

## **Chinese Immigration to America**

The U. S. Border Patrol was founded in 1924. One of its main purposes was to stop illegal entries of foreign citizens into the United States. This was no easy task, as more than one million Mexicans immigrated, legally or illegally, into the U.S. between 1910 and 1930.

Chinese were also smuggled in. There was no legal way they could immigrate to the United States after Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882.

In the late 1920's the Mexicans in Sonora and Sinaloa states decided to get rid of the "celestials." Chinese businesses were boycotted. The merchants were arrested and fined. One grocer, for example, was fined for keeping a cat while other Chinese storekeepers were fined for not having cats to keep down the mice. Forced out of the states of Sonora and Sinaloa, the Chinese fled to the United States in great numbers.

Smuggling rings – made up of Mexicans, Chinese and some Americans – charged a fee for delivering the Chinese to designated interior towns in Arizona. Tucson, Phoenix, Globe, Florence, Prescott, Flagstaff, and other places had Chinese populations that could find jobs for the immigrants. The Chinese had well-concealed hideouts; trapdoors opened to underground tunnels leading from one building to another. About the only Chinese who were caught wanted to return to China. They knew that the United States government would ship them home free in a style they couldn't afford themselves.