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WEN HUI CHUNG CHEN #1

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DISKETTE #4

Tape 1 Side A

- 1 015 Q: I'd like to ask about the family backgrounds of your parents and the kind of work they did.
A: ????. My father was in business.
- 019 Q: What kind of business?
A: He was a middleman, that is, a business agent. He loaned money, ????. The rest I'm not clear about.
- 022 Q: Oh, then...
A: He was a middleman, that is, he lent money. There probably weren't many banks at that time. So the money shops loaned money to private individuals. So people had to find people in various places to act as agents. ????. At that time agents in society ????
- 028 Q: Was he also a Foochow man?
A: He was, and so was my mother.
Q: Oh, your mother was also.
A: ????. moved from Amoy to Foochow. ????
- 034 Q: Then you were also in Foochow?
A: We were also in business.
Q: If you don't mind, may I ask what year you were born in?
A: That was 1914. I don't mind. In the U.S. we all use our real ages.
- 2 038 Q: When you were young, did you speak Foochow dialect at home?
A: Entirely in Foochow dialect. Mandarin was homework from Mandarin classes at school.
- 041 Q: In elementary school?
A: This wasn't elementary school. That was after high school. The homework for studying Mandarin. At that time everyone in Foochow spoke Foochow dialect.
- 044 Q: Was there homework in English? Did you study English then?
A: Yes, yes. I studied English in junior high school.
Q: Oh?
A: I don't remember what year I studied Mandarin, but that was before graduation from senior high school. I studied Mandarin.
- 047 Q: Oh?
A: When I went to study in Peking, I couldn't speak Mandarin, I could only understand it. The first few weeks I just listened to other people speak. After the while, I started pronouncing. The same with English -- I started pronouncing first.
- 051 Q: So you really started speaking Mandarin when you left home to go to college in Peking?

- 053 Q: What about now, at home?
A: Now both my parents at home have passed away. My father passed away, and so did my mother. My older brother and two older sisters -- they've also passed away.
- 057 Q: Then what do you and your husband speak at home? English or Foochow dialect?
A: The two of us speak Foochow dialect.
Q: You speak Foochow dialect.
A: That's how it is, half English and half Foochow dialect. We say whatever we think of.
- 059 Q: Do you speak Cantonese?
A: No, I don't. I can only speak Foochow dialect and Mandarin.
- 061 Q: Besides Foochow, Peking and Los Angeles, where else have you lived?
A: I've only been to Taiwan.
- 064 Q: You went on a pleasure trip to Taiwan?
A: No, we lived in Taiwan for several months in 1954.
Q: Oh.
A: Then in 1962, we spent the entire summer in Taiwan. In 1968 we also lived there the entire summer.
- 068 Q: Oh, oh.
A: From 1946 to 1947, we returned from the U.S. to ????
- 071 Q: I'd like to ask about your education. Which schools have you attended, beginning with elementary school?
A: From elementary school till senior high school, I was in Foochow the whole time. College was in Peking, at Yenching University. I taught after graduating from college, and got married a year later, in 1932.
Q: You graduated in 1931, is that right?
A: I graduated in 1931, and got married in 1932. We came to the U.S. in 1937. We were at Lingnan University when we came to the U.S. ?????? I felt I had a bit of time, and studying wasn't all that time-consuming, so since I had little to do I took my time and studied. Around 1941 I received my ???
- 086 Q: Oh?
A: ?????? Later on, many people asked me why I went for a Ph.D. I always say I couldn't find anything better. Later the children got bigger and bigger. ??? I took my time and studied.
- 092 Q: And you got your Ph.D.?
A: I got my Ph.D.
Q: In which year?
A: 1952. We went back home in 1946. It was my requirement ????. I was thinking that if we didn't come back then I would stay in China and write my dissertation there. After coming back then I could ????? for my Ph.D. So we went back for a year. When we returned I started teaching at USC. ?????

Q: Also at USC.

A: I taught in there, and at the same time ???? , so it was very convenient. ???? We lived near the university, within walking distance. It wasn't until I moved back later that we moved to ???? to sleep. Before going home, we hadn't thought of staying in the U.S. Previously, when students came to study in the U.S., they always returned to serve in China. Who wanted to spend their entire lives in the U.S.? So in 1946 we prepared to return to China. That was after the war, and the country was so ???? Why did I go to school? I majored in sociology. I hoped this way I could go back and do some work in children's welfare. My goals were very lofty, I wanted to do the children's welfare that was truly being advocated in China, ???? of children, or something. I was always thinking of such things, even in the U.S. at that time. Now it's amazing to talk about it.

4 115

121 Q: Really?

A: ???? four times in the U.S.A., and his wife was also ??? I also didn't want to go anywhere else. There was no more ???, and everyone went elsewhere, to the South in the U.S., etc., and gradually we all found work.

130 Q: Did you have any more children after that?

A: I only have two.

Q: When you went back in 1946, what did you do?

A: I taught.

Q: Where did you teach?

A: In the Buddhist College of Fukien.

Q: Oh, the Buddhist College. Then...

137 A: I was the President then.

Q: Then you came back again in 1947?

A: I came back again in 1947, because at that time the students boycotted classes every day, and the workers were on strike. ?????, and the campus disturbances were very severe. I had to ??? all day and supervise the students as they learned to sing. I also had to go buy ???, but inflation was terrible at that time. When the students paid tuition to attend school, they paid ??? fees, but by the end of the semester, the money wasn't worth anything at all. You couldn't tell the students to pay again, so you could only ask the state for rice at the official price in order to have anything to eat! So I felt it was impossible to run the school.

5 152 Q: So you thought about coming back?

A: At that time, we also lived in L.A. when we came back.

Q: Oh, you also returned to Los Angeles?

156 A: Of course. USC was still there then.

Q: Then did you immediately start to ...?

A: I started to teach.

- 161 A: No. It was my second trip back, and my requirements were already late. I hadn't written my dissertation yet.
- Q: Did you write your dissertation from 1947 to 1953?
- A: From 1947 to 1952, while I was teaching at the same time.
- Q: While you were teaching?
- A: I had no choice. ???
- 168 Q: You taught sociology part-time at USC?
- A: I substituted when other teachers didn't show up. I taught one course myself: Family and Social Management Science. Later I depended on quite a part ??? The students would apply for ????. They were Japanese students. ?????
- 181 Q: All in one course?
- A: All in one course. ????? Our school told me to pay to teach, just to get something to eat. ?????
- 6 192 Q: Then after leaving your hometown in 1947, you've never been back there?
- A: I've never returned. I go often to Taiwan.
- Q: Do you think about your hometown?
- A: Of course. Perhaps we will still have a chance to go back. We might go to Japan for a trip, we're thinking about that. It's not convenient to go back home now, at our age, we can't...
- 196 Q: Oh, yes, that's true.
- A: In old age. We can't go to Taiwan. ?????
- Q: Do you think about your friends and relatives there?
- 204 A: Of course. We still write to them now.
- Q: You've been writing all along, or just recently?
- A: More and more so recently. Our friends and relatives are also very considerate. They always wrote. For example, I have an older brother and older sister who went to Singapore, and they've been writing all along. In 1960 I went to Singapore to see them. In 1960 I went to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. I have relatives in all those places.
- 211 Q: Oh?
- A: In Bangkok, Vietnam... We went to all those places.
- Q: Do you still have relatives in Foochow now?
- A: I have cousins in Foochow. No. My older brother's children are in Shanghai. ?????
- 217 Q: You have an older brother in Shanghai?
- A: No. Those are my older brother's children.
- Q: Oh, his children.
- A: My older brother's wife and children are all in Shanghai. My brother's ??? are also in ????? There are also my older sister's children in ?????.
- 220 Q: Do you keep in touch with them.
- A: Recently I wrote to my brother's children...

- wouldn't let my older sister write to me. For the decade or more before her death, they wouldn't let us correspond, so she wrote and told me not to write. That way the two of us weren't very close. After we stopped writing, my older brother and his wife went back to Shanghai from Singapore. My brother even asked my older sister to come to Shanghai and asked her why she wasn't writing to me. ??? Her son is a doctor, a military doctor, in the army. He felt that if his mother wrote to the U.S. it would spoil the military secrets. So my older sister was asked not to write to me. Afterwards they asked my older brother to handle it, ??? asked me not to ever write them letters. ??? Afterwards I wrote her several letters and asked her daughter-in-law to forward them, to forward them to Fourth Sister. After I wrote several letters, she wrote again to say it wouldn't work. Afterwards there were a couple of letters which were sent to my brother in Singapore. After I found out about this, I felt badly for a while. She never wrote to me again until she died. I recently wrote to an old friend of my brother. We have a friend in the U.S. who at that time came from around Chekiang. ??? I introduced him. I asked him exactly how my sister died, and what the latest news was. He wrote and told me that he couldn't send letters abroad. ??? Of course, if she were still alive, she'd write to the U.S. So I never wrote to my sister, and I only write to my nieces and nephews.
- Q: Oh, oh.
- A: That's why when you come to mention it, I don't have any close relatives there. I used to have two younger brothers and two younger sisters.
- Q: Oh. ??? Then she was with them the whole time?
- A: They weren't together. We ???
- Q: Really?
- 272 A: My older sister ??? Under that system, if they won't let you write, you can't write.
- 276 Q: Well, then, in the U.S., do you have more contact with Americans or with Chinese?
- A: Of course I have more contact with Chinese. My closest friends are all Chinese. In comings and goings, dinner invitations, they're all Chinese. Of course I have some American friends, but we're not very close. In my heart, I often admit that although we've been in the U.S. for over 40 years, our closest friends are still Chinese.
- 281
- 8 288 Q: Are the people you're close to the ones who came to the U.S. with you?
- A: They're all people around the same age as myself. We associate mainly with people of roughly the same age.

- USC, there were many young students then. We often associated with them, and at Christmas our house's ????
298 Q: Oh?
A: The students used to have parties at our house. The rooms in our house then were quite large. We were in
301 the ???? area. We had five large rooms. One year over a hundred Chinese students had a dance in our house.
Q: Did you participate?
A: Although we didn't dance, we attended a lot of dances. Departmental dances, student association dances... There were quite a few student associations then, sometimes there were 13 of them. There was also an organization of students from China. We always went with them. We had a lot of contact with Chinese.
316 Q: Did you associate a lot with American-born Chinese?
A: Sometimes I had contact with them when I was employed by the student association.
Q: What about yourself, personally?
A: We had many newsletters, ???? , since I didn't have any
320 special job myself. We've been married almost 47 years now, and we're still almost always together.
322 Q: What about when you were in school? When you were studying and doing homework?
325 A: Sometimes I was with Chinese students, but the contact was still at home.
326 Q: Were there many Chinese students then?
A: Chinese students? When I was in school at that time there were very few Chinese students. There were a few
9 332 more only after the war. At that time we were often together, we were often at USC. ???? When we ran into Chinese students at USC that we knew, we still felt ??? emotionally. Now we can invite several dozen people.
339 Now at most ??? the two of us will invite 8 or 18 people.
Q: We still invite Chinese students...
340 A: There were the two of us when we came to the U.S., and we lived together with Chinese students. So there are still quite a few ??? Chinese friends.
344 Q: There weren't many Chinese students then. Was it easy to get in?
A: Because it was during the war, so of course nobody came out.
347 Q: What about now?
A: There are ???? students, we have contact with them. ???? came to our house for meetings. So when they had meetings we participated. The students were the same as us.
350 Q: What kind of meetings did they have?
A: ???? They are very fond of dancing.
Q: Have you become an American citizen?

360 Q: What year did you get ???
 A: 1952.
 Q: 1952. Before that you basically retained your Chinese lifestyle from before?
 365 A: Of course, because our thoughts and interests all came from China. The things we ate for lunch and dinner were Chinese dishes.
 369 Q: You never ate Western food?
 A: We ate Western food, but we didn't at home. Once
 372 someone invited us out for dinner. We ate ??? and some ???, and I lost my appetite. So the longest time that I ate Western food was on the ship. Once there was a summer school session at USC, and we also went. We went
 378 overseas from here, to Australia, New Zealand, ??? I was teaching on the ship, it was still social management. So the two of us were teaching on the ship. We were on board for 6 weeks. At ??? 2 weeks ??? I couldn't eat that Western food. So we've been in the U.S. for 42 years, and we eat both types of food. When I got out, I prefer to wear pants. ??? I only wear a skirt when I go out for a party. I
 10 395 don't wear dresses, only pants and skirts. Our ideas ??? socialized of China.
 402 Q: When, for example, someone in your family gets sick, do you see Chinese doctors? Do you use Chinese or Western medicine?
 A: Western doctors. ????
 422 We still believe in Western doctors.
 (End of Tape 1, Side A)

Tape 1 Side B

1 013 A: We still believe in Western doctors. Some Chinese medicines are good, ginseng, for example. That time when he had an operation, some friends gave us some ginseng. Now he frequently takes Chinese medicines. ??? But we still believe in Western doctors.
 020 Q: What sorts of things do you do for recreational activities at home?
 A: Both of us have a great interest in playing bridge.
 Q: You don't play mahjong?
 A: We don't play mahjong. Recently, I don't know why, but I don't like to go to sleep too late. I don't know why. In the past we sometimes invited people over, ??? We just like to invite friends over for dinner, to invite them to our house.
 030 Q: Are the people who play bridge with you all Chinese?
 A: There are also Americans whom we play bridge with. We've formed 3 bridge clubs for over 2 years. ???
 Q: Once a week?

A: We basically don't watch movies. Sometimes, occasionally we watch a movie on TV. We virtually don't see movies. ???? No. A couple of years ago TV presented that Deng Xiaoping. Nixon went ?????. We all watched that. If there's something important on TV, we often watch till very late at night.

047 Q: Do you listen to music?

A: Actually, he's really fond of music. In the last few years, he ?????, and now he's still learning. He ?????

058 A: These are some of his books, these are the articles that he used. There are encyclopedias, everything. ?????

065 Q: Did you also learn a bit of music from him?

A: Good-for-nothing.

Q: Do you listen to ??? from China or Taiwan?

A: ??????

3 072 Q: I'd like to ask you a few questions about the Chinese in Los Angeles. You've been here for quite a long time, and are quite familiar with them. Have you ever joined any Overseas Chinese associations or such organizations?

A: None whatsoever. Why? ?????

Q: Oh?

A: ???? But we still ???? two places from China.

085 Q: What about Californialism(???)

A: No. ??? We went to ?????. We couldn't make it. ???? This was their affair. They had invited us, and we also went to accompany ?????

100 Q: If you went early then there weren't ?????

A: If you went early then there weren't such occurrences. In the past Chinatown ???? Both of us went. ?????

4 113 Q: In the early days ?????

A: At that time we were both ???? in the school. ?????

125 Q: At that time ?????

A: They all had ???? On a couple of evenings, ?????. They spoke in Mandarin, not in English. His Mandarin was very good.

128 Q: ???? Chinatown?

A: We didn't go to Chinatown ?????. If something was happening they would invite us.

131 Q: What about shopping, etc.?

A: I frequently went shopping for food. You're also in Chinatown, aren't you? ???? Say, for example, that I was to go there next Saturday for a meeting. I'd go look around, eat dinner. They asked us to go.

138 Q: Where did you live at that time?

A: Still at the same place. Sometimes I also went to Chinatown at ???? to buy groceries. In Russian it was also Chinatown ?????

5 145 Q: Chinatown used to be ??????

A: Yes. Chinatown was the Old Chinatown of before. Old Chinatown was really bustling when it first started. Now it's the New Chinatown. We participated in all ???

- 150 Q: When you first got to Old Chinatown, was China City still there?
A: China City was still there.
Q: And then there was New Chinatown?
A: It was just being built then. When we came, China City was just being built, it hadn't been established yet. On this side there was that side ????
156 Q: Then where was Old Chinatown concentrated in?
A: Now when we go shopping for groceries and whatnot, we still go to Old Chinatown.
158 Q: What about China City...?
A: China City doesn't exist any more.
Q: Yes, I was asking about the past.
A: Originally there wasn't Chinatown and China City. ????
164 Q: Do you still go often to Chinese restaurants?
A: The two of us frequently fo to Chinatown for a meal. ??? When the children were young, and also because it was cheap, we also went out to eat. Now it's very convenient for the two of us.
Q: You brought the children to ???? Or to ???
A: Of course it was to ?????. At that time there wasn't ?????. It's only now that there is ?????.
174 Q: What about your children? Did you often serve them Chinese food?
A: Yes, always. It was the same. Some bread in the morning, fruit or whatever. Lunch and dinner, etc. were
175 all Chinese-style.
Q: Did you teach them Chinese?
A: They know Chinese. They never went to church in China. I taught them. ???? They can speak Mandarin.
Q: Oh?
A: When we went back to China for a year, we spoke Mandarin. ????? They can speak Mandarin rather well. ?????
6 188 Q: There weren't Chinese-language schools then, were there?
A: There was a Chinese-language school at that time. It was ?????.
Q: What language did the school teach in?
A: Cantonese.
Q: Did you go study there?
A: No, we didn't. They felt it was necessary. We often
192 had Chinese students over at our home. They couldn't understand. They ?????
Q: What if you had American-born Chinese students over?
A: Then of course ?????. We also invited American-born Chinese. When our children was young, I ?????. They were Chinese students. ?????
203 Q: Then you left L.A. ??????
A: ??????????? (Indistinct)
214 Q: Your other daughter?

was in 1950. ???? Columbia ???? When she graduated from senior high school, she could have gotten the best scholarship. When she had just graduated, she ??? to New York to study. She met a boy, married and lived in New York. ??? went to Washington, D.C. They're now in Washington, D.C.

7 231

Q: Is your son-in-law Chinese?

A: Yes, he is.

Q: Did he come from China?

A: Yes, he did. He's a Cantonese who was raised in Peking. His parents are still in Shanghai. ???? He did his undergraduate studies in the U.S. They ????

245 Q: Just now you said ???? mistake, you said if she hadn't gone away to study she wouldn't have gotten married there?

247 A: She wouldn't be over there. She could be here. If she studied at USC she could still ????

255 Q: Then do you often go to see your daughter?

A: Before, when she had just gotten married, we went. Now they have children, and we don't go often. ????

(End of Tape 1, Side B)

Tape 2 Side A

015 Q: When you sent your children to public schools, were they mostly ???? high schools?

A: They were all called public schools. Even when they were in elementary school they were all in public schools.

Q: Did they have any problems, for instance in making friends, in making friends with American students, etc.?

A: I don't think there were problems in these areas.

Q: Did they themselves ???? make Chinese friends?

A: I know we were struggling very hard. ???? We did socialize. ???? There weren't any Chinese students where they lived.

023 Q: Were there many Chinese in the area where you lived at that time?

A: There were Chinese students all over where we lived. We felt that it was still ????.

Q: When you were living in L.A., did you ???? at the time, or did you have a family?

A: For example, here in the past they were all Kuomintang generals. ???? Chinese, for example. Among the Overseas Chinese, ???? Chinese saw this ????.

045 Q: Which people do you feel were the more famous ones over the past few decades?

A: ?????, a few professors, ?????.

Q: Can you please tell me the names of these professors? Do you remember?

A: Professors? There used to be one called C.C. Chen, ??? There was another named Mok, who used to teach at Columbia. ??? They're all retired now. As for new professors, we still have frequent contact with them. The new professor is at USC. Because we're in the student's association, we still participate.

059

Q: Oh.

A: Because Professor ??? is at USC, we often see each other. After the Taiwan University Students'

063

Association, they also invited us, and we went. There's also a ???? Chinese Culture Club at ???? We still ????.

071

Q: Before the Second World War, did these two professors also ???

A: After ????.

Q: But was that the second one?

A: They were all teaching here during the war.

Q: Oh, oh. Did you have any contact with Chinese in the business community?

075

A: Yes, we knew the man named Kwan who was in business circles, ????? He was very rich, and a good friend of ours.

Q: Was he Cantonese?
A: Yes, Cantonese. He ????

Q: The Cathay Bank?
A: The Cathay Bank. We knew him very well.

084 Q: Was he here during the Second World War?
A: No, he wasn't. At that time he ??????. His father was a longtime Kuomintang member. ?????? He studied at USC. We were already very friendly with him when he was a student. ????. He also came to dinner at our house.

090 Q: He ????
A: ????????

Q: At that time, which families were considered prominent in L.A.?
A: Famous families in Chinatown?
Q: Yes.

100 A: ??????????
Q: Do you know the name of ???'s father?
A: ??????????? We saw him in Shanghai.
Q: Is his father still alive?
104 A: His father is. His mother has passed away.
Q: At that time, did people have to be politically active to become powerful?
A: ?????????
Q: For example, if he wanted to be more influential, if he wanted some power.
A: I said at that time that whether or not you had political power depended on whether or not you had money.
Q: Money?
A: Yes, in Chinatown. ??????

A 113 Q: What kinds of jobs did Chinese in those days prefer?
A: Before, it was restaurants. Gift shop, laundry, or ????. Now it's different. When we first came, there was a total of 2 Chinese schoolteachers. One was named Chan, and the other was named Leung. Now both of them are retired. Besides them, there were no Chinese professors, ??? teaching elementary school or high school. They didn't say ????, and the children couldn't speak English. At that time they said that they had just arrived, and wanted ????

125 Q: Why?
A: Because they couldn't get in American schools.
Q: Was it a language problem or ...?
A: No, it was because of social discrimination at that time. We have to thank the blacks for the Chinese truly standing up. The blacks ????. We Chinese friends. We Chinese ????????

131 Q: The blacks...?
A: The Chinese now haven't gotten in. ?????? In ?????? much fine right. There are none. After the ????. There aren't any now, there are still no Chinese now. Now there are doctors, lawyers, etc. Before we ??? there

was one lawyer, who dealt with ????, he handled everything. Besides him there weren't any Chinese lawyers. Now it's different. Now the Chinese occupation rate ???, Chinese ????. Chinese are good workers. In any field, no Chinese ???? politically ????

5 141

Q: Was their work mostly related to Chinese?

A: ???? occupation, engineer, ????. In these types of jobs they've already gotten into American society.

Q: They couldn't get in in the past?

A: Not in the past.

Q: Until when?

151 A: Until black power.

Q: That was the '60's?

A: The '60's.

Q: What about doctors in the past?

A: There were doctors who treated Chinese, they were Chinese. Nowadays, unless they work at ???, doctors still ????

Q: Do you feel that was of their own free will, or were they forced into it?

A: That was not ????, it was for convenience. It was convenient for everyone. ????

161 Q: Within Chinese society at that time, what professions were considered ??? Merchants?

A: Before the war, it was doing business.

Q: Being a teacher was

A: There were very few. ????

170 Q: You were teaching then weren't you?

A: I was following my husband. It didn't matter to me. ????

Q: Were there other Chinese women at that time getting their Ph.D.'s?

A: ???? not.

Q: When did it begin?

A: That was in ????

Q: What about the American-born? American-born Chinese women?

A: ????

182 Q: Did they generally not want to study for a Ph.D., or did they not have the opportunity?

6 186 A: I think there were opportunities. Chinese women are all like that. After they get married, ???? at home. ???? I myself was in this situation. When I went to class I went to class, and when I worked I worked. ????, so studying served some purpose. It gave me something to do, to occupy my time, I also didn't need to ????

197 Normally at the clubs, the social activities and meetings, morning teas, etc., whatever ????, I didn't ???? I joined for a while, and then I didn't ????

202 Q: What were they?

A: They were like this -- everyone made money, and worked

hard. Everyone ??? and met together. ???

Q: What about those who had money?

A: There were also many who had money. Diamonds, ????

Q: What sort of people were they?

A: They were all in business. People in business have money. Professors have no money.

211 Q: What did they do whenever they met?

A: After going a few times to their meetings, I didn't participate. I know they did some so-called ??? in Chinatown. I really don't know what they did. They said it was ???, that everyone got together to socialize ???

219 Q: This club was called Chinese Women?

A: Chinese Women's Club. There's still a Chinese Women's Club now.

Q: Did you ever join ???

A: No, I didn't.

Q: What's this called?

A: ?????????? We never participate in politics. The real ????? Kuomintang ??????. We never joined the Kuomintang ???, now in this democratic republic ????

7 231 Q: Do you vote?

A: I do. We feel it's good to vote. Usually we vote in all these ??? local, for example government things. ??? don't know ????

Q: Did you vote on Proposition 13?

A: We take part in all such things. Sometimes the two of us have different ideas. ????

242 Q: What were Chinese interests in these areas like in the past?

A: Interests.... I feel we Chinese have to get in.

Q: Do you know who represents the Chinatown district?

A: That's another black and ????

Q: Do you have any contacts with these local politicians?

A: No, but if they invite us, we'll go.

252 Q: Have you ever been to their ???

A: We have to ?????????? We're also ?????? I manage the ideas in this family (?). So that way ????

257 Q: If, in the past, Chinese had no interest in these matters, then did they place their trust in any particular American politician, or in American politicians helping Chinese....?

A: ??? Chinatown ????. They're very enthusiastic about Taiwan. Also, they ??? toward Nixon, Reagan ????

Q: So there are very few?

268 A: Now ??? everything they're very strong. ??? Someone told us to ??? We like activities. ????

277 Q: When did ??? come here to do business?

A: Oh, that was a long time ago. The war...

Q: During the war?

A: He came before the war.

Q: Oh.

A: When he used to be here, he'd often especially tell ???

to go for a walk (attend class). He taught at ???
School, teaching Mandarin. ????

- 8 288 Q: Now he's considered relatively famous?
A: He ????. I think he's doing very well now. He looks
very good in ????????, and his wife is also good-looking.
So are his children. ?????
- 297 Q: In the past in Chinatown, were they mostly Cantonese or
were there occasionally some ????
A: No, inside they were ????. We just didn't like it very
much. In the earliest time Chinatown, that was
Cantonese ?????
- 305 Q: Would the Cantonese unite to do anything?
A: Yes, like that David Chao. He probably worked very
hard, but he is not completely accepted. ????. He ...
Chinatown ??????
- 315 Q: Besides going into business, did many Chinese do any
???? work? That is, what kinds of jobs were usually
done for wages?
318 A: Those were mostly second-generation.
Q: Before World War II?
A: No, there were very few, very few. When we first came,
there were only one or two people working in banks.
???? So it was different when we first came compared to
now. Now the second-generations have all entered
American society, and in very good occupations. We
Chinese are in very good occupations.
- 9 329 Q: Scientists..
A: Like the Nobel Prize -- three Chinese have won it.
That's something to be proud of.
Q: That is to say, for example...
A: We Chinese can produce Nobel Prize winners, but not
Senators.
Q: That means they weren't in white-collar jobs. Did any
Chinese do labor for Americans?
342 A: Before, when we first arrived, all servants, etc. were
Chinese.
Q: Besides servants, did they work in factories, in
American-owned factories?
A: As far as we know, I don't think there were any then.
Q: Usually they themselves...?
A: Of course now Chinese are very free. You all know about
Chinese, Chinese are good workers. You see those ???
349 Mexicans, they're very good at following ????. Chinese
are conservative.
Q: Do you remember the produce market you used to go to?
A: Yes, I used to go there.
Q: Were most of the people there Chinese?
A: At first everyone at the Produce Market was Chinese.
The others were ??????
- 359 Q: Then the first ones were Chinese?
A: They were all Chinese.
Q: They were Chinese....?

A: They were all Chinese in the area around Main Street.
Q: There were also Chinese workers?
A: Yes.
Q: Chinese employers?
A: Yes, Chinese employers. Now I hear that ????, not many.
Q: Jews or other people?
A: Jews.

369 Q: As you remember it, in the early days did Chinese ???
temporary in ????

A: No.
Q: That was in 1937?
A: In 1937. There were none. ????. At that time there
were few ??? in society, there was no smog, and there
were also none of these environmental ???. Also,
schools wouldn't publish them. It was very ??? then.
Our ??? before, ?????

10 390 Q: When you were at ?????, were your neighbors Chinese?

A: We recently moved over here. We were on top of the hill
in 1950, ???, over by ???. At that time ???, and the
???. When we were at ???, in any case it was ?????

Q: What about the Chinese?

A: There were no Chinese. There were very few Chinese in
the ????? district. I don't know why the Chinese ???

Q: That was later on, wasn't it?

A: Later. After the war.

Q: What about before the war?

412 A: In the early period Chinese were still living in
Chinatown.

Q: Did they ????? in that district?

A: There were also no Chinese there. We lived for quite a
few years in ?????, and there were also no Chinese in
????? We ???. At that time you also had to ?????

424 Q: When you were at ?????, did you have trouble finding
housing?

A: Yes, we did. After 1942, the U.S. government ended
discrimination in housing. At that time they didn't
give us trouble. When they saw we were professors, they
?????

Q: That was after 1942?

437 A: ?????????? We bought a lot on ????? Hill. They were a
bit ??????????. Still ????? professors. He knew there
was a clause, that it couldn't be sold to ?????.

????? ensure against loss. ????? then they said ????

Q: I hear it was specifically to protect ????

A: ????. We were all ????? Overseas Chinese.

Q: When did you buy this land?

A: ??????????

(End of Tape 2, Side A)

Tape 2 Side B

1 010 A: We didn't fight with them, and we didn't try to fight.

They suppressed(?) when they bought the land, so we just said, "Let's go back."

Q: You said you lived at ???? before 1948. Before that did you ever try to move to the American ??????

A: No. ??????

016 Q: You lived in Chinatown at that time?

A: No, we lived near USC. ????????

Q: ??????????????

A: There were blacks in that area at that time. There were blacks near USC.

Q: They wouldn't discriminate against Chinese in areas with blacks, right?

020 A: Right. When we went to buy a house, ???? wouldn't sell to them. After ?????? we lived at ????????. They ??????, so would you say we ??? Department head?????

030 Q: What about inside the school? On campus?

A: Inside the school, ??? if they were whites, ????.

Q: ????????????

A: In China he'd been the President, the dean. ????????

2 041 Q: Besides yourselves, were there any other Chinese living in white neighborhoods or ...?

A: Of course ??????? all had to live in ????????

Q: Did they have any trouble?

A: I don't know how they moved in. ????????????. He's still alive now. ?????????? After he bought the house he had to get out, they wouldn't sell it to him. His wife was ??????? He had already completed many procedures. We hadn't. Why? They simply wouldn't let us live in that area, so we didn't go. ?????? That area wouldn't allow us Chinese in there, so we didn't even bother to inquire. ?????? if you like us, we'll like you. If you don't like us, we won't like you either.

053

Q: ?????????company ??????????

A: Much later, after our older daughter got married, we wanted to buy another house. We still ??????? couldn't buy ?????????, because at ????????. We went looking at houses, and when we saw one that we like, we bought it. ??????

062

Q: ??????????

A: That wasn't for sale, that one ?????? on their own. The owner told us, that one wasn't for sale. At the time we didn't want it. At that time if anyone lived somewhere, they would be displeased if you lived next door. If we were to live anywhere, we would go only if the neighbors really welcomed us. If they didn't want us, we wouldn't live there. That neighborhood had the least ???????, only went in there in ???????.

3

069

Q: Then most Chinese lived in Chinatown?

A: At that time all Chinese lived in Chinatown.

Q: As for work, what kinds of jobs did most people have?

075 A: When we first came, Chinese worked in Chinese ????????? and hadn't entered American society yet.

Q: What were the Chinese occupations?
A: Laundry, restaurant, shops.
Q: ?????????
A: They owned it themselves. Chinatown ??????????????. They were selling ??????. They didn't need hired laborers or anything. Chinatown was the ??????
Q: Didn't they say that for the sake of their families, they'd do some work?
084 A: Basically, there were none in the larger factories, they didn't open any large factories. Because there was a ????? store, National ????? Stores. That was a relatively ?????? San Francisco. ?????????
Q: If Chinese didn't have capital, would they ?????? opening these ?????? restaurants?
A: ?????????? They worked as house servants for others. They worked as cooks. Chinese cooks were a very typical Chinese occupation.
094 Q: They went to work as cooks in others' families?
A: They cooked for others.
Q: You mentioned family businesses. Did those families live in the stores or did they....?
A: ?????????? lived in the stores. At the time there wasn't a Chinatown yet, and they all lived here.
Q: What about Old Chinatown?
097 A: Before, they all lived at ?????? Now, when we first came, there was no ??????, they just lived like that. ??????????????
105 Q: How about their family?
A: Their parents and everyone all came here. When we got to know them, the father had passed away, but the mother was still alive. He had several brothers. They're all deceased now. He had a sister. ?????? everyone graduated from USC. Not everyone could find work after graduation, and in the end they ?????? themselves. His older brother graduated from USC, and still had to open his own restaurant. ??????. His sister also graduated from USC. ????? also didn't get into American society, and also opened a restaurant. So their entire family received higher education, but none of them made it into American society. ?????? still opened his own company, so we ?????????? must ?????????? this society itself. ????? wanted something, we would give him the pattern. ?????
4 116 Q: Did you know his parents?
128 A: We knew his mother. He was still at ???, and his mother was also at ??????, so his mother was at home. Those brothers seemed to eat together at their mother's ?????? time. ????? went to look us up, ?????
137 Q: Was this typical among Chinese?
A: I think it was very typical of Chinese here. They were here. Now families are different. Before ?????. They ????? and all had their ??????, so these ideas were very strong. ????? still old-fashioned. It's different now.

5 146 Q: In the past, for example, within the family, did everyone ?????

A: I don't think there was much among the second generation. They also talk about this exchange in the U.S. It's always like that. For instance, mother and father???? Now it's different. Now parents???? Now we old people ??????????

(End of Tape 2, Side B)

Tape 3 Side A

- 1 018 Q: Dr. Chen, you mentioned in the last interview that you felt that the Chinese in L.A. often encountered discrimination, at least in the area of housing. Other than in housing, do you feel that most people in L.A. discriminated against Chinese?
- 027 A: I don't think I felt discriminated against. That was probably because we were in education. ???
- Q: ???
- A: Discrimination couldn't be seen, ????
- Q: ?????
- 2 033 A: ?????, but it wasn't that bad. For instance, in a school, how could you do that? ????? For example, the whites in this school ?????
- 042 Q: Oh? Was it stated or was it...?
- A: It wasn't stated, but you can ??? before you retire. Everybody ????
- Q: Those candidates.... Were the candidates white or...?
- A: No, we ??? whites ?????, but ?????. In the school ????? We were in Asian Studies, ????? Asian religions ?????, political science ??? didn't have this. These all recognized him to be the head of Asian Studies, so he ????? department, and refused to teach this Asian course. Asian religion, Asian political science, Asian history. In every department there was someone in Asian culture.
- 053
- 060 Q: How many...?
- A: In our department, whites ?????. They organized, they ate together, and they didn't ask Chinese or Japanese to dine with them.
- 3 064 Q: Were they all whites?
- A: They were all whites. Later on we had Chinese and Japanese in our department, ?????
- Q: Which department were you in?
- A: Asian Studies.
- Q: You also studied Asian Studies?
- A: Yes.
- Q: ?????
- A: He was ??? Professor Hill, head of our Asian Studies
- ????
- Q: Oh, the head of Asian Studies.
- A: So in a ?????, beside ?????, so there wasn't this ????? teaching this Asian ??????. That way he was very good. ??? our department head. These people ??????, and every year they went to ??????
- 074 Q: ?????
- A: There weren't students passed through ?????. ????? were all seminars like this, discussions, ????? I think every department that taught Asian Studies went. ??? very

good ??? in Asian Studies.

Q: What about later?

A: But later after they recognized this ??? it was like this. You could teach, but you couldn't do administrative work. So before that, they were all ??? whites.

086 Q: They were all whites in Asian Studies?

A: Yes, they organized.

Q: Oh.

093 A: They didn't have ???, so this ??????

Q: How long?

097 A: Two years.

Q: Oh, after that there was a white person acting as department ??? Then after two years?

A: ????? But a year before that ???

104 Q: ????????

A: ?????????? lying up, ??? I don't know. USC ????. After us there weren't more than a ??? house. Whites ??? sat during those two years to evaluate. Then some of them ??? All these ??? are ?????? What about now? ???

Q: That was ??? Chinese in your department ???

A: There still weren't any. We Chinese admitted being ??? Then Chinese ??????????, dislike, ?????????? after ??????. There were very few Chinese in our department. So ??? us ???, so this ?????????? white ?????? Japanese ????? but there were no Chinese.

132 Q: How was the school started?

A: ????? He was also this ??? Asian Studies Center until 1972. 72 ??? up to now, he's also been ???. Then ??? was at Asian Studies Center, ??????

Q: ?????? time? Before 1945, at the time when you came to the U.S., did you encounter discrimination in daily life?

A: Except in housing, there wasn't any. ??? that time was 194K. At that time we lived in the U.S. ???, and didn't want to move, because ???, so that house of ours was ??? Of course if there was a house we could have lived in it.

153 Q: ????

A: At that time, our neighbors were extremely nice to us. They felt that we were one cut above them.

156 Q: Oh? Why?

A: Those people hadn't received an education the way we had.

Q: Oh, although they were whites, they hadn't had an opportunity to go to school?

A: Of course. That's why they were so nice to us.

Q: You were at USC?

A: Near USC. Why? That was before 1946. We went back to China. Before that, ??? We wanted to go back after the war to build our country. It was also more challenging

166 to go back to work. ???? We had our country, ??? so we didn't buy a house. ???? so in 1946 we went back. ???? What ???? We ????
 Q: What about the first time you came to the U.S.?
 A: The first time we came to the U.S. was in 1937, just a week before the Sino-Japanese War broke out.

176 Q: At that time the U.S. ???
 A: Oh, it was very good. At the time we came to the U.S., the ???? was already over. Everything was fine. At that time ???? safety was good, the air was good, there were few cars, it was a very good place to live. It was really ?????. There were no murders, muggings, thefts, robberies, etc. Things were really very good then.

6 186 Q: Were there blacks then?
 A: There were. At that time blacks were ?????, but they were still ?????
 Q: How well did people get along at that time?
 A: At that time, ???? that black power, ???? black people. They ???? at that time ?????. Black power was in the 1960's, ??? everybody in their own place. Black people ??? black people ??? to do, and Chinese ???? social order. ???? Young's movement. We ourselves ???? school work, studying, teaching. I taught ?????
 Q: When you taught, did you ??????
 A: There weren't any problems. I feel that in teaching, whites ?????, and we ?????? instead. As for blacks, we're also good to them. I often ???, and both of us

200 215 ?????. At that time, there were very few people at USC who would agree to have blacks as secretaries. This ?????, and he ???? walked away. He's still teaching at USC now. ???? He's on very good terms with us. He ?????, he told us ??? himself.

224 Q: ???????
 A: ?????????????? Of course we didn't let him down. Now ?????????? I can help you, can ??????? drive? I can always ????

7 231 Q: Is he ????
 A: Actually, it's us. Why do we Chinese want to go ??? night school? Sometimes we ???? this of them. Where to go for study? ????????? is not up to par. This black secretary got on very well with us. ?????, sincere, grateful, hard-working, never said ???, and never asked for ?????. In any case, just very good. They ?????

245 Q: Do Jews ???
 A: We ?????. Actually, the Jews are like the Chinese, they're hard-working. Then we Chinese and Jews would be

257 together. ??? I felt, that is to say, in the U.S. ???? You blame person and that person, you are not ?????

267 Q: In business, the Jews ??? Many people say the Jews ???
 A: Right, they want to do business. Perhaps ???? If he has a lot of partners, he'll have to put up with them.
 Q: Oh, the Chinese have to take a lot from the Jews?

A: Yes, but we haven't had such an experience. Our ????
suspicious ?????

Q: Are there more Jews or Chinese in business?

278 A: ??????????. We ????? He's still ??? We guessed that,
????, so we ?????, have contacts, have money.

6 287 Q: Is it your impression that Jews ????

A: ????? very hard ???. If none of us had ??? It's
impossible for us to be equally close to everyone. Our
closest friends are still Chinese, but we still have
white friends. They're also whites. Most of the people
who associate with us ??? Make ??? for us, ????? our
good friends, our work, friendship, our socialization,
?????. Our activities are also ??? American society.
Whites stay together with whites, yellow people stay
together with yellow people. The Japanese associate
with Japanese, ??? They ??? associate with us ???, and
they'll ??????. They have a lot of ???, and marry whites.
320 They ????? marry blacks. We Chinese ??????. They all
live together, but again, they are isolated. ??? at
home, our own way, own cultural background. For
9 330 example, we elderly Chinese still associate with
Chinese. ??? We also have very close friends, and
usually ?????

Q: ????? whites?

340 A: ?????????? Asian background, and the people you associate
with also ????? with you. It's about the same. For
instance, in ??? in Chinatown, when we came, ??? were
all ?????, we could be very polite.

347 Q: Among your friends, ??? in education, ??? Not only
those who came from China, in ???

A: Of course they're professors here. Having come here, of
course ??????. The professors get along very well with
us, ?????? When he was here, he was very close to us,
because we were all in education. ??? in ???, and we
still didn't go. He ??? He's recently been home and
is in very good health.

Q: ?????????

A: He's very busy with his own affairs. I was saying that
I associate with many professors, and they're willing to
associate with us, to form friendships, because they
taught here.

376 Q: Oh.

A: He doesn't teach any more. He lives at ?????, and keeps
in touch with us. The people in education ??? now
don't keep in touch with us. Now ??? that ???, when he
was at ??? he kept in touch with us. ??????

10 391 Q: When you first came to the U.S., ???

A: ?????????

Q: ?????? participated in political activities in China at
that time, or perhaps had joined the ??? in China
previously.

400 A: ??? didn't have any old Overseas Chinese. The ones we

met in China are still living in China. The old Overseas Chinese in ??? are like this, ?????.

Q: ????????

A: At the time of the 1911 Revolution, Sun Yat-sen came to the U.S. to raise funds, ????

410 Q: ????????

A: He was named ?????? We were very young at the time of the 1911 Revolution, and we didn't participate in it. ?????

430 Q: What are your impressions of the war against Japan?

A: We were here during the war against Japan. ???? At that time we wrote letters back home.

440 Q: Your friends in China, your friends in China before you came to the U.S. in 1937, were mostly ????

A: Of course. Come to speak of it, we ???????. We also knew ????. In Nanking, Shanghai, Peking, we all ??????

11 450 Q: Then after you came to the U.S. you ???? again?

A: The ???? in educational circles.

Q: ????????

A: No, during the war ???????. At that time very few people came here to teach. All the people who came here to study longed for victory in the war. We ????, the foreign students then didn't plan to live in the U.S. The foreign students later just studied. ???? the war at ????. After ????, ???? everyone ???? the war. This and that about the war. When the end of the war was announced, everyone we knew here was extremely happy.

466 (End of Tape 3, Side A)

Tape 3 Side B

1 010 A: The ???? in our house ??????. Among the professors at USC at that time were some Kuomintang officials. They ???? as good as could be, it was virtually ???, so everyone was very ?????

018 Q: ???? was a Kuomintang official?

A: Of course his ????. At that time, they were here, and Kuomintang officials then were ????, because China fought against Japan, the U.S. ???? At that time the Kuomintang's prestige was very high. If anyone could see ???, they'd think it was wonderful. ??? Then afterwards we ??? to receive an award. We also spent the money to go to ???? and buy a ????. Many Chinese were there all together. This is our country, ???? this affair, and we all felt it was a bit ????. Everyone was delighted. ????

Q: At that time you ???? the people back home?

A: At that time ????, we ????. I knew that many people here ????. We ????

Q: Oh? ??????

2 040 A: ??? and he liked us to stay in the U.S. ????????

Q: Right, right.

A: He didn't have anything himself, so when he came to the U.S. ???? Afterwards we didn't leave, so we ??? together with him. That ???? was still a Chinese.

050 Q: ???????

A: ???????the first time we passed through ???? to relatives in Hong Kong and Singapore. We sent powdered milk, ?????. Then later his mother ????????????

060 Q: ???????????

A: In Peking all along. ?????? There was also his ??? They were all Hong Kong friends. ??????

Q: Did they do business in Hong Kong?

A: They didn't have a home in Hong Kong. ??????

Q: Then from 1949 to 1968 they were ...?

3 070 A: No, not in 1949. Before the (?) starvation, ??? I forget.

Q: In the 1950's?

A: ????? Nobody had anything to eat. Then ???? hurried ??? Sending money was useless, it was better to send food. Even if you sent money there was nothing to buy. At that time his mother was in there, and knew ???? to send food. ?????

080 Q: Then you always remained in touch in the past?

A: We always kept in touch.

Q: ????? wrote?

A: At that time we couldn't write, ??? I ??????. People didn't know me.

Q: ???????????

A: He didn't ????? until after Nixon went.

Q: Of the Chinese that you know, do they all feel that ??? had to ?????

A: I feel that there are quite a few Chinese who ????? here. Many. They ???????????????.

Q: ???????????????

090 A: They ??????? send money back home, especially ??????. Now, for example, ????? occasionally ?????, marry ?????. The friends we know here often send money, more than we do. Because we trust them a lot, and we didn't say that if we didn't send them money they'd have nothing to eat. ??????????? In the earliest times, ????? in front, ???.

104 4 110 One ??????. Those people ???????????.

Q: Besides sending money back, the Chinese here, among your friends, do they ?????

A: The Chinese here ??????????????????

Q: Yes, the Chinese here ???

A: The Chinese here couldn't afford to buy houses. ??? we didn't. When we came back ??? in 1947, Chinese didn't buy houses here. This was also an old Chinese idea. Now here ??????. Two people work hard, and they all ????? buy houses. Chinese ?????, I think they're also like that, they're also ??????????????. I think Japanese are also like that.

120 Q: ??????????????

130 A: Those two didn't know each other. They don't have
anything to do with us. We feel that we're ????, we
lead a simple life here. The friends we have get along
very well with us. They themselves ????????, and they
associate with us. ?????????? marriage, he kept in
140 touch with us. People like us, he ????, scared. Perhaps
he ????. If they ?????????? we would like it. Sometimes
they don't approach us, they go themselves to lead their
romantic lives, ????, but in trouble, later often seemed
to have no way out, then they'd discuss it with us.
5 150 Then we would talk it over thoroughly with them. ????.
So the ????, people in this Chinatown, we ?????????? with
them.
Q: In your opinion, most Chinese ????

160 A: That's hard to say. The rich whites are incredibly
wealthy. We Chinese ????

Q: ??????????

170 A: For instance, ??????????, then Chinese ??????????. Chinese
won't spend extravagantly like Americans. For instance,
if they both make \$2000, the Chinese can have something
left over, ??????, while the American ??????. They all
180 buy things. Now it's not hard for Chinese to find jobs.
Why? Because everyone recognizes that Chinese ??????????.
So I think that compared to Americans, ??????????????.
Our ????, all at USC, no other place. Of course, USC ???
now ????. Most Americans have jobs, ??????. If they don't
6 190 have jobs, ?????? Now many Chinese ??????????, whites
?????????. Now things are very good. If they have jobs, I
think Chinese are the most ??????????. American ?????? have
200 a lot of money, and we Chinese ?????? have money to do
business. The business in Chinatown is not small. Some
people in the U.S. ?????? They are ??????????. I think
there's still a chance for Chinese to ??????????????. Then
in ??????????????, now in ?????????? made a lot of money. ??????

213 Q: Do you know a lot of Chinese ??????????

A: I still ?????????? not a lot. ?????????? Chinatown. At that
time, many of the students who came here already had
families.

222 Q: Their wives were in China?

A: Their wives were in China. ??????????

(End of Tape 3, Side B)

Tape 4 Side A

- 1 014 Q: How did the single students ???? their wives? Did they go back to China to marry, or did they marry here?
A: At that time ?????? all married here.
Q: Oh? They married American-born girls?
A: Of the several single men that we had frequent contact with at that time, one married a Chinese and two married Americans.
Q: Really?
A: Mmm.
Q: What was the reaction then? How did you all feel about marrying Americans?
- 021 A: In our circle, everyone seemed to feel ????
Q: Was that common?
A: Not very common. We were almost sisters with those few single people at that time, ??????. There were 4 men then, and one of them didn't marry. Of the other 3, one married a woman from China, and two married whites.
- 028 Q: Oh.
A: We didn't think much about this, whether it was right or not. It just happened. We also said that we would still be their friends. It was still all right.
Q: Then most of the single men that you knew ????
A: Of the 4 men that I was talking about, one ????????, two ?????? and one returned to ??? to work.
- 2 035 Q: But he got married here?
A: He got married here. His wife still lives and works here.
Q: What about the other two?
A: Of the two, one is still teaching in the U.S., and one went to teach in Hong Kong.
Q: Oh. ??????????
A: They all married here. Speaking of that time, we were older than they were, and I was like their sister.
- 040 Q: What about the other Chinese? ??????????
A: I think most Chinese didn't like to marry non-Chinese, and blacks even less so. Whites were their ??????, and they liked to marry Chinese. We know of a very close friend of ours -- they ??????????
Q: Did that Professor Han also marry two wives?
A: No. Professor Han's own wife was an American. He got married in China. He married this white woman in China.
- 050 This white Mrs. Han liked him because he was so down-to-earth. She was an English instructor.
Q: Oh, I see.
- 053 A: So Professor Han married a white.
Q: He married a white in China. Did he later bring her over?

A: Later he brought her to the U.S. His wife almost pleaded, she didn't dare to go over. She was older than Professor Han. ?????????, so Mrs. Han was a very good friend of ours. We often said, "He ?????? your marriage." This Professor and Mrs. Han got along very well. Mrs. Han went to teach in China. She had quite a large ?????? They get along fine. To get back to those assistants I was speaking of. They both married Americans, and they've achieved a lot and are doing very well.

065

Q:

Oh.

A:

They seem to get along fine. The one who married a Chinese, they weren't ?????, so they went back to China.

Q:

Was it too far?

Q:

The two of them went back. The wife felt that ?????

071

Q:

When did they go back?

A:

They went back the year that ??????. I forget the year. It was after ?????????.

Q:

Of the people who married and had children here, I mean the couples who married Chinese, then their children would be American-born. Did they say that in education they would like to make them more Chinese?

081

A:

Take our children, for example. After school, they would ?????? After school, we would teach them

?????????. In 1946, when we returned to China, ??????.

Then we ??????????. At Columbia we ??????????.

Q:

Can they all speak Chinese?

A:

They can speak Chinese. Originally, they spoke Foochow dialect. Then later when we taught them, we taught them Mandarin. Later they themselves felt a need for this.

090

In our dealings here we often speak Mandarin. At Christmas parties in our home, people tell jokes in Mandarin. In the past, they didn't know ?????, and they

themselves felt this frustration. Now at least they can understand Mandarin, and they can also speak a little.

What about your other children?

093

Q:

We only have two. ?????? one, and then we had another.

A:

As for my grandchild, he doesn't know any Chinese. I think my daughter is worse than other Chinese.

Q:

Your daughter?

A:

My daughter deliberately ?????? Chinese culture. We put in such a great effort to let her study Chinese, to

expose her to Chinese. But she didn't teach her child.

What about her husband?

Q:

Her husband was born in China.

A:

Oh.

A:

They speak English at home, so actually the two of them don't have to speak Mandarin. It seems so nice to speak Mandarin, Peking dialect, because he was raised in Peking. He also speaks Shanghainese, because he did advanced study there for a year. He's originally a Cantonese, so he also speaks Cantonese. So he can speak

3 languages. At home he speaks ????? to us. They all
100 like Chinese food, and can use chopsticks.
Q: Oh, then do your other friends ??? with you?
A: I think we'll have this desire all our lives, to ??????
Q: ??????
A: ?????? all want their children to study Chinese, then?
?????. The children of our generation were all born and
raised in the U.S., and all their parents want them to
study Chinese. The next generation will be different.
4 121 Q: What are your views about preferring sons to daughters?
A: Of course our views are different from those of others.
We don't have ??????. We just have 2 children, and both
are daughters, but we feel this is fine. ????? Friends
say they prefer sons, and we say, ??????. We ????, and
they don't know ????. Of course we prefer boys, we
still prefer boys, one son and one daughter. Of course
133 it happened to be two girls, and later we didn't ????.
We ??????????
Q: ??????
A: When we went home, ??????
Q: Oh.
A: I think I ?????? my mother ??? cried. Have another
child. ????? I can't hear them. I ????? strong. ???
5 143 my brother-in-law ??????. He ??? and said to his
mother, "Why don't you have another? If you do, it
might be a boy." He said, "I'm poor, I have no money, I
can only support two children." His mother said, "I ???
may also be possible, I can sell the house, if only
you'll have another." Of course we still only had two,
two girls. ??????
153 Q: ??????
A: ??????. When we went back in 1946, my sister-in-law
went with us ??????. Her younger brother was a doctor,
?????. When we were in Foochow she had a son. My
mother was so happy she was ????. She knelt down and
prayed to the Lord. She said, "Thank God, now I have a
grandson."
166 Q: That was your mother-in-law?
A: My mother-in-law. Our friends and relatives now can't
see us.
Q: ??????
A: ??????
Q: What about your friends?
A: Our friends? We only have two daughters.
171 Q: You were speaking about your friends. When they ???
sons they didn't care or did they ??????
A: I think it doesn't matter to any of our friends. My
son-in-law was joking. His first was a boy, and the
second was a boy, and the third was a boy. He said, "If
I have three of the same kind, I'd prefer they were all
boys."
Q: What about your daughters? Do they care, or are they

also ????
180 A: I don't think it matters to them. She was joking that if all three were girls, you could ???? show them to your mother. I don't go to look after their children, either. I have so many other things to do. Most Chinese prefer boys.
Q: Even those born here?
A: Yes, I'm still, I'm ?????. When you're born, you don't deceive them, you don't discriminate against them, you wouldn't. But in the back of their mind, I think 99% of Chinese prefer at least ???? one more.
6 190 Q: Are the American-borns like that too?
A: American-borns also say that. Very few Chinese marry and then have no children, but many Americans do. Most Chinese still have one or two children, hoping that later ????
Q: The children of the friends that you know were born and raised here. When they grew up ??????
200 A: I think that in our time the ones raised here ??????. The Chinese now are different from the ones before. They ??????. Here we often say, "Go back for a visit, come back and say unpleasant things about the mainland." They refuse to even go back and stay a bit longer. Now life in China is ?????????????? So if they want to go back to China to live, ?????? go back to visit, ?????.
210 Q: ??????????
A: It's impossible to go live there. Like my sister-in-law, they went back ??????. When they were there, they said they enjoyed the trip. After they came back, they were extremely ?????, "Impossible, smelly, stinky, and dirty." ?????????????? For most people, life
220 over there ??????. For example, ????? the houses were built ?????, so there weren't any new ones for 60 years. They're still old. Life in Foochow, in Shanghai, Peking there are still some places with ?????. They didn't use to have those in Foochow. Now everyone ????? the same, they still wash their feet the same way, drinking water
7 230 has to be carried up from the well, life is very primitive. Clothes still have to be washed by rubbing them against a board. How can that life ????? born and raised in the U.S.?
Q: Before Liberation, before 1949, did American-born friends ????? at that time?
240 A: At that time?
Q: ??????????
A: Their views were like this. The earliest immigrants came to the U.S. This is for you to study ??????. The very earliest immigrants they all went back home to have children, and left them back home to receive an education. Many wives didn't join their husbands, ??????. ????? after that. Before it was like this. They made money here and returned to their villages in Guangdong

250

to get married. After getting married, they left their wives and children in the Cantonese countryside. The husbands came back to work, and after a few years they went back again. The first time they went back they'd have one or two children. Then after 10 years they'd go back again and have another one or two children. They led that kind of life. The money they earned was sent back to await them when they retired, they'd retire in China. In the earliest time, they led this kind of life. What about later? Some wives were brought out. I know quite a number of wives who were brought out and had children here. When these children reached school age they were sent back to China for an education. Many people were like that. ??????

260

Q: ??????????

A: Now, for example, I know people in their fifties and sixties, and many of them went back to China for an education. ??? that Robin Lau of Cathay Bank.

Q: Robin Lau?

270

A: He was like that. His siblings, brother and sister, were all born here, and went to China for their education. So for a time this was very common, because at that time the Overseas Chinese all felt that education in China was very good, and everyone went back. Later there were also some who graduated from colleges in China and came back to the U.S. for graduate studies. After the war, everyone went back. When the war ended, after the war ended, we students all hurried back.

8. 283

Q: Everyone did that?

A: At that time we knew those students who came here to study. When we graduated, M.A.'s, Ph.D.'s, whatever, we all went back to China to teach.

Q: What about after the war?

A: Things were different after this ????????. So now we ???????? from Taiwan, from the mainland, from Hong Kong. They all won't go back because the Communists have taken over the mainland, so after the Communists took the mainland, I think there are very few who want to go back, whether they're born in the U.S. or born in China. There are practically none. One or two go back, now one or two go back. They ????, and go back there to teach English. There aren't any who really go back there to work.

300

Q: The people who used to send their children to China for education -- did they ever say that they hoped their children would return to stay by them after finishing school?

310

A: As it turned out, the war broke out, and they all returned to the U.S. ?????????? Once the war broke out, everyone hurried back. Then some went back. They went back after the war, and then after the Communists went

in, they all came back again. You shouldn't say that now the American-born ??????. Now in China we ??????, everyone wants to come to the U.S. Now ?????????? We now ??????????????. Everyone wants to ??????????, but it's not possible now. They only permit 20,000, 20,000 Chinese now. Taiwan wants it, Hong Kong wants it, the mainland also wants it, so it's not possible.

320 Q: Earlier, in 1937, when you came to the U.S., did you see any American movies?

A: I did then. Why? Because I had to take my children to see them.

Q: Oh! Were those children's movies?

330 A: Not necessarily. It was because the children wanted to go. The two of us weren't interested in movies or in ??????. Our life consisted of reading books, and watching TV occasionally, all day long. Even now we still don't watch TV.

Q: He doesn't watch anything either?

A: Never. He doesn't watch TV, and now the only one ????? USC football team. Besides that, he doesn't watch TV. When the children were young, he couldn't lead our kind of life. You had to take them out on Sunday afternoon to the park for a walk, Saturday, not every week. They also wanted to see movies. How can you bring up children by making them sit there all day reading books? That's impossible.

340 Q: What language do you speak with your children?

A: We speak either Foochow dialect or English. Why do we speak English? ??????????????

350 Q: ??????????????

A: Control ??????????. He was on the ship, aboard the ship. At that time we sailed on ships. ????????? He couldn't get along with the other children, and when we saw this, we thought we should take him to the U.S. Then

360 ??????????, like other people, so we quickly let him go. ????? they don't even speak the Chinese they learned.

Q: Oh!

A: It was very quick. ?????????

Q: ?????????

A: One was two years old, the other was four. ??????????????

Q: Then you hurriedly brought them back?

A: We hurriedly brought them back. So being parents ??????, so we went to see movies. ????????? always took the children to see them.

370 Q: Did you ever see so-called Chinese in the movies, or Chinese ??????

A: There were very few then. For example, at that time ?????, but we didn't go sing.

Q: When ??????????

A: To him, of course ??????. Of course we went to see "The Good Earth." At that time we always brought the children to see movies.

380 Q: Did you feel that the leads in "The Good Earth" ??????
A: Of course. When you think of it, they were still acting Chinese.

Q: But they portrayed Chinese, whites portrayed Chinese. But could you tell from their speech and other things ??????

10 393 A: Of course you couldn't say that. In general, I think movies like "The Good Earth" and "The Pleasant Sea" were all right. There wasn't much discrimination in the movies. I think it's proper.

400 Q: Proper?

A: It's proper. Of course at that time they didn't use Chinese ?????? There were also Chinese at that time who were born and raised in the U.S. When we first came there was a movie star ??????

403 Q: Did you know her?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did you ever see her movies?

A: I saw some, but not many.

410 Q: ???????? what did she act?

A: Of course she was the leading lady.

Q: What kind of roles did she play?

A: I can't remember now. I remember seeing her ?????. That's not to say that it was a very important part. As for movie stars now, ??????, so Chinese are so ?????????? in ??????. Chinese aren't so stupid.

422 Q: How did Americans portray Chinese?

430 A: Before, for instance, we saw that ???? or whatever. The ???? in Chinatown, he used to set ??? image, and portray the Chinese as mysterious. This ??? whatever, I've see everything.

Q: Oh?

A: At that time, ???????? was also old. It was upsetting then, but at that time that was how Americans thought Chinese were.

Q: Then you've seen all kinds of movies?

440 A: At that time ????. We knew ?????? very well here, and we also discussed this question. They also went to ??????

Q: Among your friends or their children, ????????

A: I don't think there's any. ??????????

Q: ??????????

(End of Tape 4, Side A)

Tape 4 Side B

A: They didn't say ????????????

Q: They always ??????? like this?

/ 020 A: We and other Chinese joined this ??????????. No matter how well you spoke English, you ??????????, you ????????? different. So I think Chinese needn't be ashamed to be Chinese. ?????????? ???????? to appreciate Chinese. Up to now I'm very pleased. Why? Like us, at home we ?????

030 You can't say we ????, so we ??????????. Look, here, this engineer, the Chinese Engineers' Society. There's also a Chinese Society in ??????. There are doctors, and professors have also formed one. ??? Chinese professor, ????. Actually Chinese still feel Chinese and want to get together. Here we also have Chinese ????

Q: What about in work ??????????

2 040 A: That doesn't matter, I think, for Chinese. Now it's formed here, so we'll have to see, what's good about this ????

Q: What kinds of jobs do you think are the best? Ideal jobs?

A: In our time, when we got our children, at that time everyone felt that studying science was best, so we encouraged our children to study science. So my daughter ????, and her children are studying engineering and computer science. They're all going into science ?????

Q: Why?

050 A: Before, Chinese did it because it was easier to get jobs. Of course now it's also easy for accountants to get jobs.

Q: Then do you encourage your children to study ...?

A: You have to ????? a certain course, that you can make ??? get a job. Now you study those ????. My husband studied for a Ph.D. in education. He got a job all right, but I got my Ph.D. ??? I didn't get a job. If I knew I was going to be here, I would have studied other science. You've got to study something that can provide, create a job. Nowadays if you go for a Ph.D. in education or literature, you don't have this, you can't find a job.

060 Q: When you were teaching and studying here, how many ??? Chinese ??? were there?

A: Very few. To tell the truth, there were very few Chinese in ????. At the time of ??? looking for jobs in the U.S. ???.

Q: What about a couple of your associates?

A: When I was studying sociology, there were none, basically none.

Q: Oh? Then why did you study ????

3 070 A: For convenience. It was relatively ??????. After ??? came over here, there was no chance to study science. This ????, I originally was his ????. After a few years, after I got married, I stopped studying and forgot it, forgot ????. You have to go on the

080 beginning, you can't just go on. ?????? But sociology, ??????. How can you study ?????? Then you have to go to college. ?????? So I took sociology. I was only a mother, a housewife. I took something easy.

Q: Were there very few Chinese like yourself studying for a

Ph.D. that way?

090 A: There were hardly any. ???????? Now studying ????????.
I had nothing to do, so I studied. ??? I had a friend,
a very close American-born friend. She said that her
mother was still alive, in northern California. She
said, "I want to see my mother over a couple of twenty
years(?). ??? doing nothing all day long. She doesn't
know English, can't read ????, just doing nothing." How
can anybody do that? I can't, I have to do something.
100 I'm glad I still ??? as before. As my husband went to
??? to teach, I again had no right ??? his class. The
U.S. military club -- we just lived there and ate three
meals in their cafeteria. Finally I couldn't stand it.
I'm lucky ????. I cooked myself. ??? electric stove,
electric skillet in the bedroom. Each apartment had a
refrigerator, but there was no stove. ??? Everyday I
4 110 cooked my meals, go with a bag to do my shopping. I
could go every day, and it didn't matter if I had to
take the bus. American servicemen ??? didn't have to
pay to take the bus, ??????. In the morning I go to
??????. When I came back I could cook. You have to get
something to do. Otherwise, ??? I go, I went to the
120 library. At that time I was still teaching, so we had
many books. At that time we always had ten or more
books. At night ??? there was a radio, and we'd listen
to the army broadcasts. ??? That came only one in a
half ??????. We also had TV, and I watched it. You've
got to have something to do.

Q: You got your Ph.D. in 1952?

A: In 1952.

Q: Then you immediately started teaching?

A: Before that I was already teaching. After I came back
from China in 1947.

Q: Oh, you started teaching when you got your Master's.

130 A: My Master's, but I continued my course in ????

Q: I thought you had to have a Ph.D. before you could
teach.

A: I just taught a little ??? part-time, school time job.
????? Just now you were asking what the Chinese studied.
Chinese are very practical, and the subjects they study
have to ????????, have to be able to make money, have to
be able to get a job. Look at this Chinatown college
now. The ????? Chinese who came from the mainland.

140 Q: Your parents ??????

A: My parents? My mother passed away when I was 4 years
old. A year or two after I got married my father also
died. So I had to discuss those things with my father,
and he also disagreed. My parents were... of course my
father was... my mother ?????? because at her time, at
that time, no girl ever studied. So my father ???, but
not a mother ??? new market. My father ????

5 150 Q: If he were alive, would he object to ????

A: Of course when I went all by myself to go to school in Peking, my father felt it was ????. I studied in Peking for two years, and my family called me back. ??????????

Q: ??????????

A: There were no ????????????. Why did I want to go to Yenching University? I graduated from Mandarin seniors high school. At that time there was a ????????? in
160 Foochow. We ??? looked down on ??????????????????. At that time colleges were ????, male students, no female students. So if I, a female student, wanted to go to college, I'd have to go to South China, to another province. I wouldn't go to South China University, I looked down on them. South China was a ????? women's college.

Q: Oh, oh.

170 A: So at that time I wouldn't even ????. The ??? was the missionary college. The church ???? also had their high school. The ??? had a college, but I looked down on them. ??????? of course that is not to say that my family encouraged me to go. I ??????????????. I came with
180 my sister to ??????????????. My elder sister helped me ????.

Q: What year did you come here to teach?

A: 1947.

Q: '47. I'm not very familiar with your system, ????

A: We ????. Of course he went to work right away. I lectured, I've always lectured.

Q: Even after your Ph.D.?

6 190 A: No, not even that. In theory, my husband ??? in full, wife ????? part-time. ???? 1949. So I ???? this Chinese whatever, those people ??????????. Afterwards none of
200 them would go to look for work. Later it was better to ????? slowly. Small college ?????

Q: Were they the same as whites, or did they have to work extra hard?

213 A: I saw those ??????????????

Q: But before ????

A: At that time there weren't many Chinese here. I think now that's why they wanted to go back. Before, of course the Chinese didn't have talent in ?????, people to
220 teach. People could ??????????????. When you first started you were a lecturer, and after a few years you were a professor. ?????

Q: ??????????????

A: No. ??????????????

Q: ??????????????????

7 230 A: ??????????????

Q: Then what about you yourself? ??????????

A: I don't care what, I study for the fun of study. I hoped for the fun of teaching. This is all ???, extra ????? professional. I have no ambition. I want to keep myself occupied and do something. Work for... when my

life.. then I'm very happy.

240 Q: How are your students to you?

A: My students are very nice to me. ??????

Q: Do they like your course?

A: Oh, yes. My course was very popular. One of the most popular courses.

(End of Tape 4, Side B)