

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Jimmy Jung Interview Number: 67
 Chinese Name: 張子峯 Number of Tapes: 4
 Date of Interview: 1/24/80 Length: 2 Hours & 15 Minutes
 Interviewer: Beverly Chan
 Others Present: _____
 Language: English
 Summarizer: Ella Yee Quan

Contents

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary	Tape: <u>1</u>	Side: <u>A</u>
1	014-018	Jimmy Jung's (JJ) parents were born in Hoi Ping.		
	019-022	Father born in 1902, mother born in 1904.		
	023-025	Father came to the United States when he was thirteen years old.		
	026-029	Grandfather was an American citizen.		
	030-031	Father returned to China to marry.		
2	032-035	JJ and his mother came to the United States in 1938 as China and Japan War began.		
	036-041	JJ was born in 1926 in China.		
	042-049	JJ spoke Sze Yup with mother.		
	050-060	Father was in the meat market business -- Wai Sang (衛生) Market at 700 North Spring Street.		
	061-066	Father first went to Mason City, Iowa, where grandfather had a laundry.		
3	067-079	Father ran away from home at the age of fifteen and went to San Francisco with an Irishman. Irishman later became Attorney General of California.		
	080-094	Father came to Los Angeles in 1935 to start meat market.		
	095-101	Meat business did better than other Chinese businesses at that time.		
4	102-107	JJ spoke Sze Yup at home until he married an American born Chinese in 1951, then he spoke English only.		
	108-118	JJ attended Second Street Elementary School, Hollenbeck Junior High, and Roosevelt High School.		
	119-124	Only one or two other families that lived in East Los Angeles at that time.		
	125-134	Father lived away from Chinatown so that his son could learn to speak English faster.		

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
4	135-137 138-141	Father bought the house in 1938. JJ moved away from Boyle Heights after World War II.
5	142-149 150-161 162-167 168-178	JJ has only one sister. JJ joined the Navy in 1943 when he was still in 11th grade. After World War II, JJ qualified for a high school diploma. JJ had basic training in Florida.
6	179-191 192-207 208-219 220-226	Parents were not happy about their only son joining the Navy. JJ grew up in a predominantly Chicano and White Russian area. JJ considered himself an American because there were only a few Chinese in school and living in the same area. Most of JJ's girlfriends were White.
7	227-240 241-256 257-269	JJ suffered no discrimination at home or in the Navy. JJ attended one year of Chinese school in Los Angeles at the age of fourteen. He wanted his own children to learn Chinese but did not push it.
8	270-280 281-287 288-305 306-322	Parents used herbal medicines -- favors herbs for common cold. JJ used Western medicine for his own family. Parents preferred Chinese medicine but also went to an American doctor. Parents preferred Chinese recreation. JJ preferred American recreation such as hunting, skeet shooting, football, and baseball.
9	323-347 348-371	JJ graduated from USC in business administration during the Spring of 1951. JJ's great grandfather came to the United States first to build the Southern Pacific Railroad.
10	372-415 416-434	JJ joined all kinds of organizations. He was the youngest president of Lung Kong Tin Yee in 1953. He joined CACA in 1948.
11	435-464 465-END	JJ was the Chinese Benevolent Association representative for six or seven years. He was the vice president in 1978 and 1979. Lung Kong does charity work and takes care of their own members.

END OF SIDE A

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
1	011-019	People with one of the four last names of Lew, Quan, Jung, or Chew, were all automatically members of Lung Kong. JJ was active in 1948.
	020-030	JJ's father was the president of Lung Kong in 1948.
2	031-035	Lung Kong formed a Teen Age Committee.
	036-041	JJ attended City College in 1946 to make up deficiencies and then went to USC.
	042-054	JJ worked at odd jobs to put himself through school with the aid of GI bill.
	055-058	Lung Kong charged four dollars per year for dues.
3	059-070	The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) was made up of 28 family associations. Each sent a maximum of four delegates. There were 50 members per delegate.
	071-081	The Wong Family Association, Lee Family Association and a few others qualified for four delegates. Each delegate paid \$100 per year.
	082-085	Delegates took care of Chinese issues in town. They also took care of the Chinese Language School, Chinese Cemetery, and some politics and charity services for the Chinese community.
4	086-106	CCBA fought for the Chinatown Service Center, and will fight for the Urban Renewal Development which has been approved for \$75 million dollars in the Chinatown area.
	107-117	Prior to World War II, CCBA had no say in American politics.
	118-130	JJ also joined the Lions Club, Masons, Optimist Club, International Footprinters Association (law enforcement group), Bing Kong Tong (past president).
5	131-162	Bing Kong Tong is Chinese Free Mason like Lions, Shriners, etc.
	163-178	Prominent Chinese families included Sam Ward's family (Mr. Gee Tow), Wilbur Woo's family, Dan Louie's family, and quite a few Wong families.
6	179-188	Gee Tow owned Sam Ward Company which is now owned by Bob Gee, the son of Gee Tow.
	189-218	Prominent Chinese individuals include Y. C. Hong, the Chinese attorney; Judge Delbert Wong's father, a grocer; Peter Soo Hoo who built Chinatown for the Chinese.
7	219-231	New Chinatown used to be an Italian Cemetery. No one wanted the cemetery ground and the land was cheap.

Interviewee: Jimmy Jung

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1 Side B

2 Side A

Contents (cont'd)

Tape: 3 Side A

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
7	232-244	The Chinese were mostly in the laundry and restaurant businesses.
	245-258	Chinese were barred from civil service jobs, law enforcement jobs, big companies, because of prejudice, etc.
	259-267	Average income prior to World War II for the Chinese was \$120 to \$150 per month.
	268-END	The cost of a two bedroom apartment in Chinatown was \$25 per month.

END OF TAPE 1

TAPE 2 SIDE A

1	012-015	Pork noodles cost 10 to 15 cents per bowl. Dinner was 25 cents.
	016-018	With \$120 to \$150 a month, it did not make for comfortable living, but the Chinese did not have any choice then.
	019-030	Most Chinese worked for the Chinese. Others were house-boys for other than Chinese.
2	031-035	Father was a part owner of a meat market and earned \$150 per month while the help earned \$120 a month.
	036-042	The majority of the Chinese lived around the Chinatown area. Few lived in other areas.
	043-058	Quon Bo Hin, Tommy Quan (treasurer of Cathay Bank), Dan Hall (United Market), also lived in Boyle Heights.
	059-END	Chinese in Los Angeles seemed to move all over Los Angeles after World War II. Some stayed in Chinatown because of cheaper rent.

END OF TAPE 2

TAPE 3 SIDE A

1	016-030	Some Chinese invested in business, houses, apartments, or deposited the money in the bank. Banks in Chinatown are the fastest growing banks in the United States.
2	031-035	Cathay Bank began about 1969 or 1970. Bank of America about seven or eight years ago.
	036-039	There were no Chinese banks in Los Angeles prior to World War II.
	040-045	Chinese used to deposit with Bank of America, Security First National Bank, downtown, prior to Chinese banks.
	046-055	Some Chinese gambled which was a form of recreation -- mahjong, pai gue, gambling.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	056-060	Most gambling were in club houses or private homes.
3	061-072	Long time ago there were gambling places opened for commercial purposes -- illegally, of course.
	073-093	China was helped with donations of money and purchase of Chinese war bonds through CCBA.
	094-099	Individuals were also involved in helping China.
4	100-118	Most Chinese sent money to China for family support.
5	119-144	At the end of the Depression, in 1938, wages were about \$60 per month for 14 hours of work per day.
	145-160	JJ was a busboy, dishwasher, in the restaurant for \$5 per month for eight hours of work per day with meals included.
	161-167	JJ was a cook helper before joining the Navy and got \$75 a month because many men were drafted and help was hard to find.
	168-180	When he was earning five dollars a month, won ton soup was ten cents, a haircut was ten cents, and movies were ten cents.
6	181-202	Chinese felt they were second class citizens. They were discouraged from better restaurants and better movie houses.
7	203-232	After World War II (1950 or 1951), JJ had trouble buying a house in the Silverlake area. Owner sold to JJ anyway.
	233-251	Four or five years after World War II, the American society began to accept the Chinese people.
	252-267	In the Pearl Harbor days, there was violence against the Asian people on the streets.
	268-273	CCBA helped the Chinese sew Chinese flags on the back of their jackets to prevent misidentification.
8	274-281	JJ saw Japanese beaten up.
	282-310	There was no need for special identification after all the Japanese were put into the camps.
9	311-327	JJ sees no similarity between Jewish and Chinese people in the business field. The Jewish were better educated and it was easier for them to get jobs.
	328-337	The Jews knew that people were against them and they tried harder at business.
	338-344	Average Chinese after World War II did much better than other minorities.
	345-357	Some Chinese did better than some average Whites.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
9	358-371	Before World War II, the majority of the Chinese men married in China.
10	372-383	Even American born Chinese married in China because there were very few Chinese here in the United States.
	384-401	There were very few intermarriages here because of the California laws which stated that any White woman that married a Chinese man was a prostitute.
	402-418	This California law was abolished around 1968.
	419-440	White women that married Chinese men were usually of the lower class.
	441-END	The strong Chinese feeling against intermarriages was probably due to the culture.
END OF SIDE A		

TAPE 3 SIDE B

1	020-024 025-029	American born Chinese prior to World War II wanted sons. Many Chinese wanted children to learn Chinese language.
2	030-036 037-049 050-059 060-065	There were four or five Chinese language schools in 1938 and the early 1940's. JJ attended Chinese school for about six months but disliked it because it took his free time to play away. JJ encouraged his own children to attend Chinese language school. Almost 100% of the Chinese returned to China. Others did not because of the lack of finances.
3	066-082 083-094	Wealthy people sent their children back to China for a Chinese education. JJ did not think much of American movies portraying Chinese because most were of the bad aspects of a Chinese.
4	095-105 106-116 117-128 129-137	Protesting was hopeless in those days. JJ felt most Chinese were embarrassed and angered about the bad portrayals in the movies. JJ knew of no one embarrassed about being a Chinese. A perfect job that most Chinese preferred would be to be a proprietor of one's own business.
5	138-149 150-155	Father wanted JJ educated in order to do better than his parents. JJ started insurance work in 1949 during his senior year at USC.

Time- Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	156-161	Only a handful of Chinese was in the insurance business at that time.
	162-165	JJ majored in Foreign Trade, minored in accounting.
	166-171	JJ was offered a job with the Internal Revenue, but did not accept.
	172-176	The government was recruiting from universities.
	177-179	JJ's father was against him working for the government.
6	180-209	Uncle Calvin Chang hired JJ at a low wage.
	210-216	JJ noticed that everyone bought insurance and decided to sell insurance.
7	217-236	Mr. Minderhout and son handled most of the Chinese accounts. Minderhout is of Dutch descent.
	237-255	JJ began his own business around 1950 or 1951. He sold insurance on the side while working for Mr. Chang until 1958 or 1959.
	256-266	C. K. Leong, Albert Hing, Louie On, Phoebe On, Henry Kwok, Henry Woo, Samuel Tang, were all in the insurance business. Now many of them have retired.
	267-END	JJ was involved most of his life with the business sector, CCBA, the Chinese American Citizen Alliance (CACA). He rarely involved himself with insurance people.

END OF TAPE 3

TAPE 4 SIDE A

1	013-015	JJ has many Caucasian friends.
	016-024	JJ built a building and formed Club Dynasty, a private club. Most of the members are American businessmen, there are some Chinese.
	025-030	JJ belongs to the Masonic Order of California, the Lion International, American Legion.
2	031-040	JJ joined clubs in the 1950's. Also joined International Footprinters, a law enforcement group like the Sheriff, Police Department, and which accepts few businessmen.
	041-064	JJ was invited to join the exclusive Jonathan Club of Anglo-Saxons functions. He was offered a membership but did not join because it was too costly.
3	065-088	JJ decided with American businessmen friends to build Club Dynasty which serves Chinese food. 90% of the members are Caucasians.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
3	089-096 097-101	Every bank is represented in Club Dynasty. Club started in 1963.
4	102-104 105-113 114-125 126-130 131-142	Club Dynasty is the first of its kind. JJ and nineteen Caucasian people were the founders. JJ feels prejudice is due to the lack of communication. JJ does not feel insurance work Americanized him. He feels that people he met through the insurance business has Americanized him.
5	143-150 151-167	JJ gets along well with both Chinese and Americans. JJ feels more open-minded now and other are more broad-minded as well.
6	168-184 185-195 196-212	JJ has become more aggressive. He feels he has always been an extrovert. One earns respect. JJ is making a comfortable living by respecting others' opinion and earning their respect.
7	213-242 243-258	JJ has contact with politicians as friends. JJ feels his key to success has been by doing extra little things for his friends.
8	259-275 276-308 309-317 318-END	Without Club Dynasty, JJ would not have met Nixon, Humphrey, Governor Brown and his father. Insurance company is more economically important. Club is not money making. It is owned by 420 people. Dues are from \$200 to \$1000 a year. March Fong Eu, woman judge, and other women are now members. Club was originally an all male organization. Now, with ERA and the many changes, women are accepted.

END OF TAPE 4

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