

UC Davis

Recent Work

Title

AIOH-21, Hop Jeong

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7w48z3s9>

Author

Oral History Project, Angel Island

Publication Date

2006-03-22

AIOH-21, Hop Jeong
Interviewer Ian Durfee
March 22, 2006

9:15am-10:45am

: Ok, so I guess we'll get started here. When and where were you born?

I was born in China, Canton in 1930.

: How large was your family?

In Canton there were three of us.

: Your mother, father, and yourself?

Five of us altogether--my mother, father and three children.

: What did your family do for a living?

My father was really... my grandfather and father were both really scholars...and they owned land but didn't actually do the farming.
(Pause, phone rings)

: They were scholars. That's very interesting.

Educated in the sense that they're not... they don't do physical work.

: How much schooling did you have?

I went...I got my MBA at Golden Gate. I went to San Francisco State and then Golden Gate College. I got my Master's....

: And then in China you went to primary school up until the time you came here?

A couple years, I think....

: How did you come here?

By ship.

: Why did you come?

Why? It's maybe my parents' decision. And I had little or nothing to say about it. They just think there's more opportunities in this foreign land so they just um... shipped me off, so to speak.

: That must have been really something for a, you were nine years old at the time, is that right?

I was ten years old, yes.
(Long pause)

: How did you prepare for the journey?

I don't really remember much about my childhood life, how I felt, very little.

: What immigration status did you use?

The son of a son of a citizen. My grandfather, he was born here. Going through my grandfather's transcripts of Angel Island, there was a child born in 1880 here, and at a young age he went back...this child went back to China with his father. About twenty-some-odd years later, this child returned to San Francisco, as my grandfather. But we know as a fact that my grandfather was born in China, so that couldn't have been him. And so he had a family there and so he took the place of this child, and so technically he's a U.S. citizen. And from there then, my grandfather created a family of nine children, or paper children. And then um... me, individual that is, son of a son of one of those nine children.

: So you kept your same family name when you went over there?

Yeah, yeah, we may be a paper family but the name is real, yeah.

: That avoids some confusion for you, I would imagine.

Yes, yes, but the relationship is true, so ah... the name is again as I said the same. My grandfather--. Out of the nine children that he has, every member...of...one of them, and one of the nine is my true uncle, he came over here to San Francisco. And another one is my father, he tried coming over. And he did. He was on Angel Island and he passed oral interrogation, but the paper says when he came over was that he's supposed to be about in his twenties, but he was actually in his THIRTIES. So the immigration look at him and they think he's much older than he looks, so they got doctors to examine his physical body and said, "this person is in his THIRTIES." And my father, through--my grandfather, through his attorney, got another doctor, who said this guy is in his twenties. But the immigration won out and so after a stay in Angel Island for about a year, he was rejected. So again --again my real father, and since he was rejected, I could not come as a son because he's ah...he's not a citizen. So I took them ah... as son of one of the other nine children. And at that time in 1940, as we were coming, my grandfather went back to China about in 1938 to bring my brother and I --my brother's a year younger than I--over

here. And ...since we are so similar, we look alike, that ah... he could not bring us together as cousins because he's --my brother took the relationship as son of another one of those nine children. So we became cousins instead of brothers—so because we looked so much alike he know that we couldn't get through immigration that way as cousins. Because my grandfather and my younger brother –again, he was a year younger—they came together I guess a couple of months earlier than I, and then I had to come by myself.

: When did your father attempt to come over here?

In, in....About 1920's.

(Pause)

: Did you know anything about Angel Island before you came?

I knew nothing about America, Angel Island as a child coming over here. All I learned about was like, I guess my parents or my grandfather coming back from San Francisco, telling us about this land of opportunity, of gold, of Kham San Golden Mountain, and telling us about education there is free. They give you balls and equipment to play with, whereas, again, back in China, there was no such thing. That's about the extent of my knowledge of this country as a child.

: What was your father's name?

Yee. Y-E-E.

: And your grandfather's name?

Sun. S-U-N.

: So your brother went over with your grandfather and then you followed alone?

Correct.

: Do you remember the cost of the trip?

I have no idea.

: It was paid for you.

Right, I remember little of the trip. Like ah.. from Hong Kong going to..I guess, Tokyo..leaves from Japan, and then stopping in Honolulu. I do remember, like seeing that water tower in Honolulu that looked, xxxx like a pineapple (laughter), that's about the extent of it then, arriving here in San Francisco.

:Do you remember any of the specific things you brought with you?

Well, no I don't think we brought anything except, well, yeah....

: And the conditions on the boat?

Again, I remember very little about the trip, or who they were, the people involved....

:Do you remember any of the passengers that you met , any older folks that might have looked after you?

No, no, it just...ah... again I was ten years old. I do recall meeting another passenger there, I guess he must have been six, seven, eight years older. Later on in life, I saw him in a, in a butcher shop, working behind the counter, and somehow we recognized each other. And his comment to me, he said to me, I was lucky, lucky to come at a younger age, where I had the opportunity to go through and get an education, and be able to work outside of Chinatown, where since he came at an older age, he had to work once he got here, and so he was stuck in Chinatown in one of those jobs that does NOT require any English speaking.

(Long pause)

And another thing, a funny thing, was that ah... I grew up with a friend, we knew each other...ah...raising, in San Francisco, friends.. and then.. in recent years, we got our Angel Island records and we compared notes and then found out that we were on the same ship. But until we compared records we didn't know that. But I don't recall him, I don't recall who he was, at that time.

:That's interesting.

Hmm, yeah.

:Do you know how long the voyage took, seemed?

About I guess, 20, 30, 20-odd days, but I don't recall, no. I do.. I know according to the ship, according to the records, I came through on the President Coolidge.

:Did you encounter any problems along the way?

No.

:Okay, well, when did you arrive, 1940, do you remember the date?

September of 1940. I spent two months at Angel Island-

: Two months?

Yeah, I don't remember all this except, according to the record.-

: (overlapping) That's a long time.

What happened there was, according to the transcript, I answered one of the questions incorrectly, so they had to verify that, according to the, whatever the, red tape, and I suppose that I could have been rejected. Because I answer one question—something about my brother, paper brother...that was incorrect.

: Those questions may have been very specific?

Yes, yeah.

:We can move on to that.... Where did you first land?

San Francisco, Angel Island.

:You went directly there?

Yes.

:What happened when you landed?

I don't know, I really don't recall anything, much of anything. I do remember a night, I was looking at the lights, the city lights, which I thought were San Francisco. But knowing the facts now, because of where Angel Island is.... We just saw lights and assumed it was San Francisco.

: Here's a picture of the dock at Angel Island....

I came back, but I don't remember. I came back to Angel Island to look...visit the place. But I don't remember any of these, what's left, what happened, or how they have taken....I think, did they actually land a dock at Angel Island?

: They used to, but now you can't do that. The dock is no longer there, the ferry takes you to a different part of the island.

Yeah, I just don't recall.

: Describe your first impressions of Angel Island, if you would?

Ha, nothing. Yeah, again, this is just... I don't know why, maybe we never talk about it, but, after arrival... but I just do not recall much about any experience—childhood—in the boat, during the trip, or in Angel Island itself. At this... Angel Island Foundation had a dinner last October, November which I—we, my wife and I, we went—and we sat with a few other detainees that were there. And this one guy, believe it or not, about my age, and he was telling me, telling us, about his experience on Angel Island—about how he played ball, about how he did this, he did that, and all the activities. And I said to myself, why

can't I remember anything? I may have played ball with him, but I guess I don't remember any of that.

: And the processing? You said from the records you looked at you answered a question incorrectly about your brother. Do you remember anything about your interrogation?

Vaguely. I vaguely recall being there...and the interpreter.... But having gone back to Angel Island and having looked at the exhibits, I could have said that could have been me...but really very little.

(Long pause)

Sometimes I wish I could remember MORE of it, but I just...nothing.

: Were you physically examined, like your father was?

I believe so. But again, looking at some of the historic pictures, I assume it was that, but again, I don't recall. Going back to Angel Island, looking at the backrooms and whatnot. No I don't remember.. I remember there was bunks and that was about it.

: How many people stayed in the room with the bunks with you?

I don't think it was a room, I think it was just a big corridor, like a gym.

: Were there other children?

There must have. Even going through the history books, how they separated the men and women and whatnot. I just don't recall any of those things.

Did you remember the sanitary conditions?

No, I don't remember. In fact, what kind of food did we eat, no, I don't remember.

: Is there anything that stands out most in your memory about your stay?

(Pause) No.

: Could you describe anything about the people with whom you stayed?

No, because I just....

: I'm sorry I don't mean to-

(interrupting) I know that, I know that. There's just no recollection of childhood, of experience. Again, it's just, probably through ti-i-i-me... Like, going back, thinking back to when I was, say, twenty, I don't know if I can remember very much about experience.

: How often did detainees come and go? Did you have an impression you were staying longer than some?

No, no, I don't recall. If asked, how did I feel about it, about the experience I went through in the interrogation, I just thought it was the routine—the routine that everyone must go through to get processed into this country. Not knowing that...let's say, we were being picked on.

: At that age...

At that age, yeah.

(Pause)

: And you may have been playing ball?

Yeah, I may have been playing ball. (Laughter) I just don't recall any of it.

: Did you have contacts with any outsiders? Guards, matrons?

No.

: Missionaries, or social workers?

No.

: Any visitors you remember?

I assume my grandfather came and visited me, but I don't remember.

: Do you remember how the staff treated you?

No.

: How was your health while you were there, did you become sick?

No.

Did you notice at the time any poetry on the walls?

No, no, I just don't remember people there, I don't remember talking to adults, the carving on the walls or seeing it. Again, I just...no recollection of anything.

: Quite striking, when you go there and see the poems there.

Yeah.

: Did you see anyone—you might not have seen this—passing coaching notes in the mess hall or anywhere else?

No, I don't remember seeing it, but I do remember my own notes. Referring to.. again, thinking back to that age, at such a young age, you talk about notes, it has to be written, I don't remember reading it. Because I don't think I had that much education. But I do remember my personal notes referring to it, and at a certain point destroying it.

: You brought the notes with you on the ship?

Yes, I guess that's one of the things that my parents insist. I guess you keep using the notes until the time comes to destroy them. Yeah, I don't remember looking at them, studying names of my uncles, eight of them.

: Was there anything else that was on the coaching notes that you remember?

Mostly just the relationships, the names of each of my uncles, and I think the birthdates.

: Do you remember what sort of paper they were written on?

Plain piece of paper.

: Were you told to hide this piece of paper, keep it secret?

Yes, I guess that's a little bit I remember about sneaking in and just taking a peek at it rather than do it openly, like reading a newspaper.

: You remember that on the voyage, on the Coolidge?

Yes, and perhaps other times, studying it.

: Did you read the coaching notes in the corridor you slept in at night?

I guess, occasionally referring to it, make sure I know I remember it, make sure to be able to pass the test.

: Were there any other questions about what was on the coaching notes, such as information about the town where you grew up?

Yes, layout of the house, who sleep in each room. Yes, I guess these are the things that, reading my Angel Island notes, these are the questions that I had to answer, so I'm sure it was there. But maybe it was easier because that was our actual house rather than just a family relationship that was phony. So that you had to study and remember, but the physical location, I don't think that's part of the notes.

: You were fortunate not to need that part of the coaching.

Yeah, those were facts that I grew up with.

: Do you remember anything extraordinary while you were staying there?

(Pause) No.

: Did you hear about any suicide, unusual punishments, solitary confinement?

No, no. I guess part of that was that I was too young to realize what's going on. And yeah, I didn't think it was, you might say, hardship. Looking back in history, yes they say it's hardship, but for all I know it's going to camp. It's just something that one xxxx, again, must go through to get into this country.

: Do you remember if other people you were with at the time felt the same way, or was there discontent?

No, I don't recall anything about that except that again, it's a processing center, and we're all waiting for our turn to get processed.

: Touching back on the interrogation process, do you remember how many meetings, how many times you were interrogated?

(cough) No, I don't remember, but again, looking at my notes, the Angel Island records, several times. Because again, I answer incorrectly, I got called back on different day, asking me why I say this when that wasn't the case. So how long between the interrogations I don't remember. But it was several times.

: How long were you there before you were called for interrogation?

I don't remember. To answer that correctly I would have to look at the notes.

: Does anything stand out in your mind about where it was held—the room, something that was in the room, people in the room?

No, I don't remember anything.. except going back to Angel Island and looking at the display, yeah.

: Did you have to sign anything?

Yes, in my Chinese name, that's also on the Angel Island record, but I don't remember signing it.

: Did you recall feeling after you left, after you signed it, how you did, whether you did well, what your hopes were at the time?

I thought I passed, and I can look at the records, but I don't remember at the time, or realizing that I missed one of the questions, but I thought I did right. But again, looking at the system, interrogating a ten year old and I think in hindsight that is just FOOLISH to try to interrogate a child, say, with all these questions. Again, I have a father and eight uncles, and to prove that I am this paper relationship, I have to answer the names of all these uncles, and their birthdates. And any—ask any child today, do they know the names of all their uncles, and their relationship and all the birthdates and such. But we have to go through this process to emigrate here, but again the system I thought was kind of foolish. I can see asking these questions of an adult, but I thought....

(Pause)

: That sounds foolish. More than foolish maybe. How did you feel when you found out you missed a question, that you'd have to go back in for more interrogation?

I didn't realize I missed a question. It's almost like, taking an exam, you just put in—answer the question and hand the paper in—but I didn't realize that it was, that I missed it. According to the documents, they say there's something wrong, the relationship is not there. No, I didn't realize what I said. It's not a case where, taking a test you have a copy of it. In this it's like a conversation that's taking place--say, what did you say earlier? I don't know.

(Pause)

But I always, while growing up, in my teens, twenties and thirties, wanted to know what actually took place at Angel Island, what questions they asked me. Because I didn't, don't remember any of this. I know I went through a processing, the obvious one's—what is your name, who these uncles were--but I wanted details, so I finally got around to San Bruno and made copies of my records and then realized, really surprised that, the questions that were asked of me.

: When did you go to San Bruno to find out?

About fifteen years ago. And where I picked up the records of myself, my brother, that xxx xxx xxx? before me, my grandfather, and my father, and that's the true uncle. And looking at my father's record there's a picture of him, about his physical age and all that. And even about my grandfather, the relationship has always been, growing up—again, there were three of us growing up, my grandfather, my brother and myself—my grandfather didn't want to talk about our true family relationships. He was more concerned with the paper family because there might be others coming, and we might have to be interrogated to confirm the relationship of the future people coming. And so even though we were there, he wanted to make sure we KNOW about the relationships between people. And one incident was that we went to a parochial school, my brother and I, for a few months. And the sisters there, I guess hard to pronounce our Chinese names, gave us American names. So my brother was named Francis, and I was given the name of Richard. And so for a while we were using these names at school. And then my grandfather found out about it. He was furious about it, using these American names. Again his concern was the future people who would be coming, and if they ask what is your brother's name, and well, (what do you think?) they can't even pronounce Richard.

And that would really screw things up. And so, again, I was the older brother, more sense, sensible about it, that I dropped the use of my name Richard. But ah... and I guess the name Hop wasn't bad, in those days, there were Hop-Along Cassidy, there was a character, Hop Harrigan. So I kept...changed back to Hop to please my grandfather, and my brother kept his name. So he uses the name Francis....

: He still goes by Francis?

He's still going by Francis today.

: How did you feel about being told not to use the name Richard?

Obedience, trying to please my grandfather, because, yeah, it's no different than your father telling you, discipline you to do certain things. And yeah, I just want to please him.

: In private, did he also want you guys to speak only of the paper family and not of the true family relationships?

Yes.

: Was that difficult for you to keep it straight, to remember?

The real relationship is embedded in my mind, but it's just the phony relationships that I have to keep looking at the papers to study it. In Chinatown in those days, most of the people that I ran around with were immigrants, and so we all know we're all phonies, to say the least. Like, I remember going to school, talking to our friends in grammar school that... everybody, all friends referred to my brother and I as, that's your brother, there's no question about that. But when we come to the principal or the school administration, then we have to say, no, that's my cousin I'm living with. Yeah, it's a way of life, I didn't think much about it. My grandfather, though, he was all seriousness. He was concerned about being deported, being...again the future generation of other people coming, so we have to maintain this paper relationship, according to school records and whatnot.

: How did you feel about having phony papers? You said your friends were mostly immigrants, was there any sense of stigma? Did you feel ashamed, or was that just the way it was?

I just thought that was the way of life. I don't know... again, I'm talking about my, maybe, before the first five, ten years here, during grammar school, junior high school, just a way of life here. A way of life in the sense that, I don't know why, but we all had these phony relationships and.... Living in Chinatown then, and perhaps even now, it was living in a ghetto. Again, when we first arrived, the three of us, there was a room, in a rooming house, about ten by ten. My grandfather was sharing this room with another friend of his. He had half a room and my grandfather had the other half of the room. And when I arrive there were three of us in one half of the room and he had the other half. And later on we moved on to another separate room by ourselves, the three of us. But

again, it just.. we thought this was a way of life... not knowing that we were in an actual ghetto.

(Pause)

: Sounds very cramped.

(Laughs) Yes.

: Going back to the questions you said you had in your teens, twenties and thirties, about the questions that you were asked, did you talk to anybody about the questions you had?

No, not even to my brother. But I was wondering to myself, what were the questions? Just curiosity that really got me--finally got me to San Bruno to look it up.

: Were there any reasons that you may have had why you didn't share your concerns with anyone?

I just didn't think it was important, then. Just later on in life I felt that this processing at Angel Island is important, is part of my life that my kids and my grandkids should know about it. Even my wife, who's born in Hawaii, went to school at Whittier College, and then we met here and we got married here in San Francisco. But even with her we didn't talk much about the Angel Island processing business. She wasn't familiar with it, because she just, because not being raised in San Francisco, knows very little about this paper business. And even then I never mentioned to her about this name Richard that I had until we were in Chinatown one day walking and then one of my older friends in grammar school who remembered me with that name Richard and he called me Richard and my wife was terribly really surprised, maybe I had a secret identity or something.

(Laughter)

(Long pause)

: After your release from Angel Island you said you went to live with your grandfather in a small room?

Yes, correct.

: How long did you stay there before you moved?

There maybe six months, and then we moved to another building where we had a room maybe ten by ten to ourselves, just the three of us. And then, ah... yeah, we were there a number of years, until we got evicted for the construction of the Ping Yuen project—are you familiar with San Francisco housing project in Chinatown itself? They built three housing projects—the city—for low-income people and so we were living in that part of the land that they were doing reconstruction so we had to move to another building for about a year before we moved because we were...evicted. Then we had a first crack at living at that housing project. And I didn't know it at that time, but again--my grandfather, brother and I—that these housing projects were for FAMILIES. And I didn't

realize we were a FAMILY. I think of family as father, mother and children. But anyway, we qualify, so we move into this two-bedroom, one bath, kitchen—must be six, seven hundred square feet—amazing. Amazing to have all that space. And there we lived until—the rent was, I think, 20% of your family income, so when we started working, the rent became expensive, would have been—so I moved out of there.

(Pause)

And going back, talking about my family a little bit, when my grandfather went back to China in 1938 to bring us, my brother and I over, what I didn't know was that when he came back he had reported to immigration that his wife has passed away. And he remarried, to a younger woman. Well, this younger woman who he remarried, actually is my mother. So in 1952, he brought his wife, my mother, along with my brother and sister. But my brother and sister, as you can see, is now my uncle and aunt. So again it's a paper family that he created and he just kept going and going. And in 1968, I believe when they had the amnesty program, where they said—the immigration people said—we know all these phonies, paper families that they invited us over about the people and said, "let us get our records straight, get the true relationships." Initially I didn't want to go, my brother and I—my grandfather had passed away about that time—and so my brother and I decided, who cares? We didn't want to go. And then one of my paper brothers, who has no relationship to us at all, he went and confessed and said, "he's not my brother." So then we decided, well, why not? So we went then and took the, went to the amnesty program to get our records straight about our true relationship. And you might say a funny thing happened about my interrogation—I mean for the amnesty interrogation—was that I was a little thinking of retirement. I said I came over when I was ten years old. My paper says I was eight years old. So I confessed this also, I said, "That's not my REAL birth date." So anyway, I gave them what I thought was my real birth date and so I picked up two years in age in one year. Then I also mentioned that we have another brother, still in Hong Kong, real brother. And.. that's not part of any of these records. But he is our true brother. So they put him on record and then, we didn't know it, I didn't know it, some ten years later the immigration contacted me and says, "Your brother is now eligible to come over to the United States." And so...we didn't know it, that through the interview that they would place him on the roster to be eligible to enter into this country. But the priority list is why, for immigrants, wife, parents, and children... So we waited about ten years before he qualified, the brother relationship qualified, so he finally made it, and when immigration notified me about the possibility...anyway we saw then to proceed with it. And then my brother, who at that time in Hong Kong, he was concerned about 1997, where the British turn it back to China. And he didn't know what was going to happen after going back to China, so then he proceeded to follow through and say, I want to immigrate. So all of the whole family, I sponsor him over here legitimately, so he's the only one who came over LEGITIMATELY.

: Did you have any qualms about whether declaring under the amnesty act would affect someone else that might have been a paper sibling of yours in a negative way?

No, you might say my paper brother already did the damage in saying he's not my brother, and so we just... our relationship is really just my brother, myself, and my

mother, who again at that time already passed away, too, who is supposed to be my grandmother. So we were just concerned with our immediate family.

: When did you become a naturalized U.S. citizen?

Technically I was a citizen before I came over, because I came over as a son of a son of a citizen. I was surprised myself that I thought only the son of a citizen gets the citizenship, but the grandson also gets citizenship, because the son now is a citizen. So technically, yes, I was a citizen when I came over. And then, also being in the army, during the Korean War, that was of help. But the amnesty program then, with the issue of the immigration papers, and say, you a naturalized citizen. That (reported thousands of?) citizenships.

: I didn't realize you were in the Korean War.

Yeah, I spent a year in Korea.. And after leaving China, leaving Hong Kong in 1940, I've never seen my father again, until 1953 when I was in Korea itself. And then I took a couple of weeks leave and went to Hong Kong and saw him the one and only time since leaving.

: Were you able to keep in contact with him by letter or any other way?

We didn't have a good family relationship. HE wrote letters to my grandfather...and I didn't know enough Chinese to write letters to HIM. And so obviously he didn't write English, so, no, we didn't have any communication, except what little he may have said to my grandfather.

: You were in Hong Kong for several weeks, then. That was the extent of your visit?

Yes.

(Pause)

: How long did you serve in Korea?

My term was two years, but I was in Korea itself for one year.

: What did you do?

I was a clerk typist in a military intelligence unit. Before the war ended--the Korean War--that was a POW camp, that's one of the terms. And when I got there, the war, the shooting stopped, the armistice was declared, so that place had become not a POW camp, but a... we detained—the U.S. army detained—South Koreans returning from North Korea. So we want to interrogate them about questions about North Korea. So that, anyway, we a small unit, couple hundred soldiers.

: Did you meet your wife before or after going over there?

We met while I was.. going to school at San Francisco State. While I was going to school there I met, I became friends with people from Hawaii, students. So I got to know them, hang around with them. And they like typical college students have parties, and at one of these parties my wife, who was teaching at Cupertino at that time, she was invited to one of these parties, and we met at the party.

: Could you tell me a little about your work since then?

After college I went and got a job at Kaiser Hospital, accounting department. And there I spent my life with them, 33 years, in the accounting and finance area.... Pushing pencils.. it's lifetime work. And in the process, since I'm in accounting area, I spent the last ten years of my life, my working life, I took up income tax preparation. And when I was working that was my part-time job, now it's my full-time job. I'm still doing, even today, tax preparation and I got my...what we call the (enroll?) agent, I don't know if you're familiar, certificate from the IRS. The (enroll?) agent is a license issued by the IRS to us that we can do income tax preparation... So this is my busy season.

: Well, I appreciate you finding the time, I can imagine you're pretty busy.

Yeah, a couple of hundred clients. It's not so bad with computers.
(Pause)

: Well, getting back to Angel Island. You said you had returned there? What was that like?

I really didn't have a so-called soft feeling... I just went back there, look at it, and it didn't bring back any memories. And yeah, my brother and I, we have gone back. It's almost like a strange place to us. Last spring, when my family from Italy was here, we have two grandchildren, one is eight and one is six, so they had a.. Angel Island a picnic. The Angel Island Foundation had a picnic at Angel Island itself so since they were here we went. And my eight-year-old granddaughter went and saw a film, a movie about Angel Island, and she then...something stuck in her mind. They referenced Angel Island somewhat like a jail so she thought I was in jail. And they showed an armed guard there, and I guess, yes, she really thought I was in JAIL, she wondered what I did to be in JAIL. And so she got interested of my Angel Island experience, but again, going back to physically, myself, no it didn't bring back brutal, bad memories.

: So she expressed interest, then, in what happened there?

And in fact my Angel Island record, all my children, my three girls have a copy if it. And my granddaughter inquired about Angel Island so my daughter gave her the record, to read, to look at. And she was really interested.

: Do you think future generations should know about Angel Island?

Yes, definitely. They should be...even myself, until twenty or twenty-five years ago, was not aware of this so-called Chinese Exclusion Act. And this is part of history that you might say this country is trying to bury. It is the only law that excludes an ethnic group, and sad to say, not many people, even among the Chinese, is aware of it. And yes I think it's something that people should be aware of... You might say the Jewish people have their Holocaust, and the Japanese have their detention camp about December 7th, and again, this is all part of history. People... we are all aware of those. Very few people are aware of Angel Island and what it represents.

(Long pause)

: And the extraordinary lengths people had to go through to go through the Exclusion Act.

Yeah.

: Is there anything else you'd like to talk about?

... This book, have you seen this book?
(Shows copy of *Landed*, by Millie Lee)

: No I haven't seen it.

It was written by Millie, she's a friend of mine, and this book is about this child, it's not about me, it's about this child coming to America, what this child went through in this children's book, is exactly what I went through, in a simple form. And because I help Millie with this book, it's about three children, she decided to name one of those children using my name, so I am in press. And just, ah, the Chronicle review of the book, a few weeks ago.

: Oh wow, very cool.

So I make this presentation to you, so you can get an idea. And it's personally autographed by Millie.

: Thank you so much.

Yeah, so you can get an idea of what's going on, too.

: Beautifully illustrated.

(Looking over the book)

The Chronicle is also interviewing people for an article to be published April 13th, and I don't know what the article's about except I know it was maybe interviewing some people went through Angel Island. The reason for that article is the San Francisco earthquake there.

: I actually met the reporter who was writing that piece the weekend of the 25th last month, she actually came out to Angel Island.

Yeah, anyway, she did the interview here with me and she said the article would come out on April 13th. So anyway, I'm looking forward to see what that has to say.

: Yeah, that will be interesting.

Yes.

: Is there anything else?

No.

: Great. Thank you.

Thank you.