatown's development through business loans to the local community, First National also has a growing international finance division. The IF group formerly made investments in Hong Kong and Taiwan, and presently is engaged in a long-term effort to introduce capitalist projects into mainland China.

Although both William Shihu Yuan, dragon head of the Wing Chao tong, and Thomas Chang, English secretary of the Choy Lok On tong, hold seats on the bank's nine-man board of directors, neither tong can be said to truly control the FNBC. Indeed, the bank's current president, Arthur Wu Tan, has managed to steer a largely independent course. Wu Tan shows proper respect to his influential fellow officers, giving support to their pet projects and acknowledging that their influence, if exercised, can effectively stop a loan proposal in its tracks. However, the president has also succeeded in making monies that have been loaned to tong members and their supporters subject to the bank's normal rules of administration. Principal and interest payments are paid in timely fashion and responsible parties have been identified for loan officers to contact in the event of a problem. As long as Wu Tan does not delve more deeply into the uses to which the loans are being put, the two tong leaders go along with his rulings, and the bank has reported record earnings in four of the past eight quarters.

"Whaddaya mean, where do I do my banking? At the FNBC, of course. The big banks may have their fancy features, like their convenience-store ATMs and computer banking. They might even offer a little higher interest rate. But the FNBC's never been robbed in all the years it's been in business, and you know why? 'Cause the tongs got their money there, and nobody's gonna cross them. It's like a little piece of Fort Knox right here in Chinatown."
— Jackie Bung, 27, waiter

Other Banking & Financial Concerns

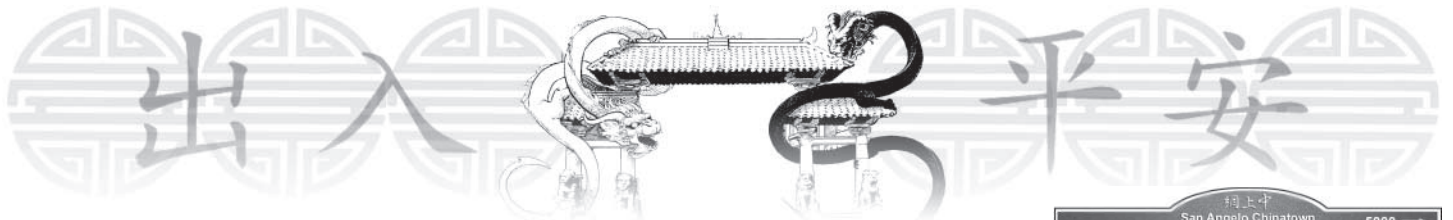
Valley Mercantile Bank: VMB, one of San Angelo's largest banks, operates two small branch offices and a half-dozen ATM locations within Chinatown. Its facilities are linked to the nationwide FastChek network, and are therefore popular with the visiting tourist trade. Since World War II Valley Mercantile has also served as a source of business and residential mortgages to the Chinatown community.

In 1991, Lucas Wong & Associates filed a class action suit against VMB, alleging that the bank discriminated against Chinese-American borrowers, charging interest rates substantially higher than those given to other borrowers with equivalent credit histories, and extra processing fees that were not in its standard loan agreement. After a long and rancorous trial, Wong prevailed in court, forcing Valley to pay nearly \$4 million in rebates to the affected parties.

In addition, as part of the settlement agreement arranged by Judge Baxter Thieles, Valley was required to establish a Chinatown Enterprise program. This \$1 million program of low-interest loans, administered by Chinese-American loan officers in VMB's Wu Street branch office, is targeted for expenditure on programs to diversify Chinatown's economic base. After an extended period of foot-dragging and futile appeals, applications under this program are presently being accepted and evaluated by its coordinator, Alan Hwang. Hwang realizes this opportunity will probably not come around again, and is hoping to keep these funds from being invested in projects that are merely fronts for the local tongs.

Good Luck Finance Company: Norman Wei, proprietor of Good Luck, is an independent entrepreneur who provides personal loans to Chinatown residents who can't qualify for regular bank mortgages. His motto is "No Credit, No Problem," which is true as far as it goes. He specializes in auto loans, where the vehicle serves as the collateral for the loan. When a vehicle owner tries to give him the slip, Wei employs the services of Donald Kang Associates (described on page ___) to locate and retrieve his assets. Wei, one step removed from a loan shark, is not directly affiliated with any of the local tongs, although he pays protection money to the Choy Lok On.





The Legal Scene

Chinatown has contributed its fair share of attorneys to San Angelo's thriving legal community. They are represented on the staffs of the county District Attorney's and Public Defender's offices, and in private practices ranging from some of the largest, most prestigious firms in the city to street lawyers working out of one-room offices with minimal support.

They include altruistic attorneys who champion the rights of the down-trodden in landlord-tenant disputes or class-action suits, and civil lawyers whose eyes are always fixed on the almighty dollar, whether they are seeking settlements for personal injury victims or litigating squabbles between multi-national corporate conglomerates. And of course they include the criminal attorneys who prosecute and defend clients ranging from the lowliest purse-snatcher to the heads of the Chinatown tongs. Many of Chinatown's attorneys no longer work or live within the district itself, although most retain some connection (via family, clients, *etc.*) with the Asian-American community.

Chinatown Attorneys in the Public Sector

Deputy D.A. Benjamin Eng: Eng, 45, is a sallow-faced individual with thinning hair whose forehead often gleams with perspiration. He has been a member of the San Angelo District Attorney's office for almost 20 years, and has risen to fourth in seniority, the highest-ranking Asian-American in the office. Eng is always well prepared for trial, and leaves nothing to chance in assembling the best evidence possible. His only weakness is his speaking voice, which has a staccato, sing-song quality that can, at times, turn off jury members, particularly if he is paired off in court against a charismatic defense attorney. Consequently, truly high-profile trials are often assigned to the office's more flamboyant D.A.s, including Roger Feist and Juliet Price (see *SA:CoH*). Benjamin understands his limitations and rather than take offense, he often serves as second chair on these cases.

Benjamin is very well-respected within the local legal community, and was recently elected treasurer of the San Angelo Bar Association. Although born and raised in Chinatown, he now owns a lovely residence in Marshall that he shares with his wife Chin-Yi and their three children: Alexander 15, Lily 11, and Benjamin Jr., 9. He also maintains a studio apartment in a downtown high-rise that he uses when he is preparing for a major trial. This city retreat also gives him the opportunity to visit with his parents, who are retired and still live in Chinatown.

Deputy D.A. Huifen "Hughie" Zhang: A 26-year-old 1995 graduate of CSUSA's law school, Hughie immediately joined the Organized Crime section of the D.A.'s office, ready and willing to do battle against Chinatown's powerful tongs. Instead, he has watched over the past two and a half years as most of the cases brought against suspected tong members have been dismissed for lack of evidence or pleaded out with little more than slaps on the wrist. As he becomes increasingly frustrated with the office's apparent inaction, he has also begun to suspect that other attorneys and investigators in the D.A.'s office are in the pockets of the tongs.

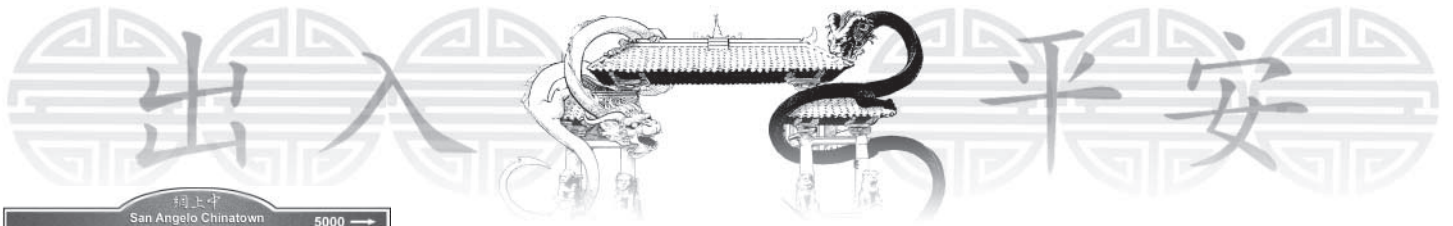
Unfortunately, Hughie has begun to speak about these suspicions (for which he presently doesn't have a shred of proof) to friends in Chinatown. If word of his loose talk reaches the wrong ears, one or more of the local tongs may attempt to show him the wisdom of keeping his opinions to himself.

Marli Weng: Marli, 32, is a short, heavy-set woman who wears too much makeup and talks a mile a minute. She has spent the last seven years working for the San Angelo County Public Defender's Office, where her ability to speak fluent Chinese has made her a godsend to indigent Chinatown residents with poor or no English skills who need the services of a court-appointed attorney.

In court, Marli resembles a pit bull, aggressively defending her clients with any legal trick she can find (and a few new ones she's conjured up on her own). Her acquittal rate is extremely high for the Public Defender's office, and she has received and spurned several offers to go to work for private criminal law firms in San Angelo.

Outside the office, Marli is rather sensitive about her single status, and can become quite angry about any negative comment that seems directed at her personal appearance. Although she loves to dance and can still be encountered on occasion in the city's nightclubs, Marli has recently turned to looking for love on the Internet under the pen name Orchid. She has formed quite an intimate bond over the past three months with a fellow chat-room denizen nicknamed the Night Watchman, and is mulling over his request that they meet in person.

Sukang "Kenny" Peng: Peng serves as the law clerk for Superior Court Judge Harold Kwan (see *SA:CoH*). Peng is a tall, lean bespectacled man who suffers from a mild stutter that serves as a liability in the courtroom. He considers himself lucky to have obtained a nice, well-paying sinecure with the judge. The judge, in turn, might not be so pleased if he knew how Peng has decided to repay that generosity; on four occasions during the past two years, Peng has used his position to obtain and provide confidential information regarding on-going civil proceedings to contacts in the Wing Chao tong. The tong then used this information to bolster



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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →

Life in Chinatown

its defense in cases in which it was directly involved, or to financially benefit from advance notice of the outcome of cases in which it is not a litigant.

Peng keeps the proceeds he receives from these transactions in an unnumbered offshore account, but does live a lifestyle (luxury condo in Lakeview, sporty car, etc.) well beyond the means of his present salary. He is therefore always on the lookout for new information that would have sale value to his “associates,” and spends time inside and outside work cultivating cordial relationships with other court personnel.

Lucas Wong & Associates

Lucas Wong is one of the most famous attorneys in San Angelo, whose 30-year career features many highlights. He has championed the underdog in countless cases over the years, fighting against absentee slumlords; racial discrimination by employers, lenders, and the police; and even against the waste disposal practices of major area employers like Allied Chemicals (see *SA:CoH*).

Wong’s greatest fame has come as a criminal defense attorney. He is best known for his 12-year crusade to save the life of Yeung Pak Roh, a Korean immigrant who was convicted in 1982 of the serial murders of seven young women in the Waterfront and Chinatown districts. Although the murders ceased after Roh’s conviction, Lucas continued to believe unswervingly in his client’s innocence, and appealed the verdict all the way to the Supreme Court, spending his own money to retain private investigators to follow the faint trail of conflicting evidence. Finally, two months before Roh was scheduled for execution, Wong uncovered an eyewitness to one of the murders, whose statement led to the eventual arrest and conviction of the real killer, who was by then plying his murderous trade once more in the city of Angel Beach.

Since suffering a serious heart attack in April 1995 that left him with a pacemaker installed, Wong has gone into semi-retirement and greatly reduced the number of his personal appearances in court. His law firm remains as active as ever however, with Wong’s associates Jimmy Lee and Shelley An now handling the bulk of the trial work, while Lucas remains in the background as a sounding board and mentor.

Shelley An joined Wang & Associates five years ago after a stint in the Public Defender’s office, and serves as the calming *yin* to Lee’s explosive *yang*. She is soft-spoken and pragmatic about keeping the needs of her clients first and foremost in any negotiations, but can be tough as nails if an opponent tries to take advantage of her.

Campaign Tip

Lucas Wong’s law office would be a perfect place for anyone playing a street-level or low-powered defender of the downtrodden to identify those in need. Wong’s clients come almost exclusively from San Angelo’s economic underclass, and represent a wide spectrum of people who have somehow become pawns or targets in the schemes of the rich and influential. Many could use the services of a hero as much or more than they need those of an attorney. Wong and his associates are also the types to make powerful enemies who might seek to discredit them or bring them down by brute force.

Lee is a contemporary of Lucas Wong, a former ‘60s campus radical from Berkeley who remains committed to all sorts of liberal causes, from saving the whales to protesting human rights violations in China and Latin America. Jimmy’s gray-ing mane of hair still hangs down to his shoulders, and he is not afraid to disrupt a courtroom to make a political statement. He has a particularly antagonistic relationship with Judge Stewart Blackridge, who has cited him numerous times for contempt.

Besides assisting his own colleagues, Lucas has long offered help to any local lawyer who is fighting the good fight against the city’s power elites. The lights in his dingy second-floor suite of offices are often shining late into the night, as groups of lawyers discuss strategy or just sip herbal tea and talk shop.

And there may soon be another Lucas Wong in the courtroom, as Lucas Jr., now 20, helps out in the office as a researcher during his summer and vacation breaks from his studies at UCLA.

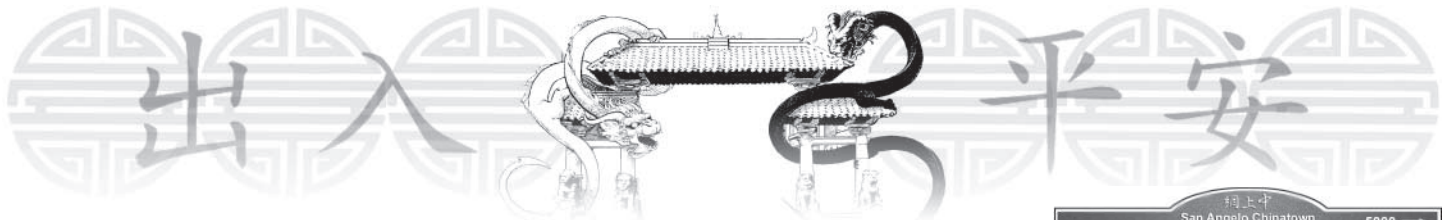
Other Legal Figures of Note

Kim Chung-Rodriguez: A rising young litigator who loves the media spotlight, Chung was born 33 years ago and raised in Chinatown. She got her undergraduate degree in Miami, and went to law school in Las Vegas. During the latter period, she earned spending money working as a blackjack dealer, and made the acquaintance of a few highly placed figures in the Vegas organized crime scene.

Upon returning to San Angelo, she met, quickly fell in love with, and married a young Mexican-American named Miguel Rodriguez. His minority-owned construction firm, that has won a variety of lucrative city contracts over the past several years, is also rumored to have connections to organized crime.

Chung-Rodriguez promptly began a whirlwind rise to prominence in the legal community, winning a number of





large financial settlements for her clients in a variety of civil cases ranging from palimony to product liability. She received a lot of press for these cases, not all of it favorable, as there were whispers that key witnesses had been threatened or juries tampered with, though none of these allegations could be proven. She also used her growing fame to switch law firms three times in seven years before coming to rest at Carstairs and Egan. This firm, one of San Angelo's oldest, had fallen upon financial hard times in the early '90s and was in desperate need of a rainmaker; desperate enough to make Chung-Rodriguez a full partner, despite the unsavory elements of her reputation. She has indeed helped restore the firm to profitability, even if it is by attracting a clientele far removed from its former staid blue-blood image.

Although Chung-Rodriguez's contacts with organized crime figures, both inside and outside of San Angelo, have been instrumental in forwarding her career, less than 10% of her cases actually directly involve these people. Her criminal clientele includes members of Chinatown's Qi Leong tong, the Stanley Stavinsky crime family in Las Vegas, and the Cali cartel. All of these groups stand ready to lend Chung-Rodriguez a hand in any lawsuit where she might encounter difficulties. Chung-Rodriguez tries to keep her own activities within the strict letter of the law, and has never ordered anyone to commit a crime on her behalf. She simply mentions whatever problem she is having to her associates, in casual conversation, and lets them decide the best way to resolve them. As the incidents multiply and the stakes increase, however, the fine line she treads is getting thinner all the time.

Chung-Rodriguez craves notoriety, and has gained enough of a reputation to appear on late-night public affairs programs such as *Nightspot*, which airs locally on ABS-affiliate KABL. Six weeks ago however, the *S.A. Weekly* ran an investigative feature on Chung-Rodriguez that largely consisted of a rehash of all the unsubstantiated charges against Chung-Rodriguez and her husband. The tabloid also ran several grainy photos taken with a telephoto lens that appear to show Chung-Rodriguez on a hotel balcony *in flagrante delicto* with a man looking nothing like her husband. Chung-Rodriguez has sued the *Weekly* for slander, while her husband's contacts have been trying in vain to find out the name of the uncredited photographer who took the pictures.

Lung-Jeng Pan: Pan is one of the legal system's bottom feeders, an ambulance-chasing personal injury attorney

whose clients generally have as much credibility as the loud checked sports jackets that Pan wears into court. He's a lousy attorney, whose only area of legal expertise is in the myriad ways that a lawsuit can be prevented from coming to trial. Pan makes his living by signing up as many cases as possible, and then trying to make enough of a nuisance of himself that the accused agrees to make a token settlement rather than go through a drawn out trial.

Currently, Pan is trying to target a new market for his services, seeking to sue San Angelo's supers for the injuries they cause to innocent bystanders. He has invested in a series of late-night advertisements that run on cable TV, starring himself. While it is hard to believe that anyone would draw much confidence in Pan's abilities from his fumbling presentation, the public has bought enough exercise machines and get-rich-quick programs over the years to make anything possible.

Allen Yoon, P.I.: Yoon, 29, always wanted a life in law enforcement, but was unable to qualify for the police academy. He quickly adjusted his ambitions and has hung out his own shingle as a private detective. He's proven

"Hi there. Have you...or your property been...injured, er, damaged, in a fight involving supers? If so, you could be entitled to compensation for your loss. Call 555-8878, or visit the law office of Lung-Jeng Pan at 406 D Street for a free evaluation. That's 555-8787...I mean 8878. Operators are standing by to take your call, or leave a message on the machine. Don't delay...act today."
— Television commercial during *Late Night Thriller Theater*, Channel 54

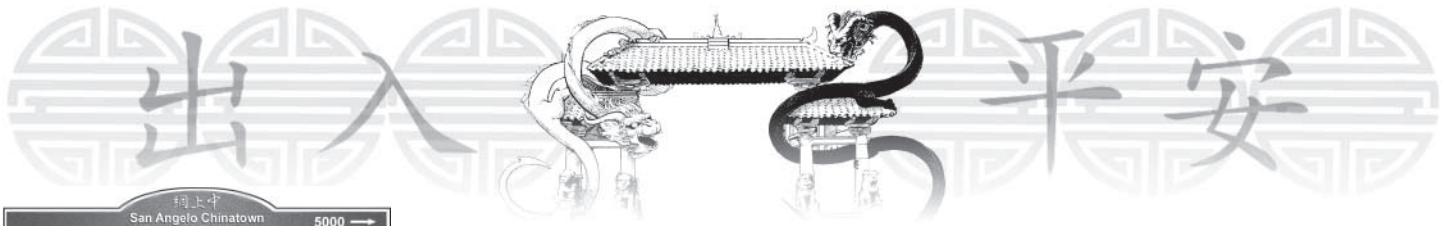
to be pretty good at it, too. Yoon is a voracious reader about all manners of technological advances in crime detection, surveillance, *etc.*, and plows a lot of his profits into purchasing the latest gadgets. He is also a hard worker who often logs far more hours on a case than he bills, a health nut who drinks protein shakes from his office blender three times a day, works out religiously, and is a crack shot with his extensive collection of handguns. His one negative trait is his insatiable need to gain the approval of the

regular police, which causes him to suck up to even the lowliest patrolman in ways that most outsiders would find acutely embarrassing.

Although most of Yoon's assignments are of the routine variety (cheating spouses, missing persons, *etc.*), he did identify and apprehend the perpetrator of a series of neighborhood burglaries in 1996, earning a commendation from the police department for his efforts. Presently, Yoon's business is booming, and he is looking to take on an associate to help handle the growing workload.

Donald Kang Associates: Kang, 48, and his staff work out of a cramped office on Wu Street. They work as "repo men," hired by banks and finance companies to find and repossess automobiles whose owners are seriously delinquent in their loan payments. Though Kang is a lifelong resident of Chinatown, his nine employees are a melting pot





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →
Life in Chinatown



THE RELIGIOUS SCENE

The residents of San Angelo’s Chinatown practice a multitude of religions. As one of the oldest extant civilizations on the planet, China supports a diverse array of religions and philosophies. In addition to several native belief systems, such as Taoism and Confucianism, Chinese thought and culture has significantly affected other religions, such as Buddhism. Even Christianity has followers in China, and there are several small Chinese Protestant sects that blend the teachings of the Bible with those of ancient China. With the exception of the followers of Shintô, the faithful of all religions are treated with a high degree of respect in China, and this one exception owes more to political and social matters than it does to religious ones.

When the Chinese began to immigrate to the United States in the late 1800s, they brought their religions and philosophies with them. Deeply ingrained into their culture, Chinese religions helped the people maintain their cultural identity in the face of the strange new world they had entered.

As the Chinese presence in the San Angelo area grew, so too did the presence and sometimes influence of these Eastern faiths. Listed below are a number of the prominent religions and/or philosophies practiced by residents of Chinatown. It is not an exclusive list, as nearly any religion one can think of has adherents among the local population.

Taoism

The philosophy of Taoism can be traced back to Lao-Tzu in the 6th century B.C., and it has profoundly influenced the subsequent social and cultural development of Chinese civilization. It also provided theoretical support for the religion of Taoism, founded by Chang Tao-ling and Chang Chueh in the 2nd century A.D.

Lao-Tzu advocated the philosophy of *wu wei*, “action by not acting,” and attempted to counteract the invidious influence of *categorization* (one of the fundamentals of Confucianism) through a return to a primal, undifferentiated state.

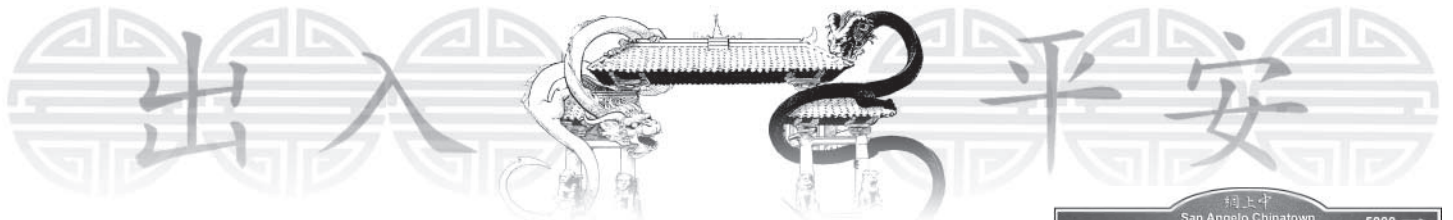
The religious Taoism of the 2nd century was more concerned with balancing the *yin* and *yang*, two parts of the human mind or soul reflecting the duality of all nature, through fasting, meditation, and rituals. The first of these aspects, the *yin*, can be described as the positive aspect of the soul and mind; love, compassion, and joy are among those emotions that are often connected with the *yin*. The *yang* represents the negative aspect of the mind and soul,

of the city’s ethnic make-up, including three other Asian-Americans, two African-Americans, a Latino, and Harlan Moore, the black-sheep son of one of San Angelo’s wealthiest residents, retired attorney Charles Harrison Moore (see *SA:CoH*).

Repo work is demanding, requiring both attention to detail and a strong intuition about human nature. Because lenders sometimes give repo orders to more than one agency at a time (paying the agreed upon bounty to the company that delivers the goods) it can also be highly competitive, and reliable information sources are jealously guarded.

Kang Associates stores recovered vehicles in an old warehouse building at the nearby waterfront, in an area that has recently been the site of some violent confrontations between the street gangs of the Wing Chao and Choy Lok On tongs. As a result, some company employees now carry firearms (although most of them aren’t properly licensed) and are skilled in their use.





including such emotions as envy, rage, and jealousy. (It should be stressed that the *yin* and *yang* aspects do *not* equate directly to good and evil, or even to order and chaos. There are aspects of all of these concepts involved, but they are aspects of the whole, not the whole.) When these twin aspects of the soul are brought into balance, then a person is said to have reached enlightenment.

Many practitioners of religious Taoism spend their entire lives searching for enlightenment, and it is rumored that the lifetimes of some of these seekers are long indeed, especially among those who practice the Taoist-inspired path of internal alchemy. These attempts to defy nature go directly against the tenets of both Taoist religion and philosophy.

The practice of religious Taoism is linked with the worship of the traditional gods of China. China has an extensive pantheon, formed around the August Personage of the Jade Emperor. The Jade Emperor, allegedly the ascended first emperor of China, rules over the other gods and entities who form the Celestial Bureaucracy. In some cases a family's ancestors are considered gods themselves. This belief is largely responsible for the respect that elder members of the Chinese community are given. In religious Taoism, Lao-Tzu is worshipped as a god.

The practice of the religious aspect of Taoism in Chinatown is centered on a number of temples, most notably the T'ien Tsun and Wong Taisin.

T'ien Tsun Temple

The T'ien Tsun is the oldest and largest of Chinatown's temples, dedicated to the worship of all the Chinese animist gods. The first residents of the district built the original one-room structure back in 1868, and the building has been expanded on several occasions since, most notably in 1886. In April of that year a horrible fire broke out in Chinatown, destroying the majority of the buildings there. All but a handful of its citizens were spared, however, thanks to a beautiful young Chinese woman, a stranger to the locals, who warned the people to take refuge in the temple. In the aftermath, the legend grew that the young woman was Dsohu Yung, the goddess of fire, and a statue and altar to the goddess was erected on the building's new second floor.

Today, the T'ien Tsun Temple is a three-story building located on Kirby Avenue near Canton Street. In addition to its role as the effective center of Taoist worship in San Angelo, the T'ien Tsun is also a highly popular tourist attraction, as it is built in the old Chinese style of architecture. Ten monks and four priests live on the third floor of the temple and tend to the spiritual needs of the community. The temple leaders are much revered throughout the community, and the temple grounds are considered some of the

only neutral territory in Chinatown. There is even an unwritten but acknowledged agreement between the three tongs to take concerted action against any who would violate the grounds of the temple.

The chief priest of the T'ien Tsun Temple is Han Chiu-an, who is almost 50 years old, first having come to America with his parents shortly after the end of the Korean War. Although physically unimposing, Han may arguably be the most respected individual in Chinatown. A devoted follower of the Jade Emperor, Chiu-an believes that the August Personage himself protects him. No one in Chinatown has any reason to doubt his belief.

Han Chiu-an

Priest of the Jade Emperor

10 STR 14 DEX 12 CON 15 BODY 20 INT
 15 EGO 20 PRE 14 COM 5 PD 9 ED
 3 SPD 5 REC 30 END 28 STUN

Abilities: Multipower, 30-point reserve; *Lightning:* EB 6d6; FF (15 PD / 15 ED); +4 with lightning; Bureaucratics 16-; Conversation 14-; Deduction 13-; AK: Chinatown 13-; KS: Chinese myths and legends 14-; KS: Religions 13-; KS: Taoism 14-; KS: Tongs 8-; Language: English (fluent conversation)(Mandarin is native); Oratory 15-; Persuasion 14-; Danger Sense (mystical) 14-



100+ Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: Serene; Psychological Limitation: Devoted to the Jade Emperor; Enraged: if temple is defiled 14-/8-

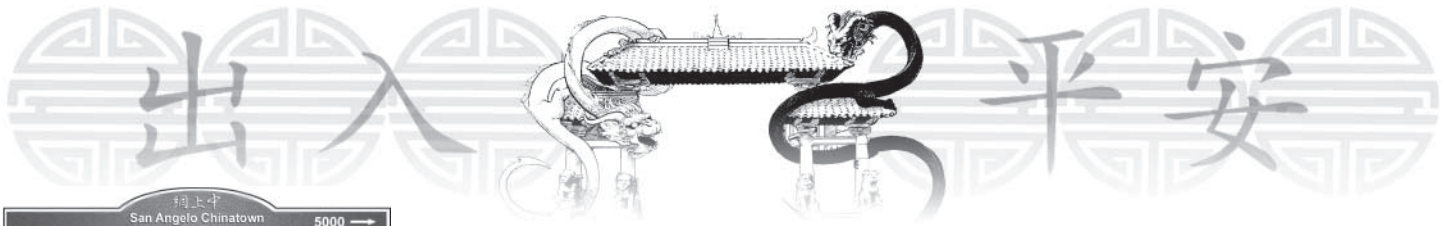
Notes: Generally a quiet, reserved individual, Han Chiu-an is more than capable of defending himself and his temple if pressed. Han's faith in the Jade Emperor has been rewarded by his being granted a few "gifts of faith" by the August Personage himself.

Han Chiu-an currently has no living relatives in America, although it is believed that he has a few cousins that still live in mainland China. Han Chiu-an has no particular enemies or rivals, and indeed occupies the apex of religious life in Chinatown.

Wong Taisin Temple

The Wong Taisin Temple, located on Mandarin Street near the waterfront, is devoted to the Taoist order known as the





桐上中
San Angelo Chinatown 5000

Life in Chinatown

Way of the Celestial Masters. More specifically, it focuses on the worship of the Eight Immortals, Chinese saints who are said to have ascended to heaven and become gods. In many ways the Wong Taisin is the diametrical opposite of the T'ien Tsun. The structure itself is not architecturally impressive, and does not draw the tourists that the larger temple does. Only two monks and a single priest reside at the Wong Taisin, and they are more than capable of dealing with the small number of worshippers.

Nonetheless, the Wong Taisin has been of great importance to the past and present of Chinatown, as its collection of ancient manuscripts contains a number of books that purport to detail methods for attaining immortality. The infamous tong leader T'ien Lung studied these texts extensively, and puzzled out some of their secrets before he was banished to the spirit world by Hsi Feng.

Secular Taoists

In addition to the temples, there are also personalities in the district who have advanced along the path of enlightenment, and could be considered practitioners of "secular" Taoism. These individuals, while they may give useful advice, do not "lead" a seeker to enlightenment, as Taoism holds that enlightenment must be learned by each individual on his own. Advice can be given, but the seeker must invariably draw his own conclusions.

The two leading (if such a word is appropriate) secular Taoists in Chinatown are Lisa Tsen and the enigmatic Hsi Feng.

Most residents of Chinatown know Hsi Feng as the mild-mannered owner of the Celestial Phoenix curio shop (page 41), who tends to listen to his customers rather than speak. Feng believes in his heart that it is the duty of each individual to find his own road to enlightenment. He has been known, however, to offer words of advice to those who have strayed too far toward the path of the yang. More information on Mr. Feng can be found in the **Allies and Enemies** section of this book.

"When my son was killed in the street by flying debris from a fight between two so-called supers, I couldn't figure out how any god could allow such a dear sweet child to die so young. I cried, and cursed, and mourned, and asked the gods why I couldn't have died in his place. I didn't set foot in my temple for six months. But in the end, I returned. Though I cannot comprehend it, there must be a divine plan of some sort, otherwise why should I go on living at all?"

— Tang Ma-weh, 35, mother

Lisa Tsen

Herbalist & Acupuncturist

12 STR 14 DEX 15 CON 12 BODY 15 INT
12 EGO 15 PRE 20 COM 3 PD 3 ED
2 SPD 5 REC 30 END 26 STUN

Abilities: Acrobatics 12-; Conversation 12-; AK: Chinatown 12-; KS: Chinese healing 15-; KS: Chinese myths and legends 12-; KS: Taoism 15-; Language: English (completely fluent, w/accents)(Mandarin is native); Persuasion 14-

50+ Disadvantages: Psychological Limitation: Non-violent

Notes: Lisa Tsen is a petite middle-aged woman who is outspoken in her opinions and beliefs. Miss Tsen runs a store on B Street known as the Palace of Jade, that sells a variety of herbs and other products used in the practice of Chinese

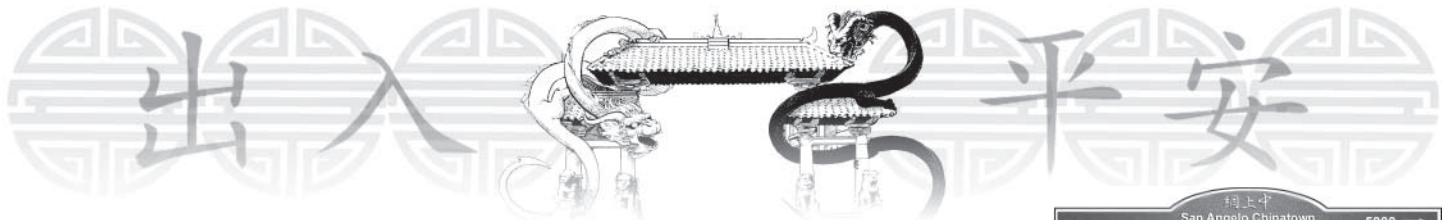


medicine. Miss Tsen is also an acupuncturist. Lisa speaks out to people who appear to be so obsessed with either the positive or negative sides of their minds that they unknowingly block themselves from enlightenment. Under Lisa's direction, the Palace of Jade could be considered the philosophical center of Taoist philosophy in Chinatown, in essence the secular equivalent to the T'ien Tsun Temple.

Lisa is very outspoken in her beliefs, but is totally pacifistic. While she has no real enemies or rivals, cynics say that this is because any potential enemy doesn't see her as much of a threat. Lisa has worked in the Palace of Jade since she was a teenager, and recently took over its management upon the death of her father, who was caught in the crossfire of a gun battle between the Wo Fat and Crimson Tiger gang. Her father's death has strengthened Lisa's belief in non-confrontation, but has also fuelled her desire to build a peaceful and strong Chinatown, one soul at a time.

Buddhism

Buddhism also claims a large following among the residents of Chinatown. Originating in India in the 5th century B.C., Chinese Buddhism blends elements of the Vedic philosophy of India with later Hindu and Taoist influences. While there are some similarities to Taoism, there are some profound differences. While Taoism deals with the "inter-



nal” effects of the aspects of a person’s mind and soul, Buddhism deals primarily with the concept of *karma*, representing the spiritual effects and consequences of the actions that a person takes. One tenet of Buddhist thought is that the consequence of a person’s actions tends to return to him. For example, if a man goes through life strong-arming and bullying his way around, eventually he will meet strong resistance (either in this life or the next), possibly in the form of another like individual. On the other hand, a person who attempts to get things done without much disruption will find that he has an easier time of things. Those who eliminate all bad karmic influences from their lives are said to attain the state of enlightened existence known as Nirvana.

A significant number of the residents of Chinatown are practicing Buddhists, as are many residents of other neighborhoods of San Angelo. The primary Buddhist place of worship in San Angelo is the Fu Shen Temple in Chinatown.

Fu Shen Temple

The Fu Shen Temple is housed in an unassuming building located at the corner of Cameron and Wayne Streets, deep within inner Chinatown. Six Buddhist monks live there, who help the poor and sick, give what spiritual assistance they can to those who ask, and in general attempt to show people by example the merits of the Buddhist way. This generally means that, although the monks will often take actions to defend or support other’s actions or statements, they will never do things in a violent or aggressively confrontational manner. It would be very foolish for people to take this as weakness however. The monks are all quite proficient at Shao-Lin kung fu, as a number of San Angelo’s non-Asian gang members found out when they tried to burglarize the temple last year. The tongs and Chinese street gangs know better and leave the monks alone.

Shintō

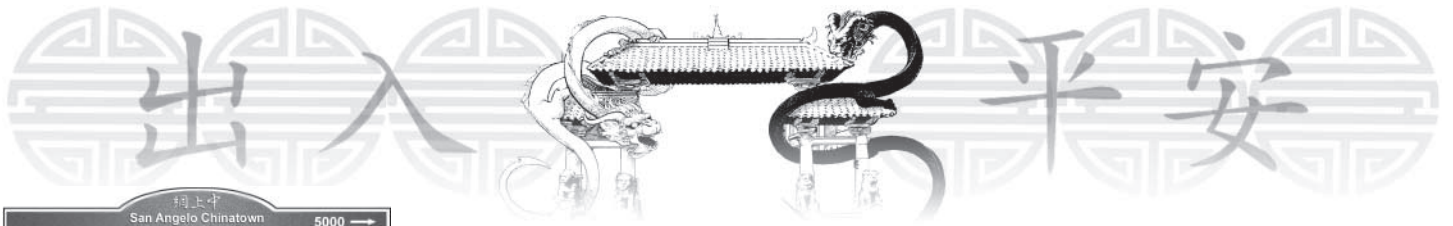
Shintō, while practiced by a few residents of Chinatown, is somewhat of a pariah in the eyes of the overall local community, as Shintō is the primary religion of Japan, and only a fringe religion in China. The core of Shintō belief is that almost everything, living or unliving, has a *kami*, or divine spirit. These spirits are given the reverence due their station, sometimes modified by the nature of the relationship between spirit and worshipper. For example, a fisherman would give a higher degree of reverence to a spirit of the ocean than he would to a mountain spirit. Kami are ranked in a hierarchy under the aegis of the goddess of the sun, Amaterasu Omikami.



Up until the end of World War II, the Japanese emperor was considered a *kami* in his own right, the direct spiritual descendent of Amaterasu. Although Emperor Hirohito renounced his own divine status, many of the faithful still believe in the divinity of the emperors. Hirohito’s son, Emperor Akihito, has not made any statement about the subject on either side of the issue.

Historical factors have combined to make being a follower of Shintō somewhat of a dangerous proposition in Chinatown. Many remember all too well the atrocities committed against Chinese residents or their relatives in the years following the 1935 Japanese invasion of China. Some of the older residents even remember tales told of the Sino-Japanese War. In both of these wars the Japanese not only tried to conquer Chinese territory in a military sense, but also tried to impose their culture on the Chinese people. Combined with the atrocities, those actions have left a very poor taste in the mouths of most Chinese when it comes to Shintō. Known followers of Shintō often are treated with considerable disdain: waiters at a restaurant may provide slower service, while store clerks may be inexplicably sold out of certain products, and in rare cases Shintō followers have been harassed or even beaten by local gangs. Of course, to most police investigators these appear as simple robberies.





桐上中
San Angelo Chinatown 5000

Life in Chinatown

There currently is no active Shintô shrine in Chinatown. At one point, the Akagi (Red Castle) Shrine served as a center of Shintô worship in the San Angelo area. The Akagi Shrine was set up in classic Japanese style, with an extensive rock garden and many koi pools. The shrine was considered one of the most beautiful places in all of San Angelo. Unfortunately, the forces of hatred overcame the forces of beauty and just over four months ago, a fire ripped through the Akagi Shrine.

An investigation by the police department and arson investigator Len DeSantis uncovered the remains of the incendiary device that caused the fire. No suspects were ever arrested, and indeed no reliable witnesses to the tragic event ever came forth. One local Chinese resident, upon being questioned by the police, said “Akagi? Is not that Japanese aircraft carrier from Great War? It burn and sink, no?” This is about the strongest statement that anyone has made about the fire, but certainly not enough to incriminate any individuals in the arson.

There is a movement growing among the Japanese community in San Angelo to rebuild and resanctify the Akagi Shrine. This movement is led by Noshiro Ashikaga, a prominent member of the Japanese community who lives in Brackett Park. With strong connections in the business and political world, and rumored ties to several yakuza figures in Los Angeles, Ashikaga has been gathering support and funds for the rebuilding of the shrine. Not much is known about Noshiro Ashikaga, but rumors run rampant. There are even those who claim that he is a super or a ninja.

Christianity

The only Christian church actually within the borders of Chinatown is the San Angelo Chinese Union Church. A non-denominational church, the Chinese Union’s pastor, the Reverend Lao-Hsieng, has managed to blend a number of Taoist influences into what could otherwise be considered Protestant Christianity (*e.g.*, imbalances of *yin* and *yang* are considered to lead potentially to sin and are therefore to be avoided). The blending of philosophies has attracted a number of worshippers, but has also attracted the interest and possible animosity of the influential reverend John Warden.

Warden is leery of Lao-Hsieng’s brand of Christianity. Although he has never publicly accused Lao-Hsieng or his congregation of sins or heresies, the merger of Chinese and Christian systems of belief concerns him. Warden cannot help but believe that the Chinese ways and philosophies are not compatible with the Word of God. It remains to be seen whether the two religious leaders end up as allies, disinterested neutrals, or philosophical enemies.

Confucianism

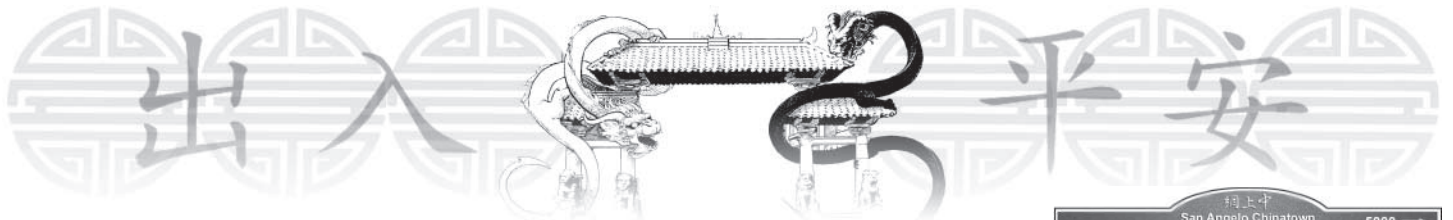
Confucianism is probably what comes into most people’s minds when they think of Chinese religion or philosophy. Despite this, Confucianism has no temples or shrines, no monks or priests, and no warrior orders; indeed the faith recognizes no hierarchy at all. Confucianism serves more as an adjunct to other philosophies than as a religion unto itself. Confucius developed ways for each individual to order his mind so that his pursuit of enlightenment, power, or any other desire would be easier to achieve. There are those in China who actively follow Confucianism as their primary or sole philosophy, but even in China such individuals are rare. In San Angelo, and indeed the United States as a whole, dedicated Confucianists are almost unknown.

Other Temples and Churches of Note

Eternal Night: A fanatical cult dedicated to the worship of the Yama Kings of the Hells, this is one of the most potentially dangerous groups in San Angelo. Essentially an apocalyptic cult, Eternal Night members believe that the time of man’s reign on Earth is drawing to a close, and that one day soon all humanity will be sent to the Yama Kings for judgment. As devoted followers of the lords of the Chinese Hells, the cultists seek to do what they can to speed up the process. In their minds, the more people they kill today, the less red tape and administrative paperwork that the Yama Kings will have to deal with when the final days actually arrive. After all, anything that shortens the bureaucratic workload in the afterlife is a good thing.

The FBI is interested in bringing about the break-up of this group. It’s greatly concerned about the cult’s potential for terrorist attacks, or even the use of chemical weapons (such as the Sarin nerve gas used by the Aum Shinrikyu cult in its Tokyo subway attack). Several agents have attempted to infiltrate the cult, but the extreme paranoia of cult members has so far prevented this. Rumors suggest that the FBI may even be looking for supers who might be able to complete a successful infiltration, although the FBI’s Special Agent in Charge (SAIC) of the San Angelo office has publicly denied this.

As one might guess, the Eternal Night cult has no temple. Members operate independently, occasionally meeting to coordinate plans. These meetings are all somewhat impromptu, and are *never* at the same location twice in a row, nor do meeting places follow any particular pattern. This has made it even more difficult for the authorities to apprehend the cultists.



Sung Park Church: This non-denominational Christian church, located just outside Chinatown in City Center, has a predominantly Korean and Korean-American congregation. The church has been investigated by the sheriff’s department for running illegal (i.e., unlicensed) bingo games and has been cited on two occasions, but the game has never been shut down. The vast majority of Koreans, both US citizens and immigrants, of the Christian faith attend this church. The pastor, Sun Yee, is a personable and popular man, giving much of his personal time to members, from acting as an intermediary between them and the authorities to organizing church functions, such as youth dances, carnivals and food and bake sales.

The Temple of the Celestial Pyramid: This is what many people have been waiting for, a place where they can learn the secrets of the Orient! Established in the late 1980s by a trio of Taoist masters, the temple teaches Chinese philosophy and the “Arts of the Masters” to any worthy disciple, regardless of race. Indeed, the vast majority of the Celestial Pyramid’s students are white.

There is a very good reason for this—the temple of the Celestial Pyramid is a scam. The three “masters” are all members of the Qi Leong tong. Students are charged a great deal in fees and other costs in order to be taught “secrets” that are actually just basic philosophy. The masters employ elaborate theatrics and special effects to bilk money from the people who go there to study. Needless to say, as a student advances toward mastery, the prices go up; the highest fees of the Celestial Pyramid are celestial indeed.

Sadly, most people who enroll at the Pyramid are just the sort to be so enthralled by the atmosphere of the temple and the grand theatrics of the priests that they wouldn’t complain to the authorities about the exorbitant fees. In fact many pay gladly, as the fees are all said to go to charity. Of course, what the masters do not tell the students is that the charity of choice is the Qi Leong tong’s foreign operations, most specifically its arms-dealings with Third World countries and terrorist groups. The laundering of money is made even easier when one considers the tax-exempt status of religious organizations.

Almost all members of the Chinese community, as well as anyone who knows anything about real Chinese philosophy (any related skill at 11- or better), avoid the Pyramid.

STREET SCENE

Walking through Chinatown one often encounters street vendors hawking everything from live animals to Rolex watches. While the tongs and local police do their best to keep people safe, one should still be careful; in the hustle and bustle of the narrow streets it’s not uncommon for a person to become the victim of a pickpocket or a purse-snatcher, or worse. Designer bags are particularly inviting targets. Chinatown’s snatch and grab artists often work in pairs; while one draws the attention of the crowd by causing a scene, his partner takes advantage of the distraction and moves in for the kill. If they know what’s good for them, these pickpockets also pay a percentage of their take to the tong running the area in which they operate, and avoid getting too greedy.

Because a strong effort is made to keep beggars off the streets, not many are seen. Those who are around often walk right up to passersby asking for change or cigarettes. They tend to keep moving, as the local shopkeepers watch over their storefronts with wary eyes. Small children are often employed by beggars to ask for money, and groups of three to five youngsters can sometimes be seen moving around the Yu Ling market claiming to be hungry or lost. Like the adult beggars, they don’t tend to stay in any one location very long.

Campaign Tip

The most serious potential threat posed by the Eternal Night cult to the safety of San Angelo is not chemical in nature, but mystical. If cult members were ever to find out about the presence and nature of the demon bound to the warehouse on Front Street (described more fully in **The Mystic Scene**) they would almost certainly attempt to free this mighty servant of the Yama Kings.

Poverty and Homelessness

Despite the strong efforts of the community to hide it, poverty and homelessness do exist in Chinatown. Most of the beggars and street merchants seen during the day retreat to abandoned buildings deep in the inner part of Chinatown at night. Child beggars often band together to sleep and protect each other.

What many don’t see is the invisible war that often goes on between the homeless and the middle class in Chinatown. Often the homeless are Chinese immigrants who’ve had a tough time adjusting to living in the United States. Some have been robbed, or injured while doing forced labor to pay their “transport fee.” They don’t want to go to the Armory or other parts of San Angelo, as they can’t speak English and would have to deal with strangers; they want to be in Chinatown, with people they understand.





The problem is that many people in the community don't want them around, fearing that their presence will make the area unattractive to tourists, and ruin the business that the community has worked hard to build.

Benevolent Associations

Several organizations have attempted to help the homeless in Chinatown. The Salvation Army has a soup kitchen on A Street, while the Catholic archdiocese operates a 20-bed dormitory on Canal Street that is open each evening on a first-come, first-served basis. Despite their well-intentioned efforts, the community has given these groups cool receptions. Most locals don't want Chinatown to become like the Armory, and in many cases people in the district would rather see the homeless moved to that part of San Angelo.

The city's own efforts have had mixed results. Like other programs started by the city council, Chinatown tends to view the intrusion with suspicion. William Yuan has been very vocal about not wanting more "outsiders" telling community residents how to deal with the homeless problem. "Chinatown," he says, "can take care of its own." To back

up his words Yuan has asked both the Chinese-American Benevolent Society (or CABS) and the Chinatown Neighborhood Center (CNC) to begin out-reach efforts to the homeless in Chinatown. He's offered \$50,000 to help fund the efforts, and hopes other business leaders will join him.

While the community has been listening to speeches from various political and neighborhood groups, one person is quietly trying to help the situation. Without any fanfare, a Shao-Lin priest named Xui Sung Lee has converted an abandoned warehouse on Cameron Street into a residence for homeless children and adults. Currently Lucky House, as the inhabitants call it, shelters about 10 children and five adults. Each day, Xui Sung takes his charges out into the neighborhood to teach them about life, while the adults continue to work on building renovations, or take on odd jobs that the priest finds for them.

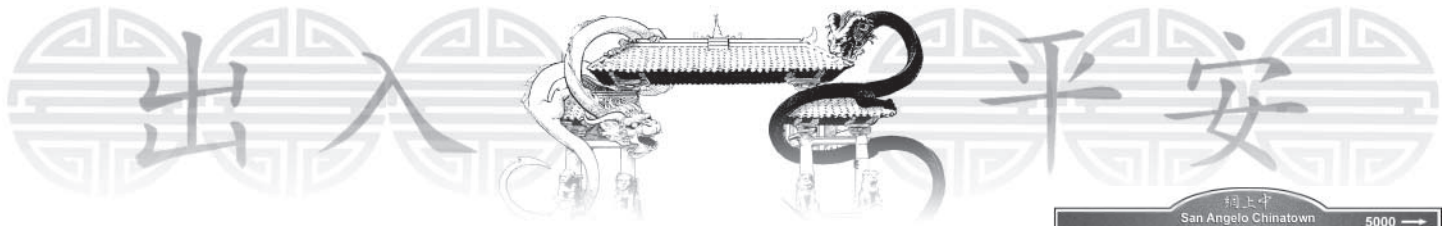
So far few in the community have taken much notice of the priest or his flock. As more people come to live at Lucky House, however, the community can be expected to start making stronger objections. Most locals (including Xui Sung) also don't know that an associate of the real estate developer Benjamin Morgan (see *SA:CoH*) is attempting to buy the property on which the house is located. As with other parts of San Angelo where he's constructed buildings, Morgan believes that many of Chinatown's ills will go away once he replaces the old rundown buildings with new luxury apartments and condos.

Xui Sung Lee

A devout Shao-Lin priest, Xui Sung arrived in the United States over 10 years ago, following what he describes as "his calling," which has carried him to many places where people are in need. Recently his calling brought him to San Angelo, where he believes that too many people worship material goods, and not the spirit.

A modest man, Xui Sung never forces his beliefs on anyone. He believes that in their own time most will come to realize the wisdom of the simple life he leads, and he's willing to wait until they are ready.

While Xui Sung considers himself a man of peace, he does defend himself if attacked. If forced into combat, he uses a lacquered bamboo stick that he carries with him wherever he goes. He also uses the stick on difficult young students, often repeating the strange phrase, "The first rule of Zen is 'Ask a stupid question, get hit with a stick,'" before smacking them on the wrist. His "home schooling" curriculum would likely not pass muster if any state agency caught wind of it, but teaching only the homeless no officials are even aware of his program.



WEALTHY SCENE

Chinatown is known in the other parts of San Angelo for its immigrants and foreign customs. What most people don't realize is that a number of very wealthy people live in the community as well. Because of tradition and respect for old customs, few of the affluent people living in Chinatown flaunt their wealth. Many achieved success through years of hard work and sacrifice, and see their wealth as the result of following their values, not as something to be spent recklessly on material things. Traditional Chinese culture doesn't place much value on having a lot of money; it instead focuses on the security and living standards having money gives to a family. The single biggest conflict between immigrant parents and their American-born children is often about the value of money and wealth.

Most wealthy people in Chinatown are business owners and educated professionals who prefer to remain among their fellow Chinese, living comfortably without standing out. Some drive nice cars or live in nicely furnished homes or condominiums along Kirby Avenue, Canton, or Water Streets, but this is about as far as they go to show their wealth.

Wealthy People in Chinatown

Tak Sing Lai

A former investment banker with the First National Bank of Chinatown (page ___), Tak Sing left the bank to form his own investment and brokerage firm a little over five years ago. Today TSL Securities is the only true stock broker and investment analysis firm that serves Chinatown. Tak Sing not only wants to help his clients make money, but he also wants to protect them from being swindled by fast-talking salesmen. His office provides investment advice, brokerage services, and financial planning to his clients. Tak Sing doesn't like the tongs and doesn't deal with any known tong members. He also keeps the identities of his clients confidential.



Huo Zhang So

A retired professor and software developer, Huo designed a revolutionary graphic user interface that Infinity Software (see *SA:CoH*) used in its hit game *Justice Squad*. After selling the software rights to Infinity, So retired from her position at UC San Angelo, and spent a year traveling around China. Currently, she's living off her Infinity royalties, while teaching basic computer courses part time for the Chinese-American Benevolent Society (page 58) and the CNC (page 21). An attractive woman in her early 30s, she has become a socialite both in Chinatown and other parts of San Angelo.



Wilson Sung

Wilson is one of many second-generation Chinese-Americans who made the jump to mainstream American culture. Unlike most of his peers, Wilson still lives in Chinatown out of respect for his culture; he has not forgotten the sacrifices his parents made to help him become successful. Today, Wilson is executive vice president of operations at Anderson Pharmaceuticals, where he's responsible for building and running the company's various research and production facilities. Although Anderson is based in San Angelo, it has plants located around the world, giving Wilson a lot of opportunity to rack up frequent flyer miles. When not working 16-hour days, Wilson spends time with his wife Xi Jie. The couple is expecting their first child in the autumn.

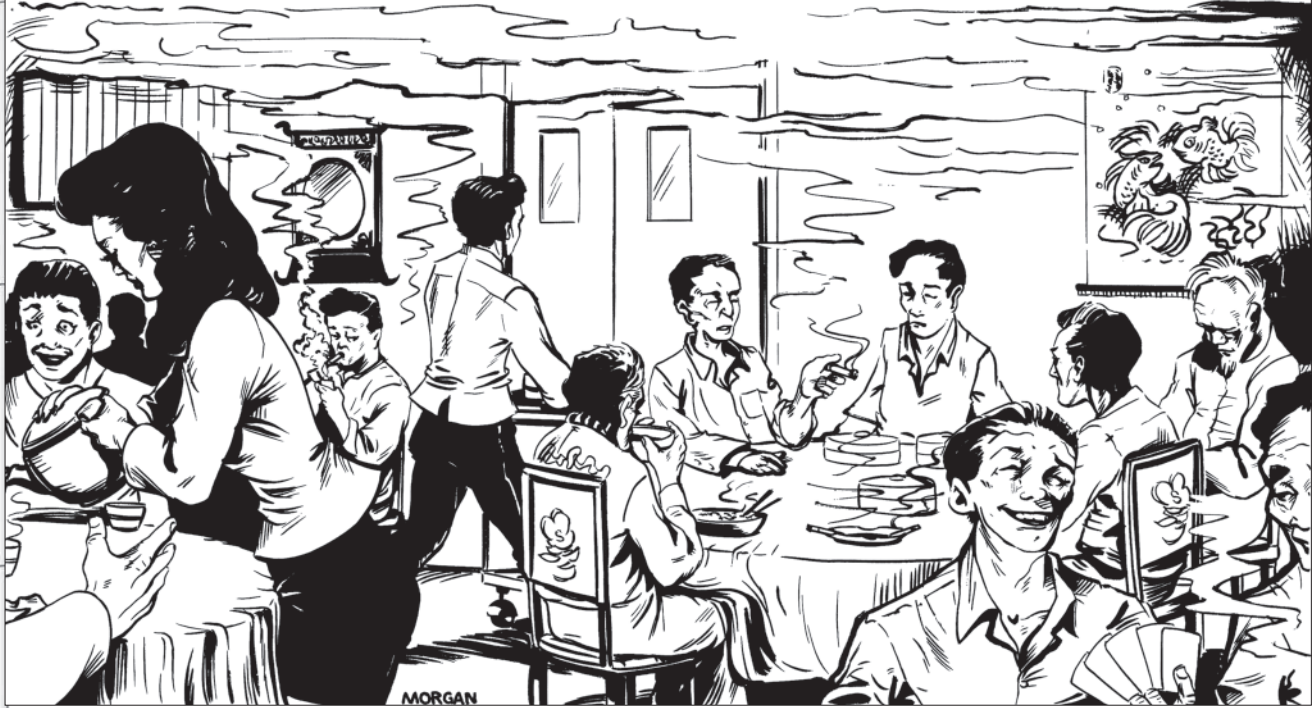


Private Clubs

There are clubs in Chinatown that cater exclusively to the prominent people who live in the community, places where people go to transact business, talk about neighborhood is-



Life in Chinatown



sues, and relax with friends. It's at these clubs that community leaders often speak frankly about issues affecting Chinatown, and develop strategies for dealing with outsiders who are trying to hurt the community. Knowing how important these clubs are to the community, the tongs generally respect them as neutral ground.

"Look, I know it's bad karma to benefit from someone else's misfortune, but Ben Morgan's development company has a publicly traded REIT. If this Galleria plan ever goes forward, that trust is gonna skyrocket, hey?"

— Pan Lo, 30, accountant

The Wojoo Club

A place where entire families are welcome to socialize, the Wojoo Club is known for promoting various family activities like birthdays, cookouts, and events linked to Chinese holidays.

When no events are scheduled families are welcome to play games—everything from ping-pong, mah-jongg, and

Chinese checkers, to popular American board and card games, and billiards) while dining from the well-stocked buffet of authentic Chinese dishes. Smoking and small meeting rooms are also available for private discussions.

Yong Lung Club

This is a more traditional men's club located on Chan Street. Here

men come to drink, gamble, and smoke cigars.

Members are free to chat about anything they wish, but most discussion at this club centers on business more than it does in the neighborhood as a whole.

The Yong Lung is known for its well-stocked bar and its ability to provide a selection of hand-rolled Cuban cigars.

Media, Entertainment and the Arts

Media, Entertainment and the Arts

Chinatown is one of San Angelo's most prominent tourist attractions, including restaurants offering a wide range of Oriental cuisines, a couple of very popular nightspots, and several museums. The district also contains other entertainments that are targeted primarily to area residents, ranging from theaters performing traditional forms of Chinese theater and dance to mah jongg clubs, and even to the dark and mysterious competition known only as "The Game."

Though Chinatown could hardly be described as a hotbed of media activity in San Angelo, the district does support two local newspapers, and a small cable television station. Though tiny in comparison to San Angelo's two competing daily newspapers or its major network television affiliates, Chinatown's local news and television services do provide a unique perspective on happenings in the district. Most of the larger city-wide TV and radio stations and newspapers also have at least one feature reporter with some contacts on the Chinatown beat. In addition, there are other people associated with the city-wide media who have some sort of special work or personal connection to Chinatown. These institutions and individuals are briefly described below.

NEWSPAPERS

Chinatown supports a twice-weekly Chinese (Cantonese) language newspaper, the *Chinatown Express*, (see *SA:CoH*), and a biweekly English language periodical, the *New China Gazette*. The two publications could not be more different in the tone of their reporting, or in the nature of their focus on life in Chinatown. The weekly *Vietnamese Journal* (see *SA:CoH*) has a small but dedicated following.

Chinatown Express

The *Chinatown Express* focuses on life in the local Asian-American community. Harvey Chow founded the then-weekly paper in 1965 as a one-man shoestring operation. Chow quickly developed a reputation as a muckraker, revealing the problems bubbling beneath the surface of Chinatown, particularly those dealing with organized crime: the tongs and their affiliated street gangs. After several of his exposes were followed up by San Angelo's major news dailies, quoting Chow extensively in their stories, Chow's credibility increased, and the *Express* expanded into a twice-weekly tabloid with a 12-person staff.

Chow continued to focus his paper's attentions on underworld activities, and in his zeal to bring matters to light often made the decision to publish items based on unconfirmed rumors from unnamed sources in the paper's gossip column, "The Tiger's Eye." He was repeatedly sued for slander, and

on three occasions spent time in jail for refusing to reveal his sources during on-going criminal investigations. In the summer of 1988 his investigative report on the Chinatown drug trade resulted in over a dozen arrests, and the confiscation of a stash of cocaine and heroin with a street value of nearly \$8 million. On November 19th of that year, Chow was gunned down as he ate lunch at the Siam Lotus restaurant. Although the murder was assumed to be the revenge of the tongs, the killer was never brought to justice and the case file lies gathering dust deep in the police department's records division archives.

Chow's death did not still the voice of the *Chinatown Express*, however. Chow's daughter Suzy resigned her reporter's job at a prominent East Coast newspaper to return home and take over the paper. Under her guidance, the *Express* has remained Chinatown's watchdog, observing daily events with a jaundiced eye and exposing corruption and criminal activity wherever it can be found. Presently, *Express* reporters are investigating whether Chinese patients at Kelley Medical Center (see *SA:CoH*) receive comparatively inadequate treatment, analyzing hiring practices in the San Angelo County District Attorney's office, completing an undercover expose of Chinatown escort services, and checking into allegations of improprieties at the Wayne Street Free Clinic (page 36).

Although the paper's circulation has steadily risen over the years, its frequent targeting of the local business community limits its appeal to potential advertisers. Consequently, the *Express* always seems to be a few weeks away from filing bankruptcy, and none of its employees are more than a paycheck away from poverty.

Suzy Chow

Newspaper Owner, Editor, and Reporter

10 STR 14 DEX 14 CON 10 BODY 14 INT
15 EGO 13 PRE 10 COM 3 PD 3 ED
3 SPD 5 REC 30 END 22 STUN

Abilities: Martial Arts: Kung Fu (Block; Dodge; Kick; Punch); Bureaucratics 12-; Conversation 13-; Criminology 8-; Deduction 13-; AK: Chinatown 13-; KS: Tongs 11-; Language: Mandarin (fluent conversation); PS: Businessman 12-; PS: Newspaper owner 11-; Stealth 12-; Streetwise 13-

50+ Disadvantages: DNPC: Newspaper staff, treat as family; Hunted: Watched by Tongs; Psychological Limitation: Find her father's killer; Psychological Limitation: Hates tongs

Notes: Suzy Chow often hung around the newspaper's offices in her youth, doing odd jobs and watching her father work. After graduating with honors from a local high school, she decided to follow in his footsteps by enrolling in the Co-



lumbia University School of Journalism, where she was a classmate, although not a friend, of *Times* reporter Madeleine Sainte-Marie. After graduation, her zest for exposing corruption led her naturally to the nation's capital, where she worked the Capitol Hill beat for a suburban Maryland newspaper until she received the tragic news that brought her home.

Like her father before her, Suzy Chow is now the life force that keeps the *Chinatown Express* running. She edits, proofreads, and helps with the layout of the

articles of other staff members, while still finding time to write about 40% of the paper's content. She works 12-hour days, and is willing to sacrifice a night's sleep if she gets a hot tip in the wee hours of the morning. Her tireless dedication to the job seems to inspire everyone else on the *Express* staff to a high level of personal commitment to the paper and its purpose of revealing Chinatown's darkest secrets.

Suzy has kept the focus of the *Express* on rooting out corruption, prejudice, and injustice concerning San Angelo's Asian population. Unlike Harvey, she has expanded the reach of the newspaper's reportage to matters outside the boundaries of Chinatown, such as employment discrimination against Asian-Americans by city and county agencies. She also differs in insisting on having a high level of proof in hand before she goes to press with a juicy accusation of wrongdoing.

Chow, now 34, is a petite woman just over 5' tall, with an athletic build, short dark hair, and piercing almond eyes. During her college years, she was an accomplished rock-climber and long-distance runner, but these days she gets her exercise primarily from the treadmill in her apartment. Her third-story loft, a half-block from the newspaper office, is sparsely furnished except for a state-of-the-art computer system at which she often works late into the night.

Her long hours leave her little time for a social life, and she has not been involved in a serious romantic attachment since returning to San Angelo. Chow isn't above flirting a bit with an interview subject, however, if she believes it will help her get the story.

"But if you wanna know what paper we buy, it's the Gazette. It has 2-for-1 coupons for the Taste of Szechuan. Oh yeah."

— Duk "Dicky" Bong, 45, longshoreman

Suzy Chow's sole regret is that, in 10 years, she has been unable to make any real progress toward identifying her father's killer. The search is the one thing that could make her drop whatever she is working on at present. Her father's murder has also made her aware of the dangers inherent in the types of stories she and the *Express* continue to pursue. She has taken self-defense training, and on two prior occasions has hired a bodyguard for a couple of weeks after receiving death threats she considered "real."

"Our family owes a lot to the Express. My cousin Suzy had back surgery at Kelley Medical over a year ago, but the pain didn't go away. She got shuffled back and forth between doctors, even hired an attorney, but nothin' happened 'til the Express reporter interviewed her and put her picture in the paper. All of a sudden, the Center's getting' all cozy, and schedules her for a second surgery, no charge."

— Leelee Bong, 44, salesclerk

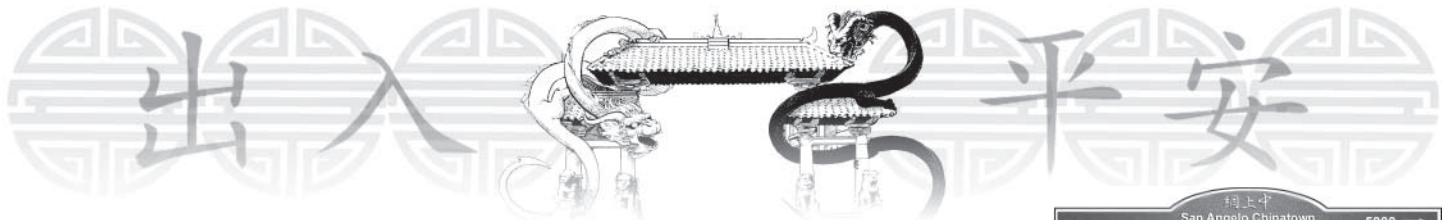
Other *Express* Personnel

Freddie Wu: Wu is a stocky man in his late 40s, who wears thick, wire-rimmed spectacles that often dangle precariously on the end of his elongated nose, and a mismatched wardrobe that looks like it was bought exclusively at the Salvation Army. He looks more like a second-string accountant than an ace reporter, but when he gets on the trail of a story Freddie is as tenacious as a bulldog digging for a bone. Wu has a remarkable talent for getting reluctant sources to open up to him, and has repeatedly obtained vital leads from such informants that have broken open big stories.

Freddie has a self-deprecating wit, a sweet tooth for chocolate, and a large family including his wife Anna, four children ranging in age from 5 to 16, and a ne'er-do-well brother and invalid aunt who both live with him in his crowded flat. He keeps telling Suzy that he is going to quit the *Express* and find a nice safe desk job somewhere, but doesn't appear ready to make good on those threats.

Lu Ping-Ho: Lu Ping-Ho is the youngest and most recent addition to the *Chinatown Express* staff, a tall, slender 23-year-old woman with boyish features and a seemingly boundless reservoir of energy. At present, she acts as the office "go-fer," and helps out with the newspaper's layout, advertising, and distribution. Lu wants to be an investigative reporter like Suzy and Freddie, however, and spends her free time roaming around Chinatown's back streets with a camera, hoping to find the story that will provide her big break.

At a recent tennis exhibition at the community center, Lu took a photo of a well-built man in a green



windbreaker who appeared to be taking great notice of one of the match's participants, a gifted young player named Sammi Yung. After the match, she was approached by the boy's father and asked for a copy of the picture. Since that time, she has started to compile a file on the Yung family, looking for something to investigate further.

New China Gazette

If the *Chinatown Express* is focused on revealing Chinatown's seamy underbelly, then the *New China Gazette* is dedicated to celebrating the surface delights the district offers to tourists and residents alike. The periodical was started in 1983 with a grant from the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, but soon proved capable of pulling its own financial weight, and was spun off as an independent enterprise. After years of clever management, the *Gazette* has become quite a cash cow for its publisher, C.H. Yang.

The *New China Gazette* has a glossy four-color cover, and contains a mix of feature stories on local businesses and business owners, restaurant reviews, real estate listings, and a summary of local, state, and national news items with relevance to Chinatown, culled from the wire services. It provides a calendar listing area events during the next two-week period, descriptions of recent events, and reports on major upcoming attractions such as the annual New Year's parade or the Autumn Moon festival. It is also chock-full of ads from local merchants, many of which include valuable discount coupons.

Other Reporters of Note

Kenny Li: A 42-year-old veteran reporter who moved to San Angelo 18 months ago from the Seattle area to take a job with the *San Angelo Clarion*, Li's work in Seattle was quite celebrated, and he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1989 for a series of reports concerning health conditions in the city's homeless shelters. He is currently assigned to the *Clarion's* metro desk, and covers the downtown beat from Old San Angelo and Government Center to Chinatown and Riverfront.

Li has been frustrated by his inability to build up a reliable network of contacts in Chinatown, and is working hard to

rectify that situation. Several nights a week he can be found frequenting the district's restaurants and night spots, trying to make friends in the community. He is quick to pick up a check or to offer to help a new acquaintance solve a problem with the help of some of his other contacts in municipal government, and he is slowly but surely gaining the trust of a few locals. Nonetheless, his best leads about criminal activities in Chinatown to date have come to him through sources in Riverfront, who know people involved in the street distribution of drugs supplied by the Qi Leong tong. His efforts to follow this trail to the source have thus far dead-ended in the back streets of Chinatown.

Burke Albrecht: Burke is a third-generation San Angelo newspaperman who has risen through the ranks of the *San Angelo Times* to become one of its five deputy managing editors. He belongs to the Skyline Club (see *SA:CoH*) and the San Angelo Yacht Club (see *SA:CoH*) and has an ex-model trophy wife 30 years his junior. Burke also owns a collection of vintage automobiles that he tinkers with on weekends when he isn't sailing or jetting down to Puerto Vallarta.

Unfortunately, Burke also has a fascination with point spreads that isn't matched by his skills as a gambler, and he has gotten himself deeply into debt with a Chinatown bookmaking operation controlled by the Wing Chao tong.

A year ago, in exchange for some relief from his debts, Albrecht agreed to supply his contact, "Whispers" Kwan (page 77), with advance warning whenever the *Times* was preparing to run a story concerning Chinatown's criminal underworld. Thus far these calls have gone undetected,

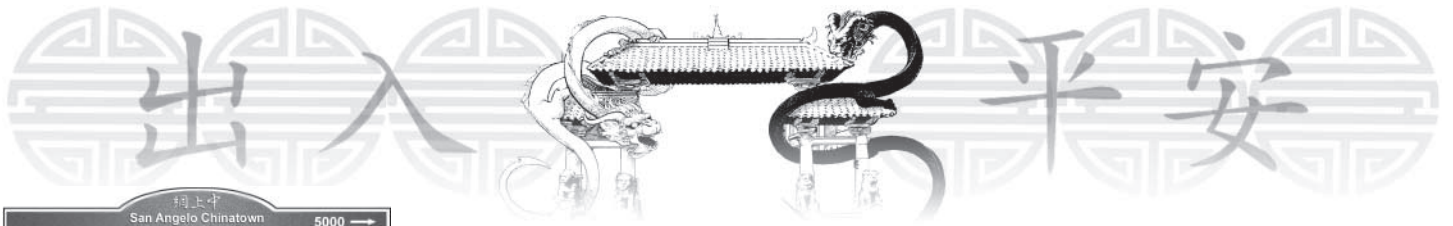
but Burke's tab has again grown to six figures, and he is fearful that the tong will ask him to take stronger action like killing a story, which could put his job and reputation on the line.

Campaign Tip
The *Chinatown Express* offers an excellent vehicle for providing heroes with the seeds of adventures set in Chinatown. The *Express* staffers represent one of the few sources of local information who will talk freely with outsiders, as long as they believe that the players are legitimately willing to help bring the offending parties to justice. Their sources are generally reliable, and they have their fingers solidly on the pulse of Chinatown's corrupt and well-concealed heart. The *Express* staffers are also the sort of noble truth seekers who deserve and often need to be protected.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

Chinatown is not a major player on San Angelo's radio airwaves. The area's only Asian-language radio station, KASA 1110 AM, operates out of a makeshift transmission facility housed in a reconditioned warehouse in Riverfront,





and has a weak broadcast signal that barely extends to the city limits. KASA broadcasts only during daylight hours, and plays traditional Asian folk music from a variety of cultures: Chinese, Japanese, Thai, and others. Its DJs are extremely unobtrusive, breaking in on the music only twice per hour to announce song titles, make public service announcements, and to read the occasional ad. Many of Chinatown's shops and tea houses, and even the open air produce market, keep their radios tuned to KASA to heighten the district's Oriental ambience.

By night, however, the sounds of Chinatown become more eclectic. Restaurants endlessly loop pre-recorded cassettes of soothing mood music, while the nightclubs pump out the latest dance hits, from European techno-pop to disco revival. And out beyond the tourist sections of Chinatown, the silence of the evening is often shattered by car radios or boom boxes blaring the hip-hop sounds favored by Chinatown's street gangs.

Similarly, the Chinese-American community's limited forays into local television can mostly be found on Channel 65, a public access cable channel operated by the University of California San Angelo campus (see *SA:CoH*). Chi-

nese programming, both in English and Chinese, comprises about 30% of Channel 65's total fare, and includes re-broadcasts of taped religious services, a weekly civic affairs roundtable moderated by the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, a talent showcase offering modest cash prizes, and a variety of special feature programming. Students from the UCSA School of Communications run the station equipment and provide the technical expertise necessary as part of their senior year work-study programs.

Nonetheless, the city's network broadcast affiliates are always looking to add Asian (as well as other minority) faces to their local news teams, to give their nightly broadcasts an air of ethnic diversity. These policies have provided several Chinatown residents opportunities to get on screen.

Television Personalities

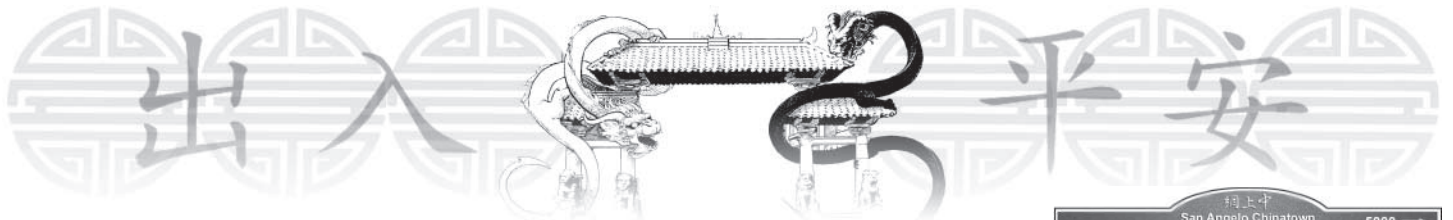
Kim Li Kim

Kim, 44, is the host of a weekly half-hour show on local Public Television station KZNE called *Cooking With Kim*. Every week, Kim and a guest chef from one of Chinatown's restaurants prepare one of the restaurant's specialties. Kim is chubby and balding, and has a tendency to fracture English from time to time. Still his zest for cooking, and the obvious delight he receives from helping to create the finished product, comes right through the television screen to viewers, and the show has become a cult favorite throughout San Angelo. Restaurants featured on *Cooking With Kim* typically receive a boost in business for weeks after they appear, and a couple of local entrepreneurs are currently locked in a bidding war to secure licensing rights to put Kim's likeness on a line of cooking sauces. As Kim likes to say at the close of each show, as he samples the finished product, "Life is good. So eat good."

April Ming

The 1995 Miss Chinatown and a former UCSA cheerleader, April Ming has been employed since last June as a features reporter on KABL's Action News. The Action News production staff have tried to get the maximum mileage out of Ming's fresh, gorgeous face, sending her to cover stories with natural photo opportunities like theater premieres and city visits by foreign dignitaries. The rest of the time, Ming draws the news day's "puff" pieces: human interest stories on heroic animals who save their masters, septuagenarian surfers, and the like.





On-screen, Ming can sound as intelligent as the cue cards someone else writes for her allow, for she has a pleasingly throaty voice and clearly enjoys occupying the spotlight. Off-screen, she wouldn't know a story if it bit her on her perfectly proportioned derriere. A recent *S.A. Weekly* article that included the 25-year old Ming as one of five "New Faces to Watch in San Angelo" quoted venerable KABL news anchorman Tom Longstreet as saying, "She's everything that's wrong with modern broadcast journalism. In five years she'll have my job." Although Longstreet has publicly denied the comment and demanded a retraction, it is likely that the sentiments expressed are accurate.

Dorothy Xiu

Dorothy Xiu (pronounced "shu") is a matronly lady who has long served as an assistant librarian at the Chinatown Public Library. She wears her long graying hair coiled up in a bun, has a soft voice and a warm smile, and admits only to being "a few years past 40." Once a month, Dorothy hosts a show on Channel 65 called *The Hidden Chinatown*. Using a single hand-held camera operated by her husband, Frank, she takes viewers on a narrated walking tour of some of Chinatown's lesser known businesses and landmarks. During the tour, she provides an astonishing array of old stories (many of which were passed down by her grandparents, who grew up in Chinatown around the turn of the century) and obscure facts. It's not exciting TV, but its certainly informative.

Campaign Tip

Dorothy Xiu is an extraordinary unofficial repository of historical information about Chinatown's earlier years. Between her family's stories and her years of work at the library she has amassed an incredible collection of useful anecdotal knowledge. Her cable TV shows barely hint at the extent of this knowledge, or the uses to which it might be put.

Dorothy could be used as a resource by either side in any scenario in which the heroes or villains are trying to solve a puzzle from Chinatown's past. Perhaps T'ien Lung or one of his henchmen lost some artifact of power during one of their struggles with the Liberty Corps.

Maybe the loot from some old bank heist dating back to the Old West days found its way into Chinatown and was never recovered. Players with a mystical bent might even be searching for information about past supernatural events surrounding a particular building or street.

The motherly Ms. Xiu might unknowingly hold the key to all of these mysteries among the mementos, scrapbooks

ENTERTAINMENT

Though Chinatown occupies a relatively small geographical section of San Angelo, it is one of the city's most prominent tourist attractions. Consequently, the district boasts a large number of establishments catering to their interests. Furthermore, while Chinatown lacks the vacant land to conduct team sports, visitors and residents can still find many diverse forms of recreation within its boundaries.

Restaurants

The Chinese immigrants who founded San Angelo's Chinatown were primarily from China's Kwangtung province, and Cantonese cuisine comprised the district's common fare for many years. Since the relaxation of U.S. immigration laws in the 1940s, however, Chinatown has become home to émigrés from all sections of China, plus Japanese, Koreans, and Filipinos, and more recently Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians and Hmong. These days one can find a Chinatown restaurant to satisfy almost any taste.

The Emerald Palace

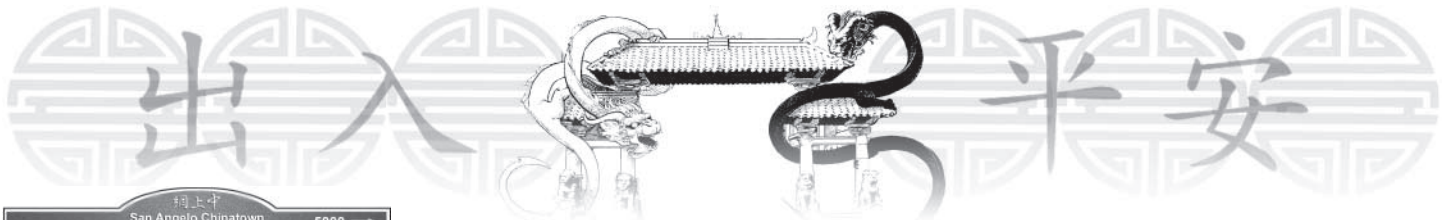
Since it first opened in 1932 as a tiny one-room hole in the wall, the Emerald Palace has been a Chinatown institution. It has survived seven changes of ownership, two bankruptcies and countless expansions that have increased its total

and journals she has compiled.

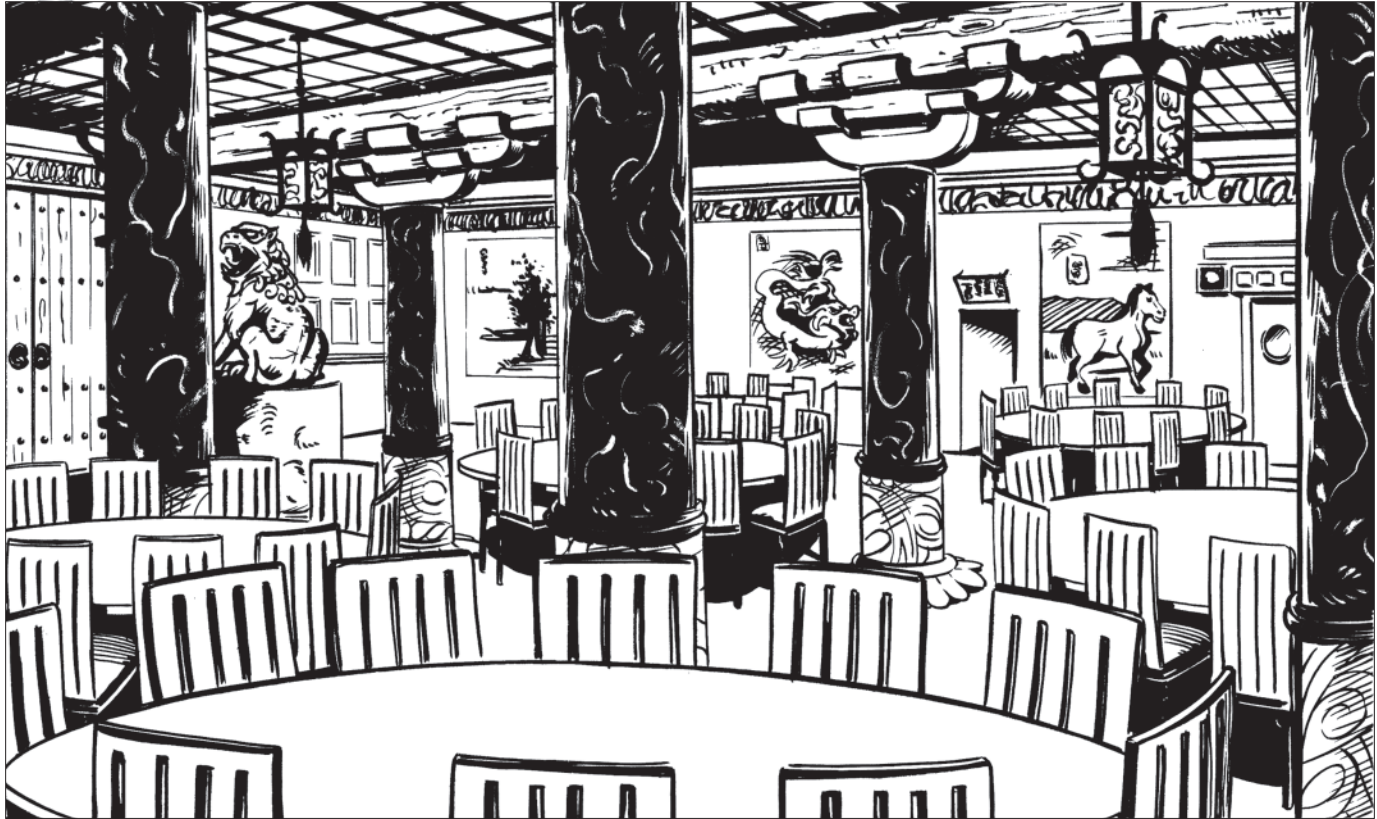
Dorothy is a law-abiding citizen, and certainly would want to be of assistance to anyone working for or with city authorities in a criminal investigation. However, she also knows enough about the history of the Chinatown tongs not to want to do anything that would put her in the direct path of their retaliation. She most assuredly does not want to get a reputation as the sort of person who has superheroes lining up outside her door.

The only way that PCs can gain her trust and cooperation is by convincing her of the importance of their mission or their ability to protect her against reprisals. Once she does agree to cooperate, GMs should treat Dorothy more as a directional pointer than a *deus ex machina*. Her useful information should come in the form of oblique clues, or nuggets tucked beneath a mountain of old tales and pointless trivia. Any consultation session with Dorothy Xiu should be time-consuming and frustrating, but ultimately rewarding.





San Angelo Chinatown 5000
**Media, Entertainment
and the Arts**



seating capacity to over 500. The present facility stretches over half a block along Canton Street and consists of an interconnected warren of mismatched buildings that range anywhere from one to three stories in height, and run the gamut of architectural styles. The complex contains three separate kitchens, a 200-seat banquet hall with a parquet dance floor, a variety of private meeting rooms, and a gift shop carrying all sorts of logo apparel, dishes and glassware, and souvenir paraphernalia.

The original Emerald Palace concentrated solely on Cantonese cuisine, and the restaurant is still famed for its Sunday dim sum brunches. Over the years, however, its menu has branched out, adding Szechuan and Hunan specialties to its basic fare, and in 1978 two rooms at the eastern end of the complex were converted to offer Japanese teppanyaki-style dining as well. Since 1989, the Palace has been owned by an international real estate investment trust (REIT), and managed by Eddie Hong and his three sons.

Although the Emerald Palace can attribute a substantial amount of its traffic to its renown as a San Angelo tourist attraction, the quality of the food has remained consistently high, and the restaurant still receives high ratings in most San Angelo guidebooks. What has suffered as a result of the restaurant's constant expansion is the caliber of its service.

Even parties with reservations often must wait 30-40 minutes before being seated, and nobody should go there with the expectation of anything but a leisurely meal.

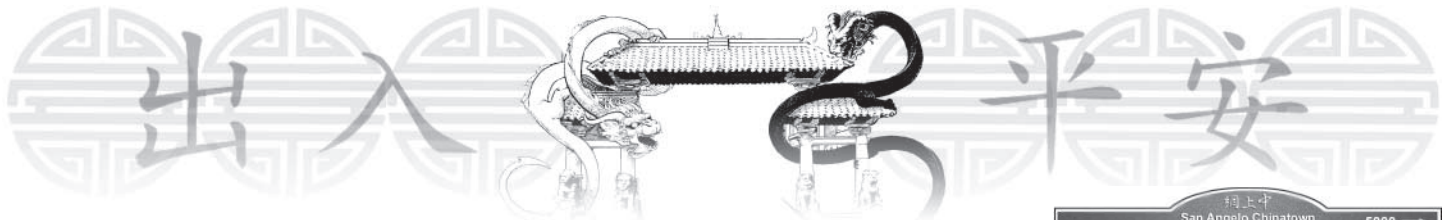
The Palace's private dining rooms, some of which are equipped with their own exits to the rear alleyways, are perfect for secret meetings or clandestine rendezvous. It has been traditional for Chinatown's tongs to treat the Palace as neutral ground, and parleys between rival factions are often scheduled here.

Taste of Szechuan

A relative newcomer to the Chinatown restaurant scene, Taste of Szechuan opened a scant five years ago, in a space on Mandarin Street created by gutting and renovating a trio of three-story residential rowhouses. The restaurant quickly rocketed to prominence, winning the *S.A. Weekly's* award for Best Oriental Restaurant in each of the past two years.

Taste of Szechuan is owned and managed by the husband and wife team of Henry and Jo Kwan. Henry oversees the restaurant's food preparation, and spends his mornings scouring the produce market for the freshest meats, fish, and vegetables. Jo serves as hostess, handles all the hiring of staff, and keeps the books. Patrons seldom complete a meal with-





out having one or both Kwans stop by their table to check that everything is satisfactory, and thanks to their fanatical attention to detail it virtually always is.

Although Taste of Szechuan's menu contains plenty of spicy fare seasoned with the region's trademark red chili peppers, it also includes a variety of savory entrées that combine hot, sour, sweet, and salty flavorings in delightful combinations. Those lucky enough to get a table in the open-air balcony areas on the second and third floors can sit back and watch the bustling crowds in the streets below as they enjoy their meal.

Other Chinatown Restaurants of Note

The Golden Buddha: Located next door to the Wong Taisin Temple near the produce market in a brightly painted building with a pagoda-style roof, lunch at the Golden Buddha is often included in Chinatown guided tour packages. The restaurant's fare is so slanted toward the tourist trade that it could most charitably be described as "Chinese food for people who don't like Chinese food." Most meals are so bland as to be virtually indistinguishable and overpriced as well, and the restaurant has practically retired the title of "worst" Chinese restaurant in the city. The Buddha's only redeeming grace is its bar, which does carry a wide selection of imported Chinese and Japanese beers.

Emperor's Choice: This popular restaurant, offering a mixture of Cantonese, Hunan, and Shangainese fare, is owned by Chinatown business mogul William Shihu Yuan. Several members of the Wing Chao tong are usually in attendance among the crowds, which tends to keep its patrons extremely well behaved. The facility has been successful enough that it has been franchised outside of Chinatown. There is now an Emperor's Choice II in Midtown, and an Emperor's Choice III in Irish Bar, and a fourth restaurant targeted for Old San Angelo is currently awaiting approval by the city's zoning board and landmarks commission, where it has encountered some opposition.

Dragon Star: This small restaurant, currently featuring Szechuan cuisine, has had many different names and owners over the years. It is located along the dividing line of the territories of the Choy Lok On and Qi Leong tongs, which usually leaves its proprietor with demands for protection money from both organizations. The few who have refused to bankrupt themselves to the tongs have wound up paying in other ways, ranging from savage beatings to exorbitant plate glass insurance premiums.

Hien Vuong: For the last 10 years, the Nguyen family, immigrants from (then) South Vietnam, have operated this

back street hole in the wall. In the past, the Nguyens have always paid proper tribute to the Choy Lok On tong. Lately however the restaurant has become a hangout for members of the Thunder Knights gang. They have begun to use it as a base of operations in Chinatown, extorting money from nearby shopkeepers and generally challenging the tong to do something about them. It appears likely that something will soon have to give, and that whatever it is will not be pleasant for the Nguyens or their restaurant.

China Jade Tea Room: The China Jade is perhaps the best known of Chinatown's many tea shops because its interior walls, which are painted with intricately detailed murals depicting daily life in a rural Chinese village, are often featured in tourist brochures. Patrons can choose from a wide selection of Oriental teas, served in an atmosphere fit for a mandarin. The China Jade is a great place to take a break after a long day of shopping or sightseeing.

Night Spots

Although many of the visitors and tourists who come to shop and dine in Chinatown move on to end their evening in the trendy nightclubs of nearby Riverfront, the district does possess its own thriving nightlife.

Jade

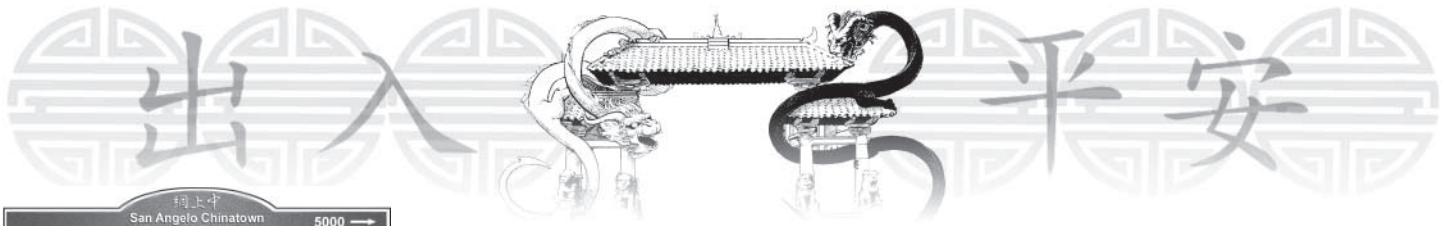
Chinatown has two dance clubs that cater to the community's young adult population. Jade, a 15-year veteran of the San Angelo scene, is a glitzy disco with a DJ, Bobby "Doctor" Wu, who has gained a city-wide reputation for incorporating world beat, hip-hop and even samples of traditional Asian music into his "happening" mix.

Ta Ch'eng-kung

Recently, Jade's reputation as the local in-spot has been threatened by an upstart newcomer, Ta Ch'eng-kung (literally: "Big Success"). This former warehouse looks plain from the outside, but inside the facility has been transformed into a technological dream, featuring the most sophisticated sound system and light shows on the market. Big Success offers huge discounts for various groups (Ladies' Night, Students' Night, etc.) on most evenings, and its drink prices are well below those at Jade.

Less well known is the fact that the financial backing for Big Success has been provided by the Qi Leong tong. Although no illegal activities are being conducted on the premises, the portion of the nightclub's clientele that is so inclined is being funnelled toward the Qi Leong's drug emporiums and brothels.





"Where do I go for a night on the town, baby? Well, it all depends. If I want to dance, I go down to Jade, and listen to Dr. Wu. But if I need to score, then it's down to the waterfront to Ta Ch'eng-kung. Seems like every doorman, bartender, and bathroom attendant over there can hook you up with a connection."

— Soong Rhee, 23, musician

The China Gate

For those who prefer their evening's entertainment at a lower volume, Chinatown also has a share of smaller night-clubs. One of the most unusual clubs in the district is also one of its oldest. The China Gate opened back in the mid-1930s, featuring black jazz musicians who, at the time, were prevented from working in many other parts of the city. Despite its mingling of such strange bedfellows (or perhaps *because* of them), the club prospered almost immediately, and many prominent national artists still make time to perform on its tiny, smoke-shrouded stage

Golden Mountain Tap Room

At the opposite end of the spectrum from the China Gate is the Golden Mountain Tap Room, a nondescript dinner theater that has gained local prominence on the strength of its current production, a one-man show by local actor-comedian Willie Tan called 'Confucius Tonight.' In the production, Tan plays Confucius as if he was alive in present-day San Angelo, and considers the wisdom of his famous epigrams in light of modern events. The show has been held over for 10 months, and is one of the hottest tickets in town. Although Tan feels loyalty to the Golden Mountain for giving him his big break, and the Tap Room's owner has quadrupled Willie's original salary, a clip of his performance was recently shown on the nationally syndicated *Entertainment Week*; it seems only a matter of time before Willie takes his show to Broadway or Hollywood.

"I went with some friends to see 'Confucius Tonight' last Friday. I couldn't believe how he came up with all those clever ways to make those sayings come alive. Like when he says 'A petty man is proud, but not exalted,' and then takes Confucius to get a driver's license at the DMV, that's inspired, man."

— Jenny Ho-Ran, 27, Legal Secretary

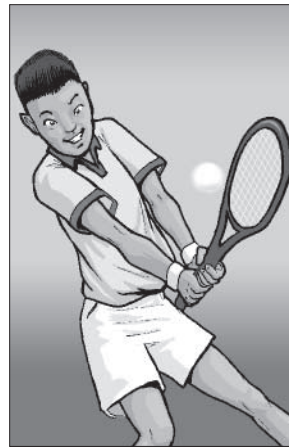
Eighty-Eights

In a class by itself is Eighty-Eights, a Chinese piano bar. This is one of the few places on Earth where one will ever have the opportunity to hear a couple of hundred Chinese-Americans sing "Feelings" in unison.

Sports and Recreation

Although Chinatown does not have much official connection with the city's professional team sports, the local community still engages in a variety of individual sports and recreational activities, including some that are not sanctioned by city government. One of the most popular of these activities, training in the Oriental martial arts, is discussed in the Martial World chapter.

Sammi Yung



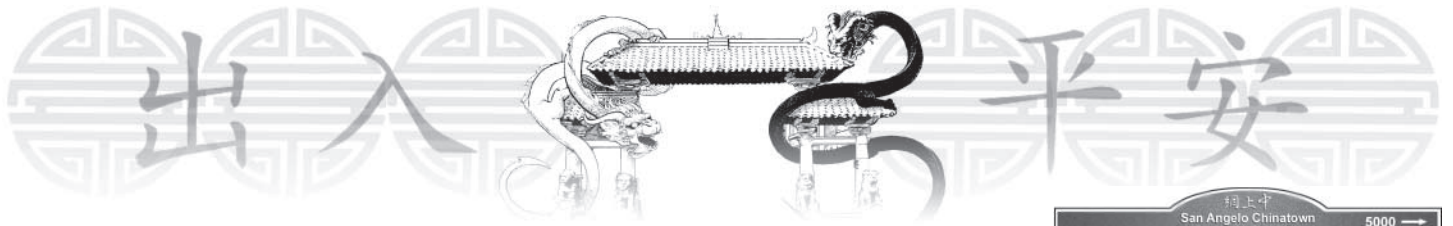
Four months shy of his 14th birthday, Sammi Yung is generally recognized as one of the finest young tennis players in the world. At 10 years of age, Sammi made it to the finals of the California State 13-and-under championships, and at 12 he won the 16-and-under championships. This past summer he dominated the State Amateur Open Championships, winning the event in straight sets. He also received a sponsor's invitation to participate as an amateur in the ATP pro tour event in San Francisco, where he made it to the third round before being defeated by Henri Richard, the world's 12th-ranked player. In various charity exhibitions in and around San Angelo Sammi has held his own against other professionals, adding to his growing legend.

Sammi first learned to play tennis on the two aged indoor hard-floor courts of the Chinatown Community Center, and knows every dead spot and tricky bounce of those surfaces. Today he practices five days a week at the posh La Vista Tennis Club, under the watchful eye of his father and coach, Jackie. Jackie has recently quit his job as an accountant to devote himself full-time to preparing Sammi to join the pro tour when he turns 16. Although this has put a strain of the family's resources, Jackie expects to recoup the lost income in spades, as the shoe, tennis racket, and apparel manufacturers have already begun to beat a path to the Yung's door.

Sammi's mother, Toi Ling, works as a registered nurse at University Medical Center. She is a level-headed woman who tries to keep both her son and her husband focused on Sammi's need to have some semblance of a normal teenager's life. His 11-year-old sister, Kelli, is an athletic protege in her own right and has also begun to compete, and medal, in junior figure skating competitions at the local and state level.

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Sammi is only 5'6" and has a slender build, but his foot speed and reflexes are both phenomenal, enabling him to make seemingly impossible returns look easy. The only weakness in his game is his serve, and he works relentlessly on increasing its power and accuracy. Beyond his athletic prowess, Sammi is a fairly normal young man. He maintains a respectable grade point average in school despite his crowded schedule, but his waking thoughts are consumed with hand-held video games, horror movies, and girls (not necessarily in that order). He also thirsts for the day when he will be old enough to drive, and his personal goals for pro stardom are primarily focused on making enough money to own a really hot sports car.

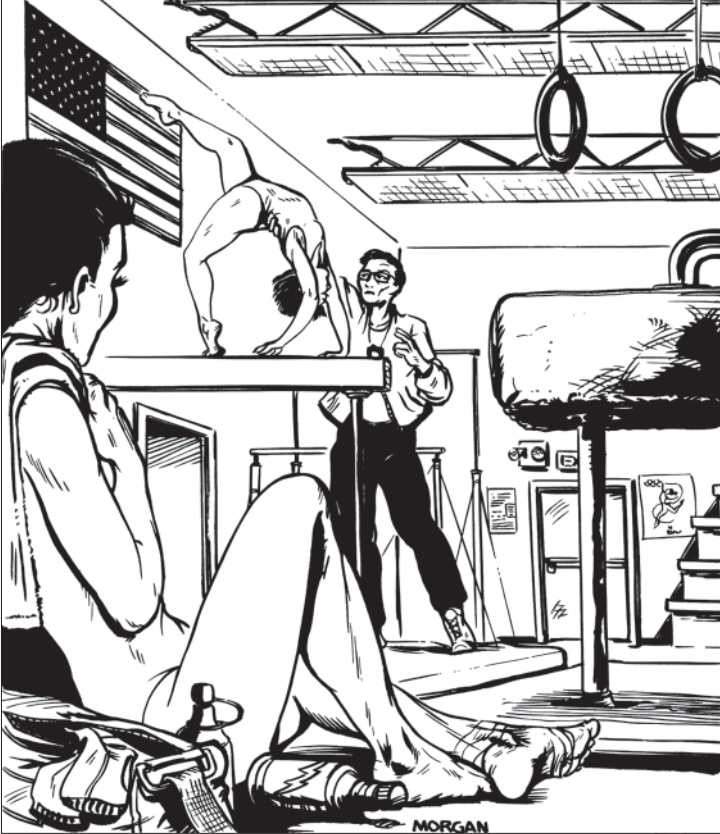
Shadowed

On several recent occasions, members of the Yung family have discovered themselves being watched by a heavy-set Asian man wearing a green windbreaker. When Jackie attempted to confront the man in the street, he ran off, disappearing down one of Chinatown's twisting back alleyways. The Yungs have reported these incidents to the police, but authorities have done little to investigate the matter to date, since no threats have been made and technically no crime has been committed. *Chinatown Express* staffer Lu Ping-Ho observed one of these incidents, and has been trying to find out more about the family and its mysterious shadow. The man following the Yungs is a member of the Wing Chao tong (see *The Power Plant*, page 82).

The Gym Nest

Housed in the two upper floors above an Oriental foods wholesaler, this facility is one of two gymnastics schools for boys and girls located in Chinatown. Competition between the Gym Nest and its counterpart, Flying Tigers Gymnastics, has always been friendly but spirited, and the two schools face off against each other twice a year in team competitions, one of which is held at each facility. This competitive background seems to serve the most talented students in these programs well, as the Nguyen Kim High School gymnastics teams often win the city championship, and many Gym Nest and Flying Tiger alumnae have gone on to compete at the college or national level. The culmination of all this came in 1996, when former Gym Nest student Emerald Kim made the women's Olympic gymnastic team.

In the wake of Kim's notoriety, the Gym Nest is attempting to catapult itself into a more prominent position in the national gymnastics world. It has modernized its training



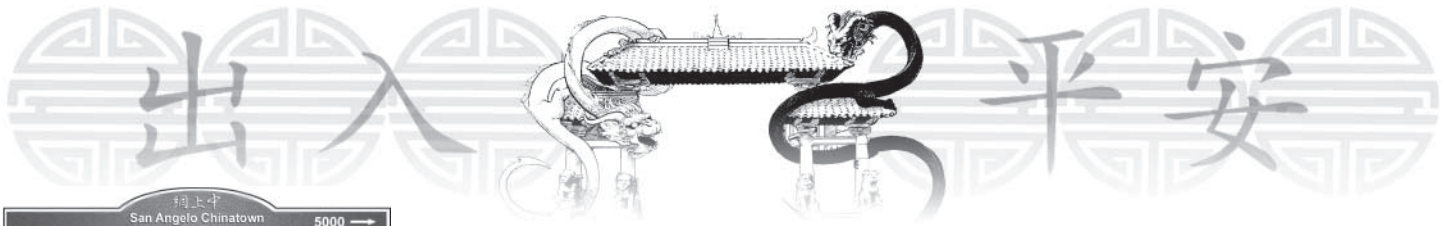
equipment, added sports nutritionist Dr. Theodore Yow to its staff on a part-time basis, and mounted an expensive advertising campaign with Kim as its centerpiece.

The first serious fruit of these efforts occurred two months ago, when Betty Choi, a junior champion in the balance beam, was sent by her Denver family to train at the Gym Nest. While her mother attempts to find a job in San Angelo, Betty has been temporarily living at the home of prominent Chinatown businessman William Shihu Yuan. Yuan has taken warmly to the effervescent 15-year-old girl, who has filled the void left in his household since the departure of his own daughter, Debbie (better known as the superhero Lotus).

Lucky Star Gaming Club

The Lucky Star operates out of a nondescript retail space located on Wayne Street, in the heart of inner Chinatown. The front of the shop sells supplies for a variety of Asian games (Mah jongg, go, etc.), other traditional favorites like checkers and chess, and even the unofficial version of *Chinatownopoly*. The Lucky Star's lucrative side business, however, is running weekly mah jongg tournaments out of





its back room, with entry fees and prize money large enough to attract the city’s finest players.

The Lucky Star’s proprietor, Donald Wing-Sun, is himself a top-ranked player, although he does not compete in his own events. He tirelessly attempts to introduce as many San Angelo residents as possible to the game, authoring two books on mah jongg and teaching introductory adult education courses at several local high schools.

Although gambling on the outcome of games conducted at the Lucky Star is strictly prohibited, any player whose interests run in that direction can usually find information about private side games in and around Chinatown. There are also several mah jongg hustlers who hang around the Lucky Star, looking for inexperienced “pigeons.” The most renowned of these is a crusty 67-year-old named Xeng Ah Yat, whose shabby clothing, shambling gait, and twin hearing aids (neither of which he appears to really need) conceal a mind that is still razor sharp. Ah Yat particularly enjoys sticking it to young “whippersnappers” who show no respect for their elders, and in the best hustler tradition he is not above throwing a few early games to make an opponent overconfident enough to raise the stakes.

“The Game”

On the back streets of Chinatown it is spoken of only in whispers, and the district’s civic leaders staunchly deny its very existence. Nobody but its organizers and participants know its location, which changes from month to month. It is known simply as “The Game,” and there is nothing even vaguely fun about it.

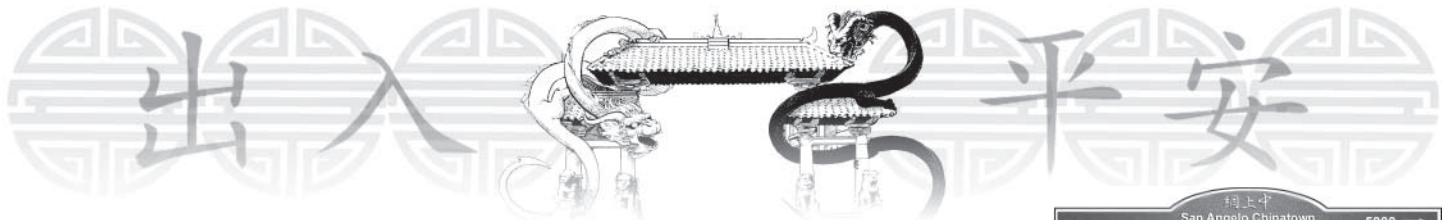
The Game is a lethal lottery, in which the players (most of whom come from Chinatown’s lower class) risk their lives for the chance of winning a fortune. The rules of The Game are simple but brutal. Every Friday night, the participants gather together (presently in the basement beneath a local pet shop). They pay their entry fee of \$50, and place a token bearing a Chinese pictograph representing their game identity into a ceramic urn. They then watch as another token, bearing the symbol for good luck, is placed into a second urn filled with other tokens, as the keeper announces the amount of money it represents. Then, as all look on expectantly, the keeper of the urns draws a token from the first urn, and announces the result to one and all.

The one whose symbol is drawn now has his fate placed into his own hands, as the second urn is shaken and held before him. Pull out the good luck chit and he wins the jackpot: all of the money that has been collected since The Game began. Draw any other chit, however, and he forfeits the bodily organ represented by the token to The Game’s master of ceremonies, Dr. Solomon Lee. If the loser is lucky, he may only be required to give something that the body will replenish, such as blood or bone marrow. Choose a bit less fortunately and he might lose an eye or a kidney. And of course, there are other organs without which the body simply cannot survive...

Dr. Lee performs the surgeries himself in a makeshift operating room nearby, and sells the harvested materials on the black market. He claims to have received the money for his medical training by winning a \$500,000 prize in a past Game, although there is no hard evidence to back his claim. What is true is that the FBI has previously arrested Dr. Lee (then known as Dr. David Hee) for running a similar game in Angel Beach. He was later acquitted on 33 counts of wrongful death when all of the government’s major witnesses either recanted their earlier statements or mysteriously disappeared. On the night that he was captured, it was also revealed that Lee’s associate, the urn keeper, had been palming the good luck token, giving the players no chance to win. While it is not known whether Dr. Lee is following the same pattern in San Angelo, no one has won the game in the 14 months it has been going on.

Everyone who enters The Game is sworn to absolute secrecy, and is not supposed to speak of it even to family mem-





bers. Moreover, a person cannot leave The Game after he enters until someone wins. Those who try to leave have loved ones threatened, or if they remain stubborn are dealt with on a more permanent basis. Since The Game began, nine participants have either died on the operating table or been silenced, and dozens more have been disfigured in some way. Nobody knows how or when it will end.

The Arts

Chinatown makes a unique and vibrant contribution to the city's cultural life. Although the Chinese Cultural Center is the district attraction that is best known city wide, there are a number of other small museums, galleries, and theaters tucked away within the neighborhood. Although some of these facilities cater primarily to the local community by offering Chinese films and live performances, those outsiders with the energy to seek out these hidden treasures can generally find things that appeal to them as well.

The Chinese Cultural Center

A local landmark since 1950, the Cultural Center (often referred to simply as the CCC) occupies some prime Chinatown real estate on Canton Street, near the district's famed Dragon Gate. It provides a variety of different services to Chinatown visitors and residents, functioning as a combination community center, museum, and performance venue.

The first floor of the Center focuses on telling the tale of the Chinese experience in San Angelo, with exhibits on their role in building the railroads, the birth and growth of Chinatown, and its transition into modern times. Since the CCC's stated credo is to "build bridges" between San Angelo's white and Asian communities, this history is presented in the most positive light, one that does not always gibe with actual events. The Center is also in the process of upgrading its exhibits to incorporate state-of-the-art interactive technologies to give visitors a hands-on experience. On weekends Center staffers also provide guided walking tours of historic points in Chinatown for a small fee.

The second floor of the Center consists of a 900-seat concert hall that hosts plays, recitals, and performances by both local artists and traveling Chinese troupes. The large foyer outside the concert hall is also used to house art exhibits or special event programming.

Finally, the basement level of the Cultural Center focuses on providing services to the local community. These services include a day care/after-school care facility, and Friday- and Saturday-night programming targeted at the district's teenagers (with the goal of keeping them occupied, and out of the clutches of the local street gangs). The CCC

also operates a food pantry that helps Chinatown's elderly and poor families make ends meet.

The current day-to-day operations of the CCC are administered by a triumvirate of dedicated managers. David Huan, a 30-year-old with a recent Masters degree in Contemporary Asian History from San Jose State, has recently taken over the job of museum administrator, and has pushed hard for the high-tech upgrades to its exhibits. He is a real go-getter, who puts in long hours on the job and spends his off-hours in charitable activities that might increase his profile in the community.

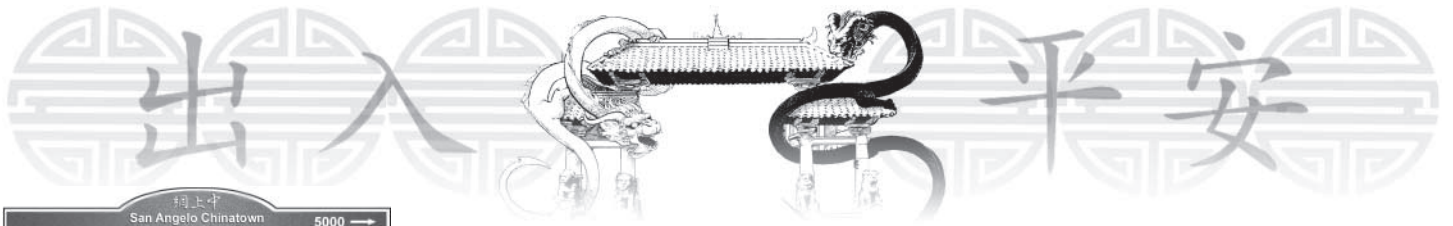
Josie Lam has handled bookings for the concert hall for over a decade. An attractive divorcee in her early 40s, Josie's Rolodex is full of artistic contacts all over America and Asia, and she has been instrumental in bringing a wide array of talent to the Cultural Center. She guards her sources jealously, and is capable of throwing a world-class temper tantrum if she feels her turf is being threatened. She is one of the few Center employees who has not been charmed by David Huan.

Finally, Bonnie Cho has managed the facility's community center for the past three years. She's a long-time employee of the Center who has risen steadily through the ranks, going back to City College at night to get the training to qualify for her present job. Although she performs yeoman's service for the Center while on the job, she has no interest in its power struggles, as the biggest love in her life remains her family. Indeed, it was concern over the safety of her two teenaged sons that led Cho to develop the weekend teen programs at the CCC, and she has taken great pride in the popularity they have gained.

Campaign Tip

The Chinese Cultural Center captures many of the diverse strands of life in Chinatown under one roof, and thus is a natural starting point for many adventures. Some of the city's biggest movers and shakers can be found among the crowds at concert hall events or special museum exhibits, mingling with prominent local figures like tong leader William Shihu Yuan. These events might be robbery targets, or just opportunities for behind-the-scenes wheeling and dealing that might have dire consequences for the people of San Angelo. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Center's community programs may bring it into conflict with the local street gangs, fighting over stakes as small, yet as critical, as the future of a single teen. GM's should also consider the Center as a possible place for Chinatown-based PCs or DNPCs to work.





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**Media, Entertainment
and the Arts**



Chinatown Historical Society

Founded in 1975, the Chinatown Historical Society qualifies as one of Chinatown’s hidden treasures when compared to the much larger and better known CCC. The Society’s headquarters is tucked away in the recesses of inner Chinatown, occupying the first floor and basement of a former grocery. Nonetheless, the building’s exterior, with its filigreed dragons carved into the window casements, and the enormous soapstone statues of ancient Chinese warriors that stand on each side of the entrance, does tend to lure in curious passersby.

The Chinatown Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation of Chinatown’s heritage, and is home to thousands of Chinese-American artifacts, some of which date back to pioneering days. Its archives also contain collections of letters and old photographs, and even a compilation of movie newsreel footage from the ‘30s and ‘40s that can be viewed in the facility’s small screening room. The Society’s exhibits change on a rotating basis, with items not in use moved down into basement storage. These exhibits tend to focus on particular periods in Chinatown’s history and present a fairly unvarnished view of that history, warts and all. Indeed, past exhibits on anti-Chinese discrimination during the early days of San Angelo and the bloody tong wars of the 1920s have not been well received by certain powerful elements within the community, and definitely had a deleter-

ious effect on the Society’s proposals for public funding. Therefore the facility continues to operate on a shoestring budget, surviving mainly on contributions from local philanthropist Thomas Caldecott (see *SA:CoH*).

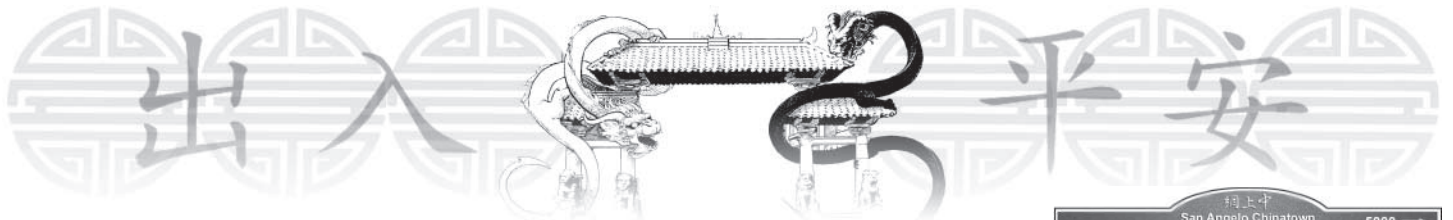
The Society’s curator, Deng “Dano” Kung, received a visitation two years ago from the ghost of Li, Chinatown’s protector during the late 1800s. Li ultimately convinced Dano to take on the mantle of the Eternal Warrior. Since that day, the pair have been fighting crime in Chinatown, as described in the **Allies and Enemies** chapter.

New Shanghai Dance Theater

This 1,800-seat theater on Canton Street is the home base of the New Shanghai Dance Troupe, a nationally renowned company of over 60 dancers, acrobats, and jugglers who perform a colorful revue of traditional Eastern art forms. The New Shanghai operates out of its home base during the spring and autumn months, and spends the remainder of the year touring America and abroad. During the roughly six months that the company is not in residence, the theater is often rented out to other local theater or dance companies which host their own productions there.

Performers and patrons both view the New Shanghai facility with mixed emotions. The theater’s large proscenium stage gives choreographers and set designers a lot of flexibility in staging their productions, but the basement dress-





ing rooms are cramped, and the supply of hot water to the showers is notoriously unreliable. Similarly, although the theater has good sight lines throughout, its seats are uncomfortable, its lighting and sound systems are antiquated, and the entire interior is in dire need of a paint job. Unfortunately, the building's owners, who lease the facility to the New Shanghai Company, are more concerned with maximizing their profits than investing in renovations, and are loathe to spend money on anything not absolutely required to avoid a building code violation.

Other Museums and Theaters of Note

Lotus Blossom Gallery: The best known art gallery in Chinatown displays artworks in a variety of mediums, ranging from watercolor miniatures to room-sized murals painted on rice paper screens, and from delicately carved jade, soapstone, and scrimshaw figurines to life-size sculptures in stone or metal. Gallery owner Celia Wu is considered to have an excellent eye for identifying up-and-coming talent, and has been retained by a number of Chinatown's wealthier residents to advise them about assembling personal collections.

Hong Kong Cinema: A rarity in the day of the multi-screen cineplex, the theater is a 300-seat single-screen movie theater that exclusively shows imported Oriental "chop socky" films (more popularly referred to as Hong Kong action films). Despite the fact that the films are screened without subtitles, a growing percentage of the Hong Kong's audience consists of non-Chinese-speaking martial arts aficionados. Due to a number of past violent incidents, the three Chinatown tongs have made an agreement so that members of rival tongs and street gangs come on separate nights. As a result, all movies are booked into the theater for engagements lasting even increments of three days, depending on their popularity.

Chinatown Public Library: The Chinatown branch of the San Angelo public library is one of the city's smaller facilities, housing just over 50,000 books on its shelves. However, all of the city's branches are now equipped with a networked computer system that allows users to access a plethora of research materials (encyclopedias, recent editions of newspapers and popular magazines, etc.) on-line, or to research and reserve books located at other branches. The Chinatown facility also has a collection of about 1,000 Chinese-language books and scrolls. The collection includes some rare religious texts that are meticulously maintained and can only be viewed in the presence of library staff, as well as sever

books that purport to teach the reader how to perform magical rites such as levitation, flight, and demonic summoning.

Artistic Personalities of Note

Rosalind Chao: Though confined to a wheelchair since the age of 10, Rosalind's artistic talents have given her an avenue to experience the wide world's beauty through her mind's eye. She once painted breathtakingly beautiful watercolors of scenes she could experience only from picture postcards or television documentaries. Now world renowned for her work, she has the means to travel anywhere she wants in her own private plane. Though she often travels through Asia for months at a time, Rosalind's heart remains in Chinatown, and she retains an unpretentious apartment and studio there in a building that has been specially renovated to accommodate her special requirements.

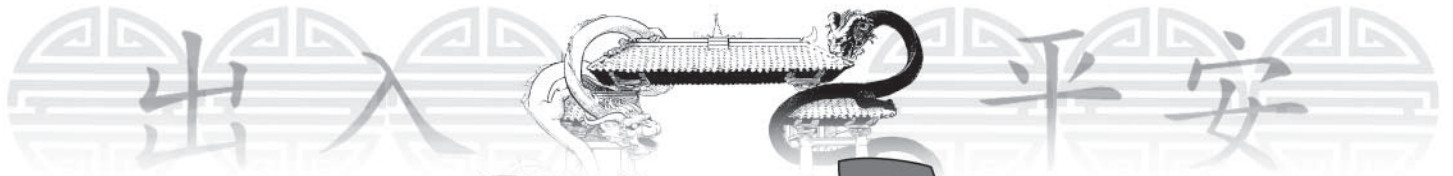
Han Po: Now semi-retired at the age of 76, Han Po is a renowned concert violinist and a former conductor of the San Angelo Symphony (see *SA:CoH*). Po has always cared little for the opinion of others, and at this point in his life has abandoned any presence at being diplomatic about presenting his views, leaving him with a personality that his friends (the few he hasn't already alienated) call "colorful." Others with more objective opinions call him "cantankerous, irascible," or other names that couldn't be printed in a family publication.

Han Po still performs publicly from time to time in the San Angelo area, where he is a promoter's worst nightmare, and spends the rest of his time trying to make the lives of his three adult sons miserable. The youngest son, Johnny, works as a set designer for the New Shanghai Dance Troupe, and has patiently put up with his father's barbs in hopes of being rewarded with a large inheritance. However those hopes may be dashed now that Dad has announced his engagement to his 21-year-old Swedish nurse, Olga Alfridsson.

Jackie Bong: Jackie is a recent UCSA film school graduate who is hoping to make his mark directing martial arts movies for the English-language market. He has so far been unsuccessful at attracting investors. With limited funds at his disposal, he has decided to cast his first picture primarily with members of the rival Chinatown street gangs. If ever an idea seems pre-ordained for disaster, this is it, but at least the fight scenes should look authentic.

"I saw Lotus and Savant in the audience at the New Shanghai last night, but they left during the intermission. I don't know if they were called away to save the city from disaster, or whether they were just freezing to death like the rest of us. The heat was on so low in that place I thought folks were going to start ripping out seats and burning them."
— Dr. Bailey Wong-Carruthers, 36, anesthesiologist





The Tongs



THE WING CHAO TONG

The Wing Chao tong has a storied history that dates back more than 100 years, to the frontier days of San Angelo. It has been the dominant tong in Chinatown for the past 70 of those years, since the conclusion of the infamous hatchet wars in the city's Golden Age. In the decades since, the tong has maintained its pre-eminence through a combination of inspired leadership, guile and ruthlessness, not to mention a little help from the powerful forces of the arcane universe.

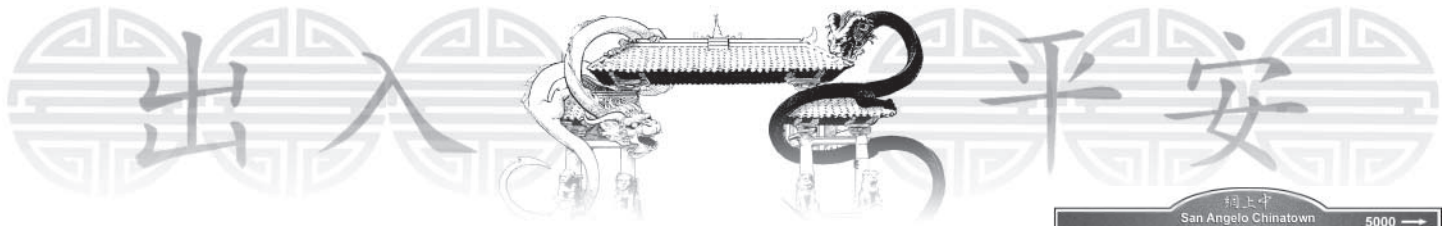
Today the tong has approximately 325 criminal members, and employs more than 2,000 other local citizens in its many legitimate business enterprises. But you won't find the Wing Chao's name on the list of San Angelo's largest employers, because its connections to these businesses are obscured beneath a mountain of false trails, front corporations, and phantom investors; only the topmost tier of the tong's criminal hierarchy knows the full extent of its criminal activities, the better to shield the membership from reprisals or prosecution.

Well over two thirds of the Wing Chao's annual revenues are now generated by its legitimate businesses. Moreover, the tong's dragon head, William Shihu Yuan (whose middle name is often misspelled "Shiyu" by non-Chinese), is one of the Chinatown community's most respected entrepreneurs, a civic leader who sits upon the boards of charitable and financial institutions and has direct access to the corridors of political power. Given these facts, it is unsurprising that the day-to-day operations of the tong are conducted in a very business-like fashion. Both the tong's regular and criminal activities are carefully planned, leaving little to chance. Yet the tong also possesses the firepower and the will to respond quickly should its interests be threatened by the police, rival tongs, or even the other organized crime families of San Angelo.

Wing Chao Organization

The organization of the Wing Chao is designed to ensure that the basic operations of the tong can be carried out at all times. The uppermost leadership of the tong is restricted to





a handful of individuals: the dragon head, Yuan, and the five men designated his council of elders. Presently, the council consists of Vice Chairman Yiyan Ping, English Secretary Edgar Pan, Street Secretary Shudong Luu, Counsel Donald Pan, and the shaman Ting Xian Roh. Only these six know the full extent of the tong’s membership and activities, and even then there are a few things that remain secret. For example, each council member possesses only half of the encryption sequence that must be entered into the computer to gain complete access to the tong’s offshore bank accounts (the dragon head holding the other half). Thus, even if a member of the inner circle is captured, he cannot be forced to turn over the most vital resources of the tong.

The remainder of the organization scheme is similarly designed to maintain secrecy and continuity of operations. The foot soldiers of the tong are organized into 15 to 30 man “clans” that are named for the 12 signs of Chinese astrology: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog, and boar. Members of each clan primarily interact only with others within their immediate group, although exceptions are made for operations so extensive that they require a larger group (like a full-scale tong war). The activities conducted by the various clans are designed to overlap so that no enterprise can be completely compromised, even if an entire clan is lost or incapacitated. Therefore, seven or eight clans may be involved in different aspects of the Wing Chao drug trade, five or six in gambling and prostitution, and at least two in esoteric enterprises including counterfeiting and arms sales.

Vice Chairman Yiyan Ping coordinates the overall structure of the clans, to make sure that one group does not spill over into another’s turf, and that no opportunities for profit fall through the cracks. Once these allocations are made, the street secretary, Shudong Luu, bears the responsibility for giving each clan its marching orders, and for responding to day-to-day crises that develop. And of course the dragon head, Yuan, is never far out of the loop, despite his many public responsibilities.

Wing Chao Members of Note

The Wing Chao’s dragon head, William Shihu Yuan, is fully described in *San Angelo: City of Heroes*, while shaman Ting Xian Roh is detailed in the **Allies and Enemies** chapter of this book. Other important members of the Wing Chao are briefly described below.

Shudong Luu

Wing Chao Tong Street Secretary

18 STR 16 DEX 20 CON 15 BODY 15 INT
15 EGO 20 PRE 14 COM 6 PD 6 ED
4 SPD 8 REC 40 END 40 STUN

Abilities: Martial Arts: Kung Fu (Block; Dodge; Kick; Knife Hand; Legsweep; Punch; Throw; Use art with Axes, Maces, Hammers, and Picks, Blades, Three-Section Staff; +3 HTH Damage Classes); Acrobatics 14-; Breakfall 14-; +2 with Kung Fu; +2 with All Combat; Defense Maneuver: I; Interrogation 13-; AK: Chinatown 15-; KS: Wing Chao 13-; Language: English (completely fluent, w/ accent)(Cantonese is native); PS: Security consultant 14-; Security Systems 12-; Stealth 13-; Streetwise 15-; Tactics 13-; WF: Common Melee Weapons, Small Arms; Contact: Harbormaster’s secretary 13-; Combat Sense 12-; Danger Sense 13-

150+ Disadvantages: Hunted: Rival tongs

Notes: Shudong Luu, 33, has been the street secretary of the Wing Chao tong for the past six years. Luu is uncommonly tall (6’5”) and keeps his head shaved, cutting an unmistakable figure as he strides through the streets of Chinatown. His face bears the scars of several past fights, but they are a modest price to pay considering that most of his opponents are no longer breathing. He often wears a sleeveless Western-style vest that displays both his muscular arms and the 9 mm Glock pistol that is always holstered at his belt.

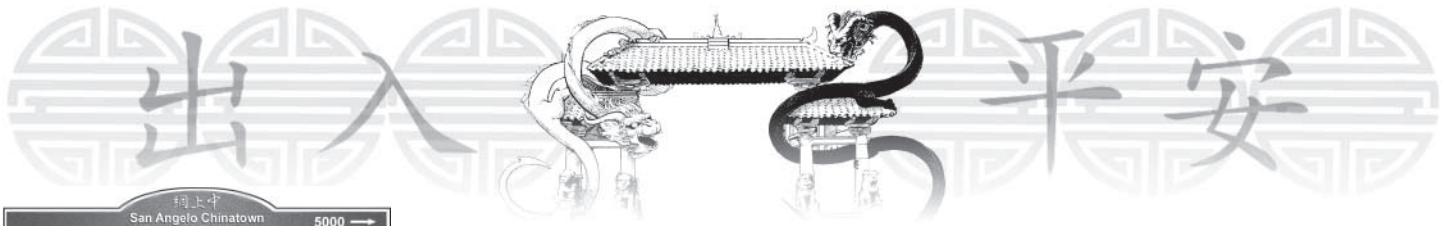


Luu spent his early years before he joined the Wing Chao on the San Angelo docks, and retains a number of contacts there who occasionally alert him to incoming cargoes that might be ripe for hijacking. Presently, he is officially employed as director of security for Yangtze Imports, a Wing Chao front corporation.

As coordinator of all the street criminals who comprise the illegal arm of the Wing Chao, Luu is supposed to keep himself above the fray. In actuality, Shudong gets impatient for a little action from time to time, and often becomes directly involved in the tong’s more difficult assignments.

Luu has never married, and regularly frequents the Ecstasy Bath House. When he visits, he doesn’t take kindly to finding his favorite girl of the moment with some stranger,





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000
The Tongs

and nasty accidents often seem to befall these unfortunate fellows in the next few days. This may soon end, however, for the dragon head and vice chairman have both begun encouraging Luu to settle down and start a family, and they usually get what they want.

Edgar and Donald Pan

These 37-year-old fraternal twins represent the fifth generation of Pans who have spent their lives in glorious service to the Wing Chao. Their great-grandfather Munkong "The Axe" Pan was one of T'ien Lung's right-hand men during the Golden Age, a fearless warrior and stone cold killer. During the '70s and early '80s, their father, Gong Bo "Johnny" Pan, commanded the tong's Snake clan.

Edgar and Donald's involvement with the tong was ordained from birth. When the two showed more aptitude for books than fighting, the Wing Chao's money and influence helped grease their way into Stanford, where Edgar studied business and Donald turned to the law. There were also stories that the pair masterminded a lucrative on-campus extortion ring, although a private investigator hired by the university failed to produce any witnesses who would testify against the Pans. Nine months after the investigation ended, the dean of students was discharged after details of his homosexual affair with an undergraduate were leaked to the press, while the P.I. himself died in a tragic car crash two years later.

Edgar bears the official title of CEO of the Hang Tai Noodle Company, a manufacturing firm headquartered in Rancho Madera. The company wholesales to Chinese restaurants up and down the West Coast, and produces a specialty line of East Asian noodles that are sold in

"Those Pan brothers are wild, heya. One of them sneezes down in Superior Court, and the other one wipes his nose out in Rancho Madera. But you'll never out-think them with money on the line, 'cause two heads are always better than one. I'm glad they're on our side."
— Fei "Profitable" Cong, 32, Wing Chao tong member

the international food sections of up-scale supermarkets. As the tong's English secretary, however, Edgar monitors the operations of all the tong's legitimate businesses and supervises the investment of its profits. His innovative use of the Internet to expand the vistas of

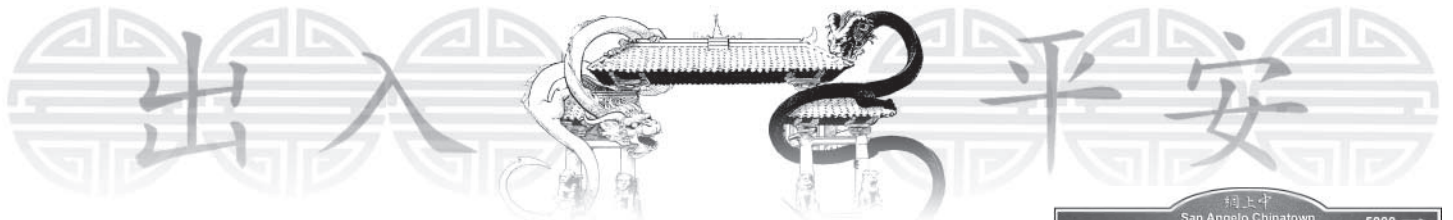
the Wing Chao's traditional sexual services has earned him high praise and a handsome bonus.

Donald is a junior partner in the law firm of Lao, Johnston, Medrano, and Pan, a downtown full-service firm. Only about a quarter of the firm's attorneys are Chinese-American, and only a handful of the lawyers below top management know that the bulk of their case work can be traced back to the Wing Chao. Donald can often be seen in San Angelo Criminal Court representing incarcerated tong soldiers at bail or probable cause hearings, but leaves the actual trial defense of high-profile cases to his colleague Tony Medrano, the firm's best criminal lawyer and a shameless publicity hound. Pan's own strengths lie in the corporate arena, and especially in the murky depths of patent law. He is particularly adept at establishing valid claims to valuable inventions and

research discoveries that were improperly registered by the scientists who developed them.

Donald and Edgar are in good physical condition, and have received enough martial arts and firearms training to be competent. Nonetheless, they would sooner bargain rather than fight their way out of trouble if it occurs. The twins have always been markedly free from the problems of sibling rivalry. The men are married to women who themselves are cousins (Jun and Kisoan Duk), and live on the same block in suburban Pleasant Grove. It is said that the two are so attuned that one experiences intense psychic discomfort if the other is in danger or pain, a strange enough occurrence in identical twins, but even more so in fraternal twins.





Yiyan Ping

The vice chairman is the grey eminence on William Shihu Yuan’s council of elders at 59, even though he dyes his thinning hair and immaculately trimmed beard jet black in a rare concession to artifice. Ping is a small and unassuming man who dresses plainly and speaks English in a quiet voice that retains the slight trace of an accent, as he immigrated to America from the turmoil of post-WWII China at the age of 8. But his icy blue eyes miss nothing that goes on around him, as his razor-sharp mind analyzes possibilities that others do not even see.



Although Yiyan’s loyalty to the tong is unquestioned, his motivations are a bit of a mystery even to the dragon head. Ping cares little for the trappings of wealth, and not at all for glory and power. Indeed, many of the Wing Chao’s foot soldiers have no idea of the vice chairman’s importance, as he relays all but the most secret plans and stratagems to the various crews through Shudong Luu. What inspires Ping to carry on is the challenge of the game, the endless contest for underworld supremacy. In another setting, Yiyan might have been a chess master, and in a sense perhaps he is, moving the Wing Chao’s human assets masterfully around the Chinatown playing board.

GMs should note that there is one tiny group of Wing Chao soldiers who do receive their orders directly from Yiyan Ping, a group so secret that only William Yuan and Ping know of their allegiance to the tong. They are called the Brotherhood of Honorable Fists, and are comprised of four individuals, now all in their late 40s and 50s, who have been extensively trained in the way of ninjutsu. Ping employs this quartet to perform contract hits too delicate to give to the tong’s usual murderers for hire, break-ins of buildings with the highest levels of security, and even on occasion to conduct surveillance of other Wing Chao members suspected of acting against the best interests of the tong. It is a rare man indeed who encounters one of these four on tong business, and lives to tell the tale.

Other Notable Wing Chao Figures

Ricky Wing: According to the organization charts and letters of incorporation filed at city hall, Wing is the president or CEO of half a dozen thriving business enterprises.

Those who attempt to investigate the Wing Chao find so many trails leading back to this one man that they reasonably assume he must be a member of the tong’s innermost circle. In actuality, a decade ago Ricky was a struggling actor performing in a cut-rate dinner theater production of *How to Succeed in Business* when he was “discovered” by William Yuan. He cuts a striking figure in a suit, and can talk a line of meaningless business jargon that makes him seem knowledgeable on first inspection. Wing is paid a nice annual stipend to play the part of a corporate figurehead, but knows as much about the inner workings of the Wing Chao as a fence-post. Indeed, it could be fairly said that Ricky puts the dummy in the term “dummy corporation.”

Fei “Profitable” Cong: Fei is a jack of all trades for the Wing Chao’s Rooster clan: a drug runner, part-time second-story man, and some-time fence. He is a committed organization soldier who would readily shed his blood for the tong, as handy with a switchblade as he is with a gun. Fei is a friendly, voluble fellow who can often be found in his off-hours frequenting restaurants and clubs controlled by the tong.

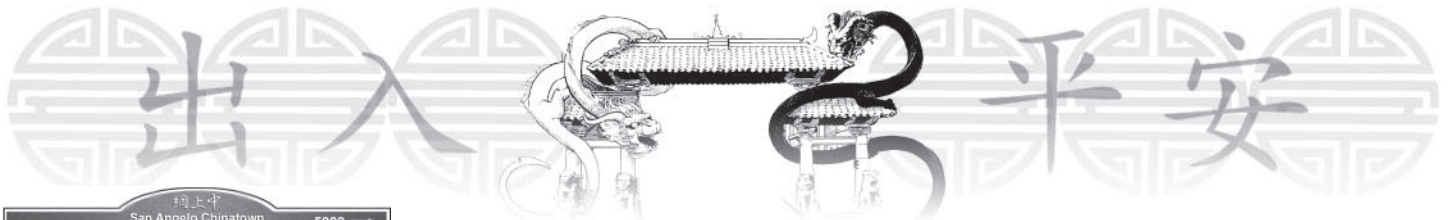
Unfortunately, on nights when he’s had a few beers, Cong’s volubility sometimes gets the best of him, and causes him to “tell tales out of school” about the daring exploits of the Wing Chao. It has taken the best efforts of Donald Pan and his associates to keep Cong out of jail on a couple of past occasions when these comments have reached the ears of someone on the other side of the law.

“Whispers” Kwan: Kwan is a long-time bookie who serves as the odds-maker for the Wing Chao’s illegal gambling operations. Whispers has never met a betting proposition he wouldn’t lay odds on, from the fourth race at San Angelo Downs to which sugar cube a fly in a restaurant will land on next. One of the tong’s most lucrative sources of gaming income, in fact, is Kwan’s own innovation: bets on the Dead Pool, a wager based upon which prominent San Angelo citizen from a running list will die next. The Dead Pool is a particularly popular wager among San Angelo’s tragically hip and jaded *nouveau riche*, who apparently have not stopped to consider just how easily tong members can manipulate the outcomes.

Wing Chao Contacts and Associates

The Wing Chao has had many years to cultivate its contacts throughout San Angelo, and its influence is deeply ingrained in many of the city’s public agencies. William Yuan has made the maintenance of a reliable network of infor-





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →
The Tongs



mants and officials predisposed to the tong's views one of his strongest priorities as dragon head.

Some of the tong's contacts have associated themselves with the Wing Chao by choice, either because of the lucrative payments they receive for providing information, or for the assistance they hope to receive from the tong in return. Examples of contacts of the former type are Sukang "Kenneth" Peng, law clerk to Superior Court Judge Harold Kwan (further detailed in **The Professional Scene**), and Robin Fowler, the chief assistant to arson investigator Len DeSantis. Ms. Fowler's down payment on her new Brackett Park townhouse was financed by two well-laundered payments of \$10,000 she received for burying evidence of arson in two recent warehouse fires in South San Angelo set by the Wing Chao. Since the only thing at stake in these cases was insurance money, as the torched buildings were vacant and in deteriorating condition, Fowler was able to rationalize away her complicity. But arson does not always go as planned, and sometimes innocent people are victimized or killed when such fires are set. Although it seems unlikely that Robin would willingly cooperate in covering up such a fire, the threat of exposure can prove a powerful incentive. Only time will tell how she will react.

An excellent example of the latter type of give and take relationship is City Councilman Marvin Bent. At first glance, the two might appear strange bedfellows, as Bent is a conservative advocate of strong crime prevention measures who often denounces the tong presence in Chinatown. Most of this seeming antagonism is just smoke and mirrors, however. The Wing Chao makes substantial indirect contributions to Bent's campaign committees, and tries to take a lower profile in the weeks directly following one of the councilman's addresses, to make his initiatives look more effective. In exchange, Bent has pushed through a number of council decisions (on topics as diverse as property rezonings, selection of contractors for public projects, and the number of racing dates granted to San Angelo Downs) that have been favorable to the tong's city-wide interests.

Other tong associates assist the Wing Chao out of a sense of family duty, or to repay a past debt. Contacts in this category include the herbalist Tou Pong, a one-time apprentice of T'ien Lung, and the noted surgeon Hanwoong Shyu (page 37), whose younger brother was released from a Beijing prison thanks to the intervention of William Yuan. Relationships of this type often carry limits or conditions ("I'll help you once, and then our debt is paid"), and are therefore resources that must be marshalled and spent carefully in the moments of greatest need.

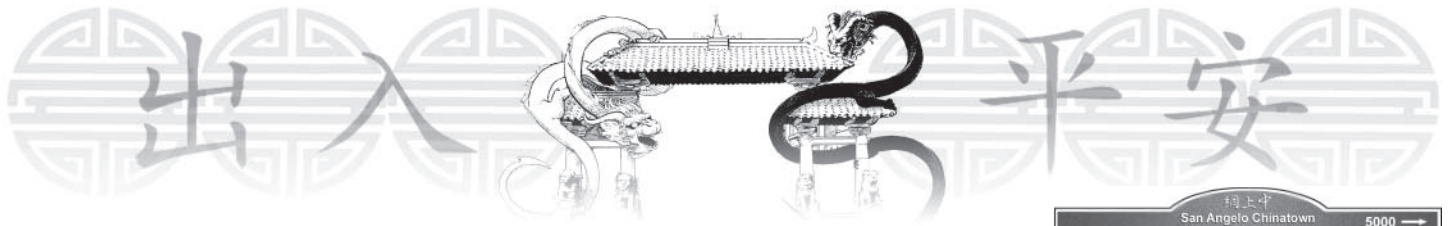
Finally, there are those contacts who serve the Wing Chao because they must. They include those who have amassed

The Watchers

During the latter years of the Golden Age, when dragon head T'ien Lung and the mystic Hsi Feng engaged in their tense struggle for control of the secrets of immortality, members of the Wing Chao kept Feng's residence under constant surveillance. Ever since the fateful day last year when tong shaman Ting Xian Roh accidentally crossed over into the netherworld, and encountered the exiled spirit of T'ien Lung, the tong's interest in the activities of the still hale and hearty Mr. Feng have been rekindled.

Three members of the Boar clan now share this surveillance assignment, and report any unusual incidents to Luu and Roh. Any player character who visits Feng will be observed by these watchers, and may, if perceptive, observe their presence as well (-5 to skill rolls to spot them). In any event, characters who frequent the house on F Street may soon find they have attracted the unwelcome attention of the Wing Chao.





debts with the tong that they cannot otherwise repay, such as Burke Albrecht of the *San Angelo Times* (page XDX), as well as others whom the tong can blackmail with evidence of past indiscretions. These individuals are the most volatile resources of all; they can often be forced to commit acts of desperation (espionage, fraud, even murder) that they would normally never countenance, yet there is always the chance that the next demand will be the straw that breaks the camel's back, and change the contact from an asset to a potential state's witness who must be quickly silenced.

The Wing Chao has many and varied contacts throughout the San Angelo Police Department and county sheriff's office, ranging in importance from shift commanders to lowly file clerks. At present, the tong's largest local asset is one area patrol team, comprised of Cpl. Dick Doherty and Ptl. Roman Valdespino, working out of the police substation. This pair has been well bribed to look the other way on minor criminal offenses involving Wing Chao members.

In addition, Jinming "Jimmy" Bung, the precinct's night-shift evidence clerk, has performed a couple of favors for the tong, including using a magnet to erase an incriminating tape recording of Shudong Luu describing plans for an armed robbery. Yiyang Ping presently hopes to add a fourth name to the list in the person of homicide detective Al Rowe, who appears to have developed a taste for rough sex with the working girls of the city.

Wing Chao Sphere of Influence

Although born and nurtured in Chinatown, Wing Chao influence now extends far beyond neighborhood boundaries. The tong's legitimate businesses have expanded into many of the city's other neighborhoods, and out into the suburbs beyond. Similarly, as the tong's leadership has long striven to make Chinatown a tourist friendly place, it has moved the locus of many of its criminal enterprises outside the district. Wing Chao drug operations are now centered in Riverfront, the Rabbit clan runs its auto theft ring out of a chop shop near Cathedral Square, and the tong's high-tech computer hackers modern their way into the downtown skyscrapers of the mighty leaders of business.

Today, only a handful of the perennial staples of the tong's criminal portfolio (protection, prostitution, and bookmaking) are conducted primarily within Chinatown. The Wing Chao's presence is also well represented among the legitimate shops and businesses of the district; the tong directly controls several restaurants, including the well-known Emperor's Choice, owned by William Yuan, and is an owner

or partner in several other local businesses, including tea rooms, laundries and dry cleaners, and even a dojo: the Kenji Tiger. Yuan has also demonstrated a paternal interest in the welfare of his neighborhood, sponsoring the Wayne Street Free Clinic and setting aside a number of college scholarships for promising neighborhood students. These gestures are well appreciated by the community as a whole, although a few have recognized that the dragon head's motives are not entirely altruistic; the scholarship recipients often are later recruited as tong members, and the clinic serves as a testing ground for the schemes of Yuan's nefarious associate, Dr. Theodore Yow.

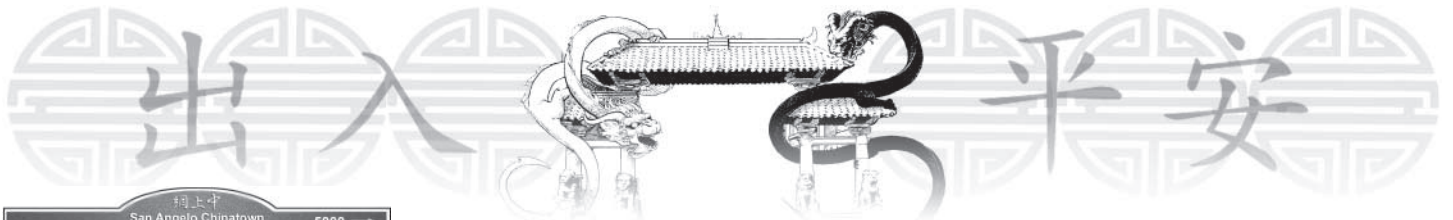
Finally, it should also be noted that the Wing Chao's influence and interests not only extend beyond Chinatown, but at times beyond this earthly plane. Since the days of T'ien Lung, the dragon heads of the Wing Chao have always had the arcane powers of ancient Chinese sorcery at their disposal. After Lung suddenly and mysteriously disappeared in 1954, other tong members have followed in his footsteps as best they could, studying the mystic tomes, constructing their charms and wards, and conducting their divinations, yet none had come close to matching the power of the Celestial Dragon...until now.

The tong's current shaman, Ting Xian Roh, is the first since T'ien Lung to combine knowledge of ancient rituals with wild magical power. Although still learning the limits of his powers, he has discovered how to break the restraints of his mortal form and project his spirit into the astral plane, where he encountered the disembodied shade of T'ien Lung, exiled there for decades by the sorcerer Hsi Feng. Roh has vowed to restore T'ien Lung to earthly form, and in so doing has awakened the long-dormant contest for supremacy between the Wing Chao and the mysterious Mr. Feng.

Campaign Tip

GMs who have read the timeline entries concerning the struggles between the powerful sorcerers T'ien Lung and Hsi Feng, but who do not want to run a Golden Age campaign, can use Ting Xian Roh's abilities to recreate those struggles in the present day. With his newly-learned astral projection skill, Roh may be able to find a way to return the long-missing dragon head to the earthly plane on either a temporary or permanent basis. Lung's return would have epic effects on Chinatown and San Angelo as a whole, changing the dynamics of the relationships between the district's tongs, and arousing Hsi Feng and his followers from their long period of dormancy.





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →

The Tongs

Wing Chao Territory

The Wing Chao tong controls the largest geographical area of Chinatown, and much of its prime commercial real estate, as shown on the map on page 126.

Although all three tongs have generally abided by the unwritten boundaries of each's territory over the years, there are always ongoing issues that can be resolved peacefully or violently depending on the moods of the dragon heads and their lieutenants. For example, the Wing Chao has long acquiesced to the presence of several Choy Lok On-financed enterprises in the section of Kirby Avenue between Woo and Mandarin Streets, as long as the latter tong agrees not to conduct any criminal activities out of those properties. A less amicable situation has begun to emerge along the section of D Street south of Water. This area has long been the bone of bitter contention between the Choy Lok On and Qi Leong tongs, and the merchants along its length have paid the price in the form of double protection payments, broken displays and shattered glass, and even physical beatings. Recently, a group of 20 shop owners and other residents came to Kenny Mow, a lieutenant in the Wing Chao's Horse clan, and asked to be placed under the Wing Chao's protection. The council of elders is said to be evaluating this request, even though such action could anger not one but both of the rival tongs.

Territorial disputes also arise as a result of the activities of the tong-affiliated street gangs. All three of the gangs seem to pay little attention to long-standing boundaries, and often brazenly commit criminal acts in the center of an opposing tong's sphere of influence. Such acts can provoke immediate reprisals that quickly escalate unless cooler heads prevail, and finding such cooler heads can be a challenge when the incidents involve members of the Crimson Tigers gang.

Wing Chao Headquarters

In keeping with William Yuan's philosophy of decentralization, the Wing Chao no longer maintains a single central stronghold. Each of the 12 clans has its own individual base of operations (a warehouse, storefront, sometimes even the basement of a member's home) as well as one or more places (sometimes different, sometimes the same as the operations center) it can go to ground in an emergency. They maintain their own small arsenals, have limited access to certain dedicated bank accounts, and are generally structured to survive autonomously until help arrives.

The council of elders formerly met in the office maintained by William Yuan above the Emperor's Choice, but since his daughter Debbie discovered sensitive papers there this location has been sanitized of any connection to tong activities. The council now rotates its meeting places among a

number of locations, including a vacant suite of offices on the 19th floor of the Pioneer Financial Building leased to the Conestoga Trading Company, an inactive tong front corporation. The tong's financial records, consisting of encoded journal entries, have been converted to microfiche format and stored in the law office of Lao, Johnston, Medrano, and Pan (where their contents are further protected by attorney-client privilege). Meanwhile, the Wing Chao's main computer system, protected by the latest in anti-hacking security protocols, is housed at the Hang Tai Noodle Company in Rancho Madera.

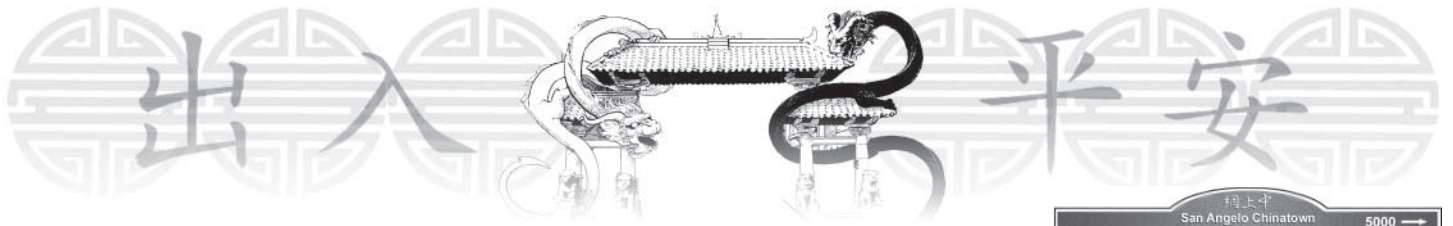
Yet, despite all this misdirection and decentralization, the Wing Chao does maintain one main location that it can utilize as a stronghold in the event of a full-scale war, even though it is not used on a daily basis. Extreme old-timers, who can remember all the way back to the days of the hatchet wars, can recall that the Wing Chao forces often seemed to rise up out of the ground to strike at their enemies, confounding their foes. This is because several of the tong's buildings (including the Emperor's Choice, Happy Fong's Laundry, and the Ecstasy Bath House) contain little-used sub-basements that lead downward into a network of subterranean passages, some of which are little more than crawlspaces for much of their length. Stockpiles of weapons, food, and water are maintained there, and it is said that not even the dragon head himself knows where all the twisting passages ultimately lead.

Other Wing Chao Buildings of Note

Ecstasy Bath House: This spa, located on D Street, is designed to give the weary businessmen of downtown San Angelo a place to unwind and relax. Its staff of 15 employees (all female, including the martial-arts trained security) lavish their attentions on their customers, from perfumed baths to full body massage. Although both staff and customers are garbed in the briefest of attire while these services are performed, no sexual activity is ever conducted on the premises. However, the facility's regular customers soon learn that Ecstasy also operates an out-call escort service that does not abide by the same restrictions.

Recently, however, the Wing Chao has discovered an even more lucrative use for the girls of Ecstasy. The floor above the bathhouse has been converted into a video studio, and is the home of eXXXtasy.com, an Internet dial-in pornography outlet. For a base monthly fee, plus an exorbitant per-minute on-line charge, anyone with a computer and modem can watch the bath house girls model for them, alone or in pairs, from the comfort of their homes. Judging from the buy rates, they are doing so in droves.





Chinese-American Benevolent Society: Since 1871, CABS has been the public face of the Wing Chao, a citizen service organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of Chinatown’s residents. Staffed by a mix of permanent employees and volunteers, CABS really does carry out this mission on a daily basis, delivering tenant complaints to landlords, adjudicating disputes between neighboring merchants, and trying to increase minority hiring outside the district. In 95 percent of the cases it handles CABS accomplishes its objectives through the same means as all activist groups: circulating petitions, organizing rallies, and attempting to mobilize public support. Sometimes, however, there is no substitute for the type of persuasion that comes from the threat of the full power of the tong, and CABS has this weapon in its arsenal as well.

CABS is also responsible for sponsoring and organizing Chinatown’s annual New Year’s parade. During the weeks leading up to the parade, the CABS office on Woo Street is a virtual madhouse of activity, and often receives visits from San Angelo’s civic leaders as well as its more typical clientele. It should be noted that CABS President Jennifer Shu is not a member of the Wing Chao, but her principal deputy, Sougen Liao, is, and both William Shihu Yuan and Yiyan Ping sit on the CABS board of trustees.

Tandoori Securities: Tandoori occupies a small suite of offices on the fifth story of the FNBC headquarters building, and is outfitted as a brokerage house with phone banks, computers, and a stock ticker mounted on its rear wall that constantly flashes the latest quotes. In fact, Tandoori is the elaborate front for an upscale Wing Chao bookmaking operation. Only about a quarter of the company’s brokers handle legitimate stock transactions, while the rest take betting action that are disguised in the lingo of the financial markets—a person betting \$100 on the San Angelo Titans, for example, might call and purchase 100 shares of SAT.

“Whispers” Kwan maintains an office at Tandoori Securities, even though he was denied a brokerage license by the state due to his past connections to organized crime. Instead, he holds the nebulous title “financial consultant,” and dispenses free investment advice to any of the neighborhood’s citizens who wish to visit. On the whole, his performance record has rivalled that of the city’s best known mutual fund managers, and thus far his actions appear to have no ulterior motive beyond positive PR for the tong.

Wing Chao Activities

As previously noted, the majority of the Wing Chao’s annual income is now derived from legitimate enterprises. Furthermore, William Yuan and the Pan brothers hold consid-

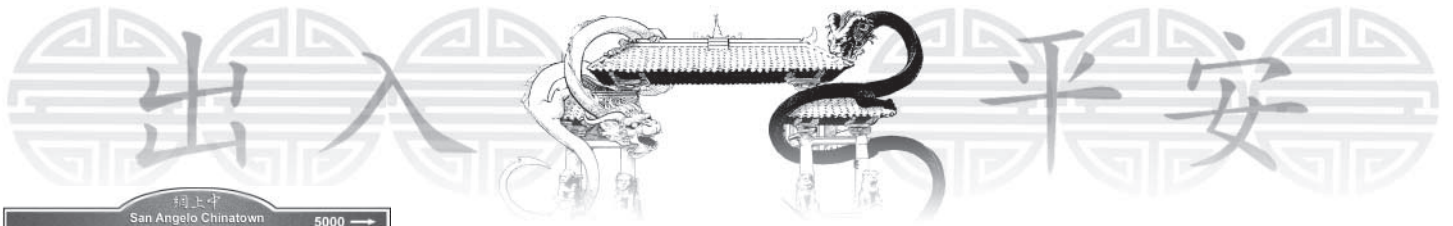


erable standing as San Angelo civic leaders, standing that would quickly crumble if their links to a powerful secret society were ever proven. Consequently, the tong devotes a substantial amount of energy to keeping a layer of separation between its criminal and non-criminal activities.

Nonetheless, the presence of two rival tongs keeps constant pressure on the Wing Chao to maintain its pre-eminence in the local underworld. Regular attention must be paid to the tong’s time-honored stock in trade (the protection rackets, smuggling, drug trafficking, gambling, and prostitution) to ensure that no inroads into its turf occurs. Yet the Wing Chao also is open to considering any new criminal avenue that carries a genuine profit potential. It has been quick to recognize the lucrative opportunities in the area of high tech crime (computer hacking, industrial espionage, credit card fraud, *etc.*), and a number of the tong’s biggest earners now carry briefcases rather than firearms to work. But the entire organization remains backstopped by a small army of dedicated foot soldiers with the best of modern firepower, martial arts skills, and even the assistance of sorcery at their disposal.

Shudong Luu meets with the leader of each clan twice monthly to go over their planned activities, resolve conflicts,





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000

The Tongs

The Power Plant

Ever since his daughter Debbie discovered his leadership role in the Wing Chao last year and left home to fight crime as the superhero Lotus (see *SA:CoH*), William Shihu Yuan has been concerned with the possible interference of supers into the tong's operations. For a time, Yuan employed San Angelo supervillains as mercenaries, but these relationships were doomed to failure from the beginning; because the villains had no blood allegiance to the tong, the Wing Chao leadership kept them at arm's length, using intermediaries as contacts and often depriving the supers of vital information regarding their assignments for fear of exposing other tong assets. Seeking a more reliable solution, Yuan turned his attentions to the work of Dr. Theodore Yow.

Yow is a recent émigré to America, having arrived in San Angelo nine months ago via a circuitous route from mainland China, where he was known as Dr. Tingxian Zho. Dr. Zho worked for years with the highly successful Chinese Olympic program, and fled the country hurriedly when his role in the doping of its athletes with performance-enhancing drugs was revealed. Yuan arranged for Zho's escape and new identity, and set him to work on a new research project: determining whether there was a way to detect and harness the hypothetical "flux" to facilitate the creation of super-powered individuals who could be molded into allies of the Wing Chao.

Yow spent the first two months after his arrival in virtual seclusion, examining the family medical records of Debbie Yuan, and the stolen records of other local supers without secret identities. Finally, he discovered an apparent link: a strand of so-called "junk DNA," a sequence that normally had no obvious genetic impact on the individuals possessing it. This particular sequence was present in a number of the supers. Moreover, by comparing older and more recent data on Debbie Yuan, Yow learned that the junk DNA had somehow been activated and begun secreting minute quantities of an electrolytic chemical into her bloodstream. The doctor believes that this chemical acts as a trigger mechanism to make its host somehow receptive to events that result in the "origin" of super-powers.

In the last several months, Yow has begun to circulate throughout the Chinatown community, volunteering on the staff of the Wayne Street Free Clinic, and acting as a sports nutritionist for the Gym Nest, all the while compiling a dossier of individuals who possess that mystery DNA

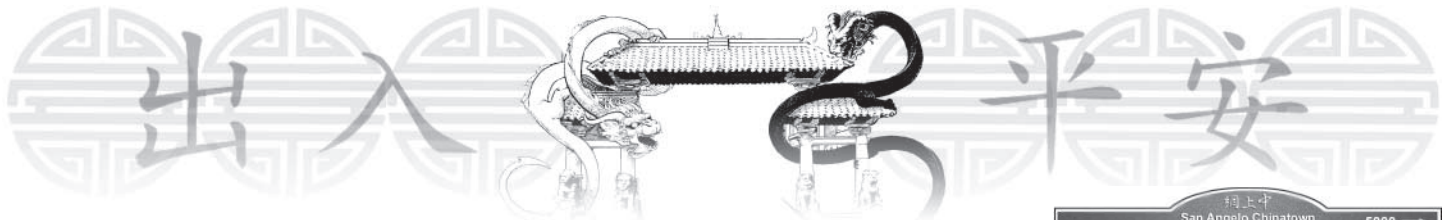
strand. The doctor has also examined most of the tong members, and several have been identified as "candidates" for superhero status. Simultaneously, Yow has been researching the combinations of circumstances (mystic herbs, modern pharmaceuticals, electrical currents, immersion in water, *etc.*) that might cause the sequence to activate, and bring about a super-powered origin event.

To further these experiments, the Wing Chao has taken in three indigent clinic patients whose blood tests reveal the presence of the mystery DNA. The group consists of two men in their late 20s, and a young teenaged girl called Amber who was brought into the clinic with severe head trauma and lasting amnesia. The tong has fed and clothed them, housed them in a converted warehouse on the waterfront (nicknamed The Power Plant), and is busily conducting a battery of physical, mental, and psychological tests on the trio.

In the meantime, the tong has begun to shadow Sammi Yung, the young Chinatown tennis phenom, because a visit to the clinic for a strained elbow revealed that Yung not only has the required strain of DNA, but that the strain has somehow been activated, making him in effect a latent paranormal—a "super" waiting to happen. Yow wants to observe Yung's transformation when it occurs, or capture him as a test subject and somehow "cause" it to happen.

This set-up is envisioned as the take-off point for a multi-adventure campaign pitting a group of player-character supers against the minions of the Wing Chao tong. It is especially well suited to a superhero group that might just be getting started in the City of Heroes. The early products of Dr. Yow's efforts are likely to be limited in their abilities, supers whose powers may not yet be well defined or totally under control, or which may require some kind of recharge mechanism after each use. As time passes and the heroes gain experience, the doctor's techniques can improve along with them. The heroes can encounter new and more powerful foes, and perhaps ultimately trace the villains back to their creators (Yow and Yuan). Indeed, if the heroes reach the point where they declare war upon the Wing Chao itself, the campaign may expand to include the sorceries of Ting Xian Roh, the mysterious watcher Hsi Feng, and even members of the rival tongs.

Conversely, a campaign can be started in which Amber, Sammi Yung and the two other potential supers are PC heroes, caught in the tong web from the moment they gain their powers.



and collect the tong’s share of the profits. He makes the decisions on most clan proposals involving street crime during these skull sessions. Other, more complex, initiatives are directed to Yiyan Ping for evaluation, or if major enough are brought before the entire council of elders for consideration. Although the rank and file never encounter him directly, the dragon head also exerts a powerful influence over the decision-making process, consulting with Luu and Ping on a daily basis.

Wing Chao Criminal Activities

As part of the long-standing campaign to provide Chinatown with a tourist-friendly image, most of the overt signs of illegal enterprise have been moved from outer Chinatown to the back streets of the district, or in some cases removed from the neighborhood entirely. The old time bawdy houses and gambling halls that populated Chinatown during the frontier and Golden Age days have largely disappeared, replaced by discreet escort services, video poker parlors, and legitimate-looking front businesses like the Ecstasy Bath House and Tandoori Securities.

The lone exception to this trend is Water Street, which remains zoned as an adult entertainment district. Strip clubs, peep shows, and X-rated theaters still populate this seven-block stretch that passes through the territory of all three tongs. Streetwalkers congregate here, lounging in alleyways or on the hoods of cars, offering any sort of pleasure for a price. Going down to Water Street for a night of forbidden fun is a tradition among the male population at several San Angelo schools. Every so often one of these trips ends tragically, leading the police to crack down on prostitution with increased patrols and sting operations for a few weeks. The Wing Chao generally lays low until the fervor passes, leaving the independents and other tongs to take the heat.

A brief rundown of the criminal portfolio of the Wing Chao is provided below. It should be considered as illustrative rather than exhaustive; William Yuan is likely to embrace any illicit enterprise the GM can imagine, provided that it doesn’t endanger legitimate commerce in Chinatown, expose key assets of the tong to needless risk, or place hardships upon the neighborhood’s population that are beyond their traditional capacity to endure.

Drug Trafficking: Eight of the 12 clans (Rat, Ox, Rabbit, Dragon, Ram, Monkey, Rooster, and Boar) have some involvement in the drug trade. Most of the tong’s pushers ply their trade in the nightspots and artist’s lofts of Riverside, with the Rooster and Ox clans responsible for street sales within Chinatown itself. The latter clan also maintains an old-style opium den in a four-story building off Chan Street.



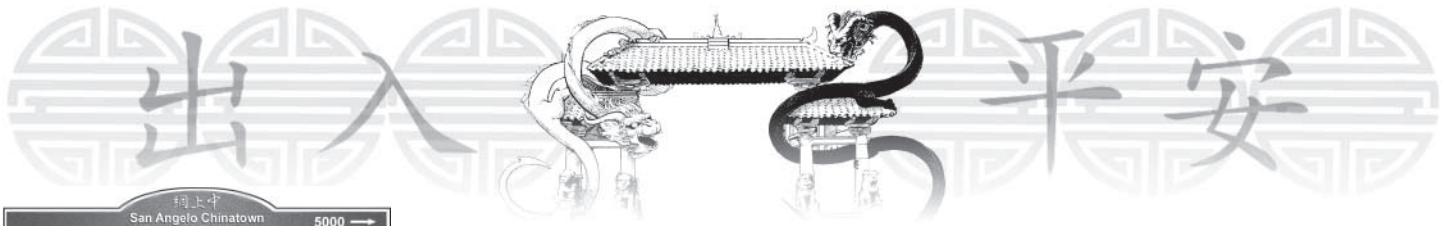
The Rat clan is the Wing Chao source of designer drugs, operating small production labs on Woo Street, and at two other locations outside Chinatown.

Prostitution: The Ox, Tiger, Horse, Monkey, and Dog clans all profit from the world’s oldest profession. The Horse clan works the Water Street corridor, while the Monkey clan runs the Ecstasy Bathhouse. Madame Sylvia Gee, long-time manager of a Tiger clan brothel known as the Singapore Princess, is a minor San Angelo celebrity, whose life was used as the basis for a character in the popular film *Stroke of Midnight*.

Protection: Each of the 12 clans collects the tribute from the businesses in their territory, keeping roughly half of the take while sending the rest upstairs. Each clan has freedom to set its own rates within proscribed limits set by the council. If a clan requires outside assistance in dealing with a recalcitrant shop owner, it can expect to pay an extra fee for that help.

Gambling: The Rat, Dragon, Snake, Ram, Dog, and Boar clans run illegal gambling operations ranging from book-making to floating high-stakes games of dice, cards, and mah jongg. Many of Chinatown’s older residents prefer the





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →
The Tong

tong-run number to the California Lottery, even as mom and pop stores sell scratch-off tickets to the tourists and the younger generation. Yuan has even forged an alliance with the leaders of a local Indian tribe, the Pakwonok, and is using his political connections to help them gain approval for casino gambling to be conducted on the tribal reservation some 40 miles north of San Angelo.

Smuggling: The Tiger and Rooster clans both engage in water-based smuggling activities stretching from the local rivers to the high seas. Meanwhile, the Horse clan operates a trucking company, Wan Li FreightCo, that transports illegal cargoes (including human ones) in and out of Mexico. Currently, all of the Wing Chao's smuggling operations are in a general state of disarray, as a number of prominent figures from each of the clans have been captured and arrested through the efforts of Lotus and her Justice Foundation cohorts. Unsurprisingly, the dragon head is hopping mad at this turn of events, although he has not yet ordered any reprisal that might put his daughter's life at risk.

Auto Theft: The Rabbit and Snake clans both maintain elite teams of car thieves. The former operates a chop shop in Cathedral Square, while the latter works out of a waterfront warehouse just north of Chinatown, and ships its booty (primarily late model European luxury cars) overseas for resale. In recent years, some of the more nimble members of the Jade Dragons have graduated into working with these units.

Murder for Hire: Beyond the secret activities of the Brotherhood of Honorable Fists, there are another dozen or so tong soldiers who perform contract killings on at least an occasional basis. Some are typical mob enforcers who are merely hardened to the use of deadly force, while others are clever and calculating assassins who perform assignments worldwide for the tong and its allies.

One of the latter, a member of the Ram clan, lives in San Angelo under the name of I.B. Quan, though he also holds passports under a half dozen other names. Quan is as far from the stereotypical "international man of adventure" as one could imagine: a wiry and athletic man with nondescript features of which few would take note. This is his strength, as he can easily blend into the background as a tourist or common laborer, leaving nothing memorable behind him but his nefarious deeds.

"When you wear the green on the streets of Chinatown, you know you got nothin' to fear. Wing Chao's been top dog here for over 70 years now, and the Dragons stand right alongside 'em."

Wing Chao Legitimate Activities

The Wing Chao's legitimate enterprises include factories and freight companies, restaurants and dry cleaning chains, and small independent shops. Although many of these businesses can still be found within the immediate boundaries of the tong's Chinatown sphere of influence, the tong is also represented in many of the city's other neighborhoods, and in the suburban communities of San Angelo County. These establishments employ hundreds of individuals with no idea they have any connection to an internationally powerful underworld organization.

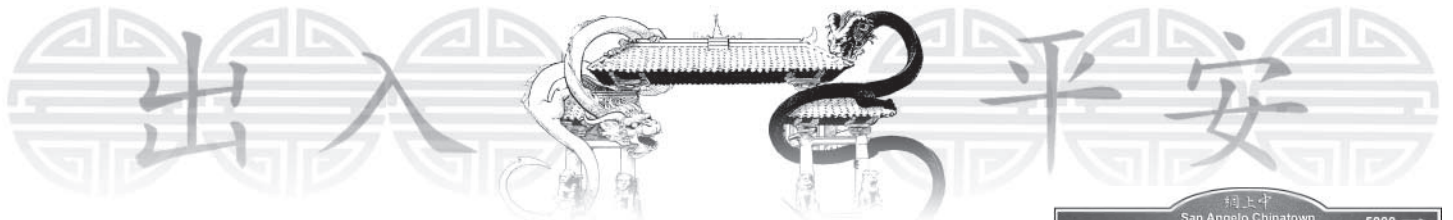
The Wing Chao also employs its substantial resources to improve the quality of life in Chinatown. It extends a helping hand to the needy, funds educational and health care programs that would otherwise be lacking, and encourages tourism and trade in the district. Although most outsiders would see the tong's world-view as paternalistic and antiquated, and consider its methods of maintaining control barbaric and excessively cruel, it would be a mistake to picture the Wing Chao and its leaders as totally evil. William Shihu Yuan truly believes that Chinatown will be best served by bowing to his leadership, which goes a long way toward explaining why he acts so ruthlessly to maintain his hold over the local scene.

Jade Dragons Street Gang

The Jade Dragons are a group of about 40 street toughs that has long been affiliated with the Wing Chao tong. The gang often serves as a proving ground for young men seeking tong membership. Many of the tong's current leaders, including William Yuan and Shudong Luu, spent time as Jade Dragons before graduating into the ranks of the tong. Indeed Yuan, who suffered a couple of juvenile arrests while a Dragon, often makes veiled references to his gang past in public addresses, references that seem ironic to those who know the true extent of his present criminal connections.

The Jade Dragons are the wild cards among the Wing Chao's forces. They're not afraid to make their presence felt in the neighborhood, congregating openly on the street corners both inside and outside the boundaries of tong territory, and challenging anyone who approaches them. Where the tong responses to problems are careful and measured, designed to quell opposition without disturbing the normal flow of business, the Jade Dragons are likely to explode into violent action when provoked. They will smash the plate glass window of a merchant who is late with his protection





money in broad daylight, or draw weapons and start a firefight with a rival gang in the midst of a crowd of innocent bystanders.

To William Shihu Yuan and his vice chairman, Yiyan Ping, many of the gang's impulsive acts are viewed as regrettable, but Street Secretary Shudong Luu, the man responsible for curbing the gang's worst excesses, would argue that the Jade Dragons are a necessary element in the Wing Chao's overall arsenal. The gang's violent reputation creates a real threat of reprisals in the minds of Wing Chao clients who might otherwise be tempted to resist. Moreover, because the Jade Dragons are affiliated with but not part of the tong itself, the Wing Chao escapes a portion of the negative reaction that these actions generate.

The Dragons take their name from the green banners associated with the tong. Gang members often wear green sashes or headbands as part of their street attire. Most of the Jade Dragons possess some proficiency in Choy Lee Fut style kung fu, a martial arts discipline that includes the use of weapon elements like chains, whips, nunchaku and swords. The Kenji Tiger dojo on F Street (page XDX) teaches the Choy Lee Fut style, and the practice room in its basement sometimes serves as an informal meeting place for the gang.

Members of the Dragons are often recruited by the tong's various clan groups to assist in their criminal activities (auto theft, burglary, and so on) or to make an unpleasant example of someone who is giving the tong trouble. In addition, the Jade Dragons have one money-making activity that is solely their province: the illegal fireworks trade. Presently, the Dragons are engaged in a war with the Wo Fat street gang over control of that trade. Thus far, the Wing Chao and Choy Lok On tongs have remained outside the fray, and the conflict has thus far been confined to a few minor skirmishes.

Johnny Lao

Jade Dragons Gang Leader

15 STR 19 DEX 16 CON 14 BODY 12 INT
 20 EGO 15 PRE 12 COM 6 PD 6 ED
 4 SPD 6 REC 32 END 30 STUN

Abilities: Martial Arts: Choy Lee Fut (Use art with Axes, Maces, Hammers, and Picks, Blades, Chain & Rope Weapons, Karate Weapons; +1 HTH Damage Class); +3 with Choy Lee Fut; +1 with All Combat; Acrobatics 13-; Breakfall 13-; Combat Sense 11-; AK: Chinatown 14-; KS: Wing Chao 12-; Streetwise 14-; WF: Common Melee Weapons, Small Arms

100+ Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: missing ear; Hunted: Wo Fat street gang; Susceptibility: to performing Martial Kick attacks, 1d6 damage

Notes: At the "advanced" age of 31, Johnny Lao is almost "too old" to be leading a predominantly juvenile street gang, and has had several opportunities to join one of the Wing Chao clans. He has disdainfully declined these offers, claiming to be "too old to learn manners, and not interested in doing so." The rough and ready life of the streets suits Johnny's mercurial temperament to a T, and the Jade Dragons have thrived under his energetic leadership.

Johnny is a prototypical street-fighting man, whose face and body bear the scars of a lifetime. The tip of his right ear is missing, and he has had operations to repair torn cartilage in both knees, making every martial arts kick potentially his last. Up until now his indomitable will has allowed him to block out his aches and pains and stay on top. It seems inevitable that, on the day when he is finally supplanted, he will die on these same mean streets.

Lao wears his hair slicked back in a '50s-style duck-tail, and considers himself a sharp dresser (although much of his wardrobe

appears to have been purchased from the "Elvis in Vegas" collection). Although not classically handsome, Johnny possesses a rugged animal charisma that women seem to find very attractive.

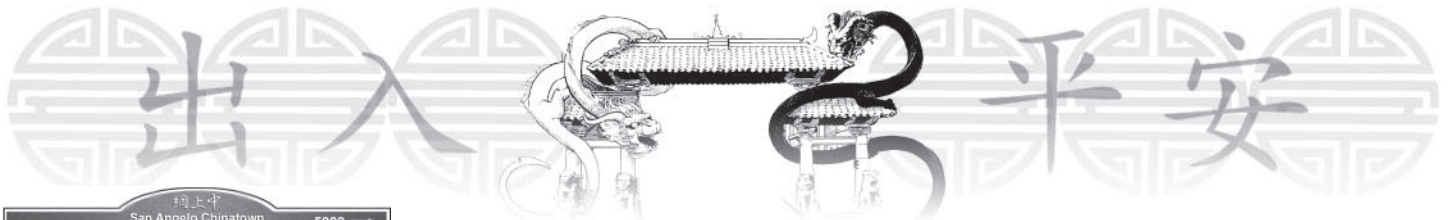
Although Lao's decisions in gang affairs are considered final and not to be questioned, he encourages the other Dragons to speak their minds, and is not above changing his mind if someone suggests a better way to do things. Johnny also has a great appreciation for the motive of revenge, and is more likely to forgive another gang member's indiscretion if it was done in reprisal during the heat of the moment.

Other Jade Dragons of Note

To-Yuen "Toby" Pan: Toby, a stocky well-built 18-year-old, is the cousin of tong elders Edgar and Donald Pan. Although he has been a Jade Dragon for less than a year, he has already been invited to participate in a couple of Snake clan operations. A few of the other Dragons resent this, figuring that Toby is benefiting from his family connections, and there is good reason to believe that this is at least partially true. Painfully aware of these grumblings, Toby is anxious to make his own mark on the tong without outside help, and is actively searching for a lucrative score that he can bring to the Jade Dragons to earn his own reputation.

"I don't mind paying a fee to the Wing Chao for protection. Gods know they've earned it over the years, but those Dragons are another story. They eat my oranges without paying, loiter in front of my shop, and scare away my customers with their big mouths. You ask me, all these hoodlums are gonna get when they grow up is an early grave."
 — Juxi Deng, 62, local shopkeeper





CHOY LOK ON TONG

The Choy Lok On tong is the second largest of the three tongs operating within the borders of Chinatown, with a current roster of approximately 220 criminal members. Dating back to the earliest days of Chinatown, the Choy Lok On had the potential to eventually become the largest tong in the city. A number of factors prevented this from occurring, primarily the mystic support that the Wing Chao could call upon, due to its former dragon head, T'ien Lung. But the Choy Lok On is still a very potent force in the San Angelo underworld, and one that not many would care to cross if they had any choice.

This tong commands an impressive amount of power and influence. Some actually believe that the Choy Lok On is actually more of a traditional Chinese tong than the Wing Chao is. Even if true, this is effectively as much of a detriment to the tong as it is a benefit, as any gains it makes with respect to influence within the Chinese community is balanced out by its lack of significant business and political interests outside the Chinatown community.

Kuang Ma, dragon head of the tong, has adopted what could be called a policy of response. Rather than engaging in risky attempts to gain power, he has decided to take a defensive posture, protecting his own territory and assets against retribution. Balancing this out are plans to respond to other tong's disasters or setbacks in ways that will net the Choy Lok On more power. So far the tactic seems to have worked, as it conserves tong strength for when it is truly needed, as opposed to squandering it on constant turf wars.

Choy Lok On Organization

The Choy Lok On is organized along traditional tong lines: under the higher officials (dragon head, vice chairman, street secretary, English secretary) there are a number of mid-level lieutenants. One of these individuals acts as a sort of department head for each notable illegal activity. Legitimate businesses are not included or covered under this structure, as they are held apart from the actual tong's command structure for security reasons; legitimate business concerns are run along the lines of any other business enterprise, it is just that the owners are members of the Choy Lok On. One member acts as the liaison with the Wo Fat street gang. Another member functions as the liaison for all "independents," those

criminals who operate in Choy Lok On territory, but who are not actual members of the tong or under its direct control.

The last important member of the tong's high command is a lawyer, Kwang Don Kung. Not well loved by other tong members (some of whom consider him an infernal demon of some sort), Kung nonetheless provides a number of vital services. The primary functions of the (somewhat jokingly named) "legal secretary" are twofold. The greatest is to see to the legal protection of various tong businesses, by both protecting businesses against the legal attacks of rivals, and by bringing lawsuits against businesses that somehow displease Kuang Ma. The secondary function is to see to the legal defense of those members unfortunate enough to fall into the hands of the police.

Although Kuang Ma fights tooth and nail to keep the Choy Lok On as true to Chinese traditions as possible, even he realizes that a complete rejection of advanced technology would put his tong at a disadvantage compared to rivals. Therefore, as a kind of test he has instituted the "technical secretary" position, to minimize the number of tong members who have to deal with the technological aspects of modern crime, therefore limiting the influences of said technology. The position is only semi-formal, and it is still too early to tell if the position will become formalized, or indeed, will even last.

"Tradition gives us our spiritual strength. But there's no question that advanced weaponry helps."

— Kian Lu, 44, Choy Lok On Street Secretary

Choy Lok On Members Of Note

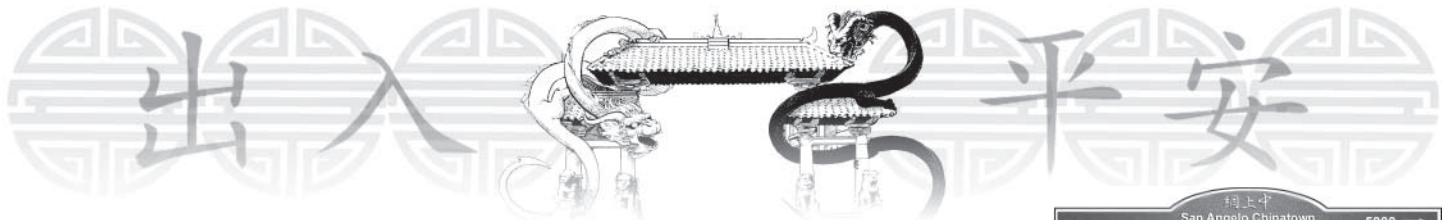
Kuang Ma

Choy Lok On Dragon Head

15	STR	14	DEX	14	CON	10	BODY	12	INT
18	EGO	30	PRE	10	COM	4	PD	4	ED
3	SPD	6	REC	40	END	35	STUN		

Abilities: Martial Arts: Snake Style Kung Fu (Dodge; Escape; Kick; Knife Hand; Legsweep; Punch; Throw; +1 HTH Damage Class); +2 with Kung Fu; Acrobatics 12-; Bureaucrats 15-; Combat Sense 11-; Conversation 15-; Criminology 12-; Deduction 15-; High Society 15-; Interrogation 15-; AK: Chinatown 14-; Oratory 15-; Persuasion 15-; PS: Tong Leader 13-; Streetwise 15-; Tactics 12-; WF: Common Martial Arts Melee Weapons; Scholar; KS: Chinese myths and legends 12-; KS: Chinese Medicine 12-; KS: Choy Lok On 14-; KS: Taoist philosophy 13-; KS: Tongs





12-; Contact: Sam Anderson, lawyer 8-; Fringe Benefit: Dragon head of Choy Lok On; Money: Wealthy

125+ Disadvantages: DNPC: Family; Hunted: Rival Tongs; Psychological Limitation: Chinese traditionalist; Psychological Limitation: Hates Red Chinese government

Notes: Kuang Ma is the current dragon head of the Choy Lok On. He rose to power in the 1940s, and remembers well the Golden Age and T'ien Lung. He is the most traditional of the three dragon heads, and has kept "Western" influences to a minimum within his tong. He is not a fool however, and realizes the necessity of such things as modern firearms, computers, and communication systems. However, with these exceptions the tong operates in much the same way as it has for decades.



At the age of 68, Kuang Ma is the oldest dragon head in Chinatown. His age however does not make him any less dangerous. Kuang Ma is a master of Snake Style kung fu, and has the physical condition of a man less than half his age. His sheer personal magnetism and will to live have both contributed a great deal toward keeping him in power.

Kuang Ma commands the complete loyalty of the vast majority of the Choy Lok On, ruling through a combination of tradition, charisma, and fear. This is greatly reinforced by his policy of only recruiting those Chinese who still revere and follow the old ways. Of the remainder of tong members, especially the younger ones, most are either too respectful or too terrified of Kuang Ma to take any effective action against him. Kuang Ma's surviving family, two sons and a daughter, live with him in his home at the junction of Canal and F Streets. He is very concerned for their protection, and has arranged for a group of four elite bodyguards to guard his family at all times. Kuang Ma has an especially great hatred for the current government of Red China, which he sees as betraying China's traditions to a Western philosophy.

Recently, Kuang Ma has been considering the linked problem and opportunity presented by the presence of supers and other paranormals. He remembers what T'ien Lung's presence and abilities did to increase and protect the power and influence of the Wing Chao tong, and wonders to this day if the Choy Lok On could have taken the position of preeminent tong if it had had similar support. He asked Mr.

Feng if he would be interested in joining the Choy Lok On, but was politely refused. With the most obvious (at least with respect to Chinese tradition) case not available, he has been looking for supers who would be willing to work with him...and follow the tong's traditions as strongly as he himself does.

Kian Lu

Choy Lok On Street Secretary

13 STR	18 DEX	16 CON	14 BODY	15 INT
15 EGO	15 PRE	16 COM	6 PD	6 ED
4 SPD	9 REC	50 END	34 STUN	

Abilities: Martial Arts (Shaolin Kung Fu; Block; Dodge; Escape; Kick; Knife Hand; Legsweep; Tien-hsueh Strike; Punch; Throw; Use art with Axes, Maces, Hammers, and Picks, Blades, Staffs, Three-Section Staff; +2 HTH Damage Classes); Missile Deflection (Arrows, Slings, Etc.); +1 with Kung Fu; +3 with All Combat; Acrobatics 13-; Breakfall 13-; Combat Sense 12-; Computer Programming 12-; Danger Sense 12-; Defense Maneuver: I; Demolitions 15-; Interrogation 14-; AK: Chinatown 15-; KS: Chinese medicine 12-; KS: Chinese myths and legends 11-; KS: Choy Lok On tong 13-; Language: English (completely fluent, w/accnt)(Cantonese is native); PS: Assassin 14-; PS: Gunsmith 13-; Security Systems 13-; Shadowing 15-; Stealth 14-; Streetwise 14-; Tactics 12-; WF: Common Melee Weapons, Common Missile Weapons, Emplaced Weapons, Small Arms

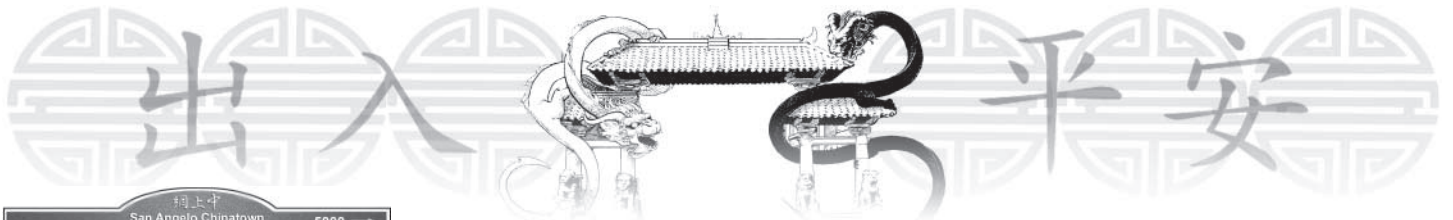
200+ Disadvantages: Psychological Limitation: Loyal to Kuang Ma; Psychological Limitation: Likes to fight; Reputation: Not a man to cross; Hunted: Rival tongs

Equipment: Calico 950 9 mm SMG (1d6+1K, +1 OCV, x5 Autofire, 2 clips of 100 rds), Three-section staff, Chinese axe, *Kevlar* vest (+5 PD/+5 ED Armor, 11-)



Notes: Kian Lu is the street secretary of the Choy Lok On. In his position, he is the tong member who deals most with what could be called non-traditional methods. He believes that the tong should modernize its operations to some extent, but respects Kuang Ma in his opposition to such activities. Kian Lu's belief is that he should teach by example, showing what modern technologies, utilized in support of traditional operations, can ac-





桐上中
San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →

The Tongs



comply. If the dragon head approves of his efforts, he can then implement these techniques on a wider scale.

Kian Lu is fanatically loyal to the dragon head. Although he currently knows nothing of Thomas Chung's thoughts about staging a coup against the dragon head, if he did find out he would be the first to wish to relieve Thomas Chung of his head.

In his position as street secretary, Kian Lu effectively commands all Choy Lok On fighting forces, including (indirectly) the Wo Fat street gang. Kian Lu has been responsible for the lethal enforcement of a number of Kuang Ma's decrees, in some cases personally eliminating troublesome individuals. He has likewise given his personal assistance in various security incidents, such as battles with rival tongs and punishing non-Chinatown gangs that have attempted to intrude on Choy Lok On turf. He occasionally gives weapons instruction to members of the Wo Fat gang, and is in charge of all black-market arms sales that take place in the tong's territory.

Kian Lu is a handsome Chinese male in his mid-40s, with long black hair, and a lithe figure. He is a deadly combatant, whether with firearms, melee weapons, or the martial arts.

He is also a formidable assassin. His loyalty to Kuang Ma has not gone unnoticed, and he is thought to be Kuang Ma's choice for the next vice chairman. There are even some who claim that Kuang Ma has selected Lu as his successor, and is preparing him for the position. Neither the dragon head nor Lu have ever given any statement to confirm or deny these rumors.

Thomas Chung

Choy Lok On English Secretary

10 STR 15 DEX 12 CON 12 BODY 18 INT
12 EGO 15 PRE 12 COM 3 PD 3 ED
3 SPD 4 REC 30 END 23 STUN

Abilities: Bribery 15-; Bureaucratics 13-; Computer Programming 13-; Conversation 12-; High Society 13-; KS: Corporate world 14-; KS: Stock market 13-; KS: Water Dragon company 15-; Persuasion 15-; PS: CEO 12-; Seduction 12-; Trading 14-; Money: Wealthy; Well-Connected

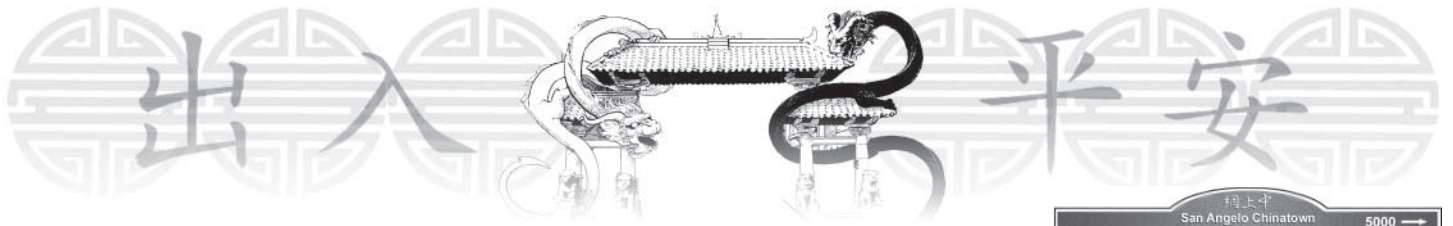
75+ Disadvantages: Psychological Limitation: Dislikes personal violence; Psychological Limitation: Greed

Notes: In China, a tong's English secretary was charged with conducting transactions with foreigners (the English, Portuguese, Dutch, and so on), but in the U.S. the position entails coordinating a tong's business enterprises. As English secretary, Thomas Chung has one of the most influential positions in the Choy Lok On. He is also without a doubt the tong's most frustrated member. The very nature of business entails the use of a great deal of modern procedures. Unlike the combat-oriented parts of the tong, the business end does not really work that efficiently under the "old methods." Chung has tried to explain this to Kuang Ma on several occasions, always to be strongly rebuffed by the dragon head.

Unlike Kian Lu, the English secretary has neither the tact nor patience to try the "show by example" tactic. As a businessman, Thomas Chung is concerned primarily with making money, and the traditional ways are not the best way to accomplish this. As the dragon head has not proved in the least tractable in this matter, Chung is now considering the option of removing Kuang Ma from office...permanently. This is a daunting and extremely difficult task. If he tries to confront Kuang Ma directly, he would in all likelihood be killed, but an attempt to build support within the Choy Lok On would probably result in a quiet and unfriendly visit from Kian Lu one night, so Chung must rely on the most daring and dangerous plan of all.

Chung has begun to quietly look for help among the non-Chinese underworld, concentrating on freelancers, as he is not crazy enough to go to the Mafia or yakuza. His plan is to gather a team of assassins and take out Kuang Ma. He is





also looking into the possibility of hiring paranormals, as this would be both a devastating strike force, as well as being “plausibly deniable.” PCs could conceivably be drawn into this plot, as Chung is an accomplished manipulator.



Thomas Chung is also the president and CEO of Water Dragon Shipping, and as such has control of a great deal of economic power with respect to the legitimate business arm of the tong. This allows him access to funds that he can use to work towards his plan, however he must be very careful, lest Kuang Ma be alerted ahead of time. Should this occur, he has a helicopter and pilot ready to fly him to an airfield where a private jet waits to fly him out of the country.

One of Chung’s greatest potential weaknesses is that he is not really a fighter. The tong selected him for his position based upon his business sense, not his combat ability. He keeps two bodyguards with him at all times, but is still concerned for his safety.

Choy Lok On Contacts and Associates

The Choy Lok On has quite a few contacts spread throughout the San Angelo area. Most of them are in various departments of the city’s civil service structure, notably the police department and city hall. They also have a number of contacts in the court system, the press (especially the *San Angelo Times*), and the legal world. Politically, the tong has no effective contacts, and this is a deliberate policy decision; Kuang Ma refuses to get involved in the political scene which he sees as being culturally corrupting.

In the corporate world, Choy Lok On has a mid-level Contact within Hunter-Price Arms (see *SA:CoH*). This individual has occasionally been able to arrange for some weapons to be shipped to the tong through extremely roundabout ways. Most of the time he just furnishes information that the tong can use, such as reports of arms purchases by rivals. The tong also has a contact within Anderson Pharmaceuticals. This individual doesn’t, under any circumstances, redirect drug supplies and such; instead he serves as a sort of market analyst, delivering information that helps the tong decide which drugs have potential sale value.

Choy Lok On Sphere of Influence

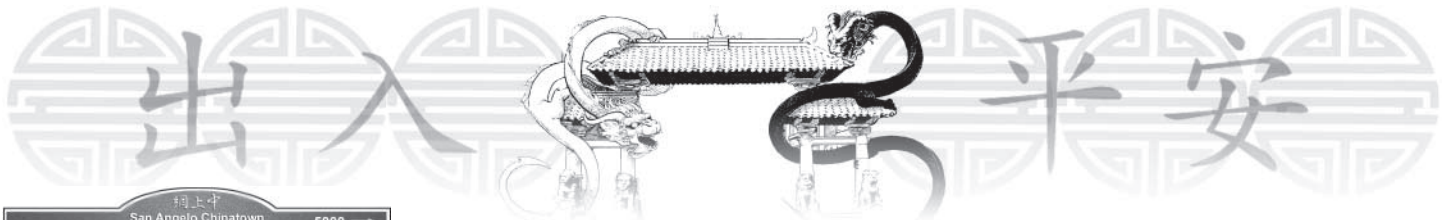
Although the primary sphere of influence of the Choy Lok On is centered on its actual territory, there are a number of other businesses and individuals under its sway in other parts of Chinatown and San Angelo proper. Several companies along the riverfronts do business with, or are in some cases exclusively supplied by, Water Dragon Shipping. These companies owe their livelihood to the tong, even if they do not know it (and most do not). Many of the herb shops in Chinatown, even those in other tong’s territories, are strongly influenced by the wishes of the Choy Lok On and its dragon head. Lastly, there is the Black Moon Fireworks company, a prominent pyrotechnics firm that puts on displays at events across the state. What few people know is that one of the owners of the firm is Kuang Ma’s cousin.

Outside of Chinatown, the tong’s presence in San Angelo is fairly limited. The traditionalist policies of the tong’s dragon head have been somewhat of a hindrance in this, as Kuang Ma does not think highly of dealing with non-Chinese individuals. What little Choy Lok On influence does exist in San Angelo is of a highly indirect nature, and is mostly based on personal, rather than business relationships. Once outside the San Angelo area however, the tong’s influence can be felt along the West Coast. As one of the oldest tongs, and the most traditional, Choy Lok On members have developed very powerful connections in the Chinatowns of Angel Beach and San Francisco. These connections exist at both the business and underworld levels. Distance and other factors prevents these allies from contributing much to the balance of power in San Angelo, but they are nonetheless a force to be reckoned with.

Choy Lok On Territory

As shown on the map on page 76, the territory controlled by the Choy Lok On tong is an irregular area leading inward from the San Angelo River.

Within this territory, Choy Lok On control is almost ironclad. Along the borders there are occasional skirmishes, but there has not been a serious attempt to move in on a rival tong territory since the Hatchet Wars. Although the balance of power between the tongs is currently fairly stable, every once in a while someone else does try to make a power play. A Vietnamese gang made the last such attempt back in 1991. The gang swiftly found out that it had bitten off far more than it could chew, and for its arrogance and presumption it was bloodily eliminated to the last man.



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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →

The Tong

Choy Lok On Headquarters

The headquarters of the Choy Lok On tong is an unassuming building located on the south side of Water Street. To outside observers it is just another warehouse that has seen far better days. The only bright spots are the two yellow silk banners that flank the main entrance. Inside, however, the building is a veritable fortress. There are always at least 30 formidably equipped tong members present. A number of automatic weapons, including an M60 machine-gun, are available to aid in the defense of the headquarters if needed. Of course, most tong members sincerely hope that this situation never arises, because if it did it would precipitate the abandonment of the headquarters building to avoid the police. The HQ is also defended by a number of booby traps, including pits and electrical grids, and it has a state-of-the-art system of alarms and security cameras.

As far as communications are concerned, the building is equipped with a comprehensive communications suite and computer system. Scanners monitor all local and federal law enforcement frequencies, both to find out where police are operating, and to determine if rival tongs are having police problems. Of course, the Choy Lok On is ready to take advantage of any such misfortune that befalls another tong. Radios are available, but are not often used, as they can be traced. There are no phones in the building, as the security risk (with regards to wire tapping) was deemed too great.

A complete set of living quarters is contained within the building, as well as a concealed dock containing a high-speed cabin cruiser. This boat is the emergency escape system for any high-ranking tong members that are present if the building happens to come under major attack. A one-week supply of food is in storage, as is an emergency generator capable of running all the building's power needs.

The basement of the HQ contains the tong's computers. Considered a "regrettable necessity" by Kuang Ma, the dragon head has nevertheless seen fit to install the best computer security that money can buy. Advised by Thomas Chung and the new technical secretary, Ma has isolated the system from the Internet, making it impervious to hacking. TEMPEST shielding completes this protection, making beam intercept gear and EMP devices worthless. The basement also contains the main armory and the paper files. The armory is set up so it can be flooded in the case of fire, preventing an explosion. The door to the armory is concealed, and would take a great deal of effort to find. The file rooms are equipped with the latest halon extinguishers. All rooms in the basement are considered highest security and are guarded 24 hours per day.

Other Choy Lok On Businesses of Note

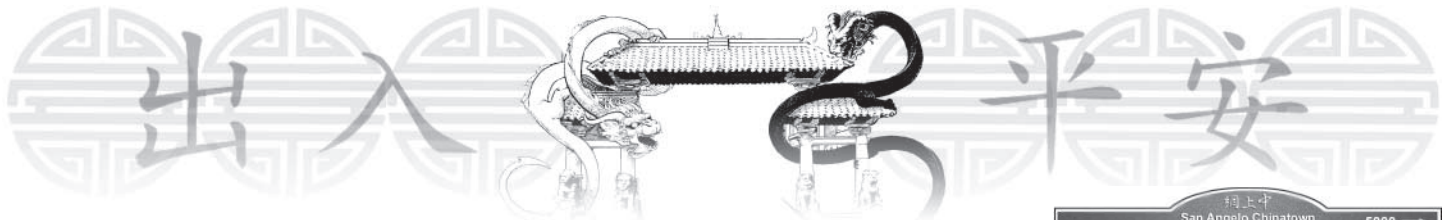
Golden Dragon Cinema: The Golden Dragon is an old single-screen theater that was originally built in the 1950s, but which was remodeled and converted into a four-plex in the early '80s. Donations from people all over San Angelo keep the theater in impeccable shape, its façade and lobby maintained in their original form, and it is a popular attraction city wide. The Dragon features a variety of Oriental movie fare, from martial arts films to anti-Communist art films, almost all imports from Hong Kong and mainland China. On weekends the theater shows mainline American releases and English-dubbed Chinese movies. The combination has kept the theater in business, and made the Choy Lok On quite rich. No criminal activities are tolerated on theater grounds, and violators are hunted down and punished severely.

Celestial Spices: Many practitioners of Chinese medicine and internal alchemy, as well as dabblers of all types, frequent this herb and spice shop. The owner, Kang Wun, has most herbs in stock at all times. Those he does not can be special ordered from China, taking up to two weeks, and often requiring additional fees. It is rumored that herbs of a more exotic nature (even poisons) can be purchased here. If true, Wun has given no hints, although he will state that there are many uses for the bounties that nature grants to humanity.

Blue Lotus Massage Parlor: On the surface this is a very clean establishment; no drugs are tolerated on the premises, and the women are healthy and provide a wholesome massage. Fees are quite reasonable for such a business, and Kirby Avenue's Blue Lotus has amassed a reputation that stretches up and down the coast. The Lotus is often frequented by visiting businessmen.

What a select few know is that the Blue Lotus offers special services to a discriminating (and highly exclusive) clientele. This clientele often includes corporate or other high-level contacts with which the Choy Lok On does business.

There is one other important activity that takes place at the Blue Lotus. Kian Lu, with the full approval of Kuang Ma, has had the Lotus wired with a state-of-the-art surveillance system. *Everything* that goes on within the halls is monitored and videotaped. This helps security, which is ostensibly the purpose of the system, but, the security system also brings other resources into Choy Lok On hands. While the tong does not, as a rule, look to use these tapes as blackmail material, the option is certainly available if circumstances warrant such action. Considering that several prominent executives make use of the Blue Lotus, this could be a powerful incentive to ensure their continued cooperation.



Choy Lok On Activities

The Choy Lok On tong engages in many activities on both sides of the law. All of these have two things in common: they are all operated in a way that is in keeping with Chinese tradition, and they are all structured and arranged so that the tong’s involvement in them is hidden behind layers of dummy companies and cutouts. So far these policies have been remarkably successful. The police have an extremely difficult time tracking and stopping the illegal operations, and law enforcement officials are not even sure which *legitimate* businesses are owned by the tong. Both of these situations are exactly as Kuang Ma likes it.

Any new activity that is proposed within the tong’s territory must meet with the dragon head’s approval. This applies to both legitimate and illegal activities. So far Kuang Ma has been very conservative in what he allows to take place within his area of control. Any operation that in any way either goes against tradition, or endangers the Choy Lok On by bringing police attention is rejected out of hand. Borderline cases are undertaken on a trial basis. In cases where they do not work out, they are either simply cancelled, if there is no danger to the tong, or “terminated” if there is a danger.



Choy Lok On Criminal Activities

Black Market Weapons: The Choy Lok On tong has one of the largest shares in the illegal weapons trade in the San Angelo area. Although the tong proper does not actually sell guns, it has a “controlling interest” among the local black marketeers. Any street gun dealer wishing to sell in Choy Lok On territory must pay a fee to the Choy Lok On leadership. Failure to pay this “tax” can result in a number of highly unpleasant results, ranging from police tip-offs to your activities, to blackmail, and even, in rare cases, assassination. Choy Lok On does *not*, under any circumstances, supply the weapons that are sold. This enables the tong to distance itself from the dealers and protect itself.

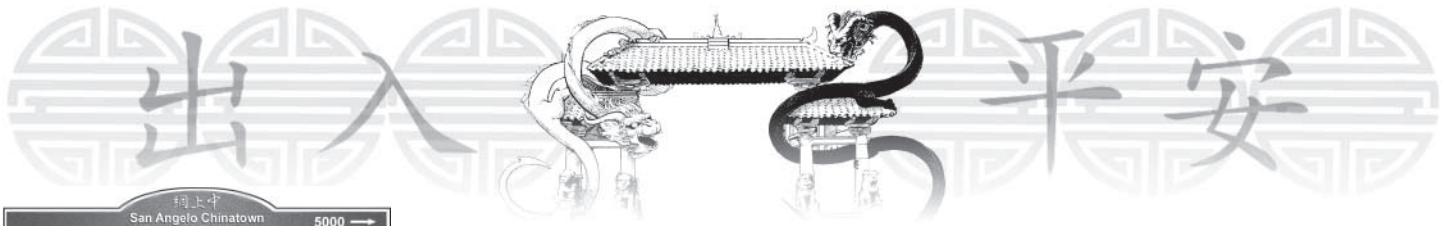
Choy Lok On-affiliated dealers mainly sell readily available weaponry, such as pistols and shotguns. Rarely, fully automatic weapons, such as true military assault rifles and sub-machineguns are available, but only at high prices, even by black market standards. These sales are carried out under extreme scrutiny, as they are more likely to gain FBI or ATF

attention then would the sale of a simple handgun. The Choy Lok On never allows weapons that could be classed as “heavy military” (flame-throwers, rockets, grenades, SAM missiles, and so on) to be sold in Chinatown. This is by order of Kuang Ma himself, who does not want to attract the attention of federal law enforcement or the military. Kian Lu is in charge of the enforcement of this policy, as well as all arms-related matters of the tong. Weapon dealers who violate policy in Choy Lok On territory are either killed or expelled. The weapons, of course, are confiscated for Choy Lok On use.

Narcotics: The drug trade is alive and well in Chinatown. Street-level pushers obtain drugs from a number of Choy Lok On suppliers. The tong deals only in “natural” drugs, such as heroin, marijuana, and cocaine; synthetics such as LSD and the latest designer pharmaceuticals are not sold for two reasons. The first reason is that Kuang Ma has a distrust of these drugs. Opium, and its derivative, heroin, have been associated with China and its culture for centuries. A drug like LSD, however, is a recent creation of foreign devils. The second reason is that designer drugs are often more traceable. The nature of drug design and manufacture requires laboratories, trained personnel, and specific chemicals, any or all of which could be potential security risks, risks that Kuang Ma prefers not to have to deal with.

Security of supply is handled somewhat differently from the way black market weapons are dealt with. There is no fee to deal drugs in Choy Lok On territory, but the tong is the exclusive supplier for any drugs that street dealers ac-





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →

The Tong

quire. The penalty for a pusher who obtains his wares from any other source is simple: death. The harsh policy has served to control the number of individuals who deal drugs in Chinatown, and thereby limit the amount of police reprisal.

Illegal Gambling: Together with black market weapons and narcotics, gambling forms the third leg of the illicit economic triad that supports Choy Lok On operations. The dragon head and other high-ranking tong officials have decided that there are to be no fixed sites for gambling in their part of Chinatown. No casinos, no “corner poker games,” and no numbers, as all of these are too easy to trace and/or bust by the police. Instead, the Choy Lok On has concentrated on “mobile” forms of gambling. Poker and blackjack are played, but never in the same site twice within six months. Horse betting and sports gambling are supported, but also at varying sites. Bets in these last two cases are delivered through two intermediaries, either one of which is expendable in an emergency.

The Choy Lok On also does some out-of-state betting, primarily with regards to professional sports. There is a single tong member each in Chicago and New York who handles sports bets within their respective cities. Once per year they send revenues back to San Angelo by a highly convoluted and indirect means. As in the case of the local betting, the intermediaries are considered expendable.

Protection: The time-honored protection racket, although not as blatant as in Mafia-run areas, is nevertheless practiced in Chinatown. Most owners know this and accept it as part of community life. Not all of the money gained by Choy Lok On in this manner is diverted to illegal activities; a sizable percentage is used in a number of community programs to benefit the people of Chinatown.

As for the few locals who withhold payment, the Choy Lok On uses them as examples to the community of “proper” behavior. Offending owners are given one, and only one, chance to repay (often with usurious interest). If they still refuse, their business will suffer some sort of crippling disaster, from a broken window to a huge fire. If the owner protests or continues to be disrespectful, he is killed without compunction.

The instances where the bloodiest violence occurs, however, are when non-Chinese businesses open along the outer perimeter of tong territory. The owners of these establishments are often levied a higher protection fee than those owned by Chinese entrepreneurs, and being outsiders these business owners are less likely to view the practice as a normal part of community life.

Prostitution and Pornography: The Choy Lok On does not deal in pornography because Kuang Ma considers it dis-

gusting, and does not wish it sold by tong members. There have been a number of attempts by small-time producers to import fetish tapes and even snuff films into Choy Lok On territory, but Kuang Ma has ordered these individuals expelled from the neighborhood if caught. Many of these kinds of productions involve slavery or kidnapping, both of which draw federal agencies like a magnet draws iron filings. Therefore, official Choy Lok On policy is to forbid the production or sale of such items within Choy Lok On territory.

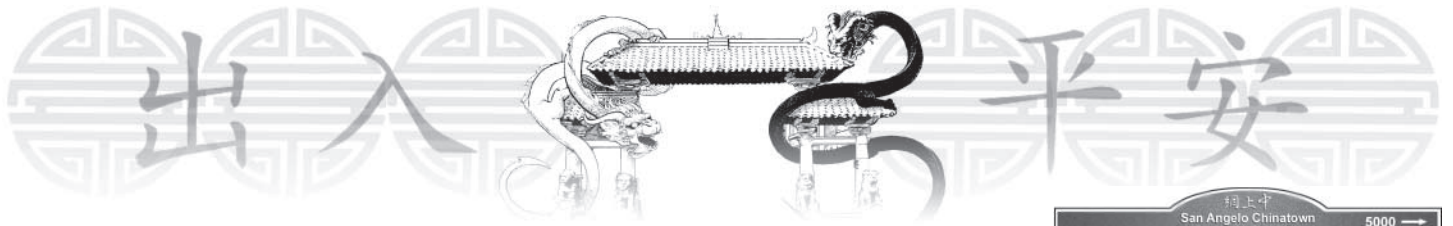
Prostitution however, is a different story. The Choy Lok On has a number of “talent agents” (effectively pimps) in the Chinatown area. Each agent maintains a stable of women who he “turns out” each night to earn their keep. Most of these agents take a nightly cut from their workers, often 10%-15% of earnings, which is considerably lower than the take for others in this profession. Each agent operates in a slightly different manner; some staking out particular streets and sending their ladies to ply the trade; others starting escort services that conceal their activities under a veneer of respectability. One enterprising agent even found a way to incorporate extortion into his massage parlor business (see *Blue Lotus Massage Parlor*, page 90).

Fencing: Kuang Ma decided that there was too much risk in having permanent defined areas where stolen goods were fenced, so instead there are tong members who travel Chinatown, and who will dispose of stolen goods for a fee. This fee is often quite reasonable, assuming that you are a Choy Lok On or Wo Fat gang member. For others, the price rises steeply, even astronomically in the case of non-Chinese who bring hot goods for sale. Some non-local criminal types even find themselves turned in if what they are selling is of a sufficiently sensitive nature that the dragon head or street secretary determines that the sale of the item would bring undesired and unwarranted attention.

The fences operate out of mid-size cars or vans. Deals are struck in Chinatown, but the actual delivery of goods takes place outside the community’s boundaries. While this put deals at a greater risk of interception or theft, it decreases the chance that police attention will be drawn to Chinatown.

Choy Lok On Legitimate Activities

The Choy Lok On controls a number of businesses in the San Angelo area. The vast majority of these are concentrated in Chinatown. The largest of these establishments is the Golden Dragon Cinema. The Golden Dragon has four screens, and mainly shows a variety of martial arts-oriented films from Hong Kong. The theater is quite popular, and even though the tong owns the building, it allows *no* criminal activities to take place on the premises. There are also a



number of bookstores and video shops in Chinatown that are owned either directly or indirectly by the tong.

Several restaurants are either controlled, or outright owned by, the Choy Lok On. Some of these are occasionally used as meeting spots to set up later drug deals, although no actually dealing is permitted within the restaurants themselves. Tong members often frequent the restaurants for food and recreation, which has some locals worried about the potential for other tongs, or even a non-Chinese organized crime groups to attack tong members as they eat, as the memory of just such a shooting at the Golden Dragon restaurant in San Francisco's Chinatown in 1977 remains fresh in many local residents' minds. Generally, the other two tongs would not make such an attack, although the yakuza or Mafia might not be so indulgent.

Lastly, the Choy Lok On directly controls an estimated 50% of the suppliers of herbs used in the practice of Chinese medicine (at both the wholesale and retail levels), which gives it a great deal of influence within the community. In addition to status, many tong members utilize the herb shops to obtain products for their own use, and these uses are not always within the law. Besides healing, several herbs can be used in the preparation of potent drugs and even poisons, some of which are extremely hard to detect, and are used in particularly sensitive assassinations, where it is imperative to preserve the tong's air of non-involvement.

Outside Chinatown, Choy Lok On business connections are very small. Its primary area of control is Water Dragon Shipping, a freight company based in downtown San Angelo. Water Dragon carries a wide variety of goods, by both truck and rail. Occasionally it carries black market goods and arms for the tong, but always set up in such a way that the Choy Lok On involvement is buried beneath at least four levels of dummy corporations. Water Dragon also owns a handful of freighters that dock at several major seaports, transferring their goods to trains or truck convoys.

The tong also controls a handful of small businesses in downtown San Angelo. Among these are two convenience stores, a hardware store, and a used-car dealership. Currently English Secretary Thomas Chung has plans to acquire a sporting goods shop and video arcade, both of which he says will significantly increase the tong's revenue base.

Wo Fat Street Gang

The Wo Fat gang is the Choy Lok On's eyes, ears, and hands on the streets of Chinatown. It's a fairly new gang, taking the place of another that was gutted during the 1980s by casualties and police arrests. The gang's name is taken from a Chinese master criminal on a 1970s television show;



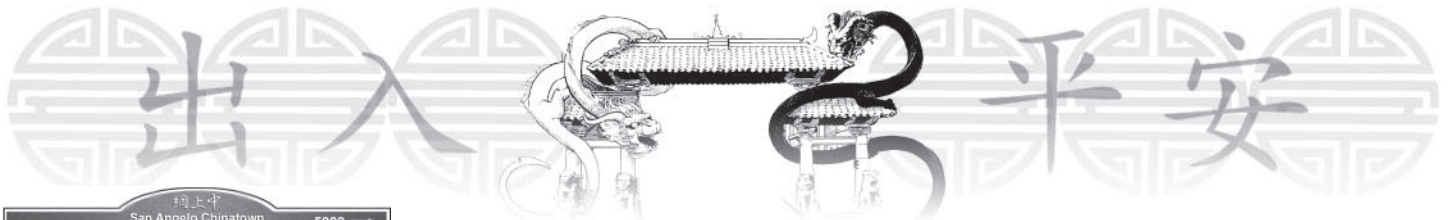
despite all that could be done to him, Wo Fat would always survive, and indeed prosper in the face of adversity. Bobby Kwan, the founder and current leader of the gang, coined the name, and it has proven most apt.

Wo Fat's colors consist of bright yellow satin jackets, with a black dragon emblazoned on the back. Yellow sashes are often worn about the head and/or waist, even where wearing gang colors openly would not be appropriate, such as in a declared neutral area.

The primary illegal activity that members of the Wo Fat gang partake in is the fireworks trade. The Wo Fat gang controls roughly half of the commercial and black market fireworks trade in the San Angelo area. Its chief rival for this lucrative business is the Jade Dragons gang, which is linked closely to the Wing Chao Tong. So far, the skirmishes have been fairly minor, as both gangs have been warned by their respective tongs not to start a full-scale gang war over this one issue.

Wo Fat members also engage in robbery and muggings. Gang members target outsiders who enter their territory at night. The individuals are ambushed, beaten and any valuables are taken from them. Occasionally more serious inju-





San Angelo Chinatown 5000
The Tongs

ries occur during such robberies. Knives are often used on Japanese and Korean tourists. These are never lethal assaults, but are instead intended to scar their victims. Caucasian tourists are often perceived as being “rich pickings,” and are also targeted frequently, proving the gangsters right more often than not.

Wo Fat gang members are highly effective in combat. Most members have some degree of proficiency with Hung Gar style kung fu. In addition to this, a great number of gang members carry firearms, and are quite accomplished with their use. Guns tend to be used only as a last resort however, as gunfights bring on the police. In cases where needed however, the Wo Fat gang will come out shooting; Bobby Kwan owns a MAK-90 assault rifle (a currently legal “sporting” version of the AK-47), but only uses it in extreme circumstances (e.g., an all-out gang war).

“Sometimes you just have to kick somebody’s ass. You got to get their respect. That’s where we come in. We’re the dragon’s claws, man.”
— Xian Tsai, 15, Wo Fat gang member

Bobby Kwan

Wo Fat Gang Leader

15 STR 15 DEX 16 CON 14 BODY 12 INT
15 EGO 18 PRE 10 COM 5 PD 4 ED
3 SPD 7 REC 32 END 30 STUN

Abilities: Martial Arts: Hung Gar Kung Fu (Block; Kick; Knife Hand; Punch; Throw; Use art with Axes, Maces, Hammers, and Picks, Blades, Staffs, Three-Section Staff; +2 HTH Damage Classes); +2 with Kung Fu; +2 with Firearms; Acrobatics 12-; Breakfall 14-; Combat Driving: Motorcycle 12-; AK: Chinatown 13-; KS: Drug trade 12-; KS: Illegal fireworks trade 15-; Language: English (fluent conversation)(Fukienese is native); Lockpicking 14-; Persuasion 13-; PS: Gang Leader 14-; Sleight Of Hand 13-; Stealth 12-; Streetwise 13-

100+ Disadvantages: Psychological Limitation: Seeks Power And Money

Equipment: AK-47 (2d6K, +1 OCV, Autofire, 4 clips of 30 charges), Can acquire any martial arts melee weapons if needed. Yellow satin jacket with black dragon, (Wo Fat gang colors), Harley-Davidson Fat Boy.

Notes: Bobby Kwan was always a hell-raiser. Early on in life he decided that he enjoyed doing what he was best at. Unfortunately that meant fighting, stealing and being a general nuisance. Disliked by his parents because of his violent and bullying ways, he spent most of his life after the age of 10 on the streets. By a combination of streetwise skill, fighting prowess, and sheer ruthlessness, he soon amassed a group



of young toughs that followed him for glory, fun, and loot. At the age of 16 he was contacted by a member of the Choy Lok On, who persuaded him and his gang to work for the tong.

After naming his gang, Bobby began a reign of terror on the streets. So successful was he at this that the Choy Lok On had to step in to restrain him. Since then, however, the gang has become

a useful adjunct to the tong’s forces. It has proven most useful in cases where extreme violence is needed. The gang has had a number of close calls, and often has to replace members who are killed in action or sent to prison, but the gang, like its namesake, always seems to return.

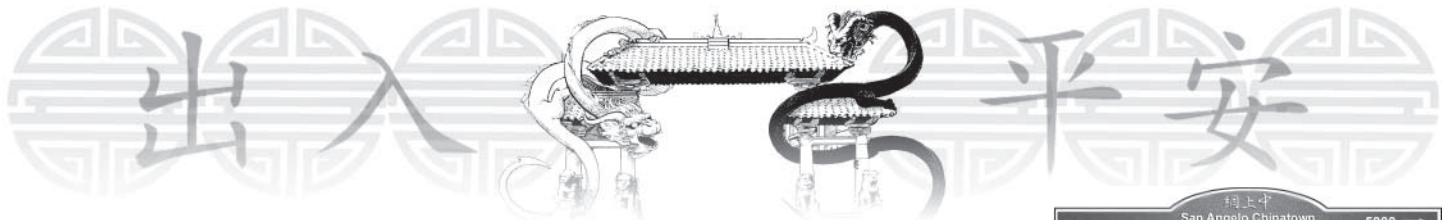
Under Bobby Kwan’s leadership, the Wo Fat gang has been growing in power and influence. Besides illegal fireworks, the gang has recently become involved in low-level narcotics trading. In addition to engaging in a bit of actual drug sales, the Wo Fat gang is also the primary means by which the Choy Lok On enforces its drug-trading rules within its territory. A visit by a few gang members is often sufficient to bring wayward pushers back into line. If not, stronger measures are put into action.

QI LEONG TONG

The third and smallest of the three tongs, the Qi Leong, is constantly looking for ways to improve its status and reputation in Chinatown. In recent years this tong has moved into new activities that the other tongs are unhappy about, including smuggling of illegal immigrants, dealing in illegal weapons technology, and widespread blackmail and extortion. The dragon heads of both the Wing Chao and the Choy Lok On tongs take a dim view of these activities, and have issued several warnings to Qi Leong leader Peng Ho about what his tong is doing; the other tongs don’t want outside agencies looking into Chinatown because of Qi Leong activities. Peng’s response is that the other two tongs dominate most of the traditional criminal enterprises in Chinatown, so he has no choice but to look for new areas where he can compete more evenly.

One of the reasons that the other tongs haven’t made an example of Peng Ho is that they believe he’s being given aid by the Fu Sing tong from Hong Kong. Though William





Yuan and Kuang Ma haven't been able to confirm this, the Qi Leong has indeed performed work for the Fu Sing tong on at least two previous occasions. One involved smuggling of a Fu Sing operative into the U.S., while the other involved a search for members of a Chinese dissident's family who were believed to live in California.

While the other tongs currently tolerate the more risky activities of the Qi Leong, Peng Ho doesn't expect the truce to last much longer. He's making plans for when the other tongs decide to act. If a new tong war does happen in Chinatown, Peng Ho wants to make sure that William Yuan and Kuang Ma pay dearly for trying to topple him.

Qi Leong Organization

Peng Ho has structured the Qi Leong in a loose and flexible fashion, which not only separates his legitimate and illegitimate businesses, but also his new activities from his more established operations. This has caused some internal bickering among Peng's lieutenants, who resent seeing their operations used as cash cows to fund Peng's newer endeavors. Since Peng rules with an iron fist, there's little open debate about how resources are spent; Peng wants input from his people, but the final decision is always his.

While Peng has final say on all money matters, he provides his lieutenants with the autonomy to run their own operations as they see fit. In return he demands results, and is known for quickly changing leadership of an operation if it's not producing what Peng expects.

Those who produce well for the Qi Leong are rewarded with control of larger operations, or the opportunity to establish new businesses. Peng knows that money and status motivate better than fear, so he only resorts to violence against his underlings when a tong member has shown disrespect.

Peng has established a set of rules that each of his lieutenants is expected to follow. For the established businesses, all his operation commanders meet with Peng, usually at the tong headquarters or a lieutenant's house, sometimes even a restaurant. There is no set pattern or day, but sometimes meetings are set for days when initiations or other tong functions are taking place. During the meeting each underling updates Peng on his operations, and any other matters of importance. The other lieutenants can ask questions or offer advice during each presentation. Once each lieutenant has made his report Peng then issues various orders, and deals with other business.

"I might have expected this from the Qi Leong. First Peng Ho invites me to his office to discuss a business proposal, and gives me a great meal. Then when I turn down his "proposal," he tells me I owe the tong \$1,000 as punishment for being disrespectful. May the gods spare me from any more of his generosity."
— Vin-Su Zho, 41, shopkeeper

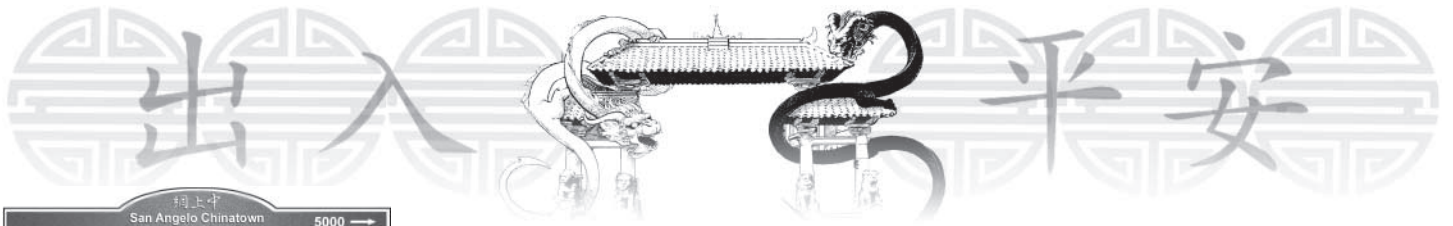


Before ending the meeting Peng deals with any tong member who's to be punished. Usually he listens to the charges, lets the accused plead his case, then issues any punishment. Peng follows Chinese traditions when issuing penalties, which range from the accused "donating" a certain amount of money to the tong to a public beating.

Causing a loss of face for Peng or the Qi Leong gets the most severe form of punishment short of death. These crimes are usually punished by having the accused branded on his arm or chest. Those who have committed a grave loss of face will be branded on their foreheads. These brands warn people in the neighborhood that the person wearing the mark cannot be trusted.

Peng then ends the meeting by giving each lieutenant a glass of rice wine. All raise their glasses and affirm their loyalty to the Qi Leong. Once the meeting is over a large meal is served. During this time, Peng talks to his lieutenants individually, and deals with various merchants or neighborhood issues.

Peng meets those running his newer operations on an in-



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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →

The Tongs

dividual basis, usually at one of the various restaurants loyal to the Qi Leong. These meetings are very private, with only Peng, one or two bodyguards, and his lieutenant for these operations attending. Peng uses these meetings to find out the results of various tong activities, and gain new information.

Peng relies heavily on both his English and street secretaries to keep his established businesses going, so that he can devote his own time to exploring potential new ventures for the Qi Leong. Other tong members often refer to the dragon head and his secretaries as the triad, since Peng has given both his secretaries authority to handle a broad range of issues.

Qi Leong Members of Note

Peng Ho Kajin (aka "Three-Finger Ho")

Businessman/Tong leader

8 STR 10 DEX 10 CON 8 BODY 16 INT
14 EGO 15 PRE 8 COM 3 PD 2 ED
2 SPD 4 REC 20 END 20 STUN

Abilities: Martial Arts: Kung Fu (Block; Dodge; Punch); +2 with Knives; AK: Chinatown 14-; AK: San Angelo 12-; KS: Local politics 13-; KS: Tongs 11-; KS: Qi Leong 15-; Language: English: (fluent conversation)(Cantonese is native); PS: Businessman 11-; PS: Tong leader 11-; Stealth 11-; Streetwise 13-; Trading 13-; Fringe Benefit: Dragon head of Qi Leong; Money: Well Off

50+ Disadvantages: Age: 40+ Years Old; Hunted: Rival tongs; Normal Characteristic Maxima; Psychological Limitation: Hates William Yuan; Psychological Limitation: Power hungry; Psychological Limitation: Demands respect

Notes: The leader of the Qi Leong for over 30 years, Peng Ho Kajin began his career as a skilled leather worker who opened several shops specializing in the sale and repair of quality leather goods. Born in Hong Kong, Peng Ho learned the art of working fine leather from his father. He also learned about the tough life of Hong Kong's streets and gangs. Just before Peng turned 15 his family split up, his father wanting to go to the United States, while his mother wanted to return to China even with the Communist government.

Peng went with his father. While American streets weren't as hard as in Hong Kong, Peng quickly learned that he was considered different here, and not liked by some. After moving to San Angelo, Peng found friends within the Tigers; his father didn't approve, but did little to stop him. As his father



grew older, Peng started running more and more of their business. Lu Qi Fing, then leader of the Qi Leong, noticed this. It was Lu Qi's suggestion to Peng that caused him to become a full member of Qi Leong shortly after he opened his second store in downtown San Angelo. Within five years Lu Qi made Peng his English secretary. When Lu Qi was killed in a battle with Choy Lok On, Peng was selected as new tong leader.

Since taking over, Peng has tried various ways to increase his tong's status and

wealth, but so far he's not been satisfied with the results. Five years ago he started taking the Qi Leong in a different direction. While retaining the old ways, Peng wants to move his tong into new businesses, and increase the power of the Qi Leong. He is driven by the need to succeed, and sees anything less as disrespect for the tong. While Peng can be very hard on his fellow tong members, he does reward success, and give his secretaries more independence than the other two tongs.

Peng is a short and slender man with a well-trimmed beard, who tends to dress conservatively to avoid attention. When among a group of people Peng doesn't speak much, but listens intently to what's said around him. Peng lost the first two fingers of his left hand during an assassination attempt. He usually keeps that hand concealed in his pocket, and if asked about the injury he lies and says that he lost the fingers while cutting leather. While he's picked up the nickname "Three-Finger Ho," Peng doesn't acknowledge it, and he considers being called by his nickname a serious insult. No one in the Qi Leong does so, having painfully learned what the price of such indiscretions entails.

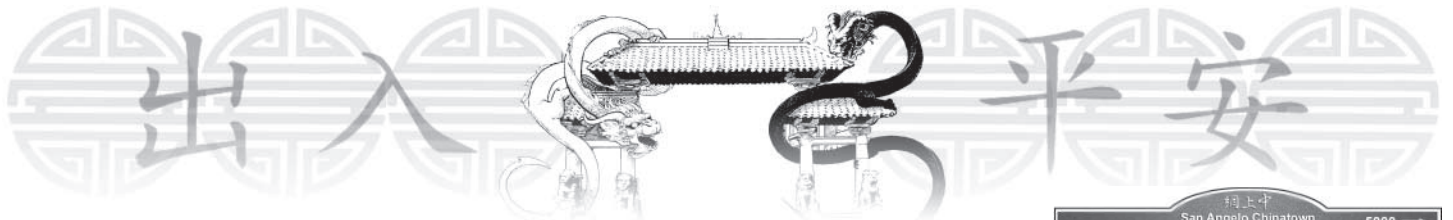
Jui Mao Fu Sing

Qi Leong Lieutenant

13 STR 16 DEX 17 CON 10 BODY 14 INT
15 EGO 12 PRE 10 COM 6 PD 3 ED
3 SPD 6 REC 40 END 30 STUN

Abilities: Martial Arts: Kung Fu (Block; Dodge; Punch; Throw); +2 with Knives; AK: Local airports 11-; KS: Tongs 11-; KS: Qi Leong 12-; Language: English (completely fluent, w/accnt)(Cantonese is native); PS: Madame 13-; PS:





Qi Leong tong member 11-; Stealth 12-; Streetwise 11-; Trading 11-; Fringe Benefit: (Qi Leong division head)

75+ Disadvantages: Age: 40+ Years Old; Dependent NPC: Son; Hunted: Rival tongs; Normal Characteristic Maxima; Psychological Limitation: Concerned with how other tong members view him

Notes: Of all Peng's lieutenants, Peng Ho's nephew Jui Mao is known to be the most loyal. Originally from Manchuria, in the late 1950s his family was targeted as "Western sympathizers" by China's communist government. The fact that Jui Mao's father, Ling Pho, owned a large farm was part of the justification. Jui's father died trying to protect his family, and Jui and his mother were forced to flee China. Peng learned of his brother's family's plight, and paid to have Ling Pho's wife and son brought to San Angelo. Ironically Jui's father had given his son the middle name "Mao" out of respect for Mao Tse-tung, whose efforts defending Manchuria during World War II impressed Ling Pho.

Peng became a second father to Jui Mao, and taught him about running his tong. When Jui became old enough, Peng made him a member of the Qi Leong tong and had him join the Crimson Tigers. After serving faithfully in the gang, Peng gave Jui Mao a position in his drug operations. From there Jui Mao was promoted to run the overall smuggling operations of the tong a little more than 10 years ago. Now his firm control has earned him the nickname "the Chairman" from his subordinates.

Jui is very conscious of his family relation to Peng, and is eager to prove that he didn't get his position because he's family. Because of this, he's very hard on both himself and those who work for him. While Peng Ho says that he should relax in public, privately he's very happy with the effort Jui Mao is giving, and really doesn't want to see it slow down. Peng likes the direction Jui Mao is taking, despite the disagreements it's causing with the other tongs.

While Jui Mao has a quick temper, he's learning to keep better control of it. Jui is someone who should be respected in a fight: he prefers using knives, but is skilled with other weapons as well.

"Madam Chu is a lovely lady, but if you're an enemy, you better watch her like a hawk. Those hair pins are more than just for show, if you know what I mean."
— Diwan So, 24, Wing Chao tong member

Ching Su

Qi Leong Street Secretary

16 STR 20 DEX 17 CON 14 BODY 11 INT
12 EGO 18 PRE 13 COM 5 PD 4 ED
4 SPD 8 REC 40 END 31 STUN

Abilities: +0 PD & ED, Hardened; Martial Arts: Kung Fu (Block; Dodge; Uproot/Sand Palm; Punch; Throw; Kick); +2 with Nunchuks; AK: Chinatown 12-; Language: Cantonese (fluent conversation); PS: Tong leader 11-; Stealth 13-; Streetwise 13-; Fringe Benefit: Qi Leong Street Secretary



75+ Disadvantages: Enraged: Berserk when fighting; Hunted: rival tongs; Psychological Limitation: Likes Violence

Notes: Well known in Chinatown for his intimidating and violent nature, Su is a large, bald man who is often seen wearing well-cut black suits. When on assignment Su thinks nothing of giving a shop-owner a "present" if he can't pay his weekly tribute. These presents usually involve Su breaking various limbs and body parts of the shopkeeper. Ching makes a point of never hurting any of the storeowner's family, just the owner himself.

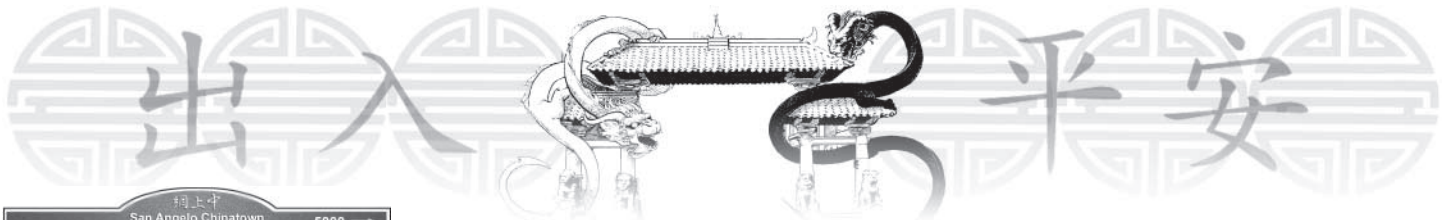
Born on the streets of San Angelo, Ching Su is a product of that environment. He first started running with the Tigers when he was 12 years old. Early on he showed his violent nature, and by 15 he was a lieutenant in the gang and had caught the attention of Peng, who started working with him. Seeing Ching's aggressive behavior as an asset, Peng taught Su how to use his aggression more effectively, impressing upon Ching the lesson that over-using his aggression will only encourage people to fight back. Ching Su has learned Peng's lessons well. Today his mere entry into a business is enough to intimidate the people inside.

As street secretary, he uses his skills when dealing with drug dealers and other street operatives. Except for an occasional argument with Tao Huang, the Tigers' current leader, Ching Su is respected by other gang members.

Other Qi Leong Members of Note

Ping Loi Chu: Known as Madam Chu, she's been a member of the Qi Leong for nearly 20 years, and now serves as the tong's English secretary. Born in Hong Kong, Madam Chu came to the U.S. with her "uncle" Ting, who promptly sold her to a brothel in San Francisco. After a few years she ran away from the brothel and started out on her own. Her former employers tried to forcibly bring her back. Knowing





桐上中
San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →

The Tongs

that she would no longer be safe in San Francisco, she moved to San Angelo.

Soon after she arrived, Peng Ho started receiving reports of an independent operator working in his territory. He went to investigate and found that Ping Loi had set up shop in a Victorian house on D Street near downtown. Both Ping Loi and her operation, which only catered to gentlemen and didn't involve street walking, impressed Peng. He offered to let her continue operating as long as she joined the Qi Leong. Ping Loi agreed and her brothel joined his tong.

When city authorities started cracking down on streetwalkers in downtown, Ping Loi, now Madam Chu, was one step ahead of them. While the other tongs suffered a loss of revenue, Madam Chu's operations prospered with new business. She ended all Qi Leong street-walking operations and opened new brothels in other parts of San Angelo, as well as a "training" brothel in the heart of Chinatown. As a reward Peng promoted Madam Chu to run all of his prostitution operations.

Known for her professionalism and discreteness, Chu has since become the English secretary for the tong. Over the years she's worked hard developing personal contacts among powerful people who live and work in other parts of San Angelo. She's often called upon to provide escorts for out-of-town business guests, quietly deliver personal packages to various high-class addresses, and send hostesses to private and corporate parties.

Now in her late 50s, Madam Chu runs her operations with grace and elegance. Despite her advancing age, she keeps herself in good condition, and is not above giving a "performance" for a special customer. Madam Chu is known for always being well dressed, and carries herself in a dignified manner. While Madam Chu gives the appearance of being a socialite, those who work for her know that the four hair pins she wears are sharpened and balanced for throwing, and that she always keeps at least one knife on her person.

Madam Chu is loyal to Peng Ho but is watching him closely. She's had inquiries from both the Wing Chao and Choy Lok On about joining their organizations. So far she's refused, but if Peng gets bogged down in another tong war, Madam Chu doesn't want to get caught in the crossfire.

Qi Leong Contacts and Associates

Because of Peng's desire to expand the Qi Leong beyond the traditional businesses of the tongs in Chinatown, he has started cultivating contacts in other parts of the city. For the most part Peng and his secretaries are careful when dealing with these people because, even though they are useful, they are still outsiders. The one exception is Su Lon Qui, the Fu Sing tong member who came to the U.S. with Peng's help.

Warren Milthorp

Director of Security and Customs at San Angelo International Airport. Milthorp is Qui Mao's main contact for sending and receiving illegal shipments through SAIA. A disillusioned and somewhat angry man, Milthorp began working at the airport several years ago when it was considered a good job with decent benefits, but after several cutbacks he no longer sees it that way.

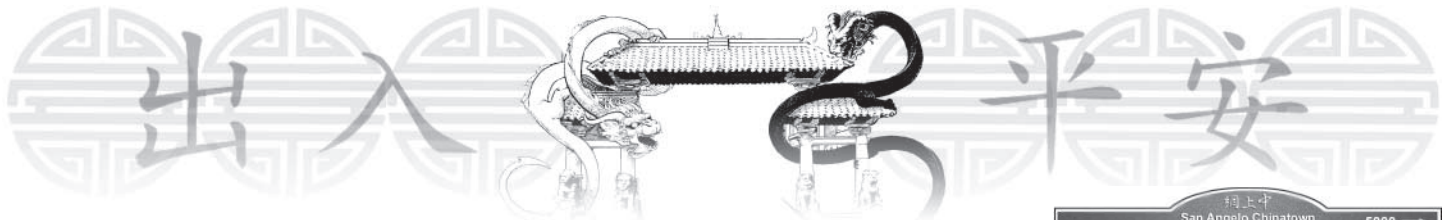
After running up a large bill at one of Madam Chu's establishments, Qui Mao was sent to talk to him. Instead of putting pressure on him, Qui made him an offer: if Milthorp would make sure that certain packages made it through the airport without inspection, Milthorp would be paid, and given discounts at Madam Chu's establishments. Milthorp accepted, and has been working with Qui Mao since. Recently he had to cut one of his assistants in on the action, but as long as they are paid well he doesn't mind. Milthorp is only concerned about living the good life; as long as he gets his fee nothing else matters.

Barbara Wah

Officially, Ms. Wah is responsible for setting up corporate functions and events for Eclipse Industries. While most of the time this involves nothing more than putting together company picnics or celebrating an employee's birthday, every so often she's handed a personal request, usually from a corporate executive V.P. or higher. These requests are usually for private functions for an important group or individual that Eclipse does business with. When these requests come, Ms. Wah usually calls Madam Chu to make arrange-

Campaign Tip

Contacts and associates could be considered the weak link in a tong's organization. While actual tong members are not trusting of outsiders, associates don't have to be as suspicious. In many cases, they are outsiders themselves who work with one of two individual members of the tong. While a non-Chinese contact of a tong might not be able to provide much actual information about the tong itself, he could at least provide descriptions of the members he has dealt with, or the activity the tong and contact have been working together on.



ments for the night’s activities. Ms. Wah has also given Madam Chu’s name to other company event planners who inquired about providers of such services.

Other Qi Leong Contacts of Note

Tiem Shio: A 10-year-old street urchin who lives in the Armory, he’s angry with the Knights because they won’t let him join, so he’s been giving information about the Knights to the Tigers. While the Tigers don’t really treat Tiem that much better, he feels that he’s become one of them, even though he hasn’t been asked to join.

Sammy “The Piper” Lungren: Sammy runs a small pawn shop in the Riverfront area that Ching Su uses to sell items he’s “collected” from people behind on their payments. Sammy also provides information about people looking for various kinds of drugs, as well as the activities of other gangs selling stuff in the area.

Su doesn’t really like Sammy all that much, but because his information has been reliable, Ching continues to deal with him. It was Sammy who first informed Ching that the Nomads were starting to move into the area.

James Yi: Manager of the local branch of the East-West Employment Agency, he’s been under pressure from his district manager to raise revenues. Seeing an opportunity to keep his job and help bring people in from China, James willingly got involved with helping the Qi Leong smuggle illegal immigrants into the U.S. By processing fake applications and phony papers, Yi has helped several hundred people illegally enter the country. At first he thought he was helping people from his homeland make better lives for themselves, while making his manager happy. After seeing how the tong exploited the people James helped bring in, he realized he wasn’t really helping people at all. Yi knows he’s in too deep, and faces either a long jail sentence or death at the hands of the tong, so he continues to help the Qi Leong, but has started drinking heavily.

Peng is aware that he may be losing Yi, and has both Ching Su and members of the Tigers watching him.

Su Lon Qui (Ning Ti): The former English secretary of the extremely brutal Fu Sing tong of Hong Kong, Su Lon came to the U.S. to avoid a murder rap.

Promoted to foreign secretary, Su Lon was given orders to go to the U.S. to find new business for his tong.

Su Lon has little respect for the U.S.; he sees the country as a soft piece of fruit waiting to be picked. He also cares little for the Qi Leong and Peng, feeling that members of these tongs act too much like Americans and not real Chi-



nese. Despite his attitude, Su Lon always acts respectful when dealing with Peng and other Qi Leong members.

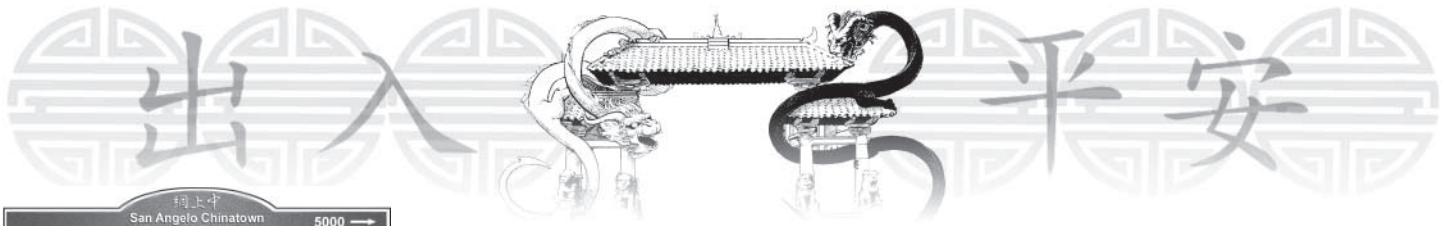
Even with his dislikes, Su Lon finds working with the Qi Leong useful. Unlike many other tongs in Hong Kong, the Fu Sing has direct connections to the Chinese Communist government, and has done work for the regime. Currently,

Campaign Tip
Milthorp’s assistant has been riddled with guilt over his part in the recent smuggling operation, and he plans to report Milthorp to the Sheriff’s Department in return for protection from prosecution and, more importantly, the tong.

he’s using the tong as a cover while establishing contacts with various American weapons and technology companies, in hopes that he can buy advanced equipment for the Chinese government. Su Lon hopes that successfully making several purchases will increase his status with the Fu Sing.

Su Lon picked San Angelo because the city is home to several high-technology businesses. To avoid detection, Su Lon is keeping his shipments small, and easily concealable. So far Su Lon has established contacts at Eclipse and Hyperdyne Computers, but hasn’t been able to make any purchases as yet. Su Lon has also tried to make contacts at Hunter-Price Arms, but was refused.





Qi Leong Sphere of Influence

Qi Leong Territory

Since its founding, the Qi Leong's area of influence in Chinatown has suffered compared to the Wing Chao and Choy Lok On. In the early years, bordering on the Wharves was a benefit to the Qi Leong, as the tong controlled a large amount of the prostitution and drug trade that took place in that area. Near-constant fighting with the Wing Chao over control of the Wharves, and the decline in the area in the late '40s, contributed to the Qi Leong losing revenues.

When the Wharves started rebounding, first in the 1950s and then again in the 1980s, Peng again moved in to take advantage of it. In recent years Peng has sought to control the area's drug trade, but each time he's attempted to reestablish his tong's influence in the Wharves, he's met stiff competition from both the Wing Chao, and to a lesser extent the Choy Lok On.

Today, the Qi Leong's main area of control is the oldest part of Chinatown (as shown on the map on page 76), which, while it gives the tong a certain amount of status, doesn't generate a lot of revenue. The improvements in the Wharves since the 1980s have helped, but many of the people who live in the Wharves don't visit Chinatown very often, mainly because they consider it a tourist trap. Several restaurants and businesses along Front and Canton Streets, along with the Yu Ling Outdoor Market off Front Street, are the enterprises that perform best for the Qi Leong. The tong doesn't have the same number of businesses in the outer areas of Chinatown as the Wing Chao and Choy Lok On.

In inner Chinatown, the Qi Leong does a bit better. Several shops that supply local goods and services to the community operate within the tong's territory. While these shops don't make quite as much as the shops in the outer areas, they provide the Qi Leong a steady income. Because the shops in the Qi Leong's outer areas depend on the tourist trade, they sometimes are short on their weekly payments.

Qi Leong Headquarters

A former warehouse on Chan and B Streets serves as the Qi Leong headquarters. Peng owns the building, but his name is not on the deed. The building is four stories tall, with no windows on the first three floors. On the fourth floor there are windows along with a small walkway that covers the roof. People can sometimes be seen walking along the roof during the day and at night.

Guards are posted at all the entrances, and watch from the

windows on the fourth floor. The nearest buildings to the headquarters are two-story rowhouses in which various tong members live.

Other Qi Leong Businesses of Note

Inside Chinatown, the Qi Leong has a few shops that act as fronts for various criminal activities. While most are small-time operations, two have become very important to the tong.

Xiao's Bakery: Located on the corner of Woo and A Streets, the bakery not only specializes in cakes, cookies, and brownies, but also sells marijuana, hashish, and opium. Established customers can make only small purchases; no dealers are allowed in the store. The shop has become quite popular with local drug-users who live and work in the Wharves and City Center who don't want to venture too deeply into Chinatown.

Rhi Zhi's Electronics: A large electronics store on the corner of Front and Mandarin Streets, this shop has one of the largest selections of computers, stereos, TVs, and other electronics in Chinatown. While many other independent electronics stores have gone out of business because of the larger chains, Rhi Zhi's has managed to survive because it's also one of the largest fences of stolen electronic equipment in San Angelo.

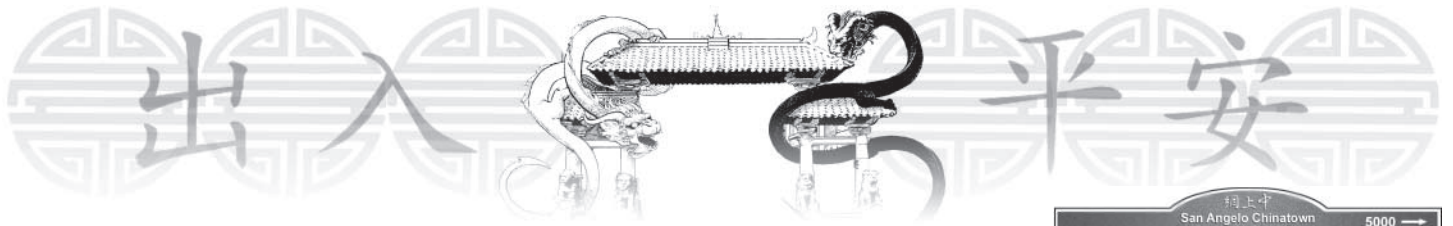
Jui Mao uses the store to collect stolen computer chips and equipment that he then sells to companies in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mexico. Stolen computers are stripped of their parts and then either destroyed or discarded. Because most of the parts are sold overseas, authorities have had a very difficult time tracking down the stolen equipment. Peng is concerned about the conspicuous volume of business the store is doing in stolen goods, and wants to find another store to set up a similar operation.

Qi Leong Criminal Activities

The Qi Leong is involved in prostitution, drug trafficking, smuggling, extortion, and loan-sharking, both in and out of Chinatown. Unlike the other tongs, Peng has kept the Qi Leong away from murder and kidnapping, believing that these aren't very profitable. This could change if Peng can be convinced that the reward is worth the risk.

Since the tong has had trouble expanding its traditional business within Chinatown, Peng has moved his tong into new businesses, and outside of Chinatown as well. The dragon heads of the Wing Chao and Choy Lok On feel that Peng is making a huge mistake, and that he'll eventually pay for it. They don't want their own tongs to pay for it as





well. The other tongs will eventually try to destroy the Qi Leong if it will prevent authorities from coming into Chinatown.

Prostitution: This is the most profitable operation for the Qi Leong, and while he sometimes grouses about the operations expenses, Peng seldom questions its results. Unique among the tongs, the Qi Leong employs no streetwalking prostitutes, instead operating a number of up-scale brothels run by Madam Chu. This part of the Qi Leong supplies drugs and prostitutes for corporate executives, professional people, and business travelers. While the Wing Chao tong runs most of Chinatown's streetcorner drug trafficking, Madam Chu provides these services for the rich and powerful in downtown San Angelo.

Along with her primary establishment in Chinatown, Madam Chu runs two high-class brothels outside the district: one in Poverty Gulch, and the other in Bracket Park. Both are "appointment only" establishments that charge several hundred dollars for an evening. They cater only to a very select clientele.

A third brothel is co-run by Chu and her assistant Lynn May Chen. Located on Mandarin Street, it serves as a "training" brothel for her others. Here Chu sees what new talent she has, and trains those who she thinks have promise for her other establishments.

Smuggling: The oldest part of Qi Leong, this was the tong's main activity until the Choy Lok On started taking business away from Peng. Unlike the Choy Lok On, Peng doesn't have direct access to shipping, so he depends on overland and air routes to smuggle items into San Angelo. These methods are more expensive, so Peng has been forced to trade in higher-end narcotics and other items.

His move into designer drugs has caused the other tongs to start pressuring him to stay away from business that would attract too much attention. Instead of staying away, Peng has moved in deeper.

Currently the smuggling operations of the Qi Leong are run by Peng's nephew Jui Mao. Under Jui Mao the tongs operations not only import illegal goods and drugs, but on a limited basis illegal items are exported now as well.

Jui Mao has established contacts at both the San Angelo International and Ace Braddock Municipal airports. He sometimes uses the Marshal Airport as well, but being so far from the city it's not his first choice. When a shipment is due to arrive or depart, Jui Mao contacts his associates at the airport to make sure everything goes smoothly. He then sends tong members to pick up or deliver the shipment. With an important shipment Jui Mao goes along himself to make sure there are no problems. Usually the Chairman makes all the arrangements in advance; all his people have to do is

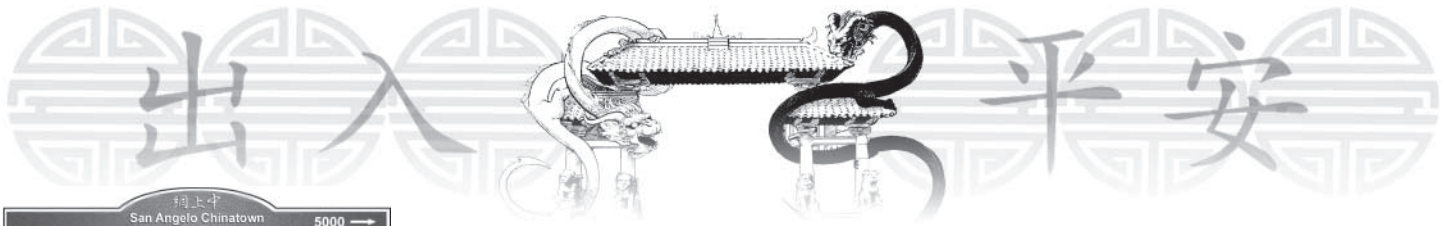


make sure the shipment gets on the correct plane, and pay the fee to his associates at the airport. To avoid suspicion Jui Mao doesn't use any specific timetable, and insists that his suppliers and customers in the Orient use different planes with each shipment. The Chairman's one weakness is that he's restricted to only receiving shipments when one of his associates is on duty; shipments that arrive when his contacts are off are not picked up until their next shifts.

Besides bringing heroin and opium into San Angelo, Jui Mao is shipping illegal animal parts back to Hong Kong and China, and buying processed medicines for sale locally. These medicines are worth hundreds of dollars, and are in high demand with Chinese in America and the Far East. Most of his transactions have involved bear parts from black bears illegally killed in both the U.S. and Canada. He's also been buying knock-off microchips and processors from factories in Taiwan and Hong Kong that he then resells in Mexico.

While these transactions alone are annoying the other tongs, Jui Mao was instrumental in helping a known member of Hong Kong's Fu Sing tong enter the United States. William Yuan himself spoke to Peng Ho shortly after he





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →

The Tongs



learned about the arrangement—the meeting was not a pleasant affair.

When not dealing with smuggling, the Chairman also looks after the Qi Leong's drug distribution network. Jui Mao leaves that part of the operation to Ching Su, a former leader of the Crimson Tigers who was promoted to street secretary. Su makes sure that all the drugs reach their proper destinations. Jui Mao merely insists that Su give frequent reports on shipments and make sure that money from transactions is brought back quickly.

Su often calls upon his former gang to deal with issues relating to drug operations. Former members of the Tigers have been promoted by Su to act as enforcers, bodyguards and collection agents. Su often leads the gang in fights.

Thunder Knight Encroachments

Both the Wing Chao and Choy Lok On tongs are encroaching more and more on Qi Leong turf, but Peng hasn't been willing to waste too much trying to defend it. This changed however, when the Thunder Knights and other Vietnamese gangs started preying on establishments that had been pay-

ing protection money to the Qi Leong. As letting these actions go unchallenged would cause a severe loss of face in the community (and be seen as a repudiation of the entire "protection" racket), Peng responded quickly to the raids. Instead of openly attacking in Chinatown, which Peng knew would upset the other tongs, Peng sent his Tigers into Thunder Knight territory in the Armory neighborhood to exact revenge.

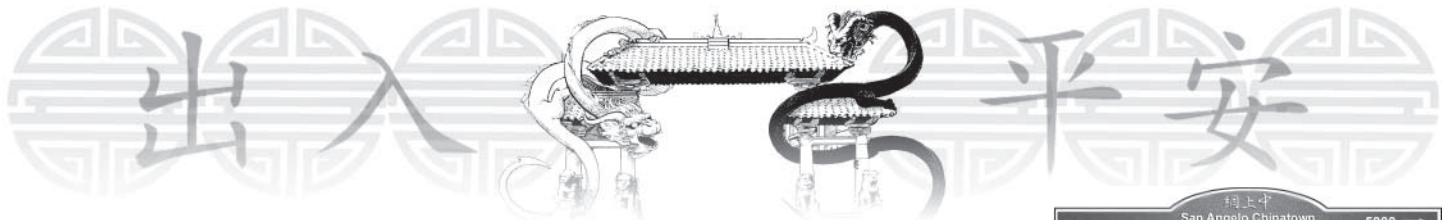
To an extent the plan worked as, except for the Knights, nearly all attacks from other Vietnamese gangs stopped in Qi Leong territory. The Knights, however, have not stopped, and are spoiling to fight the Crimson Tigers. At present, each side is in an attack and counter-attack mode. It's frustrating for both gangs, but fits Peng Ho's plans perfectly; as long as he appears to be dealing with the problem, he's satisfied with the results.

Personally, Peng doesn't really care that much about his Chinatown territory except for the market and the shops and restaurants along Front and Canton Streets. The rest he only maintains for appearances. The situation with the Thunder Knights not only helps his reputation in Chinatown, but also keeps his Crimson Tigers busy. Before the trouble with the Knights started Peng used the Tigers for a variety of purposes within the organization. The Tigers are Peng's personal eyes and ears, reporting to him all they see and hear about what's going on with various tong activities. Peng also uses the Tigers to collect payoffs from shopkeepers and run various errands. All of Peng's personal bodyguards are former gang members as well as many of his other important tong members.

Qi Leong Activities Outside of Chinatown

Outside of Chinatown is where Peng deploys most of his resources. Currently he has his tong involved in the drug trade and prostitution in the Wharves, Riverfront, and Downtown areas of San Angelo. Peng doesn't like having his people in other areas of the city, but the combination of the profit potential and the pressures of the other tongs make it Peng's only option.

The Tigers are being spread thin as they protect tong members from rival gangs, so to limit his exposure, Peng is only selling to street dealers, and not users themselves. Peng is also getting into loan-sharking, mainly for drug users and street dealers who get behind on their payments. Ching Su (along with the rest of the Tigers) is responsible for running most of these operations.



New Qi Leong Business

Currently, Peng's lieutenants are looking into opportunities for using tong drug money to finance casinos on Indian reservations. Another thing his informants have learned is that Chinese money, coming through a Taiwanese corporation, is behind an effort to buy the troubled Consolidated Electronics (see *SA: CoH*).

So far Roger Latimer has refused to listen to offers, so the Chinese backers are willing to pay Peng and the Qi Leong to help convince Latimer that it's time to sell.

Legitimate Qi Leong Activities

When not running his tong, Peng operates three shops that sell and repair fine leather items including handbags, shoes, belts, briefcases, leather jackets, and suitcases.

Peng owns the stores, two located in downtown San Angelo, and a third on the corner of A and Canton Streets in Chinatown. The Chinatown store was opened by Peng and his father when they first came to San Angelo.

Peng also sells imported leather items to other retail stores in the San Angelo area, but this is a small part of his business. About five years ago Peng also ran a shoe-import business, but sold it to Blaine Shoe Wholesalers.

The Crimson Tigers

Known as one of the most violent gangs in Chinatown, the Tigers are feared and loathed by many in Chinatown. While other gangs have started to get into businesses of their own (such as fireworks), the Tigers haven't yet been able to, in large part because of their reputation for violence. The Tigers don't really seem to care, and enjoy their roles as enforcers and turf protectors for the Qi Leong.

This suits their current leader, Tao Huang, just fine; now that he controls the Crimson Tigers he wants to improve on the reputation started by the gang's former leader, Ching Su. Huang's one gripe is that Peng and Ching won't "turn the Tigers loose" on the Thunder Knights. Tao wants revenge for the death of his friend Jimmy Yiyan who was killed while fighting the Knights at one of their Armory hang-outs.

The Tigers are rarely seen in the Qi Leong's outer areas unless there's trouble. They can usually be seen roaming in force in the inner areas of Chinatown, hanging out along Chan and B Streets, or looking for trouble just about anywhere in the inner areas of Chinatown. Ching has had to warn Tao about starting unnecessary trouble with the Wo Fat gang and the Jade Dragons; Peng doesn't like getting reports about the Tigers starting fights for no reason.

Tao Huang

Leader of the Crimson Tigers

16 STR 18 DEX 16 CON 14 BODY 12 INT
11 EGO 15 PRE 12 COM 4 PD 4 ED
3 SPD 7 REC 32 END 30 STUN

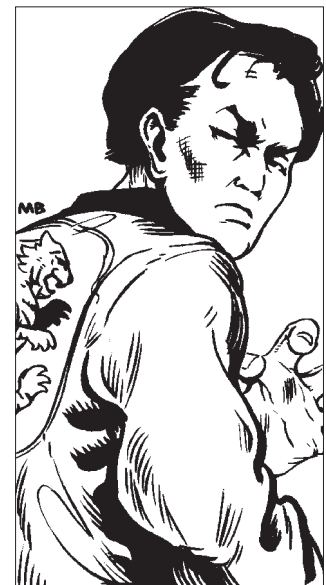
Abilities: Martial Arts: Kung Fu (Block; Dodge; Kick; Punch; Uproot/Sand Palm); Breakfall 14-; AK: Chinatown 14-; KS: Gangs 14-; KS: Qi Leong 13-; Language: Cantonese (fluent conversation); Stealth 13-; Streetwise 12-; Fringe Benefit: Crimson Tiger gang leader

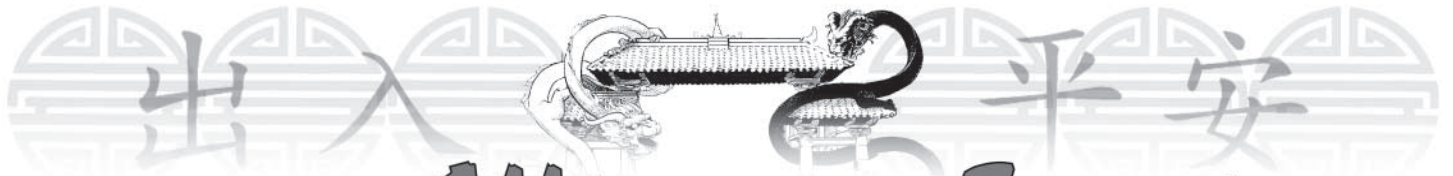
75+ Disadvantages: DNPC: Mother; Hunted: Rival gangs; Psychological Limitation: Likes violence; Psychological Limitation: Power hungry

Notes: Tao was born in Chinatown to a father who left shortly after his birth, and a mother who was suffering from a degenerative neurological condition and was steadily going blind.

Tao dropped out of the 9th grade in order to work and support her. Already angry at a world that didn't seem to care, he joined the Crimson Tigers street gang. The Tigers then helped and protected Tao's family.

The gang became Tao's second family, and he quickly moved up in rank, becoming second-in-command under Ching Su. When Su was promoted to Qi Leong street secretary, he promoted Tao to Crimson Tiger gang leader





Allies and Enemies

Heroes

This chapter details some of the supers who are based in the Chinatown neighborhood. Although the characters are arrayed as allies or enemies based upon traditional alignments of good and evil, not everyone in Chinatown may agree as to which individuals are on which side of the proverbial fence.

Other characters with strong links to Chinatown, or who could play interesting roles in Chinatown-centered campaigns, can be found in other *San Angelo* books. In *San Angelo: City of Heroes* itself there are the obvious: Wing Chao Dragon Head William Shihu Yuan and his superheroine daughter Lotus, but also Azteca, whose strong anti-gang stance could involve him in tong activity, and martial artist Wei Chang, one of the trainers of the current Eternal Warrior, and the brother of Ho Chang.

In *Enemies of San Angelo*, Japanese hero Kami and his alter ego Inazuna, Chill, as well as yakuza kobun Takashi Nomura will certainly play a part in Chinatown adventures. Dr. Talos could become involved in a paranormal creation experiment alongside Dr. Theodore Yow (see *The Power Plant*, page 82), and Harpy would be naturally attracted to the many practitioners of the mystic arts along the dragon path leading through Chinatown. Señora Del Oro would be interested in Chinatown residents researching the secrets of immortality (such as Jin Yao and T'ien Lung), and may even have had encounters with some immortals (including Hsi Feng and Fen Lo) or with the dead-but-still-present Li, the first Eternal Warrior, in Chinatown's past. Finally, while there's no reason why 7-year-old Daniel Chen wouldn't idolize a non-Asian super. There are certainly some heroes in Chinatown towards whom he could turn his attentions, which could draw his mother, Phosphorus, into adventures.

The Eternal Warrior

Deng "Dano" Kung

Val	Char	Cost	Roll	Notes
30	STR	20	15-	Lift 1600.0kg; 6d6; [3]
24	DEX	42	14-	OCV 8 DCV 8
21	CON	22	13-	
14	BODY	8	12-	
17	INT	7	12-	PER Roll 12-
18	EGO	16	13-	ECV: 6
13	PRE	3	12-	PRE Attack: 2 1/2d6
14	COM	2	12-	
10	PD	0		Total: 10 PD (4 rPD)
9	ED	1		Total: 9 ED (4 rED)
5	SPD	16		Phases: 3, 5, 8, 10, 12
10	REC	0		
48	END	3		
40	STUN	0		Total Characteristics Cost: 144

Movement: Running: 8"/16"
Leaping: 6"/12"

Cost Powers

END

Martial Arts: Kung Fu

Maneuver	OCV	DCV	Notes
4 Block	+2	+2	Block, Abort
4 Choke	-2	+0	Grab One Limb; 2d6 NND
3 Joint Lock/Grab	-1	-1	Grab Two Limbs, 40 STR for holding on
5 Kick	-2	+1	10d6 Strike
4 Punch	+0	+2	8d6 Strike
5 Snap Kick/Joint Brk	-1	-2	Grab One Limb; HKA 0 1/2d6, Disable
3 Throw	+0	+1	6d6 +v/5, Target Falls
4 Tien-hsueh Strike	-1	+1	2d6 NND

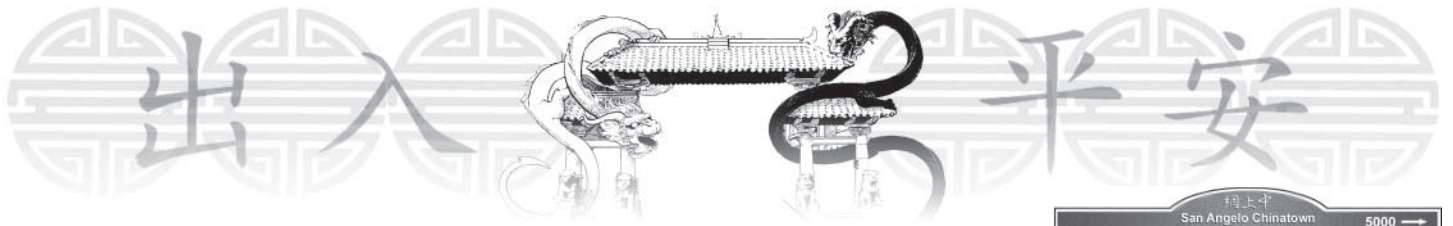
8 *Body Armor:* Armor (4 PD/4 ED) (12 Active Points); OIF (body armor; -1/2)

Perks

15 Follower: Li's Ghost (75 Base, 75 Disad)

Talents

16 Danger Sense 12- (out of combat) Only when Li is present (-1/4)



Skills

- 6,4 +2 with Kung Fu, +2 with Sword
- 3,3 Acrobatics 14-, Breakfall 14-
- 5,1 Bureaucratics 13-, High Society 8-
- 4,4 AK: Chinatown 13-, KS: Chinatown history 13-
- 3,3 Stealth 14-, Streetwise 12-

Total Powers & Skill Cost: 107

Total Cost: 251

150+ Disadvantages

- 20 DNPC: Brother's family 11- (Normal, Group DNPC)
- 20 Hunted: Tongs 11- (Mo Pow, Mildly Punish, NCI)
- 10 Psychological Limitation: Concern for Society funding (Common, Moderate)
- 20 Psychological Limitation: Chinese Code of Honor (Common, Total)
- 10 Social Limitation: Public Identity 8- (Major)
- 10 Vulnerability: 2 x STUN from Area-Effect Attacks (Uncommon)
- 11 Experience Points

Total Disadvantage Points: 251

Background: Deng “Dano” Kung, 29, is a product of Chinatown’s mean streets, a former member of the Wo Fat street gang. He went straight after getting involved with the martial artist Wei Cheng, and put himself through San Angelo State, first by sweeping up and later by teaching introductory classes at the kung fu master’s school. After majoring in history and making the dean’s list his last two years, Kung was hired by the Chinatown Historical Society (page 72) as an assistant to then-curator Jenny Ng. Despite his relative youth, he so impressed the Society’s primary financial backer, Thomas Caldecott (see *Clockwork* in *SA:CoH*), with his work ethic and passion for the truth that no other candidates were even interviewed for the curator’s position when Jenny left San Angelo in 1995 to accept a teaching fellowship at UCLA.

Although Dano himself escaped the lure of easy money that attracts so many youths to the criminal lifestyle, his older brother, Sug, was not so lucky. Sug graduated from the Wo Fat gang to full membership in the Choy Lok On. Four years ago, Sug was gunned down on the San Angelo waterfront, leaving behind a grieving widow, Lin, and an infant daughter, Anna. Dano has done his best to help his brother’s family whenever he can, and dotes upon little Anna as if she were his own daughter, but his brother’s senseless death only intensified Dano’s hatred of the tongs, and led him to renew his kung fu training under Wei Cheng.

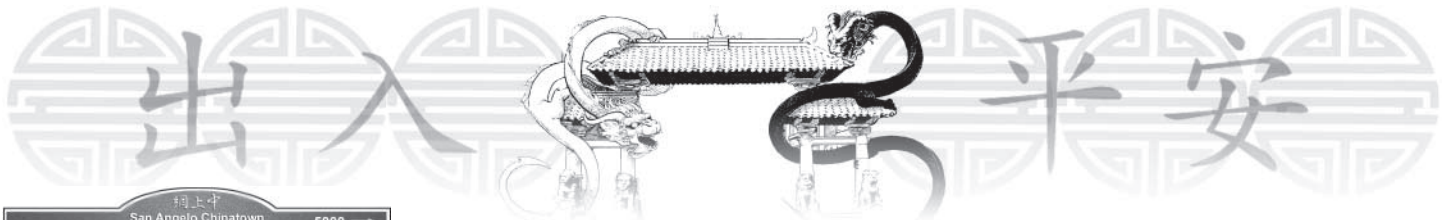


Dano lives in a small apartment in the loft of the Historical Society’s building, enabling him to act as its unpaid security force as well. One night two years ago, during an exhibition of Chinese artifacts from the Old West, he was awakened by strange sounds in the hall below. Going to investigate, he found himself face to face with a ghostly apparition of Li, Chinatown’s legendary protector during San Angelo’s frontier days. Li told Kung that he had been chosen to carry on that legacy. At first, Dano laughed the incident off, but the ghost continued to return night after night (even after the Old West exhibit had been packed away), until he finally agreed to take on the mantle of the Eternal Warrior.

Quote: “*I fight for those who cannot.*”

Personality: Standing alone in the name of justice against the forces of not one but three powerful criminal organizations sounds like an awfully grim and joyless task. Doing so in the company of a ghostly, proverb-spouting sidekick whom no one else can see, however, brings Kung’s quest into the realm of the dizzily quixotic; it’s hard to give up and announce that your objectives are too difficult to accomplish, when faced with a colleague who has refused to let death claim him for over a century, until his task of ridding San Angelo of the tongs is complete.





Consequently, Dano approaches his role as the Eternal Warrior with a healthy dose of fatalism. He assumes that his efforts will ultimately end in his death, but as long as his efforts can prevent other young men of Chinatown from following his brother's path, he considers the price fair.

In the everyday world, Dano is a quiet, thoughtful sort who chooses his words carefully. When he fights as the Eternal Warrior, however, he exhibits a dry wit and a touch of swashbuckling flair. Of course, to those battling him the Warrior can also appear quite batty, as he often converses with a spirit whom no one else can see or hear.

Kung also takes the responsibility of running the CHS very seriously. This means that the Warrior's activities are essentially restricted to night-time hours. Dano has learned to survive on minimal amounts of sleep by cat-napping in his office whenever he gets a free moment. The one thing that his hectic schedule does not allow for is much of a social life, save for Sunday visits with Lin and Anna.

Powers/Tactics: Ten years ago, at the age of 19, Dano's kung fu skills were good enough to earn him a fourth-place finish in the All-City Martial Arts Championship. Yet under the combined tutelage of Wei Cheng and the ghostly master Li, Kung's current skills put his past credentials to shame. Though his punches and kicks can carry lethal force, Dano fights whenever possible to subdue rather than kill his foes.

He does not carry a weapon, but is adept at improvising with items found at the fight scene.

Appearance: Deng Kung is a solidly-built fellow, standing 5'10". He is clean-shaven, with a strong chin, short dark hair, and sensitive hazel eyes.

The Eternal Warrior fights in the traditional garb of his predecessors: a grey tunic and pants, along with a mask and long black wig. The costume has also been updated somewhat to meet modern demands, adding Kevlar reinforcement, 2" lifts, and a pair of blue contact lenses.

Campaign Use: One hundred years ago, the Eternal Warrior served as the last line of defense for the common folk of Chinatown. Since reappearing on the scene, this new incarnation has been true to that mission; whenever the neighborhood's workers and families are threatened, the Warrior is likely to appear.

Li's Ghost

0	STR	10	DEX	0	CON	0	BODY	15	INT
18	EGO	10	PRE	0	COM	0	PD	0	ED
2	SPD	0	REC	50	END	0	STUN		

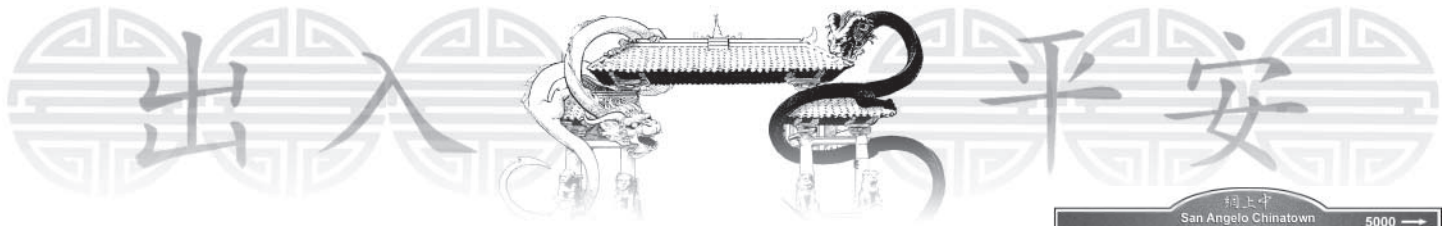
Abilities: *Ghost:* Desolidification Spirit powers, Inherent, Reduced Endurance (0 END), Persistent; No physical stats, Always On **plus** Invisibility to Sight Group (No Fringe), Inherent, Reduced Endurance (0 END), Persistent; No physical stats; Always On **plus** Life Support (Longevity: Immortal); Linked; Telekinesis (20 STR), Area Of Effect (3" Radius); Increased Endurance Cost (2x END), Affects Whole Object; Multipower, 45-point reserve; 1) HKA 3d6; Increased Endurance Cost (2x END); 2) RKA 2d6, Affects Desolidified (Any form of Desolidification); Increased Endurance Cost (2x END); 3) *Lightning Bolt:* EB 9d6; Increased Endurance Cost (2x END); AK: Chinatown 11-; KS: Chinatown history 12-; Language: English (fluent conversation)(Mandarin is native)

75+ Disadvantages: Psychological Limitation: Duty to protect Chinatown; Physical Limitation: Must remain close to Eternal Warrior

Notes: The ghost of Li serves as the Eternal Warrior's mentor and ally, giving advice, passing through walls to provide advance reconnaissance, shouting out warnings when a foe is sneaking up from behind, *etc.*

In moments of extreme need, Li can actually summon enough force of will to affect objects on the material plane through Telekinesis or a physical and energy attacks. Such extraordinary efforts do not come without a price, as they leave the spirit totally spent, forcing him to recover in the spirit realm for a period of days (recovering lost Endurance at a rate of 1 point per hour), during which time Dano will be deprived of the ghost's aid, advice, and protection.





The West Wind

Hsi Feng

Val	Char	Cost	Roll	Notes
9	STR	-1	11-	Lift 87.1kg; 1 1/2d6; [1]
20	DEX	30	13-	OCV 7 DCV 7
15	CON	10	12-	
15	BODY	10	12-	
30	INT	20	15-	PER Roll 15-
30	EGO	40	15-	ECV: 10
15/20	PRE	5	12-/13-	PRE Attack: 3d6/4d6
14/24	COM	2	12-/14-	
14	PD	3	Total: 14 PD (9 rPD)	
14	ED	2	Total: 14 ED (9 rED)	
4	SPD	10	Phases: 3, 6, 9, 12	
9	REC	8		
50	END	10		
50	STUN	22	Total Characteristic Cost: 171	
Movement:		Running: 6"		

Cost Powers

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------|
| 131 | <i>Mystic Powers:</i> Variable Power Pool (Magic Pool), 75 base + 56 control cost, Cosmic (+2); Only within 1 mile of dragon paths (-1) | END |
| 14 | <i>Protective Amulet:</i> Force Field (9 PD/9 ED); IIF (-1/4) | 2 |
| 8 | +8 Mental Defense (14 points total) | |
| 5 | Power Defense (5 points) | |
| 5 | Life Support (Longevity: Immortal) | |
| 45 | Extra-Dimensional Movement (any dimension, any location) | 4 |
| 4 | +5 PRE; Only In Heroic Identity (-1/4) | |
| 4 | +10 COM; Only In Heroic Identity (-1/4) | |

Skills

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 3 | Scholar |
| 4 | 1) KS: Chinese Geomancy 17- |
| 3 | Scientist |

Total Powers & Skill Cost: 226

Total Cost: 397

300+ Disadvantages

- | | |
|----|--|
| 10 | Hunted: Chinese demons 8- (As Pow, Harshly Punish) |
| 10 | Rivalry: T'ien Lung (Professional, Rival is As Powerful, Seek to Harm or Kill Rival, Rival Aware of Rivalry) |
| 15 | Social Limitation: Secret Identity (Hsi Feng), 11- (Major) |
| 62 | Experience Points |

Total Disadvantage Points: 397

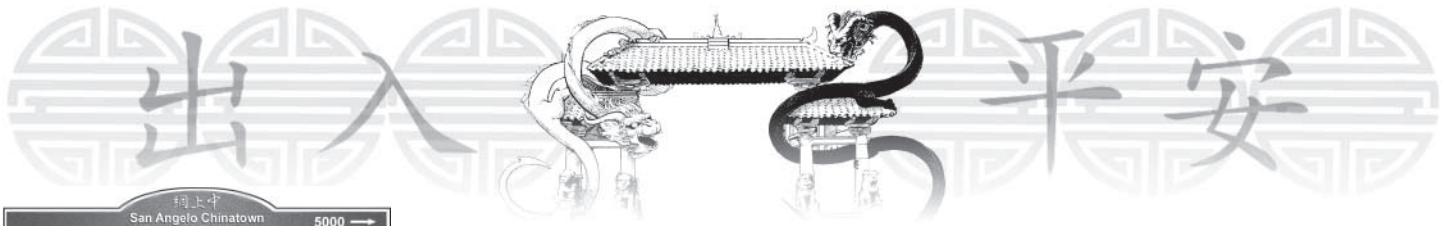


Background: Born millennia ago near what is now Beijing, the man who would one day be known as Hsi Feng was one of the first students of the arts that would eventually become known as feng shui and internal alchemy. Hsi Feng came to America in the 1870s to protect descendants of his who had settled in San Francisco. As sorcerers are accorded a great deal of respect within Chinese society, he swiftly rose to become the effective head of San Francisco's Chinese community. He hoped to quietly protect his people and continue his studies into the nature of the universe, but that did not mean turning his back on the world. So when Feng heard rumors that there was a powerful sorcerer named T'ien Lung in San Angelo he was disturbed. Curiosity eventually drove him to San Angelo to investigate the possible threat to his community brewing there.

Wary of simply strolling into a trap, Hsi Feng decided to hide in plain sight by setting up shop in San Angelo. He's been remarkably successful; hardly anyone in Chinatown would imagine the calm young man who runs the curio shop is a master sorcerer, which suits Hsi Feng just fine.

Quote: "There is a time for everything."

Powers/Tactics: Although Hsi Feng may be one of the most powerful sorcerers alive, the magnitude of his raw



power often reduces his range of options, as overt uses of his powers might have terrible consequences due to the force behind them. Most of the actions he takes are so subtle that few in the community, or indeed anywhere else, are aware of them. Although his studies have guided him to use natural principles, he reminds himself that thunder and lightning are also natural when the heavens are severely oppressed.

The "Broken People"

Hsi Feng is always accompanied by one or more of what he calls his "special people," souls crippled by the nature of their magic, either physically or psychically. His coterie counts almost 100 people, although he brought only 10 with him to San Angelo, those who would literally die without his near presence. Among them is Sally Wei, so sensitive to auras that her bare skin touching the air can read whoever is in the room with her. Den Ji, a dwarf, can read entire lives, past and future, when casting the yarrow sticks or looking at astrological charts. Of great help to Hsi Feng are a group of five men who believe they are possessed by assistants to the god of thunder. Since they manifest powers attributed to these beings (damage resistance, flight, lightning and thunderclap powers), there's no sense in quibbling about whether they are or aren't imagining things.

Villains

The Prowler

Lu Pen Liao

Val	Char	Cost	Roll	Notes
15	STR	5	12-	Lift 200.0kg; 3d6; [3]
18	DEX	24	13-	OCV 6 DCV 6
18	CON	16	13-	
14	BODY	8	12-	
14	INT	4	12-	PER Roll 12-
12	EGO	4	11-	ECV: 4
15	PRE	5	12-	PRE Attack: 3d6
13	COM	2	12-	
8	PD	5	Total: 8 PD (0 rPD)	
8	ED	4	Total: 8 ED (0 rED)	
4	SPD	12	Phases: 3, 6, 9, 12	
8	REC	2		
36	END	0		
40	STUN	9	Total Characteristic Cost: 106	
			Movement: Running: 9"/18"	
			Leaping: 4 1/2"/9"	

Martial Arts: Karate

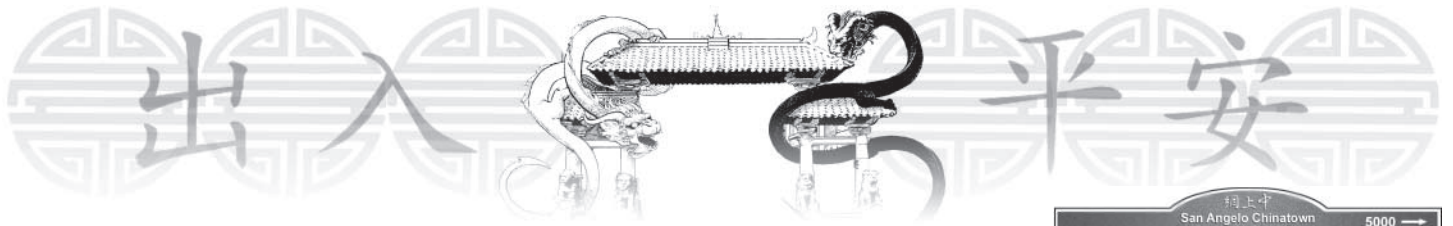
Maneuver	OCV	DCV	Notes
4 Block	+2	+2	Block, Abort
4 Dodge	—	+5	Dodge, Affects All Attacks, Abort
3 Legsweep	+2	-1	4d6 Strike, Target Falls
4 Punch	+0	+2	5d6 Strike
5 Snap Kick	+1	+3	3d6 Strike
5 Spin Kick	-2	+1	7d6 Strike

Skills

6	+2 with Karate
10	+2 with DCV
5	Breakfall 14-
3	Climbing 13-
3	Concealment 12-
5	AK: Chinatown 14-
2	Language: Cantonese: (fluent conversation)
3	Shadowing 12-
3	Stealth 13-
3	Streetwise 12-
3	Trading 12-

Total Powers & Skill Cost: 72

Total Cost: 177



100+ Disadvantages

- 20 DNPC: Father 11- (Incompetent)
- 20 Hunted: Local Law Enforcement 11- (Mo Pow, Mildly Punish, NCI)
- 20 Hunted: Tongs And Other Gangs 11- (Mo Pow, Harshly Punish)
- 5 Money: Poor
- 10 Psychological Limitation: Hates Americans (Uncommon, Strong)
- 10 Social Limitation: Secret Identity (Lu Pen Liao) 11- (Minor) (23 points unspent)

Total Disadvantage Points: 177

Background: “It’s not my fault, Zui, she started it!” pleaded Lu Pen to his boss. “She said the fruit was old, when I just put it out! You know how they can be.”

After watching the angry customer walk away, Lu Pen’s boss turned to him. “Yes, I know how they can be, but they are our customers, and you have had problems with them in the past. This is the last time, understand? No more problems! Start unloading the truck in the morning.”

Bowing to his boss and mumbling a farewell, Lu Pen quickly grabbed his coat and moved on. “At least I didn’t lose my job this time,” he thought as he made his way down the narrow streets toward home.

Opening the door to his small apartment, Lu Pen saw that his father had fallen asleep listening to his old RCA radio. Quietly Lu Pen covered the man with a blanket, then walked into his own room. Once inside, he pulled an old sea trunk from under his bed, opened it, and looked at the black costume inside. “I took a lot of grief today,” he thought, while putting the costume on, “Now it’s my turn.”

Quote: “Americans take advantage of us, so I take advantage of them.”

Personality: Born in San Angelo, Lu Pen was raised by his father, Ng Chen Liao, who came to the U.S. from Taiwan. Ng Chen sees the United States as a great country that helped China during World War II, and that will help get rid of the Communists now in power. He taught his son to respect the U.S., but as Lu Pen grew older he started questioning his father’s beliefs, wondering why, if Americans are friends of the Chinese, he often got treated so poorly.

Over time Lu Pen started to feel that the only reason the United States was nice to Taiwan was so that U.S. companies could sell products there. Lu Pen also noticed that the U.S. didn’t seem to be really doing anything about the Communist government on the mainland.



As his resentment grew, Lu Pen started having trouble keeping jobs. He was no longer willing to be berated by “arrogant white devils,” so when his bosses started yelling at him, he shouted back. After losing a good job working at the Golden Buddha as a waiter, Lu Pen decided he wanted revenge.

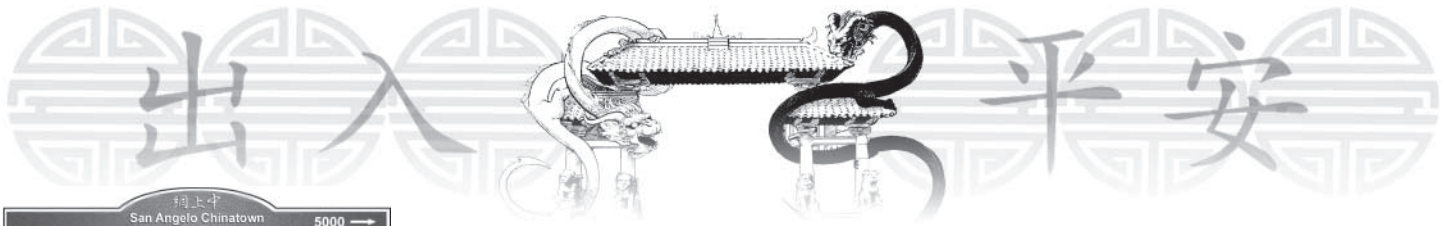
Having trained in karate for several years as a hobby, he decided to put his skills to use punishing outsiders who came into Chinatown.

Eventually Lu Pen fashioned a costume out of various pieces of black clothing. He didn’t give himself a name, but area residents have taken to calling him the Prowler, because he constantly prowls the streets of Chinatown.

Powers/Tactics: Lu Pen usually picks his targets as they walk through Chinatown, and he’s not afraid to take on groups of two or even three people. At first he was just content to scare his victims away from Chinatown, but after getting a dropped purse and a couple of wallets in his first encounters, he now doesn’t mind taking items.

He only attacks non-Asians, usually by swooping in and knocking them off their feet. Once on the ground he takes what he can grab.





San Angelo Chinatown 5000
Allies and Enemies

Lu Pen has been doing this for over a year now, and he's started to be noticed, both by the tongs and the police. The tongs don't like the fact that he's targeting outsiders, and they are afraid it will hurt business.

Lu Pen knows people are looking for him, but continues to go out looking for victims. His father is unaware of what Lu Pen is doing, and would be appalled if he found out.

Appearance: The Prowler wears a tight-fitting black costume covering his entire body. On cold nights, he also wears a cowl that looks like a small cape.

Campaign Use: The Prowler can serve as a straightforward challenge for martial artist heroes, or GMs can use him to present a moral dilemma to the player characters: although the Prowler is a criminal, he has become one because he's disillusioned about the United States; if the characters make the effort to connect with him, there is a possibility he could be redeemed, although the chances are less likely if the characters themselves are of non-Chinese descent.

The Shaman

Ting Xian Roh

Val	Char	Cost	Roll	Notes
15	STR	5	12-	Lift 200.0kg; 3d6; [1]
18	DEX	24	13-	OCV 6 DCV 6
18	CON	16	13-	
16	BODY	12	12-	
21	INT	11	13-	PER Roll 13-
18	EGO	16	13-	ECV: 6
15	PRE	5	12-	PRE Attack: 3d6
16	COM	3	12-	
12	PD	3	Total: 12 PD (6 rPD)	
11	ED	1	Total: 11 ED (6 rED)	
4	SPD	12	Phases: 3, 6, 9, 12	
8	REC	2		
40	END	2		
36	STUN	3	Total Characteristic Cost: 115	
Movement:		Running: 6"/12"		

Cost Powers

Martial Arts: Karate

Maneuver	OCV	DCV	Notes
4 Block	+2	+2	Block, Abort
4 Dodge	—	+5	Dodge, Affects All Attacks, Abort
3 Legsweep	+2	-1	4d6 Strike, Target Falls
4 Punch	+0	+2	5d6 Strike
5 Snap Kick	+1	+3	3d6 Strike
5 Spin Kick	-2	+1	7d6 Strike

END

- 80 *Mystical Powers:* Variable Power Pool (Magic Pool), 40 base + 40 control cost, Powers Can Be Changed As A Zero-Phase Action (+1)
- 14 Armor (6 PD/6 ED); IIF (robes; -1/4)
- 40 Clairsentience (Sight Group; Related Group of Dimensions) 4

Skills

- 3 +1 with Karate
- 3 +1 with Wooden staff
- 5 Bureaucratics 13-
- 3 Concealment 13-
- 3 AK: Chinatown 13-
- 4 KS: Chinese magic 14-
- 3 KS: Wing Chao tong 13-
- 3 Language: English (completely fluent, w/ accent)(Mandarin is native)
- 3 Streetwise 12-

Total Powers & Skill Cost: 189

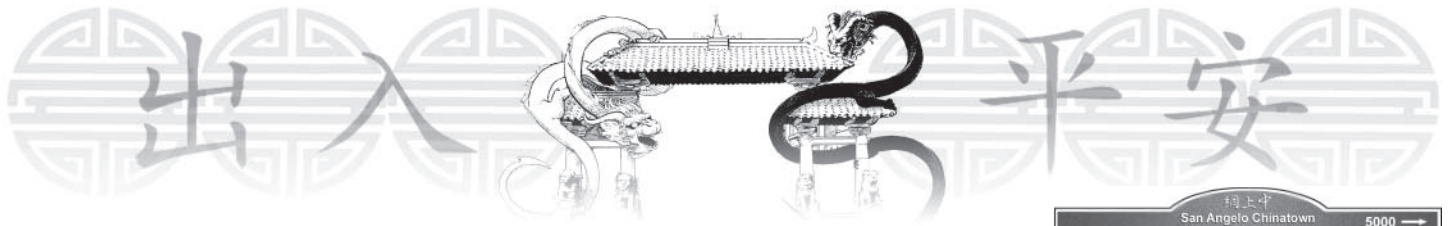
Total Cost: 304

200+ Disadvantages

- 15 Hunted: Other tongs 11- (As Pow, Harshly Punish)
- 10 Hunted: T'ien Lung 14- (Mo Pow, Limited Geographical Area, Watching)
- 15 Psychological Limitation: Power Hungry (Common, Strong)
- 15 Psychological Limitation: Wants To Free T'ien Lung (Common, Strong)
- 10 Reputation: Chinese mage, 11-
- 15 Social Limitation: Secret Identity 11- (Ting Xian Roh) (Major[if discovered, character will be inconvenienced and exposed to great danger])
- 15 Susceptibility: to bright light, 2d6 damage per Minute (Common)
- 10 Vulnerability: 2 x STUN from Light-Based Attacks (Uncommon) (46 points unspent)

Total Disadvantage Points: 304

Background: The shaman looked around in disbelief. Many times before, he had left his physical body behind and moved about the Earth in astral form. He had journeyed miles in a single stride, riding the dragon paths of mystical energy that circled the globe like a highway. He had moved unseen through the streets of Chinatown, a disembodied observer floating among the crowd. But the place he stood in now was nothing like those sensations and nothing like Earth.



In every direction, as far as the eye could see, there was fire; strange fire that generated a sense of heat, but did not burn.

As his eyes adjusted to the sensation, the flames began to differentiate themselves into different patterns. He could make out plains of fire, lakes of fire, tall buildings permanently ablaze, and even creatures composed of living flame; all of them constantly burning, yet never consumed. He could only be one place—the elemental plane of fire, one of the five base substances of magic. But what purpose had drawn him there?

The answer was not long in coming.

Once again, Roh’s vision shifted. There was now one place before him that was not aflame, a simple-looking thatch hut. No sooner did he think about going there than a path through the flames opened before him, heading straight to the hut’s door. He proceeded quickly down the path, and, finding the door ajar, stepped inside. Facing him was a white-haired man whose face Ting recognized from the portrait hanging in William Yuan’s office—the legendary, and long-dead, former Wing Chao dragon head, T’ien Lung.

“Do not be afraid,” the old man croaked hoarsely, “You are not dead, and neither am I. I was banished to this forsaken place by that scoundrel Hsi Feng, but the fool underestimated my power. Once I determined what I needed to do to survive here, I spent my days calling out to Earth for rescue. You are the first to answer me in all this time, but I sense that your control is fleeting, and you will soon be pulled home. Do not forget me, youngster, for I can teach you much. Do not abandon T’ien...”

Roh suddenly snapped to his senses and found himself back in his room in San Angelo. He was famished, and through his window he could see that day had turned to night.

Had his experience been real, or just a dream? He was about to opt for the latter when he noticed that his tunic was covered with soot and its hem singed...

Quote: “*In shadows, everything has become clear.*”

Personality: For the first 18 years of his life Ting Xian Roh was a good student and son. He worked hard in school and helped out in the family business as soon as he was able.

When his aptitude for hedge magic came to the attention of William Yuan, Roh studied his new craft just as diligently, winning appointment as tong shaman over men twice his age. His decision to stare directly into a solar eclipse may have been the first impulsive act in his carefully organized life, and while it should have cost Ting everything, instead it somehow triggered a much deeper connection with his innate arcane powers.



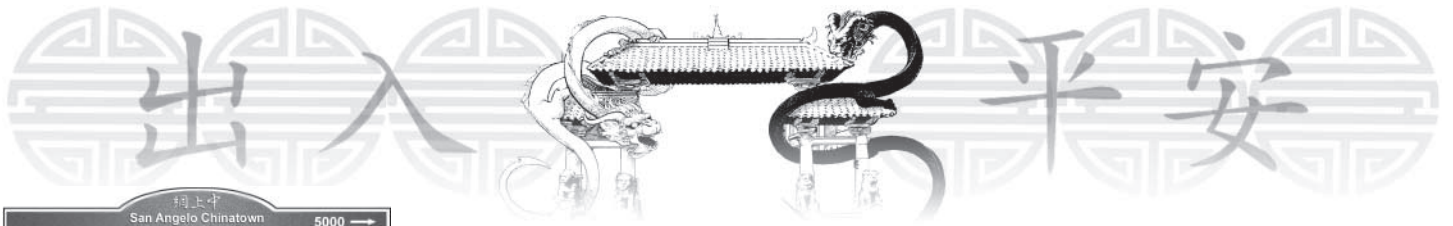
His daylight vision now permanently impaired by the optic damage to his right eye, Roh has increasingly turned his gaze to the “third eye” of legend—his mind’s eye. What he has found there are new vistas he never imagined, gateways to places beyond mortal ken. And once opened, the shaman has found them difficult to shut again.

Powers/Tactics: Ting Xian Roh hasn’t let his partial blindness stop his studies or training. While he can conjure up an energy blast explosive enough to blow a steel door off its hinges or fry a person to a cinder, he much prefers defeating a foe through a test of wills or skills.

To compensate for his partial vision loss, Roh started training with a quarterstaff that also serves as a walking stick. His skill with martial arts and his staff are good enough that he now helps train new Wing Chao members.

As Roh continues to allow his mind to wander more freely, he is constantly finding new applications of his arcane prowess. As his power expands, so does his confidence, although at present Roh’s belief in his ability remains well below his actual level of expertise. Yiyan Ping, the tong’s vice chairman, is constantly encouraging the young shaman to trust himself more fully.





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San Angelo Chinatown 5000 →

Allies and Enemies

Appearance: Ting Xian Roh is a tall but somewhat un-gainly fellow, who is still packing about 15 pounds of fat on his frame. He does not pay much attention to popular style, and often wears garments or colors that look poorly on him. His most distinctive feature is the pair of wraparound sunglasses he wears at all hours of day and night to protect his eyes from strong light sources, both natural and artificial.

Campaign Use: Ting Xian Roh is a loyal member of the Wing Chao, who will act to serve the best interests of the tong. However, he is now also driven by the desire to again encounter T'ien Lung, and to learn how to further expand his powers. Indeed, it is possible that Roh may soon figure out some way to create an avatar here on Earth that T'ien Lung could inhabit, and thereby make his return to San Angelo.

Kong Que Leng

Lord of the Cinnabar Mountain

Val	Char	Cost	Roll	Notes
15	STR	5	12-	Lift 200.0kg; 3d6; [1]
21	DEX	33	13-	OCV 7 DCV 7
23	CON	26	14-	
15	BODY	10	12-	
15	INT	5	12-	PER Roll 12-
21	EGO	22	13-	ECV: 7
23	PRE	13	14-	PRE Attack: 4 1/2d6
12	COM	1	11-	
27	PD	6	Total:	27 PD (18 rPD)
30	ED	7	Total:	30 ED (18 rED)
6	SPD	29	Phases:	2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12
10	REC	4		
60	END	7		
50	STUN	15	Total Characteristic Cost: 184	

Movement: Running: 6"/12"

Cost Powers

END

- 128 *Chinese Sorcery (Enchanted Pearl):* Variable Power Pool (Magic Pool), 80 base + 48 control cost, Cosmic (+2); OAF Bulky (Enchanted Pearl; -1 1/2)
- 36 *Robe of Supple Iron:* Armor (18 PD/18 ED); OIF (-1/2)
- 6 *Willpower of an Emperor:* +6 Mental Defense (10 points total)
- 10 *Mystic Shields:* Power Defense (10 points)
- 15 Luck 3d6

Skills

- 25 +5 with Chinese Sorcery Power Pool
- 1 Computer Programming 8-
- 2 Language: Cantonese (fluent conversation)(Fukienese is native)
- 1 Language: English (basic conversation)
- 4 Language: Mandarin (idiomatic, native accent)
- 2 PS: Fisherman 11-
- 2 PS: Chinese Sorcerer 11-
- 3 Stealth 13-
- 2 TF: Large Motorized Boats, Small Rowed Boats
- 1 WF: Blades
- 3 Scholar
 - 1 1) KS: Chinese culture & civilization 11-
 - 3 2) KS: Chinese Geomancy 13-
 - 1 3) KS: Chinese healing 11-
 - 3 4) KS: Chinese History 13-
 - 3 5) KS: Chinese legends & lore 13-
 - 3 6) KS: Chinese philosophy 13-
 - 3 7) KS: Chinese Sorcery, arcane & occult lore 13-
 - 1 8) KS: Modern Chinese entertainment 11-
 - 1 9) KS: Small business laws & regulations 11-

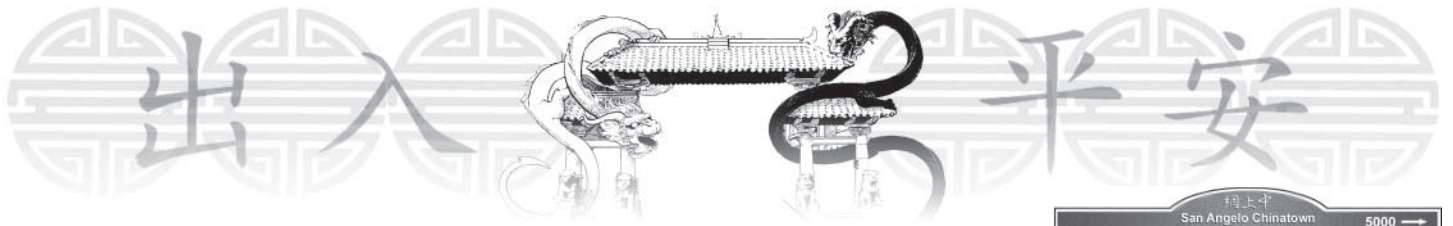
Total Powers & Skill Cost: 260

Total Cost: 444

300+ Disadvantages

- 15 Distinctive Features: Chinese sorcerer, (Not Concealable, Noticed and Recognizable, Detectable By Commonly-Used Senses)
- 10 Distinctive Features: style disadvantage, (Concealable, Noticed and Recognizable, Detectable By Commonly-Used Senses)
- 20 Hunted: Mystic Super, 11- (Mo Pow, Capture)
- 15 Hunted: Mystic Group, 8- (Mo Pow, Capture)
- 20 Psychological Limitation: Power Hungry (Common, Total)
- 15 Psychological Limitation: Thirsts For Mystic Knowledge (Common, Strong)
- 10 Reputation: evil Chinese sorcerer, 14- (Known Only To A Small Group: Chinatown and the martial world)
- 39 Experience Points

Total Disadvantage Points: 444



Background: China's legends are replete with tales of powerful sorcerers and mystics who shaped the destiny of the Middle Kingdoms in many ways. Some of these scholars were benevolent and others quite wicked, but they all affected the course of Chinese history in one way or another. Among the most despicable of these men was the one whom the people called Kong Que, "Peacock," after the fanciness of his robes and the ornamentation with which he adorned himself. Kong Que was the power behind the throne for several rulers during China's Warring States period (475-221 B.C.); he maintained a vast web of spies and informers, both mundane and magical, and used his powers to assist the rulers he supposedly served. In fact it was his power that propped up those rulers' otherwise weak reigns.

The people of that time lived in fear of Kong Que and his chief servants, the Knights of the Blue Cheeks, sapphire-faced demons clad in armor and wielding swords of mystic fire. Kong Que demanded and received an annual tribute of virgins from the subjects of the rulers whom he supported; it was rumored that he killed, cooked, and ate them to maintain his power. His other, even more depraved, activities were the subject of furtive whispers around many a nighttime fire. He was called the Lord of the Cinnabar Mountain because of his great magical prowess.

According to dark legends, Kong Que's wickedness eventually grew so great that the gods could ignore it no longer. Lei Kung, the duke of thunder, was sent against him. Lei Kung shattered Kong Que's castle, slew the Knights of the Blue Cheeks, and then captured the evil sorcerer. He imprisoned Kong Que inside an enormous pearl, later giving that pearl to the first emperor of China, Ch'in Shih Huang-Ti, to safeguard, lest its wickedness corrupt heaven itself. The emperor sealed it away inside a locked room in the treasury of his palace.

From emperor to emperor, through the rise and fall of dynasties and many other disasters, the pearl passed. Each emperor learned, or somehow instinctively knew, that the pearl was an evil thing that had to be guarded. A few foolish emperors sought to unlock the pearl's powers for their own benefit, but all they got for their trouble was corruption, pain, and death.

Even when the Manchu Dynasty collapsed and China became a republic, the pearl remained hidden. When the Communists defeated the Nationalists to take over China in 1949, the Nationalists fled to Taiwan, taking the pearl with them. However, en route the pearl was accidentally dropped into the sea.

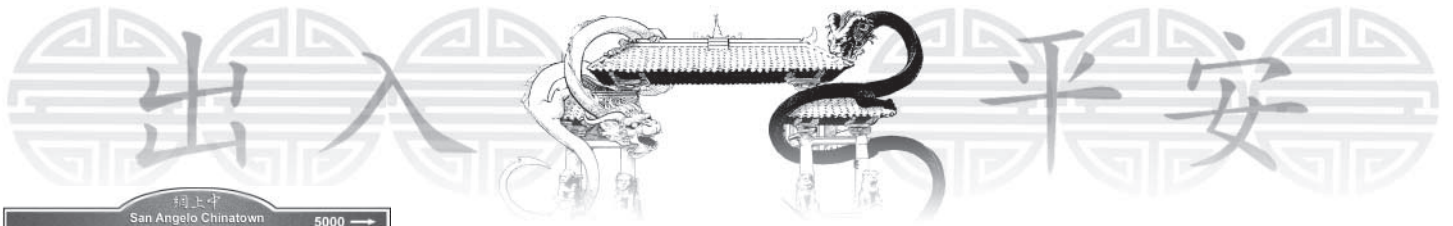
For the next 50 years the mystic pearl slowly rolled across the ocean floor, propelled by currents, tide dragons, and, perhaps, fate.



It finally surfaced again in 1999 off the coast of California in the net of Leng Yee Hop, a poor young fisherman from southern China who had emigrated to the United States as a child. Amazed to find a perfectly spherical pearl larger than a basketball in his net, Leng could not resist fondling it and gazing into it. Upon doing so he was trapped; 50 years away from China had weakened the pearl's mystic bonds, and thus had given Kong Que the ability to escape, while Leng's touch gave him the key to unlock his nacreous prison. When Leng took possession of the pearl, Kong Que likewise took possession of him, albeit in a much more sinister way.

Kong Que had expected to simply slay Leng's soul and take Leng's body for his own. What he had not counted on, however, was the fact that his powers, like his prison, had weakened over the millennia and the miles. He was unable to extinguish Leng's spirit, and the two beings' personalities and souls somehow merged, each taking on some of the qualities of the other. Leng's bitterness at being stuck on the lower end of the socio-economic ladder combined with Kong Que's hunger for power and anger at being imprisoned to create a strange Chinese sorcerer to bedevil the new millennium. The new being renamed itself Kong Que Leng.





街上中
San Angelo Chinatown

5000 →

Allies and Enemies

Since then, Kong Que Leng has moved to San Angelo, where there is no one who knew the poor Leng Yee Hop, and has been a thorn in the side of the heroes of San Angelo and the world. Although most of his schemes are confined to San Angelo's Chinatown, where he competes with tongs, gangs, and supervillains for power, some involve attempts to conquer the entire world. According to some mystics, he is one of the most dangerous threats facing the planet.

Personality/Motivation: Kong Que Leng is an inscrutable Chinese sorcerer cut more or less in the traditional mode. He presents a façade of nobility, honor, and grace, when in reality he has no compunctions against committing the most heinous, brutal, and depraved acts to maintain or increase his power. His eventual goal is the conquest of the world, or at least a large part of it, but he can afford to be patient; he knows the spells necessary to prolong his life and extend his youth.

However, there is more to Kong Que Leng than meets the eye. He is in fact not one person with one soul, but two personalities merged in a single form and mind. As a result his habits are an odd mix of ancient China and the modern day. He may lapse from cultured Chinese, to modern English slang, to a 2,000-year-old Chinese dialect in the space of a few minutes, and think nothing of it. He maintains his mystic library not only on scrolls, but in a computerized database. His aims and desires are formed as much by Leng Yee Hop's personal ambitions to escape a world of grinding poverty as they are by Kong Que's age-old desire for arcane and secular power.

Quote: *"Confucius say it's time to teach you a lesson in humility."*

Powers/Tactics: Kong Que was an extremely powerful Chinese sorcerer in his time, but his long imprisonment and merging with Leng Yee Hop haven't left his powers un-

marked. Most importantly, 2,000 years inside the Enchanted Pearl have caused Kong Que's power to become infused in it, rather than remaining with him. As a result, he can only use his mystic powers (his Variable Power Pool) when he is near the Pearl. Typically he touches it, but as long as he's within 10 yards of it he can cast spells. He rarely leaves the Pearl's presence; if necessary, he will carry it with him if he must leave his Chinatown sanctum.

On the other hand, the Pearl also helps him in some ways. For example, he no longer has to gesture or incant to cast spells, and rituals that used to take hours he can now accomplish in seconds. All in all, Kong Que Leng does not regret the trade, but he does take care to guard the Pearl *very* well.

Despite his power, Kong Que Leng prefers to fight defensively. He maintains high defenses and usually relies on small but unusual attack effects (such as NNDs, AVLDs, and mental powers) when striking back at his enemies. If enraged, though, he may pour all of his power into attacks with intense special effects drawn from Chinese symbolism, myth, and legend: glittering moonbeams that slice opponents into ribbons, summoned dragons, clouds that rain weapons, thunderbolts accompanied by terrifyingly loud thunderclaps, fiery lotus blossom that fly through the air at his opponents, and so on.

Some of Kong Que's skills have atrophied due to spending 2,000 years locked inside a mystic pearl, and because of personality alteration, but the losses are, in great measure, offset by those he has gained from Leng, mostly knowledge of the modern world.

Appearance: Kong Que Leng typically dresses in ornate Chinese robes of deep blue and green, robes often embroidered with his namesake peacock. Rarely the Leng side of his personality adds a more modern touch, such as fingerless gloves or a pair of sunglasses.

Action! System™ Stats

San Angelo Chinatown 5000
Action! System

Introduction

In this chapter are *ACTION! SYSTEM* stats for the named characters in this book. These stats are compatible with all *ACTION! SYSTEM* games, including the *ACTION! SYSTEM Core Rules* and the upcoming *Sengoku Second Edition*.

Characters are presented here in the order in which they appear earlier in this book. Next to each character's name, in parenthesis, is the page number on which their detailed write-up (including background and personality) appears.

Open Content

All of the character stats in this chapter are declared Open Content in accordance with the Open Game License version 1.0a. All names of characters and locations are declared Product Identity.

Martial Arts

Printed below are some sample martial arts maneuvers for Kung Fu, Karate, and Tai Chi, for *ACTION! SYSTEM*.

Characters with the appropriate skill receive all of the maneuvers listed for that style. Additional maneuvers (i.e., from other styles) may be purchased for 2 CP each.

The Characters

Sergeant Thomas Lieh

Supervisor, SAPD Chinatown substation (p. 18)

STR 5 REF 6 HLT 3 PRE 4 INT 5 WIL 5
DEF 16¹ INI 6 TGH 5 LIF 19 MOV 10
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 10, Critical: 12
Run: 20, Sprint: 30

Advantages: Membership (MR 3/Sgt. in SAPD)

Disadvantages: Dependent (Inconv.), Enemy: Watched by tongs (Inconv.), Psych. Disad.: Obeys the Law (Peril; CS 15), Psych. Disad.: Hates the tongs (Hardship; CS 10), Psych. Disad.: Arachnophobia (Hardship; CS 10).

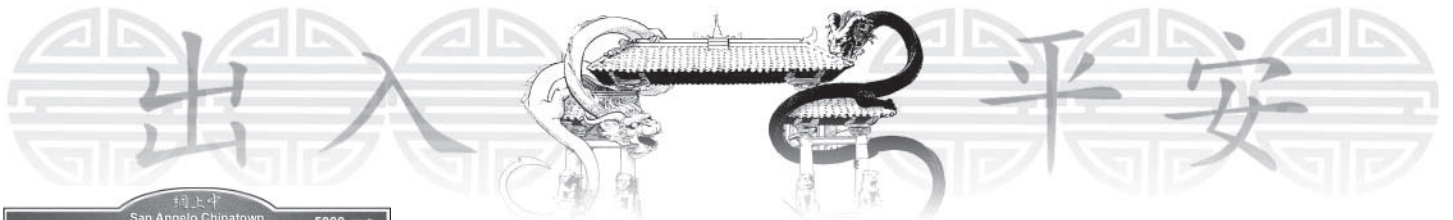
Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Area Knowledge (San Angelo) +5, Awareness +3, Bureaucracy +4, Computers (Use) +4, Concentration +2, Criminology +7, Deduction +6, Driving +5, First Aid +2, Interrogation +6, Languages: English 3, Language (English; native is Chinese/Mandarin) +4, Pistols +4 (+6)², Professional (Police Officer) +6, Small Arms Group +2, Society (Law enforcement world) +2, Stealth +4, Unarmed Combat (Shao Lin Kung Fu) +5.

¹ DEF 21 in HTM; ² Includes bonus for Small Arms Group

Martial Arts Style List and Maneuver Summary

Actions	Notes	Kung Fu	Karate	Tai Chi
Basic Strike	(STR+1)d6 Strike; +2 DEF	■	■	
Breakfall	Take 1/2 falling damage, regain feet as Free Action			■
Defensive Strike	(STR)d6 Strike; +1 to skill roll/+3 DEF			■
Ki Strike	Ranged HTH attack at -2. Damage as normal, or trade 1d6 for each successive m/yd of distance from target.			
Killing Strike	(STR-2)d6 P/L damage; -2 REF	■	■	
Martial Arts Weapons	Trained in the use of all hand to hand martial arts weapons (tonfa, nunchaku, sai)	■		
Martial Block	Blocks all weapons; +2 to skill roll/+2 DEF	■	■	■
Martial Disarm	Disarm, +2 STR roll	■	■	■
Martial Dodge	+5 DEF for dodging purposes that Turn	■	■	■
Martial Escape	+3 to Unarmed Combat roll for escape purposes			■
Martial Grab	+2 STR for purposes of the Grab			■
Martial Throw	Target knocked prone, takes (STR)d6 damage, must spend 1 Action to get back up again	■		■
Nerve Strike	2d6 damage P/S, -2 to attack roll	■		
Offensive Strike	(STR)+2d6 B/L Strike; -2 to attack roll, +1 DEF		■	
Sacrifice Throw	Martial Throw, with +2 to attack roll, Target and Attacker both knocked prone.			

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San Angelo Chinatown 5000
Action! System

Ho Cheng

Choy Lok On Trainer (p. 32)

STR 6¹ REF 5 HLT 5 PRE 7 INT 4 WIL 4
DEF 15² INI 5 TGH 5 LIF 33 MOV 10
Dmg: 3d6, Lift: 200 kg, Stunned: 18, Critical: 20
Run: 20, Sprint: 30

Advantages: Fast Reflexes (Conv.)

Disadvantages: Bad Temper: Enraged if insulted (Hardship), Distinctive Feature: Angry (Inconv.), Enemy: Watched by Choy Lok On tong (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Hates brother (Peril, CS 15), Psych. Disad.: Likes to fight (Hardship, CS 10).

Skills: Acrobatics +4, Awareness +3, Instruction +5, Knowledge (Chinese myths and legends) +3, Knowledge (Choy Lok On tong) +4, Knowledge (Kung Fu) +5, Language (English; native is Mandarin) +3, area Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Professional (Kung Fu master/teacher) +4, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +5

Powers/Notes: Missile Deflection (can use Block maneuver vs. thrown objects); +4 to effective STR with martial arts maneuvers; Can use martial arts maneuver with swords, staff and three-section staff.

¹ STR 10 w/martial arts maneuvers; ² DEF 20 in HtH

Kam Hyongan

Unaffiliated Kung Fu Master (p. 33)

STR 5 REF 6 HLT 5 PRE 6 INT 4 WIL 5
DEF 17¹ INI 5 TGH 5 LIF 25 MOV 11
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 12, Critical: 20
Run: 22, Sprint: 33

Advantages: Fast Reflexes (+2 INI, Conv.)

Disadvantages: Famous: Kung fu master (Conv.)

Skills: Acrobatics +6, Instruction +5, Knowledge (the martial world) +3, Knowledge (San Angelo tongs) +1, Knowledge (Shao Lin kung fu) +5, Knowledge (Shao Lin philosophy) +6, Language (English; Chinese/Mandarin is native) +3, Professional (Kung Fu master) +3, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +5.

Powers/Notes: Missile deflection (can use Block maneuver vs. thrown objects and arrows), +2 effective STR with martial arts maneuvers, Can use martial arts maneuvers with swords, axes and staff.

¹ DEF 22 in HtH

Fen Lo

Aloof Kung Fu Master (p. 34)

STR 5¹ REF 7 HLT 6 PRE 7 INT 5 WIL 6
DEF 17² INI 10 TGH 6 LIF 30 MOV 13
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 15, Critical: 24
Run: 26, Sprint: 39

Advantages: Fast Reflexes (+4 INI [already figured in]; Edge), Long Lived (Gift), Eidetic Memory

Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: Serene (Inconv.), Psych. Disad.: Distaste for those who seek power for power's sake (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Protective of sister (Hardship)

Skills: Acrobatics +7, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Awareness +4, Contortionist +5, First Aid +4, Instruction +6, Knowledge (Chinese geomancy) +7, Knowledge (Chinese healing) +7, Knowledge (Chinese myths and legends) +6, Knowledge (Internal alchemy) +7, Knowledge (The martial world) +4, Knowledge (Nerve/pressure points) +7, Knowledge (Physiology) +6, Knowledge (San Angelo tongs) +1, Knowledge (Serene Eternity martial arts) +8, Language (English; native is Chinese/Mandarin) +2, Physician +6, Unarmed Combat (Serene Eternity; all kung fu styles) +6.

Powers/Talents: *Chi Touch* (5 STR usable at range [up to 30 meters], no fine manipulation), *Dim Mak* (1d6 Sp/L damage per Turn, usable at range [up to 30 meters], can be stopped by Knowledge: Chinese Healing skill roll [TN 21]), *Missile Deflection* (can use Block maneuver vs. thrown objects, arrows, and projectiles), +5 effective STR with martial arts maneuvers.

Special Note: Fen Lo possesses the knowledge of most of the martial arts maneuvers known to mankind; the GM can give him a selection of maneuvers from the Martial Arts Extension for *Action! System* or any other *Action! System* game as he sees fit.

¹ STR 10 w/martial arts maneuvers; ² DEF 23 in HtH

Dr. Hanwoong Shyu

Surgeon (p. 37)

STR 4 REF 5 HLT 4 PRE 5 INT 6 WIL 5
DEF 15 INI 6 TGH 5 LIF 22 MOV 10
Dmg: 2d6, Lift: 100 kg, Stunned: 11, Critical: 16
Run: 20, Sprint: 30

Advantages: Famous: Nationally known doctor (Gift), Perk: License to practice medicine (Conv.)

Disadvantages: Dependent: brother Win (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Indebted to Wing Chao tong (Inconv.), Senior (Inconv.)

Skills: Computers +4, Deduction +4, First Aid +5, Physician (Cardiovascular medicine +2) +5, Sailing +4, Society (High) +3.

Zoroaster Cho

Amateur apothecary (p. 38)

STR 7 REF 6 HLT 5 PRE 5 INT 5 WIL 5
DEF 16¹ INI 6 TGH 6 LIF 25 MOV 12
Dmg: 3d6+2, Lift: 250 kg, Stunned: 13, Critical: 20
Run: 24, Sprint: 36

Advantages: Famous: Local apothecary/mystic (Conv.)

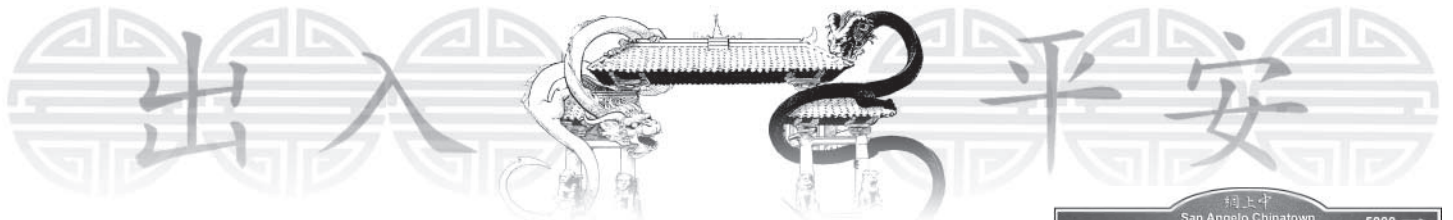
Disadvantages: Distinctive Features (Concealable with disguise; Inconv.), Psych. Disad.: Code against killing (Inconv.; CS 5), Psych. Disad.: Hates prejudice (Hardship).

Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +7, Awareness +4, First Aid (Herbalism) +3, Knowledge (Chinese folklore) +3, Knowledge (Chinese medicine) +5, Society (Streetwise) +4, Unarmed Combat (Tai Chi) +3.

Powers/Talents: Herbal Healing (Heals 3d6 LIF total, at 1d6 LIF per day).

¹ DEF 19 in HtH





Tu Chen

Magic Warper (p. 39)

STR 5 REF 5 HLT 5 PRE 6 INT 4 WIL 4
DEF 15¹ INI 5 TGH 5 LIF 23 MOV 10
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 12, Critical: 20
Run: 20, Sprint: 30

Advantages: Latent magic powers (Conv.)

Disadvantages: Dependent: mother (Inconv.), Enemy: Hunted by rival tongs (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Unrealized magical powers (Inconv.), Psych. Disad.: Hates Wing Chao tong (Inconv.).

Skills: Acrobatics +5, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Knowledge (Crimson Tigers gang) +5, Knowledge (Qi Leong tong) +1, Melee Weapons Group +5, Stealth +5, Society (Streetwise) +5, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +5.

Powers/Notes: Warping Magic (Distorts magic within 10 meters, random effects, always on).

¹ DEF 20 in Hit

Chung Lin Foo

Wing Chao Magician (p. 40)

STR 3 REF 6 HLT 5 PRE 3 INT 5 WIL 7
DEF 16 INI 6 TGH 5 LIF 29 MOV 11
Dmg: 1d6+2, Lift: 50 kg, Stunned: 15, Critical: 20
Run: 22, Sprint: 33

Advantages: None

Disadvantages: Enemy: Watched by Choy Lok On tong (Inconv.).

Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Knowledge (Magic tricks) +6, Orate +6, Persuasion +4, Professional (Stage magician) +5, Sleight of Hand +6, Society (Streetwise) +5.

Powers/Notes: *Telepathy* (5 levels: Roll 5d6 vs. target's WIL x 3 to succeed), *Mental Defense* (14 points; subtracts from effects and damage from mental/psionic powers).

Jin Yao

Master Herbalist (p. 40)

STR 4 REF 5 HLT 5 PRE 5 INT 8 WIL 5
DEF 15 INI 7 TGH 5 LIF 25 MOV 10
Dmg: 2d6, Lift: 200 kg, Stunned: 13, Critical: 20
Run: 20, Sprint: 30

Advantages: Famous: Master herbalist, local fame (Conv.)

Disadvantages: Psych. Disad.: Seeks immortality (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Helps community (Hardship)

Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Awareness +4, Biology +5, First Aid (Herbalism) +7, Knowledge (Botany) +6, Knowledge (Chinese alchemy) +6, Knowledge (Chinese geomancy) +6, Knowledge (Chinese healing) +7, Knowledge (Chinese myths and legends) +5.

Powers/Talents: *Herbalism effects* (5d6 variable healing/herbalism effects, 12 uses per day, takes 5 minutes to start effect, requires Chinese herbs)

An Sheng

Honest Politician (p. 44)

STR 3 REF 5 HLT 5 PRE 7 INT 5 WIL 4
DEF 15 INI 5 TGH 4 LIF 23 MOV 9
Dmg: 1d6+2, Lift: 50 kg, Stunned: 12, Critical: 20
Run: 18, Sprint: 27

Advantages: Ally: Senator Catherine Forbes (Edge), Ally: Joseph Fong (edge), Linguist (+1 any language; Conv.)

Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: Personal magnetism (Concealable with effort/disguise), Psych. Disad.: Desires to protect Chinatown (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Seeks political power (Hardship).

Skills: Area Knowledge (California) +3, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Area Knowledge (San Angelo) +4, Knowledge (Political world) +4, Knowledge (State government) +5, Knowledge (U.S. federal government) +3, Language (English; native is Chinese/Mandarin) +3, Language (Spanish) +3, Oratory +6, Persuasion +5, Politics +5.

Powers/Talents: +1 effective STR with martial arts maneuvers.

Equipment: .40 cal. S&W Sigma semi-automatic pistol (Dmg: 4d6 P/L, Acc: 0, Rmod: +1, STR Min: 3, RoF: 3, Amm: 12, Wt: 1.5.)

Tang Shai

Political Advisor (p. 45)

STR 2 REF 4 HLT 4 PRE 7 INT 6 WIL 5
DEF 14 INI 5 TGH 4 LIF 22 MOV 8
Dmg: 1d6, Lift: 25 kg, Stunned: 11, Critical: 16
Run: 16, Sprint: 24

Advantages: Famous: in Chinatown/Asian community (Conv.), Social Advantage: +3 to social skill rolls in Chinatown/Asian community (Conv.).

Disadvantages: Psych. Disad.: Protects Chinatown community (Hardship)

Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +7, Area Knowledge (San Angelo) +4, Knowledge (Political world) +3, Persuasion +8, Politics +7, Psychology +7, Society (High) +5.

Christine Nguyen

Political Lobbyist (p. 45)

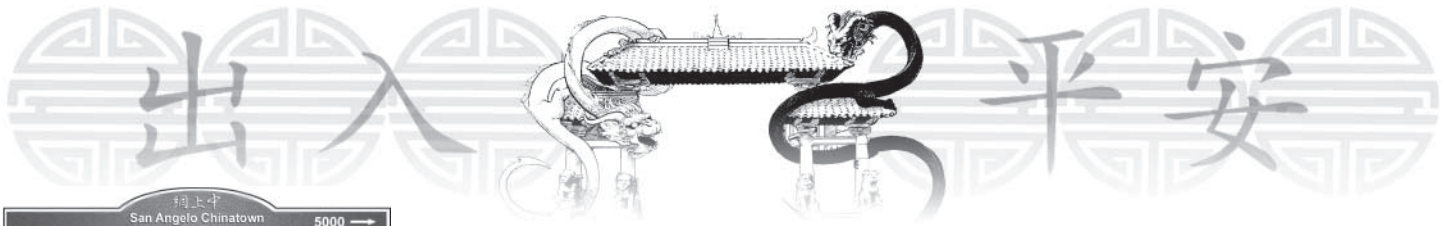
STR 3 REF 5 HLT 5 PRE 7 INT 5 WIL 4
DEF 15 INI 5 TGH 4 LIF 23 MOV 9
Dmg: 1d6+2, Lift: 50 kg, Stunned: 12, Critical: 20
Run: 18, Sprint: 27

Advantages: Famous: Well-known local environmental activist (Conv.)

Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: Great beauty (Conv.), Psych. Disad.: Protects the environment (Peril)

Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Area Knowledge (San Angelo) +4, Knowledge (Corporate law) +3, Knowledge (Environmental law) +6, Knowledge (Political world) +3, Orate +4, Persuasion (Seduction +2) +4, Professional (Lobbyist) +4.





San Angelo Chinatown 5000
Action! System

Han Chiuan

Priest of the Jade Emperor (p. 53)

STR 3 REF 4 HLT 4 PRE 7 INT 7 WIL 5
DEF 14 INI 6 TGH 4 LIF 22 MOV 8
Dmg: 1d6+2, Lift: 50 kg, Stunned: 11, Critical: 16
Run: 16, Sprint: 24

Advantages: Danger Sense (TN 15, mystical)

Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: Serene (easily concealed, Inconv.), Psych. Disad.: Devoted to the Jade Emperor (Peril), Psych. Disad.: Enraged if temple defiled (Hardship).

Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Bureaucracy +8, Deduction +5, Knowledge (Chinese myths and legends) +6, Knowledge (Religions) +4, Knowledge (Tongs) +1, Language (English; native is Chinese/Mandarin) +3, Orate +7, Persuasion +6, Professional (Priest) +4, Religion (Taoism) +6, Use Power +7.

Powers/Talents: *Lightning Blast* (6d6 B/S), *Force Field* (15 AV). *Note: Each power "costs" 1 point of Sp/S damage per Turn to use. Attack rolls made with the Use Power skill.*

Lisa Tsen

Herbalist & Acupuncturist (p. 54)

STR 4 REF 5 HLT 5 PRE 5 INT 5 WIL 4
DEF 15 INI 5 TGH 4 LIF 23 MOV 9
Dmg: 2d6, Lift: 100 kg, Stunned: 12, Critical: 20
Run: 18, Sprint: 27

Advantages: None.

Disadvantages: Psych. Disad.: Non-violent/pacifist (Peril)

Skills: Acrobatics +4, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +4, First Aid +7, Knowledge (Chinese healing) +7, Knowledge (Chinese myths and legends) +4, Language (English; native is Chinese/Cantonese) +3, Persuasion +6, Physician (equivalent) +7, Professional (Chinese healer) +5, Religion (Taoism) +7.

Suzy Chow

Newspaper Owner, Editor, and Reporter (p. 61)

STR 3 REF 5 HLT 5 PRE 4 INT 5 WIL 5
DEF 15 INI 5 TGH 4 LIF 25 MOV 9
Dmg: 1d6+2, Lift: 50 kg, Stunned: 12, Critical: 20
Run: 18, Sprint: 27

Advantages: Famous: Local fame (Conv.), Perk: Press pass (Conv.)

Disadvantages: Dependent: Newspaper staff (Hardship), Enemy: Watched: by tongs (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Hates tongs (Peril), Psych. Disad.: Wants to find her father's killer (Inconv.)

Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Bureaucracy +3, Business +4, Criminology 1, Deduction 5, Knowledge (Tongs) +3, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +3, Language (Chinese/Cantonese) +4, Persuasion +5, Professional (Newspaper publisher) +4, Stealth +3, Society (Streetwise) +5.

Shudong Luu

Wing Chao Tong Street Secretary (p. 75)

STR 6 REF 8 HLT 7 PRE 7 INT 5 WIL 5
DEF 20 INI 9 TGH 6 LIF 31 MOV 15
Dmg: 3d6, Lift: 200 kg, Stunned: 16, Critical: 28
Run: 30, Sprint: 45

Advantages: Contact: Harbormaster's secretary (Conv.), Danger Sense (TN 12; Gift), Fast Reflexes (+2 INI [already figured in]), Phys. Adv.: +3 effective STR with martial arts maneuvers (Edge).

Disadvantages: Enemy: Hunted by rival tongs (Hardship).

Skills: Acrobatics +6, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +7, Electronics (Security Systems +4) +1, Interrogation +5, Knowledge (Wing Chao tong) +5, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +5, Language (English; native is Chinese/Cantonese) +3, Lockpicking +4, Professional (Security consultant) +6, Stealth +5, Society (Streetwise) +7, Tactics +5.

Powers/Notes: Can use martial arts maneuvers with swords, axes and three-section staff.

Equipment: 9mm Glock 17 (Dmg: 4d6 P/L, Acc: 0, Rmod: +2, STR Min: 3, Max: 50, RoF: 4s, Amm: 10, Wt: 2), Chinese sword (Dmg: 2d6 P/L, Size: M, Init: 0, Acc: 0, STR Min: 3, Wt: .5).

Johnny Lao

Jade Dragons Gang Leader (p. 85)

STR 5 REF 7 HLT 5 PRE 5 INT 4 WIL 7
DEF 17¹ INI 8 TGH 6 LIF 29 MOV 13
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 15, Critical: 20
Run: 26, Sprint: 39

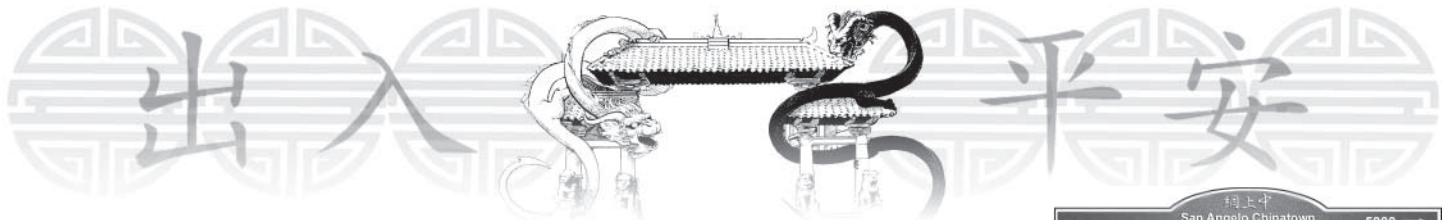
Advantages: Fast Reflexes (+2 INI [already figured in]; Conv.), Membership: Jade Dragons MR10/gang leader (x1), Phys. Adv.: +1 effective STR with martial arts maneuvers (Conv.).

Disadvantages: Distinctive Features: Missing ear (Concealable; Inconv.), Enemy: Hunted by Wo Fat street gang (Hardship), Phys. Disad.: Suffers 1d6 Sp/S damage from performing Martial Kick attacks (Inconv.).

Skills: Acrobatics +5, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Awareness +4, Knowledge (Wing Chao tong) +4, Orate (Command/leadership +2) +1, Society (Streetwise) +6 Unarmed Combat (Choy Lee Fut [use Kung Fu maneuvers]) +6.

Powers/Notes: Can use martial arts maneuvers with chains, nunchaku, swords and axes.

¹ DEF 23 in Hit



Kuang Ma

Choy Lok On Dragon Head (p. 86)

STR 5¹ REF 5 HLT 5 PRE 10 INT 4 WIL 6
DEF 15² INI 7 TGH 6 LIF 27 MOV 11
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 14, Critical: 20
Run: 22, Sprint: 33

Advantages: Fast Reflexes (+2 INI [already figured in]), Contact: Sam Anderson (lawyer; Conv.), Membership: Choy Lok On tong, MR 10/Dragon head (Moderate), Phys. Adv.: +1 effective STR with martial arts maneuvers (Conv.), Wealthy (Edge).

Disadvantages: Dependent: Family (Inconv.), Enemy: Hunted by rival tongs (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Chinese traditionalist (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Hates Red Chinese government (Inconv.).

Skills: Acrobatics +4, Bureaucracy +5, Criminology +4, Deduction +7, Interrogation +4, Knowledge (Chinese myths and legends) +4, Knowledge (Chinese medicine) +4, Knowledge (Choy Lok On tong) +6, Knowledge (Taoist philosophy) +5, Knowledge (Tongs) +4, Local Expert: Chinatown 6, Orate (Command/leadership +2) +5, Persuasion +7, Professional (Tong leader) +5, Society (High) +4, Society (Streetwise) +7, Tactics +4, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +5.

¹ STR 6 w/martial arts maneuvers; ² DEF 20 in HtH

Kian Lu

Choy Lok On Street Secretary (p. 87)

STR 4 REF 9 HLT 5 PRE 5 INT 5 WIL 5
DEF 20¹ INI 7 TGH 5 LIF 25 MOV 14
Dmg: 2d6, Lift: 100 kg, Stunned: 13, Critical: 20
Run: 28, Sprint: 42

Advantages: Danger Sense (TN 15; Edge), Fast Reflexes (+4 INI [already figured in]), Phys. Adv.: +1 effective STR with martial arts maneuvers (Conv.).

Disadvantages: Enemy: Hunted by rival tongs (Hardship), Infamous: Not a man to cross, Chinatown/asian community (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Loyal to Kuang Ma (Peril), Psych. Disad.: Likes to fight (Hardship).

Skills: Acrobatics +5, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +7, Awareness +4, Computers (Programming +2) +2, Demolitions +7, Electronics (Security systems +2) +3, Gunsmith (Small arms) +5, Interrogation +6, Knowledge (Chinese medicine) +4, Knowledge (Chinese myths and legends) +3, Knowledge (Choy Lok On tong) +5, Language (English; native is Chinese/Cantonese) +3, Melee Weapons Group +5, Professional (Assassin) +6, Professional (Gunsmith) +5, Shadowing +7, Stealth +6, Society (Streetwise) +6, Tactics +4, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +4.

Powers/Notes: Missile Deflection (can use Block maneuver vs. thrown objects and arrows); Can use martial maneuvers with swords, axes and three-section staff.

Equipment: Calico 950 9mm SMG (Dmg: 4d6 P/L, Acc: 0, Rmod: +1, STR Min: 3, Max: 50, RoF: 4s:60, Amm: 100, Wt: 4), Three-section staff (Dmg: 3d6 B/L, Size: M/L, Init: -1, Acc: -1, STR Min: 3, Wt: 3), Chinese axe (Dmg: 4d6 P/L, Size: M, Init: -2, Acc: -1, STR Min: 5, Wt: 10), *Kevlar* vest (AV: 14, Loc: 7-12, Wt: 1.5, Notes: ½ AV vs. pointed weapons).

¹ DEF 24 when using Unarmed Combat, 25 w/melee weapon

Thomas Chung

Choy Lok On English Secretary (p. 88)

STR 3 REF 5 HLT 4 PRE 5 INT 6 WIL 4
DEF 15 INI 5 TGH 4 LIF 20 MOV 9
Dmg: 1d6+2, Lift: 50 kg, Stunned: 10, Critical: 16
Run: 18, Sprint: 27

Advantages: Wealthy (Edge), Well Connected (counts as Conv.-level Contact with any NPC, once per game session; Edge).

Disadvantages: Psych. Disad.: Dislikes personal violence (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Greedy (Hardship; CS 10).

Skills: Bureaucracy +5, Business +5, Computers (Programming +2) +4, Knowledge (Corporate world) +6, Knowledge (Stock market) +5, Knowledge (Water Dragon Company) +7, Persuasion (Bribery +2) +7, Professional (CEO) +4, Society (High) +5, Trading +6.

Bobby Kwan

Wo Fat Gang Leader (p. 94)

STR 5¹ REF 5 HLT 5 PRE 6 INT 4 WIL 5
DEF 15² INI 5 TGH 5 LIF 25 MOV 10
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 13, Critical: 20
Run: 20, Sprint: 30

(Note: 1. DEF is 20 in HTH)

Advantages: Phys. Adv.: +2 effective STR with martial arts maneuvers (Edge)

Disadvantages: Psych. Disad.: Seeks power and money (Hardship).

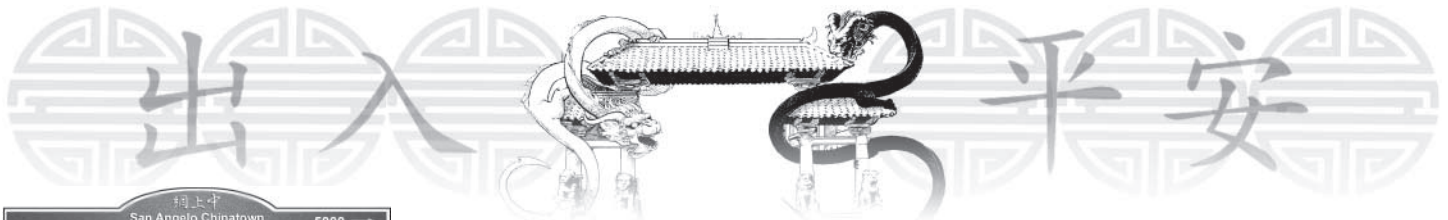
Skills: Acrobatics +5, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Driving (Motorcycle) +4, Knowledge (Drug trade) +4, Knowledge (Illegal fireworks trade) +7, Languages: English (native is Fukienese) +3, Lockpicking +6, Orate (Command/leadership +2) +1, Persuasion +5, Pistols +5, Professional (Gang leader) +6, Sleight of Hand +5, Stealth +4, Society (Streetwise) +5, Submachine-guns +5, Unarmed Combat (Hung Gar Kung Fu) +5.

Powers/Notes: Can use martial arts maneuvers with swords, axes, staff and three-section staff.

Equipment: AK-47 (Dmg: 6d6 P/L, Acc: +1, Rmod: +3, STR Min: 4, Max: 500, RoF: 4:3:20, Amm: 30, Wt: 3.5, Notes: Can fire in SA/AB/AF modes) w/3 extra magazines, Yellow satin jacket with black dragon (Wo Fat gang colors), Harley-Davidson *Fat Boy* motorcycle; Can acquire any martial arts melee weapons if needed.

¹ STR 7 w/martial arts maneuvers; ² DEF 20 in HtH





San Angelo Chinatown 5000
Action! System

Peng Ho Kajin (aka "Three-Finger Ho")

Businessman/Tong leader (p. 96)

STR 3 REF 3 HLT 3 PRE 5 INT 5 WIL 5
DEF 13¹ INI 4 TGH 4 LIF 19 MOV 7
Dmg: 1d6+2, Lift: 50 kg, Stunned: 10, Critical: 12
Run: 18, Sprint: 27

Advantages: Membership: Qi Leong tong, MR 10/Dragon head (Minor), Wealthy (Edge).

Disadvantages: Enemy: Hunted by rival tongs (Hardship), Psych. Disad.; Hates William Yuan (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Power hungry (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Demands respect (Peril), Senior (Inconv.).

Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Area Knowledge (San Angelo) +4, Business +5, Knives +5, Knowledge (Local politics) +5, Knowledge (Tongs) +3, Knowledge (Qi Leong tong) +7, Language (English; native is Chinese/Cantonese) +6, Politics +4, Professional (Businessman) +3, Professional (Tong leader) +3, Society (Streetwise) +5, Stealth +3, Swords +4, Trading 5, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +3.

¹ DEF 16 in HtH

Jui Mao Fu Sing

Qi Leong Lieutenant (p. 96)

STR 4 REF 5 HLT 6 PRE 5 INT 5 WIL 5
DEF 15¹ INI 5 TGH 5 LIF 28 MOV 10
Dmg: 2d6, Lift: 100 kg, Stunned: 14, Critical: 24
Run: 20, Sprint: N/A

Advantages: Membership: Qi Leong tong, MR 6/div. head

Disadvantages: Dependent: Son (Inconv.), Enemy: Hunted by rival tongs (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Concerned with how other tong members view him (Hardship), Senior (Inconv.).

Skills: Business +4, Knowledge (Local airports) +3, Knowledge (Tongs) +3, Knowledge (Qi Leong tong) +4, Language (English; native is Cantonese) +3, Melee Weapons Group (Knives +2) +3, Professional (Madame) +5, Stealth +3, Society (Streetwise) +3, Trading +3, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +3.

¹ DEF 18 in HtH

Ching Su

Qi Leong Street Secretary (p.97)

STR 5 REF 7 HLT 6 PRE 6 INT 4 WIL 4
DEF 17¹ INI 6 TGH 5 LIF 26 MOV 12
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 13, Critical: 24
Run: 24, Sprint: 36

Advantages: Membership: Qi Leong tong MR 8/Street Secretary 8 (Minor)

Disadvantages: Bad Temper: goes berserk when fighting (Hardship), Enemy: hunted by rival tongs (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Likes violence (Hardship)

Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +4, Flexible Weapons (Nunchaku +2) +3, Language (Cantonese; native is English) +3, Professional (Tong leader) +3, Society (Streetwise) +4, Stealth +4, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +3

Powers/Talents: *Hardened Defenses (PD and ED resist Killing damage).

¹ DEF 20 in HtH

Tao Huang

Leader of the Crimson Tigers (p. 103)

STR 5 REF 6 HLT 5 PRE 5 INT 4 WIL 4
DEF 15¹ INI 5 TGH 5 LIF 23 MOV 11
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 12, Critical: 20
Run: 22, Sprint: 33

Advantages: Membership: Crimson Tigers gang MR 10/leader (Trivial).

Disadvantages: Dependent: Mother (Inconv.), Enemy: Hunted by rival gangs (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Likes violence (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Powerhungry (Hardship)

Skills: Acrobatics +6, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Knowledge (Local gangs) +6, Knowledge (Qi Leong tong) +5, Language (Cantonese; native is English) +4, Society (Streetwise) +4, Stealth +5, Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +3.

¹ DEF 18 in HtH

The Eternal Warrior

Deng "Dano" Kung (p. 104)

STR 10 REF 8 HLT 7 PRE 4 INT 6 WIL 6
DEF 18¹ INI 9 TGH 8 LIF 32 MOV 16
Dmg: 5d6, Lift: 400 kg, Stunned: 16, Critical: 28
Run: 32, Sprint: 48

Advantages: Danger Sense (TN 12, usable out of combat; only when Li is present), Fast Reflexes (+2 INI [already figured in], +3 to Awareness rolls vs. surprise and for Danger Sense checks), Follower: Li's Ghost (Gift)

Disadvantages: Dependent: Brother's family (Inconv.), Enemy: Hunted by tongs (Hardship), Famous: Den "Dann" Kung, museum curator, local fame (Conv.), Phys. Disad.: 2x damage from area-effect attacks (additional damage is stun only), Psych. Disad.: Code of honor (Peril), Psych. Disad.: Concern for Society funding (Hardship)

Skills: Acrobatics +5, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Awareness (vs surprise +3) +3, Bureaucracies +5, Knowledge (Chinatown history) +5, Melee Weapons Group +3, Society (High) +1, Society (Streetwise) +4, Stealth +5, Swords +2 (total +5 with Group level), Unarmed Combat (Kung Fu) +5

Equipment: Body armor: AV 4 (Loc: all)

¹ DEF 21 w/most melee weapons, DEF 23 w/swords or HtH

Li's Ghost

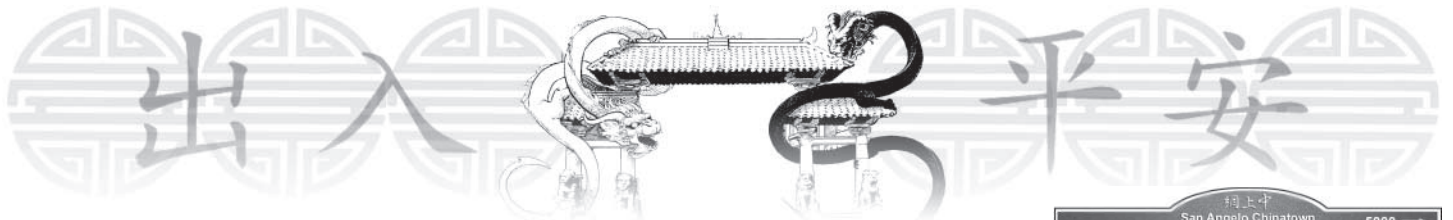
Mentor to Eternal Warrior (p. 106)

STR - REF 3 HLT - PRE 3 INT 5 WIL 6
DEF 13 INI 4 TGH - LIF - MOV 9
Dmg: -, Lift: -, Stunned: -, Critical: -
Run: 18, Sprint: 27

Advantages: Long Lived: Immortal (already dead)

Disadvantages: Psych. Disad.: Sense of duty to protect Chinatown (Peril), Phys. Disad.: Must remain close to Eternal Warrior (Peril)





Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +3, Awareness +6, Knowledge (Chinatown history) +4, Language (English; Mandarin is native) +3

Powers/Talents: *Ghost form:* Desolid (always on, no physical stats, affected by “spirit powers”), *Invisible* (to sight, always on), *Telekinesis* (7 STR, can affect material world, Area Effect: 6m radius), *Multi-Slot Power* (Can use no more than one of the following each Turn): #1—3d6 P/L, #2—6d6 P/L (ranged attack, affects solid), #3—9d6 B/L (lighting bolt, affects solid)

The West Wind

Hsi Feng (p. 107)

STR 3 REF 7 HLT 5 PRE 5/7 INT 10 WIL 10
DEF 17 INI 9 TGH 7 LIF 35 MOV 9
Dmg: 1d6+2, Lift: 50 kg, Stunned: 18, Critical: 20
Run: 18, Sprint: 27

Advantages: Fast Learner (Education Group; +3 to skill rolls involving research/study), Fast Learner (Sciences Group; +3 to skill rolls involving research/study), Long Lived: Immortal (Gift)

Disadvantages: Enemy: Hunted by Chinese demons (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Professional rivalry with T’ien Lung (Hardship), Secret: identity/The West Wind (Hardship)

Skills: Knowledge (Chinese geomancy) +9

Powers/Notes: *Mystic Powers* (Variable powers/GM’s discretion; Up to 6 levels or 6d6 of effect, only within 1 mile of Dragon Paths), *Force Field* (AV 9, focus: amulet), *Extra-dimensional Travel* (to any dimension, no time travel), *Power Defense* (AV 5 vs drain and other Special damage power effects), *Mental Defense* (MTGH 14 vs mental powers and attacks)

The Prowler

Lu Pen Liao (p. 108)

STR 5 REF 6 HLT 6 PRE 5 INT 5 WIL 4
DEF 16¹ INI 8 TGH 5 LIF 26 MOV 11
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 13, Critical: 24
Run: 22, Sprint: 33

Advantages: Fast Reflexes (+2 INI [already figured in], +3 Awareness vs surprise)

Disadvantages: Dependent: Father (Hardship), Enemy: Hunted by local law enforcement (Hardship), Enemy: Hunted by tongs and gangs (Hardship), Poverty (Inconv.), Psych. Disad.: Hates Americans (Hardship), Secret: Identity/Lu Pen (Hardship)

Skills: Acrobatics (Breakfall +4) +2, Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Awareness (vs surprise +3) +3, Climbing +4, Language (Cantonese; native is English) +3, Shadowing +3, Society (Streetwise) +3, Stealth +5, Trading +3, Unarmed Combat (Karate) +5

¹ DEF 21 in Hit

The Shaman

Ting Xian Roh (p. 110)

STR 5 REF 6 HLT 6 PRE 5 INT 7 WIL 6
DEF 16¹ INI 7 TGH 6 LIF 30 MOV 12
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 15, Critical: 24

Run: 24, Sprint: 36

Advantages: Famous: Chinese mage (local fame; Conv.)

Disadvantages: Enemy: Hunted by other tongs (Hardship), Enemy: Watched by T’ien Lung (Hardship), Phys. Disad.: Takes 2d6 Sp/S per minute in bright light (Hardship), Phys. Disad.: 2x damage from light-based attacks; extra damage is Sp/S (Inconv.), Psych. Disad.: Power hungry (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Sense of duty to free T’ien Lung (Hardship), Secret: Identity/Ting Xian Roh (Inconv.)

Skills: Area Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Bureaucratics +5, Knowledge (Chinese magic) +6, Knowledge (Wing Chao tong) +5, Language (English; native is Mandarin) +3, Melee Weapons Group +3, Polearms +1 (Total +4 w/Melee Weapons Group levels), Society (Streetwise) +4, Stealth +4, Unarmed Combat (Karate) +4

Powers/Notes: *Clairsentience* (Sight-based, extradimensional; allows sight-based awareness rolls at any distance as a full Turn action), *Mental Powers* (Variable powers/GM’s discretion; Up to 8 levels or 8d6 of effect, Free Action to shift powers), *Mystic robes of protection* (AV 6)

¹ DEF 17 w/most melee weapons, DEF 19 w/polearms & Hit

Kong Que Leng

Lord of the Cinnabar Mountain (p. 112)

STR 5 REF 7 HLT 8 PRE 8 INT 5 WIL 7
DEF 17 INI 6 TGH 6 LIF 38 MOV 13
Dmg: 2d6+2, Lift: 150 kg, Stunned: 19, Critical: 32
Run: 26, Sprint: 39

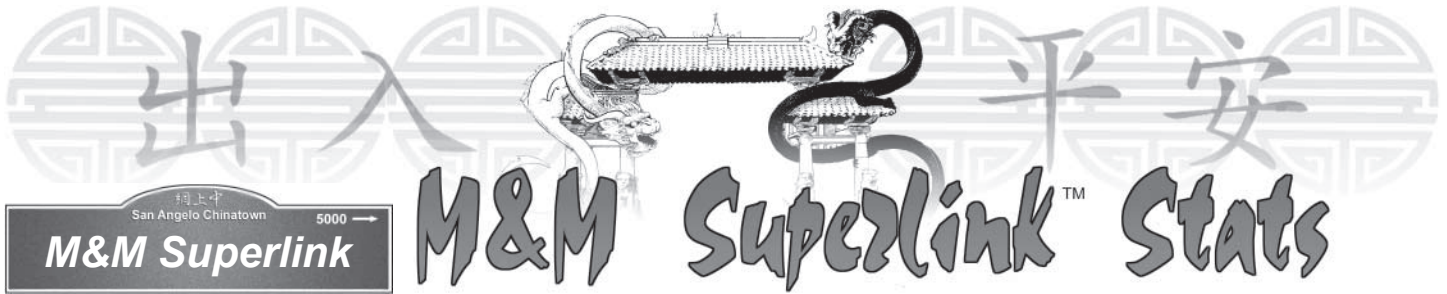
Advantages: Fast Learner (Education Group; +3 to skill rolls involving research/study), Lucky: +2 Action Points per game (Gift)

Disadvantages: Distinctive Feature: Chinese sorcerer (Won’t conceal; Hardship), Distinctive Feature: Style disadvantage (-1 DEF vs. opponents who recognize his fighting style; Inconv.), Enemy: Hunted by mystic superbeing, to capture only (Hardship), Enemy: Hunted by mystic group, to capture only (Hardship), Infamous: Evil Chinese sorcerer, infamy within Chinatown and the martial world only (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Power hungry (Hardship), Psych. Disad.: Thirsts for mystic knowledge (Hardship)

Skills: Anthropology (Chinese culture & civilization +2) +3, Business +3, Computers +3, History (Chinese +4) +1, Knowledge (Arcane & occult lore) +5, Knowledge (Chinese healing) +3, Knowledge (Chinese legends & lore) +5, Knowledge (Chinese geomancy) +5, Knowledge (Chinese sorcery) +5, Knowledge (Modern Chinese popular entertainment) +3, Language (Cantonese; native is Fukienese) +3, Language (English) +2, Language (Mandarin) +5, Philosophy (Chinese +4) +1, Physician +3, Professional (Chinese sorcerer) +3, Professional (Fisherman) +3, Sailing +3, Stealth +5, Use Chinese Sorcery (for powers) +8

Powers/Notes: *Chinese Sorcery* (Variable powers/GM’s discretion; Up to 16 levels or 16d6 of effect, Free Action to shift powers, Large focus: enchanted pearl), *Robe of Supple Iron* (AV 18), *Mental Defense* (10 Pts total), *Power Defense* (10 Pts)





In this chapter are *M&M Superlink*[™] stats for the named characters in this book. These stats are compatible with all *M&M Superlink* (and most *d20 System*[™]) products.

Characters are presented here in the order in which they appear earlier in this book. Next to each character's name, in parenthesis, is the page number on which their detailed write-up (including background and personality) appears.

Open Content

All of the character stats in this chapter are declared Open Content in accordance with the Open Game License version 1.0a. All names of characters and locations are declared Product Identity.

The Characters

Sergeant Thomas Lieh

Supervisor, SAPD Chinatown substation (p. 18)

Sergeant Thomas Lieh: PL 4; Init +7 (Dex); Defense 16 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk +7 melee (+2S punch), +6 ranged (+3L, handgun); SV Dmg +2, Fort +0, Ref +3, Will +1; Str 14, Dex 16, Con 10, Int 14, Wis 13, Cha 14.

Skills: Diplomacy +4, Drive +6, Computer +4, Gather Information +6, Language (Mandarin Chinese), Profession (Police Officer) +6, Search +4.

Feats: Attack Finesse, Attack Focus (Melee), Improved Initiative, Dodge, Leadership, Skill Focus (Profession (Police Officer)), Toughness.

Equipment: Handgun (+3L), Handcuffs (Hardness 5).

Ho Cheng

Choy Lok On Trainer (p. 32)

Ho Cheng: PL 5; Init +7 (Dex); Defense 16 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk +8 melee (+5S, punch), +7 ranged; SV Dmg +4, Fort +2, Ref +5, Will +1; Str 16, Dex 16, Con 15, Int 13, Wis 13, Cha 16.

Skills: Acrobatics +5, Knowledge (Kung Fu) +4, Language (Mandarin Chinese), Profession (Kung Fu Master) +4.

Feats: Attack Focus (Melee), Dodge, Evasion, Expertise, Improved Initiative, Improved Trip, Instant Stand, Lightning Reflexes, Power Attack, Rapid Strike, Takedown Attack.

Powers: Combat Sense +3 (cost: 1 pp; source: Training), Deflection +3 (flaw: Not vs Energy or Bullets; cost: 1 pp; source: Training), Strike +2 (cost: 2pp; source: Training).

Kam Hyongan

Unaffiliated Kung Fu Master (p. 33)

Kam Hyongan: PL 4; Init +7 (Dex); Defense 16 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk +8 melee (+3S, punch), +7 ranged; SV Dmg +4, Fort +2, Ref +5, Will +1; Str 14, Dex 16, Con 15, Int 12, Wis 13, Cha 16.

Skills: Acrobatics +5, Knowledge (Kung Fu) +5, Language (Mandarin Chinese), Profession (Kung Fu Master) +5.

Feats: Attack Focus (Melee), Dodge, Evasion, Expertise, Improved Initiative, Improved Trip, Instant Stand, Rapid Strike, Takedown Attack.

Powers: Combat Sense +3 (cost: 1pp; source: Training), Deflection +3 (flaw: Not vs Energy or Bullets; cost: 1pp; source: Training), Strike +1 (cost: 2pp; source: Training).

Fen Lo

Aloof Kung Fu Master (p. 34)

Fen Lo: PL 10; Init +8 (Dex); Defense 20 (16 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: +11 Melee (+6S, punch), +12 ranged; SV Dmg +3, Fort +3, Ref +6, Will +2; Str 14, Dex 18, Con 16, Int 14, Wis 14, Cha 16.

Skills: Acrobatics +9, Knowledge (Chinese Occult Lore) +5, Knowledge (Martial Arts) +8, Language (Mandarin Chinese), Medicine (Chinese Healing) +4.

Feats: Accurate Attack, Attack Finesse, Attack Focus (Melee), Dodge, Evasion, Expertise, Improved Critical (Melee), Improved Disarm, Improved Initiative, Improved Trip, Instant Stand, Move-By Attack, Power Attack, Rapid Strike, Stunning Attack, Takedown Attack.

Powers: Martial Arts Mastery [Strike +4 (extras: Combat Sense, Deflection (flaw: Not vs Energy or Bullets), "Dim Mak" [Drain Constitution (extras: Duration x 2, Touch not necessary for continuous effect; flaw: Continuous effect can be stopped with Medicine (Chinese Healing) or Knowledge (Chinese Healing) check against DC 15], "Chi Touch" [Telekinesis]; cost: 8 pp; source: Training)].

Dr. Hanwoong Shyu

Surgeon (p. 37)

Dr. Hanwoong Shyu: PL 2; Init +1 (Dex); Defense 11 (10 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: +1 melee (+1S, punch), +1 Ranged; SV Dmg +1, Fort +1, Ref +1, Will +2; Str 12, Dex 13, Con 13, Int 16, Wis 15, Cha 15.

Skills: Computer +4, Diplomacy +3, Medicine +10, Profession (Physician) +6.

Feats: Fame, Skill Focus (Medicine), Talented (Medicine and Profession (Physician)).

Zoroaster Cho

Amateur apothecary (p. 38)

Zoroaster Cho: PL 3; Init +3 (Dex); Defense 15 (12 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: +5 Melee (+3S, punch), +5 Ranged; SV Dmg +2, Fort +2, Ref +3, Will +2; Str 16, Dex 16, Con 14, Int 14, Wis 14, Cha 14.

Skills: Knowledge (Herbalism) +5, Medicine (Chinese Healing) +3.

Feats: Dodge, Expertise, Improved Grapple, Improved Trip.

Powers: Healing +3 (flaws: Uncontrolled, Device [Herbs]; cost: 1pp; source: Mystical).

Tu Chen

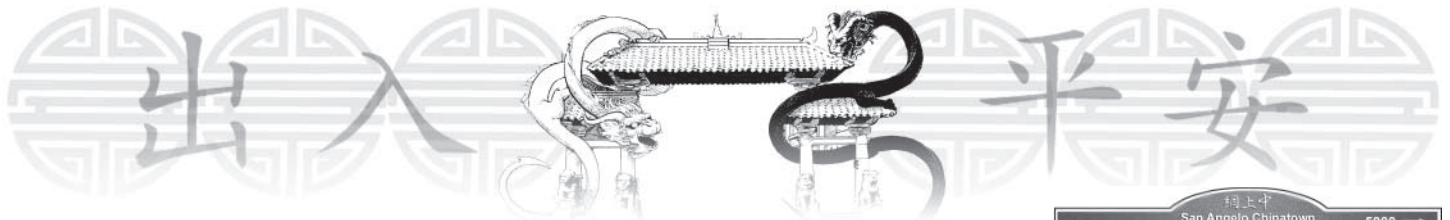
Magic Warper (p. 39)

Tu Chen: PL 5; Init +2 (Dex); Defense 14 (12 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: +5 melee (+2S, punch), +4 ranged (up to +5 S or L from Sorcery effect); SV Dmg +2, Fort +2, Ref +2, Will +1; Str 14, Dex 14, Con 14, Int 12, Wis 13, Cha 15.

Skills: Acrobatics +5, Hide +5, Move Silent +5.

Feats: Attack Focus (Melee), Dodge, Improved Initiative.

Powers: Sorcery 5 (extras: Transfer Powers (extras: Area, Extra



Attribute-Feats; flaws: Duration-Permanent, Only vs Magic SFX, Uncontrolled); flaw: Uncontrolled; cost: 7 pp; source: Mystical).

Chung Lin Foo

Wing Chao Magician (p. 40)

Chung Lin Foo: PL 3; Init +3 (Dex); Defense 13 (10 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: +0 melee (+0S, punch), +3 Ranged; SV Dmg +2, Fort +2, Ref +3, Will +3; Str 10, Dex 16, Con 14, Int 15, Wis 16, Cha 10.

Skills: Diplomacy +3, Knowledge (Stage Magic) +5, Profession (Stage Magician) +5, Sleight of Hand +10.

Feats: Skill Focus (Sleight of Hand).

Powers: Telepathy +3 (extra: Mental Protection; cost: 3 pp; source: Mystical).

Jin Yao

Master Herbalist (p. 40)

Jin Yao: PL 3; Init +2 (Dex); Defense 12 (10 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: +0 Melee (+0S, punch), +2 Ranged; SV Dmg +2, Fort +2, Ref +2, Will +2; Str 10, Dex 14, Con 14, Int 20, Wis 15, Cha 14.

Skills: Knowledge (Chinese Occult Lore) +8, Knowledge (Herbalism) +8, Profession (Herbalist) +5, Science (Biology) +8, Science (Botany) +8.

Feats: Fame (flaw: Limited geographical area).

Powers: Healing +3 (flaws: Requires extra time [10 rounds per attempt], Device [Herbs]; cost: 1 pp; source: Training).

An Sheng

Honest Politician (p. 44)

An Sheng: PL 3; Init +1 (Dex); Defense 11 (10 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: +0 Melee (+0S, punch), +1 Ranged (+4L, Handgun); SV Dmg +1, Fort +1, Ref +1, Will +1; Str 10, Dex 13, Con 13, Int 15, Wis 12, Cha 18.

Skills: Diplomacy +8, Sense Motive +5, Knowledge (Politics) +6, Profession (Politician) +8.

Feats: Connected, Fame, Skill Focus (Profession (Politician)).

Equipment: Handgun (+4L).

Tang Shai

Political Advisor (p. 45)

Tang Shai: PL 2; Init +1 (Dex); Defense 10 (10 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: -1 Melee (-1S, punch), +0 Ranged; SV Dmg +1, Fort +1, Ref +0, Will +2; Str 8, Dex 11, Con 12, Int 16, Wis 14, Cha 16.

Skills: Diplomacy +10, Knowledge (Politics) +9, Profession (Political Advisor) +8.

Feats: Skill Focus (Diplomacy), Talented (Knowledge (Politics) and Profession (Political Advisor)).

Christine Nguyen

Political Lobbyist (p. 45)

Christine Nguyen: PL 2; Init +1 (Dex); Defense 11 (10 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: +0 Melee (+0S, punch), +1 Ranged; SV Dmg +1, Fort +1, Ref +1, Will +1; Str 10, Dex 12, Con 12, Int 15, Wis 13, Cha 15.

Skills: Diplomacy +5, Knowledge (Corporate Law) +5, Knowledge (Environmental Law) +5, Knowledge (Politics) +5,

Profession (Lobbyist) +4.

Feats: Attractive.

Han Chiuau

Priest of the Jade Emperor (p. 53)

Han Chiuau: PL 5; Init +1 (Dex); Defense 12 (11 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: +1 Melee (+0S, punch), +2 Ranged (+5L, Energy Blast); SV Dmg +1, Fort +1, Ref +1, Will +5; Str 10, Dex 13, Con 13, Int 16, Wis 16, Cha 16.

Skills: Diplomacy +7, Knowledge (Chinese Occult Lore) +9, Knowledge (Taoism) +9, Language (Mandarin Chinese), Profession (Priest).

Feats: Attack Focus (Energy Blast), Assessment, Iron Will, Mystic Awareness.

Powers: Energy Blast +5 (extras: Force Field; cost: 3pp; source: Mystical).

Lisa Tsen

Herbalist & Acupuncturist (p. 54)

Lisa Tsen: PL 2; Init +2 (Dex); Defense 12 (10 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft; Atk: +0 Melee (+0S, punch), +2 Ranged; SV Dmg +2, Fort +2, Ref +2, Will +1; Str 11, Dex 14, Con 14, Int 15, Wis 13, Cha 14.

Skills: Acrobatics +3, Diplomacy +5, Knowledge (Chinese Occult Lore) +5, Language (Mandarin Chinese), Medicine (Chinese Healing) +5, Profession (Chinese Healer) +9.

Feats: Skill Focus (Profession (Chinese Healer)).

Weakness: Quirk (Pacifist).

Suzy Chow

Newspaper Owner, Editor, and Reporter (p. 61)

Suzy Chow: PL 3; Init +2 (Dex); Defense 15 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +5 melee (+0 dmg, punch); SV Dmg +2, Fort +2, Ref +2, Will +2; Str 10, Dex 14, Con 14, Int 14, Wis 15, Cha 13.

Skills: Gather Information +5, Knowledge (Tongs) +5, Language (Chinese), Move Silently +4, Profession (reporter) +5, Search +4

Feats: Dodge, Power Attack,

Weaknesses: Quirk (hates the Tongs and has sworn to find her father's killer)

Shudong Luu

Wing Chao Tong Street Secretary (p. 75)

Shudong Luu: PL 6; Init +3 (Dex); Defense 16 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +7 melee (+7 dmg, strike), +6 ranged (+3 dmg, pistol); SV Dmg +5, Fort +5, Ref +3, Will +2; Str 18, Dex 16, Con 20, Int 15, Wis 15, Cha 18.

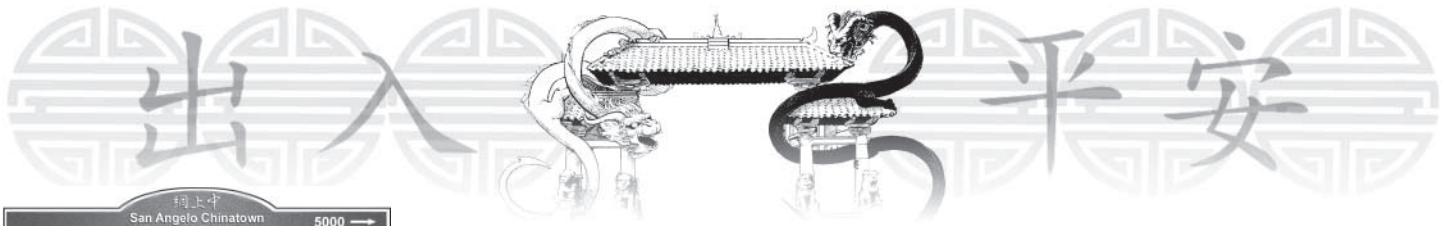
Skills: Acrobatics +5, Disable Device +3, Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Knowledge (Wing Chao) +4, Language (English—Cantonese native), Move Silently +4

Feats: Connected, Dodge, Expertise, Power Attack

Powers: Combat Sense +3 [Source: Training, Cost: 2 pp], Strike +3 [Power Stunts: Dual Damage, Source: Training, Cost: 2 pp]

Equipment: 9mm Glock [Ranged Weapon +3], Chinese sword [Melee Weapon +3]





Johnny Lao

Jade Dragons Gang Leader (p. 85)

Johnny Lao: PL 5; Init +4 (Dex); Defense 17 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +8 melee (+4 dmg, strike); SV Dmg +3, Fort +3, Ref +4, Will +5; Str 15, Dex 19, Con 16, Int 12, Wis 20, Cha 15.

Skills: Acrobatics +5, Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Knowledge (Wing Chao) +3

Feats: Attack Finesse, Dodge, Evasion, Expertise, Power Attack

Powers: Combat Sense +3 [Source: Training, Cost: 2 pp], Strike +2 [Power Stunts: Dual Damage, Source: Training, Cost: 2 pp]

Kuang Ma

Choy Lok On Dragon Head (p. 86)

Kuang Ma: PL 6; Init +2 (Dex); Defense 16 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +7 melee (+4 dmg, strike); SV Dmg +2, Fort +2, Ref +2, Will +4; Str 15, Dex 14, Con 14, Int 12, Wis 18, Cha 20.

Skills: Acrobatics +5, Diplomacy +11, Intimidate +10, Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Knowledge (Chinese myths and legends) +4, Medicine +6, Perform (acting) +11

Feats: Chokehold, Dodge, Expertise, Improved Trip, Power Attack

Powers: Combat Sense +2 [Source: Training, Cost: 1 pp], Strike +2 [Power Stunts: Dual Damage, Source: Training, Cost: 2 pp], Super-Charisma +3 [Source: Training, Cost: 2 pp]

Kian Lu

Choy Lok On Street Secretary (p. 87)

Kian Lu: PL 7; Init +4 (Dex); Defense 17 (12 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +7 melee (+3 dmg, strike), +7 ranged (+3 dmg, SMG); SV Dmg +3, Fort +3, Ref +4, Will +2; Str 13, Dex 18, Con 16, Int 15, Wis 15, Cha 15.

Skills: Acrobatics +8, Computers +5, Craft (guns) +5, Demolitions +6, Disable Device +5, Hide +8, Intimidate +7, Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Knowledge (Chinese myths and legends) +4, Language (English, native Cantonese), Move Silently +8

Feats: Attack Finesse, Dodge, Expertise, Improved Trip, Surprise Strike

Powers: Combat Sense +4 [Source: Training, Cost: 1 pp], Deflection +5 [Flaw: Only projectile attacks, Source: Training, Cost: 1 pp], Strike +2 [Power Stunts: Dual Damage, Source: Training, Cost: 2 pp]

Equipment: Calico 9mm SMG [Ranged Weapon +3, Autofire], Three-section staff [Melee Weapon +2], Chinese axe [Melee Weapon +2], Kevlar vest [Durability feat].

Thomas Chung

Choy Lok On English Secretary (p. 88)

Thomas Chung: PL 3; Init +2 (Dex); Defense 13 (11 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +2 melee (+0 dmg, punch); SV Dmg +1, Fort +1, Ref +2, Will +1; Str 10, Dex 15, Con 12, Int 18, Wis 12, Cha 15.

Skills: Bluff +6, Computers +7, Diplomacy +6, Gather Information +6, Profession (CEO) +5, Sense Motive +6

Feats: Connected

Weaknesses: Quirk (Greed)

Bobby Kwan

Wo Fat Gang Leader (p. 94)

Bobby Kwan: PL 6; Init +2 (Dex); Defense 16 (14 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +6 melee (+4 dmg, strike), +6 ranged (+5 dmg, rifle); SV Dmg +3, Fort +3, Ref +4, Will +2; Str 15, Dex 15, Con 16, Int 12, Wis 15, Cha 18.

Skills: Acrobatics +5, Diplomacy +7, Driving +5, Hide +5, Knowledge (Chinatown) +5, Language (English, Fukienese native), Move Silently +5, Open Lock +7, Sleight of Hand +6

Feats: Lightning Reflexes, Power Attack

Powers: Strike +2 [Power Stunts: Dual Damage, Source: Training, Cost: 2 pp]

Equipment: AK-47 [Ranged Weapon +5, Autofire], Harley-Davidson Fat Boy.

Peng Ho Kajin (aka "Three-Finger Ho")

Businessman/Tong leader (p. 96)

Peng Ho Kajin (Three-Finger Ho): PL 3; Init +0 (Dex); Defense 10 (10 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +3 melee (+0L dmg, knife); SV Dmg +0, Fort +0, Ref +0, Will +4; Str 8, Dex 10, Con 10, Int 16, Wis 14, Cha 15.

Skills: Bluff +6, Knowledge (Chinatown) +8, Knowledge (San Angelo) +6, Language (English, Cantonese native), Move Silently +2, Profession (businessman) +4, Profession (Tong Leader) +5

Feats: Attack Finesse, Attack Focus (knives), Iron Will

Jui Mao Fu Sing

Qi Leong Lieutenant (p. 96)

Jui Mao Fu Sing: PL 4; Init +3 (Dex); Defense 17 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +6 melee (+2 dmg, knife), +5 ranged (+3 dmg, pistol); SV Dmg +3, Fort +3, Ref +3, Will +2; Str 13, Dex 16, Con 17, Int 14, Wis 15, Cha 12.

Skills: Bluff +3, Knowledge (airports) +4, Hide +5, Language (English, Cantonese native), Move Silently +5, Profession (madame) +6

Feats: Attack Finesse, Attack Focus (knives), Dodge, Improved Trip

Ching Su

Qi Leong Street Secretary (p.97)

Ching Su: PL 4; Init +5 (Dex); Defense 19 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +9 melee (+3 dmg, punch); SV Dmg +5, Fort +3, Ref +5, Will +1; Str 16, Dex 20, Con 17, Int 11, Wis 12, Cha 18.

Skills: Knowledge (Chinatown) +3, Hide +8, Language (Cantonese), Move Silently +8, Profession (Tong leader) +3

Feats: Attack Finesse, Dodge, Durability, Improved Trip, Power Attack, Toughness

Weaknesses: Berserker

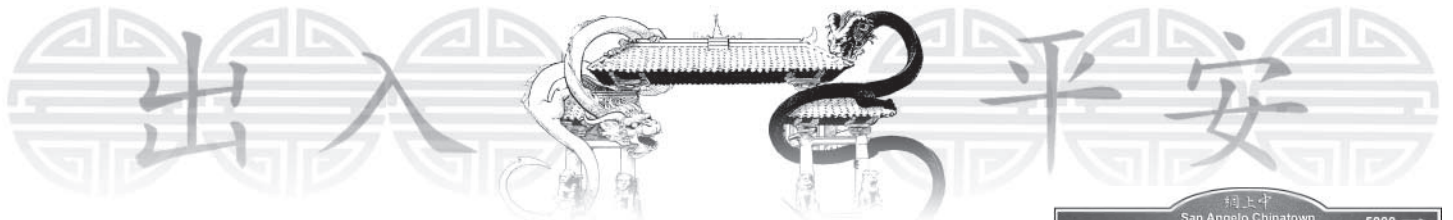
Tao Huang

Leader of the Crimson Tigers (p. 103)

Tao Huang: PL 4; Init +4 (Dex); Defense 18 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +8 melee (+3 dmg, punch); SV Dmg +3, Fort +3, Ref +4, Will +0; Str 16, Dex 18, Con 16, Int 12, Wis 11, Cha 15.

Skills: Acrobatics +7, Knowledge (Chinatown) +6, Language (Cantonese)

Feats: Attack Finesse, Dodge, Expertise, Power Attack



The Eternal Warrior

Deng “Dano” Kung (p. 104)

The Eternal Warrior (Deng “Dano” Kung): PL 7; Init +8 (Dex, Super-Dex); Defense 24 (16 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +12 melee (+8 dmg, punch); SV Dmg +5, Fort +5, Ref +8, Will +4; Str 20, Dex 20, Con 20, Int 17, Wis 18, Cha 13.

Skills: Acrobatics +11, Hide +12, Knowledge (Chinatown) +7, Move Silently +12

Feats: Chokehold, Improved Grapple, Improved Trip, Power Attack, Sidekick (Li’s ghost)

Powers: Super-Strength +3 [*Extras:* Super-Dexterity; *Source:* Training; *Cost:* 7 pp]

Equipment: Body Armor [Armor +3]

Weaknesses: Vulnerable (area attacks)

Li’s Ghost

Mentor to Eternal Warrior (p. 106)

Li’s Ghost: PL 6 construct; Init +0 (Dex); Defense 13 (13 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +6 melee (+7 dmg, strike), +6 ranged (+7 dmg, lightning bolt); SV Dmg +0, Fort +0, Ref +0, Will +4; Str —, Dex 10, Con —, Int 15, Wis 18, Cha 10.

Skills: Knowledge (Chinatown) +2, Knowledge (history) +2, Language (English, Mandarin native)

Powers: Incorporeal +5 [Affected by spiritual and magical powers; *Extras:* Continuous; *Flaws:* Permanent; *Source:* Mystical; *Cost:* 2 pp]; Invisibility +5 [*Extras:* Continuous; *Flaws:* Permanent; *Source:* Mystical; *Cost:* 2 pp], Strike +7 [*Power Stunt:* Energy Blast (lightning bolt); *Extras:* Ghost Touch; *Flaws:* Tiring; *Source:* Mystical; *Cost:* 2 pp]; Telekinesis +4 [*Extras:* Area, Ghost Touch; *Flaws:* Tiring; *Source:* Mystical; *Cost:* 3 pp].

Weaknesses: Disabled (no physical body, bound to Eternal Warrior)

The West Wind

Hsi Feng (p. 107)

The West Wind (Hsi Feng): PL 12; Init +5 (Dex); Defense 20 (15 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +11 ranged (by spell); SV Dmg +2, Fort +2, Ref +5, Will +12; Str 9, Dex 20, Con 15, Int 20, Wis 20, Cha 15.

Skills: Knowledge (Chinese geomancy) +15

Feats: Immunity (aging), Iron Will

Powers: Sorcery +12 [*Power Stunts:* Animation, Dimensional Travel, ESP, Force Field, Illusion, Mind Control, Paralysis; *Flaw:* Only within 1 mile of the dragon-paths; *Source:* Mystical; *Cost:* 6 pp]; Super-Intelligence +5 [*Extras:* Super-Wisdom, Super-Charisma; *Source:* Training; *Cost:* 5 pp]

Equipment: Protective Amulet [*Feats:* Durability, Great Fortitude, Toughness; *Flaw:* Device; *Source:* Mystical; *Cost:* 3 pp total]

The Prowler

Lu Pen Liao (p. 108)

The Prowler (Lu Pen Liao): PL 6; Init +8 (Dex); Defense 19 (15 flat-footed); Spd 45 ft.; Atk +10 melee (+2 dmg, punch); SV Dmg +4, Fort +4, Ref +4, Will +1; Str 15, Dex 18, Con 18, Int 14, Wis 12, Cha 15.

Skills: Acrobatics +8, Bluff +6, Climb +5, Hide +8, Knowledge (Chinatown) +7, Language (Cantonese)

Feats: Dodge, Expertise, Improved Initiative, Improved Trip, Lightning Reflexes, Power Attack

Powers: Running +3 [*Source:* Training; *Cost:* 2 pp]

The Shaman

Ting Xian Roh (p. 110)

The Shaman (Ting Xian Roh): PL 9; Init +4 (Dex); Defense 20 (15 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +8 melee (+4 dmg, staff), +8 ranged (+7 dmg, energy blast); SV Dmg +4, Fort +4, Ref +4, Will +6; Str 15, Dex 18, Con 18, Int 20, Wis 18, Cha 15.

Skills: Diplomacy +6, Hide +7, Knowledge (Chinatown) +9, Knowledge (Chinese magic) +10, Language (English)

Feats: Attack Finesse, Blind-Fight, Dodge, Expertise, Improved Disarm, Improved Trip, Iron Will, Lightning Reflexes, Power Attack.

Powers: Sorcery +7 [*Power Stunts:* Element Control, Energy Blast, ESP (*Extra:* Interdimensional; *Flaw:* Sight only), Force Field, Obscure, Shape Matter, Teleportation; *Source:* Mystical; *Cost:* 7 pp]

Equipment: Robes [Armor +2], Wooden Staff [Melee Weapon +2]

Weaknesses: Susceptible (bright light)

Kong Que Leng

Lord of the Cinnabar Mountain (p. 112)

Kong Que Leng, Lord of the Cinnabar Mountain: PL 15; Init +6 (Dex); Defense 22 (16 flat-footed); Spd 30 ft.; Atk +11 ranged (+15 dmg, energy blast); SV Dmg +6, Fort +6, Ref +6, Will +7; Str 15, Dex 20, Con 20, Int 15, Wis 20, Cha 20.

Skills: Computers +3, Hide +9, Knowledge (Chinese culture) +5, Knowledge (Chinese magic) +7, Language (Cantonese, English, Mandarin), Move Silently +9, Profession (fisherman) +6, Swim +5

Feats: Attack Finesse, Attack Focus (sorcery), Iron Will

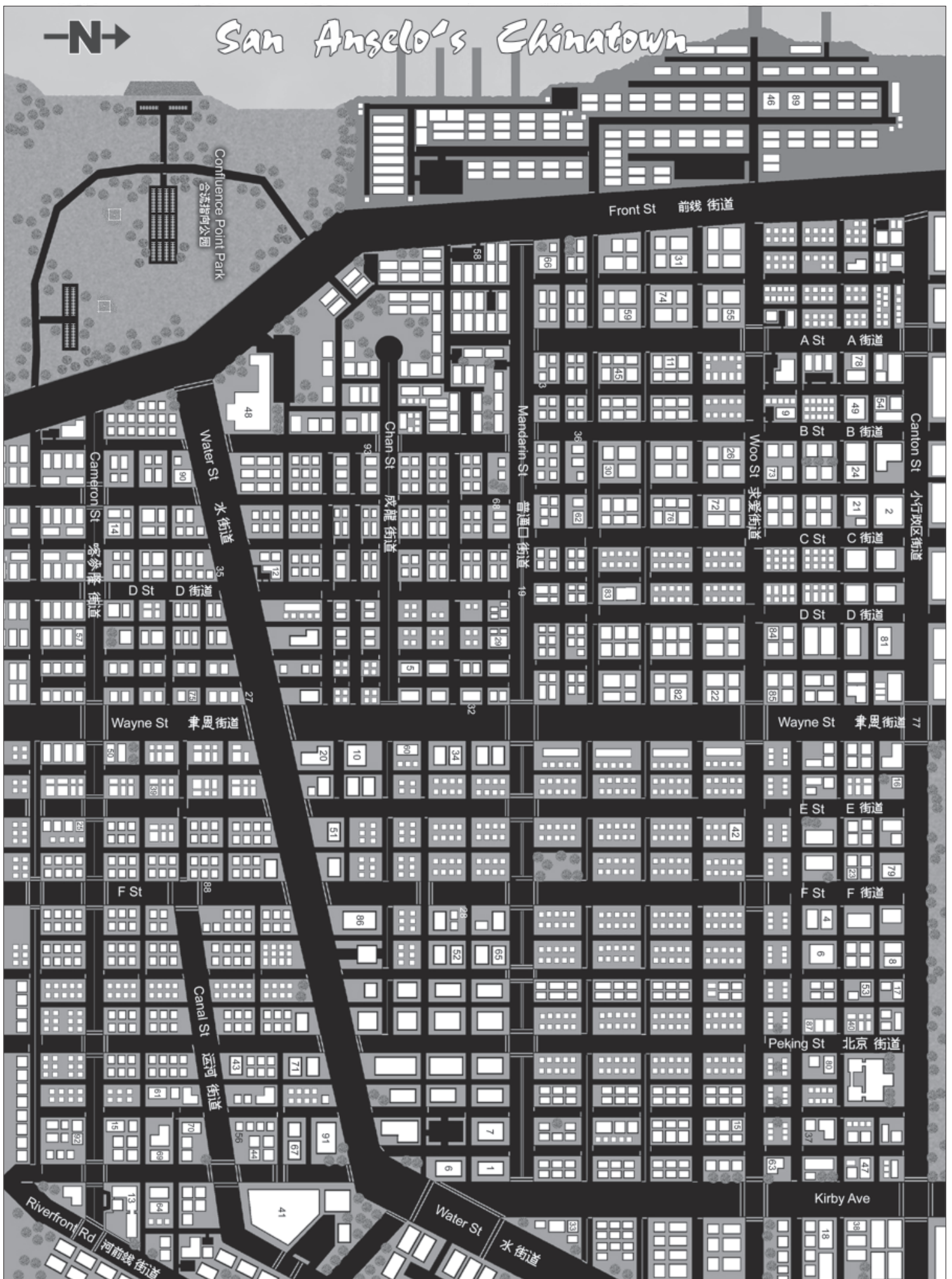
Powers: Mental Protection +5 [*Source:* Training; *Cost:* 2 pp]; Sorcery +15 [*Flaws:* Device (enchanted pearl); *Source:* Mystical; *Cost:* 6 pp]; Super-Dexterity +1 [*Extras:* Super-Constitution, Super-Charisma; *Source:* Training; *Cost:* 7 pp]

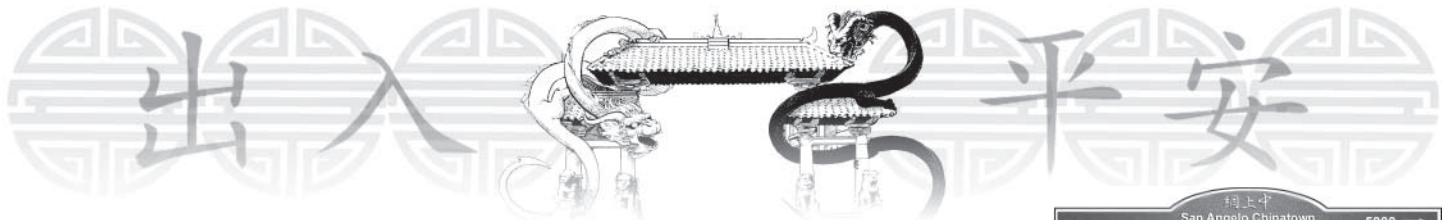
Equipment: Robes of Supple Iron [Armor +9]





San Angelo's Chinatown





Chinatown Map Key

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Emperor's Choice restaurant | 32. Mandarin House | 63. Chinatown Chamber of Commerce |
| 2. Emerald Palace restaurant | 33. Red Chrysanthemum | 64. KASA 1110 AM radio station |
| 3. The Golden Buddah restaurant | 34. Wayne Street Free Clinic | 65. Taste of Szechuan restaurant |
| 4. SAPD Sub-station | 35. Jin Yao Shop | 66. Rhi Zhi's Electronics |
| 5. Hue Fat's Pet Shop | 36. Celestial Phoenix | 67. Blue Lotus Massage Parlor |
| 6. SAFD Station | 37. 1886 Fire Memorial | 68. Madam Chu's Brothel |
| 7. Way Chen's Ambulance Service | 38. Jade Dragon Warehouse | 69. Jade night club |
| 8. Ruby Dragon restaurant??? | 39. Congress for Environmental Action | 70. Ta Ch'eng-Kung |
| 9. County Department of Health office | 40. An Sheng's office | 71. The China Gate |
| 10. SACSD School | 41. First National Bank | 72. Golden Mountain Tap Room |
| 11. Chinatown Neighborhood Center (CNC) | 42. Valley Mercantile Bank | 73. Eighty-Eights bar |
| 12. Chinese School | 43. Good Luck Finance Company | 74. The Gym Nest |
| 13. Cameron Middle School | 44. Lucas, Wong and Associates law firm | 75. Lucky Star Gaming Club |
| 14. Shao Ni Imports | 45. Donald Kang and Associates law firm | 76. Flying Tigers Gymnastics |
| 15. Happy Fong's Laundry | 46. Kang Associates auto warehouse | 77. Dragon Gate |
| 16. Chinese Cultural Center (CCC) | 47. Tien Tsun Temple | 78. Chinatown Historical Society |
| 17. Yuan's Dry Cleaners | 48. Wong Taisin Temple | 79. New Shanghai Dance Theater |
| 18. Yuan's Dry Cleaners warehouse | 49. Palace of Jade | 80. Lotus Blossom Gallery |
| 19. Yu Ling Outdoor Market | 50. Fu Shen Temple | 81. Hong Kong Cinema |
| 20. The Chw School | 51. Akagi Shrine Ruins | 82. Public Library |
| 21. Nu Sing's District office | 52. San Angelo Union Church | 83. Ecstasy Bath House |
| 22. East-West Employment | 53. Autumn Moon Festival office | 84. Lao, Johnston, Medrano and Pan |
| 23. Alder's Martial Arts | 54. Ho's Leather | 85. CABS |
| 24. Ty's department store | 55. Salvation Army soup kitchen | 86. Luan Li Freight Company |
| 25. Ho Cheng's martial arts school | 56. Catholic Shelter | 87. Kenji Tiger Dojo |
| 26. Choy's Imports | 57. Luck House shelter | 88. Kuang Ma's house |
| 27. Lu Sen's Nostalgia Shop | 58. Lucky Sky Apartments | 89. Black Moon Fireworks |
| 28. Tou Pong | 59. Woojoo Club | 90. Choy Lok On Tong headquarters |
| 29. Hyongan Studio | 60. Yong Lung Club | 91. Golden Dragon Cinema |
| 30. Fen Lo's Studio | 61. Chinatown Express newspaper | 92. Celestial Spices |
| 31. Iron Tiger Dojo | 62. New China Gazette newspaper | 93. Qi Leong Tong headquarters |

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Front St 前线街道

A St A街道

B St B街道

C St C街道

D St D街道

Mandarin St 普通话街道 19

Woo St 求爱街道

Canton St 小行政区街道

58

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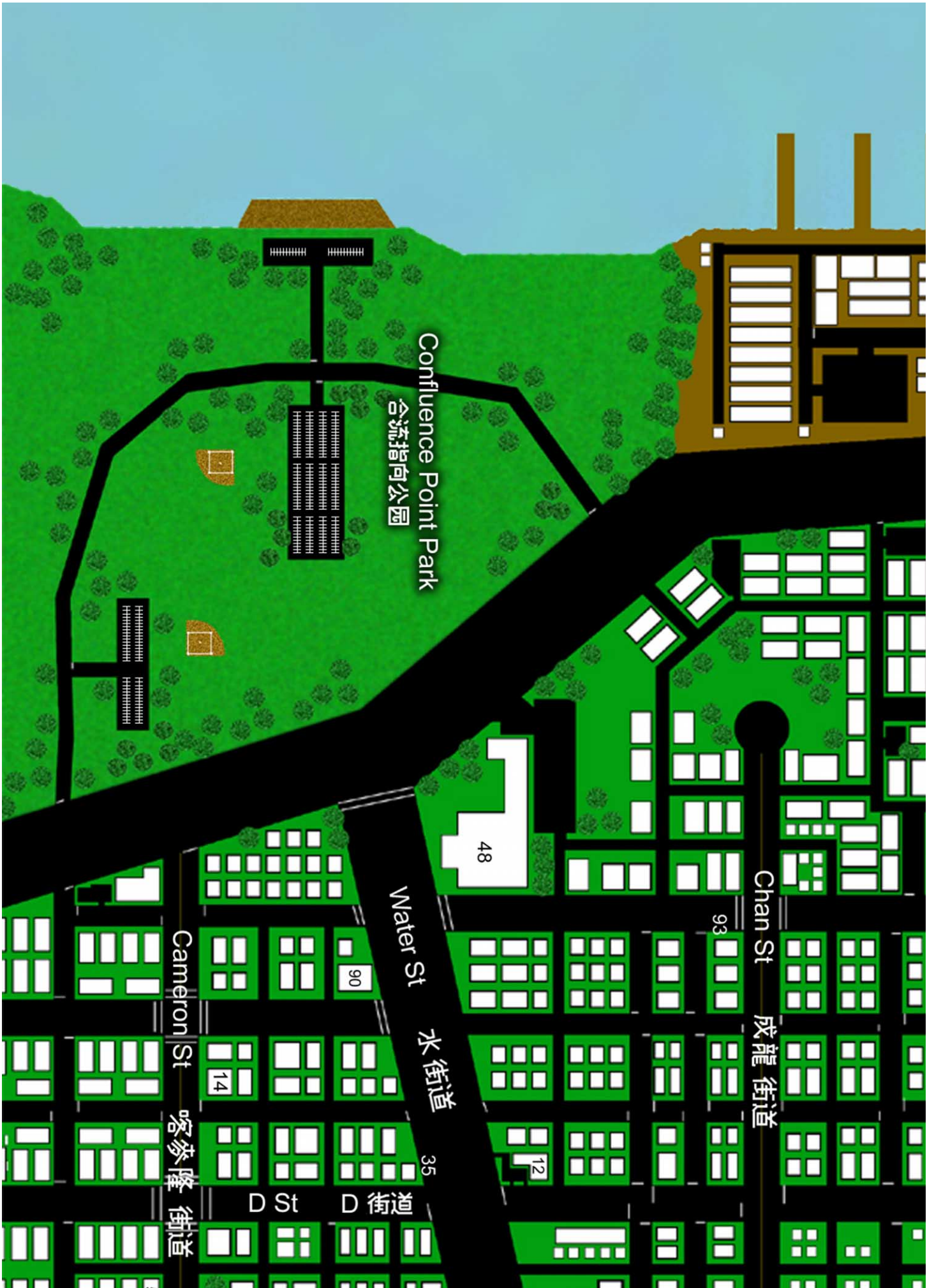
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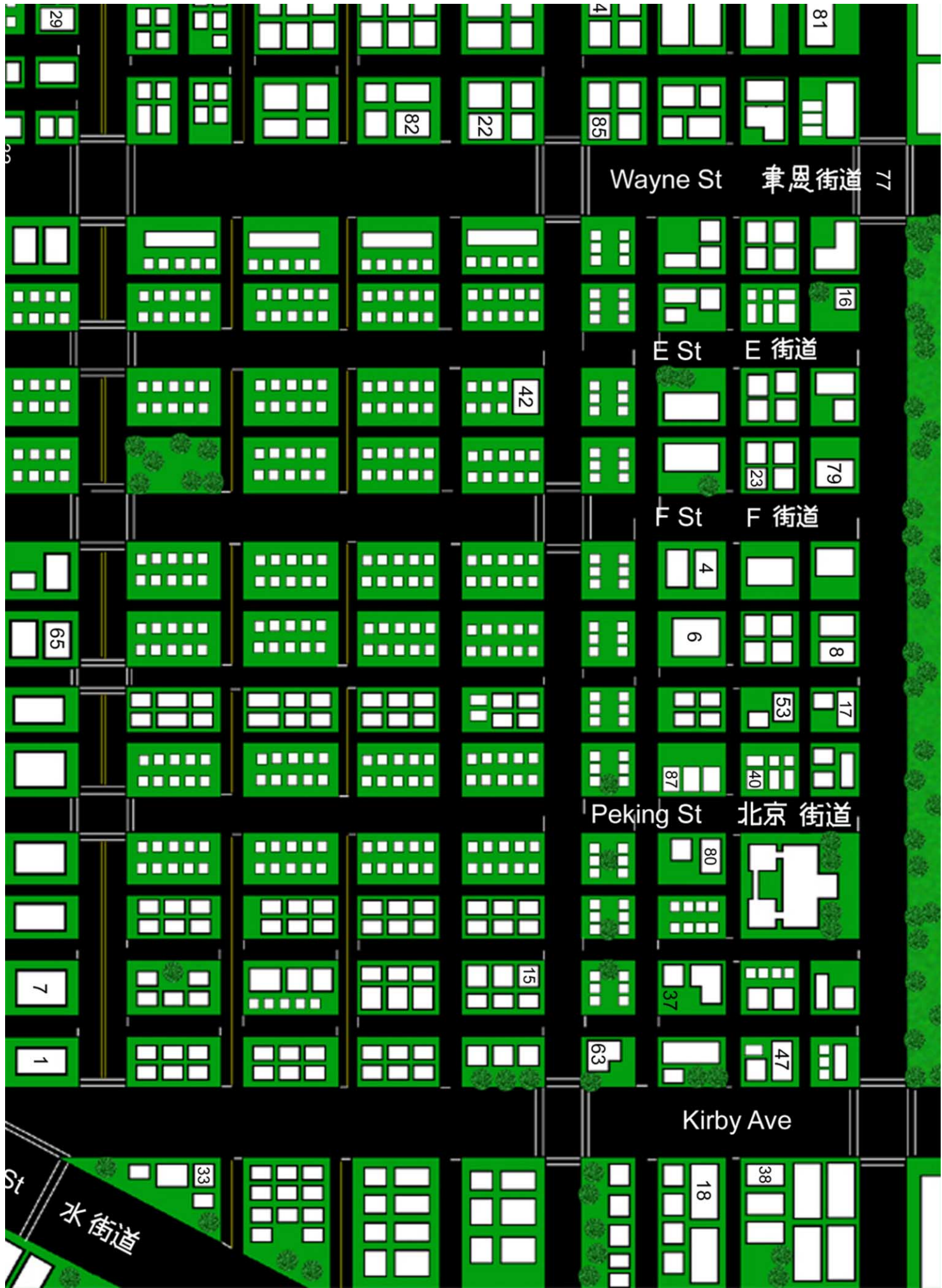
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Wayne St 韋恩街道 77

E St E 街道

F St F 街道

Peking St 北京街道

Kirby Ave

St 水街道

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Peking St 北京街道

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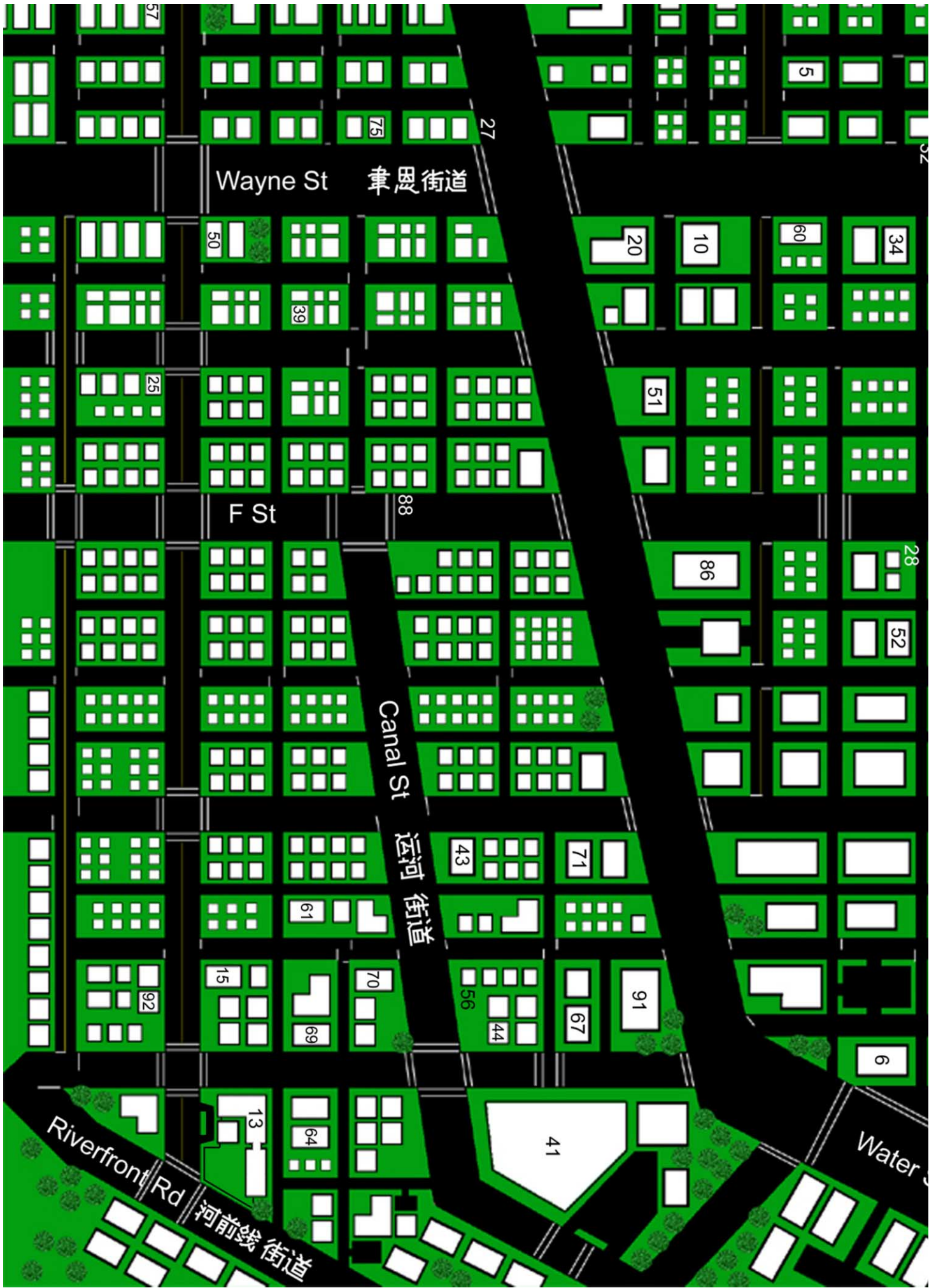
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Wayne St 韦恩街道

F St

Canal St 运河街道

Riverfront Rd 河前线街道

Water

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The Eternal Warrior



Detailed street map of Chinatown

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