



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

June 1982

A REMINDER -- NO MONTHLY MEETINGS UNTIL SEPTEMBER!!!

SANTA BARBARA FIELD TRIP Due to the efficient advanced planning by Johnny Yee and Ella Quan, the Santa Barbara field trip on Saturday, May 22 was enjoyable, interesting, and was completed without a hitch! At the Santa Barbara Historical Society Museum, the group was warmly welcomed by the Museum docents, and given an extensive tour of the premises. Of special interest was the Chee Kung Tong Shrine with its own unique history. A visit to Santa Barbara's beautiful Court House, and a trip to the streets where Chinese lived and worked, were also outstanding from a historical viewpoint. In the Chinatown area, the group had its own special docent in the person of member Ella Quan, who was born and raised in Santa Barbara, and was able to divulge some very interesting facts about places and people. After dinner at the Skandia Restaurant, bus driver Tom Moore headed homeward. On reaching Castelar School's underground parking lot at approximately 10 P.M., there were 45 tired but happy travellers, all of whom stated that they thoroughly enjoyed the trip, and were looking forward to the next one.

The Society extends thanks and appreciation to the Santa Barbara Historical Society Museum docents who, through their warm welcome to CHSSC, and their interesting discussions on beautiful Santa Barbara, made the trip a happy as well as an educational adventure.

FROM THE SOUTHLAND TO THE MAINLAND Beulah Kwoh has just returned from a 4-week trip to mainland China, where she served as liaison and commentator for a photo and film tribute honoring the late James Wong Howe, one of Hollywood's top photographers. The project was assembled by Peter Yung, Mr. Howe's protegee.

Several years ago, in honor of Mr. Howe, the Society sponsored a comprehensive photo display which, in turn, generated the idea for the current exhibit, which opened in Beijing on June 3, and is now being displayed in Shanghai. Along with the photo display, Beulah also presented her excellent award-winning film "JAMES WONG HOWE -- THE MAN AND HIS MOVIES", which was shown to Society members several years ago.

For a portion of the trip, Beulah was a guest of the China Film Association, along with well-known Hollywood director Daniel Mann and his wife. Movies shown in Shanghai, Beijing and Xian were THE ROSE TATTOO, PICNIC, HUD, THE MOLLY MAGUIRES, THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA, -- all photographed by the talented Mr. Howe. His widow, Sanora Babb Howe, is a member of CHSSC, and an author with a number of books and other publications to her credit.

SYMPATHY goes to Howard Quon and his family on the recent death of his mother, Quon Jeong Shee.

(over, please)

THE SOCIETY THANKS

... the Wong Family Association of Los Angeles for their ^{donation} of \$100.00 to CHSSC in appreciation of a portrait of the old association building in Ferguson Alley, located in the Chinatown of the pre-Union Station days. The portrait was prepared by members Howard Quon, Munson Kwok and Suellen Kwok from an original, made available by Willie Soo Hoo.

...also, a "thank you" to Howard Quon for his special donation to the Society in memory of his mother.

WHO'S IN THE NEWS Munson Kwok was named "Asian-Pacific American of the Year" by the Aerospace Corporation, where he is a research scientist in the Aerophysics Laboratory. Alan Kan, president of the Aerospace Asian American Association, presented the award, stating that "Dr. Kwok's personal contributions to laser technology ranks among the finest in the nation." Congratulations, Munson, for an honor well-deserved. Two other CHSSC members have also received this award -- George Yee, 1980 and Barbara Ching, 1981. The Society really has some winners!

Member William Go presented his uncle, Mr. George Go, with a year's membership in CHSSC to celebrate his 70th birthday. Mr. Go, owner of the Go Transportation Co., Inc., lives in Bakersfield, and was a pioneer in the trucking industry in the San Joaquin Valley, beginning in the 1920's. Sounds like an interesting candidate for the Society's oral history project. Are you listening, Suellen Kwok??

Congratulations to Bernice Sam, who became a grandmother for the third time when baby Michael made his appearance right on cue -- on Mother's Day, no less. Bernice has contributed many hours to the Society's oral history project by interviewing a number of early pioneers in the southern California area.

Welcome to Linda Lau, newest Life Member.

On May 28, at California State University, Los Angeles, Chuck Yee presented a lecture and slide show, "The Forgotten Pioneers", relating the history of the Chinese in southern California. The presentation was part of a series on California history, and was enthusiastically received by a large student audience.

ORAL HISTORY The oral history summarizers have reached the 100-hour mark. These volunteers have been working faithfully each Saturday morning at Castelar School. MORE HELP IS NEEDED! Call Suellen or Munson Kwok, 828-6911, who will be more than happy to accept any assistance on this very worthwhile and important project. Desperately needed are interviewers (English, Chinese, or both) to talk to the "old-timers", who have so much to tell about the early Chinese history in southern California.

NEWS 'n NOTES will not be published again until the latter part of August. However, if you have any items to be printed, call Margie Lew, 222-4375, or send them to me at 2346 N. Indiana Ave., Los Angeles 90032, and I will include them in the August issue.

See you all at the September meeting!! And have a relaxed and enjoyable summer!!