

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Ming Chuon Fong
 Chinese Name: 龐 銘 傳
 Date of Interview: 10/2/80
 Interviewer: Bernice Sam
 Others Present: None
 Language: English
 Summarizer: Suellen Cheng

Interview Number: 133
 Number of Tapes: 1
 Length: 21 Minutes

Contents

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary	Tape: <u>1</u> Side <u>A</u>
1	001-014 015-035	Introduction. Ming Chung Fong (MCF) was born in Canton, China in 1927. Family came from Dim Tao village, Nam Hoi. The population was about 1000 in the village.	
2	036-047 048-068	Father's name was Fong See. Father came to America at the age of 17 or 18 to look for his brother who worked for the railroad. Father came to San Francisco. He was a vegetable vendor in China and never went to school.	
3	069-084 085-091 092-100 101-110	Father was the fourth son in his family. He had four brothers and one sister. The family was very poor and could not afford to have a rice field in China. Later in father's life, he always wanted to live in China. Father's first business as in Sacramento, a ladys' underwear manufacturer. Father was working as a cook in a farm before he went into business.	
4	111-114 115-125 126-144	Father got a few dollars a month working as a cook. Father made trips to China very often. His first marriage was to a Caucasian woman. Father came to Los Angeles around the turn of the century. Father was in the Oriental art business in Pasadena after he got married.	
5	145-181 182-187	Father married MCF's mother in 1922 in Canton, China. Father was in his 60s when he married MCF's mother, who was under 18. MCF explained his last name was Fong.	

Interviewee: Ming Chuon Fong

Page: 2

Tape: 1 Side A

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
6	188-195	MCF and his father were in China in 1936 and returned to America in 1937.
	196-207	MCF came to America in 1928. He went to the California Street School on Bunker Hill. He went to Central Junior High School and Belmont High School.
	208-217	MCF got drafted in the summer of 1945. After he came back from the service in 1947 he completed his high school education.
	218-230	MCF helped his father and learned the business when he was around 14 years old. It was a tradition to help in the family business.
7	231-244	MCF did not like to work in the shop especially while his other classmates were having fun after school. MCF also went to Chinese school after regular American school.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE A

END OF INTERVIEW

- Belmont High School, 1A:6
- California Street School, 1A:6
- Central Junior High School, 1A:6
- China
 - life-styles in, 1A:3
 - nostalgia for, 1A:3
 - return to, 1A:4, 6
- Chinese schools
 - hours spent in, 1A:7
- Cooks, 1A:3
- Curior stores
 - family involvement in, 1A:6
 - locations of, 1A:4
- Families and family life
 - size of, 1A:3
- Fong, Ming Chuon
 - birth of, 1A:1
 - education of, 1A:6-7
 - father of, 1A:2-6
 - military service of, 1A:6
 - mother of, 1A:5
 - return to China by, 1A:6
 - working experiences of, 1A:6
- Fong, See, 1A:1
- Garment business, 1A:3
- Immigrants and immigration
 - arrival, 1A:6
 - reasons for, 1A:2
- Incomes, 1A:4
- Interracial marriages, 1A:4
- Marriages
 - average age at time of, 1A:5
 - in China, 1A:5
- Names and naming, 1A:5
- Vegetable vendors, 1A:2
- World War II
 - Chinese American involvement in, 1A:6