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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Tuesday, June 29 2021 |

McConnell urges Democrats to separate infrastructure bill from reconciliation bill

WASHINGTON, June 28 (Xinhua) -- U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell on Monday urged congressional Democrats to follow President Joe Biden in separating the bipartisan infrastructure bill from a larger reconciliation bill.

"The President has appropriately delinked a potential bipartisan infrastructure bill from the massive, unrelated tax-and-spend plans that Democrats want to pursue on a partisan basis. Now I am calling on President Biden to engage Leader (Chuck) Schumer and Speaker (Nancy) Pelosi and make sure they follow his lead," McConnell said in a statement.

"Unless Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi walk back their threats that they will refuse to send the president a bipartisan infrastructure bill unless they also separately pass trillions of dollars for unrelated tax hikes, wasteful spending, and Green New Deal socialism, then President Biden's walk-back of his veto threat would be a hollow gesture," McConnell said, adding the president cannot let congressional Democrats hold a bipartisan bill hostage over a separate and partisan process.

McConnell's remarks came after Biden clarified on Saturday that he does not intend to issue a veto threat on a bipartisan infrastructure bill if it comes without a reconciliation bill on his other social spending priorities.

"The bottom line is this: I gave my word to support the infrastructure plan, and that's what I intend to do," Biden said, adding he intended to work with Congress to pass both bills.

"We will let the American people -- and the Congress -- decide," said the president.

Biden announced Thursday that he had reached a deal with a bipartisan group of senators on a roughly 1.2-trillion-U.S.-dollar infrastructure plan over eight years.

Some moderate Republicans have voiced support for the infrastructure plan, but opposed Democrats efforts to move forward a larger reconciliation bill with trillions of dollars in spending and tax hikes on the wealthy.

For Democratic leaders, moving both bills through nearly in tandem is key to passing the bipartisan infrastructure bill in both chambers because progressives don't want to risk having their priorities end up on the cutting-room floor while the bipartisan infrastructure plan becomes law, according to Bloomberg News.



COVID-19 drives exodus from metropolises in U.S.

LOS ANGELES, June 7 (Xinhua) -- Before the onslaught of COVID-19, exorbitant real estate prices in large U.S. metropolitan centers had driven some residents to look further afield for more affordable housing.

But when the pandemic struck, the majority of the country's workforce shifted to remote and work-from-home practices, and living within a reasonable commuting distance to a central office was no longer a limiting factor. Thus, the mass exodus from the metropolises began in earnest, driving the rents and housing prices in small towns and cities higher.

Suddenly, small towns and mid-sized cities were the next "big things," even as many major U.S. metropolitan areas saw life begin to normalize this spring and more workers head back to offices.

Places like Sacramento in California, Charlotte in North Carolina, Boise in Idaho, Spokane in Washington state, Amhurst in Massachusetts and others saw their rents and housing prices go through the roof.

"Many of these markets had been

heating up prior to the pandemic," said a recent report released early June from apartmentlist.com, an online marketplace with more than 4 million apartment units listed on it.

"The pandemic and remote work spurred demand for the space and affordability that these cities offered, and in response, rent prices grew even as the surrounding economy struggled," the report added.

In 2020, Sacramento was the 19th most expensive rental market in the country. According to apartmentlist.com, Sacramento in the past year leapt to the 14th place, edging out traditionally pricier places like Seattle and New York City.

Compared with a year ago, the report indicated that the prices in Fresno, California had jumped up 17 percent; 22 percent in Spokane; while those in Glendale, Reno, Mesa, and Gilbert in Nevada all spiked 16 percent, and were even 31 percent up in Boise, Idaho.

Along with proximity to jobs or responding to remote work options, pundits said that housing affordabil-

ity was still a huge determining factor.

About 2,500 U.S. dollars in Los Angeles might get residents a small one-bedroom apartment in the less trendy neighborhoods, while the same amount could get them a three-bedroom house with a large, leafy yard and plenty of room for outdoor fun and BBQs in Sacramento.

It's also important to note that a dollar can be stretched much further on groceries, restaurants, utilities, etc., than it can in metropolitan areas.

Also, rents and housing prices in small towns and cities in the country grew for many other reasons.

The safety and wholesomeness of rural and suburban areas were also a big draw, the report said, and it's usually healthier and more relaxing to live in the countryside, with far less violent crime.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY 06/28/2021



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Awakening Of Asian American Young People



Come see the future!

A group of young Asians led by Nguyen T. Nguyen got together last week at Arthur Storey Park which is located in the International District. These young Asian Americans planned to organize a Lotus Club. They want to show their love and service to the local community.

As chairman of the

International District, I came to join them, not just to appreciate their effort to clean up the park, but also to promise them we will work with them very closely to create more activities and beautify the park. From the Harris County Parks Department our good friend, Mr. Steve Dorman, also joined us to thank all the local civic groups that have been

working with the County and sponsoring a lot of events, including the Lunar New Year festival.

We also appreciate the Rotary Club that also has joined as a big sponsor for our community events. Many members of the club have been important leaders and they always think about our community.

Today we have many Asian

American that know how to serve our community well, especially during the pandemic period. They have donated their time and money to try and help those who need it the most.

We all worry about the hate crimes in our society. We hope all the younger generation will understand that we all need to work together. After all, we are all in the same family.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



People celebrate as they arrive to Washington Square park during the Queer Liberation March in New York City. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz



B&B Hotels p/b KTM rider Bryan Coquard of France reacts after a crash during the Tour de France. REUTERS/Anne-Christine Pouxjoulat



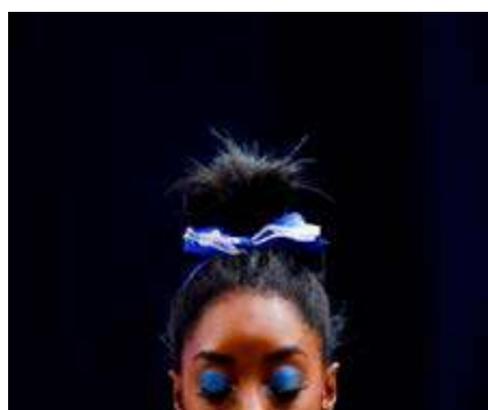
Former U.S. President Trump holds his first post-presidency campaign rally at the Lorain County Fairgrounds in Wellington, Ohio. REUTERS/Gaelen Morse



People react in front of the partially collapsed residential building as the emergency crews continue search and rescue operations for survivors, in Surfside, near Miami Beach, Florida. REUTERS/Maria Alejandra Cardona



Pope Francis holds drawings from children as he attends an event to mark 50 years since the foundation of Catholic charity Caritas Italiana, at the Paul VI Audience Hall, at the Vatican. REUTERS/Remo Casilli



Simone Biles wears blue eyeshadow at the U.S. Women's Olympic Gymnastics trials in St Louis, Missouri. REUTERS/Lindsey Wasson

Movie Reveals Story Of Asian Survivors Of "Chinese Titanic"



(Editor Note: At this time of social divide and unwarranted and unjust racial attacks on members of the Asian community, we believe that this story of Chinese survivors of the Titanic ship disaster of 1912 portrayed in a new movie by the original Titanic movie director will be: #1 a story most of us have never heard about, and #2 will open our eyes to the strength and bravery of our brothers from the past and leave us with so much pride and confidence to face our future.)

Key Points

Six of eight Chinese men who boarded the Titanic in 1912 survived the sinking

Five escaped on lifeboats and one was rescued while clinging to a wooden plank

Filmmakers Arthur Jones and Steven Schwankert explore their story in their movie, "The Six"

After they were discovered, the men were immediately sent away from the U.S. despite surviving

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

In the movie, "Titanic," the tale about Jack, Rose, and the Heart of the Ocean have become almost as well-known as the story of the Titanic itself. But there is one scene in James Cameron's iconic film that didn't make the final cut, of a boat rescuing a Chinese man still clinging to life on a wooden plank. While the scene was never seen in the Oscar winner, it depicted a real moment in history that few knew about. Filmmakers Arthur Jones and Steven Schwankert are hoping to correct that with The Six, a documentary about the Chinese men who survived the sinking of the Titanic. The story of the Titanic was legendary long before Cameron immortalized it in film form.

About 1,500 people were killed when the RMS Titanic - nicknamed 'The Unsinkable Ship' - struck an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean on April 14, 1912. Only around 700 people survived, most in lifeboats while a rare few managed to cling to the wreckage and wait for help to arrive in freezing waters. But almost nothing is known about the eight Chinese men who boarded the Titanic, and the six of them who survived. Their names can still be found on a single ticket for third-class passengers: Ah Lam, Fang Lang, Len Lam, Cheong Foo, Chang Chip, Ling Hee, Lee Bing and Lee Ling.



The Titanic leaves Southampton on her ill-fated maiden voyage on April 10, 1912. (Photo: AFP)

Jones and Schwankert determined that it was likely all eight men, who were professional sailors working in Britain, knew each other before boarding the Titanic.

They discovered that the men were on the Titanic en route to Cuba, scheduled to board a freighter boat known as The Annetta in New York.

'The reason they were traveling on Titanic in the first place is for work,' Schwankert told The Washington Post.

'They were professional mariners, and they were being seconded from their company in the UK to go and work on the companies in North America.'

The men were bunked up in the steerage, the lowest class of the cabins. Only 20 per cent of non-British men in the steerage survived the sinking.

Five of the eight men escaped the ship on lifeboats, and four of them were in 'Collapsible C'.

Collapsible C was a backup escape vessel and one of the last lifeboats to leave the ship. It was not full when it was found by rescuers.

Also inside the lifeboat was Joseph Bruce Ismay, the chairman of the company which owned the Titanic, as well as George T Rowe, the ship's quartermaster.



A still from "The Six," an upcoming documentary about the little-known Chinese survivors of the Titanic. (LP DOCS/Merryman Films)

Both men later testified to the presence of the four Chinese men in their lifeboat.

The sixth surviving man, as seen in Cameron's cut clip, was found in the sea by a lifeboat which had returned to the wreckage to search for survivors.

Jones and Schwankert then discovered that, despite surviving the horrific experience, none of the six men were permitted to enter the United States.

Just a day after arriving in New York, the men were forced to board the Annetta and head straight for the Caribbean to work on fruit ships.

This was due to the Chinese Exclusion Act, a law passed in 1882 by President Chester A Arthur that forbid all Chinese laborers from immigrating to the country.

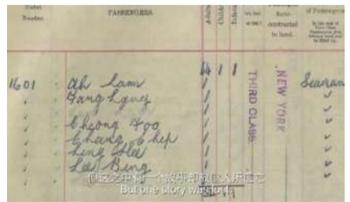
Unlike other survivors, the Chinese men were not allowed to bypass screening at Ellis Island and they received no medical aid.

'They were not treated humanely,' Jones said. 'We know they lost close friends on board. And yet they weren't given the option of staying.'

'Not only did they have to leave in 24 hours, they were held overnight in custody. They were detained.'

Even stranger is that, after the men boarded the Annetta, they seemed to completely vanish from history.

'It really started to bother me. Like, why don't we know?' Schwankert said.



A still from "The Six," an upcoming documentary about the little-known Chinese survivors of the Titanic. (LP DOCS/Merryman Films)

Jones and Schwankert have spent more than two years trying to find the answer, traveling everywhere from the US to the UK, Cuba to China, and the Caribbean as well.

The filmmakers launched a website, whoarethesix.com, to try and find tips regarding the survivors for the documentary, which is still in production.

They have since found descendants of the six men, many of whom had no idea they had any connection to the Titanic.

And, as the film's trailer shows, there are reveals of 'family secrets' and people who 'carried to their grave the secret of their true identity'.

But for Jones and Schwankert, the documentary has not just been about solving a mystery.

'We're trying to give them that place in history,' they said. 'This is who they are.' (Courtesy https://www.dailymail.co.uk/)

In the early hours of April 15, 1912, a lifeboat navigated the frigid waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, its skeleton crew scanning the dark, debris-littered surface for any sign of life. Hours earlier, the unthinkable had happened: The RMS Titanic, a majestic ocean liner deemed "unsinkable," had struck an iceberg and slowly disappeared into the sea on its maiden voyage. Hundreds of passengers fled in lifeboats. Hundreds more perished, going down with the ship or freezing to death in the icy water. The only one of Titanic's lifeboats to

turn back to the wreckage found body after body — until it discovered a young Chinese man, still alive, clinging to a piece of wood.

That man would be one of six Chinese passengers who survived the Titanic, a little-known fact about the historic disaster that has largely remained untold or distorted, owing to a racially hostile environment toward Chinese people in the West at the turn of the 20th century.



Of the six survivors, five made it onto lifeboats and one man was rescued while clinging to a wooden plank out at sea.

Now, the lives of these men — who they were, how they survived that fateful night and why they were barred from entering the United States — are being examined in a new documentary, "The Six," by Arthur Jones and Steven Schwankert.

"There were something like 700 Titanic survivors. They've all been so 'claimed,' if all the claims to be believed," Jones, a Shanghai-based filmmaker, told The Washington Post. "These were the only guys amongst those 700 that no one had ever claimed. They just completely disappeared. Why did they get ignored?"

On April 10, 1912, the Titanic set off on her maiden voyage to the United States from Southampton, England, with 2,229 passengers and crew members. The ship was supposed to arrive a week later at its transatlantic destination: New York City.

Instead, around 11:30 p.m. on April 14, the Titanic struck an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland and began to take on water. Within hours, the massive ocean liner had cleaved in two and — with hundreds still trapped on board — was swallowed by the frigid waters of what is now known as "Iceberg Alley."

About 1,500 people died in the tragedy. About 700 passengers survived and were plucked from their lifeboats by the RMS Carpathia the next morning.



(Article Continues Below)

Movie Reveals Story Of Asian Survivors Of "Chinese Titanic"

The ill-fated voyage has been immortalized in countless documentaries, books and museums — and in the tin-whistled opening bars of a certain Celine Dion song now indelibly associated with the shipwreck, thanks to James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster film. Over the past century, volumes have been written about hundreds of the Titanic's victims and survivors, their life stories preserved in astonishing detail by history books and their descendants.



One of the young men who survived.

However, for six Chinese passengers who survived the sinking, their ties to the Titanic have all but vanished.

Schwankert first brought up the possibility of a Titanic project to Jones in 2014. Jones dismissed the idea at first. For starters, the longtime documentary partners were in the midst of another project.

But also: It was the Titanic, Schwankert recalled Jones saying.

"Everything's been done," Schwankert said they thought. "There's nothing new to say about it. And this was not so long after the 100th anniversary" of the 1912 voyage.

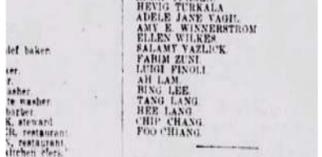
Still, he pressed on. The New Jersey native, who has lived in China for 22 years, had recently researched the Titanic and come across a brief mention of six Chinese survivors. But the more he tried to find out about the six, the more dead ends he hit.

"It really started to bother me. Like, why don't we know?" Schwankert said. "Like any history project, you start pulling the threads, and it just seemed like the thread didn't lead anywhere."

Before long, he had persuaded Jones

to abandon their original project and launch "The Six."

The men's names are seen her listed



in a newspaper report of who survived the wreckage. With little to go on at first but the passenger manifest and list of survivors, the team set up a simple website, whoarethesix.com, to crowdsourcing tips. The invisibility of the six Chinese survivors is such that, even in China, Jones and Schwankert find themselves telling people: Yes, there were, in fact, Chinese passengers on the Titanic.

Eight Chinese nationals boarded the ship at Southampton, to be exact. Their names appear in rigid cursive on a single ticket for third-class passengers: Ah Lam, Fang Lang, Len Lam, Cheong Foo, Chang Chip, Ling Hee, Lee Bing and Lee Ling.

Through two years of painstaking documentation, the filmmakers determined that the men in the group probably knew one another beforehand, having worked together as professional sailors on various ships in Britain. Because of an ongoing coal strike there, the men were being transferred by their company to a freighter docked in New York, the Annetta, which was to take them to Cuba.

"The reason they were traveling on Titanic in the first place is for work," Schwankert said. "They were professional mariners, and they were being seconded from their company in the U.K. to go and work on the companies in North America."

Their trip would not go as planned, of

course.

How the eight men responded as the Titanic began taking on water may never be known. They would have been traveling in steerage, the lowest class of cabins, where the survival rate for non-British men was only about 20 percent.



Five of the eight men escaped the ship on lifeboats, and four of them were in "Collapsible C," a backup escape vessel (depicted in The Six).

What was documented is that one of the Chinese men was later found clinging to a large piece of floating wood by the one main lifeboat that chose to return to the wreckage to search for signs of life. Five others escaped in lifeboats. Notably, four were in "Collapsible C," a backup escape vessel with canvas siding that was one of the last lifeboats to be lowered from the ship.

They happened to share the same lifeboat as Joseph Bruce Ismay, the chairman of the White Star Line, which owned the Titanic. Ismay, who was later prioritized for saving himself instead of going down with the ship despite being such a high-ranking official, testified in official inquiries that "four Chinamen were in the boat" in which he had escaped.

The ship's quartermaster, George T. Rowe, was on "Collapsible C" as well and also testified to the presence of the Chinese passengers, though he suggested they had "found" the four men "between the seats" only at daybreak.

Schwankert noted that the official testimony was instrumental in getting their research started on the Chinese survivors.



Of the six survivors, five made it onto lifeboats and one man was rescued while clinging to a wooden plank out at sea.

More than a century after the Titanic sank in April 1912; few new stories surface from the wreck. When documentary filmmaker Arthur Jones and his team started work on "The Six" — their film about the ship's six Chinese survivors — in 2012, they kept expecting to find that someone else had already told the story.

When RMS Titanic sank in April 1912, its 700 survivors were welcomed into New York with open arms...save for six Chinese men. This new documentary traces their remarkable untold story and the history of the anti-Chinese immigration laws which swept Europe and North America in the 20th century.

When documentary filmmaker Arthur Jones and his team started work on "The Six" — their film about the ship's six Chinese survivors — in 2012, they kept expecting to find that someone else had already told the story.

HISTORY FORGOTTEN Yet the history of the Chinese passengers who escaped the Titanic has largely been forgotten, even in their homeland, as discriminatory U.S. immigration policies and a cultural imperative of self-effacement combined to obscure their tale.

A still from "The Six," an upcoming documentary about the little-known Chinese survivors of the Titanic. (LP DOCS/Merryman Films)

ODDS OF SURVIVING The odds were stacked against them: The average survival rate for men in third class was just one in six. But when di-

aster struck, being a poor sailor with

limited English turned into an advantage for the eight Chinese men on board — and six of them survived.

All eight Chinese men hailed from southern China. They had previously worked on cargo ships traveling between China and Europe, and they likely intended to migrate to the U.S. to start a new life. They boarded the Titanic in Southampton, England, on a single ticket listing eight names — a common practice for third-class passengers. Like other unmarried third-class men, they were housed in windowless cabins in the bow of the ship.

Their names vary on a number of manifests, but U.S. Immigration recorded them as Ah Lam (or Ali Lam), Len Lam, Bing Lee (or Lee Bing), Fang Lang, Chip Chang (or Chang Chip), Foo Cheang (or Choong Foo), and Ling Hee. They all traveled on a single ticket, number 1601 (£59, 9s, 11d).

Schwankert noted that the official testimony was instrumental in getting their research started on the Chinese survivors.

Photo provided by QC Media shows a scene from The Six.

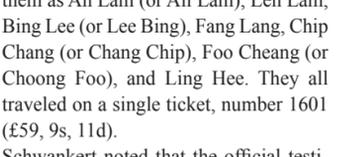


Photo provided by QC Media shows a scene from The Six.

(Courtesy www.washingtonpost.com, www.scmp.co, variety.com, www.maritime-executive.com, www.globaltimes.cn, www.xinhuanet.com/english)