

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

May 2, 1979, Wednesday; 7:30 P.M. (with the Friends of Chinatown Library) at the Broadway Plaza Garden/lower level, 700 W. 7th St., Los Angeles

A Special Viewing of
"Journeys Made, Journeys Yet to Come"

A photodisplay of the history of Chinese in America is presented as part of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week. The exhibit is developed by the Chinese Historical Society of America and co-sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and the Friends of the Chinatown Library. Don't miss this very special event.

CALENDAR

April 28: Field Trip, 7:00 A.M.

May 2 : Meeting

May 10: Board Meeting

May 11: L.A. City Historical
Society Field Trip

June 6: Meeting, Prof. S.S. Tsai
"Secret Societies and
Chinese Nationalism"

May 1-12: Journeys Photo exhibit
at Broadway Plaza

May 14-31: Journeys Photo exhibit
at City Hall, East.

SOCIETY FIELD TRIP: Bus sold out on April 10 by 46 people!! Those still interested, in car pooling, call Margie Lew 222-4375.

MEMBERSHIP: George Yee says, remind those few who have not renewed to please do so now. Make check payable to Chinese Historical Society of So. Calif. & mail to George Yee, 5502 Wilma St., Torrance, Ca. 90503

"FROM AAPAA WITH LOVE":

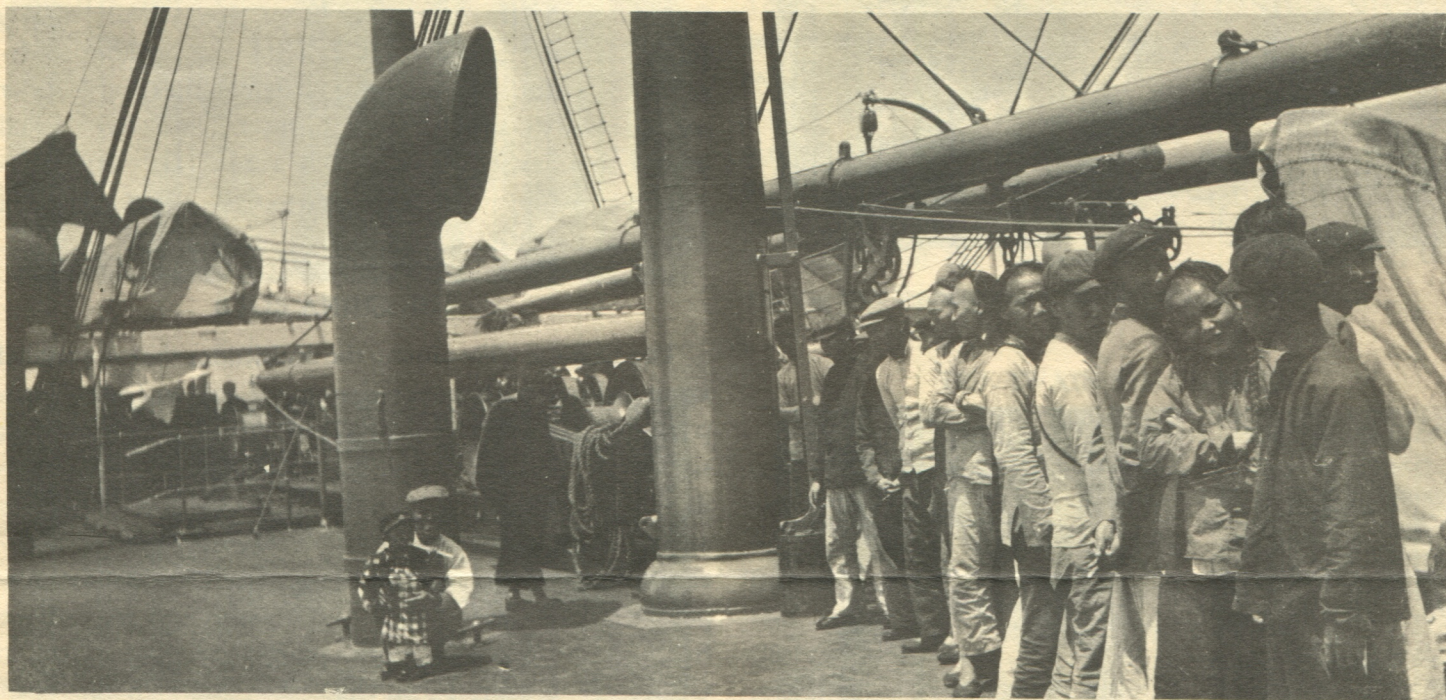
Those who helped sell tickets for Delores Wong please turn unsold tickets and \$\$\$ in to Emma Louie on April 28 or May 2 meeting.

L.A. CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP:

Produce and Flower Markets, on the 11th of May, Friday at 4:00 A.M. at Cooper's Coffee on Wall Street and 8th Street, or 5:00 A.M. at the Produce Market on 8th Street and Central, 6:00 A.M. breakfast at Vickman's Restaurant at 1228 E. 8th Street. For more information contact Emma Louie 664-3808.

Notice items: Munson or Suellen Kwok (213) 828-6911

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and
The Friends of the Chinatown Library
present
JOURNEYS MADE...JOURNEYS TO COME
A Pictorial History of the Chinese in America



JOURNEYS MADE...JOURNEYS TO COME, is a visual history of the Chinese in the United States.* This collection of photographic murals presents the seldom seen story of the Chinese legacy in the West. It is about humble peasants who ventured to a distant land to toil for a lifetime. These early immigrants laid the foundations of commerce and industry in the West for the benefit of future generations. It explores the racism against the Chinese in the 19th century from the acts of violence to other less blatant forms of prejudice. The exhibition also shows that the Chinese confronted the forces trying to deprive them of justice and equality. They fought repressive laws in the courts and banded together in groups like the Chinese American Citizens' Alliance. By the 1960's and 1970's, Chinese Americans joined the larger struggle for human dignity and equal opportunities in America. These episodes and others make up the Chinese legacy in America.

JOURNEYS MADE...JOURNEYS TO COME, is composed of six sections. The first of these depicts the conditions in 19th century China that forced the Chinese to immigrate to the United States. Subsequent sections presents a picture of early Chinese life in America; the achievements and contributions of the Chinese to the development of the West; how the Chinese became

unwelcomed immigrants through racism and ignorance; the emergence of American born Chinese and their long road toward acceptance in the larger society.

JOURNEYS MADE...JOURNEYS TO COME is comprised of over 150 photographs, drawings, documents, and newspaper articles. The visual materials came from a variety of sources which include libraries, museums, and historical societies as well as private collections. The text accompanying the visuals includes quotations from the past and commentary.

JOURNEYS MADE...JOURNEYS TO COME was the work of Philip P. Choy, an architect and a lecturer on Chinese American history. The exhibit was developed by the San Francisco-based Chinese Historical Society of America, with funding by Ethnic Heritage Studies, U.S. Office of Education, HEW.

Our appreciation goes to the following for making-the local exhibit possible: East West Federal Savings and Loan Association, booking and display insurance; Pan American National Bank of East Los Angeles, brochure printing; and the Union Oil Company of California, shipping expenses.

* This exhibition is about the history of the Chinese in the continental United States. The experiences of the Chinese in Hawaii are not included.

JOURNEYS MADE JOURNEYS TO COME

THE OPEN DOOR



In the 19th century, western powers forced the door open to expanded trade with China by war and coercion. This foreign intrusion combined with internal rebellions against the Manchu rulers and natural catastrophes (floods and droughts) to create social, political, and economic chaos in China. Peasants especially suffered in these troubled times. Unable to make a living, they went abroad to find work. At the same time that China was undergoing this crisis, western powers clamored for cheap labor to develop the natural resources of their colonies and frontier regions. Many Chinese answered this call and were tricked into virtual slavery in the "Coolie Trade". Others went to America to find work. Most of the Chinese who came to America originated from Southeast China.

THE CHINA BOYS



The Chinese were among the multitudes that descended upon California after the discovery of gold in 1848. Newspaper editorials praised the Chinese for their industrious nature and sobriety. The *Daily Alta California* even predicted that "the China Boys will yet vote at the same polls and bow at the same altars as our own countrymen." However, this view was not shared by white miners who competed with the Chinese for gold. To discourage the Chinese from mining gold, a foreign miner's tax was enacted in California. In other cases, the Chinese were driven out of mining camps. These hostile acts did not lessen the numbers of Chinese prospecting for gold. The Chinese settled throughout the West as they migrated to the gold strikes. Chinatowns sprung up wherever Chinese gathered. The merchandise store became the center of these communities. Such a store served as a post office and bank for the Chinese.

MEN WHO MOVE MOUNTAINS



The frontier West was a vast land bountiful in untapped natural wealth. An enormous supply of cheap labor would be required to extract the riches from the land. The Chinese were recruited by the thousands to fill this need. In 1870, they represented almost 25% of the physical labor in California. The Chinese were hired to build railroads in the West. Their labor turned worthless swamps into fertile farmlands. Peasant farmers from China nurtured California's agriculture into a multimillion dollar industry. Still other Chinese seized the initiative and established fishing enterprises on the West Coast. Manufacturing in California began with the help of Chinese workers. Their contributions helped to lay the foundations of commerce and industry in the West.

A PICTORICAL HISTORY OF THE CHINESE IN AMERICA

THE CHINESE QUESTION

The intense Anti-Chinese feelings in 19th century America had their roots in the prevailing beliefs of white supremacy over non-white peoples. Initially the need for cheap labor outweighed the disadvantages of having the "Heathen Chinese" among the white population. The Chinese were tolerated as long as they did not compete with white labor. This uneasy truce came to an end with an economic depression and the growing struggle between labor and capitalistic interests in the 1870's. Jobless workers found a scapegoat for their woes in the Chinese who seemed aligned with the interests of big business. Anti-Chinese riots and demonstrations erupted throughout the West. The Chinese Question as it was known was finally resolved with the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, thus ending free immigration of Chinese to America.



THE TWAIN SHALL MEET

When the Chinese immigrated to America before 1900, some adopted values and customs of their new environment. But most maintained their traditional beliefs. They kept strong ties with China. The Chinese in America supported efforts to transform archaic China into a progressive modern nation. Chinese born in America in the early 20th century were raised in the two worlds. The churches and public schools taught them American middle class values and customs. Parents and elders emphasized the old and sent them to Chinese language schools. Those who wanted to join the American Mainstream were prevented by lingering prejudices of the past century. The Chinese lived in Chinatowns separated from the larger society.



THE POSSIBLE DREAM

Acceptance into American Society was a gradual process for the Chinese after decades of prejudice and discrimination. World War II was the turning point. Congress repealed the exclusion Act. Chinese were allowed to immigrate in small numbers and those already in America could apply for citizenship. In the years that followed, immigration revitalized the Chinese population in America but it also aggravated the old problems of unemployment, poor health care, and overcrowding in the Chinatowns. During this period, the Chinese in America attained an image as a "model minority" because they seemed to overcome prejudice and hardships through hard work and patience. This image changed in the 1960's and 1970's when the Civil Rights and Anti-War Movements aroused Chinese Americans into joining the struggle for equality and justice.



A CHRONOLOGY OF CHINESE AMERICAN HISTORY

THE OPEN DOOR

1839 to 1842 - Opium War with England

1842 onwards - Peasants look to lands abroad to better lives because social and economic conditions in China have deteriorated due to western intervention, rebellions, and natural catastrophes.

1845 to 1873 - The demand for cheap labor around the world creates the "Coolie Trade" sending Chinese overseas under slavlike conditions.

THE CHINA BOYS

1848 - Gold is discovered in California.

1850 - The Chinese population in San Francisco grows from 787 in 1849 to 4,018. The first Chinese newspaper is published in 1854.

1852 - 20,025 Chinese come to California. This is the beginning of large immigration from China.

Foreign Miner's Tax enacted in California, endorsed largely against the Chinese. Other states pass similar taxes.

1854 - The California Supreme Court rules that laws prohibiting the testimony of Blacks and Indians in cases involving whites also applies to the Chinese.

MEN WHO MOVED MOUNTAINS

1860's to 1880's - Movement of the Chinese into AGRICULTURE, LAND RECLAMATION FISHING, AND MANUFACTURING. Their success in each of these areas arouses Anti-Chinese sentiments.

1865 to 1869 - Some 15,000 Chinese work on the TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD.

1867 - 2,000 Chinese railroad workers strike in an attempt to get higher wages and better working conditions.

1869 - The completion of the TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD spurs the population growth of the West and the development of its natural wealth.

THE CHINESE QUESTION

1870's to 1900 - Height of Anti-Chinese agitation throughout the West. Rioting is widespread Los Angeles (1871) and Rock Springs, Wyo. (1885). Laws are passed depriving the Chinese of their livelihood and civil rights.

1882 - Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act. Enforced through amendments until 1943. This act stopped large Chinese immigration for 60 years.

1890's onwards - Chinese confined to Chinatowns limited to work in laundries, restaurants, and as domestic servants.

1910's to 1930's - All Chinese immigrants detained and questioned at Angel Island because some tried to enter the U.S. illegally.

THE TWAIN SHALL MEET

1898 - Groups like the Chinese American Citizens' Alliance organize to protect the civil rights of the Chinese in America.

1900's onwards - Chinese in America support efforts to overthrow the Manchu rulers in China.

1920's to 1940's - There is a slow growth of an American born Chinese population which begins to adopt many American middle class values and customs.

1930's to 1940's - U.S. Chinese buy millions in war bonds to help China in the Sino-Japanese War.

THE POSSIBLE DREAM

1941 to 1945 - World War II. Chinese Americans join war industries and the armed forces.

1943 - Chinese Exclusion Act is repealed. Chinese are given the right to naturalize and a token quota of 105 set for Chinese immigration.

1950's onwards - Gradual increase in Chinese immigration. Separated families are reunited.

1965 - Last restrictions on Chinese immigration removed. Influx causes the Chinese American population to grow to 434,000 by 1970.

1965 to 1970's - The Civil Rights and Anti-War Movements stimulate the fight for equality and creates ethnic awareness among young Chinese Americans.

1968 to 1969 - Chinese Americans join strikes on college campuses which give rise to the Asian American Movement and demands for ethnic studies.

1969 to 1970's - Community organizations appear to meet the social needs of Chinatown and other Asian communities.

1974 - U.S. Supreme Court rules that San Francisco Schools must provide special help to non-English speaking Chinese students. This decision affects minority students across the nation. (Lau vs. Nichols)