

PBS First Koreatown

Stephanie Sy was foolish not to vet UC Riverside Professor Edward Chang and the misinformation being passed off as history. Chang is not a qualified historian. Chang and his associates being students, University officials and City of Riverside officials have spread a deep coating of bad history on the legacy of Koreans in Riverside.

PBS is spreading misinformation. The story about Riverside being the First Koreatown is wrong. Stephanie Sy got conned. I produced the first photo exhibit about Koreans in Riverside at the City of Riverside Museum with Dr. Vincent Moses in 1999. I have produced other exhibits which included Koreans in Riverside. Most of the pictures Chang uses in the recent UC Riverside exhibit are from the Helen Ahn Collection which were my grandmother's belongings. For decades, I have managed materials and images Chang claims he discovered. If Chang made any discoveries they are limited to third rate. The PBS show spread revised and misrepresented facts about the Helen Ahn Collection and other historical materials. As Aiwuyor explains "misinformation can become bad history." PBS and Chang have created incorrect and "bad history" instead of educating people properly.

The nonsense about Chang recently discovering the story of Riverside is the warning that should have flashed brightly in front of Stephanie Sy and PBS. Her ignorance throughout the revised fact filled episode turned Pachappa Migrant Labor Camp into a Koreatown. Nobody who was born there, lived there or worked there ever called it Koreatown. Until Chang changed the name it was always referred to as a "camp" by my family who lived there.

It looks like Managing Editor Judy Woodruff at PBS may not know what "settlement" means outside of legal terms. It means "a place, typically one that has hitherto been uninhabited, where people establish a community." People who were not Korean built the camp which was inhabited by Chinese, Mexican, Indian and Black farm laborers. The 1908 Sanborn Insurance Company referred to the Pachappa Camp living quarters as shanties and they were harsh quarters. Most likely the word "settlement" was used to deal with insurance terms and not urban geography. I have a degree in Geography and one in Anthropology. The difference between town and camp is a qualified distinction. This is not a settlement.

PBS must have been eager for an Asian episode. Its *Asian American* show sucked as far as Korean history. I was on the first night show being interviewed about Korean American history. The Japanese American producer snubbed the Koreans. Five minutes out of the first 120 minutes

was not respectful of Korean history. And, what PBS selected out of the 8 hour interview I did had favoritism not fairness as the guide. Maybe PBS was doing an apology through Ed Chang. PBS made it worse!

Chang claims "accidental" and "recent" discovery of history. How does one do that? The 1908 map has been published for many years. More suspicious because in 1998 Chang called me to drive my mother Susan Ahn Cuddy to meet the Mayor of Gangnam **in Riverside at City Hall. That is Twenty Three Years Ago!** John Lee of the Korea times Inland Empire Bureau told the story about Dosan in Riverside. Gangnam Mayor became obsessed with Dosan being in Riverside. This was all trumped up during the Riverside Gangnam Sister City negotiations. The "newly" discovered 1908 Sanborn Map was found by Choi Chong Ho of UC Riverside and he published **it Twenty Years Ago!** He gave the copy he found to the Dosan Memorial Foundation in Korea where it is today. My mom had a copy of the map and she shared it with all kinds of scholars. There are copies here in my files. "Accident and recent" clearly fooled PBS's Sy.

I hardly believed anything Jesse Jackson said before seeing his debunking by Aiwuyor. Nevertheless, I would tend to believe Jackson before UC Riverside's Chang and the other Korean history revisionist.

Asian American History Month is coming. Time for a deserved "debunking"!