

Bay, the station served as the only police stronghold in the area until the Yuen Long Divisional Police Station was completed in 1965.

THE TANG CLAN

Accorded Grade III Antiquities and Monuments status in 1988, Ping Shan (well known for its pagoda) is of particular significance to the indigenous Tang clan, specifically the Tang Wai San Tong and the Tang Chap Ng Tso, descendants from one of the "Five Great Clans" residents in the New Territories since the 12th century.

The ancestral hall, located at the foot of Ping Shan Police Station, has been a focal point of the nine Ping Shan Tang families for 800 years. With the Tang villages sited to the west of the hill and the ancestral graves to the east, 'fung shui' demanded that there be no obstruction on the summit in order to maintain a link between the

past and present generations of the Ping Shan Tang clan. Unfortunately, the Ping Shan Police Station mounted a virtual road block squarely on the brow of the hill, giving rise to calls for its demolition, a feat very nearly accomplished by tenacious termites devastating its roof beams in 1995. Preservation is now ensured by the Ping Shan Heritage Trail encompassing the station as an exhibition hall and visitor centre depicting the history of the Tang clan.

TANGS SEE RED

In keeping with Ping Shan Police Station's colourful history, the original building's roof was finished in a flamboyant red. The local villagers, however, were indignant, declaring that the roof resembled a cooked crab and insisted upon replacing it by a more palatable shade of uncooked crustacean green.

The bountiful supply of fruit trees on the slopes below the station was the impetus for one of the Tang clans starting a career with the Police Force, and eventually a posting to the Ping Shan Police Station. Inspector Tang Yiu-cheung, a senior member of the present Tang clan, was born and grew up in the village immediately below the Ping Shan Police Station. One of his childhood efforts to liberate fruit from the trees in the station compound drew the attention of the local constabulary. The lasting impression of this contact resulted in Inspector Tang taking up a police career and his posting to the station for a number of years, culminating in his presence to draw to a close a continuous occupation by the Police Force of 102 years, with a history as colourful as the characters that served within its compound.

HAVING FUN WITH THE WEATHER

THE parade of several cute and dazzling cartoon figures stole the show in the Hong Kong Observatory Open Day in late March.

These cartoon figures are members of the 'Observatory Weather Family', a set of mascots to symbolise the official weather forecasts and reports. They were created to bring out the caring image of the Observatory and create new dimensions to the traditional scientific inclination of weather services in Hong Kong.



Didi

Wherever the Weather Family figures showed up, be it beside the lawn with weather equipment or inside the historical 19th century building, the figures - in costumes mimicking the sun, thunder, wind and rain - were the most popular camera subjects for adults and children alike.



Phoebe

Dressed in the bright yellowish

Wong Wing-tak, Senior Scientific Officer, Hong Kong Observatory



Sunny

costume of "Break", the cartoon mimicking thunder, one of the actors Wong Mei-shing, an Observatory staff member, said that they were there to create a festive mood to bring the heart of the public closer to the Observatory. Mr Wong found the Weather Family an excellent means to engage the visitors in close distance, and let them appreciate the caring side of the Observatory.

The actor of "Sunny", Lee Tze-cheung said, "the Weather Family figures are so cute and adorable. Without knowing it, the visitors already feel at home. This definitely helps to convey the message that the Observatory cares."

The use of cartoon figures in

an exhibition to get close to members of the public is a public relations attempt relatively new in government events. A member of the organising committee, Leung Wing-mo shares with us his experience. "During the planning stage, we were not optimistic of finding colleagues to wear the heavy prop willingly in stifling weather. It turned out that such a worry was



Sponge



Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, H K Lam, with friends and the Weather Family characters.



Cumulus

unfounded. The response and support from colleagues were overwhelming. Some colleagues also volunteered on the spot, knowing too well that the Weather Family figures were extremely welcome by the visitors. One thing was unexpected, though. The Weather Family figures helped regulate the crowd by diverting those people

queuing for other attractions," said Mr Leung.

Chan Hon-ping, the prop manager who made long and treacherous factory visits to ensure that the costumes were made to specifications, found the making of the costumes worth the effort. "Despite the rain, the number of visitors

exceeded 9,000, a new record of the event."



Break

The Observatory is planning to put the Weather Family figures on TV weather programmes and produce souvenirs based on their images. Perhaps the Weather Family figures will perform in the weather programmes one day.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF LEADS PRISONERS WORK TO ISO STANDARDS



Presentation of ISO Certificate to Correctional Services Department.

Correctional Services Industry, Correctional Services Department

Laundry taking up half of the laundry services required by the Hospital Authority and Department of Health. Last year, the three laundries established a quality management system that gained the ISO 9001:2000 Certification awarded by the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency.

of audits and review meetings, the system met all the ISO requirements and was certified in December 2001.

THE Correctional Services Industries (CSI) has been well-known for its provision of uniforms and accoutrements of the disciplined forces, government office furniture, road signs, litter containers and the linen and bedding for public hospitals and clinics. Now it has an ISO 9001:2000 rating for its laundry service.

The laundry services are being provided according to the Service Level Agreements and other requirements specified by individual customers. The ISO quality management approach aims to enhance the effectiveness of the CSI quality system that reflects 'Customer Focus' and 'Continual Improvement'.

CSI provides work for prisoners as required by law, which keeps them fully occupied to avoid unrest and improves the operational efficiency of custodial and rehabilitative processes. Prisoners develop good working habits; understand responsibility and quality concepts while carrying out the assigned jobs. The employment of prisoners also brings an incidental benefit of saving public money by providing quality and cost effective products and services within the public sector. The Correctional Services Department also provides correctional education programmes, counselling and vocational training courses for inmates, which helps to re-integrate them into the community after release.

CSI runs 13 trades and among them the laundry service has been in operation for more than 20 years. The Pik Uk Laundry, Tuen Mun Hospital Laundry and Shum Wan

In the process of upgrading the system, staff teamwork and their intensive participation was the key to success as no external consultant service had been employed. Managers attended training courses and prepared the quality manual, operating procedures and work instructions, which provided the framework for the system. Front-line staff, including instructors of the laundries, shared their experiences and contributed to drafting and implementing the system. Seminars were held to enhance quality awareness of staff and their understanding of using the system. After full implementation and a series

