

Walk of Remembrance: The Pacific Grove Chinese Fishing Village

Saturday, May 14, 2011 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History
165 Forest Ave, Pacific Grove, Ca. 93950



The Pacific Grove Chinese Fishing Village burned to the ground in May, 1906. Join Gerry Low-Sabado, a direct descendant of this fishing village, and Pacific Grove Mayor Carmelita Garcia to honor and pay respects 105 years later. **Meet at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History on Saturday, May 14th at 2:00 p.m.** for a reception and an announcement about the May 4, 2011 formal proclamation by the City of Pacific Grove honoring the contributions of the residents of the Pacific Grove Chinese Fishing Village. Then proceed on a one mile walk led by the Monterey Bay Lion Dance team from the Museum and along the recreation trail to the site where the Chinese Fishing Village once stood. This event is created as a cooperative project of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, the City of Pacific Grove, the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove, the Monterey Bay Lion Dance Team, the National Coalition Building Institute, and the American Civil Liberties Union. It is the community's shared goal to honor these early settlers of Pacific Grove.

Gerry Low-Sabado is a great granddaughter of Quock Mui who was born in the Chinese settlement at Point Lobos on August 13, 1859. Quock Mui is the first documented Chinese American female born in the Monterey area. She lived in the Chinese Villages on the peninsula and learned to speak five languages: Chinese, English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Rumsien, the language of the Indian people of Monterey. Gerry is also the great granddaughter of Quock Tuck Lee, who helped Hopkins Marine Station researchers to secure hagfish embryos used for research. He was considered a leader and he was the last person to leave the village site.

Old Monterey was not only home to the Californios, but to Chinese immigrants who settled into fishing villages and camps along the coast in the 1850s. The largest village was on the Pacific Grove site. These expert fishermen built a small fleet of traditional boats and pioneered the first

successful industrial fishing operation in Monterey. Their large daily catches of abalone, fish and squid were sold all over California and as far away as China. Thousands of pounds of annual catch led to large flows of income for both the Chinese, and the Monterey Peninsula. However, success led to loss, as both their industry and their village site proved too valuable to ignore. Caught in the crosshairs of the statewide anti-Chinese immigration movement, the village was forced out of existence by a 1906 fire, and eviction by the landholder. Villagers dispersed, and likewise, their once-thriving coastal community seemed to disappear into the fog. Join village descendants and the Pacific Grove community to remember the Chinese Fishing Village and the Chinese people who once thrived on Pacific Grove shores and contributed to the development of Pacific Grove and the Monterey Peninsula. For more information call (831)-277-1091 or (510) 378-0999.