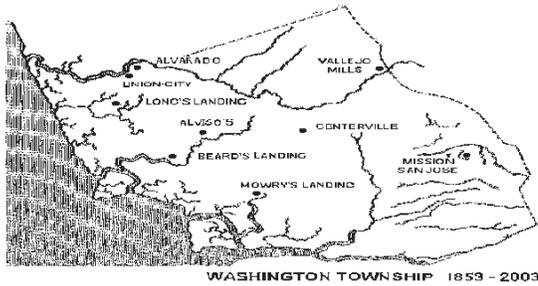


Washington Township Historical



MAY-JUNE 2014

VOL 38

NO. 04

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MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JULY 28, 2014 TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Fukaya Room, Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members and Friends,

The economy must be improving, because it seems like recently there have been many projects put on the table for development. Many of those projects seem to hit older buildings harder than other buildings, and sometimes the historical value of those buildings is questioned. The Tiny Tots building that the City of Fremont has owned for nearly 50 years is now threatened with demolition because it has been poorly maintained. The Sisters of The Holy Family site has seen several changes in the plans but all of them include the demolition of the Mother House and the Chapel. Buildings in the Central Business District are being purchased by the City to build a new City Hall and to complete Capitol Avenue from Paseo Padre to Fremont Boulevard. There is also work going on in Warm Springs and North Fremont. Thank goodness some of the historic buildings at these projects are being preserved, but in my opinion not nearly enough of them.

We are honored to have Fremont Bank as our presenters at the Library on July 28, 2014. At this event we will start the meeting at 7:00 PM Sharp because we need to be out of the library by 9:00 PM. The Fremont Bank Foundation recently gave cash awards to many of the non-profit organizations in Washington Township. We need to show our support of this type of activity by attending this meeting. Fremont Bank is celebrating 50-years of banking in Fremont.

Thank you and I will see you on July 28, 2014 at the Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont

Al Minard

Our Guest Speaker is Hattie-Hyman Hughes

Washington Township Historical Society will be hosting a presentation in honor of the 50-year anniversary of Fremont Bank. It will take place at our next bi-monthly meeting, Monday, July 28 at 7:00 PM in the Fukaya Room at the Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont

WTHS member Paul Sethy will present "A Short History of Fremont Bank With a Focus on the Life of Co-Founder and long time Chairman Morris Hyman."

Our special guest for the evening will be Hattie-Hyman Hughes, the daughter and eldest child of Mr. & Mrs. Hyman, and Chairwoman of the Fremont Bank Foundation. She will give a short talk on the Foundation's role, activities and accomplishments in the community. She will answer questions about her family's history.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Tri-City Voice, May 27, 2014, Linda-Robin Craig wrote an article about “A glimpse of Russia via the Shinn House” a tea with a presentation afterwards by Marguerite Mc Innes, Ph.D., on her travels to Russia. This was followed by a tour of the Shinn House by Al Minard a Shinn House volunteer.

Tri-City Voice, May 27, 2014, Phil Holmes writes, “History Column: Parade of the Past”. Thirty of Washington Townships historic landmarks and old homes were opened to visitors, May 20, 1956 as part of a Parade of the Past, it was sponsored by the Humpty Dumpty Play Center. The program included a concert by the Centerville Mother Singers in the Shinn gardens, a fashion show at the Vallejo Adobe of gowns worn by local women the last century and refreshments at the Play Center.

Tri-City Voice, June 3, 2014, The Museum of Local History writes about the Alvarado Walking tour led by Tim Swenson. He planned to talk about 43 historic buildings some of them long gone. The tour was expected to take about an hour and a half.

Tri-City Voice, June 10, 2014, Pat Kite writes about “Pretty Peonies”. Pat says she has not had much luck with Peonies, but was inticed to try again after visiting a Peony Garden in San Jose. There are many varieties.

Tri-City Voice, June 10, 2014, Phil Holmes writes about Banks. All banking had to be done in San Francisco or Oakland before 1898, apparently the State of California did not accept Saving Societies as banks. The Bank of Alvarado was the first bank and it was opened in 1902. A branch was built in Irvington in 1910 on a corner lot of the Mack estate. Our second bank was the bank of Centerville that opened in 1905 with John G. Mattos as president.

Tri-City Voice, June 10, 2014, The Dominican Sisters laud bank contributions to the community. The Fremont Bank Foundation donated \$10,000 to 50 non-profit and faith based institutions in the area. Also a \$50,000 grant selected by members of the bank was given to the Cancer Prevention Institute of California.

Tri-City Voice, June 10, 2014, Clark Redeker, a long time member of Washington Township Historical Society had his obituary published in the paper. Clark was a chemist, a boy scout leader, he campaigned for Newark’s incorporation, was on Newark’s first City Councils, and many other civic organizations.

Tri-City Voice, July 1, 2014, William Marshak writes, “Hear that whistle blow”. He tells much of the story behind Lila Bringham’s train sculpture and the Niles Station an apartment complex and the historic Ellsworth house at the end of Mowry Avenue on Mission Boulevard.

Tri-City Voice, July 1, 2014, Myrla Raymundo writes, “Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association is launched. They are trying to get more exposure to the Old Alvarado area by working with the businesses, neighbors and Union City. They are trying to advance the economic well –being of the area while retaining the charm of its history.

Fremont Bulletin, July 11, 2014, Al Minard is shown on the cover of this newspaper riding on George Roeding’s 1922 Model T Fire truck with George’s Grand-daughter driving.

Tri-City Voice, July 15, 2014, Phil Holmes writes about the Niles Jail. This is the third jail in Niles. The first burned down with a prisoner inside, the second was under a water tank and two prisoners dug down into a water pipe and nearly drowned when the jail filled with water. This jail was built in 1911 at a cost of \$1,450. It consists of one room 25 feet by 25 feet with four cells, built of concrete with railroad rail reinforcing and it is slanted towards the front door so it can be hosed out. The jail was used in many of the Essanay Movie Company pictures when they needed a jail.

Mail Bag

Niles Canyon Railway, Club Car, June 2014, announced the Livermore Valley Wine Tasting Train on August 9, August 16 and September 14. This train departs Sunol Depot at 1:00 PM and costs \$37.50 per person. They also mention that they have about 900 members but only about 300 of them volunteer. They are going to try to work out some volunteer activities that can be done at home rather than on site.

Niles Canyon Railway, Club Car, July 2014, They were pleased that their recent "Steamfest" went so well. They had engines from Quincy Railroad Company, Santa Cruz Portland Cement, Mason County Logging Camp, Clover Valley Lumber Camp and the Robert Dollar Company. Some of the engines had to be trucked in which presented a problem of unloading and reloading them on the trucks before and after the event. They also mentioned that they are working on the Verona Railroad crossing.

The Mission Peak Reporter for July-August 2014 announced their Ice Cream Social in July and gave a brief history of Dr. Robert Fisher, who was instrumental in saving the Shinn House, Patterson House, Harvey House and the Higuera Adobe.

Washington Township Historical Society received a thank you card from Mission Peak Heritage Foundation for participating in their annual Arts & Crafts in Shinn Park event. They were also invited to next year's event.

The Alameda County Historical Society Quarterly magazine arrived with a brief history of the Shinn family and the Shinn house. Al Minard will be the featured speaker at a tea for Alameda County Historical Society on July 25 at the Shinn house.

The Dominican Sisters Quarterly Summer 2014 informed everyone that they broke ground on a \$20 Million project which included the construction of a 36 unit Sisters residence and a Community & Wellness Center. The Wellness Center will prepare space for daytime memory care which will be provided by Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay.

The Berkeley City Club Conservancy, Spring 2014 has information about preserving the heritage of Julia Morgan. In 1983, The Berkeley City Club granted a deed of scenic, open space, architectural façade and preservation

Gilbert Yee, passed away on Sunday, July 20, 2014 at about 4:00 AM. He had been in Hospice care at the Veterans Hospital in Livermore. He was one of the thousands of Japanese-Americans that were incarcerated during World War II.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES SINCE OUR LAST MEETING

Patricia Kite and David Schipul
We 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

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

The Hayward Area Historical Society has moved into their new building and it is now open. Here are some pictures of the opening event and some of the exhibits. There is room in this museum to have large meetings and the bookings are already happening. Stay tuned for some exciting events in this museum.

Alameda County Water District has published a series of articles in the Tri-City Voice about their history. They also have a book on the history of the Alameda County Water District coming out soon. This year is the 100th anniversary of the Alameda County Water District.

The Patterson House at Ardenwood recently took a painting they found in their attic to the Antique Road Show for evaluation. The painting was appraised at between \$45,000 and \$50,000. It is a painting by John Koch who was painting in Ann Arbor, Michigan before he went to Paris, France for formal art school classes.

Milpitas Historical Society held its annual Community Tour on Saturday, June 28. This is an annual event that visits different historic sites each year. Keep your eye out for this tour next June.

The City of Fremont Quilt was created by members of the Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Southern Alameda County and members of the Coyote Hills Council of Girl Scouts of America in 2002. This quilt has been stored away since 2002 when it was completed, but is now being shown at different events in the City of Fremont.

Rena Kiehn, a member of the Essanay Silent Film Museum announced that this year marks the 100th anniversary of Charlie Chaplin making films here in Niles. The Essanay Silent Film Museum showed many of his films during this event in early June 2014. They show movies every Saturday evening starting at 7 PM

The City of Fremont had a master planning session for what to do with the California Nursery property. This property has many historic buildings and many unique and special species of trees and plants. It was started by John Rock and then ran by Mr. Leander and finally George Roeding and his family. It started as a 460 acre nursery and when it was acquired by the City of Fremont in 1972 there was 22 acres remaining, now there are 21 acres left and the consultants said at the public meeting that all proposals were on the table including, a children's playground, and a Bed and Breakfast, neither of which was liked by the people in attendance. Reagan Nursery is being forced to abandon their current site and have inquired if they could set up their nursery here on this site. The Math/Science Nucleus Museum have been going through archives documenting many of the papers that the Roeding's kept. If you are interested please keep your eye out for other meetings on the California Nursery at Niles. The next tentative meeting is planned for September 11, with the location and time unknown at this time.



California Nursery Historic Park, First Public meeting sponsored by the City of Fremont with Chris Pattillo and Annabelle Holland



California Nursery, Administration office with archives collected from the Bruce Roeding Collection



Hayward Area Historical Society grand opening of their new museum with Native dancers, dignitaries cutting the ribbon and exhibits inside the museum.



Logs being delivered at Higuera Adobe for young students to sit on while they are learning about the Higuera Adobe and the Spanish period of California. Workers rolling these large logs into location with cant hooks. This was arranged and funded at least in large part by Lila Bringhurst.

FREMONT BULLETIN



PATRIOTIC PARADE

Al Minard of the Washington Township Historical Society embodies the patriotic spirit of the Fremont Fourth of July Parade.

SEE PHOTOS INSIDE, PAGES 4, 6, 7

Photo by James Sakane



Washington Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 3045
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