

Statement made by Jin Tun, Chinese laborer, at El Paso,
Texas, June 21, 1907. Testimony taken by F. W. McFarland,
Inspector, through H. K. Faung, Chinese Interpreter.

Q What is your surname? A Jin.
Q What is your individual name? A Tun.
Q What is your marriage name?
A I have no marriage name, because I am not married.
Q What are you doing in El Paso, what kind of work?
A I have been washing knives and forks. I came from
San Francisco.
Q Where have you been washing dishes?
A At the 25-cent restaurant run by Mr. Yee.
Q When did you come to El Paso?
A Last year after the San Francisco fire?
Q How long after the fire? A Not very long, about April.
Q What have you been doing in San Francisco?
A Nothing particular. I had been studying Chinese there
for several years, but I had no particular occupation.
I had been staying in the laundry of my cousins.
Q Were you working in these laundries?
A No, I hardly did anything; I had been studying there.
Q How did you earn your living?
A I ate at the laundries of some of my cousins.
Q Where did you get the money to pay for it?
A I didn't pay anything for my board. I stayed there helping
them to sort out the clothes for my board.
Q Have you always lived in San Francisco? A Yes.
Q What street were you living on just before you came to
El Paso? A 714 Dupont street.
Q Between what two streets is that number?
A Nearest to Commercial street, but I don't remember the other.
Q Is 714 on the lower side of the street or the upper side?
A Upper side.
Q What street runs the same direction as Dupont on the upper
side of Dupont street?
A I don't remember, there are several streets there.
Q Name all the streets that you can in Chinatown in San Francisco?
A I don't remember any.
Q What kind of building were you living in just before you
came here?
A The old Spanish building.
Q That is where you were born and brought up is it?
A Yes.
Q Now, how do you know that is on the upper side of Dupont
~~street~~ street not the lower side?
A I think it is on the upper side.
Q Does that building face the bay or the ocean?
A I don't know, I only know it faced the street.
Q Can you see the buildings along the water front from the
part of Chinatown where you have been living?
A No.
Q How far is that building from the nearest point of the
water front? A ~~xxxxxxx~~ Quite a ways, I don't know.
Q Is it one mile or ten miles?
A I don't know how far is one mile or ten miles.
Q How are you accustomed to estimate distance?
A I never estimate the distance and I don't know.

Q How many street blocks is it about from 714 Dupont street down to the water front?

A I don't know; I never counted, but it is quite a ways.

Q Do you think it is as much as fifty blocks? A No.

Q Is it more than one block? A Yes.

Q How much more? A I don't remember.

Q What is the name of the large towns just across the bay from San Francisco? A Oakland.

Q How do you go from San Francisco to Oakland?

A I don't know, because I never went there.

Q Did you ever see anybody that did go from San Francisco to Oakland. A I don't know.

Q Did you ever see any of the street cars from Oakland coming over to San Francisco?

A I may have seen them, but I don't know.

Q Did you ever see the water separating San Francisco from Oakland?

A Yes, there is a body of water separating them.

Q Did you ever go across the bridge over that body of water?

A No.

Q Did you ever hear any of the Chinese speaking about crossing from San Francisco to Oakland on the bridge?

A No.

Q Did you ever hear anybody speak of the way people usually crossed that bay? A No.

Q How frequently did the street cars run on Dupont street?

A The street cars passed there very frequently.

Q Did the cars run right in front of your door? A Yes.

Q Was it a double track or single track?

A Single.

Q Where is Commercial street in San Francisco?

A It is right around the corner of Dupont.

Q Does Commercial street run level, or is it a steep street?

A Level.

Q Is Dupont street a hilly or level street? A Level.

Q If you were to turn the corner at your place and go down Commercial street, where would it lead you?

A To the American business part of the town.

Q What was the name of the store occupying the ground floor of the building where you have been living?

A It is a Chinese grocery store, and I don't know the name, because I cannot read English, and I didn't see any Chinese.

Q Tell me the name of those laundries where you have been living with your cousins?

A I said in only one laundry, and its name was Sam Wah, run by my Uncle. After the San Francisco fire he went back to Chin.

Q Where was that laundry? A I don't know where it was. (a.)

Q In what part of the town was it; was it in the white portion or Chinese portion? A Near the Americans.

Q Give me the names of the principal stores in Chinatown, San Francisco? A I don't know of any.

Q Are the residence houses of San Francisco mostly brick, or stone or frame? A I don't know; they are brick, stone and frame.

Q Mostly of what building material?

A I don't know; I never counted.

Q Would you recognize a photograph of the house at 714 Dupont street if you saw it?

A I don't know, perhaps I could before the fire, but if you have the picture you can let me see it if I can.

- Q Was that a one, two, or three story building at 714 Dupont street? A I don't know how many stories the building was, but I lived on the second floor.
- Q Who occupied the floor below you?
- A I don't know who occupied it; it was a Chinese grocery store.
- Q With whom did you live at that number? A My father and mother
- Q Where are your father and mother now?
- A My father, on account of his old age, went back to China about two years ago, and my mother died long ago.
- Q How recently did you live at that number, 714 Dupont street?
- A I didn't live there since a long time ago.
- Q About when did you move away from that house?
- A I don't remember ~~when~~ I moved away from there after the death only (of my mother).
- Q How old were you when your mother died?
- A I don't know.
- Q Your mother is not dead yet, is she? A Yes, she is dead.
- Q Of what did she die? A I don't know; she died of sickness.
- Q Who is there in San Francisco that we can write to now to see if you were born there? A I don't know, I have no particular acquaintance in San Francisco. My Uncle has gone back to China.
- Q Do you know the name of a single person in San Francisco?
- A Yes, I know a cousin of mine, but I don't know where he lives, and I don't believe he would do anything in my behalf.
- Q What is his name? A Jin Wah Heung.
- Q How much did you pay for a ticket from San Francisco here?
- A I don't know, my Uncle got the railroad ticket for me.
- Q Before the fire? A No, after the fire.
- Q What uncle was that? A My father's brother.
- Q Where is that uncle now? A In China.
- Q When did he go back to China? A After the fire, and after he went away from San Francisco.
- Q Have you any idea how much he paid for that ticket?
- A No.
- Q If you haven't any proof to offer of your right to remain in the United States, what do you expect us to do with you?
- A I don't know.
- Q Can you speak any English? A No. ~~city~~
- Q What is the Chinese name for the ~~street~~ where you were born?
- A Dai Fow.
- Q What is the English name of the ~~street~~ where you were born and brought up? A I don't know; I don't know any English.
- Q Did you ever anybody pronounce ~~the~~ the name of the city where you were born in English?
- A I may have heard it; but I don't know.
- Q Can you see the vessels in the bay from the part of Chinatown where you lived? A No.
- Q How many Chinese theatres in San Francisco?
- A I don't know; I did not go to the theatre.
- Q Is San Francisco a level or hilly city? A Level.
- Q Is Chinatown as level as the business part of El Paso?
- A Sometimes it is level, and sometimes not.
- Q When did you come across the river?
- A I came from San Francisco; I don't know where to cross.
- Q Did you come all the way ~~by~~ San Francisco by train, or part of the way by boat? (from)
- A All the way by train.
- Q How many hours about were you on the train?
- A I think it was a little over two days and two nights.

Q What hour of the day did you leave San Francisco?
A I think it was in the morning.
Q And what hour of the day did you reach El Paso?
A About 4 o'clock in the afternoon.
Q Where did you get off. A At the depot.
Q Which one of the depots? A The San Francisco depot.
Q Did you mean the depot where the San Francisco trains stopped?
A Yes.
Q Is that the depot where you have to climb up a high stair to get out on the street?
A I don't remember.
Q What are the principle streets here in El Paso?
A I don't know. I don't go out on the street.
Q On what street have you been working?
A I don't know, I have just worked there, that is all.
Q On what street are the Chinese stores? A I don't know any.
Q Who are the principal Chinese of this town, Name three of the prominent Chinese men of this town?
A I don't know who are the prominent Chinese.
Q Who was your protector? A I haven't got any protector; I wandered this way and could not find any work, and they asked me to go to work there.
Q You haven't been in town over a day or two have you?
A Yes, I came here last year, 4th month.
Q Have you been working at that same kitchen ever since you came here? A No, I hung around Chinatown for a while.
Q Who are the Chinese that you hung around with?
A Hai Sing Yuen.
Q Do you know Yee Jue Jung? A No.
Q He is the proprietor of the Hai Sing Yuen is he not?
A I don't know; it may be he. It is run by the Yees.
Q Have you any friends or cousins in El Paso that can testify that you were born in San Francisco.
A I don't know; perhaps the man for whom I worked could do it, because when I first went there he asked where I came from, and I told him that I came from San Francisco, and also that I was born there, and then he asked me if I wanted to get a job. I said I did and stayed there to work.
Q Who is the man you are working for? A Yee Ngat Eoc.
Q Did he know where you were born before you told him?
A No.
Q Do you know anybody in El Paso that you used to know in San Francisco? A No.
Q What was your father's name? A Jin Chew.
Q What was his marriage name?
A I don't know, it may be Gah Chew, because the Chinese from China call him by that name, but he was generally known as Jin Chew.
Q What was your mother's surname? A Law.
Q Was your mother ever out of China. A I don't know.
Q What was the name of her village in China?
A I don't know, I never went to China.
Q Did you ever see any of the big China steamers at San Francisco?
A Yes.
Q Name some of them.
A I don't know; I heard some people say that some were Mongolian, some were Japanese Marus.
Q You just heard people say that? A Yes.
Q Did you ever see these vessels yourself?
A Yes, at a distance, when they were pointed out to me.

- Q What color is the Mongolian?
A I don't know, I never saw it myself.
Q What color are the Japanese boats?
A I don't know; I never saw them myself, but just heard of them.
Q If you have any proof to offer of your right to remain in the United States, we will listen to it. Now what have you to say?
A I have got no particular proof, because my father never gave me any. When he went to China he asked me to go with him, but I didn't obey.
Q What hour of the day did the big shock take place in San Francisco?
A I don't know what time it was, but it was morning; it may be between 6 and 8.
Q Was it before breakfast time or after breakfast time?
A Before breakfast time.

Q Where were you at that hour? A In my uncle's laundry.
Q Whereabouts is that? A I don't know.
Q Is that laundry a one-story building or tall building?
A It was only a one-story building.
Q Frame or brick? A Brick.
Q Did it burn down? A Yes.
Q Where did you stay in San Francisco after the fire?
A No particular place, I hung about here and there out in the open air with some of the rest of the people at that time. My uncle offered to take me to China, but I did not go so he gave me the railroad ticket to come here.
QQ Who met you at the station here? A Nobody.
Q How long have you been working at the place where you were arrested today? A A long while, a good many months.
A Have you been working there all of this year?
A No, I think I went there the first, second, third or fourth month. Well, let me see, I think I went there to work about the first part of the fourth month.
Q What Chinese month is this now?
A I don't know whether it is the 5th or 6th month.
Q You have not been at that place then over a month have you?
A No, more than that.
Q How much money do they pay you at that place?
A A few dollars a week.
Q Well, how many is a few? A Five dollars a week.
Q And how many dollars have you earned at that place altogether?
A I have not got a single dollar now, because I spent the money just as fast as I earned it.
Q What I mean is, how many payments have they made you of five dollars each?
A A good many, I don't remember how many, I think it was four, five or six times.
Q Do you know any white people in San Francisco? A No.
Q Didn't you ever know any white people in San Francisco?
A Yes, but I don't remember them.
Q Then you cannot get any witnesses from among the white people of that city can you?
A No, because I don't know any of them.
Q Did you ever see any white people in San Francisco?
A Yes, but I have no business dealing with them, and don't know them.

- Q What was your father's business in San Francisco?
A He washed in laundries.
Q What laundries did your father ever wash in?
A I don't know, he worked at various places. He went to work for others and perhaps he worked here this week and another place another week.
Q When did he go back to China?
A Three years ago.
Q What month?
A I think it was the 7th month.
Q K B what year? A I don't know.
Q What day, month and year were you born?
A I don't know what year, but my mother told me I was born on the 23rd day, first month; I am now 26 years old.
Q Would you be willing to go into Court and make the same statement you have made here today?
A If I were asked the same questions, I would say the same things, but I cannot remember all I have said here today.
Q Have you said anything here today that you would like to have cut out of the record?
A No, I have told you according to the truth, and I do not wish to have any part of this testimony stricken out.
Q Is this a true and voluntary statement on your part?
A Yes.
Q Have you made any of the statements here today through fear?
A No, nothing of the kind; everything is absolutely true.
Q Have you had any trouble in understanding this interpreter?
A No.

Signed this 21st day of June, 1907, at El Paso, Texas.

Jin Tun

Examining Inspector.

I hereby certify that in the foregoing statement of Jin Tun a true and complete interpretation from English into Chinese, and from Chinese into English was made by me.

W. H. Jones

Chinese Interpreter.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete transcript of the shorthand notes taken by me in the foregoing case.

W. H. Jones

Stenographer.