

Chinatown



and brought her to the popular prostitution business. A young Chinese laundryman named Ah Chee, who was employed at the Horton House, absconded with her and they were married in 1872. A group of friendly white citizens helped put them on a steamer out of town. But the girl was captured and murdered by the owner and his friends in San Francisco 3 months later.

Another young woman, an employee at department store founder George F. Mason's house, was taken away by Los Angeles Police because she had been used as security on a loan by her owner. The San Diego populace, spurred on by the local press, expressed its outrage at the act. A local judge later ordered her returned, and the town celebrated the decision.

Tom Hom is probably the most well-known of all Chinese in San Diego. His family owns the Far East Trading Co. on 5th and E. The David Produce Company, and Woss Chee Chong, the city's largest oriental grocer. He has served on the City Council (where he was one of those indicted in the Yellow Cab scandal), and was Republican assemblyman from Southeast San Diego until defeated by Democrat Peter Clacorn. Hom is now the leader of the Goshamp Association, a group of merchants along 4th and 5th below Broadway who want to restore their area to a tasteful, sophisticated atmosphere.

Most of the Chinese here before World War II, and especially during the 19th century, were single men. Occasionally, as in the case of Ah Quin, a Chinese could find a wife. And more and more Chinese men would make a visit to China to find a wife. But most of the Chinese women here during the early period were special cases. One of the ones was a girl brought in San Francisco for \$500

Carlos Rey

It's not easy to imagine old Chinatown while sitting in the Looking Cafe. Most of the customers are black; they're just getting something to eat before heading up to the Zebra Club in the Crossroads. The music is black and you wonder what the little Chinese lady at the cash register thinks as you play with your chicken fried rice.

Ah Quin came to San Diego in 1879 when he was 31 years old. Most of the Chinese in San Diego at that time had been recruited by the "Five Companies" in Southern China and brought here to work on the Santa Fe Railroad from Los Angeles to San Diego and on the tracks from Temecula Canyon to Fallbrook. Because Ah Quin had been formally educated in China and because he spoke English, he was hired by the railroads as a foreman. Ah Quin, along with contemporary Teung Hom, were the first Chinese to go without the Chinese queue and adopt Western dress.

When work on the railroads became scarce, many of the San Diego Chinese turned to fishing. There were 8 or 10 boats that regularly supplied San Diego with fresh fish. The fishermen also sent abalone and dried fish to China and sea shells to Austria and Hungary for the button industry. Ah Quin opened a general store at 5th and J, near the water.

In March of 1882, there was an anti-Chinese demonstration at Horton Hall; the San Diego Chamber of Commerce asked stores to close in support of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The Chinese population dropped in San Diego from 1000 to 300 by the end of the year, and the Chinese fishing industry was destroyed, since the newly-passed Exclusion act kept the Chinese from going outside territorial limits.

Many of these Chinese who remained in the late 19th century turned to servicing the white population. They opened laundries, and restaurants, and some started small farms in Mission Valley. Some went into the produce business. And some went into the "entertainment" business.

San Diego health officials complained about the Chinese laundries because the laundries reportedly threw out tubs of water on the street and created stagnant puddles. The health officials also deplored the practice of dampening clothes before ironing by getting a mouthful of water and spraying a shirt through the two front teeth.

In 1888 Ah Quin moved his store and home (and place of gambling) over to 455 3rd Avenue. Gambling houses and opium dens opened up all along Island and J, between 2nd and 6th Avenues, adjacent to and sometimes including the red-light Stingers district.

"They'd give you a brush and you'd mark out 10 characters of a Chinese poem. At night they'd have a drawing. If all of your were, I mean, the picture was about 57200."

One of the first Chinese to marry, Ah Quin, and his wife from San Francisco, Sue Leong, established a family of 12.

William. When he died in 1914, he was buried in the Chinese Cemetery in Southern California. One of Ah Quin's sons, Tom Quin, opened the Nanking Restaurant on 5th and Island. 18075, continued from Ah Quin's daughter's Chinese American Market. Tom Quin, who also became known as the Mayor of Chinatown and the "Money King," ran one of the many gambling houses and exerted a mutually strong influence on local political officials. He was a heavy contributor to the campaigns for San Diego City Council members and local Council members were deferential to him. Unofficial meetings often took place at the Nanking, and when questioned, councilmen explained that Quin's cook prepared "excellent Chinese food."

In 1934 there was an anti-corruption clean sweep of city government, and in 1935 Quin was arrested in a surprise gambling raid by then district attorney Thomas Whelan.

The Chinese Social Service Center, just across the street from where Ah Quin's home stood, now receives money from the United Fund and the federal government's Revenue Sharing programs. The center shares space at 428 3rd with the Chinese Benevolent Association. The house used to be the headquarters for the Gee Geon tong which was organized to help plot Sun Yat Sen's revolution in 1912.

The lady who is now director of the Social Service Center, Mrs. Kathy Tsung, is not a longtime resident herself. She immigrated to the U.S. in the late 1940's.

"Fifty years ago there used to be a Chinatown here," she points a cup of Chinese tea in a shy claim up. "Used to be 200 Chinese living here. Now about 200, though there are 7000-10000 living in San Diego County. The Woo Chee Chong grocery store, it was here. Now it moved up to 10th Street. The Gin Young Co., an herb shop up the street," she points up the street from the balcony overlooking 3rd Ave., "the husband and wife passed away. The son, who used to own Chinatown, he moved to Spring Valley. . . There's the Ben Kong Tong, an association of Chinese. On the corner." She points to a row of tiny yellow houses on 3rd and Island. "There's Ying On, used to be a merchant's association up the street; now it's a drop-in center for elderly Chinese."

Determined to help me find someone who has grown up in San Diego, Mrs. Tsung tries to collar one of the Chinese elderly who drop in on the Social Service Center itself. She tries to get the old man in the back of the room to talk to us, but he is too shy. Finally, we are introduced to him, a Mr. Hom. No, he's not Tom Hom's father. As it turns out, just as San Francisco is full of Hom's. Most of the Chinese who came here during the big migration periods came from one of four villages outside of Canton, and the Hom's were the leading family in the migration. This Mr. Hom says he came "on a ship from Formosa" that took 31 days. He worked in a laundry, he worked in a restaurant, he was a truck driver for a produce company, and now he owns "a lotta

restaurants," including the Chinese Tea Gardens in Claremont Mesa. Though pretty nervous to talk, Mr. Hom arranges the tight of second-generation Chinese to suburban San Diego after World War II to the automobile. "After war, family got car. One family got 2 or 3 cars."

Though Mrs. Tsung claims that there's a resurgence of interest in China by 2nd and 3rd generation Chinese ("my 2 daughters come home from college and want to eat Chinese food and speak Chinese"), a young secretary at the Center doesn't completely confirm this. "Yeah, I grew up in Salt Lake City and moved here about a year and a half ago. My dad had operated a restaurant in the mining area near Park City. I'd never move downtown here, though, it's too dangerous at night. I live in Mission Beach."

Most of the Chinese here before World War II, and especially during the 19th century, were single men. Occasionally, as in the case of Ah Quin, a Chinese could find a wife. And more and more Chinese men would make a visit to China to find a wife. But most of the Chinese women here during the early period were special cases. One of the ones was a girl brought in San Francisco for \$500

Hom is a good example of what happened to old Chinatown. He went to Lincoln and Sherman Elementary Schools, Memorial, San Diego High School. He attended "Chinese School" for 3 hours each day after school hours, but stopped going after 3 or 4 years. "My parents made us go, but we hated it. It was really strict, and it was tough after being in school all day."

Hom's family moved away from Chinatown to 16th and K, but their social activities continue to revolve around the Chinese Community Church, a Christian Church founded by the Presbyterians. Hom met his wife there. She had moved here from Hawaii. "Even the newer immigrants, even though they're dispersed around town, look to the Chinese Church (now moved from Chinatown to 47th and Federal) for social activities. Even those that aren't Christian."

The Horton Re-development looks to be a little sluggish because of the sluggish economy, and hence the Goshamp restoration may be longer in coming than originally planned. But Hom, as he looks from his real estate office in North Park, is optimistic about reviving Chinatown. With restaurants, stores with Chinese goods and food stuffs, and so on. And he sees the same sort of technique that the Horton developers use, (tax incentives, eminent domain) as being the way to bring back an area, come by.

Foreplay Flayed

— Anne Hutchison —

It isn't easy for rock bands in San Diego to hit the big time. We're too close to Los Angeles and too far away. San Diego is close enough to Los Angeles to make the big record people feel that if a band hasn't made the trip north, they aren't trying hard enough, and too far for them to be interested in making a special trip to see any one group.

Well, last Friday night, one San Diego band was making a concerted effort to reach the men who control the music market. They rented Mickey Finn's for the evening and did what they could to lure some record company representatives down. Their luck wasn't too good. Fore Play, which used to be known as D. C. Blues, has one album out (called "Nice Guys Finish Last") and they're looking to contract for another one, so press and producers were invited to the dance-concert to see how the clinic reacted. Anyway, I was there. I got there too late to catch the first

Brando, or possibly James Dean, and his mugging and prancing seemed practiced rather than spontaneous. It limited his vocal efforts. It did seem a pity not to keep his hands busy with a tambourine — or possibly a cowbell. Instead, the cowbell was turned over to what looked like a very competent conga player, who joined the group later on. I can't really attest to his competence, though. When he finally did use the conga, it was on a song that had no conceivable use for one. But I think he might have been good. The drummer and bass player had no better luck. Their work was totally lacking in inspiration, concentrating on monotonous rhythm patterns that added nothing to the overall effect. (Incidentally, why do local rock bands have to overcompensate everything? There are other ways to disguise weak lyrics.)

The drummer did have one other function. Whenever things were getting dull between numbers he would try to stir up a little enthusiasm with a loud crack on the rim of his drum. It never produced any excitement, though, except for making some of the more nervous members of the audience jump.

The main trouble with Fore Play at this state of their career is that they're derivative. That's not anything new. Any rock band starts out doing other people's work in other people's style. Fore Play has even got past doing other people's work, but the style isn't there yet. One of their favorites was a thing called "I Shoulda Called Joey Back," which was more than reminiscent of Steely Dan's "Rikki, Don't Lose That Number," and the pyrotechnics of the stage performance were more than a little to Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend, Jagger and Bowie. The difficulty is not just in being good musicians, but in producing something different from the rest of the market. Fore Play hasn't reached that step yet.

There wasn't anything incurably awful about them — there just wasn't anything special. And that's what rock music is supposed to be about. As it was... well, doesn't it strike you that some of the groups who keep telling you what their name used to be should try and preserve their aliases?

Fore Play climbed up on the stage while the crew finished setting up and listened complacently as a young guy in a very plaid jacket gave them a frenetic introduction. There were four of them (get the pun, get it, huh?), trying to be outrageous. The guitar players wore their hair down to their waists, and the lead singer went in for black satin and a felt fedora. He had the de rigueur Jagger sneer, too. It almost worked.

The first few things they did weren't bad, and were even pretty good for dancing — at least, the floor filled up fast enough. One of them though, "Friends" ("This is dedicated to you!"), had a monotony bordering on the hypnotic. Anyway, the band was well rehearsed and the music worked. The lead singer was unfortunately influenced by imitations of early

unavoidable American movies of his period, although its merit is highly arguable and highly variable from one moment to the next, particularly questionable is its probability of standing up under the passage of time. With William Holden, Ernest Borgnine, Robert Ryan, 1969.

*** (Cabrillo, through 2/8)

The Sling — The BUTCH CASSIDY gang, Redford and Newman and director George Roy, re-groups for a MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-style caper (you can never be sure that even the analysis are not part of the take-out scheme) set in the urban 1950s. Recreation of the period is lavish in terms of sets and clothes styles, but in terms of cinematic style it is done abominably. With a weak script, a pinch there, strictly on the stove. The movie is a lot of fun, but it is that you like the stars and play for them to come through unscathed. Newman by now presumes you like him, or he no longer cares, while Redford keeps on pushing, pushing. With Robert Shaw.

The Wild Bunch — Sam Peckinpah's earth-shaker about a holdup gang in the changing Southwest society of the Nineteen Teens. The violence is self-consciously didactic and the viewpoint is self-consciously existential. Definitely it is one of the

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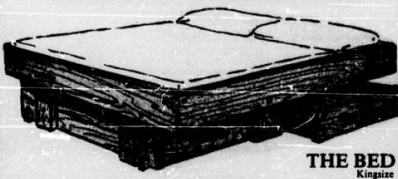
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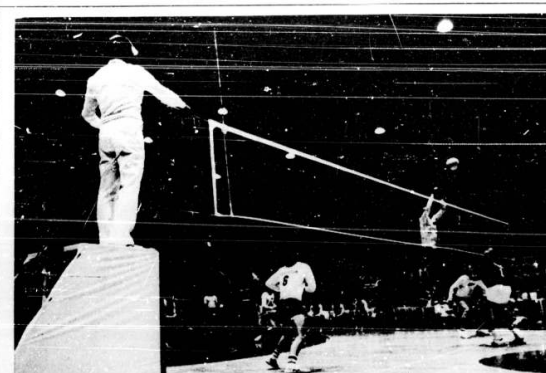


photo by John Maher

WHAT THE SURGEON GENERAL DOESN'T KNOW

— Red Ruffenbahr —

The San Diego Wave, our local entry in the Winston Volleyball League, has been successful in all five league outings, and currently holds first place. Crowds for the first two games have also been good. Though Sunday's (February 21) crowd was only 800, the other two home games nearly filled the house at Golden Hall with about 1800 each time.

What a Winston doing, sponsoring a volleyball league? When Congress, several years ago, discouraged tobacco companies from pushing their product on the youth market, the industry turned to more subtle ways. Like sporting events. Thus, the Virginia Slims women's tennis matches, Winston's stock car racing, the Marlboro Cup race. And now Winston Volleyball.

Winston's sponsorship of the 5-team volleyball league seems to be a well-thought-out venture, however. For one thing, Southern California has to be the volleyball capital of the world. The fact that the San Diego State team drew over 8000 fans to the Sports Arena last year is only an example of the interest. Secondly, Winston wisely sent out a trial balloon last summer. The Winston Volleyball Invitational in South Mission last summer, replete with \$2000 prize money, t-shirts, shorts, and stewardess-type females handing out free cigarettes, drew an estimated 2000-2500 fans. Also, there seems to be a growing interest in volleyball as a participant sport. Volleyball has always been played on Southern California beaches, but recently a number of courts seems to have doubled and the quality of sand courts has improved. You see less and less "jungle ball" and more increasingly polished and skilled two-man action.

One of the factors behind the recent boom has to be the successful clinic

held in South Mission last summer. The clinic, put on by John and Fred Featherstone and "Digger" Graybill, drew enough participants for three monthly sessions. Two of the present Wave players — Chris Marlowe and Randy Stevenson — also took turns as guest instructors. The creators of the clinic, along with Skip McCallin, were responsible for setting up the 2-man Winston tournament.

One of the members of the L.A. Free suggested an extremely beneficial by-product of the Winston Volleyball League: the league has coincidentally brought together the best amateur players for a season of intensive play just a year before the Olympics. International rules have been related to the extent that players can receive "expense money" without losing their amateur standing. The yearly total of expense money can not exceed \$2100. (Almost all of the players have taken part-time jobs to supplement this money. Many work in restaurants, such as Wampler's in hardware, Ed Macho is the coach at San Diego State.) Thus, ever-one hopes the League will enable the U.S. to make a better showing in the '76 Olympics.

The League game itself is completely different from the Jungle Ball or even the skilled 2-man. It's played at the beach. The six players on each side use set-passing, setting, spiking, and blocking plays, and strategy is essential. Another big difference is the playing surface. It would seemingly invite disaster to dive after a ball. But most of the back line players have mastered a technique of diving, making a dig, and landing on their bellies without maiming themselves at all. This technique is part of the pre-game warm-up, and it's pretty funny watching 6'1" to 6'6" men flopping around like seals.

The San Diego team is a study in contrasts, both in playing styles and in appearance. Chris Marlowe, with a ton of hair, plays like he looks; he is all over the court. When he is right, he makes beautiful plays. But when he is bad, everyone knows it. Mark Werner is the perfect complement to Marlowe.

He is older, his hair is thinning on top; he is the smoothest San Diego player and makes the most difficult plays.

The only thing really bush-league about the whole Winston Volleyball production was the opening night announcer, John Holmgren. He seemed to believe that he had to justify the players' reasons for being there. Instead of merely calling out the names of the players who made good spikes or saves, it would be: "Another excellent spike from that fine All-American from UCLA, the emmo of the first evening, Holmgren was drawing more than a few catcalls from the \$2 seats. And someone must have mentioned his over-enthusiasm to him — Holmgren called the next two games with only a modicum of editorial comment.

The opening-night excesses of the announcer contrasted sharply with the cool expertise of the referee, the only non-performer in the public's eye. This gentleman, Mr. J. G. "Legs" Ignacio, stirred in all white, is a study in real control. He runs the whole show — he calls the shots (with the help of three assistants) and decides all disputes. Leggy is one of three international referees: the U.S. (the only one in California). Therefore he calls all the games for the Winston League. He performs his task with the grace of Nureyev, without a second's hesitation.

Prize must also be given to the choice of Golden Hall. With 1800 fans, the place seems packed. All the seats are close enough to get caught up in the spirit of the game and the crowd seems to have a lot to do with the momentum of the game. Dave Schakel of the L.A. Free said that this was much prefer Golden Hall to the huge "cave" up north.

I don't know the reason behind the small turnout at Sunday's (February 21) The \$2 general admission price certainly compares favorably to a \$3-\$4 movie ticket. And in case anyone was wondering, when the "girls of summer" are hanging out during our short grey season, most of them seem to be devoted volleyball fans.

NOTICES

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PROGRESSIVE ROCK RADIO, KCR 93.2 FM Mission Cable. We'll play what you want, when you want it. KCR request line 286-6952.

MAN-WOMEN AWARENESS: mental, physical and physical approach to deepening relationships. Wednesday, February 5 for 10 weeks. \$3 a session. The National Center for the Exploration of Human Potential, 272-7330.

POETRY WORKSHOP: Patrick Henry Adult School offers workshop to introduce beginning writers to elements of poetry through weekly discussions beginning February 6, 798-8040.

ECKANKAR, the occult science of soul travel, is offering free introductory lecture at South Bay Park, 19th and Coronado, Imperial Beach, Tuesday, February 11, 8 p.m. For further information 288-5746.

THE TEACHING of the Inner Christ can help you find your inner divinity. Services Sunday, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Via Tuesday, 5 p.m. Weekly classes in inner sensitivity 280-7770.

NUCLEAR INITIATIVE: Are nuclear power plants really safe? The Nuclear Safeguards Initiative requires stricter safety standards. Please help circulate the petition for nuclear safety. Contact People for Profit, Box 693, San Diego, 92172-5831/21.

LIBERTARIAN ALTERNATIVE Hot Line offers a free clearinghouse of information about avoiding government coercion. We believe you should be free to live your own life, and we'll help you do it. 44-8747.

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UNITHON — A New Age Growth Marathon. Dr. Lawrence Holden is holding a second Unithon on Saturday, February 8. The first was filled to capacity. Call 272-7330 for reservations.

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THE GOOD LIFE, radio interview about Eckankar, the Path of Total Awareness. KIRO FM 95 and XERO AM 850, Thursday, February 6, at 1:30 p.m. Playbacks at 5:45, 11:30 p.m., and 1:00 a.m. on KIRO. Information: 398-5748 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

WORKSHOP "Understanding Your Past" — A Life Assessment Experience. Meets seven Tuesday afternoons beginning February 11. Call National Center for the Exploration of Human Potential for registration information. 272-7330.

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WANTED

TRADE NIKON 950mm and 50mm 1:4 lens for Nikon 105mm and 24mm. Also trade Leica 50mm 1:5 and 50mm viewfinder for a 35 for a 35mm screwmount with a 35mm viewfinder. Bruce, 235-6178 or 458-5112.

WANTED: double bookcase headboard. Prefer oak or light wood, graceful lines. Small, 20" x 36" provincial type desk. Can refinish both. 583-5304 evenings.

READER

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FEMININE FOLK and rock dance instruction desired in exchange for language instruction in French or Italian. Alex 729-7210 weekdays before 5 p.m.

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1964 MERCURY, 4 speed motor needs overhaul. Everything else in excellent condition. \$200. Leon, 284-4249. Keep trying.

1952 FORD 1-ton pick-up with camper shell. New engine and accessories. \$600 or will trade for VW bus of equal value. John Cowen, 488-6030.

'68 CHEVY IMPALA Station Wagon. Looks and runs good. Must sell immediately, sacrificing at \$950. Tom 238-0771.

'67 SAAB, Gas and oil mixed together, no valves. New engine, transmission, tires, clutch, alternator. 30 m.p.g. Very nice interior. \$1000. Bruce, 235-6178 or 458-5112.

'64 FAIRLANE, Automatic, power steering, smog VE, radio, 2 door in good shape. \$355. Dave, 282-0888.

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FREE LECTURE every Friday, 8 p.m. Hypnosis, bio-feedback, sexuality, etc. Please call for reservations as seating is limited. Hypnosis Motivation Institute, 3019 Park Plaza Drive, Suite H, La Mesa, Ca. 92041. 460-7715.

Drive: Suite H, La Mesa, La 92041. 460-7715.

DANCE CLASSES for men and women taught by Terry Sprague. Yoga, jazz, improvisation, ethnic, Modern and Ballet disciplines combined to create your own form. 781-7861.

FRENCH TUTORING by male native in exchange for helping me fix and share dinner and/or doing easy clerical work. Guy, 45811, Park Blvd. 286-8854.

WORKSHOP ON DON JUAN — Who is a "man of knowledge"? What is non-ordinary reality, the seeing, the taste, the magical — how does one "stop the world"? The workshop will look at these questions and more. It is about Don Juan, the Yagur Indian holy man, popularized by Carlos Castaneda. The purpose of the workshop is to assist you to practice Don Juan's lessons in your own life. Also included are guest speakers, desert trips, and individual counseling. Meets Wednesdays, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., starting February 5 at Pacific Beach Junior High, Room 203. Free. All Welcome.

A WORKSHOP entitled "Exploring Your Hopes and Dreams," led by Dr. Lawrence Holden. Meets Mondays, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., starting February 5 at Pacific Beach Junior High, Room 203. Free.

A WORKSHOP entitled "You and the Future," led by Dr. Lawrence Holden. Meets Wednesdays, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., starting February 5 at Mission Bay High School, room 234. Free.


GUITAR CLASSES beginning/intermediate. Chords and/or notes. Popular styles, 10 years experience in this area. \$12 per month. Call Jonathan Cleaver, 284-2473 or 753-6029.

TENNIS INSTRUCTION from Steve Bassett, member of the United States Professional Tennis Association. Private and semi-private lessons offered with discounts for students and advanced payment. Now rather than the crowded summer months is the time to learn. Call 458-7758.

HOUSEPLANTS — free 4 week class on care and selection. Slides and practical demonstrations. Wednesdays, starting February 5, Fireside Room, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6th Ave. between Olive and Nimitz. 7 to 12 p.m.

BALLROOM DANCE classes. Fox trot, swing, cha-cha, rumba, waltz, samba, et cetera. Session of 10 weeks. Wednesdays 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call 298-4942 after 4 p.m.

BE AN EFFECTIVE parent and still be yourself. 10 sessions, National Center for Human Potential, by M. A. Tucker. D. Ed. Starts Friday, February 7 at 7:30. 272-7330.



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