

Washington Township Historical



MAR-APRIL 2012

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MEETING DATE: MONDAY, March 26, 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

Good News! The City of Fremont Parks Department is working on restoring the Stanford Winery plaque identified as: California Registered Historical Landmark No. 642. Monica Mathiesen came by the Museum of Local History recently requesting information about the plaque. She was given photos and the plaque inscription to help with the project. The plaque was stolen in early 2009. I've requested that they keep us informed on the Stanford plaque project as it proceeds.

Coincidentally I've been researching the prominent Fremont Pioneer Josiah Stanford (Leland Stanford's older brother). The Bancroft Library has made available a copy of an 1889 manuscript titled: Dictation from Josiah Stanford Sept. 19, 1889. The manuscript is an interview transcription (about 30 pages) with Josiah Stanford by John Miller for H. H. Bancroft. The interview includes first-hand accounts of Josiah's childhood and early life, some genealogy, his father's activities, farm life and arrival/activities in early California. The interview is a very personal perspective and gives some indications on the relationship between Leland Stanford and Josiah. Josiah Stanford died on May 14, 1890 in Oakland California, not long after giving the interview.

The Stanford University Library also has a wealth of information on the Stanford family with good coverage of Josiah Stanford and the family run Warm Springs winery. The collection has family photo albums and numerous personal items from Josiah and Leland. I've been able to review about a third of the contents from the collection. The scope of the collection can be viewed online as: Guide to the Stanford Family Papers, 1839-1964 Collection Number: SC 033D. <http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/spc/xml/sc0033d.xml>

Gil Garza

Washington Township Historical Societies will have their May Meeting on Monday, May 28, 2012 which happens to be Memorial Day. We will meet in the Museum of Local History and our meeting will start promptly at 7:15 PM

Guest Speaker for March 26, 2012 Meeting, Al Minard

Al will be showing slides and talking about the February Symposium of the Conference of California Historical Societies in Pasadena. Some of the sights will be a Frank Lloyd Wright home, the Gamble House built by Greene & Greene, a tour of older homes in Pasadena. He will provide information on earthquakes, and missions to Mars and beyond. There are also some pictures of the Pasadena History Museum. Al will also spend some time talking about the Conference of California Historical Societies Annual Meeting where awards are given out to historians throughout the state.

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

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

TRI-CITY VOICE, January 10, 2012, **Pat Kite** writes, “Worms for the New Year”. Pat suggests for a science project, try making a worm bin. For best results, get red worms or red wigglers.

TRI-CITY VOICE, January 17, 2012, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Women of the First Thirty Years”. Published by the Mission Peak Heritage Foundation, the first Woman to be mentioned was Sherry Nighswonger, who served as secretary to the editorial board for the book. Earlene Walker was next woman, as she served as secretary to the City Manager in 1949.

TRI-CITY VOICE, January 17, 2012, **Clark Redeker** is pictures as he enjoys the Washington Hospital’s Newark Clinic at its new location.

ARGUS, January 22, 2012, Letter to the editor, **Norma Neto** states her opinion, “Torricono now working for the 1 percent”

TRI-CITY VOICE, January 31, 2012, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Ames Victory-Schuckl-Am Chem, Manufacturing in Niles. In 1908, the Ames Manufacturing was “One of the leading industries of Niles”. They manufactured hydraulic pumps for irrigating. The Victory Motor Company purchased the Ames plant in 1916 and enlarged the company until closed in 1927.

TRI-CITY VOICE, February 7, 2012, **Pat Kite** writes, “Rose chopping time again”. Pat tells us how to prune a rose.

TRI-CITY VOICE, February 14, 2012, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Ghost Towns”, about Drawbridge and Devil’s Elbow.

FREMONT BULLETIN, February 17, 2012, Ohlone Trustee, **Vivien Larsen**, prepares the Tortilla Towers at the “Elegant Affaire” held in the Newark Pavilion.

TRI-CITY VOICE, February 17, 2012, **Pat Kite** writes, “OHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center”, A Success Story. Pat writes about Pat Lane and Connie Nelson taking wildlife into their homes after the Newark Animal Shelter closed and moved to Fremont. The Newark’s Hickory Street Animal Shelter is now open again.

TRI-CITY VOICE, February 21, 2012, **Myrla Raymundo** writes, “Sugar Mill Landing Park”, which Union City dedicated to Flight 93, a memorial and legacy to their sacrifice.

ARGUS, February 23, 2012, Letters to the Editor, **Carol Zilli**, executive director/founder of Music For Minors II, thanked the community for their support of the sell-out Charlotte Diamond Concert that benefited Music for Minors II.

TRI-CITY VOICE, February 28, 2012, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Events of the Year 1947”. Mission San Jose celebrated its sesquicentennial with a parade, pageant, queen contest, barbecue, rodeo, and a special outdoor Mass.

TRI-CITY VOICE, March 6, 2012, **Myrla Raymundo** was honored as one of the 150 California senior Leaders for her volunteering with the Fremont’s Community Ambassador Program and the Filipino community at St. Anne Catholic Parish.

TRI-CITY VOICE, March 6, 2012, **Pat Kite** writes, “Squirrel depart...please”. Pat complains that squirrels are eating from the 7 bird feeders meant for the birds, and not for the squirrels.

TRI-CITY VOICE, March 13, 2012, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Up Mission Peak to Space”. The story is about John Ogle who has been hiking up Mission Peak three times a week for over 30 years. Now that he is almost 83 years old, he usually only goes half way up.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES SINCE OUR JANUARY MEETING

John Weed, Sr. Loretta Marbach, Beth Booth, Betty Mc Coy, Sergio & Carol Zilli, Clark Redeker, Regena Dennie, John Neto, Gaylene Vincent, Raelene Vieux, David Schipul, Tim Severson, Allan & Judy Spargue, Berenice & Paul Sethy, Betty & Herman Hebel, Pat Bagwell, Joan Ashton, John & Rose Barr, Joseph Betchart, Wilma Cabantac, Paul & Jayne DeWitt, James Griffin, Hayward Historical Society, Gera Jessee, Vitus C. Lau, Nancy Lorigan, Nancy Margherita, Jean Messick, Ann Power, Myrla Raymundo, Michelle Roeding, Kathleen Schuler, Scott Whitaker, Kathleen O’Connor, John Croft, Linda Freitas, Gloria & John Herschkorn, Patty Lacy, Ed & Debra Pentaleri, and Douglas Avery

We welcome new members, Vinton Bacon, Waldtraut “Wally” Betchart, Doris & Douglas Green, and Kim Wettig. Please give them a nice warm WTHS Welcome when you see them.

We thank all of you for renewing your membership for 2012 and we are happy to welcome the new members.

FROM THE MAILBAG

The Alameda County Historical Society Quarterly, January 2012, has a story by Dennis Evanosky titled, "Yankees Strike Gold in the Middle Redwoods. This story tells of the redwood forest in the valley between the Peralta and Moraga ranchos in the 1820's. Loggers removed redwood trees which later became the boundary between Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties.

Mission Peak Reporter, January/March 2011, is sponsoring the Annual Arts and Crafts Show in Shinn Park, May 20, 2011 from 10 am to 4 pm. Everyone is invited to attend this event.

Alameda Museum Quarterly, Winter 2012 issue. All Aboard! "Don't be left standing at the station", states the ad for the May 19, 2012 train "trolley" tour of the Island. Also in this issue, "What in the World is a Button Hook?" In 1893 a mechanical engineer, Whitcomb Judson patented a new kind of fastener he called a "clasp locker".

Oakland Museum, Spring 2012, "The year that rocked our world", 1968. A special exhibit that revisits the year that transformed society, will be held March 31, to August 19, 2012.

The Club Car, February 2012, has released a comprehensive DVD on the railroading history of Niles Canyon, entitled, "Smoke in Niles Canyon". It sells for \$19.95 plus handling by calling 880-343-5540 or email "www.catenaryvideo.com"

Union City Historical Museum, March 2012. Anthony Gualco writes, "Red Horner's Hotel". In 1851, Dr. Bucknell married Redbon Horner to Miss Ann Luby, who helped build the legend that Union City was a rough and tumble place to visit.

Washington Township Historical Society

Slate of Officers for 2012

President: Gil Garza

Vice-President: Judy Sprague

Secretary: Pat Bagwell

Treasurer: Regena Dennie

Parliamentarian: Nancy Lorigan

Past President: Al Minard

Historian: Pat Bagwell

Membership: Paul Sethy

Director at Large: Paul Sethy

Higuera Adobe: Eilif Andersen

Patterson House Advisory Board: Patty Lacy & Bill Reynolds

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

Play a Part in History Niles History, that is!

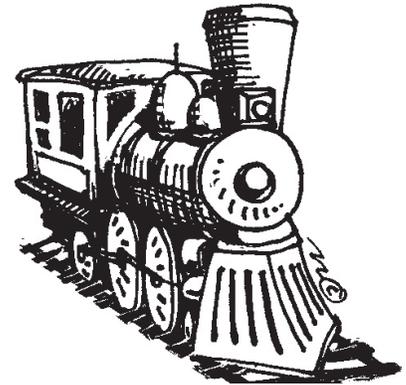
Sunday, April 1st

In 2012, we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of when films started being made in Niles!

From April through June, there will be many activities including a Pie Fight of the Century, film shoots in the canyon you can see from the train window, an extra special Charlie Chaplin Days weekend, and Broncho Billy Silent Film Festival.

We begin on Sunday, April 1, 2012, marking exactly one century since the beginning of the filmmaking legacy here in Niles*. We will commemorate this experience by capturing the proceedings with a hand cranked, of-the-era, moving picture camera using real black-and-white 35mm film! Here are some activities you can be part of:

- Ride the Steam Train through Niles Canyon
- Portray one of the Essanay Movie Players
- Be Part of the Film Crew
- Enjoy the Brass Band, Antique Autos and Sidewalk Procession
- Join the Party in the Plaza
- Come Watch Films about the Essanay Company



Showtime 2:30 p.m.

\$6 Museum Members / \$8 Non-members

Edison Theater 37417 Niles Blvd., Fremont

Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum open for tours 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

***What happened on April 1st, 1912?**

Gilbert "Broncho Billy" Anderson and 52 of his players set foot in Niles to start the western division of the Chicago-based Essanay Film Manufacturing Company.

They arrived by train to set up shop right here in historic Niles and make local movie history as the most prolific film studio in the entire San Francisco Bay Area during the silent era. Over the next four years, they filmed more than 350 one and two reel western comedies and dramas.

Special Celebration Movie Show

- **The Movies Go West** (1974, Geoffrey Bell)
featuring Essanay actor Hal Angus
- **Broncho Billy, the First Reel Cowboy**
(1998, Arkansas Educational Television Network)
Produced by Dale Carpenter, narrated by Hugh O'Brian
- **Excerpts from an interview with Gilbert M. Anderson** (1958)
- **When the Movies Came from Niles** (1964, KPIX)
Produced by Ray Hubbard, featuring the voices
of Gilbert M. Anderson and Bill Cato.

ARTS & CRAFTS IN SHINN PARK

1251 Peralta Boulevard, near Mowry in Fremont.



**SUNDAY,
MAY 20, 2012
10 am. to 4 pm.**

May 20, 2012, the gardens at Shinn Historical Park are in full bloom and very beautiful. We will have Local Artists to display, demonstrate and sell their art work. There will be some historic crafts people that may have some of their work for sale. We will have Music For Minors II, The Cadillac Jack Band, Square Dancers and the Nour El Ain Belly Dancers to entertain you. We will be selling hot dogs, popcorn, sodas, water and tours of the historic Shinn House. We will have several other historical organizations here telling about their organization and maybe asking you to try to identify an object.

FREE Admission to the grounds.

No Charge for enjoying the art, music, dancing or view.

Historic Shinn House tours are \$5 adults, \$2.50 for children age 5-12, Free under 5

Hot dogs, popcorn, soda and water will be very reasonably priced.

We ask you to come out and enjoy this wonderful park, to look at the Art and if you like it, purchase it, Tour the House, enjoy the music and dancing. We ask only for you to have a great time at a wonderful park.

This event is sponsored by the Fremont Cultural Arts Council, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation, The Fremont Art Association, Boy Scout Troop 447, and Dale Hardware. Profits will be used for historical preservation and restoration by Mission Peak Heritage Foundation. Mission Peak Heritage Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

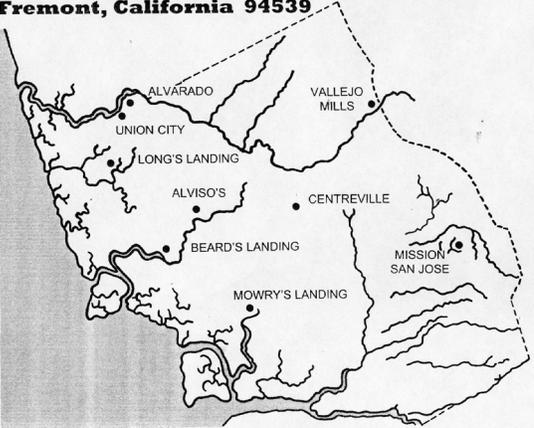
For more information contact Al Minard at: (510) 552-4839

or e-mail: "Alminard@comcast.net"



Pasadena City Hall, photo by Al Minard on a bus tour of Pasadena during the Conference of California Historical Societies Symposium on February 25, 2012

Washington Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 3045
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WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP 1853 - 2003