

# Life Changes of People Along Baocheng Railway and North Sichuan Region

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## Abstract

**There is a close relationship between the construction of railway and regional modernization, which is the key to modernization. Most of the existing researches focus on the role of railway in economy, and the micro research on railway and the change of people's life is insufficient. In this paper, the Diary of Xiao Dingpei, Jiangyou, Mianyang, Guangyuan and other places for example, from the micro observation of the Baocheng Railway in the period of new China to the opening of the regional people's life along the positive changes, as well as the railway construction caused by the problems, to explore the process of modernization of the new birth and pains.**

## Keywords

**Baocheng Railway ; North Sichuan region; Life change.**

## 1. Introduction

"What heights! It is easier to climb Heaven Than take the Sichuan Road!" This is the Tang Dynasty poet Li Bai's description of the Sichuan Road. In 1956, the opening of Baocheng Railway broke the shackles of Sichuan's economy on the Shu Road and became the first railway out of Sichuan, which greatly changed the living conditions of people in the north of Sichuan and strengthened the economic and cultural exchanges between Sichuan and other parts of the country. Liang Boyan sang the praises of Baocheng railway broke the dangerous Shu road, "Recall the prosperous Tang Dynasty, Li Qinglian. Described, rugged Shu road, wonderful poetry. The road is difficult, like heaven, the monkey is afraid to climb, the bird flies ahead. Want to open up, know is what year. Can't predict. Later, the eyes look, the heart is happy, the face smiles. The uneven, the uneven shovel together. Whoosh, whoosh the train goes by." [1]This paper tries to discuss the changes of railway to people's life in the early period of new China from the two aspects of the new life and the pain brought by railway. The women who attended the opening ceremony of Baocheng Railway could not conceal their excitement. Few of them had ever been on a train before, and the novel experience on the train was unheard of. "For many of them, it was the first time for them to ride on Baocheng Road; Some had never even been on a train. Li Suqing, vice president of Hongguang Agricultural Cooperative in Yongfeng Township on the outskirts of Chengdu, is 45 years old, but it is the first time for him to take a train... A train of this size would gallop from side to side among the mountains, and cross over the rivers of rolling waves." [2]Shu Road throat Guangyuan people excited to say: "1959 New Year's Day, Chengdu Guangyuan section of Baocheng railway will be officially opened to traffic, it marks the basic completion of Baocheng railway Sichuan more than three hundred kilometers of road engineering, from now on Shu road is no longer difficult." [3]

## 2. Baocheng Railway Promotes the Modernization of People's Lives Along The Line

### 2.1. Improved the quality of people's lives

Rainy days are not afraid of rainy days on the road, can take a train to the town of Xiaoba for relevant certificates, "Changfei flying drips, at Erlang Temple station to take a ride to the brook bar, do a good certificate, and from the brook bar to Erlang Temple, and to the green forest." [4] When the liberation of Mianyang County people are wood cooking and boiling water, when the train opened to traffic, coal will gradually appear next to people's stove, "Mianyang County has more than twenty thousand people, but in the liberation of no one is burning coal, all are burning wood... Coal wasn't burned in the city until 1956, when the Baocheng Railway was opened." [5] When Baocheng Railway was designed, it was considered that railway electrification would benefit the construction of films, electric lights and agricultural electrification in the areas along the line. "Railway electrification also promotes socialist construction in many aspects. The electrified railway has power stations along its route, which can also supply electricity to cities and villages along the way. These cities and villages can not only have electric lights, cinemas, radios, telephones, but also electrify agriculture." [6]

### 2.2. Changed The People's Marriage Concept

The marriage of the people gradually from conservative to open. Jiangyou in Sichuan was still a conservative city before the opening to traffic, young men and women are known through blind date, "at that time, government cadres, enterprise workers unmarried young love is like doing underground work, afraid of being known bad influence, rural girls and boys to make a marriage, mostly by matchmakers, the first time to meet, are low head red face, only secretly glance at each other." [7] With the opening of Baocheng Railway and the arrival of factories and mining enterprises, people's conception of marriage and childbearing has changed, and free love has gradually become a fashion. Unmarried young men and women in the factories began to pair off to the woods and the river, to date in the city, to go to the movies, to shop, to eat. At first, people in the countryside complained about the novelty of this new way of love, but later they gradually accepted this new way of love. Unmarried men and women in the countryside also secretly arranged to meet for dinner. "But after two years, people got used to it and got used to it. Some of them secretly meet women and go to Houba, Chonghua, Erlang Temple and other places more than ten or twenty miles away, holding hands, and entering restaurants." [8] Xiao Dingpei contact with his girlfriend, also with the help of the train this advanced means of transportation, "take 3:55 (late) car to the brook bar, day Ma Ma Liang, walk back to China, talk, take photos, see off, 20:32 and take 342 back to Ma Jiao, Erlang Temple break up." [9]

### 2.3. Improved Passenger Travel Experience

People ride the comfort greatly increased, luggage check, eat more convenient. Baggage check-in used to go to another department for special handling, now the ticket office can handle, "Chengdu Railway Administration according to the public opinion, to improve the service work... All ticket offices in the city also handle baggage, so passengers no longer have to go to the station to check in." [10] Travelers do not have to experience the previous ten days and a half months of long-distance travel, can enjoy the beauty along the way, "when the reporter sat on the train comfortably on the Baocheng railway, between Qin and Shu mountains and raging rivers, is no longer a lament subject, and become the window of the magnificent and beautiful scenery. In Li Bai's hometown Zhangming County Qinglian Township, people can take the train to the city to enjoy the performance," [11] From the railway to here, every Dragon Boat Festival, "Qinglian Township farmers are small groups, take the train, 60 miles away to Mianyang City to see the dragon boat, listen to the opera." [12] Xiao Dingpei can also travel out of Xi 'an, Shaanxi Province, to enjoy the historical and cultural scenery of the ancient capital, "take the

train to Lintong, visit the Huaqing Pool, climb the 'Catch Jiang Pavilion'. Here, with phoenix LouLong pavilion, such as into the wonderland." [13]

#### **2.4. Improved Along The Health Consciousness Of The People**

When the railway station was built, sanitary conditions and environment were very bad. "Many passengers lacked hygienic habits, throwing fruit skins and spitting, and children defecated everywhere, which made the station easy to become a place to spread diseases. ... Into the station can see the ground everywhere orange shells, paper scraps, mouth phlegm. There were piles of rubbish by the flowerbeds in front of the waiting room and a thick layer of dust on the copper handrail above the front door." [14] In 1982, the Publicity Department of Mianyang Local Committee of the Communist Party of China carried out health inspection along the railway lines in Mianyang area, and found that the health awareness of local governments and people had been greatly improved. "From April 7 to 28, we carried out the national Civility Month activity in 11 railway stations and 9 cities and towns in Mianyang area. Generally speaking, the effect was great in the control of dirty, disorderly and bad problems. The results have been remarkable, the relationship between people has changed, the social order has improved, the cleanliness has changed a lot." [15] Baocheng railway construction, convenient along the people to see a doctor, Xiao Dingpei had rushed the train to take chest film for brother-in-law, "go to the second branch hospital for brother-in-law contact chest photos, very smooth." [16]

#### **2.5. Improved Education Along The Route**

During the construction of the railway, ordinary migrant workers were taught how to learn to read, and the educational level of those who built the railway in Zitong County was improved. "The migrant workers in northern Sichuan on the Tiancheng Railway vigorously promoted the 'accelerated literacy' movement. ... A total of 88 cultural officials and representatives of migrant workers participated in the study. Guangyuan railway branch also carried out the literacy work of railway staff, achieved good results, "[17] The literacy work in the pipeline under the strong leadership of the superior and the brilliance of the general line, due to the positive efforts of the Party organizations at all levels... With the rapid development of production and transportation work in 59 years, great achievements have been made in the work of literacy. Illiteracy among the formal workers in the administration was eliminated by the National Day of last year." [18] The opening of Baocheng Railway has increased the ways of entertainment for people. A special film crew travels to construction sites far from towns and in harsh natural conditions to bring novel films to workers. "Our film crew was officially established in 1957. In recent years, with the development of railway construction, together with the whole staff, I have climbed over the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, climbed over the large and small Liangshan Mountains, crossed the surging Dadu River, crossed the turbulent and roaring Hengjiang River, and delivered the film to the railway site day after day." [19] Residents along the railway can also enjoy the fun of watching movies, most of the movies at that time were revolutionary themes, Xiao Dingpei in 1977 watched the movie "Great Waves to the sand", and Yanyuan took a bus to the brook bar, and the same 404. Erlang Temple after getting off, with LAN Chang back to Ma Kok, after dinner to see the new movie "Big Waves to the sand", 1:30 square sleep. It's a film about a hot-blooded young man who throws himself into the revolutionary movement in the 1920s, and it's a story that has stuck with Xiao for a long time.

#### **2.6. Tncreased People's Income**

After the Baocheng Railway was built, the north Sichuan area became the main passage out of Sichuan, bringing a large number of employment opportunities to the area and increasing the income of local residents. After the reform and opening up, there was a boom of commune enterprises in north Sichuan. State-owned enterprises and commune enterprises such as Great

Wall Steel Works, Baiyun Mine Factory, machine-brick factory, straw hat factory, sofa factory and paper factory appeared. Due to its proximity to Baocheng Railway, the products of these enterprises could be circulated to various regions and cities more quickly, and the sales market was broader. After the reform and opening up, Sichuan province in urgent need of construction of a large number of infrastructure, north Sichuan region and rich building materials, so the firing machine brick becomes a new way for people to get rich, "visit the stone Cen commune machine brick factory, North city commune gold factory, Yongfeng four brigade machine brick factory, night stay in the dam." [20]

### **3. Part of the Problems Brought by Baocheng Railway**

#### **3.1. There Are Problems In Railway Station Management.**

The CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee called for strengthening the management of railway order. "Railway is the main artery of the national economy, which is related to the construction of the Four Modernizations, industrial and agricultural production, urban and rural material exchanges and people's lives. Party committees and governments at all levels along the railway lines should put the rectification of railway security and order on their agenda and earnestly strengthen their leadership." [21] Hooligans took up seats and forcibly sold seats to passengers. During the more than two hours of the reporter's ride, however, no train crew and police came to solve the problem. "[22] All the empty seats were occupied by more than 10 teenagers. They take up a few or more than 10 seats and don't allow passengers to sit... A dishevelled, 12 years old or so youth walked to a young traveler in front of the savage want him to get up, said to sit for 5 yuan. Train service personnel management is lax, illegal operation is prevalent and lack of supervision, one of the staff has reported to the unit, in the prescribed working hours, the crew does not give the baggage check-in formalities, resulting in the delay of the train time, the legitimate rights and interests of passengers are damaged, the image of Mianyang city, hope to open up a mass opinion column in Mianyang Daily, To improve the quality of service in monopolistic industries such as railway stations.

#### **3.2. Resulting In Traffic Safety Accidents.**

local people lack of modern traffic safety knowledge, and all kinds of road grabbing incidents happen from time to time, which brings great hidden trouble to the railway operation and its own safety. In 1986, there were 10 casualties outside the road in Deyang, all of which were caused by careless villagers. "Most of these accidents were caused by walking, lingering, playing, climbing or hoisting vehicles on the road center." [23] There are also frequent accidents of motor vehicles robbing the train lane, which leads to the destruction of both motor vehicles and trains. "There are several train parking accidents caused by motor vehicles blocking the road and other reasons within the area... The tractor was scrapped, the locomotive was broken, and 36 sleepers and a shunting signal were damaged. The direct loss amounted to more than 10,000 yuan." [24] In 1993, a villager of Jiangyou Sanhe Township, Mr. Chen, rode a tricycle full of pot iron to rush the road, which almost led to an accident. "When I arrived at the 514 crossing of Baocheng Line, I raised the closed rail-wood, grabbed the crossing, and overturned in the center of the road with people and cars." [25]

#### **3.3. Threatens The Personal Safety Of Passengers And Staff.**

The lack of public security prevention and control near the railway. In 1988, a person beside the railway threw a stone into the carriage maliciously, resulting in a serious injury to a passenger. "The public security personnel stationed at Xindu Station helped a young passenger with blood running down his right eye to seek medical treatment... The passenger was injured by a stone while sitting at the window of the train between Tianhui Town and Xindu." [26] Since March this year, there have been two incidents of beating railway crossing officers at the

railway crossing of Jiangyou Great Wall Steel Plant. Railway through the area of large population mobility, active economic behavior, is a crime prone place. Jialing Town, Baolin Town, Sandi Town, Hexi Town and Chaotian Town in Guangyuan County are the key areas of illegal and criminal activities in Guangyuan, especially the old county Jialing Town has the most criminal activities. "Located in the key railway transportation road, concentrated factories and mining units, active economy and trade, and complex public security situation. The above five towns have a total population of 120,000, accounting for only 15 percent of the county's total population, but accounting for nearly 70 percent of the annual criminal cases in the county. Jialing, the county seat, accounted for about 50 percent of the county's total." [27]

### **3.4. Provides A Hotbed For Crime**

The railway station has a huge traffic flow, in January 1991, Mianyang new railway station received 12 reports, most of which are theft, bag loss, robbery and fraud, the police to crack down on criminal behavior, and according to the law to deal with the relevant illegal personnel, "in January 5 to 10 during the inspection, the security brigade station duty room received 12 reports from the masses (including theft 1, fraud 8, Robbery 3 cases) uncovered 6 cases (including theft 1 case, fraud 3 cases, robbery 2 cases), block the trial of illegal personnel 32 people, including the public security detention 7 people. "[28] As for Mianyang new railway station crime more reasons, one is the railway station is a new development zone, the relevant infrastructure is not complete; Second, Huayuan Village, near the new railway station, has long been a complicated area of public security; Third, there are few households near the main road connecting with the new railway station. After arriving at the railway station, passengers can only reach the city by taking a tricycle, which increases the uncertainty factor for safety.

### **3.5. Government Departments To Develop Urban Governance**

First, the government should strengthen the prevention of railway security, mainly publicize education and prevent crimes, and popularize the criminal behaviors endangering railway safety by showing popular science movies and slides, explaining typical cases of illegal laws and so on. "More than 120 meetings have been held. Scientific and educational video showing railway safety knowledge has been shown for 56 times, and more than 300 copies of various publicity materials have been issued. ... We will hold an on-the-spot meeting to educate the public with typical examples and explain the seriousness and harm of handling railway equipment and endangering railway safety. "[29] The second is to pay close attention to the investigation and solving of crimes, arrest the illegal and criminal personnel, with practical means to severely crack down on the unstable elements that destroy the security of railway transportation, give the action deterrent power, "from January to September this year, arrested all kinds of illegal and criminal personnel 400, (including 140 theft, 40 fraud, 80 rascals, 60 gambling, other 80). 69 criminal cases and public security cases were solved, with a clearance rate of 100 %." [30] Third, pay close attention to the rectification of key sections, maintain good security order in the station. Send a professional team to maintain public security, take special responsibility system for key areas, punish the violation of the provisions of the behavior, has achieved a good effect, "the organization of the whole office of police officers and railway staff more than 20 people, take fixed point, time, fixed person, positioning, section responsible, generally carry out station inspection activities, rectify the station car order, brake the circumference of the car peddling, Riding without a ticket and riding in a truck. ... Since the beginning of this year, more than 9,800 passenger and cargo trains have been cleared, 598 passengers without tickets have been stopped, and 1,456 yuan has been collected in return. 135 people caught peddling around the train have been fined and educated, and 58 beggars have been taken into custody." [31 ] By starting from the three aspects of railway security prevention, cracking down on illegal and criminal activities and reorganizing public security order, the



public security situation along the railway has been greatly improved, and the safety and smooth of railway transportation has been ensured.

## 4. Conclusion

Baocheng Railway has an inseparable relationship with the modernization of daily life of people along the line. Through the micro study of Xiao Dingpei's diary in the 1970s, it can be seen that after one or two decades after the construction of Baocheng Railway, people's life along the line began to change toward modernization, and this trend is closely related to the macro background of the modernization of life in the whole north Sichuan region. To sum up, modern life needs modern transportation, which is the lifeblood of a region and city development.

## Acknowledgments

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