

Yim Tin Tsai Storytelling

Yim Tin Tsai, a unique Hakka village with nearly 300-year history, seamlessly blends local beliefs and traditions with Catholicism. The village was exclusively inhabited by members of the Chan's clan, who were all baptized in 1875 and became devoted Catholics. The St. Joseph's Chapel, which proudly overlooks the village and bay to this day. Yim Tin Tsai features exhibits on Hakka culture and scenic trails winding through a lush ecosystem of mangroves and camphor trees. Explore Yim Tin Tsai to escape the city and immerse yourself in a cultural garden where Eastern and Western plants entwine.

This narrative map is based on the lives of the past Yim Tin Tsai villagers, serving as a backdrop of space and time. It incorporates their personal and collective oral stories, including those villagers from overseas and locals, as well as alumni of former village school. These valuable stories reflect their cherished memories passed down through generations. Our project team hopes that by experiencing these irreplaceable stories, you can temporarily travel to the past life in Yim Tin Tsai and immerse yourself in the interactions with the priests, the unique cultural customs of the Hakka people, and the joy of climbing up the mountains and down to the sea.



Spare time & Daily lives



- 3 Exploring Nature and Enjoying Rustic Deliciousness



Our school adopted a small-class teaching approach, so we had few students in each class. Six grades with six classes each; one row for each grade – we could all fit into a single classroom. When the teacher was busy with one class, the other students would be working on their assignments, so we often finished our homework before school ended. That's why we were free to go anywhere after school. Like little monkeys, we would go up to the mountain and down to the sea to go fishing and shrimping. When we were hungry, we would dig up and cook sweet potatoes that others have planted. We were also smart enough to put stones and water into milk powder tins to cook the fish and shrimps that we caught.



- 5 Having Fun by the Sea and Salt Pond



- 7 Great Time with a Companion



- 19 Daily Life in Yim Tin Tsai Village



- 23 Tasty Flour Crisps



- 25 Beware of Snakes!



- 26 Disappearing Fireflies and Village Life on "Che Tei"



- 27 Cold Anaconda at Salt Pan



- 28 "Ta Shan Tau" with Children on Ching Ming Festival



- 30 Games of Hakka Children



- 33 Bamboo Worms and Wasp Larvae: High Protein Delicacy



- 34 Crackling Bamboo Guns, Shooting Fish with Umbrella Ribs and Dutch Soda Caps



- 35 Fetching Water Like Spiderman



- 36 Falling Asleep when Fetching Water



- 39 Using Lights to Fish on Beaches and Boats and Shooting Fish with Bows and Arrows while Diving



- 43 Picking Bananas on Shoulder Ride

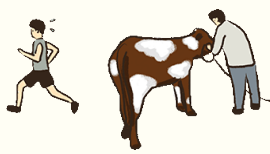


- 48 Playing with Pinwheels Made of "Dutch Soda Caps"



Read all stories at our website
<https://www.yttstorytelling.org/cn/storymap>

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Family & Culture



- 6 "Threading" and "Crying at Wedding" – Not So Old-Fashioned Village Wisdom and Culture



- 18 Hakka Wedding Culture – Banqueting



In anticipation of a wedding ceremony, villagers would begin preparations three days in advance. Depending on the number of guests, they would build two to three outdoor stages with stone. While men were mostly responsible for cooking, women would help in food preparation, such as washing and chopping up ingredients for cooking. If mushrooms were on the menu, the women would soak them in the well the night before. The dining tables were not always set outside of the couple's home, because in front of every home was an empty outdoor space that could be used for this purpose. They were sometimes set in different places like small alleys, old houses, and new houses. Even the regular, inexpensive village food served was extra delicious given the special occasion we were celebrating.



- 20 Hakka Wedding Customs and Pufferfish Soup



- 21 Hakka Wedding Culture – Generous Gifts for Bride's Home



- 22 Funeral Customs



- 45 East-meets-West Ritual



- 46 Growing "Rotationally Raised Pigs"



- 50 Unique Design of Hakka Village Houses and "Dog Holes"

Campus life



- 8 Memories about Students of Ching Po School



- 31 Math Teacher Cheung Ah Nam



Back in the day, our teachers really poured their heart and soul to educating us. We were physically punished whenever we misbehaved. I had a brilliant math teacher. She had a way of explaining things that made us understand it instantly. That's why everyone in my grade – though there weren't very many of us – we all passed the Primary 6 exams. My teacher's name was Cheung Ah Nam [transliteration]. She really left an impression on me, as she was a great teacher and helped us all pass.

Livelihood & life



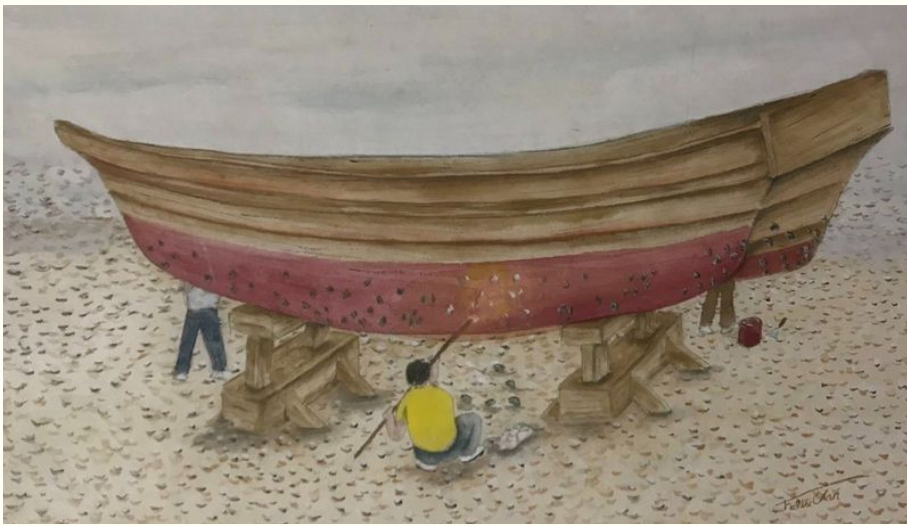
- 2 Grow, Play and Sing



- 42 Pee and Poo – Precious Duo



- 44 Diverse Ways to Make Money as a Kid



We used to plant mostly vegetables, such as sweet potato leaves, for sale. They were sold to vegetable sellers in Sai Kung Town who might, for example, ask for ten cattles of pak choy from us. We sold sweet potato leaves to many swineherds in Sai Kung Town as they did not grow the greens themselves.

We also earned our own pocket money. For example, we cut off and lighted cotton-grass (literal translation) for breaming after scraping off oyster shells attached to the lower part of a boat and repainted it. With the burning cotton-grass, the boat could be cleaned slowly over a weak and prolonged fire. I guess the purpose of breaming with heated cotton-grass was to kill all the bacteria. Afterwards, sandpaper was used to rub the surface for subsequent repainting work. I saw boat dwellers doing the same.

Apart from cutting off cotton-grass for pocket money, we hammered to harvest oysters or Sinotaia for sale. On a hot day, we picked rose myrtle fruit and stored them in a milk tin. One tin could be sold for ten cents at the Sai Kung Pier.



- 24 Farm Road Construction Camp (1964)



- 29 Po's Store



We have fond memories of Po's Store. Located next to Ching Po School, the store sold soft drinks and candies, among other items. They also sold something called "lottery draw", which was basically a big scratch-off lottery card. On each card, there are many squares, and when you scratch off each square, you have a chance to exchange it for different prizes.

A villager said, "There are still lottery draws at these stores nowadays, but the rules have changed. You can place bets on a number of your choice to stand a chance for winning first prize, second prize or third prize." It's like redeeming a prize with a popsicle stick or a soda cap. Back then, these games were inexpensive and would only cost 10 or 20 cents.



- 37 Catching Frogs from Well and Paddy Fields



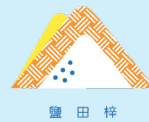
- 38 Transport to Yim Tin Tsai



- 41 Village Chief Fighting off the Japanese to Protect Camphor Tree



- 49 My Grandma in Yim Tin Tsai Waiting for Me to Come Home



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Yim Tin Tsai Narrative Map

Organised by The Chinese University of Hong Kong and funded by the Countryside Conservation Office and Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme, this research project aims to generate valuable records and information about the culture and history of Yim Tin Tsai. Through villager consultations, workshops, and narrative tours, we are committed to preserve the cultural heritage and to promote countryside preservation around Hong Kong.



Religion



- 1 Hearing the Bell for Mass



- 4 Priest's life in the village



- 9 St. Joseph's Feast Day Parade



- 10 The Priest's Glass Candy



- 11 Priest's treats



I was always so excited when the priest came to the village. Why? Because it would mean that there's food! Whenever he came, I would always follow him everywhere. As soon as he arrived, the first thing he would do was to visit patients at the hospital, and all us children would tag along just for treats. We didn't have many snacks at home back then, and sometimes the priest would bring the best candies that you couldn't find anywhere else. He also gave us cookies, like milk or oatmeal cookies, and they were all so delicious. Because we didn't have much food at the time, so we always found everything he gave us to be very tasty.



- 12 Wedding in a Church



- 13 Why did every girl strive to become a good girl?



- 14 The Stolen Chapel Bell



- 15 Devoted Women Living in the Village



- 16 Prayer's Life in Hakka Village



- 17 Cakes made by Priest



- 40 Legend of the Spirit of St. Joseph



- 47 May Uncle Joachim Chan

