

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Rodney H. Chow
 Chinese Name: 周 競 飛
 Date of Interview: 1/24/78
 Interviewer: Emma Louie
 Others Present: None
 Language: English
 Summarizer: Stella Ling

Interview Number: 149
 Number of Tapes: 3
 Length: 2 Hours & 21 Minutes

Contents

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary	Tape: <u>1</u> Side <u>A</u>
1	005-012	Introduction.	
	013-015	Rodney Harvey Chow's (RHC) Chinese name is Chow Geng Fie (周 競 飛).	
	016-017	RHC was born on May 27, 1929 in San Francisco. He is now 51 years old.	
	018-023	RHC is the fourth generation in America on his mother's side and maybe the third generation on his father's side. RHC is the second generation born in America on his mother's side. Although RHC's mother and grandfather were here, they were born in China.	
	024-027	RHC's maternal great grandfather was the first in the family to come here. He came as a coolie to work on the Union Pacific Railroad. That was in the late 1800's.	
	028-031	RHC's great grandfather came and worked here until he was in his forties. After the railroad construction was completed, he settled in Placerville and worked in the gold mines.	
	032-034	RHC's great grandfather stayed there until he made enough money to go back to China and find a wife. RHC's grandfather was born and when he was old enough, he came to America.	
2	035-039	RHC's great grandfather remained in China and his grandfather came to America on his own. RHC doesn't know how old his grandfather was when he came over.	
	040-041	RHC does not know his grandfather's name. His surname is Lee.	
	042-050	RHC's grandfather went to San Francisco. He made nine trips back to China. RHC's mother and uncle were born in China. RHC's mother came to the United States when she was nine years old. After that, RHC's grandfather never returned to China again.	

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	051-056	RHC's great grandfather apparently accumulated quite a sum of money from panning gold. Consequently, RHC's grandfather never did much work. He would start a store, get tired of it, sell it, and then start another store.
	057-062	RHC's grandfather had a sheet metal shop, then a butcher shop, and then he sold Chinese medicine.
	063-064	RHC's mother came from Chungshan, Long Du area.
	065-069	RHC's mother came to America in 1924. She may be the oldest child.
3	070-073	RHC's grandfather brought over his own children. Four other children were born here.
	074-077	RHC's uncle's name is Jonah Li who is in San Francisco.
	078-086	On RHC's father's side his grandfather was the first to come to America. RHC's family knows that his grandfather was in the Carribean Islands and also in Hawaii. RHC's grandfather may have been a laborer in Jamaica.
	087-088	RHC's father was born in Wialuku, Hawaii.
	089-091	RHC's paternal grandfather married in China and brought his wife to Hawaii. RHC's father was born in Hawaii.
	092-098	RHC's father came to the United States mainland before 1918. He went to the town of Locke. He was a share cropper. He farmed 200 acres of bartlett pears.
099-107	RHC's father was in Locke for seven to ten years. In 1929, the year that RHC was born, the crash started and RHC's father was wiped out completely.	
4	108-118	RHC's father sharecropped 200 acres but he did not own the land. They would pay the rent by sharecropping. He had people working for him. The sharecropping rent in those days were quite merciless. One did not have much money left after paying for the rent.
	119-129	During the crash of 1929, RHC's father had Filipino migrant workers. RHC's father previously shipped all his pears to the east. When the crash came, there was no market for his pears so they sent them back to Sacramento. The pears started to rot and the Health Department condemned them. RHC's father had to hire another crew to bury the pears. At that time, he was already working on borrowed money.
	130-132	The ranch next to him had a pestilence that spread over to his trees. RHC's father was forced to chop down his own trees. He just could not make it.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
4	133-137	RHC's father then left his wife and two children with his own parents and then proceeded to Los Angeles.
	138-145	RHC's father's first job in Los Angeles was a dishwasher in a restaurant. He then worked up to a chef in about a half a year or a year. He then bought himself a truck and started peddling fish.
	146-155	In those days, there were only two or three people peddling fish. George Wong was another fish peddler. He also came from Locke. All the fish peddlers were from Chungshan and so they helped one another.
5	156-161	They bought their fish from Japanese wholesalers who got the fish from Terminal Island. that is where the Japanese fishermen boats were. That was the only source in town. they also went to San Pedro to get fish from the Yugoslav fishing boats.
	162-171	RHC's father had two stops. His first stop was one street north of Ferguson Alley in Old Chinatown. After half a day, he would move to Ninth and San Pedro.
	172-189	RHC's parents had an arranged marriage. the people ties in those days were made by the dilaeacts. All the Chungshans stuck together, all the Sze Yups stuck together, etc. RHC's father somehow heard about a young lady that was ready for marriage and so he made the necessary arrangements. RHC found this out when he returned to Locke to search for the family history and talked to some people that knewRHC's parents.
6	190-199	RHC's father never returned to Hawaii to live. RHC's grandfather returned to China. Most of the family has now left China. They are in South America, Central America, Australia, and the United States.
	200-201	RHC's father was the only child.
	202-215	As soon as RHC's father had enough money to buy a truck, the rest of his family came down to Los Angeles. The farthest back RHC can remember is when his family lived on San Julian Street between Olympic and Eighth Street. There were all Chinese living in that brick bulding on San Julian Street.
	216-220	RHC came to Los Angeles in 1931 or 1932. RHC has five brothers and sisters.
	221-230	RHC's mother had a book and used it to name RHC's sister. RHC's mother named all their children with English names. She is fluent in English.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
7	231-240	RHC's father has a fourth grade education and his mother has a ninth grade education in English. RHC's father had some Chinese education. He could read the Chinese newspapers. RHC's mother could also read the Chinese newspapers.
	241-248	RHC's mother could speak Chinese, English, and Spanish. She learned Spanish in school in San Francisco.
	149-250	RHC's father only made one trip back to China and that was at the end of the war.
	251-256	RHC's father did not return to China to stay. He just wanted to see how much damage was done at the end of the war. RHC does not know if their family had property back in China.
	257-262	RHC's father returned to China with some money and gave it to the village in order to rebuild the school. RHC's father is also from Chung San.
	263-276	RHC's family moved from San Julian Street to 21st Street. Their family moved quite often. The Depression affected the Chinese people all the way to the beginning of World War II.
8	277-284	RHC is especially familiar with the history since 1936 or 1937 around the city Market Area. He is also familiar with the area covering Washington Boulevard up to Adams.
	285-296	RHC grew up in this area. RHC attended Chinese schools and the friends RHC made at the Chinese school lived in these areas. In those days, RHC's friends were limited to Chinese people.
	297-301	They knew Black kids too but the Black kids did not live in their neighborhood. There were racial restrictions in those days.
	302-311	The Black people in those days could not live past Stanford Avenue and north of Twelfth Street. They did not live past San Pedro Street. They were confined to the boundaries east of San Pedro, north of Twelfth east of Stanford. None of them lived farther north than Olympic Boulevard.
	312-317	The Japanese and Chinese were confined east of Main Street. RHC did not know the Chinatown area that well at that time.
	318-321	RHC lived mostly around the City Market Area. RHC's father was not connected with the City Market. He stayed in the fish business thereafter.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
8	322-332	RHC's father had a fish store -- Joe Kee Fish Market on Ninth Place. It is still there. The store is now semi-out-of-business. RHC's father is 83 years old and closes the store frequently. He just has the store in order to keep busy.
9	333-352	RHC attended a public school and would then go to Chinese school afterwards for three hours. They started at 4 o'clock. Then they would have a ten minute recess after each hour. The school was called the Chung Hua Ho Hao. It was sponsored by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.
	353-360	They had three schools. One was located on Tenth and Crocker which is the one RHC attended. They had one on 23rd and the first street east of San Pedro Street. The main school was in Chinatown.
	361-369	The Japanese had their own schools at that time which was located on Towne Avenue and on 21st Street. The difference between the Japanese schools and the Chinese schools was the Japanese schools had a lot of money.
	370-373	The most well-known teacher was Tom Kim Fong. He was very popular with the parents. He was a student at USC. He probably owns a couple of restaurants now but he is still around town. It was his reputation that built up the school at Tenth and Crocker.
10	387-389	There were a lot of students there. There may have been a couple hundred students.
	390-399	The school operated in the early 1940's. It could have been founded in 1938 or thereabouts.
	400-413	Every year, the three Chinese schools would get together for a picnic. Once a year they would also have a "geong ban" to award the best student. The students were also dosed with a lot of propaganda about how cruel the Japanese were.
	414-417	RHC attended Chinese school from 4 to 7 p.m. Then would then go home for dinner.
	418-423	RHC attended Chinese school until the last year of high school. He had about nine years of Chinese education.
	424-429	All RHC's brothers and sisters attended Chinese school. RHC was the only one who could read the newspapers and converse.
	430-433	The picnics were held at Griffith Park.
	434-444	RHC studied history, Chinese literature, and geography at the Chinese school. They had a very good education. The classes were taught in Cantonese.

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1 Side A

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Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
10	445-469	Another teacher at the Chinese school was Mr. Wong. The teachers may have been students in the university at that time. They had a very totalitarian attitude toward the children. They would use a stick to hit the students whenever they got out of hand.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE A

Tape 1 Side B

1	004-011	Of RHC's life at the City Market Area, his most vivid memory is when the children that were sent to China to go to school returned to the United States because of the invasion of China by the Japanese.
	012-019	Around 1939, a lot of these children returned. They could not speak English. They used to get kids like RHC who could speak English to go to the playground and read to the kids in English and then translate the meaning of the passage into Chinese. They would do this for about an hour each day.
	020-021	RHC does not remember which language he learned first. All he knows is that he can speak both English and Chinese.
	022-031	Some of these children are Albert Wong, and Charles Wong, the architect. When those kids started at Ninth Street School, the Japanese had as much indoctrination as the Chinese and there was quite a bit of animosity between the Chinese and the Japanese.
	032-038	The Japanese students were bullies. They learned jujitsu and loved to push the Chinese kids around. In those days, the Chinese kids did not get into fist fights. They were on the timid side. They were also more afraid of their own parents than of the other kids. They would get a worse beating at home if they fought in school.
2	039-042	The Japanese used to make fun of these kids.
	043-052	The Chinese kids never fought back. They were more on the docile side. There were some families that were really rough which everyone was afraid of. The majority of Chinese were quite docile.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	053-065	The Chinese families lived on Crocker, Ninth, Tenth and Towne Avenue. A lot of Japanese lived on Towne Avenue and a few lived on Crocker. The animosity between the Chinese and Japanese was not deep hatred. RHC still remembers playing with the Japanese. There was a tendency among the Japanese kids to laugh at the Chinese kids.
	066-068	RHC had Japanese friends. They were well received when RHC brought them home.
3	069-087	In those days, RHC lived in a hodge-podge neighborhood. There were some Caucasians and Mexicans. There were no Blacks. RHC played with everybody. In those days, it was not a matter of bringing your friends home. When you were playing, you ran into everybody's house. They used to have radios and in the evenings, the older people would sit on the porches and the kids would be playing on the streets.
	088-090	Some of the families that lived in that area were connected with the City Market business.
	091-097	The Jeong family is a very old family that lived on Tenth Street. Ed Jeong was a good friend of RHC's. His father was one of the first City Market people. He is dead now. He was more progressive than other people. He had a contract for preparing strawberries for canning.
	098-101	They had that business plus a produce market. All the Chinese people would go there to pick the greens off the strawberries and get paid for it. RHC's mother never did this because they were all Sze Yups and she was not.
	102-106	RHC's mother had friends but she was never really accepted in the circle because she was Chung Shan.
4	107-108	RHC can speak Sze Yup just as well as those kids can. Everyone spoke that because if you could not speak it, you were considered an outsider.
	109-115	There was only one other Chung Shan family there. He was one of RHC's father's closest friends. That was the Chang family. They were very clannish in those days.
	116-122	The Jeong business provided both a social gathering place for the Chinese women as well as a way to earn a few pennies.
	123-128	A lot of the families in that neighborhood were really poor, like the Ching family. The son is now living in San Fernando and is a close friend of RHC's.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
4	129-141	The Mu family lived across the street from RHC's family. Their father was a very respected person because he was a "sui sing" (). There were no other Mu's around so he was the perfect arbitrator. He was the president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association for many years because there was no bias.
	142-152	There was the Wong family too. The children's names were Everett, Fred, and Dorothy. They had enough money to buy the house they moved in to, as well as to remodel the house which none of the other families did.
5	153-157	Then there was the Wong family on Ninth Place which are the owners of Ying Chong Lung. Staton Wong lives at Santa Monica now and is very successful. Some of the houses are bachelor's housing.
	158-175	The children of these families are still in the Los Angeles area. The only children that RHC knows that went into their family's business was the ying Chong Lung. Staton's father had died and they split up the partnership. One of the partners opened up Kwang Hing Lung at Adams and San Pedro. The Wongs were given the other business.
	176-183	The rest of the children went into professions. Gin Wong, a cousin of the Wong family, became an architect. Gin lived on Ninth Street. He was one of the kids brought back from China.
6	184-186	All the families in the neighborhood were close.
	187-202	On Chinese New Years, all the mothers would make "cha ngao" (teacakes) and then pass it out to everyone. RHC's mother never knew how to make those things, but they would get them as gifts. Those "cha ngao's" tasted better than the ones you buy at the store.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE B

Tape 2 Side A

1	007-010	Introduction.
	011-015	On Chinese New Years, they did not give out "lei see" because the neighborhood was extremely poor.
	016-021	RHC's family was so poor, they did not have furniture in the house. They slept on the floor. The only furniture RHC can remember is a table and wooden stools. At times, RHC remembers only eating soda crackers and water for supper. Those were hard times.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
1	022-023	These hard times continued until RHC was in junior high school.
	024-028	They would eat Chinese food but it was not the same as they would eat now RHC's father would boil a head of lettuce in water and then put some soy sauce over it. Sometimes they would have some rice and put some soy sauce and lard on it.
	029-032	RHC's family was considered more fortunate than some of the other families there. The fathers of the less fortunate families did not have their own business and were working for other people.
2	033-035	RHC's family ate fish at times since his father was a fish peddler.
	036-050	RHC's family did not like to be involved in the politics of the Chinese organizations. RHC would completely dissociate himself from any organization that proved to be a popularity contest. RHC was taught that way by his parents. His family never got into that type of competition.
	051-055	RHC's father did not join any of the Chinese organization. There were no business organizations that he had to join either.
	056-058	RHC's family was a very independent family.
	059-062	When Old Chinatown was torn down, RHC was still living on Ninth Street. RHC used to accompany his father on the peddling truck.
	063-075	RHC remembers the two-story brick buildings in Old Chinatown. RHC remembers the restaurants that they used to delivery fish to. RHC also recalls the trains that came through Alameda Street. At that time, the train stations was located at Fourth and Central.
3	076-080	RHC also remembers the alfalfa trucks that used to come through real fast on Alameda street. The feed lots were next to Sears and Roebuck. They used to fatten cattle on Olympic Boulevard and Soto.
	081-087	RHC did not actually see them tear down Chinatown. RHC's parents managed to buy the family tickets for the parade when the Union Station was built.
	088-099	RHC remembers when New Chinatown was built. The area where New Chinatown is used to be an old graveyard. Some of the coffins were moved.
	100-103	During the grand opening of New Chinatown, Anna May Wong was at the head of the parade. There were a lot of firecrackers.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
4	104-109	That was the beginning of the good times for the Chinese. There used to be a lot of stands and a lot of families were able to cash in on the new business.
	110-123	China City may have been envisioned by a non-Chinese. There were hard feelings when China City was built because it was in competition with New Chinatown. China City was located behind the stores on Spring Street. There are remnants of it now in the Philippe's Parking Lot. The Chinese high school kids used to pull rickshaws for the tourists. China City did not last very long.
	124-133	Some of the old stores are still surviving now. These include Kwong Dack Wo, Sam Sing Meat Market and George Wong's fish market. These stores were attracted to their location by China City.
	134-141	Some of the Chinese families understood the American way of life and were able to earn extra money.
	142-155	The older generation wanted their children to excel in school and to go to college. RHC has heard of some Chinese who graduated from college but could not find a job. No one would hire them so they ended up in the grocery stores and the like. The Chinese never gave up hope.
5	156-178	When RHC went to college, his parents were not able to guide him. If they were to draw a map of Los Angeles city, they would not be able to draw any more than from 7th and Broadway to San Pedro Street. They did not go beyond these borders. They did not go on vacations since they worked seven days a week. They did not associate with anybody aside from the Chinese. A lot of Caucasians came in and really took advantage of the Chinese people.
	179-187	RHC remembers policemen that could go into his father's store. They would order some things which were then packaged. Instead of paying, they would show their badge and leave the store with the merchandise. The policemen also bullied the merchants. The police would come and expect to receive gifts from the merchants. If the merchants did not give them any, their customers would always get ticketed.
6	188-192	The Chinese people at that time did not know of their rights nor were their rights protected.
	193-196	RHC remembers inspectors coming in. They would act like very important people and try to bully the Chinese.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
6	197-202	RHC's father still lives in the same neighborhood. RHC moved out when he got out of the Army. RHC got married and he moved away as far as he could.
	203-214	RHC attended USC. He received a degree in petroleum engineering. RHC wanted to be an engineer ever since he was young. When RHC was small he saw the WPA workers and wanted to be the person with the wheelbarrow. Someone told RHC that that was an engineer and that stuck with RHC.
	215-216	When RHC was in junior high school, he took up drafting. RHC also went to Poly Technic High School.
	217-226	RHC went to junior high schools that were predominantly Black. RHC's elementary school was three-fourth white and the rest were Asians and Mexicans. RHC had a very good elementary school education. The educational elevel of RHC's junior high school was so poor that they did not learn anything..
7	227-235	As kids at that age, they already understood what prejudice and discrimination was. They also knew that they were getting a bad education. Most of the Chinese kids took down false addresses to get into other schools. They were periodically taken into the vice-principal's office and grilled. The kids that would break were shipped back to the other schools.
	36-243	RHC's family also went under false addresses. If they had not gone under false addresses, RHC would have been much farther behind when he entered college. RHC was already behind when he was in his first semester in college because he was not familiar with the big words they used.
	244-245	It was not until RHC's second year at college when he finally caught on.
	246-254	RHC attended Poly High School. They had strong Chinese clubs in junior and senior high schools. RHC did not have many friends that were outside the Chinese group. The majority of the Chinese only associated with Chinese.
	255-264	They used to have dances during the holidays. They were very popular. They were record hops. They used to hold the dances at the International Hall on soto Street. They were charged for the use of the auditorium. They used to sell 25 cents or 50 cents tickets.
	265-276	RHC was the president of the Chinese Club at Poly High School when he was in 11th grade. He organized a dance with a 15 piece orchestra. They sold tickets at \$1.25. They did not make a profit. They got a hall across the street from West Lake Park (which is now MacArthur Park).

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
8	277-280	The kids would get to the dances on street cars. When RHC was in high school, he had a car because his parents were doing pretty well by then. Back in those days, you did not need a car. You could anywhere on a street car.
	281-291	RHC had his own car. There was another car for the family. RHC's father gave RHC a car. It was an old car, but RHC did not care and took it.
	292-301	They needed to have a driver's license at that time. He was in high school -- he was at least 16 years old.
	302-312	RHC's other brothers and sisters did not have a car. All of the children went to college. RHC's parents put all the children through college.
	313-319	RHC's father did not want any of his children to stay in the family business. RHC was willing to take over the business at that time but RHC's father did not want to move out.
	320-323	RHC's father told some people that he would do anything his children wanted but that if they did not finish school, they would be on their own.
	324-332	RHC's parents were not really that old fashioned. They did not try to tell their children what kind of careers to pursue.
9	333-341	RHC used to help his father out at the store. Some of the customers tried to match their daughters off to RHC but RHC's mother said that she could not match her children off even if she wanted to. The children were very independent.
	342-351	RHC has two brothers and three sisters. RHC's sisters are Wang Fie, Ha Fie and RHC does not know his other sister's name. RHC's brothers are Hong Fie, and Wood Fie.
	352-372	RHC's father chose the children's names. RHC's father knew the lineage poem of their family. Their ancestry goes back 700 years. RHC is in the 4th generation from the first person who went to South China. Before that, RHC's family was in Ho Nam Province. On his mother's side, the family was from Gam Sok Province in western China.
	373-394	RHC has three children. They also have Chinese names. RHC's father chose the names for RHC's children. He used the next name in the poem. RHC does not have the poem, but he has the genealogy.
10	395-415	RHC has two sons and one daughters. RHC's nieces and nephews also share the same character in their Chinese name.

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Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
10	416-442	There was dating during RHC's high school days. RHC would go to the girl's house and then escort her to the school dance. Half the girls RHC dated were Chinese. These were girls either at RHC's school or in his neighborhood. They were either Chinese or Japanese. RHC really did not care about what his parents thought. RHC's mother wanted her children to go out with Chinese only but RHC did not really care. RHC's parents just had to accept whatever decisions RHC made.
	443-452	There was a Chinese club in college. RHC was pretty active in the organization. The members of the club were mostly American born Chinese. There was definitely a division between the China born and the American born Chinese.
11	453-457	In the earlier days, there was a division between the Chinese raised in the United States and the ones that were brought back during the war. Eventually, there was no distinction between the two.
	458-464	When they went to college, there was also a distinction between the Chinese from China and the ones from here. The Chinese from here were more adapted to the American customs.
	465-480	The Chinese from China probably went farther career-wise compared to the Chinese from here. They were the cream of the crop and went on to get a Ph.D. Most of the Chinese from here stopped after getting a bachelor's degree.
	481-486	RHC got along with both groups of Chinese because he made an effort to get to know both of them.

END OF TAPE 2 SIDE A

Tape 2 Side B

1	005-006	RHC got along with both groups of Chinese because he made an effort to get to know both of them.
	007-011	There were both girls and guys from China. This was in 1947 to 1952.
	012-019	RHC dated the American born girls. RHC was getting to know the girls from China and there was a sharp distinction. The attitudes of the two groups were a little different.
	020-024	The students from China are still here now. This was around the time the Communists took over China.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
1	025-027	When RHC graduated from college, he did experience a lot of job discrimination.
	028-040	When RHC was going to school, the professors would never give him a summer job. In addition, although RHC sat in the front row, the professor would give hand-outs to everyone else first before giving them to RHC. If he ran out, RHC would not get one. USC was a pretty prejudiced school. Some of the other schools and the medical schools would not allow Chinese to enter at that time. This was the reason that RHC would not donate to the school for a long time.
2	041-048	When RHC looked for a job, he had an appointment with a drilling company in downtown. RHC was early and he saw a sign on the door that directed recent graduates upstairs if they wanted a job. RHC went upstairs and got hired on the spot for the County's flood control district. The man who hired RHC had no prejudice at all.
	049-050	RHC was treated pretty well over there. He worked there for about four months and then got drafted into the Army.
	051-057	When RHC was in the Army, he learned how to get along with Caucasian people. RHC made it a point to go to church. He and a close friend of his would go into town during the weekends instead of hanging around the guys at camp. That really helped RHC learn how to get along with Caucasian people. That really helped RHC's business because it is 100% Caucasian.
	058-065	When RHC got out of the Army, he returned to his job at the flood control district and encountered a lot of discrimination there. RHC was always told that he should not expect to get hired into the third level which was the squad leader. He was also told that he may be good enough for squad leader but that the men would not take orders from him. This was in 1955 or 1956.
	066-069	RHC also remembers them hiring a Black person in the mimeograph room and everyone was trying to keep him out.
3	070-071	RHC was given high promotability in the first three levels but after that they were not promoted.
	072-079	Although RHC would get a high score on the written exam, they would write him down in promotability. By writing the minorities down, they would have documentary proof that you were not capable of getting that promotion.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
3	080-084	You were allowed to see the reports. Everyone knew that the reports discriminated against non-whites. This lasted for eleven years while RHC was working for the County.
	085-088	Things did not shape up for RHC until he started teaching in engineering. After the Army, RHC went to night school to get his civil engineering degree and then he got a masters degree.
	089-094	RHC was laid off for two years and then went to teach engineering. During the years that RHC taught engineering, a lot of the County people that were moving up the promotion list were RHC's students. From that point on, RHC had the respect of everyone in the County. After that, RHC started going places.
	095-099	RHC was then placed in another division to help them put together a design section. From there, RHC wrote most of the promotional exams for the engineers. RHC also sat on the interview board.
	100-106	RHC's respect came from his students. By then, the old timers were retiring and the people that took over were RHC's peers who did not have that prejudice.
4	107-109	What it amounted to was waiting for the old generation to retire because there was no way to change their minds.
	100-123	RHC also encountered housing discrimination. Right after the war, a lot of Chinese made money. The Chinese at that time were trying to move west into better housing. Most of the people were scared about the treatment they would get. People would do things like move in at night or during the weekends. There were also rumors that people had garbage thrown on their yards.
	124-127	When RHC got out of the Army, he tried to find a house. Their real estate agent took them to Pacific Palisades and later they were told that they could not buy there because their neighbors objected.
	128-138	They then went to Crenshaw to buy and went to the La Verne real estate office. They specifically told RHC that if he wanted to buy south of Jefferson, they would sell to him, but that if he wanted to buy north of Jefferson Boulevard, they could not sell him a house. RHC replied that next time there was a war, they better not draft him because he would not fight. RHC was very mad.
	139-150	After that, they tried to buy a house by Bundy, south of Santa Monica Boulevard. They had a lot of difficulty buying a house. They finally got a house that they bought directly from the owner.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	151-160	When RHC was in the Army, he was a soldier scientist and did not have to carry a gun. He did not have to go finish basic training. He did not have to wear a uniform. He never went overseas. He went into Alabama and encountered no prejudice whatsoever.
	161-170	There were no all-Chinese divisions in the Army. There were still Jim Crow Armies for Black people. The only all-Asian division was the 442nd that the Japanese had from Hawaii. There was no discrimination while RHC was in the service.
	171-174	When RHC first started in the Army, he was doing investigation work and would travel to different camps. There was no discrimination in the camps or in the towns.
	175-184	RHC really encountered discrimination when he returned from the Army. RHC was sheltered at home. That was only a short period. RHC had an opportunity to really understand those people.

END OF TAPE 2 SIDE B

TAPE 3 SIDE A

1	006-013 014-020	Introduction. Back in those days, everyone thought about going back to China because they never felt that they were Americans. They did not feel as if they were Americans because there was a deep hatred for the Caucasians. The hatred was thrown on the Chinese and reciprocated back to them.
	021-027	RHC and his peers never thought of themselves as Americans but as Chinese. Even though some of them had difficulty speaking Chinese, they all said they wanted to go back to China. This was while RHC was very young until his junior high school days -- up through World War II.
	028-033	The people in the neighborhood used to always think that there would be a yellow and white war someday. These were very deep-rooted feelings.
2	034-041	Even when RHC went to work for the flood control, although RHC already felt as if he was an American, the old timers would ask him when he was going to go back to China. RHC would reply that he could not return to a place he has never been to.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	042-059	There were some Chinese that returned to China. World War II brought about some changes in attitude toward the treatment of Asian people. In RHC's view, this respect for the Asian people was earned not by the Chinese but by the Japanese people. This was because of the way the Japanese fought during World War II under the 442nd.
	060-067	RHC also feels that a lot of credit for the change in attitude goes to the Black people. The Black people struggled for equality which made it good for the Asians. At that time, Asians were too afraid to express themselves and to align themselves with Blacks. Nevertheless, the Chinese benefitted from the Black struggle.
3	068-074	Before the war, the Japanese would push the Chinese around. Of course there were some Japanese and Chinese that were friends. RHC remembers that December 7th was a Sunday and when they went back to school on Monday, a lot of the Japanese were telling everyone they were Chinese.
	075-076	RHC also remembers when everyone wore badges to distinguish the Chinese from the Japanese.
	077-079	There was also a big discussion about being "Chinese American" or "American Chinese." Finally they decided that they should be called "Chinese Americans" because "Chinese" was the adjective.
	080-085	After World War II started, RHC's Japanese friends left and RHC did not see them again until they returned from the relocation camps. The Japanese were very cautious when they returned. They reestablished themselves very quickly.
	086-091	RHC did not maintain any contacts with any of his Japanese friends. He was in the seventh grade. He did not see them again until he was in the eleventh grade.
	092-097	The attitude towards the Chinese after the war changed completely. There was no more of that bullying attitude. RHC was going around with a couple of Japanese girls.
4	098-104	RHC would love to go and visit China. He would like to met his wife's parents and other relatives.
	105-108	RHC's wife is from Nanking. She can only understand a little Cantonese. she would converse with RHC's mother in English.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
4	109-116	RHC's mother passed away in 1976 at the age of 73. They did not follow Chinese burial customs. RHC's father does not even understand the Chinese burial customs that well.
	117-120	RHC's children do not speak any Chinese. They have never expressed any desire to learn Chinese.
	121-123	RHC has lived in the West Los Angeles area ever since he moved there after the Army. RHC's children have not experienced any discrimination.
	124-126	RHC's wife was brought to the United States by a Caucasian family who adopted her. She did not encounter any discrimination.
	127-137	RHC thinks that the bulk of the Chinese is still too traditional and too conservative. They are unwilling to open up themselves. RHC thinks that a lot of them are still too cautious. RHC thinks that the Chinese that do not have any of these handicaps can go very far.
138-150	When RHC opened up his own business, he went into an area that has no Chinese whatsoever. 100% of RHC's business is from the white population. RHC's business is operated on an unlisted telephone and all conducted by referrals. Some of RHC's clients have told RHC that they did not feel as if they were talking to an Asian. RHC can think and act like a Caucasian.	
5	151-154	RHC feels that the average Chinese must limit his business to the Chinese population unless he can reach a point where he can think like a Caucasian.
	155-159	RHC's family loves Chinese food.
	159-167	When RHC is with his Caucasian friends, they will tend to ask him questions about his Chinese background. Not only that, RHC volunteers information, both good and bad, regarding his Chinese heritage.
	168-174	RHC is proud of his heritage and it does not hinder him one bit. Of course he is an American and is very well-accepted.
175-189	RHC joined Chinese clubs while he attended school. RHC was not a part of the other Chinese organizations at that time because he did not like people that wanted to become elite. RHC stayed away from that type of people and that type of organization.	
6	190-194	There was a group called the Guardsmen which looked to themselves as being very elite. There was also the Cathy Club of Chinatown. RHC does not like those kinds of things.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
6	195-206	RHC belongs to the Professional Association in Lancaster for all the engineering companies.
	207-216	RHC's mother came to the United States on February 5, 1924.
	217-220	RHC's mother only had up to a ninth grade education. RHC's grandfather had four more children after he arrived in this country.
	221-227	RHC's uncle is a professor at the University of California Medical School. He is both a medical doctor and a full professor.
7	228-233	RHC's other uncle is a developer who builds industrial subdivisions up north. He has his own company. He is a contractor and builds his own buildings.
	234-254	The oldest uncle and RHC's mother did not have the privilege of getting a good education. RHC's oldest uncle just worked in a warehouse. He is now retired and receiving Social Security. He had the hardest time because he did not have a good education and also because he grew up when Asians were having a very hard time finding jobs. He did not really get any breaks. He did not get his citizenship until the war and by then he was too old to work.
	255-264	RHC's mother's sisters had high school educations. They got married and became housewives. RHC's grandfather was responsible for matching them up. He made sure that the husbands spoke the same dialect. They owned mom and pop grocery stores.
	265-277	RHC's wife came from Nanking, China. Her great grandfather was the governor of Chekiang Province. He took examinations and was nominated by the king to be governor.
8	278-282	RHC's wife's family is not only well-educated but also well-to-do. Her father was a graduate of Princeton and Columbia with a doctorate. He then returned to China.
	283-290	RHC's wife came to the United States when she was 15 years old. Her uncle was the sergeant general of Formosa. He was also a general in Chiang Kai-shek's army during the war.
	291-298	Everyone in RHC's family has a college degree. Half of them have masters degrees. RHC's sister is about to get a doctorate degree.
	299-311	RHC's brother is the dean of administration of a community college in south Los Angeles. RHC's other brother is the director of purchasing at Abbey Lansk. He is completely responsible for the company's purchasing throughout the country.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
8	319-329	RHC's parents were very proud of their children and were always bragging about them to the neighbors. The main reason they were so proud was because of their poor background.
9	330-336	RHC's brothers and sisters married Chinese. RHC's youngest brother married a Chinese French Polynesian woman.
	337-340	RHC's parents felt very strongly about having their children marry Chinese.
	341-357	RHC personally has no objections to interracial marriages. He told his mother long ago that he would marry whoever he chose to marry. RHC's mother knew that her children were stubborn. There used to be a lot of people that wanted to match her children up and she told them that there was no use trying.
	358-371	In RHC's mother's side of the family, everyone married a Chinese except for RHC's uncle who married a Korean girl. He was totally ostracized by RHC's grandmother. RHC's grandparents did not even want their children to marry out of the dialect.
	372-390	RHC's uncle who is a professor did not want any of his children to marry non-Chinese. He has six children and only one of them married a Chinese. He has a Japanese daughter-in-law, a Caucasian son-in-law, a Chinese daughter-in-law, and a Caucasian daughter-in-law. He had no choice but to accept his children's interracial marriages.
10	391-406	The entire family is pretty loose-knitted and does not have many get togethers. RHC's brothers and sisters do get together at least once every three months or so. They have potluck dinners -- which are not Chinese dinners.
	407-410	RHC's side of the family is scattered all over Los Angeles County.
	411-418	None of RHC's family members take part in Chinese group activities. They are too far removed from them.
	419-425	RHC is the only one among his brothers and sisters that can really speak Chinese. He was the only one who was interested in learning Chinese. They had a private teacher. RHC was the only one who really absorbed it.
	426-430	RHC's youngest sister can hardly speak or understand Chinese. RHC's brother thinks that he can speak Chinese but his Chinese is terrible.
	431-448	RHC's family has a hard time communicating with their father because the younger children can hardly express themselves in Chinese. RHC's father speaks the Chung Shan dialect. RHC's father speaks and understands English very poorly. He also has a hearing problem.

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Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
11	449-463	RHC's parents lived during a time when Asians had no respect for Caucasians and Caucasians had no respect for Asians.

END OF TAPE 3 SIDE A

Tape 3 Side B

1	020-028	During that time, there were some Caucasians that tried to win the confidence of the Chinese people. they were actually very crooked. In those days, there was so much prejudice that the Chinese did not have any access to the governmental agencies except through these Caucasians.
	029-035	There were also few Chinese that learned how to work their way through city hall and things like that. These people also took advantage of the other Chinese by charging a fee for their services. these services are actually free to the people but there was just so much prejudice in those times. This was in 1938 or 1939.
2	036-041	Even the policemen in those days would come into the stores and push the people around. the police would come in and order a chicken. When the chicken would be wrapped up, the police would show RHC's father their badge and then walk out without paying.
	042-046	The police would also come in and harass the store owner. If you did not give them Christmas presents at Christmas time, they would give your customers parking tickets and prevent them from parking at your store.
	047-054	There were also some unscrupulous Chinese that would take advantage of the other Chinese. they had pay offs to certain people. for example, they would charge someone \$25 to help him fill out the form to get a driver's license.
	055-059	That would be one of the penalties if you could not communicate in English. This is one of the reasons RHC thinks that bilingual education is bad. They should force everyone to learn English otherwise the Chinese cannot take care of themselves.
	060-065	RHC's father had to pay off the policemen at Christmas time. They would collect gifts from one end of the block to the other and could be seen with armloads of presents.

Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	066-075	These would be the local policemen. At times, plain clothes policemen from the police headquarters would come in and harass the people. This was up to World War II. After World War II, everything changed and everyone had a better chance.
3	076-077	By World War II, RHC's generation was growing up and could help their parent's generation.
	078-088	About 25 years ago, a building inspector came and had the next door neighbor build a driveway that would cut right through the doorway of RHC's father's building.
	089-095	At that time, RHC was out of college. RHC immediately called city hall up and told them that if they built the driveway, they would take the inspector, city hall, and the city to court. Thus they were able to stop them from building the driveway.
	096-097	By that time, RHC was really able to help out his parents.
	098-104	About six months ago, the trash collector stopped coming for two weeks and RHC's father did not know what to do. He called RHC up and RHC called the councilman up and demanded action. The truck came within two hours.
4	105-113	It is a matter of speaking to the people with competence and knowing what you are saying.

END OF TAPE 3 SIDE B

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