



# NEW 'n' NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

July, 1981

NOTE - NO MEETING IN JULY OR AUGUST

As usual, our Society will be on its Annual Vacation in August. We have decided not to have a meeting in July - since it would fall too close to the Lotus Festival Date. We hope that you will be supporting the Society by being there to help.

LOTUS FESTIVAL - JULY 11th & 12th - The Lotus Festival is coming up in July. This colorful event highlights the cultural aspects of all Asian ethnic groups in the Los Angeles area. Once again we will be participating selling Pineapples-on-a-stick. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year. WE NEED YOU ... AND YOU..... AND YOU..... to give us 1 - 2 - or 3 hours of your time!! We need help in cutting, selling and manning the booth. It can be FUN, when there are lots of hands to help. Please contact our Chairman, Howard Quon at 393-7339 and volunteer your hours, or assist in any way. THANKS...

SPRING DINNER - The Spring dinner meeting held on Sunday, May 31 at the Golden Palace Restaurant, introduced to the community the Society's current project - Chinatown Los Angeles: Yesterday & Today", involving a walking tour of both Old and New Chinatown to be given on specific Saturdays from July 18 through Nov. 21..

The dinner was well attended by almost 250 persons, with California Secretary of State March Fong Eu as honor guest. Popular screen and television personality Keye Luke had originally agreed to be master of ceremonies, but at the last moment was called for an out-of-town assignment. However, President Chuck Yee, with a bit of arm-twisting and a lot of persuasion, was able to induce Gilbert Leong to take over the duties. Considering the short notice given, Gil did an admirable job (his "better half" Florence confided that Gil had stayed home that day to practice his speech). Many thanks Gil, for giving up your fun-time to help the Society out of a desperate situation.

Dinner Chairperson Ella Quan and her hard-working committee presented a stimulating program which had all the earmarks for an enjoyable and memorable evening -- a large dose of humor, a great deal of enthusiasm, and a wealth of historical facts. Following an overview introduction by Project Director Charles Wong, a very clever skit with many wonderful photos of Los Angeles Chinatown past and present, uncovered the producing and acting talents of Munson Kwok and Jerry Shue, and Guy Lee (who graciously stepped in for Keye Luke - thanks Guy!!), as well as the scripting talents of George Yee, who also gave a scintillating presentation that had the crowd in "stitches". Presented in the unique Yee manner, this was a most clever way of drawing enthusiasm from the audience and raised much-needed funds for the Society's Chinatown walking tours. Assisting George was Jocelyn Lew, a combination of both beauty and talent.



Cont'd. -

Society member Tyrus Wong, outstanding artist and illustrator, donated a beautiful "original" painting from his Christmas card collection to be used as a raffle prize - a very tidy sum was reached as a result of this. Thank you, Tyrus!

The Society also thanks Ella Quan and her committee for their untiring efforts in the planning and coordinating of this outstanding event. The committee in alphabetical order, are: Suellen Cheng, Kaza Dong, Ron Klusa, Munson Kwok, Margie Lew, Emma Louie, Marilyn Quon, Jerry Shue, Bill Yee, Chuck Yee, Elsie Yee, George Yee, Kenneth Yee, Mary Yee, Helen Young.

Margie Lew

CHINATOWN LOS ANGELES: YESTERDAY & TODAY -

Mark your CALENDER now for a BIG EVENT!! Grand opening of the tours Saturday, July 18. 10:00am Chinese Methodist Church on Hill Street. Excitement !! Ceremonies !! More to come.....

PUBLIC THANK YOU's - At the dinner our two photograpers: Alvin Chan (new member) and Howard Quon. "Yesterday" Bettye Ellison, Bill Chun-Hoon, Howard Quon, Suellen Cheng & Ron Kluza. Working on Publicity, Stephen Chang - calligraphy on brochure, and Frank Kwan KNBC - planning.

Publicity Committee (Walking Tour brochure development); Suellen Cheng, Munson Kwok, Chong Lew, Chuck Yee, Mary Yee, Elsie Yee, George Yee, and Helen Young.

Special Thank You: Chong Lew for aspects in tour designing and for design and layout of the project brochure.

MUNSON KWOK

25th ANNIVERSARY - San Luis Obispo County Historical Museum is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. The theme for the year is "Chinese in San Luis Obispo" consisting of artifacts donated by the "Ah Louis" family.

Ah Louis was one of the early chinese pioneer, who settled in the San Luis Obispo area. He contracted the Chinese labor for the railroad, tunnels, highways, farms and etc. He became a spokesman for all Orientals and a tycoon in the area. His family is still very active in the area, - Cholly Young Louis, 88 yrs. old, is the past president of San Luis Obispo County Historical Society - Howard Louis, 73, the youngest still operates the Ah Louis Store.

CONDOLENCES: The passing of Mr. Walter K. Chung, a member of the Society, brings our sincerest condolences to the members of his family. Mr. Chung was the founder of Globe Paper Co. He supported the Society's Oral History Project by being interviewed last year. His experiences in many fields including farming, business and in baseball will be treasured. He was one of the members of the 1927 Chinese Baseball Team that was featured in the last issue of the Gum Saan Journal.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Congratulations to Ruby L. Louie and Barbara Ching, for their recent special achievements. Ruby has been honored Volunteer Activist Award 1981 for her outstanding contributions to the community. She is the president of the Friends of Chinatown Library. With her dedication, the Chinatown community will be soon seeing the improvement of the Chinatown Library.

BARBARA has been named Aerospace Corporation's Asian-Pacific American of the Year. As an engineer, she was honored not only for her professional contributions and career achievements, but also for her outstanding volunteer work in her company activities as well as the community. Both are very active in our Society.



ORAL HISTORY - Our Southern California Chinese American Oral History Project is still in business, and still needs your help!! We are still short of our goal and need approximately 200 volunteer hours to fulfill it. We need VOLUNTEERS to talk to these old-timers and to transcribe tapes..... Call Suellen Cheng Kwok or Munson Kwok at (213) 828-6911.

Jean Wong has completed her work with 11 good interviews. This year's oral history committee includes Stan Lau, Emma Louie, Ella Quon, Jerry Shue, Charles Wong and Sue Yee, with Chairperson Munson Kwok. The committee's purpose is to monitor the Project and to explore and recommend policy to the Board in this subject area. Anyone interested is welcome to join. Give Munson a call.

Member Hank & June Behrens took a 30 day tour of China reminiscence the places where he spent World War II. Hank, aboard the S/S President Harrison was in Shanghai at the outbreak of the war. Ordered by the President of the U.S., they tried to scuttle the ship on the rocks, but the water wasn't deep enough. He was captured and spent the entire war years in a POW camp near Shanghai.

MEMBERSHIP - Don't forget to pay your dues for the year and how about inviting a friend to join? Time is short and we need your help now...

REMEMBER JULY 11 & 12, - COME OUT AND HELP US MAN THE BOOTH AT THE LOTUS FESTIVAL AND ENJOY THE ENTERTAINMENT PUT ON BY THE MANY ETHNICAL GROUPS..... SEE YOU THERE.....

NEWS & NOTES is published monthly. If you have an article that would be interesting to the Society and its members, please send it to Mary Yee, 4721 Konya Dr. Torrance, Ca. 90503.