

LETTER FROM PETALUMA

...Situated in the lower end of our quiet town, is a small shanty, over the door of which the passer-by may read "Washing and Ironing, by Wal Lee," painted upon a board, with various Celestial characters, all doubtless of a like purport as that portion which the running barbarian may read — in short, showing that Wal is not only an industrious man, but a scholar...

- Sonoma Democrat, August 16, 1860

...On Saturday last a number of our citizens celebrated the second inaugural of President Lincoln...At night a number of houses, including the Chinese WashHouse, were illuminated...

- Sonoma Democrat, March 11 1865

PRISONERS ATTEMPTED ESCAPE.—Sheriff Clark has in his keeping eight prisoners, charged with various offences, awaiting an investigation of the charges against them and trial. Several of these are Chinamen. On Monday night three of these Knights of the Flowery Kingdom attempted to take Chinese leave of our vigilant Sheriff by digging a hole through the wall. The recent improvements in the jail, however, proved too strong, and they failed. Penetrating about half through the wall they struck iron and concluded to abandon the job.

- Sonoma Democrat, July 6 1867

Two lads were arrested on the Sonoma road on Monday last, charged with the crime of highway robbery, and brought before M. K. McCorkle, Esq., of this township, for trial. The boys were charged with having robbed a Chinaman of a watch, gold ring, and some fifteen dollars in money, and the Chinaman was perfectly willing to swear to it. As there were several white persons near by when the alleged act was committed, and who saw all that transpired, it was proven that no robbery had been committed, but that in return for a mischievous trick played on him, the Chinaman had taken this course to get his revenge. The boys were found not guilty and dismissed.

- Sonoma Democrat, May 2 1868

SUICIDE OF A CHINAMAN - We learn that a Chinaman, who had been employed on the farm of Pet. Hinshaw, near Bloomfield, committed suicide a few days ago by splitting his head open with an axe. He first endeavored to cut his throat with a razor, but failing in this he took recourse to the axe. He was found Monday evening shortly after he committed the deed, but it was concluded to let the body remain until a Coroner's Jury could be summoned. The next morning, when the people went for the body it had disappeared. Since then it has proved that the Chinaman was not dead as supposed, but in the night had got up and wandered down in a potato field, where he died. The body of the defunct Celestial was still lying in the field on Thursday, when our informant left.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, December 16, 1871

The stillness of a recent Sunday afternoon was interrupted by a slight fracas by a Chinaman, an Indian and some boys. The "Celestial" (the Chinaman) was considerably damaged and all of the participants were arrested and taken to Santa Rosa.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, September 26, 1873

A Chinaman aged 17, in the employ of A. J. Jackson, near Sonoma, was thrown from a horse a short time since and had his ankle dislocated, both bones of his leg broken below the knee and other severe contusions of the body and limbs. Dr. Gordon was called, and in adjusting the fractures, discovered that the thigh bone of the same leg had been broken a short time before the last accident and had never been set. The boy, however, is rapidly improving.

- Sonoma Democrat, May 2 1874

A Chinaman, on Sunday, above Marshall's landing, was beaten by drunken Indians and another was shot through the arm.

- Sonoma Democrat, October 10 1874

Judge McGee was this morning called upon to issue a warrant for the arrest of John Doe charged with an assault with intent to commit murder on the person of Ah Yung, a Chinaman employed by I. DeTurk, in Bennett Valley. Judge McGee examined Ah Yung and reports nine buck-shot wounds in the back and head. No arrests have yet been made.

- Sonoma Democrat, October 2 1875

A Chinaman was accidentally shot in the nose by a little son of John P. Rodehever, near the Washoe House, last Monday. The wound is not dangerous.

- Sonoma Democrat, February 17 1877

Sebastopol, May 8, 1877: The citizens on the south end of Main street were startled from their slumbers this morning about 3 o'clock by the alarm of fire issuing from a Chinese wash house, but by the timely assistance of J. W. Campbell the fire was extinguished without doing much damage. The perpetrator of the deed is supposed to be a Chinaman.

- Sonoma Democrat, May 12 1877

The letter writer reports that there have been recently “no fights, no anti-Chinese meetings, suicides, or accidents – no newsworthy sensations, in the humble little village of Sebastopol.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, February 22, 1878

A Chinaman is reported to have been severely beaten by two young white men at Sebastopol one day this week. It seems John did not obey the word of command to get out of the way quick enough to suit the hot blood of the youngsters, and they gave him a beating.

- Sonoma Democrat, July 6 1878

The genus hoodlum in Sonoma seems not to be quite extinct. A number of them recently caught an inoffensive Chinaman and beat him nearly to death. The Chinaman's cries attracted the attention of some passers-by, but before they had time to come up the ruffians escaped.

- Sonoma Democrat, October 19 1878

Reliable John. Five hundred Chinamen are employed, at \$1 per day, in this and Marin County, digging potatoes. The farmers state that they would rather employ white men; but they are hard to get and unreliable.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, November 8, 1878

Inquest and Burial.— On Sunday afternoon as Fred Fick, G. R. Kopf and several others were hunting near the Laguna, they came across the body of a man in an advanced state of decomposition...it was taken from the water, and when on the bank, the queue pendant from the cranium indicated that the corpse was that of a Chinaman, but the body was so badly decomposed that it was entirely unrecognizable...After the examination a grave was dug neat the edge of the Laguna, and the corpse interred, but no useless coffin enclosed his breast, nor in sheets nor in shroud we bound him, but we laid him away in his last resting place, with the earth shoveled nicely around him.

- Sonoma Democrat, November 23 1878

A boy. named James Murphy, accidentally shot a Chinaman in the face, at Bolinas.

- Sonoma Democrat, January 4 1879

J. M. Scoggan, Deputy Road Overseer in Analy township informs us that the rains have done so much damage to the work that was done on the roads this Spring, that almost all of it will have to be worked over again. Much of the work has been washed away, and in other places it has been washed out and gullied out, so that they are in as bad a condition as can be. He has been having a hard time collecting the road tax from Chinamen, but up to Wednesday had secured 140 of them, and collected \$280. They generally told him to come again next week or some other time, but he has a system of attaching their personal property which generally brings them to time. While in Bloomfield, a few days ago, he levied upon a quantity of rice in a house that contained four Chinese that were employed by a white man, who endeavored to recover the property by paying for one receipt. Mr. Scoggan gave him the receipt but holds the property for \$6 more. Some interesting developments are expected before the matter is settled.

- Sonoma Democrat, May 19 1883

The Chinese houses are to be removed from the main street to a back street. ... Samuel Tallmadge has let his hop fields to Chinese on shares and will take it easy for a few years.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, April 18, 1885

“The Chinese must go – to the rear.” A. Barnes is moving his China houses back to Magnolia Avenue where the “festive heathen can pursue the even tenor of his way – heap washe Melican shirts, smoke opium, or play tann.”

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, May 30, 1885

LETTER FROM WAKE-UP-JAKE This long article by the correspondent “Wake-Up-Jake” is subtitled “Sebastopol Full of Chinese – Politics and High License” and states that Sebastopol, a quiet conservative place – sometimes called a “sleepy hollow,” has woken up to the fact that while the Chinese are cheap labor, Sebastopol has too much of a good thing. The town has about 360 Chinese and they outnumber about 250 “whites.” The habits of the Chinese – gaming, gambling and opium smoking, must go for the safety of the town’s adolescents.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, January 29, 1886

Anti-Coolie Meeting.

At Bloomfield, Tuesday night, there was a large attendance at the anti-Chinese meeting. This is the second meeting held in that place within the week. At the first meeting a committee of twelve was appointed to devise means for the expulsion of the heathen from their midst. There is no town in the

state, of its size, where there are so many Chinese. The committee appointed at the first meeting gave the Chinese ten days to leave town. The time will expire next Tuesday. O. H. Hoag of Santa Rosa, assisted the local speakers in their efforts, and reports that the movement is doing much good, as the majority of the coolies are leaving. We are also informed by a friend who came in from Bloomfield late Wednesday, that the Chinese are still going, and that the citizens in general approve of this mild method.

- Sonoma Democrat, February 6, 1886

Going Below. Several wagon loads of China men on their way to San Francisco from Bloomfield passed through town this week.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, February 13, 1886

Chinamen to Leave Sebastopol.

Ed. Democrat —Sir: The third meeting of the Anti-Coolie Association was held here yesterday. A committee of twenty citizens waited upon the Chinese and requested them to leave on or before February 27th. They promised to depart. Their baggage will be carted to the nearest depot free of charge, as well as themselves. The association will purchase all their property not movable at a reasonable price. Yours, Secretary Sebastopol, A. C. A.

- Daily Democrat, February 16, 1886

Sebastopol Anti-Chinese League.

The Anti-Chinese League of Sebastopol has 168 members, and is pushing things along. One difficulty experienced is that many of the Chinese are willing to bid adieu to Sebastopol, but are prevented from following the impulse of their hearts through a lack of funds. One gentleman who discharged his Chinaman said that after the latter had paid his debts, he had but 75 cents wherewith to emigrate.

- Sonoma Democrat, February 27, 1886

SWEET CONSISTENCY.

Ed. Democrat: At an anti-Chinese meeting of the citizens of Bloomfield, held February 22d, we were agreeably surprised by the arrival of our old and esteemed friend, Hon. O. H. Hoag, and were also made happy by a rousing anti-Chinese speech from him, advising us for the good of the country, the love of our families, the welfare of our citizens, and the benefit of schools and churches, to use all lawful means to rid ourselves of this black horde, these opium fiends, this leprous scourge. We

understand that he is also doing good work in Santa Rosa by his encouraging speeches. We are glad to hear it. But the sequel: He has two houses (old fire traps) in this place rented for \$6 per month to these many-aliased Chinese, and gives us the consolation that he will turn them out if Knapp will. Knapp has several houses rented to them, and says he would turn them out, but Uncle Harris (not the pawn broker) is not willing. Sweet Consistency. In conclusion, after a twenty-five years acquaintance, and many business transactions, all agreeable, I feel sorry to be called on by the citizens of this place to ask for this publication. But Mr. Hoag has advised us to use all lawful means to rid ourselves of this scourge, and we consider this lawful although painful. Written by request. Yours truly, V. Stillwell.

- Sonoma Democrat, March 6, 1886

SOUR CONSISTENCY.

Ed. Democrat: In answer to a communication of Val. Stillwell's, in a recent issue of your paper, headed, "Sweet Consistency," I beg leave to explain and compare my record in this respect with this "aided" effusion of his. He uses a long space in making misstatements and apologies, but in this particular I shall not imitate him. The fact is I owned four structures, not "fire traps," on Main street, in the center of the once prosperous village of Bloomfield, and until the advent of the "Chinese horde," it was valuable property, but lately is almost valueless. It was after my removal from Bloomfield that the "leprous gang" took possession of that beautiful village, situated in one of the richest valleys of our great state, and my friend was one of the foremost in offering inducements for their accommodation. So great was his effort and success in securing their favor that I lost their patronage, and my shoe shops, harness shops, and offices were not suitable for Chinese harems and opium dens, and my friend and some of "his citizens" took advantage of my absence, and built more attractive palaces for their accommodation. My friend's successes soon influenced him to disregard the claims of his own countrymen, and he discharged his faithful old butcher, one of the pioneer residents of Sonoma county; but our friend, disregarding his vows, secured the services of a hog-killing, "opium fiend, leprous-scourged" Chinaman, who had a wife, and the favor of his new formed friends was so much appreciated that the hog-killer named his only son "Val," who soon grew to be a bright boy, all the same as a "Melican boy," all of which distinction China-father, and godfather, seemed to enjoy...I beg to inform my friend that I have renewed no contract with my Chinese occupant, and don't intend to do so, nor have I made public speeches in Santa Rosa (not being a candidate); but would like to entertain my friend and "his citizens" by discoursing on the subject of saccharine consistency, and I have no doubt that in a short decade (if Val. can stand the strain), the Chinese will go in peace, lawfully. For my own part, I neither employ Chinese, nor buy their goods, preferring wine to tea. Written without request. Yours, without pain, O. H. Hoag.

- Sonoma Democrat, March 6, 1886

Blew Them Up.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to blow up a Chinese wash house at Bloomfield last Friday night, by a charge of gunpowder placed under the building. Result, a lot of frightened Chinamen and a shattered floor. No clue to the perpetrators.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, March 10, 1886

Four weeks ago there were not less than 400 Chinamen in Sebastopol and immediate vicinity; now there are less than fifty, few of whom are employed.

- Sonoma Democrat, March 20, 1886

A Large Decrease.

Before the anti-Chinese movement there were 450 Chinamen in and around Sebastopol. Now it is said there are not over 125.

- Daily Democrat, April 4, 1886

A Large Decrease.

Before the anti-Chinese movement started there were said to be about 400 Chinese in Sebastopol, and now it is stated there are less than fifty, and one or two are leaving every day by stage and on foot.

- Sonoma Democrat, April 24, 1886

...Only the other day a gentleman of this city showed us a paper of wide circulation published in Pennsylvania. In it was published a list of lawless acts perpetrated in California relating to Chinese. And among the outrages designated, was the attempt to blow up a Chinese wash house at Bloomfield, and also the putting of a sack of salt into a spring that supplied many of the residents of Bloomfield with water, because the proprietor of the spring would not put some Chinamen out of a house he had rented to them under a contract for a term of months. Those outrages were no doubt, perpetrated by worthless, irresponsible boycotters, and were wholly condemned by every respectable citizen of Bloomfield, and yet they are paraded at the East, and there is probably not a member of Congress but who has read of the occurrence. Viewed from a distance, these things become magnified and distorted. The people here did not give the outrage referred to more than a passing notice, and yet they have greatly injured our cause at the East. And it is just the same with the attempted boycott in California it is only fruitful of impeding legislation restrictive of Chinese immigration.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, May 15, 1886

There are only about twenty-four Chinamen left in Sebastopol.

- Daily Democrat, May 18, 1886

Threats Against Life.

Following are the particulars of the arrest of the fifteen Chinamen at Sebastopol Friday, and how the charge of making threats against human life was preferred: The fifteen mongolians are employed on the ranch of Mr. Warner, and they thought they were worked harder than the contract called for. One day this week one of the Chinamen went to Mr. Warner and said that himself and the others wanted more pay. Mr. Warner replied that he would not pay any more than the contract called for, whereupon the celestial said: "You no pay me, you killee me." His employer replied that he did not want to kill any one, and the Chinaman replied: "if you no killee me, me killee you." Thus the threats against human life originated, and the fifteen heathens were at once arrested. The officer in charge displayed considerable ingenuity in keeping track of his prisoners and identifying them. He had them all tied together with small rope of some kind, with a different knot on each Chinaman's wrist. After an examination, fourteen of them were discharged, and the last one fined \$20.

- Daily Democrat, June 20, 1886

The Petaluma Argus says: It seems that the boycott element in the vicinity of Bloomfield cannot wait for the operation of the restriction law to relieve them of the Chinese evil in their midst, but have again taken the law into their own hands and have forcibly ejected them from the town. This is not only wrong but it is dangerous business. Those American citizens who owned the houses that were occupied by the Chinese, will not submit to have their property damaged as it was recently, John Crose, who is represented to us as a good, law-abiding citizen, had his potatoes dumped out of the sacks, and the sacks burned, because they were dug by Chinamen.

- Sonoma Democrat, October 16, 1886

Chinese at Sebastopol

In conversation with an intelligent and reliable gentleman at Sebastopol last Sunday we learned some facts that have set us thinking seriously of what ought to be done to rid our country of the presence of the Chinese evil. The people of that place are as moral, sensible and apparently have as much interest in the welfare of their race as the inhabitants of other towns, and yet they allow Chinese gambling shops and opium dens to be carried on in their midst which are patronized by young men and women. Some of the white customers of this opium joint, to use the words of our informant, have become so infatuated with the smoke of this deadly drug that once in every forty-eight hours at the farthest they must have an opium drunk. For the customary fee, which must be paid in advance, the Chinaman

furnishes each person with the smoking outfit and a bunk to lie upon for the few hours of oblivion, and when the victim wakes up he gives them a few puffs of the smoke and starts them off. As the effects of the "smoke drunk" wear away they must eat opium to steady their nerves until they can get back to the den for another drunk. From the fact that most of the women who visit this den come from Santa Rosa, it is presumed that the officials of that city take some pains to enforce the law. Boys, for miles around, go into Sebastopol to smoke opium. This should be stopped now--even if you have to dispense with the Chinaman who sells the opium. Drive him out, and the smokers who are past reclaiming will soon follow. There are more Chinamen in Sebastopol to the square foot than in any American town that we know of. We do not know whether there are any "opium joints" in Petaluma at this time or not, but we have been informed that there was one here some time ago, at which more than one young man was ruined. We hope there are none.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, June 11, 1887

The Chinese settlement in the heart of town will not remain there much longer since the town's citizens have determined to move Sebastopol's Chinatown to one of the back streets.

- Petaluma Weekly Argus, October 29, 1887

Potato digging has generally commenced. It is the best for several years. It is impossible to get enough white hands. Chinamen are scarce and disposed to boycott the Bloomfield country, from which they were driven a year since.

- Sonoma Democrat, October 29, 1887

A party of railroad surveyors and a couple of our young men are temporarily boarding with Sheriff Colgan after drinking too much wine and beating a Chinaman almost to death.

- Petaluma Daily Courier, May 22, 1889

A Sebastopol Affair. A story from the Democrat states that four young men: Wm. Dale, Jerome Gossage, J. F. Meyers and J. Meyers, are in the county jail awaiting the results of injuries to a Chinaman named Chung Gow. They were all apparently drinking on the grass plot in front of the Methodist church in Sebastopol when a party of Chinamen passed by and Chung Gow was knocked insensible with a fence picket in the melee that followed. The Chinaman, Chung Gow, was reported to have recovered and returned to work a few weeks later

- Petaluma Daily Courier, May 22, 1889

The Chinese have built a Joss house in town.

- Petaluma Daily Courier, September 11, 1889

About 300 Chinamen arrived by train this week and will join numerous white families to pick hops.

- Petaluma Daily Courier, September 3, 1890

Elliot & Berry are building a fine Joss House for the Chinamen.

- Petaluma Daily Courier, January 14, 1891

note from the Sebastopol Times that Chinamen took from the district \$75,000 last year for cultivating and harvesting hops. "Hop growers prefer white help." Two hop growers, Joseph Purrington and Otis Allen, have employed a large number of white persons.

- Petaluma Daily Courier, September 9, 1891

Town is full of Chinamen getting rid of their hop picking earnings by gambling.

- Petaluma Daily Courier, October 7, 1891

A number of China houses are in course of erection on the corner of Petaluma and Bodega avenues by Mr. Aaron Barnes, and the Joss house which has been located near Mr. Barnes' residence has been moved to the same lot and the other houses will soon follow. Mr. Aaron Barnes proposes building several tenement houses in the near future, which will supply in part a great demand. Not a vacant house is now to be had in the town. Mr. Barnes has done a great deal toward the growth of Sebastopol, and he is not through yet.

- Sonoma Democrat, December 12 1891

About Bloomfield.

...Thirty years ago that was a famous potato section, but the land was seriously washed away by its cultivation for a potato crop, and most of it has been converted into pasture and devoted to dairying purposes, which is found more profitable. Not more than 100 acres are planted with potatoes to a thousand in former times.

- Petaluma Daily Courier, December 27 1891

Yesterday's issue of the Sebastopol Times states that "a movement is on foot to remove from our midst the dirty, almond-eyed heathen who are now occupying the most desirable portion of Sebastopol. We do not want them because they retard the growth of our town and jeopardize the health of our people by living in disease-breeding hovels. In unity there is strength, and we are glad to note that the feeling against them is universal. A mass meeting in Janssen's Hall to discuss the best plans for their removal. Let every person who is interested in the future of this town be in attendance. Don't shift the responsibility upon the shoulders of your neighbor, but come to the center and help bear the burden."

- Petaluma Daily Courier, October 21, 1892

A Desperate Chinaman

Hang Wah, one of our prominent Chinese merchants, secured a John Doe warrant today for the arrest of a highbinder who has made threats that it was his intention to sent the Hang Wah Company and the balance of Chinatown heavenward by means of the coal oil route and match applied therewith. No doubt this dangerous miscreant will be placed under bonds to keep the peace. He should be lodged in a dungeon dark.

- Sebastopol Times, November 17, 1897

A CHINESE BRIDE

Arrives Here Attended by Much Pomp

An Eager Crowd at the Depot Catch a Glimpse of the Celestial Maiden's Fine Raiment

"A Chinese bride! A Chinese bride!" The word was passed like wildfire among the crowd at the Donahue depot as the ten o'clock train on the San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad slowed up there Wednesday morning. Instantly everybody was anxious to catch a glimpse of the celestial maiden, clad in the most fantastic of bridal costumes...The party were bound for Sebastopol and the process of loading the bride onto the cars was watched with much interest by the crowd on the platform. When the bride and her party arrived at Sebastopol they were given a great reception by scores of Chinese. In a gaily decorated vehicle adorned with flags and Chinese lanterns, the bride was escorted through the streets. Later in the day the marriage took place amid much pomp. the groom was a "heap high tone" Chinaman employed on the Knowles ranch near Sebastopol.

- Press Democrat, January 1 1898

Great excitement prevailed in Brown's Chinatown last Saturday evening. The interior of the house of worship caught fire and it was feared that the entire structure would be destroyed, but by hard work the Mongolians succeeded in extinguishing the flames. Only a small amount of damage was done.

- Sebastopol Times, January 26 1898

IN CHINA TOWN.

[..]

A LIVELY TIME

Last Thursday evening, while the local Chinamen were having a hilarious time, officer [Deputy Constable] Woodward appeared in the celestial realms and stirred up a little hornet's nest. The Mongolians charge that the official demanded the sum of five dollars from each merchant for the privilege of exploding firecrackers. The level of a firecracker tax being a novelty to the Chinese, they refused to comply with the order.

Ah Lung and Ah Woy took the floor and engaged in a debate with Mr. Woodward as to the legality of his demand. One word brought on another, and finally a fistic encounter was in order, the Chinamen coming out second best. The following morning Ah Lung and Ah Woy looked as if they had been run through a saw mill. They were "heap very mad" and swore out a warrant charging the officer with battery...

- Sebastopol Times, January 26 1898

OFFICER'S TRIAL

Many Chinamen Occupy Judge Brown's Court

ALL Sorts and Conditions of the Mongolian Type Attend Constable Woodward's Trial

Judge Brown's courtroom was a pleasant and at the same time an unpleasant place yesterday afternoon. It was pleasant in the way that the score or so of white people present could not help but be tickled with the attempt at wit on the part of another score of individuals—this score being Chinamen. Unpleasant in the sense that odors peculiar to Chinatown pervaded his honor's courtroom. Those odors were not of the eau de cologne fancy, either.

Twenty Chinamen of all sorts and conditions, some big, some small, some very ugly, others not so much so. Chinese ranging from the proud merchant who runs the store in Sebastopol's Chinatown down to the ordinary type who earn their rice by the sweat of their brow, were all lost to everything else yesterday afternoon save the awe-inspiring dignity upheld in Judge Brown's court.

The Mongolians gazed in wonderment at every thing and every body. A very dignified one from among their number was selected as interpreter, and his knowledge of English and his manner of delivery was such as to make the spectators feel sorry for Lyman Harford, who acted as reporter, Not so with the

Chinamen—they were ready to do obeisance to their fellow-countryman, who presumed, in the face of the distinguished audience, to rapidly turn the polished sentences of Attorneys J. P. Stidger of Sebastopol and J. P. Rodgers of Petaluma, who, in conjunction with Assistant District Attorney Butts, prosecuted the case on trial, in which Constable G. P. Woodward of Sebastopol was charged with battery upon a Chinese, into the amazingly complicated Chinese tongue.

Constable “Jim,” as he is familiarly called by his associates, was his own lawyer.

About a dozen of the Mongolians, whose names ranged from Li Hung Chang to Ah Yang tse Kiang, were sworn and examined. The oath to “tell the truth and nothing but the truth” was explained to those who “not much savee Engleesh; only talkee him little bit,” by the aid of the interpreter.

From the evidence given the trouble seemed to have arisen over the celebration of Chinese new year at Sebastopol,

The Chinaman charged Woodward with having hit him over the head with a pistol and made his head bleed. On the other hand Woodward testified that the Chinaman did not obey an order of his in regard to the quieting of the mirth caused by the fusilade of firecrackers and that he took hold of the Chinaman and helped him inside the house rather abruptly and without ceremony. Some of the Chinese witnesses, however, did not seem to agree with the constable’s version of the fracas. Some of them of the “little bit Engleesh” persuasion just looked daggers at Mr. Woodward.

Judge Brown decided to take the case under advisement until Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

- Press Democrat, January 29 1898

Fined the Constable

Justice John Brown fined Constable G. P. Woodward twenty dollars for battery upon the person of Ah Woy, a Sebastopol Chinaman, and dismissed the charge of assault in regard to the boy, Monday afternoon.

- Press Democrat, February 2 1898

Just in Time.

Monday Mr. D. Deitrich was driving along the Petaluma road and when just opposite the lane leading out of Barnes' Chinatown, pop went a lot of firecrackers. A lively runaway ensued for a few seconds, but Frank Harrison's steady nerve and firm grasp, abetted by an artful dodge, halted the fiery team, else there would have been damage and disaster done to an old and highly respected citizen.

- Sebastopol Times, March 23, 1898

The party of ladies and gentlemen who came over last Friday night with A. W. Foster company were very much delighted at the cute little Chinese children they saw on the sidewalks of Chinatown.

- Sebastopol Times, July 27, 1898

The Devil In Camp.

The devil was turned loose in Chinatown Monday evening -- so the Mongolians say. Long after the dusky shadows of night had settled over the habitation of the yellow men one superstitious Celestial leaped suddenly from his bunk and declared in piercing screams that the devil was after him. The word was passed from house to house and almost simultaneously all hands made a break for the open air. Immediately the dragon was hoisted to the top of the flag staff and punks were ignited in all quarters of the town. For hours the Mongolians guarded the homes and not until daylight did the patrol cease.

- Sebastopol Times, August 31, 1898

High Binders Here.

Six Chinese Highbinders arrived in Sebastopol from San Francisco last Friday evening, but were not permitted to remain here over night, the local Chinamen refusing to give them lodging. They then drove over to Santa Rosa, but three of the number returned to Sebastopol the following day and are still here. Hang Wah, a prominent merchant of Chinatown, says the highbinders are desperate criminals, and he fears that they will commit some crime if permitted to remain in town much longer.

- Sebastopol Times, December 7, 1898

Forty Buildings Razed by Flames

Santa Rosa, May 1---Sebastopol was visited by a disastrous conflagration this morning. A strong wind blowing from the north was all that saved the entire place from destruction. More than forty buildings were burned.

The fire started in a small frame building in the center of Chinatown at 8:30 o'clock. For more than an hour it raged fiercely and it died out only when it had destroyed everything in its path. Sebastopol has no fire department and little could be done to check the spread of the flames. Not much damage was done outside the Chinese quarter, but there is not enough of that left to make a showing on the map. Except in the building where the fire originated the Celestials are now guarding the spot where the melted gold is said to be.

As a result of the conflagration Sebastopol's Chinese tonight are without a place to lay their heads. No estimate of the loss has yet been made, but it is large and falls principally upon the heirs of the late Aaron Barnes.

- San Francisco Call, May 2 1899

BIG FIRE IN CHINATOWN

Fifteen Buildings Were Completely Destroyed.

It was a Difficult Task to Save Other Property from the Fury of the Wind and Flames.

The people of Sebastopol were worked up to a high pitch of excitement last Monday morning. The cause of the disturbance was a terrific blaze in Chinatown, which, while it lasted, roared like a seething tempest.

About 7:15 o'clock Willie Palmer, while passing by what is known as new Chinatown, discovered clouds of smoke coming through the roof of one of the houses. He immediately applied the whip and spurs to the steed he was riding and, like Paul Revere, rode through town with hurricane speed, spreading the alarm as he passed. Someone rang the school bell and a few seconds later men, women and children rushed frantically from their homes and places of business. The race towards the scene of the conflagration was of the nature of a steeple chase, some clearing high fences with a single bound, while other feet hammered the middle of the street. Chief Palmer of the local fire department, although he made a poor start, finished with the leading sprinters and was one of the first to reach the blaze.

In less than ten minutes after the fire started it was evident that the two rows of buildings were doomed to total destruction. A strong north wind was blowing and sheets of flame, fanned by the breeze, leaped high in the air. The heat was so intense that no one could approach near the burning structures.

Some one suggested that the hook and ladder truck be used and a search warrant was issued by Chief Palmer. After the fire fiend had spent his fury the truck and a single ladder were found in a vacant lot. A hook, which very miraculously had not long ago been appropriated to private use by some thoughtless individual, was used to good advantage tearing down outbuildings.

For a time it was feared that the flames could not be confined to Chinatown and everybody was in a state of uneasiness. People residing in the immediate vicinity of the fire moved their household effects into the open air in order to be on the safe side. The Chinamen were terribly excited and rushed madly from the burning buildings, leaving the greater portion of their possessions behind. When the conflagration was at its height a brave Mongolian, just in the nick time, rescued an aged and crippled fellow countryman from a half burned dwelling house.

An unfortunate incident was the roasting of three pigs. Their terrorizing squeals of pain pierced the air, but it was impossible to turn the imprisoned animals loose. A cat and two pigeons were also incinerated.

In almost every house there were bomb shells, pistols, cartridges and other kinds of firearms. There was continual popping of these explosives and it is a great wonder that many people were nor killed or wounded.

Strout's planing mill, which stands about one hundred feet from the scene of disaster, narrowly escaped destruction. The east end of the mill was scorched and a small barn near was ablaze a number of times. The saving of Mr. Strout's property and the five Chinese houses that face Bodega avenue can be accredited to the norther. Mrs. Pillini's dwelling, which was in direct line of the wind, although over three hundred feet from the burning buildings, frequently caught fire and it required a great deal of fighting to preserve this property. Mrs. Pillini's home orchard was completely ruined.

A barn which was full of hay, the property of Henry Barnes, located near the Adventist Church, was smoking, but fortunately did not burn.

Had it not been for the north wind the Chinese houses on Bodega avenue would have caught fire and it is impossible to estimate the number of other buildings that would have been destroyed. On the other hand, had there been a breeze from the east, it is safe to say that the entire town of Sebastopol would to-day be a mass of charred ruins. Our people are congratulating themselves on their narrow escape, but whether they will profit by the misfortune of the Chinese and take steps to protect their property remains to be seen.

The fire originated in the house occupied by Sang Tai. It is said that a Chinaman, while smoking opium in the upper story of the building, upset a coal oil lamp, and instead of smothering the blaze with a blanket he fled from the scene in terror. Although the alarm was turned in early it was utterly impossible to subdue the flames, owing to Sebastopol's woeful lack of fire-fighting facilities. The structures were all built of redwood and they burned like tinder. About one hour after the fire started the buildings composed a smouldering heap of ruins. Fifteen houses, including the Joss house, were completely wiped out.

The Chinamen claim that many articles of great value were destroyed and they estimate their loss at several thousand dollars. Hang Wah, one of the most prominent merchants in Chinatown, reports that his financial injury will sum up fifteen hundred dollars. The buildings were occupied by Sang Tai, Wing Hop, Wah Lee, Sing Wah, Hop Wah, Hung Wall, Quong Wah, Hung Chung, Hong Fat, Ling Fat, Wah Sing, Fee Kee, Chung Hi, Chung Chun and others.

A safe which is said to have contained over a thousand dollars in gold was in the ruins. The treasure box was very closely guarded by several Mongolians and as soon as possible it was removed to a place of safety.

One cool headed celestial, realizing the inestimable value of an exhilarating beverage, rushed into one of the burning houses and rolled out a large barrel of Chinese gin.

The buildings belonged to Henry S. Barnes of this place and were valued at about twenty-five hundred dollars. The fire has reduced Mr. Barnes' monthly income to the extent of one hundred dollars or more. The reconstruction of the houses is still a question of doubt.

- Sebastopol Times, May 3 1899

WENT UP IN SMOKE

Destructive Fire at Sebastopol on Monday

Press Democrat Representative Visits the Scene of the Conflagration—The Damage

Monday morning the town of Sebastopol for a couple of hours was in a state of wild excitement caused by a big fire, which nearly wiped out the whole of Chinatown before the flames had spent their fury. Ash it in the damage sustained will run up into the thousands.

A Press Democrat representative drove over to the scene of the conflagration soon after the news of the fire reached Santa Rosa, and found a large crowd of white people and Chinese gathered around the ruins and all around could be heard a general exchange of congratulations that the fire had not proved more disastrous. A strong wind was blowing at the time, but luckily it was in the right direction to prevent the fire striking the main portion of the town. Had the wind shifted, the result would probably have been hard on the Sebastopol people.

The first discovery of the fire, it seems, was made when volumes of smoke were noticed issuing from the roof of the grocery store kept by Sung Tai. This was about 8 o'clock in the morning. How the fire originated none of the Chinese residents when questioned seemed to "savee." The flames spread with awful rapidity fanned by the strong norther. Duds were packed very hurriedly by the Chinese, but nevertheless very little could be saved. In some instances the Chinese lost everything, consequently the wailing and gnashing of teeth on the part of the Mongolians can be imagined. Doubtless they swore, but if they did it was for the most part in their native tongue, and therefore did not molest the feelings of the gentler sex gathered at the fire.

The places destroyed included stores, dwelling houses and the Chinese joss house and their Masonic hall. The buildings were light and airy, and consequently were soon reduced to ashes. Quong Wah and Hop Wah were the heaviest losers by the fire. It is said their loss alone amounts to about \$3000. A safe, which is said to have been in one of the Wah houses, and reports say contained about \$2000, stood the fire all right, and was soon located among the ruins. Several Chinamen were detailed to guard the safe, but there was very little danger of its being carried off, as it was too hot.

The buildings destroyed were occupied by Sung Tai, Wig Hop, Wah Lee, Sig Wah, Hop Wah, Hung Wah, Quong Wah, Hung Chung, Hong Fat, Ling Fat, Way Sing, Fee Kee, Chung Hi, Chung Chun and others. To estimate the loss to the Chinese would be a difficult task, as they value their property very highly. One of the Chinese merchants places his total loss at about \$15,000. The buildings were the property of H. S. Barnes, one of the legatees of the estate of the late Aaron Barnes. His loss will be about \$2000.

The residence of Mrs. Pelini, some little distance from the fire, was badly scorched, and it is said the building seemed to want to catch fire more than once. The trees in the Pelini home orchard were ruined by the heat. There is no mistaking the fact that the town had a most lucky escape. Fears were entertained that the chunks of fire carried in all directions by the wind might cause further conflagrations, especially at the planing mill, cannery and winery.

Buckets of water alone were available to check the flames. The Press Democrat representative heard a number of citizens of the town express themselves that before long the matter of providing the town with a water system and protection against fire would probably soon be brought to a decisive point and an improvement confessedly much needed would be provided.

A sensational rumor spread after the fire that an aged Chinaman had perished in the flames, but it was afterward ascertained the rumor was without foundation. The youngsters had much diversion in searching among the ruins after the fire, and one lad found a five dollar gold piece. Several horse pistols and hatchets were also found.

HIGHBINDER SLAIN

Chinaman the Slayer of His Brother at Sebastopol

Great Excitement in the Town—The Origin Said to Have Been a Financial Matter

Murder and bloodshed marked the close of the Sabbath day at Sebastopol Saturday. The murder was in Chinatown, and the quarrel was among the Celestials.

About 9 o'clock a fusilade of pistol shots aroused the people of the town, and soon a big crowd was on the scene.

The Chinese were terribly excited, running hither and thither in all directions. Their shouts filled the air as the pistol shots continued.

Among those hurrying to Chinatown the word passed that the highbinders were at work, and thoughts of the recent affray at Fresno among the Chinese flashed through their minds.

In front of the store of Jim Gee or Ging Gee, his brother Ah Yun Gee, lay dead, having received several bullets in his body, and another Chinaman, name unknown, was severely wounded.

Constable G. P. Woodward, hearing the fusilade of pistol shots, hurried to the scene, and his presence among the crowd of excited Chinese had the effect of soon quieting them.

In short order Woodward had the nippers on Jim Gee, and charged him with the murder of his brother. The officer also arrested another Chinaman named Lo Mon, upon the alleged charge of being an accessory to the trouble. The men offered no resistance, although one evinced a desire to get away...When seen at the jail last night Ging Gee, the slayer, said three shots were fired at him. He dropped down on the sidewalk, and then ran into his store and got his pistol and killed his brother at the first shot.

He further stated that his brother (the dead man) was a highbinder, and that he killed a man in San Francisco with a hatchet and nearly killed another man. His brother had frequently been to him to borrow money and he had refused to give him any. This he supposes angered him and led up to the trouble. He has been at Sebastopol, he said, for thirteen years in business...

...As soon as word of the affair was received in this city a Press Democrat representative hurried to the scene. Constable Woodward and several of the Chinese residents in the neighborhood were interviewed, and as far as the limited time would allow every possible circumstance in connection with the case was investigated. With their usual reticence and stolidity most of the Chinese maintained that they knew very little about the affair. None would admit that they actually saw the killing. Several of the more intelligent members of the colony, however, gave fairly well connected versions of the shooting. When the representative left Sebastopol at 1 o'clock Monday morning, the town had quieted down, and the most of the inhabitants were wrapped in slumber. The corpse lay locked in a private chamber of a wash house, and save for an occasional twinkling light that told of a few little groups still crouching in the half-darkness and discussing in awed whispers the details of the awful tragedy, the little town was wrapped in darkness...

..at the conclusion of the testimony the jury brought in its verdict, finding that the deceased, Yun Gee, had met his death as the result of a pistol shot fired by Ging Gee in self defense...

- Press Democrat, May 10 1899

Quong Wah, the Chinese merchant, is building a new house on Henry Barnes' property.

Criss Bros. of Santa Rosa are moving the houses in Barnes' Chinatown back about seventy-five feet.

- Sebastopol Times, May 24, 1899

Improvements at Sebastopol

Santa Rosa visitors in Sebastopol the past few days report that the improvements being carried out at Barnes' Chinatown, at the entrance to the town, will be a splendid improvement, and will when completed add greatly to the appearance of everything.

- Press Democrat, May 27 1899

A new Chinese Joss House is being erected in the Henry Barnes Chinatown.

- Sebastopol Times, October 25, 1899

Building improvements have been in progress in Barnes' Chinatown the past week.

- Sebastopol Times, December 27, 1899

**HE FOUGHT HIS WAY OUT WITH PISTOL
DEPUTY SHERIFF TOMBS SURROUNDED BY BAND OF ANGRY, JABBERING CHINESE
Served Papers on Chinese Laundryman But He Called Reinforcements and Tried to Return Them**

Surrounded by a jabbering, noisy lot of Mongolians, not knowing what they were doing and caring less. Deputy Sheriff Logan Tombs can almost be said to have had to fight his way out of Hin Lun's laundry building in Chinatown on the outskirts of Sebastopol on Thursday morning, with a pistol. At any rate there is no knowing what might have happened had he not whipped out the weapon and cleared a way for himself out of a corner into which the Chinese gamblers had forced him. The genial deputy, who for years has been a trusty minion of the law in old Sonoma. the hero of a half hundred

bear hunts and other deeds of daring, never had a similar experience to that in which he played such a conspicuous part in the laundry Thursday morning.

The incident has its humorous as well as its possibly alarming side. Deputy Sheriff Tombs drove over to Sebastopol to serve a copy of a complaint and summons on the Chinese laundryman, the papers having been forwarded to Sheriff Grace's office by the Sheriff of San Francisco county for service. The complaint had to do with a debt which the Celestial owes one of the large Mongolian firms in San Francisco. Laundryman Hin Lun talks tolerably good English and when the officer told him that he had a paper to serve on him he at once became deeply interested, all the same Mellcan man, and his interest changed to excitement when he learned the contents.

"I no owe him anything. He no good man. I no savee. Owe him — I— I— I"

Mr. Tombs could not understand anything else that was said. With a kind of a rallying shout, the now [unintelligible microfilm] probably realizing that the officer had served him with the papers, as he (the Chinaman) was holding them aloft in his hand, turned upon the others of his kind in the laundry and outside and they surrounded the deputy. They had him in a corner and were all talking at once at him. Several of them attempted to serve the papers back on him again. They tried to stuff the summons and copy of the complaint intended for Hi Lun back into Mr. Tombs' pocket, his vest or anywhere. Things began to look a shade serious. The Mongolians had stormed the citadel so successfully that there was no avenue for escape for the man of the law unless the solid line of excited washermen were broken. The officer bethought himself of his gun. He pulled it out and then looking the almond-eyed straight in the almond eyes he said with some force, "Now my little playfellows kindly let me walk out into the open air." These were not the exact words used by the deputy, the correct ones would read and sound more forcible. Anyway the lines divided at the sight of the shining steel and the officer walked out of the laundry with some dignity and he made a due return of service of papers when he arrived at the court house after his experience.

- Press Democrat, October 14 1904

Improvements in Sebastopol

The old unsightly buildings in Brown's Chinatown at Sebastopol are to be removed and the property improved with the erection of more sightly buildings.

- Press Democrat, June 28 1908

SEBASTOPOL WILL CHANGE CHINATOWN

Board of Trustees to Meet Mrs. Birdie Miller Friday to Consider Widening of Streets

Sebastopol, April 11.—At the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees last night the matter of making changes in Chinatown by widening the streets was brought up by a protest from Mrs. Birdie Miller, who owns the property. As the description of the changes desired could not be clearly defined the

matter was put over until Friday afternoon. when the Board will visit the locality as a Committee of the Whole, in company with Mrs. Miller when the details will no doubt be satisfactorily arranged to all concerned.

- Press Democrat, April 12 1911

Quong Wah, the Chinese chief of Sebastopol Chinatown, went to San Francisco Monday on a business trip.

- Press Democrat, July 29 1913

A motion was carried ordering three street lights furnished for the Cnopius Chinatown. The other Chinatown already has them furnished.

- Sebastopol Times, April 14, 1917

MISS ALICE MING IS SAID TO HAVE COME INTO A NICE FORTUNE

Friends will be interested in the report that Miss Alice Ming, the petite and pretty Chinese girl of Sebastopol, has recently come into considerable wealth upon the death of an uncle in Alaska. Miss Ming will be remembered as having entered the artistic Oriental float In the rose carnival parade.

- Press Democrat, August 4 1917

Last week Lung Kin, an aged Chinese who has resided in this neighborhood for the past forty years, passed away in Chinatown. He was well known to the old timers.

- Sebastopol Times, October 26, 1917

Birdie Cnopius was granted a building permit to remodel a building in Chinatown, which will be used as a merchandise store.

- Sebastopol Times, December 6, 1918

CHINESE CELEBRATION NEARLY ENDS FATALLY

Chinese new year came to an end Wednesday with a bang and clatter that could be heard throughout Sebastopol. Ten thousand devils, and all of them brothers, were subjugated into passivity and Ah Sing is now resting from the din and racket.

Wednesday noon in front of the joss house several strings of fire crackers, each over thirty feet in length, were exploded, much to the delight of Sebastopol's boyhood. The Chinese had erected a high tripod on which they suspended the long strings of fire crackers by means of a pulley, but the first string had hardly been ignited when the tripod collapsed and the entire string exploded at once, much to the dismay of the Chinese.

The smoke from the crackers made many believe that one of the houses was on fire, and quite a crowd gathered. The rest of the fire crackers were more successful. All afternoon the tom toms and cymbals were kept busy by the Chinese musicians who were stationed in the joss house.

- Sebastopol Times, February 20 1920

SELL LOTTERY TICKETS HERE FOR DRAWINGS IN SEBASTOPOL

Absorbing Chinese Pastime Attracts White Men; Good Play is Said to Be Going.

Do you know anything about Chinese lottery? It is said to be an absorbing game and when you get so many little figures in a row or your number comes out winner, you get a nice sum of money, according to the amount you have originally deposited. To the initiated the lottery game is said to be equal to the real old fashioned American draw poker. In fact it is said that since the American form of gambling went into the discard, the Chinese pastime has been taken up by the American. To prove this a visit was made to Chinatown Saturday. The game is being carried on openly, and white men and Chinese alike are visiting the places where it is conducted. The Press Democrat representative visited two of the places on Second street and found white men in both of them.

The players visit the houses about two o'clock daily, marking their tickets, and again later in the day, the result of the drawing is brought in from Sebastopol, where it takes place. No particular attention was paid to the newspaper man. Outside one of the places he was greeted by name by a Chinaman who knew him.

At each place a man sat behind a counter with a large number of tickets all about him, and with the usual Chinese pen and ink. One man walked out of the place with a ticket in his hand, scanning it, and then folded it up and placed it in his pocket. One man drove up in an auto with a woman and left her sitting in the car while he went inside, presumably to make a play. Some of the most frequent visitors are prominent men in the city.

- Press Democrat, February 27 1920

CHINESE GAMBLERS RAIDED IN SEBASTAPOL AND SANTA ROSA

A wholesale raid on Chinese lotteries, opium dens and gambling dens was made by Sheriff James A. Petray assisted by some 30 or more deputies last night in Santa Rosa and Sebastopol with the result that a number of Chinese languish in the county jail this morning awaiting charges...The posse were armed with six search warrants for various places in this city and nine for Sebastopol houses. In each case the inmates were first taken into custody...The investigating officer declared that three large national lottery companies, the Fook Tai of San Francisco, Eastern of New York City and the Chicago, of that city had branch headquarters in Sebastopol from which the entire county was worked...The charge was freely made that no county in California was so infested by open gambling of the Chinese characters as here and that the vicious part of it was the large number of boys of from 15 to 18 years of age who frequented the places. The officers have the names of most of these boys for future use. it was declared.

- Press Democrat, May 1 1920

Work of moving the hitching racks now on the lot to the Pellini and Cnopius property east of Chinatown has been authorized.

- Sebastopol Times, April 20 1923

FIRE DESTROYS OLD U.S. HOTEL BUILDING ON MAIN ST.

One of the early day landmarks of the Sebastopol district is no more...The original portion of the old structure was erected some forty-odd years ago by Mrs. Wilson, mother of Mrs. Harry Hall of Santa Rosa. It was but a small structure then and was the only building on the east side of the street not occupied by the Chinese, what is now business district being "Chinatown"...

- Sebastopol Times, March 14 1924

CHINESE FUNERAL SERVICE HERE FOR WONG LOCK

A Chinese funeral service was held in Sebastopol yesterday for Wong Lock, pioneer Petaluma Chinese, who passed away here March 31st. Deceased had resided in Sebastopol for only a few months, but had lived in Petaluma since 1893.

Internment was in Sebastopol cemetery under direction of O'Leary & son.

- Sebastopol Times, April 2 1926

IMPROVEMENTS WILL BEAUTIFY THE CITY

Civic pride seems to be centering its activities on the approach to Sebastopol which is being greatly improved by owners of property around the junction of Santa Rosa and Petaluma avenues and Depot street converging at the chamber of commerce building.

Razing of the old Pellini building a short time ago, inspired the public spirit of Louis Cnopius to move the remnant of old "Chinatown" located back of the modern new creamery building...

- Sebastopol Times, March 28 1930

In the way of general beautification and improvement, the City Councilmen...cleared the section where Chinatown was.

- Sebastopol Times, April 11 1930

BODY OF PIONEER CHINESE RESIDENT IS SHIPPED TO CHINA

The body of Lung Chong, pioneer Chinese business man of this city, who passed away recently, has been shipped to the old home of deceased in Hong Kong, China. Lung Chong had been engaged in business in this city for more than thirty years.

- Sebastopol Times, July 18 1930

CHINESE PIONEER IS BURIED WEDNESDAY

Funeral services were held at the O'Leary chapel here Wednesday for Qui Wah...a resident of Sebastopol for nearly sixty years. He was 82 years of age. During his youth he was one of the influential men of his race in this section.

- Sebastopol Times, November 14 1930

Bridgeford Mill Destroyed Here in \$50,000 Fire Large Building is Razed as Fire Sunday Threatens 'New' Chinatown

Fire of undetermined origin razed the Bridgeford planing mill her early Sunday morning...So-called "New Chinatown," inhabited by a large number of Orientals, appeared doomed as the first shack of the east row caught fire and a general exodus of the residents began there at once. The regular firemen were aided in combating the blaze by several Chinese who were operating a fire hose owned by people of the Oriental section. This hose also played an important part in preventing a spread of the fire to the Chinese quarter...

Chinese Fire Department Helps in Fighting Flames

An auxiliary fire hose Sunday morning proved a big factor in keeping the fire from spreading to "New Chinatown." Manned by Orientals, the hose was put into operation at about the same time that the town equipment got into action. Fire on the roof of a Chinese store building next to the famed Joss house was quickly extinguished by the Chinamen.

Lee Bow, probably one of the best known residents of the Chinese quarter south of Santa Rosa avenue, related with glee his part in persuading his countrymen to invest in fire fighting equipment of their own way back in 1922.

The equipment consists of 200 feet of hose, hose cart, ladder and several other requisite articles for combatting flames.

- Sebastopol Times, April 10 1931

Light Festivities in Celebration of China New Year

Celebration of China New Year in Sebastopol's Oriental settlement this week is decidedly mild compared to previous observances...Old-timers in the Chinatown here estimate their number to be less than 70, including all Orientals. This is about one-fourth of the population several years ago...

...A query to Lee Bow, who conducts the Lee Ching company store in "new" Chinatown, as to where "Forty-Niner" was, brought this reply: "He no here; they take him to top of big hill." (Motioning toward the local cemetery).

Further questioning disclosed that "Forty-Niner" had been dead 11 months, making this the first New Year he has missed. Asked as to how "Forty-Niner" received his nickname, Lee Bow gave the following explanation:

When Lee Wong (that was his real name) came here he had a small shack north of town. Putting up a rural mail box, he was given number 49 by the postal department. This he painted on the box in large figures, not adding his name. Immediately everyone started calling him "Forty-Niner" and it is said that he even went to court under that nickname.

Attend American Schools

The family of Yim Fung, operator of Kong Kee Bros. store on Depot street, has a wonderful educational record, not only for Chinese but any family group. All of the seven children are graduates of Sebastopol grammar school; five were graduated from Analy; two are now attending high school here, and one is attending Stanford medical school.

- Sebastopol Times, February 12 1932

Wing Hop, aged Chinese character about town, died at his home in the local Chinese quarter, Monday, June 6. Wing Hop was 76 years old and had been in Sebastopol for over thirty years, for many years conducting a store in Chinatown.

- Sebastopol Times, June 10 1932

...The city's first map, recorded in 1869, was the basis of the talk which showed Main street ending at Bodega avenue, Chinatown located near the present city hall...

- Sebastopol Times, April 3 1936