



## Asian American Comparative Collection Newsletter

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### EDITORIAL

In order for the AACC to keep receiving the nonprofit postal rate, the UI mailroom will now print our bulk mail addresses directly onto the *AACC Newsletter*. This means that page 4 has been reformatted to accommodate the printing process, thus eliminating the familiar gummed label for U.S. subscribers.

Therefore, please check your printed label to be sure the information is correct, and in the correct order. If you find anything amiss, please let me know.

Enclosed with this issue is a remittance envelope for your subscription renewal, and, optimistically, for your contribution, in any amount, towards our 2009 operations. In these difficult times, many groups are competing for increasingly scarce donations, so I hope you will consider us worthy of your continuing support.

Many thanks!!! ---P. Wegars

### FRANK CHANG MUSEUM

If you will be traveling through Lovelock, Nevada, in future, you might like to visit the Frank Chang Museum at the Cadillac Inn, Cornell Avenue and 14th Street. Larry DeLeeuw,



motel proprietor, has established the museum in a building adjacent to his business. The museum, which houses artifacts related to Lovelock's Chinese pioneers, is named for the late Frank Chang, a well-known and respected former Lovelock resident. Admission is free. While in the vicinity, you can also visit the restored Lone Mountain Chinese Cemetery.

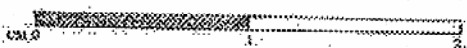
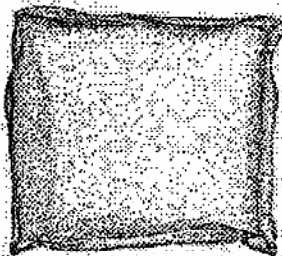
### RECENT PUBLICATION

#### Masuda, Minoru

2008 - *Letters from the 442nd: The World War II Correspondence of a Japanese American Medic*. Hana Masuda and Dianne Bridgman, eds.; foreword by Senator Daniel K. Inouye. Scott and Laurie Oki Series in Asian American Studies. Seattle: University of Washington Press. 290 pages, 16 b & w illustrations, 3 maps, appendix, sources, index. Pb, \$22.50.

In 1942 the U.S. government imprisoned U.S. citizens Min and his wife Hana because of their Japanese ancestry, first in "Camp Harmony," the temporary detention center in Puyallup, Washington, and later in Minidoka, the War Relocation Authority incarceration camp in the southern Idaho desert near Jerome. In 1943 Min was one of 308 men at Minidoka who volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and served in Europe. These 120 letters to Hana (out of 220 total) extend from late October 1943 until he sailed for the U.S. in mid-December 1945. Min's poignant, but often amusing, wartime experiences, together with Hana's occasional commentary, enable us to gain a much fuller picture of WWII sacrifices by this young Japanese American couple.

24MN262.0009  
 China Gulch  
 Structure 3  
 NW Quad  
 Drawing By:  
 Kassy Marjerrison



## SUMMARY OF "FUNS" TRAYS FOUND AT CHINA GULCH, MT (24MN262)

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 and Katie Baumler

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In 1995 and 2007 United States Forest Service excavations in the Cedar Creek drainage of Western Montana recovered a total of eleven modified opium can fragments that exhibit characteristics of opium serving dishes as discussed by Wylie and Fike (1993:285, 287). The artifacts were cut out of opium can metal and formed into small trays (above). These "funs" trays were used, it appears, as a standard means of weighing opium for resale by the Chinese. [Editor's Note: The term "funs," first used in New Zealand where the trays are often found during excavations of Chinese archaeological sites, probably comes from a Chinese word that has been transliterated as *fan*, pronounced "fun." According to Stewart Culin (1891:497), 11 *fan* equaled about 54 grains, and 12 *fan* was about 70 grains; mathematically, however, both can't be correct.] Nine of the eleven objects have a shape reminiscent of "funs" trays. They weigh

between 2.6 and 3.5 g, and measure on average 3.99 by 3.55 cm. Seven of the nine fragments were less than 0.5 cm off being square, which would appear to be within variation for a hand-crafted item of this size. There appears to be an assembly line type of construction at this site, as there are four completed "funs" trays and five blanks of nearly the right size and weight that are not turned into trays. Interestingly, the other two fragments are much larger, weighing in at over 9.0 g each. They might have been used for larger sales of opium or for other purposes, such as weighing gold dust. The 1995 crews had not originally identified these artifacts as Chinese-related, which suggests that other collections in the U.S., Canada, and elsewhere might contain misidentified trays. For more information, visit <<http://www.cas.umt.edu/anthro/anth495cim/cedarcreek.htm>>.

Thanks to Region 1 of the United States Forest Service, the Lolo National Forest, the University of Montana, and all employees and volunteers involved with the project.

## References Cited

Culin, Stewart

1891 "Opium Smoking by the Chinese in Philadelphia." *American Journal of Pharmacy*, 63:10 (October): 497-502.

Wylie, Jerry, and Richard E. Fike

1993 "Chinese Opium Smoking Techniques and Paraphernalia." In *Hidden Heritage: Historical Archaeology of the Overseas Chinese*, Priscilla Wegars, ed., 255-303. Amityville, New York: Baywood.

## "BOMB DAY" FILM ON YOUTUBE

The Yuba Historical Society documentary film, "Bomb Day--Stories from Marysville's Chinatown," is now available on YouTube. The 51-minute film features interviews with former residents of the Marysville, California, Chinatown and includes rare newsreel footage. To view it, go to <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WQP5S54I\\_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WQP5S54I_o)>.