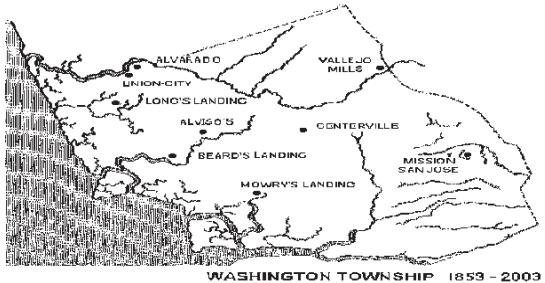


# Washington Township Historical



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MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012 TIME: 7:15 PM

PLACE: MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST, FREMONT

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Regena Dennie and Al Minard

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Washington Township Historical Society Members and friends,

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as President of Washington Township Historical Society (WTHS) for the past two years. We have enjoyed many great speakers at our meetings and have learned more about the community that we live in. I thank all of our WTHS Board members for their work and support in moving the historical society ahead. I especially thank Beth Booth for doing such an excellent job with the minutes; Regena Dennie for the newsletter and for her opinions on where the historical society should head as well as her duties as Treasurer; Tim Swenson for putting up the website and for all of his other support on so many projects; Nancy Lorigan for doing all of the work in getting us into the various parades; and a special thanks to the wonderful people who supply refreshments at each of our meetings. This Historical Society is richer because of all of these people's efforts. We still have projects in process that we will continue to work on. These ongoing projects include an advertising brochure for the Society, placing some historical recognition plaques, and the Kiosk at the Higuera Adobe. I thank all of you for attending the meetings and your general support of the Historical Society; please continue to give your support to our new President and board. They cannot do their work without your continuing support both financial and physical. B.J. Bunting will swear in Gil Garza as President and the other Board Members.

I am pleased to announce that our speaker for the January meeting is Clark Redecker. Newark's volunteer of the Year for 2011, a member of the first Newark City Council including one year as mayor, and Chemical engineer at Westvaco Chemical later purchased by FMC. He is 94-years young and has a wonderful memory. Please join us to swear in our new Board and hear Clark Redecker on January 23, 2012 at 7:15 PM.

*Al Minard*

### Guest Speaker for January 23, 2012 is Clark Redecker

Clark Redecker graduated from Stanford University in 1940 with a degree in Chemistry. He began work after graduation at Westvaco Chemical in Newark, later acquired by Food Machinery Corporation (FMC Chemical Division). Westvaco was recovering magnesia and other chemicals from Leslie Salt Company's byproduct bitten solutions. Westvaco was the first large scale chemical recycler in the San Francisco Bay Area. Over the years, Clark served as chemist, chief chemist and marketing specialist-magnesia. He later joined Jones Hamilton Company in Newark as Research and Development Chemist.

As a Newark resident he was active in many organizations including Boy Scouts, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Alameda County Fair Board, Alameda County Water District Board and Newark's incorporations Committee. He won election to the first Newark City Council and served nine years, including one year as mayor, when all councilmen were volunteers. He is a long time member of Washington Township Historical Society

## Members in the News

**Tri-City Voice**, November 22, 2011, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Drive in Movies”. The Fremont Auto Movies opened in 1959 and the Nimitz Auto Movies opened soon after. In 1966, the Union City 6 Drive-In opened with 6 screens and was located on Alvarado-Niles Boulevard.

**Fremont Bulletin**, November 25, 2011, **Andy Galvan** and Vincent Medina were pictured in an Indian prayer service, held in St. Joseph’s Church for the Thanksgiving Interfaith Service.

**Fremont Bulletin**, December 2, 2011, **Al and La Vonne Minard** are pictured as Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus in the Festival of Lights parade in Niles.

**Tri-City Voice**, December 6, 2011, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Alameda!” the story of the importance of Alameda Creek. Also Alameda County was created in 1852 by taking a portion of Santa Clara County and Contra Costa Counties.

**Tri-City Voice**, December 9, 2011, **Pat Kite** writes, “Deck the Halls”. There are 400 different types of Holly. We use the holly mostly for making Christmas wreaths.

**Tri-City Voice**, December 20, 2011, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Gold”. Gold was discovered in January of 1848 at Sutter’s Mill. Many miners settled in the Washington Township and started businesses with the “New made fortunes” made in the gold fields.

**Tri-City Voice**, January 3, 2012, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Downtown”. Each of the five towns considered their “Main” street downtown. When they incorporated, what was considered downtown for the new town of Fremont?

## Members of Washington Township Historical Society

Dues are due for the Calendar year 2012. Enclosed you will find an envelope for your 2012 dues. We ask that you use this envelope to pay your 2012 dues. Some of our members receive the newsletter by email and we thank you for using this cost saving device, however we still need your dues to help fund our other projects. Please include your email address if you wish to receive your newsletter by email.

Thank you, your Treasurer, Regena Dennie

Income from Dues in 2011, \$1,365.00

Expenses (Newsletter and insurance) \$1,209.51

Balance \$155.49

We can keep our dues at the current level by the generous members who pay over and above the amount due.

We do not have expenses of rent, telephone and miscellaneous upkeep.

Our three CD's Total \$15,650.48, are dedicated for our historical plaque program. We will be placing several plaques this year, and the committee is working on which type of plaque will fit best in the surroundings of our community.

## Members who have paid their dues for 2012

Donald Barsi, Dorothy Bradley, B.J. Bunting, Knute Furtado, Dan Mosier, Bruce Roeding, Allen Cerro, Sergio & Carol Zilli. Thank you for paying your dues.

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

## It's in the Mail Bag

**News from the Castle**, Fall 2011. When the Berkeley City Club was completed in November 1930, the pangs of depression were beginning. Unemployment was on the rise. One of the first meetings hosted by the club, the women made an appeal, "every club woman in the County give employment to at least one man or woman, a day's employment during the winter month".

**Union City Historical Museum**, January 2012. Myrla Raymundo writes, "August May's Descendants and the Dry Creek Ranch". August May, a German butcher who sailed around Cape Horn to California in 1852, settled in Alvarado.

**Club Car**, December 2011. This issue has some beautiful pictures of a trip to the Westside Lumber Company in Tuolumne, taken by Tom Eikerenkotter.

**California Historian**, Summer 2011, Sierra Wentz writes, "Temples in the heart of man: The debate over the highest use of the Hetch Hetchy Valley and the legislation involved." Though now flooded, there are still remnants of the once mesmerizing Hetch Hetchy Valley. This was a paper for the National History Day Competition.

The Conference of California Historical Societies is holding their February Symposium in Pasadena on February 23 – 26, 2012. We are members of this organization and encouraged to attend these symposia. Pasadena is famous for its colorful history and the hosting of the Tournament of Roses Parade since 1890, and the annual Rose Bowl football game since 1902. World War II proved to be a boon to Pasadena which brought in high tech manufacturing and scientific companies, notably the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Tetra Tech and Ameron International. They are planning on having a tour of the Rose Bowl and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals building. This looks to be a wonderful experience. We will have flyers of the event at our meeting and you can contact Al Minard if you want a flyer or more information.



This year, as we have for many years, The Museum of Local History and Washington Township Historical Society, has supported the Las Posadas event in Mission San Jose. This is the Madrigal Singers who entertained us at the Dominican Sisters. The Museum and WTHS provided space and refreshments the last night of the event with the Center Stage Singers providing the entertainment.

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



Sharon de Sousa entertained us at the Cheese Tasters during Las Posadas. She sang some unusual words to some more or less standard songs and was a delight to listen to and occasionally sing along with. Las Posadas is sponsored by the Fremont Cultural Arts Council and the Committee for the Restoration of Mission San Jose.

