

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Rose Wong Interview Number: 80  
 Chinese Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tapes: 3  
 Date of Interview: 2/5/80 Length: 2 Hours & 27 Minutes  
 Interviewer: Suellen Cheng  
 Others Present: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Language: English  
 Summarizer: Florence Lum

Contents

| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary   | Tape: <u>1</u> | Side: <u>A</u> |
|--------------|----------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| 1            | 011-015        | The interviewee's Chinese name is Roi Yee. Rose Wong (RW) was born in Los Angeles.  |                |                |
|              | 016-029        | RW's father came from the Canton district, from Chungla village, Sai Hung which is now called Tai Sung. RW's mother is from San Francisco. RW does not know when her mother was born. In 1970 she was 87. She died. If she was alive today, she would be 97. She was probably born in 1883. |                |                |
|              | 030-031        | RW's father was born around 1880 to 1877.   |                |                |
| 2            | 032-037        | RW's father came to the United States because he had a relative who owned a pharmacy in New Jersey and asked father to come over.   |                |                |
|              | 038-046        | Father was a teenager, had not too much schooling. Learned the laundry business and went on his own.  |                |                |
|              | 047-048        | Father moved from New Jersey to California in his late thirties. Uncles told him he should marry before 30 years.   |                |                |
|              | 049-051        | Father was more independent. Got married when he was forty years old. Father got married Chinese style -- through a matchmaker.   |                |                |
|              | 052-066        | Mother was second of fifteen children. The older one died so mother raised the others -- five girls and six boys.   |                |                |
| 3            | 067-072        | In 1924, RW's father passed away at the age of 54.  |                |                |
|              | 073-077        | When she was [young] and brother was three and a half, family had a laundry at Eagle Rock, then known as Gavanza.   |                |                |
|              | 078-084        | When she was two years old, father had a laundry business that took through a bridge on a horse-drawn cart. Many times the horse ran away. Her mother said: "Too many accidents, you have too many responsibilities."   |                |                |
|              | 085-086        | Moved to Los Angeles.   |                |                |

## Contents (cont'd)

| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary   |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 3            | 087-095        | Father had a vegetable wagon. There were twenty of them located in the center of [Old] Chinatown. Everyone had a stall and a storeroom.   |
|              | 096-099        | Father told about the different locations he went every week -- selling to Caucasians.  |
| 4            | 100-104        | Every weekend he cleaned wagon, sorted out the vegetables.  |
|              | 105-106        | Los Angeles at that time was very primitive -- mostly houses.   |
|              | 107-111        | RW's family lived on Alameda Street. They could not cross the street because there was too much water. Father had high boots.   |
|              | 112-122        | The policeman would carry them over.  |
|              | 123-134        | RW did not know when her grandfather came to California. He came from San Francisco to Los Angeles to build the railroad (San Gabriel?). Mostly Chinese people built the railroad. RW's mother told her these things but she does not know when or where they took place. |
|              | 135-137        |   |
|              | 138-150        | Father met mother in Los Angeles.   |
| 5            | 151-159        | Grandmother came over in a boat that almost went over into the sea.   |
|              | 160-170        | RW was not sure what her grandfather was doing. In those days if the Chinese had relatives, they went to Los Angeles to make money.   |
|              | 171-178        |   |
| 6            | 179-188        | Grandmother used to make jung (粽) and uncle sold them.  |
|              | 189-195        | Grandfather retired -- from farming. All sons were involved.  |
|              | 196-202        | There were apple orchards. RW and her siblings were taken there when they were kids.  |
|              | 203-208        | Mother came to Los Angeles when she was seven or eight years old from San Francisco.  |
|              | 209-216        | Grandmother, in order to keep the family growing, took in sewing at home (denims). Sewed buttonholes as there were no buttonhole machines then. RW's mother helped.   |
|              | 217-226        | Chinese jackets -- oldest to smallest. RW took care of brothers and sisters.  |
| 7            | 227-230        | Grandmother worked -- she never shopped.  |
|              | 231-239        | Married in Los Angeles in 1907. Lived on Marchessault Street.   |
|              | 240-266        | Brother was born in 1905.<br>Moved out of Eagle Rock house because of accidents. Father went into vegetable vending. Moved to the house on Alameda Street where most of RW's sisters and brothers were born. Probably on Ferguson Alley.                                  |

## Contents (cont'd)

| Time Segment | Counter Number  | Summary   |
|--------------|---|---|
| 8            | 267-281<br>282-289<br>290-295<br>296-304                                  | House has one big room and a smaller room with kitchen.<br>Kitchen has a kerosene stove.<br>Brother was old enough to go out.<br>Brother and sister went to Marchessault Street to buy five gallons of kerosene. Needed help to pour kerosene into the stove.   |
| 9            | 305-334<br>335-340<br>341-352<br>353-359<br>360-364<br>365-373<br>374-381 | House was too small. Moved to house in August Alley.<br>Father's brothers built the upstairs.<br>Rooms were divided by drapes.<br>RW has four brothers -- baby brother died, and five sisters.<br>Her house had a wooden stove. There was no gas in the entire Chinatown.<br>Maybe RW was ten years old when everyone switched to gas.<br>Kerosene lamps got dirty and needed oil.<br>There was not much wood available. Father kept falling off his wagon so he had to quit this job.  |
| 10           | 382-388<br>389-402<br>403-424<br>425-440                                  | He got a restaurant job which had lots of wooden crates thrown in the alley there.<br>All the children picked up crates and saw them for fuel. The living room was stacked with wood.<br>RW felt it was a miracle her family never got "burned up."<br>Father taught the oldest daughter how to start a kerosene fire -- very dangerous for a eight or nine year old.<br>RW's father cooked. The family sat at a round table. Whenever anyone raised his or her chopsticks, he or she had to be careful as to not strike against anyone else. |
| 11           | 441-453<br>454-457<br>458-463<br>464-471<br>472-END                       | Father and mother were very strict. The children had to have the correct hold of chopsticks.<br>There was a polite address to call everyone to dinner -- "sick fan," (衰飯).<br>When you get up, you have to say "ume go."<br>Parents believed in bi-san (拜神) at home.<br>Every month there were bi-san doings. RW was a teenager then.   |

END OF SIDE A

TAPE 1 SIDE B

|   |                               |   |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 014-016<br>017-018<br>019-026 | Every month they had some doings.<br>The seventh day was girl's day, and the day after that was boy's day.<br>Every year RW's mother taught her children how to grow a bowl of bean sprouts. They were watered everyday. In |
|---|-------------------------------|---|

## Contents (cont'd)

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary  |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 1            | 019-026        | seven days they would grow nice and even.<br>RW's mother did not know anything about the outside world.  |
| 2            | 027-037        | Before the events, RW's father would take her down to Japanese town to pick up fruits and flowers. RW's family would have a chicken dinner with fruit.   |
|              | 038-040        | They would pick the petals of chrysanthemums to see what kind of patterns turned out.  |
|              | 041-046        | There would be boy's doings on Boy's Day.  |
|              | 047-050        | Neighbors would always get a share of the fruits.  |
|              | 051-053        | On Chinese New Year everything would be thoroughly cleaned.  |
|              | 054-058        | Father took them to a seamstress on Alice Street with materials.   |
|              | 059-062        | RW's sister and herself picked up two dress patterns from the catalogue.   |
| 3            | 063-069        | When shopping in those days, the people were generous --   |
|              | 070-078        | they would give extra. Nowadays if the goods are not good, they sell it.   |
|              | 079-089        | The grocers were wasteful -- they threw out [tare]. RW would help the old people to look through the water chestnuts. They only needed to buy meat. RW's mother asked the old ladies where they got their groceries -- the man gave it to her.   |
|              | 090-093        | Nowadays, everything is so expensive and no good too.  |
| 4            | 094-105        | During RW's generation, people were more primitive but more generous. People would know her family, even with so many brothers and sisters. RW used to talk to them and they would say, "Nice girl, what do you want?" RW bought ten cents worth of goods and they gave her the whole bag. |
|              | 106-109        | Markets were located on South Street which is now Union Station. There were four meat markets and six grocers.   |
|              | 110-120        | RW related a meat market incident. Mother made RW take meat back because it was no good -- too bloody, and she wanted to have it changed. The butcher asked her, "What are you standing there for? Go back and wait until everyone else is served."  |
|              | 121-122        | They were all Cantonese butchers -- spoke Cantonese.   |
|              | 122-127        | There were no public schools -- RW and her siblings did not attend public school. They went to a Presbyterian Church. Most of the Chinese kids went to an American Chinese school.   |
|              | 128-129        | Mary Wong was not RW's aunt at that time. Pearl Soo Hoo wrote a love letter that was delivered to RW's uncle.  |

## Contents (cont'd)

| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary  |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 4            | 130-140        | RW's grandmother lived around the corner from the church. After RW grew up she realized that she delivered a love note.  |
| 5            | 141-155        | Father said that all the girls had to go to public school. School was way down on East First Street -- in Japanese town. There were a few Mexicans, Japanese, and three colored children. The school went from kindergarten to eighth grade. Everyone got along fine -- did not think about color. |
|              | 156-159        | Grammar school was at Hewitt.  |
|              | 160-171        | Then junior high, then high school. In the early twenties, the school was sold to a museum.  |
|              | 172-174        | RW never attended high school.   |
|              | 175-178        | She started fourth grade when she was fourteen years old. They would tease her.  |
|              | 179-182        | RW's brother graduated from Polytechnic High.  |
| 6            | 183-189        | RW was engaged at sixteen and a half years old. She was the oldest daughter. She did not know him -- he was an older man. She did not want it that way.  |
|              | 190-193        | She went to Metropolitan to finish when she was eighteen. She took up sewing and a few other things she needed.  |
|              | 194-196        | She wish she could have gone to Chinese school -- she never did. RW's brothers went to school at a Catholic Church.  |
|              | 197-203        | It was a Methodist Church. Mrs. Leong had Chinese classes -- two or three of RW's sisters went there to learn Chinese. RW did not go. The oldest child had to take care of the babies, cook, etc.  |
|              | 204-205        | RW's mother sewed.   |
|              | 206-207        | Father died when children were young.  |
|              | 208-212        | RW was seventeen.  |
|              | 213-215        | Cousin asked family to go on relief.   |
|              | 216-219        | Mother said she would never go on relief as long as she could hold a thimble.  |
|              | 220-225        | Mother knew a man who owned a denim pants shop.  |
| 7            | 226-231        | It was the same thing during RW's grandmother's time. She used to recover comforters for only one dollar.  |
|              | 232-242        | Mother started sewing even before father passed away. RW does not remember Mr. Louie's store (Long Bui Bah?) on Fergerson Alley.   |
|              | 243-252        | A pair of pants was 25 cents -- real cheap. RW tried to help -- later her mother showed her how to do buttons.   |
|              | 253-257        | There were coverall aprons.  |
|              | 258-259        | RW would do the shopping, do the cooking.  |
|              | 259-263        | RW's mother had a baby -- RW had to stay out for a month.  |

## Contents (cont'd)

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary  |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 7            | 264-274        | RW stayed home for New Years.  |
| 8            | 275-283        | The attic was full of things from the wagon -- they had no garage. They had to taken things down to clean them up and put them away.   |
|              | 284-296        | Father worked in a restaurant. He moved to another store, Man Jen Low, which is now called General Lee. There were two stoves, RW's father helped in the kitchen and cooked. |
|              | 297-298        | He got \$35.00 a month to support the family.  |
|              | 298-300        | It cost \$2.00 a month to go to Chinese school.  |
|              | 301-303        | After the War, everything was costly.  |
|              | 304-321        | RW's father took her to Japanese Town to buy shoes -- \$9.00 (Lullabyes) shoes which fit her. Mother never went out, never shopped, never knew values.                       |
|              | 322-323        | Father went out and bargained.   |
| 9            | 323-331        | Mother never shopped, never went any place. Family would walk her down to the store.   |
|              | 332-335        | Mother did not speak English. If she went out, she would get lost.   |
|              | 336-342        | The Sunday School teacher, Margaret Early, was interested in Chinese people. Three families accepted her.  |
|              | 343-350        | It was around 1920 when they established a church mission day school for the children.   |
|              | 351-358        | Boys came from China, they did not speak English.  |
|              | 359-360        | Got young people to help with the school.  |
|              | 360-367        | RW's family stuck with her -- other families did not accept her.   |
|              | 368-373        | RW's father spoke fairly good English. Father said it was a good idea to have the children learn English. Did not have to be church member.                                  |
|              | 374-380        | D. Wong -- Christian people. Loved to go to this family because of association.  |
| 10           | 381-384        | Family had a good life -- met so many people.  |
|              | 385-392        | Every time RW went shopping, her mother would ask her where she had been.  |
|              | 393-399        | At Chinese funerals, everybody wore white. There would be a chicken and pig on the altar in front of the casket outside the home, on the street.                             |
|              | 400-404        | There would be an awning. There would be so many people who would worship and mourn. People took food to the cemetery.   |
|              | 405-419        | Food would not be taken back -- it would be given to old Mexican people who would hang around and watch.   |
|              | 420-425        | There would be a memorial -- Ching Ming, once a year.  |

| Time Segment  | Counter Number | Summary  |
|---------------|----------------|--|
| 10            | 420-425        | All the associations put in two or three dollars. They would give you bau (包) and su yuke (燒鴨) but the food from the funerals would not come back.   |
|               | 426-430        | Mission teacher.   |
| 11            | 431-452        | There were three missions, in bigger place, there were lots of Chinese people.   |
|               | 453-457        | Chinese people and children never got to go to the beach, etc. Every summer, RW's teacher would take them on a red streetcar. She made lunches. They would go on the Pacific Electric to Long Beach. |
|               | 458-472        | At Easter, she took them to the hill behind her house for an Easter egg hunt.  |
|               | 473-477        | They would sing at different churches. They made money to help the Chinese missions. People did not know about the Chinese children.   |
|               | 478-END        | Teacher offered to go to RW's house to teach her mother how to read and write.   |
| END OF TAPE 1 |                |  |

TAPE 2 SIDE A

|   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|
| 1 | 019-023 | When RW was young, she did a lot of shopping. She was eleven or twelve years old, before she was fourteen. RW would bring back news of the outside world to her mother. |
|   | 024-025 | After fourteen years, RW told her mother that she would do no more shopping. Her mother agreed.   |
|   | 026-028 | Mother had no conception of how long it took RW to shop. To her, it seemed only one hour.   |
| 2 | 029-033 | There was the Lee Long store, a mother and father store (before the Soo Hoo sister married RW's uncle).   |
|   | 034-040 | The father in the Lee Long store was called Young Go, he was blind.   |
|   | 041-051 | He sold candies, lam fa sung. He would always ask RW to eat -- he would give her a handful. He was blind but he noticed RW.   |
|   | 052-055 | He was blind but he could peel water chestnuts.   |
|   | 056-057 | Grandmother [Lee Long] played the organ. They were a lovely family. Nowadays it does not make any difference anymore.   |
|   | 058-065 | Family lived in the back of the store.  |
| 3 | 066-075 | RW did not remember the store her father ran, she was too young at the time.  |

## Contents (cont'd)

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary   |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 3            | 076-082        | RW lived in Garlandza for three years. RW's mother would talk about the laundry business, but not about the money part.   |
|              | 083-084        | Caucasian people would look up at them -- they knew how to iron white shirts and launder shirts. They do not do it now.   |
|              | 085-086        | RW's father taught her how to raise iron upon the stove. There was no electricity at that time.   |
|              | 087-090        | There would be two irons that would be used alternatively. One would be cold, when a touch would produce a "sizz" sound the iron would be ready.                              |
|              | 091-095        | Father taught the children how to use it but the children did not help -- there was no electricity.   |
|              | 096-097        | Father was the only owner of the laundry.   |
|              | 097-099        | Father went to Los Angeles. He sold all kinds of vegetables.  |
| 4            | 100-106        | There were sweet peas, the shells were light green, and RW would help sort them all out. There were sweet potatoes too - all kinds of vegetables.                             |
|              | 107-110        | Every weekend RW and her siblings would have to do that. There was no stand, just a wagon.  |
|              | 111-117        | RW did not know where her father went to sell the vegetables. He went to where the Caucasian people lived. He would get up early in the morning.                              |
|              | 118-121        | RW's father probably bought vegetables everyday but RW does not know where -- probably bought vegetables when he was out selling.   |
|              | 122-129        | A few of the neighbors were also selling vegetables. RW's sister was nine or ten months old. RW was twelve to fourteen years old when her father quit the vegetable business. |
|              | 130-135        | RW's mother did not want him to do that job. The horse would run off, RW's father would fall asleep, there were accidents, he would go early and come home late.              |
|              | 136-140        | Father went early to the stall and in the evenings, he would put away the vegetables.   |
| 5            | 141-145        | He would start at 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. to sell.  |
|              | 146-154        | The store room was located where he placed the horses -- at the end of Chinatown, before the Union Station.   |
|              | 155-158        | He started at his first restaurant -- MacDonald? He did not own it.   |
|              | 159-161        | The first restaurant was Sue Yin. He was a helper, dishwasher.  |
|              | 162-165        | He got \$35.00 a month for working in the Chinese restaurant.   |
|              | 166-173        | The first restaurant was American, right in Chinatown, on River Street.   |



## Contents (cont'd)

| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary  |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 5            | 166-173        | There were American customers -- they would serve roast pork, roast beef, rice, potatoes.  |
|              | 174-180        | The restaurant was Chinese owned -- by Lum people.   |
|              | 181-182        | Father's last job was as a cook.   |
| 6            | 183-189        | RW got married when she was eighteen. Her husband was in the grocery business as a bookkeeper.   |
|              | 190-193        | They lived in a brand new apartment on Solorial(?) Alley.  |
|              | 194-196        | Almost a year after they married, Ethel was born, they got a girl.   |
|              | 197-199        | Her husband wanted a boy. Uncle wanted a big party.  |
|              | 200-202        | Grandview Garden was just built then. She was the first one to have a party there.   |
|              | 203-204        | Lived there for two years.   |
|              | 204-213        | Uncle leased a building near Main and Arcadia (the building is gone now): It was a bigger place -- big bedrooms, a living room, kitchen. The old building was not modern.                          |
|              | 214-215        | They lived at the old place until another daughter was born.   |
|              | 216-217        | Two children were born there, then they moved.   |
|              | 218-223        | They moved to Francis Street. They knew some people there. RW got acquainted with them -- with Howard [Quon's] mother. RW still calls her up. RW's son, Norman, was born.                          |
| 7            | 224-230        | RW learned the Chinese ways, learned how to cook.  |
|              | 231-233        | Today she has been living here for seventeen years.  |
|              | 234-235        | RW's kids knows all the kids in the neighborhood.  |
|              | 236-252        | All these kids grow up and get married. Howard [Quon] was here to show here to show some old pictures -- there were a few pictures that RW had and he had. Showed pictures of RW's grammar school. |
|              | 253-257        | Then RW moved here.  |
|              | 258-263        | 32 years at this residence this October.   |
|              | 264-273        | There are two bedrooms. Three girls in one room is okay, one boy needs a room for himself.   |
| 8            | 274-280        | Needed room for children's sake.   |
|              | 281-289        | RW was working in China City, in a shop.   |
|              | 290-299        | Not really in Chinatown, it was in the outskirts of Chinatown.   |
|              | 300-324        | There was RW's family, Mrs. Quon, Howard's family, the Lew family -- seven or eight families all in a row of brick buildings, [Garnier building].  |
| 9            | 325-329        | Lung Kung Tin Yee ( 龍崗親義公所 ) leased the whole building.  |

## Contents (cont'd)

| Time Segment | Counter Number                                      | Summary   |
|--------------|---|---|
| 9            | 325-329<br>330-344<br>345-363<br>364-379            | It cost about \$15 to \$25 a month for two bedrooms. They tried to improve -- added more rent. There were always Chinese living there. One moved out, another one moved in. The Kwan family, [one of the tenants], has an asparagus farm in Canoga Park. They have three sons and two daughters.  |
| 10           | 380-393<br>394-402<br>403-405<br>406-418<br>419-432 | Husband wanted to lease that place. It costs \$250 to lease -- outsiders cannot. People moving in so RW's family can get that place. RW's family is not wealthy but can afford a better place. Kwan Kwock is pretty well off -- with asparagus ranch, better off. Upstairs there is a bathroom and a bedroom. Downstairs there is a bedroom, living room, kitchen, only one bathroom. They still have stores downstairs, dry goods -- Chinese tobacco, Chinese wine, regular store, do not sell too much. "Mostly, I shouldn't say, lottery -- make money in the back." |
| 11           | 433-461<br>462-467<br>468-473<br>474-END            | Front store was Lew family. Front part repaired rattan chairs. Another Lew family owned Sun Wing Wo, a curio store on Los Angeles Street. It sells all kinds of curios from China -- beautiful. There are two Lew families, Kwan families. The Paris Cafe (巴黎) restaurant is owned by four families.  |

END OF SIDE A

TAPE 2 SIDE B

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 011-015<br>016-020<br>021-022<br>022-025<br>026-031 | The Paris Cafe, Ba Lai (巴黎), is owned by four families. Family has a ranch -- grew vegetables, asparagus. Just a store in the front -- lottery. RW did not know about basements. They are not tunnels but alleys. The top is covered, it is dark, thirty feet wide. |
| 2 | 032-037<br>038-044                                  | Chinese raise chickens in the alleys -- just raise one or two and then kill them to eat. Both before and now, Chinese use freshly killed poultry.   |

| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary  |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 2            | 045-048        | RW remembered there were lots of alleys.   |
|              | 049-052        | RW's mother lived at the August Alley.   |
|              | 053-055        | With regards to Tong Wars, RW remembered a man was shot three or four times in a basement.   |
| 3            | 056-071        | He was not shot in a basement, the man got killed the night before.  |
|              | 072-073        | Mother was aghast to know she looked on a dead body on saw-dust.   |
|              | 074-076        | Father said not to go out unless they had to go out.   |
|              | 077-078        | Girls were not allowed to go out. It was all right for boys to go out.   |
|              | 079-083        | Girls had to have a reason to go out, to help around the house.  |
|              | 084-085        | Everything is timing.  |
|              | 086-090        | Old-fashioned -- women are gracious.   |
|              | 091-094        | Everybody is pleasant -- Ah Moi, Ah Sin, Ah Sook, Ah Pak.  |
|              | 095-096        | Address people properly.   |
|              | 097-099        | Not very many women outside, always at home.   |
| 4            | 100-106        | RW's aunt never goes anywhere. She was taken to mother's home and back.  |
|              | 107-123        | Mother went back to San Francisco to see her mother and children. RW took her mother to town, home and back. Otherwise she would get lost. Mother cannot understand the outside world. |
|              | 124-127        | Husband works at the Eastern Grocery, dealing with American-Chinese vegetables.  |
|              | 128-132        | Husband came from Toishan (台山), China. Husband was fifteen years old when he came.   |
|              | 133-141        | He came because his uncle and aunts were in Sacramento. He went to Sacramento, then to Seattle as a bookkeeper.  |
| 5            | 142-145        | RW's husband was twenty years old when he came to Los Angeles. Uncle opened a grocery store and RW's husband became the bookkeeper.  |
|              | 146-148        | RW's uncle and aunt recommended him to RW's mother -- to match RW.   |
|              | 149-152        | He was 29.   |
|              | 153-164        | Worked until son was seven years old.<br>Worked with two cousins [in Old Chinatown].   |
|              | 165-166        | Made Chinese lup cheong (月香腸) -- very good.  |
|              | 167-172        | One of the cousins was not faithful. He turned profits into his own pockets -- eventually became bankrupt.   |
|              | 173-175        | Brother sent for him (to Sacramento).  |
|              | 176-182        | RW was working at Douglas, El Segundo, at night (before it was at Santa Monica). RW ran the gift shop in China City.   |

| Time Segment  | Counter Number | Summary  |
|---------------|----------------|--|
| 6             | 183-188        | The children ran it after school. Everyone closes up.  |
|               | 189-193        | Gave the shop up. It was quite an experience -- buy and sell. Children did not want it.              |
|               | 194-204        | Closed up shop. Worked for Diamond Shirt Company, made buttonholes for fifty cents a shirt. That was |
|               | 205-END        | in 1940, before RW moved to present residence. RW did not wish to talk about her work experiences.   |
| END OF TAPE 2 |                |  |

TAPE 3 SIDE A

|   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|
| 1 | 025-028 | Before she got married, RW worked in a Chinese dress shop at Figueroa and Wilshire. The name of the store is Song Yen.                |
|   | 029-030 | Son's name is Fong Gin. They have a gift shop too.  |
|   | 031-032 | RW worked there for a couple of years.  |
| 2 | 032-038 | May Wong's brother asked RW if she wanted to work in a gift shop. He knew RW's mother. RW asked if the work was daytime only.         |
|   | 039-046 | RW works half time at Song Yen. She cannot remember the name of the store.  |
|   | 047-049 | RW does not remember how much she was paid.   |
|   | 050-053 | She gave some of the money to her mother, some she kept. She needed streetcar money. She was a saleslady and she dusted everything.   |
|   | 054-056 | While working there, there was a young man who knew RW was engaged -- he teased her.  |
|   | 057-059 | He was an outside salesman who graduated from USC. He had no engineer job.  |
|   | 060-063 | He was also engaged to be married.  |
|   | 064-065 | RW's wedding was small.   |
| 3 | 065-068 | There was a big wedding reception held at Grand View Garden which was owned by Quon.  |
|   | 069-071 | The Chinese name of the restaurant is Loch Goong (樂工).  |
|   | 072-079 | Peter Soo Hoo had a large church wedding which RW attended but does not remember where. He had a big family and she had a big family. |
|   | 080-081 | RW's aunt, May Quon's sister, is related to them.   |
|   | 081-084 | Lots of people were at the wedding.   |
|   | 085-091 | After RW got married she quit her job. She got two children -- three daughters.   |
|   | 092-096 | RW worked for the Fong family -- Fong Bye in Old Chinatown.   |
|   | 097-102 | RW worked for them two times -- in 1930 and in 1940.  |

## Contents (cont'd)

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary  |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 4            | 103-107        | In 1940, the lady quit and RW was asked to come and work.  |
|              | 108-110        | RW cannot remember what she was paid.  |
|              | 111-118        | She was asked to work in a warehouse -- doing inventory.   |
|              | 119-124        | Her boss sells to brokers, Jewish people.  |
|              | 125-126        | There is a big basement downstairs -- have changou and nuts. One day, RW went downstairs for the first time. She was there for only fifteen minutes when the boss came calling for her. RW yelled to him to help her out as there were rats running around the place. RW was standing on top of a box. |
|              | 127-139        | The boss said, "You don't have to be afraid of the rats, the rats should be afraid of you since you're bigger."  |
| 5            | 140-144        | RW is not going to the basement anymore.   |
|              | 145-149        | The boss had to come for her. He had a bag of rice opened on top of a box so the rats could feed on it and left his other goods alone.   |
|              | 150-153        | In 1947 RW had an operation. She worked for the Diamond Shirt Company. Worked part time here and there.  |
|              | 154-160        | Had to make enough money even if rent is cheap. Husband sent her money but not enough.   |
|              | 161-164        | After she moved to present residence (around 1949), she was working at Douglas El Segundo.   |
|              | 165-166        | Around 1940 to 1942, she quit.   |
|              | 167-168        | Girlfriend at Santa Monica plant asked RW to come back to Douglas. It was too far. RW retired.   |
|              | 169-178        | Girlfriend made application for RW. RW did not drive, a friend took her out for an interview.  |
|              | 179-182        | Interview, security check.   |
| 6            | 183-186        | Office took her to the lab, introduced her to one person.  |
|              | 187-189        | It is a different type of work -- looks interesting.   |
|              | 190-192        | Application was filled.  |
|              | 193-194        | RW was hired.  |
|              | 195-202        | It is a lab job making Spring gauze. In all of California, only their lab made them (only two people, RW and someone else, in this lab).   |
|              | 203-204        | RW's lab picked up the job in a matter of a month.   |
|              | 204-206        | Nobody could do it except for them. They use a high power microscope.  |
|              | 207-209        | Nobody could walk behind them -- they had to stop first if there was someone behind them.  |
|              | 210-212        | Solder fine wire.  |
|              | 213-215        | RW was secluded in this job for twelve years. A total of twenty years with Douglas.  |
|              | 216-222        | It was a riveter at El Segundo.  |
|              | 223-226        | There are very few Chinese women -- hardly any Orientals, only two.  |

## Contents (cont'd)

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary  |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 7            | 227-228        | Driving in a car pool.   |
|              | 228-229        | RW is always picked on as a Japanese.  |
|              | 230-235        | A couple of fellows do not know any better and say that the Japanese should be back in camp.   |
|              | 236-238        | Metal riveter bunch is mostly male.  |
|              | 239-241        | One of them threw a buckball at her.   |
|              | 242-248        | RW threw bucking ball back.  |
|              | 249-267        | RW reported him to the supervisor and she was never bothered again. Worked one and a half years night work. Few plants were opened, everybody went to war. RW got a job in aircraft.               |
|              | 268-269        | She got paid 60 cents an hour.   |
|              | 269-270        | She got 65 cents at night. They taught you how to do the work.   |
|              | 270-273        | RW quit work for Diamond Shirt when she moved to her present residence.  |
| 8            | 274-275        | RW's son picked up the work for her after her operation.   |
|              | 276-280        | In 1951 her girlfriend called and took the application.  |
|              | 281-282        | Boss said he should have hired RW sooner. RW picked up the job very fast.  |
|              | 283-291        | Pick up a piece of tissue paper, piece of wire, wire goes here and there.  |
|              | 292-295        | RW and her coworkers have a model to follow.   |
|              | 296-303        | It was the only type of work being done in this company.   |
|              | 304-312        | RW worked up to \$3.75 at the laboratory in twelve years.  |
|              | 313-314        | Work in a big round tunnel.  |
|              | 315-318        | RW was the smallest. Four people worked on a missile.  |
|              | 319-325        | This was at Santa Monica, but now it is closed.  |
| 9            | 326-332        | The company combined with McDonnell. These guys are all bigger.  |
|              | 333-336        | RW holds her head down to soldiers up there.   |
|              | 337-344        | When the inspection arrived, everybody asked who did the job which RW did. What they had previously done, they had to redo. Inspectors said it was good they bought, otherwise they would not buy. |
|              | 345-351        | Everytime RW did the job, it always passed -- never failed.  |
|              | 352-353        | RW got tired of the jumping in and out.  |
|              | 354-355        | When RW was sixty, they said, "You're kidding...you are not sixty!"  |
|              | 355-359        | RW retired at sixty.   |
|              | 360-369        | She took the streetcar to work at the El Segundo plant unless there was someone to drive her to work.  |
|              | 370-375        | One night RW saw her cousin leave the house at 11:30 p.m. to go to El Segundo.   |

Interviewee: Rose Wong

Page: 15

Tape: 3 Side A

Contents (cont'd)

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| Time Segment | Counter Number | Summary   |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 10           | 376-386        | Found out that he was working at the same place. Now RW has a steady ride to work.  |
|              | 387-398        | It was a car pool. RW was picked up at 11:30 p.m. and got home at 7:30 a.m.   |
|              | 399-403        | RW had the gift shop.   |
|              | 404-406        | Girls were running it.  |
|              | 407-413        | Every evening RW cooked dinner (She slept until 12 p.m.). RW goes to the store at 8:00 p.m.   |
|              | 414-419        | They close at 9:00 p.m.   |
|              | 420-421        | RW takes the bus to get to the streetcar to go to El Segundo.   |
|              | 421-433        | RW has four children -- three girls, 12, 14, 16, and one boy, 8 years old. She takes care of them through junior high school grade. |
|              | 434-END        | The Lord was with RW since she never did have heart trouble, etc., until she retired.   |

END OF TAPE 3

END OF INTERVIEW

- Aerospace industry, 3A:6,8-9  
 Agriculture  
     crops, 1A:6  
     family involvement in, 1A:6  
 Arranged marriages, 1A:2; 2B:5  
  
 Burials, 1B:10  
  
 Canton, China, 1A:1  
 Celebrations and holidays, 1A:1;  
     1B:1-2,10  
 Children  
     oldest, responsibilities of,  
         1B:6-7; 2A:1  
     preference for sons, 2A:6  
     values taught to, 1A:11  
 China City, Calif., 2A:8  
 Chinatown (Los Angeles)  
     businesses in, 2A:5,11  
     description of, 2B:1-2  
     living conditions in, 1A:9;  
         2B:1-2  
 Chinese New Year, 1B:2  
 Chinese schools  
     costs of, 1B:8  
 Ching Ming, 1B:10  
 Chungla Village, China, 1A:1  
 Churches  
     education in, 1B:4,6,9  
 Clothing, 1B:8  
 Curio stores, 3A:1-2  
  
 Diamond Shirt Company, 2A:6; 3A:5,7  
 Discrimination  
     against Asians in general, 3A:7  
 Douglas Aircraft, 2B:5; 3A:5,6,8-9  
  
 Eagle Rock, Calif., 1A:3  
 Early, Margaret, 1B:9  
 East Coast, 1A:2  
 Eastern Grocery, 2B:4  
 Education  
     in churches, 1B:4,6,9  
     ethnic ratios in, 1B:5  
 Electricity, 2A:3  
 English language  
     learning of, 1B:9  
  
 Families and family life  
     and death of father, 1B:6  
     size of, 1A:2  
 Family associations, 1B:10  
 Fong, Bye, 3A:3  
 Food, 1A:6,10--; 1B:1-3; 2B:2  
  
 General Lee  
     See Man Jen Low  
 Grand View Garden (restaurant),  
     3A:1  
 Grocery stores  
     location of, 1B:4  
     merchandise of, 1B:3-4; 2A:2  
     people involved in, 1B:4  
  
 Housing patterns  
     and living conditions, 1A:8-10;  
         2A:6,7,10  
     rents paid, 2A:9,10  
     residential areas, 2A:8  
     size of residences, 1A:8-9;  
         2A:10  
     and workplace, 2A:2  
  
 immigrants and immigration  
     reasons for, 1A:2  
  
 Japanese Americans  
     business center of, 1B:5,8  
     hostility toward during World  
         War II, 3A:7  
  
 Kwan, Kwoc, 2A:10  
 Kwan family, 2A:9,11  
  
 Laundry business, 1A:3; 2A:3  
 Lee, Long, 2A:2  
 Lew family, 2A:8,11  
 Lum family, 2A:5  
 Lung Kung Tin Yee, 2A:9  
  
 Man Jen Low (restaurant), 1B:8  
 Missionaries, 1B:9,11  
  
 Occupation patterns  
     among women, 1A:6-7; 1B:6-7; 3A:6



Paris Cafe, 2A:11; 2B:1

Quon, Howard, 2A:6,7

Quon, May, 3A:3

Railroad construction, 1A:4

Restaurants

customers of, 2A:5

location of, 2A:5

workers, 1B:8; 2A:5

Song Yen (store), 3A:2

SooHoo, Pearl, 1B:4

SooHoo, Peter, 3A:3

Sue Yin (restaurant), 2A:5

Sun Wing Wo Store, 2A:11

Tai Sung, China, 1A:1

Tailoring, 1A:6; 1B:6-7; 2B:6

Toishan, China, 2B:4

Tongs, 2B:2-3

Values, 1A:11

Vegetable peddling, 1A:3-4,7,9;

2A:3-5

Women

education of, 1B:5

family roles of, 1B:8-9; 2A:

3-4

occupation patterns among, 1A:6-7;

1B:6-7; 3A:6

Wong, Mary, 1B:4

Wong, May, 3A:2

Wong, Rose

birth of, 1A:1

children of, 2A:6,7; 3A:1,3,10

courtship and marriage of, 1B:6;

2A:6; 2B:5; 3A:2-3

education of, 1B:4,5,6

employment of, 1A:3; 2A:4,8; 2B:

5-6; 3A:3-10

father of, 1A:1-2,3-4,9-10; 1B:

6,8; 2A:3,4-5

grandparents of, 1A:4,5-7; 1B:7

husband of, 2B:4-5

mother of, 1A:1,3,4; 1B:1,6-7;

2A:3,4; 2B:4

move to Los Angeles by,

1A:3

name of, 1A:1

residences of, 1A:4,8; 2A:3,

6,7-10

siblings of, 1A:7,9; 1B:6