



Immigration Files to be Transferred

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services signed an agreement June 3, 2009, to transfer at least 21 million files to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) facilities in San Bruno and Kansas City for permanent retention. A searchable index is at www.uscis.gov/genealogy.

The files were compiled under the Alien Registration Act of 1940. They include photos, visa applications, birth certificates, personal letters and transcripts of interrogations of those seeking entry or re-entry into the United States.

Jennie Lew, a San Francisco documentary maker and Communication Co-Chair of Save Our National Archives Coalition (SONA), declared the signing of the transfer of immigration files to the National Archives as a ten-year advocacy achievement. Many Chinese immigrants were subject to lengthy interrogations. Their files which were once a source of fear for the early Chinese American pioneers, is now a gold mine of information in the study of the history of American immigration.

SONA is dedicated to the preservation of public access and services provided by NARA. SONA participants include Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, California State Genealogical Alliance, Chinese Historical Society of America, Museum of Chinese in the Americas, National Japanese American Historical Society, San Francisco State University Asian American Studies Department, Jewish and Polish Genealogical Society, Chinese Canadian Historical Society, as well as individual historians, genealogists, journalists, documentary makers, and academicians.

Service (M1144) have been converted to digital (DVD) format. They are available for checkout from the Asian Pacific Resource Center of the County of Los Angeles Public Library's Montebello Regional Library. A case file may contain biographical information, certificates of identity, marriage, and residence, as well as letters, photographs and transcripts of Immigration and Naturalization Services interviews. For more information please call the Asian Pacific Resource Center, 323-722-6551 or email aprc@library.lacounty.gov.

“Day of Inclusion”

By
Munson Kwok, Ph.D.



Far left, Munson Kwok, 4th from left, Mike Eng, to his left, Steve Yee. Photo courtesy of Philip Young.

At the suggestion of Steve Yee, of Yee Fow Museum, Sacramento, Assemblyman Mike Eng has authored Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 76: Relative to Day of Inclusion, to go through the legislative process. This measure would acknowledge December 17 as a “Day of Inclusion” (包容日) in recognition and appreciation of the priceless contributions of all immigrants to the greatness of California and the United States. December 17 is symbolically chosen because it is the day that the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act was enacted in Congress in 1943. Without question from the perspective of long history, that simple action was a turning point from an immigration policy of exclusion to one of inclusion and cultivation of rich diversity,

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Case Files of Chinese Immigrants,

1900-1923

The first 21 reels of the microfilm of the Case Files of Chinese Immigrants, 1900-1923, from District No. 4 (Philadelphia) of the Immigration and Naturalization



“Day of Inclusion”

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culminating just 22 years later in the watershed immigration act of 1965 defining family reunification and the preference quotas operative today. As expressed in the Resolution, “the United States expressed a commitment to breakdown cultural barriers, appreciate differences, enrich cultural diversity, and further racial, religious, and cultural tolerances...” Community sponsor of No. 76 is Yee Fow Museum, and coauthors so far include Members Furutani, Hayashi, Mendoza, and Swanson.

A Southern California press conference was held to publicize the intended action to the grass roots, and Pres. Daisy Ma of L.A. Lodge agreed to host the event on May 29, in the Lodge for Assemblyman Eng. Surprise guest to start the proceedings was Assemblyperson (Bro.) Kevin de Leon. Both he and Eng were powerful in outlining the value of such a symbolic but important act, not only for Chinese Americans, but for all Americans in California. Eng, “The darkest era of Exclusion should not be repeated.” Pres. (Bro.) Peter Ng of CCBA was among the speakers, using English and Cantonese, emphasizing the impact on immigration policy today and contributions of those who fought for it. Present was the Evans School citizenship class that has been conducted in the Lodge hall as part of Community Action’s education program.

Representatives from Japanese American Citizens League (Kubo), Korean American Federation, Muslim Public Affairs Council and Organization of Chinese Americans-Greater Los Angeles also gave remarks. Kubo tied the new proposal to the Day of Remembrance, the day of the Executive Order that ordered Japanese Americans shipped to the camps. Grand Pres. Munson Kwok welcomed all visitors and press, and then said, “National Chinese American Citizens Alliance wholeheartedly and unequivocally endorses this Joint Resolution.” He further commented, “we observed the 65th anniversary of Repeal last December in a nationwide program of all our Local Lodges.” Finally, he challenged, “Once successfully passed in California,... a national resolution in Congress should be likewise proposed to give national recognition to the great meaning of this historical day of December 17, 1943.”

Dr. Thomas Wing

Dr. Thomas Wing, a chiropractor, is an inventor of many gadgets. Many of them are on display at the McHenry Museum in Modesto, California. Some of the inventions are at the CHSSC Heritage Center. He was born in Lodi, California, in 1915, son of a Chinese herbalist.

In 1975 Dr. Wing introduced a non-needle acupuncture (Surface Electrical Acupuncture) instrument with diagnostics. He called it the Accu-O Matic. In 1980 this instrument was further developed into a physical therapy equipment and became My-O Matic. It was approved by the FDA as a muscle stimulator. Carl Lewis, Magic Johnson and other professional athletes are said to have used it. Dr. Wing’s partner in inventions is his wife Kay.

In 1949, Dr. Wing proposed establishing an Amateur Radio Emergency Control Station at the American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles. The station has been in continuous operation and is the model for others. In appreciation and recognition for all he has done for Red Cross communications, the American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles applied to change its station’s call letters to those used until 2000 by Dr. Wing’s wife.

It is Dr. Wing’s older brother Bob Chow, an Olympian rapid fire shooter, who got him interested in ham radio in their youth. Dr. Wing wrote *Son of South Mountain and Dust*, an autobiography co-authored with his daughter Carolyn Wing Greenlee. Carolyn also wrote *Eternal River*, the story of her parents life together. Both books are available at the CHSSC’s bookstore.