

UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Founded by Myrla Garduque Raymundo, MBA

3841 Smith Street, Union City, California 94587, Tel. (510) 324-3298

Three Components

(1) Museum & Artifacts, (2) Oral History (3) Preservation of Historical Homes

Museum meets on the first Monday of the month at the Museum at 7 PM

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Myrla Garduque Raymundo, Founding Editor/Writer

MISSION STATEMENT

The Union City Historical Museum is a non-profit organization committed to the preservation, maintenance and protection of, and the education of the public about the architectural, cultural, natural and historical heritage resources of the City of Union City.

MUSEUM ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors for FY 2004-2005 was held last May 3, 2004 at the Museum. Around 39 members came and voted. We thank the Nominating Committee comprised of Barbara Friedrich, Miles Price and Betty Foster for the efficient conducting of the election. The following are the new officers and board members for the coming year. Some of the directors will have a term of two years.

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo - President
Mani Patel - Vice President
Dave Bhatia - Secretary
Hugh McNamara - Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

(2-year term)

Miles Price
Barbara Friedrich
Al Rose
Al Minard

(1-year term)

Rallie Cruz
Tessie Gatan

(Remaining 1-year term)

Lupe St. Denis
Margaret Shepard
Bruce Hevelin

CONGRATULATIONS, TO ALL!!!

LARRY CHEEVES
City Manager, City of Union City
by Myrla Raymundo

Larry Cheeves sits comfortably in his spacious and beautiful office at the Civic Center at Alvarado-Niles Road. He is Union City's City Manager.

Larry came to Union City in January 1989 to accept the job of Public Works Director. From that time on, Union City saw a lot of good things happening.

In January 2004 he was appointed by the City Council to the position of City Manager, the position that was vacated by David Berger.

Born September 10, 1954 in Los Angeles Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital, Larry grew up in Southern California. Asked if he ever thought of being an actor, as good-looking as he is, he said his inclination was always to be a Public Works Director.

He started his career in 1976 as an Intern at the City Manager's Office in the City of Cerritos. He then worked for the City of Pico Rivera as an Administrative Assistant in Public Works. He worked later for Buena Park. In August 1984, he worked as an Assistant Public Works Director for the City of Norwalk.

His family lives in Union City. His wife Lori is a teacher at the New Haven Adult School. She has taught English as a Second Language for three (3) years now. She teaches diverse students who speak at least 20 different languages. She was a school district teacher's aide at Searles Elementary School before.

Larry and Lori have two daughters. Diana, age 22, graduated from Pepperdine and is teaching 6th grade in Burbank. She will be getting married soon. Christina, 20, is a senior at Pepperdine and will pursue Psychology.

The girls attended Caesar Chaves Middle School and Searles Elementary School and graduated from Logan High School.

Pepperdine is located in Malibu along the Southern California Coast. Both Larry and Lori studied there.

Interviewed by the Tri-City Voice last May 2004 Larry Cheeves had this to say about his workforce, "I'd like to say that Union City has a tremendous workforce and an outstanding city council. That's the reason we're able to operate with as few people as we have. We are the least-staffed per capita city in the county and yet I think that we have been able to do phenomenal things, and we will continue to do so because of the dedication of a whole lot of very well qualified people."

That statement is so true. Union City is an ideal place to live and work because of the leaders that we have and the people that work for us. Keep up the good work, Larry.

CARLOS JOCSON, P.E.
City Engineer, City of Union City
By Myrla Raymundo

This writer sits as a Planning Commissioner and Carlos Jocson, as the City Engineer, sits as one of the Staff during Planning Commission meetings.

Back in the Philippines, this writer sits in an office as the Engineering Executive Secretary and Carlos Jocson, sits in an adjacent office as the Director of Civil Engineering. That was in 1967 at the United States Naval Base in Subic Bay, Philippines.

It was a great surprise when these two met again in different capacities in the city hall in Union City, 10,000 miles away from home.

When Carlos came to the United States in 1976, he settled in Orange County. He worked for PRC Toups Engineering in Orange County as a Staff Engineer with project engineering responsibilities for projects involving design of water and wastewater treatment facilities.

In 1980, the City of Buena Park in Southern California hired him as an Assistant Civil Engineer. His skills in project engineering and project management earned him progressive promotions, eventually becoming the Engineering Services Manager.

He relocated to Northern California in 1989 to become an Associate Civil Engineer for the City of Campbell until he accepted a position in the City of Union City. Based on his technical and administrative skills, he is now the City Engineer.

Carlos, who was born in San Marcelino, Zambales, Philippines is happily married to Ofelia Bautista, who is a schoolteacher by profession. They resided in Union City since 2000.

Carlos graduated from Baguio Colleges Foundation in 1964 with a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering. He is a registered Civil Engineer in the Philippines and the State of California. His father, David Jocson who is a pharmacist by profession and his mother Rosa Magsaysay, had a large farmland in the Philippines that Carlos helped managed.

He started an engineering career as a designer/draftsman with American Engineers and Architects in Makati, Philippines for contract projects with U. S. Military Bases. He completed overseas assignments in Vietnam and Taipei, Taiwan. He joined the U. S. Navy Public Works Center, Subic Bay in 1967 as a Civil Engineer. He was Director of Civil Engineering when he left for the United States in 1976.

Carlos is a member of the Filipino American Society of Architects and Engineers (FASAE) and the FASAE's President of the Military Chapter.

“I want to retire here and stay in Union City because of the diversity of the community. I intend to serve Union City actively after I retire.” Carlos concluded.

WAYNE CRUZ
The Graffiti Buster
By Myrla Raymundo

Do you ever wonder when you see the big long white truck that says “Graffiti Buster”? The man in charge of that is Wayne Cruz, who has worked for Union City’s Public Works Department for ten years. In 2001, he was given a new assignment: Graffiti Buster.

Wayne goes around town every day to see to it that the city is clean. Everything he needs to remove or cover-up graffiti is contained in the white truck and 16-foot trailer he tows around town all day. A power-wash unit is used for blasting away spray paint, especially from sidewalks. Ten large hoppers are filled with a wide variety of paint colors. He has a computer unit that allows him to mach colors. He gets a reading and mixes the paints in the trailer, and it comes out almost identical. In an average week, The Graffiti Buster goes through 25 to 30 gallons of paint.

The Graffiti Buster works fast. Wayne can paint a long section of sound wall in a matter of minutes.

So, when you see the big, long, white truck, say, ‘HI WAYNE, THANKS FOR GIVING US A CLEAN CITY.’”

THE GLADIOLA FIELDS
by Myrla Raymundo

Do you remember the brilliant gladiola that used to line Whipple Avenue, Alvarado Niles Road, a patch along Interstate 880 and other areas around town?. These beautiful flowers were planted in the city’s fields in 1953.

The gladiola became a symbol of Union City. The city started the first annual Gladiola Festival in 1985. Delaine Eastin and Jean Westgard chaired it. A number of hardworking citizens and every department in the city got involved in some way and the First Gladiola Festival was a big success.

Bessie Borghi, Frank Borghi, Jr.’s mother graced a float as the oldest person in Union City at the first Gladiola Festival Parade.

From then on the festival continued. However, the fields of flowers, whose petals climb from foot-long stalks, have disappeared. This was to make room for housing, school and parks. Others said that there were incidents of health problems traced to methyl bromide exposure.

The annual gladiola festival then stopped.

Whatever was the cause of the disappearance of the brilliant gladiola, we enjoyed their presence in our town and it will forever be in our minds.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY.....

First Dwelling

It was written in the early newspaper, the Union City Leader October 29, 1970) that the first dwelling in Union City was originally occupied by Capt. Bulmer. It was said to have been built of dry-good boxes, but later to have been improved by additions of lumber. During the year its uses have been varied, having served as a residence, saloon and gambling house, and men's furnishing store.

The First Bridge

The first bridge across Alameda Creek was built and wholly paid for by the Horner Brothers. It was built near the sugar refinery and cost \$1,000.

Flour Mill

Union City was the location of the first flour mill of any size, established within the limits of the state, this being also an enterprise of the Horners (John and William). It was built in 1853, having a run of eight hours at the cost of \$85,000. The mill was operated by steam power and samples of flour made from California grain at "Horner's Mill at Union City" was awarded the premium of excellence by New York merchants. This mill operated for many years before it was abandoned and moved to its new site. Its size was increased under the ownership of George Tay & Co. who in 1870 established in the mill building a foundry. The business was a success, giving employment to thirty-five men and dispersed about \$4,000 a month to the employees.

Courtesy of the Union City Leader
October 29, 1970

CHAPEL OF THE CHIMES CEMETERY

By Myrla Raymundo

The Cypress Cemetery was the burial place for members of many early families, such as the Hellwigs, the Grangers, the Decotos, the Whipples. The cemetery is part of the Chapel of the Chimes Cemetery.

On a hot sunny day, Ray and I visited the graveyard. We want to make sure that our ancestors are kept there intact and remembered. I jotted down the names of those laying there in peace. I want them to know that they are remembered. There were so many of them, but because of limited space, I will publish the rest next issue.

John Cleveland Whipple
Born – January 25, 1821
Died – August 24, 1905

Edwin Whipple
Born – 1842
Died – 1929

Ezra Decoto
Born – September 2, 1833
August 2, 1923

Janet Lowrie Decoto
Born – February 19, 1841
Died - July 5, 1921

Philip Hellwig
Born – August 15, 1830
Died – May 29, 1901

Frederick W. Meyers, Jr.
Born – May 8, 1900
Died – July 29, 1945

JOHN CLEVELAND WHIPPLE

by Myrla Raymundo

Very little had been written about John Cleveland Whipple. When Joan Serafino, a curator of the James and Lucy Shinn House in Fremont. came to the Union City Historical Museum to do some research on Whipple, there was very little information about him in our records. So, Joan went to different resource and found a lot about the man. She even got a photograph of John Cleveland Whipple.

Most of the text on this article was taken from the History of the State of California and Biographical Record of Coast Counties, California by Prof. J. M. Guinn, A. M., and published by the Chapman Publishing Co. in Chicago in 1904.

So here goes the story and thanks to Joan Serafino for providing this writer with the materials.

John Cleveland Whipple was a pioneer agriculturist of Washington Township,

owning and occupying a finely improved homestead near Decoto.

A native of New York, John Cleveland Whipple was born on January 25, 1820, in Duanesburg, Schenectady County, which was also the birthplace of his father, Samuel Whipple. Samuel Whipple married Phoebe (Cleveland) Whipple and they both had thirteen children.

One of a large family of children, John Cleveland Whipple began as a boy to assist his father in clearing a farm, laboring assiduously throughout his early life, during the winter seasons attending the short term of the district school. At 20 he began working for wages, receiving \$10 a month, all of which he saved, at the end of the year having \$120 to his credit. Subsequently learning the carpenter's trade, he followed it first in Pennsylvania, and afterwards with his uncle near Rochester, New York. While there he cast his first presidential vote for the Whig candidate, Henry Clay. In the latter part of 1852, Mr. Whipple started for California by way of Panama, and after walking a part of the way across the Isthmus, boarded a steamer, and arrived in San Francisco on February 5, 1853. He worked at his trade in that city for five years. In the fall of 1853, he went to Oakland, which was then in its incipiency, having but one store, one butcher shop, and no post office, although one was opened soon after. There was at that time no wagon road between that place and San Pablo, a distance of twelve miles, and only one house between the two towns. Locating at Point Richmond, Contra Costa County, in 1858, Mr. Whipple, in company with his brother William who

came to California with him, rented land and engaged in general farming, continuing in partnership for about two years, when the brother returned to New York State. John Whipple also spent a year in his native state and upon returning to Alameda County in 1863, bought two hundred acres of the land now included in his present ranch, and has since carried on ranching with eminent success. From time to time he has added more land by purchase, and now owns three hundred acres of good land in the hills, while in his home farm, which lies on open plain, he has one hundred and thirty-eight acres. He has been very fortunate in his chosen occupation, devoting himself principally to the raising of grain, although he has a fine-bearing orchard of twenty-seven acres. A man of sterling integrity, and of many excellent traits of character, Mr. Whipple has always been held in high respect throughout the community, and has been actively identified with its improvement and advancement. Since the formation of the Republican Party, he has cordially endorsed its principles, and been one of its most loyal adherents.

Whipple Road is named for two brothers, John Cleveland Whipple and Edwin Whipple.

Graves Sites at Chapel of Chimes
Cemetery- May 22, 2004
WHIPPLE FAMILY PLOT

John Cleveland Whipple
Born in Schineclady, New York
January 25, 1821
Died August 24, 1905

Maria M. Fisher
Mother of Mrs. E. Whipple
Born June 24, 1828
Died June 25, 1895

Mary Pauline
S\daughter of Emily and Edwin Whipple
March 22, 1901-July 11, 1901

Izobel Whipple 1882-1937	
Emily F. Whipple 1857-1934	Edwin Whipple 1842-1929

Charles Whipple	
Born May 15, 1833	Died Jan 28, 1904

Charlotte Hawley Whipple
Born March 10, 1840
Died July 10, 1883

John C. Whipple 1880-1931	Edith H. Whipple 1885-1972
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Doris J. Whipple	1892-1988
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Arthur L. Whipple	1887 – 1967
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Zady Whipple	1825 – 1915
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Annis Whipple	1822-1914
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Eleanor Whipple	1838-1922
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Rufus Whipple	1835 – 1921
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Rose Henion Whipple 1851-1883

HISTORY PRESENTATIONS

Cabello Elementary School teaches local history to the 3rd graders. Four groups of students consisting of 20 each group came on June 3 and June 4, 2004 and had a tour of the Museum. **Myrla Raymundo** gave the history presentation to the eighty- (80) children. The children had fun, especially when we took their pictures riding the antique fire truck. The following were the teachers: **Ernest Gerke, Alexandra Schwerin, Lynn De Forest, and Jennifer Hefferman**

ALL ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Al Minard works hard for the Alameda County Historical Society and he and **Regina Dennie** are leaders of the Washington Township Historical Society.

Mani Patel works as an engineer and **Rallie Cruz**, as an architect. **Leoncio Islaya, Jose Calub** and **Francisco (Kit) Santos** are retired engineers.

Jose Calub is a Director of the Filipino Seniors in Oakland, **Aurora Calub** is the Treasurer and **Myrla Raymundo**, the Board Secretary.

Myrla Raymundo heads the Union City Friends of the Library, she is the President, **Ethel Alt**, the Secretary and **Diane Cisneros**, the Vice-President .

Tessie Gatan is the Board Secretary, **Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo** and **Georgia Megue dela Cruz** are Directors of the Board and **Myrla Raymundo** is the President of the Filipino American Association of Alameda County.

We have commissioners in our midst. They are **Dom Filardo, Eva Kamakea,**

Hugh McNamara, Jo Ann Lew, Cathy Sweeney, Diane LaMountaine, Gina Lewis, Josephine Pando, Miles Price (former), **Fred Castro** (former), and **Dave Bhatia** (former), **John Tester** (former), **Phil Verzola** (former), **Tony Vierra** (former) **Georgia Megue dela Cruz** (County) and **Myrla Raymundo** (County)

Richard Valle is our councilmember and **Tom Kitayama** was our mayor for 35 years. **Mark Leonard** is our Community Development Director

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM

Tony Jacques of 1907 H Street, Union City, came to the Museum. He said that he came here when he was five (5) years old. His dad Tony Sr., age 80, and his mom Rebecca are from New Mexico. They settled at 11th Street in Decoto and then moved to H Street in 1969. Tony worked for Pacific States Steel and Holly Sugar Mill. He said that the owner of the old barbershop in Decoto was their landlord and the Canning Factory was located across their house. He was born on December 6, 1945 and is 58 years old. He will try to bring some artifacts for the Museum.

Steve Rigmaiden, whose ancestors owned the old Riverside Hotel in Alvarado, came for a visit. The hotel is no longer existing. An apartment complex is now in its place. His father and uncles Charles, William, Richard and Antuan will tell this writer their story.

Robert Garfinkle, community leader and former Union City councilmember paid a visit to the Museum. Welcome, Bob!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Thank you for your confidence in voting for me as your President for the next term. I will do my very best to help the Museum to the direction it is supposed to go, based on the Museum's mission and objectives.

I am therefore announcing my strategic plans for the term. I hope the Officers, Board of Directors, and members will support me towards the completion of the tasks listed in my strategic plan.

- Membership Committee. Conduct membership drive to increase membership and follow up on renewals from old members.
- History Presentation. Coordinate with the school district on the ongoing presentation of history to schoolchildren at the Museum.
- Museum Artifacts. Rearrangement of the displays and artifacts.
- Grants. Develop a grant to IMLS (Federal).
- Develop the Video presentation of the history of Union City, the Oral History, the Historical Homes and Buildings and the Museum Artifacts.
- Continuous Press Releases
- Continue Publication of the Museum Newsletter

- Historic Preservation Program. Revive the "10 HOMES A MONTH".
- Develop the Mills Act for Union City
- Continuous training of docents.
- Enhance the Museum Website.
- Full participation in housekeeping (general upkeep, purchasing cleaning materials, office supplies, printing supplies.)

LIGFINIO (RAY) RAYMUNDO

Editor's Note.....

Ray Raymundo comes to the Union City Historical Museum top position carrying with him a lot of experiences.

Ray retired from the U. S. Naval Station Fire Department in Subic Bay, Philippines as a Fire Training Chief. He had 17 years of experience in the Fire Department.

He studied Agriculture from the University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Laguna and Foreign Service in the Far Eastern University in Manila.

He came to the United States settling in Union City, California with his family in 1971.

He had plenty of community involvement such as Founder and President of the Olongapo-Subic Bay Association, Director of the Filipino-American Council of Union City, Director of the Filipino-American Association of Alameda County and Director of the Union City Historical Museum.

He is married to Myrla Raymundo for 46 years and have two grown sons, Dante and Dennis and a daughter-in-law Barbara.

FOUNDER'S NOTES

In 1998 the Union City Council adopted the Landmark and Historic Preservation (LHP) overlay zone.

The purpose of the ordinance was to provide the City with a process that would allow the protection, enhancement, and perpetuation and use of structures, sites and areas that are reminders of past eras, events, and persons important in local, state, or national history, or which provide significant examples of architectural styles of the past or are landmarks in the history of architecture or are unique and irreplaceable assets to the City and its neighborhoods, or which provide for this and future generations examples of the physical surrounding in which past generations lived.

In 1999 the City contracted with the Architectural Resources Group (ARD) to survey historically and culturally significant sites in Union City. The survey was done with the help of the Union City Historical Museum, who collected data and photographed a significant number of the properties that ARD then organized and cataloged. Around 400 homes are now included in the survey.

The Museum submits homes to the city for approval of the designation. With the

distinction, property owners are limited on what renovations can be made.

Of the 400 homes that we collected as historical, only 13 homes are under the LHP overlay zone and are protected from demolition. They are listed as follows:

- 30947 Vallejo Street – August May House
- 4214 Horner Street – Former Alvarado Presbyterian Church
- 3848-3850 Smith Street – Former Barbershop, pool hall and store
- 3938-3840 Smith Street – Dinsmore-Granger General Store
- 3939 Smith Street – Filipino Community Senior Center
- 31014 Union City boulevard – former Bank
- 30971 Watkins Street – single family Residence
- 33703 13th Street
- 33555 2nd Street
- 33655 5th Street
- 33631 9th Street
- 33121 Alvarado Niles Road – Mary Sa House
- 33831 10th Street

A sinister force is right now working slowly, but surely, destroying our cultural heritage. Even with our hard work to save these historical structures, if the city will not help, the rich developers will rule. Pretty soon, there will not be a trace of our history.

I urged the city and our residents to help us preserve our cultural heritage.

This is our third component of the Union City Historical Museum, the **PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL HOMES.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FY2004-2005:

Myrla Raymundo, *Founder*

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo, *President*

Mani Patel, *Vice-President*

Dave Bhatia, *Secretary*

Hugh McNamara, *Treasurer*

Directors- (2-years) FY2004-2006

Miles Price

Al Rose

Barbara Friedrich

Al Minard

Directors –(1-year) FY2004-2005

Lupe St. Denis

Margaret Shepard

Bruce Hevelin

Rallie Cruz

Teresita Gatan

Past Presidents

Myrla Raymundo

Timothy Swenson

MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS

Phil & Leila Verzola

John & Cathy Tester

Timothy & Catherine Swenson

Eva Kamakea

Georgia Megue & Mike dela Cruz

Ligfinio (Ray) & Myrla Raymundo

Gina Lewis

Reiner & Sheryl Glausch

Al & Marsha Badella

Barbara Schiefler

William & Dorothy Hubbard

Bob & Leslie Swartz

Steve Miller & Diane LaMountaine

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Josephine Pando

Cora Green

Fred Rosales

Jose Calub

Aurora Calub

Josepatro Bailen

Herminia Bailen

Leoncio Islaya

Maggie Islaya

Francisco Santos

Allen Cecil

Simona Cecil

Dom Filardo

Sofio Orias

Balbir Singh

Julieta Realiza

MUSEUM DOCENTS

We're calling on the Museum members to help us. If you're available on any of the days that we are open, please call Barbara Friedrich at the Museum.

HISTORY PRESENTATION

The history of Union City is being presented at the Union City Historical Museum on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Please come to the Museum and learn more about our city.

**EDITORIAL BOARD
FY 2004-2006**

Myrla Raymundo

Barbara Friedrich

Jo Ann Lew

Miles Price

Ray Raymundo (Layout
Artist/Production)

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