

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Rose Lamb Interview Number: 165
 Chinese Name: _____ Number of Tapes: 1
 Date of Interview: 1/29/79, 7/15/79 Length: 42 Minutes
 Interviewer: Helen Chan
 Others Present: None
 Language: English
 Summarizer: Suellen Cheng

Contents

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary	Tape: <u>1</u> Side <u>A</u>
1	001-017 018-035	Introduction. Rose Lamb (RL) was born in Los Angeles. The family moved to the ranch when RL was four years old. Mother had fifteen children. When mother passed away, RL had just gotten out of high school. She took care of the family until she got married. The other sister took care of the family soon after RL married.	
2	036-043 044-053 054-057 058-070	Three sisters lived in San Francisco, one brother in Honolulu, and one brother in Los Angeles. Father had an asparagus ranch in Van Nuys. It was eighty acres. The sisters and brothers played among themselves. RL had to help her mother with the laundry. RL did not notice the discrimination although they were the only Chinese in town. They always looked forward to the trip to Chinatown in their Model T Ford. RL recalled the trip.	
3	071-083 084-107	Two of RL's brothers fell from the car on the trip. The story was told. Sometimes RL had to walk a long distance to school. Later her father bought a pony and car and got special permission from the Board of Education to build a barn in the school yard. RL and her siblings would go to school in their horse and buggy.	
4	108-120 121-145	RL recalls the first school she went to. The sewing and cooking classes were very well equipped. It was a big building. RL and her siblings were the only Chinese students in school. They brought their own lunches.	

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	146-165	Father came from Canton, China, and was in the produce business in Los Angeles. He bought his first ranch in Van Nuys. It was an eighty acre asparagus ranch. He recruited Chinese workers. He built a sleeping quarters and kitchen for the workers. Mother had to cook for the workers and the family.
	166-169	He shipped the asparagus to Los Angeles.
	170-179	RL explained how her father handled the crops.
	180-189	Father's first two ranches were asparagus ranches. His third ranch in the San Joaquin Valley grew cotton.
6	190-202	Father's fourth ranch was in Lancaster. He was the sole owner of all four ranches.
	203-216	Father's village was Nam Leong, Canton. Father married in China. RL was born in 1912.
	216-237	The family hired a live-in tutor to teach the children Chinese. RL had Chinese lessons seven days a week.
7	238-239	Mother did not speak English, so her older children all spoke Chinese with her.
	240-251	Fifteen years after RL's mother died, father took the five young children to China to stay. Father remarried and had four more children. He has nineteen children in total.
	252-263	Father lived in the second ranch until he sold the ranch. He passed away eight years ago at the age of 90.
	264-273	Both parents were buried in Evergreen Cemetary.
	274-297	RL got married in 1938 to John H. Lamb who was born in Montana. RL had a difficult time to adjust to her name from Woo to Lamb. RL explained how the husband's family got Lamb as a last name.
8	298-322	Husband was a driver for the Angel City Dry Cleaning, a Chinese owned dry cleaning establishment. Later he worked for an American machine shop on San Pedro Street in Los Angeles for over 25 years. He was the first Chinese worked for the company.
	323-327	RL has one son who taught school in Alhambra.
	328-335	Daughter-in-law was born in China and came to America when she was five years old. RL has two grandchildren.
9	336-355	RL's father-in-law came from China. His name was Dr. Wah Gin Lamb. He was the first Chinese who graduated from USC School of Medicine in 1898.
	356-389	He practiced in Butte, Montana in Chinatown. RL's husband was born there. No relatives in Butte now.

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1 Side A
Tape: 1 Side B

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
10&11	390-378	RL met her husband at an annual dance party held at Low Wah Club. In the old days, after dances they would go to Philippe where ten cents French dip sandwiches were sold. RL recalled a couple gatherings for Chinese American young people.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE A

1	001-010 011-033	Blank. RL's son was a psychology major. He did two years graduate work at California State University. He teaches 12 handicapped students.
2	034-041 042-068	RL's son has been teaching for ten years. RL's brother worked for the Rockwell Company. He and several Chinese boys volunteered to go to the Pacific Islands before Pearl Harbor. He was in the Air Force. After basic training, he became a pilot and instructor. When he worked for the Rockwell Company, he was in charge of the shuttle program.
3	069-082 083-084 085-091 092-096	Another brother, Young Woo, is an architect. He built mostly senior citizen housing. RL remembers a headline of a local newspaper, the Monterey Park became the Chinese Beverly Hills. Two sisters were teachers and lived in San Mateo. Father's Chinese name was Woo Joe. RL was always referred to as the oldest daughter of Woo Joe.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE B

END OF INTERVIEW

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