

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 quarterly at the Museum at 7 PM

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Myrla Raymundo, Founding Editor/Writer

e-mail RAYMYR@aol.com

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.

DECOTO TEEN WORKSHOP

By JJ Amaya

JJAmaya photo

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•m•a•n•y• local friends. He
specifically stated that many of them
were local Mexican men that would
bring their guitars and sit with his father
in the office area to sing, talk and
socialize. His memory sharpened with
the time he sat there with me. He
recalled the layout of the office area in
descriptions that took him back to a
time, which bonded him, closer with his
father. "The cash box was about here
and there was an old couch about there
and a display over there" and "Yes, we
did give out S& H Green Stamps and
Blue Chips Stamps as well."

Mr. Hinton recalled that the work was
not easy and he recalled working long
hours. He spent many hours in wrecking
yards salvaging used tires. He would
then ring them to the station and break
them down and separate the rims from
the tires. The tires were resold and the
rims usually went to the Steel Mill as
scrap metal. He shared that he earned
about \$100.00 a week.

He said, "We had a lot of really good
customers and remembers that many of
the locals had established credit with his
father and that would come by on
payday to settle up with him." He
recalls those days living in Decoto as
very peaceful and a pleasant part of his

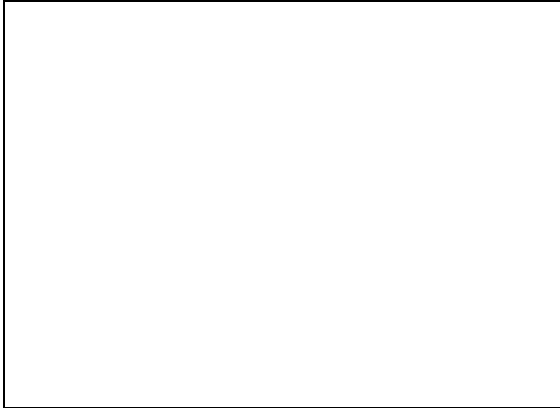
life. He said that they were never
broken into nor were they ever robbed.

Mr. Hinton recalled selling the tires for
\$5.25 with tax included for most of them
and as much as \$9-\$10 for the really
good ones. He said that he remembered
driving several blocks into Decoto to
purchase parts for the cars they repaired.

As we took a tour of the facility he
recalled that the bathroom was in a
different place as it used to be at the rear
of the office and he said that he recalled
storing parts and other items in the rear
rooms. He said it had not changed much
more than that. He did recall having to
run the days receipts to the bank in
Niles.

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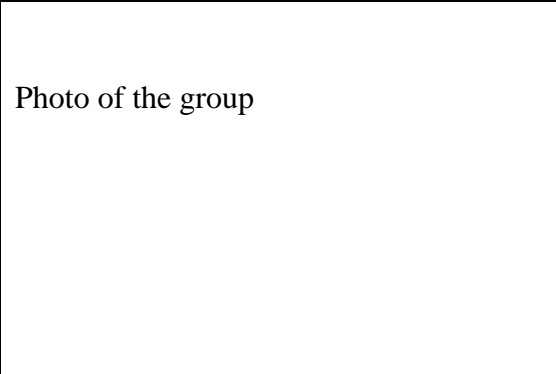


A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY (1997)

Union City was once the home of Costanoan Indians. In 1850 it began developing when farmers and traders settled in the area. Henry Smith established a general store. From there a village grew.

Because of its key role in the East Bay, Alvarado became the county seat when Alameda County was established in 1852.

It became the site of the first successful beet sugar mill. Low transportation costs and the nearby Alvarado Dock on Alameda Creek made it a significant shipping port for the area's produce.



In 1959, the towns of Alvarado and Decoto was incorporated and was named Union City. Today, the community comprises industrial parks, residential areas and commercial development.

Union City has small manufacturing plants and gladiola nurseries. There are beautiful flowers all along Mission Blvd. and by the Drive-In theater.

Union City also has its own bus service, UC Transit, which connects to AC Transit and BART.

Population, which is 58,300, is diverse. Residents are whites, blacks, Asians, and Hispanics.

**UNION CITY GOVERNMENT
1997**

After all these years.....

Let us not forget the city leaders who had served Union City in prior years. Some of them are still in office; some had gone to other ventures. Some Union City streets were named after our city officials. We wish them good luck.



City Council

Mark Green, Mayor
Robert Garfinkle, Vice-Mayor
Council Members:
Alice Arce
Manny Fernandez
Benjamin Elias

City Manager

Mark Lewis

Asst City Manager

Tom Tynes

City Attorney

Gary Galliano

Community Development Director

Mark Leonard

Public Works Director

Larry Cheeves

Police Chief

Al Guzman

Economic Development Director

Susan McCue

Commissions/Boards

Planning Commission

Myrla Raymundo, Chairwoman
Carol Dutra Vernaci, Vice Chairwoman
Cathi Sweeney
Elizabeth Ames

Sunjay Nair
Balbir Singh
Lynn Mattos

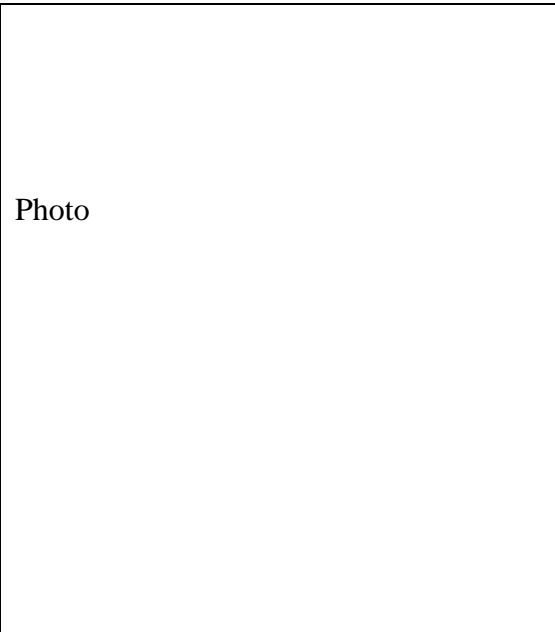
Park and Recreation Commission

John Tester, Chairman
Mandy Kleykamp, Vice Chairwoman
Anna Riotoc
Walt Fryar
Daniel Rivera
Gina Lewis
Patricia Anne Morgan

Human Relations Commission

Pat Gacoscos, Chairwoman
Cornelius Hall, Vice Chairman
Fouad Modjarrad
John Hernandez
Yolanda Triana
Hardev Grewal
Georgia Santa Maria

JAMES LOGAN
Southern Alameda County Pioneer



New frontiers! A new land with possibilities for a better life. Such was the dream of youth from foreign lands. This dream that beckoned so many to America in the early days still goes on today.

It was in the year 1882 that a young man of eighteen years by the name of James Logan left his home and family in County Derry, Northern Ireland, and set sail for America. He came to live with his relatives, the Joseph McKeowns, who had settled in Newark, California in 1860 and purchased their farm.

Alvarado was a true pioneer town and was the County Seat for Alameda County in 1853. It was a farming community where potatoes, pink and white beans, onions and sugar beets were raised in abundance. The latter supplied the Alameda Sugar Mill, built in Alvarado in 1869. The crops were limited to these summer plantings because of the floods from the Alameda Creek in the winter. This flooding, however, did make for a rich soil.

James Logan was reared a staunch Scotch-Irish Presbyterian and was faithful in his regular attendance at the Alvarado Presbyterian Church. It was there he met his future wife, Rebecca Jane Kerr, who immigrated from her home in Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland. She came to live with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kerr, who owned the farm next to the McKeowns. This was a one hundred acre farm, purchased in 1865.

After James and Rebecca's marriage in 1894, the young couple was asked to come and make their permanent home on the Kerr farm; a house was provided for them. James took over much of the farming operation and Rebecca continued to help her aunt and uncle who had no children of their own. It was their faithfulness and devotion to the Kerrs that prompted them to later bequeath their farm to James and Rebecca and their offspring.

Mr. and Mrs. Logan eventually had twelve children, nine boys and six girls, who all lived to adulthood, and today there are nine alive and well.

This was a family that taught that each son and daughter had duties to perform to make this family operation a success; also, the protection of the family's good name was instilled into its members.

Regular church attendance and hard work were encouraged, but fun was important, too. Once a year the big beet wagon was filled with hay and happy children and Mr. Logan with his two-horse team drove to Niles Canyon for the Sunday school picnic.

Photo

Mr. Logan, besides being a strict disciplinarian, was a very kind man. He believed that some of the bounty of their farm was to be shared. The family was accustomed to seeing callers come for a gift of potatoes, onions and beans. Older folks in Alvarado found a friend in him, too.

Mr. and Mrs. Logan loved their home in America and it was soon after taking up residence in Alvarado that their citizenship status was established. They took seriously their civic duties, church responsibilities, and lodge activities.

After a number of years of financial success from the farm and strict economy, the family added to their agricultural interests a very productive fruit orchard in Decoto, next to the John Whipple ranch. This provided some of the young people of the family with summer work picking berries and apricots.

Flooding of the farmlands of Alvarado and Decoto, spoken of earlier, was finally brought under control by the establishment of a successful Flood Control District. This was important because it enabled the farmers to plant two crops a year, and one was accustomed to seeing flourishing crops of tomatoes, cucumbers, cauliflower, celery and carrots growing in this fertile soil.

School attendance was very important in the family. The children attended Alvison and Alvarado Elementary Schools. The older children walked two and a half miles to school; the younger ones had a pony and cart provided.

The twelve children went on to become graduates of Centerville High School or the new Washington Union High School which supplanted the older Centerville High School.

Further education and training followed in preparation for their life's work. Three of the da

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Union City was incorporated in 1959. A group of enthusiastic residents helped to make our city a Union City.

As such, Union City will be celebrating its golden anniversary in 2009. A committee is now working to make this event a successful and a memorable one.

An organization, a 501(c)3 non-profit public benefit corporation, is formed. The name is "Union City, California Golden Anniversary Celebration."

The corporation will assist in the planning and organization of and to raise and expend funds for the City of Union City's Golden Anniversary Celebration in the year 2009, in coordination and cooperation with the City of Union City, the Union City Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations and individuals.

There are various committees that were formed and need enthusiastic members to help in the next three years. The Committees are: Marketing and Fund Raising; Historical Documents, Tours and Lectures; Diversity Festival/Food; Entertainment/Faith Based Event; Musical Event; and Gala Event.

Events will include food, music, dance, parades, sports, history and visual arts.

We are calling people to share their expertise in the following areas: website development, marketing, graphic & logo design, fundraising, non-profit formation, printing, event organizing, oral and written histories and photos and clippings.

FOUNDER'S NOTES

UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA. GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Union City Historical Museum is tasked with the committee "Historical Documents, Tours and Lectures." This Committee will present historical documents and conduct tours and lectures to residents and guests.

We will use our creative imagination to assemble a series of historical documents, record interviews, observe continuous events and happenings and present historical homes and buildings.

If you are someone with expertise in history, we need you to be one of our members. Please call Myrla Raymundo, Chairperson of the Committee Historical Documents, Tours and Lectures at the Museum, 324-3298 or at (510) 489-0133.

Let us make this 50th celebration a successful and memorable one.

MYRLA RAYMUNDO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CONSTRUCTION, INC)

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 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.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FY 2005-2007

Myrla Raymundo, Editor

Jo Ann Lew

Miles Price

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo (Layout
Artist)

**Union City Historical Museum
3841 Smith Street
Union City, California 94587**

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