

# 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

September 1983

### HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS -----Gene Moy

The Chinese In Idaho --- A front-page article in the July 30 issue of the Los Angeles Times reported the discovery of long-abandoned "Chinese Gardens" in the Idaho wilderness, which were once commercial farming terraces, cut into the steep mountainsides above the South Fork of the Salmon River. According to the article, Chinese farmers raised vegetables, grapes, strawberries and rhubarb from 1870 to 1920, and sold to miners in and around the boom-town of Warren.

The U.S. Forestry Service is protecting the sites for future archaeological and historical study.

The Chinese in the Watts Area, Los Angeles --- At the turn of the century, Chinese farmers provided the bulk of the fresh vegetables for Los Angeles area residents. Many of them worked and lived in outlying areas, including the area now known as Watts. A community project is now under way to gather historical information to be included in a book about the first 75 years in Watts, beginning from 1900-1905 to the present. Especially needed is more information on the Chinese and other ethnic groups who lived in Watts over the years. Anyone who has knowledge of the ethnic history of Watts should call Mary Ellen Ray, coordinator of the project, at the Watts Towers Art Center. The Phone number is 746-7483.

### EVENTS, EXHIBITS, ETC.

"Chinese Women of America - 1834-1982" - a historical exhibit of photographs, illustrations and artifacts which traces the lives, struggles and achievements of Chinese American women, will be shown in San Francisco at the Chinese Cultural Center from Aug. 20 through Oct. 15, 1983. The Center is located at 750 Kearney St., Third Floor, San Francisco, 94108. Gallery hours: 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Conference of California Historical Societies Northern California Symposium, Sept. 23-25, 1983.

This three-day symposium, centered in the Vallejo area, offers a number of historical tours of the surrounding region, workshops, dinner and luncheon meetings featuring guest speakers, and a Genealogical Breakfast.

For further information, please call Ann Wiedel, (213) 754-9700, or the Conference office, (209) 946-2169.

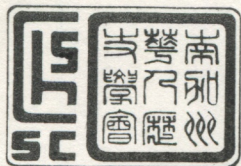


Moon Lee One: Life in Old Chinatown, Weaverville, California (1982) by Clark W. Brott et al., a big, 138-page archaeological site report handsomely published by the Great Basin Foundation (1236 Concord St., San Diego, CA 92016), is available for \$12 postpaid. It includes an interpretive background history of the Chinese in Weaverville essentially derived from local newspapers, a description of the two-meter site fill explored primarily with a backhoe, and illustrations and full discussions of the Chinese and Anglo-derived material culture artifact fragments salvaged (mostly ceramic sherds, with food bone and Anglo alcoholic beverage bottle fragments). Although interpreted as sealed deposits corresponding to site fires in 1859, 1863, 1874, and 1905, the collections actually salvaged from the strata did not include dated items and seemingly reflect no cultural change. It is concluded there were only minor, superficial adaptations in the cultural fabric of the Chinese in Weaverville from 1855 through 1905, when most left the community. This book is commendable for the heritage it preserves as a result of a salvage mitigation program undertaken under distressful circumstances. Three Chinese rammed-earth buildings dating from 1863 were destroyed just before the investigation. The architecture of the lost structures (or the one still surviving Chinese rammed-earth building and the nearby wood Joss House) is not included. The historical geography of Weaverville's Chinese quarters is not detailed in this volume, but the site investigated apparently is behind the principal Chinese "commercial" enterprise, the Tuck Chong Co., which since 1933 had been converted into an appliance store by Mr. Moon Lee.

Paul G. Chace  
Escondido, CA

NOTE: Archaeological reports such as this one rarely get published to become available to the public. This publication was supported by a Foundation which hopes to sell enough to recoup their costs and provide a real public service.





## CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Dinner Committee is extremely pleased to announce its Fall Dinner meeting program.

Guest speaker Dr. Alexander Saxton will discuss Chinese enterprise in America during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and how it affected political-cultural changes in China. This is an exciting new idea in Chinese-American scholarship.

His book "The Indispensable Enemy" is an important reference on Chinese American history. It is a study of the political and economic effects of early Chinese immigration to California.

We are also proud to have the privilege of honoring Stella and W. Young Louis of San Luis Obispo, California.

Americans of Chinese descent, both have been active leaders in the business sector, with Stella a business-woman in her own right. Both have been volunteers of long standing. They helped to organize the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society. Louis is well-known for his detailed knowledge of the history of the Chinese in this west California county. They have been married for 71 years.

Stella and W. Young Louis come from a long tradition of service to San Luis Obispo. Louis's father Wong On, better known as Ah Louis, contributed greatly to the agricultural development of the county. Ah Louis was an innovative businessman who lived to 98 years old. He is an example of the entrepreneur under discussion by Dr. Saxton.

A few years ago our Society visited, in a field trip, the Ah Louis Store, a State Historical Monument. Built of brick in 1884, it stands today as testimony to the intrepid spirit of an enterprising Chinese American family represented by Mr. and Mrs. Louis.

A very special treat will climax the evening's program: we will celebrate the 90th birthday of W. Young Louis.

Come and join us for the evening -- to welcome Dr. Alexander Saxton as speaker -- to toast the good health of a remarkable couple: Stella and W. Young Louis.



# CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## Fall Dinner Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1983

6:00 PM - NO HOST COCKTAIL

6:30 PM - DINNER

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

\$16.00 PER PERSON

NEW MOON RESTAURANT

912 S. SAN PEDRO ST.

LOS ANGELES, CA

FREE PARKING IN REAR

ENTER 9TH ST. ALLEY

### GUEST SPEAKER:

Dr. Alexander Saxton, Professor of History, UCLA,  
Author of "The Indispensable Enemy"

Topic: "The Far Reaching Effect of Early Chinese  
Enterprise in America"

### SPECIAL GUESTS:

Stella and W. Young Louis of San Luis Obispo

And a Very Special Treat: The 90th birthday of W. Young Louis!

COME AND HELP US CELEBRATE!!!!!!!!!!

Please make your dinner reservations early. Deadline-September 23.

All reservations must be prepaid. Seating is limited.

Make checks payable to CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIF.

Mail checks to Dinner Committee Chairpersons:

Mr. & Mrs. Tyrus Wong

10112 La Canada Way

Sunland, California 91040

To facilitate seating arrangements, please designate names of your guests or those with whom you wish to sit. For further information, call Mr. or Mrs. Tyrus Wong on 353-6420.

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Return this portion with check.

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s). Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(of person making reservation)

To be seated with \_\_\_\_\_