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Some Asians Uncovered: There Were Chinese in Yamhill County in the Early 1900s

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Yamhill Enrichment Society Internship



Some Asians Uncovered: There Were Chinese in
Yamhill County in the Early 1900s

Cassie Kwon Spring 2012

Initial Interests

- * Interest in Asian Americans, immigration, and globalization.
- * Heard stories about the history of the discrimination of Asians Americans in Yamhill County.
- * Information collected at Yamhill County Historical Society and from interviews.
- * Bring awareness about a minority group residing in Yamhill County.

Historical Overview

- * 1820: The first Chinese immigrants came to the USA.
- * 1848: Gold was discovered in California, which drew more Chinese men to the USA.
 - * Population of Chinese grew from 450 in 1850 to 2,716 in 1851.
 - * Many Chinatowns formed along the West Coast.
- * 1882: The Chinese Exclusion Act forbid Chinese workers to enter the USA.
 - * No Chinese can get citizenship, only permanent resident status.
 - * Population fell from 107,488 in 1890 to 71,531 in 1910.
 - * In Oregon, fell from 10,000 in 1890 to 2,000 in 1930.
- * 1924: The Immigration Act prohibited any foreigners that were not eligible for USA citizenship from entering the country.

Chinese in Oregon

- * Early 1850s: Set up temporary mining claims along the southern Oregon coast and Rogue River Valley.
 - * Unsuccessful, because they “re-mined” where former miners did.
- * Throughout 1900s: Worked on railroads, in salmon canneries, and the lumber industry.
 - * “a Chinaman’s chance in Hell” phrase came from Chinese railroad workers.
- * 1927: Survey showed only 11% of Oregonians called a Chinese person a friend.

In McMinnville

- * Asians forbidden to own property in McMinnville city limits.
- * Many Chinese men were hired temporarily. They were willing to work long hours for little pay.
- * 1908-1920: No Chinatown, so lived in the basement of a building on 3rd Street.
 - * 9,000 x 2,5000 square feet.
 - * Housed about 25 people.
- * Chinese men from Guangdong Province, spoke Cantonese.
- * Chinaboss who “managed” the Chinese. Found work for them.



* Door

* Photo credit: Bill Miller, Allegory Photography,
www.allegory-photo.com



* Restaurant

* Diet consisted of rice and dried fish.



* Kitchen

* Photo credit: Bill Miller, Allegory Photography,
www.allegory-photo.com



* Store

* Photo credit: Bill Miller, Allegory Photography,
www.allegory-photo.com



* Opium Room

* Quarter of Chinese-Americans addicted to opium.



* Well

* Photo credit: Bill Miller, Allegory Photography,
www.allegory-photo.com

Quong Hop

- * Born and married in China, left adopted son and wife to come to USA.
- * In his 20s lived in Changchow and did “odd” jobs along the waterfront.
- * Snuck onto ship for \$50 USD and illegally immigrated to USA.
 - * Ship traveled up Columbia River and anchored near Albina rail yard.
- * 1880: Ran laundry service in Sacramento, CA.
 - * Laundry considered women’s work in China.
- * Went to a meeting in North Yamhill to accompany his boss to a Hop Growers Associate.
- * 1900s: Resided in Checowan, Yamhill County as a merchant, laundryman, and cook.
- * Late 1920s: Expanded the shop to a sandwich bar, soda fountain, and candy shop.

Quong Hop continued

- * Became member of the Union Church and greatly involved in the community.
- * Assimilated into the American society and cut his queue.
- * Church members helped pay his way back to China, where he lived till his death.
- * Photograph of Quong Hop and the John Stewart family.
 - * Children called themselves the “Quong Hop Family.”





* Veterans of the Indian Wars

Louie Loy “Chinaman”

- * Born in China 1826.
- * Veteran of the transcontinental railroad and California Gold Rush.
- * 1876: Lived in Yamhill for 54 years in a shack along the North Yamhill River.
- * Drank soup and tea made from roots, herbs, and weeds and ate cougars and other wild games as delicacies.
- * Remembered as a scholar. Wrote to the USA president and to the local newspaper.
- * Remembered as harmless, but crazy. There are many myths surrounding his life.
- * Died in 1930 at age 104.



Louie Loy “Chinaman”

- * “My father told me many stories of Louie’s patriotism; how he celebrated his New Year by marching up and down the main street of our hometown bearing the American flag and making patriotic speeches in a jargon of English and Chinese. How Louie was permitted to lead the Fourth of July parade; how his face shown with pride and happiness as he bore the American flag – his American flag – at the head of the parade. He told me of how Louie had visited the local schoolhouse and embraced the flagpole and shouted praises to it as he threw his tattered head gear in the air. How he strained his stiff, old neck to feast his eyes on the glorious banner of freedom” (Mae Harrison 1932).

Louie Loy “Chinaman”

China Louie Is So Old That Age Is Forgotten

Yamhill Resident Ardent American After 77 Years' Residence in United States—Came Here During Gold Rush—County Charge Is Conspicuous Patriot.

Dec 17 1929

CHINA LOUIE SO OLD CAN'T RECALL AGE— IS LOYAL TO AMERICA

(Continued from Page One)
ways conspicuously present at all patriotic celebrations. Recently he led the Fourth of July parade, a wizened figure almost erect, with a Chinese flag in one hand and the American emblem in the other. When Mayor George Baker of Port-

YAMHILL CHINESE DIES

**Louie Loy Believed 100 Years Old;
Resident 54 Years.**

SHERIDAN, Or., Dec. 16.—(Special.)—Louie Loy, Chinese resident of Yamhill county for about 54 years, died Wednesday.

Loy's exact age is not known, but it is thought he was 100 years old. He was born in China and came to America in the early years of the California gold rush. He lived in and around San Francisco for a long time, and his accounts of that city in the early days made colorful stories.

Loy lived in a hut in the Pike district for many years. His surroundings there were of the most primitive, and about the same as those he knew in China as a boy. A five-gallon oil can served as a stove on which he cooked his simple meals. Roots, herbs and weeds were used as food, which he made into soups and teas. He made his own sandals from small pieces of board and strands of rope. The county gave him a few dollars occasionally for food and clothing.

Funeral services will be held in Portland early this week. A cousin living there will have charge of the burial. *The Oregonian* 12-17-1929

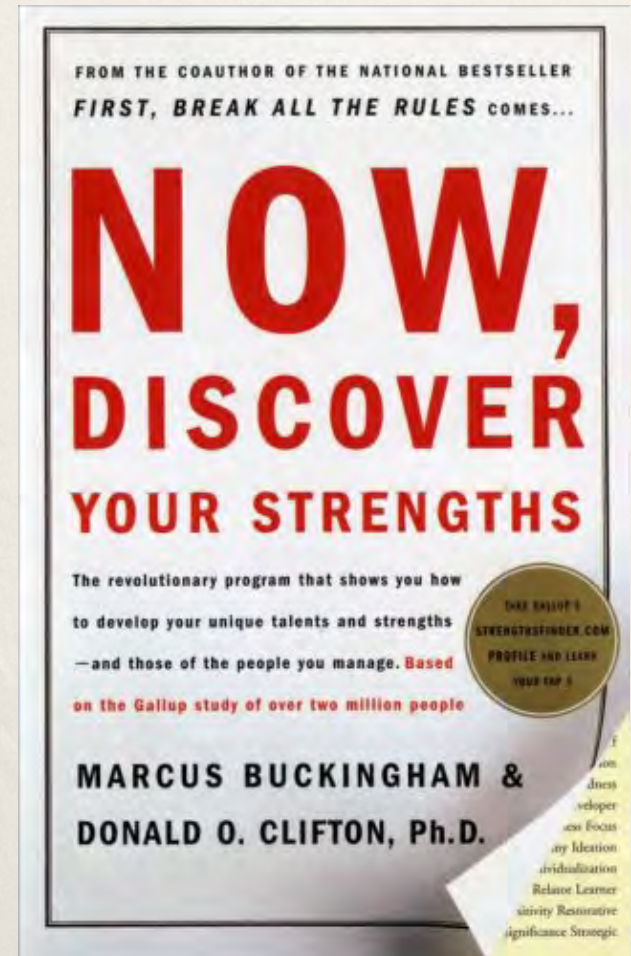
“Chinaman” Louie Loy Dies; Led Colorful Life During Gold Rushes Of Early Days

T.R. 12-12-1929

- * *The Oregonian* published his obituary on December 17, 1929.
- * YCHS searching for his grave site.

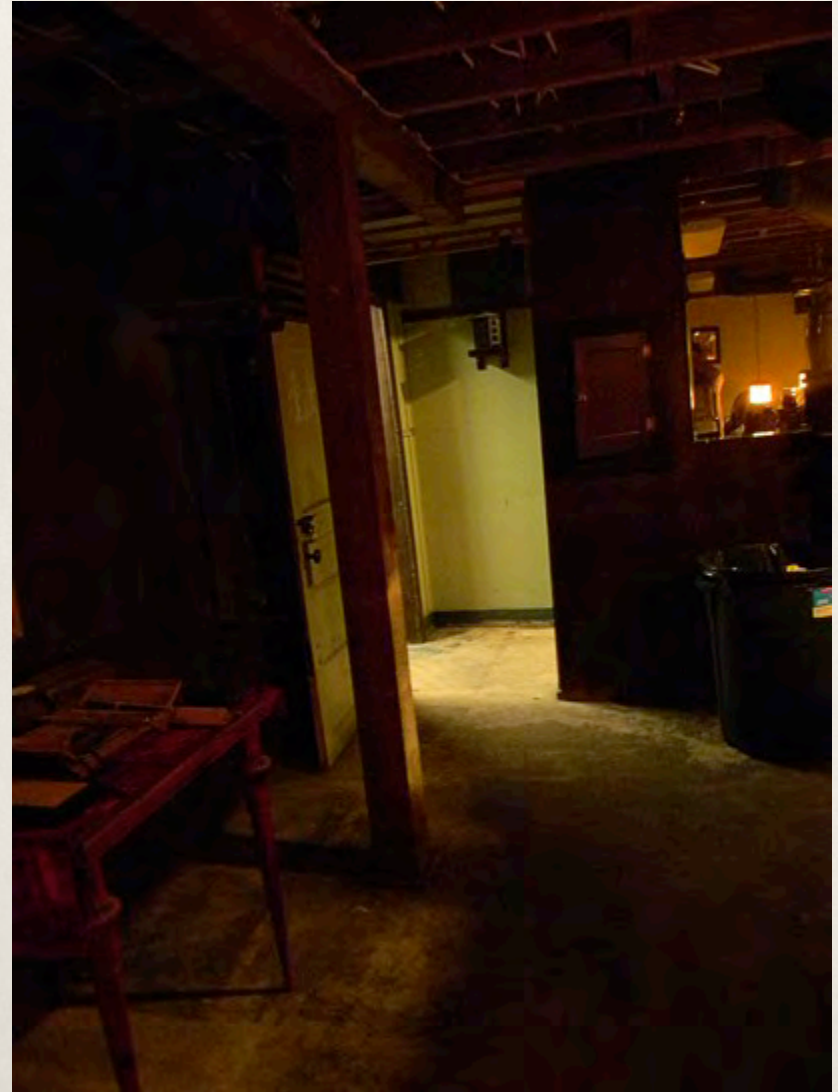
My Strengths In Use

- * *Now, Discover Your Strengths* by Buckingham & Clifton.
 - * Command – took charge of the project.
 - * Competition – meeting deadlines.
 - * Developer – created a project proposal and conducted it.
 - * Empathy – gain a better understanding of the Asian Americans who once resided in Yamhill County.
 - * Ideation – connect different concepts/ideas to create a holistic perspective.



Learning Outcomes

- * Being independent.
- * Taking initiative.
- * Being patient with people.
They will reply!
- * Learned a new method to do research and collect data.
- * Learned to apply different ways research skills can be used to help build and enrich community.



Acknowledgments

- * Yamhill County Historical Society
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