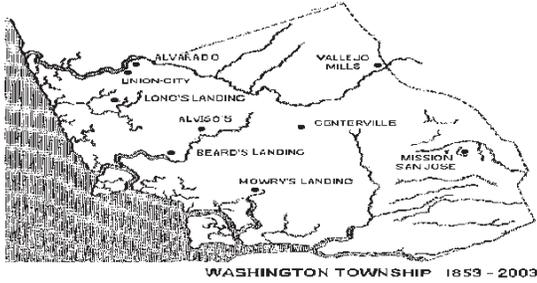


Washington Township Historical



JAN-FEB 2014

VOL 38

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MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 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

Dear Members, Washington Township Historical Society and the Museum of Local History hosted one night of Las Posadas. This is a fun event that re-enacts the problems of Joseph and Mary as Mary was about to have the baby Jesus. This is a good way to introduce our museum to the general public.

Our guest speaker for our January 27 meeting will be Tim Swenson who will be talking about one of the worst airplane disasters in California that happened right here in Washington Township.

As most of you know, there are many historical organizations in Fremont and there are many historic buildings open for tours in Alameda County. I encourage you to visit these historic buildings and enjoy the history that they represent. The Conference of California Historical Societies holds symposia all over the State with the idea that every town has some unique history of their area to present. I think that is also true of our members. I hope to have some of our members be speakers at future meetings, they may have to tell the sanitized version of the history they remember, but I think it will be very enjoyable.

Now would be a good time for anyone that knows how to do a rain dance to encourage others to join them.

Al Minard

Our Guest Speaker for the January 27, 2014 meeting is Tim Swenson

Tim is Secretary of the Washington Township Historical Society. He is also Past President and Secretary of the Museum of Local History, and a Past President and Board member of the Union City Historical Museum. Tim has been researching and writing on Union City history for about 15 years.

Tim Swenson will be presenting a talk and slide show of one of California's worst airplane disasters that happened here in Alameda County. When Orville and Wilbur Wright first started powered flight, everyone thought those aeroplanes would fall out of the sky and kill so many people that the idea would never last. Today, travelling by air is one of the safest ways to travel, it is safer than walking, much safer than driving a car and yet when an airplane crashes it draws so much attention because so many are injured or killed all at one time. Air travel has helped to shrink this world we live in and most of us cannot imagine what it would be like without being able to fly to Europe or Hawaii in such a short time. Please bring your friends and attend this informative and interesting talk and slide show on Alameda County's worst airplane disaster.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Tri-City Voice, November 12, 2013, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Our Historical Treasures”. Phil writes about the many buildings that have been saved from demolition by many concerned citizens and about the ones that have been lost to development.

Tri-City Voice, November 12, 2013, **Pat Kite** writes “A Pomegranate Tale” Pat writes about visiting a nursery and seeing a very small pomegranate sprout that in maybe 20 years would produce fruit and she wondered if it was worth it and then it looked so forlorn she had to have it.

Tri-City Voice, November 12, 2013, **Lila Bringhurst** writes an obituary on Thomas Arthur Foreman, who was the driving force behind the establishment of Papillion Restaurant being the success it is.

Tri-City Voice, November 26, 2013, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Cows”. The history of cows in this area started in 1797 with 600 head that grew to 12,000 head by 1833. When the Mission land was sold off the cows also went, some to private parties some to be butchered, and some to other counties. The stock raising industry here in Alameda County was the third largest industry in this area in 1876.

Tri-City Voice, December 3, 2013, **Al Minard** writes, “A Shinn House Christmas”. Al tells a brief history of the Shinn family and the house they built and then mentions that the house will be open for tours showing off the decorations in the house for Christmas.

Tri-City Voice, December 10, 2013, **Phil Holmes** writes “Highway to History”. Phil talks about the historic sites along what is now Mission Boulevard. He mentions the Vallejo Mills ruins, the Stanford Hotel (now demolished), and Dry Creek, as being important sites along this road.

Tri-City Voice, December 10, 2013, **Pat Kite** writes “Cranberry Cuisine”. Pat makes fresh cranberry sauce each year for the holidays, but no one likes it even though they continue to ask for it year after year. Pat mentions that Elizabeth Lee made the first canned cranberry sauce that later became Ocean Spray. Today Ocean Spray harvests over 120 million pounds of cranberries each year.

Tri-City Voice, December 17, 2013, **Al Minard** writes “Square Dancing Fun for Everyone”. Al tells about some of the history of square dancing and about the beginner classes that are starting January 15, at Newark Pavilion on Wednesday nights from 7-8 PM.

Tri-City Voice, December 24, 2013, **Phil Holmes** writes “Native Plants”. Phil talks about the wild mustard that grew in this area that reached a height of 15 feet. A man on horseback could not see over the mustard and could easily get lost. Phil also talks about the establishment of the Fremontia plant as the Official Fremont Flower, because it is native to this area and has five petals just as Fremont is founded on five communities.

Tri-City Voice, January 1, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes “News Register, January 26, 1956”. The headline on that paper is that Fremont is now an official City. Phil reports also that there is a picture of Allen Shinn taking command of the “U.S.S. Saipan” an aircraft carrier. There is also a picture of a “mud-proof” vehicle used to harvest cauliflower when we had a lot of rain.

Tri-City Voice, January 1, 2014, **Pat Kite** writes “Hummingbird Haven”. Pat informs us that hummingbirds are very territorial and that they can zip up 120 feet in the air and then dive down at 65 miles per hour. Some of the hummingbirds live here year round other species travel through.

Argus, January 14, 2014, **Paul Sethy** defends the Alameda County Water Districts expenditure of \$280,000 to publish two books on the rich history of the Alameda County Water District which celebrates its 100 year anniversary this year.

FROM THE MAILBAG

Newsletter from the **John Marsh Historic Trust**, it had a thank you for those who had donated last year to the Trust and an update on the status of the John Marsh House

The Club Car, December 2013, a publication on what is happening on the Niles Canyon Railway. This issue covers their annual Train of Lights with Santa Claus riding on the train.

The Club Car, January 2014, they talk about work going on to trim the trees along the right of way so the train does not hit them. They are also working on getting a new dining car into service, so that maybe sometime in the future they can provide meals for some of the eight million visitors they have every year.

The Conference of California Historical Societies has informed us that our dues are now due and payable. They also provide blanket liability insurance at a reduced rate for our activities.

The California Historian, Winter 2013, has on the cover a photo by Dorothea Lange on the dustbowl. There are many good articles in this magazine that we get free with our membership to the Conference of California Historical Societies.

The Alameda County Historical Society Quarterly talks about Sequoyah, the country club in the Oakland Hills. The magazine also talks about Sidney Chown, horseman, grocer and trailblazer.

Mission Peak Heritage Foundation newsletter for January – March 2014, provides a calendar of activities scheduled at the Shinn House as well as a story of the Watermelon Way in Panama in 1856 at the same approximate time the Shinn family was coming across the Isthmus.

The Conference of California Historical Societies is having their Spring Symposium in Napa on February 27-March 1, 2014. This should prove to be a good meeting with lots on interesting history of this area and the wine industry.

Members and friends of Washington Township Historical Society

Your dues become due in January of each year. Membership dues is our major source of income which we use to publish and mail this newsletter and offer an honorarium to our speakers. Without your support we cannot continue to serve you. Our meetings are always open to everyone for no charge and we do not ask you to join if you attend and we always serve refreshments after the meeting. If you are getting this newsletter electronically and have not joined please consider either joining or sending a small donation. We are listed with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which means your donation is tax-deductible. We would appreciate your email address so we can send this newsletter to your electronically because it saves us money.

Members who have paid their dues for 2014

Donald Barsi, Katie Janssen, Jean Messick and Dan Mosier.

We thank you for your support of 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

SPRING SYMPOSIUM Napa

February 27 - March 1, 2014

We hope to see you in Napa!

The city of Napa was founded by Nathan Coombs in 1847. Shortly after California was granted statehood in 1850, Napa became one of the original counties of California. By the mid-1850s, Napa's Main Street rivaled that of larger cities.

As many as 100 saddled horses would line the street on any given afternoon, hotels were crowded and saloons and gambling halls were abundant. In 1858, the great silver rush began in Napa and miners eagerly flocked to the eastern hills. In 1863, John Patchett had built the first stone winery in Napa Valley. By 1889, Napa was home to more than 140 wineries and is currently home to more than 400!

Join us in February

We would be delighted if you could join us in Napa this spring! We will begin Thursday evening with a presentation by our very own Todd Shulman on Napa Law Enforcement History while we enjoy refreshments and dessert. Friday will include bus transportation to Napa for a walking tour of downtown Napa, lunch at Ristorante Allegria, a tour and tasting at Trefethen Historic Winery, and dinner at Downtown Joe's with a presentation by Lin Weber on Prohibition and the Napa Valley. Saturday will focus on neighboring Solano County. Travel by bus to the Western Railway Museum for a behind the scenes tour and optional train ride, a picnic lunch, a self-tour of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, a tour of Mare Island Historic Park and dinner at Zio Fraedo with a presentation by Jim Kern on Vallejo history to finish out the weekend!



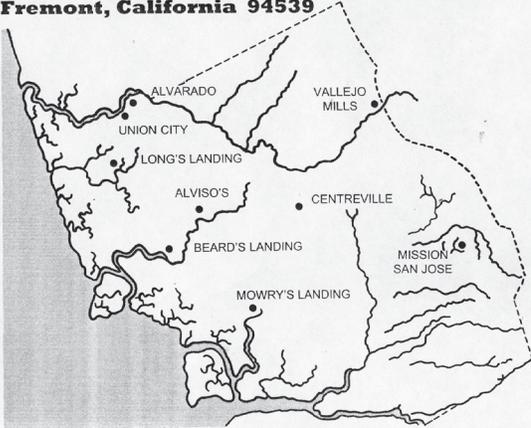
Hotel Accommodations

Holiday Inn-American Canyon
5001 Main Street
American Canyon, CA 94503
707-552-8100
\$105/night + tax



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WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP 1853 - 2003