



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

June 1984

THE GREAT MOTHER LODGE EXPEDITION

Plans for the Mother Lode trip on Sept. 28-30 are coming along nicely. The chartered 47-passenger bus is filling up. There are now 45 tentative participants. Anyone planning to join the tour should call as soon as possible to make reservations for this exciting trip. All calls will be accepted, and will be placed on a waiting list to be filled if cancellations occur. The tentative itinerary is as follows:

Friday - Sept. 28 - Check in at 7:00 A.M. Leave at 7:30. Bus will stop along Highway 49 at Hornitas, Coulterville, Chinese Camp, with an overnight stay in Sonora at the Sonora Towne House Motel.

Saturday-Sept. 29 - A visit to Columbia, Butte, Plymouth, Fiddletown, Auburn, and an overnight stay at Motel 6 in Rancho Cordova (East Sacramento).

Sunday - Sept. 30 - A visit to historical Locke before heading for home.

Expenses (includes round-trip fare and two nights' lodging):

Single \$104.29

Double \$164.09 (or \$82.05 per person)

Family \$ 74.99 per room, plus \$50.00 bus fare per person

Total amount for transportation and lodging must be paid by August 10, and will be non-refundable after that date. Make checks payable to CHSSC, and mail to Margie Lew, 2346 No. Indiana Ave., L. A. Calif. 90032. For reservations and information, call 222-4375.

HONORS FOR HIZZONER, THE JUDGE

At the June 6 meeting, the Society was highly honored by having special guest Judge Delbert Wong (Life Member) as the main feature of the evening's program. Judge Wong has the unique distinction of being the first person of Chinese descent to be appointed as judge in California, the appointment being made by former Governor Edmund (Pat) Brown. Through Emma Louie's very special skills as interviewer, the audience enjoyed a most fascinating review of Delbert's experiences as a lawyer and a judge, culminating in 30 years of public service.

Recently retired from the bench, Judge Wong is continuing his dedication to community activities. He is now serving as president of the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County Law Library, and is a member of the California Judges' Association and the Los Angeles Bar Association. He has also served on the boards of various organizations such as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Chinese American Citizens' Alliance, the Boy Scouts, the Optimist Home for Boys, the Friendship Camp, and the Chinatown Optimist Club.

The Society extends thanks to Judge Wong for sharing the evening with its members and friends, and wishes him and his wife Dolores a long and happy retirement.

INFORMATION, PLEASE!!

During World War II, in Los Angeles there was a special branch of the California State Home Guard known as the "Chinese Militia". It was comprised of those who were unable to serve, because of age or physical disabilities, in a regular branch of the Armed Forces. Its purpose was to defend the home front in case of attack or natural disaster.

While researching an article on Peter Soo Hoo, Sr., CHSSC member Norine Dresser discovered that there is little written about this unique all-Chinese branch of the Home Guard. She has decided to pursue the topic and would be interested in talking to anyone who was a member of this organization. If you were a member, or know someone was involved and would be willing to be interviewed, please call Norine at (213)663-7743. All information will be shared with the Society.

WHO'S IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to Eugene Moy, who was elected as board member to finish out member Marion Fay's 6-month term.

In observance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, the Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association saluted a group of Asian pioneers in City Service at a reception in the City Hall Tower on May 9. President James Okazaki presented commendations to 31 Asian American employees who have more than 30 years of City service. Several CHSSC members were among the honorees -- Lupe Chee, Marge Ong, and Dora Lau.

Due to President Munson Kwok's out-of-town commitment, Mary Yee presided over the June 6 meeting. An excellent job was done by Mary, always so efficient and dependable -- and on very short notice! Many thanks, Mary.

KOREAN CLASSICAL DANCE TROUPE

The Lee Mai Bang Korean Classical Dance Troupe has been travelling through several states with its excellent presentation of ethnic dances. Before heading home to Korea, the troupe is planning an exhibition in Los Angeles, sponsored by the Korean American Educators Association and the Asian Pacific American Studies Service at USC. The program will be held at Castelar School in the multi-purpose room on Wednesday, July 11, from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. An added attraction will be a bonsai exhibit by the Chinatown bonsai class.

A \$1.00 donation is requested. Parking is provided on the Castelar School playground. For further information, call Doreen Chan, 726-9064.

ON YOUR SOAP-BOX

(Editor's note: Several issues ago, I extended an invitation to all CHSSC members to use the News 'n Notes as a springboard to share their viewpoints, express their thoughts, or even voice their complaints! We now have our first participant, Helen Morrison, a very devoted member, and the lovely lady who bakes the delicious "goodies" for our monthly meetings)

Here are Helen's comments:

"Didn't Mary Yee do a GREAT job chairing our June 6th meeting?? We join Judge Delbert Wong in congratulating Emma Louie on her lengthy research for her interview with him. Members! Check your piggy banks, and if you have \$2.00 to spare, please be a FRIEND of the Los Angeles Chinatown Library. I attended their first anniversary party on May 23, and what a memorable evening."

NO MONTHLY MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST. See you in September -- and a happy and carefree summer to each of you!

SUMMER CALENDAR

June 28-30 Conference of California Historical Societies
in Santa Cruz.
July 11, Wednesday. Korean Dance Troupe and bonzai exhibit
Castelar School. 7PM-8:30PM. \$1.
July 15, Sunday. 10th Annual Barbecue, Centinela Adobe, 7634
Midfield, Inglewood, 12N-3PM, \$5. Great food.
July 19, Thursday. CHSSC Board Meeting. 7:30PM. Castelar.
ALL WELCOME TO BOARD MEETINGS
July 20 or 21. Olympic Torch Run through Chinatown. Lion
dances, reception, firecrackers. For update
on route and time call Howard Quon, 393-7339,
or Munson Kwok, 828-6911.
July 20-22. International Festival of Masks. Pan-Pacific Pk.
July 28-Aug. 12. OLYMPIC GAMES
Aug. 15, Wednesday. All money for the Great Mother Lode Trip
are due to Margie Lew.
Aug. 16, Thursday. CHSSC Board Meeting, 7:30PM. Castelar
Sept. 5. Wednesday, CHSSC Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM. Castelar
Gunar Frieberg, "Yang and Yin of Roman Empire"
Sept. 13. Thursday. CHSSC Board Meeting, 7:30PM. Castelar
Sept. 28-30. GREAT MOTHER LODE EXPEDITION.

SNAPSHOTS

COPYRIGHT. The Society is the proud owner of its first
copyright, TX 1-335-852, for "Los Angeles Chinatown Walking
Tour: Yesterday and Today." Every member should have one of these
beautiful brochures. \$1.50 prepaid to CHSSC, C.Yee, 4721 Konya
Drive, Torrance, CA. 90503.

THANK YOU. To the 10K Run Race Committee for a donation of
\$250 for the Chinese Women of Los Angeles book project.

THANK YOU. To Lung Kong Tin Yee Association for \$100 to the
map brochure production fund.

THANK YOU. Gladys Waddingham for the donation of a book on
the Chinese in Arizona.

CONGRATULATIONS. To Dr. Sucheng Chan, Spring Dinner speaker
for becoming Provost of Oakes College, UC Santa Cruz. She
becomes the second highest ranking Chinese American administrator
in the UC system.

LIVING, LOVING, FORGIVING. Mabel Lew's family history book
continues to be available. \$5 donated to CHSSC projects. Call
Suellen Kwok, 828-6911.

OLYMPICS, HISTORIC CHINATOWNS BOOTH? At El Pueblo State Park
Saturdays 10AM-2PM July and August if we can get the volunteers.
Chinatown slide show and Chinatown Walking Tour map brochure
sales. Fun and camaraderie. Call Suellen Kwok, (213) 828-6911.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES

AND CHINA'S 1932 ONE-MAN TEAM...

Fifty two years ago, Chong Chun Lau (劉長春) single-handedly represented China at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. He was China's first-ever participant in the Games. Lau, a 20 year old sprinter from Northeastern University in Manchuria, arrived in Los Angeles on July 29 on the President Wilson. He was accompanied by four officials, including coach Joon Fu Soong.

The welcome was led by Sui Chung Lum, president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. Fourteen carloads of Chinese Americans were at the dock to greet the athlete and the L.A. Times noted he "gathered lots of applause."

A dusk parade through Chinatown to the CCBA office (in the Garnier Building) followed. Lau met with Consul General Wong and, declining all dinner invitations, retired to the Olympic Village to prepare for competition.

Lau was entered in the 100, 200, and 400 meters. On August 1, the Times reports, "China's one-man team, Cheng Chun Liu, came 10,000 miles for the Games and was eliminated in his first race, the second heat of the 100 meters. He finished fourth with Simpson a comfortable winner over Page of Great Britain...and the time 10.9s."

Lau's personal bests were listed at 10.8 sec, 100 meters, 22 sec; 200 meters; and 51.6 sec, 400 meters.

This first coming of a Chinese Olympic athlete can be contrasted with the over 200 from mainland China and the nearly 100 from Taiwan due to appear on the same Coliseum floor this July 28, 1984.

AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHINESE AMERICAN OLYMPIANS...

Everyone now knows the story of Tiffany Chin, the darling not only of the Chinese American community but of all Southern California and the female skating star of the the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics. Quite possibly, she is America's next "Queen of the Ice."

Bill Tom, honored at Mayor Bradley's APA Heritage Week Dinner, made the 1956 Olympic team at 33 as a gymnast. Tom, born in San Francisco, went to China, returned to the U.S. at the outbreak of war, and studied at L.A. City College. He currently teaches at L.A. Trade Technical College.

Bob Chow made the 1948 team in pistol shooting, competing in the 22 rapid fire silhouette division. He was the highest scorer on the American team and has held 33 national and international records although he failed to earn an Olympic medal. "It was an honor to represent the US--It's a memory one never forgets! You don't have to win anything--only three people make the US team," Chow has said.

Chow's family moved from Lodi to Los Angeles before World War II. He served in the Navy and opened his own gun shop in San Francisco, which he still runs even though he is in his late 70's.

(M.Kwok. Thanks to Suellen Cheng, Alice Chen of Cerritos, and East-West)