



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 1982

WELCOME BACK to each of you, and hope you had a relaxing summer. Here is what's been happening in the last two months ---

ORAL HISTORY Suellen Kwok and her dedicated group of oral history summarizers have attained the 200-hour mark. But much more help is needed!, especially for interviewers, both in Chinese or English. Call Suellen at 828-6911, and offer your assistance on this very worthwhile project.

MISCELLANY "DRAGON OF THE EAST -- Skies of Ancient China", a program on the astronomy and culture of ancient China, presented at the Griffith Observatory now through Sept. 12. Call 664-1191 for details.

The most significant historic event for Chinese Americans this year is the commemoration of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. A number of events were sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of America (San Francisco).

First was the Exclusion Laws Centennial Ceremony on Angel Island on May 2 -- A Time of Remembrance and Resolution. Over 400 persons attended the dedication of a marker and a tour of the detention barracks.

Next was the day-long seminar on May 9, held at the Chinese Culture Center, featuring an impressive panel of speakers: Ling Chi Wang, Liu Yi-Zun, Helen Chen, Shirley Hune, Annie Soo, Alexander Sacton, Henry Tsai, Bill On Hing, Linda Wong, Willa Gray, and Henry Der. A publication of the proceedings will be in the offing.

Another event was Phil Choy's collection of lithographs chronicling the 1880's anti-Chinese racism -- Unwanted Americans: Chinese Exclusion 1882.

And the sponsorship of Genny Lim's play, Paper Angels, a flood of bitter tears about experiences surrounding Chinese immigrants detained on Angel Island.

From the News Review, June 1982
ALLIANCE OF CHINESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Castelar Elementary School is celebrating its centennial this year. Ella Quan is asking for names, addresses and photos of any of the school's alumni, to be placed in the anniversary booklet. Please call Ella at 626-3674 (days).

WHO'S IN THE NEWS Congratulations to John and Esther Yee on their 30th wedding anniversary. Son Edward and daughter Carol planned a beautiful party on Sunday, July 11 for their parents, who were totally and completely surprised. In fact, John mentioned a couple of days after the party that he was still in a state of shock and hadn't come down to earth yet!! Need a parachute, John?

At the Society's dinner-meeting in May, Dr. Loren Chan presented a history of the Exclusion Act of 1882. In conjunction with this presentation, the Society had on display a large number of documents and identification certificates on loan from the Federal Archives and Record Center in San Bruno. CHSSC member Robert Jung spotted a copy of his father's passport issued in 1883 by the Chinese government. In appreciation of this momentous occasion, Bob and his wife Edith donated \$100.00 to the Society. These same historical documents were on display at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana during the latter part of June, and also at the National Conference of Chinese Americans at UCLA on the weekend of August 7-8.

Congratulations to Judge Delbert Wong on his retirement on June 1 after 23 years "on the bench". Delbert has the distinction of being the first Chinese American to be appointed as Superior Court judge. He and his wife Dolores, who is one of the Society's staunchest supporters, have done a bit of travelling in the past two months -- a trip to Alaska with friends Steve and Ella Leong, and a trip to Lake Louise and Banff, Canada. A happy retirement to both of you--

Welcome to our newest Life Member, Ernest Chann, who is a past president of the Chinese Historical Society of America (San Francisco)

SYMPATHY goes to Gerry Shue on the recent death of his stepfather. As an expression of condolence, a number of members sent donations totalling almost \$100.00 to the Society.

The Society extends sympathy to Lillian Kim (Life Member) of Baltimore, Maryland, whose husband Herman passed away in May. Mr. Kim was a very active and dedicated member of the Chinese community in Baltimore, and was loved and respected by all who knew him. At his funeral services, Mr. Kim received tributes from people in all walks of life and from places near and far.

Sympathy to Ruby Louie and her family on the death of Ruby's mother, Mrs. Tsin Nan Ling.

Chinese Historical Society of America

華人僑美歷史學會

17 ADLER PLACE • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94133 • (415) 391-1188

2 April, 1982

Dear Friends,

The Chinese American Theater on the West Coast, 1852-1982 Exhibition Project Staff of the Chinese Historical Society of America would be most grateful if you could insert the following announcement in your next newsletter or issue:

HISTORY OF THE CHINESE AMERICAN THEATER ON THE WEST COAST 1852-1982

The Chinese Historical Society of America is preparing to exhibit a treasure trove of 300 newly-discovered photographs of the productions and actors and actresses of the old Great China Cantonese Opera Theater in San Francisco's Chinatown of the 1920s and 1930s.

Research for the exhibition is actually uncovering the whole history of the Chinese American theater from 1852, when the first Cantonese Opera troupe arrived in the West at the height of the Gold Rush, until the present day. This will be the first major exhibition devoted to the main aspect of cultural life of the first, second and third generations of the Chinese American community.

The CHSA project staff is headed by Jack Chen, author of The Chinese of America rated by the New York Times the "best book on the subject," and Wylie Wong, a director of the Jehu-Wong art gallery in San Francisco and discoverer of the photographs.

The National Endowment for the Humanities, the San Francisco and Zellerbach Foundations are helping to fund the project. The Bank of America will present the interpretive exhibition in July, 1983 as part of its art program in the Concourse Gallery at its corporate world headquarters in San Francisco.

Since the photographs were found without a single caption on a trash dump in Chinatown, the project staff faces some difficult problems of identification. They would urgently like to hear from anyone who has material on America's Chinese theaters in San Francisco or elsewhere in the United States. Their address is 937 Liberty Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Tel: (415) 524-7267.

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