

SIDEWINDER RECORDED

FRONTIER TOWNS

FORT GRIFFIN



VOLUME 3

CENTRAL STATES

AND

OF THE
SOUTHERN STATES

DHR1022



1/4 Square Miles
Scale of Miles

Scale of Miles

FRONTIER TOWNS: FORT GRIFFIN VOLUME 3

Credits

Author: Christopher S. Warner
Senior Editor: Thomas L. Gregory
Associate Editor: Bradley W. Hindman
Layout and Graphic Design: Karl Keesler
Cartography: Christopher S. Warner, Kirk Veitch, Geoff Spakes
Cover Design: Karl Keesler
Original Artwork: Manoel Magalhães
Proofreader: Dana Warner



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FORT GRIFFIN

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FORT GRIFFIN

CHEN'S LAUNDRY

The Frontier is a dusty realm, and sooner or later a cowpoke's garments need a thorough scrub-down. The Widow Chen understands that most folks own only what they have on—she'll wash your clothes while you wait, or while you get yourself a hot bath.

Several years ago, Zhou Shuan Tao, her husband Chen Gee Hee and their extended family set out from San Diego, California, seeking to re-unite with relatives who had re-located to Texas after the war. While several members of the Chen clan began the journey, only two survived—Shuan Tao and her husband's youngest sister, Chen Fen Hua. Chen Gee Hee and the rest of the family fell prey to smallpox, but the two women found their way to The Flat, only to learn that the rest of the family has never been heard of in these parts.

At least that's the story the two Chinese women tell. There are a number of townspeople who think it's a lot of bunk. After all, how did a couple of young women manage to complete such a trek by themselves without succumbing to disease like their kinfolk, not to mention avoiding the Comanche and desperados on the plains? And how did they get all the cash they used to buy the building next to the Jones' home?

Whatever the truth of the matter, the Widow Chen arrived with a sizable sack of coin and bought the unused wooden building next to the Jones House. Originally built as a small home for J.A. Jones' sister and her husband, who was then stationed at the Fort, the house remained vacant after only a couple of months, the newlyweds having left for Colorado. Shuan Tao hired locals to help remodel the place, quelling some of the local gossip as she spread some of her wealth around before opening her laundry. That was nearly two years ago—now the Laundry serves The Flat's wealthier folks as well as the commoners.

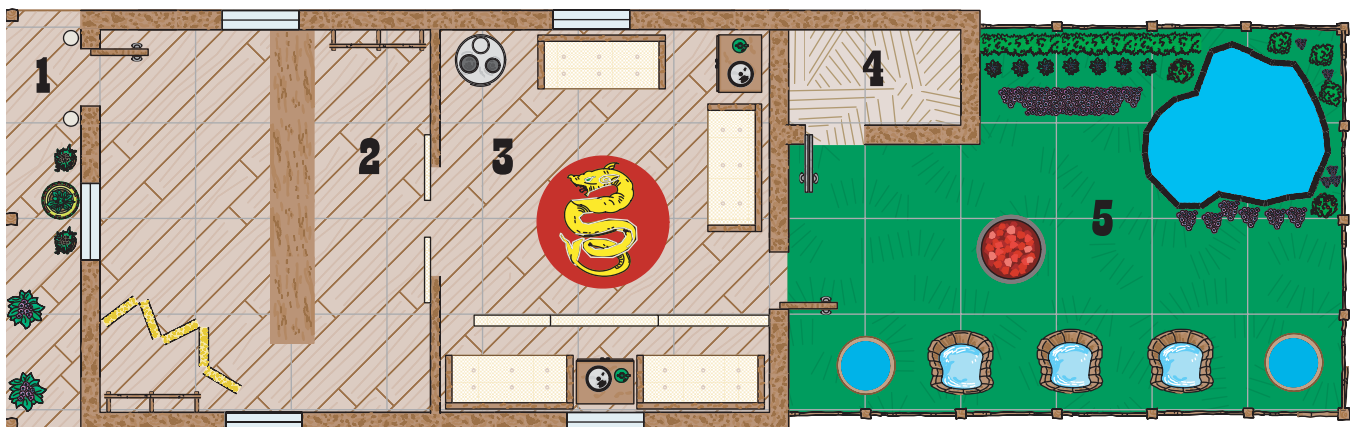
Building Key

1) Front Porch

Swept and dusted daily, the Laundry's porch is always immaculate—no cobwebs, no accumulated grime, no clutter, and no furniture. Several large potted plants rest on the wood floor, while other smaller plants hang from the roof, the porch posts and the storefront wall. Most remarkably, two small, stylized lion statues—one male with a ball beneath his paw and one female with a cub huddled under her forepaw—flank the entrance. The statues are vandalized from time to time, but Lok Long always repairs them. The wood-reinforced front door (quality lock) remains open during the day. The smell of soap permeates the air.

2) Reception Counter

A plain wooden counter dominates this nearly square room. Customers, and their bundles of laundry, are received at the desk with a gentle bow from one of the four residents. A small gong sits atop the counter along with a logbook and a few pencils. A small wooden rack on the wall behind the counter holds freshly laundered clothes awaiting pick-up. While there is a decent amount of space underneath the counter not much is kept here, except for another logbook, a few towels, and a small strongbox. Shuan Tao or Fen Hua empty the strongbox at least twice a day.



1 SQUARE = 5 FEET

Personalities

The four people who live and work in Chen's Laundry are described in this section. Most of the townsfolk believe that they are all family members, although none are blood relatives.

Zhou Shuan Tao (The Widow Chen)

Born shortly after her parents emigrated from Shandong Province, China, Shuan Tao met Chen Gee Hee when they were children playing in the garment-manufacturing factory where their parents worked. Their parents arranged their marriage and both Shuan Tao and Gee Hee worked in the factory before the Chen clan set off for Texas. She claims to have had two children who also died en route.

The Widow Chen is an attractive, slim woman; but her stern, no-nonsense visage speaks volumes. Typically, she intimidates men with her brusque behavior, although she does have a knack for diplomacy when she believes it will benefit her goals. Shuan Tao is a capable business-woman, having learned by observing her father operate a



small garment business in San Diego (he was the business manager not the owner). While the source of her wealth is still unknown in the town, the Widow Chen's business acumen has made the Laundry a success.

Zhou Shuan Tao (The Widow Chen) (Smart Ordinary 1, Tough Ordinary 2)

Sex: Female

Birthdate: August 8, 1852

Birthplace: San Diego, California

Heritage: Chinese-American

Weight: 110 lbs

Height: 5' 2"

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Allegiances: Chen's Laundry

Challenge Rating: 2

Level: 3

Grit Dice: 1d6+2d10+6 +3 (24)

MDT: 14

Initiative: +1

Speed: 30 ft.

Base Attack Bonus: +1

Grapple Modifier: +0 (+1 BAB, -1 Str)

Space/Reach: 5 ft. x 5 ft. / 5 ft.

Action Points: 0

Reputation: +2

Defense: 13, touch 13, flat-footed 12, (+2 class, +1 Dex)

Saving Throws: Fort +4, Ref +1, Will +2

Abilities: Str 8 (-1), Dex 13 (+1), Con 14 (+2), Int 15 (+2), Wis 12 (+1), Cha 10 (+0)

Attacks: Fists +0 (1d3-1 nonlethal; Crit: 20)

Colt New Model Pocket Pistol¹ +2 (2d4; Crit: 20; Range: 20 ft.; Ammo: 5 cyl.)

Occupation: Merchant [class skills: Diplomacy, Knowledge (business)]

Skills: Craft (mechanical) +6, Decipher Script +4, Diplomacy +4, Intimidate +4, Knowledge (arcane lore) +6, Knowledge (art) +4, Knowledge (business) +7, Knowledge (current events) +6, Knowledge (popular culture) +3, Knowledge (streetwise) +6, Profession +5, Read/Write Language (English, Chinese), Repair +6, Search +6, Speak Language (English, Mandarin, Spanish), Spot +4, Survival +4

Feats: Defensive Martial Arts, Personal Firearms Proficiency, Simple Weapons Proficiency, Toughness

Class Features: None

Possessions: Blue Chinese jacket, blue Chinese trousers, canvas shoes, straw hat (or hair clip), Colt New Model Pocket Pistol¹, .265 percussion rounds (5)

¹ See the *Fort Griffin Echo* Volume 1, Number 2.

FORT GRIFFIN

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