

In this edition of the Friends of China Camp Newsletter:

Heritage Day | Bertha Chew | Vandalism and Thefts | Annual Meeting | Volunteer, Andy Fletcher | Ford Truck Donation | Upcoming Events | How You Can Help.



Heritage Day 2019 A Grand Celebration

Every year Friends of China Camp volunteers and staff and partnering organizations (Marin Chinese Cultural Association, the Redwood Empire Chinese Cultural Association, the Museum of the American Indian) come together to celebrate the cultural heritage of the people whose story has become interwoven with the land, history, and story of our community park.

It was over 150 years ago that many Chinese shrimpers came to America looking for a better life as refugees from war, famine, and dismal economic conditions that they faced in China. They found refuge and settled along the San Pedro Shoreline. They brought with them and successfully employed technology and traditions that were thousands of years old. For thousands of years before the shrimpers arrived, indigenous Miwok people lived along the San Pedro hills, as documented by the numerous middens in the park. It is this history that we celebrated in August.

In the hours leading up to this year's event, volunteers busily hung bright red Chinese lanterns on wooden awnings, which swung gently as performers set up their instruments and adjusted their ornate costumes...

[Read on for a recap of events and photos](#)

Bertha Chew – We Will Miss Her Smile

1927 - 2019

Bertha "Bert" Chew, died peacefully at home in Napa on Sunday, September 29, surrounded by family and friends. She was the younger sister of the late Frank Quan, the last resident Chinese shrimper at China Camp. Bert loved China Camp and was a frequent visitor to her former home in the park. FOCC staff, volunteers, and many long-time China Camp visitors remember Bert fondly for her warm, sweet, motherly qualities. She would often greet you with her ever-present smile, open arms, and kiss on your cheek.



The daughter of Henry and Grace Quan, Bert grew up at China Camp in San Rafael with her brothers Frank, Oly, and Milton and her cousins Georgette and Genevieve. She married William Chew in 1949 and they raised three daughters together in Napa, although she became "mom" and "grandma" to many, many people. Bert and Bill were founding members of Napa's Covenant Presbyterian Church, which she very much loved and cherished.

Bert is survived by her daughters Carole Toy, Diana (Lonnie) Reed, and Darlene (Denis) Evans, as well as five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Bill, her brothers Frank and Oly, her cousin Genevieve, her parents, her beloved granddaughter Kellie Toy and grandbaby Gary Lane.

A celebration of her life will be held on November 3 at 2:00 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1226 Salvador Avenue, Napa. Donations may be made in her memory to [Friends of China Camp](#), [Napa Humane Society](#) or [Queen of the Valley Hospital – St. Joseph Health](#).



Vandalism and Thefts Hit Park Revenue

Over the past few months, vandals and thieves have stolen cash and damaged electronic pay stations and metal fee envelope receptacles (iron rangers) in the park. An even greater loss than the stolen cash is the expense incurred by FOCC to repair the pay stations and to retrofit, or even purchase, iron rangers to make them tamperproof.

Executive Director Martin Lowenstein is pleased to announce that an anonymous donor has just given \$500 to FOCC for pay station repairs. Lowenstein estimates that FOCC is still facing a \$4,000 expense to purchase one refurbished pay station and a \$2,000 expense for three new iron rangers.

[Can you help?](#)



China Camp Annual Meeting Saturday, November 16th

Please join Friends of China Camp on **Saturday, November 16 at 10:00 AM** in China Camp Village for the **China Camp Annual Public Meeting**. To be presented are accomplishments for 2019 and plans for 2020. Bring your questions and suggestions for improving park operations and programs. China Camp Village, 100 China Camp Village Road, San Rafael, CA 94901

[Map to meeting location](#)



Andy Fletcher Volunteer Recognition

If you have ever visited the Village beach on a weekend in summer you have probably seen Andy Fletcher sitting on a picnic table along the water gazing out into the bay, white hair and a tan from years of beachside lounging. He is most often spotted wearing his signature sun-worn khaki shorts and flip-flops. If you happen to see him there, exchange a joke with him, it is a treat just to catch his unforgettable smile and laugh. His personality reflects the Village beach where he has spent most of his weekends; calm joyfulness inlaid with plenty of stories waiting to be told.

If you want to know the history of the Village for the past 40 years, Andy is one of the best people to ask. Why? Well, he's visited the Village ever since he was a little kid and...

[Learn more about Andy and his contributions](#)



2006 Ford F-350 Donated by Jeff Craemer

Long-time China Camp friend Jeff Craemer has donated his 2006 Ford F-350 to FOCC. FOCC's staff and volunteers have been using the truck daily since it was donated, as it has proven to be essential to park maintenance and general operations. This 2006 Ford F-350 complements our 2017 Ford F-350, which FOCC purchased thanks to a generous donation from Jeff, and a 2006 Toyota Tacoma.

[Would you like to be a donor?](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Toddler Program
October 6, 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Migratory Bird Walk
October 12, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Naturalist Walk
October 12, 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Full Moon Tai Chi
October 13, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Park Champion Work Day
October 19, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Speaker - 1st Chinese woman to vote
October 19, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

[SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



HOW YOU CAN HELP

[DONATE](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[BECOME A FRIEND](#)

**Little Steps.
Big Impact.**