

during the 1880's. The boatwrights built smaller craft, sampans, as well as junks complete with painted eyes on the bows so that the vessels could find their way back to their anchorage in tule fogs. At first, the lateen sails were the traditional ones but, later, canvas replaced the slatted bamboo of ancient China. During the 1880's, the heyday of the Chinese shrimp fishery, the little fleet of junks and sampans was manned by 225 fishermen who shrimped not only off China Camp but also off Gallinas Creek and Petaluma Creek.

The fishery began to decline in the 1890's, even before pollution of the Bay began to affect the shrimp. Overfishing with set nets and trawls was the cause, and the number of boats licensed to fish for shrimp in San Francisco and San Pablo Bays dropped from forty-six in 1891 to only thirty-one in 1900. By 1930 the Quan family of China Camp, the last survivors of the North Bay community, was working only four boats, now trawling with the tides rather than setting the long, conical nets imported from China.

Today, China Camp is almost a ghost town although its quiet is disturbed by the whine of the outboards of sport fishermen who use the old *embarcadero* and buy a little shrimp for bait. In 1958 the property passed from the McNear family to Chinn Ho's Hawaiian corporation, Latipac, and it was feared China Camp would fall before the bulldozers. Although this has not yet come to pass, neither has the historical park which Marinites over the years have urged, to save the last remnants of a colorful episode in California's maritime history.

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