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-So, Ben, where and when were you born?

I was born in a little village – in Canton, you know, they call it Canton. But that is Quongdong, you know, in Chinese. That's in Southern China, near Hong Kong, in fact, it's very close to Makao.

-When was that? What year were you born?

I was born in 1917.

-How large was your family?

Are you talking about my real family, or paper family?

-Let's start with real family, and then move to paper family.

Haha. Ok. My real family – I just had my father and mother, and I was the only child. But I understand, my parents had three kids, but they didn't survive. I was the only survivor, because they pass, you know, kids died when they were infants. So I don't know, so I was just the only one in the family.

-How about your paper family?

My paper family – well, actually, my paper family had a father, mother, and actually, they had a daughter, but instead of reporting a daughter, they reported a son, that was me! But, over here, they had 2 American children born in San Francisco, one girl, one boy. The girl passed away already, but the boy is still living, but he is probably 70 years old by now. But he is divorced – he has a daughter – the daughter just got married recently, and has a little baby girl. And anyway, as to my paper family; it is just the two parents and two sons, me and my paper brother. You know, it's funny though, my paper brother is from a different village, and when they bring the photographs over, they looked entirely different you know, different family, different characteristics. In fact, he was older than me, a few years I think, and he was supposed to be my younger brother! Really crazy huh? It would make a good play, huh?

-Yeah, it would make a great play!

A very humorous play!

-Let's come back to that! How and why did you decide to come to America?

I didn't decide, my father decided. They just sent me, you know. I was only 13 years old, I didn't know anything about it. And suddenly I knew, I was supposed to go to America, the Golden Mountain, you know, and come here to look for gold. Hahaha! I still haven't found any gold yet! Yeah, that's why people came here at the time, you know, that's what it was, to look for gold.

-How did you feel about that?

No, I just followed instructions, that's all, you know. I didn't do any independent thinking, you know, I mean, I couldn't refuse. When they say you go, then I go! You know, I was a kid. When you are 13 years old, you have no power to do anything. You can't tell your father – in fact, my real father, he's a perpetual gambler, you know. And he came back one time, to the village, just for a little while, and he saw me playing with a bunch of kids, you know playing gambling, rolling coins. So he told me to come back home. So I followed him back home. You know what he said to me? He goes, 'bring me the feather duster!' So I did. And he whipped me. And my mother was sitting on the dining table, just watching – she couldn't do anything else. He said 'don't gamble!' he said to me. But he is a gambler himself. Because he is losing all the time, and he wanted to take it out on me! In China, you can't do anything. There is no law against parents punishing their kids. So, boy, it was something! But my mother, really, she couldn't do anything. She couldn't very well prevent my father from whipping me! Boy, that was pretty bad. So I always remember that... Oh, what a man. He goes to gamble himself, and he sees me, just playing with the kids, and says 'don't gamble.' And, that is pretty strict! You know, saying go home and bring me the feather duster! Those Chinese feathers are long! And he whipped me. He didn't stay too long. I only saw my father twice in my life. He left after I was born, and then he went to Australia. You know, he didn't come back until I was about ten years old. That was the time he whipped me. And he stayed maybe less than a year, and then he went back. So, I didn't see him until after he retired, and got to be old age. After he retired, he came back, and he bought a place in Makao. Actually we had two houses in a village, but he didn't live there because my mother already had passed away at that time, when I was here; when I was about in my 20's, my mother passed away, and I didn't know, because that was during WWII. Because China was fighting Japan at that time, you see, and Japan was overrunning China at that time, so there was no communication, you see? And I couldn't even send money home to my mother. And, then, you know, that's pretty tough. Because, my father couldn't send money home from Australia, I couldn't send money home from here; she died of pneumonia. I heard she went to a cousin's funeral, on a very rainy stormy day, and she was drenched with rain, and it caused her to have pneumonia. And she died very soon after. Anyway, to come back to my father, you know, he came back in 1960, around then, and I took a trip back to see him because my cousin told me he was pretty sickly. So that was about 1963, 64. I went back to Makao, and saw him there, and I stayed in Makao about 10 days. And then I came back. He was married, for a second time, you know, because my mother, already passed away, so he was told to marry a girl, who had TB actually. My cousin introduced him, you know, she married my father. My father, he is uneducated, he can't think independently, so he listened to other people. Whatever they say, and he just go ahead and marry the girl, who was actually a widow I think. But she had TB. And then he would complain to me; 'gee, you know, I married that girl because our cousin introduced me.' But I didn't say anything, because, you know, he's the guy who married her, not me. And besides, it was too late anyway. She was very nice to me, you know. But I didn't stay with them to eat dinner, you know, or anything like that, because, my father you know, he goes out for dinner, but you know the wife, she cooks at home, and I could see, you know the little crate she

puts the dishes in there, and I could see, you know the cockroaches crawling all over it. Hahaha. You know, that's very unhealthy, and so I always was careful not to touch anything. Oh, that's terrible. But I couldn't eat there. She was complaining about my father too. And when he came back, he brought back an old ladle, I guess just from the store! Because he was a cook you know! Hahahahaha. So, he just brought it back from the store to help her. Oh, that's terrible. But anyway, I took a picture with my father, because he wanted to take a picture of me. So I promised, you know, to take a picture with my second mother. I said 'I'll take a picture with you.' But I never did. But I gave her some money, you know. But she was pretty good. She washed all my shirts, and my suit. You know, but she was good, she did the laundry for me.

-Was that the third time you saw your father?

No, that was the second time. Only the second time. Only two times. You know, because he had gone to Australia. And you know, in China, you get married, you go elsewhere to make money, and send it back to the wife. A lot of people are like that. I know people from the same village as me; they get married, and then for maybe about 5 or 6 years, they make some money, they work in a sewing factory, something like that. You know, low wages, but they save that money. Then they go back, get married, maybe get a kid; and they come back here, for another five years. And then go back, if they are lucky! You know, that is a terrible family, you know, no family at all. [chuckle] Just merely existing, see. Now that is pretty bad. [chuckle] Actually, I could write a novel on that!

-Or a play...

Yeah, I could. Well, I have three plays you know. Ready for production. One is called Chinese Yankee, you see. One is called Little Peach Blossom. And the other one is a documentary, or a docudrama. I contacted people in Shanghai and Peking, and they were interested, but they wanted to learn more. So we have been communicating. I also, when I came here, I was 13 years old, and I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in China, so that means I still knew some Chinese. But when I came here, I didn't have the opportunity to continue my Chinese. Because I had to learn a new language. Because I tried to get away from speaking like other guys with an accent that's heavy. I know some other guys in Portland, you know, guys from China with a very heavy accent. So it's very hard to communicate. So I tried hard to pronounce, so that people could understand me. Words like 'scissors', you know. It took me a long time, to practice in front of a mirror to get it right, see. Otherwise, first beginning as "scissorsay". See? You know what I mean; Chinese would say that. So I had to learn how to pronounce, if I didn't, people would not be able to understand me. [Chuckle] So, you know, actually, it took me a long time to do that, see.

-On the boat, did you know any English?

No. Actually, I did learn a little bit, the alphabet. See, we had two houses in the village. One we rented out to a bus ticket seller; he and his wife. And, they lived next door to me. He knew a little bit of English. So he taught me the alphabet. So I learned something from him, like saying the vowels, a-e-i-o-u-y! And then how to pronounce them, like b-a: bay, b-e: bee, b-i: bi, b-o: bo, b-u: bu, b-y: by, and then I would go through the bay, bee, bi, bo, bu, by. And then c, cay cee ci co cu cy, and d, day dee di do du dy, and so on and so on, f, fay fee fi fo fu fy. So, everyday I was doing that. So now when I read, I go by that. [Chuckle] So, you know, if I put those things

together in syllables, I can pronounce those words, see. Like, baby, you know. But still, you know, I would say that I am not quite that fluent yet in the language. Sometimes I get my son, he's pretty good see, to check on my words. He is pretty good. He was born in this country - naturally. He's American! [Chuckle] I am the only old Chinese! [Laughter] So he knows the language, you know he speaks with other guys. He works with Berkeley news, you know, so he is pretty good. When he was at city college, he was a sports writer for the college paper, so he is pretty good.

-When you were in China, when you were 13, did you know about Angel Island?

Oh, no, no, I didn't know anything about Angel Island, before I came to America. I had never heard of it. Even when I came, I still didn't know what it was, they just sent me over there, that's all! [Laughter] Even then, all I knew was that it was a place that was called Angel Island. You know, I came here just like a bunch of *ship* – you know, not *ship*, but *sheep*! [Laughter] You know, we were all, just following the herd!

-And did you come as a paper son?

Yeah, I came as a paper son. It is written down in my biography. All the facts, and coming to shore and everything. And my paper brother. It is all in there.

-Can you tell me about that?

I can tell you about the experience. But I think it would be better; you see, I'll tell you what. There is a paragraph here showing it all. I could read it to you, very quickly. Here's the beginning, Chapter 9. I had a cousin take me to Hong Kong, and we were staying in a hostel, by the waterfront (just one night). And the next day, he sent me off to America. So I bought passage on the steam ship McKinley, you know, that's an American name. So, on board ship, me and my paper brother stayed in steerage, in the rear part of the ship. So they had a whole bunch of bunks and a whole bunch of people. So I stayed in there. We weren't permitted to go anywhere except that area. So we could only go up above on the deck, and we couldn't go look around. It was real hard from the stern of the ship; you see the ocean, miles and miles away. It was a pretty long voyage, from China to San Francisco; it takes 21 days, approximately 21 days, 3 weeks to get here. And so, during that trip I got sea sick quite a bit of the time. I had to vomit, you know, most people do that when they get sea sick. So on the ship, they brought paper bags for us to vomit, instead of throwing up on the floor. Most of the time, I was pretty sick. And the steam, in the back of the ship is very – it is really awful, and unbearable. Anyway...when I would go up on deck, I could see seagulls following the ship, because seagulls follow the ship because of the garbage of the ship. So anyway, it was awful – this clean, luxurious part in front of the deck for the regular travelers, you see, who had money. But we weren't permitted to go there, you see, because the only way was if you had money. [Laughter] You see, money talks! So anyway, we had to stay in steerage. That was pretty bad.

-So you had to stay in steerage the entire time? Not one day on deck?

Oh, yeah. All the time in steerage. We couldn't go anywhere else! [Laughter] We couldn't go anywhere else but the ocean. No, we could go up above, and up on deck, but we couldn't go any further, you see? Just behind! [chuckle]

Anyway, so we arrived in San Francisco early in the morning, on the ship. So when I looked at the city at nighttime, and I saw big buildings, and bright lights twinkling; gee, I was really amazed, you know. I was so impressed! Anyway, then I thought we would probably land, you know, go ashore, you know, why wait. But then instead they led us to Angel Island for temporary confinement, and later for interrogation. To make sure everything was ok before they permitted us to land, before they permitted us to go ashore. So I stayed there for a couple of weeks with my paper brother. On Angel Island, we approached a great big building, like barracks. And inside they were full of bunk beds, two-tiered beds, and a big crowd, all the new arrivals, all men. Because we were separated from the women.

-What were your first thoughts?

No idea! Just a place, you know. You go in to a big building, and see a whole bunch of bunk beds all over the place. For dining, for lunch and dinner, we sat at a big table. A long table, split into several sections. They had a lot of rice, and some Chinese food, maybe three or four dishes. I was only a kid, so I ate quite a bit of rice, I ate about 5 bowls of rice each time. It must have looked like I hadn't eaten for days! I was just amazed about why I ate so much each time. And then, they have besides the long dining table, we would go to a bathroom. On Angel Island, a bathroom was like a line up of showers. But no bathtubs. Because in China, especially in the village, they had no bathtubs! [Laughter] I had never seen a bathtub in my life! So, you could take a shower. And also, they don't have regular toilet, like over here, sitting. No, over there it's – In my village, there is a big pond, a fish pond. At one end, they have a little shack over there. And inside the shack, you go over there and squat, to do your thing! You know, that's always the way you do that. But in the house, for the women, they do have pots. They sit on the pots, and everyday they have to clean up, and take the waste outside to a big barrel. And people come by, to collect the waste for vegetation, for fertilizer. So anyway, at the immigration office, in order for the Chinese to – because the Chinese were not familiar with a regular toilet! They had to squat in order to do their thing – so they had to squat on the floor. And they had a hole, and a place for you to squat. [Laughter] So we all did that! So after I lived in San Francisco, even with a regular toilet, I had to squat, you know!

-I know! It is different, isn't it?

I had a heck of a time, to learn how to sit! Because when I sit – nothing happens! I had to squat, because it is habitual. You know! [Laughter] Really, that is something. So in actuality, you have to squat, even on a regular toilet! That is something different, you know. So, we, I and my paper brother, got acquainted with other people, among the crowd.

-Do you remember them?

Yeah. Some kids, practical jokers, you know kids like that would come over and make fun, especially make fun of my paper brother. He's a kind of a submissive type of person, so they would make fun of him. They would play all kind of tricks! They didn't do it to me, though. I am

kind of a serious type. So anyway, so my paper brother got the upper bunk, and I got the lower bunk. He would sleep in the upper and I would sleep in the lower. So we stayed there for about two weeks. And, when it came to interrogation, you know, by the examiner, they called me first, and the examiner asked me questions, you know. "Where did I live?" "How my house was built?" and to give him an idea of what it looks like, and how many rooms, and so forth, you see. And whether there were any alleys around or not, and so forth. So, I described it according to my house! [Laughter] So anyway, I told the examiner about my factual house! So, what I told him, my paper brother would not know that! Because he is from a different family, different names, I mean really! But on the paper, it was the same name! So, during the lunch break, very quickly, I went to inform my paper brother about the facts I told the examiner! I said: That, and that, and that! So when the examiner asks you, you answer, that, that, that! Otherwise, you will be inconsistent, you will say the wrong thing, you know! You couldn't be brothers, if you say different things! But he said exactly what I said. I think that's why the examiner believed we were brothers. [Laughter] But anyway, I don't know how the examiner couldn't tell, you know. Because we came with different photographs! You know, my photograph was from a different place, and my brother's was a different photographer. So it was different, it looked different, I mean it was ridiculous! And we got away! Oh dear, I don't know how.

-Wow! That's incredible.

Yeah! And somehow, we weren't forbidden to go to shore! After two weeks time, someone said, ok, you go! After that big lie, you know. I don't know how! Actually, it's ridiculous, when you think about it... But anyway, it's pretty tough, coming as a paper son. Actually it's illegal, you know what I mean? You know. You're not telling the facts. You're lying, actually. But of course when you're a kid, actually, you're not intending to lie. When you just have to follow what the grown-ups tell you to do. So when I was staying over here, I had to keep quiet all the time. I used my status as a paper son. But my father was not over here, he was in China. So you keep that a long time. But at one time, they had a big commotion. The immigration office investigated the Chinese here, who came as paper sons and paper daughters. That was way back in the late '50's. And some of them, you know, they had to confess. And some of them had to be taken down as an immigrant, not a citizen. You had to go through all that paperwork, and rigamarole. And then you could stay. And, my paper parents, you know, had a daughter. I was supposed to be the daughter. She couldn't come, because now they had a son, not a daughter. So in order for her to come, she had to file paperwork with somebody else! As somebody else's daughter!

-Did she come?

Yeah, she came! As somebody else's daughter! Not the real parent's daughter, see. So she came, but with a different name. She came, got married, had two kids, and so forth. But she passed away already, same age as me. Anyway, she had to confess! You know, she confessed, and she had to go through a lot of work. So she could stay; so she did it. Because she already had two kids, and she had already gotten married! Two American kids. So they had to let her stay! [Laughter] Oh, boy. That was really something. My paper parents, to get their own daughter, had to buy a paper from somebody else! I mean, if he didn't report having a son, just told them the facts; that he had a daughter, she could have come earlier. But you know, the reason they reported a son is they could sell the paper to make money. You know what I mean? Because, you

know, you can sell the paper to make money, then bring your own daughter with that money. [Laughter] Oh, boy! Really something, huh?

-Yes. What a story! Did you do the confession program? Were you naturalized in the 50's?

No! I didn't do any confession. So naturally, I made myself a citizen. And then I could do a lot of things. I applied to take the Real Estate Broker's exam, and I passed it to become a broker. But in order to take the exam, you have to be a citizen. Otherwise you cannot do it, see? So as a citizen, I had a lot of privileges. Otherwise I would not have had them. Also, during WWII, certain things, to work in the shipyard, doing defense work, you got to be a citizen. You know, if you're not a citizen, you are not allowed to touch certain sensitive stuff. You know, when you work for the government, doing defense work, you've got to be a citizen. As a foreigner, you cannot do it.

-In WWII, were you a soldier? Did you enlist in the army, or did you stay in the shipyards?

I was working in the shipyards, and building victory ships for the Department of Defense. And I was assistant to the chief electrical engineer. The reason I got the job is because I had an electrical background. Well, I was working for the dollar store at that time, and I wasn't a citizen yet. So I took a correspondence course from the National Radio Institute. So I studied radio, and television, and of course electronics, so that I would have an electrical background. It took me two years, and I got a diploma for that. And then when WWII broke out I got that job in the shipyards, because I had all that knowledge. So, I was assigned to the electrical department of the shipyard. Since I had all that knowledge, I got a deferment. I took a physical, and passed it. I got a 1A. And I was all set to go to boot camp in California, to begin basic training. But at the time, especially young people all had gone to the army already. So I was an indispensable person, you know. So they got me a deferment to stay with the shipyard to build ships. So since they got me a deferment, I did not go; and not too long after that was D-day, so I did not go at all. So I got out of the army. But I was ready to go though. Physically fit, 1A. A lot of people didn't get a 1A, but I passed it.

-When did you become naturalized?

Oh, I became naturalized in 1950-something. Because it was during Truman's administration, I think. You know, not too long after the war, when I became a citizen. I was fighting the immigration office, dealing with them because of my legal knowledge. Because at the time, after I finished the courses in regular television, I took a correspondence course in law and procedure, from the Los Angeles extension university, studying by correspondence. So I got quite a bit of legal knowledge, you know, how to handle things legally. I kind of equate it with a procedure. How to look things up; how to look up the precedence and so forth. So in order to fight with the immigration station, you had to have precedent, you know, have a case that is similar to you, similar circumstances. And of course, the lawyers in the immigration office, they couldn't argue with you, because you know, you've got evidence. Like a regular law court! When some of my friends heard about how I got to be a citizen, they were amazed that I could do it single-handedly, you know, do it by myself! They had to go to trial, go to a lawyer, they had to go to Canada, this and that! They had to spend all their money! You know, I just wrote a few letters! If you don't give it to me, I'll sue! [Laughter] Oh, boy, that was something! So, I was my own lawyer!



-That story about the interrogation, on Angel Island...what about your daily life on Angel Island?

Yeah. My daily life over there, there was actually not much going on, except just staying there with my brother. Some guys would climb up on the beds and just talk to us, and play with my paper brother. They would tell jokes. There was not much to it. Of course, there was a basketball court outside. But I would never go out to the patio to watch them. Some other people, they liked to play basketball to exercise. But I never did go out there. And then of course on the walls, a lot of people would do a lot of writing. Chinese poetry. A lot of people got a lot of schooling in China, so they could write poems, you know. On the walls. And they would write something, grumbling about the injustice of the whole affair. I didn't have the education to write the poems, or read them always, but I remember seeing them. I remember them a little bit; I still remember pretty good.

-So you didn't have the education to do that?

Well, anyway, I stopped at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. After that, I stopped the education in Chinese, so I started to learn the English. Until, of course, recently. I could make it out, pretty good, and of course I still could read the Chinese paper. So I told them 'after you finish, give me the copy instead of throwing it away'. So they did, every day, and then I read the Chinese, I got the news, and I still could make it out. And I got a Chinese dictionary, it was pretty good, so I could look it up. And now every day, I spend an hour looking up Chinese words in the dictionary. I copy all the phrases, so I spend an hour each day. I have done it for more than a year already. So I did pretty good, and I am getting my Chinese back. So that's how I can communicate with the Chinese in China. I can write Chinese letters. Sometimes first I write it in English, and then I translate it into Chinese. I look it up in the dictionary, to figure out how to write it. Under certain circumstances, I didn't know how to write it in Chinese, so I look it up in the dictionary, and they have the Chinese, under certain circumstances. [Laughter] You know what I mean? So the Chinese over there, they could understand what I was talking about.

Anyway, you know, I still have got some legal things to do. My father, when he went back to China, he stayed in Makao. And he bought himself a little place, you know, like a store with two stories. He didn't go back to the village to live, because you know, his wife passed away already. When he was over there, he bought that place. After he died, naturally, it was going to go to me. I said, no, just let it go, because I still have a stepmother. So after my stepmother died, I had to go back to claim the house. So I got a lawyer in Makao to get the deed to me, from my father and mother. But of course, I got sick over here and couldn't take care of it. So I had some cousins over there who really took care of it. And, they died off. And some other people from the village, knowing nobody was taking care of it, took over and started collecting rent, and claimed that they own it. It's still going on. So I tried to get the tenants to pay me, but of course the tenants were renting out from the other guy. So I tried to kick the other guy out. So anyway, it is still going on with the lawyer, but I am using the same lawyer who did the work for me when I was back there. So, it is still going on. So when I try to get that solved, I have to communicate. But this lawyer is Portuguese, so of course we communicate in English; he doesn't write Chinese, he is Portuguese! You know what they call lawyers? They call them avocados, boy it's tough, it's like having avocados for lunch!

-Do you remember any of the poems on the walls at Angel Island?

I don't know, I never read those poems. I knew there were poems. I couldn't interpret those poems anyway, because my knowledge was too shallow at that time. So I wouldn't be able to. But some of the Chinese, they were pretty scholarly, you know, they had Chinese schooling, some of them, maybe they went to high school. So they knew quite a bit, some of them. But I was only there in the fifth grade, that's all. And besides, after I arrived over here, I had no chance to learn in Chinese anyway.

-Right! Just English!

But of course, the Chinese over here, Chinese parents who have kids born over here, they go to regular school in the daytime, and Chinese school at nighttime! And some of the Chinese born over here, they know a lot of Chinese. It always surprised me! Boy, they are pretty good! They know two languages! They speak English and also Chinese, because they go to Chinese school when they were kids. And as kids, they can pick up several languages easily. See, if I came older than 13, most likely, I would have a heavy accent, because your mind is set already. If you want to learn a new language, it is very hard when you get older. After 16, it is real difficult.

-You know, could you give me some words to describe Angel Island?

I don't know how to describe it. Just a place of confinement, that's all. [Silence; 30 seconds] Because I was away over there, only two weeks. You just sleep, and eat, and play. That's all, there's nothing else. I could have gone out and played sports, and played ball and so forth – but I didn't do that.

-Have you ever returned to the mainland?

I never returned to the mainland. I went back to Hong Kong, and from Hong Kong, I went to Makao. But I was afraid to go inland, because I was afraid that China would not let me out. Because I was an American citizen. And at that time, of course... Now, if I go, I do go inside. But at that time, I was afraid to do so. One of my cousins, though, he came over just like me, as an immigrant. So, he went back. He had a mother, and a couple of sisters, in Makao. And, he didn't even go to Makao, he just stayed in Hong Kong. He didn't even see his own mother, because he was afraid to go inland. Of course, over here, he's married, and he's got a kid. His son is a social worker; but of course, all the American kids, you know... So anyway, he never set foot in China either. He's a couple years younger than me. He's got some kind of diabetes. I haven't heard from him recently. He's in Sacramento, he probably passed away already. But he came here with his cousin, his brother-in-law from Hong Kong, came with his wife. I communicate with them quite often. When he came, he dropped by to see me, so I told them to have a Chinese lunch before they go back. But the brother-in-law had children in Canada, so after coming over here they went to Canada to visit the children in Canada. See, people over there are sending kids all over; over here, Canada, Australia! [Laughter] Probably in France too! Yeah, in France, in Paris, there are a lot of Chinese too.

-Really?

When I was working with Bechtel, in the engineering office, they sent some engineers to Paris. Because, Bechtel, they've got offices in Paris! So this engineering guy, he came back and he told me, "isn't it so funny, the Chinese over there speak French!" Of course they speak French! Just like Chinese over here speak English! [Laughter] If you find Chinese in Germany, they will speak German too! Oh, you know, it was so funny to me, he said "Chinese speak French!" "Parlez-vous francais?" [Laughter]

-Oui! [Laughter]

Oui, oui! Oh, so funny! You know, really, I could write a book on that! Oh, it is so funny! Oh, boy.

{Paused: bathroom break}

Beginning to look at some pictures:

You know, my mother-in-law is Chinese, and my father-in-law is Welsh. My wife is Eurasian, her father is Welsh; mother is Chinese. My sister-in-law is older than my wife, and there's another one, older yet. There's Irene, Elsie, and Catherine. And they have two brothers; Johnny, Frances Hurlough. Hurlough is a Welsh name. And then my big sister-in-law, Irene, married Franco! [Chuckle] And then Elsie married Dennis Jones! I don't know, why would she? [Laughter] And my nephew is another Jones, and he has a light complexion and blond hair. He goes around with my son, and people won't believe that they are cousins! [Laughter] You know, because Steven's got dark hair, and he's got blond hair, and fair skin! And I am the only Chow in the family! Jones, Franco, Hurlough... I am the only Choy! [Laughter] So, anyway, talking about Choys, I met a lady, a manager at Wells Fargo Bank, just at Stevens Creek. The teller over there, she knows me, and she knows my name is Choy. So she called the other lady over there, the manager, and her name is also Choy! And when she came out, I said how come you are a Choy? She said "I married a Choy!" She was; she looked; I don't know, anyway, you couldn't tell she was a Choy! So, it was funny! She said "You are a Choy?" and I said "Yes, you are a Choy?" And she nodded, and so I said to everybody over there, "Choys-R-Us!" And they all laughed! [Laughter] Oh, boy, I love a funny day!

See Steven over there?

-Yeah, so Steven is your son and Eugene is your stepson?

Yeah, Eugene is my stepson. (showing me pictures) This is at my sister-in-law's Christmas party. She married my brother-in-law, Frances Hurlough. But then she got divorced from him and married David something-or-other, I don't know some other American name! They have a beautiful place out in Los Altos. You know all those big houses, it is beautiful. So, anyway.

-What are your plays about? "Little Peach Blossom", and "Chinese Yankee"?

My plays? I have five plays. Three are ready for production! What are they about? I have synopses, I can give them to you... Ok, Chinese Yankee is a romantic comedy. It is about a Hong Kong girl who came to America to look for a husband. It is hilarious! And the other one is called

“Little Peach Blossom”. It takes place in San Francisco’s Chinatown. It is about a man who has two daughters; one is very beautiful and attractive, the other one is just so-so. He loves the first one. But the first one falls in love with a Philipino man. She wants to marry him, and the father is against that. Very interesting. And the other play is actually a documentary. It is about Chiang Kai-Shek. He was detained by his deputy – all that time, in Saigon. So I wrote that from a base of facts. So I tried to get that one produced in Shanghai, or Beijing, in a big theatre. I wrote them all in English. But they can be translated into Chinese. That’s why I want to learn more Chinese. I probably won’t be able to translate it, but I will know what is going on.

-Can I ask you three more questions? You know, thank you so much for these pictures! I appreciate them.

[showing more pictures] Yeah! You know, she is Philipina. Rosario, I think, is her last name. Cecilia Rosario I think. You know, a Philipino name. But this one here, the other one, the Chinese girl wants to marry the Philipino boy; and his name is Carlos, Carlos Rodriguez.

-And this is Eugene’s girlfriend?

Oh yeah, they are living together. She is quite educated. She went to UCLA, and I think she studied linguistics. She graduated with a B.A. degree in that. And she also got a – what do they call that? Her aunt has a convalescent hospital – that’s where I stayed. And so she went and got that nursing license – what do they call that now? Registered Nurse! She has made a lot of money, going to work for a big hospital. But Eugene, he doesn’t have much education. I wanted him to get more, but he dropped out of high school. He is a street smart guy. Yeah, and he is pretty talkative – he can persuade anybody. Especially girlfriends! [Laughter] No, he is a good-looking kid too! He is actually very good looking! Much better looking than Steven! [Laughter]

-Well, they are both very good looking. So, this is called “The Deputy”?

This guy here, he is a deputy to Chiang Kai Shek. He is the second to number one, just like the Vice President. But, he detained Chiang Kai Shek for awhile, you see, that is the whole play, “The Deputy”. And then, after he was released, he put him on house arrest for life. He didn’t come out until he was above 90 years old. After that, he went to Hawaii to live for the rest of his life. I think he died at the age of one hundred. [Laughter] But this play is the watershed of Chinese history. It is very interesting. But I wrote it all in English. All the dialogue was written in English.

This is fact. It is a real documentary. It is not fictional. That is very important! I did quite a bit of research. In English, and in Chinese. Of course, I was more fluent with the Chinese than the English at that time, see. So I wrote it in English, instead of Chinese. But of course, I speak a different dialect from the regular Chinese too. In Beijing, they speak Mandarin. In Canton, and Hong Kong, they speak the Cantonese dialect. It is different.

-Can I ask you a few more questions?

Ok! [Laughter]

-Tell me if it is too much! Please tell me!

Oh, it's alright. I can still compete with the young, you know, except in the Olympics. [Laughter]

-Well, I can't do that either! You've got me beat if you can stay up until 11 o'clock! But we'll only be here until 9pm at the latest.

Ok! [Laughter]

-Before you were interrogated, were you coached on how to answer questions with your paper brother, and were you supposed to answer about his life?

Oh, before, we embarked, at the beginning of the trip, they sent me a booklet, a syllabus of some kind. And it was filled with questions and answers. You were supposed to learn the answers from those booklets. So when they would ask, "who's your father" you would know, and "who's your mother" and so forth. And "how old are you"? They called that booklet the "paper". And, "you got a brother?" and you would say, "yes" and so on and so forth. "What's his name?" It takes a long time to memorize all that, you see. You have to be coached. Otherwise, you won't know what to say! Whatever. But they didn't ask me anything from what I was coached! They just asked, simply, you know, where I lived, how many rooms there were in my house, how it was located, and so forth. So I just kept recounting what I knew of my own house! [Laughter] Maybe the book said different, you know! [Laughter] But I had to tell my paper brother, to inform him exactly what to say. If he was inconsistent, I knew he wouldn't pass the mustard!

-That's a great story! Wow. Once you and your paper brother got past Angel Island, what were your first impressions of San Francisco?

My first impressions of San Francisco. It was beautiful. I had never seen something like that in my whole life, because I lived in the village most of my life. The only time I had seen a city was when I stepped into Hong Kong. But there was a little town near the village. My mother used to take me there, and go around – and you know, I would follow her. But she used to call me back to her, because I kept looking at the views, gawking, you know because everything seemed so strange to me! So I kept slowing down, and my mother would get way ahead, you see? So she had to keep yelling at me to catch up. You know, when I was a kid, we had some funny incidents too. She had lived in my village, but mother moved back to her own village where she was born. That's where her brothers live, they've got families over there. So we rented a house over there, and we go to our aunt's house, that's my father's brother's wife's. My uncle, they also went to Australia. Anyway, after dinner, they had an extra dish to give us to take home. So my mother let me carry it, and I followed my mother home. I was a kid, I was maybe about 8 or 9 years old. So, I held it, like a blind man, walking. And I stepped in a ditch, and I tripped and fell. So naturally, the whole thing was ruined. When I got home, my mother wanted to punish me. So she chased me around. We lived in a house that had a living room, and it had a library, and then you go around the door and you are in the kitchen. My mother was chasing me around and around, and she pushed me, and then blood was dripping out! And the landlady said "wait, blood is dripping out!" And my mother stopped, and then we discovered that I had cut my leg. I still got that scar, even in my age. Here, I will show you. This scar here, real deep scar. So my mother stopped. But you know how they treated me over there? They sprinkled pepper on it! [Laughter] On the

wound! But it got well, though, but it took a long time, and I had that scar my whole life. It got well, but you can still see it! [Laughter]

You know, when you're a kid, you're kind of silly! You don't know anything! I think it was fish of some kind, and the whole thing goes into a ditch. You know, in China, they have a row of houses, and alongside the row is a ditch. You know, a sewage ditch! So that's where we were, we walked by, and you get too close to the ditch, you just fall in! Oh, that was something. Funny things happened to me in my life!

-Is there anything more that you want to add before we end for the evening?

Oh, there are a lot of things! But you cannot memorize everything at one time! It takes time. Which is why we come back, and recall what has happened. Because in one setting, I cannot remember everything. That is why I wrote that paper biography. I had to gradually record what's going on. But I could expand it, and elaborate a little more, each one. So it could become a big book! [Laughter]

You know, when I was a convalescent, you know, I stayed there and I had nothing to do during the daytime. You know, just sleep, and eat. But I wrote a lot of letters to different people, telling them about what was happening. And every time I wrote a letter, I also have a copy. I saved all the letters I wrote to my friends! I just kept them. Some are describing the whole thing. Sometimes, pretty interesting. One of them I wrote to my brother-in-law; it is a couple pages, I will let you read it. It is all about what is happening in the hospital. I guess I have to tie it up, but otherwise I will make you a copy!

-Thank you, thank you.

Part two of the Interview  
December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
3:30pm  
Caitlin Fischer  
Interviewee: Benjamin Choy

-Do you think it is important for future generations of Americans to know about Angel Island?

I do think so, because it is a historical thing. So, you learn about the past, and maybe you can do something different in the future. Make it better... Sometimes, I don't know, people who are naturally from one country, want to exclude some others, so they cannot come into the country. That's why they have detention centers, more or less to separate those – the good and the bad. Of course, the reason for the Chinese to come in as a Paper personality, is because it is actually difficult, almost impossible, for them to get into this country without being the son or daughter, the natural descendant of a person here. That's why they have to buy a paper from somebody else, to be somebody else's kid. So that they will be able to enter this country. So that is why

some people on Angel Island complain; for being treated unjustly. Because of that, see? But of course, if they let everybody in freely, it would be admittedly difficult for the country! Letting people in – and of course most people who came to this country, you know – when they were in China they would hear about how beautiful America is! And about how you could make lots of money. That’s why they call San Francisco a gold mountain, because they came here to look for gold! But actually, I came here, and I saw more garbage than gold! [chuckle] That’s just a joke, you know. Sometimes, you have to make a joke of it. Because people would always say “If you go to America, you will get lots of gold, and then come back rich and build a house! You will be wealthy!” But anyway, it is very difficult for people to come in. Then they realize, that when they get in, they have to work to make the money. And when they are uneducated, it is very difficult to get a good job and a good pay. So they just have to work in the low-paying jobs, like the sewing factory, in the laundry, or as a waiter in a restaurant, and then to save little bit by little bit, hoping for enough for a ticket to go back to China! To see their family. And, usually, they have a wife back there, and a couple of kids. But to do all that, maybe, it takes about 5 or more years to get back. So the wife before you come back, gets very lonely. Actually, your wife will have no life at all – just taking care of the kids! And the husband is away, so... I actually know, someone from my village – he came over here, worked in a sewing factory for a little bit, and then he went back to China, got himself a wife, and maybe had a kid. Then he returned to this country for another five years. They maybe go back again. If they are lucky. But sometimes, they don’t even get that chance. My father, you know, he gambles a lot. He would earn money, but then he would take all the money to the gambling table, and lose it all! That way, he had no money to go home! So, he just stayed there, year in, year out – sometimes for your whole life! Sometimes you do not see your family again... So, yeah it is sometimes very bad. People coming over here usually are from a poor family. They are not rich. Now, the rich ones have a lot of schooling. They are educated. So, they can come over here on a vacation, and go to the race track and bet – and they can come back and have a good time. But those who have no money, they have no chance. That’s why in this country, they have a phrase for the Chinese, about chance. When they say “you have the chance of a Chinaman”, that means you have no chance at all. People would say that. But they are not talking about the rich ones. The rich ones got money, well, you know. In China, they have a lot of servants, you know! So all they do is just eat and sleep, and you know, get fat! [Laughter] So, that is pretty bad. So, I guess in China, you are either too rich, or too poor. The rich have everything, and the poor have nothing. Anyway, going back to Angel Island; it is good for people in this country, besides the Chinese, to go over there, to look – and then to re-think the past. Of course, they are already doing that. They are making things much easier for those who want to come here to be a part of this country to make something of themselves, and to make some kind of a contribution! Some Chinese kids, some of them come over here, and then they have a chance to go to college, to universities. And then they have the knowledge – and they can contribute something! They have contributed a lot of things actually. Of course, when you think about the Chinese, you know, they invented the printing press, and they invented gun-powder, and so forth. But Chinese over here, when it comes to education – I understand that they even invented to digital telephone, instead of the winding telephone of old age. You know, now you just push some buttons! I think it was some Chinese ideas that brought that out.

Well, of course, Chinese being of a different race, sometimes it is difficult to assimilate. Especially in the old days. People were prejudiced; oh yes. Especially during bad times, you know, when the economy was bad. Although the Chinese took the low-paying jobs, still the people would think “gee, they are taking our jobs”! And so therefore, the naturally wouldn’t like

it when we came back! So they would exclude the Chinese! That's why they had *exclusion laws*. When the Chinese came over here, they had to build this country up; building the railroads and other things. Really hard labor. But when that time came, too many Chinese were arriving, and so people here said, "gee, we don't want those people here", because they are taking our jobs. So they made laws against the Chinese. Of course, now they don't have those laws. People are more – well, there is more education. And they are – well, I would say – more worldly. Because they see things in a different way than in the old days. In the old days, they just would see a little thing, you know. In Chinese, they say "when you are sitting in the bottom of the well and looking up, you can only see a small portion of the sky". That means, your knowledge is limited. Now, you can see everything. So you know what's going on, and how the other people feel. Not just knowledge for yourself. Well, people are naturally selfish. You know, always for yourself. Greed, jealousy, and so forth. You know, I have actually had quite an interesting life! I am only telling you the positives, not the negatives. Those will not come out until...later. Anyway, I will reveal all those things - someday! [Laughter] That will be my sequel to my autobiography! [Laughter] As much as I don't want to talk about the bad things, but they are all still living! That's why I wrote that docudrama; you get two sides. You get the comedy side, and the actual side. And each one must lend credit to the other side! So this docudrama, I wrote based on fact. I wanted to be neutral. But after I finished, I sent the script to Madame Chiang Kai Shek. [Laughter] I got a letter from the Minister of Information. I want to show it to you. Is it ok to show it you? Oh, you are doing the recording! You can stop the recording for awhile. You've gotta be in the middle, you've got to tell the facts. If there is something against them, they probably wouldn't like it, you see. But actually, I put Madame Chiang Kai Shek in a pretty good light. I thought she would approve of it. But she didn't! [Laughter] And that letter they sent to me; you might call it a scathing letter. You know what I mean; they said it was full of errors, and of course they wanted me to read something else! Of course, that was their side. [Laughter] But I couldn't do that. What I write is based on facts, you see? I am not for either side. Otherwise I would be in politics, you know. [Laughter] Actually, as a writer, you have to be very careful. I know a writer over here, who is Chinese. He wrote something against Chiang Kai Shek's son, you know he was the president after Chiang Kai Shek died. And you know what they did? They sent somebody over, and killed him. Oh yes. Actually! Yeah, he was a good writer, but he just blew it, said something about what Chiang Kai Shek's son did, maybe based on fact, you know! But that's politics, they don't like it, they send somebody over; boom boom! [Laughter] And that's it! That's why I don't want to write something political, against one side or the other side. Actually, it is a dangerous job, being a writer! But now they do have papers, that I read sometimes – against one side or the other side; so what, see? Anyway, they got different papers! Well anyway, that was pretty bad. You thought you were safe in this country! But you're not! They can send somebody over! They just put you away, that's how they do it, see. Yeah, that letter, you know. I sent the script in '72 or '71. But they sent this letter in '73. Madame Chiang Kai Shek, she looks a little different now. She died in New York, not too long ago, just last year. At the age of 106. Yeah! But at that time, she was in Taiwan, and Chian Kai Shek was still in power. Of course, Chiang Kai Shek, he doesn't know how to read English. But Madame Shek does, because she graduated from here. So most likely, she translated that, and told Chiang Kai Shek what I did and so forth. So, I am sure he got a kick out of it! [Laughter] Because, you know, sometimes it was humorous. But anyway, this play, it might be staged in Peking or Shanghai. I have been negotiating with a theatre back there. The theatre equivalent to Broadway theatres, you know. In fact, two of the shows that they played, you know, "The Death of a Salesman". I have a book on that – in fact, Arthur Miller, you know it's his play, but he was also the director, you see! [Laughter]



-So you arrived in San Francisco in 1930. How was it being there during the Great Depression? You talked a little bit about that, but can you say a little bit more?

Actually; nothing. I didn't feel anything. At that time, I was just a kid, and I didn't know anything. I just came ashore, and lived with my cousins. And that was all. I was unaware of the depression. Of course, when I came Roosevelt was president already I think. When I first came, Hoover and Roosevelt were competing at that time. And Roosevelt got elected. And then from 1930 on, there was a depression. I remember a lot of work projects; the WPA, and so forth. And during the depression, I heard about the people lining up in the streets, the selling apples and so forth, you know...it was pretty bad at that time. And Roosevelt got the people back on their feet, by having WPA, and other government jobs for the people to work and make some money. And of course, everybody liked Roosevelt. That's why he got re-elected! It was four terms, I think, at that time. When he died, everybody cried, on the streets! I would see people in tears. Roosevelt died pretty young, you know, in his 60's – 63 or something like that. But he was an invalid. But nobody knew, he was in a wheelchair at that time. After Roosevelt, Truman took over. And people at first were agitated with Truman, because they didn't think Truman would make a very good president. But Truman did pretty good, you know from a humble beginning. But he did pretty good. He had a very strong will! He fired General McArthur, you know! [Laughter] You know, I heard that General McArthur always naturally looked up to Roosevelt like God! But Truman, he comes in, and McArthur looked down on Truman. He just called him Harry, instead of Mister President! So I guess Truman didn't like that. [Laughter] That's why Truman got the power to fire him! That's why in politics, you have to be careful you know. You never know when somebody might rise to power so quickly! You have to always be good to everybody. [Laughter] Truman, I think at that time, I was just getting naturalized. But I didn't like Truman too much. The next president, for Eisenhower and the other democrat. I was a registered democrat, but I switched to republican and I voted for Eisenhower. And every year after that, I voted republican. Until, I switched again; after Nixon! I switched again after Nixon, back to democrat, because I didn't like Nixon too much. Because Kennedy came. But I did vote for Nixon, at the time, but Kennedy won. But after that I switched, and I have been a democrat ever since. That's why I communicated with President Clinton and with Hillary. You've got a copy of my letters actually! You know, she is very good. She wrote me a letter, not like a form letter, and that's pretty good!

-Would you mind reading this letter out loud, the one you received in response to sending your play "The Deputy"? Or give me a copy? Because it is an incredible letter.

Yeah!

-Would you mind playing your songs that you played before for the tape recorder?

"Merry Chinatown" by Benjamin Choy. (See lyrics and music in the archive) Vocals by Dick Noel, accompaniment by Steve Atkin.

"Gung Hay Fat Choy" by Benjamin Choy. (See lyrics and music in the archive) Vocals by Larry Dolgin, accompaniment Steve Atkin.

Copyright, 1964. Choy Buck-tone.

You know I have been trying to learn some old songs, you know I can sing that, you want me to sing that?! Blue moon...

I also know another one...The Isle of Capri...

Sometimes I sing too much, my son tells me to shut up! [Laughter] I think he's jealous!

-I have just one more question...What kind of racism do you think still exists in the United States today?

Talking about racism...this country has really got a problem. We've got black, white and others. So, it is not homogeneous. In China, it is homogeneous. But in the United States, we have all kinds of different people. And racism is bound to exist. So it will take a long time – I don't know how long. We probably won't be able to see it. But as long as we have different people, you know – see they call America the melting pot. You've got all kinds of people. So, people have bias, prejudice; it is bound to happen. So it probably will take a long, long time. We probably will never be able to see it. But we are trying to associate with each other, and get along as well as possible. But there is always some kind of friction. It is a political problem too. Anyway, I can't solve it! It is too big a problem. I have enough problems myself already. I can't help others to solve it. [Laughter]

-Is there anything else about Angel Island that you want to add?

Well, I don't think I can add anything more to Angel Island, because I was only there a couple of weeks. And that's not enough time to gain some sort of experience. Not any extraordinary experience. The time goes so fast. And besides, I was just a kid. There were a lot of things that I was unaware of. It was very crowded inside, with lots of people. People doing all sorts of stuff. Some were very playful, some were very serious. And some of them, I am sure some of them were very sad too. Because they had to send them back. I heard many cases like that. So all that time. Well, you know, that is part of life. If you are lucky, you are pretty lucky, see. If you are not; well, that's it, that's life. See?

Like my wife, she loves drinking. That is pretty bad, see. She got a good family, started young. Lots of servants for the family, they are able to do anything. And she is the only one that drinks and smokes. Although the other sister and brother, they probably drink a little bit, but they don't smoke. So that is pretty bad, see? She's drunk so much. I can tell that it was that drinking that ruined her liver. She died of alcohol sclerosis of the liver. Actually, if I wasn't 70, if I wasn't in convalescents, then I could have saved her, maybe done a transplant of some kind. But I was in convalescents, I was already pretty bad. So, the kids were young, so they couldn't do anything, they would have run like chickens with their heads cut off. But anyway, that is life. That was one of the reasons that she wanted to marry me too, she was a young girl and I was 30 years older than her. Because it was difficult, when she was drinking a lot and smoking a lot – a lot of boys just didn't want to associate with her. It was harder for her to get a husband. But anyway, I came along; I was pretty old then. All my friends thought I would be a bachelor my whole life. So it even surprised my friends when I took my wife to have dinner with them, and my old friend told me "Ben Choy really surprised us! We didn't know you were going to get married, we thought

you were going to be a bachelor. And the second surprise, we didn't know you would marry so young a girl!" [Laugh] Two surprises! Aah. Anyway, so we got Steven. He is pretty good. I don't want to say anything in front of Steven negative about his mother. After all, that's his mother. Anyway, what she did to me, I will just forget it. [Laugh] I'll chalk it up to experience.

But before I married her, I was going around with a nice girl. I was going with her about four years. She got a Bachelor's degree from USC in Home Economics. She graduated with a Master's degree from UC Berkeley. So I went around with her. I was older than her, about 14 years. But we got along pretty well, because we had something in common mentally. We enjoyed going to the theater, we enjoyed good music, and things like that. So we got along pretty well. And she was a very attractive woman too. All my friends, they were wondering, gee, how did Ben Choy get a pretty little girl like that? They were pretty jealous of me. So actually, when I would take her out, I always got very jealous too. Because people would always talk to her, she was very popular too. So we got along for a long time. But her family was more or less against me. She was taller than me at least a couple inches. And I am older than her, so much. And so her father didn't like me; didn't like my appearance anyway. And she had a couple of sisters, and several brothers, and of course she had friends; and probably they would say things like "how come you are going with a guy who is shorter than you", and this and that and so forth. Anyway, pretty soon we declined. Instead of going upwards, we declined. We were going to get married, actually. But it's just something; probably fate, it happens. Even at that time, when we were not doing too well, we were still going around. And then somebody showed up. A man from Hawaii. He graduated from Yale law school. He didn't pass the BAR in California, but he did pass the BAR in Hawaii. And he worked in San Francisco. At a drugstore of some kind, doing selling, a salesman of some kind. He met my girlfriend, and my girlfriend kind of liked him. You know, he is a big guy, educated from Yale, and his family was pretty well to do in Hawaii. So she told me goodbye. We had a bittersweet parting, you know. I was crying when she told me she was going to leave me and go with that guy. And she did go with that guy. But afterward, I didn't communicate with her, I just let her alone. And then I took a trip to Macao to see my father. And then I wrote her a letter from Macao, telling her this and that, asking when she was going to Hawaii, this and that. And she wrote me back! She was in New York. She was doing something with the World Fair in '64, or something like that. So anyway, she told me she was staying in a hotel. So I took American Airlines and hopped to New York so I could see her. So I saw her there, and we got along, but not as warm as it used to be. So, I took her to a lot of nice restaurants, French restaurants; we had a good time. Anyway. So she tells me about her new family, the boyfriend. She tells me about the mother, the father, where they live. And she gave me the address and so forth. And so anyway, when I came back, there was something wrong with me. I was jealous or something. So I went to Hawaii and looked up the parents. I talked to the father, and the father was fixing the roof, so the father said the mother was someplace working. So I went to see her. And I wrote a note. I said "Oh, I met Jennie. And she is pregnant, boy!" [Laugh] Boy her mother really got mad. So when I came back, I went straight back to New York again to see her. I didn't tell my girlfriend anything about that trip. Of course, that boyfriend's mother probably told him boy, if you want your girl, you better go back and get her! So the boyfriend hopped a plane to New York at nighttime, and met us there. So naturally, he would sit with him, and tell me what they were doing! I couldn't do anything, you know. Well, I didn't know what to do. I didn't even say goodbye. And I left. And that was the end of it. So, later on, she got married, but I still – that's what I wrote that song about, about her see.

-“Dear Jennie?”

I was pretty deeply in love with her. But actually, she wanted a guy of course something like me, but maybe my physical, it didn't fit her specifications. This guy who met her; he was a bigger guy, graduated from a good school, he's a lawyer. I was a law-student lawyer already. That's why he liked me, because we had something in common. I knew his brother.

When I talked to his father, I asked about her. And he said that she didn't want to talk to me, or speak with me. Anyway, I wrote her a letter though. You know, just to forget the whole thing. Of course, I'm sure she remembers me. I am still thinking about her; well, at least until I met Catherine, my wife. So, but anyway, I had a pretty good time with her.

Anyway, that is my life.

-Well, thank you. I will mail you a copy of the transcript in the mail, and a copy of the tape.

Anyway, my life story, I got a lot of things. Actually I have to material for a whole book! If I add enough detail.