



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

July/August 1987

SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, September 2, 1987
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
PLACE: Castelar School, 840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown (park on school grounds — enter on College Street between Hill and Yale Streets). Meeting is in the Multi-purpose Room.

SPEAKER: Mr. Wilbur Woo

Our speaker this evening is Mr. Wilbur Woo. Mr. Woo was Vice President of Cathay Bank (Chinatown Branch) and is now retired. He was Past Grand President of CACA (Chinese-American Citizens Alliance); Past President of CACA, L. A. Lodge; Past President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce; active in the Chinese Benevolent Association; and CHSSC life member. Last year he was honored for life achievement as a community leader. Also, some of you may recall seeing Wilbur and his wife, Bessie, on the Society float in this year's Chinese New Year celebration. And for those of you who may not know it, yes, he is Councilman Michael Woo's dad.

Mr. Woo will reminisce about his childhood, the family business (a produce market), climate of how the Asians were received during the war, the Asian-American struggle, and his community involvement on the Mayor's Committee. And last, but not least, he will share with us his plans on the Asian Conference in Taiwan by the Rockefeller Foundation.

IN THE NEWS

MAY. CHSSC member, Mrs. Ralph D. (Vera) Cornell, has been a member of the Southwest Museum since the 1930's. She, with two other distinguished museum members, were recently honored at a luncheon on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of that institution. Mrs. Cornell's late husband, a renowned landscape architect, designed the "Hopi Trail" leading from the hilltop Southwest Museum down to Marmion Way at the base of the hill. Mrs. Cornell herself has been a long time community volunteer.

The Friends of the Chinatown Library held their Second Annual Spring Recognition Dinner at the Golden Dragon Restaurant in Chinatown on May 19. Franklin Mah served as Master of Ceremonies with Eugene Cooper translating part of the program from English into Chinese. Once again, Eugene did a superb job as translator. Thanks for a job well done, guys, under those warm lights. Entertainment for the evening was "aapaa yours", a musical revue produced and directed by Alvin Ing that featured sketches presented by four talented and witty performers to piano accompaniment. A \$1,000 college scholarship was awarded to Sandy Nang. The donors of the scholarship are Mr. and Mrs. King M. Luk Huang. The Friends of the Chinatown Library select the winner and administer the award. Also that evening, volunteers for the

English Conversation Center (ECC) were recognized for their hard work and long hours. Those recognized were Elmo Gambarana, Margie Lew, Dorothy Siu, Kipham Kam, Franklin Mah, Beverly Hom, Lupe Chee, Frank Chee, Ruby Ling Louie, Howard Hew, Bernice Sam, Doris Tom, and Jeanne Wong. Before the dinner the Annual Membership Meeting was held at the community room in the Chinatown Library. Four board members, all members of CHSSC, were elected to a 3-year term. They include Ruby Ling Louie, President; Dolores Wong, Vice President for Fundraising; Steve Leong, Vice President for Expansion; and William Chun-Hoon, Board Member.

JUNE. On Sunday, June 14, a CHSSC Board Meeting was held at Angi Ma Wong's home in Rancho Palos Verdes. What Gene and Susan thought was to be just a Board Meeting ended up with a surprise baby shower at the conclusion of the meeting. Gene and Susan were really surprised. They didn't suspect a thing. (Hmm . . . I see that everyone read my flyer very carefully. Thanks to all of you, the surprise party was a success!) While we were busy having our meeting, poolside, our many members, who arrived early, were busy as a bee preparing for the surprise. We had lots of delicious "potluck" food and Susan and Gene received lots of nice gifts for their soon-to-be new baby.

Eugene Wong Moy was one of 34 "Caring Californians" honored at a noontime luncheon on June 22 by the May Company. Eugene was chosen from the May Company Pasadena store. He received a \$50 gift certificate and a donation of \$500 to a charity of his choice. His donation went to the Friends of the Chinatown Library for the expansion of a new children's wing. Eugene has been quite active — he was past President of CHSSC, volunteers time for a Chinese Cultural Center, Chinese-American Museum and Riverside County involving archaeological sites and the Old Chinatown — to name just a few. Other nominees included Margie Lew, Ruby Ling Louie, and Munson Kwok. There's a picture of Gene in the June 23, 1987 issue (Section I, back page) of the Los Angeles Times. Congratulations, Gene! (Three cheers for Gene!)

JULY. On July 1, life member, Judge Delbert Wong, appeared on television (4:00 p.m., channel 9). He portrayed the role of a judge in a court hearing on discrimination in a Fire Department. Good show, Delbert!

Every Saturday in July from 1:00-4:00 p.m., with the exception of July 4, Franklin Mah, our volunteer instructor, gave photography lessons to children ages 10-16. Here the group learned how to take and enlarge pictures using darkroom equipment which Franklin donated. Thank you, Franklin, for all your hard work, time, and material to make this an interesting activity for the children in the community.

"Explorations in China with the National Geographic" was the title of our presentation on Saturday, July 11. How Man Wong (aka Herman Wong) gave a slide presentation of remote areas of China. The program was given in Chinese from 4:00-5:30 p.m. and again in English from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at Castelar School. Both sessions were well received — Chinese session 109 and English session 237. The program was sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and the Friends of the Chinatown Library. Mr. Wong is a modern China explorer and we appreciate his talk and slide show before his departure for Kunming, China on August 3rd.

Looking back at all our meeting notes, it is Edith Jung who should receive credit for suggesting How Man Wong to the Board (via Munson Kwok) for a program. Thank you, Edith! Excellent choice!!

On July 18, CHSSC gave a walking tour of New Chinatown to the Los Angeles Historical Society. About two dozen people took part and each received a Los Angeles Chinatown Walking Tour map. The tour ended at the CACA building where a slide show was shown and narrated by Gene Moy. Docents were Suellen and Munson Kwok along with Gene Moy. Helping out were Susan Sing Moy, Howard Hew, Kipham Kan, and Lillian Fong.

Susan Sing and Gene Moy trimmed the hedge in front of the CACA building to resemble a dragon. (Sorry, Susan and Gene, but news is news!)

AUGUST. CHSSC member, Ms. Y. Y. Tang, was invited to exhibit her paintings at Garfield Art Gallery (August 1-14) with 13 other Chinese artists.

Once again there was a Book Sale but this time at the playground of Castelar School on Saturday, August 8, from 10:00-4:00. CHSSC and FCL members were well represented in this group of hardworking volunteers. Coordinators of the sale were Franklin Mah and Kipham Kan. Helpers included Richard Smith, Juliana Cheng, Bill Chun-Hoon, Lillian Fong, Ruby Ling Louie, Dolores Wong, Howard Hew, Beverly Hom, and a few of our library aides (Tam, Amy, Ieu, et al). Thank you everyone for taking time out to help with the Friends Book Sale. We made \$261.31. (Just think, not bad considering most everything was selling at a dime a piece.)

MUSEUM NEWS

We are pleased to announce that the Museum of Chinese American History has received a matching grant challenge of \$40,000 from the Park Trust Fund. Receipt of this money requires a community matching donation, dollar for dollar (\$1 for \$1). Your dollar is now worth two to MCAH. Museum donations can be made payable to "CHSSC" (tax deductible) and mailed to:

Museum of Chinese American History
El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park
c/o Jean Bruce Poole
845 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Elsewhere in MCAH . . . The \$61,000 State Proposition 18 grant for preservation and construction is now confirmed and in contractual preparation with the Park. Unfortunately, our NEH planning grant application was turned down due to what was apparently very strong competition. Nevertheless, the planning phase will be started with existing funding.

CHINATOWN CULTURE CENTER

An Ad Hoc Study Group for the Los Angeles Chinatown Cultural and Community Center has reported its findings. This study was ordered by Los Angeles City Councilpersons Molina and Woo to assess the depth of community support for such a project. The objectives, size, shape, content, and costs of such a facility were to be explored. The Center will be used to showcase and to

perpetuate Chinese American Culture and Heritage. (This includes history, of course.) The Study Group called for a strong emphasis on the performing and visual arts, culture, and humanities. The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California has lobbied for an exhibition hall for traveling, rotating exhibits, a multi-purpose meeting hall, and classrooms for workshops and research. In addition, CHSSC has offered to help create and maintain a small, permanent historical exhibit or "niche" on Chinatown history. The study examined over 12 sites and lists 5 potential locations in depth. If all the suggested components are built, including the performing arts theater, a community kitchen, and a sports arena, the project will cost an estimated \$20-30 million dollars. Some CHSSC members who participated were Barbara Jean Lee and Eugene Moy, as chairs of the Programs and By-Laws Committees, respectively, CHSSC President Angi Ma Wong, Edith and Robert Jung, Bob Lee, Christine Ung, Alvina Lew, Munson Kwok, and Saykin Foo, who served as Executive Secretary.

BOARD BRIEFS

Marji Lee/Howard Chan. A warm welcome is extended to Howard Chan, new board member, who replaces Marji Lee. Marji resigned from her post and is unable to fulfill her remaining six months in office. Marji is going to China for a year of language studies in Guanzhou at Zhongshan University. Thanks for all your hard work, Marji, and best of luck! We'll miss you! See you in September, 1988!

"Reaching Out". With this issue of News 'n Notes, we are inaugurating what we will call our "REACHING OUT" section. In it we will feature ways in which you may volunteer your time and talents to help the community. This will be the primary method by which the Board of the CHSSC will solicit volunteers to help it in staffing special committees, helping out at events, and serve as our representative at meetings. However, you readers may also use this feature to appeal to the membership for worthwhile causes. We have a lot of members and a lot of talent out there. Let's lend a helping hand!

o **Chinatown Docents:** The Society is down to only a few people who have the experience in leading groups around Chinatown. We are planning to expand on this pool of docents. If you are interested in becoming a docent, meet in front of the Chinatown Library, 536 West College Street, Los Angeles 90012, at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 13, for a training tour of Chinatown. For more information, contact Suellen Kwok at (213) 828-6911.

o **Asian American Journalists Association Convention Volunteers:** The first Asian American Journalists Convention will be held at the Los Angeles Hilton Hotel, September 23-26. The Society will have an exhibition booth at the convention. We need volunteers to man the booth on the 24th-26th (Thursday-Saturday). The time would be about 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We would want to set up an a.m./p.m. shift. If you have the time, contact Franklin Mah at (213) 372-9421 to schedule a day and time.

o **Asian American Journalists Association Convention Bus Tour:** The Society will be conducting a tour of the different Asian communities (Chinatown, Japanese Town, Korea Town) on Saturday, September 26, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The tour package will include the tour plus dinner. Anyone interested in helping should contact Mark Mehlert at (213) 733-5758. Cost: \$25.

o **Photographic Group:** If you have an interest or talent in photography, the Society is looking for you! We are trying to develop a pool of photographers to help us with projects within the Society. Some of these will include copying photographs, cover Society events, photograph old buildings, and others to be developed. If any of this sounds interesting to you, you have the experience or talent, or you just want to learn, give us a call. We need people from all areas. Supplies will be furnished or reimbursed. Contact Franklin Mah at (213) 372-9421.

Office Space. Howard Hew has investigated some costs and locations for our office in Chinatown. Based on his research, a noon meeting was called to order on Saturday, July 18, in the Chinatown Library's community room. Full report will be presented at the next general meeting in September.

Membership Status. We received five new members as a result of the How Man Wong presentation and one as a result of the Los Angeles City Historical Tour. Our total to date as of the Board Meeting on August 5 is 373 members.

CHSSC Rap Session Retreat and Follow-up Retreat were held on Saturday, June 27 and July 11. For a full report, come to the next general meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sylvia Soo Hoo accepted our last want ad to be our new Refreshment Chair. (Thank you, Sylvia! We're looking forward to your table of goodies real soon!!) Volunteers are always needed to help bring refreshments to our monthly general meetings. Anyone interested in assisting Sylvia should contact her at (213) 221-5573.

PROMOTION. Last year's CHSSC President, Ella Quan, has been promoted to Principal. She will be going to Kenter Canyon Elementary School in Brentwood Village. Her previous position was Assistant Principal at Gates Street Elementary School in Lincoln Heights. It's very exciting news! Not very many Chinese-American principals, let alone female principals, in the Los Angeles City School System. Congratulations, Ella! Go for it!

BIRTH. "First Society Baby" . . . Congratulations to Society members, Eugene Wong Moy and Susan Sing Moy. They have a beautiful baby boy, Bernard Wong Moy, born Thursday, August 6, 1987 at 9:43 a.m., weighing 6 lb. 5 oz., 18½". All three are "adjusting" to one another and all doing well. Gene and Susan were one of many couples who met in the Society, got married, and now have a new addition to their family.

MARRIAGES. Best wishes to the newlyweds, Hobart Young and Tina Hirano. Hobart is the son of CHSSC member, Art Young, and the former Helen Young. Hobart was married the same weekend as the Society's Hanford trip in May.

Best wishes to the newlyweds, Ann Sakiyama and Larry Jung. Larry is the son of Edith and Robert Jung. The couple were married June 27, 1987 at First United Methodist Church of Glendale. The wedding banquet was held at Castaway's in Burbank.

Keith Ellison Dong and Kathryn Sue Lew were married in July, 1987 at San Francisco. Keith is the son of Allen and the late Kaza Dong. The newlyweds

are both pharmacists and will make their home in Northern California. After a honeymoon in Europe, there was a banquet at Tai Hong Restaurant in Los Angeles on August 8th.

GET WELL WISHES

Ron Jung's mother, Florence Jung, suffered a stroke the end of June while on a family trip. She is slowly recuperating. Florence is a CHSSC member.

Also . . . get well wishes go to Albert Lew, Alice Hom, and Betty Tong. We wish you all a speedy recovery!

DONATIONS. We gratefully acknowledge donations from the following members and friends of the Society:

Richard Smith - \$10, John Lung Wen - \$10, Bill Mason - \$10, and Gang Wang - \$5. John also donated his book to the Society.

Asian American Educators Association - \$50 (This is an honorarium for a program given by Suellen and Munson Kwok on oral history techniques.)

Norman and Angi Ma Wong - \$100 on the occasion of their 20th anniversary .

Edith and Bob Jung - \$100 on the occasion of their son's marriage (Larry Jung).

Lillian Kim is our Life Member from Baltimore, Maryland. Thank you for your contribution.

GOODIES.

Thanks go to James and Sylvia Soo Hoo, Wanda Leong, and Lillian Fong for bringing refreshments to our last meeting in June. Thanks for the "goodies".

"THANK YOU" NOTES

(Letter dated July 7, 1987 from Al and Margie Lew): Al and Margie thanks the Board of Directors and members for the very beautiful floral arrangement and good wishes sent during Al's illness/recuperation in early June. Margie said it was a wonderful morale booster. Al is recuperating very nicely and is feeling 100% better than when he first came home on June 11. Al has been keeping up with his daily exercise consisting of 30-40 minute brisk walks. Margie goes along with Al so that together they can take time to "smell the flowers." They thank us for our love and concern. They hope to see us at the September meeting, if not sooner.

(Letter dated June 15, 1987 from Tom Hennison, Historian, Tulare City Historical Society, Tulare Historical Museum): Tom wrote to us thanking us for the Chinese Historical Society pin and for our group's all-too-brief visit to Tulare Historical Museum. He hopes that in our return trip we might take on a longer look at Tulare.

CALENDAR

- Wed., September 9 Next CHSSC Board Meeting. Meeting place to be announced.
- Sat., September 12
10:00 Fall Dinner Committee Meeting. Meeting will be held at Mary Yee's home: 4721 Konya Drive, Torrance, CA 90503, (213) 542-2409.
- Sun., September 13
2:00 in front of
Chinatown Library Chinatown Docent Training. Come one, come all! We need your help!! We need docents trained in time for the Hanford group on September 20.
- Sat., September 19 Oral Communication Workshop. Sponsored by OCAW (Organization of Chinese American Women). For details, please contact Linda Lum at (818) 280-3859.
- Sun., September 20 Hanford Group/L. A. Chinatown Tour. Guess who's coming to town? You got it! It's our turn to entertain the Hanford group. We need volunteers to help us plan a tour of L. A. Chinatown. Approximately 42 people will be coming to visit us on that September Sunday. They plan to make this a one-day roundtrip affair. For further information, please come to the September meeting.
- Fri. - Sun.,
September 25-27 Conference of California Historical Society, 1987 Northern Symposium, "Our Women in History" in Ukiah, California. Reservation deadline: September 1. For further information, please contact Kipham Kan at (213) 839-9233.
- Sat., 1st or 2nd
week in October CHSSC's First Picnic (see "Coming Events")
- Sun., October 18 Fall Dinner is coming soon. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**
- Fri. - Sun.,
November 20-22 OCAW National Conference to be held in Los Angeles. For further information, contact Linda Lum (818) 280-3859.

COMING EVENTS

First CHSSC Picnic is in the planning stages. Due to several scheduling conflicts, the picnic is tentatively being scheduled for the first or second week in October. Details forthcoming. For further information or interest, please contact coordinators Ron Jung (213) 383-0451 or Bev Hom (818) 336-7900. We'll update the membership as the date nears.

Get Together Dinners have been a pleasure for many of us this summer. It's a great way to fill the gap during those off months in the Society calendar. We've had two group dinners so far — June 24 at BBQ King and July 30 at Seafood King. Any interest? Contact Ron Jung at (213) 383-0451. Ron's open to suggestions!

As a result of no Lotus Festival this year, this dinner is our only fundraiser for the year. **Fall Dinner** is set for Sunday, October 18, at the New Won Kok Restaurant in Los Angeles. Cost: \$25. Cocktails at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m., and program immediately following dinner. Our MC for the evening will be actress, Pat Li. Our dinner speaker will be Mr. Paul Chace. Paul is an archaeologist. He is a long-time member of our Society. He published many papers on the Chinese and Chinese-American topics. He was consultant specialist in the Riverside Dig for the Grand Basin Foundation. Paul will be giving a talk on Mr. Ng. Poon Chew, the Editor and Founder of Chung Sai Yat Bo (1900-1930), the very historical and famous Chinese newspaper in Los Angeles. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Anyone interested in helping with the Fall Dinner, please contact Mary Yee, Fall Dinner Chairperson, at (213) 542-2409. For raffle prizes, please contact Sylvia Soo Hoo at (213) 221-5573.

IN MEMORIAM: CHSSC member, Benson Fong, passed away July 31, 1987 from a heart attack. He was a major donor to the Friends of the Chinatown Library. At one time he had a chain of restaurants called Ah Fong's which gave employment to many Chinese people. There were five Ah Fong's in Southern California, one was in Beverly Hills.

CHSSC honored pioneer Chinese-American actors on November 5, 1977. The three honored were the late Benson Fong, the late Victor Sen Yung, and Keye Luke. All three played the sons of Charlie Chan.

Benson Fong's favorite performances were in Keys of the Kingdom and Flower Drum Song.

HELP WANTED

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Chong Chun Lau, the one man Olympic team that represented China in the 1932 Olympics held in Los Angeles? He was China's first-ever participant in the Games. It is believed that he is living in Southern California area. He would be 75 years old today. It would be great if CHSSC could interview him for an oral history project. Can anyone help?

Programs? All program suggestions should be directed to Mary Yee, Vice President/Programs at (213) 542-2409.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following new members: Richard R. Smith, Catherine Yu, Gang Wang, John Lung Wen, Yorkman Lowe, Clarence B. Lee, Charles (Skip) Hockett, Camille Wong, Bette C. Lee, Douglas and Janice Wong, George and Helen Wan, and Michael Engh.

SALUTE

To our venerable honorees and members, that energetic San Luis Obispo couple, 94 years young Wong Young and Stella Louis, who sent postcard GREETINGS from Taipei, Taiwan where they are visiting.

(Post card dated June 10, 1987 from Ed and Evelyn Cucchiarella): Ed and Evelyn's card was mailed from Fort Wayne, Indiana. They both send their regards. They're sorry to miss out on the Society activities and friends. Plan to be more active in the Fall. They send their regards to Gene and Susan Moy and are sorry to have missed the baby shower. They're on their way to Nova Scotia.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Wanted . . . "bits of news" for future issues of News 'n Notes would be appreciated. Please submit in writing or by phone to Bev Hom (818) 336-7900 by the 15th of each month for the next issue of News 'n Notes.

Special thanks to Kipham Kan for the generous use of her place for taking care so much of CHSSC business — Society mailings and a good portion of our Board meetings. And thanks for the great snacks you keep coming up with! (You're putting weight on all of us!)

Editor thanks the following members for their help in our "mailing night" of the **May News 'n Notes**: Kipham Kan, Richard Smith, and Al Soo Hoo.

Special thanks to the large group that came out for the "double mailing" of the **How Man Wong flyer**. They are: Richard Smith, Kipham Kan, Franklin Mah, Don Loo, Jia Ming Liu, Lillian Fong, Howard Hew, Munson and Suellen Kwok, and Al Soo Hoo.

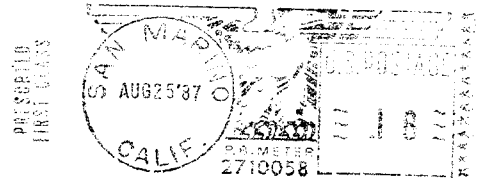
And finally, I want to thank the following people for their contributions of "bits of news" to this issue of News 'n Notes: Angi Ma Wong, Mary Yee, Kipham Kan, Suellen Cheng Kwok, Munson Kwok, Eugene Moy, Lillian Fong, Franklin Mah, Ella Quan, and Margie Lew.

SEE YOU ALL SEPTEMBER 2 . . .

Beverly M. Hom
News 'n Notes Editor

W. H. W. in China and 60 years in U.S. My old speech found - on Chinese immigration instead.
 10 years in China and 60 years in U.S. My old speech found - on Chinese immigration instead.
 Immigration - first gold in 1850, 1860's wars - sojourners to work on R.R.
 1940's wars - all born in China (but his grandfather? here - a notice?)
 I am third generation - all born in China (but his grandfather? here - a notice?)
 Born in China in 1915-16, came to US at age 5 to 20th San Pedro
 Parents sent him to Chinese school also, on Saturday, near produce district
 after elementary school, he was sent back to China to learn
 a Baptist school in Toishan. Grad 1937 from H.S. in China.
 married in 1938 there to his school girl friend. War. to Hong Kong
 to study and
 Parent sent from him here in 1940.
 Woo Hay - of Bank of America - a teller - first Chinese banker in L.A.
 later his son Philip took over, then his cousin W. H. H. - who just retired
 he worked under, at first. Also he taught language at
 Presbyterian church school (Badley!)
 CCBA - he taught for 2 weeks (about new Japan town)
 Retired, 4 years ago, but still has office at bank.
 CATHY BANK - Is overseen Chinese member of Senate of Taiwan - Now McDonald's there!
 Gateway West Bradley's 2nd Committee, to build a complex to bring
 people together culturally. - a huge 50 million dollar project.

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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first class

Paul Chace
 1823 Kenora Drive
 Escondido, Ca. 92027