



**Voice of Gorn-Benn**

*Volume 12, 1984*

*Kwei Sing  
Chinese God of Literature*



輕鬆自然

Ever So Gentle



青春小鳥

Flights Of Fancy



羞人答答

Oh, Is It My Turn



主席錫柱伯致詞

President's Address



活力揚溢

Model Of Distinction



高橋英文致詞

Edna's Greetings



信心十足

Clearly A Beauty



春之試步

First Steps Of Spring



Strength AND Determination

## JOURNEY HOME

I remember my parents discussing the "good old days" when overseas Chinese money poured into Toishan building new homes and roads. In the twenties and thirties, it was "ho sai gai" back home. Then came the bitter years. People lost property, wealth and family. Times will never be as they were before, but the recent Gom-Benn Village Society China tour has completed the circle. One of the largest overseas Chinese groups to return home enmasse, the members of the Gom-Benn Village Society celebrated the grand opening of the new Gom-Benn School and with it the return of faintly nostalgic times when Toishan County prospered with overseas Chinese money.

One of the most common remarks of us, the American born generation, was Now, I understand why my parents are the way they are. They were peasants in Gom-Benn and the surrounding villages--nothing more, nothing less. Some had wealth and land, others were poor and struggled. A fair number went to primary school and some finished secondary school in Toi City. The common will among all of them was the ceaseless desire to achieve and succeed.

And why not. Village life was and still is hard. Working in the fields, and tending livestock appeared quite alien to us. We're so used to the city ways: jump in the car, get a fast bite to eat, see a movie, or go shopping (not for food--but for material things). On our China trip, we still tried our western ways; we went "shopping". But the first generation tour members said; "What is there to buy in China?" Some of our parents reverted to village ways ...buying medicinal herbs, Chinese handicrafts, and practical things that aren't so available in Los Angeles.

We wanted to sightsee. Those who looked for Empire State Buildings, World Trade Towers, and big metropolises found ancient Canton, decaying and gray. Yosemite-type natural wonders really turned out to be small city parks, oddly shaped natural rock formations, and Chinese gardens. What we really found was so totally different that we could hardly believe it, and some of us couldn't accept it.

As we may have read in many books, from Pearl Buck's The Good Earth to Bill Hinton's Fanshen, China is peasants farming in the countryside. Although our parents are infinitely more materialistic than the people in the village now, they are less than some of my non-Chinese friends and their parents. Our parents reflect the village values of hard work and utilitarianism.

The "village society" concept became more than just a club. The trip back to Gom-Benn showed us the real village society. Some of us saw the hierarchy, those who were leaders because they had power and influence. Some of us saw the sense of belonging, the need to conform and adhere. Few of us could fathom the complexity, the subtleness, attention to detail, and preserving "face".

I'm glad I went on the trip, my second, I knew what to expect and how to handle it. I wanted to go not to sightsee, nor to buy things, but to share the older generation's past, their remembrances. What I got was a deep appreciation of their present, how they came to be what they are today. Such an insight is really priceless when you think you are but a reflection of them.

\*)\*)\*) NEWS FROM EVERY CORNER (\*(\*)\*

James Wong, son of the Man Sang Wongs, left for Hong Kong last spring to visit his 90 year old grandmother. The occasion was a birthday party in her honor. James also used the opportunity to visit his native Gom-Benn. Local villagers greeted him at his family home. He stayed at the commune auditorium. When James' parents visited the village in 1981, they stayed at the commune auditorium too. Local villagers loaned them bedding for their use. James also went to Thailand to visit his sister, brother-in-law and their children. He is now in an import and export business specializing in Thai products.

\* \* \* \*

Susan and Edward Jung had two reasons to share their happiness with their friends and relatives this past year. Their son, Leslie, and his wife, Celena, presented them with a little granddaughter, Lacey Nicole, on 29 April 1983. Lacey tipped the scale at 8 lbs. 13 ozs. when she made her debut into the world. A red egg and ginger buffet luncheon was on 28 May, 1983 held at the Champagne Restaurant of Monterey Park to celebrate the event. Then on 23 July 1983, their other son, Dennis and Elaine Shimoda, tied the knot at the Union Church in Little Tokyo. A wedding banquet was held at the Golden Dragon Restaurant that evening attended by guests numbering around 500 people. On both occasions, the Edward Jungs donated a total of \$150 to the Gom-Benn Village Society.

\* \* \* \*

Chui Ying, the daughter of Yum San, has been living in Canada for the past few years. They own a restaurant there. Last year, they visited Stockton and Los Angeles calling on parents, siblings and friends.

\* \* \* \*

Kar Lun and his wife from the Ping On Village are living in New York city. Kar Lun is a noted Szechwan chef. Last year they moved into their new home and visited California. Many thanks for donations of \$20 to the association and the Kam Sing publication. Yee Mun, Kar Lun's daughter is employed by a New York publisher. She is transferring to the west coast.

\* \* \* \*

A Mother's Day buffet was held at the Gom-Benn Village Society office on 1 May 1983 to celebrate one of the major holidays of the year. It had a successful turn-out. The following people supplied food for the event: Kam Wah Restaurant - their famous chow main, Bing S. Wong - 3 Marie Callendar Apple Pies, Bing T. Wong - 50 tea cakes, Ying Chong Lung - a crate of oranges and a box of fortune cookies, Harold Wong - Sesame Balls,

Karl Lee - apple cobblers, Tai Yet Gin - 40 tea cakes and Lu' Wong - a pan of jello.

\* \* \* \*

The son of Mrs. Pui Sin Wong, Chuck Chiu is a doctor. He is noted physician in Toronto. He brought his family to California for a visit this last summer.

\* \* \* \*

Sun Kwai Wong's daughter, May Dep wed Kwong Sun Yui on 4 June 1983 in Toronto. A banquet was held that evening, after the church wedding. Sun Kwai is the son of Mrs. Yee Jin Wong. Sun Kwai has been a resident of Toronto for many years; he is supervisor in the Canadian Post Office. Donations were sent to the association and Gom-Benn Village School.

\* \* \* \*

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gin Wong, Sui Ching, graduated from California State University, Los Angeles last year with a BA in Economics. She is currently Director of Program Control at Hughes Aircraft. Her brother, Yun Chong, is also employed by Hughes Aircraft as a Chemical Engineer.

\* \* \* \*

The third son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger K. Wong, Yun Shun, graduated from University of California last summer. He is currently working as an accountant.

\* \* \* \*

At the 32nd anniversary of the Wong Family Benevolent Association on 17 July 1983, the granddaughter of Tung D. Wong and daughter of Hoy Yuen Wong, was the second prize recipient of the scholarship for the junior high school classification. Congratulations to the young lady and her parents and grandparents. Keep up the good work, Fernis.

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Amy Eng, older sister of Harry Wong, celebrated her 89th birthday at Tai Fook Restaurant on 14 Aug. 1983 in the Bay Area. Five sons, three

daughters, and numerous grandchildren gathered for the occasion. Although Amy had left the village a good many years ago, she still remembers her relatives, friends and the Gom-Benn Village Society. A donation of \$100 was made to the association.

\* \* \* \*

Harold's sister and brother-in-law, the See Yip Wus of Lima, Peru made a trip to Mainland, China with the Harold Wongs in 1983. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Says Mary of her sister and brother-in-law; "The two of them have so much energy, it puts us to shame".

The Harold Wongs hosted a birthday party for Mrs. Wu, marking her 80th birthday. The honoree's children and grandchildren winged in from Lima to take part in the celebration at the Miriwar Restaurant. After the birthday party, the See Yip Wus went on to Canada, Seattle, Hong Kong and China for a vacation. Their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren went on to Palm Beach, Florida for their vacation before heading back to Peru.

The Gom-Benn Village Society hosted a dinner party for Mr. and Mrs. See Yip Wu on 27 Aug. 1983 at the Kam Wah Restaurant. The honorees contributed generously to the association and other worthwhile causes. Joining in the evening of good food and fun were: Karl Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Lui Wong, Harold and Mary Wong, Harry and his wife, the Tung D. Wongs, Din T. Wong and his wife, Ray and Edna Gin, Sui Ching Lau, the Bing Tew Wongs, the Poy Wongs, the Park Kam Wongs, Leonard Hoi and his wife, as well as the nephew, Stephen Wong and his family from Oakland.

\* \* \* \*

The Samuel Goldwyn Foundation's award for academic achievement and community service was presented to Helen Yee-Fen Wong August 19, 1983. Helen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lui Wong. She is a nursing student at California State University at Los Angeles. The award was given to Helen at the recommendation of the Nursing Department for her many achievements. She had a 3.67 grade point average at the end of her second year and she has devoted a great many hours to volunteer work at Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center since her high school days. The \$5,000 check from the Foundation serves in part as well deserved recognition.

Our heartiest congratulations to Helen. Keep up the good work.

\* \* \* \*

Our Moon Festival buffet was held on 11 Sept. 1983 at 1:00 P.M. at the association office. Next to the New Year's celebration, this event is rated as the most festive occasion of the year. Members and guests joined

in the festivities as they consumed moon cakes and salad from the Harold Wongs. Ying Chong Lung donated one crate of oranges as well as two boxes

of moon cakes, Mrs Roy Lim - two boxes of cookies, Karl Lee - 2 pans of jello, Bing Tew Wong - a box of tea cakes, Park Kam Wong - a box of tea cakes, Mrs. Gim H. Lee - a box of cookies, Lui Wong - potato salad, and Kai Wah Wong - two dozen soda. After feasting on the above, some of the members played mahjong.

\* \* \* \*

Arthur Wong, son of the Bing Wongs of Los Angeles, and Jennifer Ho were united in matrimony at the Pasadena Presbyterian Church on 18 Sept. 1983. A banquet was enjoyed by all at the Golden Palace Restaurant at 5:30 P.M. that evening. Arthur and Jennifer are now residing in San Bernardino where Art is employed by the San Bernardino Sun Newspaper. Congratulations to Art and Jennifer; may you enjoy many years of marital bliss.

\* \* \* \*

Another wedding was that of Susan Gin, daughter of the Wing Shal Gins of Los Angeles, and Lawrence Tom, son of the William Toms. They were married at the First Methodist Church of Glendale and had their banquet at the Golden Palace Restaurant that evening. Congratulations to the newlyweds! A \$50 donation was made by Susan's parents to the association. Many thanks for their generosity.

\* \* \* \*

A trip to Mainland China headed by Bing Tew Wong was enjoyed by all from 22 Sept to 25 Oct. 1983. On October 6 they proceeded to Toishan and Gom-Benn Village from Kwangtung. The highlight of the trip was the dedication and ribbon cutting of the new school in Gom Benn. Because of the generosity of friends and relatives in Los Angeles, Hong Kong and Canada, the new school was built so that the children in the village can enjoy better surroundings as they further their education.

Participating in the trip via Northwest Airlines on 22 Sept. 1983 flying out of Los Angeles International Airport were: Bing T. and Boy-Jin Wong Wong; Margie Tom; Shirley Hoskin; Cindy Wong; Jan Lee Wong; Carolyn Erwin; Carolyn Wong; William B. Y. Wong and his wife, Soo Har and daughters, Linda Wong and Anna Weinrieb; Mrs. Voy Wong with daughters Julie and Linda; Raymond and Edna Gin; Vincent and Daisy Chu with daughter Dorinda Norman and Edna's and Daisy's sister, Pauline Louie; Yan Yam and his wife, Ngui Cheng; Sui Ching Lau; Kuen Kam Wong; Lui Wong; Leonard Hoi; John and Ruth Gin and their daughter, Elizabeth; Zahir and Dorothy Teja and daughter, Tamiza; the Hing Wong Lees and their daughter, Catherine; Lai Wah Lee and her son, William and daughter-in-law Nancy;

Nancy's parents, Moon Cheow and Mee Thew Lee; Mon Get Wong; and last but not least, Ling Wong Jue and his wife, Lila. For many, it was their first trip to China.

After the trip to China, the group arrived in Hong Kong on October 19th and everyone went their separate ways. Oh, what fun we had!

\* \* \* \*

Fook Shing Wong of Stockton, California, who is very dedicated and energetic towards the Gom-Benn Village Society was nominated as president of the Wong Family Association of that city.

\* \* \* \*

Art Gene Chin, former president of the Gom-Benn Village Society was elected as English Secretary at the Wong Family Benevolent Association.

\* \* \* \*

Auntie Kam Fong of San Francisco officiated at the wedding of her daughter, Louann to Mr. T. Tom on 5 Nov. 1983. The wedding banquet was at Four Seas Restaurant. Many friends and relatives shared in the celebration.

\* \* \* \*

The resident consul of the People's Republic of China, Tong She Bay, and members of his staff visited the association on 20 Nov. 1983. It was the association's Thanksgiving buffet. Consul Tong offered good wishes from his office and our association president, Karl Lee, welcomed these visitors.

\* \* \* \*

Last Thanksgiving, the association enjoyed a visit from Fay Hing Wong, her son, Don and his wife and 5 month old grandson. Ellen and Linda also visited the association. Jan Lee, who works for the Office of Budget Management in Washington, D. C. recently took a bride. Jan and his wife and mother-in-law came to Los Angeles and participated in the Gom-Benn Village Society's New Year Banquet. Congratulations to the Jan Lee Wongs, and may they enjoy many years of happiness together.

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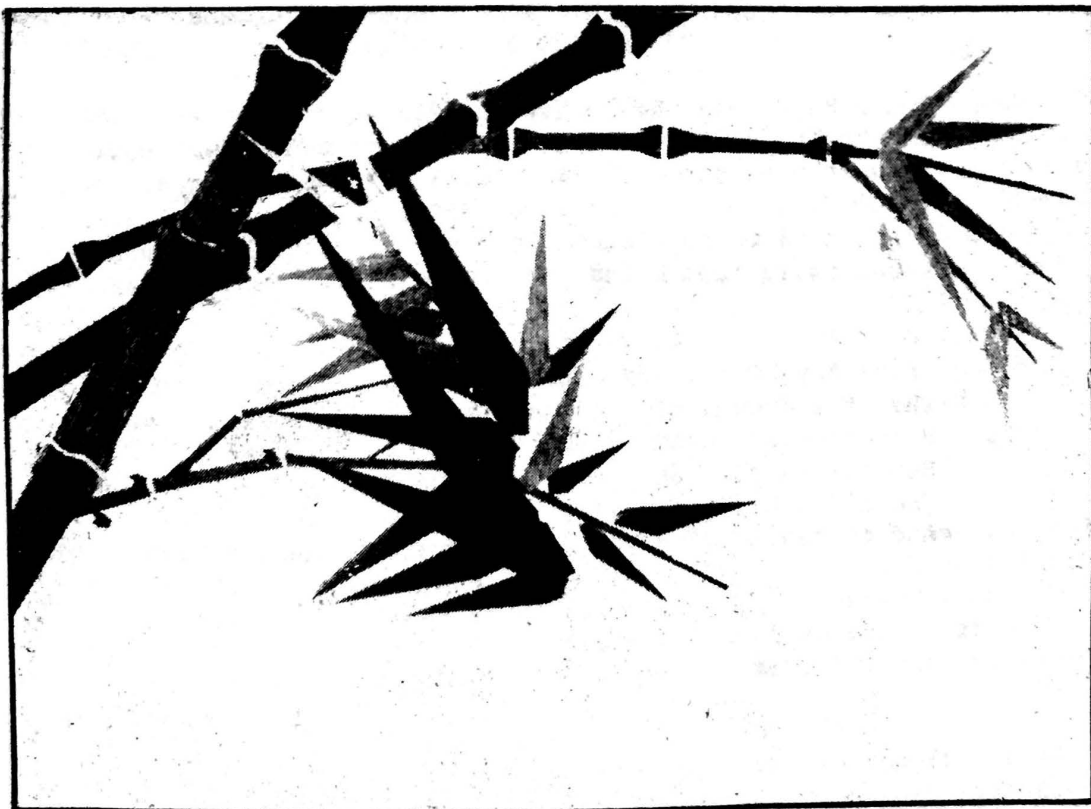


The association's Thanksgiving Day buffet was held on 20 Nov. 1983 at the association office. The food, from: Kim Restaurant - two roast ducks, two dozen sodas from Kai Wah Wong, apple streudels from the Karl Lees, two apple pies from Bing S. Wong, two pans of tea cakes from the Bing T. Wongs, chow mein from Kam Wah Restaurant, two boxes of dinner rolls from Mrs. Nam Wong, rice crispy squares from the Harold Wongs and a pan of jello from the Bing Wongs were consumed by all who attended.

\* \* \* \*

An election was held on 8 January 1984 at the association when Karl Lee turned the presidency over to Lui Wong. Bing Wong was elected vice president. After the election, a buffet was held to celebrate the occasion. Videotape showing the recent China trip was shown for those present.

\* \* \* \*



## CHINA BOY

China Boy, China Boy, where are you going?  
Across the sea to Gold Mountain in search of the gold.  
But instead I must labor all day as a coolie,  
I am sad; there's no money to send to my home.  
Strange sights surround me, I miss my native land.  
I feel lonely and helpless; this was not my dream.

China Boy, China Boy, what are you doing?  
Washing and washing, finally become bossy-bossy.  
The title I like; my pride has returned.  
I am glad--now my life is more hopeful.  
The future seems brighter, my work is now lighter;  
And my family has come; I now have a home.

China Boy, China Boy, what are you eating?  
Chop suey and rice, genuine Chinese tea,  
A little bird's nest soup--a very fine meal,  
Meaty foods are too rich, too fatty and heavy.  
Vegetables and fruit are more vital and healthy,  
I am full--now to work. I must not lose ground.

China Boy, China Boy, what are you reading?  
The books of Confucius, which contain many proverbs.  
To worthy parents is given filial piety;  
To unworthy parents is given despair.  
The desire to complete a task too quickly  
Prevents it from being done thoroughly.

China Boy, China Boy, what have you learned?  
That the dreams of Gold Mountain indeed can come true.  
But one must remember the values of old times.  
Success is not easy, nor is happiness simple.  
The old and the new lands each have much to offer,  
And contentment can come to those who cherish both.

\* \* \* \*

BING TEW WONG  
1914 - 1984

The Los Angeles Chinese Community and especially the Toishan County and the Gom-Benn Village Society have lost an outstanding leader and citizen with the passing of Mr. Bing Tew Wong on February 12, 1984. Uncle Bing succumbed to cancer at the age of sixty-nine at the Queen of the Valley Hospital in West Covina.

Bing Tew Wong was born in Gom-Benn Village near the city of Toishan, Kwangtung, China in 1914. He came to the United States, to Los Angeles at the young age of twenty-one to begin a new life and where he stayed until his death.

Although originally from an agrarian culture, Bing Tew's innate business sense enabled him to become a part-owner of the Chungking Restaurant in Riverside, California in 1941. Shortly after World War II, he returned to China for the family he left behind some twelve years earlier. After bringing his wife, Boy Jin, from China, he returned to Riverside to sell his share of the Chungking Restaurant. He moved to Los Angeles in the early 1950's. There, he embarked on another business venture with the opening of the Wong's Market. With cooking food rather than selling food in his blood, he sold the grocery business after two years and started construction of the Great Wall Restaurant in 1954.

The restaurant was opened on Easter Sunday in 1955. As business prospered, this well known restaurant expanded to its present size in April 1965. It was one of San Gabriel Valley's first Chinese restaurants.

In 1971 Bing Tew and a group of local Gom-Benn villagers founded the Gom-Benn Village Society whose membership consists of Southern California Chinese-Americans who can trace their roots to the same village. He served two terms as its first president. As a member of the U. S.-China Friendship Committee, he sought to promote the normalization of diplomatic relations between the land of his birth and his adopted country. He was also a member of the Southern California Chapter of NACA (National Association of Chinese-Americans) and as its immediate past president, he attended a Washington, D. C. dinner hosted by Vice-President Mondale honoring Deng Xiao Ping, Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China during his visit to the U. S. He was also a member of the Wong Family Benevolent Association.

Uncle Bing Tew made seven trips back to China--the first trip was in 1972, two months after President Richard Nixon's historic trip which signaled the resumption of official Sino-American relations. Interestingly enough on this particular trip, he and his wife were standing on the Great Wall of China on the exact day of the seventeenth anniversary of their restaurant that bears the same name.

Knowing that the people of his village did not have the opportunities to prosper that his adopted country had afforded him; he sought avenues by which he could share and aid his people in China. He contributed personally and solicited donations for the industrial and educational improvements of Gom-Benn Village. He donated money for the construction of

a garment factory, the furnishing of a village community center; he established an educational foundation for the village school. Two years ago, he visited China as the guest of the Chinese government because of his various philanthropic projects.

Bing Tew was a highly educated and self-taught man. And because of his understanding of the profound values of education, he aimed his efforts towards that direction. Since 1980, he has supported a student from mainland China. This student is currently an honor student in Physics at La Verne University.

It is gratifying that on his last trip to Gom-Benn Village in September, 1983, he was an honor guest and key speaker at the dedication of the new school which was built as a result of his and others' efforts. Even as he lay sick in bed, his thoughts were with the country he left behind. With the one thousand dollars bonus check he received from his GBV Society stocks, he instructed his wife to send the money back to his native village for the benefit of the new school.

Several hundred people were witnesses as Bing Tew was laid to rest at Rose Hills Cemetery on February 2, 1984. Moments earlier, during memorial services at one p. m. in the Chapel, telegrams of condolences sent to his family from members of the China Travel Service in Hong Kong and top officials of Toishan, Kwangtung and Peking were read.

Everyone of us at the Gom-Benn Society will miss his smiling face, but we will long remember his dedication and generosity to the association and to his native Gom-Benn Village

Edna Gin, Secretary.

+ + + +

Little David Gin, son of the Gary Gins, lost his life on 6 April 1983 after being struck by a car while walking in front of his school. Friends and relatives and all of David's classmates attended a memorial service for him at the Upland 11th Street Baptist Church, where he attended Sunday School. He was buried at Rose Hills Cemetery on 11 April 1983.

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Friends and relatives of Soon Foon Wong attended funeral services at the Wah Wing Sang Mortuary on 25 April 1983; he died of cancer at the age of 63. He was buried at the Chinese Cemetery.

+ + + +

Mrs. Yee Jin Wong past away 23 Nov. 1983 in Toronto. She was 83. Her family have been long term residents of Toronto.

+ + + +

## THE MEMORY OF BING TEW WONG

Mr. Bing T. Wong, like everyone of the early Chinese pioneers, left the old country and immigrated to a new world for better opportunities. As Mr. Horace Greeley once said: "Go west, young man, go west". The only difference was that during those days, the Chinese could not go west as did their American counterparts, as discrimination was very prominent. Those who were able to come to the United States considered themselves very lucky.

And during all those years that Mr. Bing T. Wong was in Los Angeles, he always worked hard to achieve a better life. He never forgot the people in his native village in China.

To familiarize the offsprings of the local Gom-Benn villagers with the heritage of their parents, the Gom-Benn Village Society was born. He was one the the co-founders. His accomplishments were numerous. He was also a member of the Southern California Chapter of the NACA (National Association of Chinese-Americans) and served one term as its president.

Mr. Bing T. Wong always remembered the people in his native village who were in need of help. Aside from his own generous contributions, he was instrumental in raising funds for the building of the Gom-Benn School--as education was his prime goal. Many friends and relatives of the Gom-Benn Village Society went back to the village to witness the ribbon cutting and dedication of the school on October 16, 1983.

He also played a key role in our annual magazine, The Voice Of Gom-Benn. He put in countless hours of editing and compiling the magazine each year for eight to nine years. Words cannot describe his energy and contributions to the local Gom-Benn Association and to the Gom-Benn Village in China. No doubt, the passing of Mr. Bing T. Wong is a great loss to our society.

The younger generation should profit from Mr. Bing T. Wong's wisdom--to be united and continue to work together for the good of the Gom-Benn Village Society.

God bless his family and may they live in peace.

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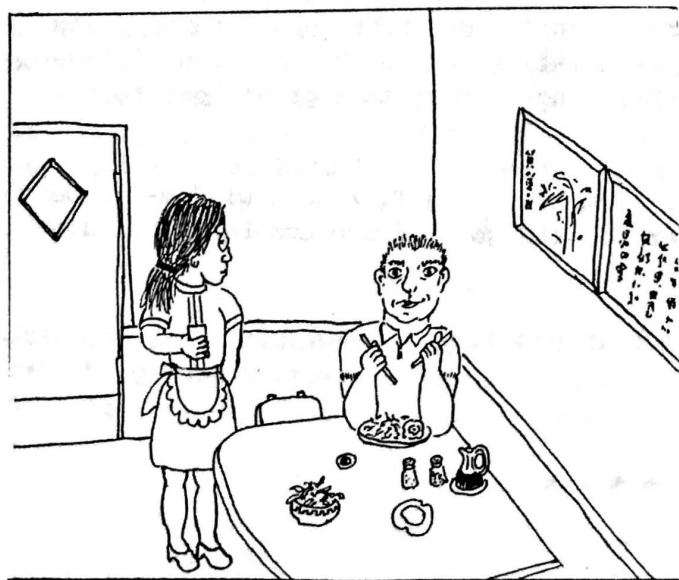
Linda Wong, daughter of Fay Wong of Riverside, enjoys picking up her pen and drawing what comes to mind.

Having just transferred from IBM in San Francisco to Los Angeles, Linda is inspired to draw the immediate images of L.A.-- the palm trees, the warmth, and the space.

A constant theme in many of her drawings is her identity of being an Asian American.



Brother, Janlee, Making An Offering To Our Ancestors In My Mother's House In Toisan China



Working In Her Parent's Restaurant



Being An Asian American



齊齊來謝幕

The Cast



領善潮流

Doing It This Way



淑女風範

A Model of Beauty



春回大地

Welcoming The Return Of Spring



春字司儀高雲小姐

Clare Wong, Mistress of Ceremonies



Ever So Fashionable

永恒的白色



斯文大方

Regal And Elegant



時裝表演主持人秀蓮姑

Sue Wong, Designer

# Voice of Gom-Benn

VOLUME 13, 1984

GOM-BENN VILLAGE SOCIETY

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NEW CHINATOWN

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# 甘聲

第十二期

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- 從篡改侵華歷史說起
- 悼念柏旋兄
- 村頭巷尾

日期：一九八四年四月  
電話：六八〇一—一六九〇

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