

Agnes Rho Chun Collection

Center for Korean Studies
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

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November 2015

Agnes Eun Soon Rho Chun

Agnes Eun Soon Rho Chun was born in Honolulu on June 9, 1925. Her parents, Hee Chang Rho and Young Hee Chi Rho, were from Ong Jin in Hwanghae-do, Korea. Chun lived in the Palama neighborhood with her parents, two brothers, and two sisters. Her mother worked in a cannery and took in sewing to support the family because her father was in poor health. He died in 1935 when Chun was a third-grader at Ka'iulani School. Chun's oldest brother and sister were pulled out of school to work. When she was fourteen, Chun borrowed the social security card of an older girl in order to work summers as a trimmer and packer in the pineapple cannery. She went to Kalakaua Intermediate School, then to McKinley High School, but her education was interrupted by World War II.

Chun was sixteen and a high school junior on December 7, 1941. Chun helped with wartime registration and fingerprinting. With school temporarily closed, she worked as a messenger, and later a timekeeper, at Ford Island in 1942. Following what would have been her senior year, she spent a half day in school and a half day working at Ford Island, which enabled her to graduate in 1944. In her career in government service, Chun held various supervisory accounting positions, including that of comptroller in the Pacific Third Fleet. She worked in Korea as financial manager with the army before retiring in 1980 with thirty-eight years of service. She was married in 1949 to Soon Ho Chun, a teacher. She has three children. Agnes Chun was widowed in 1980.

This biographical information is from *An Era of Change: Oral Histories of Civilians in World War II Hawaii* (See <http://hdl.handle.net/10125/29861>). See also the interview in the Roberta Chang Collection, videocassette 18.

The Collection

The Agnes Rho Chun collection consists of two boxes of files kept by Chun. The preponderance of the material relates to the observance of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the beginning of Korean immigration to Hawaii. These files include lists of resident Koreans and picture brides compiled in preparation for the observance. Also present are files on the Korean Community Council and the Korean Chamber of Commerce. A few photographs, several of Syngman Rhee, are also in the collection. Some of these photographs can be found on line in the Center for Korean Studies Digital Archive (<http://cksdigital.manoa.hawaii.edu/photo/>).

Folder List

Box 1

Folder Number	Folder Contents
1	Lists of Original Immigrants. Material prepared for the 75th Anniversary of Korean Immigration to Hawai'i
2	Lists of Picture Brides Material prepared for the 75th Anniversary of Korean Immigration to Hawai'i
3	Lists of Children of Immigrants and Picture Brides Material prepared for the 75th Anniversary of Korean Immigration to Hawai'i
4	Genealogies Material prepared for the 75th Anniversary of Korean Immigration to Hawai'i
5	Additional Lists Second-generation Korean Americans, names of dependents
6	Kwon Soon Ye (권순이) Collection of material prepared for 75th anniversary of Korean immigration to Hawaii
7	Kim Soo Yum (김수염) Collection of material prepared for 75th anniversary of Korean immigration to Hawaii
8	Kim Soo Yum (김수염) 1. Commemoration ceremony 2. Korean trade fair

Box 2

Folder Number	Folder Contents
9	Korean Council Hawaii, Banquet 1973 (Thank-you letter) 1974 (simple table, detailed plan, Invitation letter) 1975 (simple table) 1976 (simple table) 1977 (simple table)
10	Korean Council Hawaii, Meetings 1975 (December only) 1976 (February, March, June, December)
11	Korean Community Council, Cooking program
12	Korean Community Council, Other programs 1. Pacifica '76 Bicentennial Parade 2. 1976 Miss Koreana Contestants 3. Chan Chee
13	Documents about plans for fundraising for University of Hawai'i Center for Korean Studies 1. Financial reports 2. Letters
14	Newspaper Articles 1. The Sunday Star-Bulletin 2. The Honolulu Advertiser
15	Korean Christian Church, History 1. Historical sketch of Korean Christian Church 2. Schedule of KCC sanctuary project

3. Newspaper's articles about Korean Christian Church

16 **Korean Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu, Member Lists**

17 **Korean Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu, Meetings (1978)**

18 **Korean Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu, 41st annual graduation banquet**

1. List of program
2. Financial report
3. Letters (thank-you, invitation letter)
4. Hilton Hawaiian village (Location of 41st annual graduation banquet)

19 **The Korean Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu, Additional documents**

1. Criteria of scholarship
2. Lists of scholarship recipients

20 **The Korean Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu, Additional documents**

1. Hand-written documents
2. Business conference
3. Sheraton Waikiki Hotel
4. Circuit court complaint seeking to block July 1978 election of officers

21 **Photographs**

22 **Miscellaneous**

1. Dong Ji Hoi newsletter
2. Letters (Dr. Syngman Rhee 124th birthday anniversary)
3. Pamphlet (Korean reflections)