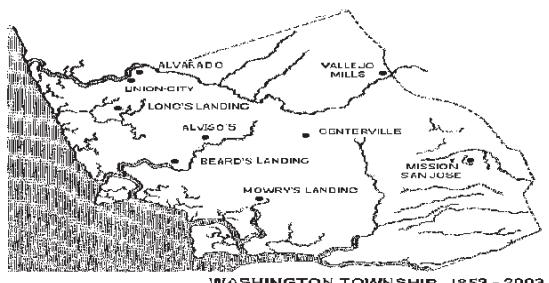


Washington Township Historical



JAN - FEB 2015

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TREAS.: VACANT

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015 TIME: 7:15 PM

PLACE: Museum of Local History, 190 Anza St. Fremont, CA 7:15 PM

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Gil Garza and Al Minard

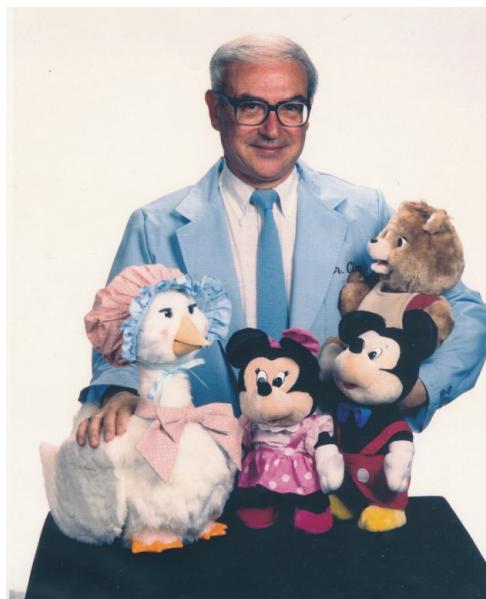
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New year to all of our Washington Township Historical Society members and friends. November last year we met in the Irvington Odd Fellows hall to discuss a merger with The Museum of Local History Guild, Washington Township Historical Society and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation. The idea of a merger was well received and now a transition committee is being formed with members from each group to make this transition as painless as possible for each of the organizations. I have chosen Bruce Hevelin to assist me on this transition committee. Bruce has worked with me on By-Laws at the Union City Historical Museum, he has been on the board of the Museum of Local History and he is a member of Washington Township Historical Society. I am sure that he will be an asset to this transition committee. We have a great speaker for our January meeting, who will talk about Teddy Ruxpin doll that was an item manufactured here in Fremont. We also have Barbara Baxter for our March meeting who will be talking to us about the history of the Library. We may hold this meeting in a larger venue like the Fremont Library or Essanay Movie Theatre. We mourn the loss of Virginia Stull a long time member of Washington Township and the Museum of Local History. When I was doing talks on Abraham Lincoln she reminded me that she was from West (by-gawd) Virginia, and the only reason it was a state is because Lincoln needed another Union state so he had West Virginia separate from Virginia. I miss her.

Al Minard

January Guest Speaker is Clay Pimental

Clay Pimental worked as a financial manager at General Motors for 30 years. After retiring he wanted to do something fun and only four days a week. He went to work for Worlds of Wonder of Fremont California in customer service. Worlds of Wonder produced the Teddy Ruxpin teddy bear doll. In 1985, Teddy Ruxpin was the "Yuppie Toy of the year". He will tell about his experiences in customer service and how he became known as Dr. Bearwell. Teddy Ruxpin in 1985 cost \$80.00. It had 40 different cassette tapes that fit into the tape deck in its back, with a computer chip that reads a digital encoding on the tape and fires a signal to motors that operate the bear's movable parts: its mouth and eyes. About 7 million of the dolls were made and about 6 million are still alive, many of them thanks to Clay Pimental.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Tri-City Voice, January 13, 2015, **Carol Zilli** invites everyone to a concert by Charlotte Diamond, a family concert for ages 3 and up at Harbor Light Church, 4760 Thornton Ave, Fremont, Saturday, January 31, 2015 at 2 PM

Tri-City Voice, July 6, 2015, **Lila Bringhurst** writes that the Museum of Local History received a check of \$1,000 from Mission San Jose Chamber of Commerce that completed the goal of getting \$5,000 in matching grants from the Despeaux Good Works Fund in honor of Regina Dennie. This article included a picture of **Gil Garza** accepting the Check from the Chamber of Commerce.

Tri-City Voice, January 6, 2015, **Joyce Blueford** writes that the latest rainfall has made the Tule Ponds in the heart of Fremont more enjoyable.

Tri-City Voice, December 30, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes about the Prohibition Raids after prohibition became the law of the land on February 1, 1920. Phil states that this was not a popular law in this area and there were many bootleggers and stills operating here. Prohibition was repealed on December 5, 1933.

Tri-City Voice, December 9, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes about the year 1934, when unemployment issues dominated the news. 27 men were hired to drain 700 acres of Warm Springs mosquito swamps , and another 24 men were paid 60 cents an hour to drain Newark swamps. The annual Elementary school field trip in April was cancelled due to an epidemic of Diphteria and 6 cases of Infantile Paralysis (Polio) were reported in the county.

Tri-City Voice, December 9, 2014, **Pat Kite's** garden talks about Morning Glories, there are about 400 varieties with 40 varieties somewhat available. They come in many colors and some can grow to 10 feet high and up to 5 feet wide.

Tri-City Voice, December 9, 2014, **Al Minard** of Washington Township Historical Society spoke at a Fremont City Council meeting about the Shinn family and the Christmas decorations and the Shinn open house. This article included a picture of Al speaking to the City Council.

Tri-City Voice, December 2, 2014, **Al Minard** submitted an article with photos of the James and Lucy Shinn House decorated for Christmas and a brief history of the Shinn family.

Tri-City Voice, November 18, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes about the History of the year 1933 or The Great Depression. Phil states that the economy was the big news item with the State Legislature waging a battle to save California from going bankrupt. Schuckle cannery in Niles was scheduled to employ 125 people canning fruit salad, the concrete plant in Niles closed and Kraftile burned.

FROM THE MAILBAG

Union City Historical Museum sent their quarterly Newsletter with an article on the Harvey family one of the Union City Pioneers

Alameda County Historical Society sent their quarterly newsletter with a story on the Hayward Area Historical Museum, they will be holding a meeting and tour at the Hayward Area Historical Museum on Saturday, January 24, 2015. There is also a story about harvesting the Salt. Another article talking about all of the landings along the shoreline in the Hayward area., and then one article on Spreading Their Wings, the Victorian Women of the Ebell Society.

MERGER NEWS

At our regular meeting in November, we invited Mission Peak Heritage Foundation and the Museum of Local History Guild to attend and discuss the possibility of merging the three organizations together to form one large organization. The major reason that we are doing this now is that the City of Fremont has dedicated a 9,000 square foot building site at the Mission Nursery in Niles for a Museum. None of our three organizations has enough money to build this museum but we think that if we are working together maybe we can raise enough money to build this museum.

Lila Bringhurst, Gil Garza, Joan Serafino and Al Minard all met with a Fremont attorney and discussed the issues that we will have to deal with. He seemed to think, having worked with other non-profits, that the best way is to form a new organization, with new by-laws.

After this meeting, we began the process of forming a transition committee to work on by-laws, articles of incorporation, size and composition of the board, voting rights, etc. Most of the historical organizations have designated members to serve on this transition committee. One of the large issues is finding a name that is representative of this combined historic organization. The ideal name would be an easily remembered name, representative of the area we serve and have an acronym that would make for an unused website that we could create. Websites are the way of the future and this will be where we will get our younger members, who can carry on our historical endeavors.

If you have a suggestion for a name or ideas on any part of this process, please call one of us or email Al Minard at alminard@comcast.net or send a letter to our mailing address or catch us anywhere and tell us of your concerns or ideas.

Thank you

Washington Township Historical Society is providing tours of the Higuera Adobe in Warm Springs. If you are an adult or want to arrange for a children's tour contact Diane Holmes at the Museum of Local History, (510) 623-7907. We need to have people touring this site on a regular basis to provide a presence at this historical site. The adobe was recently vandalized and the best deterrent is to have people regularly touring it.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY PAID THEIR DUES

Jean Messick

We thank you for paying your dues, it is our major source of income.

Washington Township Historical Society needs your membership dues. One of our missions has been to put plaques on deserving buildings and sites. Plaques cost money and Washington Township Historical Society has no other way to raise money for these projects except by your dues and donations. Your dues just cover the printing and mailing of this newsletter. We are exploring some kind of a fund raiser in the near future. We do not want to raise the dues, but we do need **everyone** to pay their dues and of course we welcome anyone to join.

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

The Conference of California Historical Societies will hold their spring symposium in Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, California starting on Thursday, February 26 and ending on Sunday February 28, 2015. The sites we will be visiting are Vandenburg Air Force Base, La Purissima Mission and the Murals in Lompoc. They have not listed the hotel that will be the headquarters hotel, but I understand that it will cost about \$110 a night to stay there. This should be a very interesting and educational symposium and we invite anyone at all interested to consider going. Washington Township is a member of CCHS so you are entitled to a small discount on the symposium.



Two of the murals in Lompoc, contact Al Minard to get registration information to this Symposium.

Washington Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 3045
Fremont, California 94539

