

# The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove NEWSLETTER

*Dedicated to Maintaining the Beauty and Individuality of Pacific Grove*

Volume 12, Issue 5

June-July 2012



## Walk of Remembrance

*Recognizing the Point Almejas – Point Alones Chinese Fishing Village*



*Gerry Low-Sabado, center, is a direct descendant of Quock Mui, the first documented Chinese American woman born on the Monterey Peninsula. Low-Sabado was instrumental in bringing attention to the need to recognize the contributions of Chinese to the history of Pacific Grove and the Peninsula. Pacific Grove Mayor Carmelita Garcia, right, worked with Low-Sabado to found the Walk of Remembrance to honor those people.*

The early Pacific Grove Chinese fishing village was located along the shores of Pacific Grove between Point Almejas and Point Alones and has been in the past referred to as Point Almejas, Point Alones, China Point, Mussel Point, as well as Cabrillo Point. It was one of the earliest American immigrant communities in what is present day Pacific Grove. It stretched from Pacific Grove to just over the boundary

with Monterey and was the largest Chinese fishing village in the Monterey Bay Region. The village was also unique in that it was one of the earliest Chinese communities in California where entire families of men, women, and children lived and worked for several generations. It was unusual to find Chinese women and children in the United States from the 1850's through the 1870s as records show it was mostly Chinese

men came to the "Gum Saan" ("Golden Mountain," the Chinese name for America) in search of gold or to work on the railroad. Members of these village families represent first California-born generation of the thriving Point Almejas/Point Alones Chinese community.

For the past few years, a celebratory "Walk of Remembrance" has been held. The Walk begins at the Museum of Natural History and

## Calendar

### ONGOING

#### ONY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

The Heritage Society sponsors a Pony League Baseball team in Pacific Grove each year.

#### POINT PINOS LIGHTHOUSE

The Heritage Society has recently started to assist the City of Pacific Grove in the restoration and maintenance of the 1855 Point Pinos Lighthouse. Please contact the Heritage society if you wish to volunteer to help.

### LECTURES

Lectures are on hiatus for the summer. Watch for news of lectures later in the year. Lectures are free to paid-up members.

### OCTOBER

#### HISTORIC HOME TOUR

#### ARTISTS IN CHAUTAUQUA

#### HERITAGE HOMES FOR THE BIRDS

**Sunday, October 7, 2012**

A wonderful opportunity to view some of our beautiful historic homes and other structures and enjoy a historical walking tour.

See wonderful original arts and crafts, held for sale in historic Chautauqua Hall. Free Admission

Bid on an eclectic assortment of handmade bird houses and bird feeders made by local craftspeople in a variety of styles.

Your purchase goes to support the activities and efforts of the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove all year long.

*The text in this story is taken from the Mayor's Proclamation for the Walk of Remembrance, 2012*

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## Walk of Remembrance

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then follows the Rec Trail (formerly a railroad route) to the site of the Chinese Fishing Village. The Pacific Grove Heritage Society is a part of the organization of the Walk.

The Chinese Community located in Point Almejas – Point Alones pioneered the development of the west coast abalone industry through its knowledge in harvesting, processing, and drying this resource which previously had not been commercially harvested in the area. The Chinese abalone fishing industry was a large-scale export industry that contributed to the development of California. The abalone meat was dried, sold, and exported to China.

Later, the abalone shells were sold to China for the mother-of-pearl cabinet inlays and Chinese jewelry. Eventually the shells were sold in New York to make buttons and jewelry.

Quock Mui, the first documented Chinese American female born in the Monterey Peninsula area, lived in the Point Almejas-Point Alones Chinese Fishing Village. She had the amazing talent and ability of reaching out to and engaging a diverse and multi-ethnic community of friends. She learned to speak five languages: Chinese, English, Rumsien Indian, Spanish, and Portuguese. The fact that she was multi-lingual tells us that she could easily adapt and learn to speak other languages, communicating with diverse friends and acquaintances from surrounding communities. How great that she was a trusted friend in the community as evidenced by the fact



*Drummers from the Monterey Bay Lion Dancers performed in front of the Museum of Natural History and later led the procession of celebrants to the site of the Chinese Fishing Village.*

that she was known as “Spanish Mary” because Spanish speaking people would ask Quock Mui to help translate for them.

The Chinese fishermen built twenty-one-foot, flat-bottomed fishing sampans with a single triangular sail and caught abalone, squid, flounder, rock fish, cod, halibut, red and blue fish, yellow tail, mackerel, sardines, shell fish, sea slugs, sea urchins, and they harvested sea weed and sea kelp.

The Chinese fishermen at Point Almejas – Point Alones during a period of high domestic tension with other immigrant fishing groups drew upon their knowledge of fishing, devised a singularly unique and clever means of fishing for squid at night by use of lantern lights from their wire baskets of pitch lit with flames as a lure and attractant to the squid.

According to 1900 Hopkins Sea Side Laboratory scientists in Pacific Grove, Chinese fisherman (Quock) Ah Tuck Lee possessed the necessary skill to

locate and retrieve, what were at the time, and still are to this day the very elusive and much coveted specimens of hagfish embryos. Much of our current understanding of hagfish embryology is the result of the hagfish embryos that Quock Tuck Lee and the Point Alones Chinese fishing community collected for Bashford Dean (1902, 1904, 1906) and other scientists who were conducting research at the laboratory.

According to the Evening Bulletin, October 12, 1888 the Point Almejas – Point Alones Chinese fisherman villager Quock Ah Tuck Lee was the only Chinese voter in Monterey County.



*The hagfish*

Chinese American railroad workers contributed to the development of Monterey county and thus Pacific Grove through their skilled work on the Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad with the rail tracks leading to Pacific Grove.

After the Point Almejas – Point Alones Chinese Fishing Village burned down mysteriously on May 16, 1906, the Chinese were not allowed to rebuild. Many Chinese moved away to Salinas, Watsonville, and San Francisco. However, a few Chinese remained on the Monterey Peninsula and moved their family into the McAbee Beach Chinese Village near the center of Ocean View Boulevard, now known as Cannery Row.

After the 1906 fires that destroyed the Chinese fishing community at Point Alones, the Pacific Improvement Company and residents of Pacific Grove barred Chinese residents from returning to their settlements and deprived these Americans of their constitutionally protected rights. The tribulations endured by the Chinese American community in Pacific Grove and in Monterey County in the 19th century are important contemporary lessons in the protections and purposes of the U.S. Constitution: Freedom, liberty, equality, equal treatment before the law, as well as being important lessons in the costs of civil strife, racial animosity, and exclusion over inclusion

On May 16, 2006, exactly 100 years after the village fire, village descendants gathered for a “100 Year Respectful Remem-

*Please see next page*

## Walk of Remembrance

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brance of the Point Alones/Point Almejas Chinese Fishing Village” to remember and pay respect to their ancestors who once lived in the village.

“A community that reflects upon its past and recognizes historical mistakes is less likely to be forced to repeat them,”

June, 2009.

In 2010, 2011 and 2012 Pacific Grove Mayor Carmelita Garcia, the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, the Chinese Fishing Village Descendants, the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove, The Monterey Bay Lion Dance Team, the National

the Chinese American inhabitants who once thrived on Pacific Grove Shores.

The walk began at the PGMNH and proceeded to Lovers Point and then down the recreation trail to the area next to Hopkins Marine Station where the Chinese Village once

walk is to remember the whole history of Pacific Grove.

The Point Almejas – Point Alones Chinese Villagers have left a lasting legacy for many generations of descendants as they spread out across Monterey County, California, the United States, and beyond. De-



*Monterey Bay Lion Dancers are a troupe of dancers and drummers who perform a version of the thousand year-old Lion Dance. The lion is being enticed with oranges in the photos above. He eventually eats them and is subdued.*

said the Mayor.

In 2007, Stanford University sponsored a 5 week archaeological excavation of the village site. Artifacts from that dig were on display at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History with an exhibit titled “Fishing Village In The Fog – An Early Chinese Fishing Settlement On Monterey Bay” which opened in

Coalition Building Institute – Monterey Chapter, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Pacific Grove community, and friends gathered at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History for the First and Second Annual Walk of Remembrance of Pacific Grove’s Chinese Fishing Village to remember and educate about that village and

stood. The recreation trail was built over the train tracks which some of the Chinese village inhabitants had helped to build.

The “Walk of Remembrance” DVD/video was produced documenting this event and interviewing some visitors to Pacific Grove who talked about what this event meant to them and how important the

spite hardship and challenging obstacles, villagers and their descendants have persevered and they have moved on. They have become successful citizens and continue to contribute greatly to their communities today.



*The grave marker of Quock Mui at Cementerio El Encinal in Monterey. Born in California in 1839, she became a citizen when California became a state. The home she lived in as an adult still stands near Cannery Row though it is not marked.*



*The Tuttle collection of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History is comprised of approximately 600 photographs that were made in the late 19th and early 20th century by Charles K. Tuttle, a Pacific Grove pharmacist. Dozens of Chinese residents were photographed by Tuttle and are included in the collection. He scratched their names in the emulsion on the photo plates. At left, ‘Gin Foo.’*

# Chautauqua Days Are Getting Closer

One of the favorite events of the year for all of those who participate is the Chautauqua Days weekend in Pacific Grove. The events sponsored and co-sponsored by your Heritage Society are the Artists in Chautauqua event and sale, the Historic Home Tour and last but certainly not least is the Houses for the Birds Contest and Auction. October 7<sup>th</sup> is the date for these three events. As in the past we will reach out to those who have made these events so popular.

This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Most of the proceeds support your Heritage Society throughout the year and some funds go toward our ongoing restoration of our precious Lighthouse. The Artists event will take place in Chautauqua Hall and the Houses for the Birds event will be next door at Elmarie Dyke Park.

There are added categories for the Birdhouse event. We are adding most patriotic, local historic, humorous, architect's

choice and several others. You can also build a bird feeder instead or build both! We had over 35 entries in 2011. Our goal is to exceed that number this year. We can with your participation.

Reserve Sunday October 7, awaken your creative genes, grab your tools and begin building your 2012 Birdhouse or Bird Feeder. More information will be published in succeeding issues of your Heritage Society Newsletter.

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## Call for Docent Volunteers

*What: 43rd Home Tour Docents Needed*

*Date of Home Tour: Oct. 7 Sunday*

*Time: 11- 4p.m.*

*Docents work either a.m. shift or p.m. shift*

*Receive: A ticket to go on Home tour*

*Further Information call: The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove  
831.372.2898 or email [info@pacificgroveheritagesociety.com](mailto:info@pacificgroveheritagesociety.com)*

Looking for one more home for the  
43rd annual Pacific Grove Home Tour.  
Please contact Claudia Sawyer or  
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Return Service Requested

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