SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

| Interviewee: Arthur W. Chung | Interview Number: 9 | |
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| Chinese Name: 3長 埃 多维 | Number of Tapes: 5 | |
| Date of Interview: 10/23/79, 10/25/79 | Length: 2 Hours & 57 Minu | tes |
| Interviewer: Beverly Chan | | |
| Others Present: None | | |
| Language: English | | |
| Summarizer: Suellen Cheng | | |

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| Time | Counter | O |
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| Segment | Number | Summary Tape: 1 Side A |
| 1 | 001-006 | Introduction. |
| | 007-017 | Arthur W. Chung (AWC) was born in Los Angeles in 1913. Father's name was Y.H. Chung. Mother's maidenname was Nellie Yee. |
| | 018-019 | Mother was born in Ventura. |
| | 020-024 | Father was born in Kai Ping County (開 字), Canton, China. He died in 1952. |
| | 025-030 | Father was a Chinese herbalist. Mother was a housewife. |
| | 031 - 045 | Father came at the turn of the century to San Diego. Later he rented a place on 7th and Hill Streets. According to California law, he could not practice with a doctor's title. So he called his establishment Chinese Herbs Company, Y.H. Chung, manager. But everyone knew he was a Chinese doctor. |
| 2 | 046-060 | He had more Caucasian customers than Chinese. Patients were mostly referred by other patients. Most people in the early days didn't like surgery and would visit a Chinese doctor. |
| | 061-079 | Both AWC's brothers learned some traditional medicine from his father. One brother actually learned Chinese medicine in China. The other brother also learned western medicine and practiced medicine in China. |
| 3 | 080-095 | Father's patients were all kinds. He had his own formula. Later he brought herbs from Canton and later from a Japanese who imported herbs from Hong Kong. There was always a shortage of herbs. But he was very innovative and substituted other stores. |
| | 096-102 | Father also made house calls. |
| | 103-112 | There were several large herb houses in Chinatown. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| 4 | 113-119 | Three of AWC's uncles were also Chinese traditional Chinese doctors. |
| | 120-127 | Grandfather also knew some Chinese medicine. He also wanted his children to learn Chinese medicine. Chinese doctors had a higher position in Chinese society. |
| | 128-145 | Father was the 11th son in his family. Father was an apprentice in Canton, then he opened a herb store. |
| 5 | 146-167 | Cantonese were more adventuresome. The villages surrounding Canton often flooded. Father came to the U.S. alone. |
| | 168-185 | Father arrived in San Diego. Father went to a relative's store which was a gambling joint. His first night he had to wait until the games were over and then slept on the table. |
| 6 | 186-203 | He left San Diego and came to Los Angeles. Father's first wife died in China so he went back to China. When he returned, through a matchmaker, he met AWC's mother. They lived on 917 S. Hill Street. |
| | 204-215 | Across the street of AWC's house was Hamburger Department Store (now the May Company). AWC was born in the house on 917 S. Hill Street. |
| | 216-267 | AWC has one older sister, two younger sisters. AWC had also two half-brothers, one learned traditional medicine. He was more interested in farming. He grew asparagus in the San Fernando Valley. It was very hard work. In the 1950s, the whole area of his farm was subdivided. |
| 7 | 268-297 | The other half-brother was a medical doctor. He was born in China and came to the U.S. and graduated from Georgetown University. He went to Peking Union Hospital as a resident there. Later he had his practice in Shanghai. After World War II, he returned to the U.S. Another brother lived in Canton. AWC has never met him. |
| 8 | 298-319 | In the 1920s the family moved to 14th Place. Then they moved back to Hill Street. Father always wanted a place where he could put a big sign up. |
| | 320-328 | In 1931, AWC left for China. At that time the family lived at 1522 S. Hill Street. The family rented the house. |

| Interview | ee: <u>Arthur V</u> | W. Chung | age: | 3 | |
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| Contents | (cont'd) | | | | |
| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary | | | |
| 9 | 329-349 | The Depression affected the family. couldn't afford to see a doctor. Ev family was at school. Father had to children and to support relatives in | eryon supp | e in the port all the | e |
| | 350-373 | Father was a very proud man and woul children do any kind of labor work. | | | |
| | 374-411 | Father suggested that AWC should bec doctor. He said a chinese in Americ difficult to find a job unless one c independently, like in some professi | a was an wo | very ork | or |
| 10 | 412-447 | AWC's half brother liked to be a far well educated and liked to write poe was his ideal life. | | | |
| 11 | 448-481 | AWC went to the Sixth Street School, School. His sister went to Los Ange liked it very much. | | | - |
| END OF TA | PE 1 SIDE A | | | | |
| | | | Tape 1 | Side B | |
| ז | 000-001 | Rlank | | | |

| 1 | 000-001 002-012 | Blank. There were very few Chinese students in Los Angeles High School . Parents of Poly Technic High School students were mostly working class people. AWC took a bus ride which took 45 minutes to get to school. He |
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| | 013-041 | graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1931. The elementary school AWC attended had quite a few deaf and dumb students. Very few Chinese were in the school. As a minority, AWC felt some prejudice. The classmates sometimes made fun of Chinese students. They always looked down upon Chinese. |

042-050

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| | such discrimination made Chinese work harder to rise |
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| | above all the prejudice. At school, Chinese students |
| | were good students and teachers liked them very much. |
| 051-061 | Being a minority student, AC was left out of a lot of social activities. |
| 062-069 | AC had some Chinese friends but they never formed their own organizations. |

If there is anything that has made Chinese successful,

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
| 3 | 070-092 | Father felt strongly about the importance of a Chinese language education. AC didn't feel that it was important. He spoke Chinese with his parents and spoke English with his brothers and sisters. |
| | 093-131 | Kit King Lei was a sociology major and studied in Los Angeles for her Masters degree. She offered to teach Chinese in the community. AC's father signed him up immediately. AC was the only high school student. The class was held at a family friend's, Mrs How Wing Tom's house. AC got out from school at 3:00 pm and went to Mrs. Tom's house for Chinese class from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. AC took this class for two years. |
| 4 | 132-149 | AC was taking elementary level Chinese education. Father was a very strict person. AC got along much better with his mother than with his father. |
| 5 | 150-166 | In 1931, it was during the Depression, father suggested that AWC go back to China to study Chinese. AWC felt it was exciting and adventuresome. |
| | 167 - 179 | Ling Nam was the best known school in China. The other possibility was to enroll in Nam Kai University. Father decided to send AWC to Nam Kai University. |
| | 180-188 | AWC's nephew had finished the University in China and took courses at USC. Father got the information from him about Nam Kai University. |
| END OF TAI | PE 1 SIDE B | |
| | | Tape 2 Side A |
| 1 | 001-003 004-017 | Introduction. AC learned about the school and student life from his nephew. AWC's was not concerned knowing Mandarin. |
| | 018-023 | AWC left in the summer of 1931 on the same boat as his teacher Kit Kim Lei. |
| | 024-045 | AWC's brother was working at Central Hospital in Nanking. He met AWC in Shanghai. AWC then went to Teinging and wa a special student at Nam Kai University. He took up engineering and medicine. He found the mathematics course was harder than in the course in America. |
| 2 | 046~069 | AWC also took a special Chinese class at Nam Kai High School. He started the Thousand Words (十字). |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| 3 | 070 - 091 | AC did very poorly in College. but he learned Mandarin very quickly with his roommate. AWC also met some Cantonese speaking classmates. There were two other Chinese American students, one boy and one girl on campus. |
| | 092-121 | Father's idea was to send AWC to China for two years to study Chinese and hope that the situation would be better in America so that AWC could return for a college education in America. AWC liked the school and wrote to his father for permisssion to study medicine at Nam Kai University. Tuition in China was considered cheaper than in America. |
| 4 | 122-155 | AWC took a pre-medical course first. In 1933, AWC took entrance examination at Yen Gin University (燕 京大學). AWC took the overseas Chinese examination and became a regular student. |
| 5 | 156 - 176 | The pre-medical course was three years and medical school was four years. The first two years were regular basic courses. There, AWC absorbed much better than at Nam Kai University. |
| | 177-183 | AT that time, AWC wanted to complete the whole medical education. |
| 6 | 184-245 | When AWC went to Yen Gin University, it was the time of the student movement. AWC was very active in the studer movement. He wrote articles in the student journal. He also took part in the student march in Peking and the student strikes. They felt that everyone should take part in the anti-Japanese movement. |
| 7 | 246-271 | AWC still kept in contact with his teachers and friends in America. At Yen Gin University, the courses were taught in English. |
| | 272 - 277 | There was a Peking American School. |
| 8 | 278-319 | AWC completed all his courses. He also did a lot of extracurricular activities. He acted in several plays also. One of his teachers didn't like his other activities and flunked AWC. |
| | 320-359 | AWC and his friends decided to go to Nanking Medical School or Shanghai Medical School. AWC took the examination and transferred to Shanghai Medical School as a second year student in 1936. In 1937 Japan attacked Shanghai and occupied Shanghai. The school was moved to French posssession from 1937 to 1939. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 9 | 360-380 | In 1939 the school moved to Kumming through Hong Kong and Vietnam. |
| 10 | 381-401 | AWC's parents were very worried about him. He insisted on finishing medical school. He finished school in 1940. There were 35 students in his class, not every one could be an intern in Kumming. |
| | 402-444 | There was a Chinese Red Cross Medical Relief Corps which was organized by Dr. Robert Lee. Dr. Lee was very active in organizing medical services in helping the army. He was an overseas Chinese from Indonesia. He received more donations and medical supplies from all over the world than the Central government. |
| 11 | 445-479 | Ten of AWC's classmates and AWC went to Kweiyoung, after six months of training. They were organized into teams and sent out to the fields. |
| END OF TAR | PE 2 SIDE A | |
| | | Tape 2 Side B |
| 1 | 002-020 | AWC went to Canton and to Kwonsi. His team was given a the severe cases. |
| | 021-033 | The Red Cross was well organized. The three teams were not far apart so whenever there was a need the three teams got together. |
| 2 | 034-060 | In 1941, received a letter from his father. He started thinking of his future and training. He decided to return to America. He had to go back to Chungking and take a DC-2 plane to Hong Kong. |
| | 061-067 | He went back to Shanghai and got married in August 1941. In September, AWC and his wife took a boat back to the United States. |
| 3 | 068-071 | AWC stayed in America for eight years and then returned to China in 1949. |
| | 072 ~ 079 | AWC did not practice medicine in Los Angeles because he felt that he didn't have enough training. So he took an internship at the Los Angeles County Hospital. AWC was admitted in 1942. |
| | 080-083 084-108 | AWC did a year of rotating internship. AWC applied for Harvard Medical School. At that time A was drafted, but because he had tuberculosis before, he didn't have to serve. He studied pathology and later went to the clinical department. |

went to the clinical department.

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| Time | Counter | |
| Segment | Number | Summary |
| 4 | 109-119 | Since there were no openings in Boston, he returned to |
| | | Los Angeles and worked for nine months at White Memorial Hospital. |
| | 120-135 | AWC decided to work in Bellevue Hospital in New York in the pediatrics department for five years from 1944-1949. |
| | 136-153 | After AWC returned from China to America, AWC didn't hav much difficultly in adjusting. The family moved to a new house. Father was very proud of him being able to finish medical school. AWC renewed acquaintances with old friends. |
| 5 | 154-163 | A lot of people asked AWC to talk about the Sino-Japanes war. |
| | 164-177 | In those days, AWC didn't have many Caucasian friends socially. But the teachers were very fond of him and kept in touch with him even when he was in China. |
| | 178-188 | AWC always felt more Chinese and often told people about China. |
| END OF TA | PE 2 SIDE B | |
| | | Tape 3 Side A |
| 1 | 001-009 | Introduction. |
| | 010-018 | Chinese in China looked upon the overseas Chinese student because they looked so different at the beginning from the local students. |
| | 019-030 | In the beginning, people were skeptical about the staying of the overseas Chinese. AWC liked the idea of staying and helping the country. The Sino-Japanese War, the student movements made AWC feel that it was important to stay. |
| | 031-046 | At the end of AWC's training in New York, his boss wante him to stay. AWC's formal wife, who was born in China, wanted to have two children be educated in China. They returned in 1949. |
| 2 | 047-065 | There were two schools of thought about China at the time. One was more sympathetic toward the Communist regime while the other school was more against it. AWC |

something for his country.

066-074

was more sympathetic to the people. AWC at the time considered China as his country and he wanted to do

Both AWC's mother and father wanted him to stay in

America. AWC's ex-wife insisted on returning to China.

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| Concerns (| COILE G) | |
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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
| 3 | 075-085 | Father went back to China several times. Once in 1929 and once in 1930. Mother went along and stayed for a year in 1930. She couldn't get used to the life-style in China. They never returned to China again. |
| | 086-107 | There were always people from China who asked AWC's father to invest in a school or factory in China. Most of the Chinese Americans did not have much education before they came to the U.S., so they felt it was important to give the villager educational opportunities. But a lot of times the people solicting |
| | , | the money never gave it to the school in Canton. |
| 4 | 108-124 | Relatives constantly asked for money from AWC's father. He was soft-hearted and always sent money back to relatives in China, especially since the exchange rate |
| | 125-150 | was so favorable. Grandfather was a landlord. They relied on the rent paid by the tenants. AWC just heard that one half of AWC uncles all smoked opium. A lot of Chinese relied on the money sent back from America. It also gave them some sort of prestige that they had some relatives in America. |
| 5 | 151-159 | There was no other Chinese around AWC's family's first house on 9th and Hill Streets. Father selected the place mainly for building up his business among |
| | 160-170 | Caucasians. At the same time, he kept in contact with the Chinese associates in Chinatown. AWC didn't recall many Caucasian friends in the neighborhood. There was some distance between Chinese and Caucasians. He didn't recall any incidents that he was invited by any Caucasian family. |
| | 171-183 | All Chinese Americans clebrated Chinese holidays. They followed and practiced the old customs even more so than people in China. Because they felt that the Chinese culture was something that they should hold to. They also wanted their children to know it. |
| 6 | 184-185 | At the same time, Chinese Americans also celebrated American holidays, such as Christmas and so on. But the Chinese holidays were still important. |
| | 186-204 | Because they lived in uptown, they didn't go to Chinatown for the holidays. But AWC remembers that his uncle would take him to Chinatown to watch the celebration. Father would give them laisee (大) 十一 lucky money for New Years. |

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| Concencs | (cone a) | |
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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
| · . | 205 - 214 215 - 247 | Father would still treat patients even during the holidays. He was well-respected. There was not much conflict between AWC and his father. Father was especially concerned about the friends that the children made at school. He was very strict. the children were not free talking with their father but more free to talk with their mother. |
| 7 | 248-266 | AWC had asthma since he was young and could not participate in sports. AWC read a great deal when he was young. |
| | 267-287 | AWC didn't play any Chinese games. AWC didn't have a brother and didn't play his sister's games. Sometimes he played with his cousin and went to baseball games together. Father didn't like it. He thought that it was a waste of time. |
| 8 | 288-310 | AWC did go to American moveis with school friends. Occasionally father would take him to a Cantonese play. He didn't understand the play and felt that it was boring. |
| | 311 - 329 | When AWC was very young, his mother used to take him to visit her sister in Chinatown. Later AWC's aunt moved to San Diego. Then they visited them in San Diego every summer. |
| 9 | 330-333 | AWC ate Chinese food for dinner. Occasionally they had sandwiches for lunch. |
| | 334 - 352 | All the children did everything themselves, washed clothes, cleaned, etc. It was a surprise to some Chinese students from China. AWC felt that he was more independent that way. |
| | 353-362 | The labor was very cheap. AWC recalled that workers on an asparagus farm got \$70 to \$100 a month. |
| | 363~375 | AWC never knew how much money his father made. During the Depression, it was very difficult. Plus the fact that his father sent money back to China, the family was never very well off. |
| | 376-386 | The best time for the family was in the 1940s when the family bought their first house. |
| 10 | 387-414 | At the time when AWC's family had to rent in the white districts, they had a difficult time to rent. Chinese were not welcome in the white neighborhoods. Only houses they could see were the ones in the poor district and in poor conditions. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
| 10 | 415-423 | AWC did not recall that they had many relations with the |
| | 424-449 | white neighbors. An American name Holm could speak Chinese. It was through Holm that AWC's father able to operate his business. He was a translator for AWC's father. The family might have rented the house under Mr. Holm's name. |
| 11 | 450-464 | When the family moved to the house on 9th and Hill Streets, the district was mostly business offices. |
| | 465-474 | Father was old fashioned and treated his son and daughters a little differently. |
| END OF TAE | PE 3 SIDE A | |
| | | Tape 3 Side B |
| 1 | 002-014 | Father was very old fashioned and treated son differently from daughters. Father wrote his will in which gave his property to his sons, not daughters. |
| | 015-025 | Father felt that there should not have been discrimination in education among children. All of AWC's three sisters graduated from college. |
| | 026-030 | Father gave AWC more attention than to AWC's sisters. |
| 2 | 031-061 | Somehow AWC's sister was able to get into Los Angeles High School, therefore AWC was able to get in. Another Chinese family, the Leongs, also were able to get into Los Angeles High School. Most students there were from very wealthy neighborhoods. |
| | 062-071 | The idea of going to Los Angeles High School was considered prestigious. |
| 3 | 072-086 | Going to college was more important in the Chinese community. Father was very anxious to send AWC to college and was in favor of sending AWC to school in China. |
| | 087-091 092-109 | AWC's father was very sensitive about prestige. AWC's mother's sister married a Chinese janitor who worked for the movie studio. Father was always laughing at AWC's uncle. He had a line of division between an intellectual person and a person who worked as a manual laborer. |
| 4 | 110-113 | Father always considered himself an elite person. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
| 4 | 114-121 | Aunt and uncle lived in Chinatown. Later they moved to uptown right next to AWC's family. At that time he was still a janitor. |
| | 122-135 | Later one of uncle's daughters married a restaurant owner in San Diego. The whole family moved to San Diego. AWC's uncle then worked in the restaurant. |
| | 136-152 | Aunt had much more hard time. She used to make some kind of rice cake and Jong (*) and some tea cakes and sold them on the streets in Chinatown. |
| 5 | 153-164 | Since they moved to San Diego, they had a better life. The cousin's Chinese restaurant was the only one in San Diego. |
| | 165-184 | Most of the houses in the Old Chinatown were two story wooden frame houses. It was near the railroad. All night long you could hear the train come by through Chinatown. Chinatown was located in the worst part of town. Chinatown was moved when the Union Station was built. |
| END OF TAP | E 3 SIDE B | |
| • | | Tape 4 Side A |
| 1 | 001 - 007 008-013 | Introduction. AWC remembers that the streets of Old Chinatown were not |

| | | Tape 4 Side A |
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| 1 | 001-007 008-013 | Introduction. AWC remembers that the streets of Old Chinatown were not paved yet. |
| · • | 014-034 | There were temples like places and gambling places. Once there were tong wars. AWC's father would not let them go to Chinatown. AWC ususally went to Chinatown to shop for the family quite frequently. AWC could get fresh pork. |
| 2 | 035-043 | During AWC's high school year, he would go to the public library to return books. At the same time he would go to Chinatown and pick up food or groceries. |
| | 044-049 | The family were not religious people. Father didn't discourage or encourage the children in their religious beliefs. |
| | 050-057 | Mother went to Sunday school when she was young before she was married. |
| | 058-076 | Sister was the first to become Christian. She married into a very religious family, one of the first Baptist families in Canton. The other two sisters were not Christian. AWC's present wife is Christian. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
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| 3 | 077-086 | AWC met his present wife in 1941 at the Los Angeles County Hospital. Last year AWC was baptized. |
| | 087-104 | AWC was a ring boy in some weddings but couldn't remembe any Chinese wedding ceremonies. So when AWC was in China, he felt strange to observe Chinese wedding ceremonies in China. |
| 4 | 105-113 | AWC and his family members attended several wedding banquets but felt bored because he didn't know anybody. |
| | 114-131 . | AWC remembers the banquet held for celebrating new born babies. The red eggs, sour ginger and one half of a chicken were passed to friends and relatives. The banquet was held in a Chinese restaurant in Chinatown. |
| | 132-145 | AWC's sister was married in 1943. The wedding was an American ceremony. When they went back to China, they had a Chinese banquet in Canton. |
| 5 | 146-189 | Father treated patients first by asking questions. There were small drawers. Each drawer was divided into four parts containing different medicines. Mother actually learned how to weigh the herbs. Sometimes they would brew the herbs in the kitchen while the patients were waiting. It was AWC and his sister's to bring the herb tea and oyster crackers to the waiting room for the patient. Sometimes the patient would just bring the herbs and brew it themselves. Sometime the patients moved out of Los Angeles but would still put in a mail order for the herb medicine. |
| 6 | 190 - 195 196 - 211 | There were very few Black or Chicano patients. Only at the beginning did AWC's father hire an interpreter. Later it all became a family affair. Mother would be in charge of brewing the tea, the children would deliver the herb tea. Father didn't charge for a diagnosis but charged about \$1.50 per package for medicine. |
| | 212-219 | If the family was really poor, the father would not charge the patient. |
| | 220-244 | There were always doctors organizations questioning AWC' father whether he treated patients or not. He always said that he was a herb seller. He never advertised his business. His patients were all referred by other patients. He did run into some trouble before but he got out of it. He worked until he died. He was 86 years old. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary | | | |
| 7 | 245-257 | AWC's father bought herbs fr wholesaler. Later he bought wholesaler. | | | : |
| | 258-303. | The family members all got i medicine, which was made intinvented some special formul yokes and honey, etc. Somet scientific, although his fat experience. | to pill form. La made partly Limes it was ve | His fath from egg ry | er I |
| END OF TAP | E 4 SIDE A | | | | |
| | | | Tape 5 | Side A | |
| 1 | 001 - 004 005-020 | Introduction. AWC showed a picture of AWC' teacher, is now a dean of a picture was taken around 193 families contributed some monoducted in Cantonese. | law school in 80 or 1931. Al | China. 1 the | s Lei, th The |
| | 021-063 | AWC took a speech class. Hi an oratorical contest. AWC Father encouraged him to tal prejudice. He was against tal AWC used it as his topic. A School and got third place. the contest and talked about idea was to tell people not people by impression but by | talked about a lk about the su the foreign pow AWC represented The second ye impression an to judge Chine | nti-fore bject of ers in C Los Ang ar he en d truth. | eignism. E China. Geles Hig Stered The |

After graduating in the winter of 1931, his father

left for China, so his father closed the store.

His patients in Ventura also were Caucasians.

opened a branch of his herb store in Ventura. AWC stayed in the store. Father would come once a week. AWC would make appointments for the whole week. In July 1931 he

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END OF INTERVIEW

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