

History Of The Alvarado School District and Alvarado Elementary School



Published by the
Museum of Local History

Museum of Local History
190 Anza Street
Fremont, CA 94539
(510-623-7907
www.museumoflocalhistory.org

The Museum of Local History is located in Fremont, California. It is a non-profit, all volunteer, group of people dedicated to researching and preserving the diverse history of Washington Township (Fremont, Newark, and Union City). Through publishing papers like this, the Museum is able to take the material it has collected and return something of value to the public.

Copyright 2010
Timothy Swenson



Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.0

You are free:

- to copy, distribute, display, and perform the work
- to make derivative works

Under the following conditions:

Attribution	You must give the original author credit.
Noncommercial	You may not use this work for commercial purposes.
Share Alike	If you alter, transform, or build upon this work, you may distribute the resulting work only under a license identical to this one.

For any reuse or distribution, you must make clear to others the license terms of this work. Any of these conditions can be waived if you get permission from the copyright holder. Your fair use and other rights are in no way affected by the above.

Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 1
Acknowledgments	Page 1
First Alvarado Schools	Page 2
School Building - 1878	Page 2
School Building - 1924	Page 3
School Building - 1958	Page 5
History of the Alvarado School District	Page 5
School Board & Trustees	Page 8
Principals	Page 8
Teachers	Page 9
Enrollment	Page 10
School Budget	Page 10
Sports	Page 11
Graduates	Page 12
References	Page 13
Appendix 1 - Former Student Interviews	Page 14



Introduction

The town of Alvarado was founded in the early 1850's, and was the first County Seat for Alameda County in 1853, making it the center of economic activity for Alameda County. It was also a port for shipping local farm goods to San Francisco. As the County Seat moved to San Leandro and then Oakland, Alvarado became less important and settled into a quiet existence of farming and some manufacturing. The town supported the local farming communities with a bank, butcher shop, saloons and a number of markets. It also had a Catholic and a Presbyterian church. The Odd Fellows Hall was the meeting place of the community, hosting two other fraternal organizations and a downstairs that was used as a dance hall and later a movie theater.

The Alvarado School was a grammar school, meaning that it covered first through eighth grades. After graduation from Alvarado Grammar School, students would move on to Washington Union High School in Centerville (Fremont), or to Union #3 High School in Hayward.

Alvarado Grammar School is named after the town of Alvarado, which is named after Juan B. Alvarado, Mexican Governor of California from 1836 to 1842. Juan Alvarado was born in Monterey, California in 1809, when it was the state capital of Alta California, and passed away in 1882, in San Pablo, California.



Juan B. Alvarado

Acknowledgments

This report is one part of a joint effort between the Museum of Local History and Alvarado Elementary School. The project comprises four parts: this report, a prepared presentation in PowerPoint format, a two page student study guide, and a digital collection of photographs of Alvarado Elementary School. The photographs are from the Museum of Local History and Alvarado Elementary School collections. They may be used for educational purposes only. The project material will be stored on a CD-ROM and copies provided to Alvarado Elementary School and the New Haven Unified School District. The CD-ROM will be archived at the Museum of Local History.

The project team was composed of Timothy Swenson from the Museum of Local History and Penny Johnson from Alvarado Elementary School.

Thanks to Anthony Gualco for providing the collection of newspaper clippings that provided the bulk of the text material for this report. Thanks to Alice Robie for use of photographs from the Jung and Norris family collections.

First Alvarado Schools

The origin of schools in Alvarado is not clearly documented and different sources are conflicting.

The first private school in Alvarado was opened in 1853, at the home of Captain Marstan. The "History of Washington Township" says that the first public school was started "not long after" the first private school.

The first public school was taught by Mrs. Warren. "Looking Back" states that Mrs. Warren taught at the first private school. A newspaper report from the 1970's, states that the home at 4167 Horner Street (now demolished) was the first school house. This might have been the home of Captain Marstan. The article reports that A. A. (Tony) Lee, age 84, "recalls attending school there, but soon transferred to a new building on Smith St.." "Looking Back" states that the home at 4167 Horner Street was the second school house and that the school later moved to a two story building on Water Street.

The home at 4167 Horner Street existed in 1978, but was torn down a few years later. A "History of the Alvarado School" document from the Alvarado School District in 1924, says that the first private school was established in 1853 with 5 students, and says that Mrs. Warren taught

at the first public school. The document also says that "a two room school house was erected on the west side of Water Street half way between Union City and Alvarado," and that this building was used until 1878, when another school house was built. Looking at old maps, it is not clear where Water Street was. It could be an early name for V Street, today's Horner Street.



4167 Horner Street

A newspaper report describes Charles P. Johnson as being the first teacher in Alvarado. Charles arrived in California in 1849 and in a few years he was teaching in Alvarado.

The Oakland Tribune reports on September 22, 1874 that the Alvarado School had two staff members, Miss Florence Randall, Principal, and Miss Laura Lynch, teacher. It does not say where the school was located.

It may not be reliably determined exactly how many buildings were used as schools prior to the establishment of the first purpose built school for the Alvarado School District.



*Newspaper photograph of
C. P. Johnson*



1878 School



1878 School



Early School Class Picture (circa 1910)

School Building - 1878

In 1878, a two-story, four room building was constructed close to the corner of Smith and Fredi Streets, but set back from Smith Street. The school was divided into Primary Class (first and second grades), Intermediate Class (third, fourth, and fifth grades), and Upper Class (sixth, seventh, and eighth grades). Each grade had its own classroom and teacher.

A picture of the building shows a carriage house or stable behind the building. The school put in a water tank and water system in 1914.

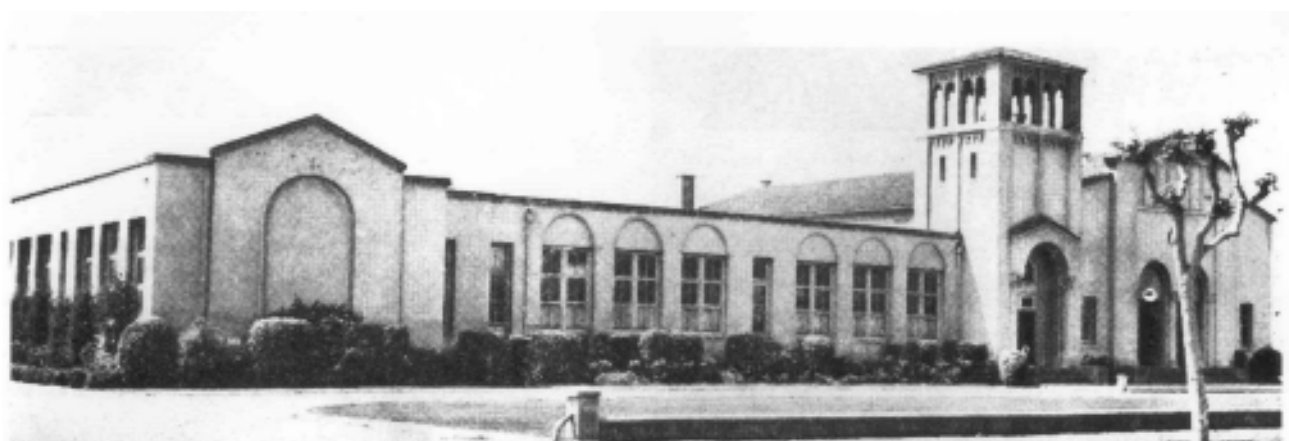
School Building - 1924

On April 30, 1923, the Alvarado Grammar School Board called a meeting at the Odd Fellows Building to discuss plans for a new school building. The plan was for an auditorium and six classrooms. Henry H. Meyers, who grew up in Alvarado, was hired as the architect. Henry Meyers was a well known architect in Alameda County, designing a number of Veterans' Memorial Halls and other buildings. Through his wife, Bertha May, he owned a large ranch in the hills to the east of Decoto.

On June 21, 1924, the cornerstone of the school was laid. Past Grand Master H. Brunck of the Crusade Lodge #93 of the Odd Fellows performed the ceremony of laying the cornerstone. A parade was held



Proposal Drawing for School by Henry Haight Meyers



Newspaper Photograph of School in 1948

after the event, with the Odd Fellows carrying the Alvarado Home Guard flag that was sewn in 1864. The total cost of the new school was \$60,000.

On September 12, 1924, the new school opened. The teachers were Nathalie Burger (1st grade and part of 2nd), Mary Bailey (3rd and part of 2nd), Charlotte Jung (4th grade), Miss Gordon (5th and 6th), and Foster Morrison (7th and 8th). Custodian was Andy Anderson.

The building was constructed of brick, in the Spanish Mission Revival form, with stucco siding and Spanish clay tile roofing. The building was heated with steam heat. Each of the six classrooms had a cloakroom and a teacher's office. There was also an auditorium, a teacher's restroom, principal's office, two rooms for school supplies and a janitor's closet. The building was built in the shape of a U, with the bottom of the U facing northwest, blocking the prevailing winds from the playground in the center of the school. Two weeping willows covered the playground from both sun and rain. The older building was moved to the back of the school site and was unused. In 1948, an additional classroom building was added to the school at a cost of \$16,400.

School Building - 1958

In January, 1956, the Alvarado School Board held a meeting to discuss overcrowding at the school. They considered adding additional classrooms and a cafeteria. In April, the plan changed to demolishing the old school and building a new one. There were some issues with the earthquake safety of the old school buildings. The Board approved the plan for a new school. A bond was put on the ballot to cover the cost of the new school, which was approved by the voters. The estimated cost would be \$400,000 to \$450,000 for the new school. In April, 1957, the plan had the school with 11 classrooms. When the plan went before the State School Finance Department, the State wanted to have the old school reburbished and build three classrooms and a cafeteria. With the help of Assemblymen Carlos Bee (D-Hayward) and Donald Doyle (R-Lafayette), the school district received approval for a new school. In September, a ground breaking ceremony was held. Attending was Trustee Wilbert Hendricks, turning over the first shovel of dirt. Also attending were Oliver Upton and Norman Hale, architects, Peter Jacobson, contractors superintendent, William Machado and George Vargus, Trustees, and Leslie Maffey, Superintendent and Principal. In October, binds went out for the school, which now was up to 13 classrooms in three wings. By August of 1958, most of the new school was built, behind the old school, and work started on tearing down the old building. When the demolition reached the time capsule that was placed in the old school, the capsule was opened by Principal Maffey. Contents found were a class picture from 4th and 5th grades, a picture of the Alvarado girls baseball team from 1922-1924, and a document of the history of the Alvarado School District. The class picture was from Charlotte Jung's class. Among the students in the photograph was William Hendricks, current Board President for the Alvarado School District. The items, along with some newer items, were placed in a new time capsule and put into the new building. In September, 1958, the first classes started in the new school, which now included 13 classrooms in three wings.



Groundbreaking for 1958 building

History of the Alvarado School District

It is unclear exactly when the Alvarado School District was formed. A contemporary newspaper said that before the formation of the Cosmopolitan School District, in Decoto, in July 2, 1868, students from Decoto attended a number of school districts, including Alvarado. In 1874, it was reported that the Alvarado school had a principal and teacher. In 1876, it was reported that Joseph McKeown was clerk for the Alvarado School District. It is clear that the Alvarado School District was formed by 1874, but it might have been formed earlier, and maybe before 1868.

In 1896, the Alvarado School District boundary was published as follows:

"Leaving the old line at the SW corner of the land of I. B. Haines, following easterly to the line between I. B. Haines and Wm. Meeks to the westerly line of the land of John Whipple, thence southerly following the line between the said John Whipple and W. Meeks to the county road leading from Alvarado to Niles, thence easterly along said road to the NE corner of the land formerly owned J. B. Sheck, thence southerly along the eastern line of said land of J. B. Sheck to the centre of Alameda Creek; thence down said creek to the northerly corner of S. P. Harvey's land on the southerly side, then to follow the old line of the creek."

Washington Union School District was formed in Centerville to be the high school for Washington Township. In 1902, Alvarado joined the Washington Union High School District, providing funds via a parcel tax.

In 1914, the Alvarado School Board requested from the County Surveyor a water tank and pipes for the Alvarado Grammar School, with an estimated cost of \$1,050. The County approved the request, with the contract going to E. Farley with the final cost of only \$858.00.

The closing exercises of the graduating class of 1925 were held in the auditorium, with nineteen students receiving their diplomas. The program was described in the newspaper as follows:

"The program was:

- 1) Operetta: "What's the Matter With Sally," by the school children directed by Miss Celia Gifford, Music Teacher.*
- 2) Piano Solo: Gertrude Trumpler.*
- 3) Talk to Graduates: Albert Lyser, Principal of the Alvarado School over forty years ago.*
- 4) Piano Solo: Helen Baird.*
- 5) Class Will: Conception Gomes, read by Minnie Hizer.*
- 6) Piano Solo: Dorothy La Vant.*
- 7) Presentation of Graduating Class: Mr. E. F. Morrison, Principal.*
- 8) Presentation of Diplomas: Mrs. F. Robie, Clerk of the Board of Trustees.*
- 9) America: The audience."*

In 1926, seventeen students entered the Better Homes and Gardens gardening contest sponsored by the Washington Township Country Club. That same year a bond for \$16,000 was approved by voters to expand the school building and to renovate the old wooden building. The plan was to double the capacity of the school, and to de-roof the wooden school building and attach it to the auditorium. Five additional acres of land were purchased for the expansion.

The original architect Henry H. Meyers was retained to design the expansion. After reviewing the stability of the wooden school building, it was decided to put the building up for sale instead of renovating it.

In 1927, the opening of the school was delayed, due to students being involved in harvesting. When the school did open, it was short by 60 students because their families were out-of-town with continued work in the fields. Later in the year, a benefit dance was held at the school auditorium to raise funds for the school baseball team.



Class picture with Principal Norris

In 1929, sixty students participated in an operetta called "Grandmothers Flower Garden." The operetta was under the direction of Charlotte Huntley Foster. The principal roles were played by Beatrice Machado, Adeline Silva, Richard Munger, Sam Dinsmore Jr, Ralph Logan, and Morton Springer. The other children were costumed as fairies, birds, flowers, butterflies, and trees.

The fire alarm system was unexpectedly tested by six students, in March, 1930. After being brought up before Judge Allen Norris, they claimed that they did not know what the bell was for and just wanted to hear it make noise.

The 1935 Junior Traffic Patrol started at Alvarado Grammar School. Members of the troop were, Sergeants: Raymond Diaz, Edward Olivencia, Albert Hinkley, Bruno Orsetti and Warren Silva. Privates: Everett Alameda, Tony Paredes, Charles Merino, Joe Lewis, Cyril Flores, Bert Johnson, Edward Martinez, Benny Joyce, James Wasley and John Ziegler.

Also in 1935, the school put on the operetta, "Magic Piper", under the direction of Doris Kinne. Miss Ruth Koehle was the pianist. Those lead roles were performed by John Ziegler, Marjorie Maciel, Mieko Terazawa, Warren Silva, Anthony Paredes, Junior Lewis, Remedia Mateo, Richard Avila, Isabel Pinto, Bruno Orsetti, James Wasley, Bunny Joyce, Everett Alameda, Richard Munger and Peggy Wasley.

In 1942, the Japanese relocations affected Alvarado Grammar School. There were 12 Japanese students, or 6% of the student population of the school. The Board was worried about possibly losing teachers due to the loss of students.



School staff in 1953

The Second World War years (1941-1945) had an additional affect on Alvarado Grammar School, with the school opening late, so that students could help with the harvest. With a number of young men serving in the Armed Forces, students were needed to make up for the shortage of labor. In October, classes were suspended so that students could help with the tomato harvest.

In 1944, a survey of all Washington Township schools for earthquake safety, rated the Alvarado Grammar School as "satisfactory."

In July, 1948, the school caught on fire. The fire caused \$15,000 in damage and was suspected of being arson. Remains of sparklers were found in the second grade classroom. The fire was discovered by a painter doing a paint job estimate. The fire burned through the floor, blistered walls and caused extensive heat damage. Since the classroom windows were closed, the fire smoldered for hours.

The school started a Student Court program in February, 1949. The court ruled on offenses such as "Sliding or loud talk in the hallways, use of native tongue instead of the English language on school grounds, and chewing gum." Judge Paul Villareal ruled over the weekly court, handing out "lines" for punishments, such as writing "I will not talk loudly in the hall" two hundred times.

Floods were common in Alvarado and in January, 1951, the school was used to house 27 flood victims. The Red Cross used the cafeteria to provide meals, and the auditorium was where the victims slept.

In September, 1952, a number of items were stolen from the school. Thieves forced a rear window, and took off the hinges of three doors, to get to the items. The items stolen were a television, radio equipment, record player and portable typewriter (value \$600). The School District bought its first school bus in May, 1954, a 55 passenger bus.

The first documented use of the term "Alvarado Elementary" was in 1955. It is unclear when the official title of the school changed from Grammar to Elementary. Also, in 1955, Trustee Manuel Goularte was awarded an honorary life membership in the local PTA. The next year the same honor was bestowed on

Principal Leslie H. Maffey. Theft hit the school again in June of the same year, when Henry Contreras was arrested for stealing food from the school.

Opening day in 1956 brought an interesting problem to the school. A broadcast on the Sheriff's radio stated: "Contact the principal of the Alvarado School. There are more dogs than students." There was nothing else reported, leaving the rest to be guessed by historians.

In January, 1957, voters approved a school bond measure for \$700,000, passing with 120 votes for and 20 votes against. In September, a 4-H club was organized at the school. 4-H is a farm oriented youth program administered through the Department of Agriculture.

Alvarado School District came to an end when it is merged with the Decoto School District in 1965 to form the New Haven Unified School District.

School Board & Trustees

The School Board consisted of three trustees, elected for a 3 year term. One trustee position was up for election each year. Through newspaper reports, the following Trustees have been documented, including the year that they were known to be in office and the position they held, if known.

Year	Trustees Documented
1876	Joseph McKeown - Clerk
1889	John M. Ingalls, Joseph McKeown, I.V. Ralph
1896	Emery, Proniz, I.V. Ralph
1898	I.V. Ralph
1899	D. Jackson
1903	Farley B. Granger, F. P. Hellwig
1924	John Scribner, President; Francis Robie, Secretary; F. C. Harvey
1925	John Scribner, President; Francis Robie, Secretary; F. C. Harvey
1926	F. C. Harvey left office
1926	Francis Robie, F. W. Joyce
1935	A. E Vargas ends three year term
1935	C. J. Skow, Frances Robie, Frank Machado
1936	William Avilla elected
1944	George Hocking appointed, F. E. Machado, M. T. Goularte
1948	Wilbert Hendricks, M. T. Goularte, George Hocking
1949	George Hocking re-elected, Manuel T. Goularte
1950	M. P. Goularte re-elected, Manuel T. Goularte
1952	Warren J. Silva, President; Manuel Goularte, Clerk
1954	William Hendricks re-elected, Manuel T. Goularte
1955	Manuel T. Goularte, Clerk for 9 years Past & Present Trustees - Manuel Perry, Warren Silva, Frank Machado, Graydon Spurlock, George Hocking.
1955	Wilbert Hendricks, Warren Silva, Graydon Spurlock resigns.
1956	Wilbert Hendricks
1957	Wilbert Hendricks re-elected
1957	George Vargas appointed



Francis Robie

Principals

The Principal of Alvarado Grammar School was also an acting teacher. The Principal was also the Superintendent for the Alvarado School District. Below is a list of all of the Principals that have been documented and the year known to be in office.

Year	Principal
1874	Florence Randell
Before 1876	Walker
Before 1886	Albert Lyser
1890	E. E. Hollipeter
1891	C. V. Osborn to replace Mr. Thompson
1904	Albert Norris
1914	T. E. McCarty (Started about 1909)
1923	E. Foster Morrison
1924	E. Foster Morrison
1925	T. S. Van Vleet appointed principal
1930	James C. Wasley (1929 - 1944)
1944	Leslie H. Maffey appointed
1956	Leslie H. Maffey



Leslie H. Maffey

Teachers

The 1878 School started with three teachers, one of them being the principal. As enrollment grew, so did the number of teachers. In 1958, when the new school was built, there were 11 teachers at the school. Below is a list of years and the teachers documented for that year.

Year	Teacher(s)
1874	Laura Lynch
1891	Kate Riley resigned in intermediate department (taught for
1900	Laura Emery
1903	Miss Kilgo started
1903	Mrs. Edythe Chisholm
1906	Celeste Bunker started (moved to Niles in 1922)
1906	Miss Paris resigned
1914	Helen Gisle sub teacher
1914	Helen Lyle, T. E. McCarty, Celeste Bunker.
1921	Mrs. Hodgson
1921	Beryl Farley (sub)
1924	Mary E. Bailey, Charlotte Jung, Alice Doyle, June Willis
1925	Mary Bailey, Cecilia Gifford resign.
1925	Ellen Hughes
1925	Laura Orelli started.
1925	Dorothy Gordon, Charlotte Jung, Celia Gifford, Mary Bailey, Nathalie Burger
1926	Ruth Gallagher started. 4th & 5th grades.
1926	Dorothy Gordon resigns
1926	Nahalie Burger resigns



Charlotte Jung

1926	Mrs. Van Vleet starts.
1928	Margaret McGrath
1934	Billie Langdon (former teacher)
1937	Mary Richmand starts
1937	Doris Kinne resigns
1940	Isabella Ferry, (6th & 7th), Laura Orelli (5th & 6th), Charlotte Jung (3rd & 4th), Ruth Davis (2nd), Muriel Nelson (1st & music). Dwight Thornburgh, Orchestra leader.
1942	Laura Orelli (teacher for 18 years) dies
1942	Isabelle Ferry (teacher for 7 years).
1943	Ruth Davis resigned.
1946-1948	Nathan E. Click
1951	Louise Thomas
1952	Evalene Griffin.
1952	New teachers : Steven Graves (4th), Gladys Hersey (1st)
1952	Gladys Dunham started
1952	Margaret Tetzlaff - leave of absence due to health
Before 1958	Virginia Moy, Eleanor Staszak, Eva Hicks, Evalene Griffin, Sharon Hersha, June Dakin, Gladys Hershey, Shirley Krikorian, Zula Smith, Steve Graves, John Bond.
1958	11 teachers

Enrollment

The following shows the number of students enrolled at the school for different years:

Year	Enrollment
1866	47
1876	108
1898	168
1900	108
1903	180
1906	181
1920	141
1924	227
1954	238
1957	313

School Budget

The school budget paid for all the yearly costs of the school including the teacher. In 1876 the budget was what we would consider very modest at \$500. Below is a list of those years where the budget has been documented.

Year	Budget
1876	\$500
1900	\$1,332 (state school money)
1908	\$1,500
1913	Parcel tax of 12 cents per \$100 assessed value of Property. (fy 1913-14)
1951	\$45,000
1952	\$50,042
1956	\$102,043

In 1954 teachers salaries were \$3,750 to \$5,600 per year.

1954 - Tax rate increased from 90 cents to \$1.40 for parcel tax; needed for new school bus.

Sports

The first reports of sports at Alvarado Grammar School were in 1896, when the boy's baseball team won a game over a school from Hayward. In 1922, an athletic league was formed for Washington Township, which included the following schools, Centerville, Decoto, Irvington, Newark, and Niles.

In 1931, it was reported that Alvarado played Mt. Eden Grammar in baseball and list, 6-5. In 1934, the Alvarado baseball team beat Newark, 12-3. A game in September, 1934, was reported in the local newspaper:

On Tuesday Alvarado Grammar School met Decoto on the local diamond and lost 3-2. In the lineup were:

Clifford Dinsmore	Catcher
Albert Hinkley	Pitcher
Warren Silva	First Base
T. Akinaga	Second Base
Manuel Esteves	Third Base
Paul Rivers	Short Stop
Raymond Blass	Left Field
Eddie Olivencia	Center Field
Wilbert Martin	Right Field

Subs:

Cyril Flores
Tony Paredes
Daniel Lezand



Volleyball Team

1935 Township Grammar School Baseball League formed. Alvarado, Alviso, Centerville, Decoto, Irvington, Mission San Jose, Newark, Niles.

1935 - Defeated Centerville Grammar 13-4. Albert Hinkley, Manuel Esteves and Warren Silva pitched while the other players for Alvarado were: Paul Rivers, Jesse Hernandez, Clifford Dinsmore, Marion Cordoba, Raymond Diaz, Eddie Olivencia, T. Akinaga, Eddie Martinez and John Soares.

1935 - In lead to win Don Harder Silver Cup the Washington Township Grammar School baseball championship.

1938 - Participated in Washington Township Grammar School track meet at Wash. Union HS.

1946 - Alvarado Grammar School has entered a volleyball team in the Hayward Recreation and the Alameda County Volleyball tournament to be held at Bret Harte School. The members of the Alvarado team are: John Ledesma, Vernon Machado, Robert Jones, Carlos Renteria, Gilbert Cicairos, Salvador Dominguez, Henry Andrade, Gilbert Villareal, Glenn Bachelder, Joaquin Preciado, Albert Corrales, Yoshio Hisaoka, Cruz Rosendos, Teodosio Olacio, and Elmer Andrade.

Graduates

Students finishing the 8th grade were celebrated in a graduation ceremony. Graduation meant leaving Alvarado Grammar School and the Alvarado School District. Students could choose to attend Washington Union High School in Centerville or Union High School #3 in Hayward.

Early newspapers printed the names of the graduating class. From these newspaper reports, here is a list of the graduating classes:

1896 - Kathryn D. Nauert, Harriet T. Joyce, Emma Christine Sandholt

1905 - Austin D. Ellis, Andrew Jacobson, Harry Jensen

1906 - Leo E. Adle, Lawrence M. Carter, Ethel K. Foley, Manuel C. Gaspar, Mary P. Griffin, Charlotte Jung, Alma Norris, Everett G. Richmond.

1916 - George Harvey, Ed Harvey, Max Just, James Nesbitt, Clarence Flores, Theodore Lemos, Manuel Silva, Mamie Gomes, Hazel Lorenzo.

1923 - Mayme Avila, Victor Alagre, Ramona Hinkley, Alma Logan, Vernie Machado, Edward Vargas, George Vargas, William Vargas.

1925 - Minnie Rivers, Mabel Amaral, Edith Mello, Conception Gomes, Edith Amaral, Norma Peixotto, Rosalie Joyce, Genevieve Davilla, Bernice Boyd, Joe Lemos, Toshie Soto, Wilbert Hendricks, Mamie Vargas, Melvin Skow, Raymond Hinkley, Madeline Gularte, Helen Baird and Minnie Hizer.

1926 - Julia Allegrotti, Victor Amaral, Minnie Gomes, George Goularte, Joe Ghigliazzi, Charles Hizer, James Logan, Alice Lemos, Mary Mateo, Viola Montalbo, Sophie Oliveria, Sara Olivencia, Manuel Pinto, Richard Silva, Leonard Silvey and Ida Troche.

1934 - The 17 graduates are: Edward B. Avila, Joan Amy Boyd, Bernice Bernadette Daviner, Seraphine Edward Daviner, Anthony Albert Fields, Angel Ledesma Jr., Asuncion Ledesma, Bernice Bernadette Lezand, Johnny Norman Machado, Isabel Elizabeth Maciel, Richard Mateo, Lawrence Roderick, Alvina Elizabeth Santos, Joseph Silva, Lillian May Silva, Lorraine Silveria and Marion Louise Ziegler.

1935 - Marjorie Maciel, Fasaye Tanaka, Mieko Terazawa, Lucy Merino, Misaya Matsumoto, Isabel Pinto, T. Akinaga, Remedia Maton, Osamo Akinaga, Marion Cordoba, Raymond Diaz, Manuel Esteves, Edward Martinez, Wilbert Martin, Paul Rivers, Richard Munger, Bruno Orsetti, Warren Silva, Albert Hinkley, Hiroshi Shimada, Cyril Flores, Edward Olivencia, Anthony Roderick, Clifford Dinsmore, Manuel Pine and Abel Valle.

1936 - Everett Alameda, Carolyn Amaral, Robert Avilla, Irma Borges, Frank Cordoba, Evelyn Correia, Barbara Critchfield, Manuel Dutra, Mary Esteves, Marjorie Goulart, Linda Jane Hellwig, Frederick Joyce Jr., Donald Lemos, Daniel Lezand, Vivian Mae Logan, Shirley Mast, Tony Paredes, Robert Rogers, Manuel Silva, John Soares, James Wasley Jr., Peggy Wasley and John Ziegler.

1937 - Allen Amaral, Bob French, Bert Johnson, Joe Lewis, Raul Merino, Fujiko Akinaga, Marylyn Critchfield, Alexia Lezand, Victoria Marshall, Wilma Martin, Hilda Pinto, Winifred Santos and Isabel Silveira. Joseph Lewis, Valedictorian and, Alexia Lezand, Salutatorian



Graduating class of 1953

Here is a list of years and the size of the graduating class:

Year	Graduates
1896	3
1905	3
1906	8
1916	9
1923	8
1925	19
1926	16
1934	17
1935	26
1936	23
1937	13
1944	10
1945	13
1953	31
1954	18
1955	19
1956	19

References

"History of Washington Township", Country Club of Washington Township, 1904

"Juan Alvarado", Robert Ryal Miller, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1998

"Looking Back: Early Glimpses of Union City", City of Union City, 1978

"Union City", Timothy Swenson, Arcadia Publishing, 2008

Newspaper clippings from:

Oakland Tribune, Hayward Review, Daily Review, & Hayward Semi-weekly Review

Appendix 1 - Former Student Interview

Anthony Gualco - Class of 1955

To be valid, a recollection of the Alvarado School District must include a snapshot of the era and how it applied to the school. Also, each person's account will be prejudiced by that person's outlook. For example, Donna Sacramento Agraviador, who lives on San Carlos Way in Alvarado (just a stone's throw from the old Alvarado Smith Street Bridge), will see Alvarado School totally different than I. I would suggest you contact her on this project for her perspective. Her outlook was positive while mine was slightly tainted dark by my pessimistic outlook on life. She was a solid citizen of our class, while I was the rebel, the class clown, and was always in trouble, which by the way followed me through high school, the U.S. Army and my banking career.

You must also take into account a snapshot of the times. I was a war baby and so was everyone else in my class. We all entered the school about two years after World War II. Consumer goods were still very scarce. I have an old-time radio broadcast of 1948 with the original advertisements left in. In one radio commercial of 1948 the announcer aired a public service article about taking your rendered fat down to your local butcher for a penny a pound so soap could be made from it. A lot of the toys we had we made ourselves and there was no television until about 1952.

As for the town of Alvarado, it had not changed appreciably from the late 1800's. The streets were paved, there were electrical and telephone wires strung overhead and modern automobiles zipped around Alvarado. Take that away and you would, essentially, be in 1880 Alvarado.

This is what life was like in 1947 when we entered school. I am attaching our second or third grade picture from circa 1949. Note the dress of the students. I am in the first row, second from the left, in my farmer's coveralls and high top boots. The boy to my right was on welfare. Not a lot of difference between the two of us. I believe this was to be one of the biggest reasons why such a diverse group of children got along as well as we did (within the reason). There were no gangs, although there was one kid who regularly pummeled me each day at lunch break.

1) What year did you start and what grade?

I believe I started in 1947 in the First Grade, I was five years old. Kindergarten had not yet been started, but I do believe the first Kindergarten Class was started when I was in the Second Grade.

2) What year did you leave and what grade?

I graduated in 1955 from the Eighth Grade.

3) What teachers do you remember?

Miss Jung
Miss Lattimore
Mrs. Dunham
Mrs. Griffin
Mrs. Hersey
Mr. Graves
Mrs. Lucas
John Bond

4) *What principals do you remember?*

Leslie Maffey.

On the matter of principals I suggest you look at my history I sent you, in particular Mr. J.S. Wasley (World War II) and Leslie Maffey (Union City incorporation). The effort these men put in goes beyond the responsibilities of guiding our children is outstanding. The most outstanding is that of Leslie Maffey, who at one time juggled the curriculum of the students, the planning of a new school, and helping in the incorporation of Union City. This would have been a monumental task for someone living in Alvarado, but Mr. Maffey lived in Warm Springs and commuted daily to Alvarado (before I-880 was put in). So for him to attend planning meetings until ten or eleven at night and then drive home to Warm Springs and get ready for his school the next day daily task of an energetic and focused individual.

5) *What do you remember about the school?*

When you speak of the school you talk first of the edifice. To me the most imposing place was the school auditorium. It was as fine a structure as I can remember being in at that age. Besides being large, it had features that awed me. When looking from the back of the room you could see the stage some six or seven feet about the floor, with a beautiful curtain that could open like drapes. On each side of the stage there were roomy wing areas, with two movable wing curtains that hid the wing areas from view of the audience. At the back of the stage against the rear wall was a full-length curtain that could be drawn to reveal props and artwork (and hide young boys and girls who would sneak in the auditorium when no one knew.) On either side of the stage were two doors that led to a staircase and up to the wing area. At graduation the students would come down the aisle and peel off, one to the left and one to the right wings and on up to the stage. In the rear of the auditorium on the second floor was a movie projection room with cutouts to project movies onto a screen on stage. You could also go up to the bell tower from the projection room. This room was never used to show movies while I attended school. Any movies we saw came from a 16mm sound projector wheeled into the auditorium on a cart. Also near the projection room hung several dozen baseball uniforms (full length, for men, not for children). I always wondered what they were doing up there as they couldn't be used by children. The auditorium had large doors facing Smith Street where guests could enter. There was also an eastern doorway that connected to the main east-west hallway of the school. Near the southeast corner of the auditorium were doors that led outdoors to the playground area of the school. These doors were between the boiler room and the southwest entrance to the school.

The hallway floors in the school appeared to be made of soft linoleum that was highly polished. Mr. Maffey carried on a constant crusade against metal taps being put on shoes. In those days it was not unusual for people to use metal taps on their shoes and boots to save wear on the heels and soles. The worst offenders were the horseshoe taps that covered the entire heel.

Coming into school from Smith Street in the west main hallway you would pass Mr. Maffey's office to right. The most impressive thing about his office was the Regulator Clock. It was large with a big dial. The most unusual thing about the dial was that it had the 31 days of the month displayed on the edge of the dial and a separate hand with a big red crescent to highlight the day. The clock had a button on the bottom to push to sound the classroom bells for fire drill.

Across from Mr. Maffey's office was a large oaken bench. This is was known as the place you went to "cool your heels" while awaiting some type of punishment. But it also served another purpose, it was heated and students could use it during inclement weather to warm up if they had walked to school.

The Eighth Grade classroom was similar to all others and it is the one I remember best. The room was high with a bank of windows on the north side. Each bank was made up of five, six or more windows, I can't really recall. But the reason I remember was that each window had its own shade and all shades on the bank were hooked to one pull cord. So you pulled down the cord all the shades came down in unison. In the back of each room was a separate coatroom. At the east end of the building at the north end of the hallway was the Teacher's Room. The few times I was able to look into the room I remember I found it difficult to see through the cigarette smoke.

On the south end of the east and west wings of each building were the girls and boys restrooms (lavatories). This "U" shaped configuration made for a wind-free play area. In the middle of this area was a huge weeping willow (I think).

But what I found most interesting was in, retrospect, what our school life was like compared to today's schools. As you can see from our pictures, we were a diverse and varied group. From the economic standpoint we ranged from T.P. Harvey's son to children on welfare. I cannot remember any economic or social cliques. Having Mexican and Portuguese friends was quite natural to me, and we all got along together well enough.

I do not need to tell you about today's environment. If anyone had an excuse for violence it was I. The smallest kid in school and generally easy to push around. However I shrugged and just prayed that tomorrow would be a better day. I can tell honestly that as I left Alvarado I began to build up prejudices, but in Alvarado I had none.

6) *Did you participate in any programs?*

Sports – Baseball, basketball and football.
Traffic Patrol – Patrolman
Band – Bass Drum

The school colors was maroon and gold. Our team nickname was the "Wildcats." If you played a sport you received a large maroon and gold block letter "A" You would have also received a large patch in the form of a shield with the letters "A B C" in the middle representing the Alvarado Boys Club. And finally if you played in the band you received a patch in the form of a maroon and gold lyre. There was also participation in the school newspaper, the "Pony Express." (A copy is attached.)

Also, at graduation gold pins were awarded to students who achieved the highest scholastic levels, displayed the best citizenship and the best sportsmanship. There were six pins awarded, one boy and one girl in each category.

7) *What games and activities did you enjoy at recess and lunch breaks?*

Kick Ball
Four Squares
Tether Ball
General Sports – Baseball, Basketball and Football.
There were seasons for Yo-Yos, Spinning Tops, and marbles.
Although banned by the school administration there was a peashooter season

There were also games kids made up among themselves. One was connecting-the-dots. A sheet of paper would be filled in with dots on horizontal and vertical lines. Then each player would connect a line

between two dots. When one player was able to form a square he placed his initials in that square. Another popular game was "Battleship." This was played on paper, years before Milton-Bradley made a board game out of it.

8) Did you carry lunch, go home for lunch or was there some sort of canteen for food onsite?

You ate lunch in the cafeteria or you starved. There was no canteen nor was there any type of vending machines.

9) What was your family's expectation for you continuing your education beyond the 8th Grade?

From my immediate family I was the one that was expected to go on to college.

10) What sort of summer activities could you look forward to?

Work on the farm. As I lived some distance from the town I played by myself or with my best friend, Bob Harvey. When I got my bicycle I was able to go downtown and engage in sports in the summer with the children from town.

11) Did Alvarado students maintain a garden on campus?

No, we did not.