

## Long Time Californ' [1906-San Francisco-Chinatown, game changer for undocumented immigrants]

After we built the railroad, I was just another Chinaman.  
I labored on the levy, dug those ditches, to reclaim that bottom land;  
But the people did shout and drive us out wherever we moved about,  
So, I hunkered down in Chinatown, now I'm long time Californ'

Long time California, long time Californ'  
I tell them that's where I was born, now I'm long time Californ'  
It all changed course in the Year of the Horse when Chinatown burned down.  
My papers burned, I was reborn, now I'm long time Californ'.

Now I'm a laundry man, I live a laundryman's life. I work with my clan, but I got no wife.  
My hands both hurt, my eyes are old, but there's always a basket of shirts to fold.  
I'd go back home, but I could not come back, due to that Chinese Exclusion Act.  
I'm foreign born, I feel forlorn, now I'm long time Californ'

The dragon woke with a fearsome sound. The earthquake rumbled deep underground.  
The gas mains broke, then fire and smoke burned down the demons' town.  
There was damage done, but now anyone could be a paper son.  
Now I'm heading up north to Oregon, I'm long time Californ'.

*Yeah, I got a bunch of cousins and some uncles up in Astoria,  
Mouth of the big river, out of the wind, on the Lee Side of our clan.  
Cannery workers, maybe I need to put in some time on the slime line...*