



Locke Foundation Newsletter 樂居鎮基金會

Preserving Locke's history and legacy

www.locke-foundation.org

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1915-2015
Locke's Legacy Lives On



Photos courtesy of James
Motlow and Gen Baugher.



The Chinese approach the 60th birthday in a special way. The zodiac consists of 12 years. Since 60 is a multiple of both 12 and 10, they consider 60 to be a very powerful birthday. Traditionally, Chinese people do not pay a lot of attention to birthdays until they are 60 years old. The 60th birthday is regarded as a very important point of life and therefore there is often a big celebration. After that, a birthday celebration is held every ten years, that is the 70th, the 80th, etc, until the person's death. Generally, the older the person is, the more elaborate the celebration. Chinese count age differently from the Western way. People take the first day of the Chinese New Year in lunar calendar as the starting point of a new age. No matter in which month a child is born, he is one year old, and one more year is added to his age as soon as he enters the New Year. So what may puzzle a Westerner is that a child is two years old when he is actually two days or two hours old. This is possible when the child is born on the last day or hour of the past year.

It is often the grownup sons and daughters who celebrate their elderly parents' birthdays to show their respect for them and express their thanks for what they have done for their children. According to the traditional customs, the parents are offered foods with happy symbolic implications. On the birthday morning the father or mother will eat a bowl of long "long-life noodles." In China long noodles symbolize a long life. Eggs are also among the best choices of food taken on the special occasion. To make the occasion grand, other relatives and friends are invited to the celebration. In Chinese culture, 60 years



elderly people start to celebrate their birthdays at 60.

Regardless of the scale of the celebration, peaches and noodles, which are both signs of long life, are required. But interestingly the peaches are not real. They are actually steamed wheaten buns with sweet filling inside. They are called peaches just because they are made in the shape of peaches. When the noodles are cooked, they should not be cut short, for the shortened noodles

can have a bad implication. Everyone at the celebration eats these two foods to extend their best wishes to the guest of honor. Giving rice bowls to guests at the birthday celebration



is a Cantonese tradition only and often celebrated in USA because most immigrants came from southern China. They are given to bestow on guests the same longevity and prosperity as the birthday-star. It should not be an ordinary bowl for everyday use, but one that guests can display among their mementos. It is often placed on each table setting. A matching soup spoon and set of chopsticks can also be provided (I have seen these wrapped in net or cellophane).

At subsequent birthdays (70th and 80th), thin gold pieces in the shape of peach and longevity god (with red ribbon or safety pin) can also be given. Avoid giving gifts that have negative associations with death in Chinese tradition, including scissors, knives, clocks and sandals. Also, do not give gifts in quantities of four, as the Cantonese word for "four" sounds similar to the word for "death." Most Chinese restaurants in US offer Cantonese cuisine in banquets. The prominence of Cantonese cuisine outside China is likely due to the disproportionate early emigration from this region, as well as the relative popularity of Cantonese dishes to foreign palates. Cantonese cuisine has widely been regarded as the pinnacle of Chinese regional fare, because of the immensity and diversity of the ingredients used. Canton (Guangzhou), a long established trading port in Southern China, has been exposed to more imported food products and ingredients than any other area in China.



Planning a banquet with nine meaningful entrees is not easy. Each dish must be artistically arranged to appeal to the eye and stand out with its own character; each sauce and accompaniment must have unique features. The dishes that require longer cooking are prepared first. Each item is cut into uniform sized pieces so each morsel can be penetrated equally by the cooking method and sauces. Fish is served last, meaning "May your table be forever bountiful". Desserts are rather simple and can include sweet red bean soup with lotus seeds, mango pudding or dainty cakes.

Locke Farm Opens on Main Street

Article by Stuart Walthall

March 1st, 2015 marked the grand opening of Locke's newest business: *Locke Farm*. Located at 13935 Main Street in the historic "Fish Market" (building #26 Locke Walking Tour), *Locke Farm* offers a wide variety of organic fruits and vegetables, in addition to Delta honey, handmade soaps, spun wool, and gift items.



Locke Farm proprietor Clarence Chu has teamed with *Delta Ecofarms* (www.deltaecofarm.com), a local vegetable and herb farm owned and operated by Jeff and Toni Hart, in bringing sustainably grown produce and eggs to the public. The new business specializes in Delta produce, offering an inventory that varies with the changing growing season.

Clarence Chu: "I want *Locke Farm* to reflect local agriculture. Opening this business has given me an opportunity to network with local farmers in offering homegrown Delta products to the public".

Early spring selections include pak choi (a variety of bok

choi), arugula, micro greens, cabbage, garlic, shallots, plus several varieties of kale, citrus fruit, and squash. Expect to see all of your fruit and vegetable favorites as the seasons change.

Clarence Chu: "Visitors to *Locke* have always come for the views and to enjoy the history of the town. But more and more people are now coming to the Delta to appreciate the farms and fields. Agriculture has played an important role in the history and legacy of *Locke* and I want *Locke Farm* to be a place where visitors can see for themselves examples of our local agriculture".



Chu's future plans include the development of a 40 to 50 acre organic produce farm to be located on his 200 acre farming interest *Locke Ranch*, which lies adjacent to *Locke* on the town's northern boundary. The ranch currently contains a 100 acre pear orchard, originally owned and maintained by the *Locke* family. Clarence is also interested in wine production and sales.

Clarence Chu: "I want to expand the *Locke Farm* business and its operations, but the most important thing that *Locke Farm* offers to the public is an opportunity for them to eat good healthy food".

Good luck and good fortune to Clarence and *Locke Farm*.



Delta Residents Reunion Dinner 1950's Chinese Banquet

Saturday, October 24, 2015, 5:30-8:30 pm
Fortune House Seafood Restaurant
1211 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95818

Purchase tickets on line: www.locke-foundation.org



JOIN THE LOCKE FOUNDATION TODAY AT INFO KIOSK

The town of *Locke* and the *Locke Foundation* both reached unique milestones in 2015. While *Locke* marks the centennial of its founding, the *Locke Foundation* has reached the 100 mark in Foundation memberships.

The *Locke Foundation* would like to thank its 100 plus members for their support and generosity. Each of you has helped to build the Foundation into the stable and financially secure organization it is today.

Give the gift of a *Locke Foundation* membership to a friend, a member of your family, or to your organization. Membership provides a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, signed 8" x 10" black and white digital photograph from *Bitter Melon* by James Motlow, and Walking Tour map of *Locke*.

Born in America: Too Proud to Beg

By Kim King

*This is another article depicting the personal recollections of Locke as told by the children, friends, and acquaintances of Locke's founding generation. Much emphasis has been placed on the early history of Locke and its inhabitants. However, there is much to be told by the succeeding generations of Locke residents. **Born In America** will present the memories of those who were born to, lived among, and were nurtured by Locke's founding generation.*

Early one morning as I was preparing to catch the school bus to the Walnut Grove Elementary school, I noticed a hunchbacked man approaching our family's garbage can. I was seven years old at the time. I watched as he removed the lid gingerly and laid it onto the ground. He paused for a moment to inspect the can's contents. He sorted through the refuse until he found what he was looking for...food. He grabbed whatever appeared to be edible and deposited his finds into a brown paper bag that was already stained with grease. Then he picked up the lid and placed it quietly back atop of the garbage can.

I asked my Mother to explain what this man was doing. She told me that his name was Mun Do Lai and that he was, in Cantonese, "saw saw dee"....a little crazy. She said his sole source of food was whatever he picked out of garbage cans. He lived in the "poor house"; something akin to a homeless shelter for indigent unemployed single men.

My curiosity about Mun Do got the best of me one day and I followed him on one of his food finding missions. I asked in Cantonese if I could tag along and he just nodded, not saying a word. We ended up behind Al the Wop's restaurant where leftover New York steaks were discarded in its garbage cans. It was a good haul.

I followed him back to the poor house. We entered the building from the west side entrance. It was dark and dank. Houseflies entered the building through dilapidated rusty window screens. There were unoccupied and unkempt cots and beds strewn in the room. We walked straight on through to the east end of the house where a makeshift kitchen had been constructed.

There was a cooking area where metal slats had been perpendicularly positioned on red bricks. There, he placed broken pieces of wood from Bartlett pears packing boxes, some cardboard remnants, and then newspapers, to which he placed a burning match. As the fire blazed he boiled water in a 3-quart discarded pot. He opened up his brown bag, placed his bounty on a table and picked through its contents to see what he would eat and what would be given to feral cats hanging around his kitchen. Nothing wasted. That day's meal consisted of rice, local vegetables,

and those steaks from Al's Place. He "sanitized" the beef by placing them into the boiling water for a minute, picked them up with bamboo chopsticks, and rinsed them in cool water.

When the rice was cooked he was ready to prepare the rest of his meal. The vegetable of the day was Chinese long beans, given to him by a friendly neighborhood gardener. He cut the beans and meat into bite-size pieces and stir fried them in a heated cast iron pan. The food sizzled and became relatively fragrant. When he finished cooking he asked me if I wanted to eat. I told him I wasn't hungry, but if I was I might have taken a few bites. I thanked him for the offer and went home to allow him to eat in peace.

When I got home I recounted my day's events with Mun Do to my Mom. We agreed to place a container of fresh food in our garbage can early the next morning before Mun Do made his rounds. And, as usual, he showed up about 30 minutes later. He removed the lid and began his inspection. He paused and then put the lid back on the can, having placed nothing in his brown paper bag.

I found that very odd and asked my Mom to explain what had just happened. She told me that Mun Do was too proud to beg or take charity. Years later Mun Do was found deceased in the poor house. My Mom took the initiative to give him a proper burial, typically financed from donations from Locke residents. While gathering up Mun Do's belongings, she found a considerable amount of cash hidden under his mattress. Now *that* surprised her. It was enough to buy a plot at the Rio Vista cemetery, along with a casket and a headstone.

On March 15, 2015, I went to the cemetery to place flowers on my Mom's grave for her 92nd birthday. As I was leaving I stumbled upon Mun Do Lai's grave. I never knew where he was buried. He was less than 25 yards from my Mom's grave. I was reminded of my day with Mun Do back in 1958. I placed flowers near his headstone and then returned home.



Kim King was born in 1950 and spent his first 19 years living in Locke. He is the son of Tommy and "Locke Mom" Connie King. He went on to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley. The following short story is one of many Delta memories Kim King is currently journalizing. The LF Newsletter is grateful for his contribution to this series.

Chinese Superstitions: Believe it or Not

By Eileen Leung

When having a baby

- *If you're pregnant, use of glue will cause a difficult birth.
- *If you strike an animal during pregnancy, the newborn child will look like that animal and behave like one.
- *You should never praise a newborn baby because it will invite evil spirits and ghosts.
- *A concave navel means a prosperous life.
- *A baby with more than one cowlick will be mischievous and disobedient.
- *A baby with wide and thick ears will live prosperously.

Before you get married

- *Wedding clothes should be red, yellow and/or white.
- *Wearing black, blue or gray will bring bad luck to the marriage.
- *Couples with the same surname cannot marry; even if they are not related, they still belong to the same ancestral clan.
- *Never marry someone who is older or younger by 3 or 6 years.

Good Feng Shui

- *The number of steps in a staircase should be even-numbered.
- *It is bad luck to have two room doors face each other.
- *It is bad luck if your door or gate directly faces a road.
- *Don't build your house facing north.
- *The master bedroom should not be situated right above the garage.
- *The dining area should not be under a second-floor toilet.

Going to funerals

- *An improper funeral will bring ill fortune and disaster.
- *Statues of deities must be covered with red cloth or paper.
- *Mirrors must be hidden; a person who sees the reflection of the coffin will have a death in his/her family.
- *White cloth must be hung across the doorway of the house.
- *The deceased's children and grandchildren should not cut their hair for 49 days.
- *After leaving a wake, do not go straight home lest the ghost of the dead follows you. Go to a movie or shopping.
- *There must be odd number of tables for the meal after the funeral; one dish must be vegetarian.

Lucky and unlucky colors

- *Red is the color of blood or life and will bring happiness, wealth, fame, and good luck.
- *Black is associated with evil, disaster and bad fortune.
- *White is the color of mother's milk. It symbolizes moderation, purity, honesty and life and balances red and black.

Lucky and unlucky numbers

- *The luckiest number is eight because its Chinese word also means "prosper". Chinese drivers pay premium for license plate with numerals "8".
- *The unluckiest number is four as it sounds like the Chinese word for death.
- *Seven can also signify death.
- *The number one means loneliness.
- *The number "9" is good, because nine in Cantonese sounds like the word "sufficient" and "a long time".

About time

- *Clipping toenails or fingernails at night is bad luck; the person will be visited by a ghost.
- *If a dog howls continuously at night, this means death.
- *Hearing a crow cawing between 3 and 7 am means the hearer will receive gifts; hearing a crow caw between 7 and 11am means rain and wind; and between 11am and 1pm means quarrels.
- *Never give a clock as a gift. The Chinese character for "clock" sounds like "death."

Spring Cleaning for Locke Monument

By Stuart Walthall
Photos by Joe Chan

On a clear and chilly day two ladies hovered around the huge bronze and black granite monolith located within Locke's Memorial Park. Approaching, I recognized their friendly familiar faces. Elyse Marr, daughter of park designer Whitney Marr, and her mom Doreen Marr were hard at work sprucing up the Locke Memorial Monument.

Elyse designed and created the Locke Monument back in 2006 when she was just a freshman at Stanford University. In fact, Elyse initially conceived the idea of the Locke Memorial Monument when she was still in high school. She currently lives and works as a Senior Designer with Dalberg Global Development Advisors in New York City, and had come back to Locke in order to clean and maintain her creation. Interestingly, while at Stanford University, Elyse also cleaned and maintained works by Auguste Rodin, creator of *The Thinker*.

A stroke of good fortune occurred when Elyse, Doreen, and I were joined by Joe Chan, professional photographer and former Locke resident. Joe and I watched as Elyse used rags and a blow torch to remove the old protective wax which coated the tall bronze panel depicting a pictorial history of the Chinese immigrants who founded Locke. Elyse then carefully applied a fresh coating of wax one small area at a time. She and Doreen would also clean and polish the remaining two black granite sides of the monument which contain laser etched English and Chinese text. Elyse and Doreen worked silently on as Joe and I departed.

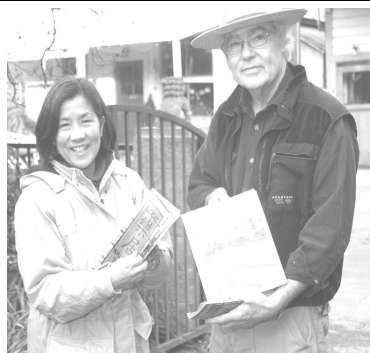
A debt of gratitude is owed to Elyse and her family for all they have done for the town of Locke and its legacy.

For the full story of Elyse and the monument she created, visit the Locke Foundation web site at: www.locke-foundation.org, go to the "events", then click on "newsletter", and check out the spring 2012 issue of the Locke Foundation Newsletter.



Elyse Marr spruces up the bronze monument for Centennial Day

Doreen Marr chats with Stuart Walthall about Centennial plans.

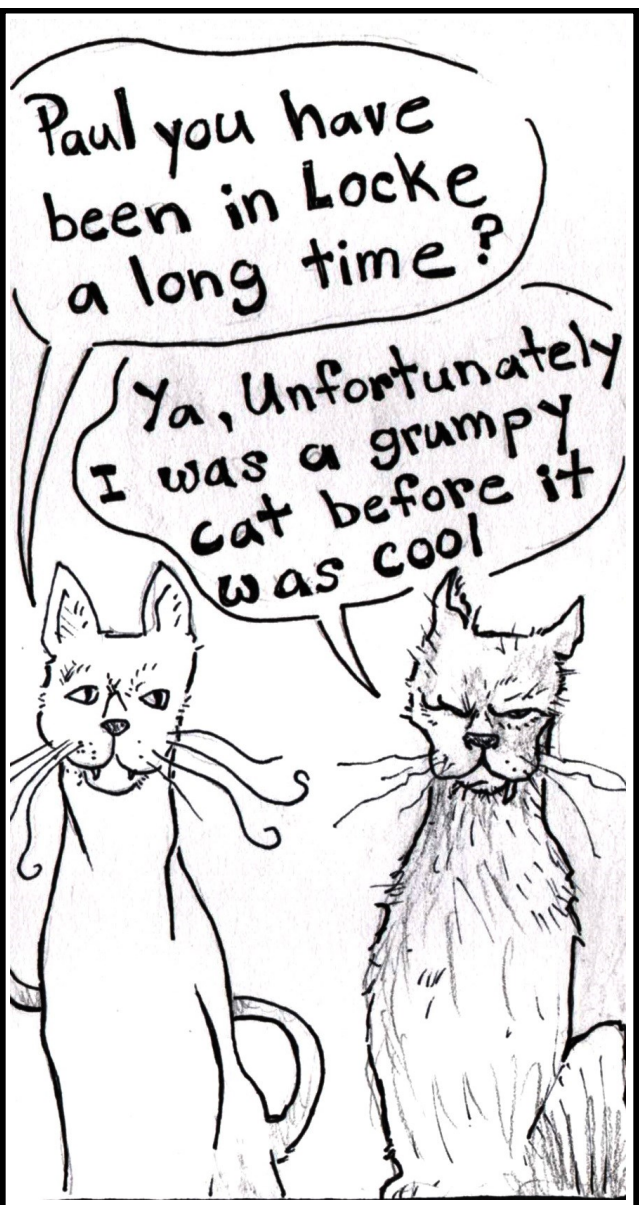


Native Sons of Golden West Honor Locke



Founded in 1875, the Native Sons of the Golden West is dedicated to historical preservation, which began in 1890 with the purchase of Sutter's Fort when that landmark faced demolition and which survives to this day. The Elk Grove chapter has donated a bronze Historical Marker to the town of Locke in recognition of its significance to California history.

Date and time of installation will be announced in future issue of LF newsletter and web site.



CLASSICAL MUSIC IN LOCKE

By Stuart Walthall

Photos by D.R. Wagner and Stuart Walthall

Passersby slowed their steps, lingered, then listened as the beautiful theme from Camille Saint-Saens' *The Swan* drifted from the Moon Café Gallery's entrance and floated down Main Street Locke.

Glancing through the gallery's windowed front, the bystanders viewed a cellist and pianist performing to a room filled with well-dressed guests: all watching and listening intently. And after *The Swan's* closing refrain hushed to contemplative silence, the grateful crowd erupted into raucous and sustained applause. Taking a chance, the surprised Locke visitors approached the gallery's doorman and were then ushered to the last remaining seats in the room.

This was the scene on a bright Saturday afternoon in Locke, California, on February 21, 2015. The presentation was unique in that it was the first time in living memory a live classical music ensemble performance was offered to the public in this tiny historic community.



Community members load the baby grand piano onto flatbed truck

Before the event could be staged, a baby grand piano had to be procured. A local piano teacher donated the use of one of his pianos and a crew of willing movers had to be organized. The instrument was then dismantled and muscled into the gallery space by seven local volunteers- after a great deal of physical and nervous energy.



Event organizer and Moon Café Gallery member D.R. Wagner, calling upon his many connections to the Northern California music and art scene, recruited a group of seasoned professional musicians for the presentation; all of whom had worked to-

gether throughout their careers with various orchestras, symphonies, and ensembles. The performers included pianists Virginia Sajak and Jill Hanna Ferreter, trumpeter Paul

Simmons, and cellist Joanne Wright.

The quartet selected a dozen classical works for the performance program and began an intense month long series of rehearsals. Included in the program were works by such familiar composers as Bach, Scarlatti, and Brahms. The program was further enriched by the addition of contemporary works by four living composers: Alex Shapiro (b. 1962), Libby Larsen (b. 1950), Rolf Wallin (b. 1957), and Lydia Lowery Busler (b. 1970).

Wagner had personally contacted the contemporary composers and each expressed keen interest regarding the audience's reception and reaction to their respective works. They would not be disappointed.



Paul Simmons, Virginia Sajak, Joanne Wright, and Jill Hanna Ferreter

Wagner not only served as Master of Ceremonies, welcoming guests and introducing the performers, but also augmented the afternoon's program with a series of brief informative lectures regarding each performance piece and its composer.

The 80-minute concert was delivered with passion and sensitivity. Works selected for the program gave ample opportunity for each musician to showcase mastery of their instrument, while also offering the audience a glimpse into the personality of each performer.

The conclusion of the final performance piece was followed by a standing ovation from an appreciative audience.

Paul Simmons and Joanne Wright



Locke Foundation Membership Application/Renewal

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Mailing address _____

Email address _____ Tel () _____ Fax () _____

I would like to volunteer for the following activities:

Volunteer docent _____ Donor _____ Visitor Center Volunteer _____

Contributor to newsletter _____ Media contacts _____ Landscape maintenance _____

Membership Dues: circle one

_____ \$25 Individual Annual/\$200 Lifetime _____ \$50 Family or Non-Profit Organization Annual/\$300 Lifetime

_____ \$100 Business Annual/\$500 Lifetime

Make check payable to Locke Foundation. Please return this form with check to Locke Foundation, P. O. Box 1085, Walnut Grove, CA 95690. Contributions are tax deductible to extent allowed by law. Tax ID: 20-0364281.

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P. O. Box 1085
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

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