Demolition of the stunning 1920’s Oriental pagoda The Far East Kennels

FAR EAST KENNELS ON LINCOLN HIGHWAY

Within the last year L. R. Zifferer's palatial establishment for the breeding and raising of chows has become one of the many sights to interest the tourist as he passes through Columbia, Pennsylvania

Restored 1920's image from the ©Sandra Miller Collection

Last week was quite the whirlwind, when it comes to new chow history surfacing out of the blue, although this breakthrough about Far East Kennels being demolished (see below) made me gasp out loud and then I cried….I know I’m far too sentimental over these historic things, but what a loss this was to the community and Chow history. Thank you so much to my new history friend Adam Leddy, for sending this photo my way and for giving permission to share. Adam is a writer and researcher based in Brooklyn and in Lancaster, PA. and has been extensively researching the Far East Kennels and their owner, Lothar Zifferer, a significant figure in the history of his own hometown of Columbia, PA.

THE COLUMBIA, PA., NEWS, THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1972

Landmark Disappears

The Far East Inn, along Route 30 at the east end of Columbia, constructed years ago by the late L.R. Zifferer as a $500,000 kennels to shelter his prized and nationally-known chow and pekingese dogs, succumbed to the ravages of time and fell prey to a demolition crew now engaged in tearing it down. The Oriental pagoda-type structure later was converted into one of the best known "night spots" in the county and many of its former patrons mourn its passing. William Kloidt, general manager at Grinnell, which purchased the Inn on its demise as a night spot, said the building was structurally weakened and had become a safety hazard, especially to children. He said the ground on which it stood will be used for additional company parking space. The Madonna Wrecking Co., Lancaster, is performing the demolition work.

Photo credit : Columbia Historic Preservation Society

Adam and I will be spending some time chatting soon about early chow history, in general, to help round out his knowledge of chows for an essay he hopes to write about Lothar Zifferer and the Far East Kennels. What an exciting project that will be of such value on many levels. So many people have asked me, whatever happened to the kennel…when was it taken down, and I had no answers? This newspaper clipping now says it all, circa 1972. Thank goodness for history researchers like Adam, this will not be the Far East kennel's

final chapter. And a shoutout to Dottie Everett for sending Adam my way…..it takes a village!!!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FAR EAST KENNELS IN ADDITIONAL ARCHIVED ENTRIES BELOW