

CINE-GT 3049 Culture of Archives, Museums, and Libraries
Instructor: Prof. Howard Besser
Final Project - Jung Family's Home Movies Curation Project

Klavier Wang
Robert Hoffman
MIAP, NYU

On Vacation!

Interweaving American and Chinese Histories through Home Movies

In this project, we create an informational and interactive virtual exhibition that explores the Jung Family's vacation and life experience through their home movies created in the 1960s-1960s. The Jung Family's home movies were submitted to "Memories to Light: Asian American Home Movies" which was initiated by the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) based in San Francisco. This exhibition interweaves the Jung Family, third-generation Chinese descendants' cultural heritage and "living out American dream" life pattern in the post-war American society.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower's signing of The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 authorized the construction of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways or as it commonly referred to as the Interstate Highway System. This new network of transcontinental roadways not only transformed the way in which Americans received goods and services but also played an important role in reshaping the "American ideal" in the post-war era. In that era, American society also witnessed a drastic surge of automobile mass production led by manufacturers such as Ford, Chrysler and GM. The economic prosperity of the 1950's and 1960's laid in stark contrast to the sacrifice experienced by soldiers on the front-line and those serving on the home front. With the availability of disposable income, Americans began spending their free time in pursuit of leisure activities. The highway system and affordability of automobiles lead Americans to use their vacation time exploring the vastness, places, and beauty of the country by touring on the open road. Thus, the family "road trip" would become embedded in the fabric of the American experience.

When searching for imagery of the period one quickly discovers the visual content created during the era depicts a narrow view of American society. Through the lens of TV shows like "Father Knows Best" or "Leave it to Beaver" only the suburban white middle-class experience is represented. Our collective visual memory therefore is incomplete without the participation of ethnic minorities. The Jung Family was one among them.

Dr. Edmund Jung and his wife Haw Chan Jung, both were medical professionals, along with their children lived out a mainstream middle-class "American dream" ideal life. While possessing an American identity and living out their Americanized life, the Jung family embraced their Chinese cultural heritage by not forgetting exploring Chinese migration historical remnants during their road trips around the California state.

Dr. Edmund Dixon Jung (1914-2006) was a doctor of internal medicine, and Dr. Haw Chan Jung (1919-2013) was a pathologist. Dr. Edmund Jung graduated from the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine in 1944. In 1951, Dr. Jung began his professional career as an internist and was appointed chief of the allergy section at the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in Oakland, which later became Martinez VA Hospital.

Dr. Jung's career path was not without ripples. While trained in mainstream medical school and became an internist in the western medical system, Dr. Jung was deeply interested in Chinese medicine, herbology, and acupuncture, what he regarded as part of his cultural heritage. However, since 1974, Dr. Jung experienced tough career development which he believed was resulted from racial discrimination under the Greece-origin chief of medicine. During 1975-1981, Dr. Jung filed complaints with Equal Employment Opportunity, Civil Service Commission Examination Appeal and Review Board, and the United States District Court of Northern California.

Dr. Jung's dual-identity hence is revealed not only from his personal experience, but also through his camera lens of the eleven home movies shown in our virtual exhibition.

From the Jung Family home movies, we can also trace the changes happened to Californian landscapes.

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Enclosed in the exhibition project package include:

- [**Greatest Hits of Jung Family Outdoor Excursion**](#) which documents the most interesting places the Jung family visited during their trips.
- "**Jung Family Home Movies**" the web-based **ArcGIS interactive Map** available at <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/EmbedMinimal/index.html?webmap=ca9b8b3abff84ee5879b67695565d4da>
- "**On Vacation!**" the web-based **ArcGIS StoryMap** that showcases the concept of the exhibition available at <https://arcg.is/1HiKyW>
- A video file "[**Gallery Show Jung Family**](#)" simulating the home movie exhibition gallery walk-through .