

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Lilly Mu Lee Interview Number: 162
 Chinese Name: 李慕玲 Number of Tapes: 4
 Date of Interview: 7/24/82, 7/30/82 Length: 1 Hour & 44 Minutes
 Interviewer: Suellen Cheng
 Others Present: None
 Language: English
 Summarizer: Stella Ling

Contents

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary	Tape: <u>1 Side A</u>
1	007-010	Introduction.	
	011-018	Lilly Mu Lee's (LML) father's name is Mu Pin Sun (苗品三). He came to the United States through Hawaii. He bought an interest in a store called Dun Sow Hong which has since been changed to Mu Brothers. Eventually, LML's father was able to buy the whole store. It was an herb shop.	
	019-022	LML's father returned to China and brought LML's mother over.	
	023-028	Two of LML's brothers and herself were born here. They were all born in Old Chinatown which is presently the Union Station. They lived at Marchessault Street. That was where the herb shop was located.	
	029-033	Their family lived across the street from the herb shop in an upstairs apartment. It was located in a dark alley. There were one or two rooms.	
2	034-036	LML was born in 1930. From there, they moved to Crocker Street.	
	037-043	LML's father had an herb shop in Chinatown. It serviced most of the people in Chinatown. The herb shop was the place the Chinese men came in to smoke their water pipes, drink tea, and read the newspapers. It was a social gathering place.	
	044-047	Originally, there were mostly single men who came over. Some would make their money and return while others waited for their families to join them. So LML had a lot of fathers.	
	048-050	LML's father came from Toishan.	
	051-059	LML's family was relocated in 1938 because they were going to build the Union Station. The Chinese finally agreed on the area between Broadway and Hill, north of College Street. The grand opening was in June of 1938.	
	060-065	LML's family transferred the herb shop to New Chinatown. The people who did not want to go to Chinatown formed China City.	

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
	066-069	LML's father had the herb shop until 1942 when he passed away.
3	070-074	LML's brother, George, may have continued on with the herb business for a while since he understood the trade. Eventually, they changed the store to a curio shop.
	075-079	LML's family may have been one of the poorest Chinese families so everyone had their choice of spots in New Chinatown and LML's family had the last but it ended up the best now because it is in the center of Chinatown.
	080-089	All of LML's father's clients were Chinese. Some herbalists later dealt in the American community because they could charge much higher prices. LML's father was dedicated to his own community and did not want to move out.
	090-091	LML's father would always give the people the medicine even if they did not have any money.
	092-099	LML's father was not only an herb doctor but also very involved in the community. He was the president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA). He was always a leader or participant in any of the activities in Chinatown.
	100-102	LML's father was well respected by the Chinese community. People from that era still remember him.
	103-109	LML's father would take the children to any of the activities he went to. LML did not feel as if they were anything special. It was just part of their lifestyle in Chinatown.
4	110-116	As LML looks back now, she sees how important he was in the community. He helped a lot of people. He helped start the Chinese Catholic Center.
	117-120	LML's father was always present whenever there was an activity. The store was a natural stopping place for everyone.
	121-132	Most of the activities that LML's father attended were banquets and association meetings. LML participated in a quiet way by sitting in the back, not saying anything, and just observing.
	133-138	Whenever LML asked a question, her mother would say, "A girl should not ask these questions." [in Chinese]
	139-141	LML did not really understand the activities that she went to.
	142-148	The parents would bring the children only to the meetings that they could.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	149-165	Chinatown was very small and people would not go outside of it. Whenever LML's father went to some function, it was not as if he was "going" anywhere since Chinatown was so small. There may have been other girls going to these meetings, but LML does not remember.
	166-178	LML was in her first movie at the age of three. She was in "Good Earth." At that time, being in the movies was not very acceptable, but LML's family needed the money. LML was also in some other movies.
	179-181	Maybe all three of LML's brothers were also in the movies.
	182-187	There were three baby girls taking turns playing a part in "Good Earth." LML remembers crying a lot.
6	188-194	At that time, they never stepped outside of Chinatown. Tom Gubbins knew LML's father. Tom Gubbins was responsible for taking LML to the studios.
	195-198	In the early days, LML's mother did not even leave the kitchen. Later on, when LML was around 10 years old, her mother did go with her to the studios.
	199-204	LML was in quite a few movies but she only remembers one other -- "Too Hot to Handle" with Clark Gable. Everyone in Chinatown connected LML with that movie because of the publicity.
	205-217	When LML was a teenager, it was fun for her to go to the studios because she did not have to go to school. There was a school at the studios. They would go there to play. Because of their lack of outside background, LML was not excited about seeing the movie stars.
	218-224	LML did not have to know any special skills. She would just follow the directions given by the director. A lot of the Chinese in Chinatown participated in the movies. Some Chinese, such as Walter SooHoo's family, are still involved in the movies.
225-229	LML stopped working in the studios around the age of 12. There were some good parts coming up but LML's parents felt that LML should not spend the time. They did not think that the movie industry should be a part of a woman's life.	
7	230-235	LML's family was not rich, but it was no longer necessary for LML to do studio work. They also wanted LML to concentrate on her education.
	236-239	LML's brothers also stopped participating in the movies. They were in less movies than LML was.
	240-244	LML was not affected by the glamour in the movies because she did not understand it.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
7	245-251	LML and the other children in Chinatown attended Castelar Street School. Then she went to Central Junior High School and to Belmont High School. The Chinatown kids separated after high school.
	252-264	LML and the other children in Chinatown attended Castelar Street School. Then she went to Central Junior High School and to Belmont High School. The Chinatown kids separated after high school.
	265-272	LML attended the Chinese Catholic Center for Chinese school. The Louie family also went there. LML's family and the Louie family were the two most active families at the Chinese Catholic Center. Dr. Stanley Chan and Mr. Chin, the president of Cathay Bank now, were the two teachers.
	273-285	LML attended Chinese school through grammar school and during some of her junior high school days. They would go to Chinese school after American school from about 3:30 to about 6:00. Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Chan would be able to provide more details about the Chinese Catholic Center.
	8	286-293
294-302		The public schools were more formal whereas the people at Chinese school became a group. LML enjoyed traveling with the people from Chinese school more than with the people from public school.
303-307		LML remembers visiting the bishop's home and how good the cake that was baking smelled since LML's family never baked cakes.
308-312		These were LML's first experiences outside of Chinatown. Dr. Chan and Father Cowhig made these excursions possible.
313-315		They also formed a Chinese girls basketball team as well as a boys team.
316-322		When they were in high school, they would hold dances at the Catholic Center. They formed the basketball team when they were in high school.
9	323-324	The Center was not affiliated with the Mei Wah Club.
	325-328	A lot of the members of the basketball team were from the Catholic Center. Emma and Virginia Louie were also members of the team.
	329-338	They may have played the games at the International Institute.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
	339-344	They also learned the Catholic religion. Some of them became closely related to the Catholic Church. LML's parents were not Catholic.
9	345-350	The Chinese men would always ask LML where her god was. They would always make fun of LML and her religion.
	351-361	The nuns at the school were just a part of attending Chinese school. Everything was tied in with the mass on Sundays. They would attend various activities with the nuns over the weekends.
	362-371	After Chinese school, LML had to help out in the store -- either do some cleaning or some arranging of the merchandise.
	372-388	LML's family also sold flowers in Chinatown. The mother of Jennie and Hubert Woo used to bring in flowers in trays and boxes beneath the tray. They would give people like LML the smaller tray and LML would walk around Chinatown selling gardenias. It was 15 cents for one gardenia and 35 cents for a double. They would sell the flowers to the tourists.
10	389-396	Eventually, LML had her own little stand on Saturday nights. It was right in front of Tuey Far Low in New Chinatown. LML would probably sit there from 6 to 12. There used to be a lot of tourists in Chinatown.
	397-411	The shriners used to have all their activities over there. The fraternities used to rush in Chinatown. In the old days, the streets were all non-Chinese and the Chinese were in the stores only. Today, all of Chinatown is Chinese. Only the Caucasians would go to the Chinese restaurants in those days.
	412-415	LML did not know how much money she made. She would just hand the money over to her family.
	416-428	Before selling flowers, LML would ask the tourists if they wanted LML to sing them a song for a penny. LML would sing "God Bless America."
	429-438	LML does not remember how many other girls sang songs or sold flowers. Peter SooHoo's younger sister, Patty, used to sell flowers with LML.
	439-464	In those days, Chinatown was just one street and everyone knew everyone else. LML used to deliver the "cha" (herb tea) for her father to all the restaurants. Whenever someone needed some kind of Medicine, LML's father would brew the tea and put it in a bottle. LML would deliver the bottle to whoever needed the medicine. It was such a small community that not only did neighbors do things for each other, but the children would also participate.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
11	465-484	LML would play out on the street and everything happened on that one street. LML sold flowers more for fun than anything else. The money was not much but since they did not have an allowance, it allowed them to buy peanuts and candy.
END OF TAPE 1 SIDE A		
1	007-010	LML used to play in Chinatown. There were just three families -- the SooHoos, the Louies, and LML's family.
	011-012	They used to get a paper bag, fill it up with paper, and tie a string around it. That would then be the ball they used to play with.
	013-017	As Chinatown grew, they had the penny arcade centers. At first, people were against the arcades because they felt that it was gambling. Later it became acceptable and thus another form of entertainment for the children.
	018-019	The Chinese kids did not have any money but they knew all the ones they could jiggle and play for free.
	020-029	LML's family lived on College Street. The parking lot that is now at Broadway and College used to be two houses and LML's family lived there. There used to be a two-story building right next to the gas station at Hill and College, and LML's family lived there for a while.
	030-036	Most all the families had living quarters but would eat behind the stores. Most everything was done at the store. The kitchen would also be at the store.
2	037-040	LML's life at that time was Chinatown. At times, they would go down Broadway to downtown to the Million Dollar Theater at Third Street and Broadway.
	041-045	LML went to the movies with her brothers. They would walk to the movies on the weekends. LML's parents probably never went to the movies.
	046-047	LML's parents never took the children on vacation because of the business and the lack of transportation and money.
	048-051	LML's family did go to the World Fair in 1938 or 1939. They went to San Francisco Chinatown a few times.
	052-055	The Mu family was very small. They did not have any relatives.
	056-063	LML's family moved from Marchessault Street to Crocker Street around 1934 to 1938. They probably moved because Old Chinatown was being torn down.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	064-072	The herb shop moved directly from Old Chinatown to New Chinatown. It was never located on Crocker Street area. Everyone in Old Chinatown moved to New Chinatown or China City.
3	073-074 075-079 080-095 096-102 103-104	LML has four older brothers and no sisters. Two of LML's brothers also attended the Catholic Chinese school. LML was more active than they were at the Chinese school. The same group of Chinese moved from grammar school to junior high school to high school. It was a very close-knit group. It was a good size group. It was composed of Chinese, Chicanos, and Caucasians. There was no ethnic segregation. At Castelar School, there were Chinese, Chicanos, and Europeans such as Italians. There were no Blacks. LML did not notice the ethnic differences. LML did not even notice the ethnic differences in high school.
4	105-109 110-124 125-134 135-144	LML does not remember why she stopped going to Chinese school. There was simply a point when they would stop going. LML was in junior high school when she stopped going. LML did not resent attending Chinese school because she was taught not to have resentment. Everyone went to Chinese school and did the same thing. They did not see any alternatives. Maybe comparing her life now with her life back then, it looked like hardship, but at that time they did not know anything else so they enjoyed what they did have. LML's parents did want her to have a good education. Nevertheless she was taught to be obedient, to talk softly, not to ride a bicycle, not to play leap frog. At that time, your future as a woman would be either a job as a clerk or a secretary. LML chose to be a legal secretary. She had two years of college and then worked for a little while. After that, the Chinese girls were supposed to get married and raise a family. Most of the girls from Chinatown would do the same thing. LML did not know any better.
5	145-153 154-157	LML did not know anything and just followed the model for a Chinese girl at that time. LML took the classes related to the career of a legal secretary in college. LML worked for about a year.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	157-165	LML worked at a law firm called Kennedy and Kennedy. It was located at Fourth and Broadway. LML does not remember how she got that job. She probably was referred by the city college. The college supplied the jobs.
	166-174	LML was very active in the activities at college. She was very innocent and did not feel discrimination. She never noticed any prejudice because she never looked for it. Maybe that was fortunate.
	175-180	When she went to work, she did not feel that she was Chinese and thus different. She just felt as if she was a beginner applying for a job.
	181-186	LML may have felt comfortable with Caucasians because of her experiences in the movie industry. In addition, there were many Caucasian tourists in Chinatown that she came in contact with. They had a positive attitude since they were tourists.
6	187-192	The only hard time was during World War II. The Chinese were occasionally mistaken for Japanese and there were some bad words spoken to them. The Chinese used to wear a little flag to show that they were Chinese.
	193-206	LML did not realize that there may have been hostility against the yellow race. She was very innocent. She also always thought positively. She does not remember any discussions about discrimination.
	207-220	In college, there would always be ethnic groups dances. There would also be competitions with other colleges. They had a Chinese club which would do different activities together. In those days, they did not need a lot of activities.
	221-229	LML remembers being very active in the Chinese Club. All the members grew up together.
7	230-240	In high school, LML was already very active. She was the president of the ladies, and the vice-president of the student body. She used to put on dances at school.
	241-250	LML did not date so the men were more like her buddies.
	251-260	LML did not just grow up with boys since she only had brothers and no sisters. There were many Chinese girls she would hang around with.
	261-265	LML did not feel uncomfortable with the boys because they had all been together for so long.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
7	266-279	LML felt that her parents desire for LML to act like a girl was normal. Everyone knew LML in Chinatown. There were a lot of Chinese men who would treat LML as their own daughter so LML had much more training than that given by her own family.
8	280-281	There was a role that LML was told to play and she was also told to play it right.
	282-289	LML remembers playing ball outside. She may have been laughing too loud and someone would come out and tell her that she was laughing too loud.
	290-299	The way LML was brought up helped her in her present business. She is expected to be very aggressive but she is not and has not lost her femininity. LML does not feel that she should live her childhood and then come out regretting it.
	300-303	LML had a very happy childhood. She was very innocent.
	304-314	During the summer, LML worked for Albert Hing's insurance agency. She also worked in her family's store.
	315-316	After LML got married, she would still help the family business in the evenings or on the weekends.
	317-327	LML's family business was just enough to keep the family going. They did not get rich. Most of the Chinese would just concentrate on keeping one store instead of trying to expand their businesses.
9	328-333	The money they earned was enough for their basic needs and to put the children through college.
	334-352	LML's father was also an arbitrator for the community. At one time, he even went to San Francisco to settle some dispute.
	353-365	LML must have met her ex-husband in Chinatown. After she got married, some other guys asked her why she got married so quickly because they wanted to propose to her. LML did not know about these things since she never dated.
	366-376	LML's parents did not allow her to date. They were probably going to find her a husband from Hong Kong.
	377-385	LML has two sons. They are 27 and 29. Both of them graduated from UCLA. One of her sons was the floor manager of Rieber Hall.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
10	386-393	LML's other son, Craig, went to Loyola Law School. He is a lawyer now. Both of LML's sons work for her.
	394-398	It was very unusual to have LML's sons follow their mother's business after her own traditional upbringings.
	399-403	After LML got married she just stayed home. She had children right away.
	404-413	After Chinatown, they moved to Kensington. There was one house and three little houses. LML's own family as well as her mother and other members of the Mu family all lived there.
	414-420	LML had one son and another son two years later. LML just stayed home and did house and garden work. That seemed to be the natural thing for LML to do.
	421-450	Then they moved to their own home in Cloverdale. They only had one car at that time. LML would walk one son to kindergarten, go home, and then walk the other son to grammar school. They she would pick them up so it seemed as if she was constantly on the road. LML loved to cook and sew. LML would fully participate with her sons which may be why they are so close now. LML's whole life centered around them. LML was very satisfied with her life -- that was what she was taught to do and she was well-trained.
11	451-457	Even if other people were doing different things, it never occurred to LML that it could be her. LML never made comparisons.
	458-491	The other Chinese women at that time probably led a similar life but they were more socially active than LML was. LML did not attend a lot of showers and weddings because her husband did not want to go to them. Their only activities were visiting his family and going to movies that he wanted to see. LML was satisfied because there was a reward in giving to her husband and to her sons.
END OF TAPE 1 SIDE B		
1	004-011	Introduction
	012-024	Overall, LML's life at that time was happy. Every normal life has its ups and downs. LML does not remember the bad times so everything in her past seemed happy. She does that for healthy reasons. Negative feelings retain toxins in your system which lead to degenerative diseases. LML wants to stay young and healthy.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
	025-031	LML's husband planned to retire at the age of 40. He wanted LML to get her real estate license and buy real estate.
	032-037	LML got her license. She would not work full time since she had housework to take care of too. LML did not actually start working until after she got divorced.
2	039-042	LML's sons were in their early teens when LML got her license. The real estate business was always on the side and never affected their family's living style.
	043-045	LML started in real estate business because her husband wanted her to.
	046-054	LML was fortunate to have the real estate license since she needed a job after she got divorced. She did not need any further education since she already had the license.
	055-061	Although LML had secretarial training and job experience, it was sixteen years earlier. LML was married for sixteen years. LML could have gotten into secretarial work but she did not want to work eight hours a day because she wanted to spend time with her sons.
	062-070	LML never thought about disliking the real estate business. It was simply a source of income. LML may have preferred a more feminine job such as school teaching. LML's decision to leave her husband was partially made because of her knowledge that she had to go into the real estate business in order to support her children. She was not concerned about whether she liked the business or not.
3	071-074	LML did not consider real estate feminine. She may have enjoyed clothes designing or interior decorating more.
	075-091	When LML was young, she did not think about much more than she was taught. She also did not have any outside information. LML did not have a lot of things that she did not have but desired. Otherwise, she may have been very unhappy by resenting the fact that she did not get the things she wanted.
	092-102	When LML started working in the real estate business, she joined a Japanese firm off Jefferson Boulevard. She was there only for a short time after her divorce. She then went to another Japanese firm. It was primarily in the Black and ethnic group. LML worked there for a year.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
	103-111	LML almost immediately went from selling houses to selling apartments. LML saved time by showing \$80,000 for eight apartment units rather than \$16,000 houses. Most of the property LML sold was on the street where LML lived.
4	112-116	After a year, LML went to work for a Jewish firm on Wilshire Boulevard. LML worked there for over a year. That was when they started getting involved in syndication. LML was fairly well liked because she was good-natured.
	117-121	She then worked for the Lawrence Company in the Valley. They were primarily a syndicator and worked in junction with the money manager. LML became the vice-president in charge of acquisitions. LML worked there for over a year.
	122-130	LML then opened her own office in Beverly Hills. That was in 1973. Learning the trade so quickly was not difficult for LML.
	131-141	LML received very little money from her husband. She did have to work in order to support her family after the divorce. There was only \$100 for Craig and \$100 for Randy a month. \$200 was not much.
	142-147	LML's main responsibility was to bring up the children. That is still her major concern. Hopefully, they will be able to take over her business in a couple of years. She is presently bringing them in and training them.
5	148-155	They just started learning the real estate business about a year ago. Times are quite difficult presently but hopefully they will be able to take over in a few years.

END OF TAPE 2 SIDE A

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1	004-011	Introduction.
	012-022	LML does not remember much about the grand opening of New Chinatown since she was so young at that time. She remembers playing with the firecrackers. There was also a lion dance. A performance was made by a drum corp.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
1	023-033	The Chinese would celebrate the Moon Festival, Chinese New Years, and Double 10s Day. There would be fireworks, dragon dances, and lion dances. There were different types of fireworks. Some were hung very high and would form a picture when they were burned. LML has not seen any of those since.
2	034-040	There would also be puppet shows. The characters would be dressed in Chinese costumes but would speak in English. They would set up tall booths in Chinatown.
	041-048	There would also be fortune tellers with sticks. There would also be a contest for picking beans out of a jar with chopsticks.
	049-052	The fortune tellers would usually get business from the Caucasians.
	053-060	There was a temple in Old Chinatown. LML's father may have visited the temple. LML's mother hardly ever went out of the house. LML and the other children may have gone to the temple by themselves since it was close by.
	061-065	LML's mother may have had an altar in her house but she did not constantly worship.
	066-082	LML was the only one in the family who became a Christian. She was influenced by attending the Chinese Catholic School. Since the school was a Chinese school, LML's parents did not object to LML's participation at the Church. LML went to the Sunday services since there were activities for the children on those days. LML's parents may have objected if LML started going to any Church services not affiliated with a Chinese school.
3	083-086	LML's brothers also attended the Chinese Catholic School. LML does not remember them going to Church.
	087-103	LML always enjoyed putting on plays at Church. LML would always play Virgin Mary. They may have used the Million Dollar Theater for their performances. They did put on plays that was directed by Sister Noemi and people paid to get in. It must have been a fundraiser.
4	104-112	LML also remembers going to the bishop's house. They also went on a snow trip. They also performed Chinese dances at different social functions. They performed at American homes. It was quite an experience to go to those fancy homes.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
4	113-122	There were some American ladies who would financially support the Chinese Catholic Center. LML remembers receiving gifts at Christmas from these ladies. One woman made dolls which they later used for their carnivals.
	123-127	At the Catholic Center, the children learned Chinese but experienced the American culture. At Chinatown, they experienced the Chinese culture but learned English.
	128-136	The Catholic Center is not affiliated with the Cathedral High School. The Catholic Center used some of the rooms at Cathedral High School for Chinese classes.
	137-152	LML has always thought very positively. She never thought there was anything that could not be done. Once she had a goal in her mind, she thought of ways to accomplish it instead of ways it could not be accomplished. This way of thinking made LML very successful.
5	153-166	LML went from one business to another because many of them did not work out. She did not dwell on the fact that they did not work out. Many people may not succeed because they bring their past failures with them on new ventures.
	167-174	LML does not have any negative attitudes. She is aware of something that is bad or a bad experience but she separates the bad experiences from herself.
	175-194	When LML got divorced, she did not act sad or angry. She realized that if she was sad in front of her children, they would become unhappy too. LML felt that it was better not to show these emotions and just took a neutral position. That made it very easy for LML to get over a supposedly unhappy period. It is easy to get over it if you think that it is not unhappy.
6	195-203	It is not difficult for LML to refrain from thinking unhappy thoughts because it would be more of a burden to be unhappy.
	204-209	LML's good friend who is a judge, observes Chinese women and told LML that she was different because all the other Chinese women are very negative.
	210-220	LML thinks that the Chinese use negative words to express themselves. Once those words are translated to English, they sound very bad. Thus the Chinese dialect is partially responsible for making the Chinese very negative.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
6	221-226	A lot of Chinese feel that they should be happy if they are working hard. But it is difficult to feel happy because the rest of the society is not the same as the Chinese.
7	227-241	Parts of the Chinese way of thinking is not applicable to the American society. Being humble is good since it prevents someone from hurting his or her ego. But one cannot remain humble if it means being abused by others.
	242-264	The Chinese culture has helped LML become successful because it teaches the Chinese to be patient. Being humble and respectful also gives the Chinese a better view of a situation. The Chinese do not get emotional so their minds do not function improperly and prevents them from making wrong decisions. The Chinese are very cool. The Chinese are also very industrious. These Chinese qualities have helped LML.
	265-273	In the present society, it is threatening for a man to see a woman playing a "man's role" of working and bringing home the money.
	274-279	It is easier for men if a woman is more feminine and less aggressive. This is less threatening for men. Being feminine helps the men through this transition period.
	280-295	LML thinks that in many years, the new woman's role will not be threatening to either men or women. Men will not mind seeing women work if their mothers worked while the men were just children. LML's sons sees LML as an equal business partner.
8	296-317	The older men are different from the younger men today. One man in his twenties told LML that when he grew up he wanted to be like her. Another man, LML's son's boss at Oxnard, had a picture of LML at his desk and would also look at it and say he wanted to be like her.
	318-334	The women today should not use the fact that they are women as a crutch. In the early days, if a woman did not succeed they would say that the reason was because she was a woman. If a woman does succeed, it cannot mean that it is because she is a woman.
9	335-352	LML thinks that positive thoughts brings about positive results. One must think the life that he or she wants to live. The mind is a very powerful instrument.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
	353-356	Eventually, the men and women will change but the change will be easier if the women are not threatening.
	357-399	Women members of minority groups may be more determined to succeed because they are striving for something they never had. Asian women are perceived to be exotic and mysterious by white American men. It is better for a woman to be called a "cute tomato" rather than some other possible name calling.
10	400-410	LML does not believe that Asian women are at a double disadvantage because they are women and Asians at the same time. LML feels that she is an example.
	411-418	Some people will tell LML that she is different or luckier but she is not. Personal attitude is the key to success.
	419-480	If you look for something, you will find it. In business, if you are open, people will feel those vibrations and come to you. LML is involved in the psychic field and believes that your thought vibrations are even stronger than color vibrations or radio waves. Psychics can read other people's minds by tuning in to their thought vibrations.

END OF TAPE 3 SIDE A

1	007-015	LML is more around the American community now than the Chinese community because of her business. Other women in business probably think similarly to the way LML does whereas women at home do not.
	016-030	The Chinese family in the 1930's to the 1950's tended to be very reserved. That reservation becomes a way of life. The Chinese are not very involved in the society. LML feels that some Chinese may not have a fulfilling life because of their set attitudes.
	031-041	People who are active or giving tend to think more positively. This keeps them more healthy and young. They are more vital.
2	042-064	LML thinks that women should see their road to success as a challenge rather than a struggle. Athletes and men are not perceived to have struggled to win or to succeed.
	065-079	Women may have a harder time in the beginning but once you have the background, the doors are tremendously opened for females going in to business now. Men had to take steps whereas women are now taking leaps. Companies have quotas to fill. Chinese women have good educations and thus a better change of succeeding.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
3	080-094	The opportunities for women are tremendous right now. Maybe in the future when there are more Asian women in Business, then it may be more difficult. Men may presently be picking women rather than other men. In the future, a woman may be picking a man rather than a woman because the man is less threatening. It is more difficult for someone to compete with someone of his or her own sex.
	095-115	Presently, the organization that LML is most active in is the Los Angeles area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. It takes care of five Los Angeles Counties. It consists of all the chief executive officers of the major corporations. Each year, 50 or 60 are nominated. There are only three women. LML is the first minority to serve on that Board.
4	116-120	LML is also an officer on the executive board of the Boy Scouts of America. It also consists of the top businessmen of the Los Angeles area. About three years ago, they started including women.
	121-135	This year, LML is the first woman to accept the position of an officer for the Boy Scouts of America. There is also another woman serving. Once you are on the board of directors, you recommend others to join the board. There is a Japanese woman who is serving on the board of directors -- Ms. Yamamoto. She has been active in politics for over fifty years.
	136-137	LML is also on the advisory committee for the State of California Department of Economic and Business Development.
	138-140	LML was appointed by Governor Brown. She is non-partisan.
	141-142	LML also serves on the Board of Regions Executive Committee of Loyola Marymount University.
5	143-147	When LML was the president of the Women's Council, she was asked to serve on the Board of Regions of Loyola Marymount University.
	148-150	LML also serves on the Board of Visitors of the Southwestern University School of Law.
	151-153	Recently, the vice-president of the Pacific Telephone Company asked LML to serve as a board member of the United Way Central Los Angeles Region. He is presently the chairman.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	154-156	LML was appointed by the supervisor to serve on the board of directors of the Marina Foundation in order to bring activities to the Marina area.
	157-159	LML was the past president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Women's Council. She was the first Chinese woman president. She was also the last president because they have merged with the Chamber of Commerce.
	160-162	LML is also on the board of directors of Women of Wall Street West. It consists of a group of women involved in financing.
	163-166	LML is also a member of the Los Angeles Chinese Women's Club, California Federation of Women's Club. LML was the president seven or eight years ago.
	167-171	There are several others that have asked LML to serve on their boards but LML has to be careful now because she has more than she can handle.
	172-183	LML is presently forming a group of Chinese and Japanese to form a business network for Asians and also form a list of the donations that have been given to politicians. They are also trying to work together to get more appointments of Asians in key positions in the State of California. They do not have a name yet. They have just had three meetings. They are planning their first function.
6	184-194	The Chamber of Commerce presently has a hired rather than elected president. The Asian group is planning a reception in the honor of the president of the Chamber of Commerce. It is a step in business relations because the Asians have never been involved as a group in interactions with the white American business community.
	195-206	They are presently trying to contact all Asian organizations and presidents of Asian-owned corporations to see if they are interested in joining this new Asian group.
	207-210	Their next step will be to review Asians in positions that can create jobs or give advice to other Asians.
	211-213	If the Asian is given an appointment, there will be an understanding that he or she will support the Asian community.
	214-239	This new organization is geared for people in Asian business or those who are interested in it. LML doubts there is presently an organization called the Chinese Businessmen's Association. The purpose of this new Asian group is two-fold -- one, to be politically powerful and two, to network the Asian businesses with each other and with the American community. They will then form an advisory board of presidents of major Asian corporations.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
7	240-249	LML originally called up several people to see if this new organization is in conflict with other organizations to prevent an overlapping of efforts and goals. This new organization may be different because of its connections with the Chamber of Commerce.
	250-258	LML was first involved in Quin Yin and then in Chinese Women's Juniors. From there, the women joined the Los Angeles Chinese Women's Seniors.
	259-274	LML joined Quin Yin's when she was in college. It may have been in high school. Mabel Hong was their sponsor. The members were mainly interested in forming a social club.
8	275-283	The Quin Yin Club looked forward to the New Years Dance. They also had a Christmas party. The dance may have been their main function.
	284-334	The men would attend their social functions. People did mention that the Quin Yin Club was like a sorority. LML was not aware of the fact that people thought of it as a sorority. The people in that group may have been a little wealthier and in tune with the white American society. Their attitudes may have been more positive and vivacious. They may have been a little more aggressive. Some of the other women had specially designed dresses. LML just made her own.
9	335-341	LML has pictures of her participation in these activities.
	342-353	LML does not remember the details regarding her participation in the Chinese Women's Juniors.
	354-376	The Women's Wall Street was a very loosely formed organization. They have a few judges, people in the stock brokerage firm, and people in banking. There is also LML in real estate, and another woman in insurance. These are women who belong to many of the other women's organizations and get together occasionally to compare notes. In their last function last year, they invited Senator R. Dole's wife to speak. They had a luncheon at the Century Plaza Hotel and it was very successful.
	337-391	LML was involved in Quin Yin during her high school and college days. There were also Chinese clubs which LML was active in during college. She was not active after she got married. She just stayed home.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
10	392-403	LML went to only 70% of the weddings and baby showers that she was invited to because her ex-husband did not believe in going out. LML may have still been active in the Quin Yin in those days.
	404-408	After LML's divorce, one of the first organizations LML was involved in was the Chinese Women's Club.
	409-419	LML was divorced around 1970. LML joined the Women's Club about one or two years after. She then became the president. LML got involved in all these present organizations only in the last two years.
	420-441	LML is also a member of the Realtors Association. She attended those meetings from the beginning.
	442-456	After residing in Old Chinatown, LML's family moved to Crocker Street. They then moved to College Street in Chinatown, between Hill and Broadway. They lived in a one-frame house. They also lived in an upstairs apartment.
11	457-477	From there they moved to 723 Kensington near 46th Street. It was not that far from Chinatown. They owned it for a long time. They had it until their mother passed away.
	478-489	LML was married at that time. There was one big house and three small houses right next to it. They also owned a house across the street. When everyone got married, they occupied those houses.
END OF TAPE 3 SIDE B		
1	007-013	Introduction.
	014-020	After living at Kensington, LML and her ex-husband bought a home in Cloverdale. That is in the west side of town. From Cloverdale, they moved to 4187 Marlton in the Crenshaw area. They bought an eight-unit apartment house and lived upstairs.
	021-023	They lived there because they wanted some real estate business and also because it was right across the street from LML's sons' grammar school.
	024-025	They then bought a home at 3930 Diablo Street. LML still owns that house. Her son lives there. That was about twelve years ago.
	026-027	In the last few years, LML moved to Los Feliz.
	028-033	The houses on Kensington were originally one house and another one in back. the Mu family then built two more houses on the same lot. It was originally a double lot.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	034-038	LML's brother helped purchase that home. It was about \$16,000. It was in a Caucasian neighborhood.
	039-046	LML did not notice how the neighbors reacted when her family moved into that area. LML was attending Belmont High School at that time. She would take the bus to Belmont Avenue from Temple Street and then walk three blocks to the school.
	047-057	When LML moved to Cloverdale in the 1960's, the neighborhood was mixed. They did not experience difficulty purchasing the house. They may have had some difficulty purchasing the Kensington houses.
	058-061	LML probably moved to Cloverdale because the price was right for them.
	062-078	After LML's family moved out of Chinatown, they still had their store in Chinatown. LML still went to Chinatown to help out at the store. They consequently did not feel the transition. LML is still involved in Chinatown activities because of their family store and because her family has been here so long.
3	079-084	They may not be as involved now because they sold their store this year. They probably got the best price ever obtained in Chinatown. This may be because their store is located in the center of Chinatown. It is located at 463 Ging Ling Way. LML's son recently sold it to their neighbor, the SooHoo family. They got \$450 per square foot.
	085-087	They sold the store because LML's brother, George, wanted to retire.
	088-096	Although LML was involved with the American social functions for a span of time, it seems as if she is presently returning to the Chinese organizations. LML feels as if she is a coordinator trying to bring the Chinese community to interact with the American mainstream.
	097-105	LML cannot say whether she is more Chinese or more American. She cannot separate what is Chinese and what is American in a Chinese American society.
4	106-114	LML has never felt sorry for being Chinese. There are moments that the Chinese have experienced which they did not like but there are also many good points about their culture.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
	115-133	LML looks at her parents' teaching as the only way they learned how to bring their children up. Everyone should allow for the fact that the older generation may have sole old-fashioned ways because it is their way of thinking. LML did not disagree with her parents' method of child rearing. LML was a simple child who was always happy.
	134-150	When LML was about 6 or 7 year sold, there was a Chinese couple who lived in an American community. They were rich and had a car. They had a little girl. They would sometimes take LML along with them on Saturday outings, probably to keep their child company. LML remembers walking into her room which was full of dolls and toys but LML never envied her.
5	151-161	LML's reaction may have been a result of her mother's teachings. She never felt that anything she did not have should have been hers. LML may have wished for that toy but she was not unhappy because she did not have it.
	162-182	LML may have to say that she is different from the typical Chinese. When LML talks to someone, she does not concern herself with their outward appearance but tries to understand their inner self.
	183-193	When LML's mother was still alive, their family would observe all the Chinese customs and holidays.
6	194-208	After LML's mother passed away, the children would still get together for dinner on Chinese New Years but they would go to a Chinese restaurant.
	209-218	After LML's father passed away, none of the remaining family members became herb doctors. LML never got sick. When other family members got sick, they may have sought the help of Chinese doctors.
	219-228	LML used to deliver the tea orders to restaurants for her father. LML used to drink the tea. It was very bitter. It was fairly warm. They were not allowed to drink water afterwards. They could only wash it down with a few raisins.
7	229-246	LML's family would also use herbs in their food. LML used herbs for her own children in the very beginning. They would put herbs in the oxtail and brain soups. The different herbs were already combined at the grocery store. LML used to remember the names of the herbs but she does not remember them anymore.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
	247-261	LML was aware that the herbs had some medicinal value but she used them because she enjoyed those dishes. LML's children also enjoyed those dishes. They used to eat all the Chinese food.
	262-279	When LML was young, her family would go to Lincoln Park once a year. They would take the streetcar. They also went to Long Beach once a year. Chinatown was always busy. They would play on the Chinatown streets all day long. There were also activities at the Chinese school.
	280-287	LML's family would go on these outings during the summers. LML's family was not very recreationally oriented. Those outings were very exciting for LML. It was like looking forward to Christmas.
	288-299	LML's mother would probably bring lunch to these outings. They would ride the merry-go-round. LML's brothers tried to do some fishing. At the beach, there was an amusement park they would go to and they would also play on the beach.
	300-301	LML's parents did not play mahjong. They were always working hard.
	302-311	LML's brother was on the football team in high school. He also ran track. Otherwise, her brothers would also play in Chinatown.

END OF TAPE 4 SIDE A

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END OF INTERVIEW

NOTE: The interviews with Lilly Mu Lee's brothers (Interview #164) have also been conducted and may provide more information.

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