

SAS TOUR – “Locke, California - America’s Last Remaining Rural Chinatown” organized by **Lynette Blumhardt** and led by **Alfred Yee**

On Saturday, May 4, 2024 in spite of rain 17 SAS members ventured to Locke, California to enjoy a tour of the Chinese town. They assembled in the Locke Boarding House Museum to hear first about the history of Locke by historian and member of the Locke Foundation, Alfred Yee. He relayed that Locke was established in 1915. It provided a location for Chinese farm workers to stay during the harvest season. Over the years it expanded to support all aspects of local agriculture including harvesting, canning, packing and shipping. The area was prime for agriculture and drew support from railroads to take the products to market. The town with 600 residents at its height in 1920s was primarily occupied by Chinese (90%). Chinese discrimination segregated the Chinese into this location. It had 5 gambling houses, brothels, an opera, restaurants, and markets. Now it is a National Historic Landmark and its population is about 70. After exploring the boarding house in the rain we walked down Main Street and visited the Chinese school and two gambling houses turned into museums. The tour ended at Al’s, a restaurant where all enjoyed lunch. Photos by Jan Johansen



Locke Boarding House Museum



Alfred Yee describing Locke



Museum



Lunch spot