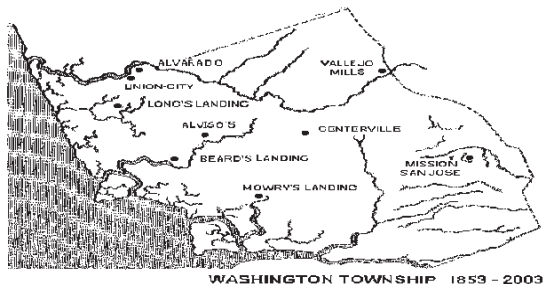


Washington Township Historical



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MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MAY 26, 2014 TIME: 7:15 PM
PLACE: MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST, FREMONT

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Regena Dennie, Gil Garza and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all of the members and friends of Washington Township Historical Society. Our speaker this month is Barbara Baxter and she will be talking about the pickle factory in Irvington.

I attended the California State History Day competition in Riverside and it was a very exciting event. There were over 1000 students from all over California registered for this event. Fremont schools sent 8 Jr. High Students and 17 Senior High students to the California State finals. Several of the students were finalists and one student from Mission San Jose High School was chosen to represent California in the category of Individual Performance.

There are several projects on the drawing board that involve historic buildings. Historic buildings are defined as any building built more than 50 years ago. Old buildings are not placed on a historic register for the City, County, State or Federal unless they are significant in one of four ways. Generally it is put on a register: if it is the best, last or only building of that style; if it was built by a noted architect; if it was lived in by a significant person; or if some historically significant event happened in the building.

When a building is boarded up that generally means that it may be demolished. If you think it is a significant building let me know and I will find out what is happening.

We are planning on having a member of the Fremont Bank family to talk to us when we meet for our July meeting at the Fremont Main Library in the Fukaya room. We will also meet in the Fukaya Room at the Fremont Main Library in September. Please remember these meeting location changes.

Al Minard

Barbara Baxter is the speaker for the May 26 meeting

Learn a bit about the history of the Irvington Packing Company (also known as "The Pickle Factory"). Many remember the lovely aroma of pickles coming from the plant on Osgood Road. Barbara Baxter is the daughter of Ralph Baxter, the original owner. A lifelong resident of Irvington, she will share memories of the canning industry, her father's contribution to the Irvington School District and other memories of the 1950's. Most agriculture related work is seasonal and with cucumbers that get ripe in the summer when school is out means that many young people worked in this industry during the summer. If you worked or know of someone who worked in the pickle industry invite them to come to this event and tell some of their stories.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Tri-City Voice, March 18, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes about the magazine “**Tri City Tidings**” started by Gigi Stengail shortly after her husband was transferred to this area with his work. Gigi encouraged many activities for children with special needs. She encouraged other people in the community to write articles, one of which was Dan Archer. She was only here a little over nine years, but many of the activities that she started have continued with other organizations taking the lead.

Tri-City Voice, March 18, 2014, **Lila Bringhurst** writes about the International President-elect, Gary C. K. Huang, of Rotary visiting Fremont at a regular Niles Rotary meeting. Mr. Huang served as vice president under Richard King, International Rotary President from 2001-2003, and a member of the Niles Rotary. In Mr. Huang’s speech he stated that Rotary and other organizations were working together to rid the world of Polio and hoped that in 2018, the world would celebrate being Polio free for three years.

Tri-City Voice, March 18, 2014, **Al & La Vonne Minard** are pictured with other square dancers from the Farmers and Farmerettes Square Dance Club giving a donation to the Newark Betterment Corporation at a Newark City Council meeting. The Club gave a \$1,000.00 donation to each of the following organizations: graffiti abatement, Meals on Wheels, and Police K-9 Unit. These donations are in appreciation to the City of Newark for allowing the Farmers and Farmerettes to sell Safe and Sane Fireworks in the City of Newark at the Newark Pavilion.

Tri-City Voice, March 25, 2014, **Tim Swenson** writes about a walking tour of Historic Alvarado on Saturday, March 29, 2014. This is a free tour of one of the more historic areas in Washington Township. A booklet describing the tour is available for \$3.00 and falls on the same day as the Alvarado Farmers Market.

Tri-City Voice, March 25, 2014, Frank Jahn writes about “**Water Shortage Emergency Declared**”. In the article, **Paul Sethy**, President of the Alameda County Water Users Board, states, “The exceptionally dry conditions forced our hand. Without mandatory conservation, we won’t be able to meet ordinary water demands...”. The article lists some of the measures of conservation that will need to be observed and also notifies everyone about a graduated usage cost so that if you use more water the cost will go up for each additional gallon used.

Tri-City Voice, April 1, 2014, **Lila Bringhurst** writes about Worldwide Rotary President, Ron Burton, visiting Fremont and attending a Niles Rotary event. One of Mr. Burton’s goals is to focus on the younger groups within Rotary, especially the 14 to 30 year old group.

Tri-City Voice, April 1, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes about “**Washington Township Industries**”. Phil talks about the Salt industry but also Graham Manufacturing that build Wedgwood Stoves, The Alvarado Sugar Beet plant, Pacific States Steel, and the Essex Pencil Company that made pencils, just to name a few of those industries mentioned in the article.

Argus, April 7, 2014, **Al Minard** is mentioned as wanting to save a 109-year old building in Mission San Jose. The article by Chris Benedetti is titled, “**Fremont leaders trying to move 109-year-old building off Historic Resources list**”

Tri-City Voice, April 8, 2014, **Pat Kite**, writes, “**Raising Radishes**”. Pat says that the only super-duper radish is one you grow yourself. She says that radishes are mentioned in a document from China in about 1100 B.C. She also says that radishes have no real food value, despite claims to the contrary.

Tri-City Voice, April 15, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes, “**Sail Away**”. In this article Phil mentions many of the early sailing pioneers. Padre Narciso Duran in 1816 launched a cargo vessel to haul merchandise from the Mission to vessels anchored in the bay. Phil mentions that Jonathan Mayhew had many ships and later sold his shipping industry to Frank Jarvis, who expanded it some more and started building ships to haul food and other items to San Francisco. Phil also mentions the Alvarado residents who kept a boat at their home when Alameda Creek flooded and the boat provided the only means of travel.

Tri-City Voice, April 29, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes , “**1931**”. This was a dry year and about two years into the depression. A drastic heat wave struck in July with the temperature recorded at 106. Many people went

to Niles canyon to cool off in the Alameda Creek. The Dominican Sisters dedicated their Mother House. The unemployment rate was very high in December and then the rains came and by December 31 they had received 12 inches of rain.

Tri-City Voice, May 13, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes “**Germans**”. Phil mentions that many of the early pioneers in Mission San Jose were from Germany and became successful businessmen in that area. He mentions some of the history of the Ehrmann and Sunderer family’s that were here in the late 1800’s.

Tri-City Voice, May 13, 2014, **Pat Kite** writes “**Crows Cawing**”. Pat informs us that the crows in this area are the American Crow. Crows are omnivorous, which means they will eat anything, plants, birds, bugs, snakes, etc. Crows are very smart and can be taught to count up to seven and say up to 100 words. In early days, farmers would hire old men and boys to scare off the crows, they were called “Crow-Keepers” or “Crowherds”, by 1553 their name was changed to “scarecrows” and in the 1600’s they became straw dummies dressed like a man.

Tri-City Voice, May 13, 2014, **Al Minard**, writes about **Arts & Crafts in Shinn Park** on Sunday, May 18, 2014. This event features artists from the local area as well as tours of the house and lots of entertainment.

THE MAIL BAG

The League of Volunteers (LOV) Notes, March/ April issue, announces the 20th annual Bucks for Ducks event that raises money for non-profits in the area. They also announced their Spring Concert Series.

The Club Car, April 2014 issue, announces their 5th Annual Winterail Photographers Special, and that Steamfest 2014 announcement June 7th to June 15, 2014.

Mission Peak Reporter, April-June 2014, has an Article on purchasing Tatami Mats and talking to one of the many Japanese-Americans who were sent to or born in a Japanese Internment camp. They also announced the upcoming activities at Shinn Park in Fremont: Arts & Crafts in Shinn Park Sun. May 18, and the Victorian Ice Cream Social July 20, 2014.

Alameda County Historical Society Quarterly, April issue, featured two articles: Changing the face of sports about a sports club in Oakland that had many notable athletes move through their program, and Ravenswood: At home with ‘Blind Boss’ Buckley who has a home in Livermore where he entertained many influential people when he “ran” San Francisco.

Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. sent us an invitation to their May event: The PLA’s world famous Krauss-Maffie, steam engine, celebrates 50th years in America on Saturday May 10, 2014 in Sunol CA.

The Club Car, April 2014 issue, Steamfest III is coming in June. This is the 3rd celebration of steam engine trains running on the Niles Canyon Railway. Everyone is invited to take a train ride through Niles Canyon during

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES SINCE OUR LAST MEETING

Betty & Herman Hebel, John & Carolyn Watson, George and Diana Roeding III, Mark & Gretchen Roeding-Mendenhall, Michelle Roeding, Doris & Doug Green, Ann & Randy Power, Bruce Hevelin, Regena Dennie, Joan Ashton, B.J. Bunting and Nabil Matt. We also received a new Patron Membership from Michel R. Harris & Nellie R. Jones.

We thank you and welcome you to Washington Township Historical Society.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 per year

PATRONS MEMBERS: \$50.00 for one year

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Address _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail Address _____

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

Conference of California Historical Societies (CCHS)

Washington Township Historical Society (WTHS) is a member of the Conference of California Historical Societies; this gives members of WTHS the opportunity to attend a CCHS Symposium at a slightly reduced rate. The CCHS summer Symposium will be held in Los Angeles with the Headquarters Hotel in Long Beach. Some of the interesting events include a chance to see the space shuttle Endeavor, to tour the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, to visit the Los Angeles Natural History Museum, to attend some great workshops on a large variety of subjects, and to attend the Awards ceremony which recognizes people who have done good things in or for their historical society or have promoted history in a significant way. This symposium will have members of many historic societies attending which gives everyone a chance to network with other people doing the same thing you are doing. We will have registration and informational forms at the meeting on Monday, May 26, 2014.



Pictures from the Niles Mardi Gras Doo Dah Parade. Some of our members rode on George Roeding III's old Niles fire engine. Photos by Gil Garza

