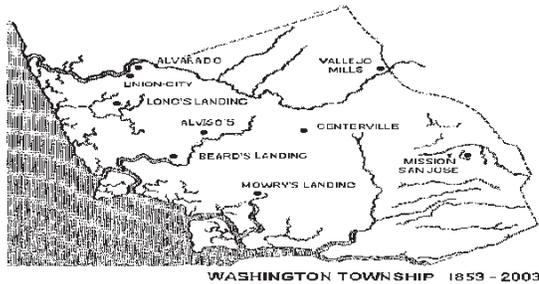


Washington Township Historical



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PRES: AL MINARD

(510) 552-4839

V.P.: GIL GARZA

(510) 494-1186

REC. SEC.: TIM SWENSON

(510) 489-8944

TREAS.: VACANT

**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2015, 7:15 PM at
MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST. FREMONT**

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Tim Swenson, Gil Garza and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and friends of Washington Township Historical Society,

The Holiday season is here and many holiday activities are planned. The world news is not so good with terrorist attacks in Paris with many people being killed. Locally our economy is improving which is obvious by the increased traffic on our roads. There are also many new development projects proposed that in many cases will mean the demolition of older homes. The City of Fremont has determined in most cases that these older homes though 50 or more years old are not eligible for the National, State or Local Register of historic buildings. The State criteria uses four categories to determine whether a building is historic which generally mean: The only one of its kind, a unique building or architect designed it, a famous or well-known person lived there or last it has archeological value due to Native American Indian remains or other prehistoric significance. None of these protect a building if a determined developer wants to demolish it. The home Bob Garcia, one of our long time members, lived in for many years after being willed the property from Mrs. Blacow, is only one recent example. This house was built in 1929 by the Kraft Tile Supervisor to use as a demonstration house for the Kraft Tile the plant was making. The floors, walls and much of the ceiling is made of decorative Kraft Tile, and shortly after it was sold demolition began, though it may have been done without a permit. The demolition stopped before the building was completely demolished.

Questions have been asked about the merging of the three historic groups into one larger group. The transition committee has not met for several months and no meeting is planned until hopefully early next year. The last meeting involved a discussion about the Bylaws that the committee had been working on for many months and were ready to send to the attorney to check for any legal aspects we had not included but some of the committee thought the attorney should rewrite the Bylaws at this point. Some of the Committee felt this was a slap in the face for all of our hard work over many months with the Bylaws. So a cooling off phase was proposed which is where we are now.

Al Minard

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Nominating Committee of Knute Furtado and Gil Garza has found some excellent candidates for new officers of the Society.

Vice President is John Weed a long time member of Washington Township and his parents were both past presidents of this organization.

Treasurer is Donald Barsi also a past president of this organization and a retired IRS employee.

Parliamentarian is Paul Sethy a long time member and longtime resident of Fremont.

Al Minard will continue as President for one more year.

Tim Swenson will continue as Secretary for one more year.

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN THE NEWS

September 22, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, Shape our Fremont, speaks to Development concerns from members of the public and the problems caused by these developments, Traffic congestion, school attendance, water usage and the negative impacts on the community. The projects sited are: Granite Ridge with 132 units planned for the old City Corporation Yard on Paseo Padre at Sequoia Road; True Life Companies wants to build 77 townhomes at the corner of Mission Boulevard and Stevenson; Carmel Properties plans to build an 882 unit luxury apartment complex at the corner of Walnut Ave. and Guardino, for a total of over 1500 new units in Fremont

October 6, *Tri-City Voice*, Monster Maker documentary to be screened in Niles about Jack Pierce, the Maker of Monsters. This was the time that a make-up artist made scary monsters without computer graphics. Jack Pierce brought us Dracula, Frankenstein's Monster, The Mummy, The Wolf man, and the Bride of Frankenstein to name a few.

October 6, *Tri-City Voice*, Niles Canyon Stroll in Charlie Chaplin's footsteps, by Rena Kiehn, presents a rare opportunity to dress up as Charlie Chaplin and pose as a group on the exact spot that Charlie Chaplin was filmed at over a century ago.

October 6, *Tri-City Voice*, Johnna Laird tells us that we have a rare opportunity to bike or walk through Niles Canyon without worries of getting hit by a car, Cars will be banned from 9 AM to 2 PM and anyone can walk or bike on the road. The Niles Canyon Train will provide transportation to Vallejo Mills or Sunol with a couple of stops along the route. This event is to evaluate the best route for a pedestrian, bicycle trail through the Canyon.

October 6, *Tri-City Voice*, The Candle Lighters have once again decorated the historic Chadbourne Carriage house into a scary venue called Scaryland this year. One half of the money raised is used to provide grants to other non-profits in the area, including the Museum of Local History.

October 6, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, Pat Kite writes about "Milkweed for Butterflies". Milkweed is the sole food for our endangered Monarch Butterflies and there are about 140 different varieties of Milkweed. Pat says that Milkweed is supposed to be easy to grow, but she has not been successful. Pat also says that watching butterflies makes my spirit take wing.

October 6, *Tri-City Voice*, It is harvest time at Ardenwood and the Indian corn and popcorn are ready to be harvested. Ardenwood collects about half of the corn for feed and seed for next year, but the person that harvests the corn get to keep the rest, this is billed as an "A-maize-ing weekend activity".

October 6, *Tri-City Voice*, at a planning commission meeting on September 29, an estimated 200 residents filled the council chambers and overflowed into an adjacent room to hear the latest proposal for development of the property at Walnut and Guardino and they did not like what they heard. Carmel Partners is proposing building 882 luxury units in four and five story buildings on 13.7 acres. Several proposals were presented none of them with affordable units. The City's plans to build the units first and then address any traffic problems was not well received.

October 13, *Tri-City Voice*, everyone is invited to take a "Ghoulishly Grand ride on the Haunted Railroad" through Ardenwood Park. This is designed for families to have a nighttime adventure suitable for younger children. All children must be accompanied by an adult and costumes on children is fine, but no masks on adults.

October 13, *Tri-City Voice*, Al Minard wrote about a Shinn House event called Paint Your Pumpkin. This is an opportunity for children to compete in their age group by decorating a pumpkin with magic markers and also a costume judging.

October 20, *Tri-City Voice*, Lila Bringham writes about "Ardent Archivist". This is an article about Paul Mular who learned about old films. Paul worked at KOFY-TV 20 in Pittsburgh for almost 30 years. Now is active in preserving and identifying the films at Niles Essanay Film Museum. He started to catalog our collection of 4,000 reels, then Essanay received a donation of another 5,000 reels, and Dorothy Bradley knew the Museum needed help. The Museum received a grant of \$25,000 but it has to be matched and they are looking for donations.

October 20, *Tri-City Voice*, reported on a public meeting to discuss the replacement of a bridge in Niles Canyon. The meeting was held at Macau Cultural Center in Niles on October 21.

October 20, *Tri-City Voice*, Shape our Fremont reports on more developments in the area. Vilas of Mission is

a development of 15 three-story townhouses on three-fourths of an acre of vacant land in the Niles Community Plan Area, 36341 Mission Blvd. There is also a development submitted for 31 condominiums in a five level building on a half-acre of land at 41868 Osgood. The existing 1952 house would be demolished and most of the trees would be removed to allow this development. Then there is Centerville Condos a mixed use project with 8 condominiums and 2,000 square feet of commercial space on a third acre site at 36800 Fremont Blvd. between Thornton and Adler, this project would include the removal of a 1922 house and a few outbuildings. The next project is Centerville Junction with 52 townhomes in twelve three-story buildings, this will replace ten old homes and a small commercial center currently on nine contiguous parcels from 3498 Peralta to 3678 Parish, this is a 2.65 acre site.

October 27, *Tri-City Voice*, **Timothy Swenson** was nominated by Commissioner Subru Bhat on the Union City Human Relations Commission which presented it's 5th annual Make a Difference in the Community Awards. Each commissioner selected an honoree to be presented with an engraved plaque to commemorate their contributions to the community. Congratulations Tim!!

November 3, *Tri-City Voice*, Shape Our Fremont, provides notice about four new housing proposals undergoing Preliminary Review. (1). Osgood Heights is a proposed 163 unit affordable housing unit on 2.74 acres at 42000 Osgood Road currently occupied by two small commercial buildings which will be demolished. (2). Lincoln Townhomes is a proposed 7-townhomes on less than one-half acre at 40867 Lincoln, which is occupied by a 1940's house that will be removed. (3). Washington Blvd a 2.1 acre parcel at 2529 Washington is the proposed site for 15 new townhome, which has two small vacant houses on site that will be removed.(4). Crystalline Drive a 18.29 acre site that they propose to build 36 family homes, a club house, tennis courts and walking trails at 501 Crystalline Drive on vacant hillside land.

November 10, *Tri-City Voice*, **Pat Kite** writes about Scented Geraniums or Pelargoniums which is the family that geraniums fall into. There are over 80 varieties and the scents can vary from rose, to chocolate, apparently the leaves can be dried and used in potpourri.

OUR SPEAKER IS AL MINARD

Al will be talking about National History Day. This is a National event for Junior High and Senior High students. Every year there is a different Theme. This year's them is Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History. Al has been a History Day judge for the past 10 years at the County level. Al has also been a judge for Special Awards from the Conference of California Historical Societies. The Conference gives out \$100 awards to the best Historical Paper on California History to both the junior high level and the senior high level. The Conference also gives out a \$100 award to the best Museum Exhibit on California History. Al will be showing pictures of some of the exhibits from last year and also will be showing 10 minute documentaries done by the students. Last year there were nearly 1200 students entered into the State History Competition, which was held at the William Jessup University in Rocklin, California. Rocklin is close to Lincoln and this University will also be the home of this coming year's event. National History Day events whether at County or State level are open to the public and is an eye opening experience.

LAS POSADAS

Mission San Jose area has been hosting the traditional Christmas celebration called Las Posadas in various businesses in Mission San Jose for about 20 years. This event celebrates Mary and Joseph looking for a room before Mary can deliver her child, Jesus. This event begins on Tuesday, December 15 with a walk from Old Mission San Jose Museum to Von Till and Associates, the historic building next to the Museum of Local History on Anza Street. This includes singing carols on the way leaving Old Mission San Jose at 6:15 PM and arriving at the destination at about 6:30 PM. This event continues every night until the last night on Wednesday, December 23. If the weather is too cold or rainy the walk from Old Mission San Jose gets skipped and everyone just arrives at the site at about 6:30. This is a fun activity and always has wonderful music at the various locations with light refreshments following the entertainment. The schedule is: **Tuesday, Dec 15, Von Till and Associates; Wednesday, Dec 16, Olive Hyde Art Guild; Thursday Dec 17, Dutra Enterprises; Friday, Dec 18, Museum of Local History, 190 Anza; Saturday December 19, the location had not been determined; Sunday, Dec 20, Sisters of the Holy Family Chapel; Monday, Dec 21 Mission Coffee; Tuesday, Dec.22, Dominican Sisters; and finish on Wednesday, Dec 23 at Old Mission San Jose Church.**

HISTORIC PLAQUES

Tim Swenson, Gil Garza and Al Minard met recently in Union City to review plaques for buildings that Washington Township Historical Society is hoping to install.

The sites are Bronco Billy's Pizza Parlor on Smith Street in Union City, where we plan to install a Novalloy plaque to the West side of the building of a 11-inch by 17-inch size, at a cost of about \$2,203.00. We need to reconfirm with the owner on the mounting location and style.

Women's Country Club of Washington Township building on Parish Ave., Fremont. The Women's Country Club has sold this building and we will have to work with the new owner but the Country Club supports the idea. We are anticipating that it will be the same size as the Bronco Billy's Pizza plaque at about the same cost of \$2,203.00.

Old St. Edwards, Graham Ave., Newark, The church wants a larger plaque on this site of two-foot by three-foot and free standing. We do not know what the cost will be, but Gil said that he would meet with the building owners to get approval.

Since these plaques in total are going to cost more than we have in designated for plaques we are planning on applying for a grant from the Candle Lighters for \$5,000 or at least enough to pay for the plaques on Bronco Billy's and the Women's Country Club buildings.

When we get the plaques and the approval we plan on unveiling each of the plaques separated by at least a month or more and invite City dignitaries and other officials to each event.



Founded in July 1987 Tile Heritage celebrates its 28th anniversary this year. Supporters like YOU... members, major contributors, industry sponsors, generous grantors... everyone... have made possible the continued fulfillment of the Foundation's mission to Document and Preserve tile history in the U.S., both past and present. THANK YOU!



Krafftile at "Casa Irisada," 1931. Photo by Sheila Menzies.

E-News for Fall 2015

Here's What's Below

Casa Irisada: A Site to Behold

Albert Clay Myers: Inventor

"Can You Help Identify This?"

WACO Art Tile

Heath's *Tile Makes the Room*

Casa Irisada: A Site to Behold

by Joseph A. Taylor

Despite the shadow of the recent stock market crash in October of 1929, **Albert Clay Myers** and his soon-to-be new wife **Adelaide** were moving ahead with their plans to build a handsome home for themselves using his company's ceramic products. "Clay," as he was called, then 40 years old with an adopted child,¹ had served as president and plant superintendent of **Krafftile** in Niles, California for four productive years and saw an opportunity to promote his company with what amounted to a "demonstration" home in the foothills not far from where he worked. The company featured the prospective palatial estate, "Casa Irisada," in a full-page color advertisement.



Historic Building at 537 Morrison Canyon Road, Fremont

This home was lived in for many years by Bob Garcia, a longtime member of Washington Township Historical Society. He had acquired the home from Mrs. Blacow in her will, because he had taken care of her for many years prior to her death. Bob died about 2-years ago and his brothers went through the house sorting through Bob's collection, some of which they sold, some they gave to the Museum of Local History and some they kept for the family. After the house was cleaned out they sold the house and about 7 acres of land on the hillside. This house could not be seen from the road and had a locked gate at the bottom of the hill. No historic inventory by the City of Fremont of the building was ever done, partly because Bob did not want anyone to see his collection, he was a bit of a packrat. The new owners allowed someone to start demolition of part of this historic house, but it was stopped before completion. The house may be preservable but it will take some serious research to see if that is possible and if the new owners want to preserve it. The picture above right is an interior showing the Kraft Tile Floor



Enjoy an 1890's Christmas at Shinn House Fri. Eve Dec. 4, Sat. Dec. 5, Sun. Dec. 6, & Friday Eve Dec. 11, 2015

1251 Peralta Blvd., near Mowry Avenue in Fremont
The House is decorated as it might have been in 1890, including wreaths in every window. Docents will lead tours from Noon to 4 pm on Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6, 2015, and from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm on Friday, December 4, and Friday, December 11, 2015.

Cost for the tour is \$5.00 for Adults and \$2.⁵⁰ for children 7-13.
Help make the wreaths on Saturday, November 28, 2015, from 10:00 am until about 3:00 pm. These wreaths will be used to decorate the Shinn House. Wreath making is free unless you want to take one home.



For more information contact Joan at (510)
795-0891



Washington Township Historical Society meeting, 7:15 PM, November 23, 2015 at the Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont. Speaker is Al Minard on National History Day.

Las Posadas at the Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont, Friday, December 18, 2015 starting at 6:30 PM with musical entertainment and light refreshments.

Shinn Historical House is open for Public tours on Friday evening, December 4 from 7-9 PM and Saturday, December 5, from Noon to 4 PM, Sunday, December 6, from Noon to 4 PM and on Friday evening, December 11, from 7-9 PM. The house will be decorated for Christmas and have Docent led tours for \$5 per adult.

Washington Township Historical Society will meet on Monday, January 18, 2016 at 7:15 PM. There will be a speaker on the history of this area with light refreshments following.

