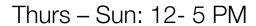
## Telling an American Story: The Portland Chinatown Museum

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## Paper Sons & Daughters

文件上的"子女"

Strict enforcement of Chinese Exclusion laws propelled many would be immigrants to adopt illegal strategies to use of falsified papers claiming membership in one of the classes exempted by exclusion laws including, merchants, native-bern citizens of the United States, or their children. The tyof San Francisco earthquake and fire, which destroyed all of the city's immigration records, made this legal loophole all the more exploitable.

By the 1920s and 1930s, the overwhelming majority of Chinese immigrants entered the United States by posing as a "Paper Son" or "Paper Daughter" of a U.S. citizen. To crack down on illegal entry, immigration authorities subjected all Chinese to interrogations so long and detailed that even a person with legitimate documentation could fail. The legacy of the paper son and daughter phenomenon has impacted Chinese American communities and families throughout the twentieth century and into the present day.



Thotograph of Lee Yoke and Hom Tien Shee, c. 1920s

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Let and Hom shared little about the family's honey with their children for lear of deportation, through a sensitive for the same reason.

Bertha Saiget, PCM Board Member and Docent, stands before a photograph of her parents who came to the United States as "paper sons", using falsified documents, during a time when Chinese people were prohibited from immigrating to the United States.

Vignettes displaying Chinatown merchant life and dry goods store



