

UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Founded by Myrla 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 Board meets on the first Monday of the month at the Museum at 7 PM**

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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.

CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

Union City Fire Chief

By Myrla Raymundo

Carlos Rodriguez, 53, is Union City's new Fire Chief. He was recently Chief of Fire and Emergency Medical Services for Teton County, Wyoming.

He said, "It is a new day in the Union City Fire Department. We honor the

past and look forward to the future. Let us celebrate; we are moving forward."

Carlos Rodriguez' goal is to produce stability and trust; produce team building; work on conflict management and work on reaching consensus on what we need to be doing. Chief Rodriguez also believes this is the foundation of a healthy business environment.

His parents are originally from Costa Rica, Central America and grew up in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles.

In his younger years, in 1970, as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, he was sent to training to the 1000 Men Camp at the U. S. Naval Base in Subic Bay, Philippines. For two months, he had "Jungle Environmental Training" in the mountains and jungles and learned a lot about the "Negritos", the first

aborigines of the Philippines. The Negritos are government-protected people and they live in the mountains of Zambales, Philippines. He had a chance to learn about this group of people and how they have survived in a jungle environment. When he left, he was presented with a gift, an intricate bolo knife made and carved by the Negritos.

Carlos attended Cogswell College in Sunnyvale and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Administration. He also possesses a Master of Science Degree in Organizational Management.

After an Honorable Discharge from the Marine Corps, he became one of the original Paramedics to be licensed in Los Angeles County (#120). In 1975, he was hired to assist in the implementation of the San Mateo County Paramedic Program as a Regional Supervisor Paramedic. He worked closely with the Cities of So. San Francisco, San Bruno, Brisbane, Pacifica and San Francisco to make the program a success.

In 1995, he led both the Fire and Police Departments for the City of Hollister.

In 1998, he was both Fire Chief and Airport Director for the City of Visalia, California, a City of 105,000 people.

In 2004, and after a national search, he was hired by Teton County, Wyoming, who was looking for a Chief that could make the merger of all county fire departments and the emergency medical services have a successful start. It was a highly charged, controversial and emotional as this was the biggest change in emergency services in Teton County's history.

Chief Rodriguez owes his success to the constant support of his wife and children and by establishing a balance in life that includes a careful balance between his "personal, business and spiritual" life.

His wife Carol was a firefighter from 1989 through 1995. They met in the fire service. She attended the University of San Diego to become a Marine Biologist and is currently an entrepreneur and operating two very successful businesses. Carol is also a world traveled avid diver.

Carlos and wife Carol, who had been married for eleven (11) years, have three children, Monica 12, Joshua 10 and Christopher 3 ½ years old.

Their future plan is a trip to Fiji to further experience the underwater world and to introduce diving to their daughter Monica who is now old enough to experience this sport.

Carlos Rodriguez plans to stick around as Chief of the Union City Fire Department for many years and wants to give back to the community.

We welcome our new Fire Chief, Carlos Rodriguez.

WELCOME
TO
UNION CITY.

CHIEF RODRIGUEZ

RICHARD FOLGER

By Myrla Raymundo

Today, Dick Folger sits in a beautiful and cozy office at FolgerGraphics, located at 2339 Davis Avenue in Hayward. He is the President of FolgerGraphics, Inc.

An impressive and colorful brochure located at the Reception Office states: "FolgerGraphics is unique because we are a graphic design and prepress shop, a publications web printer, a sheet-fed printer, a full service bindery and a mailer-all under one roof. By controlling all these processes we are better able to efficiently produce your job and meet your deadlines."

Dick Folger is not new in this business. He is well known in Union City as the Editor and Publisher of the Union City newspaper "The Leader." "The Leader" started in October 22, 1959 and had a heavy circulation not only in Union City, but also in neighboring cities. We still have the old newspaper in the Union City Historical Museum. Here we learned a lot of happenings during that period. After 15 years in May of 1973, the business folded.

But having the printing and publishing business in Dick's heart, he went back to the business. This time, he produced other papers such as the Catholic Voice, school newsletters and other publications.

Dick had his printing business in three different locations before settling in the highly specialized printing and publications office in the present location in 1989. The whole area is impressive with highly specialized equipment.

Dick Folgers was born on February 14, 1934 in Indiana. Pat was born in San Francisco on October 31, 1933. He and Pat got married on May 18, 1957. They met in the Bay Area when they were both studying at San Jose College, in San Jose, California.

Before moving to Hayward, Dick and his family lived in Fremont. In March 1996, Pat went back to school and took a Masters Degree in Music. With her expertise, Pat performs in different Senior Centers, the Hayward School District and different Convalescent Hospitals.

On Sundays, Dick officiates in masses at the Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Union City, as a Deacon. He was ordained on September 26, 1987.

Dick and Pat have six children. The oldest son, Mark is a Franciscan brother, Suzanne is Head of the Fremont Surgical Center, Michelle is a housewife and mother, Erik lives in Indiana and does auto racing job, Kirk is vice president of Folgers Graphics and Myke is managing editor of CEO Magazine in Washington State. They have 10 grandchildren.

His connection to Union City residents is his fifteen years of producing the newspaper "The Leader". He and Pat have made a lot of friends and acquaintances in Union City. He said that when he started the newspaper, the population of Union City was only 6,143; now it is 70,000. He considers himself part of Union City because his place of residence is still part of the New Haven Unified School District and his church is the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Union City.

Come and visit the Union City Historical Museum if you want to know what happened years back. They are all in the back issues of the newspaper "The Leader", published by Dick Folger.

The Union City LEADER

Thumbing through the old issues of the yellowing copies of the Union City LEADER, donated by Publisher Dick Folger, I learned a lot of the history of Union City.

The issue of September 22, 1972 tells us about the article "100,000 Ride Bart in First 5 Days." BART General Manager B. R. Stokes said, "We opened Monday with 18 cars in service and were able to put as many as 22 cars in service to handle combined loads of commuters and excursion riders during the week." BART tickets in any amount from 30 cents to \$20 are sold by vending machines in each station. The machines dispense a credit-card size, magnetically encoded ticket usable for a single ride or again and again until its value is used up.

Meyers Sisters donated entire ranch for Dry Creek Park. The seldom seen and often mysterious Meyers sisters of Union City have donated a 1,255-acre ranch to the East Bay Regional Park district.

The issue of September 29, 1972 tells us about Phase 1 of Union City's New downtown getting underway. William E. Moore, President of Kelly-Moore Paint Company and developer, together with Union City Mayor Don Miller and Chamber of Commerce President Dick Andrade, turned the first spadeful of dirt symbolically breaking ground on Phase 1 construction of Union Square, Union City's new central business district. Union Square is located at the intersection of Decoto and Alvarado-Niles Road. The location is adjacent to Union City's BART station.

In the Issue of October 6, 1972, Larry Orozco wrote about the Union City Football Action. Exploding for 13 points in the first quarter, the Bengals of Union City beat a tough Jet team, 13-8, to remain undefeated thus far (3-0). This had to be the most crucial game of that Saturday's encounters in light flag play.

Folgers Opens Doors with Reception today - Folger Publications, publishers of the Union City Leader, will hold the official grand opening ceremonies at their new location which houses both the business offices and the printing plant at 33333 Western Avenue today at 3 p.m. The firm, under the direction of Richard Folger, has been a part of the Union City community for 13 years as of October 22, 1972.

FRANK BORGHI
By Frank Borghi

schools west of Alvarado Blvd. Governor Pat Brown and I broke ground for the Del Valle Dam.

We were fortunate to have active school superintendents in the early 1920's. Supt. Runckles became concerned with the large pumping of water at the corner of Hesperian Blvd. and Industrial Blvd. because it was lowering the underground water level. With the help of the Patterson's, they formed the Alameda County Water District, which supplies water to the Tri-City area and also became involved in Water Conservation. The District has four (4) supplies of water, the State Water Project, City of San Francisco, and local water that we percolate and desalinate on.

I served on the Board of Directors for 32 years. In the '60s, the school districts in the Tri-City were unified. I served on the County Committee for re-districting schools with Guy Warren who owned the Warren Trucking Co., off of Mission Blvd. and D Street in Union City. Trustee Warren and I were able to move to make the formation of the Fremont Unified and Newark Unified Districts.

Alvarado and Decoto became a dilemma because they did not want five (5) trustees at large. Finally, Guy and I were able to get consensus with a trustee from Alvarado, Wilbert Hendricks, to have one (1) trustee from Alvarado and four (4) from Decoto.

When more homes were built in Alvarado, citizens from Alvarado petitioned the County Board to have all trustees elected at large. When Fremont and Newark were unified in the late 1950's, James Logan High School remained as the high school for the

My name is Frank Borghi. I have lived in Union City all my life and have been an active citizen.

My mother was born above Sunol in the vicinity of Calaveras Dam. In 1902, when work was commenced in the construction of the Calaveras Dam, my grandparents moved to the Salz Ranch along Whipple Rd. They told me about the 1906 Earthquake that left fences and electric poles leaning, and about the 1911 flood. They could hear the roar of water down Niles Canyon that flooded the area west of Highway 17 from old Alvarado to Milpitas. Newark was spared. In 1902, barges would move up Alameda Creek and pick up grain and vegetables in Alvarado and Niles. In early 1903 the Patterson Bros. built a levee along Lowry Road to the Bay so that the silt from flooding would enrich their properties now known as Ardenwood. With water now being diverted, the creek in the Alvarado area became silted and there was no longer barge traffic.

On January 26, 1954, I was co-chairman of the Zone 5 Flood Control Committee that was approved by the Tri-City voters for Flood Control. I also co-chaired the Zone 7 Flood Control Committee for Livermore Valley in 1959. This action created the construction of homes and

students from the Alvarado and Decoto area to attend, but still remained as the Washington High School District.

There was \$500,000 in "After-School Recreation Activities Fund" at W.U.H.S. and the faculty at the old W.U.H.S. District wanted to use the money toward teacher-salaries. Knowing that this money could only be used for recreational activities, I was able to persuade the staff and fellow board members to build a swimming pool at James Logan High School, Irvington High School and Newark High School.

I served the board approximately ten (10) years. On the Washington Unified School Board and the New Haven Unified School Board, Bill Walsh was hired when I was a trustee.

We had a sewer plant in Alvarado and one in Decoto. The City of Fremont, having the largest area, wanted to take over the Union Sanitary District so Alvarado Sanitary District and Decoto Sanitary District joined the Union Sanitary District to stop the City of Fremont take over – many cities would have liked to control these services and could have raised rates to use these monies for city operations.

In the late 50's, Hayward filed an annexation map taking in American Pipe, Holly Sugar and the Steel Mill. I was appointed Chairman of the Anti-annexation Committee. With the help of Engineer Charles Pestana, we drew an Anti-annexation Map. In one weekend, we circulated petitions and had every property owner and business owners sign the petition. We presented the petition to the Board of Supervisors and the Annexation was stopped. We then

had a meeting in Alvarado and Decoto School Auditoriums and the people supported the idea to become a city, however, the industries opposed it.

After months of indecision, Ken Garcia, Wilbert Hendricks, George Hocking, Manuel Hidalgo and I decided to split committees. Ken, Wilbert, George and Manuel moved ahead with city incorporation and I moved ahead in asking Fremont to annex the Alvarado-Decoto area. On learning of this back room decision - the City of Hayward realizing that the City of Fremont was asked to annex the Alvarado-Decoto area - the City of Hayward immediately filed annexation papers to annex the three industries, American Pipe, Holly Sugar and Pacific States Steel by strip annexation. The three industries, on hearing the new annexation plan, moved forward by asking Nick Ratekin, Oscar Dowe and their attorneys to meet with Fire Chief Alvin Rose at the Alvarado Fire Department. They asked Alvin Rose if the people in the Alvarado-Decoto area wanted to incorporate into a city. Alvin said "definitely". Ratekin and Dowe then asked Fire Chief Rose if he would circulate the incorporation papers with the help of the Alvarado and Decoto Fire Department volunteers. Over the weekend, Chief Rose and his crew circulated the petitions and sufficient signatures were gathered. On Monday morning, Chief Rose, Nick Ratekin, Oscar Dowe and the attorneys presented the petitions to the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County. The Board of Supervisors approved the petition and we became UNION CITY.

<p>HISTORIC VISITS FROM THE DECOTO OLDTIMERS</p>

CECILIA CASAREZ GARCIA

Cecilia Casarez Garcia, 73, lived in the Decoto area for 48 years. She and her husband Vicente Casarez, who passed away in 1976, have three (3) children. They are Mireya Casarez, 49, a teacher in the Alvarado Middle School, Rosa Maria, 44, a manager, and Dora Cecilia, 40, also a manager in Hayward.

All her children went to Decoto School, Barnard White and James Logan High School. Cecilia has eight (8) grandchildren.

She retired in 1996. She worked for a total of 37 years at different employments, Macys, Cannery in Treasure Island and Libby's Cannery.

She loves to crochet and sew clothes.

She belongs to the Ladies Guild Women's Association at the Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Decoto.

She remembers the vast agricultural lands, the peaches, the cucumbers and she remembers the incorporation of the City of Union City.

MARIA GONZALES

Maria Gonzales, 78, moved to 9th Street in Decoto in 1964. Her husband of 51 years passed away in 1998.

Together they have eight (8) children, Maria, 56; Felipe de Jesus, 55, who fought in Vietnam; Jose Luis; Anna Berta; Martha, who lives in Suisun City; Jorge; Maria Elena and Fernando.

The children all went to Decoto School and James Logan High School.

Maria has 18 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

She retired from work at Joseph Magnin in 1988.

She is a member of the Ladies Guild Women's Association at the Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Decoto and she loves to crochet on her past time.

We welcome these Decoto old timers to the Union City Historical Museum. They will join us in our Fundraising Trip to the Casinos.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

continue to send your articles to Myrla Raymundo for the Newsletter.

Website – Tim Swenson, Chairperson – Tim Swenson is continuously working on the Museum Web Site.

Preservation of Historic Homes and Buildings – Myrla Raymundo, Chairperson – We need a dedicated person to help in this part of the Museum Component.

History Presentations - Myrla Raymundo - Continuous walking tours around the Museum and Presentation of History to schoolchildren and visitors.

Artifacts – Ray Raymundo and some volunteers who are on duty in the Museum are taking care of the artifacts that are continually coming in the museum.

We continue to work towards the Museum's goals and objectives. I would like to thank the officers and members who are helping us on this aspect.

Please continue to support me and the Museum in meeting our sole purpose, to record and save the history of Union City.

Here are the reports of those who are continually working towards our goals.

Grants – Myrla Raymundo, Chairperson – We are still waiting for approval of the Institute of Museum and Library Services-IMLS Grant 2006 and the CCHE California Cultural & Historical Endowment, Round Two.

Fundraising – Miles Price, Chairperson The Casino Trip Fundraising is scheduled on April 1, 2006, Saturday. Please support us on this venture by joining us in the trip.

Membership – Hugh McNamara, Chairperson and Myrla Raymundo received new members and are continuously doing membership drives.

Docents – Ray Raymundo -The Museum is continually recruiting docents to help in the Museum.

Museum Newsletter – Myrla Raymundo, Chairperson. Please

<p>GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – May 8, 2006 Monday</p>

The Election of Officers will be held on May 8, 2006, Monday at 7:00 PM at the Museum. The term of office of the officers will be from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 and the directors, from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008.

If you desire to be part of the Museum leadership, please call the Museum at 324-3298 by April 30, 2006. Please leave a message and we will call you back.

<p>FOUNDER'S NOTES</p>

“BENEFITS OF MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP”

Do you know of friends and relatives who are not yet members of the very first museum in Union City, the Union City Historical Museum?

The Union City Historical Museum, located at 3841 Smith in the old Alvarado district, is the best thing that happened in our city. The Museum acts as a reminder of the past culture and heritage of Union City and also acts as the chronicler of everyday happenings in our midst.

The Museum, through the Museum Newsletter and the Museum web site, also tells us about our local government, transportation in our city, new developments, education in our schools, and how they impact our lives.

We also can savor the stories told by our residents who had seen a lot of changes in our city, our city officials and staff who take care of our city and other people who willingly tell us their stories through the Museum’s Oral History component.

Through the “Walk Through History Presentation” in the Museum, we learn a lot of our city’s history.

To name a few:

The Hellwig Brothers’ butcher shop, located on Union City Blvd, in Old Alvarado, was known all over the Washington Township. Hellwig meat was consumed all over the area.

The F. C. Harvey & Co. store on Smith Street is now Bronco Billy’s Pizza Parlor.

The Alvarado Hotel, located on Smith Street, was originally built in 1863 by Henry Smith. It was the center of the Alvarado community, serving as a town square where folks gathered to visit. The building is still in existence.

The Riverside Hotel, built by Farley B. Granger around 1861, was once located on New Haven Street close to the train depot. The hotel catered to rail travelers since it was less than 50 yards from the train station. It was a place of “refreshment, physical and spiritual,” according to a chronicle of the times. An apartment complex now occupies the place where the hotel used to be.

The Alvarado Theater on Smith Street in Alvarado gave much pleasure to the residents during that time. The building is no longer existing.

These are knowledge that you can acquire by coming to the Museum. These are the benefits of being members of the Museum.

So why not tell your friends and relatives to apply for membership soon? Attached is an Application for Museum Membership. Please fill it out and send to the Museum at 3841, Smith St., Union City, CA 94587.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Myrla Raymundo, Founder

Officers FY2005 -2006

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo, President
Mani Patel, Vice-President
Hugh McNamara, Treasurer

Directors – 2004-2006

Miles Price
Al Rose
Al Minard

Directors- 2005-2007

Margaret Shepard
Teresita Gatan
Timothy Swenson

Past Presidents

Myrla Raymundo
Timothy Swenson

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 the Museum at (510) 324-3298.

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gerald Delgado
Geraldine Delgado

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 Scheifler
William & Dorothy Hubbard
Bob & Leslie Swartz
Steve Miller & Diane LaMountaine
Fernando & Helen Cabiles
Allen & Simona Cecil
Josephine Pando
Frank, Jr. & Elvamae Borghi

**EDITORIAL BOARD
FY 2005-2007**

Myrla Raymundo, Editor

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Miles Price
Teresita Gatan
Aurora Rabuy

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo
(Layout Artist/Production)

MUSEUM DOCENTS

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