

PERSONAL DATA

Age: 50

Sex: Female

Education: middle school graduate

Total Years Relevant Experience: 23

Last Year of Relevant Experience: 1978

Year Left China: 1978

Initial Immigration Status: unknown, probably legal

Native Place/Overseas Connections: Guangdong native/OS connections unknown

Class Background/Political Designation: unknown

OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY SUMMARY

Positions Held: 1) Clerical worker, various offices, large tractor manufacturing complex (probably Luoyang), 1956-78

Administrative Level of Work Unit/(No. of employees):

1) unknown (probably Ministry)/(over 10,000)

Experience in Full-time Manual Labor (for non-worker occupations):

unknown

APPOINTMENTS: 1

TOTAL HOURS: 1.5

PAGES TEXT: 2

Occupational History (1/20/80, 1.5 hrs.)

The informant has a middle school education, graduating in 1950. Afterwards she worked as a clerk in a bank for a period, then later was transferred to the staff of a large integrated enterprise with over 10,000 employees, which produced tractors. (This can be no other than Luoyang Tractor Factory--she says she is, and sounds like, a Cantonese, but says that this factory was in 'north China'). It is also possible that the plant produced military equipment like armored cars and tanks in one of its branch factories, since the informant is quite suspicious and vague, keeping her answer to questions about the plant very short. She began work at this enterprise around 1956 and worked there right up until she left China in 1978. She worked at several different levels in the enterprise, in several different offices, but was always a staff worker. She did accounting work, and also production control (diaodu).

Organization of the Enterprise

The top office of the enterprise was called the 'General Plant' (zongchang). There were several departments at the general plant level, and they were called chu. The departments at the branch factory level are ke. There were several chu, for example, the accounting department, the technical department, and the personnel department. The accounting office, in which she worked for a period, was very large--it had 60-70 staff workers. These chu personnel are themselves divided into sections, called ke. Their department was divided into the finance and planning section, the costs section, and the cashier's section. There were other departments at the general plant level (chu)--safety, transportation, materials and supply, sales.

She also worked for a period in the foundry, a branch factory (fenchang) in the complex. All the branch factories were in the same area--this was just an organizational term. The foundry had several departments for the staff (ke); five to be exact--planning control (jihua diaodu), which had 6-7 people; personnel, labor, wages, and safety, which had 3-4 people; accounting, which had 6-7; administration, which had 3-4, and technical department, which had about 10 or more.

A branch factory was divided into shops and small groups. An alternative terminology is to call the branch factory a shop, and the shop a section (gongduan), which you can do if you consider the general plant level as the factory level. But this would be an awfully large shop--her foundry had over 800 workers, so they called it a branch factory. There were 9 branch factories in all, and hers was not the biggest.

Her foundry was in fact a huge spare parts casting 'shop'. The size of the ke or staff departments varied according to policies, but generally the accounting department (hers) had about 6-7 people. She stresses the parallelism in the overall enterprise structure. The general plant level departments (chu) are equivalent in level to the branch factory office. The ke or departments in the branch factory are parallel with the shops (or sections) in the branch factory. So the leaders at each level are given equivalent grades, since they are at parallel levels in the overall organizational structure.

Each of the Shops (or gongduan depending on the terminology we choose) has their own office, which includes a person who handles plan control (jihua diaodu yuan), statistics (tongji yuan), a telephone operator, office helpers, and several technicians. These people all help the foreman in the section (gongzhang).

Below the sections are the group leaders (banzu zhang), who supervise .. about 10-20 workers and have no helpers, and who participate in production. They have no offices, but there are rooms on the shop floor where workers can go periodically to rest.

Wages

She was a grade 22 administrative cadre when she first started in the plant. In 1956 there was a major wage readjustment and she was raised to grade 21. In 1975 there was a wage readjustment, but this time only for the lowest paid.

(The informant is clearly ill at ease and suspicious. She scrutinizes every question as if to try to tell whether they are a trap. Answers are vague, and its like pulling teeth. She gets more ill at ease, rather than less, as the time goes on. Finally I decide to give her an opportunity to bow out gracefully. I conclude the interview early and ask her to set an appointment for next time. She gives us a number to call, and picks up her letter as she leaves. I suspect she does not intend to come back, and she seems to know that I know. Sure enough, the number is a false one and we never see her again. It is unfortunate, because this is a major plant and her experience was long and full.)