

# Research on Dade Weekly

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**Abstract:** Dade Weekly is a school education weekly edited and published by Guizhou Dade School in the period of the Republic of China. At present, there are only 18 issues, starting from the first issue on Sunday, 1 April 1917 and ending in the 23rd issue on Sunday, 2 September 1917. The weekly magazine was founded and edited by Huang Qisheng. Although the number of issues is not large, because it contains content related to the early dynamics of Guizhou Dade School and the school's teachers and students, teaching and academic achievements, etc., there is still a very important literature value for the academic community to understand the Guizhou Dade School in the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China, and even the basic education in Guizhou, the influence of the New Culture Movement on Guizhou, and the modern transformation of Guizhou education. Unfortunately, this set of journals is not well known and used.

**Keywords:** Guizhou Dade School; Dade Weekly; Huang Qisheng; Wang Ruofei

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## 1. Introduction

In the first half of the 20th century, Dade School in Guizhou published many magazines. At present, there are only two magazines. One is Special Issue to Commemorate the Death and Resumption of Dade School, which was edited and published on August 7, 1945, with only one issue; Second, Dade Weekly, edited and published in 1917, issued 40 issues, and only 18 issues have been seen so far.<sup>[1]</sup> The former is mainly commemorative in nature, and mainly publishes the memories of 17 people, including Zeng Junhou and Huang Qisheng, to Dade School in Guizhou, with a small overall space. The latter is a magazine for the school and a garden for teachers, students and even enthusiastic educators to carry out education and teaching exchanges. The overall length is relatively large. Up to now, no one in academic circles has paid enough attention to these two publications. In view of the single content and small length of the Special Commemorative Issue of Dade School, this paper only makes an investigation on Dade Weekly, which is more valuable in literature, in order to pave the way for the study of Dade School in Guizhou in the future and to sort out the historical materials for promoting the study of the history of basic education in Guizhou.

## 2. The Establishment of Dade Weekly

The establishment of Dade Weekly is the result of many factors. First, since the Republic of China, Chinese people have gradually realized that school education has its limitations, and the development of the country cannot rely solely on school education. Secondly, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China attached great importance to enlightening and guiding the people and improving society, so it published many laws and regulations on social education in the early years of the Republic of China. This provides guidance for educators in all provinces to implement social education. Third, if we want to do a good job in social education, we need to use words. Fourth, scholars in Guizhou, especially vocational teachers in Dade School in Guizhou, have long discussed publishing magazines. However, due to "limited manpower and limited knowledge, and Guizhou's partial corner, it is not widely heard, and it has been published, and it is useless to laugh at people." Until Huang Qisheng traveled to Japan and saw the prosperity of Japanese publications, especially magazines, he decided to disclose them through publishing magazines.<sup>[2]</sup> Fifth, in 1917, Guizhou Dade School Alumni Association organized a homecoming meeting in order to contact feelings and seek contact and improvement with family and society, so it edited and published Dade Weekly for exchange. Dade Weekly came into being based on the above five reasons.

Regarding the purpose of the weekly magazine, Huang Qisheng said the purpose of this weekly magazine is mainly to show the experience and research results of vocational educators and enthusiastic educators in Guizhou Dade School, so as to seek contact and

improvement with families and society. <sup>[2]</sup>However, looking at the actual published content, it is quite different from the purpose or original intention of the journal. Its published content is basically written by teachers and students of Guizhou Dade School, which has actually become a garden for teachers and students to communicate with each other. Nearly 30 columns have been set up in Dade Weekly, among which the most frequent ones are school news, achievements, experience of teaching management, communication, travel notes, after-school essays, stories, miscellaneous articles, chronicle, notes, famous sayings and letters. Of course, because the layout is fixed, each issue has only four sides, so each issue of Dade Weekly has different columns according to the actual situation.

As for the reasons for the closure of the weekly magazine, according to the review of the existing 18 issues and the date of signature of each issue, it can be known that the editing and publication date of each issue is consistent, with one edition a week, without interruption. There is no explanation for the closure of the last issue (No.23), but the "advertisement" column at the end of the issue says "This weekly is printed and mostly sent for reading. Although it is a reward, it is very humble, so it is inconvenient for those who have ordered but not paid for it. However, the funds in the school are really embarrassing, and the expenditure per printing price is difficult. It is a commitment to educate all gentlemen, regardless of the amount, and the amount is maintained, and the amount of funding for 14 people is attached. <sup>[3]</sup>The total amount of funding for 14 people is only 42 yuan, which is a drop in the bucket for the printing cost of 1,000 copies per issue of this weekly. In addition, although the weekly magazine issued a notice of welcome to publish advertisements in the vertical seam of the previous issues of this magazine, it did not see any advertisements limited to education and public welfare after reading all the issues. In this way, it is conceivable that the weekly magazine will stop publishing.

### **3. The object matter of Dade Weekly**

Dade Weekly is the school magazine of Guizhou Dade School, which is a garden for teachers and students to communicate, and also presents, discusses, exchanges and develops education, so its social contributions are few, and its articles are basically written by teachers and students of Guizhou Dade School, including graduates. The main authors contain Qi(Huang Qisheng), Tan, Guan(Liu Guanqun), E(Lin Qiue), Yue(Liu Fangyue), Fei(Wang Ruofei), Wei(Nie Shouwei), Yun(Ran Yunming), Ming(Liu Siming), Shen(Wang Shenyu), Ti(Ling Ti'an) and etc.

There are many columns of Dade Weekly. The column "Achievements" almost all of them were published in the period. Its contents were mainly articles or opinions of students in Dade School in Guizhou, and most of them could be regarded as students' teaching assignments, which were revised when published. It covers a wide range of subjects, and most of them don't have a specific subject, grade and class. For example, in the first periodical, it was written by Chen Debi, a third-grade student in the 10th period of higher education, Liu Tianfu, a fourth-grade student in the 11th period of elementary school, and Xia Yuchen, a female teacher training student, and Gu Keying, a fourth-grade student in the 10th period of elementary school for women.

The column of "Essays after class" and "Experience of teaching management" mainly published the in-depth thinking and analysis of the teaching staff of Guizhou Dade School, including the educational concept, specific teaching contents and methods, and the experience of managing students. For example, the first journal contains the contents of the motion of the faculty and staff association, which mentions that faculty and staff should uphold the belief of "emphasizing self-study for learning", pay attention to protecting children's physiology, prevent students from studying during breaks, and maintain classroom order.

The columns of "Record of news" and "School News" mainly publish news about education, including educational activities inside and outside the school and people, opinions and deeds related to education. The contents in the above two columns are short and informative, and they record the educational trends inside and outside the school, especially the educational activities of teachers and students in Dade School in Guizhou in 1917. For example, it is reported that the visit and research department (originally an educational visiting group), with Ling Qiue as the director, the faculty and staff of our school, and even the alumni association and alumni members can join, visited "schools in the provincial capital, and then pushed to other counties", but actually only visited schools in Guiyang due to financial factors.

In addition, the journal also has columns such as Communication Wen yuan, Tabular Book, Famous sayings of Shaojie, Congtan, Old Think Tank and Lectures according to the situation of each issue, so as to meet the reading needs of teachers, students and even people who care about school affairs. Of course, there are also some contents that have not been listed in the above columns, such as the speech of the president of the fourteenth year, the speech of the eighth anniversary of the first graduate, and Huang Qisheng's Dear Students' Families in the third journal.

### **4. The Literature Value of Dade Weekly**

Dade Weekly is a garden for communication between teachers and students in Guizhou Dade School. The main authors and readers are all teachers and students of the school. Although its columns and basic contents have been mentioned above, there are still

some points worthy of in-depth discussion.

#### **4.1 Wang Ruofei's tracks**

Wang Jiren is Wang Ruofei, a great proletarian revolutionist in China, was then a literary official in Guizhou Dade School. This magazine contains Wang Ruofei's ink in many places, see the columns of "Essays after class" in the 4th and 12th issues, "A Spot of Training" in the 17th issue, "Selected manuscripts" in the 20th issue, and "Travel Notes" in the 22nd and 23rd issues. According to Wang Ruofei, his "travel manuscript" traveling with his uncle (Huang Qisheng) was lost on the way of "rushing south" from Chongqing in 1916. As a result, the remnants of his travels from 1915 to 1916 in this magazine are precious. In addition, the journal also recorded a few words of Wang Ruofei and Huang Qisheng's northern tour of Shandong and Beijing.

#### **4.2 Huang Qisheng's tracks**

Huang Lulian is Huang Qisheng, which is Huang Luzhen's younger brother, Wang Ruofei's uncle, was then a vocational teacher in Guizhou Dade School and editor-in-chief of Dade Weekly. This magazine contains many articles. As mentioned above, the "Miscellaneous" column only contains its columns such as "Reviewing the Past, Miscellaneous Knowledge", "Speech" and "Travel Notes", and even those who are not included in the column also contain many articles, which shows that he is the most important contributor and operation maintainer of this magazine. Huang Qisheng is keen on saving the country through education, and has traveled many times in his life. Each time he traveled for a long time, he had rich experience. A glance at the magazine shows that he traveled twice, namely "Xin Ren Tour" (1911-1912) and "B C Tour" (1915-1916). Huang Qisheng said that there were two main reasons for his two trips. He had the ambition to travel far as a child. "It is necessary to travel when the times change"<sup>[5]</sup>, that is, to avoid disaster.

#### **4.3 School history and school affairs materials of Guizhou Dade School**

As the school magazine of Guizhou Dade School, Dade Weekly published many school history materials, most of which were edited by those who signed it. School affairs information, without signature. The main published information include school motto, school song, content organization of the school, list (members of Dade Bookstore and founders of Dade School), memorabilia of the school, rules of our visiting research department, the final accounts of the thirteenth year of the school.

### **5. Conclusion**

On the whole, as the school magazine of Guizhou Dade School, Dade Weekly has a short life cycle, but its literature value is relatively rich. It not only records the activities of teachers and students in Guizhou Dade School, but also presents the efforts and practices made by Guizhou educators, represented by teachers and students in Guizhou Dade School, in promoting the modern transformation of Guizhou education. It also preserves a lot of school history and information on the changes of the situation in the early years of the Republic of China, providing a clear window for our future generations to understand the development of Guizhou education and even the current situation in Guizhou in the new and old times.

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