

A component of SOUL OF IPOH

PROJECT BY THE PERAKEAN LEAGUE The Office of Menteri Besar Perak

In support of the initiative

T'S NO SECRET IPOH PRODUCE SOME OF THE PRETTIEST GIRLS, FINEST FOOD, the hardiest entrepreneurs and the best brains in the Malaysia. People say good skin and clear minds come from drinking pristine lime filtered water. Some trace the cause to locals' knack for details due to the city's slower pace of life. But whatever the reason, grit of its residents and geology are pivotal in honing Ipoh to the thriving city it is today.

Founded in 1893, Ipoh is not your average city. If you didn't know, it's the only one in the world named after a lethal tree. That's right, local jungle natives still use sap from the Ipoh tree to poison blow darts for hunting. Yet, despite its namesake, the city has all the antidote a traveller ever need. Ipoh's past still lives in the streets. Every era is well depicted in buildings and shop houses spotting architectural designs like Utilitarian, Neo Classical and Art Deco. Hence, the city is best understood on foot. It is not possible to wing Ipoh entirely based on a single brochure. Its past is simply too diverse and colourful for any clinical trail to do it any justice.

Nonetheless, a trail map is a good start. It tempts visitors to explore the city with an insider account. Hopefully, the visitor will be left in delight trying to catch up with more and put some fun into a self-guided holiday



# TALE OF TWO VILLAGES

started. One was tucked in

the banks of downriver,

over the northern end.

Together, they were the

last transits for travellers

and businessmen before

going on foot to reach

jungle clad interiors to

conduct barter trading

with Orang Asli natives.

the other flanked upriver

Most cities and townships in Malaysia have their humble beginnings tracing back to rivers. In a land where heavy rainfall bestowed the landscape with plenty of waterways, boating was obviously the natural mode of transport.

Epu and Paloh, sometimes spelt as Epau and Palau respectively in old British maps, were villages where Ipoh

Beyond these villages, the upriver was too shallow for boating. Suffice to say, Epu and Paloh owed their significance to their

EPU TO IPOH

(poh, noted as Epu, was recorded in McNair's "Perak

and the Malays" published in 1878. British Resident of that age Sir Hugh Low spelt the own name as Epoh in his annual report published in The name Epu is said to have stemmed from the "epu" or

'upas" tree (Antiaris toxicaria) officially spelt as Ipoh pelieved to land mark Epu village's jetty. With the ability | However, some old timers still to easily grow to 40m height, prefer to call it Paloh to pay it stood out like an icon to

identified as antiarin that can paralyze heart's muscle if introduced to the bloodstream. From the epu of upas tree, Orang Asli natives acquire poison for their hunting blow darts. Today, the city's name is

a glycoside compound

(pronounced as ee-poh). tribute to the founding

geographical positions.

the Orang Asli like herbs,

medicinal plant, rattan,

gaharu wood and animal

commodities that drew

traders to these villages.

Nonetheless, as time

the lone survivor. The

at today's Jalan Datoh.

village can still be viewed

galloped by, Paloh became

resin, timber, scented

parts were key

Forest products offered by

"Concealing the mad-woman's neighbourhood from you, however, was something like covering a child with a cloak and laying it down near an upas

tree: that demon's vicinage is poisoned, and always was" - Excerpt from novel "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte, 19th century influential British writer.

"It tempts visitors to explore the city with an insider account."

Jerry", said Roger, "You are an apas tree. Your shadow is poisonous" Excerpt from book "The Haunted Bookshop" by Christopher Morley, famous American essayist.

The local folklore is riot with legends and myths surrounding the upas tree. Many still believe the upas tree can poison the air and causing death to humans and animals within the radius of 10 miles!

# TIN AND TURF TUSSLE

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A BIT OF CHAOS TO SPICE UP HISTORY

**Lpoh**, seated at the heart | to just short of 60,000 as of Kinta valley, was muddled feudal lords to commoners, taipans to coolies and natives to colonists, people came from all over the world to tap its

With unrivalled economical flurry arising from favourable tin prices, everyone wanted a piece of the action. The rush started in 1884 and by 1889 the in numerous street fights and local population has ballooned

reported by Hugh Low, Like y people of every stripe. From any place that promises untold fortunes, turf tussles were

> The Ghee Hin secret society which lost much ground in Larut and Klang tin mining district has turned their focus on Kinta. Feud and rivalry between them and the local Hai San triad society resulted riots. Thankfully, British's

deter triad members from attending nightly meetings. By 1898, secret societies were finally squeezed out from

"show of force" headed by

R.S.F Walker managed to

as occurred in Larut.

Thugs caught were

suppress unruly incidents from

escalating into a full fledge war

photographed and a system of

night passes was introduced to

AMBUN HOT SPRINGS



# VALLEY OF PLENTY

In early 20th century, Ipoh was a modern, well-planned town. Station Road was the financial and trading hub of Perak. Led by the Kinta Sanitary Board, an active news press and locals' unflagging determination, Ipoh weathered through the ups

and downs unblemished.

In 1906, the first Mercedes Benz cars were brought into Malaysia by Cycle & Carriage, a company founded in Ipoh.

Back then, **Ipoh** had the largest | and planters, swanky mansions, collection of German luxury cars outside Europe. To top that, the town also first spotted streets planned and built for motorised traffic.

Great Depression that reared its ugly head in late 1920s failed to unseat Ipoh as the revered venue for good style and taste. It was this time around that the Art Deco architecture style gave **Ipoh** a facelift. Funded by elite miners town to live and play in.

rich and famous. Ipoh was indeed a vibrant

high society clubs and theatres

were continuously built to fete

affluent residents' penchant for

good life. The Malaysian movie

industry was born in Ipoh,

pioneered by movie mogul

Shaw brothers. In its heydays,

Ipoh was frequently touted as

Hollywood of the East and its

streets were thronged by the

LEST WE FORGET

**I**poh once 'Hub of Malaya' is pride to all,

buildings and sites to modernity is painfully felt,

away. Like the sands of time slowly blown away

by the winds of change, what is gone is hard to

will be lost. Apart from cultural and social fabric,

etrieve. There's no knowing how many more

the history of Ipoh is largely embedded in its

architecture. Remnants of the past have merit

many prolific sites are now mostly endangered,

for preservation. At the turn of 21st century,

An excellent example was the Yau Tet Shin

restoration could have been exercised.

Bazaar which was built in 1961 and demolished

in 2001 for safety reasons - despite the option of

ruined or no longer exist.

more so by residents who call Ipoh home. As

more development creeps in, more will fade

therefore the strain of loosing historical

# **GROWING PAINS**

**Ipoh**'s leap into limelight came in its darkest years. The place was in Japanese stranglehold during World War 2. The Japanese Occupation brought downturn to the local scene but ironically gave Ipoh the uplift it was carefully nurtured for. It was the Japanese who bestowed Ipoh the capital of Perak. When Japanese finally exited Malaysia, British return was received with lukewarm welcome. Later, the country was also troubled by communism, fondly know as The Emergency, and the British untered it with the Briggs Plan. In post war years when poverty and uncertainties plagued every ayer of the society, political uprising was easily fuelled and fanned across the country like wildfire. Malaysia attained its independence from the British Empire in 1957.

In 1962, the Kinta Sanitary Board became the Municipality of Ipoh and finally in 1988, the town of Ipoh was declared a city.

# LAND OF SEABED

AN ANCIENT CEMENTERY OF SEA LIFE FORMED THE BEDROCK OF KINTA VALLEY

**D**urrounding geological features never fail to inspire every visitor who sets foot in Ipoh. In prehistoric time, Kinta valley was nothing but a vast blue sea. Calcium from bones and shells left over by dying sea life formed muddy deposits at the sea bottom. Becoming lime stone over time, it now underlies Ipoh and forms the floor of Kinta valley.

With high rainfall from the tropical weather, continual erosion has gradually exposed lime ridges and of course valuable tin ore that gave Ipoh its prosperity.

# GETTING THERE

**I poh** is a hop away. Just 164km from enang island and 205km from Kuala Lumpur, the North-South Highway is the best route used to get to Ipoh by driving. For further he earliest mention of | welcome weary boatmen from enquiries, contact Ipoh City Council Public near and far. Its sap contains Relations Department at (05) 208 3333.

TOWN TRAMPING TIPS

People don't call Malaysian jungle rainforest for nothing. It pours out of the blue without much warning. Hence, it's best to lug along a handy umbrella or raincoat. Never stand next to a metal post in bad weather. Lightning can strike very low during thunder

Keep an eye peeled for unruly traffic. Drivers and riders have low tolerance for walking pedestrians, especially during rush hours on trunk roads. So, script your walk on the sidewalk and shady corridors. That said, locals are forgiving if they know you are a visitor.

Blend in. Wear the lightest cotton shirt, short pants and sandals. It's too hot not to anyway. The sun is blistering from midday till late afternoon. Use a generous amount of sunscreen lotion, preferably minimum SPF 50, for skin protection.

Courtesy of Ipoh's colonial influence, finding an English speaking local is not going to be a problem. Romanized signage is everywhere and if you think you're lost, shopkeepers are good people to ask for directions. Lastly, a smile works wonders.

#### MUSINGS OF PAST VISITORS TASTE OF IPOH

e burnt down and

ricks and mortar, as

pefitted so wealthy and

MBROSE B. RATHBORNE

AMPING AND TRAMPIN

The town itself, with its

people's park; its

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are held every year athletic

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RISON (EDITOR), AN

HBERT WOODVILLE

LUSTRATED GUIDE TO

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Ipoh is the only place in

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EORGE L. PEET, A

URNAL IN THE

/RITING IN 1931.

DERAL CAPITAL,

he clean little town of

poh is bisected by the

gentle, slow meandering

idges with metallic tops

Kinta River. It is clear,

river with two strong

nd side-walks for the

clists and pedestrians.

They serve to link the two

visions of the town. On

ne side is the typical shop

ouse of the early century

IRECTORY OF HOTELS,

STAURANTS, AND THE

ALAYA, AND HONG KONG

TEDITION, CIRCA 1960

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N MALAYA, 1898.

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The village of Ipoh leaped ust as the soil is rich with tin ore, the local scene is equally nto sudden notoriety, with cuisines. Food fans from outlying towns crowd Ipoh wing to rich finds of tin every weekend, mostly crammed into eateries, shops and n the adjacent country, places to sample good eats, must buys or simply marinate in the local grapevine. and a town sprang up of mushroom growth only to

Before 1930s, smallholders hawking every imaginable delights slewed the dusty streets. A big fire broke out and burned more than 100 attap-rooted dwellings to the ground, prompting planners to rebuild the town with proper brick and mortar structures. Street peddlers eventually moved into these premises and took their trade more seriously. The Great Depression in late 1920s also left many jobless and turned to self-employment and petty trading to earn a living. It's easy to see how such turns of events had given rise to many fine tuned recipes and a legion of hardy entrepreneurs.

Buying something from **Ipoh** or eating a dish that's uniquely Ipoh is a ritual most visitors adhered to unfailingly. The whole city is tied to its plethora of homegrown specialties to coo the curious. Here is a list of delicious reasons to explore the city deeper and perhaps stay longer.

# NGAH CHOY OR BEAN SPROUTS

One can almost taste the purity of limestone filtered water in every crunchy bite of locally grown bean sprouts. The delicate hint of sweetness of **Ipoh**'s bean sprout is credited to mineral rich underground water used by farmers to germinate the black beans. Sprouts produced in Ipoh are noted for its shorter and juicier stems.

The most succulent pameloes are sold by fruit hawkers in Ipoh. Local pameloes owe their juiciness to the use of iquid residue from the bean curd cottage industry as fertilizer. High lime content of local soil is also said to reduce natural soil acidity, producing higher quality

### KACANG PUTIH OR FRIED TITBITS

Kacang putih is a general term for deep fried snacks made from flour batter, spices, nuts, beans and flavourings. First produced more than half a century ago by villagers living on Gunung Cheroh foothill, today, it has became a nationwide favourite. Yet, behind its popularity lies a tragic past. Gunung Cheroh rock fall in 1973 claimed many lives. Surviving villagers were relocated and continued kacang putih production on a site today fondly known as Kacang Putih Village. IPOH WHITE COFFEE

White coffee or "pak kor pee" is a name coined by café keepers to distinguish high quality brew from inferior coffee, generally touted as "kopi O". Burnt caramel is used to adulterate "kopi O" to increase weight and cut cost, resulting a brew that lacks flavour. On the flip side, white coffee is considered more aromatic and punchy because impurity is minimal.

# AYAM GARAM, YIM KOOK KAI OR SALT BAKED CHICKEN

Marinated with special herbs and spices, free range chickens are bundled in greaseproof paper and baked under heaps of rock salt. Spotting shops selling this specialty is easy. They are always fronted with piles of chickens. Chickens are sold whole and freshly baked IPOH'S NASI KANDAR

Nasi Kandar is a popular Malaysian 'mamak' or Indian Muslim cuisine. In the past, a lone figure would trek through the dusty streets, bearing baskets of rice and food hanging from a yoke across his shoulder. Tantalising aromas of fragrant curries, vegetables, fried fish, mutton and chicken would precede his arrival as he went from house to house, hawking his fare. Hence the name, 'nasi kandar', came from how this popular dish was delivered - nasi (Malay for rice) and kandar (Malay for yoke). It is a meal of steamed rice which can be plain or aromatically flavored, and served with a wonderful variety of curries and side dishes.

NASI LEMAK AYAM KAMPUNG / RENDANG TOK

Nasi lemak is a dish of coconut milk rice eaten with some fried groundnuts, hard boiled egg and a generous portion of anchovy curry. It is usually eaten for breakfast and all Malaysians grow up with it. There's tastier version in **Ipoh** that is cooked by steaming and served with free range fried chicken or Rendang Tok. LIEW, YONG TAU FOO OR DUMPLINGS

"Liew" is a collective term used to describe a range of bite-size dumplings usually eaten together with noodles. They are concocted from bean curd, fish paste, meat and vegetables. Made into various shapes and textures, they are usually displayed in glass showcase on noodle bars. HERBAL TEA OR "LEONG CHAR"

"Leong char mooi", or "herbal tea girls", were common visual feast in olden Ipoh. Nevermind the tea. Local herbalists tap on Ipoh's natural resource - pretty girls - to go around the town to entice passer-bys into buying an array of brewed tea reputed to cure anything from common cold to sore throat. Nowadays, locals still swear by the medicinal effects of the teas, but have to do without the "lure". BANANA LEAF RICE

# Southern Indians who migrated to Ipoh to help build

railway tracks have spiced up the local food scene significantly since early 20th century. All one needs is to hazard a visit into one of the many Indian restaurants that peppers the streets. One is expected to eat rice with a heady mix of curries, vegetables and appetizers on fresh banana leaf - with bare hands, that is. It's an adventure

# MENGLEMBU GROUNDNUT

It is said that roasted groundnut was first sold by foot hawkers as tea time snacks to labourers working in tin mines. It was a perfect source of nutrition for coolies who live on meagre diet. Back then, the fertile grounds of Menglembu was for planting and a roasting cottage industry mushroomed around it. Today, groundnut from Menglembu is instantly recognized as the best.

# THE IPOH TIMELINE 1873 - 1941

Visitors need an easily digestible run through of Ipoh's olden past. Not another wordy history lecture. The following timeline chart is a pain stalking compilation of events, incidents and memorable anecdotes that give flavour to Ipoh's course of history up to the year of Japanese invasion during World War 2. Like a time tunnel journey, the following pictorial trail walks one through decades in a glance.

873 Establishment of Paloh Temple. // Boats, elephants and bullock carts use as main mode of

1876 "Epau" and "Palau" village first marked on British map. "Ebau" is the seat of the chiefs who control the highest navigable stretch of the Kinta River - Gunung Cheroh and "Palau", better known as Paloh, is a village that dominated the southern bend of the river. The Chinese had settled and built a temple in each of the

1877 Sir Hugh Low transfers to Ipoh. He brings in some pamelo plants from Bali, Indonesia, and grows them along the Kinta river, particularly in areas near Tambun and Ampang.

1879 Police outpost set up, as the beginning of its transformation from a traditional Malay Kampung to that of a town. // The Kuan Yin Temple is built.

880 Hand cart is imported from Japan.

1881 A courthouse is built. The completion of Ipoh's first modern street - Hugh Low Street.

1882 Sir Frederick Weld visits Ipoh and welcomed by

Datoh Muda and Datoh Husin. 1884 De Morgan's map shows Ipoh as a small village consisting of a few attap huts with a few hundreds

1886 A rest house and the Seng Wang Temple is built.

1888 Edward Brewster, the District Magistrate, reports Ipoh has 227 houses, 50 of which are brick or arth buildings and 175 houses with tile or iron

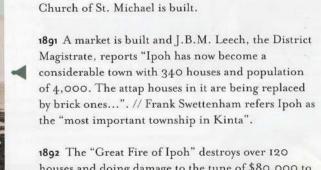
1889 Prompted by wild spread of beri-beri, fever and dysentery among mining labourers, a hospital is built. // Mr. Muhlinghaus, a tin-smelter from Singapore, sets up the Straits Trading Company in Ipoh to buy tin-ore directly from miners with cash. This frees miners from creditors in Penang. // Prospectors hit rich tin deposits in Tambun, Lahat and Menglembu.

MATERIA DE

trimer lands







1892 The "Great Fire of Ipoh" destroys over 120 nouses and doing damage to the tune of \$80,000 to 5100,000. Town planners reorganises the town's layout and replaced meandering soil paths with proper straight roads. Ipoh as we know today, in particular, Old Town, was founded after the Great Fire. // The Ipoh Club is formed and sports become

1890 Ipoh becomes the world's tin capital. // The

1893 Ipoh becomes a town. Ipoh's population swells to II,000. Ipoh runs a steam fire engine managed by the Sikhs. // Ipoh Sanitary Board is formed by Frank Swettenham to manage cleanliness of the town. // The Japanese launches a donkey transport service rom Paloh to Batu Gajah.

1894 The headquarters of the Chinese Protectorate is moved from Taiping to Ipoh, indicating Ipoh's new found prominence. // Railway connects Ipoh to Batu Gajah. // The British Residency is completed.

1895 Ipoh - Teluk Anson railway is completed, making it possible to transfer goods directly to a seaport. // The Methodist Episcopal Mission starts the Anglo Chinese Boys School with its first headmaster Rev. W.E. Horley.

1896 Dato' Panglima Kinta Mohamed Yusuff builds an entertainment hub in Panglima Street, complimenting the already popular Market Lane. 36 railway wagons were entirely built in the Ipoh workshop. // The Methodist Girls School was

1897 A proper sanitation and water supply system is installed. // Ipoh Sanitary Board is replaced by Kinta Sanitary Board. // The establishment of Perak Hokkien Association.

1898 Ipoh Padang is established to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, with \$43,000 raised by the Chinese community. // A brick mosque is built by Dato' Panglima Kinta Mohammed Yusof ournal, is published from Station Road. in memory of his wife who died in this year. // The Perak Mining and Planting Association is formed.



900 Wooden bridge across Kinta river is replaced by an 1000 iron one. // Ipoh records 12,791 inhabitants. // The establishment of the Perak Kaying Association, Central Malay School Ipoh, and Kampung Kuchai Malay Girls

902 A telephone exchange is installed. // A branch of he Chartered Bank is opened to serve the growing usiness community. // Messrs. Riley, Hargreaves & Co. Ltd. opens a garage for electrical and motor repairs. // Eu Tong Sen, the son of tycoon Eu Yan San, ecomes the first person in Ipoh to own a car. The car costs \$ 5,000 and it takes 35 minutes to travel from Ipoh to Gopeng, a distance of 12 miles.

1904 A race course is opened. // The Ipoh Gymkana Club is formed. // The eight-page Times of Malaya is ublished. // The iconic Yau Tet Shin Market is built later renovated into a modern building in 1961). // Ipoh Indian Association is formed. // Establishment of the Perak Chinese Maternity Hospital.

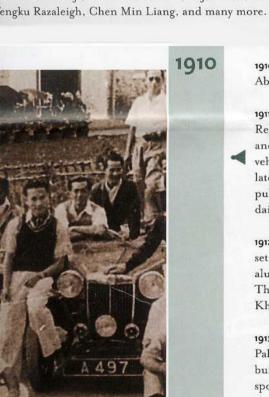
905 The establishment of Malaya's first legal firm in poh founded by Maxwell and Kenion, which still exist

906 The installation of public electricity supply. // The FMS Bar and Restaurant is established (in present day, t is the oldest restaurant in Malaysia). // The Kinta Indian Association is founded by twelve members. // The inaugural Ipoh Athletics Sports (Ipoh Olympics) is organised. // The Tamil Reserve is created.

1907 The Catholic Sisters set up the Main Convent and t has produced figures such as Stella Yau and Dato' Michelle Yeoh. // The establishment of the Perak Motor Union, the Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and ndustry, and the Ipoh branch of the T'ung Meng Hui.

1908 Ipoh - Tronoh railway line is ready to encourage trade. // Yau Tet Shin completes the development of the first fast track townships of his time - Ipoh's New Town, when he put up 300 houses, a market, and a theatre bounded by Cowan Street, Clare Street, Hugh Low Street, and Cockman Street. The New Town was one of the first townships in Malaya to be motor vehicle friendly. // The establishment of the Yuk Choy School.

1909 The People's Park is completed, and planted with valuable collection of Chinese fantastic plants' presented by Towkay Yau Tet Shin. // Movie watching became popular with the completion of Yau Tet Shin's Theatre. After Yau Tet Shin's Theatre is closed down, a few others survive from the heyday of the Shaw Brothers, build their own cinemas to screen their movies. The art deco Ruby Theatre on Anderson School needs just to be freed of its add-on facade to reveal its former glory. Ipoh at one time has the largest number of cinemas in Malaya and Singapore. // The vernment-sponsored Anderson School opens its loors and quickly becomes the preferred school of the Malays in Perak. It was the premier non-missionary English medium school. Amongst its alumni are nistorical figures such as Aminuddin Baki, Ahmad Boestaman, Bukit Gantang Abdul Wahab, C.M. Yusuf Zainal Abidin Abas, Mustafa Albakri, Osman Talib, Emeritus Professor Wang Gungwu, Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, Tun Chief Justice Mohd. Eusoff Chin, Tun Ahmad Sarji, Ahmad Azizuddin, Tajol Rosli, LAT,

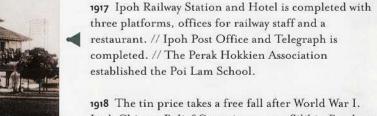


1910 The first public bus service is pioneered by Yeop Abdul Rani Idris.

1911 Ipoh records 23,978 inhabitants. // The Perak Registrar and Inspector of Motor Vehicles is set up and begins to register vehicles. Perak starts to register vehicles with number plate which begin with 'PK' and later replaced with 'A'. // The Malay Daily Chronicle, published from Leech Street, is the first morning daily in the F.M.S.

1912 The St. Michael Church of the Catholic Brothers set up the St. Michael Institution and its notable alumnus includes Tun Lim Keng Yaik, Lee Lam Thye, Chang Min Tat, Lin See-Yan, Paul Leong Khee Seong, Yap Lim Sen, Patrick Teoh, etc.

1913 E.F.F. Wearne starts a public bus service from Paloh to Gopeng. Together with his brother, they build a chain of garages around Malaya, most of them spotting Art Deco architecture, which is fashionable then. // The Perak Turf Club is built. // Ipoh's population reaches around 27,500. // Kinta Sanitary Board sets up its own town planning committee, the first of its kind in Malaya.



three platforms, offices for railway staff and a restaurant. // Ipoh Post Office and Telegraph is completed. // The Perak Hokkien Association established the Poi Lam School.

1918 The tin price takes a free fall after World War I. Ipoh Chinese Relief Camp is set up at Silibin Road to give food and shelter.

1920 A frenzy of debates is mooted by newspapers to gue whether Ipoh or Taiping should be the capital of Perak state. At the same time, Ipohites resented the fact that a sizeable proportion of tin revenues from the Kinta Valley were siphoned off to develop Kuala impur. Ipoh is dubbed as the Hub of Malaya. 922 The Malayan Observer, an 8 paged tabloid sized.



Great Flood of Ipoh'. 1928 The Ipoh Supreme Court is completed and opened. // Establishment of the Perak Chinese Assembly. // The

1925 Ipoh is flooded frequently during

the monsoon season by the overflowing Kinta river. This event is known as the

Second Annual Conference of Indians is organised in Ipoh. 1929 The Great Depression strikes. Tin mines and rubber estates are closed down one after another. Unemployment becomes rampant. The Colonial

Government launchs its Ipoh Flood Mitigation Scheme by employing several thousands of the unemployed males and females. // Ipoh records 47,500 inhabitants. // The Rotary Club of Ipoh is formed (second oldest in Malaya).

1930 Ipoh became the first town in Malaya to supply electricity power, made available by the Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Company which later gave birth to present day Tenaga Nasional Berhad. The Odeon Cinema is built. // Matba'ah Ar-Rahmaniah is established and publishes the weekly Panduan Teruna, (later sold in the British and Dutch territories) and the Romanized Malay monthly Sinar

1932 The first Malaya's Malay Law Firm is tablished by Dato' Panglima Bukit

1934 A.C.S. School Ipoh rallies to welcome Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the worldwide scouting movement, // The Catholic Missionaries establishes the Sam Tet School.

1935 Ipoh airfield is built. // The Perak



(Note: Due to space limitation, the publisher has omitted certain events in Ipoh's history. Readers' forbearance is

much appreciated}

1937 The first traffic light in Malaya is installed at the Tambun Road, Hugh Low Street, Brewster Road and Gopeng Road junction. // The Jawi newspaper Warta Kinta, first Malay daily, is published and

1941 Japanese planes bomb Ipoh on December 15. By December 23, Japanese troops marches into Ipoh and put up a military office in the premises of

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Belfield Street. Ipoh records 60,000 inhabitants during the invasion. Strangely enough, it was the Japanese military administration that laid the initial groundwork that gave Ipoh the impetus to grow as the capital of

A long time ago, during the Tin Rush of the 1800s, many citizens of China left their homeland to seek fortunes elsewhere in the world. They ventured to all corners of the world and some landed in Malaya, where they made their homes in the town of Menglembu, Perak. Their main activity then was mining tin. As this grew, so too did the other economic pursuits, one of which was growing groundnuts. The people of Menglembu soon learned to love the groundnuts for its unique flavour and crunchiness. Before long, the term 'Menglembu

Entrepreneur who capitalized on this popular demand for groundnuts was Mr. Ngan Yin. He developed his own secret recipe 'Kacang Cap Tangan' - literally meaning 'Hand Brand Groundnuts' – using the image of a hand giving the thumbs up sign to mean 'excellent'. This slowly but surely gained popularity as the snack item for all occasions. Aiming for bigger and better markets for the groundnuts, Mr. Ngan Yin established Ngan Yin Groundnuts Factory Sdn. Bhd. in 1975, further imprinting 'Kacang Cap Tangan' onto consumers minds. This hand image was to become one of the most widely known symbols of good taste and great fun not only in Malaysia, but all around the Asia Pacific region, in the years to come.





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A large part of **Ipoh**'s story lies in its ancient buildings, walkways, alleys, road corners of the old town and new town of the city. By truly understanding the city's heritage is one of the best ways for its survival of the most natural. May the soul of **Ipoh** continue to live for the many generations to come.

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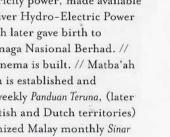


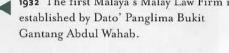


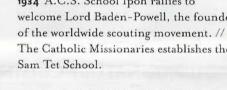


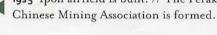
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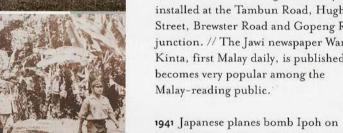












# THE MENGLEMBU GROUNDNUT STORY

Groundnuts' became a household name.

