



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

October 1986

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, November 5, 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, etc.

PROGRAM: Margie Chan, CHSSC member, will be guest speaker, and will give a talk on the various dialects being used currently in Chinatown.

ANYONE READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

With sleigh bells tinkling in the distance, the holiday season is fast approaching. The Society is making plans for its annual Christmas Potluck, to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 P.M. in the Castelar School's Multi-purpose Room.

This Christmas party is an event which everyone looks forward to with great anticipation. The Society seems to have an abundance of marvelous cooks, so the "goodies" are always delicious. The yuletide spirit is shared by all, with its overtones of warmth and happiness with friends and families.

Chairperson Angi Wong states that there will be Christmas caroling and possibly some entertainment (suggestions are welcome). And there will be a "white elephant" exchange (a "white elephant" is something you have at home that you cannot use, but do not want to throw out). Each participant can bring something funny or silly or useful, but it should be new or almost-new, wrapped in Christmas paper, but with no names attached.

Potluck dishes -- at the November meeting, please indicate what type of food you are bringing: main dish, salad, jello, dessert, etc. One potluck dish entitles free admission for two persons. For all others, it will be \$5.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children 12 and under.

Bring family and friends, and join us in this joyous Christmas celebration!

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chairperson Mary Yee reported a grand total of 376 members to date.

Why not give your friends and relatives a CHSSC membership for Christmas? Memberships are for the calendar year -- January through December. However, NEW MEMBERS joining at the October dinner will be considered paid through the following calendar year.

LANG STATION REVISITED

John F. Kennedy was once asked by a reporter during his campaign for the presidency why he felt that he should be president of the United States. Kennedy's reply was, "I have the greatest sense of history".

That same sense of history motivated 25 Society members and friends to make history on Sept. 6, 1986, since it was ten years ago that CHSSC participated in its first official function. On Sept. 5, 1976, almost a hundred Society members and friends, at the invitation of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, joined several hundred others to commemorate the joining of the two links of the Southern Pacific Railroad at Lang Station, where the golden spike was driven to connect Los Angeles and San Francisco. At the ceremonies, our society gave recognition to those 3,000 plus Chinese laborers who had furnished the manpower to build roadbed and tunnel between Los Angeles and the Santa Clarita Valley. With the completion of that final, vital link, the two cities burst into development and growth. And yet on that historic occasion, not a single word was uttered to acknowledge the contributions of the Chinese who had given their labor and some, their lives, to this tremendous project.

It was significant that a group of us took this sentimental journey out to Lang Station. For me, it was my first trip in 10 years, and it brought back many memories. I remember the bands, the crowds, and the heat. There were firecrackers and dignitaries and folks in costume. And the golden spike was there. So was California Secretary of State March Fong Eu, who re-enacted the driving in of that last spike, with Chuck Yee assisting.

For this trip, the group met at Denny's at the Roxford exit of the Golden State freeway and carpooled to Lang Station, where our caravan was met by Betty Evans, a CHSSC member and the first vice president of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society. Betty guided us to the spot where the bronze plaque we dedicated ten years ago was now cemented in a block embedded with stone from the Valley itself.

After pictures were taken, we all piled into our vehicles and headed for the Saugus train station which serves as the headquarters as well as museum for the SCVHS. Several members of the Santa Clarita group were on hand to welcome us as we filed into the cool, wooden building, carrying our various lunch containers. After lunch, we adjourned to the station's freight room, where museum curator Jerry Reynolds gave a lively and humorous narrative to accompany the half-hour slide show telling the history of the Valley. One of the slides showed Lang Station in the past with a monument placed in 1886 to commemorate the golden spike celebration. As we viewed that slide, we noted that the location of our Society's monument is at almost the exact location of the station. We knew this because of the cement chunks discarded nearby. At the conclusion of the program, our president, Ella Quan, presented CHSSC pins to Betty Evans, Mimi Wite, Marie McNulty, Myrna Reynolds, Anne Kaulbach, Kathy Lotts, and Betty Pember, all of whom had so graciously welcomed us.

Next came a tour of the nearby William S. Hart home. Hart was a film star in the 1920's who made many "westerns" in the Valley. His home, filled with Indian artifacts and memorabilia from his movies, was willed to Los Angeles County with the stipulation that it remain a museum open to the public. No fees would be charged, the will stated, for by that gesture Hart thanked his public for supporting his film career.

It was a tired but happy group of adventurers who reluctantly headed home. It had been a full day, but most enjoyable, thanks to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society and the warm hospitality extended to us. CHSSC also thanks that group for its constant support during our first ten years. We are fortunate, indeed, to have such loyal and devoted friends.

----- Angi Ma Wong

BOARD ACTION UPDATES

During the October Board meeting, the following actions took place:

1. Munson Kwok, Ella Quan and Howard Quon were appointed as Trustees of the Museum of Chinese American History Trust Fund, and will serve at the pleasure of the Board.
2. Munson Kwok, Paul Louie and Ella Quan were appointed to a Finance Committee to oversee all funds outside of the general operating treasury.
3. The Board moved to accept Elsie Yee's proposal to transfer \$700 from the George Yee Memorial Fund to the Museum of Chinese American History Trust Fund.
4. The Board moved to accept Elsie Yee's proposal to use the balance of the George Yee Memorial Fund for a fund to be used in a book project on the history of Chinese Americans in southern California.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Don Loo has volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee and will be announcing the candidates for officers and Board directors at the November meeting.

WHO'S IN THE NEWS

-Congratulations to Life Member Annie Chin Siu, D.D.S. Dr. Siu will be honored as Woman of the Year on Oct. 28 by the Business & Professional Women of Alhambra.
-Dorothy Siu has returned from a trip to New Zealand, and is back to her busy schedule of volunteer work.
-Mrs. Yuek Lee Moy spent a week in Tahiti with her daughter.
-Centinela Valley Historical Society held its annual fiesta and barbecue on Sunday, Sept. 14. Gladys Waddingham, active member of that group as well as CHSSC, attended the festivities, along with Lillian Fong and Ronald Jung.

GOIN' HOME

Ye Editor and her "other half" made a short-but-exciting trip to her hometown, San Francisco, for a reunion with childhood friends. Weather was perfect, as was a ride on the cable car to Fisherman's Wharf, breathing that good fresh air while "chomping" happily on that wonderful sourdough bread. The trip also included having dinner with Ruthanne Lum McCunn, member of both the Chinese Historical Society of America and CHSSC and author of several books. Another happy experience was attending CHS/A's monthly meeting where I took the opportunity to thank President Ted Wong and members for the wonderful hospitality extended to Society members on their trip to San Francisco and Angel Island last spring.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (RENEWAL):CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SO.CAL.

To: Mary Yee
Membership CHSSC
4721 Konya Drive
Torrance, CA 90503

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

- ACTIVE, annual \$ 15
- ADDITIONAL(spouse/same h'se) 5
- CONTRIBUTING(senior citizen over 60 yrs; students)ann'l 5
- INSTITUTIONAL, annual 25
- LIFE 200
- LIFE & SPOUSE 300
- CORPORATE, annual 500
- LIFE PATRON 500

Enclosed is my remittance in the amount of \$ _____ for dues.

Name _____

Firm/affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

The Society is a non-profit organization supported mainly by dues and contributions.

Phone () _____ Date _____

Interested in _____

I'll help with _____

NEW FOUNDING DONORS
MUSEUM OF CHINESE AMERICAN HISTORY

GRACE WONG CHOW	\$1000
TOM MOY	\$1000
GEORGE YEE MEMORIAL	\$1000

It is fitting and appropriate that one of CHSSC's founders and past presidents, George Yee, has taken us over the \$20,000 milestone. In agreement with El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park, the Founding Donors Program will end November 1, 1986. Afterwards, there will never be Founding Donors, only major donors, if any. The Founding Donors will forever be honored as those willing and able to financially support M-CAH when the museum project was no more than a powerful idea. Make your \$1000 or more pledge with Howard Quon, (213)393-7339 or send your tax deductible check to "CHSSC", Munson Kwok, 1514 Princeton, Santa Monica, 90404.

BROCHURE

For you lucky people who attend the Fall Dinner, a beautiful 8.5 x 11 full color brochure will be distributed describing plans and projections for the Museum of Chinese American History. Currently, we do not intend to mail this small booklet to all members except by request. (Write CHSSC, 1648 Redcliff, L.A. 90026). The brochure will be available free at all CHSSC meetings.

SPECIAL TOUR

CHSSC conducted a presentation and tour of L.A. Chinatown, September 29, for an international group on the Regional and Ethnic (U.S.) Cultures Program of the U. of Mississippi. Included were professors from India, Botswana, Norway, Nepal, and Canada. History professor Avery, of Western Ontario College, was especially interested in our Chinese American culture since he was quite familiar with Chinese Canadians and their history. Tour map brochures were presented each participant and several copies of Linking Our Lives were sold. Thanks to tour leaders Suellen Cheng, Eugene Moy, and Munson Kwok, and thanks also to the Friends of Chinatown Library and the Library staff.

VP CONDUCTS COURSE

As part of the Adult Schools Teachers In-Service multi-cultural educational program, VP Angi Wong recently has conducted a two Saturday course on the history of Chinese Americans and L.A. Chinatown at Evans School and El Pueblo Park. The course is for L.A. Unified School personnel. CHSSC tours, slides, and materials were used.

AH LOUIS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Our venerable Life Members, Wong Young and Stella Louis, write to report that further honors and recognition have come to father Al Louis at the Port San Luis "Centennial" Celebration on July 19. As part of the festivities, a plaque was placed by the Harbor District, the South Coast Historical Society, and Friends of the Pacific Coast RR. It was unveiled by the Louis brothers Young, Walter, and Toby. As quoted, the monument commemorated, "Vision and Enterprise of the narrow gauge railroad expanded trade and settlement on the California Central Coast between Avila, San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, Santa Maria, Orcutt, Los Alamos, and Los Olivos. Ah Louis, supervisor of his Chinese labor crew, built the roadbed and laid the rail." The centennial was celebrated 13 years late since there was no S.C.H.S. in 1973.

OHA MEETS IN LONG BEACH

The annual national Oral History Association Conference is being held on Oct. 23-26 at the Queen Mary. Registration fee is \$50. Participants will include CHSSC member Mariam Matthews, John K. Tchen, formerly of the N.Y.Chinese History Center, Gary Okihiro, Santa Clara, Michaelyn Chou, who has studied Sen. Hiram Fong, among others. Those who have helped our oral history project are Sherna Gluck, Art Hansen, and Gary Shumway. Suellen Cheng is on the Local Arrangements Committee. Call Suellen for further inquiry, (213) 828-6911.

SUMMER WIND

Howard Quon has donated a copy of the biography, Summer Wind, to CHSSC. This book is the success story of Wing F. Ong of Arizona, who went from a child immigrant in Oakland and San Francisco to successful businessman, philanthropist, and State legislator, one of the first Chinese American elected politicians.

JUDY YUNG PUBLISHES

Member Judy Yung has captured her prize-winning exhibit in print in the recently introduced book, Chinese Women of America: A Pictorial History, published by the University of Washington Press and the Chinese Cultural Foundation of S.F. The book costs \$24.95 hard cover and \$12.95 soft cover before sales tax and handling. CHSSC is working on a 40% group rate. See Suellen Cheng at the Nov. meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS, MARIAM MATTHEWS

Special recognition is being accorded our member Mariam Matthews, honored as a "Los Angeles Woman of Courage", on Oct. 26. Mariam is part of the "Women of Courage" Black Women's Oral History Project of Radcliffe College, which has culminated in the current major photoexhibit at the Afro American Museum, Exposition Park.

WORKSHOP

A Congress of History Workshop on "Researching Local History" will be held November 8 at the U. of San Diego, Serra Hall, Alcalá Park. Registration fee \$12. Agenda will include Bettye Ellison of L.A. Central Library on their resources and Dr. Judith Liu on Chinese in local California history. See M.Kwok.