Celebration of Life

Edward King Tung Chen
1909 to 1957
EDWARD KING TUNG CHEN (陳鏡堂)
(NOVEMBER 30, 1909 - OCTOBER 16, 1957)

BORN IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA AS CHEN YUK CHOW, EDWARD K.T. CHEN, THE SON OF CHIN YUEN YEE AND CHIN LUK OI, HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF AMERICANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF CHINESE DESCENT. IN 1928, HE ATTENDED COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK CITY. WHILE THERE, HE WORKED AS A TYPESETTER AND REPORTER FOR THE CHINESE NATIONALIST DAILY, A CHINESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER.
Born November 30, 1909 San Francisco California

Yuen Yee Chan
Ca 1927

Chan Luk Oi

John, Lok Oi, Friend ca 1914

Charles John, Ed
Y Y Chan Moves to Los Angeles to attend Integrated Schools

Going to High School 1924

John 1913-1931 George 1919-1978
Edward 1909-1957
With the success of “The Yellow Jacket” and the wonderful reception it received in mind, a group of Hing Wah Kek Players organized early in the year to further their purpose of making others appreciate Chinese drama.

After many decisions, “Piggy Goes to Market,” an original play by Chen Yu Chou, was chosen as the S’27 play. The production was given on March 15th, part of an original play program, and, because of its success, repeated for the Senior A Vaudeville. The cast of “Piggy Goes to Market” is as follows:

Chorus: Guy Norwood, Dale Robbins, Edith Williams
Stacy Guey Lahn: Roy Barkley
Kwan Shee: Lena Caldo
Chang Ah Bow: Wesley Scott
Fong Ah Sing: Roy Bell, Ernest Rhoads

Piggy Goes to Market
New York Editor 1928-32
Galveston

In November 1932, Chen came to Galveston as Secretary of the Republic of China's First Vice Consulate for the Southern U.S. The office moved to Houston the next year, and he simultaneously attended the University of Houston, where he earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees and became the first Chinese-American professor in the city. In 1934, Chen married Janie Ng (d. 1965); the couple had two children.
Vice Consulate 1932 to 1945
Marriage 1935

Wedding 1934 San Antonio
Top Janie’s Mother back brother, Richard
Sister Jane, Tom Sam, Sally, Soon
Ed’s family Ying, Yook, Ed, Charles, John
Front Daisy, Dad, George, Mom
While in Houston, Chen helped to increase the visibility of Chinese and Chinese Americans. In 1937, his lobbying efforts helped to defeat a bill that would have prevented Chinese from owning land in Texas. In 1940, he helped organize the forerunner of the first Chinese Church in Houston. During World War II, he was a spokesman for the Republic of China, which promoted Chen to Deputy Consul in 1948. During the Korean War, he worked...
Attempted Murder of a Chinese in Oklahoma 1937

TEA FOR TWO CHINESE

Trial Ordered for Co-ed in Shooting on College Campus

A trial was ordered for a co-ed in a shooting incident on a college campus. The incident involved a Chinese student, and the trial was scheduled.

At the trial, two of the defendants were to be called to the witness stand. One of them was a 25-year-old Chinese student who was seriously injured in the shooting.

In the courtroom, the Chinese student was seated next to his attorney, and the judge was presiding over the hearing.
ALIEN LAND BILL HEARD
S. A. Orientals Appear Before Solons at Austin Sess

3/14/37
SAN ANTONIO LIGHT

Mrs. T. H. Wu, Chinese American, testifies against Alien Land Bill to prohibit Aliens from owning Urban Property.

Testimony Against Bill to Forbid Aliens to own Urban Property

Fashionably dressed in a yellow knitted sweater dress with a nappy felt hat to match, the comely young Chinese maiden made a striking figure before the committee. She was not in the least self-conscious or hesitant in voicing her opinions, nor did she bat an eye when cameras flashed in her face.

Mrs. Rose Wu testified as follows: "I am an American citizen. My grandfather helped to build the Southern Pacific Railroad through Texas. Twelve hundred Chinese helped to build the railroad and now there are only 700 Chinese in Texas."

Senator Spears said Mrs. Wu was an American and had the same rights as himself enjoyed.

"I know I have the rights but I do not forget my blood. Everyone can tell I am Chinese by my color," she said putting her hand to her striking Chinese face.

Chen quoted federal census figures to show that there was a decrease instead of an increase in the Chinese population in Texas. He said there were few more than 700 in the state and 500 in San Antonio. Chen said that the Chinese issue began when General Pershing brought 500 Chinese from Mexico to save them from Pancho Villa. They worked at first for the army at Fort Sam Houston and Elizabethton Field but have decreased in number since they were given haven in this country 16 years ago. "I do not believe that you should pass a law making all of Texas suffer to control fair Chinese competition in one place." - San Antonio Light 3/14/37
Department of State

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

I Certify That, satisfactory evidence having been exhibited of the appointment of

Edward King-Tung Chen

as Deputy Consul of China at Houston, Texas,

the President of the United States of America has ordered his recognition as such officer, declaring him free to exercise and enjoy such functions, powers, and privileges as are allowed to the Deputy Consuls of the most favored Nations in the United States.

In Testimony Whereof, I,

George C. Marshall,

Secretary of State of the United States of America, have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Seal of the Department of State to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this twenty-seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight, and the 113th year of the Independence of the United States of America.
Diplomat, Professor, Special Agent

Which promoted Chen to Deputy Consul in 1948. During the Korean War, he worked to convince the federal government that most Chinese Americans were loyal to the U.S., translated Chinese intelligence and taught Cantonese to Federal Bureau of Investigation agents. In 1954, Chen was the founding president of the Houston Lodge of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, fighting prejudice directed toward Chinese Texans. Today Chen is remembered as a diplomat and educator whose work made a lasting impact on the lives of Chinese Americans and others in Houston and throughout the United States.

Marker is property of the State of Texas.
Students UH & FBI

CHINESE IN ONE EASY LESSON—Marie Homer, student in the University of Houston’s course in the Chinese language, takes her turn at the board. Edward King Tung Chen, the instructor, lends a hand. The picture really gives you a brief lesson in the language. Notice the Chinese symbol for the word Sun. Likewise notice the symbol for the word Moon. Put the two together and you get the attractive bright.
Family
Dear Mrs. Chen:

I am very sorry indeed to learn of the passing of your husband, and wish to extend my heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. If there is any way in which any of us can assist you, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover