



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

August 1986

Hello again

SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, September 3, 1986

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Castelar School, 840 Yale St., Los Angeles Chinatown
(Park on school grounds -- enter on College St., between Hill and Yale Sts.)

AGENDA: Committee reports, Fall Dinner, trip to Lang Station

PROGRAM: BILL MASON, speaker

A CHSSC member and curator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Mr. Mason is reputedly a historian with a vast knowledge of the early history of Los Angeles and the surrounding area. Mr. Mason will show a number of slides to accompany his presentation, which will focus on the city of Los Angeles, but will highlight the Golden Spike ceremonies which occurred on Sept. 5, 1876 when the northern and southern portions of the Southern Pacific Railroad were joined at Lang Station, thus linking San Francisco with Los Angeles and enhancing California's economic progress.

Ten years ago, on Sept. 5, 1976, the Society in conjunction with the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society and various other historical and fraternal groups in the Newhall-Saugus area, sponsored the Golden Spike Centennial at Lang Station. Stan Lau was Society president at the time, and this was the group's first major undertaking. It was a most wonderfully impressive event, with California Secretary of State March Fong Eu symbolically hammering in the Golden Spike. The Society presented a bronze plaque to be placed on the site, honoring the 3,000 Chinese workers whose back-breaking labor laid the tracks and dug a 7,000-ft tunnel through a mountain of solid rock, mostly with pick-and-shovel.

On April 18, 1982, 45 CHSSC members met with 15 members of the Santa Clarita group for a return visit to Lang Station. The highlight of this trip was a visit to the San Fernando tunnel, more than a mile in length and almost three stories high. Only then could anyone have understood the great significance of that awesome undertaking.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of CHSSC's Golden Spike celebration, the Society has tentative plans for a visit to Lang Station on Saturday Sept. 6 or Sunday Sept. 7. Details will be discussed at the September meeting, and maps will be provided.

WHAT'S NEW??

Membership applications, that's what -- and one is enclosed with all the other "goodies" in this packet. Thanks to the Membership Flyer Committee which included various members at one time or another, the Society now has another item that can be distributed with pride. Let's put them to good use, and recruit some new members. Watch us grow!!

SAN FRANCISCO, HERE WE COME!

The anticipation for the Society's 3-day field trip to San Francisco on May 30-June 1 finally became a reality when 21 members and friends trooped excitedly onto a PSA plane at 7:00 P.M. the evening of Friday, May 30. Our thanks to President ELLA QUAN for the following descriptive report:

"Our group of happy travellers was met at the airport by Peter Chen and a luxurious sightseeing bus to take us to the Grant Plaza Hotel in San Francisco Chinatown under the capable guidance of Emma Louie who grew up in the "big city". After checking in, the first order of the evening was (yes, you guessed it!) a stop for "siu yeh" (evening snack) at the famous Sam Wo, or Sun Hun Heung, fourth oldest restaurant in Chinatown.

The highlight of the trip began the next morning at 9:15 when everyone assembled in the hotel lobby, ready to take off on the cable car for the tour of Angel Island. Members of the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHS/A) were on hand to act as guides. We trekked up two small hills to Bush and Powell Sts. where Enid Lim had arranged for a cable car to take us, and only us, to Fisherman's Wharf. What a thrill! Our own cable car -- at least for a while! While everyone was scrambling around for seats for either inside or outside on the platform, the self-appointed photographers almost missed the ride when they were more engrossed in taking pictures than getting on the trolley. Of course, Chuck Yee did not forget our famous CHSSC banner. Each time the cable car came to a stop, he would run out with banner, the photographers would follow after him, and the CHSSC "tourists" nearly emptied the car trying to get into the picture. CLICK! GLICK! CLICK! Then back to the cable car again. What a sight for the "natives" to behold! They must have wondered who were these "aliens" from southern California. Such great fun on that cable car, going up and down those hills with the marvelous view of the Bay.....

However, the ride was all too short. Before we knew it, we had arrived at the Wharf, where we met other members of CHS/A, who wore red identification tags, while ours were yellow. From a pre-arranged list of names, each person looked for his/her matching partner -- a really fun "ice-breaker". KNBC was on hand to film us as we boarded the ferry. We enjoyed a smooth ride over to the island. At lunch, we each sat with our respective "partners", who had brought extra lunches for us. The variety of food included sandwiches, cha siu bow, egg rolls, Chinese "tamales", and cake for everyone, baked by Enid. What a wonderful hour of "getting to know you" time!

Two vans were available to take some of the older members to the historical sites on the Island. The rest of the group walked with assigned leaders, each of whom took his/her group on a different route with a time schedule in mind. Philip Choy, Him Mark Lai and Judy Yung were on hand at the building site to greet us and to give a short history on Angel Island. KNBC photographers were on hand to film the event. When the last group came back down the hill, we boarded the ferry for the return trip, and back to the hotel for a quick freshening up before dinner.

Arrangements had been made for dinner at a newly-opened restaurant, Harbor Village, where we were joined by 100 CHS/A members for a wonderful evening of socializing with our hosts. An added plus was the delicious food, excellent service, and a slide presentation by historian Philip Choy, pinpointing some of the buildings to be shown to the group on the following day's walking tour of Chinatown.

Sunday morning found many CHSSC members up early, waiting in the lobby for the day's adventure. We met with CHS/A members at the Hung On Tong Society for a continental breakfast. The tour began at 9:00 A.M. Madeleine Leong, CHS/A English secretary and vice-president of the Women's Auxiliary, was on hand to greet us and to give some history of the Society. We were assigned "leaders" for the walk through Chinatown, which ended at the Lung Kong Tin Yee Association building, where Larry Jue and his wife gave a brief history of that building. Lunch had been reserved for us at the popular Asia Gardens, where we ate to our hearts' content. Then, next to the CHS/A museum. Our Society's first published book "Linking Our Lives", was among the many books sold there.

A downstairs basement had a pictorial display with various artifacts of great historical interest and value.

All good things must come to an end. Each of us bid our new-found friends farewell before walking back to the hotel to gather our luggage, board the van and head for home. What a wonderful and exciting weekend! Our thanks to Marvey Chapman, Evy Cucchiarella, and Munson Kwok for coordinating the event with all its myriad details. And to President Ted Wong, the Board and members of the Chinese Historical Society of America, our sincerest and deepest thanks for their warm and wonderful welcome. They were the perfect hosts, and because of their proficient planning and generous sharing, this will be one of CHSSC's most memorable events."

Ella Quan, President

WHO'S IN THE NEWS.....

-Ruth and Tyrus Wong, who have been faithful CHSSC members for a number of years, have now become Life members. Congratulations to both of you
-Evy and Ed Cuchiarella have abandoned the "big city lights" for the peace and quiet of Desert Hot Springs. You will both be missed, but maybe some meeting night you'll surprise us with a visit?
-the Book Sale on June 28 and 29, sponsored by Friends of the Chinatown Library, was a big success, due to the dedicated volunteers, who worked long and hard that entire week. Elmo Gambarana donated one week's vacation to coordinate the event, spending all 7 days in Castelar School's multi-purpose room. Such dedication is rare, but so welcome. Spending almost as much time there were Dorothy Siu and Margie Lew, but Elmo broke the record. Proceeds from the sale amounted to over \$1200, of which \$1000 was donated to the Central Library to purchase books that were damaged or destroyed in the disastrous fire last April. Committee chairperson Kiphan Kan would like to thank all the volunteers, most of whom are CHSSC members, for their assistance and the many hours of work donated to this project.
-Member Dr. Stanford M. Lyman, Professor of Social Science at Florida Atlantic University, has announced the publication of "Chinatown and Little Tokyo: Power, Conflict, and Community among Chinese and Japanese Immigrants to America", an analysis of Chinese and Japanese immigration and community development. The book emphasizes the differences between harmony and solidarity within these communities. The book may be ordered by writing to: Associated Faculty Press, Inc.,
Route 100,
Millwood, New York 10546

FALL DINNER

The Society's Fall Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Golden Dragon Restaurant. This will be a fund-raiser for the CHSSC museum, and admission is \$25.00 per person. A flyer with complete details will be forthcoming. For information, call Kiphan Kan, (213) 839-9233; Ella Quan, (213) 291-5388; Suellen Kwok, (213) 828-6911.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!!

LOTUS BLOSSOMS AND PINEAPPLES

The 11th Annual Lotus Festival was held in Echo Park on July 19-20. Both days were warm and beautiful, bringing out crowds of people to enjoy the event. Again this year, CHSSC members decided to sell ice cold pineapple-on-a-stick, which in previous years had proved to be a good "seller". And, as usual, there were many willing hands to share the work load. Jerry Shue and Dawes Lee were first to arrive, putting up canopies and tarps to provide welcome shade for the workers. Angi Wong and Susan Sing decorated the booth (our booth didn't win a prize this year, but it looked beautiful, and received many compliments from the customers). Beverly Picazo ordered the pineapples from Valley Fruit Co., and the crates were loaded by Susan Sing, Gene Moy, and Ward Yee. While the energetic workers cut and skewered pineapples, several members took turns as "barkers", enticing prospective customers. Business was good, and the crew was kept busy both days, finally selling the last pineapple at 7 P.M. on Sunday, with a profit of \$976.41. A very successful venture, the result of a very hard-working crew, and everyone went home tired but happy.

Many thanks to the following for their assistance and cooperation:

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| Doreen Chan | Beulah Kwoh | Beverly & Carlos Picazo |
| Cindy Fong | Suellen & Munson Kwok | Ella Quan |
| Lillian Fong | Bob Large | Howard Quon |
| Elmo Gambarana | Barkley Lee | Edith & George Sheu |
| Ellen Gong-Guy | Dawes Lee | Jerry Shue |
| Beverly Hom | Tim Leung | Dorothy Siu |
| Wallace Huey | Emma & Paul Louie | Angi Wong |
| Elsie Inase | Florence & Al Lum | Dolores Wong |
| Bill & Anita Jeung | Linda Lum | Elsie Yee |
| Kiphan Kan | Mark Mehlert | Johnson Yee |
| Judy Lee | Susan & Gene Moy | Sue & Ward Yee |
| James Koga | Mary Moy | |

Again, we did not win the Dragon Boat race, although the rowers did better than last year. Win or lose, everyone had a good time trying for the "gold".

----- Sue Ward, Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP DUES

CHSSC membership dues is for the calendar year -- January through December. Only new members who join at the Fall Dinner will be considered paid through the following calendar year.

COMING EVENTS

The Bishop Museum and Historical Society is hosting the Conference of California Historical Societies Northern California Symposium to be held September 26-27 in scenic Bishop, Calif. The preliminary agenda for this important meeting includes special presentations on "The History of the Owens Valley Water Story" and the "Slim Princess Narrow Gauge Society - Railroading 1883." Sufficient time will be available for tours of local facilities, and bus tours of Mammoth Mountain and Bristlecone Pine. For information, write to the Conference of California Historical Societies, University of the Pacific, Stockton, Calif. 95211.