

CHAPTER 07 1910 – 1919

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* **DEMOGRAPHICS** *

1910 Table:

COUNTRY	NUMBER	PCT.
Australia	0	0.00%
Canada	11	0.90%
Chile	1	0.10%
China	66	5.40%
Denmark	38	3.10%
England	42	3.50%
France	4	0.30%
Germany	96	7.90%
Greece	2	0.20%
Ireland	48	4.00%
Italy	1	0.10%
Japan	103	8.50%
Mexico	1	0.10%
Norway	1	0.10%
Portugal/Azores	585	48.10%
Spain	2	0.20%
Sweden	3	0.20%
Swiss	25	2.10%
U.S.	185	15.20%
TOTAL:	1,214	100.00%

The 1910 Census showed a continuing slowing from the immigrant population of Northern Europe and the Irish Isle. The population of Alvarado fell from 1,832

persons in 1900 to 1,214 person in 1910. This was because the census area covered by the 1910 Census more closely resembled the Alvarado/Alviso Enumeration Districts of the past. The 1900 Alvarado Census contained areas that had not been counted as Alvarado before, and grossly inflated the population that was enumerated.

Persons born in the U.S. from U.S. born parents stayed constant in this decade at 15.2%. The Portuguese community population rose from 40% in 1900, to 48% in 1910, no other immigrant community showed over 10% of the population.

The Chinese community fell from 157 persons in 1900 to 66 persons in 1910. This reflected a drop from 8.6% of Alvarado's population in 1900, to 5.4% of Alvarado's population in 1910.

The Japanese population fell from 169 persons in 1900 to 103 in 1900. This reflected a drop from 9.2% of Alvarado's population in 1900, to 8.5% of Alvarado's population in 1910.

The Portuguese population fell to 585 in 1910 from 732 persons in 1900. The reason for the decline in population was the census area of 1910 was smaller than it was the year 1900. Although the number of actual persons dropped in 1910, the Portuguese community grew from 40% in 1900 of the general population, to 48.1% in 1910 as a percentage of the population.

During this decade the Portuguese community had another social body come into prominence in Alvarado, under the aegis of the LUSO-American Society. This society was called the S.P.R.S.I. (Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel do Estado da California), Council No. 21 Oriental Chapter. This was a Portuguese benevolent society founded for the benefit of the Portuguese community, and supplied financial services for the local Portuguese. It was founded on March 31, 1901.

* **CORPORATE BUSINESSES** *

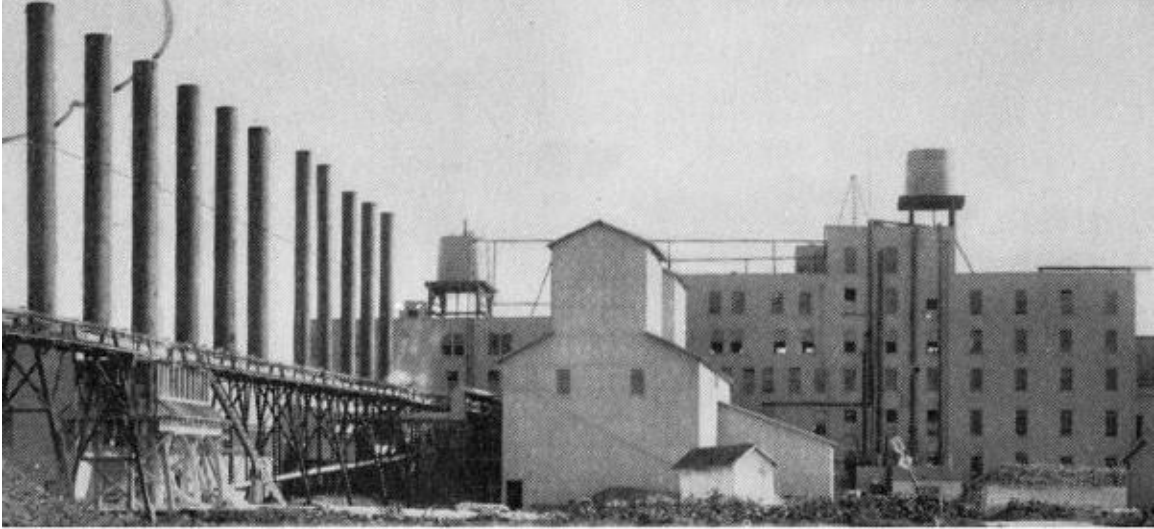
Sugar Mill / Bank of Alameda County

SUGAR MILL:

The sugar mill entered an entirely new phase in this decade. The sugar company continued to enlarge the areas of its operations outside of Alameda County at Modesto, Yolo County at Woodland, and at Sutter County near Meridian. The company also sold a lot of local company owned land around Alvarado, and bought land in Yolo County. For a time there was talk of closing the Alvarado mill and sending the equipment up near Sacramento, and finally there were the war years. This was a turbulent decade for the sugar mill at Alvarado.

The figures given by the Alameda Sugar Company for the crop of sugar beets in Washington Township for the year 1909 was the biggest, with the exception of one year, in the twenty-one year history of the Alameda Sugar Co. Many farmers reported yields of 23.7 to 30.13 tons per acre.

The 1910 campaign started in August with beets coming in from the Woodland area first. The volume from the Sacramento Valley kept the mill in Alvarado busy until the local beets started coming in.



THE SUGAR MILL AT ALVARADO



THE SUGAR MILL AT ALVARADO

The 1910 campaign had been a record breaking one, the output being in the neighborhood of 400,000 sacks of sugar. The campaign ended at the end of November. At this same time a rumor was spreading that the Alameda Sugar Co. would erect a plant at Woodland, where they had 14,000 acres of sugar beets under cultivation; as the cost of transportation of the raw material between Woodland and Alvarado was so large that the company intended to put the beets through the raw stages of sugar making in the Sacramento area, and then shipping the product to Alvarado for refining.

1910 also saw the labeling of the American Sugar Refining Company, familiarly known as the "Sugar Trust," as a lawless combination. In this year, on November 10th, the federal government filed its long expected suit for the dissolution of the corporation. The petition was filed by Henry A. Wise, district attorney in the United States circuit court for the Southern District of New York, which brought the suit under the Sherman Anti-Trust Law, and it was expected to be one of the most important actions of its kind ever undertaken in this country. The Government's petition was a lengthy one, taking up 221 pages, and was a sweeping arraignment of the defendant companies. There were dozens of defendant companies controlled by the Sugar Trust, including the Alameda Sugar Company of San Francisco and Alvarado California.

In April 1911 E. W. Burr, Superintendent of the Alameda Sugar Company resigned his position and J. W. Atkinson, who was the plant manager, then became the new plant superintendent.

To further show the company's future lay in the Sacramento Valley, the entire acreage of the Alameda Sugar Company north of Pleasanton, Murray County, was leased to Antone Goularte in a deal announced in September 1911. The company's machinery and other paraphernalia located in the Pleasanton area were then shipped to its Woodland holdings. The renting of this land and the relinquishment of all surrounding property by the company was a significant fact, when considered with the reported sale of the concern's holdings at Alvarado.

It was understood that the reason for the abandoning of the field in Alvarado, was due to the lack cost of transportation. Many of the company's employees had been transferred to other plants and ranches. The Alameda Sugar Company had been active in the Pleasanton area for many years and the move came as a surprise to many.

Then, in October 1911 it was reported that the Alameda Sugar Co. was contemplating moving its Alvarado refinery to Meridian California. Meridian is approximately 40 miles north of Sacramento. The company had secured options on 10,000 acres of sugar beet land, and the company's representatives announced that the actual transfer of the plant could be completed by early 1913.

The proposed new factory was to be twice the size of the old Alvarado plant. The new plant would require the concern to construct branch railways tapping the sugar beet belt for transportation of beets to the refinery. In the neighborhood of \$2,500,000 would have to be expended on the plant and roads in the Meridian area if the new plant was to be located there.

The 1911 campaign got underway in August, and beets began arriving at the Alvarado plant in such large quantities that they could not be properly handled. Woodland shipped an average of twenty carloads a day from Yolo County, but had to reduce the amount to fifteen carloads a day. The company was apprehensive that if they curtailed shipments by too much this would stretch out the beet season and may run into early rainfall problems.

Then in late October 1911 the Alameda Sugar Company made it official, they announced their intention to move its factory from Alvarado to Meridian in Sutter County. The October 17th issue of the local Woodland newspaper confirmed this rumor:

"The Alameda Sugar Company, located at Alvarado, will remove its refinery to this city (Meridian). It has secured options on approximately 10,000 acres of sugar beet land, and the company's representatives have announced that the actual transfer of the plant will be completed by early 1913.

The new factory will be twice the capacity of the old plant, and in addition the concern must construct branch railways, tapping the sugar beet belt for the transportation of the beets to the refinery. In the neighborhood of \$2,500,000 will be expended on the plant and roads,"



This map illustrates the beet growing area to the north of Sacramento used by the sugar mill at Alvarado. Hamilton City is also shown, as this was the home of the Holly Sugar rival, the Sacramento Valley Sugar Company. The beets harvested at Meridian and Woodland areas were shipped to Alvarado via rail. This was an expensive undertaking, and in this decade the Alameda Sugar Company investigated ways to cut the costly transportation issue including the closing of the Alvarado sugar mill.

Alameda Sugar's anticipated move to Yolo County put it in direct competition for sugar beet growing land with the Sacramento Valley Sugar Company with its plant located at Hamilton (City). James Hamilton had founded the Hamilton City plant in 1906 as the Alta California Beet Co. In 1908 the name was changed to the Sacramento Valley Sugar Company. In 1936 the Spreckels Sugar Company would purchase the Sacramento Valley Sugar Company and change the name to Holly Sugar. This plant was demolished in 2005.

Here is a list eleven beet sugar factories in operation in California as of January 1912. Following is the list and daily capacity in tons:

<u>Companies:</u>	<u>Factories:</u>	<u>Daily Tonnage:</u>
Alameda Sugar Co.	Alvarado	800
Los Alamitos Sugar Co.	Los Alamitos	700
Spreckels Sugar Co.	Spreckels	3,000
Union Sugar Co.	Betteravia	1,000
American Beet Sugar Co.	Chino	900
American Beet Sugar Co.	Oxnard	2,000
Pacific Sugar Co.	Visalia	400
Pacific Sugar Co.	Corcoran	600
Sacramento Valley Sugar Co.	Hamilton	200
Southern Calif. Sugar Co.	Santa Ana	600
Huntington Beach Sugar Co.	Huntington Beach	800

In January 1912 came the first reported sale of sugar mill land in Alameda Sugar's Fair Ranch. The Fair Ranch was located where today's Casa Verde tract sits, although the ranch covered more than just the Casa Verde Tract.



The map above is a depiction of Alameda Sugar's Fair Ranch. On the map the ranch is designated as the "Pacific Land Investment Company," the company that put the SPCRR railroad through Alvarado. It was owned by James G. Fair. My father owned 14 acres of the "Alameda Sugar's Fair Ranch," which was how it was titled on the deed. The dark blue line through the Pacific Land Inv. Co. is the old Fair Ranch Road, the way it stood until 1966

The shipments of the Alameda Sugar Company around Woodland to the Alvarado factory averaged about twelve carloads a day in August 1912. The Alvarado sugar company experienced some trouble with its help. The Hindus and Mexicans in the area were not altogether satisfactory, and the Japanese help was insufficient. The daily shipments would gradually increase thereafter.

In 1913, of the 12,000 acres owned by the Alameda Sugar Company near Meridian, only 3,000 acres were utilized in the planting of beets. The 1913 crop was shipped to the Alvarado factory, but at the latter end of that year the erection of the new factory was expected to be commenced at Meridian, and would be made ready to handle the 1914 crop. The 1914 campaign would then use all 12,000 acres of beets in the Meridian area. The Alvarado sugar mill closed on December 9, 1913 after a very successful season, meanwhile planning for the new mill at Meridian continued.

Dismantling the Alvarado mill, and the erecting a new one in Meridian would necessitate a bond issue of \$15,000,000. The new plant was calculated to produce in excess of 20,000 tons of sugar each season, which would mean handling approximately 180,000 tons of beets

The Alameda Sugar Company received good news in June 1913 when it was reported that a right of way for a branch line connecting Woodland and Meridian had been obtained by the Northern Electric Railroad. It would be a great boost to the sugar beet industry in that portion of the valley, as it would give growers easy access to the factory that was proposed to be built by the Alameda Sugar Company at Meridian. When the branch line was completed, the Northern Electric would have connections between Woodland and Chico on the east side of the valley, between Woodland and Colusa on the west side with connections between Colusa and Marysville in the center.

Then came the news of the reduction on the duty of sugar (2 cent bounty) with the provision for free sugar after the first of May 1916 (which legislation the Sugar Refining Trust, or cane sugar producers, were so persistent in advocating in the hopes of crippling their chief competition, the beet sugar interests), struck California particularly hard because it was recognized as the principal beet sugar producing state in the Union. California now had 13 factories in the state, for there is a larger acreage adopted to the growing of sugar beets in California than found in any other state. The coast valleys were particularly hard hit as they are well adapted as to climatic and soil conditions for the sugar beet.

Because of the recent developments, the Alvarado sugar mill decided in November 1913 that it would continue to keep the Alvarado factory going, although the company has decided to quit raising beets themselves. It has also been decided to raise the price of beets to \$6 per ton delivered to the factory.

From the pages of the *Pacific Rural Press* in January 1914, was the news that the Alameda Sugar Co.'s mill at Alvarado would not be operated in 1914.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* then printed an article on the doom this would cause township farmers in the area. But the *Oakland Tribune* rebutted this assertion in a January 15, 1914 article about the *SF Chronicle* article:

"The San Francisco Chronicle need waste no tears over the closing down of the Alvarado beet sugar mill. It is not a calamity. More remunerative crops can be grown on the land than sugar beets.

Closing down the mill is not an injury to Alameda County or the landowners of the vicinity. Other crops can be grown in the Alameda Creek delta to a greater benefit than beets. It is the finest market garden land lying out of doors, fertile, productive and easily cultivated."

Then in October 1914 came good news for the farmers of Alvarado, Pleasanton, and Woodland that the Alameda Sugar Company stockholders had voted to resume operations at the Alvarado refinery beginning in 1915. More than 30,000 shares of stock were voted in favor of resuming operations in Alvarado. It was also decided that the Alameda Sugar Company would get out of the sugar beet farming business and would purchase all of its beets from individual farmers on contract.

On October 9, 1915, school children blew the company whistle, and threw in the first beets that started the sugar factory at Alvarado in operation after it had been closed down for two years. The factory would be kept running for 100 days without a break. Superintendent Williams invited the young folk to start the work remarking that in their hands would be the future success of the industry.

In November of 1915 the Alameda Sugar Company had 9,000 acres of sugar beets. The refining plant was undergoing extensive improvements to cope with next year's increased output. The acreage of beets dealt with at the mill was a record and employment jumped to 250 men. The Alvarado mill would handle the main output in the future, as the company had dismantled its mill at Woodland and moved the machinery to Alvarado. The war had created an extra-large sugar demand and was responsible for the local activity.

When the U.S. entered WWI it created a labor shortage in many industries. Farming, beet raising, and refining were not exempted. In September 1917, the Alvarado sugar mill advertised for men to work in the sugar mill.

The sugar mill reported that in September 1919 it was cutting around 750 tons of beets daily. This immense run was the result of the teamwork of the efficient organization gathered together by R. S. Stewart, Superintendent of the plant. The result aided in the relieving of the sugar shortage.

BANK:

Bank of Alvarado/Bank of Alameda County: August May Jr., President:

In the fall of 1910, the Bank of Alvarado changed its name to the Bank of Alameda County. The reason for the name change became apparent several months later when the bank opened its first branch in downtown Irvington. The name change gave the old Bank of Alvarado bank a larger footprint in the Washington Township banking area.

The 1912 annual election of officers by the stockholders of the Bank of Alameda County resulted in the following:

President:	August May
Vice-President:	Fred Wiegman
Secretary and Cashier:	J. R. Blacow
Assistant Cashier:	R. A. Blacow

The only change in officers was that of Cashier, J. R. Blacow taking the place of E. H. Stevenson. The Board of Directors elected was:

F. B. Granger	George Althaus	Henry H. Patterson
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A brazen bank robbery occurred in April 1913 that was covered extensively by the *Oakland Tribune*:

"On April 5, 1913, five bandits armed with powerful searchlights and rifles, stood off all interferences on the part of citizens in Alvarado at an early hour, when they dynamited the vault of the Bank of Alameda County in an effort to gain access to \$27,000 in gold and silver.

With the building shattered and the heavy vault wrecked, the two men working on the inside of the institution were forced to leave with but \$19.20, in spite of the fact that the greater amount was in sight through forced steel doors. They could not move the doors, which had blown inward instead of outward, and with daylight threatening, and the alarm spreading into the surrounding country, they abandoned their efforts.

Three men stood guard about the building flashing their searchlights upon neighboring doors and windows whenever a head appeared. Their threats were backed up by frequent shots from their rifles and sawed-off shotguns. Telephone wires were severed before the men commenced their operations.

From the information garnered by Sheriff Barnet, who went to the scene several hours later when he received word of the robbery, the five bandits had entered Alvarado shortly before 3 o'clock in the morning.

Further information on the bank robbery at Alvarado was revealed later in the day. The bank robbers that blew up the vault of Bank of Alameda County in Alvarado took several precautions to gain time for an escape. The bandits cut the telephone wires into and out of town, and then went to the Southern Pacific Train Depot and cut the telegraph wires. Finally they went to the Hose House of the Fire Department and dismantled the town's general alarm.

One of the peculiar freaks in connection with the dynamiting was shown when a piece of the steel door weighing eight pounds was hurled through a bank window, cut off two branches of a nearby tree and dropped through the roof into the attic of an adjacent building.

At the time the dynamiting was going on it was raining hard and townspeople who heard the blasts stated that they could only see dim forms through the windows of the bank.

The automobile used in robbery was found on Brokaw Road in San Jose. Found in the car were raincoats taken from the SP Depot in Alvarado and a bottle of nitroglycerin. It is theorized that at least two of the safe crackers boarded a train for San Francisco.

People wondered where Constable G. G. Bontelho of Alvarado was during the early hours of Saturday morning, when five safecrackers aroused the entire town. During the next hour they placed seven charges of nitroglycerin in the Bank of Alameda County's vault, the explosions shaking the country for miles around.

It is a question that puzzles Sheriff Barnett and other officials who are working on the case in an effort to apprehend the bold robbers, who finally

gave up the job and drove away in an automobile, leaving \$27,000 in gold exposed in the open vault.

Constable Bontelho explained that he was asleep in a building directly across the street from the bank, and that he did not hear the explosions, although they were sufficiently powerful enough to knock down pictures on walls in adjacent buildings."

Then in Santa Rosa on June 4, 1913, Frank Smith, alias Lederer, alias Bryce, an ex-convict, was arrested for robbery. Sheriff Barnett believed that he had apprehended one of the men who dynamited the safe in the Bank of Alameda County at Alvarado on April 5, 1913. He was charged with robbing a store on Fillmore St., San Francisco, which he and confederates entered by sawing a hole in the floor of a rooming house above the establishment. They attempted to blow the safe but failed.

Nearly three years later, one of the safecrackers who dynamited the safe in the Bank of Alameda County at Alvarado in April 1913, came to grief. It was the belief of Sheriff Frank Barnett, who declared that Frank Smith, alias Lederer, was the man who planned the robbery, was shot and killed at Turk and Polk Streets in San Francisco on December 18, 1915.

Smith was shot by a man who drove up to the curb in an automobile and fired at him as he was going downstairs into a café. The assailant escaped with his companion in a car. That the man who did the shooting was a former pal of Smith, who sought revenge against him, is the belief of Sheriff Barnett.

A confession obtained from Smith in Sacramento relates the plans made for robbing the Alvarado Bank. At that time, Smith related, he had reported to his friends that the job was impractical. But a few months later the robbery took place in exactly the way Smith had planned. Smith was known as the "Gentleman Safecracker" and had a long criminal history in this country. He was generally the "mechanic" in safe cracking jobs.

* **BIOS OF NOTABLE CIIZENS** *

Bookkeepers / Boat Captains / Butchers / Chemist (CHINESE: Butcher • Hotel Keeper • Laundry • Merchants • Restaurants) Contractor / Dress Makers / Engineer / Fireman / Horse Dealers / Hotels / (JAPANESE: Japanese Assoc. Secy • Barber • Billiard Parlor • Boarding Houses • Hotel • Labor Boss • Merchants • Restaurant • Shoe Maker) Laundry / Library / Lumber Dealer / Manager / Merchant / Optician / Pipe Fitter / Post Masters / Saloon Barkeeper / Sugar Mill / Teachers

BOOKKEEPERS:

Herbert Jung / William H. Norris

Herbert W. Jung:

Herbert W. Jung was born to William and Christina Jung in Alvarado in July 1890. In 1920 Herbert was working as a bookkeeper at a salt plant in Alvarado. By 1930 he had changed his name to Herbert Young, acquired a wife Margaret, and was farming in Mt. Eden. Herbert had two sisters,

Charlotte, an Alvarado teacher for over 25 years, and Mildred who passed away at the age of 39 years.

William H. Norris:

William Norris was born in California in 1891 to Albert & Rosalie Norris. Albert Norris was the Principal of the Alvarado School, the Postmaster, and the Librarian for Alvarado. William Norris was a bookkeeper for a local grocer. Nothing was found after this decade for William.

BOAT CAPTAINS:

Capt. Ferdinand Carstensen / Capt. Isaac Jennings

Capt. Ferdinand Carstensen:

Capt. Ferdinand Carstensen was born in Denmark in 1867. He entered the U.S. in 1889. His wife Ottile was born in Germany in 1874. She entered the U.S. in 1893. They married in 1900 and had two daughters, Ann and Clara. Ferdinand's occupation was listed as a captain of a tow boat. The Captain was living on V Street in Alvarado about 1910. In 1923 his daughter, Ann Carstensen, married Harry Bartels of Vallejo. At this time Ann was working at the First National Bank of Oakland. After 1920 Ferdinand was found living in Napa California working as a machinist in a Navy shipyard.

Isaac Jennings:

Capt. Isaac Jennings was born in Connecticut in 1848. He was single and living at the Barton & Continental Salt Works on the Bay, the he was the captain of a salt schooner. Isaac Jennings died in Oakland on October 16, 1911. He left brothers Moses, John, David and Samuel Jennings.

BUTCHERS:

Victor La Grave:

Victor La Grave was born on September 28, 1879, in San Francisco. Not much is known prior to his coming to work in Alvarado, just after the turn of 1900. He was apparently living in Hayward, and came to Alvarado about the turn of the century. In 1902, he decided to return to Hayward to work for Strobel & Neudeck. There he married Emma Seamon in February 1905.

After his marriage Victor managed the Hayward store of the Hellwig Meat Co. of Alvarado. Through his hard work he built up a reputable business for Hellwig in Hayward, and in July 1910 Victor purchased an interest in the firm. The name of the Hellwig Meat Company would be changed to Hellwig & La Grave Meat Company.

Two months later Vic purchased a small automobile to use in his business and daily he would make his rounds delivering meat to Alvarado, Niles, and then back to Hayward. Over the years Hellwig & La Grave would expand their business, purchasing large lots of cattle and sheep for slaughter in their Alvarado business.

Sometime about 1933 he opened a restaurant on 14th Street in Oakland called "Valentine's." He disposed of this restaurant just month before his

death in August 1946. Victor La Grave passed away in Hayward. He was 67 years of age.

Victor was elected to the Hayward City Council in 1906, and served until 1910. He was a member of the N.S.G.W., Eden Chapter 113 of Hayward; B.P.O.E. No. 181; and the Athens Club of Oakland. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Rose LaGrave.

CHEMIST:

Herrick C. Munson:

Herrick Munson was born in California in December 1880, to Dr. Clinton Munson and Mrs. Abitha Munson of Tacoma, Washington. Dr. Clinton was a prominent physician in the town of Tacoma, and Mrs. Abitha Munson was born Abitha Dyer, daughter of Ebenezer Dyer and Marian Ingalls Dyer of Alvarado.

Dr. Munson died in 1904, and Herrick Munson, grandson of Eb Dyer, came to Alvarado to work in the sugar mill as a chemist. By 1920 Herrick had moved to Ogden Utah with his mother, Mrs. Abitha Munson, where he worked as a chemist for the local sugar factory.

CHINESE BUTCHER:

Won Fong:

Won Fong was born in China in 1878, his entry into the U.S. is not known. He showed he was married, but did not have a wife or children living with him. He was a butcher and lived in a boarding house for Chinese nationals on Smith Street.

CHINESE HOTEL KEEPER:

Hum Quan:

Hum Quan was born in China in November 1847. He entered the U.S. in 1876. He shows that he was unmarried and that he was a hotel keeper. He had two boarders living with him.

CHINESE LAUNDRY:

Sai Chong:

Sai Chong was born in China in 1857, he entered the U.S. in 1874. He showed he had been married for 25 years, but did not have a wife or children residing with him. He showed that he was residing on Dairy Road in the Alviso District, and was the proprietor of a laundry. He had three Chinese nationals employed at his shop, Kim Tong, an ironer; and Sah Tong and Loi Lee as washers.

CHINESE MERCHANTS:

Do Go Wong / Jo Wong / Yin Chin / Sun Yow Fong / Sun Me Fong / Gum Loui / Gow Loui / Yip Loui / See Hoo Loui / Chin Loui / Chung Yow / Chung Ching

Do Go Wong:

Jo Wong:

Do Go Wong and Jo Wong was born in China in the year 1855. They both entered the U.S. in the year 1888. They were cousins and partners in a retail grocery store on Smith Street. Both were married, but neither showed a wife or children living with them.

Yin Chin:

Yin Chin was born in China in 1888, and entered the U.S. in 1908. He was married, but did not show a wife or children. He was boarding on Smith Street and showed his occupation as a retailer of groceries.

Sun Yow Fong:

Sun Me Fong:

Sun Yow Fong was born in China in 1843, and entered the U.S. in 1871. He was married, but did not show a wife or children living with him. Sun Me Fong was born in China in 1878, and entered the U.S. in 1902. Sun Me Fong showed he was married, but he did not show a wife or children living with him. Sun Yow and Sun Me were partners in retail grocery store on Smith Street.

Gum Loui:

Gow Loui:

Yip Loui:

See Hoo Loui:

Chin Loui:

Chung Yow:

All of the above were partners in a retail grocery outlet on Smith Street in Alvarado.

Gum Loui:

Gum Loui was born in China in 1844, and entered the U.S. in 1870. His wife was See Ro, who was born in China in 1879. Her date of entry into the U.S. is not known, as well as her two daughters, Quoi Ton and Quoi Get.

Gow Loui:

Gow Loui was born in China in 1887, and he entered the U.S. in 1886. His wife, Cho Yung Wong was born in China in 1891, but her date of entry into the U.S. is not known. They had a daughter, Ah Tai Loui, who was born in China in 1909.

Yip Loui:

Yip Loui was born in China in 1868, and he entered the U.S. in 1897. He was married but did not show a wife living with him.

See Hoo Loui:

See Hoo Loui was born in China in 1852, he entered the U.S. in 1872. He was married, but did not show a wife or children living with him.

Chin Loui:

Chin Loui was born in China in 1865, he entered the U.S. in 1872. Chin showed that he was single.

Chung Yow:

Chung Yow was born in China in 1874, he entered the U.S. in 1872. He showed that he was married, but he did not show a wife or children living with him.

Chung Ching:

Chung Ching was born in China in 1875. He entered the U.S. in 1906. Chung operated a dry goods store on Smith Street in Alvarado.

CHINESE RESTAURANT:

See Ching / Hing Kwok / Jew Low

See Ching: **Hing Kwok:**

See Ching and Hing Kwok were partners in a restaurant on Smith Street. See Ching was born in China in 1858, and entered the U.S. in 1880. See Ching was married but did not have a wife or children living with him. Hing Kwok was born in China in 1865, and entered the U.S. in 1865. Hing Kwok was single.

Jew Low:

Jew Low was born in China in 1848, he entered the U.S. in 1874. His wife, See Jun, was born in China in 1853, and entered the U.S. in 1874. They were married 34 years and had three children, none of which were residing with them. They had their restaurant on Smith Street.

CONTRACTOR:

Guy S. Dyer

Guy S. Dyer was born in Alvarado California in 1868 to Ebenezer & Olive Dyer (Ebenezer's second wife). Guy's wife, Clara C. Dyer, was born in Ohio in 1875; they were married in 1904 but did not show any children in the 1910 Census. Guy was employed as a contractor at the Alvarado sugar mill. By 1920 he had relocated to Ogden, Utah, where he was employed as a chemical engineer at the local sugar factory. At that time he was staying as a lodger in a local boarding house. He showed still being married, but Clara was not with him at this time. After 1920 nothing was found.

DRESS MAKERS:

Miss Isabel Fortoda / Miss Minnie Soito / Miss Pauline Zwissig

Miss Isabel Fortoda:

Miss Isabel Fortoda was born in Portugal in 1880. She entered the U.S. in 1899. In 1910 she was living on Smith Street in Alvarado with a boarder, Manuel Drack. She was single and earned a living as a dressmaker, besides taking in a lodger. Nothing was found after 1910 for Isabel.

Miss Minnie Soito:

Miss Minnie Soito was born in the Azores in 1865. She entered the U.S. in 1873. In 1910 she was boarding with Tony Lee on Vallejo Street. She was single at this time. Her occupation was as a dressmaker. In 1920 she was living as a boarder with John Scribner and family on Vallejo Street. She was still single and showed her employ as a seamstress. In the 1930 census

Minnie was found living with John and Mary Scribner (former Alvaradan's) in Livermore California as a guest.

Miss Pauline Zwissig:

Miss Pauline Zwissig was the daughter of Louis and Agatha Zwissig who lived on the Marsh Road, where her father owned a dairy. Pauline was born in California in 1892. Pauline ran her own dressmaking business from the family home. After 1910 nothing was found for Pauline Zwissig, although her father would go on to develop a large dairy in Decoto at the corner of Decoto Road and Mission Boulevard.

ENGINEER:

Peter L. Juhl:

Peter Juhl was born in Germany in December 1867. He also gives his place of birth in one census as Denmark. He entered the U.S. in early 1870 with his parents, Martin & Mary Juhl, and his older brother Charles. The Juhl's were living in Alvarado prior to 1880. While living in Alvarado the couple had two more children; Edward and Anna.

In 1900, Peter was employed as a salesman and he showed that he was single. In 1910, Peter was employed by the sugar mill where he was a foreman. But, by the year 1920, he had joined the staff of the Alvarado Water Works as an engineer, joining the night shift with Edward Foley.

In 1900 Peter married Martha (Mattie), and they began a long life together. Mattie was born in Oregon 1878. Peter and Mattie had two children, Gertrude and Peter D.

FIREMEN:

First a word about fireman and how the term was used in the 1800's and early 1900's. The term firemen could mean a firefighter, but it mostly meant a person who tended or stoked fires, as relating to a boiler. The term was used on steam trains, steam boats, the steam engine at the water works, salt plants, and the eleven steam boilers at the sugar mill.

Herman Kaiser:

Herman Kaiser was born in Missouri in 1879. His wife Elizabeth Kaiser was born in California in 1888. They had five children, of which only one that lived past infancy; this was Charles (Vernon) who was born in 1907. Herman was employed a fireman at the Alvarado Water Works. By 1920 Herman and Elizabeth were divorced. Elizabeth was living on "V" Street in 1920, but she still showed she was married. Herman was living with his brother in Oakland, and he showed he was divorced. Herman Kaiser died in the Marine Hospital in November 1936.

FOREMEN:

Louis Landon / William R. Robinson / Thomas Nesbitt

Louis Landon:

Louis Landon was born in Germany in 1848. He entered the U.S. in 1870. His wife Anna (Johanna) was born in Germany in 1852. She entered the U.S. in 1870. They had two children, William and Anna.

Louis Landon worked in the Alvarado sugar mill as a foreman. His son William, who was 30 years old in the 1910 census, worked in the Alvarado sugar mill as a sugar boiler. In 1920 the Landon's were living in San Francisco where Mr. Landon had retired.

William R. Robinson:

William R. Robinson was born in California in 1865. In February 1902 William married Miss Emma Eden. The town of Mt. Eden was named after the parents of the bride. The couple went on a short wedding journey and then they settled down in Alvarado. They had two daughters, Ruth & Evelyn. William worked as a departmental superintendent (foreman) at the sugar Mill. William was active in Alvarado society becoming an active member of the Alvarado Woodmen. In August 1911, the Robinson's announced their plans to move to Mt. Eden where William planned to purchase an orchard.

Thomas Nesbitt:

Thomas Nesbitt was born in Ireland in December 1866. He entered the U.S. in 1885. His wife Elizabeth was born in Ireland in May 1866, and she also entered the U.S. in 1885. They married in 1891 and had seven children, six of which lived until adulthood. The Nesbitt's had a daughter Mabel born in 1894 and five sons, Robert born in 1891, Thomas born in 1892, James born in 1900, John born in 1903, and Joseph born in 1906. Thomas Nesbitt worked for the railroad, at first as a track layer, and then later as a section chief (foreman).

In 1900 the Nesbitt's were in Oakland, but they moved to Alvarado by 1910. There was a very interesting article in the *Oakland Tribune* about the Nesbitt's dated December 25, 1921:

“With the enrollment of James Nesbitt at Heald's Business College, the fifth of five Nesbitt boys has entered his period of training for a business career. To those interested in what the young people of the bay region are doing in winning their success, the Nesbitt family of Alvarado offers an interesting story.

The father of these five young men has been a section foreman of the Southern Pacific Railroad for twenty-five years, and though he did not have the advantage of a business training, he realized, through his contact with the executive offices of the railroad company for which he worked, that the real opportunities for advancement came to those fitted by special training for positions of trust and responsibility.

Having made his selection of a school for the oldest son, and being well satisfied with the success achieved by that young man, the father placed the boys, one after another, in Heald's Business College. Four other sons followed the oldest in registering at the Oakland business college, and three who have graduated are well on the road to making most successful businessmen.

Robert W. Nesbitt is a private secretary to high company official, John Nesbitt is an accountant in the general offices, and James is a checking clerk, all three being employed by the Southern Pacific Company. Thomas Nesbitt found his sphere of activity outside of railroading, being sales manager for a large industrial concern. The youngest son, Joseph, is now attending Heald's, gives every promise of equaling the success of his older brothers."

HORSE DEALERS:

Thomas C & John J Plank:

Thomas C. Plank was born in New York in October 1859. His wife Ella was born in New York in March 1857. They were married in 1885. Prior to coming to Alvarado they resided in Amsterdam, New York. The 1910 census shows the two were horse traders in Alvarado, and that they were living on McKeown Road (today's Lowry Road). John J. Plank was the step son of Thomas Plank. In 1920 the family moved to Murray Township where Thomas was a game keeper.

HOTELS:

Riverside Hotel N.W. Boysen / Alvarado Hotel – Robert Adair / Alvarado Hotel – Jess B. Peyser / Unknown Hotel / Chantecler Hotel – Xavier Herme / Hansen Bros. Hotel

N. W. Boysen, Proprietor

Riverside Hotel:

Robert Adair, Proprietor

Alvarado Hotel:

Jesse B. Peyser, Proprietor:

Alvarado Hotel:

Jesse Peyser was born in California in 1882. His wife, Mary Leque Peyser, was born in Illinois in 1880. They were married in 1905, but had no children together, Mary Leque had four children by a previous marriage.

J.B. Peyser had been the proprietor of the Alvarado Hotel since 1915. In April 1918 an ad was placed in the *Oakland Tribune*:

"For Sale:

Workingman's hotel and bar for sale at Alvarado, party must leave state. Address: Alvarado Hotel, Alvarado Calif."

In March 1920 J.B. Peyser leased the place known as "The Pines" in Hayward, and would conduct it as a summer resort. At that time he offered his lease and the furnishings of the Alvarado Hotel for sale.

Edward Urfer, Proprietor:

Unknown (Ghost) Hotel:

On October 25, 1911, Edward Urfer, from San Francisco, applied for a liquor license for his Alvarado business. On November 5, 1911, it was reported that Alvarado was to have a new hotel, and that Edward Urfer, the well-known San

Francisco hotel man, was to open this new hotel in Alvarado. The old Flag Building was to be occupied by the new business. On November 29, 1911, Ed Urfer went on a business trip to San Francisco. He was not heard from again, although I was able locate his brother, Charles E. Urfer, in San Francisco. Mr. Urfer simply disappeared. I could not locate the name of his hotel or where it was located. Nor could I locate a Flag building in Alvarado.

Chantecler Hotel: **Xavier Herme, Proprietor:**

Xavier Herme was born in France in 1862. He entered the U.S. in 1879. His wife, Maria Herme, was born in France in 1865. She entered the U.S. in 1881. They were married in 1885, and showed having no children.

In 1910, Xavier became the proprietor of the Chantecler Hotel. Before this it had been the Lassen Hotel, but Mrs. Fredericka Lassen moved to Oakland with her daughter in January 1909. The first mention of Mr. Herme in Alvarado is his application for a liquor license for the hotel in April 1910, in conjunction with a Mr. George P. Harden.

In October 1912, the Alameda County District Attorney's office put before the

- 1) That Mr. Herme did sell to L. Robinson and Isadore Costanzo, intoxicating liquors in violation of the terms and provisions of said ordinance and in violation of the law.
- 2) That Mr. X. Herme, when business warrants it, kept his establishment open all night selling intoxicating liquor during said hours and in violation of the law.
- 3) That said Mr. X. Herme is now harboring and permits to live and occupy rooms at said Chantecler Hotel, for about two months, a common prostitute.



The above is a photo of the Hotel Chantecler. The hotel stood on the NE corner of Union City Blvd. and Horner Street. The photo of the hotel was taken from the book "Images of America – Union City," By Timothy Swenson.

The District Attorney therefore asked that the liquor license of the Chantecler Hotel granted to Mr. X. Herme be revoked. George McDonough, attorney for Xavier Herme, appeared before the Board of Supervisors on November 5,

1912, asking that his client be given 30 days' time to dispose of his interest in the hotel, and added that his client was very sick and needed the extra time. Mr. Herme admitted that all charges against him were true.

Xavier Herme died on December 18, 1912, in San Francisco, Calif. He was 53 years old and left his wife Marie Herme.

Hansen Bros. Hotel: **Ludwig Hansen**

The last mention of the Hansen Bros. Hotel in Alvarado was in 1915. It would appear that this property stopped its use as a hotel sometime after the Hansen Bros. left Alvarado.

JAPANESE ASSOCIATION: **T. Hashiguchi, Secretary:**

T. Hashiguchi was the Secretary of the Japanese Association in Alvarado. Born in Japan in 1883, he entered the U.S. in 1897. He was single.

JAPANESE BARBER: **T. Saito:**

Mr. Saito was born in Japan in 1873, he entered the U.S. in 1899. He showed that he was married, but did not have a wife living with him. He showed his residence as being Smith Street, most likely China Town.

JAPANESE BILLIARD PARLOR: **T. Nishi:**

T. Nishi was born in Japan in 1892, and entered the U.S. in 1901. Mr. Nishi was single and operated a billiard parlor on Smith Street.

JAPANESE BOARDING HOUSE:

J. Sano / T. Kobayashi / S. Saito

J. Sano, Restaurant & Boarding House:

J. Sano was born in Japan in 1870. He entered the U.S. in 1901. In September 1901 he was operating a restaurant on Smith Street in or very near the Chinatown section of Alvarado.

T. Kobayashi:

T. Kobayashi was born in Japan in 1867. He entered the U.S. in 1897. His wife, M. Kobayashi was living with him. They had been married for 17 years and had one child, who was not residing with them. Mr. Kobayashi gave his occupation as a hotel proprietor on Smith Street. He showed one Japanese national staying at his hotel.

S. Saito:

S. Saito was born in Japan in 1872 and entered the U.S. in 1902. His wife, H. Saito, was born in Japan in 1876. They entered the U.S. in 1902. They

showed not having any children. Their hotel was on Smith Street in Alvarado. They showed that they had four Japanese nationals boarding at their hotel in 1910. They also had a hired man and a cook on the premises.

JAPANESE LABOR BOSS:

S. Isahebashi / S. Kito / R. Sugimoto

S. Isahebashi:

S. Isahebashi was born in Japan in 1867. He showed he was married, but did not have a wife or children shown living with him. He entered the U.S. in 1902. He showed that he had six Japanese nationals working for him on the Barton and Continental Salt Works on the Bay.

S. Kito:

S. Kito was born in Japan in 1881. He entered the U.S. in 1899. He showed that he was single. He had twelve Japanese nationals working for him on the Barton and Continental Salt Works on the Bay.

R. Sugimoto:

R. Sugimoto was born in Japan in 1879. He entered the U.S. in 1901. He was living on the Marsh Road outside of Alvarado and was single. He had three men boarding with him who worked at the salt works.

JAPANESE MERCHANT:

Katsusaburo Matsumoto / T. Maruo / N. Nakamura / K. Masuda

Katsusaburo Matsumoto:

Katsusaburo Matsumoto was born in Japan circa 1875, and entered the U.S. sometime from 1896 to 1898. By 1910 he had established himself as a retail merchant of groceries in Alvarado. In August 1910, Mr. Matsumoto 35, married Miss Fusa Kubo 28, of Alvarado.

The couple had four daughters: Sumiko, Chiyoka, Misayo and Fusako; and three sons, Masatu, Michio and Tsutomu.

In September 1904, Katsusaburo would erect a brick structure on his property across from Chinatown to be used as a general store. In 1908, Katsusaburo started Matsumoto & Co., the umbrella name he would use for all his business holdings in Alvarado. For a time Mr. Matsumoto was also in the farm labor contracting business for Japanese nationals.

Several months after the beginning of WWII (approx. March 1942), internment of the Japanese population began in California. The Matsumoto's were uprooted from Alvarado, and sent to the Gila River internment facility in Arizona. Those who were sent there that I could locate were: Katsusaburo, Fusa, Misayo, Tsutomu, Fusako and Sumiko Matsumoto.

After the war the Matsumoto's returned to Alvarado and resumed their business. In a 1946 commercial advertisement in the *Hayward Review* they gave their address as T. Matsumoto, Groceries & General Merchandise; 1471 Smith Street, Alvarado Calif.

In 1957 the Nimitz Freeway (Eastshore Freeway, I-880, New Hiway 17) came through Alvarado, and the downtown traffic slowed dramatically as the auto traffic was no longer funneled through Alvarado. But the Matumoto's were one of the few merchants who managed to survive the down turn. Manuel Priego on the corner of Horner and Levee Streets also managed to survive and thrive in the new environment.

T. Maruo:

N. Nakamura:

T. Maruo and N. Nakamura were partners in a retail grocery store on Smith Street in Alvarado.

T. Maruo:

T. Maruo was born in Japan in 1881, he entered the U.S. in 1901. He was single. N. Nakamura was his brother and his business partner.

N. Nakamura:

N. Nakamura was born in Japan in 1872, he entered the U.S. in 1899. He was the brother and partner of T. Maruo. He was married to Tameno Nakamura, who was born in Japan in 1891. She entered the U.S. in 1901. The couple had two boys, Nabuo and Yoshio.

K. Masuda:

K. Masuda was born in Japan in 1879, and he entered the U.S. in 1897. He was unmarried, and was a retail merchant on Smith Street in Alvarado.

JAPANESE RESTAURANT:

S. Takamoto:

An article in November 1901 mentions S. Takamoto owning a Japanese restaurant in Alvarado, probably near Chinatown. No further articles or information could be found for Mr. Takamoto.

JAPANESE SHOEMAKER:

S. Ishisaki:

Mr. Ishisaki was born in Japan in 1888, he entered the U.S. in 1907. He was single and living on Smith Street. He showed his occupation as a shoemaker.

LAUNDRY - LAUNDRESS:

Mrs. Jorgianna Rose / Mrs. Minnie Moffitt

Mrs. Jorgianna Rose:

Mrs. Jorgiana Rose was born in the Azores in April 1858. She entered the U.S. in 1876. In 1900 she was residing in Alvarado, where she showed that she was "divorced." In 1910 Jorgianna showed she was living on "V" Street in Alvarado.

Mrs. Rose showed that she had borne 12 children, seven of which lived to adulthood. In 1910 she had five of her children living with her. She earned a living by being a laundress. In 1920 she was still in Alvarado with one child showing that she was a widow, but she did not have an occupation.

Mrs. Minnie Moffitt:

Mrs. Minnie Moffitt was born in California in 1861. She was married to William Moffitt, a day laborer in Alvarado, who was born in Rhode Island in 1859. William and Minnie were married in 1885, and had eight children, seven of which lived to adulthood.

After the 1900 census there is nothing found for Mr. Moffitt in Alvarado, although William in 1920, and she showed she was self-employed as a washer woman. She and her children resided on 10th Street. In 1920 she was living alone on 10th Street and was still employed as a washer woman. Mrs. Moffitt died in Oakland in February 1932 at the age of 71. She had lived in California for 64 years and made her residence in Alvarado. She was survived by a son and three daughters.

LIBRARY:

Albert Norris:

Albert Norris was the Librarian and also the Postmaster.

Library Attendance and circulation for the month of August 1912:

Fiction	119
Juvenile Fiction	55
Magazines	117
Miscellaneous	7
Daily Attendance	19

LUMBER DEALER:

Edwin Hawley:

Edwin Hawley was born in 1887 in California. In 1900 Edwin was pursuing the trade of carpentry, but by 1910 he had become a lumber Merchant in Alvarado. After 1910 nothing was found for Mr. Hawley.

MANAGER:

Joseph Fyffe:

Joseph Fyffe was born in Ireland in 1882, and entered the U.S. in 1902. His wife, Margaret Fyffe, was born in Ireland in 1880, and entered the U.S. in 1900. They were married in 1895 and had three children, two of which survived until adulthood. Joe worked in the Crystal Salt plant and lived on the Marsh Road, and then later on he moved to the Alvarado – Centerville Road. Joseph Fyffe died in April 1929. Margaret Fyffe was still in Alvarado during the 1930 census but nothing could be found that.

MERCHANTS:

Joseph (Jesse) Jacinto Sr.:

Joseph Jacinto Sr. was born in California in October 1893 to Manuel and Anna Jacinto of Sacramento. Joseph was one of 9 children that survived into adulthood. Joseph was also known as Jesse Jacinto in Alvarado. Joe came to Alvarado and married Miss Clara Davilla circa 1913. In 1914 they had a son

Hubert; and in 1927 they had a son Joseph (Jesse) Jr.; and in 1933 they had a daughter Betty Anne.

In Sacramento as a young man Joe worked as a clerk in a grocery store, an avocation he was to continue for the rest of his life. Joe opened a grocery in Alvarado just before the turn of the new decade in 1920. He would go into business with his brother-in-law John Menezes, who had married Clara's sister, Isabel Davilla.

The firm's name was Jacinto & Menezes. Their store was on the south side of Hiway 17 (Alvarado Centerville Road) just opposite the south end of Vallejo Street. Later in the 1920's John Menezes would branch out on his own in the barbering business, opening up his own shop in Alvarado.

Joe Jacinto was affiliated with the "Neighborhood Stores" brand of food products, an association of over 800 California stores that carried that brand.

Early in 1927 a motorist smashed his car into Joe's general store, wrecking the store, so Jacinto decided to move the store across the street, more out of the line of traffic.

In July 1927, with the new store stock in place and ready for occupancy, Joseph Rodriguez, 29, of Oakland smashed his car into the new establishment, wrecking the building. Rodriguez said he fell asleep at the wheel.

Joe was a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. In November 1924, he was appointed a member of Chamber's Boy Scout Committee. In 1925 Joe was named the Athletic Director of the Alvarado Boy Scout Troop.

Joe had a lifelong passion, baseball. Jesse played the sport in Alvarado as part of amateur and semi-pro ball. He passed this passion to his two sons Hubert and Joseph (Jesse) Jr.

In 1918 Joe was part of an Alvarado team that played that played a team from Oakland, the Big Brother Elks, which Alvarado defeated 6 - 0. "Shine" Silva pitched for Alvarado, and Joe Jacinto was the catcher. Alvarado was an independent team in 1918, but they played the Mission League champs, the Newark Wedgewoods, for the championship of Washington Township. Newark won the series two games to one, with Joe Jacinto working behind the plate for Alvarado.

This was one of many teams from Alvarado, in which Joe Jacinto Sr. was the catcher. This included the Alameda Sugars, a team sponsored by the Alameda Sugar Co. from Alvarado. In 1922, Joe fielded an amateur Alvarado baseball team that played all about our township, and towns further out like Pleasanton. In August 1926, Joe Jacinto was the catcher for the Amaral Bros., an Alvarado baseball team that took the Washington Township Championship by winning two straight games over Decoto in the championship playoff.

Later in 1920, Joe was part of the Leslie Salts, which was sponsored by the Leslie Salt Company. The team played many East Bay semi-pro teams, and contained such notable players as:

Leonard Dondero from Newark, who in 1929 played infield for the American League St. Louis Browns in the Major Leagues.

Fred Muller from Newark, who later became an Alvarado boy (his grandmother was Mrs. Fannie Robie). Fred was first picked up by the Boston Red Sox and then traded to the New York Yankees. Fred played for the Boston Red Sox in 1933 and 1934. He played minor league ball for the Seattle Indians and then the Oakland Oaks. In 1935 Fred outslugged Joe DiMaggio in the Pacific Coast League with 78 RBI's to DiMaggio's 71 RBI's.

Bill "Spud" Degermark was a baseball player on several Alvarado teams. In 1929 Degermark went 8 – 2 in Southern Alameda County Baseball League. He was signed to contract with the San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League.

In the 1930's Joe managed baseball teams for Alvarado such as the Alvarado Merchants, and the Alvarado Eagles.

In April 1943 Joe Jacinto was appointed Chief Observer of the Alvarado Observation Post for the Fourth Fighter Command. He succeeded Frank Machado, who resigned to pursue other activities and because of ill health.

Jacinto had served more than 400 hours at the post where enemy plane spotting was a family affair. Mrs. Jacinto had put in more than 100 hours on the post, and even Betty, the Jacinto's 11-year old helped her mom on the tower.

Joe Jacinto was a member of the Alvarado Chamber Commerce and Joe also served as the assessor for the Alvarado Sanitary District.

OPTICIAN: L.C. Swain:

Mr. L.C. Swain, the Optician and watchmaker from Centerville, through frequent requests, was been persuaded to spend one day each week at Alvarado, examining eyes. He was in Alvarado each Tuesday, at the Ralph and Scribner General Store on Levee Street between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. starting in September 1915.

PIPE FITTER: Charles Goforth:

Charles Goforth was born in 1882. He married Miss Emily Kleine of Pleasanton in March 1905. They had one daughter, Muriel, born in 1909. Mr. Goforth was a pipe fitter at the Alvarado sugar mill. In 1920 Emily and Muriel Goforth were living in Berkeley with Emily's mother Anna Kleine. Mrs. Goforth had been widowed.

POSTMASTERS:

E.A. Richmond, Sr. / Albert Norris

E.A. Richmond, Sr.:

September 26, 1877 to May 10, 1899
March 16, 1903 to April 13, 1915

Albert Norris:

April 13, 1915 to September 1934

SALOON & BARKEEPERS:

Joseph Foster / Manuel V. Lopes / Manuel Silva

Joseph Foster:

Joseph Foster was born in Portugal in September 1837. His wife, Mary Foster, was born in Portugal in September 1856. Joseph entered the U.S. in 1862, and Mary entered the U.S. in 1869. The Foster's had five children, four of which lived to adulthood. Joe Foster had been in Alvarado since at least 1880, where he made his living as a farmer. But in 1910 at the age of 75 years he was tending a bar in a saloon. In 1920 Mary Foster was still living in Alvarado as a widow with her son Thomas Foster, who was a Teamster.

Manuel V. Lopes:

Manuel Lopes was born in Portugal in 1878. He entered the U.S. in 1888. In 1910 Manuel was single and living in a rented house on Smith Street. His occupation was shown as a saloon keeper. In 1920 Manuel was boarding with Mrs. Leonora Silveira, a widow living on Smith Street. Manuel showed his occupation as selling soft drinks.

Manuel Silva:

Manuel Silva was born in Portugal in 1866. He entered the U.S. in 1883. His wife Rosa was born in Portugal in 1875; she entered the U.S. in 1903. They were married in 1903, and in the 1910 census had no children. Manuel Silva tended to a saloon while in Alvarado. After 1910 there were several mentions of Manuel Silva getting a liquor license, but by 1920 nothing further could be found for them.

SUGAR MILL EXEC'S:

George Gray / J. McCoy Williams / Raymond S. Stewart

George Gray, Field Agent:

George Gray was born in Canada in April 1851. His wife Emma was born in California in May 1859. They had four children and they lived in Hayward. Mr. Gray was listed as a farm overseer in 1900, and later became the Agricultural Field man for the Alameda Sugar Company. In 1904 George went to Modesto to check the area soil conditions for the planting of beets. The following year George was off to Woodland to check the adaptability of the local soil for the planting of sugar beets for the Alvarado mill. In that same year George was off to Yolo County for the same purpose.

In 1906 George had five sacks of beet seed delivered to Woodland for the purpose of testing the area for probability of continued expansion into that area. In 1907 the Alameda Sugar Co. started full fledged beet growing

operations in the Woodland area. As the operation around the Woodland area continued to grow, George secured mules and equipment for the operation. By 1910 he had secured several steam plows, with gang plows that could pull six rows of beets at one pass. In October 1913 Mr. Gray passed away at his home in Hayward.

J. McCoy Williams, Superintendent:

Between the resignation of E. Burr in 1911, and the appearance of J. McCoy Williams in Alvarado, there could be found no mention of the superintendent's name at the Alvarado mill. For the two years of 1913 and 1914 there were no beets processed in Alvarado, as it was proposed to move the mill to Meridian California. On October 9, 1915, the Alvarado school children blew the whistle to start beet processing at Alvarado again. The superintendent on this occasion was J. McCoy Williams who had just come from the sugar mill at Hamilton City in the Sacramento Valley. In 1916 it was mentioned that Mr. Williams had X-rays taken for an internal problem. After this there were no further entries found for Mr. Williams.

Raymond S. Stewart, Superintendent:

Raymond S. Stewart was born in Michigan in 1881. His wife, Emma Stewart, was born in California in 1884. They were married in 1904, and showed having no children. In 1910 Raymond was working his own farm in Holtville, Imperial County, California.

By 1918, he was employed as Ass't Superintendent of the American Beet Sugar Company's plant at Oxnard. In April 1918, he was named the new Superintendent for the Holly Sugar Company in Alvarado.

One of Mr. Stewart's first challenges at the Alvarado Mill was increasing production to help ease the sugar shortage caused during WWI. He was able to increase production to 750 tons of beets cut daily, this without the aid of added capital expense.

Mr. Stewart was elected to the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in December 1922, along with August May, John H. Ralph, H.M. Springer, Fred Wiegman and George Enos. During his brief stay in Alvarado Ray Stewart also served on the Board of Trustees of Washington Union High School, and as Noble Grand of the Crusade Lodge, IOOF in Alvarado.

Mrs. Stewart was a member of the Eastern Star in Centerville, and she was also actively involved with the East Bay Matrons Society. And finally, she was a member of the Alvarado fun-loving group, the Alvarado Birthday Club. But by 1930 the Stewarts left Alvarado, and returned to Holtville in Imperial County where Raymond returned to general farming.

TEACHERS:

Mrs. Susie Baker / Miss Grace Hawley / Miss Charlotte Jung / Miss Helen Lyle / Miss Hattie Kent / Thomas Creed

Mrs. Susie Baker:

Mrs. Susie Baker was born in Wisconsin in 1865. In 1910 she was living in Alvarado boarding with the Manuel Gonsalves family. Mrs. Baker was widowed

and had two grown children, neither living with her. Nothing could be found for her before 1910 or after 1910. She gave her occupation while living in Alvarado as a teacher in "public schools."

Miss Grace M. Hawley:

Miss Grace Hawley was born in California in 1885. She was the step-daughter of Edwin Hawley of Alvarado, who was the son of Alvarado/Alviso pioneer James Hawley. Grace showed that she was a teacher in "public schools" and was living at home with her parents in Alvarado. After 1910 nothing further could be found on Grace Hawley.

Miss Charlotte Jung:



Miss Charlotte Jung was born in Alvarado in December 1891 to William and Christina Jung. Miss Jung (pronounced Young) attended the San Francisco Normal School where she received her teaching certificate.

Newspaper accounts noted that Charlotte was already teaching the primary grades at Alvarado in 1924 when the new Alvarado School opened in Sept. 1924. Miss Jung never married, and her teaching career was interrupted with severe bouts of illness. She was a quiet, patient lady, who handled young students with kindness and love. Miss Jung taught my oldest brother Tom in 1937 to 1938, my brother John in 1942 to 1943, and me from 1947 to 1948. She continued to teach until 1950 when she retired.

Miss Helen Lyle:

Miss Helen Lyle was born in California in June 1892 to Mathew and Difina Lyle of Alvarado. Mr. Lyle built the two story general store on the corner of Smith and Vallejo Streets that later was operated by F.C. Harvey, and then Sam Dinsmore. The Lyle's sold their store to F.B. Granger Jr. in 1905 and then moved to Oakland. Helen attended college, obtained her teaching certificate, and then came back to Alvarado (where she had many friends) to teach at the grammar school. It appears that Miss Helen Lyle married Alvarado School Principal Thomas Creed in 1917. The couple then moved to Berkeley.

Miss Hattie Kent:

Miss Hattie Kent was born in England in 1889. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Kent. Miss Kent came to Sonoma, Calif. with her parents, but the year is unknown. Hattie attended San Jose Normal School and then University of California at Berkeley. She received her teaching certificate and by 1910, Hattie was teaching in a primary school in Vallejo. In September 1913, she was teaching at the Alvarado Grammar School. In December 1924 Miss Kent was in Northern California where she married Mr. A.J. Tanner.

Thomas Creed:

Thomas Creed was born in England in 1887. He entered the U.S. in 1913. His wife Helen was born in California in 1892. They had one child while in Alvarado. In 1916 Mr. Creed was the principal of the Alvarado Grammar School. It appears that Mr. Creed married Miss Helen Lyle, a teacher at the

Alvarado School and daughter of Mathew R. Lyle, builder of the two story general store at Vallejo and Smith Streets.

Mr. Creed did not appear to be involved in any social or civic activities during his stay at the Alvarado School. In 1930 Thomas Creed and family were living in Berkeley with wife and two children where he was a retail merchant of text books.

*** ALVARADO GRAMMAR SCHOOL ***

Alvarado Grammar School / Alviso Grammar School / Union High School No. 2

ALVARADO GRAMMAR SCHOOL:

Teachers / Alvarado Alviso Decoto School Districts / Manuel Training at Alvarado School / School Water System

Teachers:

The Alvarado Grammar School opened the 1910 with T.E. McCarty as principal and Miss Alice Kilgo and Miss Celeste Bunker as teachers. In 1912 Miss Hattie Kent replaced Miss Alice Kilgo. In April 1916, Mr. Thomas Emmett McCarty, who for the past seven years had been the Principal of Alvarado Grammar School, died in Alvarado. He had been ill since fall. He was survived by his wife in Alvarado. Mr. Thomas Creed became the principal of the Alvarado School in June 1916. He joined Miss Celeste Bunker and Miss Helen Lyle as teachers in the school. In May 1917, Thomas Creed and Miss Helen Lyle received a marriage license in Stockton. Both were living in Berkeley at this time. In 1922, Foster Morrison was the principal of the Alvarado School. When he came on board is not known.

Alvarado, Alviso & Decoto School Districts:

In January 1912 a movement was started in Alvarado to annex the Decoto and Alviso Schools Districts into the Alvarado School District. Petitions were circulated in the section, but there was considerable opposition to the movement. Alvarado School Trustee Vanderpeer and Principal T.E. McCarty were instigators of the plan. The school trustees of Decoto sent a forceful protest to the Board of Supervisors. It was also understood that a like action would be taken by the Alviso School District. Alvarado quietly dropped the petition.

Manual Training at Alvarado School:

Principal T.E. McCarty was responsible for introducing manual arts training at the Alvarado Grammar School in January 1912. The Alvarado Grammar School was the first school in Alameda County to have a manual arts dept. The pupils of the higher grades made all of their workbenches, and fitted up their shop with a most complete plant.

School Water System:

The school trustees for the Alvarado School District asked for a water tank and pipes for the school. The request was forwarded to the County Surveyor. Plans and specifications, together with a cost estimate of \$1,050 for a water plant for the

Alvarado School were received from the County Surveyor. In May 1914, a water system for the Alvarado School was approved by the Board of supervisors. Builders of the project would be O.J. Emery and E.L. Farley.

ALVISO GRAMMAR SCHOOL:

Alviso School 1909 / New Alviso School

Alviso School 1909:



Alviso School - Circa - 1909

Back row: Mike George, Frank, Lawrence George, George Roderick, Eugene Ricardo, Joseph Gonlarle, Alfred Gato, Joseph Cardosa, Sam Costa, Manuel Gonlarle, Herket Costa, Mary Gonzales, unknown, two teachers. Third row: Bernie Joseph, Ernest Rosa, Irene George, Annie Oliveira, Alice Duarte, unknown, Carrie Gonlarle, Aldina Rose, Adelaide Martin, Irma George, Lillian Rosa. Second row: Lewis Cardosa, unknown, Leonore Duarte, Madeline Rose, Eva Costa, Mamie Castro, unknown, Mamie Roderick, Eva Rosa, unknown, Anthony Machado (Little Tony), Veronica Ferry. Front row: Joseph Martin, Albert Lewis, Joseph Rosa, Charles Machado, Clareman Secada, Clarence Rosa, Leonard Faria, Joseph Duarte, William Batten court. (Over 90% of the surnames are Portuguese.)

Courtesy: Irma George Drexler

New Alviso School:



In September 1912 the voters of the Alviso District approved a \$7,000 bond issue for a new school. Note the old Alviso School on the far right.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL No. 2:

Hazing / Poignant Letter of 1901

Hazing:

In December 1910, a chilling revelation ended the career of ten of the best boys of the high school for the remainder of the semester. The students were prohibited from taking part in any scholastic athletic contests until March 1911, for their participation in the hazing of several freshman several days before. Principal G.W. Wright had openly forbidden hazing of any sort, and when athletes of the school decided to put a few of the first year men through their paces, they thought their plans were unknown to the faculty. Just as they were ducking some of the victims they were caught by Wright. While not suspended from school, an order was issued that each one of the hazers must promptly go home at the close of school hours, and must not practice on the school grounds. Both the baseball and field teams have been broken as a result of this order, and it is doubtful if Centerville will take any further part in athletic activities during the present semester.

A Poignant Letter of 1901:

A letter to the editor by Mrs. Mary C. Allen, Secretary of Union High School No.2, Board of Trustees to the *Oakland Tribune of February 20, 1901:*

"Quite a lengthy article appeared in last week's issue of the Niles Herald written by my friend Mrs. Thane, with foot notes by editors, "protesting against a movement to change the name of Union High School No.2 to Centerville High School." Everybody, I am sure, appreciates Mrs. Thane's interest in the school; would that every patron had as much, but I am surprised that she and the astute editors of the Herald should think that the pupils or the alumni had power to change the official name even if they desired to do so.

That could not be done by them, nor "the faculty," nor "the management," nor all combined. I am ignorant of the way in which this could be done, but it is quite certain that the voters would have to take the initiatory steps, the County Board of education, and the County Superintendent of Schools might have to act, and perhaps an act of the Legislature might be required, as in changing an individual's name. As a matter of fact, however, there is no "movement on foot to change the official name of the school," nor is there any desire to do so. This has been ascertained upon careful inquiry.

The school has achieved an enviable record under the present name, and it would certainly be detrimental to its best interests and confusing to its best interests to change the name now. It is discovered that their excitement has grown out of the desire on the part of the pupils to make less cumbersome the lettering of the school pin, and it is argued by them that although U.H.S. No. 1, is the official name of the Union High School located at Livermore; and U.H.S. No. 3 of the one located at Haywards, that they are often spoken of as "Livermore High" and "Haywards High," so giving a locality to the place in the Union High School District where the school is located. Hence the proposition to have the lettering on the school pin C.H.S. or C.U.H.S. This of course would not effect in the least the official name of the school, which would require far more than this, and which, so far as I can learn, is desired by no one. Whether it appears to any of us to matter much about the lettering of the school pin, does it not seem fair and right to allow the pupils, those who have graduated, and those at present in school, to decide this question for themselves?"

The high school at Centerville continued to be known as Union High School #2 throughout this decade, and it was not until April 25, 1921, that a request to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors was made to "change the name of the *Washington Township School District* to the *Washington Union High School District*." The first article I could find where the name Washington Union High School was used was in the *Washingtonian*, the yearbook annual of 1923.

*** SOCIAL, CIVIC & RELIGIOUS ORG'S ***

"500" Club / Alvarado Political Club / At Homes / Birthday Club / Butt Ins / Chamber of Commerce / Christian Endeavor Club / Dubonnet Club / Fraternal Order of Eagles / International Order of Odd Fellows / Ladies Aid Society / Library / Native Sons of the Golden West / Native Daughters of the Golden West / Owl Club / Post Office / Presbyterian Church / Rebekah's / SPRSI / UPEC & UPPEC / Whist Club/ Woodman of the World / Young Boosters of Alvarado

The success of reporting on social organizations is up to the organizations publicity officer. If it is not reported to the newspapers, then it will not be picked up by my research. As an example of this, the World War I years of 1916 to 1919 are almost totally devoid of articles on Alvarado social organizations.

"500" Club:

Five Hundred was a trick-taking game that is an extension of Euchre, with some ideas from Bridge. For two to six players, it was most commonly played by four players in partnerships, but was sometimes recommended as a good three-player game. It arose in America before 1900, and was promoted by the United States Playing Card Company, who copyrighted the rules in 1904. Five Hundred was a social card game and was highly popular in the United States until 1920, when first Auction Bridge, and then Contract Bridge drove it from favor. Those who regularly reported playing the game and belonging to 500 Clubs this decade were:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. J.H. Ralph | Miss Ruth Blair | Mrs. E. Laplante |
| Mrs. Frederickson | Mrs. O. Barth | Mrs. Ballache |
| Mrs. E. Farley | Mrs. J.S. Leal | Mrs. E.A. Richmond, Jr. |
| Mrs. A.J. Rutherford | Mrs. T.E. McCarty | Mrs. F.C. Harvey |
| Mrs. E. Beebe | Mrs. Emma Hellwig | Miss Celeste Bunker |
| Mrs. E.M. Tainton | Mrs. E.A. Richmond | Mrs. B.H. Ford |
| Mrs. W.R. Robie | Mrs. August May | |

Alvarado Political Club:

The Alvarado Political Club, was formed circa 1912. It held a candidate's masquerade ball, in which all persons would dress in costumes. The members of this promising club were: Robert Adair, President; J. Pierce, Vice President; Henry Henricksen, Secretary; and Charles Pape, Treasurer.

At Homes:

Persons who hosted or attended "At Homes" meetings during the decade are detailed below:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Mrs. J. H Ralph | Mrs. E. L. Farley | Mrs. W.S. Robie | Miss Emma Ford |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|

Mrs. E.M. Foley	Mrs. Wm. Harts	Mrs. B.H. Ford	Mrs. F.C. Harvey
Mrs. E.M. Tainton	Mrs. O.B. Berth	Mrs. T.E. McCarty	Mrs. G.P. Hellwig

Birthday Club:

Among those participating in Birthday Club events during the decade were the following people:

Mrs. E.M. Tainton	Mrs. Eliza Beebe	Mrs. J.M. Scribner	Mrs. Churchman
Mrs. John Leal	Mrs. John Ralph	Mrs. Ballhache	Mrs. T.E. McCarty
Mrs. E.M. Foley	Mrs. E.A. Richmond	Mrs. W.S. Robie	Mrs. B.H. Ford
Mrs. August May	Mrs. E.L. Farley	Mrs. O.B. Berth	Mrs. F.C. Harvey
Mrs. A.J. Rutherford	Miss Emma Ford		

Butt Ins:

The Junior Butt-Inns were entertained by June 24, 1911 by James and Melvin Vandeeper. The night was spent with music and dancing. Those present were:

Miss Maud McCarty	Miss Alma Norris	Miss Edith Sinclair
Miss Beryl Farley	Miss Dorothy Ford	Russell Robie
Everett Richmond	Melvin Vandeeper	James Vandeeper
Mrs. E. M. Foley	Mrs. W.S. Robie	Mrs. J.H. Ralph
Mrs. T.E. McCarty	Mrs. E.L. Farley	

Chamber of Commerce:

Alvarado did not seem to have an active Chamber of Commerce at the beginning of this decade.

Said *The Oakland Tribune* on February 21, 1911:

"Now that nearly every town in Washington Township has an active Chamber of Commerce, the residents of the various towns within its jurisdiction are looking forward to forming some definite plans by which they can assist the fruit shippers. One of the strongest plans under consideration by the members of the different chambers is to urge the residents and businessmen of Alvarado and Warm Springs to form a civic body immediately. After the forming of these two organizations it is planned to join all the chambers in the township into one large organization."

By 1913 an Associated Chamber of Commerce was formed that represented the members of Mission San Jose, Centerville, Alvarado and Decoto. At a meeting held in November 1913 at the Decoto library building, it was stated that the Newark Chamber had yet to respond to an invitation to join the association

Attending this meeting was:

Henry May	Henry Lachlan	J. E. Wasley
F. T. Hawes	J. J. Sandholdt	E. L. Farley
T. E. McCarty	M. H. Lewis	Frank D. Martin
J. L. Olson		

The only other mention of the Chamber of Commerce came in January 1914 when a meeting was held and several important issues were discussed. What the issues were and who attended the meeting were not detailed.

Christian Endeavor:

The Christian Endeavor was a youth discipleship process in helping to build Christ-centered leaders through local church ministry. The only report this decade was:

At the Alameda County Christian Endeavor convention held in March 1918 at the First Baptist Church in Berkeley, Miss Mildred Jung of Alvarado was voted 3rd Vice President.

Dubonnet Club:

The Dubonnet Club of Alvarado gave a dance at the IOOF Hall on February 3, 1917. The floor managers were Fred Lassen, George Rose, and Martin Templer. What the Dubonnet Club was, and what its mission was, I could ascertain. Dubonnet is a region in France that gave its name to an alcoholic aperitif.

Fraternal Order of Eagles, Alvarado Aerie:

The Eagles gave an "apron and neck-tie" dance at the IOOF hall in June 1912. All who attended said they had an enjoyable time.

In January 1917, the Eagles installed new officers: James McKeown, President; Will Avila, Vice President; Sam Dinsmore, Secretary; Henry Henricksen, Treasurer; M.P. Silva, Inside Guard; Marian Soares, Outside Guard; Manuel Avila, John Menezes, and Andrew Lund, Trustees; and Dr. J.C. Hanley, Aerie Physician. The Aerie now had 104 members.

IOOF:

On January 23, 1912, Chester Beck of Livermore officiated at the installation services held by the Crusade Lodge of Odd Fellows at Alvarado. The members of the Alvarado Lodge made plans for a banquet and entertainment to be given within the next few weeks, at which delegations from Niles and Irvington are expected to attend.

Ladies Aid Society:

The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church in Alvarado reported meetings until 1914. Persons reported who hosted or attended the meeting were:

Mrs. J. H. Ralph
Mrs. F. C. Harvey
Mrs. T.E. McCarty

Mrs. E.A. Richmond Sr.
Mrs. Kaiser
Mrs. Joseph Fyffe

Mrs. J. Buchanan
Mrs. James Logan
Mrs. J. Scribner

Library:

The town of Alvarado launched the new library in December (1910) and gathered many new members. Splendid quarters were secured in the IOOF Building occupying the same room as the Odd Fellows Library with every conceivable convenience such as light, heat, and a carpeted floor. Albert Norris, the librarian, is a very courteous gentleman, and will make the place inviting for even the most fastidious. The new library already has 100 volumes and through the courtesy of the Odd Fellows, their 1,500 volumes are also available.

Native Sons of the Golden West:

Farley B. Granger was the delegate from the Native Sons of Alvarado at the Santa Cruz convention held in June 1911

Native Daughters of the Golden West:

No reported activity during the decade.

Owl Club:

The Owl Club of Alvarado held its first outing in October 1910. The club gave a clam bake. With over 5,000 clams available for the fanciers, which were gone before the late arrivers appeared. The clam bake was held at the IOOF Hall in Alvarado. President of the Owl Club, Robert Adair, was congratulated for a fine outing.

Post Office:

Judge E. A. Richmond, who has been Postmaster in this community since 1877, with the exception of four years when I. V. Ralph held the position, sent in his resignation in February 1911, which was been accepted. Richmond is 74 years old. He settled in this county 50 years ago.

On March 2, 1911, John H. Ralph Jr. was appointed Post Master for Alvarado. John served until April 1915, when he resigned. Albert Norris began as the Alvarado Postmaster on April 13, 1915.

Burglars forced the door of the post office on June 27, 1911, and broke open the little iron safe with a pick. They found nothing of value in the safe and decamped, driving out of town in a horse and buggy belonging to Joseph Rose. It is believed that the parties had made preparations for a much larger haul either from the post office or from some other source, as the telephone cable connecting to the local switchboard was severed shortly after midnight, as was the telegraph line leading from the Southern Pacific Train Depot. Postmaster J. H. Ralph said that there was not more than a few dollars worth of valuables in the office. Before daybreak the station of the Western Pacific at Hayward was looted and it was presumed by the authorities that the same parties did both jobs. Nitroglycerin was used in the Western Pacific safecracking job. Much damage was done to the office, but no money was taken.

Presbyterian Church:

The Presbyterian Church of Centerville and Alvarado called the Rev. Mr. Rogers as its pastor in October 1915.

Rebekah's:

Miss Catherine Land, District Deputy President of the Rebekah's and Mrs. J. Leal, both from Alvarado, assisted in Pleasanton's installation of officers for the Rebekah's in January 1910.

The Rebekah's put on a sterling production entitled "Tennessee's Pardner," By Bret Harte, in September 1915. George Beebe produced the play, and it was a success by all measures.

Other members mentioned during this decade were:

Mrs. Elizabeth Hellwig

Mrs. E.A. Richmond

SPRSI Auxiliary, Council No. 21, Estrella Oriental:

This Portuguese Society was organized in Alvarado on March 31, 1901. This society was founded on March 15, 1898 by a group of Portuguese Catholic women in

Oakland California. The society was named "Sociadade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel". Its motto was "Charity, Sociability and Protection". This fraternal organization was merged into the Luso-American Life Insurance Society in 2008.

On July 14, 1919 the SPRSI, Council No. 21, reported that J.G. Rose would represent them at the annual convention to be held in Oakland.

UPPEC/UPEC:

Uniao Portuguese do Estado da California (UPEC)
Uniao Portuguesa Protectora do Estado da California (UPPEC)

Two of several Portuguese fraternal and social societies designed to protect widows and orphans, as well as for cultural activities. The organizations used dances, among other events and entertainments, to raise money to help the society serve the Portuguese community. Alvarado Lodge No. 21 of UPEC was founded on March 31, 1895.

The U.P.E.C. Band gave a concert in June 1912. They were all wearing their new suits, which they had just purchased. The band boys were rapidly improving, much to everyone's delight.

A number of local young people attended the picnic given by the UPEC Lodge of Alvarado, which was given at Fernbrook Park in August 1913.

Whist Club:

The Whist Club remained active and reported their activities up until the end of 1914. Participants in meetings and activities during this period were:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Mrs. E.L. Farley | Mrs. A. Dees | Mr. A.J. Rutherford |
| Miss Nauert | Mr. E.G. Tarley | Mrs. August May |
| Mrs. W.S. Robie | Mrs. J.H. Ralph | Miss Hattie Kent |
| Mrs. F.C. Harvey | Albert Norris | Mrs. F.B. Granger |
| Mrs. Dees | | |

Woodmen of the World:

The woodmen reported to holding a dance in 1914. The Women of Woodcraft did not report during the decade.

Young Boosters of Alvarado:

The Young Boosters of Alvarado gave a dance Saturday evening, June 20, 1914. This is the only activity reported.

 * **WORLD WAR I** *

May 1917:

A conference was held in the South Room of the Hotel Oakland in May 1917 titled: "How to keep off of Uncle Sam's toes in the matter of conserving war supplies, and still give the housewife plenty to cook, and the farmer plenty to raise," was the

subject of the conference. A joint meeting of the women's organization and the Alameda County Farm Bureau was held under the auspices of the Food Supply Committee of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce.

Expert speakers from throughout the county spoke at the conference including: Alameda County Farm Bureau President Shinn of Niles, Henry May of Decoto, E. K. Strobbridge of Hayward, J. T. Stanton of Castro Valley, E. H. Stevenson of Centerville, W. H. Meek of Hayward, M. J. Overacker of Mission San Jose, F. C. Harvey of Alvarado, plus a host of others.

A large call for men was made from the Selective Service in June 1917, and the following men from Alvarado were inducted into the U.S. Army:

Joe M. Namura	George Roderick	Mathew Machado	Martin Elmgren
John Simas	S. Mori	John Frates	Carl Wiederhold
Lewis Amaral	Frank A. Silva Jr.	Joseph Borges	Kwok Wing Hoy
John Andrade	Eugene Martinez	Pedro Alone	Delos P. Allen
John C. Perry	Frank Garcia	Andrew Anderson	Antone Dutra Jr.
Jose R. Lezand	Arcadia Torres	Thomas Silveira	Manuel Garcia
Yoshiro Summary	Thereon I. Kersey	Antone Vargas	Mike Pep
Antone Martin Jr.	Harry Dinsmore	Sabetha Kino	Nemesis Masque
Henry M. Springer	Joe E. Amaral	Mattock Joachim	Manuel Gaspar
Jose B. Hee	Manuel White Jr.	Manuel Santos	Faustino Ceniza
Ham No	John Cabral	Shigi Y. Yamamoto	Marion Cacones
Frank Costa	Togichi Teramoto	Joe S. Silveira	Ng Chong Shay
George Rose	Manuel Pinheiro	Joe G. Rose Jr.	Miles D. Harrington
Tom Smyrle	Fred Lassen	Joseph A. Andrade	Masata Fugita
William Houser	Joe M. Namura	George S. Roderick	Mathew F. Machado
Martin F. Elmgren	John Simas	S. Mori	John Pedro Frates
Carl Wiederhold	Lewis Amaral	Frank A. Silva, Jr.	Joseph Borges
Kwok Wing Hoy	John Andrade	Eugene Martinez	Pedro Aldono
Delos P. Allen	John C. Perry	Frank Garcia	Andrew Anderson
Antone Dutra Jr.	Jose R. Lezand	Arcadio Torres	Thomas Silveira
Manuel Garcia	Yoshido Isumamori	Theron I. Kresky	Antone Vargas
Mike Epp	Antone Martin Jr.	Harry Dinsmore	Sakethi Kano
Nemesis Masqueda	Henry M. Springer	Joe E. Amaral	Matolke Jiichi
Manuel Gaspar	Jose B. Hee	Manuel White Jr.	Manuel Santos
Faustino Ceniza	Ham No	John Cabral	Shigi Y. Yamamoto
Marion Cacones	Frank Costa	Togichi Teramoto	Joe S. Silveira
Ng Chong Shay	George Rose	Manuel Pinheiro	Joe G. Rose, Jr.
Miles D. Harrington	Tom Smyrle	Fred Lansen	Joseph A. Andrade
Masatz Fugita			

August May, President of the Bank of Alameda County, was named to head the drive in Alvarado to subscribe to the Liberty Loan drive in September 1917. Mr. May will raise money to finance our war effort in the European conflagration. In October it was announced that the town of Alvarado had gone way over the top in their effort for the Liberty Loan Drive.

The result of the Red Cross spare clothing drive in March 1918 for the people of occupied Belgium and Northern France resulted in ten tons of clothing as Oakland's quota. From Alvarado came a package and a letter: "I am sending in two suits; one of our boys left for the front. It was his wish that his old clothes go to the Belgians."

October 1918:

Here are few notes taken from a recent letter (October 1918) written by Pvt. Joseph G. Rose, 112th Supply Co. American Expeditionary Forces, who is in France. This letter was addressed to his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph G. Rose, one of Alvarado's most enterprising citizens and retired farmer.

"I feel in good spirits. It is very warm here. I guess you have been reading of what we are doing to the Huns. It's like the Belgian, Italian and French soldiers say we came just in time. It's our shells, food and clothing, etc. that's the cause of our winning the war. The boys here on the firing line are hard to control. Every time they go over the top all you can hear is shouts of "Hell, Heaven or Hoboken; which is the port we will hit when we go home." Thank God we are getting plenty to eat, but the water is very bad. The people here mix water and wine together. If you could see the sights I see here you would cringe. The French people are very good to us.

Well, ma, the latest is we have the Huns on the run and we are on their heels. Pershing said, "Don't let our flag know retreat and it shall never know retreat.

We boys often talk of the good times we will have when we get back to the U.S.A. with victory written across our backs.

Gee it's like trying to hold a hound back when he is on the trail of some wild animal. Well, try to hold us boys back from the Huns now. We've got'em on the run, ma, and it would be like trying to stop a whirlwind to stop us. Just know that I am doing my part, but, gee, I would like to have some of those apples and fruit that lay on the ground that you spoke of. As long as the folks back there keep the shells, clothing, and food coming we will wind'em up in great shape and be safely marching home with glory"

Editor of *The Alvarado Pioneer* added:

"This young man is a specimen of our American boys, who glory in sacrificing all, if necessary, to make the world safe for democracy. All they ask in return are supplies of food, shells, and clothing while accomplishing their task. Now, do you know that the year that lies before us calls for more food production, more conservations than any we have hitherto made?"

* **FLOODS** *

After the heavy rain and flood in February 1911 the residents of Alvarado considered taking action in regard to the overflow of the Alameda Creek, whose water for the past few months has been flooding the district.

Every winter the overflow increases and unless the creek is dredged, and the debris is removed, a flood will occur. At the present time the cattle of the small dairy farms are standing two feet of water, and the refuse of Chinatown has been washed back into the main streets of town.

Some of the residents have started to build walls around their property to protect their home. Fred Wiegman, one of the wealthier farmers in the county has called for plans for the construction of a concrete fence around his property from Alameda Bridge a mile up the creek. He has planned to spend not more than \$3,000. The sixty-acre tract of land owned by J. R. Allguire has been under water for the past two months, in some places up to four feet of water.

The heavy rains of March 1911, have once again aroused the residents of Alvarado of the opinion that something must be done in a hurry to keep them from becoming driven from their homes with the rapid rise of Alameda Creek. For the last two years the water from the creek in the wintertime, has been inundating all the lands for miles around and several times the residents have been forced to remove their effects to other portions of their houses or to some other house.

To add to the discomfort of the rising of the water, during the summer months many of the residents have to cut down the trees, which line the bank of the creek, and then have allowed the branches to remain on the banks. In the wintertime these branches clog up the culverts and make it impossible for the water to escape.

One plan proposed stipulates that a canal be cut from the center of town across the marshes and continue into Crandall Slough, which in turn would connect with the bay, and a waterway for ships of light draught to the Bay of San Francisco.

At the beginning of the second week of March the Alameda Creek flooded the town of Alvarado again. Part of the town of Alvarado has been under water, and many of the residents have been forced to flee. Alameda Creek, which the residents of this town have been fighting for the past four years, has overflowed its banks and broken over the dams until it has carried everything before it in a wild rush up the streets.

Many hundreds of acres of land are under water. Many houses have been deserted, while food and clothing float down the street. Rowboats have been pressed into use and the work of rescuing people from their houses last night, during the worst hours of the storm, was carried on by the light of many lanterns, the lighting system being badly damaged.

The Alameda Creek flooded again and it was thought that the recent storm has broken and would allow people to begin repairs. But through the breaking of dams in Niles Canyon, the water continues to rise downstream near Alvarado. No word can be heard from Newark, Centerville, Irvington or Alvarado. Along the Western Pacific lines (Niles) the water has washed away the roadbeds.

The storm that hit Alvarado January 21, 1914, was reported as the worst in its history. The water in Alameda Creek overflowed its banks and flooded the neighboring roads for more than a mile between Alvarado and Centerville. The water has attained a height unequalled in the history of this place, and apprehension is felt for the safety of the Alvarado Bridge. This morning the water had reached the stringers and was at times lapping completely over the flooring of the bridge. Both approaches to the bridge were under water, while the Centerville Road is completely impassable. The residents in the vicinity of the creek have been warned to be able to evacuate on a moments notice.

In January 1916 another storm filled the small creek, with the banks breaking in some places. Rainwater collecting in the low country about the bay covered

considerable areas of land near Alvarado, and other bay side communities. There was, however, little damage done by the larger creeks as they were confined within their banks.

A plea by the citizens of Washington Township to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to have the county maintain a free flowing Alameda Creek was rejected outright by the supervisors. The landowners contended that debris in creek beds builds up in dry season, and leads to damming of the stream and flooding of farmer's fields. The board maintained that it is the responsibility of the landowners to maintain the creek bed and avoid flooding.

In February 1917, a flood visited Washington Township with Alvarado getting the worst of the flooding. The Alameda Creek overflowed its banks and the water rushed over the surrounding ranch lands until nothing but mud and water is visible to the eye for miles. Paths to ranch houses a quarter of a mile away from the highway has been washed out, and it is with extreme difficulty that ranchers are able to get to their homes after visiting other localities. The Alvarado-Niles Road was reported flooded for a distance of several miles, tying up traffic and locking one of the main arteries between the two communities. Alameda Creek near Alvarado has topped its banks, causing a sheet of water to spread over surrounding ranch land for a distance of fifteen square miles. The levee on the Patterson ranch, near Newark, broke under pressure of extra water and the flood covered several hundred acres.

*** MEMORABLE ALVARADO EVENTS ***

January 1910:

John R. Buchanan Jr. Passes:

John R. Buchanan Jr. died January 10, 1910, at his residence in San Francisco. He was the husband of Annie M. Buchanan, father to Miss Alice Buchanan and son of John and Rachel Buchanan of Alvarado. Mr. Buchanan was a native of Alvarado.

March 1910:

Mrs. Charlotte Cornell Passes:

A host of friends attended the funeral of the late Charlotte Hawley Cornell in March 1910. Mrs. Cornell was 91 years of age and one of California's pioneer women. The deceased was the widow of the late Chauncy Cornell, who for many years was identified with the Spring Valley Water Co. "Grandma" Cornell came to California and settled in this area in 1852. She was an ardent church member and was founder of the Presbyterian Church of Alvarado, which was named "Charlotte's Temple" in her honor. Lately she had been in the care of her daughter, Mrs. Ella R. Baker, the widow of Alvarado pioneer Abijah Baker.

April 1910:

Alvarado Baseball Players:

Alvarado has fielded a crack team of baseball players. They traveled to Niles on April 24th, and defeated the Niles team by a score of 8 to 5. The team from Alvarado was hailed as the next champions of Alameda County. They put out feelers that they would like to hear from teams whose members are aged 15 to 18 years old. The team line-up for Alvarado was:

Jung, Catcher
Davilla, SS
Enos, LF

Richmond, Pitcher
Rose, 2nd Base/Mgr
Santos, RF

Pakle, 1st Base
Flores, 3rd Base
Laurence CF

The Alvarado team is anxious to hear from teams in the Russell City, Centerville, Irvington, Hayward, Decoto and Niles areas.

May 20, 1910:

The Great Benjamin:

The article below was presented as fact in *The Hayward Twice a Week Review*, May 20, 1910:

"The Great Benjamin almost created a riot at his show on the grounds of "B" Street near the Post office in Hayward the last few nights. He threw out fistfuls of dollars, halves, and other coin without regard of amount. The show grounds were ablaze with electric lights and enormous crowds attended and were entertained royally by the best and biggest free show ever given here. In fact, we have paid 50 cents to a dollar and a half in the opera house many a time and have not seen a show half as good. Benjamin stays here for two weeks and shows every night except Sunday. The medical experts with him are under the direct of Dr. Duncan Cram, known as the great Dr. Duncan.

Benjamin was here several years ago with his experts and they have made many cures here in Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo and Alvarado and vicinity of chronic and obstinate cases, which have baffled the skill of the ordinary physicians.

The officer of the Marvelous Medical Experts who are with Benjamin were the directors of the Great Dr. Duncan, the master expert and head physician and bloodless surgeon of their system of hospitals and sanitariums, are at the Hotel Villa in Hayward. A small charge of \$1 is made to keep out curiosity seekers.

The Benjamin Medical Experts positively cure; asthma, dropsy (edema), epilepsy, St. Vitus Dance (Chorea, or abnormal involuntary movements), nervous disorders, paralysis, deafness, throat-chest-lung trouble, incipient consumption (TB), and diseases of women are successfully cured without an operation. Old chronic diseases of the blood, stomach, liver and kidneys, diabetes, gravel, incipient Bright's disease (nephritis), rheumatism, acute chronic muscular and sciatic problems. Hip joint disease, rupture and hernia, piles, hemorrhoids, disease of the eye, ear, nose and throat. In fact what has puzzled you and your doctor gives way to the wonderful medicine of these specialists. Cancers, tapeworms, tumors and gallstones are removed, no operation, no knife, and no pain. These experts speak all languages."

This medicine show circulated in the Bay Area for about two years. I could find nothing about the Great Benjamin after 1910 or his quackery.

June 1910:

Death Takes J.F. Meyers:

J. F. Meyers, a prominent citizen of Livermore died at his home Sunday morning. He was 74 years old. Mr. Meyers was engaged in the hotel business between 1859 and 1873 in Alvarado. He then moved to Livermore. His son, Henry, born in Alvarado married his hometown sweetheart, Miss Bertha May. Henry Meyers became the

Alameda County architect, and would go on to design the new Alvarado Grammar School in 1923.

July 15, 1910:

Ebenezer Herrick Dyer Passes:

Ebenezer Herrick Dyer, father of the beet sugar industry in the United States and the first man to successfully manufacture that commodity profitably in this country, died at his residence in Alvarado, Alameda County early on the morning of July 15, at the age of 88 years. He leaves an estate estimated at \$1,000,000, chiefly in sugar stock and real estate holdings in Alameda and the Santa Clara valley, to be equally divided between his widow and six children.

Born in Sullivan, Maine April 17, 1822, Dyer came to California with the early rush of 1857, crossing the continent via the isthmus route. He settled in Alvarado, Alameda County, and in 1859 was elected county surveyor. In 1861 he was re-elected to that position and in the same year was appointed to the position of United States Deputy Surveyor by President Lincoln. He continued in that position for ten years, but in 1869 became interested in the beet sugar industry.

Prior to this several others had attempted to originate the industry in the United States without success. Dyer, however, took it up and in 1870 established the first beet sugar plant in the State of California and until 10 years ago, when his failing eyesight necessitated the passing of his business over to his sons, he remained at the active head of it. The concern is now known as the Alameda Sugar Company. Apart from his business he took an active interest in politics, and in 1876 was delegate to the Republican National Convention. Later in life he engaged, in company with his three sons, in the business of erecting beet sugar plants, and some of the biggest plants in the country were built by them.

Dyer married Marion W. Ingalls of his native town in 1857. There were three children by this union, Mrs. Abitha M. Munson of Tacoma, Ellen F. Dyer, and Edward F. Dyer of Cleveland. Mrs. Dyer died in 1863. Her twin sister, Olive Ingalls, later became Dyer's second wife. There were three children by this second marriage, Hugh T. Dyer of Ogden, Guy S. Dyer of Alvarado, and Mrs. Nina Washburn of San Francisco. Mrs. Dyer survives her husband. She was present at his bedside when he died, as were all of his children. The funeral was held July 18th from the family residence at Alvarado. It was conducted under the auspices of the Crusade Lodge No. 93, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The interment was at Cypress Cemetery at Decoto. Acting as pallbearers were:

W.F. Ingalls	J.M. Ingalls	H.F. Dyer	W.H. Cockefair
H. Elwert	P.S. Lowrie.		

August 1910:

New Alvarado Water Plant:

The People's Water Company (the successor company to the Oakland Water Co. and the Contra Costa Water Co.) is going to install a new plant at Alvarado, which will have all modern improvements, an ideal engine, and up-to-date boiler room facilities for pumping and distributing water. Plans are all perfected and work will begin immediately. This will be a big thing for Alvarado and a benefit to every business in it.

December 1910:

Berkeley Men Shoot 220 Ducks:

Two Berkeley men were caught with 220 ducks in their boat, 150 more than the legal limit. The men kept a shack south of the Continental Salt Company and regularly took more than the legal limit. They hunted only when there were plenty of other hunters about so it was difficult to catch them. But caught they were, and fined heavily. The State Game Commission is debating lowering the duck limit to 15 in your possession from 25. They cite the increased occurrences of poaching and the smaller take of ducks.

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The town of Alvarado launched a new library and already has a good membership. Splendid quarters have been secured in the IOOF Building, occupying the same room as the Odd Fellows Library with every conceivable convenience such as light, heat, and a carpeted floor. Albert Norris, the librarian, is a very courteous gentleman and will make the place inviting for even the most fastidious. The new library already has 100 volumes and through the courtesy of the Odd Fellows their 1,500 volumes are also available,

**January 1911:**  
**John Buchanan Passes:**

John Buchanan, a pioneer of this county, and long a resident of Alvarado, passed away at his home January 22. He was 88 years old; he was the father of Mrs. Margaret Buchanan Emery.

**February 1911:**  
**Alvarado C of C:**

The members of the six Chambers of Commerce in Washington Township are anxiously waiting for the news to come from the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce whether they are ready to join the combination and fight for the rights of the various cities in regards to improvements. When all of the chambers combine together, the next move will be to elect accredited representatives from all the organizations to meet as one and take up matters for the betterment of the entire township.

**May 1911:**  
**Polling Officers:**

The Polling officers and the polling place for the town of Alvarado were chosen on May 1st. The place and the officer chosen are:

|                    |                  |                |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Polling Place:     | Odd Fellows Hall |                |
| Election Officers: |                  |                |
| Inspector:         | O.P. Nauert      |                |
| Judges:            | O.J. Emery       | Antonio A. Lee |
| Clerk:             | August May       |                |

**June 1911:**  
**Slot Machines Outlawed:**

Gambling days have come to an end in Alvarado. Slot machines were removed today from establishments in accordance with the new State law prohibiting gambling, which took effect on June 22, 1911.

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Burglars Break into Post Office:

Burglars forced the door of the post office on June 27, 1911, and broke open the little iron safe with a pick. They found nothing of value in the safe and decamped, driving out of town in a horse and buggy belonging to Joseph Rose. It was believed that the parties had made preparations for a much larger haul, either from the post office or from some other source, as the telephone cable connecting to the local switchboard was severed shortly after midnight, as was the telegraph line leading from the Southern Pacific Train Depot. Postmaster J. H. Ralph said that there was not more than a few dollars' worth of valuables in the office. Before daybreak the station of the Western Pacific at Hayward was looted and it was presumed by the authorities that the same parties did both jobs. Nitroglycerin was used in the Western Pacific safecracking job. Much damage was done to the office, but no money was taken.

July 1911:

Township Fourth of July Celebration:

The Washington Township Fourth of July celebration held in Centerville surpassed all expectations in point of numbers and the continual round of pleasures enjoyed by the visitors. The first special excursion train from San Francisco and Oakland brought thousands and until noon people flocked into town from every direction in autos and wagons. The main street from one end of town to the other was one mass of humanity and it difficult to clear the street for the beginning of the parade, which started at 11:30 a.m. The main street was lined on either side with concessions and booths of every description and at different points grandstands were erected from which the visitors could view the parade. The streets were a mass of flags and banners. Brass bands came from San Francisco and Oakland furnishing music during the day and the night from stands created especially for the bands.

In the parade were floats representing every fraternal organization, school, Chamber of Commerce, and from any civic organizations and industrial concerns in Washington Township. Miss Mabel Mathieson, Goddess of Liberty, was seated on a throne of white and gold, attended by cupids in white, on a float drawn by four white horses. A platoon of National Guards from Hayward, under the captancy of J. J. Bourree, was a feature of the parade.

Prizes were awarded in various categories for parade entrants. Winners from Alvarado included: The Alvarado Eagles took first place in the best float by a fraternal organization. Best Equestrienne went to Miss Maud Perreira of Alvarado. The best industrial display went to the California Nursery at Niles, with second place going to the Alameda Sugar Company of Alvarado.



Alvarado Telephone System:

The Sunset Telephone Company, which services the town of Alvarado from the FC Harvey and Co. building on Smith St., made extensive alterations in the wiring of the town. It was hoped that the change would improve the telephone service.



Death Takes Mrs. Harvey:

Mrs. Sarah Hill Harvey, aged 80, a pioneer of 50 years in Alvarado, died at her home here Saturday, July 15th. The funeral took place from the home of F. B. Granger Jr., her son-in-law. The funeral was one of the largest held in Alvarado for years. She was mother to Mrs. Sue Harvey Granger, Edward S. and Frederick C. (F.C.) Harvey.

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**Death Takes Mrs. James Hawley:**

Mrs. James Hawley, 89, a pioneer who arrived in Alvarado with her husband James in December 1852 died on the 28th anniversary of her oldest daughter Mrs. C. Whipple. She is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Emily H. Ingalls, Mrs. Clara H. (Patterson) Layson, Mrs. E. H. Beard, and Miss May Hawley. She is also survived by a son, Edwin Hawley, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**September 25, 1911:**

**Suffrage:**

A "votes for women" mass meeting was held September 25th under the arrangements made by the Oakland Suffrage Workers. The local men and women interested in the movement, joined by many from Mt. Eden, were present. The committee of arrangements included:

|                 |                     |                |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Mrs. F.R. Robin | Mrs. Eliza Beebe    | Mrs. Ed Farley |
| Mrs. E. R. Ford | Miss Celeste Bunker | T.E. McCarty   |
| E.M. Tainton    | A. May              | F.C. Harvey    |
| John Ralph.     |                     |                |

**November 1911:**

**Miss Ossie Nauert Betrothed:**

Miss Oscarna Preston Nauert made known her engagement to Harry D. Heitmuller at a card party at which she was the hostess at the Nauert home in Alvarado on November 2nd.



The affair was given by Mrs. William Wallace Haley and Mrs. Leo P. Haas, school friends of Miss Nauert. The announcement was made in a thoroughly charming manner. First cards were passed and each guest was asked who among them were engaged; much merriment was caused by the games as several engaged girls were

present. The envelopes were given to all to be opened at the same time. One card with the names of the betrothed pair and decorated with tiny red hearts told the happy secret, which Miss Ruth Blair had the pleasure of reading. The attractive young girl was showered with hearty good wishes. Miss Nauert is the daughter of Charles R. Nauert, and the late Hattie Nauert, and has resided in Alvarado all her life, her grandparents having settled in Washington Township in the early fifties. Mr. Heitmuller is also well known, both in the commercial and social world.

#### **March 1912:**

##### **Mrs. Elizabeth Hellwig Passes:**

The community was shocked this week to learn of the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Hellwig, wife of the late Phillip Hellwig, who died Thursday March 14th at age 69. Mrs. Hellwig has been a resident of Alvarado for nearly 45 years and many people will miss her. Her late husband was part owner of the Hellwig and La Grave Meat Co. of Alvarado. A son George P. Hellwig of the Hellwig La Grave Meat Company survives her. Mrs. Hellwig was active in the Rebekah's and the Order of Eastern Star.

#### **April 1912:**

##### **Hall Ranch Sold:**

A realty firm reports the sale of the Phoebe Hall Ranch (on the south side of Dyer Street, between Alvarado & Union City Blvd's) to R. B. Mott of Alameda for \$90,000. The soil of the farm is exceedingly rich and for years has been devoted to raising sugar beets. There are a number of artesian wells on the property. R. B. Mott has announced that his plan for the property was to subdivide it into smaller farms and place them for sale. The late John Hall, the farmer who built the magnificent Hall Ranch, raised award-winning horses, and was a farmer of much note. The South Pacific Coast Railroad built a stop on his property just southwest of where the railroad tracks crossed the Alvarado-Centerville Road. Known as the "Hall Station" the location is still shown on many maps today. The road that serviced his property, Hall Ranch Road, existed between the Alvarado-Centerville Road and Marsh Road. Later Hall Ranch Road would be renamed as part of Dyer Street when the Alquire Road was lengthened to the south.

#### **May 1912:**

##### **Dry Township Withers:**

Washington Township solidly turned down the provisions of the Wylie option to make Washington Township a "dry" township. The vote was 1,251 for "wet" and 747 for "dry." In Alvarado the vote was 158 for "wet" and 95 for "dry." All other townships in the First Supervisorial District also voted "wet."

#### **June 1912:**

##### **Moving Picture Show:**

Dante's Inferno was shown at the IOOF Hall. Five reels were shown, besides one extra. Admission was 25¢ for adults and 10¢ for children. The Edison Picture Company shows new motion pictures every Tuesday night at the IOOF Hall.

#### **August 1912:**

##### **Mrs. Margaret Murphy Passes:**

Mrs. Margaret Murphy died in San Francisco during August at the age of 80. She came to California in the early 1850's with her husband Captain Edward Murphy and settled in Alvarado. They stayed until 1872, when they moved to Dublin where they kept a hotel. From there they moved to Livermore where Captain Murphy died in

1882. Mrs. Murphy remained in Livermore until about ten years ago. Mrs. Murphy leaves four sons and a daughter.

**September 23, 1912:**  
**Beer Truck Falls through Bridge:**

There was considerable excitement in Alvarado on the night of September 23rd, when a truck driven by Mike Campbell of the Golden West Brewing Company fell through the long bridge at Alvarado. The truck was hauling a ton and a half of empty beer barrels. When the truck was half way over the bridge it went completely through and landed in the bottom of the creek on its side. Campbell jumped in time to avoid injury, but the damage done to the truck was considerable. A crew from the Hayward Garage went down the next morning and towed the wreck back to Hayward.

**November 1912:**  
**F.B. Granger Jr. Moves to San Leandro:**

The many friends of F. B. Granger Jr. and family tendered to them a farewell party on November 17th at the IOOF Hall. A beautiful leather chair was given to Mr. Granger and a beautiful piece of statuary to Mrs. Granger. The evening was spent in playing cards and dancing. A delightful repast was served.

**January 20, 1913:**  
**Rodney Allguire Passes:**

J.R. "Rodney" Allguire passed away on January 20, 1913. He was a long time Alvarado harness maker and saddler, living near the sugar mill.

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Man Bags 142 Ducks:

With a bag of 142 ducks, which he shot on the Alvarado marshes, James Boyd of San Francisco, congratulated himself on the success of the days' sport. But he failed to reckon with Deputy Game Warden J. Rose and L. Pape of Alvarado. As a result his little shooting expedition cost him \$25 yesterday when he appeared before Justice of the Peace C. Prowse of Hayward.

June 1913:
George Bontelho Found Dead:

George Bontelho, undertaker and deputy coroner of Alvarado, was found dead in his room at his place of business June 8, by one of his employees. He was 39 years old. Heart failure was pronounced to be the cause of death. He was unmarried.

July 1913:
Residents Reject EBMWD:

Residents of Washington Township who oppose the proposed new East Bay Municipal Water District took steps to bring about a defeat of the proposition and to form a water district of their own, which will take in the Alvarado Pumping Plant, and prevent the city of Oakland from drawing upon that source of supply.

August 1913:
Residents to Form Water District:

To protect the water sources in Washington Township, William H. Ford of Niles today presented to the Board of Supervisors a petition asking permission to form a county water district to be known as "The Alameda County Water District." This will not

take in Alvarado, and will not conflict with the present Oakland municipal water district plan. "We are doing this to protect our own water in the Alameda Creek gravel beds," said Ford.

October 1913:

Population of Washington Township:

Alvarado	1,100
Centerville	1,425
Decoto	850
Irvington	1,050
Newark	1,200
Niles	1,500
Mission San Jose	800
Warm Springs	<u>600</u>
TOTAL:	8,650

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**Alvarado Road Overseer:**

Alvarado Road Overseer: O.J. Emery

**November 25, 1913:**

**Death takes Mrs. Dora Joyce:**

Mrs. Dora Joyce, a prominent resident of Alvarado, died at her home here on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, after an illness of several years. Mrs. Joyce was a native of New Orleans. She leaves behind a husband, John A. Joyce and children Mrs. H. H. Lampher, Mrs. E. M. Winegar, Mrs. E. A. Richmond, Jr., Fred Joyce and John Scribner.

**December 1913:**

**Sugar Mill Water Well:**

By acquiring a well sunk by the Alameda Sugar Company at Alvarado last summer, the People's Water Company has increased its present availability supply of water by 3,000,000 gallons a day. Under pump, driven by a 45 HP electric motor, the well yielded for two months consecutively 2,625,000 gallons a day, and that without decreasing the flow or lowering the water level in the well.

**August 1914:**

**Mrs. Elizabeth Richmond Passes:**

Mrs. Elizabeth Richmond, a pioneer resident of California, died suddenly at her home in Alvarado Sunday. Mrs. Richmond, who had not been previously ill, was seized by an attack of paralysis yesterday morning, and died several hours later. She was 62 years old and had been a resident of California for over 50 years. Her husband Edwin A Richmond Sr., died earlier this year. Her sons William B, Edwin A. Jr., J. Allen, Ralph V., Harvey H., Robert E., and Everett G. Richmond survive Mrs. Richmond.

**January 1915:**

**Turtle Farm:**

Joseph Berger, a guest at the Hotel Oakland, is in the East Bay looking to start a turtle farm. He says there has been good success in the east and mid-west raising turtles for pets. Marshland, such as that at Alvarado, he declares is the best for growing turtles. Turtle eggs are incubated and the small turtles are kept in boxes for

a time, and then turned loose on the marshes. When big enough they are trapped for the market. The eggs are laid in sand boxes, collected and incubated in the sand.

**March 1915:**  
**Chinese Opium Dens:**

Four Chinese were arrested on March 29th in raids at Mt. Eden and Alvarado in Chinese Opium Dens, and were lodged in the county jail on charges of violating the Harrison Anti-Drug Act. They were released on bail this morning. The four men were all farm laborers.

**May 1915:**  
**Death Takes William H. Cockefair:**

William H. Cockefair, one of the oldest and most respected residents of Washington Township, died at Alvarado. The deceased was a native of New Jersey and was 82 years old. Mr. Cockefair leaves many friends who mourn his death. From an obituary dated May 2, 1915

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Charles B. Jones Disappears:

Mystery surrounds the disappearance of Charles B. Jones, who several days ago mailed to his wife in Oakland a bill of sale and the deeds to his lumberyard in Alvarado, with the announcement that by the time she received them he would be far away. Mrs. Jones conducted a restaurant on Franklin Street near Ninth (in Oakland), while her husband operated a lumberyard in Alvarado, which he purchased a short time ago.

September 1915:
John Lemos Dairy:

Work is to be completed by the fifteenth of this month on the new dairy of John Lemos to be erected on the May property. The new dairy will be one of the most elaborate in the township.

February 1916:
County Rejects Flood Control Plea:

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has rejected pleas from landowners in Southern Alameda County to have the county maintain a free flowing Alameda Creek. The landowners claim that debris in creek beds builds up in the dry season and leads to damming of the stream and flooding of farmer's fields. The board maintains that it is the responsibility of the landowners to maintain the creek bed and avoid flooding.

June 1916:
Alvarado School Graduates:

The following pupils formed the Alvarado grammar School Graduating class:
George Harvey Ed Harvey Max Just James Nesbitt
Clarence Flores Theodore Lemos Manuel Silva Mamie Gomes
Hazel Lorenzo.

July 1916:
Polio Quarantine:

Little Ruth Hochfelder:

"Barred by the hand of the law from returning to her home as the suspected carrier of the deadly bacillus of infantile paralysis (polio), little Ruth Hochfelder, 4 year-old daughter of J.H. Hochfelder of Alvarado, will be met at 9:15 AM tomorrow morning (July 10th) by Dr. Kirby Smith, health officer of Oakland as she arrives on the Western Pacific train en route from New York, and refused permission to alight from the car at the Third and Washington streets station. The only modification of this strict order will be to the effect that the child may leave the train provided that she is conveyed at once to the county infirmary under quarantine.

Ruth, who has been visiting with relations in New York City, was sent out of the danger zone that she might escape infection. So strong was the feeling of panic that no time was taken to provide for an escort for the child, and she was placed in the charge of the conductor of a through tourist car. As soon as she had started a telegraphic message was sent to the parents in Alvarado that the girl was safely on her way from the city where so many lives are being claimed daily by the dread disease.

Had word reached the California authorities in time, the quarantine would have been imposed upon little Ruth at the state line, without allowing her admission from Nevada, in accordance with the dictate of the state board of health. As it is she will be intercepted in Oakland on her way to the family home in Alvarado and detained under observation.

In New York City today, rain and a wave of cooler temperature failed to check materially the epidemic, which since its inception two weeks ago has claimed 238 lives in that city. During the twenty-four hours, which ended at 10:00 AM this morning, fourteen deaths and 103 new cases were reported.

With no more cases of suspected infantile paralysis reported in the bay region, the health authorities of Oakland and San Francisco believe that there is no danger of an epidemic of the dread disease here. Four-year old Ruth Hochfelder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Hochfelder of Alvarado, is on her way home under the charge of a Western Pacific Pullman Conductor and will arrive in Hayward at 5:45 PM this afternoon, July 12th. She will be met at the station by a doctor and a nurse and put in an isolation ward at the county infirmary where she will be kept for two weeks under observation."

September 1916:

Autos in Washington Township:

Alvarado	33
Centerville	66
Decoto	15
Irvington	55
Mission San Jose	(Not Reported)
Newark	36
Niles	81
Warm Springs	21

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#### **Township Water Rights:**

Arguments in the arbitration of the long-standing controversy over water rights in Alameda County between the Alameda County Water District and the Spring Valley Water Company will begin Monday, September 18th, before Irving Martin, A.E. Chandler and W.A. Johnstone, members of the state water commission, who have agreed to be arbitrators as to the merits of the respective contentions. While the matter is pending before the commission, the several suits and injunction proceedings arising from the three-year battle over construction by the water company of the Calaveras dam and reservoirs will be held in abeyance. Land owners and farmers in the agricultural district between Niles, Newark and Alvarado, known to geologists and riparian experts as the Niles Cone, organized the Alameda County Water District for the preventing, if possible, the impounding of the waters of Calaveras Creek on the ground and the soil of the district would be rendered a desert by the withdrawing of the water. The wells in the district are supplied from a water-bearing stratum of gravel, which gets its supply from the seepage waters of the Alameda Creek and its tributary the Calaveras Creek.

**October 1916:**

**Schooner Visits Union City Landing:**

Old residents of Alvarado were in a reminiscent mood over the arrival of a schooner load of hay at the old Union City Landing. The hay came from a river point, and was consigned to Owens and Grayson of Alvarado. It is the first time in twenty-seven years that a large vessel has come so near the town.

**February 1917:**

**Wire Thieves:**

Wire thieves operated successfully last night at the Rogers ranch in Alvarado, making off with a transformer and seven pounds of copper wire. It is believed in the sheriff's office that the work is that of the same gang that for the past two months has been raiding Alameda County ranches for copper wire. The men used an automobile. Deputy Sheriff's Joe Soares and Bert Brown are working on the case.

**March 1917:**

**Burglars Target Alvarado Hotels:**

Burglars entered the Alvarado Hotel and the Riverside Hotel at Alvarado last night, looting the cash register and the slot machines. It is estimated that men made away with about \$200. Rooms were invaded and the personal effects of the roomers' were taken. In each place cash was taken from the tills and the rooms were ransacked. The men, three in number, operated with an automobile as evidenced by the fact that several heavy slot machines, filled with coins, were carried away.

**July 1917:**

**Rachel Buchanan Taken by Death:**

Rachel Buchanan, beloved wife of the late John Buchanan, loving mother of Marguerite Buchanan Emery, born in Ireland, passed away in Alvarado on July 13<sup>th</sup> at age 83.

**August 1917:**

**Continental Salt Very Active:**

In August, the Continental Salt Co. of Alvarado reported that it was taking out forty thousand tons of salt out of their beds this season. The salt industry of the east bay district is much larger, and plays a more important part of the industrial activity of these shores than people realize. Not alone is the salt taken from the bountiful supply of these shores, but the by-products also produced from the mother product

are many, such as magnesium chloride and magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts). Other by-products include Caustic soda, chloride of lime, chlorine fluid, and muriatic acid. The Alameda County salt producers are doubling their output; such is the demand for the product.

**October 1917:**  
**Sugar Mill Worker Crushed:**

John F. Sully, a workman employed in the Alameda Sugar Company at Alvarado was fatally injured when he was caught in the machinery at the plant and terribly mangled. He died early in the morning at the Alameda County Infirmary. In efforts to save the man's life, the attendants at the hospital amputated both legs and an arm, which were crushed by the machinery.

**April 1918:**  
**Happiness Finally Achieved:**

Now comes a story that started in the late 1870's and ended in happiness just recently:

"Mrs. T. G. Worth of Alameda was wedded to her present husband a week ago that, more than 40 years before she had turned him down as a suitor when she was a young, single school teacher in Alvarado, Calif."

"In the old days," she says, "I had many suitors, I was flattered, I rejected many, including Mr. Worth. If self-supporting girls would not marry for a home there would be fewer divorces."

"In my forty years of unhappiness, I realized how much I had loved to be with Worth. Several weeks ago his wife passed away and last week we were married. How terrible it is to be unhappily mated, I know. And now, like Mother Goose, sometimes I wonder if this is really me."

**August 1918:**  
**Mello Band:**

Tony Mello, accompanied by his brass band and a large number of Alvarado people, attended the flag raising dedication at Newark. The Mello Band played at the service flag dedication at the Holy Ghost Church in Centerville last Sunday. Mr. Mello will make a tour of the township with his band and will render a musical performance at each town.

**September 1918:**  
**Alvarado Loses Baseball Championship:**

Baseball heated up in Washington Township in late September. A series of three games will be played to decide which team would be the champion of Washington Township. Alvarado will face the Newark Wedgewoods for the championship.

The Alvarado team has been playing independent ball all summer, and F.W. Joyce, manager of the Alvarado team, feels that his club is superior to the Wedgewoods, who were in the Mission League. There has been a standing argument as to which of the two clubs is the best, so the coming championship series should settle the argument. The first game will be played at Alvarado, the second game will be played at Newark, and the third game site will be determined on a toss of a coin.

The first game went to Alvarado, the second to Newark. The third game, played at Newark, went to the Wedgewoods.

### **February 1919:**

#### **Mrs. Olive Dyer Succumbs:**

Mrs. Olive Dyer, a pioneer Alvarado resident of nearly sixty years, passed away at Alvarado on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Her husband, the late Ebenezer H. Dyer, was an early farmer in Alvarado and worked tirelessly to bring the sugar beet industry to Alvarado, and then throughout the U. S. She leaves three children, Sons Hugh T. and Gus S Dyer, and a daughter, Nina D. Washburn.

### **March 1919:**

#### **Missing Will of John Quigley:**

A search for a missing will executed by John Quigley, pioneer salt manufacturer and resident of Alvarado, was being instituted by Mrs. Dagmar Lundgren of Oakland. The will was executed in 1904, and names Mrs. Lundgren as beneficiary, according to Mrs. Lundgren. The estate is estimated to be valued at close to a half million dollars, although no legal appraisal has been done. Quigley, who formerly manufactured salt at Alvarado, died March 15<sup>th</sup> at age 81.

Mrs. Lundgren, formerly Dagmar Anderson, an Alvarado girl, was a friend of Quigley's. One day he was hunting on the marshes and she was with him. He went into the dense growth and became mired. She wandered away daydreaming, and for a long time did not see him. Finally she went back in the direction where he was last seen and heard faint cries for help. Rushing through the marsh she came to him and helped him out.

Some days later he showed her an enveloped, she says, and told her that there was a will inside and that someday it would make her rich. She has witnesses to whom it is claimed he said he had made a will and acknowledged to her his gratitude in a substantial way.

Two wills have been filed, one was dated 1902, and the other is dated just a few weeks before his death, and names August May as his executor. Both wills list two elderly sisters as beneficiaries. Quigley's two sisters are disputing the legality of the last will, which names August May as executor.

Efforts to prove that John Quigley, Alvarado Salt Manufacturer and pioneer, was an ingrate, who would not reward kindnesses, have been made two sisters who are beneficiaries under his will. They are trying to defeat the claim of Aimee Collins of Oakland, who said Quigley gave her \$9,000 as a reward for her care of him the ten years prior to his death. Mrs. Collins, who says he was kind and generous, refutes the claim that Quigley was addicted to drink, and that he knew no gratitude.

August May, Alvarado banker, called by the sisters, Mrs. Kate Sinclair of San Francisco and Mrs. Nickerson of Eureka, testified that he visited Quigley at the hospital prior to his death, and that when the pioneer offered to make him beneficiary of his will, which he declined. He then named his sisters as beneficiaries. The money in the bank, the subject of the present suit, was mentioned in the will.

### **June 1919:**

#### **Riverside Hotel for Sale:**

An advertised business opportunity in the June 18, 1919 issue of the *Oakland Tribune* turned out to be the Riverside Hotel. The hotel had seemingly fallen on hard

times and it was reported last year that it was in an unsanitary condition. The ad read:

"BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY:

HOTELMEN ATTENTION: One of the best buys in Alameda County, a 35-room hotel and bar adjoining the Southern Pacific Railroad Station on state Hiway. An ideal place for an up-to-date roadhouse, very large dining room, plenty of garage room, good bar trade, 30 minutes to Oakland. Will sell or rent, aged owner wishes to retire. Address: Mrs. Dorothy Boysen, Box 17, Alvarado"

**July 1919:**

**HELP WANTED – MALE:**

WANTED: A bright, strong boy for a country lumber, fuel, and feed yard; high school training preferred, but not absolutely essential; one not afraid of work, and will not expect a railroad president's salary to begin with. Can room and board with owner. Apply in own handwriting or in person to me: James Hamilton, Alvarado Lumber Yard, at Alvarado Calif.

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Alvarado to Centerville Road:

Alvarado claimed a first in July when the letting of the construction of a section of concrete county road point just this side of Centerville through the town of Alvarado to the line separating Washington and Eden Townships. This marks a step in the development of road construction in Alameda County that is most important. It means that Alameda is the first county in the state to put in a complete concrete highway for any considerable distance, and it means that concrete construction is now the standard for all main county thoroughfares.

August 1919:

Grayson & Owen:

Grayson & Owen, the big cattle raisers at Alvarado, are storing 1,000 tons of hay, which they will feed to their beef cattle in connection with beet feed. They expect to ship from 200 to 300 cars of fat cattle during the season.

October 1919:

Free Moving Picture Show:

In October all the boys and girls of Centerville, Irvington, Alvarado, Newark and vicinity were invited to attend a big free moving picture show and entertainment held at the Rex Theater, Centerville, Saturday. The entertainment was put on under the direction of the *Oakland Tribune's* 50,000 Club and the Rex Theater.

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**Big Potato:**

Probably the largest potato in Alameda County is on exhibition in the lobby of the Bank of Alameda County in Alvarado. It weighs ten pounds and is often mistaken for a turnip or a beet. It is pointed to as another example that Alvarado is in the center of a fine farming section.

**November 1919:**

**The "Upper/Lower" Roads:**

There are two roads to San Jose from Oakland. The "upper road" is East 14<sup>th</sup> Street through San Leandro, Hayward, Decoto, Niles, and then on to the San Jose Hiway.

The other Hiway is known as the "lower Road," which begins at East 14<sup>th</sup> St. to Mt. Eden (Hesperian Blvd) and goes through Mt. Eden, Alvarado, Centerville, Irvington, and Warm Springs then on to the San Jose Highway. There are a large number of automobile drivers that contend that the lower San Jose highway (State Highway Route 17) through Alvarado and Centerville is shorter than the route through Hayward and Niles. The Board of Supervisors recognizes that both routes are a necessity. The state will maintain the lower San Jose Road (old Hiway 17) and the county will maintain the upper San Jose Road. Surveyor's are now at work surveying the road from Alvarado to San Lorenzo (Hesperian Blvd.), which will be covered with a concrete surface. The Board of Supervisor's will concrete the Niles-Centerville Road (Peralta Blvd) and the Centerville-Newark Road (Thornton Ave.) road next year. The work will probably start next July.