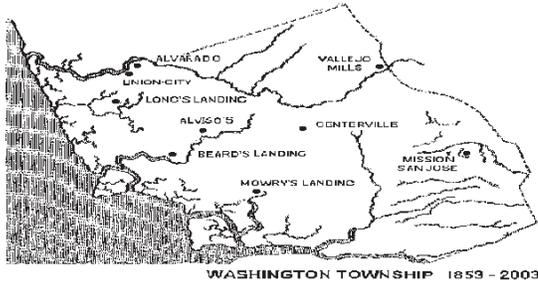


Washington Township Historical

SEPT-OCT 2014



VOL 38

NO. 05

PRES: AL MINARD

(510) 552-4839

V.P.: GIL GARZA

(510) 494-1186

REC. SEC.: TIM SWENSON

(510) 489-8944

TREAS.: REGENA DENNIE

(510) 656-3892

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 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

Washington Township Historical Society is moving forward with several programs. I thank Tim Swenson for working on the language for a plaque on Bronco Billy's Pizza in Union City. I thank Paul Sethy for working to get some good out of the Tiny Tots building in Mission San Jose that Fremont is trying to sell. I thank Janet Cronbach for putting a program together for our September meeting at the Fremont Main Library. I especially want to thank Tim Swenson for stepping in and chairing the September meeting. La Vonne and I will be touring England, Scotland and Wales and Vice President Gil Garza will be in Italy with his wife at a business meeting. Our thoughts and prayers go to Phil Holmes and Regena Dennie who are not having as many good days as they would like. We are planning a Memory Potluck with the Museum of Local History and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation for Saturday, November 15, 2014. This will take the place of our November meeting and should be a good time to share our historical memories.

Al Minard

Our Guest Speaker for the September meeting at the Fremont Main Library is Christie Dentry

Christie Dentry is the Manager of The Patterson House Museum, where she has spent the past year bringing in new programming and events. Christie relocated from Sacramento where she spent her career working for the City of Rocklin as well as Sacramento County while obtaining a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Public History. She has had experience working in various historical settings including completing projects for the Oakland Museum of California, the US Forest Service and the Sacramento Public Library. She hopes to continue to bring a new ideas to The Patterson House to create a community for the Museum and establish its place as a destination within the area.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Tri-City Voice, August 5, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes, “History: Landowners”. The land in Washington Township was found to be very fertile and some of the early settlers bought it from those who claimed to own the land, others just squatted on the land. Some of the early settlers like John Horne and Elias Beard bought their land several times over due to questionable title to the land.

Tri-City Voice, August 19, 2014, **Pat Kite** writes, “Wasp Wanderings”. There are about 100,000 different wasp species, of those only a few attack humans. Those that do attack humans can sting multiple times and for no reason. The wasps in this area live in a variety of areas and should be left alone. Some of the wasp sprays can work from 10-20 feet but often only make some of the wasps violent, so be forewarned.

Tri-City Voice, August 26, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes, “History Column: Rice-A –Roni”. Paul Dominic De Domenico was born in San Francisco to the family that owned Golden Grain Macaroni Company. After he was married to Anita Lidovici, they moved to Fremont where they both became involved in many local and charitable causes. He later became president of Golden Grain which included Ghiradelli Chocolate company. Anita was one of the founders of the Candle Lighters and they both were actively involved with this organization.

Tri-City Voice, September 2, 2014, **Paul Sethy** is quoted in an article titled, “Water district announces new general manager”. The Water District announces the promotion of Robert Shaver as the next General Manager of Alameda County Water District. Paul Sethy says, “Mr. Shaver’s comprehensive water utility experience, technical and financial expertise and knowledge of the community will greatly contribute to the leadership of the District.”

FROM THE MAIL BAG

League of Volunteers LOV Note, July-August Newsletter, made their annual report of income and expenses. They also reported on the 36th season of Concerts for 2014 and 2015, serving Fremont, Newark and Union City.

The Club Car, August Bulletin, report on the preparations for Steamfest on the Niles Canyon Railway. The Railway will also be running the Livermore Valley Wine Tasting Special for a ride into History. The wine tasting special focuses on Livermore Valley wines. As one of California’s wine regions, the Livermore Valley played a pivotal role in shaping California’s wine industry.



Paul Sethy at our July Meeting talking about Fremont Bank



Audience at Paul Sethy’s talk on Fremont Bank

Tiny Tots building that was donated to the City of Fremont by Olive Hyde

Ok everyone.....It finally looks like this item is going to come before the City Council. On September 9th, we need everyone to come out and support HARB's recommendation to the Council, which originated with us:

1. To delist the Tiny Tots building from the city's historic registry.
2. To live up to the "original intent" of Olive Hyde's grant deed of the property to the city.
3. To set aside funds from the sale of the property (perhaps as much as \$1 million); and to forward all funds into
4. Establishing a charitable trust entitled, "The Olive Hyde Endowment Fund for the Arts, Culture, and History of Fremont"
5. Invest the funds per board parameters of the charitable trust and use interest income to disperse annually to Fremont non-profit organizations focused on "The Arts, Culture, and History of Fremont".

We want to make it clear to Council that we do not want the funds from sale of the property put into the city's general fund; or repurposed for building a new city hall, or a planned performing arts center, or for any new imaginative "artistic" investment they may dream of to show off the new BART station.

We would like to have these funds be used as a "kickstarter" for the arts, culture, and historical communities of Fremont.

As a group, we need to emphasize that as the fourth largest city in the Bay Area, we have never received a grant from either the National Endowment of the Arts (in fact we were recently turned down) or the California Arts Council -- about the only major/minor city in Northern California never to have received funds. The primary reason: The City of Fremont throughout its nearly 60 year history has never demonstrated a sincere effort to support "the arts, culture, and history" of its community. Think of the Fremont Symphony, the Fremont Opera, the Center Theater, etc. (The Chamber's once-a-year "Festival of the Arts" is a self absorbed fundraiser which hardly counts.) We are also one of the only communities in the Bay Area without a Director of Arts, Culture, and History at City Hall -- a position which more than pays for itself in grant monies.

Let's coordinate who will speak before the Council and on what specific topics related to this subject matter. And, let's turn out the troops to make our presence known!

Thanking you,

Paul Sethy

Home: 510-656-4075

.....
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

Plaque information proposed for the Bronco Billy's Pizza Parlor in Alvarado

Lyle/Harvey/Dinsmore Building

In 1896, M. H. Lyle purchased land at the corner of Smith and Vallejo Streets and built a two-story building for his mercantile business. Mr. Lyle occupied the lower story, while Dr. Hauber occupied an office in the second story. In 1901, the mercantile business and the building was purchased by F. C. Harvey. In 1902, a 40x40 foot addition was added to the back of the building. About 1908, a telephone system was installed in Alvarado and the telephone exchange was placed in this building, where it resided until 1946.

In 1929, the mercantile business was purchased by Sam Dinsmore, who had been clerk for F. C. Harvey since 1911. The building stayed in the ownership of F. C. Harvey. In 1942, as part of the civil defense work of World War II, a fire alarm from the Holly sugar factory was installed on the roof of this building as an air raid warning siren. In the late 1950's, with Highway 17 being diverted to the new Nimitz Freeway, Alvarado businesses saw a decline. In 1969, after 40 years in business, and 73 years as a general store, Sam Dinsmore closed the door a final time.

After sitting vacant for three years and suffering damage from vandals, the Union City City Council declared the building as "unsafe" and started proceedings for demolition. Joseph Betchart and Dean Beaumont soon purchased the building from Harvey and Clarence Granger, nephews of F. C. Harvey. The new owners completed a full restoration, including a new foundation. By 1975, a hot-air balloon manufacturer and a veterinarian were located downstairs and the Cupid Adult Book store was on the second floor.

In 1976, Uncle Joe's Pizza opened in the lower part of the building and continued until 1996, when the business changed to Bronco Billy's Pizza.



A picture of the Lyle building from about 1896

CONFERENCE Of California Historical Societies

Fall Symposium at Fort Ross

Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 23, 2014

3:00pm - 6:00pm: Registration at the [Fairfield Inn & Suites](#)

6:00pm - 7:00pm: Dinner on your own

Friday, October 24, 2014

*Transportation will not be provided to today's events.

6:00am - 8:00am: Complimentary Breakfast served at the Fairfield Inn & Suites

7:45am - 8:00am: Walk to the [Enmanji Japanese Buddhist Temple](#)

8:00am - 9:45am: Tour the Enmanji Japanese Buddhist Temple

9:45am - 10:00am: Travel to the [Sebastopol United Methodist Church](#)

10:00am - 12:00pm: Book signing at the Sebastopol United Methodist Church

10:00am - 12:00pm: RVP Meeting at the Sebastopol United Methodist Church

12:00pm - 12:15pm: Travel to the [Luther Burbank Experimental Farm](#)

12:15pm - 3:00pm: Buffet lunch and Tour of the Luther Burbank Experimental Farm

3:00pm - 4:00pm: Learn the history of [Western Sonoma County](#) from Laura Schaeffer

4:00pm - 4:15pm: Travel to the Sebastopol United Methodist Church

4:15pm - 6:00pm: Board Meeting at the Sebastopol United Methodist Church

6:00pm - 7:00pm: Free Time

7:00pm - 9:00pm: Dinner at the Sebastopol United Methodist Church (Guest Speakers: [Janis O'Farrell Miller](#) & [Gloria Triggs Roberts](#))

Saturday, October 25, 2014

*All transportation today will be provided via Charter Bus

6:00am - 9:00am: Complimentary Breakfast at the Fairfield Inn & Suites

9:30am - 10:45am: Travel to [Fort Ross](#) (Guest Speaker: [Hank Birnbaum](#))

10:45am - 11:25am: Welcome to Fort Ross and [Introductory Video](#)

11:30am - 12:00pm: Guided walk to the Fort Compound (bus transfer available)

12:00pm - 12:45pm: Boxed lunches at the Fort Compound

12:45pm - 1:45pm: Tour of the Fur Warehouse and the [Rotchev House](#)

1:45pm - 2:00pm: [Cannon Presentation](#)

2:00pm - 2:30pm: Free time to explore the Fort

2:30pm - 4:00pm: Tour [The Call House](#)

4:00pm - 4:30pm: Enjoy the [Fort Ross Visitor's Center, Museum and Gift Shop](#)

4:30pm - 5:30pm: Travel to [Negri's Restaurant](#)

6:00pm - 7:00pm: Happy Hour at Negri's Restaurant

7:00pm - 9:00pm: Dinner at Negri's Restaurant (Guest Speaker: [John Schubert](#))

9:00pm - 9:30pm: Travel to the Fairfield Inn & Suites

Old Alvarado Walking Tour

On Saturday, October 4 at 11 am, local historian, Timothy Swenson, will host a historical walking tour of Alvarado, sponsored by the Museum of Local History. The tour will walk through old Alvarado and Timothy will talk about the different historical buildings. The tour provides information on 43 buildings, some of them long gone, and covers about half a mile of walking and will take about an hour and a half. A walking tour booklet is available from the Museum of Local History website, under the "Published Documents" section. Hard copies of the tour guide will be available at the tour for \$3. The walking tour itself is free. The tour will start at the parking lot of Alvarado Elementary School. Remember, Saturday is also the Old Alvarado Farmer's Market, so buy your fruits and veggies, and join the historical tour.

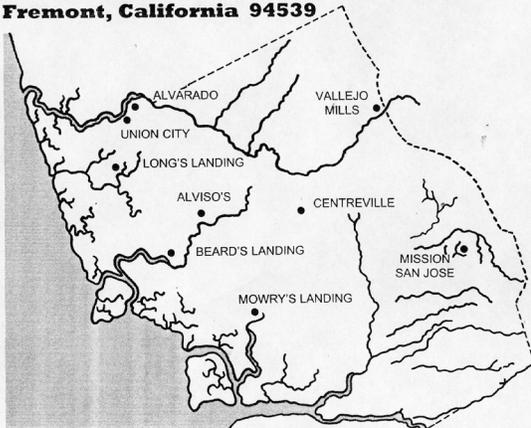
CALIFORNIA NURSERY PROJECT

The California Nursery project will be presented at the Teen Center at Central Park, by the Old Library. The meeting will start at 6:30 and is scheduled to end at about 8:30. We understand that the consultants will be presenting two different proposals for the California Nursery and asking for our input.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2014, MEMORY LANE POTLUCK

We are planning to have a Memory Lane Potluck on Saturday, November 15 at about Noon. We plan on focusing on the 1930's, if anyone can remember back that far. We will hold the event at the Museum and it will be inside and out depending on the weather. We will have canopies to protect us from the sun, wind or rain. Please save the date and plan on attending. All historic organizations are invited and friends.

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



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP 1853 - 2003