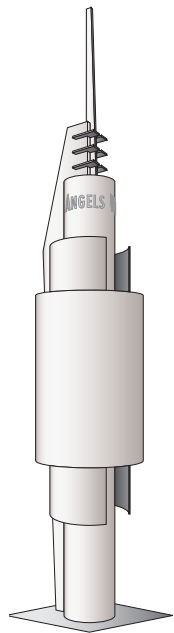


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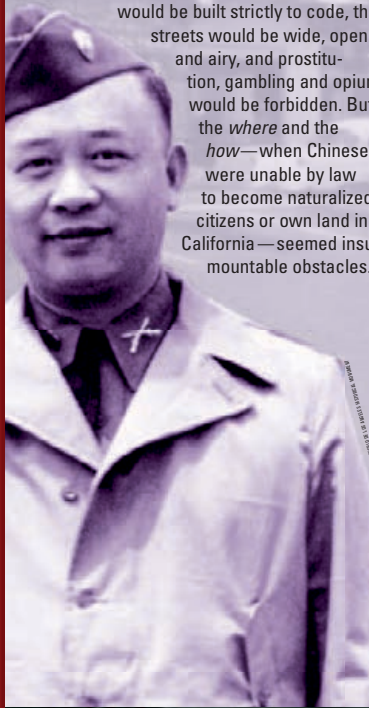
ANGELS WALK CHINATOWN



Grand opening of New Chinatown, 1938.

Chinatown Redefined

In 1933, when Old Chinatown was torn down to make way for the construction of Union Station, everyone began to think about what form a new Chinese community might take. Peter Soo Hoo, the first Chinese hired by the Department of Water and Power as an engineer, envisioned a Chinatown where the inhabitants could redefine themselves to the larger community. The buildings would be built strictly to code, the streets would be wide, open and airy, and prostitution, gambling and opium would be forbidden. But the *where* and the *how*—when Chinese were unable by law to become naturalized citizens or own land in California—seemed insurmountable obstacles.



On April 22, 1937, Peter Soo Hoo arranged a meeting between Herbert Lapham, a sympathetic Santa Fe Railroad agent, and prominent Old Chinatown families to form the Los Angeles Chinatown Project Association. With Lapham's assistance, people purchased railroad land for 75 cents a square foot through their native-born—and thus American citizen—children. Erle Webster and Adrian Wilson, both Caucasians, were hired as architects. They designed what is believed to be one of the first outdoor malls in America.

On June 25, 1938, New Chinatown opened amidst great fanfare. Lanterns, banners, and flags of the United States and the Republic of China festooned the area. Maidens, dressed in traditional costumes,



guided visitors through red-carpeted streets that had been given such topical names as Mei-Ling Way (the given name of Madame Chiang Kai-shek) and Sun Mun Way (for Dr. Sun Yat-sen's *Three Principles of the People*). Artists like Tyrus Wong, Gilbert Leong, and Keye Luke (at that time also an aspiring actor) contributed paintings and sculpture for an exhibition. After a parade, lion dance, firecrackers, and musical interludes, the politicians and celebrities (including Governor Frank Merriam and actress Anna May Wong) retired to the newly relocated Man Jen Low Restaurant for dinner and dancing.

Peter Soo Hoo in military dress.



Gateway New Chinatown with neon light.

Neo-Chinese Architecture

New Chinatown is all about details: gaily painted balconies, luminous tile work, windows covered by ornately carved screens in geometric patterns, and sweeping upturned roofs—many of which are decorated with additional sculptures of mythical animals. But Chinatown's most recognizable architectural elements are the four gates that grace the area. In China, gates are both practical and ceremonial, serving as entrances but often as commemorative memorials as well. Central Plaza's East Gate—or Gate of Maternal Virtues—was commissioned as



Gateway to New Chinatown, 1939.

an expression of filial piety by pioneer attorney You Chung Hong to honor the memory of his mother and all mothers.

Father of Modern China

Just inside the East Gate is a statue of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Chinese revolutionary, ideological father of modern China, and first president of the Republic of China. He also had significant ties to Los Angeles. In 1905, Dr. Sun was smuggled into Southern California on a potato boat. He was honored at a fund-raising banquet in Old Chinatown, and he exhorted young men to join his quest in the Plaza at El Pueblo. Eventually, over 2,000 troops would be smuggled out of this country and into China where they fought for the overthrow of the Manchu government and the formation of the Republic of China in 1911.



Sun Yat-sen parade.



(三) 孫中山銅像廣場

新華埠

當舊華埠在1933年因興建聯合火車站而被遷拆時，人人都在構想新的華人社區。1937年4月22日，在水電局第一位華裔工程師司徒元發的安插下，與本著同情心的鐵路局地產經紀Herbert Lapham 的協助，組成洛杉磯華埠計劃協會，並藉以本土出生的子女名義，以每平方呎七毛五仙的價錢購得這一塊由鐵路公司擁有的土地。同時聘請了兩名白人 Erle Webster 及 Adrian Wilson 為建築師。建成了美國第一個戶外購物中心。

開幕日

1938年6月25日，新華埠在盛大的慶典中開幕。全城歡聚著燈籠和絲帶，美國與中華民國的旗幟隨風四處飄揚，進人在穿上傳統戲服的仕女引領下，走過鋪上紅地毯的街道，參觀了美齡路（蔣介石夫人名字）及三民路（孫中山博士的三民主義）。藝術家如黃霽權、梁恩霖及Keye Luke（亦是當時一位演員）捐出名畫及雕塑以供展覽。在巡禮、醒獅、放爆竹及音樂之後，各政要及知名人士（包括加州州長 Frank Merriam 及女星黃柳霜）便到重新建造的高珍樓享用晚宴及跳舞。

中國革命

在華埠的東門是孫中山博士的銅像，他是現代中國之父，出色的革命家及中華民國第一任總統。他與洛杉磯有著非常密切的關係。1905年，孫博士偷渡到加州，在舊華埠舉行的籌款晚宴上受到尊崇，且在 El Pueblo 的 Plaza 廣場招募年青人參加革命軍的行列。最後有超過二千名革命軍從這裡偷渡到中國，為推翻滿清政府而戰鬥，並於1912年成立中華民國。

Homer Lea，一名洛杉磯高中畢業生，在十九世紀末到中國，回來時是中國革命軍副總，並成立西洋軍校，為中國革命軍訓練軍官。他曾經在美國多個社區訓練數以百計的年青中國軍人。他的訓練軍官曾在馬立布灘進行野外實習，在荷里活山進行演習，並在拉古納灘實習射擊。



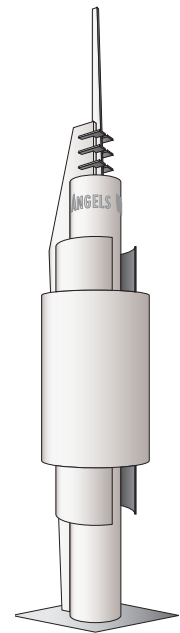
(Above) Chee Kung Tong Company.



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ANGELS WALK CHINATOWN



“Cooperate to Achieve”

At the grand opening of New Chinatown in 1938, guests passed through the West Gate—the first of Chinatown’s four gates to be constructed. Chinese



Governor Frank Merriam at President Roosevelt's birthday ball, 1934.

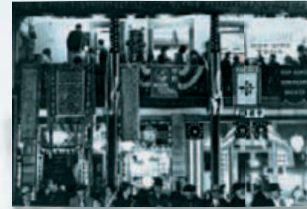
Consul T.K. Chang composed an inscription for the top of the gate which translates “Cooperate to Achieve” in Chinese characters. During opening ceremonies, Governor Frank Merriam dedicated a bronze plaque commemorating the contributions the Chinese made to the building of the railroads. But while it seemed that the Chinese had finally found a permanent home, they were still unable to become American citizens. Perhaps for this reason news from China stirred deep feelings of patriotism for the home country.



(left) “China Nite” souvenir program.

(right) “Moon Festival” program.

Seven years before New Chinatown opened, Japan conquered Manchuria and began mounting periodic raids into China. Then, in July 1937, Japan suddenly attacked and seized nearly all Chinese coastal cities and industrial areas. New Chinatown opened a year later and its residents—together with those from the other Chinese enclaves in Los Angeles—became involved in a variety of civic activities to benefit the homeland. They participated in the New Life Movement, the Rice Bowl Campaign, and the Seven-Seven Campaign to raise money to help China defend itself and to alleviate the suffering of its people.



Moon festival during the war years.

Beginning in 1938, Los Angeles Chinese sponsored a Moon Festival to raise money for United China Relief. Over several weeks, excitement escalated as a Moon Festival Queen (a precursor to today’s Miss Chinatown) was selected for her beauty and manners. David Soo Hoo, the



Mei Wah Girls, 1935.



Retired Superior Court Judge Delbert E. Wong, c. 1943.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and America’s entry into World War II, the Pacific would remain virtually closed, with the result that little or no merchandise could be imported. For many mom-and-pop shops in Chinatown,

this meant buying cheap curios from Mexico, while in restaurants chefs improvised, using apples and jicama in place of water chestnuts. These were minor inconveniences when American-born sons of Chinese descent were shipping out and fighting for the United States.

WEST GATE



Grand opening of New Chinatown, 1938.

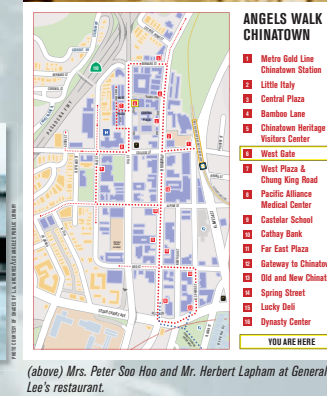
Ten Thousand Treasures

Man Jen Low—which means “Ten Thousand Treasures”—was one of the first Chinese restaurants in Los Angeles. It opened in the late 1800s in a “two-by-four shack” at 1st and Mateo streets in Downtown Los Angeles, then later as a much larger establishment on Marchesa Street where Union Station stands today. Woo Fon Lee, the second generation son, moved the restaurant to Gin Ling Way when New Chinatown opened in 1938.



Man Jen Low, 1937.

There came a day not long after World War II ended when a Los Angeles Times food editor and some of his friends were talking about the name of the restaurant. They felt it sounded too foreign for modern times. Believing that Lee was Mr. Woo’s last name—and humorously relating it to Confederate General Robert E. Lee—they suggested that the restaurant be renamed General Lee’s. Clothing designer Rudi Gernreich designed new waiters’ uniforms, which were so popular that female customers begged to purchase them. From its humble beginnings, General Lee’s clientele grew to include celebrities like Gregory Peck and Los Angeles Times publisher Otis Chandler.



(above) Mrs. Peter Soo Hoo and Mr. Herbert Lapham at General Lee’s restaurant.

(六) 西門

「羅致青華」

在1938年新華埠正式開幕，當時中國駐美大使張常親筆為城門上的「羅致青華」牌匾題字。在開幕儀式上，州長Frank Merriam將銅牌以紀念華人在建造鐵路上所作出之貢獻。

在新華埠興建完成的七年前，日本侵略中國滿洲，開始了中國一段悲慘痛苦的歷史。1937年7月日本突然舉軍，侵佔了中國幾乎所有沿海城市及工業城市。新華埠在一年後開幕，當時許多華人聚集在洛杉磯，開始參與一連串援助祖國的活動。例如新生運動、一晚飯運動及七七運動，為援助中國抗戰及其他受戰亂摧殘的人民而籌募捐款。

在1938年初，洛杉磯華人舉辦中秋慶祝會，為United China Relief籌募捐款。數星期後，選出以美貌及儀態為評選標準的中秋慶祝會皇后，將活動推至高潮。司徒大衛，新華埠創辦人的兄弟，建議美華女子俱樂部的成員組織鼓樂隊。此後，鼓樂隊便成為南加州遊行及慶祝活動的項目之一。

自珍珠港受襲，美國加入第二次世界大戰，太平洋地區被封閉，許多華埠的家庭式商店，轉而從墨西哥進口較便宜的貨物，而餐館的廚師亦只有以蘋果及沙葛代替馬蹄。還要為他們在美國出生的兒子從軍為美國遠征而擔憂。

千萬珍寶

萬珍樓是洛杉磯最早期的餐館之一，其名意為「千萬珍寶」。在1860年代末期間開業時，它的店舖只是一間簡陋小木屋，其後因擴展業務而遷至今天聯合火車站的所在地。1938年萬珍樓的第二代傳人胡順將餐館遷至金鈴路。第二次世界大戰結束，洛杉磯時報的美食編輯與一些友人認為萬珍樓的名字，在這個新時代中顯得太舊，於是提議改名為「李將軍」。靈感取自當時聯軍上將Robert E. Lee。自此生意蒸蒸日上，吸引了連官名人前往品嚐美食，包括電影明星格利哥利柯。



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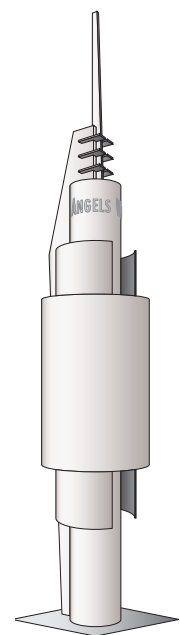


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ANGELS WALK CHINATOWN



Dragons On Parade

Nothing in Western culture compares to the celebration of Chinese New Year, which is why each year 50,000 spectators gather

along North Broadway to join in the festivities and watch the Golden Dragon Parade. The first local public celebration of Chinese New Year dates back to the 1894 La Fiesta de Los Angeles parade, which featured a dragon procession that was nearly a block long. (Unlike the ferocious dragon of Western medieval times, the Eastern dragon is a beneficent symbol of strength and goodness.) The group was such a hit that the Fiesta committee immediately asked the Chinese community to come back the following year. Today, La Fiesta — also known as the Fiesta de las

Flores — has become L.A. Fiesta Broadway to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, while in Chinatown New Year's festivities continue to grow and evolve.

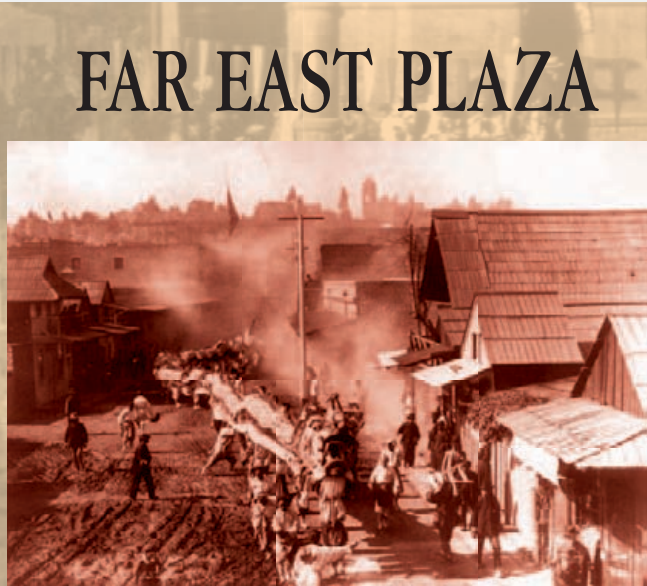
In 1956, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce began sponsoring the selection of Miss Chinatown and her court. New dragonheads were imported from Hong Kong, and local family association members were hired to



Architect Gilbert Leong with Miss Chinatown.



Chew Low in an LA parade, 1920.



Chinatown parade on Marchessault Street, 1901.

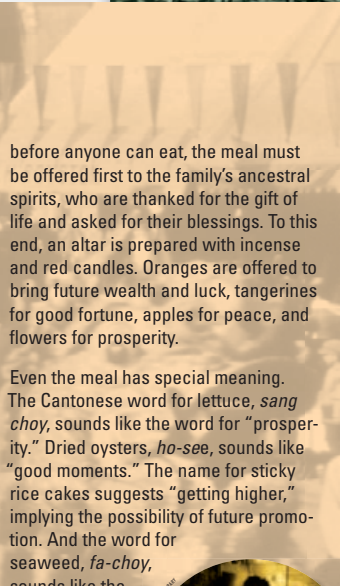
perform cultural dances. In the early 1960s, the lion and dragon dancers visited every Chinese business along the parade route. Shopkeepers dangled sticks laden with oranges, *lisee* (gold-embossed red envelopes filled with lucky money), and lettuce leaves to entice the beasts to snap at the bait. With the influx of new immigrants from Southeast Asia in the 1970s, the parade has become a focal point for community participation and celebration, boasting floats, multiple marching bands, and cultural groups. Grand Marshals have included Bruce Lee, David Carradine, Keye Luke, Hugh Hefner, Lindsay Wagner, Dr. Haing Ngor, and Kieu Chinh.



Dragon "feeding" ceremony.

Gung Hay Fat Choy

At its heart, Chinese New Year is a time for family and traditions. Some families devote many weeks to preparations: debts are paid, old clothes thrown out, houses cleaned. A week before the final festivities begin, a volley of firecrackers is set off, symbolizing the kitchen god's return to Heaven to report on the family's activities. To assure that the Jade Emperor will get a favorable review, families set out sticky rice cakes to seal the kitchen god's mouth or at least ensure that his words will be sweet. The kitchen god returns in time for the lavish New Year's Eve banquet, but

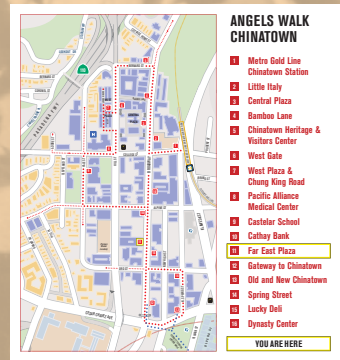


before anyone can eat, the meal must be offered first to the family's ancestral spirits, who are thanked for the gift of life and asked for their blessings. To this end, an altar is prepared with incense and red candles. Oranges are offered to bring future wealth and luck, tangerines for good fortune, apples for peace, and flowers for prosperity.

Even the meal has special meaning. The Cantonese word for lettuce, *sang choy*, sounds like the word for "prosperity." Dried oysters, *ho-see*, sounds like "good moments." The name for sticky rice cakes suggests "getting higher," implying the possibility of future promotion. And the word for seaweed, *fa-choy*, sounds like the last two words of *Gung Hay Fat Choy*, the common phrase for "Happy New Year and Future Prosperity."



Celebrating New Year "of the dog," 1958.



(十一) 遠東商場

大遊行中的龍

每一年有五萬多名熱鬧的人聚集在西北老區街上觀看金龍大遊行。第一個中國新年慶祝會是1894年的 La Fiesta de Los Angeles 大遊行，那時參加遊行的龍隊約有一條街道之長。此後華埠的新年慶祝活動日漸擴大，多姿多采。1956年，中華總商會開始贊助華埠小姐及公主選舉，特別從香港進口新龍頭和聘請一些本地宗親會成員表演文化舞蹈。1960年代初期，舞獅及舞龍隊均到每一所位於遊行路線上的中國商店前表演「採青」。商人將柑桔、紅包及生菜（象徵生財）掛起以吸引獅子及龍採摘。隨著1970年代的東南亞新移民浪潮，大遊行成為社區參與及慶祝的重點活動，有花車、不同的樂隊及文化表演團體參加。當大遊行大禮官的名人曾包括李小龙、大街卡列句、Keye Luke、Hugh Hefner、蘭西拿納、吳漢及喬貞。

恭喜發財

中國新年重視家庭與傳統風俗，一些家庭利用數星期的時間來準備迎接新年：他們穿上新衣服去拜舊東西，表示送舊迎新。酬神謝灶，希望苦歷代向上蒼多講好話。燃燒爆竹用於驅邪接福。拜神祭祖，祈求獲得他們庇蔭。大家用最美好的語言互相恭賀祝福，而「恭喜發財」是新年見面不能不說的寒喧語。

