

The AACCP Newsletter

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Summer Trips for 2008

By Leonard D. Chan

This is our 4th annual Asian Pacific American theme travel article. Interesting enough, the first place I am going to suggest is one that I started off with back in June of 2005. For those that may not remember or may not have read the article, the lead to the 2005 article was about the Chinese Temple Museum in the town of Oroville, California.

Have a look at all of our past ideas and come back and have fun reading our interesting 2008 summer suggests.

<http://asianamericanbooks.com/newslets/nl0605.htm>
<http://asianamericanbooks.com/newslets/nl0606.htm>
<http://asianamericanbooks.com/newslets/nl0607.htm>

Oroville Chinese Temple

With great pride, I am happy to be writing about a new development with the Oroville Chinese Temple that is directly connected to my family and its history. The Oroville Chinese Temple has added a new room, model on my grandparents' store. Although I can't take credit for the creation of this new part of the temple, its not often that the surrounding of ones past gets turned into a museum.

When I first heard about this development, I was sadden and a bit disappointed that my grandparents' house/store called *Fong Lee* was being sold and that the interior was going to be gutted and moved. The original building is on the National Register of Historic Places and although I never lived in that house it was my ancestral home here in America. In a town where I sometimes felt like an outsider (being a Chinese person in a town with very few Asians), I used to feel some satisfaction in knowing that I could trace my roots back some 130 years in that town. When the house was still owned by our family, it felt like I could still claim to be a part of Oroville.

With no one living in my grandparents' house and the building in complete disrepair, my uncle worked out a deal with the city and temple managers to have much of the key elements of my grandparents' store preserved in a new room added to the Oroville Temple Museum. After seeing the end results, I am glad he did it. Now people for years to come will be able to go to the temple and see what I had long known, that my family was a part of Oroville and California history.

Things that you will find in the new *Fong Lee* room include the original full set of Chinese herbal medicine drawers and cabinets from the store, the store's cash register, window, light fixtures, and fan, and a history display of the Chan Family in Oroville.

For more information check out these links –

- City of Oroville's website on the temple
<http://www.cityoforoville.org/chinesetemple.html>
- Contents of the Oroville Chinese Temple on display
<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/oroville/>

Stedman-Thomas Historical District in Ketchikan, AK

Ah, the "bridge to nowhere" was actually planned to go to a somewhere and that somewhere is Ketchikan, Alaska. Back in 2005, when a massive federal transportation bill was passed, critics pointed out many "pork barrel" spending projects contained within the bill. The bridge project from Ketchikan to its airport on a near by island was particularly scrutinized and tagged as the "bridge to nowhere." It didn't seem to make sense to apportion \$223 million to build a bridge for a town of approximately 7,600 people.

What critics and the media didn't explain was that Ketchikan regularly receives thousands of visitors each year, with its airport serving 200,000 people annually.

One of the reasons why Ketchikan gets so many visitors is because of its historic Stedman-Thomas historic waterfront district. Ketchikan was home to a vibrant fishing industry during the first half of the 20th Century. As one of the major fishing ports in the southeastern coast of Alaska, Ketchikan drew a very diverse group of workers. Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Koreans, and Pacific Islanders all came to work and stay in Ketchikan. Asian Americans owned most of Stedman-Thomas' first businesses, which included eateries, hotels, and grocery stores. The Japanese community even built a meeting house and children's Japanese language school. The Filipino community had its own community center too.

Although the fishing industry has diminished and the Japanese community was hit hard by the force removal to World War II internment camps, many of the original builds and shops still stand and serve Ketchikan's thriving tourist industry. If you plan on going to Alaska, make sure you include Ketchikan on your itinerary.

For more information –

- Wikipedia's article on the Bridge to Nowhere
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gravina_Island_Bridge
- National Park Service's website on Stedman-Thomas Historical District
<http://www.nps.gov/history/nR/feature/asia/2003/stedman.htm>

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Give Us Your Feedback

Please feel free to send us your reviews, comments, and book suggestions. You can contact us at -
aacpinc@asianamericanbooks.com

Up Coming Events

Here are some events that AACP will soon be attending. Invite us to your events.

Date/Time	Event	Location
July 1	Author Eugene Lee will be signing his new book <i>Cressey: Land of Sand and Stars</i>	Cressey Library Cressey, CA
July 12-13	San Jose Obon Festival	SJ Buddhist Temple San Jose, CA
July 19-20 Sa 1-10pm Su 11-8pm	GINZA Bazaar & Obon Odori	SF Buddhist Church San Francisco, CA
Jul 27 – Aug 1	Fellowship Retreat	Zephyr Point Lake Tahoe, NV
Other Event of Interest that AACP May Not Attend		
July 3-6	Tule Lake Pilgrimage	Klamath Falls, OR Tulelake, CA
July 3-6	Whose America? Who's American? Diversity, Civil Liberties, and Social Justice	Hyatt Regency CO Convention Center Denver, CO
July 11-13	31th Anniversary of the Lotus Festival	Echo Park Los Angeles, CA
July 13	Monterey Obon Festival	Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple Seaside, CA
July 16-20	JACL National Convention	Marriott Hotel Salt Lake City, UT
July 18-20	The 10th Annual KAAN Conference (Korean Am. Adoptee Adoptive Family Network)	Wyndham O'Hare Chicago, IL
July 19-20	Mountain View Obon Festival	575 N. Shoreline Blvd. Mountain View, CA
July 31 – Aug 3	OCA National Convention	Sheraton Grand Hotel Washington, DC

Summer Trips for 2008

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Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is also the location of Kanaka Village. Established along with the fort in 1829, Kanaka Village or Town was one of the largest pre-gold rush settlements in the west between Sitka, Alaska and San Francisco. Because of the large Hawaiian population, the town got its name from the Native Hawaiian word for "person."

Located at present day Vancouver Washington, Fort Vancouver/Kanaka Village was the headquarters of the British Hudson's Bay Company's West Coast operations. Its primary initial business, which was the fur trade, employed a wide variety of people that included Hawaiians, French Canadians, Portuguese, Scottish, Irish, English, and Native Americans.

Editor's Message

Hello Everyone,

Looks like I'm working on Hawaii time again - only those living in Hawaii may get this in June. Sorry about that. Yes this is the June newsletter in July. Anyway, I better not spend too much time on this message, otherwise my Hawaii late night readers may get this in July too. Hmm, maybe I should spend the summer in Hawaii and then I wouldn't be late :).

How's your summer going everyone? Care to do some reading? We have lots of books. Come on in to our store and have a look around or catch us at one of the upcoming summer events.

A note to those that would like something to do for the summer, we'd love to have you join us. There's always some sort of volunteer work that you can come in and do. Just email us or give us a call. Thanks.

Thanks to those that have been corresponding with me and catching mistakes on the website. One of our website visitors found that we sold a book called "Bassball Saved Us." I informed her that no bass were ever hurt in that wonderful sport :).

That's all for now. Have a great summer.
Bye.

Leonard Chan
Executive Editor

Pacific Islanders, along with Filipinos, and Chinese were often crewmembers and workers of European expeditions along the Pacific Rim and around the world. Hawaiians in particular came with the British to the Pacific Northwest. Kanaka Village is one of the establishments located in what is now part of the Continental United States and is evidence of Pacific Islander's involvement with early American History.

Another interesting chapter in the history at Fort Vancouver was the arrival of three shipwrecked Japanese sailors in 1834. Otokichi, Kyukichi, and Iwakichi had left Nagoya, Japan in October 1832 and were destined for Tokyo. Their ship was damaged in a storm and they remained adrift for 14 months. When the three landed near Cape Flattery, Washington, Native Americans took them in and eventually traded them to the people at Fort Vancouver. Otokichi, Kyukichi, and Iwakichi are the earliest recorded visitors to what is now the Continental United State.

John McLoughlin, the leader at Fort Vancouver, found passage to London for the three castaways. The three eventually made their way back to Asia and became the first recorded Japanese to circumnavigate the Earth.

For more information –

- National Park Service's website on Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
<http://www.nps.gov/fova/index.htm>
- Specific pages on the NPS's website pertaining to the Kanaka Village
<http://www.nps.gov/fova/historyculture/the-village.htm>
- Informational brochure on the Japanese Castaways Sailors.pdf
<http://www.nps.gov/fova/planyourvisit/upload/JapaneseSailors.pdf>

El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park

If you are in the Santa Barbara area and decide to visit the local mission, pay your respects to Antonio Miranda Rodriguez who is

listed as one of the founding residents of Los Angeles. Antonio Miranda Rodriguez, a Filipino Mexican (California was still part of Mexico then), left Los Angeles in 1783, and settled and spent the rest of his life in Santa Barbara. He is buried at the Santa Barbara Presidio Chapel and his name is on a wall plaque list of those interred at the church.

Antonio Miranda Rodriguez is proof that Asians were among the earliest non-indigenous residents of California.

For more information –

- El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park's website
<http://www.sbthp.org/presidio.htm>
- Information on Antonio Miranda Rodriguez
<http://personal.anderson.ucla.edu/elioisa.borah/filfaq.htm>



Fong Lee Addition to the Oroville Chinese Temple
Dedication Ceremony April 26, 2008

ADDITIONS TO OUR WEBSITE

The following books are discounted for subscribers to our newsletter. The discounts on these books end July 18, 2008.

	<p>No! That's Wrong! By Zhaohua Ji and Cui Xu 2008, 24 pages, Hardback.</p> <p>If you get "<i>No! That's Wrong!</i>" it will definitely not be a wrong. The humor and cute animals start from the inside front cover all the way to the inside back cover. Start the summer off with a good chuckle from this book.</p> <p>Item #3508, Normally \$15.95 ... for newsletter subscribers \$12.76</p>
	<p>Go For Broke The Nisei Warriors of World War II Who Conquered Germany, Japan, and American Bigotry By C. Douglas Sterner 2008, 209 pages, Paperback.</p> <p><i>Go For Broke</i> is a well written book on the Japanese Americans that served in the US military during World War II. It is a real page-turner even for those that may not be interested in military history and includes detailed bios on those that received medals and a list of those that were killed in action.</p> <p>Item #3511, Normally \$15.95 ... for newsletter subscribers \$12.76</p>
	<p>Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything By Lenore Look Illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf 2006, 164 pages, Hardback.</p> <p><i>Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything</i> is the sequel to Lenore Look's <i>Ruby Lu, Brave and True</i> (an ALA Notable Book). Follow Ruby's new adventures with her deaf cousin from China and learn a little Chinese sign language at the same time.</p> <p>Item #3510, Normally \$15.95 ... for newsletter subscribers \$12.76</p>
	<p>Nikkei Donburi A Japanese American Cultural Survival Guide By Chris Aihara 1999, 124 pages, Paperback.</p> <p>For a number of years, I never had a chance to really look at this book because most of the time it was covered in shrink-wrap. Now that I've actually torn the cover off on one of them, I can honest say that this is an excellent book that deals with a wide variety of topics on Japanese culture. This is a perfect summer read that includes lots of activities for the young and young at heart.</p> <p>Item #2731, Normally \$18.95 ... for newsletter subscribers \$18.95</p>
	<p>The Ugly Vegetables By Grace Lin 1999, 29 pages, Paperback.</p> <p>Starting a garden? How about growing some "ugly vegetables?" This book is Grace Lin's original classic about a family that grows a Chinese vegetable garden and how the daughter learns the value of differences. It includes a glossary of Chinese vegetables and a recipe for "Ugly Vegetable Soup."</p> <p>Item #3509, Normally \$6.95 ... for newsletter subscribers \$5.56</p>

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