Interview with ROY C. WONG
by Sylvia Sun Minnick

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Chinese

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0:00 Introduction

1:00 Mr. Wong tells briefly about his family.

3:10 He recounts the routine and rigorous schedule he followed attending American school, washing dishes in the restaurant, and then finishing up with Chinese school six days out of the week.

6:15 1934-1935 the Japanese began their invasion of China. Mr. Wong remembers the fundraising campaigns by Chinese in America to help those in China.

7:45 Mr. Wong's father faced problems in Monterey because white military personnel vented their rage against the Japanese on anyone they thought looked Japanese.

10:10 Mr. Wong tells how he came to marry his wife, Pearl. Even though they are from different regional-cultural backgrounds, he was fluent in her dialect.

13:00 Mr. Wong began his state service employment career as an engineer for the Division of Highways in San Luis Obispo. He traces his various promotions, duties, and assortment of state agencies during his career.

17:05 Mr. Wong opines that the Chinese state workers in the engineering-technical fields are not cohesive. Because of learned child-rearing values, they seek other means of socializing and foster means to subsidize their income.

19:50 Mr. Wong feels the Chinese are limited in promotions and advancements in state service.

21:50 He belongs to the Chan Family Association - Gee How Oak Tin and describes the past and present responsibilities of the association.

26:00 For the past two years Mr. Wong has been the vice president of the Chinese Benevolent Association. He tells about the responsibilities of that organization, the changes that are occurring in the Chinese-American society, and reasons why the association is having a difficult time representing the total Chinese community.
Many other Chinese organizations have been established to fulfill the needs of Chinese Americans who no longer look to the family associations for guidance.

Mr. Wong provides arguments and examples of social-cultural marginal problems young Chinese Americans face in both the Chinese and white communities.

The new immigrants also have problems as newcomers into the existing Chinese community but they also infuse new life into local family associations.

Mr. Wong founded the MANDARINS OF SACRAMENTO in 1964. He gives the background to the formation of the drum and bugle corp and tells of its public relations' benefits to the Chinese community as a whole.

Mr. Wong tells his preference and how he manages to enjoy the best of both the Chinese and the western communities.

On the question of unity or schism within the Chinese community, Mr. Wong believes the Chinese will show a unified front (face) when dealing with the white community. But, internally, the community is splintered because of dialect differences, interests, and activities.

Mr. Wong firmly believes the speed of acculturation of the Chinese society to mainstream America will be determined by the young and the new immigrants.

Although he still lives in Sacramento, he envisions his stay as temporary. He hopes to make some prolonged trips to China and Taiwan, but, admits he will eventually return to the United States.