



Hello/ Ni hao

It is a great pleasure to be able to send you this newsletter which will be sent out occasionally to provide up-dates on Shantytown's 'History of the West Coast Chinese' project

Julia Bradshaw, Shantytown, Greymouth, May 2007.

SHANTYTOWN TO PUBLISH BOOK ABOUT CHINESE ON THE WEST COAST

Shantytown has been successful in their bid for funding from the Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust to pay for the costs associated with publishing a book about the history of Chinese on the West Coast.

This is wonderful news! As Shantytown's researcher I have, over the last four years, gathered a great deal of information about the history of the Chinese on the West Coast and welcome the opportunity to further expand the story and have it published so that the information is more widely available.

One of the most rewarding aspects of doing this very interesting research is the contact I have had with descendents of West Coast Chinese and other interested people and I look forward to maintaining these relationships and to making some new contacts as well.

If any of your Chinese ancestors were on the West Coast, or if you have any information, photos or artifacts *please* do not hesitate to get in touch.

Who am I?



This photo of an unknown Chinese fruiterer was taken outside of his shop in Tainui Street. It is believed that the photo may be of James Au (who was in Greymouth in about 1942) or A. Jhing Yin (who was in Greymouth 1945-48). Can anybody help with information about this photograph?

Resources available

During the course of my research I have been collating Chinese names from a wide range of West Coast sources including business directories, hospital registers, cemetery registers and newspapers. Please contact me if you would like me to search any of these resources for you.

If you would like to see any of the photos in this newsletter in greater detail or see what else we have please contact me.

Photos: at the top of page are (left to right): Luey Geok of Greymouth, Annie & Harry Long of Ahaura, unknown men at Kumara, Charlie Chang Ling of Kumara, Arthur Fong of Greymouth, Young family of Greymouth, Joe Tie of Rutherglen, Lum Fum Fun of Kumara, Ah Loo, wife of Wong Humm of Greymouth, unknown miner at Ross, c.1900.



Some West Coast people



Born in Canton in January 1870 Young Hee [Yeung Sui Hei] joined his father Young John [Yeung Tsoon] in Greymouth in early 1884.

Young Hee, c.1898.

In 1889 Young Hee started working for Michael Hannan, a local solicitor, as a law clerk. Along with the duties usually undertaken by a law clerk, Young Hee was frequently called upon to act as an interpreter when his countrymen appeared as witnesses, prosecutors or defendants on West Coast courts. In 1901 Young Hee left for Hong Kong where he lived for the rest of his life. I believe that there are numerous descendants - I would love to hear from them!

An advertisement for Mrs Lily Chow Fong's shop in Greymouth, *Grey River Argus*, 4 January 1906.

MRS C. FONG
Fruiterer, Fancy Goods and Tobaccoconist.
RICHMOND QUAY, GREYMOUTH
 New Season's Fruits by every Steamer.
 Confectionary of all Descriptions.

A TRIAL SOLICITED

Lily traveled to New Zealand in 1895 to marry Chow Fong a storekeeper who was based in Wellington and Greymouth. By the late 1890s the couple were living in Greymouth. Chow Fong died in Wellington in 1919 and Lily married Yip Bor a Greymouth fruiterer six months later. The couple lived in Greymouth for the rest of their lives; Yip Bor died in 1941 and Lily in 1956. Lily was survived by Arthur Fong (a well known rugby player and referee) and his sister Minnie (a missionary in Singapore).



Presbyterian Chinese Mission School at Greymouth, 1896.

The Christian Endeavour Society (part of the Presbyterian Church) set up a school to teach the Chinese English and bible studies in the hope of converting them to Christianity. This group includes the Chinese missionary Daniel Lem (sitting in the middle of the group). At left is William Holder but the names of the rest of the group are unknown. Does anybody have any information about anyone in this group?

Photo courtesy of History House, Greymouth

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