

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**

VOL. 10 NO. 4

January 2009

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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.



Miles J. Price

**December 27, 1922 – November 4,
2008**

Miles J. Price died peacefully on November 4, 2008 at the age of 85.

Miles was a charter member of the Union City Historical Museum. He was a Museum Director and did a lot of work for the improvement of the Museum. Since the Museum opened, he diligently manned the Museum every Thursday morning. He did fundraising and was in the Museum Newsletter Editorial Board.

Miles was the author of several books about the City of Union City.

Miles also served as a Senior Commissioner for the City of Union City and was an officer of the Union City Senior Association.

A long-term resident and active member of Union City, he was born in Seattle, Washington.



Miles' parents Miles Price, Sr. and Gertrude Price are both deceased. He is the nephew of former King County Sheriff Harlan Callahan. Miles spent his childhood on or near Lake Washington ice skating in the winter and boating and swimming in the summer.

He served his country during WWII in the Army until October 1945. Discharged at Fort Lewis, Washington, he completed his high school education and graduated from Washington State College in May 1949.

Miles has degrees in BSW and MSW as well as a BA. While in graduate school, he met his future wife Rita.



He was a retired social worker and worked in the field of social work for over 30 years in Canada, US Virgin Islands, Hawaii, Washington State and California. Miles was married for 55 years.

In retirement, he pursued his many hobbies, such as writing and volunteering at the Union City Historical Museum. He was particularly happy with the creation of the Ralph and Mary Ruggieri Senior Center for which the main hall is named after him. He is survived by his wife, two children

Roland Price and Marney Parker, and two grandchildren John Price and Regina Nesper.



We will surely miss you!

Miles J. Price.

May you rest in peace! Flowers for you, Miles!



**UNION CITY ORGANIZATIONS
OF LONG AGO**

DECOTO DISCUSSION GROUP - **Leontine (Tina) Costa** was a member of the Decoto Discussion Group, established on September 16, 1938. The group's objective was to bring the women of the community closer together to broaden their lives intellectually and socially. During the war 1942-1944, Leontine was named chairman of the scrapbook program sponsored by USO, Scrapbooks. The scrapbooks were made and sent to the men from Decoto who were serving in the war.

WELCOME WAGON CLUB - A Welcome Wagon Club, a non-profit organization, was established in Union City on May 27, 1971. The idea was originated by **Mary Lucido** and **Cleis Jordon**. There were 14 original members. The club, which operated from 1971 through 1992, was open to all newcomers who lived in Union City no more than three years in the area. Rita Price, Margaret Shepard, Elvamae Borghi and Ruth Orozco were club officers

THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COUNCIL OF UNION CITY, INC IN THE 80's - The Filipino-American Council of Union City, Inc. was an association of Filipino Americans residing in Union City. The organization organized in the 90's, put Filipinos under one umbrella, established linkages among them in the community, developed a continuous source of help among them, promoted leadership development, and developed friendships among the Filipinos in the area. **Pat Gacoscos** was President and Myrla **Raymundo** was Vice-President.

NEW IN THE MUSEUM

HISTORY OF THE TRI-CITY

**(Fremont, Newark, Union City) and
Hayward**

Read all about the history of the Tri-City area (Fremont, Newark, Union City) and Hayward in the Museum.

Myrla Raymundo compiled the histories of these cities clipped from the Tri-City Voice Newspaper.

The history compilation is put together in a big binder. There are hundreds of stories about the old Tri-City written by the Tri-City historians **Phil Holmes** from Fremont, **Myrla Raymundo** from Union City and **Jim DeMersman** from Hayward.

Some of the stories are Memories of Centerville, California, The Disastrous Flood of 1955, The Salz Family, Robert Blacow, The Early Farmers of Union City, The Borghi Family, The Alvarado Hotel, Tom Kitayama, Newark A City at Fifty, Newark Substation, Hayward Beginnings, One Corner-Hayward and many more.

There are hundreds of pages to read and if anyone is interested to know about the histories of Fremont, Newark, Union City and Hayward, come to the Union City Historical Museum and read all about them.

NEW IN THE MUSEUM

THE PEOPLE & EVENTS OF ALVARADO, CALIFORNIA From 1850 to 1959



Three big volumes of the Alvarado History were donated by **Al Rose** of Alvarado to the Union City Historical Museum.

The history compilation was transcribed and edited by **Anthony Gualco** as seen through the eyes of history books, newspaper articles, and internet articles and given to Al Rose, Museum Director.

Excerpt from the history compilation:
“This is the story of Alvarado. It is told through the use of newspaper clippings and short articles from published histories and the Internet. It covers the period from 1850 to January 14, 1959 when Alvarado became a district of Union City. It is the story of everyday events and people according to the time where they took place. None by themselves are particularly earth shattering or worthy of national attention. But they are the story of Alvarado and if you were not consumed with an overwhelming curiosity of Alvarado’s history, I would suspect that it would make for very dull reading.

This work is more a reference to me than a narrated history. The articles are strung together like beads on a chain in chronological order. There is a separate index to look up specific persons.”-----
by **Anthony Gualco**

The author **Anthony Gualco** grew up in Alvarado in the 1940’s and he was always filled with a curiosity about what Alvarado was like 100 years before he was born. He was raised on a farm on the outskirts of town near the intersection of Santa Maria Drive and San Rafael Way in the Casa Verde tract. Back then, San Rafael Way was known as Fair Ranch Road and it ran from Alvarado Boulevard east and ended at Alameda Creek. But today the only portion of old Fair Ranch road still so named is between Alvarado Boulevard east to the SP railroad tracts. Santa Susanna Way and San Rafael Way are strips of old Fair Ranch road renamed.

There are thousands of pages to read and, if anyone is interested to know about Alvarado, come to the Union City Historical Museum and read all about it.

Millions of thanks to **Anthony Gualco** for his great work of history. We salute you!



Our thanks also go to **Al Rose**, who donated the volumes to the Museum.

VISITORS AT THE MUSEUM



Vernon Viani, Riverside Hotel

Vernon Viani from Fremont visited the Museum and told this Editor stories about his early childhood in Union City.

Vernon was born on May 21, 1929 and went to Alvarado School. He joined the U. S. Navy and worked in a butcher shop and at the U. S. Naval Air Station Alameda before he retired.

His father **Alfred Viani**, mother **Gladys Cushing** and brother **Alfred, Jr.** lived in Union City. His grandmother **Bertha Cushing** and her son **Ray Cushing** managed the Riverside Hotel. Workers in Sugar Mill ate at the cafeteria of the hotel. He said the hotel was more of a boarding house, because people went there to be refreshed. His big treat was going to the movie house and taking a ride to the Cloverdale store in Centerville.

The **Riverside Hotel** no longer exists. An apartment complex now occupies the place where it used to be. The hotel, built by **Farley H. Granger** around 1861, was once located on New Haven Street close to the train depot. It 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.



Mary Rebecca Cross DeCesare

Mary Rebecca Cross DeCesare from Las Vegas, Nevada, and her whole family came to the Museum to dig up some history about her ancestors, one of them being James Logan.

Here's the family tree:

Thelma Jean Logan & Philip James Logan

Son James Logan & wife Rebeca Jean

Son John McKeown Logan

Daughter Thelma Jean Logan

Daughter Mary Rebecca Cross De Cesare

This Editor gave her the James Logan story and photograph. **Mary Rebecca** will come back to the Museum to donate some historical documents about the Logan family. She reported that the only

living son of James Logan, **Ralph Logan**, lives in a nursing home.

VISITORS AT THE MUSEUM

This Editor is so glad to see people coming to the Museum. They are living histories and continue to help this Editor weave the history of Union City. Thank you so much for these most important visits.



Esther Diosdado Bueno and Tony Bueno

Tony and Esther Bueno have lived in Union City for a long time. They were married on December 3, 1960, and have four children, Martha, Raymond, Terry and Anthony. They have eight grandchildren and two great grandkids.

Tony lived in Alvarado all his life. Esther in her younger years lived in Decoto; went to school at Decoto School and Bernard-White School; and attended high school at Washington High School. She graduated in 1959.

They are both retired and are enjoying life at their historical home on Watkins Street in Alvarado.



Norman Silveira

As a member of Union City’s first Planning Commission, **Norman Silveira** will be remembered along with the other city founders. He has spent almost all of his life in Union City, including 29 years of service with the New Haven School District.

Norman’s public service began as a volunteer fireman in Alvarado for ten or twelve years before Union City incorporated and implemented a professional fire department. He also served in the Alvarado Sanitary District. He was very interested in the unification of Alvarado and Decoto into Union City. After unification he was asked to be a member of the first planning commission. He retired after one term.

Norman still lives in Union City and continues to take an interest in community affairs. He has graciously donated many pictures and artifacts about Holly Sugar to the Union City Historical Museum.

**THE MARCH OF THE PAST
PLANNING COMMISSIONERS
FOR MARK LEONARD**

The regular Planning Commission Meeting held on December 4, 2008, at the Council Chambers of City Hall in Union City turned out to be a surprise for the retiring Economic Development Director **Mark Leonard**.

Mayor Mark Green assembled the past Planning Commissioners outside City Hall. By their number of years of service to the Planning Commission, each one marched to the Chamber and sat in the front seats.

They were:

**Mattie Rousseau
Jaime Jaramillo
Mark Green
Manuel Fernandez
Alice Arce
Lynne Mattos
Maureen Hart
Cathi Sweeney
Carol Dutra-Vernaci
Myrla Raymundo
Elizabeth Ames
Rosemary Savage
Lamont Allen
Rey Sison**

After the Roll Call and the Approval of Minutes, **Mark Green** raised his hand to speak at the ORAL COMMUNICATIONS portion of the meeting. He praised **Mark Leonard** for all his accomplishments during his 24 years of service to the City of Union City.

All of the other past Planning Commissioners spoke and gave their greetings and their memories of Mark. Everybody thanked Mark for his support to them.

A reception followed. The guests enjoyed cake and coffee.



The past Planning Commissioners



Mark Leonard cutting the cake.



**The past Planning Commissioners
pose with Mark Leonard**

NEWS IN THE MAKING



**New Superintendent of New Haven
Unified School District
Kari McVeigh**



**Newly elected President
New Haven School Board
Gertrude Gregorio
(Museum Member)**



**Newly elected New Haven School
Board Member
Michelle Matthews**



**The meeting of historical figures with
Editor Myrla Raymundo – Museum
Members Frank Borghi, Jr., Ardis
Edwards, James Blood and Elva Mae
Borghi**

**Swearing In Ceremony of
Mayor Mark Green and
Councilmember Jim Navarro
December 9, 2008**





FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK



Teresita “Tessie” Gatan

We continue to work for the continuation of the progress of the Museum.

The Museum records and preserves the history of Union City and continues with the strategic plan started by the Founder/CEO, which would be the end result of the objective and purpose of the Union City Historical Museum.

Please volunteer to be Museum docents and help us with special projects and with fundraisers.

Again, thank you for helping the Museum officers and directors in the achievement of our objectives and goals. We will continue with our good works.

I would like to thank all the officers, members and volunteers of the Union City Historical Museum and the community for their valuable contributions to the Museum....*Tessie Gatan*

“UNION CITY THROUGH THE YEARS”
By Myrla Raymundo

Local author and historian *Myrla Raymundo* has written a careful and detailed accounting of the very first beginnings of the community known as Union City. She has described the significant people, industries, events and places that made up the culture of Union City.

Also included in the book are the recent happenings and development in the City of Union City, such as Union Landing, the commercial and business establishments, the big and beautiful homes, and the people that now comprise Union City.

The book is available at the Union City Historical Museum, 3841 Smith Street, Union City.

“UNION CITY ORAL HISTORY”
by Myrla Raymundo

Local author and historian *Myrla Raymundo* speaks about her new book “*Union City Oral History*”, which will be published soon.

This book tells about the early people who came to Union City. This book also

tells stories of the people who are continuously forming the course of history in our city.

This book yields a bounty of information on these people whose lives are chronicled therein.

The book will be available at the Union City Historical Museum, 3841 Smith Street, Union City soon.

FOUNDER'S NOTES



Things are happening at the Union City Historical Museum. Come and visit and enjoy your stay at the Museum.

Museum Tours

Tours are conducted by Museum docents every Thursday and Friday. If you are interested in knowing the history of Union City, please stop by the Museum.

Read All About It

News coverage about Union City are clipped and filed by subject matter and are available at the Museum.

Myrla Raymundo started the collection in 1971. The Union City Library gave the Museum news clippings from 1800 through 1970.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Union City Historical Museum has many opportunities for volunteers to help with projects. We can find a job that matches the skills of anyone interested in preserving Union City's history and heritage. Among the many jobs needing your help:

Docents: Docents greet the visitors, have them sign the Guest Book and give them a tour of the Museum. Training will be given to the volunteers.

Documents: Volunteers do paste up of newspaper clippings and file them in their respective binders by subject matter.

History Presentation: Volunteers are trained to do the presentation of Union City History by using Power Point.

Maps: Volunteers are needed to catalogue our maps.

Photographs: Volunteers are needed to catalogue our photo collection.

Artifacts: Volunteers are needed to dust and clean the displays.

Sprucing up the Museum: We need volunteers to help clean the floors, display shelves and bathrooms.

If you're interested in helping with these or many other projects, please contact Myrla Raymundo at the Museum (510) 324-3298 for information and training.



James Logan volunteers at the Museum

Myrla Raymundo



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Myrla Raymundo, MBA,
Founder/CEO**

Officers - July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

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MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS

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**Tri-City Voice
 (What's Happening)
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 Publisher**

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FY 2007-2008

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