

# NEWS & NOTES

## CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

appreciation of our chinese american heritage • a non-profit organization • 1648 redcliff street • los angeles, ca. 90026

1648 Redcliff Street Los Angeles 90026

March 1982

PILGRIMAGE TO LANG STATION September 5, 1876 was a great day in California's history -- the day of the Golden Spike ceremonies celebrating the joining together of the northern and southern portions of the Southern Pacific Railroad at Lang Station, 15 miles northeast of Newhall. However, before the railway could be completed, a tunnel had to be built -- a 7,000-ft tunnel which was to be excavated through a mountain of solid rock. More than 3,000 Chinese laborers were recruited to build the railroad and tunnel, and it was to honor these hardworking, long-suffering men that the Golden Spike Centennial on September 5, 1976 was planned and sponsored by CHSSC, along with the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society and various other historical and community groups.

This occasion was the Society's first significant event, and what a memorable day it was! Hundreds of spectators witnessed the dedication of a bronze plaque presented by the Society. Assisting California Secretary of State March Fong Eu in the presentation was Stan Lau, Society president at the time. A highlight of the day's events was the re-enactment of the driving of the Golden Spike, marking the completion of the railroad. Mrs. Eu hammered the symbolic spike in place, assisted by Chuck Yee, chairperson of the Lang Festival Committee.

Five years have passed since that memorable day, and it seems appropriate that the Society should journey back to this historic area. A field trip, now being coordinated by Chuck Yee, is planned for Sunday, April 18. All participants will meet at Lang Station at 10:00 A.M., and will proceed from that point to a tour of the Saugus Station, the Golden Spike area, and, possibly, a look at the San Fernando Tunnel. Maps will be provided at the April meeting, or contact Chuck at 542-2409 and a map will be mailed to you.

Things to remember:

- ..pack a lunch (for a picnic at Hart Park)
- ..wear comfortable walking shoes
- ..BE ON TIME!

Sounds like fun, doesn't it? See you at Lang Station on Sunday, April 18th, at 10:00 A.M. sharp!

GOOD NEWS The Southern California Chinese American Oral History Project has received \$45,500 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for indexing and summarizing the tape interviews. This will complete a project begun in 1978 as a joint undertaking by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Society's original oral history work group with Stan Lau as the original coordinator. Several bound copies of the indices will be created for UCLA libraries, with one copy to be presented to CHSSC.

The Society's participation in this latest phase involves the providing of tapes for duplications, equipment, and VOLUNTEERS. Help is greatly needed for indexing and summarizing. Our commitment is 300 hours of work which involves listening to tape segments and writing a short summary on each segment. No special skills are needed.



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Be a volunteer, and become a part of this major work in Chinese American history. Participants will be acknowledged in the book. Contact Suellen or Munson Kwok at (213) 825-1700 or 825-2974 (UCLA), or 828-6911 (home, nights). Or write Suellen Cheng, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3232 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, 90024.

COMING EVENT A one-day field trip to Santa Barbara is being planned for Saturday, May 22. Tentative plans include a chartered bus, a trip to the museum and Civic Center, a "bring your own" picnic lunch, and dinner in town before heading home to Los Angeles. Further details will be forthcoming, but keep this date in mind.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS Congratulations to Marlene Gordon for making the front page of the Los Angeles Times View Section in an article "Mystery Tour: They're on the Road Again -- Destination??" Marlene has been conducting her "mystery tours" around the Southland since 1978, and the "mystery" is that no one knows where they are going until they get there. To find what surprises could be in store for you, contact Marlene Gordon, P.O. Box 35269, Los Angeles, 90035.

Angi Wong appeared on KCET's Ch. 28 on Jan. 17, representing CHSSC. Her discussion centered on the cultural and historical aspects of the Chinese New Year. Angi also was mentioned in an article published in the Los Angeles Herald Examiner on March 7, emphasizing the significant part played by the E. Manford Evans Community Adult School, located on the edge of Chinatown. As school counselor, Angi stated that "For many of the city's immigrant population, Evans Adult School is their only source of information. These people want so much to learn to speak and write English so that they can find employment. They also want to learn the basic socialization skills that will help them to blend into the American culture".

Irving Lai, president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, appeared on "Gallery", KTLA Ch. 5, on Feb. 10. His discussion on Chinatown and Chinese New Year was highlighted with slides from the Society's collection.

At the March 3 meeting, Vice President Emma Louie interviewed Mrs. Grace Wong Chow, one of southern California's outstanding pioneer women. In recounting her growing-up years as a young Chinese girl in Fresno, Mrs. Chow delighted the audience with her customary wit and charm, and included detailed descriptions of numerous events of her childhood. What a remarkable memory for one who is 80+ years young!

Stan Lau was guest speaker on March 6 at a fund-raising dinner sponsored by the San Diego Chinese Women's Club. Stan's presentation, with slide show, highlighted the history of the Chinese in southern California in the years 1850-1900. A letter of acknowledgement was received from President Beverly Hom, expressing the group's great enjoyment of the evening's program.

SPECIAL THANKS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE A walking tour of New Chinatown on January 23 was organized by Munson Kwok and George Yee for the Aerospace (Corp.) Asian American Association. Over sixty persons enjoyed the tour and the dinner following. A letter of thanks and a donation was received from the group. Special thanks are extended to Ella Quan, George and Elsie Yee, Barbara Ching, Emma Louie, Al and Florence Lum, Munson and Suellen Kwok, and Gene Moy for contributing their time to assist in this particular project. Tour organizers Munson and George were also responsible for preparing the photo exhibit on Chinese American history, which was seen last year by thousands of Aerospace Corporation employees.

Our library collection has been enriched with the addition of a gift copy of Printers and Publishers in Southern California, 1850-1876, a valuable research volume compiled by Edwin Carpenter and published by La Siesta Press. The donor is Walt Wheelock, a long-time Society member, who also happens to be the owner of La Siesta Press. Many thanks, Walt, for your continued interest in the Society.

At the Jan. 13 Board meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to highly commend George Yee for his heroic efforts this past year in raising the membership level of the Society. Membership dues are the major source of our operating funds, and due to George's untiring enthusiasm, CHSSC continues to function on an even keel. Many thanks.



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RENEW YOUR DUES Membership Secretary Ella Quan is reminding everyone that a new membership year began on January 1st. Show your support of our programs by joining, renewing membership, or bringing in a new member or two. Contact Ella at 291-5388 on any questions regarding your dues.

NEWS 'n NOTES is published each month, containing details of coming events, community affairs, and news items pertaining to Society members. Please send all information to Margie Lew, 2346 N. Indiana Ave., Los Angeles 90032, or call 222-4375 (evenings).



NEWS FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES At the turn of the century, it was estimated that there were only 1,900-2,000 Chinese in Los Angeles County. In comparison, there were several thousand Chinese in the Riverside area, especially during the three major harvest periods. It appears that Riverside was the second largest Chinese settlement in California, San Francisco being the first. A permanent Chinatown was established in Riverside in the 1890's, but gradually declined until the last building was demolished in 1977. The site, now vacant, has been recognized by the City and County of Riverside, and by the State of California as a historic site, and very possibly appears to contain a great deal of archeological information.

CHSSC President Eugene Moy has been working with the Riverside County Board of Education, owner of the land, to protect the archeological resources. He is requesting that any persons with knowledge of the Chinese or the Chinatown in Riverside contact him immediately. Information and documentation, including photographs, will be helpful in the development of an archeological program. Please write c/o CHSSC, or call Gene Moy directly, 847-9582 (work) or 243-7601 (home) to set up an interview.

Members of the Desert Jade Women's Club, based in Phoenix, Arizona, donated to the Society and the Chinatown Library copies of their booklet, LOTUS POD, an interesting collection of articles on the history and customs of the early Chinese in Arizona. The booklet was researched and written by members of Desert Jade, an organization of Chinese women, many of whom are second and third generation Arizonans.

CHSSC member Dolores Wong assisted the Desert Jade members in making plans for their participation in our bicentennial walking tour last fall.

MISCELLANY The Los Angeles Conservancy has scheduled a film program, "Los Angeles, Wonder City of the West", consisting of early promotional films and shorts documenting Los Angeles, 1898-1946. Some of the films are being shown publicly for the first time; at least one will have some footage on Chinatown (1917). The two-hour program will be shown on Sunday, May 23 at 2:30 PM for groups/organizations, and at 7:30 PM for individuals, at the Director's Guild, 7950 Sunset Blvd. The Society will be reserving seats the group rate (\$6.00); a sign-up sheet will be available at the April 7 general meeting, or you may mail in your reservation checks to us by April 15. Individual reservations (\$8.00) may be made by calling the Conservancy, 623-CITY.

Information, please? Between 1898 and 1949, the San Francisco Chinese Telephone Exchange, known as "Hom Seen Goon" or "Calling Wire Office", served the city's Chinatown. During the first coast-to-coast telephone connection ceremony in 1915, when the East Coast was linked to the Panama-Pacific exhibition in San Francisco, most of the speakers were VIP's of the phone company and the government. Dr. Alexander Graham Bell spoke to his old assistant, Thomas Watson; President (of the United States) Wilson spoke to President (of AT&T) Vail. Probably the most unusual conversation took place between Loo Kum Shu, manager of San Francisco's Chinatown phone exchange, and Wong Y. Sue, Chinese passenger agent for Southern Pacific Railroad in Boston. Unfortunately, history does not report what the conversation was -- the two parties were speaking Cantonese!!

--From Pacific Telephone "Openline", Jan. 1982



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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ACTIVE MEMBER	\$10
ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER (SAME ADDRESS)	\$ 5
CONTRIBUTING MEMBER (STUDENT & SENIOR CITIZENS-60 YRS)	\$ 5
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER	\$25
LIFE MEMBER	\$100

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
1648 Redcliff St., Los Angeles, California 90026

Please accept my application for membership as \_\_\_\_\_ member in the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California.

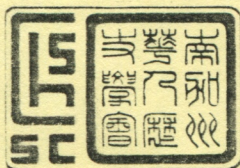
Enclosed is my remittance in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ for annual dues.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Firm Affiliation(if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address(Street) \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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



# CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Our SPRING DINNER MEETING is scheduled for

Saturday, MAY 1st, 1982

TOPIC: THE EXCLUSION LAW OF 1882: A CHINESE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

SPEAKER: DR. LOREN CHAN

Place: Szechuan Palace - 727 N. Broadway  
located in Food Center

Time: 6-6:30 pm, No-Host time; 6:30 pm dinner

Cost: \$14.00 per person

SPECIAL EXHIBIT: Display of documents, certificates of residence, and other certificates of identity for Chinese persons during the exclusion period.

On May 6, 1882, one hundred years ago, the first Chinese exclusion law was enacted by Congress to exclude the laborer and to limit Chinese immigration. The exclusion laws, finally repealed in 1943, had many lasting effects on the lives of Chinese Americans. It is therefore entirely fitting that our historical society should commemorate the centennial of the 1882 law.

Dr. Loren Chan, our speaker for the evening, is an electronics technician in the computer industry. From 1970 to 1981, Dr. Chan taught in the California State University system; first at Northridge, then Hayward and at San Jose where, for several years, he was Associate Professor of History. His field has been in American History, Chinese American History, and Modern Chinese History. With this rich background in history, Dr. Chan brings to us a broad perspective on the exclusion period.

The SPECIAL EXHIBIT will consist of documents and identification certificates required by the exclusion laws. These were collected from the Federal Archives and Records Center and personal possessions of Society members.

Please join us on May 1st for an informative and especially important meeting. Bring your friends and fill a table.

The Dinner Committee takes pleasure in announcing a nine-course dinner (Mandarin cuisine - not too hot!) which will include a cold hors d'oeuvres plate, Kung Pao chicken, Beef Szechuan, dessert, etc.

Please send in your reservations ASAP, no later than April 21st. This helps us make concrete plans with the restaurant as well as guaranteeing your reservation. Mail to: Mrs. Anna Lowrey, 540 E. Fernfield Dr. Monterey Park 91754. No reservations held without accompaniment of your check.

Any questions, call Anna Lowrey: 722-1264, Kaza Dong: 629-7717, Mary Yee: 542-2409, Suellen Cheng Kowk: 828-6911.

Parking hint: Szechuan Palace gives 2 hr. validated parking in Food Center underground parking; \$1.00 each half-hr. thereafter, \$7.50 max.



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CUT OFF

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Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons

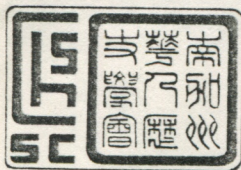
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_, days; \_\_\_\_\_, eves.

Make check payable to Chinese Historical Society of Southern California





# CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

DATE: First Wednesday

APRIL 7, 1982

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Castelar School Auditorium  
College & Hill Streets, Chinatown  
(parking underground from Hill)

TOPIC: Personal Observations on Chinese  
Life in Hawaii

SPEAKER: Mr. ALBERT LUM

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Albert Lum, an active member of our Society, is an engineer with Aerospace Corporation. Al was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. Although he received his education on the mainland U.S. at Harvard and MIT universities, Al spent his youth and early adult years in Honolulu. He will share with us a first-hand account of the customs and traditions observed by the Chinese in Hawaii. Like most Chinese in this state, Al is of Chungshan origin. Chungshan is a county of the delta region in Kwangtung province, one of the areas from which the early Chinese immigrants came.

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Be sure to come! Join us for another great evening. Aloha!

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* SEE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ON MAY DINNER MEETING \*  
\* ON NEXT PAGE \*  
\* \* \* \* \*