



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, August 2007.

SHANTYTOWN 'S WEST COAST CHINESE PROJECT—Newsletter 2

Further to my last newsletter (May 2007) I am pleased to advise that there has been good progress made on the research required for the book Shantytown will be publishing about Chinese on the West Coast of New Zealand.

Thanks very much for the feedback, information and photographs generated by the last newsletter. There are plenty of leads for me to follow up and it gives me great pleasure when I am able to provide information about people's ancestors in return.

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



Part of an 1884 map for Chinese travelling around the South Island goldfields, produced by Rev. Alexander Don. *Te Papa Tongarewa—E3277*

Help wanted



Can anybody help with translating characters on Chinese headstones from the West Coast?

I have photographs of headstones from the Hokitika, Reefton and Greymouth cemeteries (about 20 in total) and could send copies of these to anybody willing to help me find out who they belong to.

It would be great to have them translated and connect them to the right person. Obviously the deceased's friends went to a lot of trouble to make sure that they were remembered. If I can find the name and date of death that will help me search for more details. Please contact me if you think you might be able to help. Thanks.

Who am I?

This beautiful photograph was taken by Hokitika photographer Ben Thiem on 7th February 1925 for this unknown man's passport application. Does anybody recognise him?



West Coast Historical Museum—6430.

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 Rutherford, Lum Fum Fun of Kumara, Ah Loo, wife of Wong Humm of Greymouth, unknown miner at Ross, c.1900.



Some West Coast people

The Louis family of Hokitika

Louis Yum Ting (from Bakshek village) arrived in Hokitika in 1919 having worked his way via Singapore and Fiji. He set up a fruit shop in partnership with his brother Louis Yoi Gin and cousins Luey George Wah Yo and Luey Bau. Louis Yum Ting returned to China several times and in 1936 brought his son Ying (age 6) back with him. In 1940 he was joined by his wife Louis Wong Soong Lo and daughter Joyce who had fled Bakshek village in 1937 when it was bombed by the Japanese.

Louis Yum Ting passed away in 1946 and his business was carried on by his wife and children until the family left Hokitika in 1962.



With thanks to Joyce Wong (nee Louis) for this information about her family.

Louis Yum Ting (on the right) with his brother Louis Yoi Gin and cousin Luey George Wah Yo. This photo was taken in Hokitika in June 1930. *West Coast Historical Museum—7602*

The Kum family of Greymouth

Joe Kum (or Cum) a 27 year old cook married Alice Grossi in Nelson in 1889. Within a few years the couple and their two eldest children had moved to Greymouth where Joe worked as a store manager, a cook and was also involved in mining. The family went to China in late 1906...

"In...South Village they took us to see the children of Chow Kum of Greymouth. The children came from New Zealand...only six months ago...the mother had taken ill on the voyage and died...the eldest Jim is now in Canton learning business in a shop opened by Lie Nam...from Foxton. We saw only the baby...Fred was out in the fields, and Minnie...could not be persuaded to come and see us" Outlook, 15 June 1907.

By 1916 Joe and his son Jim (James William) were back in New Zealand and in Palmerston North. Joe was working at the Commercial Hotel and Jim was working in Joe Kwong Lee's store. Jim signed up for World War 1 and was injured in action on 15 June 1917. Both of Joe Kum's surviving daughters returned to New Zealand to marry. Minnie Kum married Willie Joe Ming in 1929 and a year later her younger sister Lena married Ah Liu. Jim died in Palmerston North on 13 March 1978 .

Does anybody know more about this family?



Some of the Greymouth Chinese community taking part in the 1897 parade to celebrate 50 years of reign by Queen Victoria. The Chinese also organised a fireworks display for the evening celebrations as well. *West Coast Historical Museum—113.*

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