

A Brief Note of Hung Bang's Life Story: He
Searches for His elder Sister in North Korea

I, Hung Bang, am a Korean-American, and a resident of Menlo Park, California. I was born in the Bangchun Village of the JungJu County, PyungPook, North Korea, in April of 1929. I was born of a traditional old Confucian family with one older and one young sister. My parents were a small landlords; their fortune was inherited. Korea was then under Japanese colonial rule since 1905; my parents had arranged for my elder sister and I to attend a Japanese elementary school in JungJu City which was distanced about six miles away from our home. Unforgettable nostalgia is that my elder sister was not only so kind but also a mentor in helping me with school work, especially in arithmetic which was totally given at the Japanese school. I was not able to understand the Japanese when I was in the first and second grade. My older sister also took care of me often holding my hand to walk through several places of the mountainous slopes to get to the school early in the morning; it usually took about two hours to arrive at the school. Sometime the weather was severely cold in winter and in summer the heavy raining season created a flood and damaged the road including the bridge. Without her help I probably would have been unable to attend elementary school. My elder sister and her family failed to join our family when we crossed the 38th parallel to South Korea in the fall of 1946. Since then for the past sixty years we have no way of knowing whether she alive or died.

I think that the United States and the Soviet Union failed to settle the cold war post World War II conflict and led to Korean national division and devastating civil war. I survived the Korean war and managed to come to the United States as a student. I earned a M.A. and a Ph.D. degree and taught modern East Asian history at a few universities in the United States and now I am retired. I am so pleased to learn that the Eugene Bell Foundation, in Washington, D.C., seeks to promote reunion program between Korean-Americans in the United States and their family in North Korea. I'll be very happy to help this noble project, and I pray that God guide an open door for me an opportunity of meeting with my elder sister in North Korea. Additionally, I feel that there are tens of thousand, perhaps even half a million, other Korean American who share my plight. We, Korean-Americans, should appeal to the U.S. government to set up an official family reunion program with North Korea. God bless this noble program !

Hung Bang
E-mail: Harrykbang@yahoo.com
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HARRY HUNG BANG, P.I.D.
 2045 Gordon Ave. Menlo Park, CA. 94025 (E-Mail: Harrykbang@Yahoo.com)
 (650) 854-1229

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Ms. Alice Jean Suh
 Wash DC Office Director
 Eugen Bell Foundation
 Wash DC, D.C. 20036-8614

Fox #: 202-429-6063

Dear Ms. Suh:

Thanks for the returning call and the updated information of the project. You're doing a wonderful job. God bless you!

Attached please find copies of a long lost of my sister's teaching story in N. Korea and a letter from Ms. Anna G. Eskoo, Member of Congress, with a newspaper clip which shows of my face photo. I'll send you a copy of response from the two senators hopefully soon, whenever I receive.

Sincerely,

Harry Bang

Attached