

Bones of Bodies Of 18 Chinese Are Dug And Shipped

Bones of 18 Chinese have been dug at the Chinese plot at Evergreen cemetery and have been shipped to China for burial.

This is a cherished burial custom, that their bones should have as the final resting place, the soil of the Flowery Kingdom, and no matter where they die, the bones are unearthed and sent to the burial ground of the villages of their birth.

The shipping was in charge of Woo Gap, a merchant of the local Chinatown, the bones being shipped each in a separate box, and will go to the province of Canton, the place from which all the local Chinese came.

The plot here is in a picturesque spot on the hillside in the Evergreen cemetery and only nine graves remain containing Chinese. The bones are not removed until after they have been under ground for five years or more.

In other years like shipments have gone out from Santa Cruz. Graves were opened at Watsonville for the same shipment.

Not only are the graves marked with a wooden headstone bearing the name, but in each coffin at burial is a brick with the name in Chinese hieroglyphics of the one buried, as a further proof of identification.

The bones sent out were those of the following Chinese: Woo Ying How, Woo King Chang, Lem Shu, Leong Fong, Doc Toy, Yee Lam, Louis Sin Hook, Fong Hing, Chin Sing, Sam Fook, Chin Dick, Lue Ling, Lue Hi Suey, Lue Sing, Lue Ying, Wong Su, Joe Toy and Tong Bow.

Chinese funerals in the days before Chinese customs were touched by customs of the west were elaborate affairs, always of interest to the Americans. The processions with banners, the Chinese music and the worship before incense and shrines and offering of an entire roast pig, goats, chickens and other food was not of the ordinary, but few of the old time customs remain.