

Charles "Charlie" Yue



Charles "Charlie" Yue
1879-1949

Charlie was born in California of emigrant parents. He spent his early years in the Marysville area delivering supplies to miners in outlying areas. He moved into Auburn about 1899 and bought out Ah Yee's store in Old Town. In 1903, he married Lena Lee.

In 1919 he and his brother moved their small restaurant into the old American Hotel building, half was a restaurant and half was a billiards hall. By 1939, the whole building housed the Shanghai Restaurant and Bar.

The Shanghai was a legendary gathering place in Auburn. It attracted town folks, tourists and bikers. Almost all old Auburnites have a story or so about shenanigans at the Shanghai, bootlegging during Prohibition, illegal gambling and the like.

Charlie was known as "the kingpin" of Old Town. He acted as an interpreter, letter writer and was probably the first licensed Chinese American gold assayer in California. He was known for his generosity, community spirit, honesty and hard work.

Findagrave.com, Auburn Alehouse.com, K & M database, Auburn Journal 9-11-1912 & 9-18-1912, Placer Herald 2-5-1949, Once upon a Memory: Elorza
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