

## Ken Yip : video interview

### Ken Yip ( video interview )

#### Q-What were you in Paldi?

( 00:07:00 ) I was born in 1942 and left there in 1964 and moved to Victoria. (Lived in Paldi from 1942-1964.) I was there for my whole childhood days right up to when I finished school and then a couple years.

#### Q-What do you remember ?

( 00:07:00 ) It was very primitive, by today's standards, we never had running water, we used an outdoor, we had to go out and out our own firewood. We didn't have any encases, my Mother used to make some of our clothing out of old rice sacks and uh no such thing as a boiler. We had funny looking boilers and people used to say that you know, used a rice bowl for a pattern. ( 1:32 ) but uh ( 1:38 ) and my father was very meticulous so we never really mingled with other people neither. ( 2:03 ) We never had any sweep uh tools, uh there's a lot of things we didn't do. He was really ( 2:23 ) uh tough you know especially by today's standards. On the weekends we'd uh get up early in the morning..... ( 2:25 ) So what year question. ( 2:58 ) Well most of it centered around here, we didn't socialize with the rest of the community because you know there was that language problem. My parents didn't speak English ( 3:17 ) and you know the rest of the community there was only one other Chinese family here by the time I was ready to go to school there was you know a lot of people had already left the camp to go to other places... so there was very few ( 3:38 ) kids up in the area where I grew up. There were more kids up in the other side at the other end of the camp although we were closer to the school, but we didn't mingle much for the first few years ( 3:58 ) Went to school and went straight home, we had lots of chores to do. Uh we had to pick wood, you know pick water. We had to weed the garden ( 4:14 ) I guess things like these things don't even know about. ( 4:20 ) Oh really poor, like we had a little two-door shack I'd say it was probably less than 800 square feet and there was 5 kids in that place. The woodstove we had to boil our water on the woodstove, cook on it, you know like I said before we only had an outdoor... ( 4:37 ) and the well was about an equivalent say 3 buckets from the house and we had to rack you know it with the old woodspoke with a bucket on each end. Basically enough you know, the bucket one or the other would be digging on the ground and pulling, and all over again uh ( 5:27 ) uh course there was no insulation, in fact the house we lived in never had a coat of paint on the outside uh and when I got to be about 7 or 8 years old uh, my father threw up a line to on the side of the house and that's where I slept. ( 5:53 ) You know there'd be mornings I'd wake up and there'd be foot on the blankets. It was that cold. No wonder I never wanted to get out of bed ( 6:18 ) He worked in the mill but you know he was like he was like the average guy, he refused to speak English ( 6:19 ) He wouldn't let us speak English. I never spoke English till I started school and he didn't even want that. ( 6:26 ) He was really from the old country. It wasn't until years later when my younger brothers... that we weren't going to be anything without education. His concept ( 6:43 ) we shouldn't learn to speak English. He never adapted to the country I guess, I don't know. ( 7:00 ) There was first Indian,

S.A.  
Yip

IDENTIFIER  
2020\_06\_16\_004