

7-3-42 O.S.C.  
In the early days the Chinese population in this town reached about 300. In all California towns there was a Chinatown. In those days they were grouped in a certain section of the city. All the Chinese resided in that section with a possibility of here and there a laundry outside those limits.

Now what Chinese families we have are scattered throughout the city some owning and occupying attractive homes.

Chinese were then practically all natives of Canton but now most of those in a community like Santa Cruz are natives of the United States.

Among the first Chinese here who came in the fifties were fishermen who fished off from shore on the New Brighton beach and that was why China beach was named.

There was a row of unpainted houses up toward the bank where they lived. Along the beach on the sands were their fishing boats with graceful curves of a type such as used in the Flowery Kingdom across the seas.

### WINDLASS PULLED BOATS UP

On the beaches were windlasses to pull the boats from the bay up on the beach or to pull in the nets.

The Chinese peddled fish in all the surrounding country, in a wagon or with two baskets hanging from a well balanced long pole over the shoulder. They would go from house to house calling their wares "fishee, fishee." They made good catches, in that section, of the choice pompano. They also would peddle smelt, and all the fish caught in the bay at the present time.

The first Chinatown was on Pacific avenue. With the exception of the residence called the parsonage on the Walnut avenue corner and the Waterman blacksmith shop at the Lincoln street corner, the entire block was of a number of one story shacks with a wide dirt sidewalk, as well as dirt street in front. Along the edge of the walk was a row of Normandy poplars.

The buildings were of rough redwood finish most of them of wide boards and batting.

### JOSS HOUSE

The first structure was the most prepossessing of the lot. It was the temple of worship known as joss house visited it was during the New Year season. Proudly the members would show their Masonic pins on which were the square and compass.

About the only times Caucasians visited it was during the New Year season. Proudly the members would show their Masonic pins on which were the square and compass.

hists and Taoists, none of the pictures were of Buddha or Confucius.

The picture was a couple of feet back from the frame of the alcove of green with carved letters, with a touch of an oriental finish. Hanging from the center of the shrine was the ever burning light held in a brass holder. A pewter holder in front of the pictures was filled with burning incense, punks or red candles made of grease. On each side of the alcove were tall pewter holders for large decorated red candles and the tall punks.

### EMBROIDERED ALTAR CLOTH

A couple of feet in front was a table-like altar. On this was a large pewter bowl for the burning of the fragrant smelling sandal wood by the worshiper. The altar cloth hanging along the front was of brightly embroidered red silk and on which were many circular mirrors.

Along the front was a piece of white matting on which the worshiper knelt and in his hands had the incenses and candles which were placed in the bowl. He would pour out libations of wine and burn paper representing the next world, money and clothes.

On a table in the center of the room during the new year season was a huge roasted-to-a-rich-brown pig. Red papers were wrapped around each foot.

In this Chinatown were a couple of stores where Chinese groceries and clothes were sold. There were a laundry, and a cigar factory. In town the only other house was the then one single family of Ah Moon, who had a laundry on the Anthony lot facing River street around the corner from Mission street. Of course the vegetable gardens about the city were small houses in which the gardeners resided.

Chinese were employed at the California Powder Works mostly in the cooper shop.

There was not a touch of the orient in Santa Cruz on the buildings except the signs over the doors or along the side. Usually these were Chinese characters written on China red paper, spattered with gold and the one over the door was usually bordered above with a festoon of red cloth with the ornaments on each side triangular in shape, with a golden background with paper flowers. These were quite attractive. At some places these signs were carved in wood and were either of red or green.

There was more of a touch of the orient at the powder mill Chinese village. In front of the joss house with a picturesque and colorful overhanging balcony distinctively Chinese. The then flag of China floated from the joss house, of yellow silk, triangular, with across it the dragon. This flag was changed when China became a republic.

### WARDED OFF EVIL SPIRITS

Across the rear door and between some of the rooms of the house hanging down were several pieces of red and gold paper perforated in many spots. This had something to do with warding off the evil spirits.

The houses along the Pacific avenue were all of different sizes and shapes and in and out moved the Chinese. Of all the Chinese here at that time, Tong, who worked at the Natural Bridge dairy, was the only one whose hair was clipped and wore the American type of dress. All the Chinese wore blouses and Chinese slippers most of them black. Their hats were not of a Chinese type but what was known as a slouch hat, black felt with a stiff felt rim.

The merchants dress was distinctive especially his silk or horsehair skull cap surmounted by a coral bead or a silk button. His blouse was usually of silk of unusual colors but usually of dark blues for common use. For holidays he wore such colors as emerald green, cherry red, lavender, pea green, China red of a flower design.

The trousers were of like silks and caught tight about the ankle.

The slippers were usually of velvet and silk and the colorful dress was what made Chinatown attractive.

Amidst the stores were tables for gambling as gambling was as common then among the Chinese as in the American saloons which were wide open.

They had plenty of time for this feature of the life as most of the Chinese were the help in the hotels and the family home and about two, after the dinner dishes were done, they would be seen leaving the homes and remained in Chinatown until about five when it would be necessary to return and prepare the evening meal.

The writer well remembers when only a lad there was one of the Chinese with smallpox. No one would walk along in front of the quarantined house but would walk along the east side of the street.