



The Story Arc of H. Moon Chen

(1908 – 2009)



*Aeronautical Engineer
Military & Commercial Pilot
Airline & Aircraft Company Executive*

by Bill Chen



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Story Arc



Exposition:

Began Story Arc

Orphaned at 15
B.S. in Aero Engineering, Univ. of Michigan in 1932
Not hireable by an aircraft company

Rising Action:

Not deterred – got a pilot's license
Flew for the U.S. Postal Service
CNAC, CAMCO

Climax:

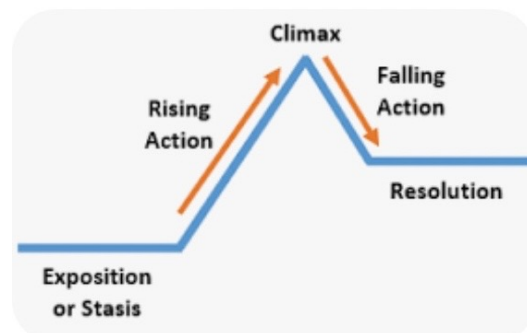
14th Air Force, CAT

Falling Action:

Consultant, Northrop Corporation

Resolution:

Hired by Northrop Corporation
Completed his Story Arc



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H. Moon Chen



Born: Columbus, Ohio June 19, 1908
Father: Lee Chan, Chinese Railroad Worker, to U.S. in 1878
Mother: Haylee Wong, Nurse's Aide in NYC

McKinley High School, Canton, Ohio

"There is a kind of character in thy life, that to the observer doth thy history unfold."

-- Shakespeare, Measure for Measure,
Act 1, Scene 1

Univ. of Michigan, Aero Engineering 1932

**Flying Lessons – Roosevelt Field, Long
Island, multi-engine qualified in 1936**



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Major Impacts on His Life



1. Michigan Education



2. Becoming a Pilot



"The sky is the limit, the sky is my companion. To be sitting on top of the world and way above the clouds, what a beautiful feeling – a wonderful feeling of heavenly peace and tranquility." – **Moon Chen**

3. Working for Gen. Chennault



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CNAC, CAMCO



CNAC



**Marco Polo Bridge Incident
and Sun Fo 1937**

CAMCO (Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company)



Loiwing Plant, on the China-Burma Border, 1939
Rear row, left: William Pawley, head of CAMCO; Moon Chen, pilot

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U.S. Army Air Forces (AAF)

China Burma India Theater



14th Air Force




Chinese American Composite Wing

Headquarters, AAF, U.S. Forces, China



Chungking, 1943

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CAT



- Shanghai: 1946 – 1948
- Canton: 1948 – 1949
- Hong Kong: 1949 – 1950
- Tokyo: 1950 – 1953
- Taipei: 1953 – 1959

10-year pin, Nov. 1956



Looking at the CAT poster...manager
A. L. Burrridge, of Cadillac, Mich., and aide
H. Moon Chen

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CAT



Dr. Wang Wen-san and Moon Chen, Shanghai, 1947



DC-4 Inaugural Flight, Hong Kong, 1952

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71 CNAC/CATC AIRCRAFT Kai Tak Airport, Hong Kong



- Aircraft acquired by CAT – Willauer promissory note \$4.75M
- ROC needed Pan Am to divest its 20% share of CNAC -- asked Moon Chen to:
 - Participate in the negotiations -- settled at \$1.25M
 - Deliver the check to Pan Am in Hong Kong
- Flight to Hong Kong diverted to Hainan due to a typhoon
 - Babysat check until typhoon cleared



CNAC/CATC loaded on USS Cape Esperance

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Words on Moon Chen



From Anna Chennault's book about CAT Employees:

最努力發展業務的是陳熊文.. (改進空中服務, 除用空中少爺外再添用空中小姐) -- translated as -- *"The person who works the hardest to develop the business is Moon Chen (Improvement in-flight services by adding stewardesses in addition to stewards)."*



Nora Sun

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Madame Chiang Kai-shek



Received Honorary degree, University of Michigan, July 1958 (Moon Chen connection)

Saw Gen. Chennault one last time at New Orleans...attended his memorial service and funeral

Saw Flying Tiger Veterans and CAT-ers: Tex Hill, Ed Rector, Dick Rossi, Whiting Willauer, Moon Chen



CAT-ers: Moon Chen, Lydia Wu

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Final Farewell to Gen. Chennault



Pallbearers: W. Willauer, Amb. H. Tong, Generals N. Twining, Carl Spaatz, A. Wedemeyer, C.B. Stone

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Post-CAT (1959 and beyond)



Consultant to Northrop Corporation

-- With Tex Hill, *Flying Tiger ace*; Johnny Alison,
14th Air Force ace

Northrop Program Director F-5E

-- 1st jet co-production in Asia
-- Completed his Story Arc

Retired initially in San Francisco,
then Chevy Chase, Maryland

Passed away at in 2009, age 101;
preceded by Priscilla in 2008, age 97

Last Gesture: 👍



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Moon & Priscilla



Met in Shanghai in Aug 1936

Engaged in Feb 1937 on *after Investigation*

Married in Peking Hotel, May 1937

Survived multiple Relocations and Loss of Household Goods due to Sino-Japanese War, WWII, Chinese Civil War, and Family Separations

In Taipei, Priscilla was active in *Friends of China Club, International Wives Club, Eastern Star*, and was librarian at the *Taipei American School*



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Dr. Hu Shih Academic, Writer, Ambassador



Officiant at Moon & Priscilla's Wedding, 1937:

I am deeply honored to officiate at the wedding of my very good friend Honorable Mr. Chang's daughter today. I understand the bridegroom came from the United States, so many thousands of miles across the big Pacific Ocean. He is a trained aviator, an expert in aviation. Although China is still young in this field, with Moon's dedication, China will have a bright future. I was also told that Moon fell in love at first sight, that is indeed very romantic, Heavenly-sent and Heavenly-matched. I wish you all the happiness in the world.



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Bill's CAT Family Interactions



Shanghai, 1946:
Canton, 1948:

Gen. Chennault & Anna Chan; hat toss
Dachshund puppy from Joe's Litter
Capt. Cockrell Cessna Flight
1-room School w/Tommy, Sally Willauer

Hong Kong, 1951:
Tokyo, 1952:

Josie to Capt. Bigony
Capt. Dave Davenport, COSMO

Monroe, 1956:

Fishing with Gen. Chennault

Wash. D.C., 1961 on:

Invites by Anna Chennault when a Lt.,
Capt., Lt. Col., Brig. Gen.

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Passed Down to Sons:

Need to Integrate, Assimilate



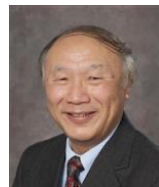
Bob: Managing Dir., Raffles Group



Bill: Army 2-star general & industry executive



Moon, Jr.: Professor, UC Davis



Sons failed to acquire Moon's love for Scotch and Martinis

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Ripple Effects



Major Impacts

Becoming a Pilot

Michigan Education

Working for Gen. Chennault

Ripple Effects

**Confidence, Uplifting
Distinguishing Skill**

**Distinguished Alumni Service Award
Distinguished Alumni Aerospace Engineering**

**Leadership Opportunities
WWII Relationships
Customer Relationship Management**