



# 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

November 1985

## "BIG TEN" DINNER RATES A B-I-G "10"!!

As far as anniversary dinners go, the Society's 10th anniversary dinner was a real blockbuster! The event, held at the Golden Shark Restaurant in Monterey Park on Saturday, Oct. 19, was attended by 390 persons.

Opening the program was Glen Yee's beautiful rendition of "God Bless America". Glen is the elder son of Chuck and Mary Yee, and a talented and personable young man. Welcoming remarks by President Munson Kwok was the beginning of a full and exciting program. Master of ceremonies Frank Kwan of KNBC-TV introduced several guests -- newly-elected Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Woo, Monterey Park Councilwoman Lily Lee Chen, and noted actor James Hong. Next on the program was a slide-show, "Ten Years of History-making", showing many events and projects sponsored by CHSSC, narrated by Frank Kwan and James Hong. Then came the presentations to the Society's past presidents -- Stan Lau, Founding President, succeeded by George Yee, Gerald Shue, Chuck Yee, and Eugene Moy -- each with his own measure of leadership, dedication, and innovative ideas, all of which contributed mightily to the growth and progress of CHSSC. Of no small significance were the presidents' "first ladies", who also gave their wholehearted support to the Society -- Dora Lau, Elsie Yee, Mary Yee.

Two pioneers, prominent in their respective fields and well-loved by the community, were honored -- members Tyrus Wong and Gilbert Leong. A beautiful commentary by Ruby Ling Louie accompanied an outstanding slide-show which presented the notable accomplishments of the "AA twins" -- artist (Tyrus) and architect (Gilbert), each a genius in his own field. As Society members, both have contributed their talents in various ways -- Gilbert for the CHSSC logo and the design for recently-acquired membership pins, and Tyrus for his artwork on the 10th anniversary logo and on other projects. The Society is highly honored to have these two pioneers as active and dedicated members, so gracious with their time and exceptional talents.

As anyone knows, none of the Society's semi-annual dinners are complete without a contribution in the entertainment line from one or all of the Yee family. This night was no exception, as George Yee and his zany "Crazy Hatters" took center stage and had the audience literally in stitches! If there had been more room between tables, everyone would have been rolling in the aisles! As George read the script (as only George can do it), the skits were being acted out -- so clever and hilarious that the show had to be seen to be believed -- difficult to describe in detail, except to say that the characters' faces were not in their normal places, and although they were "dressed to the nines", it was quite impossible to see who were playing the various parts until the end when each was unmasked, or rather un-hatted, to be specific. It was then that the audience discovered that under those crazy gigantic hats lurked the smiling faces of the Yee brothers -- Chuck, Johnson, Joe and Bill.

Very clever, these Yees -- but how will they ever be able to top this?

Life Members were honored, and to represent all 60 of them, Evelyn Cucchiarella presented two special Life Membership pins to Grace Chow and to Johnny Yee (brother Chuck accepted John's pin for him). The 106 Charter members were also recognized.

All in all, it was a most outstanding evening, celebrating the Society's first ten

years of achievement. There was an abundance of excitement, warmth, friendship, hilarity, good will, and an air of satisfaction for yet another successful event. As usual, this success was only made possible by the work and dedication of many persons. The Society extends a warm "thank you" to all who had a part in this memorable celebration, with special thanks to the following:

- ...Evelyn Cucchiarella, chairperson, dinner committee, and her assistants Ella Quan, Sue Yee, Munson Kwok, Suellen Kwok, Eugene Moy, Cindy Fong, Helen Lee, Wanda Leong, Mary Yee, Chuck Yee, Bob Large, Gerald Shue, George Yee, Susan Moy, Dawes Lee, Isobel Lew.
- ...Reception committee -- Marie Wong, Helen Lee, Dorothy Siu, Isobel Lew.
- ...Paul Louie, Ella Quan, Margie Lew, co-chairpersons of slide-show committee, and assistants Gerald Shue, Gene Moy, Franklin Mah, Carlos and Beverly Picazo, Chuck Yee, Munson Kwok, Carol Nye.
- ...Frank Kwan and James Hong, masters of ceremonies.
- ...the Yee brothers, George, Chuck, Johnson, Joe and Bill, for their comedy skit.
- ...Ruby Louie and Munson Kwok, coordinators of slide-show presentation on pioneers Tyrus Wong and Gilbert Leong, with invaluable assistance from the two honorees.
- ...George Yee, Glen Yee, and Joshus Ma, for their calligraphy and work on the various plaques and certificates.
- ...Door prize donors -- Paul's Kitchen, Mei Lan Florist, Sharon Hoy, International Grocery Co., monetary donation from Mrs. Beth Woo, which were made into two beautiful money leis by Beverly Picazo. Other donors were Ed and Evelyn Cucchiarella.

#### WHO'S IN THE NEWS

- ...Beulah Quo was honored at a dinner in San Francisco on Oct. 26 to raise money for the Asian Women's Resource Center, which promotes various programs for Asian women in the community. As the keynote speaker, Beulah's topic of discussion was the progress of Asian women in the media. 320 persons attended the dinner. The sum of \$15,000 was raised for the Center. Congratulations, Beulah .....
- ...a recent letter from Ruthanne Lum McCunn, author of the recently-published book, "Sole Survivor", reveals that she is planning a trip to China next month to combine business with pleasure. In Toishan, she will meet with the publishers of the Chinese translation of her biographical novel, "Thousand Pieces of Gold", and do some research for her new book, then spend Christmas with her mother and family in Hong Kong. Have a wonderful trip, Ruthanne, and perhaps on your return, you can send us a paragraph or two on your journey back to your "roots".
- ...Congratulations to Judy Chu, who won the top number of votes in her campaign for membership on the Garvey School District Board of Education, which encompasses Monterey Park, Rosemead and Alhambra. Judy and her campaign volunteers walked door-to-door, covering every precinct in the district.
- ...member Carol Nye, talented photo-journalist, will have a one-woman showing, "China-town Today", at the Otis Art Institute, 2401 Wilshire Blvd., from Dec. 2 through 14. Reception will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 7 P.M.
- ...a complimentary copy of the newly-published book, "Liberty - the Statue and the American Dream", was presented to CHSSC by the National Geographical Society. The book contains a special chapter on Chinese American history, "Iron Rails, Golden Mountain", written from materials sent to the magazine by the Society. The publication commemorates the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty on Oct. 28, 1986.
- ...and speaking of Lady Liberty, CHSSC is now a part of America's Family Album. A group photo with the beautiful gold-and-red banner, taken in Chinese Camp on the 1985 Mother Lode trip, was sent to Eastman Kodak to be included in a historic exhibit at the Statue of Liberty National Monument. Information on the exact location of the photo will be forthcoming, and will be included in the News 'n Notes.

#### CHRISTMAS PARTY NOTE

Chairperson Evelyn Cucchiarella is reminding all cooks and bakers to each prepare enough food for at least 10 persons. Any questions? Call (213)726-1035.

### THE SOCIETY THANKS

- ...Dawes and Helen Lee, Gerry Shue and their T-shirt committee -- Art Young, Susan Moy, Tyrus Wong -- for a successful project. This attractive T-shirt, with Tyrus' impressive 10th anniversary logo, is now a collector's item. All have been sold, due to Dawes' supersalesmanship (although we hear from reliable (?) sources that he was trying really hard to sell the last one, an X-LARGE size, to someone who only wanted a small!!)
- ...Kaza Dong's capable committee, for coordinating the membership pin project. These are very beautiful pins, to be worn with pride (Ruthanne McCunn is wearing hers to China!). Life Members receive special pins at no charge (if lost, replacements cost \$5.00). Regular members may purchase them for a nominal \$3.00.
- ...Kim Tsai of Photo King, who donated to the Society the entire set of her beautiful photos taken at the September Fashion Show.

### MEMOS FROM MEMBERS

News 'n Notes welcomes any contributions and suggestions from members, active or prospective. From Helen Morrison comes the following comments:

"A Night to Remember - What a great 10th anniversary celebration! Many thanks to everyone who participated in such a grand finale to the Society's big event.

A Year to Remember - Such a variety of events and pleasant experiences this year. The Fashion Show was spectacular, and my thanks again to the Fashion Show committee, the beautiful models, and the many people who worked to produce this award-winning event.

A Decade to Remember - The Society has accomplished so much in the past 10 years. I am trying to visualize just how much more we can accomplish in the next decade."

Thanks, Helen, for your thoughtful words.

ATTENTION, BOARD MEMBERS! Helen has a suggestion: permanent name tags for members who attend meetings; press-on tags for visitors and guests only. Good idea. Anyone have any comments?

### MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!!

It's that time again! Single memberships are now \$15.00, with spouse, \$20.00; senior citizens and students, \$5.00; Life Members, \$200.00; Patrons, \$500.00.

### NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 1986

All nominees were elected at the October meeting. President: Ella Y. Quan; Vice-president; Angela Ma Wong; Secretary: Alfred Soo Hoo; Treasurer: Munson A. Kwok; Membership Secretary: Mary Yee; new Board members: Kiphan Kan, Marjorie Lee. Continuing Board members: Ella Quan, Elmo Gambarana, Don Loo, Eugene Moy.

**ANNOUNCING.....Our 63rd Life Member, Ms. Bessie Loo of the Bessie Loo Agency. She will be receiving one of our special Life Member Pins.**

**WELCOME.....New Members, Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Chin, also to Florence Ung Francis, Nellie Yee and Cynthia Wong Carter.**

## MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

Our 10th Anniversary events are done, and we look forward to our next decade with enthusiasm and expectation. I wish to express thanks to all of you, the members, to all our chairs, officers and directors, for making this a memorable two years for the Society. This year, over half of the membership participated actively in some activity. A special thanks to Membership Secretary Kaza Dong, who has efficiently sent you all these interesting messages, journals, and notices for the two years, each month. This task has become enormous because of our large membership. Thanks to the committee of Allen Dong, Kenny, Kathy, Beverly, and Carlos. Guess what? They're Kaza's family.

We now welcome President-elect Ella Quan and her crew for what promises to be an excellent year in 1986. Get involved. To quote one of my favorite past presidents (George Yee):

"WE ARE BIG---FAST--- BEST!"

Let's try to stay that way. Happy Holidays!!

Munson Kwok

## PETER SOO HOO SQUARE

Amid firecrackers, lion dances, folk dancing, Castelar children's dances, historical pictures and clippings, the new Peter Soo Hoo Square in New Chinatown's Central Plaza was dedicated November 14. Peter Soo Hoo was instrumental in the development of New Chinatown when the Old Chinatown was torn down and Union Station was constructed on the site. A switch was pulled, and the new lights in the square came on.

Barbara Jean Lee was mistress of ceremonies. Grand Star restaurant and Member Bill Hong of Hong Kong Low were suppliers of refreshments. He is currently president of the Chinatown Merchants Association. Other Society members seen were Robert Lee, Maye Wong, Edith Jung and her mother, Grand Star owner Him Gin Quon, Howard and Marilyn Quon, Bill Chun-Hoon, Paul Louie, Ella Quan, and Lillian Fong.  
(report filed by Lillian Fong.)

## MOTIONS

At the Annual Meeting, those attending moved to endorse and support the El Pueblo Chinese American Museum, thus ratifying a Board motion of last December. A report is to be submitted to the membership on the activities of that community support within three months.

At the Board Meeting of November 12, the Board voted to support the Riverside Chinatown Centennial Ball Committee's effort to raise money for the archaeological publication with a symbolic \$100 donation. It also moved to support Dr. Patricia Lin as our project director for bringing the "Early Chinese Farming Experience" photoexhibit to Chinatown. Funding will be sought from the California Council for the Humanities. Other sponsors: Chinese American Council of Orange County and CSLB Asian American Studies Center.

## COMMITTEES

Thanks to the Nominations Committee of Gerald Shue, chair, Chuck Yee and Evelyn Cucchiarella. A Consortium Committee has been formed to negotiate with El Pueblo Park on helping with the Chinese American Museum. Committee includes Ella Quan, Paul Louie, Eugene Moy, Robert Large, Al SooHoo, and Munson Kwok.

## TYRUS WONG

Our pioneering member is having a major display of his artistic kites at the Craft & Folk Art Museum, 5814 Wilshire Blvd, thru February.(213-937-5544).

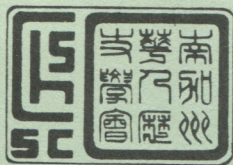
DATES: Dec. 9. 7:30P. Castelar. Board Meet.\*\*\*\*\*Feb. 9, 1986. Chinese New Year.

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# CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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29	30	31				

TIME: 6:00pm



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For information call: MARY YEE (213) 542-2409