



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

appreciation of our chinese american heritage • a non-profit organization • 1648 redcliff street • los angeles, ca. 90026

April 1987

MAY MEETING

DATE: WEDNESDAY- May 6, 1987

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: CASTELAR SCHOOL, 840 Yale Street, L.A. Chinatown
(Park on school grounds -- enter on College St.
between Hill and Yale Streets)

SPEAKER: PROFESSOR CHALSO LOO, visiting Associate Professor
at UCLA.

"TODAY'S CHINATOWN - SAN FRANCISCO CASE STUDY"
will be the topic of Professor Loo's talk. She
has conducted extensive research on the San
Francisco Chinese community. Her talk will en-
compass San Francisco Chinatown, the assumptions,
dispelling the myths, crowded conditions and the
effect on the Chinese.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following new members:

- Margie and Kevin Akin
- Susan Hum
- Mr. Hing Wah Lew
- Jia-Ming Liu
- Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Young

HANFORD FIELD TRIP

The May 23rd Hanford field trip is in its final planning
stages according to trip coordinator Eugene Moy. Details
are being mailed to the people who signed up for the trip.
For those who wish more information, please contact Eugene
by calling (818)289-2067 or see him in person at the May
meeting.

CHSSC BOARD MEETING - CHANGE OF DATE * * * * *

NEW DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 9th

PLACE: President Angi's house

TIME: 10 A.M.

* * * * *

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! Our own Margie Lew was honored on
April 25 in San Francisco as Gum Moon's Distinguished Alumna. Member
Judy Yung received the Outstanding Asian Woman Award. Look for more
details in our next issue of News 'n Notes.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to GRACE WONG CHOW, one of our great Life Members. In a gala dinner dance celebration at the Biltmore on April 11, Mrs. Chow marked her "Eighty-Eighth". In Chinese terms, she has now reached 90 and enters her tenth decade. This energetic, delightful lady is one of our remarkable pioneers, a successful businesswoman, a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother, a notable community leader and philanthropist, and one of the best story tellers around. A skill which she aptly demonstrated on the microphone at the party. May you have many more happy returns, Grace.

DIAMOND JUBILEE. Congratulations to the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Los Angeles Lodge, on their 75th Anniversary. Celebrating early (official date May 15, 1912), this organization had its own dinner-dance at the Golden Palace restaurant on April 10. Many CHSSC members were present for this historic occasion. CHSSC President Angi Wong presented one of our famous scroll resolutions to this Lodge in recognition of its pioneering community service on behalf of Chinese American civil rights. This scroll replaces one presented for their 70th Anniversary. Our scroll technology has advanced considerably, now using more colors and computerized laser jet printers to generate the main text. Glenn Yee still furnishes the calligraphic touches, and Mary Yee does the assembly.

THE MUSEUM OF CHINESE AMERICAN HISTORY (MCAH). We are pleased to report that MCAH's proposal for the restoration of the museum interior in the Garnier Block, El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park, has been recommended by State Recreation and Parks for a \$61,000 grant from the last cycle of Proposition 18 preservation funds. Approval of the California legislature is still required. If successful, this funding will mark an important milestone for MCAH as its first successful grant. It will also guarantee completion of the museum building for MCAH.

DESIGNS NEEDED. Museum staff and Museum Committee volunteers have been meeting with candidate exhibit designers, the prestigious firm of Neuhart, Donges, and Neuhart. Rated the top independent museum designers in Southern California, N.D. and N. have done the main library exhibit at the Huntington Museum in San Marino and the "Mathematica" exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry. Currently, they are interested in creating a quality ethnic history exhibition, and we are fortunate that they are considering MCAH as their new project.

CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM FUND. Recent donations include

Louie E. Kwok	\$ 25.	active
John Yee	\$ 100	sustainer
Los Angeles Chinese Women's Club		
Education and Charity Fund	\$1000	DONOR

With the recent donations, the Chinese American Museum Fund now exceeds \$49,000, with over \$51,500 collected from donations and interest. We are always grateful to our supporters. The Women's Club is one of the most well known organizations in Chinatown. Many of their members are also members of CHSSC. Thanks to Gilbert and Florence Leong for making the presentation to the Club.

SO-YOU-THOUGHT-HISTORY-WAS-DULL DEPT. Take some near midnight calls from and to Angi Wong. Her honored relation, 102 year old Sam Chang is moving out of town, from his fabled Sepulveda home. Escrow to close in 3 days! Everything to be sold. Take a rush emergency visit to the home the next day by Angi and Suellen Cheng, MCAH Acquisitions chair. Many valuable books and documents and some farm implements are retrieved. A magnificent 12' wood-and-glass store cabinet, made in China for a City Market market, is spotted. Perfect for the MCAH store exhibit. Try finding a moving van in less than 24 hours. Try 4 hours. Try to get the van to show up. Try to get the van to arrive at El Pueblo Friday afternoon when all the employees leave early. This story has a happy ending. Our cabinet arrived to storage just in time, safely and intact, a donation from Mr. Chang and the family. Kudos to the above and to Al Soo-Hoo and Howard Hew, and to Jean Bruce Poole, her secretary Jan, her boss Jerry Smart, and to Eugene Moy, Norman Wong, Ella Quan, and Munson Kwok, and Starving Students of South Bay, all who worked to move this along. We hope the acquisition process for selective artifacts^{to} MCAH will not always be as frenetic or adventurous.

New from CALIFORNIA

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THIS BITTERSWEET SOIL

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SUCHENG CHAN

Based on information found in the records of more than forty California counties and in the manuscript schedules of the U.S. censuses of population and agriculture, this book chronicles the activities of the thousands of Chinese agricultural pioneers who worked as truck gardeners, tenant farmers, commission merchants, labor contractors, farm laborers, and farm cooks to make California into the nation's premier agricultural state. These Chinese entrepreneurs and laborers brought new land under cultivation, experimented with diverse crops, and provided much of the labor needed to plant, harvest, pack, preserve, and sell the crops in almost every major agricultural region in nineteenth-century California.

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Sucheng Chan is Professor of History and Provost of Oakes College, University of California, Santa Cruz.



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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SO. CAL.

To:

Suellen Cheng Kwok
1514 Princeton Street
Santa Monica, CA. 90404

Please accept my application for membership as a _____ Member in the Chinese Historical Society of So. Cal.

ACTIVE, annual \$ 15
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LINKING OUR LIVES:

Chinese American Women of Los Angeles

An Important, Exciting New Book!!!

*A joint project of the Asian American Studies Center
University of California, Los Angeles
and*

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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THIS new work presents for the first time a rich part of the fascinating community of Los Angeles Chinese Americans. Women, though very few in the beginning, played an increasingly major role in creating a well-rounded social community, in developing identity, and in providing a strong continuity for Los Angeles Chinatown. At the same time, these women were pioneers in defining social outreach and in exploring new ventures and professions. This beautifully designed paperback is founded on a collection of recent oral histories spanning 1890-1950. Period photographs from the collection are featured. The publisher, *Chinese Historical Society of Southern California*, is a non-profit organization; all proceeds from the book will go for future research.

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