

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Stella C. Louis Interview Number: 159
 Chinese Name: 黃張純萊 Number of Tapes: 4
 Date of Interview: 4/23&24/82 Length: 3 Hours & 21 Minutes
 Interviewer: M. Kwok & E. Moy
 Others Present: _____
 Language: English
 Summarizer: Munson Kwok

Contents

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary	Tape No.:	Side
			<u>1</u>	<u>A</u>
1	001-018 019-026 027-031	Stella C. Louis (SL) -- father from Canton, Sunning (新寧). As children, did not know Chinese. SL's family grew up in Napa County [California]. They were one of two Chinese families. Moved to Oakland. Father drilled into her the village the family came from: 新寧六村芒陳 (Sunning, Lok Tsun, Lo Chin).		
2	032-038 039-041 042-049 050-055 056-059 060-065 066-067	Father came during gold rush. Father did not like being regimented. There were seven in SL's family. Father met mother in San Francisco where she was born. Father's family name is Chan or Chin. SL did not remember mother's Chinese name. Mother was called Jenny. Father was Americanized. Instead of Chin, he changed his name to Chandler because his Chinese name is 陳多阿 (Chan Do Ah). Father's name Americanized to Frank Chandler. Father spoke good English, -- Chinese, Mexican, Japanese. Ended up in El Paso, Texas -- learned Spanish. Father could read the three languages: Chinese, English, and Mexican.		
3	068-069 070-079 080-086	Father's businesses were in Napa: cherry orchard, raised chickens, cooked in his own restaurants. Older brother helped in restaurant. Seven in the family, one died. Four boys and 2 girls. SL was the fourth of seven. SL was born in Saint Helena. Moved to Napa when SL was 18 months. Stayed until 11 or 12 years old.		

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
3	087-097	Moved to Oakland and lived in an apartment in South Berkeley. Still have the house -- on 67th Street and San Pablo, one block from Oakland.
4	098-104	House was bought in 1909.
	105-106	SL went to Lincoln School in Napa. Nothing special about play relationship.
	107-113	SL in Berkeley -- only two Chinese in school, her and her brother.
	114-117	SL in Oakland -- Lincoln School in Oakland -- elementary, lots of Chinese there.
	118-121	SL never went to high school, only grammar school and then worked.
	121-122	SL did not go to Chinese school, ever (in Berkeley).
	123-124	SL's family lived among the non-Chinese.
	125-128	Boys not especially favored over girls in encouraging school attendance. None went far but...
	129-130	Sister went to college (UC Berkeley).
	130-131	Sister [Pearl] went to Hawaii for Masters program and then to China to teach.
		One semester. Sailed to China with roommate for summer vacation.
	132-135	Sister met manager of Sherwin Williams and so left school, became Far East representative for Sherwin Williams, in Shanghai, in the 1930's.
5	136-148	Sister is today in Taiwan.
	148-149	Sister met Madame [Chiang Kai Shek].
	149-150	Sister went to work for Madame from Shanghai to Nanking to Chungking.
	151-155	Sister left on last train from Chungking to Shanghai to go to Taiwan.
	156-159	Sister's husband stayed in Shanghai, in banking.
	160-162	They left to Taiwan.
	163-167	Sister was the American Secretary of Madame Chiang (personal secretary).
	168-169	Today [1982] sister still aids the Madame, no longer the secretary. Takes care of affairs in Taiwan for Madame.
	170-178	Sister and husband did reunite.
	179-183	Sister left on a boat from Shanghai and rejoined SL [in San Luis Obispo]. Sister's husband followed after failure of British company after Communist takeover.
6	184-190	When Madame returned to Taiwan from America, sister went and saw her in San Francisco in transit, and sister was

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
6	184-190	persuaded to return to work for Madame.
	191-194	Job was created for Pearl's husband and so they went.
	195-206	SL's family never spoke Chinese at home -- only English with Father.
	207-209	Mother spoke English well, taught English to Chinese at home -- tutoring.
	210-216	SL did not recall San Francisco earthquake of 1906. SL's family was in Napa. The story of Father's escape from the earthquake was told. Father had a sidewalk corner store in San Francisco. Father usually came home every other weekend. Strangely enough, he came home the earthquake weekend when he wasn't suppose to.
7	217-233	Father commuted by ferry and electric train.
	234-239	SL's family did not have a car.
	239-240	In Oakland, brother had a car and ran a jitney service (5¢).
	241-243	SL's family did not keep any Chinese customs. Not much Chinese food -- did eat rice. 50% Chinese, 50% American, food.
	244-253	SL's family did not use herbs.
	254-260	SL's went to work as mother's helper at 14.
	261-264	Story is told about that job with Scandanavian family in Piedmont, taking care of baby, polishing silverware.
8	265-278	SL went into dried goods business. (Did not last long in "home" work).
	279-281	SL went to work for the National Dollar Store in San Francisco on Market Street.
	282-284	SL left and went to a dry goods store in Oakland.
	285-286	SL's earning were \$15 a month as mother's helper, \$3 a week at the National Dollar Store, and \$5 a week in Oakland.
	287-296	Out of \$3, \$2.50 went to family and \$0.50 was kept for spending money. Once a month, had to pay \$3.50 for a commute ticket.
	297-302	In Oakland, \$4.50 out of \$5.00 went to family, mother, and \$0.50 was kept. Done by choice, family needed it.
	303-304	Conditions were not too good. Depression even then.
	305-313	SL helped with younger kids.
	313-314	SL's recreation time was one free day on Sundays. SL went to San Francisco to look around, to the beach. SL went alone. SL couldn't afford to take friends.
9	315-332	SL had no close Chinese friends at this time [nor close Caucasian friends].
	332-333	SL did not go to San Francisco Chinatown much.
	334-335	SL had friends at the Methodist Church in San Francisco [Mei Yee Mei -- Washington and Stockton].

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
9	336-340	Pastor at the Methodist Church is from same village as Father, so she knew them and met Young (husband) through them.
	341-343	Pastor had a daughter SL's age. Daughter asked SL to help in a Church bazaar and so SL met Wong Young Louis (WYL) there.
	344-354	SL's impression of Young -- no strong impression between the two.
	355-364	SL and WYL got acquainted in courting period.
	365-367	"After a bit, more or less, it was." [Arrangements between the families].
	368-378	SL's friends, Chinese boys, became friends with WYL more so than with SL for a while.
	379-381	SL doesn't have much to say about youth activities.
10	382-393	SL did not go much to the Methodist Church. Mother went later, after SL left home. SL did get involve with the Baptists in Berkeley.
	394-396	
	397-399	Not many Chinese in Berkeley.
	400-406	Brothers found jobs and went to work. Younger brother went to college for a short time, then quit, and went to work.
	407-423	SL noted no discrimination in jobs [she and her brothers had]. "In those days, they were glad to get anybody..."
	424-426	Types of jobs were anything they could find.
	427-435	No encounters with unions.

END OF SIDE A

TAPE 1 SIDE B

1	001-014	Marriage of SL and WYL was an Americanized ceremony. WYL was a new member of Christian Church and wanted a modern ceremony.
	015-022	Wedding was on December 31, 1912.
	023-026	Major social event, 5 to 600 people, fed in three shifts.
	026-027	Chinese at wedding. Louis family and the other family. Church planned the wedding.
2	028-039	SL's family were church goers, but she was never baptized.
	040-043	SL's family went to the Methodist Church in Napa.
	044-045	Description of services.
	046-049	SL taught kindergarten in Church school in Berkeley.
	050-053	SL had wished for wedding ceremony in Berkeley or in San Francisco, and perhaps should have had the Chinese ceremonies.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	054-059	SL's family was not able to attend the wedding. Her brother attended.
	060-064	Courtship was short.
	065-067	No special arrangements [as opposed to comments before].
3	068-071	SL traveled to San Luis Obispo by train. Eight hours from San Francisco to San Luis Obispo. Carried your own lunch.
	072-079	SL escorted down by WYL and father [Ah Louis].
	080-083	SL was not sure, but maybe family heads gathered up north before the trip.
	083-084	SL amazed at size of family.
	085-088	SL's chief reason to be there was to help raise WYL's two younger brothers -- Toby (Howard), three, and Fred, four years old.
	089-091	SL's mother had died three years before.
	092-098	Louis brothers were all born over the store. All present except WYL's older sister who had moved out to a house-keeping job.
4	099-106	Everyone lived above the store, SL had a room to herself.
	107-109	The other females were a Louis sister, three years older than SL, now living in San Luis Obispo, and a younger sister, ten or eleven, now in Chicago.
	110-117	First time Chinese people in San Luis Obispo were married [so publicly].
	118-119	Other Chinese families attended. Their patriarch arrived about the time of Young's father. Son was the candy shop owner.
	120-127	This patriarch's occupation [here a shuffling motion denoting that he was a gambler, and smoking motions -- opium] "...smoked..."
	127-128	"...all shady stuff."
	129-131	A lot of single men, Chinese, who had worked on the rail-road.
	132-136	These men had been contracted to Young's father.
	137-140	Some hung around, did not get paid. Some helped out for room and board, no pay.
5	141-145	There men made up San Luis Obispo's Chinatown around the store.
	146-147	Their fate was to die, return to China, or to move away.
	148-150	Contacts with Los Angeles were slight in those days. Also contacts with San Francisco.
	151-155	Most could not afford rail fare.
	156-158	These Chinese men spent their time gambling.

Contents (contd')

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	159-162 163-167	SL had no such thing as a honeymoon. Housekeeping for the Louis family started. Louis family had a cook, who worked downstairs and fed everyone.
	168-171	SL washed and took care of kids.
	172-174	SL did not have to work in the store, they had a clerk.
	174-175	There were no social activities.
	176-178	SL bothered the family because she wouldn't stay in the house. She went out. WYL's mother only went out <u>once</u> all those years. Ah Louis complained about SL. Took WYL's mother four days to get ready on that one time.
6	179-189	SL had a very traditional attitude toward women. SL's father was, [by contrast] very Americanized.
	190-196	SL could not get to know the ladies in the town at that time.
	197-203	Louis family, known, but no socializing occurred with other townspeople at this time.
	204-208	SL could keep in touch with her family by letters, but could not see them much.
	209-210	Neither WYL or SL got invitations to parties or events, Caucasian or otherwise, in those days. Very little participation in the community.
	211-220	SL's mother lived to 64, to the 1930's, in Berkeley [SL tearful here].
	220-221	SL's father, 72, died in El Paso in 1940's. In business with SL's brother.
7	222-231	Father went down to El Paso in the 1930's, maybe the 20's.
	232-233	Father went to El Paso probably because of the Depression [1930's], and lack of work in the Bay Area [San Francisco].
	234-239	Depression curtailed a lot of Louis activity in San Luis Obispo area.
	240-242	Louis had about six ranches going and they quit.
	242-243	Education of Young's brothers and sisters -- they were the only Chinese kids in school.
	244-253	Two youngest learned English from SL before school. The rest were lost initially.
	254-260	As kids graduated from high school, they moved out of the quarters above the store.
	261-262	The boys all went to college. Girls did not. The younger sister, next to Young, did not go. Young did not go [later he did]. All the rest did [she must mean the younger kids].
	263-270	When asked about social separation due to housing discrimination, SL replied, "Heck, his father was here before the American people came, ha, ha..." So there was no problem.

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
8	271-281	SL was the first to learn how to drive. SL took Ah Louis around to the ranches, Edna, Guadalupe, especially during harvest time.
	282-300	Ah Louis recalled the history of the district to SL on the road, and his experiences.
	301-313	Dodge, 1915.
	314-322	Ranches grew flower seeds. During World War I, they grew all the navy beans for the United States Navy.
9	323-328	When SL first came, beans were the produce, some ranches grew flower seeds.
	329-330	Guadalupe ranch raised potatoes -- white, sweet, before SL came.
	331-335	Workers were Mexicans. Japanese camp, Portuguese camp, Mexican camp, all separated.
	336-342	Chinese cooked.
	343-344	\$30 a month with room and board was good wages.
	345-348	Produce shipped by train.
	349-358	Ah Louis raised a lot of flower seed for Northrup-King.
	359-366	Ah Louis never had any business at Port San Luis at that time. Went to visit. Ah Louis started at a location where a hotel had burned down.
	367-374	SL tells story of Ah Louis' getting his name. The real surname is Wong. Captain Hartford bestowed the name.
	10	375-398
399-405		"San Francisco mixture" of language.
406-409		SL did not make long trips to San Francisco or Los Angeles at that time.
409-410		SL did not remember her earliest trip to Los Angeles.
411-414		It was probably on business. SL took Ah Louis down to see seed companies, possibly in 1920's.
415-425		Never visited Los Angeles Chinatown.

END OF TAPE 1

TAPE 2 SIDE A

1	001-011	Introduction
	012-014	SL went to Los Angeles often. Stayed at Anna May Wong's. Got to know Anna May Wong through a mutual friend. This friend went to San Francisco often, through San Luis Obispo.
	015-022	SL would often go with her to Los Angeles and thence met Anna May Wong and the Wong family.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
1	022-023	Anna May Wong would always stop over in San Luis Obispo on her trips.
	024-026	SL and Anna May Wong became good friends when she found out that SL was not interested in movies. (WYL tells story of Anna May Wong soda jerking incognito in the Louis' ice cream shop).
	027-029	Los Angeles and San Francisco people came to San Luis Obispo area to dig clams.
	029-030	Mutual friends were all Chinese.
2	031-036	Clams were famous [Pismo clams]. SL tells story about it.
	037-044	Some of these people stayed, some did not.
	045-049	Some made a one day trip.
	050-051	Anna May Wong's and WYL's fathers came from the same Chinese village.
	052-054	But the two men probably did not know each other then.
	055-056	SL met James Wang Howe at Anna May Wong's. Someplace when he first started out, carrying film.
	057-066	Did not know him as well.
3	067-069	Also Anna May Wong's sister, Lulu.
	070-074	WYL interest in photography. Projectuning predated this.
	075-078	Since 1914.
	079-082	Story of WYL becoming a projectionist. WYL hated farm work, became a second cook at a hotel. WYL loved shows -- at the Pavilion. Most show folks treated San Luis Obispo as a stopover.
	083-095	Took two days from San Francisco to Los Angeles, and made some money besides. Elmo Theater opened and WYL got a job there [to "break in"] as a janitor. World War I broke out and the projectionist went to Mare Island. WYL replaced him.
4	096-105	WYL then decided to learn electricity because of it and went to Cal Poly to take electrical engineering courses.
	106-115	WYL was not the first Chinese at Poly. WYL's younger sister went there. Graduated in 1917 first.
	116-119	WYL's sister was in domestic science. Poly was more like a high school then [in part].
	120-122	WYL graduated in 1923, seven electrical engineer graduates.
	123-126	WYL got into Poly without high school diploma then.
	127-131	Now an honorary member of the Engineering Society of the Electrical Engineers.
	132-134	SL recalls little about Los Angeles experiences such as the restaurants.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
4	135-142	WYL's father associated with other Chinese in San Francisco but not in Los Angeles.
5	143-144	Ah Louis was very well known in San Francisco -- he was a big spender.
	145-148	Ah Louis did not invest in properties in the city.
	149-152	He went to the city for recreation. He went alone.
	153-156	Others ran his businesses, etc. for him, while he was away.
	157-162	Ah Louis took these travel mainly before his marriage.
	163-165	Ah Louis went to San Francisco quite a bit, even in the later years. He would buy supplies, have a good time.
	166-169	WYL did not enjoy farming and the rest of the brothers.
	170-175	Ah Louis never said much about feelings about that.
	175-176	WYL's brothers had varied careers.
	177-179	Fred was in the United States Army. Graduated from Poly.
6	180-186	Was First Lieutenant, ROTC. Went to the University of Chicago. Before World War II, he went to work for Ford Company, specializing in heavy equipment to build the Burma Road.
	187-200	He joined the United States Army as Second Lieutenant Quartermasters. World wide places named. More than twenty years.
	201-219	Retired a Colonel.
	220-222	Last duty went to Taiwan when asked for Singapore.
7	223-227	SL motivated to go to Taiwan the first time -- to see him.
	228-229	Fred was in charge of all small industry at that time [Military Advisors Group?]. SL tells stories about Fred in Taiwan.
	230-241	Fred also went to Germany.
	242-244	Fred took engineering at Poly, did not know what.
	245-249	Fred is now in Atwater, California, because of his wife's health.
	250-257	Fred married a Japanese/Swedish woman.
	258-259	As for the other family members, the oldest married a Filipino first, and then a Chinese. Another brother married a Chinese. Prince Waln married a Caucasian [first marriage was to a Chinese].
	260-264	The rest married Chinese.
	265-271	Prince Waln loved music -- piano. The whole family was musical. Helen [sister] played -- she was a professional pianist. Prince Waln then plays the guitar, the the steel guitar. After high school, he went up to San Francisco and got a job entertaining.
8	272-286	Got on Keith-Orpheum Vaudeville circuit -- 1920's.
	287-291	Today, retired. Had a banjo class in Portland, Oregon.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
8	292-299	Whole family is musical. Had lots of fun.
	300-302	Mostly Helen, Prince, and Walter, a bit.
	303-305	Ah Louis' family did not encourage music. Encouraged the girls, Helen, that was all.
	305-312	SL's family did not encourage music.
	313-END	Low level background voices, not of this interview.
END OF SIDE A		
<u>TAPE 2 SIDE B</u>		
1	012-015	Regarding Chinese customs, SL just watched to see how they did it.
	016-021	Nothing formal.
	021-022	New Year's they put up the big color picture [Huge picture located in Louis' home hallway -- "Guardian" Kuan Tye 關帝]. Put things around the picture.
	023-025	Foods, etc. Did not remember firecrackers.
	025-026	Family had a cook who did everything.
	027-028	No special festival meals.
	028-029	SL had nothing to do with it.
	030-031	Other Chinese families here -- "They were very Chinesy."
	031-032	Did do everything according to Hoyle.
2	032-033	Firecrackers in front door, firecrackers in the back door.
	034-036	Daily meals were Chinese until SL was there. SL inaugurated American meals.
	037-038	Thanksgiving.
	039-040	Christmas. Louis family did not do anything until SL came.
	040-041	SL had Christmas in her own home and did the same here.
	042-044	Louis' men thought she was crazy for doing so.
	045-049	American doctors were used by the family.
	049-050	Ah Louis did not much believe in old style doctors.
	051-052	Ah Louis' store had bags of herbs, though.
	052-053	Cook was an herbalist.
	054-055	They [Chinese men customers] would come and he [cook] would give the herbs to customers.
	056-059	SL did not know whether the cook prescribed for the family or not.
		[Some further discussion related to Interviewers in confidence regarding herb practices. Off tape.]
	059-060	SL - WYL marriage did not have much dowry. "Preliminaries," not really very Americanized.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
3	061-068	SL was in National Dollar Stores. Knew Joe Shoong -- Shoong fired her.
		Engaging story follows of why.
	069-081	End of story. One of the follow employees got her the Oakland job.
	082-086	Only had Dollar Store on Market Street at that time.
	087-091	Did not know any other interesting people like that.
	092-096	Worked in everything in dry goods, clerked, stockroom inventory.
	097-100	Oakland store began teaching her the whole business. Judged goods, judged sales goods.
4	101-107	SL was doing well.
	108-113	SL's child was born in 1914, a little over a year after marriage. Child is a daughter.
	114-119	Her child and step brothers and sisters all grew up together. Toby was five or six.
	120-130	SL kept books and checks for Ah Louis. Did all the English accounting, especially in the store.
	131-135	SL did not do much correspondence. Most of the correspondence was in Chinese. Ah Louis had Chinese clerks.
	136-140	WYL's other brothers never got involved.
5	141-147	SL did not quite remember about coming to the west side of Los Angeles to buy flower seeds with Ah Louis.
	148-151	Ah Louis raised seeds on contract. [Additional seeds was to fulfill contracts].
	152-155	Before 1921.
	156-161	West side of Los Angeles were all farms.
	161-162	Especially out on West Adams.
	163-164	Did not contact any Chinese farmers -- only men of the seed companies.
	165-168	Six to eight hours to Los Angeles from San Luis Obispo [by car]. It took one day to go down, and one day to go back -- couldn't do it in one day.
	169-174	35 to 45 miles per hour. 45 miles per hour was really traveling.
	175-177	Noone else in the family could drive. Kids were in school [inferred they knew how to drive].
	178-183	After the flower business, Ah Louis retired in the 80's.
6	184-185	Ah Louis just sat in the store.
	186-193	Not much activity in the store by then. SL did not do much. Ranches were sold. Kept only the store.
	194-196	Ah Louis decided to go back to China in the 1930's. Fred and Toby (Howard) accompanied him. Toby quit school.
	197-199	Ah Louis was in 90's then. Hadn't return in 50 years.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
6	200-208	Family got him a one way passport.
	209-213	Ah Louis wanted to return, hated it.
	214-218	Relatives harassed him because of his supposed wealth.
	219-222	Fred and Toby wanted to stay the year to see as much as possible.
	223-224	So they hired a woman to care for Ah Louis and then traveled, mostly in Kwantung.
7	225-228	Ah Louis complained about it. He "could see California across the water." They were actually some islands off the coast.
	229-239	Ah Louis complained -- thought it took too long to come home -- a whole month.
	240-246	Family had decided to send the two youngest boys to care for them.
	247-251	Lots of relatives in China.
	252-254	Ah Louis sent money every month, helped to build the village school. Communicated with relatives by mail.
	255-259	Supported them all that time.
	260-265	Bandits story is told [Refer to WYL's tape].
	266-273	SL never knew how much was being sent back. It was all done in Chinese.
8	274-280	WYL still at the theatre. Photography was not yet important.
	280-281	WYL and SL did not travel together much to San Francisco or Los Angeles.
	282-286	SL would travel to Berkeley to see her mother. Daughter would go along until school age.
	287-294	While Ah Louis was in China, SL kept the store going.
	295-299	Not much business.
	300-303	Supermarkets were coming in and grocery stores were moving out.
	304-306	SL began conversion to art shop. When Toby returned, he took it over and completed it in the 1930's.
	307-313	Chinese store -- herbs, clothes, etc.
	314-315	Arts. Goods gotten in San Francisco. Grandpa would go to San Francisco and SL would go with him. SL would pick up odds and ends to sell.
9	316-325	Ah Louis did not do anymore.
	326-328	Toby took it over and SL did not help anymore.
	329-333	Except she took over when Toby was out.
	334-337	SL's main interest was caring for her daughter.
	338-344	Daughter had lots of friends -- very popular.

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
9	344-345	Daughter went to Mills College, an all women school. She left because she got tired of school.
	346-354	She was a good student, top of the class.
	355-364	Finally became a tax consultant.
	365-371	Top lady golfer.
	372-374	Daughter now lives in Lake Oswego.
	375-376	In Chicago, was an executive secretary of the University of Chicago, Law School.
10	377-390	Daughter did everything well, but really was not interested in organized athletics.
	391-400	Seldom home as a child.
	401-404	Elsie is the daughter's name.
	405-410	SL's Chinese name -- she had one but she cannot recall. Then "Chun Loy" (張純榮) which changed to "Spring Orchid."
	411-432	Daughter was not given a Chinese name.
	433-440	WYL and SL started up a restaurant in 1927.
11	441-448	Then a bigger place in 1931. With SL's brother.
	449-454	Started a small candy and sandwich place next to WYL's theater.
	455-459	Everyone said, pick up the theater business.
	460-465	Great success.
		[SL told several stories in confidence concerning relatives in China during the tape change].

END OF TAPE 2

TAPE 3 SIDE A

1	001-010	Introduction.
	011-014	Moved to a fancy beautiful restaurant. Chinese and American, small place. High school kids hung around there. Couldn't get rid of the high school kids in bigger place...downtown.
	015-024	Had it for fifteen years. Brother continued it.
	025-026	Business was tight due to depression. With World War II, business really picked up due to Camp San Luis.
	027-029	Chinese - American food.
	029-030	Chinese cook and American cook.
	030-031	Brother did the book work. Worked at the theater just as WYL but got through earlier.
2	032-033	SL did what she could -- that was most of the time. 11 a.m. to 12 midnight.
	034-038	Hard work. Opened late to get the theater crowd. Next to a theater which burnt down.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	039-046	No Chinese food at small sandwich and candy place.
	046-047	"Golden Dragon."
	048-050	When war started in 1944, turned over to brother.
	051-053	War affected San Luis Obispo.
	054-055	Lots of young single men were around. Girls were there from up and down the coast.
	055-056	"Madhouse."
	057-058	Ladies in town -- everybody got into things to help out. Red Cross and so on.
	058-065	After restaurant business, SL got into Red Cross. In charge of feeding the people, refugees, who might come if Los Angeles or San Francisco met disaster.
3	066-069	As a result of restaurant business.
	069-070	First aid -- feeding programs, organized group, what to do, where to go.
	071-073	Whole corp of ladies.
	073-074	At Poly groves.
	075-077	Got to know most everybody in the town by then.
	077-078	Not on a social level during the 1910's to 1920's. By the 1930's, got friendlier.
	079-083	World War II, Red Cross, can't remember anything else.
	084-087	Help for China during World War II. No bonds drive, SL did not think so -- she did not remember.
		[WYL recalled in conversation that SL assisted Madame Chiang Kai Shek in her famous trip across the United States in 1943. So SL was in Los Angeles for the Hollywood Bowl appearance. SL considered the experience a private matter not for discussion since it might deal with the day-to-day personal affairs of Madame. Project was allowed to copy the program of the 1943 appearance and a 1971 commemorative Volume of Madame's paintings, with personal inscription was shown to the interviewers].
	088-091	Ah Louis passed away in the 1930's, 1936 (?).
	092-095	Recall his passing, large funeral.
	096-100	A lot of people were there.
4	101-105	Christian burial.
	106-107	Buried in Roman Catholic cemetery -- one of the daughters was in the church.
	108-109	WYL said this was a daughter who had died at ten.
	110-111	Back to World War II. Prominent in selling war bonds.
	112-117	Both WYL and SL.
	118-119	WYL made exhibits, signs, thermometer for bond effort. Very successful.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
4	120-125	Cal Poly activity continued since 1923.
	126-130	Organized Engineering Club "Polyphase".
	131-134	Not too many meetings.
	135-137	SL had nothing to do with it.
	138-139	SL more or less, but not as much as WYL.
	140-141	Did not really begin to help the students, per se, until Chinese students came in. So many. Cannot remember when. Not likely before World War II.
5	142-149	WYL organized Chinese Student Club around 50's.
	150-153	Cal Poly.
	154-155	After War, government sent ex-sailors and ex-soldiers there, a lot of them [GI bills]. Poly grew then, in the 1920's.
	156-165	Hosted soldiers and sailors [World War II].
	166-168	USO, SL was active in it because SL was a member of the women's club which handled dances at the camp.
	169-178	Women's Clubs.
	179-180	Business and Professionals Women's Club, organized in 1931. SL joined three months after the organization because she was in the restaurant business.
6	181-186	Soroptimists.
	187-189	SL joined in 1948. Had to be in business a year to be eligible. Had taken over the photo studio first in 1947.
	190-192	Soroptimists were new in San Luis Obispo at the time.
	192-193	SL in Monday Club, a social club -- 40 or 50 years ago.
	194-197	They had a drive to build a clubhouse and SL helped a lot in their drives.
	198-199	Professional Photographers of California.
	200-209	Monday Club Award for 40 year membership hang out there.
	210-214	Offices.
	215-220	Not in Monday Club Social Club purely, thought some activities were a waste of time.
	221-226	SL went to some interesting social things such as speakers and lectures.
7	227-230	SL in Business and Professional Women's, held all offices.
	230-231	Backed out of presidency.
	232-234	SL in Soroptimists, president in 1955. Good experience, like Rotary.
	235-242	WYL active in Rotary since 1942.
	243-248	WYL had a friend who owned studio [across from San Luis Obispo mission, site of new restaurant in 1982]. He died. Louis' took over the photo studio.
	249-256	SL was not busy.
	257-259	Daughter was working for a fancy photographer. Seemed like a good business. SL saw daughter frequently.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
7	260-265	Louis went up to San Francisco a lot. "Not traveling." [Thought of as a short commute].
	266-267	Traveled to Los Angeles -- probably yes. Short trips.
8	268-275	Train or bus to Los Angeles. See a show, come back.
	276-281	Did not go to Los Angeles Chinatown -- waste of time.
	282-285	Possibly eat there.
	286-288	Lots of friends, Leons, for example. Might see them.
	289-298	Most are not extremely close.
	299-303	WYL got to know the theater people. They played in San
	304-312	Luis Obispo stage shows -- famous people. Ethel Barrymore, for one.
	313-319	SL ran the studio, technically and otherwise. WYL was working.
	320-324	SL even took the pictures.
9	325-326	WYL took pictures when "some glamorous looking gal needed a picture taken."
	327-333	Cal Poly's Poly Royal Queens' pictures were taken by them from the beginning of the studio.
	334-345	SL had a few women help her out in the studio.
	346-350	SL went out on jobs so someone would be in the studio.
	350-351	SL used camera, "Eastman," large.
	352-356	Potraits and weddings.
	357-359	Very competitive business -- however, each photo shop had their friends [clients].
	360-368	Studio location described. Next to Mission San Luis Obispo. Historical location.
	369-380	Story told of how they vacated [forced out]. "Five week vacation." Leaky roof led to a condemned building.
10	381-394	Relocated to Lincoln Avenue home.
	395-404	Portrait room was second bedroom in front of house, facing street.
	405-406	No advertising but customers came.
	407-411	Did high school yearbook pictures.
	412-420	Business by phone, chose their clients selectively [inferred semi-retired].
	421-425	Studio downtown complained, filed a complaint with city on their doing busines in a residential zone.
	426-438	Mayor was a neighbor.
	439-444	SL went before Council. Mayor brushed away the issue and Council dismissed the complaint.
11	445-452	SL moved business to house in 1955 or 1956..
	453-460	Too much work, in the end. SL started doing hair [beauty work?].

END OF SIDE A

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
1	001-009	Living quarters before World War II. Lived above the store with Toby.
	010-015	In 1951 built Lincoln Street home.
	016-017	Land owned for a long time along Lincoln -- three lots.
	018-021	Unique house.
	022-026	Better than living up in the store. Toby had gotten married.
	027-028	House design was picked by SL. On one side, SL said that the house is low, one story, so that she could paint it herself.
	029-032	SL really wanted to build a commercial building uptown on property there, a restaurant, across from the Shanghai Restaurant [on the same block as the store], where the parking lot is now, and live upstairs.
2	033-037	WYL said no.
	038-042	SL decided on the Lincoln Street home quite sometime later.
	043-047	WYL preferred to stay in the store.
	048-050	SL really started the plan of the house.
	051-052	Regarding gardens, SL "loved to fool around outside -- in the yard."
	053-055	At the old store, where the warehouse is now [in the back corner of the building], was a stable.
	056-063	Between stable and street and up to the back of the store, was dirt.
	063-064	SL started the garden when she came. Vegetables, all kinds.
	065-067	SL grew broccoli when the soldiers were in. Restaurants needed help and SL worked and occasionally substituted broccoli leaves for Chinese gai lan when needed.
3	068-083	Q: How did you learn to garden? A: Just learned.
	084-086	Q: Did you plant any trees? A: No, only the orange tree that were there. Always expected to move out of the store.
	087-090	The garden was a fun thing -- not to feed family -- tomatoes, winter melons, melons.
	090-091	Noone helped SL with the garden.
	092-096	At the Lincoln Street house, SL planted trees as soon as she got there.
	097-098	WYL "does the housework and I do the gardening."
	099-100	Regarding traveling, SL used to go back East quite frequently.
	100-101	WYL belonged to Projectionists. Had a convention every two years. Theater would send him because nobody else wanted to go.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
4	102-112 113-120 121-131 132-140	Chicago, El Paso, Boston, New York, Midwest, Florida. Outside the United States -- England, France, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Hawaiian Islands. SL has been to Taiwan about half a dozen times. SL's older brother married an older Chinese girl who escaped from the mainland to Hong Kong to a Ma family. She became a servant. One of the Ma men took her to Taiwan as a "daughter."
5	141-159 160-168 168-169 170-174	25 to 30 years ago. Men went over to Hong Kong looking for wives and this girl's friends were chosen. The girl was thought to be too old. She was previously married. Ma family was friends of SL's sister. Mrs. Ma was close to Madame [Chiang Kai Shek]. Mrs. Ma's background -- she was a brave woman. Large home outside of Taipei.
6	175-185 185-186 187-190 191-193 194-197 198-204 205-206 207-209 210-217	So this single girl went there and had given up the idea of going to the United States. Mrs. Ma arranged for SL's sixty years old older brother. "Carol's" father. [Picture on shelf shown]. Brother is named Tom. "Young girl" is named Lana. SL's sister in Taiwan took Tom over to Ma's house to meet Lana. SL [simply], "Guys that old, maybe he's got a little something. They had asked Tom, you wanna get married? Tom said, 'Oh yeah, uh huh.' -- Next thing you know, he was married." [Lana] knew all about SL's father's family in Sunning (新寧). SL has a big family in a big village in China -- none of which she knew. Carol is the only niece.
7	218-227 228-236 237-253 254-258 259-265 266-270	SL had not much to say about Cal Poly and the Chinese Club. WYL and SL always involved in Homecoming in October. Yearly, picked five alumni to honor, one from each school. WYL is on the current board to pick the five. Young has been honored. As with Fred, and Helen also. Names are in the new administration building on special chairs. Not much fund raising needed at Poly. [Ref. Chinese Club Food Booth at Poly Royal, 1982]. Kids raised money for themselves.
8	271-276 277-282	They do have fund raising for alumni. Chinese kids at Poly.

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
8	283-284	SL and WYL organized the Chinese Students Association in the first place.
	284-285	Chinese Student Association met in their home. Sought advice from SL and WYL.
	286-289	Lion Dance activity, and how it started.
	290-296	Japanese Club had drums, Spanish Club had dances, and Chinese Club wanted to do something.
	297-312	Shanghai Restaurant owner's grandfather was a Hop Sing (合勝) and borrowed the lions from Hop Sing in Los Angeles.
	313-319	Kids performed in the Fiesta Parade.
	320-324	Had to make a donation to Hop Sing for it.
9	325-329	Next time tried for Chinese Hospital San Francisco lions but got only a baby lion.
	330-341	Borrowed once again.
	342-348	SL proposed buying lions. Lion idea initiated by WYL.
	349-354	WYL proposed to match fund raising by kids to buy lions from Hong Kong.
	355-359	Fund raising through dinners. All activities were great successes.
	360-370	Poly Royal participation in by Chinese students.
	371-378	Everyone gets involved.
10	379-386	SL did not remember much.
	387-392	Tradition of Poly Royal Queen. WYL idea at first Royal Gus Beck's idea. WYL organized the events. They wanted to have a queen.
	393-410	Cal Poly was all male at this time. Asked a high school girl.
	411-412	WYL had \$35 for all the event prizes.
	413-419	WYL and SL made the first queen's crown.
	420-425	Some contact maintained with Chinese students after graduation.
	426-430	"Mom and Pop."
431-436	Two years ago, a reunion of Chinese graduates. Came from all over -- California, Midwest, but not overseas.	
11	437-454	People could not find place to stay or meet or eat.
	455-467	SL found them a place for dinner -- Avila Bay Inn.
	468-477	SL gifted with a piece of uncut jade for that effort.
END OF TAPE 3		

TAPE 4 SIDE A

1	001-011	Introduction.
	012-016	Local history activity.
	016-017	Begins with the Museum.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
1	018-028	Library outgrew building. Friend and WYL got together -- looked for a place to house historical stuff. Friend said it would be a perfect museum but could not get anywhere.
2	029-038	WYL argued to the City Council that building could make a better museum than city offices.
	038-039	WYL persuaded the city to let the Historical Society use the building for one dollar a year.
	040-044	WYL was interested in history.
	045-047	WYL and LuAnn organized a centennial for San Luis Obispo and WYL handled the exhibits.
	048-055	Great even with lots of stuff left over.
	056-058	WYL made a sign: "If you are interested in a county museum, please sign here." Got 400 to 500 names!
	059-063	That is how the Historical Society got started.
	064-066	Easily 25 years ago.
3	067-069	WYL and LuAnn really started it.
	070-078	LuAnn was the first president and later on, WYL was the president for one year.
	079-081	Meetings were <u>dull</u> .
	082-086	WYL changed the pace, did business at Board.
	087-091	Had 150 memberships.
	092-093	Good programs -- celebrities, movie personalities, old time movies, field trips to "interesting places."
4	094-106	Half a year, over 500 people.
	107-108	Wanted WYL to do a second year.
	109-111	SL said no, "Leave them like that, wishing you had a second year."
	112-117	Dallidet adobe. WYL and SL got that for the society. Paul Dallidet was the childhood friend of WYL's.
	118-124	Last survivor of the family.
	125-131	WYL and SL went to work on him. Lemon pie -- strawberry jam.
	132-136	Paul Dallidet had already willed the building to a friend.
	137-140	Paul Dallidet finally consented.
	141-142	Feared Depression but trusted WYL.
5	143-147	Paul Dallidet game it to WYL in trust for the Society.
	148-151	Under restoration.
	152-156	Chinese Historical Society in San Francisco. Cannot remember how Louises got involved.
	157-163	About 15 years ago.
	164-166	Uncle Chan was SL's first cousin in San Francisco.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	167-173 174-186	SL was asked when the sense of the Louis family as history get started. SL did not really know. She never really gave it a though. Did not mean much to them.
6	187-189 189-190 191-192 192-193 194-201 201-202	Thank you [premature]. Chinese organizations besides Societies business. Historical Societys [misheard] -- "belong to the north one [Chinese Historical Society of America], south one [Chinese Historical Society of Southern California], other. Business and Professors of Poly (Chinese). No memberships in family associations. Young's father is a pioneer -- was a motivation for family interest in history.

END OF SIDE A

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