



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

May 1982

SANTA BARBARA FIELD TRIP All aboard for Santa Barbara! Saturday, May 22 is the date for this fun-filled event. There is now a group of 45 persons signed up for this field trip. The bus will leave at 9:30 A.M. in front of Castelar School on Hill St. Parking will be available in the school's underground parking lot. The tour itinerary will include the following stops:

- 11:00 A.M. Lunch at one of Santa Barbara's beautiful parks
- 1:00 P.M. Santa Barbara Historical Society Museum
136 East De La Guerra
Phone: (305) 966-1601

NOTE: For those who will be driving, this will be your first point of contact with the group.

- 3:00 P.M. A tour of Santa Barbara's lovely Spanish-style court house, considered to be one of the most beautiful in the country.

- 5:00 P.M. Dinner at Skandia Smorgasbord
2911 De La Vina St.
Phone: 682-3141

- 6:00 P.M. Start for home.

Things to remember:

- ...pack a picnic lunch
- ...wear comfortable walking shoes
- ...BE ON TIME! 9:30 A.M. sharp!

For further information, call Margie Lew, 222-4375.

JOURNEY TO LANG STATION The April News 'n Notes contained only a brief paragraph on the Society's field trip to Lang Station, a memorable event which certainly merits much more than just a few short sentences.

Sunday, April 18 was a beautiful spring day, and a group of 45 CHSSC members and 15 members of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society met at the site of the bronze plaque presented by the Society on Sept. 6, 1976 to commemorate the centennial of the completion of the San Fernando tunnel which joined the northern and southern portions of the Southern Pacific Railroad. After introducing the members of the Santa Clarita group, Chuck Yee presented a brief history of the contributions made by 3,000 Chinese laborers in the building of the tunnel and railroad. CHSSC members then paid tribute to these men by placing incense and flowers at the base of the plaque -- a very touching moment.

Next stop was the Saugus Station in Newhall, where the group was warmly welcomed and provided with a number of historical facts concerning the surrounding area. Following a picnic lunch at the Station, the group then drove to the San Fernando tunnel, and what a special treat that was! Standing at the opening of the structure gave everyone such a feeling of awe. It was difficult to imagine how this huge tunnel, more than a mile in length and almost three stories high, could have been built with pick and shovel, and very little machinery, taking months of back-breaking labor and unendurable hardship. But completed it was, and in record time. This tunnel, built over a hundred years ago and still used today, stands as a monument to the indomitable spirit of 3,000 Chinese laborers.



Courtesy of Tom Moy

Following the visit to the tunnel, the group then returned to Newhall for a tour of the Hart Museum, formerly the home of William S. Hart, pioneer movie cowboy. The museum, containing many beautiful antiques and memorabilia of Mr. Hart's Hollywood career, sits high on a hill overlooking the beautiful Santa Clarita Valley.

The Society extends thanks to Tony Newhall and the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society for their part in making this event a very special and memorable one; and also to Tony Adams and the Southern Pacific Railroad for making it possible for the group to see the San Fernando tunnel and to appreciate its full significance.

CHSSC MEMBERS RECEIVE HONORS On Tuesday, March 30, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce sponsored a dinner at the Grandview Gardens to present awards to candidates in the Miss Chinatown Beauty Pageant. As a part of the program, two Society members were honored. Ella Quan, who donates much of her time to the community in coordinating the annual New Year souvenir book, the three-day carnival and other events, was presented with a special commendation from Councilman Gilbert Lindsay for her many contributions to the community.

Helen Young, who passed away on Jan. 25, was also honored by the Chamber. Her husband Art and son Hobart accepted the honors. Helen was also remembered by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors who, at the close of their meeting on March 25, adjourned in her memory. An expression of sympathy, signed by Supervisor Ed Edelman, stated, "On behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the County of Los Angeles, may I express our deepest sympathy".

And from Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley:

"To the family and friends of Helen Young, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to you. May God give you the strength to carry you through this hour of sorrow. I hope that you may find comfort in the prayers and best wishes of those who knew and loved her. Helen Young was the loving wife of Arthur, and devoted mother of Hobart. She also leaves behind other relatives and a countless number of good friends. She will be remembered for her dedicated efforts and many outstanding contributions to the Asian community which made our city a better place

in which to live. She will be sorely missed by all of us. My personal condolences to the many loved ones of Helen Young's family".

Memorial services for Helen were held at the Chinese Baptist Church in Oakland on Sunday, Feb. 28. Many of those who attended were her former Sunday School pupils, several of whom sent donations to CHSSC and various charities in her memory. As an active member, Helen was the coordinator of the church's vacation Bible school some years ago.

Our thanks to Art Young for sharing these memories with us. Helen was indeed a one-in-a-million kind of person -- a very caring and unselfish human being. She gave so much of herself, not only to the Society, but to the entire Chinese community and other communities as well.

WHO'S IN THE NEWS Congratulations to George and Elsie Yee, who celebrated their 30th anniversary on Sunday, May 2, at the Gung Hay Restaurant in Gardena. The Yees' three daughters and two sons (plus two sons-in-law and one daughter-in-law) planned the occasion as a surprise party. And what a surprise it was! George and Elsie were almost in a state of shock when they came into the dining room and saw 50-60 of their friends and relatives waiting for them. It turned out to be a beautiful event -- there was enough love, warmth, and affection to share with everyone present, and some to spare. The younger Yees planned the program to include a bit of emotion, a lot of humor -- and a touch of class. What a wonderful group of young people, certainly the "five greatest blessings" bestowed upon George and Elsie, who themselves are two beautiful people.

Mrs. Yee Chaw-Lai, mother of Society members George, Chuck, John, Joe and Johnson Yee, was honored at "A Tribute To Our Mothers," a benefit luncheon and style show for the Chinese Women of America 1848-1982 Research Project. Mrs. Yee was one of three women being honored as "Chinese Mother of the Year". The event was held at the Empress of China, one of San Francisco Chinatown's most beautiful restaurants. Many dignitaries from San Francisco and the surrounding area were in attendance.

Angi Ma Wong is many things to many people -- she is wife, homemaker, mother of four, educator, administrator, community volunteer, and freelance writer and illustrator. This versatile lady recently had a booklet published -- "Sane Motherhood: Practical Tips for Moms" -- a delightful volume written in Angi's no-nonsense yet breezy style, and cleverly illustrated. The book contains many helpful tips on how to organize daily chores, and how to minimize little problems that crop up in raising a brood of active youngsters. Angi's children, her "Gang of Four", as she affectionately calls them, are ages 17 months to 7 years. Two were 'specially picked, and two were biologically acquired, but all are equally loved and cherished by Angi and her husband Norman. A practical gift for mothers-to-be, new mothers, or friends, the book may be ordered by sending a check or money order for \$3.45 (includes postage and handling) to:

Angi Ma Wong
8726 D South Sepulveda Blvd.
Box C82
Los Angeles, Calif. 90045

MISCELLANY An oral history team including Suellen and Munson Kwok, Gene Moy and John Yee journeyed to San Luis Obispo on the weekend of April 23-25 to interview CHSSC members Young and Stella Louis and brother Howard, whose family is very much intertwined with the city's history, going as far back as the mid-1800's. The group enjoyed the warm and generous hospitality of the Louis's and their neighbors, the Bill Thurmmonds. A pleasurable 12 hours of interviews were completed. The group also had an enjoyable session with Liz and Dan Krieger, leaders in the San Luis Obispo Historical Society, and delightful hosts to CHSSC members on their field trip to San Luis Obispo in 1980.

The Society's dinner meeting, held on May 1 at the Szechuan Palace, was attended by 150 persons. To commemorate the centennial of the Exclusion Act of 1882, the Society was honored to have as its speaker, Dr. Loren Chan, an electronics technician in the computer industry. From 1970 to 1981, Dr. Chan taught in the California State University system. His field was in American History, Chinese American History, and Modern Chinese History. In discussing the Exclusion Act, Dr. Chan reminded the audience of the far-reaching effects such laws had on the Chinese in America, from the time they were put into practice up to the present day, although to a lesser degree today. He stated, "For those American-born Chinese who are just now reaching adulthood, and for those of Chinese descent who have immigrated to this country since the 1960's, the story of Chinese exclusionism may be new; but it is as important to them as to other Chinese-Americans. They, too, should know that the treatment accorded to Chinese-Americans today has been won only at great personal and collective sacrifice over the years. History does serve some useful purposes. It shows how far we have come, how much we have changed, and what we must still strive to achieve."

In conjunction with Dr. Chan's topic of discussion, the Society had on display a large number of documents and identification certificates, on loan from the Federal Archives and Record Center in San Bruno. Imagine Society member Robert Jung's great surprise and excitement when he spotted a copy of his father's passport issued in 1883 by the Chinese government! An incredible coincidence.....

Special thanks from the Society to the following:

Exhibit Glenn Burchette, Br. Chief, Federal Archives and Records Center; Jean Bruce Poole, Sr. Curator, El Pueblo State Historic Park, Los Angeles; Alvin Chan, for printing and mounting.

Exhibit Committee Emma W. Louie, Chairperson; David R. Chan, Munson and Suellen Kwok, Leland Sun, Charles Wong, George Yee.

Dinner Committee Anna Lowrey, Chairperson; Kaza Dong, Joycelyne Lew, Chuck and Mary Yee, Joy and Rodney Chow, Lillian Fong, Isobel Lew.

The oral history summarizers had their first work session on May 1 at Castelar School. Eighteen volunteers hours were chalked up. Rod Chow, Grace Fu, Munson Kwok, Flo Lum, Gene Moy and Ella Quan were in this first group under the guidance of Suellen Kwok. The second group, scheduled for May 8, included Tom Moy, Grace Fu, Charles Wong, Munson Kwok, and Margie Lew.

More help is needed! Call Munson or Suellen, 828-6911, or UCLA, 825-1700, 825-2974.

The Chinese Historical Society of America (San Francisco) commemorated the May 6 centennial of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 with a one-day academic conference on May 8, co-sponsored with the Chinese Culture Center, Chinese for Affirmative Action, Kearney Street Workshop, and the University of California Asian American Studies Center. Keynote speaker was UCLA History Professor Alexander Saxton. As part of the anniversary observance, the San Francisco Society conducted a trip and dedication on Angel Island, scene of bitter immigration experiences for the Chinese, resulting from the Exclusion Act and subsequent anti-Chinese laws.

NEW ORANGE COUNTY ORGANIZATION -- BOWERS MUSEUM FOUNDATION IN PROCESS OF FORMING CHINESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL.

The purposes of this council will be to document and exhibit the historical and cultural contributions of the Chinese in Orange County area. A steering committee, to be chaired by Mr. Henry Yee, has been established. Programs will be held at the Bowers Museum, 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana, Calif. 92706. Anyone interested in participating in this program, contact Linda Lau, the Museum's Director of Community Relations, by writing to the Museum, or by calling (714) 547-0696.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS To date, the Society is proud to announce the addition of 20 new members to its roster---one Institutional and 19 individuals. A GREAT BIG WELCOME to Alan Bergman, California Pacific National Bank, Marvey Chapman, Diana Y. Cho, Karin Cordry, Grace Chao Fen Fu, Jiahn-Min Huang, Richard Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. George Koenig, Donald Loo, Tom Moy, John S. Ng, Ellen C. Peter, Raymond J. Peter, Gloria Sunahara, Fan L. Wong, Ann C. Woo, Christine G. Yee, and Renqiu Yu. We hope to see you at all our functions.

SOCIETY MAIL -----DON'T MISS IT!

To continue receiving your News n' Notes, Gum Saan Journal, dinner and field trip announcements, etc., etc., SEND in your MEMBERSHIP MONEY TODAY!! The mailing list will be revised from time to time. Stay with us. Don't be on the has been list.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

ACTIVE MEMBER \$10
ADDITIONAL FAMILY \$ 5
MEMBER(SAME ADDRESS)

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

CONTRIBUTING MEMBER \$ 5
(STUDENT & SENIOR
CITIZENS - 60 YRS)

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

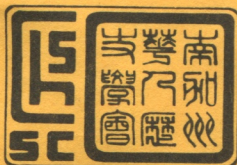
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER \$25

Name _____
Firm Affiliation(if applicable) _____
Address(Street) _____

LIFE MEMBER \$100

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

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: FIRST WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1982

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: CASTELAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Multipurpose Room
840 Yale Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

PARKING: Under school playground (entrance on
Hill Street between Alpine & College)

AGENDA: Business Meeting

PROGRAM

* SPEAKER: ROGER HATHEWAY *

* TOPIC: "SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND -- A CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDY" *

* This will be a slide show, focusing on Chinese fishing in *

* the area, including a discussion on historical research. *

* *

* Mr. Hatheway, a member of our Society, is an architectural *

* historian whose work involves environmental reports, *

* cultural resource management planning, city general *

* planning, and architectural surveys. *

* Hatheway is an ardent and avowed Los Angeleno, having been *

* a transplant from Midwestern America -- Indiana, to be *

* exact. He received his B.A. from Brown University in *

* American History of Technology and his M.A. from U.C.L.A. *

* in History and Philosophy of Science. *

* Please join us for an exciting and informative evening. *

* You'll also be enjoying an excellent slide show. *

* *

NOTE: June will be our last meeting month. Plans for
September will be announced.

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