

Hong Kong Becomes Dirty Word in Vocabulary of American Manufacturer

New York (UPI) — Once upon a time Hong Kong was a name that suggested romance and glamour to Americans including even the most prosaic businessmen.

Today "Hong Kong" is just about the dirtiest word many an American manufacturer can think of. It makes him fume just to think of Hong Kong.

The huge city and crown

colony on China's south coast is a British enclave which exists by the sufferance of Red China; a generation back it existed by the might of the British navy and British commercial and financial genius.

Hong Kong still is ruled by the British, but its commerce and light industry are run by Chinese and commercial adventurers from all over the world who take advantage of the fact that Hong Kong is filled with millions of star-

ving refugees from Communist China who will work long hours for almost nothing.

As a result a huge textile and garment industry has sprung up in Hong Kong that is flooding the U. S. market with cheap garments and playing havoc with many sectors of our garment industry.

This mushrooming Hong Kong garment industry has grown enormously since the United States negotiated agreements with Japan by which the Japanese voluntarily limited their exports of

cheap garments and textiles to our markets.

Hong Kong isn't making all the cheap garments that are giving American manufacturers so much trouble. Formosa, Korea and the Philippines have moved to take advantage of the Japanese voluntary limitations and get a bigger share of the American market.

But according to Howard Simon of Simon & Mogilnor of Birmingham, Ala., the country's largest maker of children's wear, Hong Kong

garments are the ones to be feared the most. For Hong Kong is an artificial industry that thrives partly by buying subsidized U. S. surplus cotton for 8 cents a pound less than the U. S. manufacturer has to pay for it, making it into garments and shipping it back to the U. S.

"Often American manufacturers finance and direct these Hong Kong operations," Simon said. "Some of them they have to manufacture in Hong Kong to stay in business."

Simon said last year's imports of garments from Hong Kong and Japan totaled 128.5 million valued at wholesale at \$285 million and by American standards represented the output of 24,000 workers in about 97 average-sized American plants.

"This is bad enough," said Simon, who at 28 directs sales for the biggest business of its kind in the country, "but the thing is growing. The textile and garment people realize that underdeveloped countries can create textile

and garment industries more easily than heavier industries and they are bound to invade our markets to some extent.

"But Hong Kong is not an underdeveloped country. It is an artificial, special situation, a sort of a cancer on the world's textile and garment industry. So we think Washington should take drastic measures against it."

Simon said increasing tariff duties couldn't control the flood of Hong Kong's goods. "The wage difference is too great—10 cents an hour

against our dollar an hour—and there are other factors that couldn't be controlled by tariff boosts.

"What is needed is quotas to compel Hong Kong to limit its exports of garments to the United States. I can't speak for all the sections of the garment and textile industry that are hurt by the Hong Kong flood," Simon added, "but in children's wear we would be satisfied just to hold Hong Kong imports at their present level. I personally wouldn't insist on cutting them back.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Thursday, April 28, 1960

Other sections of the industry may feel differently."

Simon said tightening the rules of Japan's voluntary export limits also are needed.

"Why should we permit the Japanese to indulge in such gimmicks as pinning the pocket on a man's shirt instead of sewing it on so they can claim it is not finished and then export to us over the agreed limits?" he asked.

Top Students at Phoenix High Are Listed by School

Phoenix — Jack Hoffhuhr has been named valedictorian of the Phoenix High school senior class, and Miss Joyce Hunter, salutatorian, according to school officials.

Hoffhuhr, a member of the National Honor Society, has been active in many school activities. He was a member of the state champion debate team for 1959 and 1960, was elected most valuable football player last fall, and has been active in the Future Farmers of America program.

He was selected by the Medford Elks lodge to receive their most valuable student scholarship award for the Medford area. He was also selected by the local section of the National Association of Engineers as their scholarship candidate.

He will attend Oregon State college, where he is planning to enroll in civil engineering.

Honor Society

Miss Hunter, a member of National Honor Society, has also been prominent in school activities. She has served as secretary of the student body for the past two years, and has been this year's editor of the "Pirate Log," high school annual.

She was a member of the 1959 state champion debate team and was selected by the Phoenix Thursday club to attend Girls' State at Salem last year. She will enroll in secondary education at Southern Oregon college next year.

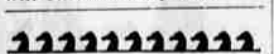
Phoenix High school commencement will be held Tuesday, May 31, in the high school gymnasium at 8 p.m. Dr. Arthur Kreisman of Southern Oregon college will deliver the commencement address. Baccalaureate will be held Sunday, May 29, at 8 p.m. in the First Presbyterian church in Phoenix.

Ashland Bowling Lanes Are Sold

Ashland — The sale of the assets of the Ashland Bowling Lanes to Ron Maxwell and Don Crouch was announced this week by James Harris, owner of the lanes.

Maxwell and Crouch are building a new 12-lane Rondo bowling alley adjacent to Gateway Shopping center, Siskiyou Blvd.

Harris said he will continue to manage the Ashland lanes until the new lanes are completed about Aug. 1. The old lanes will be moved from the building at that time, but the skating rink on the top floor will continue to operate.



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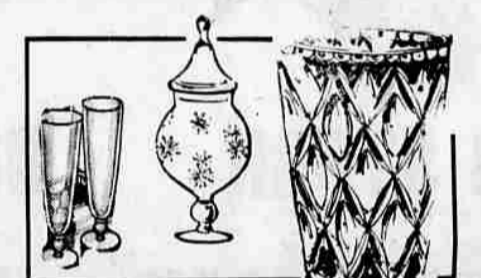
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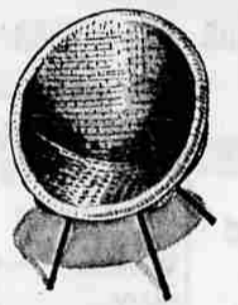
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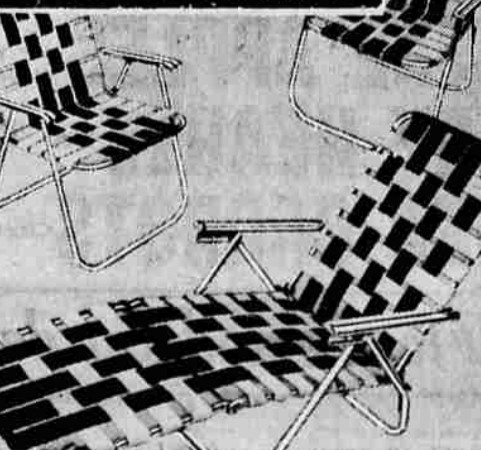
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