

IN THE PAST:

The 1977 activities of the Society began with 85 members attending the annual meeting on January 17 in Isleton. President Jean Harvie gave the "state of the society" report - a bank balance of \$1918 and a membership of 273, quite an accomplishment for a brand new historical society. She thanked those who had helped during the first year of the organization, especially the Board of Directors. She in turn was thanked by the society for having the organizing committee appointed, and successfully guiding the society through 1976 as its first president. New officers were elected for 1977: President, Robert James; Vice-President, Judy Merwin; Recording Secretary, Jane Wheeler; Corresponding Secretary, Libby Gordon; Treasurer, Jennie Sheehan; and Directors: Al Amerman, Frances Armstrong, Gerry Gardiner, Jean Harvie, Ping Lee, Barbara O'Neill, Jane Olson, Clarence Pratt, and Kay Wheeler. The evening's program was the first local effort by the society; Douglas Hemly spoke on "Merritt Island Letters and Journals - 1850", and Robert James on "Accounts of the Ryde Store and Saloon- 1893".

The March meeting of the Society was held in Walnut Grove- 95 members and guests attending. President Robert James reported on the actions of the Board of Directors; new committees were appointed, the oral history project will continue, a membership application and information folder will be developed, a charter member list will be printed, and locally presented programs will be taped, typed, and filed for reference. The Board spent much of its time planning the Gambling House Museum project. He reported that a lease had been negotiated, and that clean up and repairs were under way, and that a grand opening benefit is being planned to finance the restoration. The evening's program was again a local effort; Ping Lee spoke on "Delta Gambling Houses", and Carl van Loben Sels on "The Reclamation of the Pearson District".

IN THE PRESENT:

The Chinese Gambling House Museum project in Locke is nearing completion. During the last seven weeks, 40 members of the Society have taken part in scrubbing, sorting, cleaning, sweeping, repairing, painting, and fixing. When finished, the games, fan-tan, dominoes, lottery, and black jack, will be out on the tables, and other parts of the building will be set up as they were originally sixty years ago. The building in itself is a museum piece. In addition, there will be a display of photos and other items that depict the part the Chinese played in the history of the Delta. If any of you have, or know of suitable photos that could be loaned, copied, and returned, contact Kathy Graham (775-1041), or if any of you have appropriate items you would loan for display, contact Jane Wheeler (775-1548)

IN THE FUTURE:

The grand opening preview benefit of the Gambling House Museum will take place on April 29 and 30, Friday and Saturday, 6-9 p.m., \$5 per person. All the displays will be completed and set up, and you will be invited to tour the building and see the various games, photos, and other items. In addition, there will be wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, and prizes. Any of you who would like to serve on a committee for the opening benefit, contact Jane Olson (775-1347). We hope that each of you will stop by the grand opening and get the Gambling House Museum off to a great start.

The museum will be open on a regular basis beginning Saturday, May 7, and each Saturday and Sunday thereafter from 11-5 (except winter), and also by appointment for groups. Those of you who are interested in being a "sitter" at the museum, mail a card to the Society, Box 293, Walnut Grove, to get your name on the list. There will be two people at the museum each day. Some may be interested in only an occasional day, and others have asked about a regular day for them each month. There will be an orientation meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 10 a.m. for museum attendants to acquaint you with the building, lights, door locks, procedures, etc., and to establish a schedule. This is a rare opportunity to learn more about Chinese Gambling Houses and Delta History, as well as meet interesting people who visit the Delta.

The next regular meeting of the Society will be held on Monday, May 16. You will be notified as to time and location.

See you all in Locke at the Grand Opening. It will be an historic event!