

# Washington Township Historical



## SEPT - OCT 2012

VOL 36

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**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, September 24, 2012 TIME: 7:00 PM**  
**PLACE: Alameda County Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., FREMONT**

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Regena Dennie and Al Minard

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm pleased to thank the many generous folks that are helping to restore the Galindo-Higuera Adobe kiosk. The adobe kiosk has suffered from many years of weathering. With the cooperation of The Washington Township Historical Society, The Mission Peak Heritage Foundation, the Museum of Local History and the Rotary of Nile - a plan and collective effort are underway to restore the condition and appearance of the kiosk. In addition to the kiosk structure, educational material will be produced to highlight the significant historical background of this area.

*Gil Garza*

**Our Guest speaker is ROBERT "Bob" C. DOUGLASS, C.E.**

email:robert\_douglasse@comcast.net

Bob is currently a Consultant to Cargill on land use and regulatory San Francisco Bay Area.

From 1985 until 2007 he was manager of Real Property, Cargill Salt-Responsible for management of 30,000 acres along the edge of San Francisco Bay. Bob was responsible for permits for solar-salt operations, land-use entitlements and construction management of capital projects. He retained and supervised consulting and professional services for Cargill. He was the project manager for ASCE San Francisco Section project of the year-1997. Member of Cargill management team responsible for the donation and sale of 16,400 acres of salt ponds to the federal and state governments.

San Francisco Bay's beleaguered shoreline will once again teem with rare shorebirds, harvest mice and native grasses under an ambitious, 50-year restoration plan announced Wednesday.

The effort by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) calls for dozens of restored marshes from Alviso to Suisun to provide habitat for 17 endangered or threatened plants and animals.

It is the second largest tidal marsh recovery plan ever undertaken in the United States, second only to the ambitious effort to restore the Florida Everglades.

Most of Cargill's salt ponds are on land Cargill sold or donated to the government in exchange for the right to produce salt there forever. [Mendel Stewart](#), manager of the [San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex](#) said that agreement would not change under the restoration plan but Cargill wants to ensure its interests are protected.

**We will meet in the Marks Center for local and California History, Alameda County Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., 2nd floor, Fremont, CA at 7:00 PM**

# Members in the News

*Tri-City Voice*, July 10, 2012, **Pat Kite** writes, “Observing Opossum”. You may have heard the term, “playing possum”. Relatively defenseless, a terrified possum faints; it curls up and becomes stiff, closing his eyes and gives off a stinky smell.

*Argus*, July 14, 2012, **Norma Neto** writes in the Saturday Forum, “Need more visionaries like Governor Jerry Brown”. Norma approves of the high speed rail.

*Tri-City Voice*, July 17, 2012, **Phil Holmes** writes, “The Mayoock Family”. Their vineyard, Los Amigos Vineyards” was located on Washington Boulevard. In 1948, they received two awards at the California State Fair for outstanding entries.

*Argus*, July 31, 2012, **Doug Avery**, President of the Niles Main Street Association, talked about Michael McNevin, who never forgets his home-town in his song-writing.

*Tri-City Voice*, July 31, 2012, **Phil Holmes** writes, “The Automobile”. Otto Hirsch opened his “Dependable Garage” and was selling Studebakers in 1909.

*Tri-City Voice* August 14, 2012, **Pat Kite** writes, “Weeds?” Dandelions have been used for food and medicine by European immigrants for 1,000 years. Every weed has a purpose in Nature, even if it just provides a bit of green where nothing else will grow.

*Tri-City Voice*, August 14, 2012, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Pioneer Holidays”. The Centerville Lions Club brought Independence Day back in 1934 with a Washington High School Fair. Events included a grand ball, queen contest, musicals and a parade.

*Tri-City Voice*. August 14, 2012, **Al Minard** writes, “Shinn Park hosts, Belly Dance in the Park”. There was no admission charge to this afternoon of entertainment.

*Argus*, August 25, 2012, **Norma Neto** writes in the Saturday Forum, “They are trying to divide and conquer”. Norma warns, “Wake up folks and make your decision based on true facts.

*Tri-City Voice* August 28, 2012, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Washington Township Farms and farmers”. It was predicted in 1889 that Alameda County would become the nursery capitol of California.

*Tri-City Voice*, September 4, 2012, **Carol Zilli** writes, “Why Music For Minors II?” Children need music for their healthy development and academic success.

The theme for this year’s History Day Project is: “**Turning Points In History: People, Ideas, Events**”. This is a very broad category, and projects can focus on either people, events or ideas, or any combination of the three. The winning History Day project will include a good bibliography, use extensive primary sources, and be both historically accurate and well-presented. The Alameda County History Day contest will be held in the Oakland Museum on February 23, 2013.

Resources available here in Southern Alameda County include: the Math Science Nucleus Museum, the Essanay Silent Film Museum, the Museum of Local History, Union City History Museum, Niles Canyon Railway, Shinn Archive Room, Alameda County Library, and probably a few others that I am not as familiar with. Many of the above resources plus others have reserved money to help with History Day Projects. For more information contact The Museum of Local History at 190 Anza Street, Fremont.

The topics that are covered in History Day include, of course, politics and wars, but also, fashion, music, inventions, foods, disasters and many other subjects. One of the often covered subjects is Executive Order 9066. I believe that almost every History Day competitor understands Executive Order 9066. Do you?

## Dear Members,

Thank you to all who attended our Memory Lane Potluck on July 23, 2012. The evening's theme was the 1980's, and we were all given a chance to recall memories from the 1980's.

I received some wonderful comments from you about the theme, and was asked if perhaps we could do it again. Therefore, our next Memory Lane Potluck will focus on the 1960's. I look forward to your thoughts about this topic as well as the best time to do another Memory Lane Potluck.

Our By-Laws tell us that at the July meeting, a nominating committee of five was to be appointed, and in September there would be the election of officers. The installation of officers would be held at the November meeting. Our officers can serve for another year, and if they will agree to those terms, they can be elected by "acclamation". We can still have nominations from the floor. We still need a secretary. Thank you to Tim Swenson for taking the minutes of the meeting and acting as the secretary.

The Essanay Plaque has been ordered. Thank you to Gil Garza, Al Minard and Tim Swenson for the hours of searching for the ideal and affordable plaque for the remake of the Niles Essanay plaque. David Kiehn, from The Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum, will be working with the Mussi Artworks Foundry of Berkeley for the proper wording. A deposit check of \$750, (check # 1376), has been mailed to Mussi, with the completion date for the plaque in mid-November.

Thank you to Janet Cronback for inviting Washington Township Historical Society to the Library for our September 24, 2012 meeting. We will be honored to have Pat Mapelli, from Cargill Salt as our guest speaker. **REMEMBER GO TO THE LIBRARY ON STEVENSON BOULEVARD** for our regular Monday, September 24, 2012 meeting and a program on Cargill Salt. The talk will be upstairs in the History Room area.

### MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES SINCE OUR LAST MEETING.

**Joan Ashton, Brian Barlow and Mathew Marlow.**

Thank you for your paid membership for 2012.

We have new members, **Richard and Nancy Godfrey**. Please give them a warm welcome when you meet them.

.....  
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 History of Salt Production in the S.F. Bay

**Monday  
September 24, 7 p.m.  
Fremont Main Library  
2400 Stevenson Blvd.,  
Fremont CA  
2nd floor,  
Marks Center for Local  
and California History**



**S**alt has been harvested from the San Francisco Bay as long as people have lived here. This month we are featuring an exhibit about the region's long history of salt production in the Marks Center display room on the second floor of the library. Please check out the exhibit and consider attending a special meeting of the Washington Township Historical Society on Monday, September 24 at 7 p.m. when Pat Mapelli, Real Property Manager of Cargill Incorporated, will discuss local salt operations. Pat is a native of Fremont and has worked for Cargill for the past 23 years.

Meet Pat Mapelli, Real Property Manager,  
Cargill Incorporated

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Library is wheelchair accessible.  
An ASL interpreter will be provided for this program  
if requested at least 7 working days in advance.  
Voice 510-795-2627 / TTY 888-663-0660

[www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org)

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# Washington Township Historical Society in the 1980's

January-February, 1980, WTHS met at the Country Club on Parish Ave., Centerville. Speaker was Judge Joseph Jay, Jr., who brought photos for a historical display in the new Court House on Martha Ave. A spring tour was planned to Old Sacramento and Sutter's Fort.

September-October, 1980, WTHS organized a tour to the People's Republic of China Exhibition which was held at Fort Mason, San Francisco.

November-December, 1980, Dr. Howard Cogwell talked about the plans for Ardenwood Historical Park.

January 1981, "Salute to the Firefighters" was January's program.

September-October, 1981, "Save the Niles Railroad Station" was the program given by the Tri-City Society of Model Engineers, Inc.

January-February, 1982, George Roeding III and son Bruce showed their 16 mm film on Treasure Island and the Golden Gate Exposition.

May-June, 1982, "The Missions of California" was the program given by Harry McLane.

November-December, 1982, Patricia Lloveras gave the program on Ardenwood.

May-June, 1983, WTHS sponsored the "Cinderella Ball" benefiting the Fremont Theatrical Association.

September-October, 1983, Estelle Hirsch, one of WTHS's founders, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

November-December, 1983, we commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Moffett Field, Mountain View.

May-June, 1984, the program was given by Dr. Howard DeWitt on the Wedgewood Stove.

January-February, 1985, Leslie Salt Company celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Alan Woodhill, President of Leslie Salt gave a 45 minute audio-visual slide show of the history of salt production.

July-August 1985, Annual Pot-luck was held at Elliston Winery, Sunol. Dedication of the replica of the adobe church, in old Mission San Jose, was held with a big celebration.

May-June 1986, Monty Dewey showed slides of Drawbridge. A tour was planned for June to the Gold Country.

January-February 1987, Esther Cox, presented a slide show of early American settlers of the Mission San Jose and Irvington areas. Dr. and Mrs., J. C. Lopes made headlines when BART purchased 23 acres of their Warm Springs Ranch for a future Warm Springs BART Station.

January-February, 1988, Lorin Hansen gave a program on "Early Mormon Settlers".

May-June 1988, Howard Tom spoke on his return to China after 65 years. Howard at the age of 14 years entered the United States through Angel Island in 1922.

May-June 1989, Mollie Stevenson, Museum representative for the Fremont Cultural Arts, presented plans for a future museum. Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin introduced Assembly Bill 815, designating Route 84 through Niles Canyon as a scenic route.



WTHS members getting ready to enjoy our potluck dinner



WTHS members at the food table

Eilif Andersen telling us about his 1980's experiences



Dorothy Bradley telling us about her 1980's experiences



Don Crook telling us about his 1980's experiences



Brian Barlow telling us about his 1980's experiences

