



NEW 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

February 1980

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The path our society has paved in the past four years has been tremendous. It has been good to see new members join us with each passing year. With pride we are learning and recording the many contributions our forefathers made here in America. This year will be an exciting one. We have our new project The Golden Wok where we will explore the history of Chinese cooking here in this country. We are also using this as a fund raiser for a photo exhibit in preparation for the Bicentennial Celebration of Los Angeles. We need You to help make this a success! Our oral history is in its second year and much help is still needed, for the time is short, as the generation before us has much history to be recorded and they are up there in age. We need interviewers and transcribers. Another big event is the Historical National Conference which will be held in San Francisco in October.

Join us as we make our way forward, we have many exciting programs this year, and we need your help in making our Society grow, as our former President said, Bigger and Better.

CHUCK YEE, President

HAPPY YEAR OF THE MAH-LO (MONKEY)!---To each of you -- good luck, happiness, peace and prosperity. According to the calendar, Chinese New Year falls on Saturday, Feb. 16. Chinatown's traditional parade will take place on Friday, Feb. 15, beginning at 8 P.M. The Society will participate again this year with a marching group, displaying its beautiful red-and-yellow banner, in addition to 60 American flags generously loaned by the Monterey Park Lions Club. Members should call John Yee, parade coordinator, at 572-0459, and let him know how many of your family, friends and neighbors will be participating in this exciting event. Let's make it a BIG night for the Society. And if the gods should choose to smile favorably on us, there is a very good chance that it may not rain on our parade!!

Exciting news! The Board of Directors has approved the Golden Wok Awards project, which will take place in late October. The purpose of the project is to exhibit the culinary skills of the best Chinese chefs in the southern California area. Historically, Chinese paintings, ceramics, ~~exit~~ and calligraphy have achieved world-wide recognition through various exhibits. However, the display or competition of Chinese food has not been given the same public exposure.

The project director for the Golden Wok Awards will be Stan Lau; assistant director will be Jerry Shue.

One of the planned activities in conjunction with the awards will be the publication of a cook book, stressing historical aspects of Chinese cooking. The editor will be Margie Lew, who is requesting Society members to submit family recipes, as well as items of historical culinary interest.

For further information, or offers of voluntary service, please contact Stan Lau at: 481-6949 (office).

We all miss Betty Welcome, our former Secretary, who is recuperating from a heart ailment in Kaiser Hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope she'll be back with us soon.

The Chinese New Year souvenir book will be available this month. Among several interesting articles will be the story of Society member Ah Louis, descendant of a famous family of early Chinese pioneers in San Luis Obispo. This should be of special interest, since the Society's field trip, tentatively scheduled for June, will be a journey to this area. Other articles include the legend of the Eight Immortals, and brief histories of outstanding Chinese women in southern California. Since this is 4678, Year of the Monkey, the magazine's cover is one of Society member Tyrus Wong's prize-winning paintings, with the subject being monkeys!! What else?

The souvenir books will be available at the March meeting, at \$2.00 per copy.

Our Oral History Project jointly sponsored by UCLA Asian American Studies Center has been extended to February 1981 since much work remains to be done. Our Society has contributed 511 Volunteer hours. We need your support. Please contact Suellen Cheng, 828-6911.

1979 was an exciting year for our Society.

1980 will be even more exciting.

Our Society operates on a very tight budget
Supported solely by your membership dues
and contributions.

Let us retrace and record the footsteps of
our Forefathers ----- together.

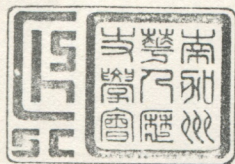
Please renew your 1980 membership now.

George Yee, Membership Chairman

We want to thank Robert and Edith Jung who donated \$50.00 in honor of the marriage of their son, Clifford to Evelyn Shimose, and an additional \$50.00 toward the marriage of their daughter Wendy to Reid Takahashi.

Thanks also to George and Elsie Yee who donated \$50.00 in celebration of the marriage of their daughter Jennie to John Lue.

NEWS 'n NOTES will be 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 No. Indiana Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90032. Or call 222-4375.



CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:

Date: First Wednesday of Month, March 5, 1980
Time: 7:30 p.m. sharp
Place: Castelar Elementary School, Multi-purpose room
850 Yale Street
Los Angeles Chinatown

AGENDA:

Old Business

Oral History Project
Field Trip
Golden Wok
Other

New Business

Annual Budget Estimate
Los Angeles Bicentennial
Historical National Conference
Other

PROGRAM:

" Chinese Grocers in Southern California "

Charles Choy Wong

It is surprising that the Chinese grocery store, so long an integral feature of the Chinese American mosaic, has received very little attention. This is also true for Southern California where Chinese have been in the industry since the 1870's. This month's program speaker, Dr. Wong, will partially redress this situation. His talk will deal with the origins and evolution of the Chinese grocery enterprise; and its significance for Chinese-American history.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ACTIVE MEMBER	\$10.00
CONTRIBUTING MEMBER	\$ 5.00
STUDENT/SR.CIT.(60 YRS)	
INSTITUTIONAL	\$25.00
MEMBER	
LIFE MEMBER	\$100.00

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.

Quarterly newsletter of the Southern California Chinese American Oral History Project, jointly sponsored by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

SECOND INTERVIEWER HIRED

Ms. Bernice Sam, newly hired Project interviewer, is a retired L.A. high school teacher. She is currently an English teacher and nutritionist for Chinese senior citizens in Chinatown. Ms. Sam speaks Sam Yup, Sze Yup, City Cantonese, and Mandarin.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

With Prof. Lucie Hirata back from China for one month, the Committee for the Project met on Jan.23 at UCLA. Present were UCLA Professors Alex Saxton and H.H. Chow, Acting Director Suellen Cheng, Society rep. Munson Kwok and newly appointed Society rep. Gerald Shue, past-president.

PROJECT STATS As of February 1980, 39 men and 33 women have been interviewed. The number in an approximate age range:

Above 90 years	1
80-89	7
70-79	22
60-69	21
50-59	9

The first year of the interviewee in So. California:

Before 1910	7
1910-1919	14
1920-1929	24
1930-1939	13
1940-1945	6
1945-	1

109 cassette tapes have been collected.

A major decision announced to the Committee by Hirata was the formal extension of the Project from June to at least Feb.28, 1981. She expressed the hope that Society would continue its strong volunteer support through the period.

Quarterly progress reports were given by Cheng and by Kwok and Shue.

Quality control of the oral history interviews was discussed. Improvement in questions and feedback to interviewers on techniques were points covered. A review of selected tapes by the Committee followed by a workshops series for interviewers is to be scheduled shortly.

VOLUNTEERS S. Cheng reports Society volunteer activity has been stepped up. However, more help is still needed as interviewers or transcribers of recorded tapes.

All volunteers are urged to log hours and report in.

AUXILIARY COLLECTION This collection managed by the Society consists of artifacts and pictures donated by interviewees or offered for duplication. Currently the collection exceeds 700 items.

Suellen Cheng
3232 Campbell Hall
UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 825-1700
(213) 828-6911

BOX SCORE

Names collected	187
Interviews completed	54
In progress	18
Volunteer hours	526

GOALS

Interviews	200 minimum
Hours	1000 minimum