

Dennis - Claire's brother

Dear Claire:

Sorry its taken me so long to answer you. Here is the information you requested:

1. n/a

2. n/a

3. Describe to me your early experiences in this community. How were you accepted? "I was treated the same as most kids. Some kids picked on me because I was Chinese, but not many." What did you do? "I went to school and played with other children, but also had to work in the family restaurant." What was the community like when you arrived? "It was a small-town atmosphere. Everyone pretty much knew everyone else."

4. Tell me, what are some of the biggest changes you have seen in this community? "One of the biggest changes that I remember in the community is when we got the Palouse Empire Mall. Businesses started moving away from downtown." Changes in the people? "The town is growing, so we don't know everyone in the town like we used to. Also, when I was growing up, we were the only Chinese in town, so there wasn't a "Chinese community" as there is now." In how they relate to you and how you relate to them? "Not as personal."

5. Relate to me some of your most memorable experiences as an Asian American living in this community. "Every year we celebrated Christmas and Thanksgiving with family friends...a very special time. Dad would always prepare a multi-course meal for at least 15 people, and we traditionally bought an ice cream cake for Thanksgiving at the Slade's house."

6. Tell me about your family - ^{Dennis} children. Who are they and what are they doing now? "I have 3 sisters and 1 brother. I am married and have 2 boys. Tony is 10 years old and is in 5th grade and Devin is 5 months old and growing quickly. My wife is an electrical engineer for the Navy."

7. Did you raise your children as Americans or Chinese? "I am raising my children as Americans, yet trying to keep them aware of their heritage. This becomes difficult when Tony insists on putting sugar in his tea, or soy sauce on his rice...things that are typically American, not Chinese. Luckily, we haven't yet

encountered these problems with Devin, as he doesn't like soy sauce in his formula!" What were some special challenges you faced in raising an Asian family in this community? "I am no longer raising my family in Moscow. However, when I was there, I did not face any particular challenges with raising a Chinese family in Moscow."

8. What does it mean to you to be a Chinese American? "I am proud of my heritage, but am as American as apple pie. I am proud to be an American, and very glad that my parents emigrated and were able to raise me as such. A major difference that I see between my heritage and that of my Caucasian friends, is that the Chinese are much more family oriented.
(Not just with children, but with parents and grown siblings.)

9. What advice would you give to a new immigrant from China to be successful in America? "To work hard, to be honest, and to treat people as you would want to be treated yourself."

10. How do you think you have influenced your community? "I think that I was too young when I moved away to have had any major influence in the community." How have you been influenced by your community? "Growing up in a small community has made me more trusting of people. People seem to accept you for what you are rather than for what you have."