



# Museum of Local History Guild

190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA 94539 - (510) 623-7907

W&F 10-4 & Every 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend 10-4

[www.museumoflocalhistory.org](http://www.museumoflocalhistory.org)

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

## *Spring 2015 Newsletter*

### Board Members

President – Gil Garza

Treasurer – Lila Bringhurst

Board – Patricia Schaffarczyk

Vice President – *open*

Secretary – Timothy Swenson

Board – Kelsey Camello

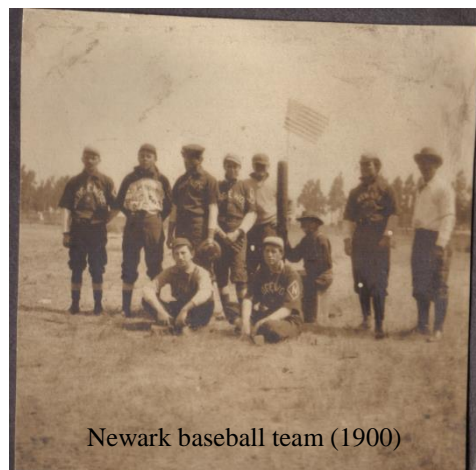
***ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: We invite you to the annual general membership meeting, which is set for 4/8 at 7:00 pm at the museum. All members are encouraged to attend.***

### Collections



The Museum Guild has received a collection of artifacts and archival materials from the estate of Marjorie (Marge) Callow. Marge was born and lived most of her life in Newark, as did her mother, Mable Fowler Callow. Marge was a teacher in Newark and retired after 41 years of service. Mable was the first librarian for the Newark branch of the library. Marge's aunt, "Candy" Annie Fowler operated a candy and ice cream shop in Newark prior to her marriage in 1928. Additionally, Biddle Street was named after Marge's Uncle. Her father, John Fowler worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad, as did his father. Marge truly loved local history and she even wrote a booklet for her fifth grade class about her city - Newark.

Our newly acquired collection contains antique dolls, a quilt, pictures, digital copies of vintage Newark photos, and many individual gems from the early 1900s through the 1930s, such as a snuff box, cookie cutters, an engraved candle holder, baby shoes, and red and blue



tokens from the OPA, to name a few. We are currently in the process of archiving this collection.



In 2014, shortly after Regena Dennie's passing we were contacted by her daughter who wanted to donate a large collection of items from her mother's estate. As you all know, Regena was a dedicated public servant in the Tri-City area, and her collection absolutely reflects that. Our newly acquired collection includes various books, magazines, historical publications, Teddy Ruxpin items, and ephemera from Fremont area historical events – especially relating to Mission San Jose, among other items. Additionally, thanks to the Regena Dennie Memorial Fund we are already 95% done archiving this collection!

## OPA Tokens from WWII

During World War II the federal government created a new agency called the "Office of Price Administration." Its objectives included rationing of scarce commodities, price fixing on certain items to avoid speculation, and preventing runaway inflation during the war. Each household was issued ration books based on a variety of factors. These ration booklets contained various small stamps which had no cash value, but were required to purchase food items – for example: four 'B' stamps equaled a pound of ground beef and five 'A' stamps equaled a bag of sugar. All store items had a price mark as well as a stamp requirement.



Often cashiers had to make exact change, so shopkeepers were issued small red and blue tokens. These tokens were made of a vulcanized fiber and were 16-mm in diameter. The red and blue tokens had a value of one point to be used to make small change for stamps from ration books. Some products required the use of red tokens, while other products required blue tokens as change. These tokens were issued from 1942 to 1945, when rationing ended. Thanks to Marge Callow we now have quite a few in our collection!

## Current Exhibits

Come and see Teddy Ruxpin and his friends! Thanks to a generous donation from Regena Dennie's daughter Patty Lacy upon her mother's passing, we now have a nice collection of Teddy Ruxpin / Worlds of Wonder products. Teddy is currently being displayed in the museum with his friend



Grubby as they tell a tale of fire safety together. How apt that such a story would be displayed in our museum – an old fire station! On February 14<sup>th</sup> we had a program that allowed children to visit the museum to hear stories and songs about Teddy while enjoying teddy bear crafts and activities. Teddy also played a part in holding a special Valentine for someone to find. It was a fun day for all.

All of our regular exhibits are also on display and anxious for visitors!

## Walking Tours

The museum is hosting three walking tours in the coming months. All of the tours are FREE. Come out with us to enjoy the day and learn about the different towns within Union City and Fremont. Copies of some of the walking tours can be found on the museum website under ‘Plan your visit’ >> ‘General tours’.

*Alvarado - April 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 11:00 a.m.*

Tim Swenson will lead a tour through Alvarado discussing forty-three different buildings. The duration of the tour will be about an hour and a half and the distance will be about one half mile. Tour-goers should meet in the parking lot of Alvarado Elementary School.

*Irvington - May 16<sup>th</sup>  
at 11:00 a.m.*

Caroline Harris will lead a tour through downtown Irvington discussing the historic buildings. The duration of the tour will be about an hour and a half and the distance will be about a half mile. Tour-goers should meet at the Irvington marker on the corner of Bay Street and Fremont Blvd.

*Centerville - June 20<sup>th</sup>  
at 11:00 a.m.*

Tim Swenson will lead a tour through Centerville, walking from Central Avenue to Thornton Avenue. This is the first time this tour will be sponsored by the museum. The duration of the tour will be about an hour and a half and the distance will be about a mile. Tour-goers should meet in front of Holy Spirit Church on

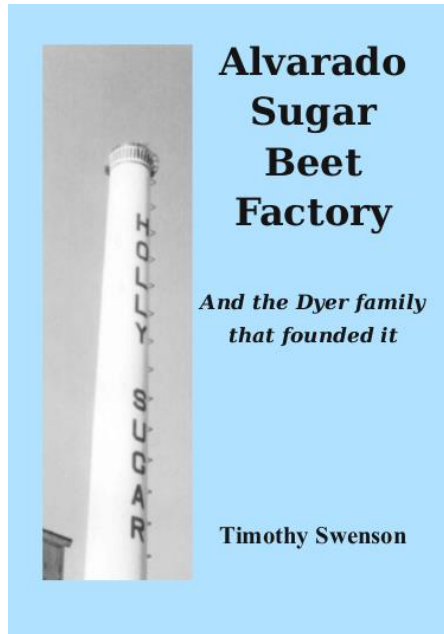
## Celebrating 100 Years Since the Panama Pacific International Exposition



A California Nursery Company palm tree is transported to San Francisco

In 2015 we celebrate 100 years since the famous Panama Pacific International Exposition, held in San Francisco in 1915. All over the bay area and beyond organizations are clamoring to create displays commemorating this exciting event. *Did you know that our very own California Nursery Company sent palm trees to the Exposition from their location here in Niles?* Here in the Tri-City area there are quite a few groups who are working

on displays of their own, such as the Math Science Nucleus, the Niles Essanay Film Museum, the Fremont Main Library, the Niles Train Museum and the Patterson House at Ardenwood Farm. Throughout the year you can look for updates on the museum website for dates and information related to the PPIE 100 and the local events surrounding it. You can find information by going to 'Resources' >> 'Community sites' >> 'Other'



### ***Alvarado Sugar Beet Factory* authored by Tim Swenson**

Did you know that for over one-hundred years a sugar beet factory existed in Alvarado? The factory was founded, built and operated by Ebenezer Dyer and his family.

Our community now has a 112 page book detailing the history of this Union City relic. The work is a result of ten years of research conducted by Tim Swenson, and it is the only published book on what is known as the first successful sugar beet factory in the United States. It provides a detailed look into the factory's history, from its start in 1870 until its demolition in 1976.

Interested parties can download the book for free from the museum's website, as it has been made available under a Creative Commons license which allows free distribution.

A limited number of hard copies of the book will also be available at the museum.

To download a copy of the book go to the museum website, click on 'Resources' >> 'Historical Papers' >> 'Union City' and scroll down to find the book title.

### **Oral Histories**

The museum is working on an oral history project that involves video interviews with residents of the Try-City area. Tim Swenson, who specializes in Union City history, has done a number of interviews with its residents. His most recent interview was done with Union City Mayor, Carol Dutra-Vernaci. Carol was raised in Decoto, has served on the City Council since 1997, and was elected mayor in 2012.

Tim conducted two interviews with Carol; one in which she discusses growing up in Decoto, and another in which she talks about her involvement in Union City's politics. *We want to extend a big thank you to both Carol and Tim for their participation in this project!*

We have also logged an oral history with one of our longtime members, Mr. B.J. Bunting. Lila Bringham conducted the two-hour interview in early January, and we are delighted to have such a thorough recording on file of someone who has been a Fremont resident his entire life. *Thank you B.J. and Lila!*

The museum is currently looking into ways to make all oral interviews publicly available.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the making of oral histories, or in being interviewed yourself, please contact the museum.

## **Obituaries**

**(copied here from the papers which published them)**

*Marjorie Jeanette Callow - Apr. 8, 1929 - Nov. 18, 2014*

Long time Newark teacher, Marjorie Jeanette Callow, known to her friends as Marge, died Tuesday, November 18th after a brief illness. Marge was born Apr. 8, 1929, and lived her entire life in Newark where she taught for 45 years, at Muller, Kennedy, and Musick schools. She is remembered fondly by her many students and colleagues and will be sorely missed. She loved her city and was very knowledgeable about Newark's history. She wrote a book about the town's past, which has been available for students interested in learning about their town. Because of her love of local history she volunteered as a docent at Patterson House and at Ardenwood Farm. Additionally, many people interested in local history valued her collection of historic photographs. Funeral services were held in November.

*Virginia Esteline Stull - Dec. 9, 1918 - Dec. 29, 2014*

Virginia Esteline Stull, a truly gentle Southern lady, was born in Seebert, West Virginia on Dec. 9, 1918. She and her husband, William Stull, met while in grammar school. When William joined the Navy, she stayed in Virginia and taught school for two years. Later they traveled to many Navy duty stations with their children, Mary Jeanne Marks and William Stull, Jr. After retiring from the Navy, they both worked in the Alameda City School District, finally settling in Fremont. Virginia was active in many organizations while living in Fremont, such as: Daughters of the American Revolution, Eastern Star, Child Welfare, Senior Citizens, Antique Club, and the Washington Township Historical Society. Virginia passed away on Dec. 29, 2014 and is survived by her son and daughter and their families. She had just celebrated her 96th birthday surrounded by those who loved her. Funeral services were held in January.

*Donald Floyd Dillon Sr. – Nov. 17, 1921 – Feb. 9, 2015*

Don Dillon died peacefully at the age of 93, after a long and very productive life. Don was born in El Centro, California, the only child of Floyd and Mildred (Shawver) Dillon. He attended Shorewood High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1943, he graduated in Political Science from Stanford University, and married his college sweetheart, Mary Ann Walker. He served in WWII and Korea with the US Navy, aboard Destroyer Escorts in the Atlantic and the Pacific. He continued to serve in the reserves and retired as a Commander.

He joined his father, Floyd, in the nursery business in the early 1950's in Ventura County. They moved Four Winds Growers to Mission San Jose in 1954. He was an innovator in those early days with container growing, plant label and drip irrigation. While President of Four Winds, the nursery expanded to three locations, selling citrus and other edible ornamentals to retail nurseries and garden centers, as well as online. He was a charter member of Western Region of the International Plant Propagators, and then served as its President and also President of the International Plant Propagators. He embraced the IPPS motto "Seek and Share". He was

President of Saratoga Horticulture Research Foundation. He was a big supporter of California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers, enjoying meetings at Peninsula and Central Chapters. His advice to all gardeners was rather than "talking" to plants, to "listen" to them.

He wanted to be remembered as the "Formerly Honorable Mayor of the City of Fremont" where he served as Mayor for 5 years of his 16 years on the Fremont City Council. He worked with other community leaders on numerous projects, including developing and funding the 400 acre Fremont Civic, Recreational and Cultural Center with Lake Elizabeth and the City Park. Many of these endeavors are described in the book, *City of Fremont, The First Thirty Years*. He was also involved in the planning of Ohlone Community College. He worked to save historic homes and ranches in the Fremont area; he served as President of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and was on other intergovernmental agencies; the League of California Cities, the Alameda Creek-Coyote Hills Joint Agency, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Don was actively involved with many other pursuits for the benefit of the community. He was known for his energy, enthusiasm, problem solving and consensus building. He was into "social networking" before the term was ever coined. He loved the Friendship Force and volunteering at the Friendship Forest at Prusch Park in San Jose. He and Mary Ann joined volunteers who tended the Japanese garden at Shinn Park in Fremont and in the Historic Garden League in Monterey. He had many adventures with friends in "the kite group." Don was very active in the Niles Rotary. The Rotarian "Four Way Test" and "Service above Self" were more than mottos for Don. They were a way of life for him, and he was an inspiration to us all.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Mary Ann, his children and their spouses: Don Jr. and Donna Dillon, Mary Helen and John "Cedar" Seeger, Debbie Dillon-Adams and Warren Adams, 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren, and other extended family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his honor can be made to the Rotary Foundation or C.A.N.E.R.S. His memorial service is to be held March 14, 2015 11:00 A.M. at the Centerville Presbyterian Church, 4360 Central Ave.

## Website and Facebook

In January our new and improved website was launched. We are still at the same address, but are pleased to be able to offer you a brand new look! Please continue to watch for updates, as things are constantly happening.



Remember that we are also on Facebook. *Like us! Follow us! Send an invitation to your friends!* You can find us at: <http://www.facebook.com/museumoflocalhistory>. We hope that you will remember to "like" our page and suggest us to your friends and family.

**COMING SOON!** A new section of our website dedicated to the history of Newark. Look for updates in the coming months.

We encourage you to spend some time learning about two local historical sites, on which a great deal of information has recently been added to the website:



Garden of Allah, late 60's early 70's

*The Garden of Allah* was a music hall that stood in Niles from 1929-1964. Information on this extraordinary building and its history can be found under 'Resources' >> 'Historical Papers' >> 'Fremont' >> 'Niles'.

*Clark's Hall* is the iconic brick building that stands at Five Corners in Irvington. It is the oldest commercial building still standing in Fremont. Information on this relic of a building and its history can be found under 'Resources' >> 'Historical Papers' >> 'Fremont' >> 'Irvington'.



## Visitors

We are happy to report to all of our members the visitor log for the museum. In December we were closed for a majority of the month to celebrate the holidays. In that month we had 12 visitors. In January we hosted 51 visitors, and in February there were 85. Not all visitors sign the log book, though we do encourage all to do so.

## Student Tours



We are continuing to advertise and book school tours for the Museum and the Higuera Adobe. If you are interested in helping with these tours or with being a museum greeter please call 510-623-7907. There is always an opportunity somewhere for volunteers.

Tours are in currently in top form! We have a tour just about every week, either at the museum or at the adobe, and we have various tours already booked for March, April, and May. Because of the success we've been having we do need more volunteers to help us prepare materials and/or work with students on the tours. *We want to extend a huge thank you to our current dedicated volunteer staff: Dianne Holmes, Marjory Begley, Carol Bell, Carol and Kevin Quinn, and Joanne Hoemburg.* However, we desperately need more docents! Please consider the joy of working with children and sharing the Tri-City's rich history with them. Remember, no experience is necessary! All we require that you bring is your passion for history.

## Volunteer Lunch – May 23<sup>rd</sup>

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> we thank all of our museum volunteers with our annual recognition lunch. This year we will honor our longtime dedicated gardener, John Landers. He has been working in the garden for many years and continues to weed, work the sprinkler system and do general clean-up. Great job, John!

We can always use additional garden volunteers. The garden group works for a couple of hours on the second Saturday of each month. Can you help in this area?

## Family Day at the Adobe – May 3<sup>rd</sup>



Family Day at the Higuera Adobe will take place on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will open the adobe and the grounds for a pre-celebration of Cinco de Mayo. There will be

activities for children and parents, including: Folklorico dancing, Mexican food, tours of the adobe, and a video about the adobe and its restoration, narrated by our own Patricia Schaffarczyk. Come one, come all as we open the Rancho Higuera Historical Park to our friends and neighbors!

## Phil Holmes

Phil Holmes is doing well and continues to regularly publish articles about local history in the Tri-City Voice.

We invite you to check out his most recent articles: *1934*, published 12/9/14; *Daniel Smith Mills*, published 1/20/15; and *Some Events of the Year 1924*, published 2/17/15. All of his articles can be found by visiting: [www.tricityvoice.com](http://www.tricityvoice.com) and clicking on ‘Archives’ followed by the date of publication.



Phil and Patricia (2012)

## FOR SALE: Used and Out of Print Books



We recently cleaned house and have some special books for sale at discount prices. If you are interested in finding out more about these treasures please check the website for a detailed list (with prices). Go to ‘Store’ >> ‘Used and vintage books’.



## Upcoming Events on the Calendar



### *MARCH*

All month long – Celebrate Women’s History Month!

3/19 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm - MPHf Board Meeting – Archive room of the Shinn House

3/23 – 7:15 pm – WTHS Meeting – Fremont Main Library

### *APRIL*

4/8 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm – MLHG General Membership Meeting – Museum of Local History

4/10 – 12:00 – 3:00 pm – Shinn House Tea, featuring Dr. Robert Fisher

4/16 - 7:00 – 9:00 pm - MPHf Board Meeting – Archive room of the Shinn House

4/18 – 11:00 am – Alvarado Walking Tour

### *MAY*

All month long – Celebrate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month!

5/3 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm – Family Day at the Adobe – Rancho Higuera Historical Park

5/12 – 7:00 pm – Patterson House PPIE100 Presentation – Fremont Main Library

5/13 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm – MLHG Board Meeting – Museum of Local History

5/16 – 11:00 am – Irvington Walking Tour

5/17 – 4:00 pm – Niles Essanay PPIE100 Event – Niles Essanay Film Museum

5/21 - 7:00 – 9:00 pm - MPHf Board Meeting – Archive room of the Shinn House

5/23 – 12:30 pm – Volunteer Lunch – Museum of Local History

5/25 – 7:15 pm – WTHS Meeting – Museum of Local History

### *JUNE*

6/10 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm – MLHG Board Meeting – Museum of Local History

6/16 – 7:00 pm – California Nursery PPIE100 Presentation – Fremont Main Library

6/18 - 7:00 – 9:00 pm - MPHf Board Meeting – Archive room of the Shinn House

6/20 – 11:00 am – Centerville Walking Tour

**\*\*MLHG** (Museum of Local History Guild), **WTHS** (Washington Township Historical Society), **MPHF** (Mission Peak Heritage Foundation) \*\*

## New Members & Renewals

As we continue into 2015 we encourage you to mail in your membership dues. Keep in mind that dues are collected annually. Please use the attached form, which has been included at the bottom of the newsletter for your convenience.

This year we are happy to offer t-shirts to all of our members! If you are interested in obtaining a t-shirt please notate what size on your membership form and include an extra \$15 on top of your dues (\$10 for the t-shirt and \$5 for shipping). The t-shirt will be shipped to the address that you provide in your membership form. T-shirts are rust colored.

*A big THANK YOU to all of our current paid members for 2015!*

Steve & Beth Armstrong	Gilbert Garza	Roeding Family
Joan & John Ashton	Tim Gavin	Dolores Rose
John & Rose Barr	Lionel Goularte	Jonathan & Kristine Sandoe
Janet Barton & Barry Balk	Caroline Harris	Patricia Schaffarczyk
Marjory Begley	Bruce Hevelin	Paul & Berenice Sethy
Dorothy Bradley	Philip Holmes	Mollie Sinclair
Lila Bringham	Louise Indig	Phil Stob
B.J. Bunting	Nancy Lorigan	Tim Swenson
Steve Burton	Gordon and Anne MacLeod	Marilyn Wall
Kelsey Camello	Betty McCoy	John Weed
John & Linda Croft	Brian Moos	Michi Yee
Robert E. and Margaret A. Davenport	Dan Mosier	
Nelda Erlwein	Al & Connie Nagy	
Lynette Fraga-Weems	Kevin and Carol Quinn	

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### Museum of Local History Guild -- Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime: \$1000	Pioneer Patron: \$500	Pathfinder: \$100
Trailblazer: \$50	Settler(family): \$40	Goldminer (single): \$35
Senior couple: \$20	Fremonteer (senior/student): \$10	Added donation: \$_____

T-shirt size (circle one, if applicable): M / L / XL

*We are a non-profit organization, established for public benefit. Monetary gifts and membership fees are tax deductible. If you are not already a member, please consider joining the Museum of Local History Guild. Please mail this form along with your payment to 190 Anza St., Fremont, CA 94539.*