

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Walter Chung Interview Number: 76
 Chinese Name: 張建祺 Number of Tapes: 2
 Date of Interview: 1/20/80 Length: 2 Hours & 18 Minutes
 Interviewer: George Yee
 Others Present: None
 Language: English
 Summarizer: Stella Ling

Contents

| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary | Tape: <u>1</u> Side <u>A</u> |
|--------------|----------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1 | 003-017 | Introduction. | |
| | 018-019 | Walter Chung (WC) lives in Los Angeles. | |
| | 020-026 | WC's father was from Huiping, Canton. He was from the Sa Gong village. WC does not remember where his mother was from. | |
| | 027-030 | WC's parents did speak of China. They spoke of the people there as well as everything else. China was always a dream to WC until he visited the country himself. | |
| | 031-036 | WC's father arrived in San Francisco just before the San Francisco fire.. He stayed there until 1909 or 1910 and then came to Los Angeles. | |
| 2 | 037-041 | WC was born in Los Angeles where Santa Barbara Avenue and Western Avenue are today. At that time it was a farming ranch. WC was born on January 21, 1911. | |
| | 042-047 | WC's father was a farmer. They grew tomatoes and Chinese vegetables. They would sell the Chinese vegetables to Chinese stores but trade the American vegetables to American stores for American foodstuffs. | |
| | 048-051 | The ranch was located at the northwest corner of Santa Barbara and Western. There used to be a supermarket over there, but now it is a record shop. | |
| | 052-059 | The ranch was only a few acres. There were some other farmers around that area. There were some Japanese and Chinese farmers. The Chinese were doing a lot of farming because there was hardly anything else the Chinese could do aside from vegetable farming and peddling. | |
| | 060-065 | WC's father had the farm from 1911 to 1917. He then moved to Riverside and farmed at a place right next to Chinatown over there. They were there during the two years of World War I. WC's father could not make a go of it so he had to return to Los Angeles. | |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
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| 2 | 066-068 | WC's father could not do any farming, so he worked as a cook for some of the American restaurants. |
| 3 | 069-075 | When they returned to Los Angeles Chinatown after two years, they lived at the end of Apablasa Street. It was a two-story brick building on the left-hand side of Juan Street. |
| | 076-080 | WC's father sold his farm in Riverside at a loss. They were selling potatoes at a dollar a hundred pound sack delivered. They went broke in two years. |
| | 081-085 | During that time, they were slowly building up the Western and Santa Barbara area. They probably would not have made anything either if they had kept that property. |
| | 086-087 | WC's family moved to Riverside in 1917 during World War I. |
| | 088-095 | The Chinatown in Riverside was only one block long with stores on both sides of the street. WC's family farmed about a mile away. They would walk to Chinatown. WC does not recall what street Chinatown was on. |
| | 096-103 | At the Chinatown in Riverside, there were herb stores, a temple, and two or three gambling places. When the gamblers lost their temper, they would throw the dominoes out the door along with the change that they used as counters. WC and some other kids would go there every so often and search for the coins in the grass. |
| 4 | 104-114 | At that time they were rather religious. They had a temple about half a block away from Chinatown. They would place food over there and leave. After they left, the kids would go and eat the food. They did not know they were not supposed to do that. |
| | 115-124 | At the temple there would be a place to put the incense. There would be a cement thing at the bottom where they would put the "shiu yok" (roast pork) and "gai" (chicken). They would pour whiskey over them and then burn the paper. |
| | 125-133 | There were Chinese farmers over there. Some Chinese would order the rice which would come in 50-pound bags. They would place the stuff on the horse wagon and send it to where the Chinese were working. |
| | 134-136 | There were quite a few gamblers over there because WC noticed that the gambling houses were busy all day. |
| | 137-141 | There was also a dry goods store and a food store. They were doing pretty good business. There was one small restaurant over there which would get business from the Chinese bachelors. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
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| 4 | 142-144 | The married Chinese men would eat at home so the restaurant did not have good business. |
| 5 | 145-152 | WC's father put a payment on the farm. He could not make the payment after the prices went so low, so he gave up. They were mainly growing potatoes and Chinese vegetables. He would sell the Chinese vegetables to the Chinese grocery stores. |
| | 153-157 | There was a Japanese strawberry grower close to their farm, but no other Chinese farmers that they knew of. They were just on the base of Mount Rubidoux. |
| | 158-167 | Some of the Chinese there were working in the hotels in Riverside. A lot of them were busboys, cooks, and the like. A lot of the Chinese were working at a famous hotel in Riverside. Even the visiting president would go and stay there. WC does not recall the name of the hotel. (Summarizer's note: May be Mission Inn) |
| | 168-171 | WC did not notice any laundries in Riverside. They were just starting the laundry business in Los Angeles at that time. |
| | 172-180 | WC did not hear of any Chinese working in the wine-making industry. WC did know of the hiring of Chinese to pick walnuts. There were a lot of walnut groves and orange groves over there. |
| | 181-187 | At that time, the Chinese grocery store acted like a labor contractor in a small way. The walnut growers would call him and ask if he could supply a certain number of workers. |
| 6 | 188-194 | WC was born in the ranch house in Los Angeles. At that time, a lot of the families with no money would give birth to their children at home. Their family doctor delivered WC. |
| | 195-202 | WC was born in Los Angeles and moved to Riverside when he was six years old. WC did not attend school until he was eight years old. There ranch was so far from the school that WC's parents did not allow him to go. WC started kindergarten when he was eight years old. |
| | 203-206 | WC was able to finish high school at the age of 17 by skipping some grades. |
| | 207-213 | WC spoke mostly Chinese at home. WC's father and mother both knew how to speak English. |
| | 214-215 | WC had one brother and five sisters. |
| | 216-221 | WC's father's Chinese name was Chung Toi WC's mother was from the Chan family. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
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| 6 | 222-232 | WC's brother's name was Joe. WC's sisters were Ester, Hazel, JoAnn, Helen, and Stella. Two of WC's sisters are deceased. Helen, Stella, and Hazel are still living. |
| 7 | 233-236 | WC has gone down to Western and Santa Barbara quite often. The place has changed a lot since WC lived there. |
| | 237-243 | WC spent his whole life in Southern California. He was away from Los Angeles only for three or four years. |
| | 244-262 | In school, WC used to associate with everyone. It was not a segregated school. The grammar school that WC attended was predominantly Chicano. He then transferred to another grammar school that was predominantly Asian. WC's high school was a mixture of all races. |
| | 263-271 | WC attended the Macy Street School in second or third grade. It was predominantly Chicano. He then went to Hewitt Street School that was located at First and Hewitt where Little Tokyo is. That school was mostly Japanese and a lot of Chinese also. |
| | 272-277 | WC attended Central Junior High School which had a mixture of all races. He then went to Lincoln High School which was predominantly Anglo. |
| 8 | 278-283 | Since WC is in business now he comes into contact with a lot of Anglos as well as different minority groups. |
| | 284-291 | WC is in the wholesale paper business. The company is called the Globe Paper Company and is located on 39th Street and Main Street. They sell all kinds of paper. |
| | 292-303 | WC feels more Chinese than American. WC has never felt sorry for being Chinese. The Chinese used to be strongly discriminated against, but that discrimination is not as prevalent today. |
| | 304-316 | WC's parents may have argued with the children about retaining their Chinese identity. The children used to play ball and their parents would not whole-heartedly agree with them. WC can now see his parents' point of how there were better things for the younger Chinese generation to do than play ball. |
| | 317-336 | WC does not think he was a typical American born Chinese of his times. Most of the Chinese children in those days would be told by their parents to stay home and study or to help out in the store. Only some of the kids would play sports. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 9 | 337-339 | WC's parents were a little more liberal than the typical Chinese parents of his time. |
| | 340-345 | WC and his brother and sisters were so young that they did not help out at the farm in those days. |
| | 346-356 | When WC's father returned to Los Angeles, he would work as a cook for restaurants and hotels. He was not too successful. After he lost the ranch, he thought he should go into something else. |
| | 357-361 | WC's father would put payments on the ranch. He lost the ranch because he could not put a payment on it. |
| | 362-379 | When someone in the family was sick, they would go to the herbalist for things such as colds. The herb doctor would take their pulse and then give them an herb prescription which they would take home and brew. The fees were reasonable -- about 50 or 75 cents. Since they did pretty well, they did not want to go to an American doctor and pay more. |
| | 380-389 | WC's family still takes certain Chinese herbs. They also go see the doctor more often than they did before. They are slowly getting away from the "cha" (herb tea) and all that. |
| 10 | 390-417 | WC did not act like a typical Chinese kid. During recess in grammar school, he would play softball. During junior high school, a lot of Chinese were on track or playing softball. There were a lot of Chinese that were active in sports at that time. |
| | 418-431 | WC's Chinese name is Chung Ging Kei (from Chungshan). WC's wife is a former Chan from San Francisco. She is Heong San. They were married here. They have one son and one daughter. |
| | 432-447 | WC's father joined the Four Families Association. He was not active later on. |
| 11 | 448-453 | WC did not join any associations at all. The only club that WC joined was the Chinese American Citizens Alliance which is located on North Los Angeles Street. |
| | 454-461 | The China-born Chinese would join the family associations but the later generations drifted away. WC does not belong to any of the Chinese organizations. |
| | 462-479 | Y.C. Hong was a very well-known Chinese before World War II. He was a lawyer that handled immigration cases in Chinatown. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | 012-017 | Y.C. Hong was a very well-known Chinese before World War II. He was a lawyer that handled immigration cases in Chinatown. He was active in the Chinese American Citizens Alliance. He just passed away a few years ago. |
| | 018-020 | There were other prominent Chinese figures then but WC does not remember any of them. |
| | 021-033 | Before World War II, the Chinese in Chinatown were mostly peddling produce horse wagons. There were around 40 or 50 of them in the 1920's. There were two big stables in Chinatown. They would go to the produce market in the early morning. The produce markets were located on Ninth Street and Seventh Street. A lot of the produce markets were owned by Chinese and Japanese. |
| 2 | 034-037 | There were so many Chinese peddlers at that time that the Chinese started these small wholesale produce houses. The peddlers would go all over. Some would even go to Pasadena. |
| | 038-041 | They would return at night on their horses. They turned into Apablasa Street from Alameda and the horses would run because they knew they were going back to the stables to be fed. |
| | 042-049 | There were about 70 of these wagons that ventured all over the city. They were all horse and buggies which displayed the boxes of fruit on the side on an angle. |
| | 050-052 | The Caucasians had other easier ways of making money. Peddling produce was a hard way of making money, which would go from 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock at night. |
| | 053-057 | In the 1930's, the produce wagons started dying out. A few of them changed to a Model T Ford around 1928 and from there the business just died down. |
| | 058-063 | The laundries came out in the 1920's and reached their peak in the 1940's. In the 1940's, they had 360 Chinese hand laundries in the Los Angeles area. |
| | 064-073 | There were also a lot of Chinese restaurant owners. There were not as many as there are today. Most of the restaurants centralized in Chinatown. The Caucasians would come to Chinatown to eat. The restaurants started to go out of Chinatown and they did pretty well. That is how the Chinese restaurant business started to grow. They realized that they could leave Chinatown and have a successful Chinese restaurant business. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
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| 3 | 074-083 | The Chinese tried to get into some of the other industries but were not allowed to get in. At that time, there was still a California law that said none of the corporations could hire any Chinese. That law was removed only about ten years ago. |
| | 085-090 | When WC worked for an American firm in 1934, they were hiring WC illegally. Even firms that wanted to hire Chinese at that time were afraid to do so. |
| | 091-101 | When WC finished high school, he went to China for a short trip. He then went to San Francisco during the Depression. WC worked for a Chinese chain store called the National Dollar Store. WC was transferred to Broadway in Los Angeles when they opened up a branch in 1934. The store was on Broadway and Sixth. They have closed up the store now. |
| | 102-107 | WC started at \$70 a month up in San Francisco. He would work from eight to six. Three nights a week, the menfolk would work until 9:30 to 10:00. |
| | 4 | 108-111 |
| 112-117 | | In 1934, WC left the National Dollar Store and worked for an American corporation called Zellerbach Paper Company, which is a California corporation. Although the laws were still in effect at that time that they were not allowed to hire Chinese, WC was hired anyway. |
| 118-131 | | WC was buying their paper bags for the National Dollar Store at that time. The assistant sales manager was calling WC's store. WC asked him if there was a chance of a Chinese helping them call on the Chinese trade which the company did not have. The assistant sales manager introduced WC to the sales manager, who gave WC a chance to show that he could produce. If he could not, they would let him go. |
| 132-133 | | WC was one of the first Chinese to work for Zellerbach at that time. |
| 134-138 | | Some of the restaurant workers at that time were receiving \$50 or \$60 a month plus room and board. |
| 139-143 | | When WC worked for National Dollar, his salary included a room but not meals. |
| 5 | 144-153 | In those days, the Chinese mostly lived in Chinatown. There were some Chinese that would live just outside Chinatown. Later on, after the 1930's, the Chinese started to move to all different parts of the city, especially 21st Street, 22nd Street, and Adams Street areas. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 5 | 154-157 | WC's family moved to Lincoln Heights in 1925. They lived near the high school. Some of the Chinese even moved to the west side which was considered a good section of town. |
| | 158-171 | The people living in Chinatown would not move out simply because other groups were moving in. In the southwestern side near 21st Street and Adams Street, the Chinese did move out when other races moved in. The Chinese moved to Westwood and the Crenshaw areas. |
| | 172-180 | During the 1920's and 1930's, there were no Chinese banks. The Chinese had a lot of cash on hand. They did not trust the banks. |
| | 181-193 | One of the Main Street banks hired a Chinese man -- it may have been the Bank of America. The man was Mr. Woo. As a result, the Chinese would go over there and ask him questions in Chinese. The Chinese at that time did not know how to speak any English and did not know the banks procedures. From then on, the Chinese started to trust the banks more and started depositing their money in them. |
| 6 | 194-197 | There were a lot of people that would spend the money they saved by gambling. A lot of people would send their savings back to their relatives in China. |
| | 198-210 | WC was too young to know of any of the politicians in China during the 1911 Revolution. The Kuomintang Party had a lot of supporters and would have meetings at Apablasa Street. |
| | 211-216 | A lot of Chinese did feel that they had an obligation to their families in China. |
| | 217-229 | The Depression of the 1930's affected the Chinese just as if affected the other races. Some of the Chinese that did not trust the banks actually did quite well. They could take their money at that time and buy things such as real estate for cheap. |
| 7 | 230-239 | A lot of the Chinese at that time who privately saved their money at home were gamblers. They could not save their money at banks without having people ask them where they got their money. These were the people who were buying stores and properties. These people were not hurt when the banks closed during the Depression. |
| | 240-249 | The farmers did not do too well during the Depression but they got by. The farmers started to do real well after the Depression, in the 1940's. |
| | 250-256 | At that time, the Chinese did not own land, but American citizens could own land. Thus the sons of the first Chinese generation were able to buy land for their fathers. |

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Tape: 1 Side B
2 Side A

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| 7 | 257-269 | Before World War II, there was some hostility towards the Chinese in Los Angeles. |
| END OF TAPE 1 SIDE B | | |
| 1 | 003-015 016-023 | Introduction. |
| | 024-027 | When WC was in high school, they would go to the Lincoln Park swimming pool after baseball practice. There would be five or six of them and when they got to WC they would ask him if he had a doctor's permit which Orientals had to have. This was in 1927. WC told them that he did not have a doctor's permit. His friends backed him up and ended up not swimming there either which made WC feel a little better. Nevertheless, the incident shows how they used to have all these discriminatory laws. |
| | 028-037 | The prejudice was a little better by the 1930's. WC was in San Francisco for a few years in the 1930's. WC walked into a restaurant at that time across the street from Alameda. There were a lot of empty tables but they insisted that they could not let WC go in because he did not have a reservation. |
| 2 | 038-048 | The Chinese in Los Angeles have done really well as a whole. A lot of them are professionals and a lot of them have successful businesses. WC thinks that the Los Angeles Chinese should be proud of themselves for making a niche in the business world. |
| | 049-057 | WC has heard of people comparing the Chinese with the Jewish people. WC thinks that both the Chinese and the Jews are sharp in business endeavors. |
| | 058-071 | There were a lot more Chinese men here than Chinese women so a lot of them would return to China to get married. By the late 1920's, there were Chinese families here and there would be Chinese social gatherings in order to meet the opposite sex. Others would meet girls in school. |
| 3 | 072-073 | After that, there were less and less returning to China because there were more of the opposite sex that they could meet in school. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 3 | 074-089 | They used to have a lot of dances. It was often held at Figueroa and Sunset. There used to be a hall there owned by an Italian association. There was a Chinese orchestra here at that time that would play American music. WC does not recall the name of the band. Bill Young's older brother and WC's brother played the drums. Someone from Bakersfield played the piano and guitar. Someone was also from San Francisco. The band would play during the grand openings of some stores. They would also play at the Chinese dances. |
| | 090-101 | The American born Chinese would get married in the Church. In the 1920's and 1930's there were not many Chinese weddings because of financial reasons. They would just have a small wedding and dinner with their friends and relatives. At that time they were not financially equipped to have the big wedding banquets that they have today. |
| | 102-113 | The American born Chinese are more open-minded than the China born Chinese. They were moving away from the tradition that preferred sons rather than daughters. WC used to be partial to his daughter rather than his son when they were kids. |
| 4 | 114-122 | In the 1920's and 1930's, interracial marriages were no-no's. There were a few of them and the Chinese people would ostracize the involved parties. It is a different story today. |
| | 123-134 | In those days, all the Chinese parents wanted their children to attend Chinese school. WC went to Chinese school for a short time. The school was located at a Church on Los Angeles Street. There were about 20 or 30 American born students there. WC learned how to read and write Chinese. |
| | 135-147 | The Chinese children did not care for Chinese school. WC did not care for Chinese school. They did not see the advantages of learning something foreign. They also had to worry about their American school homework. Nevertheless, their parents felt that since they were Chinese, they should learn to read and write Chinese. WC now feels that it was a good things. |
| 5 | 148-157 | WC seldom heard any of the American born Chinese say that they wanted to go back to China. WC went to China after high school in 1929. He stayed in China for one year. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 5 | 158-175 | WC went back to the village. It was a good experience for him. He wanted to go and see the birthplace of his father. It was an adventure for WC. WC is glad that he went. WC's relatives did accept WC. If they did not, it did not show. WC was a teenager at the time. Some of the relatives took a good liking to WC and would take him to the larger cities which was a couple of hours away by a boat ride. They would rent a boat and have lunch on it. There was a charcoal stove and the boat owner would kill a chicken for them. WC enjoyed the trip very much. |
| | 176-186 | China was so different from what WC was accustomed to. WC remembers the little room that they rented on a ship that leaked and everything else. The ship was pulled by a tug boat. |
| | 187-200 | There were no separate rooms on this ship. There was only one outhouse. WC asked his guide where to go. His guide told him to go to the outhouse outside. There was already someone there. His guide told him to go to the corner of the room and to use the hole there where you could see the water. That really surprised WC. |
| 6 | 201-215 | WC went back to the village. It was quite a walk from where the boat docked. During their walk, WC's guide told him a story about a man who returned from the United States. He was walking the same path and a woman came to carry his suitcases. They walked all the way back to the village and not a word was said. She took him straight to his house. He commented on her knowledge of where his house was located. He asked her where his wife was and she said that she was his wife. |
| | 216-218 | When WC got to the village, everyone looked at him as if he was a foreigner. |
| | 219-230 | WC went to the movies in the 1920's and 1930's. WC felt that the Chinese in American movies were belittled. Most of them had queues. There was a little resentment but at that time the film industry was so strong and the voice of the Chinese was so weak. There was nothing for the Chinese to do but keep to themselves. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 7 | 231-246 | The Chinese talked about protesting to the film industry for their bad portrayals of the Chinese in their movies. The powerful people in Chinatown at that time told people not to rock the boat otherwise the Caucasians would come and harass their homes in Chinatown. These older people were the ones that controlled the money and the power so nothing could be done at that time. |
| | 247-253 | WC has never heard anyone say that they were ashamed of being Chinese. WC's family was proud to be Chinese and worked hard to gain a place in society. |
| | 254-280 | At that time, a lot of Chinese were aspiring to work for the city, county, or state. These jobs were hard for the Chinese to obtain. They may not get the best pay, but they would have a job for most of their life. Working for the government was considered an "ideal" job for the Chinese at that time. |
| 8 | 281-295 | There were tunnels in WC's building in Old Chinatown. There were some deep basements on the alley from Los Angeles Street to Alameda Street. There were some very deep basement stores. WC heard that there were tunnels under Old Chinatown but WC has never seen any. |
| | 296-299 | WC has seen a lot of things that he is not proud of such as warehouses and opium dens. |
| | 300-314 | At that time, WC used to make crystal sets. At that time there were no two radios that came in. They would use rock crystals. The first one that WC made did not cost very much because he would walk on Spring Street. A lot of the places threw out these paper cores. |
| | 315-321 | WC would pick those up and wind the wire around it and make a crystal set. He would then hear these radio programs. A friend of WC's came over and listened to it in awe. |
| | 322-329 | The next time his friend came over, he said he had a lady that wanted to buy one of these sets. The lady was a prostitute that had money and wanted to learn how to speak English. |
| 9 | 330-334 | She agreed to WC's price. WC was in his teens at that time. He went to her place and knocked at the door. A lady answered the door and said, "Go away, you are too young." |
| | 335-345 | WC said he was the guy with the radio and she invited him in. He asked her if she wanted outside or inside air and that outside air cost more. She wanted it and he set it up. This was located off Alley and Apablaza Street. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 9 | 346-354 | It is hard to place where the stores and houses were in Old Chinatown without a map. |
| | 355-372 | There were Chinese girls at these whorehouses. WC only saw two of them. This was in the early 1920's. The girls were about 19 or 20 years old. |
| | 373-376 | The girls were completely owned and run by some association such as a tong or something else. |
| | 377-381 | There was another whorehouse located on Napier Street. WC knows because he sold them a radio too. WC did some business everywhere. |
| | 382-388 | WC knows of only the two prostitute houses that he sold radios to in Chinatown. There were Chinese girls. WC heard that there were some Caucasians but WC does not know where they were. |
| 10 | 389-409 | Gambling was wide-opened in Chinatown at that time. There were four or five gambling houses in Chinatown at that time. There were two or three men sitting in the front room at all times who would smoke these bamboo water pipes. People could go in and smoke the water pipes for free. This made the place look like a business house while in the back room there would be the gambling tables. There would be long curtains to conceal the gambling room. |
| | 410-417 | There were quite a few big gambling houses on Alameda Street. They would be getting \$100 a month for working on the gambling tables. That was a lot of money at that time. |
| | 418-425 | The gambling houses started dying out in the late 1920's. They were closing up a few of the gambling houses by then because they said the houses were getting too hot. |
| | 426-430 | Some of the gambling house owners started opening up grocery stores. |
| | 431-440 | WC does not know how many Chinese lived in Chinatown in the 1920's and 1930's. There were quite a few Chinese. There was no such thing as an open place for rent. |
| | 441-466 | There were a lot of Mexicans and Chicanos living north of Macy Street. There were also a lot of Mexicans east of Chinatown. South of Chinatown, there was a mixture of Caucasians and Chinese. F.C. On had a dry goods store there. They then moved to Los Angeles Street later on. |
| 11 | 467-472 | Man Jen Low was located on Marchessault Street. |
| | 473-485 | F.C. On and Man Jen Low were two of the businesses that survived on the Old Plaza. There was also Tuey Far Low on the corner of Marchessault Street and Alameda. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 1 | 004-015 | Introduction. |
| | 016-020 | Some of the other businesses at the Old Plaza included Tuey Far Low on the corner of Marchessault Street and Alameda. It is no longer the same owner since Loh Quon passed away. |
| | 021-024 | Across the street from that was Grand East which is gone now. One of the men had a place in Chinatown--he was a Lim but has passed away. Those were the three biggest restaurants in that area. |
| | 025-040 | During the war against Japan, a few of the Chinese returned to China to enlist in the Chinese army. WC's friend went back there but then returned and said that there was too much politics. One could not refuse money given to him because he would have to give the money to the person on the higher rank. |
| 2 | 041-046 | A lot of people in Chinatown were very disappointed that Chiang Kai-shek did not fight the Japanese as much and did the fighting against the Communists instead. |
| | 047-053 | The Chinese festivals were definitely observed by the Chinese in the 1920's and the 1930's. The lion dance would take place and there would be firecrackers. WC remembers some Chicanos come and take the money which resulted in a big fight. |
| | 054-056 | The Chinese holidays were quite a big deal--there would be parades, dances, Queens, and the like. |
| | 057-063 | The parade would go from the CACA building on Los Angeles Street, then on Ferguson Alley, Alameda Street, Apablasa Street, Marchessault Street, and then down on Napier because all the stores would hang out money for them. |
| | 064-071 | Old Chinatown moved in 1939. The Chinese heard about the tearing down of Chinatown about ten years prior to that but they never did anything about it. Gradually some of the Chinese moved to China City on Spring Street. Then some people moved to where New Chinatown is. |
| 3 | 072-088 | The Chinese encountered a lot of difficulty in securing a place to relocate their businesses to. Some people felt that the rates at China City were too high so they moved to New Chinatown. Someone started building New Chinatown on Chung King Road and people were putting down payments for that place. The contractor promised to finish it at a certain time but filed bankruptcy. |

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 3 | 089-090 | Some Chinese bought property on Spring Street. That is why Chinatown separated although today it is growing so much that the two places will meet each other. |
| | 091-099 | There used to be a lot of Chinese that lived on Ninth Street in the market area. The people that bought homes in that area used to be produce owners. These people had money. |
| | 100-110 | Then the city started to inspect some of the homes and said that they would have to vacate. The Chinese heard about it and started to buy homes in the Crenshaw area which is a much nicer neighborhood. This is why Ninth Street Chinatown disappeared. |
| 4 | 111-113 | All those homes in the Ninth Street area were torn down and nothing was built there. Recently they began building a lot of commercial buildings over there. |
| | 114-133 | In Los Angeles there were three Chinese characters that were all known to the people in Chinatown. There were two males and one female and all of them were in their fifties at that time. One was Geo Kai. He had lost all his money in gambling and he used to walk around with a coat full of blank checks that he got from the banks. He would get a piece of broken brick and write figures on the sidewalk. He wrote large sums of money on the sidewalk and would say to himself that that was the kind of money that he had and he would give it to anyone who would show him friendship. |
| | 134-147 | There was also a small man nicknamed Ang Gao Wei. He would sleep anywhere and never seemed to be able to keep himself clean. He would walk all over Chinatown and would gather the things that people would throw away. It was a sad day for the Chinese when the Examiner had an articles of how the firemen on Allison Street saw how dirty he was that they gave him a bath. |
| 5 | 148-158 | The last character was a woman nicknamed Hao Sing Gu. She would prim herself up whenever anyone looked at her. She would do this even on Alameda Street, which was quite busy. When she was crossing the street, she would be forced to screech to a halt. She would then smile and run away in a funny way. |
| | 159-166 | The Chinese drink but WC has never seen any drunkards. Most of the Chinese partake their alcohol at the dinner table or at banquets. WC has not ever seen a Chinese drunkard. |

Contents (cont'd)

| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary |
|--------------|--|---|
| 5 | 167-178 | During the Depression, there were no bread lines in Chinatown. The Depression affected the Chinese. Families would visit their relative's restaurants and get the leftovers the customers would leave on their plates. Relatives helped relatives to survive. |
| | 179-185 | Only the Chinese that were modern enough went on relief. The older Chinese did not apply for relief because they probably did not know how to go about doing it. |
| 6 | 186-193 | In the early 1920's, a lot of immigration officers would come down to Chinatown and stop someone on the street and demand to see their immigration papers. This lessened in the 1930's. |
| | 194-198 | In the 1930's, when the Chinese crossed the Mexican border, they would automatically be stopped for questioning while other people were free to come and go. |
| | 199-202 | WC experienced this kind of treatment personally because he used to do business in the Imperial Valley. |
| | 203-217 | The first thing they asked was his name in order to see if he spoke English or not. They would ask where WC was born and where he lived. The officer would say something like "Oh, that is right close to First and Main, isn't it?" And WC would say, "No, you've got the city all mixed up." WC would be allowed to pass after that. They purposely tried to catch you. If you did not know the city, they would detain you. They would not ask WC's traveling companion anything since he was not Chinese. |
| 218-230 | There were quite a few Chinese that would smuggle across the Mexican border at that time. WC used to hunt in a Chinese ranch. They had a couple of mean dogs over there to keep people away. The ranch was hiring some illegal Chinese immigrants. | |
| 7 | 231-238 | WC never heard any stories about Chinese cowboys before the 1920's. |
| | 239-248 | There were a few Chinese fishermen in the 1920's. There was one man that would collect and sell abalone. Another man would fish around the San Pedro area and then bring the fish down to Chinatown to sell. |
| | 249-255 | Later on, there were a little more fishermen. Prior to World War II, there were quite a few Japanese fishermen in Terminal Island. There were a few Chinese out there too. |

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Contents (cont'd)

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|--------------|----------------|--|
| 7 | 256-267 | In those days, the Chinese were quite conservative. Very few people would rush to buy a car as soon as they acquired enough money for one. A lot of Chinese could afford to buy a new car but would not. |
| | 268-280 | Chung Gei bought a brand new truck in 1930. Bill Chan also bought a car. |

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