



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

March 1987

APRIL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, April 1, 1987
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Castelar School, 840 Yale St., Los Angeles Chinatown
(Park on school grounds -- enter on College St., between Hill and Yale Sts.)
AGENDA: Committee reports, Hanford field trip

SPEAKER: Professor Peter Kwong, faculty member of the State University of New York in Old Westbury, N.Y. Professor Kwong is a graduate of Columbia University in Political Science and, at present, is a "visiting" professor at UCLA. His discussion for the evening will be on the history of labor in New York's Chinatown, 1930-1950.

WHO'S IN THE NEWS

-A warm welcome to new Life Member Robert Verre, and to new members Maria Lew and Nancy J. Zaun.
-The installation dinner for the Chinatown Public Safety Association was held on March 17 at the Fu Ling Restaurant. A plaque was presented by the CPSA to Marilyn Quon in commemoration of her late husband Howard, who worked diligently to establish a police substation in Chinatown. A certificate of commendation from the City of Los Angeles was presented to Marilyn by City Councilman Michael Woo.
-Angela Murphy writes from Portland, Oregon: "Love to read anything and everything about CHSSC. News n' Notes is like a letter from home, and I would certainly be lost up here without it. I hope to make a meeting in March or June, if my work schedule permits. It was so good to see everyone at the 10K Run in Chinatown." So good to hear from you, Angela. Keep in touch.
-A "welcome home" is extended to Franklin Mah, who spent 18 months in Taipei, studying Mandarin. Franklin lost no time in getting re-involved in community activities -- he participated with the Society in the Chinese New Year parade, and he has returned to the Chinatown Library as a tutor with the English Conversation Center, which he started in June 1985.
-Another group has joined the growing ranks of organizations interested in studying and preserving the Chinese American historical heritage. The newly formed Chinese Historical Society of Greater San Diego and Baja California is currently actively seeking preservation of nine historical buildings left in San Diego's Chinatown. It also has plans to establish a historical archival collection of documents pertinent to Chinese American history in the region. The society maintains a permanent exhibit in the Horton Grand Hotel at 311 Island St., San Diego.
-Board member Mark Mehlert was one of the 2,000 runners in the 10K Firecracker Run celebrating Chinese New Year. Mark is a student at USC studying International Relations.

HANFORD FIELD TRIP

Tentative plans are being discussed for this trip in May. Details will be given at the April and May meetings. Anyone interested, but unable to attend either meeting, should contact Eugene Moy, (818) 289-2067.

WAS IT COINCIDENCE?.....OR FATE?.....OR WHAT?

Our thanks to member Gladys Waddingham for bringing the following incident to our attention:

In July 1970, an Inglewood newspaper, the NEWS ADVERTISER, ceased publication on one day's notice after being bought by the INGLEWOOD DAILY NEWS. Two weeks later, a real estate agent called Gladys, telling her about the piles of photos left in some trash bins, and wondered if perhaps she wanted them for the Centinela Valley Historical Society's archives. Gladys, being the busy lady in many community functions, decided to store the photos in her garage. And there they stayed for over 16 years! Finally, last month, Gladys decided to sift through the material, and there among the hundreds of pictures was the accompanying photo of George Yee receiving a Toastmaster Club trophy.

A note on the back said, "Return to George Yee", but, probably due to an oversight, the photo was never returned -- until now. Was it a coincidence? Or was it the hand of Fate that guided the real estate agent to Gladys more than 16 years ago? Who can say? However, the truth remains -- that fact can be stranger than fiction.....



Editor's note:

Our thanks to Elsie (Mrs. George) Yee for her permission to print this treasured photo of George, who played such an important part in the founding and development of CHSSC until his sad death in December 1985.

HELP!! HELP!!

The officers and Board members request volunteers and assistance for the following:

- (1) Gum Saan Journal co-editors Munson Kwok and Ella Quan need articles on Chinese American history for future issues of the Journal. Call Ella, (213)291-5388, or Munson, (213) 828-6911.
- (2) News n' Notes desperately needs a new editor or editors (see last page). This request has been made a number of times in the past, but now the need is urgent. No special writing skill is required -- only a desire to help the Society achieve its goals.
- (3) Volunteers are needed to provide "goodies" for each monthly meeting. There will be a sign-up sheet at the entrance to the Multi-purpose Room. Two or three persons could share in bringing the snacks each month.

CHSSC BOARD BRIEFS

- Friday, Apr. 10 -- the Chinese American Citizens Alliance will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee by co-sponsoring with the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Assn a dinner at the Golden Palace to honor Judge Ronald Lew. The dinner, at 7 P.M., will cost \$20 per person. Tickets are available from Suellen Kwok, (213) 828-6911. The Society will present a certificate to CACA for its 75th anniversary.
- Saturday, Apr. 11--a meeting will be held at CACA headquarters, 415 Bamboo Lane to discuss proposed projects for the Society: preservation of landmarks, jackets/sweatshirts, China City, Golden Wok, fashion show, book/publications, oral history. All members and past presidents are invited to attend.
- Fri.-Sun., May 1-3--El Pueblo State Historic Park will be the site of a Cinco de Mayo celebration. The Society has been offered a booth to sell soft drinks as a fundraiser, with the profits to be split equally between CHSSC and a Park project of our choice (such as the Chinese American museum). Volunteers may sign up at the April meeting.

Many thanks to Sue Yee, Dolores Wong, Lillian Fong, Wanda Leong, Anna Lowrey, and Jim Cummings' sister, and a mysterious donor in March for providing the "goodies" for the Society's members and guests during the first three meetings of this year.

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!!

Business corporations, government agencies, community groups, and organizations of various types -- all make changes from time to time, often year to year. And changes bring new ideas and more personalities into the continual growth and development of an organization. CHSSC elects new officers each year; it changes Board members every two years; however, NEWS n' NOTES has not had a new editor for the past six years! So --- it's time for a change, and for a number of reasons. First, NEWS n' NOTES could use a new perspective, a different style; second, a change would give a chance for someone to brush up on his/her writing skills; third, and most important, is the fact that come May 1, a certain Mr. Lew will be happily retired, which means that Ye Editor will have to pass on that editorial pen to someone else. Since retirees are notorious for just "picking up and leaving a trail of dust behind them" on no particular day, the time constraints of a monthly newsletter would not be feasible. And I certainly would not want the NEWS n' NOTES to be sent out after a meeting while I was out enjoying myself in some faraway place (or the neighborhood park)!

This will be my last issue on a regular basis, but by no means does this indicate that I will not be involved with CHSSC. I will always be involved with CHSSC, and I intend to help out wherever the need may be, as time and circumstances permit.

Thank you for the privilege of being your editor for the past six years. I consider it an honor that I was entrusted with this duty.

Margie Lew