



CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: FIRST WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1983

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

PARKING ON school grounds. Please enter on College St.
between Hill Street and Yale Street.

AGENDA: BUSINESS MEETING
ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1984-85.

PROGRAM: MEET MRS. KATHERINE CHEUNG YOUNG, PIONEER AVIATRIX
OF LOS ANGELES

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* The history of aviation shows that Americans have *
* been enamored of the airplace since Charles Lind- *
* berg flew his solo flight to Paris in 1927. Among *
* the few women pilots during the early 1930s was *
* Katherine Cheung who had come to the United States *
* to study music. She soon made herself a niche in *
* aviation history with her daring stunt flying. *
* Crowds thrilled to her death-defying performances. *

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* Mrs. Young, one of our truly pioneer Chinese *
* women in Los Angeles, has graciously consented *
* to be interviewed this evening by Mr. Munson Kwok. *
* In addition, slides of her mementoes will be *
* shown. *

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* Her scrapbooks and memorabilia of her flying days *
* are on display at the Los Angeles Public Library *
* as part of the photographic exhibit on "Early *
* Aviation in Southern California." *

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* JOIN US, BRING YOUR FRIENDS to meet Mrs. Katherine *
* Cheung Young, to take a peek into her life as an *
* aviatrix, an unusual experience indeed for a *
* Chinese American woman. *

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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

October 1983

FALL DINNER MEETING

The Society's fall dinner meeting, held at the New Moon Restaurant on San Pedro Street on October 1, was attended by 120 members and guests. Dr. Alexander Saxton, Professor of History at UCLA, was guest speaker, and emphasized in his presentation the contributions made by the Ah Louis pioneer family in the San Luis Obispo area.

Highlight of the evening was the hilarious song-and-dance skit by the "Three Billiard Balls" -- otherwise known as George Yee, Johnny Yee, and Chong Lew -- to entertain the Society's special guests, Stella and "Cholly" W. Young Louis from San Luis Obispo. To celebrate "Cholly's" forthcoming 90th birthday, a beautiful cake was shared by everyone as they sang "Happy Birthday" to the honoree.

The beautiful white orchids worn by Stella Louis and Trudy Saxton were contributed by Marion Bartoo, author of the article on the Chinatown Library which was featured in the last issue of the Society's GUM SAAN JOURNAL. Carnation boutonnieres for the men and the lovely corsage worn by Ruth Wong were donated by Mae Wong, owner of Mei Lan Florist.

As usual, the dinner meeting was a great success, due to the efforts of the hard-working committee, with Tyrus and Ruth Wong in charge. Assisting them were Chong Lew (the indefatigable M.C. for the evening), Isobel Lew, George Yee, Chuck and Mary Yee, Johnny Yee, Cindy Fong, Jerry Shue, Susan Sing, Emma Louie and Eugene Moy. The Society extends thanks to each of these dedicated members, and special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Leon Leon for contributing \$25.00 to CHSSC in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Saxton; and to Mr. Wally Tom, owner of the New Moon Restaurant for his contribution of \$50.00.

WHO'S IN THE NEWS

A recent issue of the Los Angeles Times included a feature story on the restoration of the historic Southern Pacific train depot in Saugus, located in the Mojave Desert. Three years ago, the station, which was built in 1887, was scheduled for demolition. However, the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. agreed to donate it to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, provided the structure was moved from its present site. Through a great community effort involving bake sales, a chili cook-out, tin can recycling, etc., the citizens of the Newhall-Saugus area raised the necessary \$60,000 to proceed with the move to the new location adjacent to the William S. Hart Park in Newhall. In the news article, CHSSC is mentioned as a joint participant on Sept. 5, 1976 with the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society in the centennial celebration of the joining together of Southern Pacific's north-south railroad at nearby Lang Station. One of the highlights

of the occasion was the dedication of a bronze plaque by the Society to honor the thousands of Chinese workers who played a significant role in the building of this railroad.

Five years later, the two historical societies again joined forces in a field trip to re-visit Lang Station and to re-new friendships. The SCVHS graciously hosted a tour of the relocated train depot, and a trip to see first-hand the mile-long tunnel which was dug and blasted through a mountain of solid rock.

In the Sunday, Sept. 25 issue of the Times, an interesting article, written by Harriet Stix, featured the story of author Ruthanne Lum McCunn, who has written books on the Chinese American experience. Because of her own bi-cultural background (her father is Caucasian, her mother Chinese), Mrs. McCunn undoubtedly has a deeper insight in developing the personality traits of the characters in her writings. Two of her books -- "An Illustrated History of the Chinese in America" and "Thousand Pieces of Gold" (a biographical novel of Polly Bemis, a Chinese woman who came to America in the 1860's and settled in Idaho) -- are familiar to CHSSC members. The author's latest book is "Pie-biter", a children's book which tells the true story of a young Chinese boy who came to the United States to work on the railroad during the 1860's, and loved to eat American pies.

What really caught Ye Editor's eye in this Los Angeles Times story was the mention that Mrs. McCunn is currently working on a book about a Chinese seaman who survived 133 days alone on a raft in the Atlantic Ocean when the British merchant ship on which he was working, was torpedoed in World War II. Of course, that seaman just had to be Lim Poon, a "survivor" in the truest sense of the word. In September of 1978, a group of CHSSC members including Ye Editor, had the great privilege of interviewing Mr. Poon when his ship, the S.S. American Lancer, docked in Long Beach. It was a very memorable experience, and the story of that interview was printed in the Society's publication, the GUM SAAN JOURNAL, with the entire issue dedicated to Mr. Poon, a man with a warm and wonderful personality.

A special welcome to Ruthanne Lum McCune, who has just become a brand-new member of CHSSC.

Helen Morrison, the lovely lady who bakes those delicious "goodies" for the monthly meeting "coffee breaks", would like to acknowledge a very generous donation of cake mixes from Evelyn Cucchiarella. Many thanks, Evelyn, from Helen and the Society.

And speaking of Helen, one of CHSSC's very loyal and ardent members, it is indeed a joy to see someone so enthusiastic about all the activities involving the Society. Helen recently attended her first Board meeting, and was greatly impressed with the amount of energy and dedication shown by the officers and Board Directors. "Amazing", states our Helen, "and being a member of this group has brought special meaning to my life. I am just so happy to be a part of it". Works both ways, Mrs. M -----.

MEMBERSHIP

Good news!!!! Membership Chairperson Ella Quan happily reports that the Society has passed the 300 mark in paid-up, bonafide, honest-to-goodness members -- 305, to be exact, as of Oct. 11. Seven of these memberships were signed up at the October dinner meeting.

A warm welcome to the following members:

Benjamin Hoy
Sharon Hoy
Wallace Huey
Faye MacFarlane
Carol Phelps
Mrs. Winson Schneider
Helen Trammell
Linda Lew Kim
Luci Suehiro
Lana McCord

Amytis Barrett
Terry Behrens
Ruthanne Lum McCunn
Susan Fong Sing
Ralph Hum (a birthday gift from
Life Member Grace Chow)
Marlene Engle
Gary Lew
Sam Wong
Mary Moy

A REMINDER

News 'n Notes is your newsletter. Please send in any items that would be of interest to our members. Mail to: Margie Lew,
2346 N. Indiana Ave.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90032
Or, phone 222-4375

NOMINATION SLATE

Ann Lau and her nomination committee have submitted the following slate for officers and Board of Directors for the 1984-85 years:

President - Munson Kwok
Vice-President - Evelyn Cucchiarella
Secretary - Mary Yee
Membership - Kaza Dong
Treasurer - Ella Y. Quan

Board of Directors - Al Lum
George Morris

Board members remaining to fulfill their second year of their two-year terms are Marion Fay, Elmo Gambarana and Don Loo.

According to our by-laws, the election will be held at our November meeting.