

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Marshall Hoo  
 Chinese Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Interview: 5/24/80, 2/14/81  
 Interviewer: Beverly Chan  
 Others Present: none  
 Language: English  
 Summarizer: Stella Ling

Interview Number: 103  
 Number of Tapes: 3  
 Length: 2 Hours & 18 Minutes

Contents

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary	Tape: <u>1</u> Side <u>A</u>
1	001-007	Introduction.	
	008-014	Marshall Hoo's (MH) parents were born in San Francisco.	
	015-019	California became a state in 1850. The Chinese came subsequently as laborers and farmers. Some of the Chinese may have come to find gold because the response to the discovery of gold in California was worldwide.	
	020-024	The Chinese came probably because the conditions in Canton were so bad from the 1850's to the 1870's that starvation resulted from the agrarian revolution. Many of the Chinese left China and went to other parts of the world.	
	025-030	MH's grandfather came to the United States during the latter part of the gold rush. MH's grandfather came in the 1870's.	
	031-036	MH's grandfather came for the same reason the other Cantonese came. At that time, there were great political changes, poverty, and instability in South China. There were rumors of great opportunity elsewhere. The merchant marines of the United States were active in the southern China ports.	
2	037-040	During the beginnings of the California state, people thought of "Gim San" (金山) as the hills and mountains of gold.	
	041-050	MH's father never came to Los Angeles. During the years around 1900, MH's father's era, the Chinese were not familiar with American geography and history. The Chinese life was limited to the San Francisco area.	
	051-059	MH's father was a laborer. He also was a collector for the telephone company in Oakland Chinatown. After the San Francisco fire, the Chinese moved from San Francisco to Oakland so there was a large Chinese community there.	

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	060-066	MH's father was a collector in the Chinatown area. He needed to be able to speak English in order to communicate with his superior as well as to speak Chinese to communicate with the people that had telephones. Not many people had telephones in Chinatown at that time.
	067-069	MH was born in San Francisco in 1910. His father died in 1911.
3	070-079	MH came to Los Angeles in 1930. The opportunities in the Bay area seemed to be fewer than those in Los Angeles. People looked to Los Angeles as a more modern and exciting place than San Francisco.
	080-095	MH attended elementary school and high school in Oakland Chinatown. He also took courses at different colleges. He never got a bachelor's degree. He received a degree at an engineering school but only attended for about two years.
	096-099	MH went to Oakland Technic College. He took courses at UC Berkeley.
	100-103	MH's mother died a few years after his father died. MH only has one younger sister.
4	104-109	MH's relatives brought him up after his parents died. During those days, the clan was a very strong unit.
	110-112	MH's Chinese name is Hoo Da.
	113-117	MH's family is from Huiping in China.
	118-119	MH has returned to China in recent years.
	120-135	Many years ago, MH had some cousin in China that would write to MH for some money. MH's grandfather may have married several times so MH had these relationships. They were difficult for MH especially since his father died at such an early age and MH was not acquainted with these distant cousins in China.
	136-138	At that time, it was common for distant relatives in China to write to the Chinese in the United States and ask for money.
	139-146	They wrote to MH and said that he was a part owner of the family's farmlands in China and thus was responsible for some of its expenses.
5	147-151	MH would send a sum of money back to them a few times. These requests were made before 1945.
	152-158	MH may have accompanied his uncle back to China to buy goods for the restaurant when he was very young. MH does not remember going back to China.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	152-158	MH may have accompanied his uncle back to China to buy goods for the restaurant when he was very young. MH does not remember going back to China.
	159-166	A lot of MH's earlier life is obscure. Most of MH's friends can remember things that happened to them when they were three years old. MH does not remember anything before six years old. It must have been an unconscious effort to forget about his past.
	167-175	MH grew up in Oakland Chinatown. He associated with Chinese people and was able to absorb the Chinese culture.
	176-184	MH has been going to school all his life. Even now, he takes a few classes here and there.
6	185-189	MH worked for the engineering department of Hughes Aircraft Company during World War II.
	190-202	After MH came to Los Angeles, he took up various jobs at various places. He usually worked in the market. Los Angeles changes so quickly.
	203-211	MH associated less with the Chinese after he left San Francisco. There were few opportunities in Chinatown so MH had to venture outside of Chinatown. Consequently he associated with Caucasians more especially since he had to live outside of Chinatown.
	212-216	The Chinese tended to stay in Chinatown because their relatives were there and because they felt more comfortable there.
	217-220	MH lived outside Chinatown when he came to Los Angeles. There were no opportunities in Chinatown at that time.
	221-230	No one can understand what the Depression was like unless they went through it themselves. During the Depression, you saw no one working. Everyone would just sit on their porches. The civil service people were the only ones to have employment. There was about 15 million unemployed people in a population of about 90 million.
7	233-241	The Chinese were affected worse by the Depression compared to the general population. Since the Chinese were a minority, they were the last to get hired. The only reason they found work sometimes was because they would work for low wages.
	242-257	Chinese families are always closely united. They were already at the bottom of the social ladder and the majority of them already lived in the slums. They were not the same as an American man that dropped from Beverly Hills to Watts. The Chinese had nowhere else to go.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
7	258-263	The needy will accept anything because they had no choice. The middle class had no choice to accept the help of food programs or not, but the lower class had no choice.
	254-279	The Chinese asked help from their relatives because they did not know how to go about seeking the help of governmental agencies. There were some Chinese that did not accept relief because of their pride. There may be an effort among local Chinese historians to romanticize about the past by saying the Chinese would not accept relief. Yet if there was a big basket of food, the Chinese would have taken it if they needed it.
8	280-295	MH did accept some relief while he was unemployed. MH joined American workers in the organization for the unemployed. In those days, they did not have Welfare, they had relief. There would be handouts of food baskets.
	296-304	In those days, the Depression was a result of a surplus of goods. Today, there is a scarcity of goods. In those days, the market people could not even get three cents a pound for their potatoes.
	305-330	There are two ways of looking at how the Depression affected the Chinese. An individual Chinese may have suffered less than someone from the general population because the Chinese families took care of one another. As a group, the income level of the Chinese dropped. They were the last to be hired and the first to be fired, so naturally their income level dropped further than the whites. There is a need to stop living in an illusion and romanticizing about the Chinese conditions at that time.
9	331-337	During his teens, MH worked in the canneries in northern California for about 25 cents an hour. That was in 1925 or 1926.
	338-355	During the Depression, the wages were about 35 cents to one dollar an hour. During the onset of the Depression, some of the industries did have wage cuts. In some places, the wages were already so low that they could not get any lower.
	356-364	During the stock market crash, some people did better because they did not invest in the stock market. Some people had their private savings and could buy much more for their money during the Depression.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
9	365-385	During that time, half the people MH worked with were Chinese. MH worked for some Chinese fruit and vegetable retail markets. MH worked for some American markets and also some Chinese wholesale meat shops. Sometimes MH did housework, sometimes he did garden work, and sometimes he would do labor such as truck loading.
10	386-406	MH could not find a job as an engineer. MH worked in Fresno and nearby areas doing field work such as picking grapes or working in the canneries. Between seasons, MH would go to school and learn engineering or mechanics. It was very difficult to go to school as well as support yourself at the same time in those days. Other people could do it because their fathers maintained a business and were able to put their children through college.
	407-420	MH started working on his own at the age of fifteen, after he graduated from high school in 1927. Before that, MH would try to work after school.
	421-453	MH got married before the war. He married a Korean American. People did not approve of the marriage. In those days, there was disapproval even when a Sze Yup married a Sum Yup.
11	454-464	MH was married in 1939--he was 30 years old. Interracial marriages were just beginning to show up.
	465-483	MH was an orphan at an early age and started out on his own at an early age. He did not work in Chinatown but with American people. He developed a very singular sense and things like interracial marriages are just a matter of course to him.
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1	003-013	MH always had a curious mind. Being an orphan he learned to be very quiet and started to observe, to read, and thus to think for himself.
	014-018	MH has thought of questions such as "Who am I?" before having them break upon him and becoming problems. MH learned how to speak Chinese and also to read Chinese newspapers.
	019-024	In those days, everyone attended Chinese school for a while after American school. MH attended Chinese school for a few years. The school would not be very strict about attendance.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
1	025-026 027-047	MH's uncle paid for MH's Chinese education. MH feels that his Chinese education was useful. Any education you acquire is useful. MH's identity with the Chinese is fairly solid because he grew up in a Chinese community. MH thinks of himself as a Chinese American. MH knows that he is not the same as the Chinese from China nor is he the same as the white Americans here.
2	048-054 055-069	MH feels more Chinese than American because of his physical appearance. MH was angry for being Chinese when he was young because there were a lot of things forbidden to the Chinese. In some towns, there was an eight or nine o'clock curfew for the Chinese. MH is not sure about the legality of these restrictions. When the whistle blew at 9 o'clock at city hall, the policemen would tell the Chinese to go home.
3	070-081 082-084 085-091 092-093 094-100	MH has not experienced one, but one thousand, acts of discrimination against Chinese. From the time MH was born until 1940, discrimination was the normal life of the Chinese. When China became an ally of the United States during the war, the discrimination started to end because of necessity. The Americans wanted the Chinese to fight as soldiers in the war. The Chinese were seen as allies on an international scale. Also, the American soldiers began to pick up Chinese and Japanese girls. These sociological factors minimized the discrimination. MH has never seen a Chinese mayor and this, to him, is a subtle form of discrimination. MH has seen a lot of Chinese Uncle Toms in his life. In the latter part of the 1930's, MH was doing better financially and could afford to buy an apartment or house instead of having to live with someone else or to rent a room. MH did experience housing discrimination in certain areas of the city. In the earlier days, there would be hotels that did not accept the Chinese and barbers that refused to cut their hair. About five or six years ago, MH was in Aspen, Colorado and a barber refused to cut his hair. The barber said that he was busy and for MH to come back some other time. MH asked when and the barber replied "In the far future."

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
3	101-108	The discrimination was less overt in Los Angeles. Chinese were the last to receive a service. They would try to sell the Chinese old shoes assuming that the Chinese did not know any better. There is subtle discrimination going on all the time.
4	109-113	If MH makes a public appearance with a Caucasian lady, everyone would stare at them.
	114-127	MH comes from a different era that questioned everything the Chinese did. They would not cash a check for the Chinese. People would say things like "He doesn't have a Chinaman's chance." The attitude towards the Chinese is different now that the Chinese and the Americans were allies in the war.
	128-133	In those days, there was not way to take any legal recourse as a result of housing discrimination. People could rent and sell to whoever they wanted to. The fair housing laws came after World War II.
	134-144	Some of the small towns in northern California still treat the Chinese very rudely.
5	145-155	The people that see the Chinese as an inferior group are slowly dying off. In California in the old days, the Chinese were treated even worse than the Blacks. The Blacks could buy land, the Chinese could not. There was the Oriental Land Laws that prohibited the Chinese from buying land.
	156-169	In the 1870's and 1880's there were anti-Chinese riots and ten Chinese were hanged in Los Angeles. In the 1870's and 1880's, the Americans were interested in panning gold and welcomed the Chinese to do the menial work since they did not have time to do such things as cooking, cleaning the streets, and doing the laundry.
	170-174	When the gold began to disappear and the white men returned to the city there was no work for them. They made the excuse that the Chinese took their work away from them in order to have a reason for having these race riots.
	175-183	The Americans also claimed that the Chinese would not be easily assimilated because they were all males and not families. They felt that the Chinese were an inferior group that could be disposed of.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
6	184-194	The Hoo's were a small clan in the United States although they were a large clan in China. There was a small family association in San Francisco consisting of several hundred people. In Los Angeles, there were about 80 or 90 people in the clan.
	195-203	In San Francisco, MH's elders would tell him to go to these family association dinners so people would know how he was. MH did not join any family associations in Los Angeles. the Wongs, the Four Families and the Lees were very strong clans.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE B

1	001-004	Introduction.
	005-012	The Chinese groups that came from South China were from different isolated villages. Some clans were able to get more people here than other clans. There were not a lot of Hoos that came over.
	013-017	MH paid attention to the conditions in the Chinese community to a certain extent. Some of his observations were not intentional. MH would buy food in Chinatown and cook Chinese food sometimes if it was cheaper.
	018-019	MH had a tendency of eating Chinese food even when he was among whites.
	020-024	When MH was in Chinatown to buy things, he would hear a lot of things from the other people.
	025-032	MH does not remember the names of the prominent people in Chinatown in those days. He sees no point in remembering their names. The professional Chinese did not come into existence until the 1960's.
2	033-037	When MH was engaged in odd jobs such as field work, most of his co-workers were Americans, Mexicans, and Blacks. There were a few Chinese.
	038-050	In 1950, MH went into business with some American partners selling school supplies. MH owned the block on North Main Street in Old Chinatown called School Days Equipment Company. MH did that for ten years until 1960.
	051-060	In those days, when you worked for a Chinese, you would work long hours and for unorganized labor. There was no advancement when you worked for a Chinese family business. There were more opportunities working for the Americans. There was also a greater likelihood that you would move up the ladder.



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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
2	061-072	MH used to join the unemployment groups during the Depression. They would sit together and try to answer the question of why there was a Depression.
3	073-085	These groups were study and action groups. Sometimes they would have demonstrations at warehouses. They blamed the system for letting people starve to death in such an affluent country.
	086-091	If you were unemployed and there was a group that was fighting for food, you would join the group. MH would join a union that strived to get job security. The Chinese did not join these groups because they were not fighting against the economical set-up but against the white people.
	092-095	MH felt that the Chinese laborer and the American laborer should not blame each other for taking each other's jobs. They should cooperate and help each other. Words such as "socialist" and "communist" were not in their vocabularies at that time.
	096-100	In recreation, MH would join both the Chinese and the American athletic groups. MH worked for the Los Angeles County Playground Department and was the athletic director at that time.
	101-108	MH learned to play mahjong and played for several years but then realized that it was a waste of time. Every Chinese goes through a phase learning how to gamble in poker, horse races, etc., but MH realized the odds were against him and lost interest.
4	109-116	MH's uncle was a principal in a gambling set-up in Oakland. MH used to drive a gambling car back and forth. MH was once a body guard for gamblers when he was 18 years old.
	117-122	When MH came to Los Angeles, he got away from the gambling scene.
	123-128	Gambling can be considered the Chinese's favorite past time in those days because it was one of the only ways the Chinese could have hopes of getting out of their miserable conditions.
	129-145	If you are very poor, you have very limited chances of climbing the social ladder because of your lack of education, lack of influence from your family, and limiting social classes. Thus gambling a part of their income in those days was a possible way the Chinese could get out of their misery.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	146-152	The rich also gamble. The rich gamble as a form of recreation. The poor gamble as some sort of hope. Gambling is both a past time and a fight against destiny.
	153-160	MH gambled for about two years. He would go to race tracks and play mahjong. He realized that the Chinese lose so much time playing mahjong. MH will still go to the race tracks once in while if he has a chance.
	161-178	MH feels that gambling is part of the macho theory of living for men. Women gamble on a different basis. There is a tendency for men to associate the results of their gambling bets with manhood.
	179-185	Most of the Chinese were industrious because they came from an economy of scarcity. Chinese learned to save their money as a survival item to take them through possible hard times in the future.
6	186-202	Times improved for the Chinese after the war. After a group of people have gone through times of suffering, they tend to be much more cautious with their money.
	203-211	The Chinese in those days lived in contact with one another. Social life was based on the family circle.
	212-217	Any member of an ethnic group will try to locate himself or herself with his or her race because of the food, the ease of speaking their mother tongue, and for a sense of security if the group is discriminated against.
	218-221	Before World War II, an income of \$100 a month would be considered good.
	222-240	In MH's youth, he lived among the Chinese in San Francisco all the time. After MH came to Los Angeles, he would not have found a place to live in Chinatown because it was too crowded. MH may have stayed away from Chinatown in order to escape the public opinions the Chinese tend to make.
7	241-254	MH was the president of the Chinese Federation of Clubs. A group of about 20 clubs got together to help China in the war against Japan. They sent medicine, ambulances, and money to China.
	255-267	MH represented Santa Monica and Venice. About 60 or 70 delegates from Chinese communities all over the country met at the bay area. On the basis of the speech MH made, they made him chairman by acclamation. This was in 1937, the year Japan attacked Shanghai.
	268-276	The attack on Shanghai was a threat to the world.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
8	277-289	In 1931, MH organized a student group protesting the Japanese takeover of Manchuria. There are very few Chinese like MH that are interested in China politics. The other members of the student movement were from China.
	290-313	What MH was not a patriotic move in the sense of his love for China. He felt it was necessary on the basis of world morality. Japan was a fascist country that would destroy the weaker nations. MH felt just as bad about the Nazi Germans. MH worked against all the axis powers. The Chinese allied with many of the American anti-fascist movements.
	314-317	The Chinese Federation of Clubs lasted for three years. MH was the chairman for two years.
	318-322	The organization cooperated with the Chinese Relief Committee.
	323-339	They sent these supplies to China through national organizations. The Chinese Aid Council in New York, for example, would take the money from the Chinese groups and use it to buy the ambulances.
9	340-348	The organization also held demonstrations protesting the Americans that sent supplies to Japan. MH was one of the group leaders at a demonstration on the docks of Los Angeles Harbor with 20,000 people. They protested against the ships that were sending supplies to Japan.
	349-358	In the years from 1937 to 1939, America had not decided which side of the war she was on yet.
	359-365	During MH's participation in the anti-Japanese movement, he had various jobs in Los Angeles.
	366-380	MH's wife involved herself in the anti-Japanese movement to a minor extent. She was not a part of the Chinese community. Some of the Japanese in the United States even fought against the Japanese imperialist government.
	381-401	MH's interracial marriage resulted in a feeling of discomfort from both sides of the family. No ethnic group that is being discriminated against wants its fundamental core to be dispersed. In some ways, the families felt that interracial marriages were inevitable.
10	402-406	By the 1940's, interracial marriages began to be an acceptable phenomena.
	407-441	In MH's generation, the people back in China would never intermarry nor would they get divorced.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
1	001-004	Introduction.
	005-012	In MH's family, the choice of using Chinese or Western medicine when someone got sick depended on the economic situation at the time. Western doctors cost considerably more money than an herbalist in Chinatown.
	013-022	It was very convenient to visit a Chinese herbalist. On the other hand, the Chinese had a feeling of inferiority and thought that the Caucasians were more magical than they were. In addition, you needed a doctor's certificate in order to resume school. You do try to see a western practitioner when you had a severe or prolonged illness.
	023-026	On the whole, the Chinese used a combination of both types of medicine.
	027-036	There was a lot of Chinese folk medicine being practiced. When the individual is too toxic, or "hei" he must take something to alkanize his system. If the individual is too cold, or "hong" one must take something to take away the coldness in the body. These were home remedies.
2	037-045	For example, in the family that MH stayed with, they would have "ching boh leong" every four or five days to harmonize the acidity of the body. When they had coughs and other things, they would take things like dates to soothe the lungs.
	046-054	For major illnesses, the medical strategy would vary. The herbs in those days would cost a dollar which included the service provided by the doctor. A Western doctor would cost from three to five dollars. He could not see you right away and would give you an appointment next Thursday--by then, you are dead or you have recovered and either way, you did not need him anymore.
	055-066	Because the parents at that time were not well off, they could not send their children to higher learning centers which prevented them from developing a professional skill that would provide a higher income. The exception to this were the merchants that developed a certain proficiency in their business. Chinese could also accumulate some money by being thrifty.
	067-070	The average Chinese citizen had a subordinate position in the white society--such as house cleaning, kitchen jobs, etc.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
3	071-072	Some Chinese were dishwashers in American restaurants much the same way the Mexicans and Blacks wash dishes today.
	073-080	There were not many Chinese chefs because at that time a lot of people were illiterate. The Chinese were not familiar with Continental cooking and could not learn how to cook if they were not literate.
	081-096	The positions of the Chinese Americans have improved every decade before the war. During the war and after the war, the Americans discovered that the Chinese were very conscientious, meticulous, and patient workers.
	097-103	MH does not know if that was a good attribute or not. There may have been more pressure on the Chinese to work harder than the average worker. There is a difference between your fellow workers calling you a good worker and your boss calling you a good worker.
4	104-106	During the prewar years, the Chinese had menial or low professional jobs.
	107-114	There were a few Chinese dental assistants during that time. The Chinese would use other Chinese to be their assistants. There were not many Chinese in the dental and medical fields.
	115-123	By serving in the war, the Chinese became exposed to many technical departments and became more mechanically minded. The Chinese set up their own mechanical business in Chinatown. The Chinese may not have practiced elsewhere because there was not a complete acceptance of the Chinese at that time.
	124-132	There is now a tendency to accept Asians--at times they may even be considered superior to their white counterparts.
	133-135	In technical lines of work, there is not a strong requirement for literacy.
	136-146	Discrimination lessened gradually after the war. There were tens of thousands of Japanese brides that were coming back to the United States. In addition, the United States and China were allies so the American and Chinese soldiers worked together. The gradual intermingling between the two groups became a factor in the acceptance of the Chinese. There is still discrimination today.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
5	147-157	In those days, an income of \$100 a month would be considered pretty good. Rent would cost from \$25 to \$50. During the Depression, MH bought a loaf of bread for ten cents. At that time, he got a stale loaf of bread for two cents--that was one day old bread.
	158-166	There were some people in China that claimed to be MH's kin. They gave MH a note of authenticity and they said that they knew MH's grandfather and were from the same village. They told MH that they were experiencing hard times and asked him to give them some money. They would use the money on the farm which MH could have some legal claim to.
	167-177	MH would send them money when he was a little ahead. The Chinese with close ties to China would send money back to China.
	178-185	MH's grandfather came to the United States during the latter days of the gold rush. Thus, MH does not have sharp feelings for Chinese customs. However, he heard about the customary things to do by living in Chinatown.
6	186-187	Other Chinese would send money back to China if they were close to the old customs.
	188-192	Many Chinese were moving out of Chinatown and had nothing to do with the Chinese community. they were moving out even before the war; that is, during the late 1930's.
	193-206	Some of the Chinese were making more money and had nothing to tie them down to Chinatown. Others found it cheaper to live outside than to live in Chinatown. It was definitely cheaper to live in the Mexican district than to live in Chinatown. Today, the most expensive real estate in the world is in Chinatown.
	207-211	In those days, it was cheaper to live in East Los Angeles than in Chinatown. Chinese could live substandardly because you could eat easier and live among relatives.
	212-222	Some Chinese would open up grocery stores, laundries, or inexpensive restaurants in the Black and Mexican districts. There are Chinese owned Chinese restaurants all over Mexico.
223-246	The Chinese felt that they were different from other minority races but there was not necessarily a feeling of disdain or contempt. The Chinese have been considered to be "cayote" or cunning in business. The Chinese are hard customers.	

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
7	247-254	The Chinese have done better than the whites on a whole. There is a higher percentage of Chinese people that attend college compared to the general American population.
	255-267	MH grew up with many poor Jewish people. MH lived in Boyle Heights for a while during his early 20's. There were a lot of poor Jews there that came as refugees from Europe. They are very human.
	268-273	The Jews in Europe were deprived of the capacity to own land so they were forced to go into trade. By many generations, they understood the techniques of business better than other people. In time, they developed an urban mentality.
	274-280	The Chinese experienced the same thing in Southeast Asia. They were accepted at the time as the same race just as the Jewish people are accepted here racially but discriminated against culturally and religiously.
8	281-286	This attitude is reciprocated. The Jewish people feel that there are only two kinds of people in the world--the Jews and the non-Jews. The Chinese say the same thing about Chinese and non-Chinese.
	287-320	A Chinese cannot distinguish a Jew by his or her physical appearance. The Jews have developed a sense of humanity and moral consideration because of their minority status in the world. If a minority Jew is persecuted, he must appeal to the world on a moral basis because he cannot appeal to the world on a military basis. They cultivated morality in order to survive in a world of force. In that sense, the Jews were closer to the Chinese.
	321-339	Most Chinese tended to marry either American born or China born Chinese. The Chinese were similar with one another. The Cantonese talked rough, but they were gentle.
9	340-345	The Chinese that came here were of a rougher class that could not find employment in China.
	346-365	Some of the Chinese of MH's generation returned to China to get married. It was cheaper to find a wife in the United States.
	366-375	Now Chinese Americans do not prefer having sons over daughters. In the old days, the Chinese wanted to have sons to keep the family name.
	376-379	In those days, the families that lived close to a Chinese school found it important for their children to attend Chinese school.

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
9	380-396	The Chinese were quite nationalistic from the fall of the Ching Dynasty to the World War II days. The reason for this was the Chinese made up an educated class. The Chinese wanted to maintain their cultural continuity.
10	397-402	MH went to Chinese school for a short time. His Chinese was mostly self-taught. MH learned his English by going to school.
	403-412	MH learned Chinese by comparing Chinese articles with their English counterparts. MH was also interested in the events in China at that time. Perhaps because MH is an orphan, he tends to read a lot, study a lot, and become introspective.
	413-427	MH can read Chinese up to the junior high level. MH can read "ba wah men" (白話文). MH can converse in both Sum Yup and Sze Yup. MH learned the dialects by living in Chinatown.
	428-439	MH conversed in Californian Chinese with his relatives. It is a little different from Sam Yup mixed with English words.
	440-464	When MH was growing up, there was always a hope to return to China. As time went by, the higher standard of living and greater opportunities here made attitudes change. Some Chinese were educated in engineering in the United States and returned to China hoping to get a good job but could not. These people would get discouraged and come back. There was a lot of corruption in China in the 1920's and 1930's. No one could get employment with nepotism.
11	465-488	Many Chinese parents told their children to return to China to get a Chinese education. MH never had hopes of going to Chinese universities because his family was too poor.
END OF TAPE 3 SIDE A		
1	003-013	MH worked as a Chinese extra in the film industry. He was a soldier in one of the scenes.
	014-016	At that time, MH was the president of the Chinese Youth Federation in Chinatown which consisted of 24 Chinese organizations of youth.
	017-018	When they opened Chinatown, MH was sitting next to the mayor as a showcase for young Chinese.



## Contents (cont'd)

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Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
1	019-025	The movies always reflected the realities of the time. At that time, the Chinese did not have a good social position. China was a weak country before the war. It was the doormat of the world. China was weak on a national basis and the Chinese Americans had minority roles. The films indicated this.
	026-029	There would always be Chinese laundrymen in the movies. There would also be Chinese cooks in the west who would hit the gong for the cowboys to come and eat. The cowboys would come and pull the queue of the Chinese. Everyone would laugh.
	030-031	When the Chinese built the Union Pacific Railroad, their lives were full of heroism but the American films never portrayed that.
	032-041	MH was at the Golden Spike a few years ago. That was the anniversary of when the two railroads met. There were all sorts of people there but no Chinese. MH raised the question and they said it was an oversight. The Chinese were known to have built the railroads but they are never mentioned at the celebrations and the giving of awards.
2	042-049	There was an increasing role in American life for the Chinese from the 1920's, to 1930's, to 1940's. In reality, the American nation was finally coming to the side of the anti-fascists. There were a lot of Americans that favored the axis because of their German ancestry.
	050-056	There was an increase in democratic consciousness to widen the participation in the war effort to resist fascist. America took a very unique stand--they became anti-racists but at the same time, they discriminated against the Chinese.
	057-058	Because of this, the discrimination against the Chinese became less over.
	059-063	In some movies that wanted to show the Japanese as the enemies, the American heroes would be shown with their Chinese allies.
	064-069	The average American does not know about world affairs very much aside from what the movies tell them. The Americans are just not very proficient in world affairs.
3	070-075	After World War II, these were a series of war movies. Since the Chinese were the American allies, the Chinese actors were scouts and other heroes.

## Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
3	076-088	The Chinese were either portrayed as dummies or as mastermind criminals that would offset the most brilliant detective brains.
	089-095	In some ways, MH resents the fact that the Chinese were not portrayed accurately. On the other hand, MH would have liked to play that role in order to have a good payday.
	096-101	On one hand, MH resented the roles the Chinese played but on the other hand, he would get excited that a Chinese friend got a part in the movie.
	102-110	There is a tendency among all human beings to see the idealized part of their culture in the movies. Many people only want to see the good side of themselves.
4	111-120	There is great heroism in China--the Taiping Rebellion, the fight against the Manchus, the fight against the Mongolian oppressor, the fight against corruption, the fight for a Chinese place in the world. MH grew up in that era and had great hopes for China. He also worked along those lines.
	121-125	In the 1920's and 1930's, MH did hear of people asking why things happened to them and also saying they wish that they were Americans. There were very few of these people. MH did not feel that way.
	126-141	MH grew up during the high tide of anti-Ching Dynasty. Sun Yat-sen was in MH's house in Vallejo in Marin County. He was hiding out. MH lived downstairs with his grandmother.
	142-162	In those days, MH always wanted to be the assistant to the foreman of a warehouse so he would not have the responsibility but get the money. Chinese wanted to be professionals. At that time, MH wanted a job that was not totally uninteresting. He saw that a lot of Chinese had uninteresting jobs. The survival of the Chinese from tedious work is a miracle of human psychology.
5	163-172	When MH was young, his elders were realists. If you know you cannot fly, you never hope to become an angel. MH's aunt and uncle may have wanted MH to open up a little business.
	173-180	MH's aunt and uncle had a little dry goods store with a gambling house in the back. It was a lottery station.
	181-192	MH used to drive a gambling truck. Since gambling was not allowed in the Alameda County, MH would drive the Chinese to the county line to play Chinese lottery.

## Contents (cont'd)

Time Segment	Counter Number	Summary
6	193-199	All the Chinese gambled in one way or another. They did not get caught because it was accepted in the community. There would be a token raid once in a while that would be staged long before hand.
	200-208	MH is not as familiar with the gambling situation in Los Angeles at that time. The white gambling is not that widespread. It is today. There were all kinds of gambling to indulge in--you did not have to go to Chinatown.
	209-211	The more sophisticated Chinese professionals now play the stocks.
	212-224	There were only a few interracial children when MH was growing up. The Chinese used to be very clannish.
	225-233	The Americans would stare at couples of different races in public places. Some of the Americans become aggressive and ask you what you are doing with this American woman or man.
7	234-261	Some people would feel sorry for the children of interracial marriages. If the kid is cute, they would treat the kid well. The Chinese would disapprove of interracial marriages because it violated their way of life.
	262-268	MH's Chinese name is Hoo Ong Da ( 胡 翁 达 ) which means peace and morality.
	269-280	The Chinese also have good names even if the child will become a criminal. There are Mexicans called Perfecto or Angelica.
8	281-289	MH married a Korean American in 1939 or 1940. She was eventually accepted by MH's family. Times were changing by then.
	290-293	MH had two kids with his first wife before the war. They are 38 and 36. They were brought up as Americans.
	294-311	MH's children have Chinese faces but do not speak Chinese. One of them met and then married a girl from Taiwan. The other one married a Caucasian woman. He is a psychologist in Seattle. His wife is the first female principal in the school.

END OF TAPE 3 SIDE B

END OF INTERVIEW

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