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## SAM THE BOSS

A few years ago I saw a picture of a Chinese man holding a broom in a special exhibit at the Quicksilver Museum in New Almaden, California. I thought it unusual to have a Chinese man the focus of the room. His name was "Chinese Sam". I remembered Aunt Grace mentioned our ancestor was from New Almaden and his name was "Sam the Boss". Could "Chinese Sam" be Sam the Boss or Lum Hing who was the first generation of our family here in America on our maternal side? The father of Lily Lum who married Hi Loy Wong from Fresno? The father of Charles Lum who married Alma and lived in Selma?

The grandfather of Herbert Wong, Charley Wong, Lena Lew, Willie Wong, Grace Chow (Emory), Frank Wong (Nina), Raymond Wong (Ruth), Fred Wong (Alice), Marietta Ching (Dr. Phillip), Pearl Jean Luck (Charles), and George Wong (Violet)? The grandfather of Harold Lum, Bernice Leung (Elmer), Gladys Guan (Paul), Charles Lum Jr. (Ann), and Lillian Fung (David)?

You bet he was and after some months of research I gave a speech and told the story based on the facts, in the first person, as if I were "Chinese Sam". I duplicated his dress as he was depicted in the museum photograph with black vest and hat and gold watch, and sometimes spoke pidgin English, Spanish and Chinese. Now a new book has been written about New Almaden Mine and Lum Hing is honored with a full page photograph as the most famous Chinese at New Almaden, with his bio below it so we can all have a brief story of his life for generations to see in print. The book is available at the gift shop at the Quicksilver Museum in New Almaden near San Jose. "Images of America", NEW ALMADEN" by Micheal Boulland and Arthur Boudreault, published by Arcadia Publishing. Also available at Amazon.com and major book stores.

The authors who are friends of mine and know me as "Chinese Sam" at the annual Pioneer Day, were careful to portray this pioneer as he was and not just a stereotype with a broom. They want all to know that Sam was special. They preferred to use the family photograph from Bernice Lum Leung's collection in his formal dress which I passed on to the authors along with facts about Sam from my presentation on Pioneer Day 2000. Read what they have to say about our own Lum Hing and be proud of his accomplishments as a man accepted and loved by the diverse community of the Almaden mine in the otherwise hostile to "celestials" atmosphere of early California. They remember him because he was a special human being. He was your grandfather or great grandfather or great great grandfather known to our family as "Sam the Boss".

Please visit the Quicksilver Museum at New Almaden with your children some day. Julie and I have dedicated a bench with a bronze inscription in his honor on the veranda of the building. Sit on it and think of our place in the history of California. "Lum Hing, a.k.a Chinese Sam or Sam the Boss" (1830-1889) Someday I'll finish the story of Sam the Boss and publish it for my kin and the museum and include the story of Hi Loy Wong.

By Ronald Wong