

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

December 1988

JANUARY MEETING

NOT first Wednesday - NOT January 4!

Marji
in China

DATE: Wednesday, January 11, 1989

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.

PROGRAM: Installation of 1989 Board / Marji Lee in China

Happy New Year everyone! Our first meeting of the year will take place on the second Wednesday in January rather than the first Wednesday. At this meeting we will begin with our regular reports (old/new business), installation of the 1989 Officers and Board of Directors by Councilwoman Gloria Molina, and then our very own CHSSC past Board member, Marji Lee, will share her slides and talk of her one year experience while in China.

Installation of Officers / Board Members for 1989

President	Kipham Kan	
Vice President/Program Chair	Beverly M. Hom	
Secretary	Suellen Cheng Kwok	
Treasurer	Beverly Picazo	
Membership Secretary	Franklin Mah	
Board Members	Patricia Lin	Stanley Mu
	Paul Louie	Angi Ma Wong
	Tom McDannold	

CHSSC JACKET AND CAP: At our last Board meeting, the following price changes were made regarding the sale of our "red" CHSSC jacket and cap:

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-members</u>	Price includes sales tax. Combo includes jacket and cap and saves you a \$1.
Jacket	\$25	\$30	
Cap	\$ 6	\$ 6	
Combo	\$30	\$35	

If you haven't placed your order, what are you waiting for? The 1989 Chinese New Year Parade is just around the corner (February 18). We would like to see everyone dressed in their new red jacket on the 18th. Hurry now and place your order! For more information or to place your order, contact Dawes Lee (213) 221-0440 or Jerry Shue (213) 724-9002. For those of you who have paid your order at the "old price", Dawes Lee will be happy to handle your reimbursements.

EL PUEBLO MUSEUM UPDATE: CHSSC continues to be the Trustee of the Chinese American Museum Fund, monies designated to support the Museum of Chinese American History (MCAH), Old Chinatown Los Angeles, located in El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument. Fund administration procedures have recently been reorganized. Fund administrators Munson Kwok, Gene Moy, and Ella Quan are pleased to report that the fund now contains slightly over \$65,000, due to some donations this year and interest accrual. As part of the Fund activity, an annual newsletter to donors is planned, soon to appear. CHSSC members desiring a copy, please contact Munson Kwok, (213) 828-6911.

For most of this year (1988) El Pueblo's MCAH Museum Committee was engaged in a Task Force to examine all aspects and relationships of the project. Representing CHSSC was Kipham Kan and Paul Louie. Chair of the Task Force was new CHSSC Board member (1989) Dr. Tom McDannold. Among the many findings and conclusions (too many to list here), it was found that the functions of the MCAH Committee had become too confused, embracing advisory, fiscal, research, and other working functions. Accordingly, Chair Munson Kwok adjourned the MCAH Committee in September in favor of reorganizations.

A new non-profit corporation, Friends of MCAH, has been formed to continue fundraising and some programs for MCAH. This organization is presently headed by Dr. Dan Louie, Jr. Los Angeles' Recreation and Parks is in the process of appointing a community Advisory Board or Committee to oversee the project activity. Finally, El Pueblo is hiring a part time staff member who will be solely devoted to the development of MCAH. Project activity will begin to increase significantly in 1989.

Questions on MCAH can be directed to Jean Bruce Poole, (213) 680-2525, at El Pueblo. Donations supporting MCAH can still be made to the Chinese American Museum Fund (checks to "CHSSC") or to Friends of MCAH (checks to "Friends of MCAH") in care of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument. (Submitted by M. Kwok).

CHINESE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER FOR GREATER LOS ANGELES, INC. is looking for more Board members (real workers). Main criteria is that they need someone who can especially help to raise \$4 Million! Currently on the Board are Munson Kwok, Eugene Moy, and Al Soo Hoo. Anyone interested? Contact Munson Kwok (213) 828-6911.

FIELD DEPUTY OPENING: First District Councilwoman Gloria Molina is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the position of Field Deputy previously held by Mr. Victor Huey. Mr. Huey will now be serving as Deputy Director of the Chinatown Service Center. The Field Deputy will act as constituent caseworker, community representative and special liaison to the Chinatown community. Because of the multilingual character of Chinatown, some knowledge of Chinese dialects would be preferred. Would like to fill this vacancy by mid-January. Anyone interested should contact Councilwoman Gloria Molina's office at City Hall, Room 290, (213) 485-3451.

HAWAII TRIP UPDATE: The Society is considering a trip to Hawaii to take part in the celebration of Hawaii's Bicentennial. At this time, we are looking at July/August for the trip to Hawaii and Oahu. More details are forthcoming from the Hawaii History Center. To date, there are 15 people signed up for the trip. This information is based on the "survey of interest" only sign-ups taken at the Christmas party.

CHSSC FALL DINNER REPORT: Our fall dinner held on November 5 was on China City -- a golden celebration. A dinner that surpassed all dinners. Doreen Nakayama and Mary Yee had the pleasure of co-chairing the event. The Society raised \$2,495 which will go toward our oral history project.

CHSSC FALL DINNER REPORT (con't): Two hundred ninety-two (292) people attended the dinner, of which 85 were China City people, not including spouses. Evelyn Cucchiarella made a donation of \$25 which was used to buy nuts for our guests to snack on during the social hour. (Thanks, Evelyn!)

Our MCs were Emma Louie and Tom McDannold who did an excellent job. Ruby Ling Louie gave a superb slide presentation on China City. The slides were fascinating, dating back to the 30's, on stores, events, and people including Society members as children, teens and serving in the Armed Forces and even a picture of a bride -- our very own Ruby Ling Louie. These slides were taken by Franklin Mah, who did an outstanding job with the audio visual presentation. Certificates of recognition were given to the China City people.

It was an exciting and enchanting evening, watching the China City guests reminiscing about the good old days. They really enjoyed the dinner. One of them called Mary Yee two weeks later and thanked her and the Society for having the dinner. She didn't want to hang up -- reliving the night and how she met people she hadn't seen in 25 years.

It was a night filled with happy memories, fellowship and good food. We have to thank our Program Committee, co-chaired by Ruby Louie and Emma Louie, Tom McDannold, plus Paul Louie and Suellen and Munson Kwok. They also researched a map on China City and composed a list of China City residents, which were given out that night.

That night was also the beginning of our Centennial awards and we had the pleasure of honoring the F. See On Company and F. Suie One Company. Plaques were presented to Mrs. F. See On and our very own Florence Leong (congratulations!).

Dorothy Siu gave a moving talk on her memories of China City. We had a fun raffle, and we raised \$721. Our thanks to Edith Jung and Howard Chan who were co-chairs. We had over 50 donations.

We want to thank our dinner committee who worked hard and helped to pull off one of the most successful and memorable dinners. They include Doreen and Ben Nakayama, Luci Suehiro, Cynthia Carter, Wanda Leong, Beverly M. Hom, Kipham Kan, Richard Smith, Franklin Mah, Angi Ma Wong, Elmo Gambarana, Lillian Fong, Dorothy Siu, Anita and Bill Jeung, Howard Hew, John Yee, Helen Morrison, Marie Wong, Edith and Bob Jung, Cathy and Howard Chan. Thanks everyone!

(Mary Yee, Fall Dinner Co-Chair)

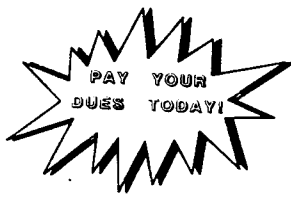
At the fall dinner, the Society made \$86.50 in sales, which included two new memberships, Golden Years booklet, Linking Our Lives, L. A. Chinatown walking tour maps, and SAMFOW: The San Joaquin Chinese Legacy.

Copy of Dorothy Siu's "China City Memories" is attached at the end of this newsletter. Dorothy ... you'll be interested to know that a number of people wanted a copy of your speech. Good work, Dorothy!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Members Susan and Collin Lai have now advanced to LIFE MEMBERSHIP. We welcome them and thank them for their fine support of CHSSC activities. Susan Hum Lai will be LIFE MEMBER No. 94 and Collin K. Lai, No. 95. We also extend a warm welcome to our new members. They are Sylvia Sun Minnick, Jing Chun Xu, Lena D. Bare, Shirley Sui Ling Tam, James Honktt Lau, Margaret Stevenson, Ivy Yee, and Dexter Wong.

It's time to **renew memberships for 1989**. Still only \$15 for regular, \$20 for couples, \$5 for seniors and students. **Make checks payable to "CHSSC" and mail to: Franklin Mah, 2210 Grant Avenue, #1, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.**





MEMBERSHIP REPORT (con't): To keep the Society mailing list up-to-date, members should report any changes of address/phone number to Membership Secretary, Franklin Mah, (213) 372-9421.

Please add the following information to your current membership roster:

Lena D. Bare
14720 Bassett Street
Van Nuys, CA 91405
(818) 780-1891

Shirley Sui Ling Tam and
James Honktt Lau
1135 Wilcox Avenue
Monterey Park, CA 91754
(818) 573-0654

Sylvia Sun Minnick
1404 North Commerce Street
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 462-5351

Margaret Stevenson
3280 Orlando Road
Pasadena, CA 91107
(818) 449-0095

Dexter Wong
16105 Crystalcreek Lane
Cerritos, CA 90701
(213) 404-0693

Jing Chun Xu
1325 N. College Avenue, #227
Claremont, CA 91711
(714) 624-2580

DONATIONS: CHSSC thanks you for your generous donations. Dan, Stan, and Jane Larson - \$610 in memory of their mother, Louise Leung Larson; George Morris - \$25 in memory of Art Young; Laura Lee Zane - \$20 in memory of Louise Leung Larson; and Lucie Cheng - \$5 to help preserve our Chinese American heritage.

Thank you Angi Ma Wong for donating an autographed copy of Chinese American Portraits: Personal Histories 1828-1988 by Ruthanne Lum McCunn to CHSSC.

IN THE NEWS: **GLADYS WADDINGHAM** is one of our remarkable and active members. In her recent Christmas letter, she noted she is 88 this year, in 1988. She has kept Christmas well all these years, and continues to decorate her famous mobiles this year. At her venerable age, she is still involved in community, having represented Occidental College (she's class of '20) at the inauguration of W.L.A. College's first women president. She also invites us to the Centinela Valley Adobe, Inglewood, on January 8, 1989, 6-8 PM, for the traditional lighting of luminaries, music, and cookies.

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On December 15, 1988, 1,150 Chinese were sworn in as new citizens at the Los Angeles Convention Center by Federal Judge Ronald Lew. These Chinese came from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China. There was a kick-off rally launching the Chinese American Immigration Bicentennial Year. Angi Ma Wong made some remarks welcoming the new citizens, told some history of the Chinese in America, and urged the new participants to learn as much English as possible. The official logo was designed by Angi Ma Wong and it appeared on the Immigration Bicentennial Commemoration booklet. Angi also composed part of the booklet.

Bill Chun-Hoon was there with his lion dancers from Castelar Elementary School. Bill Hong was in charge of firecrackers.

Attending the event were Irvin Lai, Lynne Wang, Norman Wong plus four children and Lillian Fong.

Mayor Tom Bradley was unable to attend and Beulah and Edwin Kwoh's son, Stewart, made a speech to represent the Mayor.

It was a rainy day and a day that the participants will remember forever. After the new citizens were sworn in, they waved little American flag, pledged allegiance to the flag,

IN THE NEWS (con't): and listened to the Star Spangle Banner. Altogether the new citizens sang God Bless America, led by INS Commissioner Harold Ezell.

This was the largest swearing in of one ethnic group in American history. Dignitaries included Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Woo and Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich.

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Happy Anniversary to **Cy and Betty Wong** who celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary on November 20.

Andrew Jason Quan born October 7, 1988 is the second grandson for Harry and Ella Quan. Congratulations to his grandparents on both sides of the family; his parents, Richard and Virginia Quan; and his big brother, Matthew.

Kipham Kan (1989 CHSSC President) and **Richard Smith** are engaged! Wedding date forthcoming! (It's going to be a fun and challenging year, Kipham and Richard!)

Ben and Doreen Chan Nakayama are expecting their first baby in May, 1989.

Congratulations to Cy and Betty Wong; Harry and Ella Quan; Richard, Virginia, and Matthew Quan; Kipham Kan and Richard Smith; and Ben and Doreen Chan Nakayama!

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CHSSC member, Johnny Yee, received a message from Ruthanne Lum McCunn, author of Sole Survivor — Chinese seaman, Lim Poon, champion survivor 133 days on open raft when his ship S/S Ben Lomond was torpedoed off coast of South America, WWII. Her book is getting attention in many languages.

With the information from Johnny Yee, Lim Poon finally made a return trip to Hoi Nam Island China earlier this year.

Lim lives in Brooklyn, New York. Retired from the sea and has been inducted into Guinness World Record Hall of Fame 1989. Was flown to London in December to accept the award. "Smooth Sailing" and "Steady As She Goes".

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SYMPATHY: CHSSC extends its condolences to Dr. Tom and Joan McDannold on the passing of Tom's father, George Waldon McDannold (7/17/15 - 12/10/88). Memorial services were held 12/14/88 in Oxnard.

CALENDAR: For those interested in representing the CHSSC as Course Marshal for the City of Los Angeles Marathon on March 5, 1989, be sure to submit your application forms to Gene Moy by **January 8**. This will allow Gene some time to process his end of the work before submitting all forms by the January 15 deadline. Please mail your forms early to: Gene Moy, 516 North Campbell Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91801 (818) 289-2067.

Wednesday, January : CHSSC Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Meeting date/place to be announced at the January General Meeting.

Saturday, January 21: Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County (AHSAC) Mini-Conference hosted by the Pasadena Historical Society (470 West Walnut Street at

CALENDAR (con't): Orange Grove, Pasadena begins 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Registration is limited to the first 50 people. Program consist of three concurrent sessions, 15 minutes each: The P.H.S. Junior Docent Program, The Pasadena History Museum, and the P.H.S. Library & Archives. Reservations (\$2.00) and box lunches (\$6.50). Make check payable to AHSLAC and mail to: AHSLAC, 529 Marine Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. For information, call (818) 792-1048.

Sunday, February 5: Chinese New Year 5K/10K Run. The 5K/10K Run Committee is looking for 20 volunteers from the CHSSC to assist the "early" morning (6:00 a.m.) of the race. Once again the Society will be helping in the refreshment area, as well as other areas as instructed (course, registration, t-shirts, etc.) Anyone interested in helping should contact Bev Hom (818) 336-7900 **before January 10** (not January 11)! When calling, be sure to state your T-shirt size (material is 50% cotton/50% polyester). If you haven't tried this kind of work, you're missing out on the fun! Just think! Great place to meet new friends! Volunteers are given free goodies (i.e., T-shirt, visor, food, and a "thank you" lunch is provided at one of the local restaurants in Chinatown for all volunteers involved with the race).

Saturday, February 18: Chinese New Year Parade "Year of the Serpent" (Parade time: 3:00 p.m.) -- details forthcoming at January General Meeting.

WANT/HELP ADS: Call (213) 281-7429 for an update on the Society's calendar of events. Questions? Leave a message and someone will call you shortly.

Transportation? Bessie Loo, CHSSC member, needs ride to meetings. She lives in West Hollywood. Please call (213) 652-9928 if you can help.

Articles for Gum Saan Journal? Society is seeking articles on Chinese American history for the next issue of Gum Saan Journal. Questions or information? Please contact Ella Quan (213) 291-5388 or Munson Kwok (213) 828-6911.

We still need volunteers to help staff our office space "once a month" at El Pueblo (State Parks Office, 128 Paseo de la Plaza, Los Angeles, 213-620-3343) on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m or 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. or 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Free parking is provided for volunteers working at the office. Our office space is donated by the State Parks. For information, contact Howard Hew (818) 843-5943 or Angi Ma Wong (213) 541-1809.

BOOK CORNER: Ocean of Bitter Dreams (Maritime relations between China and the United States, 1850-1915) by Robert J. Schwendinger (Westernlore Press, P. O. Box 35305, Tucson, AZ 85740, price: \$18.95). Mr. Schwendinger is a member of the Chinese Historical Society of American (CHSA) and lives in the San Francisco Bay area. He received his M.A. from the University of Iowa and University of the Americas. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin and University of Santa Clara. He is presently Executive Director, Maritime Humanities Center, Berkeley, California. Other books written include Port of Call and Chinese-American Experience.

CHINESE AMERICAN PORTRAITS: PERSONAL HISTORIES 1828-1988 by Ruthanne Lum McCunn tells the compelling stories of remarkable individuals and families from many walks of life. Capturing the detail and texture of the Chinese American experience in all regions of the country, these portraits combine history, biography, politics, and ethnic studies -- all reading with the ease of fiction. The book is 9 x 12, 175 pages, over 150 black and white photos, bibliography, and index. Cost is: hardbacks \$29.95 each and paperbacks \$16.95 each plus 6% sales tax (California residents) and \$2.00 for shipping and handling. Please send checks payable to CHSA, 17 Adler, San Francisco, CA 94133.

BOOK CORNER (con't): SAMFOW: THE SAN JOAQUIN CHINESE LEGACY by Sylvia Sun Minnick. Cost is \$26.50 (includes tax; this for "in person" purchase); \$28.75 (includes tax, shipping and handling). Check is payable to: A Bridge to the Past. Send to: A Bridge to the Past, 1404 N. Commerce Street, Stockton, CA 95202.

LINKING OUR LIVES: Chinese American Women of Los Angeles, a joint project of the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA and Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. Cost: \$9.95 + shipping/handling. For more information, call Ella Quan (213) 291-5388.

GUM SAAN JOURNAL Cost: \$2.00. Call Margie Lew (213) 222-4375 for back issues.

LOS ANGELES CHINATOWN: THE GOLDEN YEARS 1938-1988, a book detailing the history of Los Angeles' Chinatown, has been published by the 50th Anniversary Committee and the Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation. It will be distributed by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California by mail or available at K. G. Louie Store and others in Central Plaza, Los Angeles Chinatown.

The 72-page book contains many rare, never-before-published photographs of Chinatown and is available for purchase at the following price per copy which includes tax, postage and handling. Checks are payable to CHSSC. Send to CHSSC, Book Department, 4205 South La Salle Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90062.

	<u>Purchase at general meetings</u>	<u>By mail (includes tax, postage and handling)</u>
CHSSC Members	\$3.00	\$4.50
Non-members	\$5.00	\$6.50

* * * * THE FOLLOWING ARE PUBLICATIONS OF THE GREAT BASIN FOUNDATION (GBF) * * * *

MOON LEE ONE (Life in Old Chinatown, Weaverville, California) by Clark W. Brott. 1982, 138 + v pp., 71 illustrations. Cost: \$18 non-member / \$16.20 GBF member.

WONG HO LEUN: AN AMERICAN CHINATOWN (edited and published by GBF; with a special dedication by Maxine Hong Kingston). Occasional papers of the Great Basin Foundation, No. 2, 1987. **Volume 1:** 405 pp, 200 illustrations color/B&W; **Volume 2:** 555 pp, 300 illustrations color/B&W. Cost: \$105 non-member / \$94.50 GBF member.

California residents add 6% sales tax

Postage and handling - \$5.00 for Wong Ho Leun; \$1.50 for all other items

Discounts available to libraries/retailers.

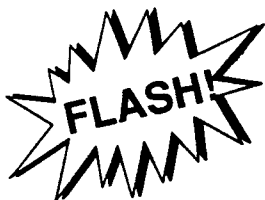
Mail orders/checks to: Great Basin Foundation
1236 Concord Street
San Diego, CA 92106

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you for your support of News 'n Notes -- staff contributors in this issue: Munson Kwok, Suellen Cheng Kwok, Angi Ma Wong, Mary Yee, Lillian Fong, Dorothy Siu, Beverly Picazo, Johnny Yee, and Paul Louie. November 12 mailing session supporters: Dorothy Siu, Franklin Mah, Kipham Kan, Richard Smith, and Howard Hew. Special thanks to Elsa Wu of the Chinatown Library for the use of the workroom for our mailing session.

Items for N'nN are always welcome! Please submit in writing to News 'n Notes Editor, 15744-25 Tetley Street, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745. Deadline is the 15th of every month! Items submitted are printed at the discretion of the editor.

Beverly M. Hom, N 'n N Editor

SEASON'S GREETING . . . Wishing you and yours a beautiful holiday season and a new year of peace and happiness!



Welcome ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming to help us celebrate what was once China City. My husband Jake and I were among the first tenants when China City Opened in 1938. We had a small shop called "The Flower Hut" and we specialized in silk flower arrangements. Mr Ling T. Nan and his family had just moved here from Chicago and he read about the opening in the newspaper. He didn't have time to rent and fix up a store so he asked us if he could use space on one of our tables to display his carved soapstone figurines. We said we didn't know anything about soapstone but he said not to worry, he would have one of his children take care of it. And that's how we met 8 yr. old Ruby! She was the salesperson for the soapstone and very good was she.

Mrs Christine Sterling, the mother of Olvera Street and China City, knew a Mr. Ray Cannon, a director of "B" pictures, and he brought along a dancer Nina Laemmle. ~~and~~ was related to the Carl Laemmle who owned Universal Studios at that time. The two of them put on shows for us whenever we had cause to celebrate, like the Moon festivals and Chinese New Years. The shows were held in the open courtyard and really helped to put China City on the map. Many photography clubs came to shoot pictures of us and China City and that's how come I have so many photos. Among the many celebrities who came thru I remember when Cary Grant brought Barbara Hutton, his wife. She was a tiny person and He was very solicitous of her, I don't think they bought anything. Perry Como also used to come often to eat at the Chinese Village Restaurant. Bruce Wong and sister Daisy owned the restaurant called the Chinese Village. Brothers Bill and Bruce worked often in the movies so many stars came to eat there. Ava Gardner and her husband had everyone talking because she tipped the cocktail waitress \$5.00 which was a Big tip at the time. When Mary Martin first arrived from New York, she and Virginia Hill came often to eat at the Village. When Virginia became Bugsy Siegel's girl friend, she brought him to see us and they took me to the Bamba Club, a Mexican night club

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on Spring street between Macy and Sunset. When a good looking bullfighter asked Virginia to dance, Bugsy gave a very imperceptible shake of his head, and that's how I got to tango with a toreador! Ole!

On the night of Dec. 7 when Pearl Harbor was bombed and we had our first blackout I remember standing outside with others and I could see the foundation of the building Mr. Macy was having built for us. We had a store downstairs and living quarters upstairs. We lived there for 15 years and enjoyed it very much. Mr Macy also gave us the use of an empty store on Spring street to use as a Chinese Canteen for the boys in uniform to rest and relax between trains. On our opening night, the Airforce sent 2 bus loads of flight trainees from China, and just when they were ready to leave another bus pulled up and out poured Bob Hope, his wife Dolores, Pat O'Brien his wife Eloise, Jerry Colona and a band and they gave us a whole show! I'll always love Bob Hope and Dolores for the pleasure they gave the boys that night. Dolores Hope was also responsible for the Chinese women joining the American Women Volunteer Services. We manned a Savings Bond booth at the Union Station. With thousands of people passing thru the station daily funny things were always happening. One day the lady who manned the validation desk came to tell US OF THE WOMAN WHO ASKED HER if that was where she came to be Violated!

On the north side of our building was the Kwan Ying section of China City and on the south side was an old building that housed the small shops including our original Flower Hut and the House of Wang, the set from the picture "The Good Earth" that MGM gave to Mrs Sterling. ~~and~~ MGM had their carpenters and prop men reconstruct the set for us, they also built all the tiny shops with a walkway down the middle of this old building which used to be a blacksmith shop and barn and made it look like an old street in China. But the work was done like a movie set, all front and no substance behind, so when it caught fire the whole building went up in a matter of minutes. Since the Kwan Ying section was built from scratch city codes

* Pat O'Brien gave us a check for \$200 before he left.

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were followed more or less and the stores were constructed better. Iron gates were at each entrance and were locked at night by a security guard. In the center was a small restaurant and bar owned and run by Paul Fung and his wife Flora. Paul was a movie villain, Flora was the bartender and was very popular with some members of the LAPD so when she started missing bottles of liquor a stake out was placed there. Sure enough, the burglar came again and when he started out with his loot, he was shot dead. And do you know who it was? The Security guard! As the war with Japan continued it became harder and harder to get merchandise from China. We had to replace our stock with American made goods which did not sell as well, so after 17 years we gave up and left China City. It was the end of a pleasant and happy period of my life and I shall always remember it fondly.

In conclusion I want to thank the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California for bringing us all together so we can relive those happy days and to see and visit with old friends again.

Thank you and good night.

Dorothy Siu
November 5, 1988

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Year of the Dragon...we waited twelve years for it to reappear with its promise of strength and growth, ups and downs, just like the dragon's tail. It has been such a year for the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and as 1988 comes to a close with my second term as your president, allow me to recall the significant activities of our organization.

In January Victor Huey stood in for Councilwoman Gloria Molina to install our new officers and board. That working meeting with over 60 members gave us an opportunity to evaluate our direction, make constructive suggestions for improvement and renew our commitment to the Society and its goals.

February brought the excitement of the 10K Run, Golden Dragon parade (using our own flags for the very first time) a walking tour of Old and New Chinatown for UCLA teachers and Garland Richard Kyle sharing with us the life and legend of Anna May Wong. The Chinese Engineers and Scientists Association of Southern California also held its first association fair to acquaint its conference attendees with community organizations such as ours.

Teena Stern gave us invaluable and practical advice on how to preserve our family photographs, documents and artifacts in March while in April Ted Wu shared his collection of rare Chinese folk prints. Also in April the Society supported the screening of Arthus Dong's film "Lotus". Former Los Angeles resident and ESL teacher at Castelar Moonbeam Lee came to town in May to tell about her husband Edwar Lee's life and work in San Francisco Chinatown.

June had to be the most exciting month this past year. Not only did the Society hosted a highly-publicized progressive dinner on the 5th to raise funds for our next major publication, Louise Leung Larson's Sweet Bamboo, our organization proudly co-sponsored the banquet celebrating the 50th anniversary of the dedication of New Chinatown.

Our first Society picnic in July was attended by over a hundred people. Co-chairs Beverly Hom and Kipham Kan did an outstanding job in choosing the beautiful Heritage Park in Cerritos and organizing many hilarious and exciting games.

While I was back East helping my folks make the move to California, Vice President Kipham very ably presided over the September meeting during which we showed the 50th anniversary slide presentation and caught a glimpse of four of the five founders on "2 the Point" via video.

The author of Samfow, Sylvia Sun Minnick, was the featured speaker at our October meeting, co-hosted with the China Society at the Golden Dragon Restaurant. Representing the CHSSC, I attended the 8th Annual Conference of the California Committee for the Promotion of History in Santa Ana and spoke on "Living History and Culture-Lighting the Spark."

Thanks to co-chairs Mary Yee and Doreen Chan Nakayama, our

November 5 "L.A. China City Experience" provided many old friends with a chance to reunite after twenty, thirty and for some, as many as fifty years. The evening illuminated the rest of us on the golden days of China City. Tom McDannold, Emma Louie, Ruby Ling Louie spearheaded the hardworking committees that provided the exhaustive research and interviews which formed the essence of Ruby's memorable narrative. Special appreciation also goes to oldtimer Dorothy Siu who shared her fond memories of her China City days.

This month our annual Christmas party drew a large crowd as usual and the Society was selected by the Chinese American community to represent it at the Chinese American Immigration Bicentennial rally held at the convention center on December 15. That day's ceremonies marked the largest mass swearing-in of American citizens from one ethnic group in the history of our country. It was 200 hundred years ago that the Chinese first arrived on the Hawaiian Islands. We were the second group there after the Polynesians from the neighboring islands and a year-long celebration has been planned to celebrate this bicentennial. We should not forget that it was on December 18, 1943 the Chinese Exclusion Act was finally repealed after 61 years, finally opening the doors of immigration for the Chinese a crack.

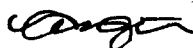
While there were many happy anniversaries, weddings and births and birthdays celebrated in 1988, this message would not be complete without mention of those whose deaths we feel deeply: Pioneers Sam Gee and Sam Chang (103) whom were among the Magnificent Seven we honored in 1986; Robert Lee and Art Young, two old and dear friends; Louise Leung Larson whose book we still move forward to publish next year; and our oldest life member Wong Young Louis (94) of San Luis Obispo.

As this term ends, I want to thank all of you for your tireless energy and enthusiasm that has made the Society strong and energetic these past two years. As your president I have received many expressions of thanks and congratulations, but the credit does not go to me but to those of you behind the scenes who have done so much to make each one of our meetings, activities and projects a success. Only by working together as a team have we been able to achieve so much these past two years. I only ask that you continue to give your new administration the same support this next year.

This is not goodbye as I will continue to serve the Society as a board member in 1989. Please let us know how we can help the Society grow and outreach into the community.

May you and your families be blessed during this holiday season and during the new year with peace, love, good health and joy. Once again, I thank you for your friendship and commitment to the Society.

Sincerely,



Angi Ma Wong

December 1988

Note to Angi: Sorry for placing your letter at the end of this newsletter, but when I received it, News 'n Notes was all set for the printer's! (Thanks for your input!)