

NEW YORK CITY SUMMERS

By Fred Lee

I remember during the summer when we had those hot, muggy nights, we would go up to the roof of 37 Mott Street with our straw mats to sleep. It was the only place we could find that had some air since the apartments had no air conditioning. There would be all the kids from the building there, so we had plenty of company.

I also remember each week we would walk from Chinatown to the Church of All Nations on Houston Street to practice playing basket ball. That was when True Light Church was on Canal Street.

We use to play tag on the monkey bars in Columbus Park. They removed it probably because it was too dangerous walking and climbing on those steel bars 10 feet above the ground.

In the summertime, many of us were looking forward to going to Cliff Villa in Bradley Beach for the 2 weeks that was allotted to the Chinese from the Church of All Nations. That was when the families could not afford to rent a house for the whole summer. Everyone was from Chinatown so there were no strangers there, but plenty of company. The boys slept in a 2 story bungalow away from the main house where the families and girls were stayed.

Those were the days!!!