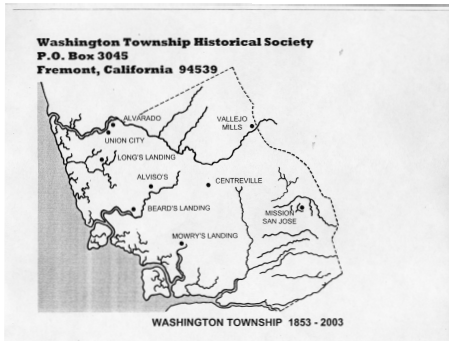


Washington Township Historical



NOV-DEC 2011

VOL. 35
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MEETING DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2011: TIME: 7:15 PM
PLACE: MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA STREET, FREMONT, CA

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Regena Dennie and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Holiday Greetings to all of the members and friends of Washington Township Historical Society. This time of year we look back at what we have accomplished. I am happy to say that our membership has stayed pretty constant thanks to Regena Dennie and others for promoting WTHS at every opportunity. I am also happy to say that thanks to Tim Swenson we now have a website: "www.WashingtonTownshipHist.org". Tim has done a good job and this website is very informative and we are working to provide more information in it. Tim has also taken on the task of listing all of the plaques located in Washington Township and placing them on our website. I am also happy to say that we have enjoyed some great speakers at our bi-monthly meetings. I am disappointed that we were unable to produce a brochure to promote WTHS. I found that this process is more complicated than I originally thought and I did not devote enough time and energy to its production. I wish all of you the best of holidays with friends and family and I invite you all to attend the November meeting. We will have an election of officers with B J Bunting swearing in the new officers. We will also hear about our plaque program and Phil Holmes will be there with a CD of his stories in the Tri-City Voice. I always learn a lot just listening to Phil talk about almost anything and when all of you bring your memories it turns into a wonderful experience.

Al Minard

PLAQUE COMMITTEE Report

The plaque committee (Al Minard, Bruce Hevelin, Timothy Swenson, Regina Dennie & Gil Garza) has been reviewing past and potential future plaque designs to recognize significant historical landmarks within Washington Township. The six plaques that WTHS has already dedicated are detailed in a Tri-City Voice article by Phil Holmes: September 17, 2008 History: Washington Township Plaques. As part of the due diligence for reviewing plaque designs, we took a good look at the original plaque design that was created for WTHS 35 years ago by Gereon Rios. It turns out that we have the original clay model Mr. Rios used to create the six cast bronze relief plaques. The plaque features a side view of the original Mission San Jose along the top with smaller depictions of Mayhews Landing and the first court house building in Alvarado on the side. After a bit of research we found that Mr. Gereon Rios is alive and well. He is living in Sonora California where at the age of 69 he teaches painting (oil, water color) and sculpture. The plaque created for WTHS was the work of local Fremont artist, Gereon Rios, who went on to pursue a career in the Arts and has accumulated a significant body of work in the field. Mr. Rios also created the City Seal of Fremont (as a teenager) and has portraits that hang in the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose in Fremont, The Sisters of the Holy Family and the Hibernia Bank in San Francisco. Gil plans to meet and interview Mr. Rios and give an update on some of the early days of WTHS and the plaque that was created to highlight important local historical sites.

Members in the News

Argus, September 13, 2011. **Patty Lacy** writes to Gary Bogue's column about her adventure with two hummingbirds in her back yard.

Fremont Bulletin, September 23, 2011. **Ed Pentelari** tells that he keeps honey bees in his back yard and they will bother no-one unless you attack their hives.

Tri-City Voice, September 27, 2011, **Marlene Leal** announces that "The roving Artists Exhibits" will be held at the Mission Coffee Roasting Café, 150 Washington Boulevard, Fremont

Tri-City Voice, September 27, 2011. **Phil Holmes** writes, "Fremont's quest for a City Hall". Ground was broken for the reinforced concrete building in March 1969 and was demolished in September 2004.

Argus, October 1, 2011. **Norma Neto** writes, to the "Opinion" column regarding peace in Israel.

Tri-City Voice, October 4, 2011, **Myrla Raymundo** writes, "The Buddhist Church in Union City". Established in 1961, the Alameda County Buddhist Church is considered a historical landmark.

Argus, October 10, 2011, On Women's Rights, **Al Minard** noted that the Women's Suffrage League passed out a two page article, "To the Farmers and Fruit Growers of California", written by Milicent Shinn. This article informed the farmers that if the man dies, his widow will lack the political means to protect the family's interest and property. The farmers vote passed the amendment, thus giving women in California the right to vote in 1911.

Tri-City Voice, October 11, 2011. **Phil Holmes** writes, "Warm Springs Fire Department". The Warm Springs volunteer fire department was organized in 1944, with John Souza chosen fire chief and Antone Brazil assistant.

Tri-City Voice, October 11, 2011, **Pat Kite** writes, "Cricket Chow". According to World Ark Magazine, insects are the current gourmets dining rage. Connoisseurs consider crickets fine foods.

Catholic Voice, October 17, 2011. **Sister Loretta Marie Marbach** invites the community to the Holy Family property for the celebration of National Archives Month.

Tri-City Voice, October 18, 2011. **Myrla Raymundo** writes, "City Halls of Union City". In February 1977, the City received a federal grant of \$5 million for construction of the present City Center complex.

Tri-City Voice, October 18, 2011, "Archives Illuminate local history" by Julie Grabowski, tells of the "Archive Tour" of the Sisters of the Holy Family grounds. For information contact **Sister Loretta Marie Marbach**.

Tri-City Voice, October 25, 2011. **Phil Holmes** writes, "Direct Marketing". The story of the traveling salesman who sold "Fuller Brush", Watkins products, Mary Kay cosmetics, Jewel Tea and businesses such as Cloverdale Creamery, who delivered milk; Harold Millard who delivered bread; as well as the "veggie Truck" that came from San Jose to sell his vegetables.

Tri-City Voice, November 8, 2011. **Phil Holmes** writes, "A few of our favorite stories" which are, Rose City, "The Cow and the Clothes", Sack City, "Search for the Rock" and "The Carpenter".

Tri-City Voice, November 8, 2011. **Pat Kite** writes, "Hibiscus" which is Hawaii's State Flower. A red hibiscus behind a woman's left ear means, "I desire a lover". Behind her right ear, "I already have a lover". A hibiscus behind both ears? I have a lover but want another.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 per year

PATRONS MEMBERS: \$50.00 for one year

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Address _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL Address:

MAIL CHECK TO: **Washington Township Historical Society PO BOX 3045, FREMONT, CA 94539**

"To Collect, Preserve and Diffuse Information Relating to the History of Washington Township"

From the Mail Bag

The Alameda County Library, October 11, 2011, has informed the membership of their Tri-Tech computer Skills Classes.

Conference of California Historical Societies has sent advance notice of their up coming Symposium on February 23-25, 2012 in Pasadena.

Alameda County historical society Quarterly, October 2011, Dennis Evanosky writes, "The men behind the Claremont". The Claremont has been welcoming guests for almost 100 years.

Union City Historical Museum, November 2011, Myrla Raymundo writes, "James Logan's descendant's visit". Kathy Logan Jordan came from Boise, Idaho to attend her 50th class reunion.

Alameda Museum Quarterly, 2011, Ron Ucovich writes, "A closer look at Soap". In 1879, William Procter, a candle maker, created a "white soap" and with his brother-in-law, James Gamble, manufactured a floating soap they called Ivory. They advertised it as being 99.44% pure. In the 19th century, Ivory led the market in sales.

Mission Peak Reporter, October-December, 2011, remind us that "The Spirit of Christmas Past" tea will be held on December 14, 2011 at 12 noon. The cost will be \$23.00 per person.

Club Car, November 2011. Grand Parade of Power concluded the 50th anniversary celebration of the Pacific Locomotive Association. According to the Bulletin, "From 10 AM till 12:30 PM, everything that was able to run, ran and passed the Reviewing Grandstand" in Sunol.

May She Rest in Peace

Theo Elliott Overacker was a long time member of Washington Township Historical Society. She was born in Niles on June 5, 1914, sunset, October 21, 2011. She had made her home in Mission San Jose, and was active in many organizations and will be greatly missed.

Members Who Paid their Dues

Gretchen Roeding Mendenhall and Michelle Roeding Yum have renewed their membership and we thank you.

Our last meeting had speakers from Save Kimber Park. They asked us for a letter of support to save Kimber Park. We can write a standard letter that says essentially that we support saving Kimber Park, and not much else. Al would prefer writing a letter that gives some reasons why we would like to see this park saved for future generations. Al will bring a copy of both letters to the meeting and we can discuss the contents and the choice and decide which letter we wish to send from our organization. Each of us could write a letter of support if we chose. There is a video on YouTube with Art Kimber talking about the original chicken ranch and how the park was converted from a level tomato field to make hills and a lake with two islands and a couple of boats for the workers at Kimber to take their family and enjoy nature. Al drove around the park that is now fenced, but when he drove by they were taking some of the fencing down. There are a variety of trees on the property and it seems from Art Kimber that they were planted in about 1950. Art does talk about the high school softball players coming out and throwing potatoes anywhere they wanted and a UC Professor deciding which tree should be planted where each potato landed. William Hammond Hall (1846-1934) superintendent of Golden Gate Park said, "Destroy a public building and it can be rebuilt in a year; destroy a city woodland park and all the people living at the time will have passed away before its restoration can be effected."

Listing of events at Historic sites

The James & Lucy Shinn House will be open for tours on Friday evening, December 2, and December 9, 2011 from 7-9 PM. The house will also be open for tours on Saturday & Sunday, December 3 & 4th, 2011 from 12 Noon to 4 PM. The house will be decorated in a style similar to what it may have looked like for Christmas in 1890.

Patterson House will hold its "Victorian Christmas Fantasy" on Thursday & Friday, December 8 & 9 and 15 & 16 with house tours at 1, 2 and 3 PM. Saturday & Sunday, December 10 & 11 and 17 & 18 will also have house tours at 11 AM, 12-Noon, 1 PM, 2 PM and 3 PM. The Patterson House will also be open to tour on Friday Evening December 9 from 5 PM to 8:45 PM

Christmas at Ardenwood will be held on December 3rd & 4th from 10 AM to 4 PM, which will include the horse drawn train, a search for the Yule Log and a visit with Father Christmas.

Niles Canyon Railway will run their Christmas Train of Lights starting Friday, November 25 thru Thursday, December 29, with runs on Wednesday (Bargain Train), Friday, Saturday and Sunday, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The train will also run on Monday, December 19 & 26 and Thursday, December 22 & 29. The train leaves Niles at 4:15 with boarding 45 minutes prior to departure. You will not be able to get off in Sunol. The train also leaves Sunol at 7; 15 PM with boarding 45 minutes prior to departure. You will not be able to get off the train in Niles if you board in Sunol.

The Niles Festival of Lights Parade is Friday, November 25, 2011 starting at 6:30 PM going down Niles Boulevard starting near Sullivan's Underpass and ending at the Merchants Train Car parking lot. Santa will be available for pictures after the parade at the Niles Merchants Train car

The Niles Holiday Home Tour is Saturday, December 10 from 12 Noon to 5 PM beginning at the Niles Depot in the Niles Plaza. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

Las Posadas is held in the Mission San Jose area every year. This year they will only walk from the Old Mission Museum to the individual sites on the first night and the last night. They sing Christmas carols on the walk which is a good chance to exercise those vocal chords.

The Schedule for Las Posadas:

Thursday, December 15 is the first night and that will end at Mission Coffee with Kristen Del Rio.

Friday, December 16 at Better Homes and Gardens, entertainment TBD

Saturday, December 17 Edward Jones office, entertainment TBD

Sunday, December 18, Dominican Sisters Motherhouse with Jim Burris Madrigal Singers.

Monday, December 19, Cheese Taster, entertainment TBD

Tuesday, December 20, Olive Hyde with Center Stage Singers.

Wednesday, December 21, Sisters of the Holy Family with First United Methodist Church Choir.

Thursday, December 22, Von Till and Associates with Anza Street Troubadours & Richard Kendrick

Friday, December 23, The Museum of Local History with Brenda Paddor and Knuti Van Hoven

The Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum has shows every Saturday night but has some special shows that you might be interested in.

Friday, November 25, 1/2 hour after the Light Parade or 8:00 pm whichever is later, they are showing "Christmas in Connecticut" with Barbara Stanwyck starring as a Martha Stewart type newspaper writer who has misled the public into thinking she is the perfect housewife. This is a fundraiser for the Adopt a Family/Adopt a Senior program.

Sunday, December 4, 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM, "Sutro's: The Palace at Land's End" The film is a feature length documentary of San Francisco's Sutro Baths, continuing where "Remember Playland" left off.



Niles Canyon Railway Train of Lights. This is a wonderful experience with over 1 million lights on the train. The Train departs Niles at 4:15 as a round trip ride with no opportunity to get off at the mid-point of the ride in either direction. The train also departs from Sunol at 7:30PM as a round trip ride. The train now has a lift so it can accommodate wheelchairs and others who have problems climbing stairs. The ride lasts about one hour.

Photo by Al Minard

The Patterson House at Ardenwood Farms has volunteers decorate each room in their own style. This year the house is called "A Victorian Christmas Fantasy". This is a beautiful house and well decorated and every year it is a little bit different. Our own Regena Dennie will be playing the pump organ at this house on a number of occasions. Since the house does not have a heating system yet, they use the fireplaces to keep the house warm, which provides a nice touch.



Photo by Al Minard



The Shinn House is decorated for Christmas like it might have been in 1890. Christmas starts with wreath making on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Anyone can come down on Saturday, November 26 from 11 am to 3 pm to help make wreaths and if you do not know how to make one we will teach you. Fresh greenery wreaths are hung in every window in the Shinn House. The house has a live Christmas tree in the Front parlor and typical Christmas gifts on loan from Marie Dear under the tree. We will also have hot cider, coffee, tea and sweets in the archive room for those who want to stay and visit a while. Please remember to visit our gift shop for a nice present for someone special. The Shinn House is a seemingly unknown resource in Fremont which does not get enough visitors. There are two steps to get into the first floor and two steps from the house to the archive room. Joan Serafino is standing by the Christmas Tree.

Photo by Al Minard



Al Minard presenting a Certificate of Recognition from Washington Township Historical Society to the Warm Springs Elementary school for providing 75 Years of education to the students of Fremont.

Al is shown with the Principle, Brett Nelson on the left and the student body President on the right.

The day time event was very interesting including the arrival of school Prinicple, Brett Nelson, in a 1936 automobile. They also had on display all of the yearbooks from the past years.

Each class gathered up items to put into a time capsule scheduled to be opened in another 25 years.

This school was built by the WPA as one of the New Deal projects to put people back to work after the Depression of 1929.

Photo by Gil Garza

