

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Mable Hong
Interview Number: 115
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Interviewer: Jean Wong

Notes

You Chung Hong, Mable Hong's husband, was born in San Francisco, born deformed. His father's family from Chungshan, mother's family from Toishan.

Worked his way through high school in Berkeley, and then tried to find a job. Since he couldn't find a job in the San Francisco area, he went to the east coast to look and was stranded in Boston. Somehow he worked his way back to Los Angeles and worked as an interpreter for the Immigration Office.

While Y.C. Hong worked in the Immigration Office, he noticed how the officers harrassed the Chinese. It was then that he decided to study law so he went to night school at USC. Y. C. Hong received his M.A. in law from USC and then started his own practice.

Y.C. was the first Chinese lawyer in Southern California and may have been the first licensed Chinese lawyer in California.

Since Y.C.'s father died when he was very young, Y.C. also had to support his mother and his sister.

Y.C.'s mother sent him to Chinese school.

Y.C. used to teach English to Chinese immigrants in San Francisco.

Y.C. practiced law at his Gin Ling Way office from 1938 to 1977. He was one of the first Chinese lawyers admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Y.C. specialized in immigration law. Ninety percent of his clients were Chinese. He worked for legislation for the betterment of the Chinese. He was also active in the community, joining clubs such as the Chinese American Citizens Alliance.

In 1938 he built the gate in front of Gin Ling Way in commemoration of his mother. The plaque directly underneath the gate was given by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. The gate has been named, "The Pailon of Mother Virtue" by one writer. Y.C. built that gate in memory of his mother but in honor of all mothers. Y.C.'s mother didn't remarry after her husband died but took care of the children herself.

Y.C. had served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Chinese Times. He was also national president of the CACA for 4 years.