

CHAPTER 08 1920 – 1929

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* **DEMOGRAPHICS** *

1920 Table:

Country	Number	Pct. Of Pop.
Australia	1	0.10%
Canada	13	1.00%
Chile	0	0.00%
China	18	1.40%
Denmark	20	1.60%
England	22	1.70%
France	1	0.10%
Germany	31	2.40%
Ireland	40	3.10%
Italy	14	1.10%
Japan	154	12.00%
Mexico	21	1.60%
Norway	2	0.20%
Philippines	10	0.80%
Porto Rico	38	3.00%
Portugal/Azores	613	47.90%
Spain	61	4.80%
Sweden	4	0.30%
Swiss	23	1.80%
U.S.	195	15.20%
TOTAL:	1,281	100.0%

After World War I the Alvarado population demographics continued to evolve. Only two ethnic groups now numbered more than 10% of the population, the Portuguese and the Japanese. The number of Chinese continued to dwindle, now only measuring 1.4% of the population, and they would never again be a force in Alvarado numbers.

In 1860 49% of Alvarado's population was constituted of persons from various parts of the U.S., the next largest group was from northern Europe and they made up over 41% of the population.

By 1920 this had changed to 15.2% from the U.S. and the percentage of persons from northern Europe had dwindled to just 10%. 1920 saw the Portuguese constitute nearly half the population of Alvarado. Adding to this in the 1920's was the coming of the Spaniards, the Mexicans, and the Italians.

The northern Europeans constituted the best educated of the immigrant classes that came over in the late 1800's, with the exception of the "Free Irish," specifically those Catholics from the Republic of Ireland. The Irish from North Ireland were better educated, and well suited to making a success in Alvarado. Among from Northern Ireland in Alvarado in the 1920's were names such as McKeown, Logan, Harvey, and Dinsmore. The Catholic Irish from the Republic of Ireland were more suited as day and farm laborers, and the young ladies were in demand as domestics.

In the 1920's this began to change, although the northern Europeans dwindled in numbers, they remained an economic force with large landowners like the Patterson's, Harvey's, and Logan's. The merchant class in Alvarado was still ruled by the large storeowners like F.C. Harvey, Scribner & Ralph, and the hotelkeepers in town.

But the Portuguese began to make inroads in the business class during the 20's. As small farmers there was no doubt the Portuguese were successful, not only for their skill at farming, but their attention to hard work and thrift. Their farms were, for the most part, small operations that were easy to manage on their own with the aid of their children, without much outside or hired workers.

The Portuguese began to open small grocery stores like Joseph Jacinto and John Menezes (who would later open his own barbershop). Tony Lee opened his grocery store on the corner of Smith and Watkins Street. Besides grocery stores the Portuguese opened billiard rooms, restaurants, lunch counters, shoe repair shops, butcher shops, soft drink shops, etc. Among these were Antone Davilla, Manuel Costa, Tony Mello, Antone Santos, the Silva's, the Pinto's, and the Allegre's.

The Spanish, newly arrived in the U.S. began their own merchant and business class in Alvarado during this decade with names such as Joe Priego and Damaso Dias going into the meat and grocery business, Vic Naharro in the shoe business, and Fernandes Paredes, Alvarado's "hamburger king."

The Japanese would also contribute to the business community with Katsusaboru Matsumoto opening an oriental grocery store, and the Wakabyashi Co. milliners.

During the 1920's the Italians would begin to appear in Alvarado as well as a wave of Mexican immigrants.

* **CORPORATE BUSINESSES** *

Sugar Mill / Salt / Bank of Alameda County

SUGAR MILL:

Ode to the Sugar Mill / Alameda Sugar Co. 1920's / Alameda Sugar Co. Sold to Holly Sugar

Ode to the Sugar Mill:

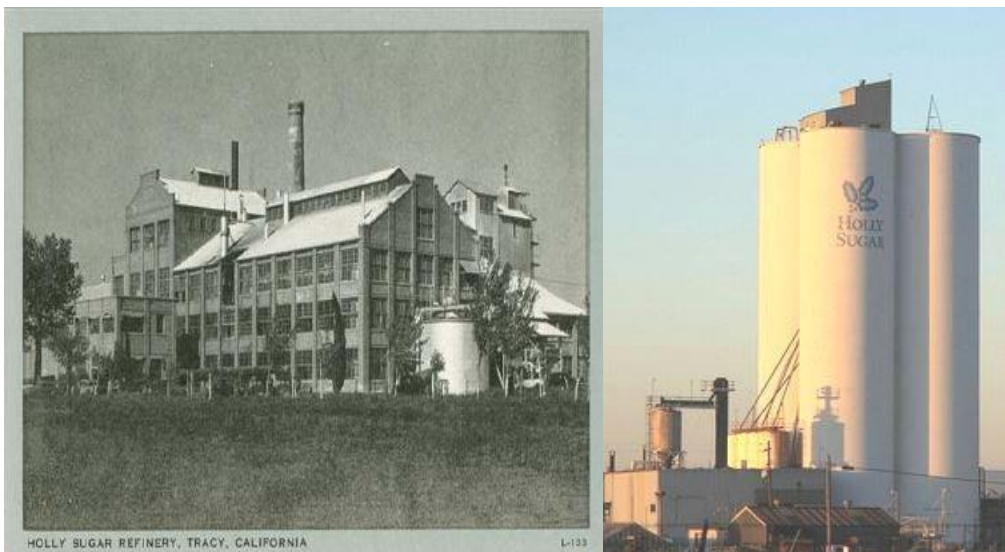
Half hidden in the leafy shadow
Where whispering willows hover near
Still stands the mill at Alvarado
Grinding on from year to year

From year to year in track well beaten
In modesty it serves mankind
Its only purpose is to sweeten
Its only mission is to grind

The bit of poetry above appeared in an article in the *Oakland Tribune* in 1927. It fit the Alvarado mill perfectly. The reference to "grinding" refers to the process used to cut (or slice) beets into thin strips called "cosettes." This process is used to make the extraction of sugar from the beets easier and more complete. It is the first step in processing beets into sugar.

Alameda Sugar Co. 1920's:

Alameda Sugar Co. started off the new decade with the purchase of the sugar factory of the Pacific Sugar Co. at Tracy, Cal. The company noted that with their beet acreage at Meridian, Woodland, West Sacramento, Grand Island, and other points promised to supply sufficient beets this year not only for the company's Alvarado refinery, but also the plant at Tracy.



The old Holly Pacific Sugar Co. Tracy Calif. The left photo shows the Holly Sugar Tracy plant with its signature silos on the left.

The Alameda Sugar Co. continued its investment in new equipment by employing the use of the new Fageol truck in Tracy. Hauling sugar beets to the railroads or the sugar mill had been a hard task for trucks to solve. The method of loading in the field and hauling picked sugar beets right through the soft ground had proven too much of a task for the average truck to overcome. However, with a fleet of six 5-6 ton trucks equipped with compound low transmission, the Fageols were hauling beets for the Alameda Sugar Company for the second season. These same Fageols hauled 72,321 tons the previous year, and did it so successfully that they were back on the same job again this year.

"We had a hard time to convince the engineers of the company that ours was not an ordinary motor truck," stated F. Weber of Modesto, who sold these trucks. "Beet fields are different in that, when the time for gathering beets is due, tractors plow the beets out of the ground so the pickers can gather them up easily. This leaves the ground soft and with deep furrows. The trucks have to follow the beet rows and the beets are gathered and thrown into the truck, it is not possible for the driver to choose his own road. The Fageols would drop into low compound during this operation. This gear turns the wheels two and one half times slower than the ordinary lowest gear at the same motor speed. It consequently has two and a half times the driving power, and greatly increased traction. When the truck is fully loaded and out of the softness of the plowed fields and back on solid roads again, the operator shifts back to his regular gears and travels to the unloading point at normal speed. This flexibility made it possible for us to demonstrate to the company that Fageol trucks would solve their hauling problem. It is sometimes advantageous to go slow as well as fast."



The Fageol difference was the brothers' own three-speed, constant-mesh transmission, linked to a Borg and Beck clutch. Something truly unique was about to appear: a seven-speed compound transmission. Its countershaft — through a Fageol-designed device — could be run at two speeds instead of one. The result was four forward speeds, including an extra-low first (called compound low) that Fageol claimed increased pulling power 91%, plus a fifth overdrive that purportedly offered 36% more road speed, in addition to two reverse speeds. Seven-speed trucks proudly announced their identity with conspicuously bold "7 speeds" lettering emblazoned on their radiators. Seen here are two circa 1920 Fageol trucks.

In November 1920 the Alvarado sugar mill showed its manufacturing prowess in continuous, 24/7 operation without stoppage. The mill ran night and day for 100 continuous days without any stoppage. This was a new record for the plant and a testament to its efficiency.

Henry Springer, Superintendent of the Alameda Sugar Co. plant at Alvarado reported that the company was preparing for the 1921 beet processing season and that Washington Township would plant more acreage this year than at any time in its history. He added that the refinery at Alvarado will run overtime this year if the crops now being planted on the Holland and West Sacramento tracts come up to expectations. It is reported that West Sacramento will plant more than 1,300 acres of sugar beets and that the Holland property will contribute 600 acres.

January 1922 saw the sugar mill drop their contract prices for beets around Washington Township from \$6 a ton to \$5 a ton. Some farmers in Alvarado who had been planting sugar beets the past several years said they will not plant this year due to the slump in sugar, and the drop in prices paid for beets, and were considering the planting of barley in the majority of cases. In the low foothill land where beets were raised, barley is the best substitute crop, while the flat lands around Alvarado are slightly alkaline, it is believed a profit can be made from planting barley. Less than a third of the usual crop of beets will be planted in this section this year.

At the beginning of March 1922 three thousand acres of land in the Washington Township area were going to be planted to sugar beets, under contract to the Alvarado sugar mill. It was expected that another 1,500 acres would be planted to the beet crop, bringing the yield next fall up to normal. The announcement by the company was received with satisfaction by the local businessmen for it had been predicted at the end of the last season that few beets would be planted this year due to the depression of the sugar market caused by foreign importations. The news that the sugar beet growing industry was revived from its temporary depression led farmers here to predict a bumper crop, as land and climatic conditions were the most favorable in a number of years. The heavy rains had provided sufficient moisture to keep the land from drying before the crop matures, a condition that will affect to a great measure the success of the crop.

The 1923 beet crop from the north (Woodland area) reported sixty thousand tons of sugar beets harvested by November 9th. A noteworthy aspect of the harvest was that it was concentrated into an unusually short season, running from August 15th to October 20th. During that nine-week period, from 30 to 40 trucks, and from three to five beet dumps were operating daily, with the supplementary employment of three barges, a tugboat or two, and the railroad. The beets were all shipped to the Alvarado refinery.

In March of 1924 The Alameda Sugar Co. revealed it was planting 3,200 acres of beets in Lovelock Nevada. This was an experiment, which if successful, will be the means of having a large sugar beet factory placed in Lovelock, and the seat of the industry moved from California to Nevada.

The Alameda Sugar Company announced that their 1924 campaign would open in the Alvarado plant for the fall work about August 15th. The mill was completely overhauled in order to handle the beets from the approximately 14,000 acres in

California and Nevada. This is the first year that the sugar company has entered the Nevada fields, but with the reopening of the Tracy plant it was necessary to find a larger acreage than usual in order to supply both mills.

The 1924 sugar run at Alvarado was the heaviest yet made, owing to the gaining of possession of a new acreage of land for beet culture in the Delta district along the Sacramento and San Joaquin regions, near Stockton. It was expected that this year's campaign would total 225,000 bags or about 80,000 tons of sugar. Beet sugar is one of Alvarado's chief industries, the payroll running well over a \$1,000 a day

At the end of the 1924 season the Alameda Sugar Company announced that they are selling their 10,600-acre Meridian Farms Ranch in Sutter County near Colusa. This was once the land that would grow beets for the replacement mill at Alvarado with the new mill at Meriden California. But the company decided to keep its refinery in Alvarado and the land north of the Sacramento Delta was no longer needed.

The 1925 season was the most satisfactory run in the history of the Tracy Calif. plant for the Alameda Sugar Company. During the period of operations, covering 100 days, the Tracy refinery converted 66,500 tons of sugar beets into 191,600 bags of sugar. The daily payroll for the valley town was \$1,000. Next year the acreage in this section would be increased as farmers discovered this season that the crop is profitable.

In March of 1926 the Alameda Sugar Company and the Alameda Sugar Farms Company reported a deficit of \$837,039 for 1925, which ate up the previous surplus and left the profit and loss account with \$22,797 in red ink. The consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 1925 showed current assets of \$2,041,067, of which \$153,755 was cash. The current liabilities were \$855,554.

In May 1926, the Alameda Sugar announced that they had leased their Tracy plant to the Holly Sugar Corp. Holly sugar announced that they would immediately open offices at the Tracy plant and that work would be started to prepare for the campaign the fall of 1926. The Holly Sugar Company is one of the largest beet manufacturing companies in the United States, with plants operating in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota and California.

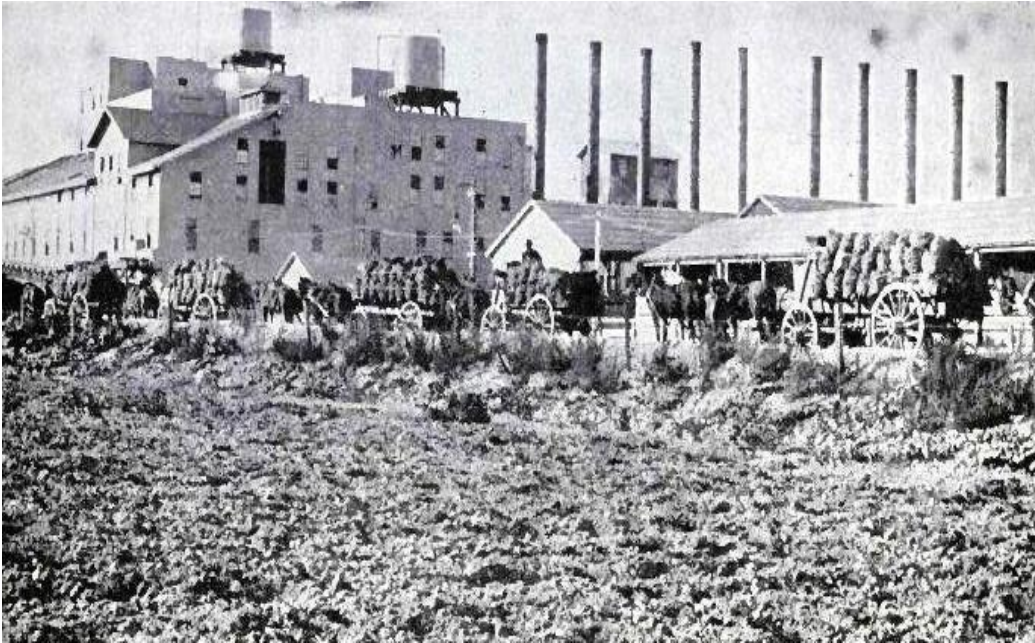
The Holly Sugar Plant in Tracy opened September 7, 1926 for the start of beet slicing season under the auspices of the Holly Sugar Company. For the past three months 100 men had been at work preparing for the mill opening. When the mill started, 175 men were employed in Tracy, and the plant had a capacity of handling one thousand tons of sugar beets a day.

Meanwhile the Alameda Sugar Co. plant at Alvarado was closed and the beets grown here were shipped to Tracy. The beets raised in the delta country were shipped by barge to Tracy.

Alameda Sugar sold to Holly Sugar:

In December of 1926 it was reported that the Alvarado and Tracy plants of the Alameda Sugar Company had been sold to the Holly Sugar Corporation. The Holly Sugar Corporation had leased the two plants in May 1926 on a profit sharing basis, and the present agreement converts the lease into cash.

The two plants are the only ones owned by Alameda Sugar Company. The company controlled the Alameda Farms Company, which owns 10,035 acres of sugar beet land in Sutter County. These lands are being subdivided presently and will be sold.



The Alameda Sugar Company mill as it appeared before the turn of the 20th century. Note the farmers carrying their beets to the mill in burlap sacks.



This is what the Holly Sugar Company bought from the Alameda Sugar Company in 1925.

In March 1927 Holly Sugar began advertising locally to bring area loyalty and pride into the purchasing of sugar. This ad ran the *Hayward Daily review*:

A Southern Alameda County Industry...
'HOLLY SUGAR'

A proven product unsurpassed for all sugar uses!
We feel that we are part of the development of this part of the County and as such, we ask for your support. Hundreds are employed in operating and modernizing our plant near Alvarado.

\$1,100,000 has been invested in our Alvarado plant, giving these hundreds of men employment. Our field operations directly cause the employment of thousands more in working crops in the field. The equipment in our Alvarado plant keeps these men employed.

Our Alvarado plant brings money into Southern Alameda County from all over America. Why not use this superlative sugar? Ask your grocer for and be sure to get Holly Sugar.

HOLLY SUGAR CORP.
Alvarado, California

The Holly Sugar Corporation, which last year leased the Alvarado and Tracy factories of the Alameda Sugar Co., earned a net after depreciation of \$408,772 in the year ended March 31, 1927, President A.E. Carlton reported. The company manufactured 1,286,239 bags of sugar, against 1,333,239 in the preceding year and cut its carryover from 775,984 bags last year to 407,869 March 31st last. The Tracy factory produced 102,316 bags last year and 300,000 are estimated for this year from the planting, agricultural conditions in the Tracy district being very satisfactory.

In July of 1927 it was reported that a new subsidiary of the Holly Sugar Corporation to be known as the Holly Western Sugar Company has been incorporated to take over the Alvarado and Tracy factories in Alameda County California from a Colorado Springs syndicate, which acquired the properties last fall.

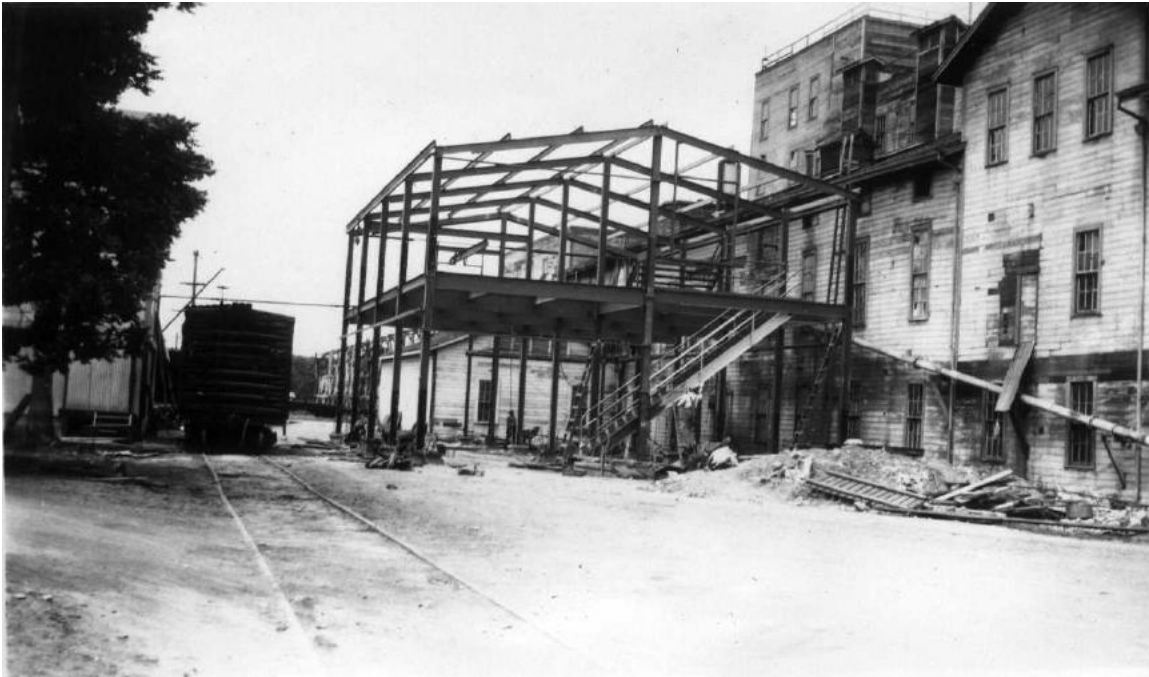
Holly Sugar reported that the Alvarado sugar mill would open the first of October 1927 for a run of six or eight weeks. The sugar beet crop in this and nearby sections will be handled by the Alvarado plant, according to A.K. Logan, field representative of the company. This is the first resumption of work in the plant since it closed three years ago. The refinery may be put in operation for a short time every summer because of the extensive sugar beet raising in Washington Township and the possibilities of greater production. Repairs are being made to the old plant that is badly in need of remodeling because of its' three years of inactivity.

Approximately \$700,000 worth of business will be transacted in the six to eight week run of the Holly Sugar refinery in Alvarado, which opened on October 1, 1927. Two hundred men were employed and about 30,000 tons of sugar beets would be used in the production of 100,000 bags of sugar, according to Andrew K. Logan, company field representative.

The Holly Sugar Co. at Alvarado began its beet-processing run on August 10, 1929 with the expectation that the season would last for 100 days. Over 175 men were

employed during this period. Improvements that were made to the plant included a pulp drier and a new power generator.

The Holly Sugar Corporation began construction of a million dollar sugar beet factory in the territory of Disappointment Slough, San Joaquin County, because of action undertaken by the interstate commerce commission decision of October 6, 1929 authorizing the Western Pacific Railroad to build a three-mile branch connecting with its main line at Harte (near Stockton), and running westerly to a point on Disappointment Slough. The factory would have a daily capacity of 1,000 tons of sugar and was expected to result in the development on an extensive scale of the existing sugar beet industry in that area. The Holly Sugar Corp. now operates factories at Alvarado and Tracy and at various points in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana.



Repairs are being made to the old plant that is badly in need of remodeling because of its' three years of inactivity. From a photo by Norman Silveira and supplied by Tim Swenson.

SALT INDUSTRY:

After the turn of the 20th century there had been a great consolidation of small salt producers into large producers of salt on the East Bay. Large producers of salt were:

The Union Pacific Salt Co.
Arden Salt Company
Turk Island Salt Company
The California Salt Company
Continental Salt & Chemical Co.
Leslie Salt Refining Co.
Leslie Salt California
Oliver Salt Company
Solar Salt Company

Union City
Newark
Alvarado
Union City
Union City
Redwood City
Alvarado/Baumberg
Mt. Eden
Union City

The California Salt Company, Continental Salt Co., and the Oliver Brothers Salt Company were composed of many smaller salt companies that had been consolidated into the larger companies. Although Leslie Salt was not from the East Bay (Redwood City) they would come to dominate the salt industry in the East Bay in the 1920's and 1930's. As 1920 opened on the salt flats, the large players mentioned above began to consolidate between themselves.

Arden Salt:

Based in Newark, Arden absorbed the Union Pacific Salt Company in 1927. At one time the Union Pacific Salt Co. was the largest salt producer in the East Bay.

Leslie Salt California:

Organized May 29, 1924 from the California Salt Co., the Continental Salt & Chemical Co., the California Salt Company, and the Leslie Salt Refining Co were merged to create Leslie Salt California. In 1927 the company would absorb the Turk Island Salt Company.

Oliver Brothers Salt Company:

Between 1900 and 1920 the Oliver Brothers absorbed half a dozen or more smaller salt producers, mainly in the Mt. Eden area. In 1920 they absorbed the Commercial Salt Company and in 1927 they absorbed the Pioneer Salt Co.

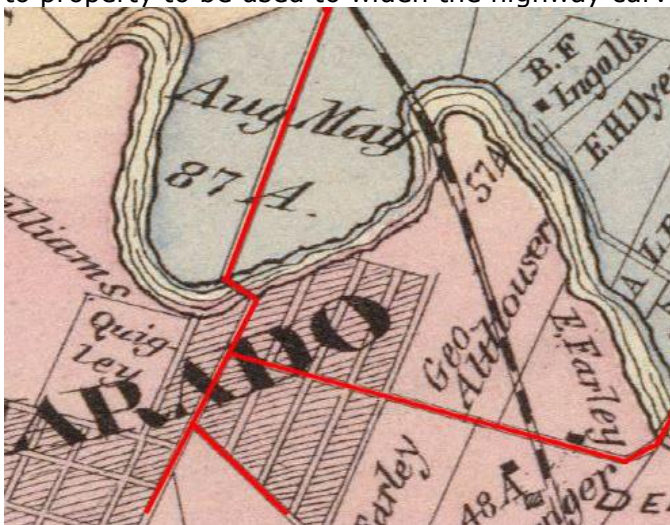
Solar Salt Company:

The Solar Salt Company changed its name to the Pioneer Salt Company and was absorbed into the Oliver Salt family of companies in 1927.

BANK:

Bank of Alameda County

In February 1925 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors accepted a gift of deeds to property to be used to widen the highway curves into Alvarado.



This inset from the 1878 Thompson & West Map, shows the path of the Alvarado drawbridge, and the jog it created as it spanned the Alameda Creek as you came into Alvarado. The Alameda Creek came south, almost reaching to Maiden Lane.

The Bank of Alameda County and Antone Davilla, were the donors of property to lessen the curves that were located as you entered into Alvarado from Mt. Eden. The old drawbridge of the 1870's spanned the Alameda Creek across from the Alvarado Hotel. The curves were not bad for horse drawn buggies, but they were dangerous for the much faster automobiles. These curves remained a noticeable feature of Alvarado well into the 1960's before Union City Boulevard was elongated so that the curves are barely noticeable today.

At noon on October 13, 1920, three masked bandits armed with shotguns and revolvers, entered the Bank of Alameda County, shot and seriously wounded Bank President August May, and escaped with an estimated \$50,000 in cash. The men ransacked the institution after dragging May into the vault and locked him up with Mrs. Anderson, Ass't Cashier, and Ted Lydecker an employee of the bank, and then shutting them in the vault.

When one of the men entered the bank with a drawn revolver, May sprang at him and knocked him down. The bandit recovered his weapon and shot May twice, once in the throat and once in the shoulder. The robbers worked fast and fled from the scene in a few minutes. A passerby heard the imprisoned bank officials knocking on the vault door and went to their rescue. Following shouted instructions, he opened the vault and released them.

The wounded Bank President was placed in an automobile and rushed to the hospital in Hayward, from which place District Attorney Ezra Decoto (May's brother-in-law) took him to Merritt Hospital in Oakland. After a precarious few days when it appeared May's life was touch and go, he eventually garnered his strength and survived, although one arm had only limited mobility for the rest of his life.

* **BIOS OF NOTABLE CIIZENS** *

Automobile – Gas Stations / Automobile – Repair Garages / Barber / Beverages & Billiard Halls / Blacksmith / Butcher / Chinese Billiard Room / Chinese Merchants / Confectionary Sales / Corporate Secretary / Engineer / Firemen / Grocery Clerks / Hotels & Boarding Houses / Japanese Carpenter / Japanese Hotels & Boarding Houses / Japanese Engineer / Japanese Fireman / Japanese Foreman / Japanese Merchant / Japanese Language School / Japanese Laundry Lumberyard / Machinist / Merchants / Millinery Shop / Night Marshal / Physician / Post Master / Real Estate / Restaurants / Saloon Keeper / Shoe Repair / Superintendents / Teachers / Teamsters / Telephone / Theater / Tobacco / Water Works / Well Borer

AUTOMOBILE GAS STATIONS:

Ernest & Mary Richards / Antone Santos / E. Briggs

Ernest & Mary Richards:
Richards Service Station & Confections

Ernest Richards was born in 1874 in West Virginia. His wife, Mary Richards, was born in 1878 in California. In the latter part of 1920 Ernest Richards ran an automobile service station and Mary Richards sold candy from her store. It appears that Mary Richards was widowed in the 1930's and went to live with her married sister in Sacramento.

Antone Santos Proprietor: **Santos' Shell Station**

Antone Santos was born in Portugal circa 1890. He entered the U.S. in 1911 and became a naturalized citizen in 1919. He married Mae Davilla and had two daughters, Alvina (who married Tony Brune Jr.), and Winifred (who married Bill Harper).

In 1920 Antone was working for the salt company, he was single, and he was living at a boarding house on "V" Street operated by Charles and Fannie Cunningham.

Antone bought a home at the southern end of Vallejo Street near the Alvarado Centerville Road. He bought the two lots that stretched between Watkins and Vallejo Streets on the Alvarado-Centerville Road. On the lot next to home his home he built a small Shell Gas Station in 1927.



Antone Santos opened this station in 1927 and sold Shell Gasoline and oil product. The station was located on the SW end of Vallejo Street at the Alvarado-Centerville Road. His home was just north of the station, and west of the gas station he built the Silver Dollar Café and Tavern. The gas station was closed in 1977 after fifty years of service.

Antone continued to work at the salt company while he operated, and sometimes leased, out the gas station to independent operators.

In the 1930's Antone built the Silver Dollar café and tavern on his other lot that was located on the Alvarado Centerville Road and Watkins Street. When this was completed Antone owned the entire frontage on the north side of the Alvarado Centerville Road between Watkins and Vallejo Streets. He also owned the home on Vallejo Street just north of his gas station.

Antone Santos passed away on September 11, 1959. He was a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, the Alvarado Eagles, the American Legion and U.P.E.C.

E. Briggs, Proprietor: **Briggs Service Station**

Nothing can be found for Mr. Briggs or his service station Alvarado other than the D&B Report that such a business existed in Alvarado in the late 1920's. The census turned up nothing for Mr. Briggs.

AUTOMOBILE: REPAIR GARAGES:

Charles Baird / Peter Brown & John Boyd / John Logan / Elmer Abbott / Antone S. Amaral / Walter White & Donald Cameron

Charles Baird, Proprietor: **Alvarado Garage**

Charles W. Baird was born in California circa 1885. He was married to Annie L. Baird who was born in California circa 1890. They had one daughter, Helen, who was born in 1911.

Charles came to Alvarado shortly after 1920 from San Francisco where he had been a mechanic in an iron works. In 1921 he was the proprietor of the Alvarado Garage, an automobile service facility.

In 1923 Charles joined the Alvarado Eagle Aerie and by 1924 he was voted the new of Commerce, becoming Vice President of the civic organization in 1935. That same year Charles was tasked by the Chamber to survey the need of Alvarado for a sewer district, with the view of installing such a system.

In 1938, as President of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce Charles Baird took on the task of organizing an effort to investigate a Flood Control District for the town of Alvarado. Charles assembled a committee of leading Alvarado citizens to explore the flood control issue; included on this committee were Fred Wiegman, F.C. Harvey, August May, Henry Patterson, Adolph A. Oliver, J.C. Buchanan and Andrew K. Logan.

In December 1941 a new Boy Scout Troop was formed in Alvarado. The troop was formed and a Board of Directors for the troop was chosen; the President of the troop was Charles Baird. Anthony Silva was elected Scoutmaster and George Vargas was chosen Ass't Scoutmaster,

At the start of WWII Alvarado had an immediate need for an Air Raid Observation Tower. Frank Machado was chosen as Chief Observer assisted by Manuel P. Rose and Charles Baird. These three gentlemen were instrumental in seeing that the tower was build on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds and they also saw that it was manned 24/7 by the townspeople. The ladies section was lead by Mrs. Corrine Munger and Miss Flora McKeown.

In September 1944 Charles Baird took on the added responsibility of becoming the Assistant Fire Chief for the Alvarado Fire Department. Then two months later Charles resigned his position as custodian of the Alvarado Grammar School. He had accepted a position at the Fort Winfield Scott Fire Department in San Francisco. Charles and Annie would remain in Alvarado however.

Charles continued to be active in the Alvarado Eagles, serving as Treasurer in 1946 thru 1949. In 1956 Baird was again chosen as Treasurer of the Eagles.

Charles also continued to serve on the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, being chosen in 1955 to serve on the membership committee with fellow Eagles Warren Silva, Damaso Diaz, Manuel Borges and Mrs. Mabel Rogers.

Equally as energetic in Alvarado was Mrs. Annie Baird. Annie was a member of the Alvarado Rebekah's and in 1926 she served as an officer of that organization. Annie served as an official in the organization again in 1936, 1940 and 1945. In 1955 and 1956 Annie Baird served as an officer in the Alvarado Eagles Auxiliary.

During WWII Annie served as an Alvarado Red Cross volunteer working every Wednesday at the Odd Fellows Hall knitting and sewing goods for our boys overseas. She also joined Mrs. Mary Rivers in her Red Cross work in Centerville making bandages for our wounded boys.

Mrs. Baird was also an active member of the Alvarado Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church. In 1934 Annie was named Ass't Postmaster of Alvarado after the death of Mr. Albert Norris and prior to the appointment of Mrs. Genevieve Dutra as Postmaster.

Miss Helen Baird graduated from Alvarado Grammar School along with: Minnie Rivers, Mabel Amaral, Edith Mello, Conception Gomes, Edith Amaral, Norma Peixotto, Rosalie Joyce, Genevieve Davilla, Bernice Boyd, Joe Lemos, Toshie Soto, Wilbert Hendricks, Mamie Vargas, Melvin Skow, Raymond Hinkley, Madeline Goularte and Minnie Hizer.

In 1928 Miss Helen Baird participated in the Alvarado semi-pro baseball team lead by Genevieve Davilla (Dutra). Other players on the team were: Edith Mello, Bernice Boyd, Helen Silva, Cecelia Andrade, Madelyn Avila and Agnes Silva.

Peter Brown:

John Boyd:

Brown & Boyd Auto Repair

Peter Brown:

Peter Brown was born in California in 1900. In 1925 he went into partnership with John Boyd in an auto repair business in Alvarado. But by the 1930 Pete was no longer in this business with John Boyd.

John Boyd:

John P. Boyd was born in California in 1887. His wife Emma was born in California in 1886. They had two daughters, Joan and Bernice.

In April 1925 Brown and Boyd built an auto repair garage in Alvarado. They equipped their repair shop with a first class machine shop and would also do any and all kinds of electrical work. Both men were first class mechanics who had for the past nine years been employed by the California Salt Co. as master mechanics.

In 1927 John (Jack) Boyd joined the Alvarado Fire Department as Captain under Fire Chief John Ralph. Later Jack Boyd joined the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

J.M. Logan, Proprietor:

Logan's Garage

John M. Logan was born in Alvarado in 1898 to James & Rebecca Logan. John's wife Thelma was born in California in 1908. They were married in August 1928 and had one daughter Thelma Jean.

In 1920 John Logan was an engineer at a trucking firm, but by 1925 he had his own auto repair shop in Alvarado.

John was a local supporter of the Presbyterian Church in Alvarado, and in February 1938, John joined M.P. Munger from Alvarado in forming a council of the four Presbyterian Churches in Washington Township.

In September 1941 John Logan, and his brother, Andrew K. Logan were chosen as air raid observers by T.P. Harvey. The lookout site was at the Hall Station where the observers scanned the skies for enemy airplanes.

Elmer Abbott:

Elmer J. Abbott was born in Massachusetts in 1886. His wife Alice was born in Massachusetts in 1889. While in Alvarado they had a daughter Evalyn in 1919. Elmer listed his employment as the owner of an automobile service garage. But by 1930 Elmer was living in Hayward where he worked as a mechanic in a coffee roasting company. He also had added two more children.

Antone S. Amaral:

Antone S. Amaral was born in California in 1884. His wife Millie was born in California in 1893. In 1920 they had two children, Jewell and Lester. Antone was the owner of an automobile service garage in the Alvarado/Alviso area. Jewell Amaral is shown attending the Alviso Grammar School.

Antone Amaral passed away in March 1974 at the age of 90 years. He left his wife Millie Amaral, daughter Jewell Garcia of Arkansas, and son Lester of Fremont. Antone was a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Local No. 1546 of Oakland.

Walter White:

Donald Cameron:

White & Cameron Garage:

Walter White:

Walter White was born in California in 1882. In 1920 he was living near the SP Train Station with his business partner Donald Cameron.

Donald Cameron:

Donald Cameron was born in Canada in 1886. He entered the U.S. in 1905. In 1920 he was living near the SP Train Station with his business partner Walter White.

The two listed themselves as partners in the ownership of an auto garage in Alvarado; however the whereabouts of the garage is not known. After 1930 the pair had left Alvarado.

BARBER:

John Menezes / Antone Mello

John Menezes:

John Menezes was born in the Azores circa 1882. He entered the U.S. in 1911. He married Isabel Davilla circa 1913 and had two daughters, Alice and Alberta. John was a barber in Alvarado in 1920 and then he went into partnership with his brother-in-law Joseph Jacinto in a little store at the corner of Vallejo Street and the Alvarado Centerville Road. John left the partnership and went into barbering full time on his own in Alvarado.

John and Isabel had lived on "V" Street initially, but then moved into a rented home on Vallejo Street in the late 20's. By 1940 John and Isabel owned their own home on "V" Street.

John and Isabel were very active in Alvarado society and the Catholic Church. John was an active member of the Sociedade Divino Espiritu Santo (SDES), and organization that put on the annual Holy Ghost festa in Alvarado. John was a long-time member of the Alvarado Eagles, and early on served as an official capacity at the organization. He was also active in the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Menezes was active in the SPRSI, a Portuguese lodge and benevolent society

Antone Mello:

See bio below on this page under Mello's Soft Drinks

BEVERAGES & BILLIARD HALLS:

Santos Billiard Room / Manuel A. Silva / Antone Mello

Antone Santos, Proprietor:

Santos' Billiard Room

See Santos' Shell Station page 11 above

Manual A. Silva, Proprietor:

Silva's Beverages & Billiard Hall

Manuel A. Silva was born in Portugal in 1867. He entered the U.S. in 1884. His wife Rosa was born in Portugal in 1876. Her date of entry into the U.S. is unknown. Manuel and Rosa were married in 1903 and had no children. In 1910 Manuel was operating a saloon in Alvarado, for which he had received a liquor license in 1907. In 1930 Manuel was listed as operating a billiard hall and beverage establishment. After 1930 nothing could be found for the Silva's.

Antone Mello:

Mello's Soft Drinks

Antone S. Mello was born in the Azores (Portugal) circa 1883. He reportedly entered the U.S. in 1892. His wife, Edith Mello, was born in California circa 1884. They were married in 1903, and had two daughters, Geraldine and Edith.

Tony first appears in the Alvarado 1910 census as a saloonkeeper. In later years he shows also as being a barber. In 1913 he was granted a liquor license.

Tony was one of the early Presidents of the Alvarado Eagles Aerie, and he was credited with a progressive policy that built the Alvarado Eagles into one of the strongest memberships of any fraternal order in Washington Township.

When the new Catholic Church was built in Alvarado, Tony Mello took on the chairmanship of the first ever Holy Ghost festa in Alvarado. Hazel Roderick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Roderick was the first queen with Madeline Avila and Minnie Gomes as attendants. Tony would go on to serve as President of the Alvarado Holy Ghost Association for a number of years.

In September 1939 Tony Mello received special mention in *The Alvarado Pioneer* for his many progressive exploits for the town:

"Tony Mello of Alvarado has been in business for 30 years and has come to make friends with many folks in Washington Township. Tony sells the finest of beers, carrying Lucky Lager, Wielands and Rainier on draught, and it is a cool and refreshing drink on these hot days. He also carries the leading wines and liquors.

This man spends his time and energy helping the town prosper. He always gives money to hire a night watchman, when a capable man is on the job, and serves on committees for benefit whist parties etc., to help raise money for charity or to aid our splendid church. Surely a man like this deserves to be patronized and given a boost."

Tony Mello was also a backer of the Alvarado Sanitary District to keep the town free of diseases from untreated sewage. He was also a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, the SPRSI and the Catholic Church.

Mrs. Edith Mello was a member of the SPRSI, serving on various committees of the organization to raise funds for activities. She also served as a ballot official during elections in Alvarado.

Funeral services were held in August 1942 for Tony Mello, 59, of Alvarado. He was a native of Fayal, the Azores, and is survived by his wife Edith and two daughters. Mrs. Edith Mello followed him in death in 1965.

BLACKSMITH:
Manuel A. Silva, Jr., Proprietor:
Silva's Blacksmith Shop

Manuel A. Silva Jr. was born in California circa 1892. His wife, Mary Silva, was born in the Azores (Portugal) in 1897. She entered the U.S. in 1904. Their only child, Lloyd was born in 1919.

Manuel was a blacksmith by trade and his 1948 ad placed in the *Alvarado Pioneer* explains his business perfectly:

“MANUEL A SILVA, JR.
Pioneer Blacksmith Shop, First Class Wagon Work & Agricultural
implement repair.”

Manuel’s shop was located just west of and slightly behind Matt Machado’s Café and beer bar just across the street from the Alvarado Grammar School. Wrote the editor of the *Alvarado Pioneer*:

“We must congratulate Manuel Silva, the blacksmith whose shop is opposite the Alvarado School, because he is a splendid mechanic. We saw a cauliflower and tomato planter that he is building. It’s well built beams support a tank that looks like a work of art. Two large pneumatic tires make it easy and fast to handle on the farm.”

I can recall going to his shop with my father when he needed a new tooth on the cultivator blade that had worn down by digging into the dirt. My father and Manuel drew out what was needed on a piece of paper, and later in the afternoon my father went back pick it up, a beautifully sculpted metal tool

Manuel had a boat he titled “The Georgina” that he would take to the Delta along with friends, Sam Dinsmore, Charlie Baird, Roy Gomes, and a host of others Manuel would take on his fishing excursions.

Manuel was very active in his interests that involved the town of Alvarado. In 1936 he joined the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles. Here met many of his local townspeople and he followed this up by joining the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. In 1940 Manuel was one of the Alvaradan’s that pushed for a Sanitary District in Alvarado to help prevent an epidemic of harmful diseases.

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Alvaradan’s took action by manning observation posts to look out for incoming Japanese bombers; Manuel took his turn on the line of observers. When an observation tower was erected on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds, Manuel Silva was there to help put it up and then helped man his two-hour shift during the night.

In 1943 Manuel joined the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department. In 1946 he was elected President of the Alvarado Fireman’s Association. As part of the Fireman’s Association, he was on a committee to establish a recreation center for Alvarado boys. The firemen contacted the Eagles, Odd Fellows, Chamber of Commerce and the I.D.E.S. committees to drum up support for the Boys Club.

In 1945 Manuel joined with Mike Salido, Charles Baird, Ed Wilson, Manuel Perry, Joe E. Lewis, Mike Gardetto, and Tony Vargas, in establishing a Boy Scout Troop for the town of Alvarado. Assisting the committee was Mr. Oakey

of Alvarado's Central Bank and Leslie H. Maffey, the Principal of the Alvarado Grammar School.

Manuel joined with Joe. E. Lewis, Charles Baird, and John H. Ralph to collect money for Fourth of July decorations in 1946. It was a joint celebration with the Filipino community of Alvarado who chose July 4th as the Independence Day for Filipino-Americans in Alameda County. The celebration would be held in Alvarado.

Manuel continued to back Alvarado projects, such as the dredging of the Alameda Creek Channel west of Alvarado to help alleviate wintertime flooding of the town.

In January 1949, Manuel erected a new building on his property to be occupied by Mr. Silva's son, Lloyd, who would conduct a business to be known as "Lloyds Electric." Lloyd had a long experience with a large electric store in Hayward. The Silva's built a \$10,000 store on Smith Street opposite Alvarado Grammar School. Lloyd would stock his store with famous heaters and other electrical appliances. Lloyd's store was located at 1546 Smith Street.

On February 4, 1970 Manuel A. Silva Jr. passed away at the age of 78 years.

BUCHTERS:

Damaso Diaz:

Joseph Priego:

Diaz & Priego, Butchers

Damaso Diaz:

Damaso Diaz was born in Spain circa 1888 and entered the U.S. in 1912. His wife, Josefa, was born in Spain circa 1886, and also entered the U.S. in 1912. They had four children: three sons, Sigundo (born in Hawaii), Cipriano and Raymond were born in California. They also had one daughter Mary, born in California.

Damaso worked as a farm laborer in the early 1920's, and by 1930 he had become a meat salesman. By 1940 he was the proprietor of the Union Meat Market at 1026 Levee Street in downtown Alvarado.

In May 1936, Damaso earned his American citizenship papers by attending the Washington Union High School at Centerville. He was among a class of 10 aliens seeking to become Americans, and out of those ten were five from Alvarado, which included Victor Naharro, who would later own the Alvarado Theater.

Damaso's Union Meat Market did well, and Mr. Diaz was able to buy many storefronts on Levee Street. Near the end of 1939 Damaso invested heavily in updating the "Diaz Block" as set forth in this *Alvarado Pioneer* article of November 1939:

"You have to hand a bouquet to D. Diaz, owner of the Diaz business block in Alvarado, because he is always trying to boost the town and to improve the business section.

Right now he is doing a glorious thing that will make his store and the adjoining ones look like a San Francisco place, with its new stucco front over a distance of the 75-foot frontage of his building. Along the base of the stucco front will be tile, which will give it a real fine appearance.

In front of Mr. Diaz' Union Meat Market, there will be installed a large new plate glass window, also the step at the entrance will be removed and a slanting sidewalk will afford a gradual approach to the main floor of the market.

Surely Mr. Diaz deserves a great deal of credit and we anticipate more owners of business buildings here will follow suit and modernize also. There are four stores in the Diaz Building, the Union Meat Market, the drug store, the Manila Pool Hall and John Menezes Barber Shop."

Damaso's progressive spirit bore fruit when Mr. D. Cubicciotti of the Estudillo Pharmacy in San Leandro decided to open a pharmacy where the Russell Pharmacy had been located in the newly refurbished Diaz Block. The new drug store brought to the area the promise of being one of the best-equipped pharmacies in the whole of the interior of Alameda County.

The following year Damaso was one of the driving forces behind the move to implement a sanitary district to replace the old septic tank systems in town, which had led to an outbreak of disease problems.

Damaso, along with his three sons, Sig, Cippy and Ray, were all members of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. In December 1940, Damaso joined with Frank Machado, Antone Vargas, Joseph Priego and Supervisor George Hellwig to go before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to lobby for the approval of a sanitary system for the town of Alvarado. Their efforts proved successful, and in 1941 the move toward implementing a sanitary system in the town of Alvarado began to move forward.

During the Second World War Damaso helped Alvarado by becoming an Air Raid Observer, keeping watch for Japanese planes on the horizon.

Ever the public spirited man of Alvarado Damaso chipped in to help feed the men of Alvarado who, after the end of the war, cleaned out the channel of the Alameda Creek and burned the brush that had accumulated, which may have caused serious flooding to the town. Damaso's Union Meat Market donated 2½ pounds of linguica, and three cases of beer to help ease his fellow Alvaradan's labors of the day.

In September 1952 Mr. and Mrs. John Novo purchased the Union Meat Market from Damaso Diaz. Mr. Novo was formerly employed by the Leslie Salt Company. His wife was also well known; during the labor shortage she helped the war effort by working at the foundry at Newark.

Mr. Diaz said he would take things easy as he had carried on his business for many years, and has taken a great deal of interest in the betterment of the town of Alvarado, and has perhaps one of the best attendance records of anybody in the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

But Damaso had no intention of taking it easy. He maintained his presence on the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. In 1958 he joined Leslie Maffey, Alvarado School Superintendent, Fred Brown, John Ratekin and Maurice Cox to study what Alvarado would become under the new City of Union City. This committee was enjoined to make sure that Alvarado would not turn into "another Emeryville."

What else did Damaso do during his retirement? Since the sale of his meat market in 1952, he had been the crossing guard at the corner of Levee and Smith Streets in downtown Alvarado. In this small way he was able to continue to serve Alvarado and would also keep him in touch with the youth of town, which helped keep him young.

But on December 19, 1958, Damaso manned his post for the last time. Damaso had just turned 70 on December 8th, and was told that under California law he must retire. "I am still able to handle the job but, by golly, they're going to kick me out," he said with a twinkle in his eye, a smile on his face, but a note of sorrow in his voice.

Damaso Diaz passed away on October 24, 1972.

Sigundo Diaz:

Sig married Antoinette Torquemada and they settled on the Creek Road. "Sig" Diaz built up a fine business in Washington Township in the late 1930's. He had trained in his father's Union Meat Market in Alvarado to learn the butcher business, he decided to get into his own business so he bought a fast auto delivery, and has developed a fine business with farmers who appreciate him coming right to their farms to offer his wares. "Sig" served Decoto, Alviso, Newark and Creek Road customers. After the end of WWII Sig moved his family to Decoto.

Cipriano Diaz:

Cipriano married Miss Erma Machado and they would reside on "V" Street.

Mary Diaz:

Miss Mary Diaz announced her engagement to Frank Vargas in November 1939. They were then married in Oakland in January 1937, and they honeymooned in Southern California. Both newlyweds were graduates of Alvarado Grammar School. The young couple took up residence in a nice cottage behind the Union Meat Market. Frank & Mary had one daughter, Patricia.

Raymond Diaz:

Ray Diaz married Miss Bernice Lezand of Alvarado. He then entered the service in WWII, and was initially based at Williams Field, Arizona in the Medical Corps. Raymond then went overseas and returned to the U.S. in March 1946. Raymond and Bernice settled in the home that Sigundo Diaz once occupied on the Creek Road. Bernice Diaz was active in Alvarado civic

affairs being a part of the Alvarado Mother's Club for the Alvarado School and the Alvarado School PTA.

Joseph Priego:

Joseph Priego was born in Spain circa 1898. He entered the U.S. 1909. He married Victoria Priego who was also born in Spain in 1901, and entered the U.S. in 1913. They had two sons Manuel who was born in 1926, and David who was born in 1929.

The earliest known information of Joe in Alvarado was from a 1929 business directory showing Joe Priego owning a grocery & meat store in partnership with Damaso Diaz in a butcher shop.

In November 1936, Joseph's sister, Mrs. Joe Paredes (and husband Joe) and daughter Gloria came from Spain where they had lived. They said that they have been under constant fire and danger since the start of the revolution there. The family would make their residence for the time being with her brother Joe in Alvarado.

Joe received a boost from the *Alvarado Pioneer* newspaper in 1939 in a fine article on Joe's Alvarado Meat Market. The editor of the *Pioneer* said that "Joe sells groceries, fruit and vegetables, and the best in meats. His motto is: "Clean business methods, quality merchandise and service that satisfies."

Joe Priego had a great deal of pride in Alvarado and backed many town projects by projects was the Alvarado Sanitary District, in which Joe took a personal interest.

In December 1940 Joe was one of the Alvarado townspeople that personally went to Oakland to appear before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors asking for a bond election to be held for a Sanitary District for Alvarado.

To aid in the war effort, Joe took a job at the shipyards in Richmond due to the labor shortage during the war. His sons Manuel & David tended his store in Alvarado during his absence. Later in 1943 Joe was elected to the Board of Directors of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

Meanwhile Joe's wife Victoria was also busy with the war effort. Mrs. Priego was one of the volunteers to canvass Alvarado in a drive to collect money for the American Red Cross and the war effort.

In 1944 Joe replaced the wooden planks that served as a walkway to his store with a fine concrete sidewalk in front of his corner business (on the corner of Levee & Horner Streets). The front and side of this entailed quite an expense.

In the mid 1940's Joe rented out his store to a progression of stores before his son Manuel took it over in the 1950's. In 1956 Manuel Priego, 29, lived above his grocery store on the Levee/Horner Street Corner.

In 1956 there were only two north-south roadways between Oakland-San Leandro-San Lorenzo-Hayward and Southern Alameda County. One was today's Mission Blvd, which went through Decoto and Niles. The other was

Hesperian Blvd and Levee Street, which went through Alvarado to Centerville, and then on to Irvington.

In the year 1957 the Nimitz Freeway (I-880) opened and drained Alvarado of the morning and evening crush of cars coming through town. Almost every business in town suffered, with the exception of the Matsumoto's Oriental Grocery Store and Priego's Store. People on the west side of Levee Street in the residential area had a hard time crossing Levee Street because of the constant traffic. When the traffic eased people could cross the street easily and business picked up for Mr. Priego.

Manuel Priego:

The Alvarado Grammar School graduated 19 students on June 13, 1941. Those who graduated were:

Bertille Amaral	Robert Benjamin	Yatsuo Tao
Jeanette Goularte	Judy Hill	Henry Cheng
Betty Hernandez	Robert Lopez	Stanley Lewis
Doris Martinez	Manuel Priego	Lorraine `Sa
Kay Sakamoto	Agnes Silva	T. Tanaka
Emily Dominguez	Frank Pinto	Cliff Rogers
Ernest Bettencourt		

David Priego:

Graduation exercises at Alvarado Grammar School were held on June 18, 1943. There were 21 graduates. They were:

Victoria Benites	Alden Chamnes	David Priego
Irene Doran	James F. Gardetto	Dorothy Eudy
Sophie E. Hernandez	Dolores M. Hernandez	Angelina Leon
Edward Michie	Jeanette Montalbo	Lena Pacheco
Placido Paredes	Florence De Vincenzi	Leo Ramirez
Anthony J. Roderick	Lawrence Samarron	M. Villareal
Betty Jane Silva	Esperanza Saucedo	Glenn Wallace

CHINESE BILLARD ROOMS:

Ye Fong Louie / Chung Wong / Book Loo

Ye Fong Louie, Billiard Room:

Ye Fong Louie was born in California from Chinese parents in 1880. His wife, Wong She Louie was also born in California of Chinese Parents in 1888. They had a daughter and two sons. They owned a billiard parlor in Chinatown. Nothing was found for them after 1920.

Chung Wong, Billiard Room:

Chung Wong was born in China in 1856. He entered the U.S. in 1878. He operated a billiard parlor in Alvarado's Chinatown. Nothing was found for him after 1920.

Book Loo, Billiard Room:

Book Loo was born in China in 1871. He entered the U.S. in 1901. He lived in Alvarado's Chinatown where he operated a billiard hall. Nothing is shown for Mr. Loo after 1920.

CHINESE MERCHANTS:

Ai Ting Lung / King Fong

Ai Ting Lung, Tea Sales Shop:

Ai Ting Lung was born in China in 1855. He entered the U.S. in 1888. He showed he was widowed and had no children living with him. He operated a Chinatown Store in which he sold teas. Nothing is shown for Ai Ting after 1920.

King Fong, Retail Groceries:

King Fong was born in China in 1867. He entered the U.S. in 1906. He showed that he was widowed and had no children living with him. In 1920 he was shown operating a retail grocery store in Alvarado's Chinatown. After 1920 nothing is shown for King Fong.

CONFECTIONARY SALES:

Edna Pattison:

Edna Pattison was born in 1899 in California to William and Sarah Pattison of Ophir, Butte County, California. In 1920 she was living with her uncle and aunt (Harry & Mary Pattison) in Alvarado. Harry worked at the sugar mill as a field man. Edna owned a little candy shop where she sold confections to customers. In 1930 Harry and Mary Pattison were living in Clarksburg, Yolo County, where Harry was working as a field man.

CORPORATE SECRETARY:

Oscar P. Nauert:

Oscar was born in Buffalo, New York, November 9, 1841, and was a son of George P. and Catherine (Gammer) Nauert, the former born in Buffalo, while the latter was a native of Germany. Mr. Nauert was of French descent in the paternal line, his grandfather having come from France to this country late in the eighteenth century.

Oscar P. Nauert was born in Buffalo New York in November 1853. By 1880 Oscar had come to Alvarado. In that year he bought an Alvarado town lot from Annie Dettelbach. Charles R. Nauert, the superintendent of the Geo. Tay Stove Foundry in old Union City, was Oscar's brother.

Oscar found employment with the sugar mill when he first arrived in Alvarado. In the 1900 census he showed he was a foreman, but did not show with which company.

In 1908 O.P. Nauert was shown as being the corporate secretary for the Empire Foundry in Oakland. He was commuting from Alvarado to Oakland each day. The empire foundry made manhole covers (among other things) for the City of Oakland.

While in Alvarado Oscar was an active member of the Alvarado IOOF and the Alvarado Social Club. He also served as an election for the town of Alvarado. In all his years in Alvarado Oscar did not marry and lived for most of his life with Charles Nauert and family. On July 27, 1937, Oscar P. Nauert passed away at Alvarado.

ENGINEER:

James Hunter / John P Boyd

James Hunter – Sugar Mill:

James Hunter was born in Canada circa 1868. He entered the U.S. in 1906. His wife, Minnie Elizabeth Hunter was born in Canada circa 1867. She also entered the U.S. in 1906. They showed no children living with them during their time in Alvarado.

The Hunter's came to Alvarado from the Los Angeles area in about 1917. James was employed there as a mechanic. He came to work as an engineer/mechanic at the sugar mill.

James was active in the Washington Township Men's Club, the Masonic Lodge at Centerville, the Alvarado Odd Fellows Crusade Lodge, and the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

Minnie Hunter was an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Centerville, the Alvarado Rebekah's, and the Ladies aid Society of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church.

On January 22, 1941 James Hunter passed away in Alvarado. He was 74 years of age. His wife Minnie Hunter survived him.

On January 19, 1950 Mrs. Minnie Elizabeth Hunter passed away. The Hunter's had lived in Alvarado for 33 years at 1175 Smith Street.

John P. Boyd – California Salt Co.:

John Boyd was born in California in 1887. His wife Emma was born in California in 1886. They had a daughter Bernice. They resided on the California Salt Co. plant where John worked as an engineer. In 1925 he left the employ of the salt company to start an auto garage business with Peter Brown in Alvarado. (See Automobile Repair Garages above).

FOREMEN:

Louis J. Myer / Charles A. Cunningham / Edward L. Brown

Louis J. Myer:

Louis J. Myer was born in 1875 in California. His wife Mary Agnes was born in 1878 in Massachusetts. They had one son, Louis Jr. living with them. They were one of dozens of boarders who resided on the California Salt Plant property where Mr. Myer was a foreman for the salt company. After 1920 nothing was found for the Myer family.

Charles A. Cunningham:

Charles A. Cunningham was born in 1870 in Minnesota. His wife Fannie was born in Minnesota in 1874. The couple lived on "V" Street in Alvarado, in which they housed almost a dozen boarders. They showed no children living with them. Charles was employed as a foreman in one of the local salt plants. Besides his wife, Charles also housed nine boarders at his home. By 1930 Charles was no longer in Alvarado but was found in Seattle working as an engineer in a sprinkler company, and was by this time widowed.

Edward L. Brown

Edward Brown was born in Pennsylvania in 1887. His wife Elizabeth was born in Illinois in 1880. They had two sons living with them while in Alvarado. Edward was a general foreman for the Holly Sugar Company. After 1920 nothing was found for Mr. Brown.

GROCERY CLERKS:

Antone Amaral / John E. Brugge, Jr. / Clarence Flores / Annie Amaral

Antone Amaral:

Antone Amaral was born in California in 1902, the son of Joseph and Mary Amaral, a farm family that lived on the Creek Road. Antone worked as a sales clerk for an Alvarado grocery store after completing his education.

In 1930 he was the proprietor of his own general store. At that time he was still single living with his widowed mother Mary, single sister Edith, and single brother Victor on the Creek Road.

In 1932 Antone Amaral had taken a wife Constance, they had a son David, born circa 1936. Antone was living in Decoto at this time, and he was still operating a general store.

John E. Brugge, Jr.:

John Brugge was born in California in July 1895 to John & Wilhelmina Brugge of the Creek Road in Alvarado. In 1920 John worked as a sales clerk in a local grocery store.

John married Miss Edna Hansen of Mt. Eden in August 1925 at the home of the bride. John left Alvarado and was working in a butcher shop in Eden Township, but John would return to Alvarado by 1940 to begin a partnership in the Hellwig Meat Company of Alvarado. The last article about Mr. Brugge was dated in 1944, at this time he was still associated with George P. Hellwig.

Clarence Flores:

Clarence L. Florence was born in Alvarado on August 11, 1901 to Antone and Elizabeth Flores. He graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1916 along with George & Ed Harvey, James Nesbitt, Theodore Lemos, Manuel Silva, Mamie Gomes and Hazel Lorenzo.

On July 20, 1925 Clarence Flores married Miss Annie Amaral of Alvarado. Both were members of pioneering Alvarado families and were married at St.

Anne's Church by the Reverend Father Casey. Mrs. Mamie Roderick attended the bride and Frank Roderick was the best man. By 1940 the Flores' had two children in the household, daughters Elizabeth and Patricia. Also living in the Flores household was Mrs. Elizabeth Flores, mother to Clarence.

Clarence was employed by John Ralph as a clerk in the merchandising store on Levee Street. However in July 1926 Clarence received an opportunity to work for the Standard Oil Company when William Traeger was transferred to Tracy by the company. By 1930 Clarence had left the Standard Oil Company and pursued a career with one of the salt works in the Alvarado area.

Clarence developed a love for both the town of Alvarado and St. Anne's Church of Alvarado and took his obligations and devotion of time to bettering the environment of living conditions in the town for everyone. Shortly after his marriage Clarence became a ballot official for elections held in Alvarado. He joined Andrew Logan, Helen Anderson, Rose Springer, Mayme Roderick and Annie Baird in this civic duty.

About this same time Clarence joined the Alvarado Dramatic Club in putting on plays at the Odd Fellows Hall in Alvarado. The plays were put on yearly beginning in 1927 and ran a number of years, the proceeds of which went for the benefit of St. Anne's Church in Alvarado and St. Edward's Church in Newark. Both Clarence and Elizabeth Flores were among the actors in the series of plays as well as V. Langdon, Miss Hazel Roderick, Henry Gomes, Mrs. Mayme Roderick, Nick Lewis and G. Gomes.

Clarence also put aside time for the enjoyment of one of Alvarado's favorite sports, duck hunting. Clarence was a member of the Union City Duck Hunting Club and he looked forward to this annual event as a time to spend with fellow hunting enthusiasts Joseph Dutra, Joe Buchanan, Nick Lewis and James Critchfield, all employees of the Leslie Salt Company. Also among the group was Al Searles of Decoto and William Buchen.

But as 1940 approached serious issues arose in the town that affected everyone who lived in Alvarado. First was the lack of a sanitary district, which some cases led to cesspools openly discharging raw sewage. Clarence took on the job as a director of the new Alvarado Sanitary System in January 1941 where he served with Fred Wiegman, Manuel Borges, Manuel Perry, Jose Dutra and A.E. Vargas.

The second serious issue was how to control the annual floods that always seemed to plague Alvarado. In September 1941 President Frank Machado of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce felt it was a good time to burn the dry willows at the mouth of the Alameda Creek to prevent flooding. The men of the Chamber who volunteered beside Clarence were Charles Baird, E. Wilson (the SP Agent), M Silva, M.P. Perry, Frank Machado and E. Bailey.

As the fires of the dry willows were burning west of Alvarado, the fires of war were beginning on the European continent and although Pearl Harbor was still three months away the people of the U.S. began preparing for war on our side of the pond.

On September 28, 1941 Washington Township was split into four districts to act as Air Raid Observers. The Alvarado district was managed by T. P. Harvey. His Chief Observers were Andrew Logan, Joseph Jacinto and Robert Whipple. The Chief Assistants were Wesley Emery, Joseph Martin, John Logan, Anthony Almeida, Peter Rose, Frank Best, Joe Dutra, Morris Davilla, Damaso Diaz, Clarence Flores, Gregory Perry, Angelo Cosso, James Wasley Jr., A. E. Vargas and Manuel Amaral.

In December 1941 the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce reelected Frank Machado as president of the organization. Clarence Flores was voted on the Board of Directors of the Chamber joining: Frank Machado, James Wasley, Charles Baird, Joseph Dutra, Anthony Azevedo, A.E. Vargas and John Ralph.

Besides being active in the Chamber of Commerce for Alvarado, in January 1943 Clarence joined the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department.

Two months later, in March 1943, the town of Alvarado felt the need to erect an Observation Tower on the grounds of the Alvarado Grammar School as an observer outpost to look for possible incursions of Japanese airplanes. The tower would be raised and enclosed in glass with a catwalk around the outside. The persons who helped erect the tower were: Manuel Goularte, Joe Maciel, A. Jardine, Clarence Flores, Charles Baird, Manuel P Rose, Geo. Davis, F. Machado, M. Silva, Jr., Frank Dutra, Frank Goularte, Joe Lewis, A. Anderson, and M. Hendricks Sr.

Clarence L. Flores passed away on September 11, 1995 at the age of 94 years.

Annie Flores:

Mrs. Annie (Amaral) Flores was devoted to the Catholic Church and early on in her marriage she participated in fund raising activities for the Benefit of St. Anne's Catholic Church. In 1926 she helped Mr. & Mrs. John Ralph welcome ecclesiastical dignitaries who were participating the dedication of St. Anne's new Catholic Church. Annie joined Mrs. Mamie Roderick, Mrs. Rita Rivers and Miss Geraldine Mello serving tables at the luncheon held for the dignitaries.

An annual event in Alvarado was the St. Anne's Church Bazaar. Held each year it was put on by the men and women of the Catholic Church in Alvarado. In 1955 Mrs. Ann Flores served on the committee to put on the annual bazaar. Others ladies who served on the committee with her were: Mrs. Mamie Roderick, Mrs. Marjorie Re, Mrs. Peter Pinto, Mrs. Mary Rivers, Mrs. Helen Gularte, Mrs. Aldora Pinto, Mrs. Manuel Perry, Mrs. Joseph Maciel, Mrs. Nora Vargas, Mrs. Ethel Borges, Mrs. Mae Santos, Mrs. Eleanor Roderick, Mrs. Angie Vargas, Mrs. Madeline Soares and Mrs. Isabel Martin.

Like her husband Annie Flores was a member of the Alvarado Dramatic Club, which helped raise funds for the Catholic Church through plays produced put on at the Alvarado Odd Fellows Hall between 1928 and 1929.

Ann Flores was also active in the Alvarado Grammar School activities by serving on the Alvarado's Mother Club. This club, similar to the PTA served the school's interest in fund raising activities for student needs, school needs and the general welfare of the school students. Among those who served in

this club were: Teresa Carlson, Emily Noia, Annie Flores, Bernice Manuel, Pauline Silva, Winifred Harper, Mary Santos, Marian Hocking and Mary Spurlock.

Elizabeth Flores:

On June 14, 1948, Elizabeth graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School with the following 28 classmates:

28 Graduates:

Stanley Anderson	George Apodaca	Manuel Aranda
Olivia Aranda	Rodolfo Barrera	Ronald Caeton
Emilda Dominguez	Donald Faria	Phyllis Faria
Elizabeth Flores	Tommy Gualco	Cora Garcia
Frank Guerra	Eugene Hernandez	Tumijo Hisaoka
Carol Hocking	Julio Labrado	Jeanette
Lagomarsino		
Harold Martinez	Alice Moreno	David Nieto
Vernon Perry	Robert Preciado	Fred Sanchez
Esther Renteria	Edward Soto	Billy Tanaka
Felix Ybarra		

Three plays were given by the students of Alvarado Grammar School on graduation night: "What a Night," by the 8th Grade; "They Found Gold in California," also by the 8th Grade; and "Wild Cat Willie Takes a Tumble," by the 6th & 7th Grades.

In 1952 Elizabeth was the Editor-in-chief of the Washingtonian, the high school annual of Washington Union High. That same year it was announced that Elizabeth Flores was the recipient of the \$250 scholarship award presented annually by the California State SPRSI.

In March 1955 a bridal shower was given to Elizabeth for the betrothal to Jerry Sessions. The shower was given by Carol Hocking of Alvarado-Niles Road, Bernice Lemos of Niles, and Rosemary Gunn of Newark. Guests included: Mrs. George Hocking, Miss Elaine Hocking, Mrs. Gunn, Dianne Reider, Bernadine Abreu, Marlene Dias, Eleanor Azevedo, Marlene and Kathy Azevedo, Mayme Roderick, Ann Flores, Pat Collins, Jeanette Rose, Marcia Crump, Mrs. Miriam Sessions and Sandy Sessions.

Patricia Flores:

Patricia was a member of the Alvarado Brownie Scouts, under the leadership of Mrs. Emily Noia and Mrs. Emily Click.

June 1953's graduating class for the Alvarado Grammar Schools were:

Frank Angulo	Frank Avila	Timmie Louie
Thomas Rigmaiden	Joseph Tenorio	Manuel Vasquez
Artenesa Apadaca	Frances Alvarez	Ramona Barrera
Barbara Cicairos	Patricia Flores	Mary Martinez
Connie Moreno	Susan Preciado	Beverly Ratekin
Tony Aranda	Jesus Gonzales	Leroy Salido
Melvin Silva	Gonzalo Torres	Thomas Villegas
Sally Avendano	Isabell Bueno	Virginia Corrales

Barbara Jones
Lucille Rigmaiden

Mary Melena
Rosemary Urrutia

Patricia Noia

Annie Amaral:

Annie Amaral was born in 1902 in Alvarado California to Jose S. and Anna Amaral. She had an older brother Tony and a sister Mary. In 1920 she was living with her widowed mother at her uncle Frank & Mamie Roderick's farm on the Centerville Road. Annie worked as a sales lady in a General Store in Alvarado. In July 1925 Annie married Clarence Flores. They settled in Flores family home on "V" Street with Mrs. Elizabeth Flores. Clarence then began his career in working in the salt industry in Alvarado. Clarence and Annie had two children, Elizabeth & Patricia. The family settled down on Vallejo Street in Alvarado.

HOTELS:

Alvarado Hotel – Jesse P. Peyser – Joe Marlot
Riverside Hotel – Carl Boysen – Mrs. Emma Randall
Hansen Bros. Hotel – Ludwig Hansen

Jesse B. Peyser:

See Bio Chapter 7 Page 17

Alvarado Hotel:

Joe Marlot:

Alvarado Hotel:

Joe Marlot was born in Germany in 1878. He entered the U.S. in 1904. He showed as never having been married, although after he became the proprietor of the Alvarado Hotel his sister and nephews came to live with him in Alvarado.

The earliest found article on Mr. Marlot was an ad he placed in the *Oakland Tribune* in January 1922, advertising the sale of a cigar stand, with living room, on East 14th Street in Oakland.

Eight months later the *Oakland Tribune* ran this article as Mr. Marlot as proprietor of the Alvarado Hotel:

"Two men walked into the Alvarado Hotel recently, and upon the plea of one of them being sick, induced the proprietor, Jack Marlot, to mix him a stimulating drink. Marlot obliged, and then he returned with the drink the sick man rushed into the room that Marlot had just been in and secured the rest of the small bottle of liquor, which, according to Marlot, the man's companion drank the glass of liquor that had just been brought in. The men then announced themselves as prohibition officers and left with the evidence."

In April 1933 Joe Marlot of the Alvarado Hotel was issued a license to sell liquor at his hotel. At this time his sister, Cecilia Otto, had entered the U.S. from Germany in 1923 with her three sons, Karl, Albert and Joseph. Mrs. Otto lived at the hotel with her brother, and she listed her employment as a housekeeper in the hotel.

In November 1936 news accounts mentioned that Joe Marlot had returned to Alvarado to visit old friends. It was noted that Mr. Marlot operated a roadside restaurant in Burbank.

Carl Boysen, Manager: Riverside Hotel

In October 1921, hundreds of people from all parts of Washington Township attended the bullfight and celebration given at the Riverside Hotel Park. Manuel Mendez, a toreador of Spain, entertained with a tussle with the bull, which, however failed to appreciate the spirit of the occasion and refused to fight. Dancing was one of the entertainments provided for the guests. One day later the charge was made that bullfights were being held in a stockade near Alvarado almost every week. Last Sunday a big crowd witnessed an exhibition near Alvarado in a stockade near the Riverside Hotel, it was charged in a letter to the District Attorney that also declared that women of the underworld have not yet abandoned all the small towns.

The following month the Riverside Hotel advertised a "Jazz Dance Revue," to be held on the night of November 21, 1921. Good eats, good drinks, and good time were advertised.

After this article there was only a reference to the Riverside Hotel being a polling place in Alvarado for voting. No further articles on the Riverside Hotel were found for this decade, and there were there any articles which named the proprietors or owners of the business between 1920 & 1930.

Mrs. Emma E. Randall:

Mrs. Emma E. Randall, and daughter Lola Pamplin, lived on Granger Avenue, where the Riverside Hotel was located. Mrs. Randall that showed she was the manager-owner of a hotel. Her daughter, Mrs. Lola Pamplin, worked in the hotel as a housekeeper. Living near Emma Randall, were Dorothy and Nicholas Boysen, previous owners of the Riverside Hotel. Nicholas showed he was a farmer and Dorothy showed no occupation. Although there is no direct link that identifies Mrs. Randall as the proprietor of the Riverside Hotel the information above it enough to connect her with the hotel.

Mrs. Emma Randall was born in Oregon in September 1868. She married Sam Randall in 1894 from which no children are shown. Emma had a daughter by a previous marriage, Lola Hayward. Lola showed she was married and had a five-year old son, Howard D. Pamplin, living with her. In 1910 the Randall's were living in Oakland, but by 1920 Samuel Randall has passed away leaving Emma a widow. The 1920 census showed Emma and Lola living on Granger Avenue near the Boysen's, previous owners of the Riverside Hotel. So it is quite possible that Emma Randall operated the Riverside Hotel through the 1920's. In 1930 Emma and Lola were back in Oakland.

Hansen Brothers Hotel:

Ludwig Hansen showed ownership of the Hansen Bros Hotel in 1920. By 1930 he had retired and he and Ellen were living on the Main County Road. See also Chapters 6 and 7.

JAPANESE CARPENTERS:

M. Yobuta / K. Fugimoto

M. Yobuta, Calif. Salt Co.:

M. Yobuta was born in Japan in 1866 and entered the U.S. in 1903. He was married but not shoe he was living with his wife or any children. He resided at and was employed by the California Salt Company. Nothing was shown for Mr. Yobuta after 1920.

K. Fugimoto, Calif. Salt Co.

K. Fugimoto was born in Japan in 1875 and entered the U.S. in 1907. He was unmarried and was living at and was employed by the California Salt Company. Nothing was shown for Mr. Yobuta after 1920.

JAPANESE ENGINEER – SALT COMPANY:

Kumakichi Takechi:

Kumakichi Takechi was born in Japan in 1883. He entered the U.S. in 1910. His wife Yuki was born in Japan in 1898 and entered the U.S. in 1918. The Takechi's lived on the Union Pacific Salt Co. plant land where Kumakichi was an engineer for the salt company.

JAPANESE FOREMAN:

S. Kaito:

S. Kaito was born in Japan in 1881. He entered the U.S. in 1898. He lived on the Marsh Road with his sister, brother-in-law, and nephew, the Nyshiguchi's. He was a foreman at one of the salt plants in the area. After 1920 nothing was found.

JAPANESE HOTEL & BOARDING HOUSE:

Kurata Kurataso / Kichiro Kanamura / R. Sugimoto / Tokiche Teramoto

Kurata Kurataso:

Kurata Kurataso was born in Japan in 1876. He entered the U.S. in 1909. His wife Kinu was born in Japan in 1893. She entered the U.S. in 1913. They had a daughter and a son, both born in the U.S. Mr. Kurataso ran a boarding house in Alvarado's Chinatown. After 1920 nothing further was found for this family.

Kichiro Kanamura:

Kichiro Kanamura was born in Japan in 1871. He entered the U.S. in 1900. His wife Imo was born in Japan in 1876. She entered the U.S. in 1910. They showed no children. Mr. Kanamura operated a hotel in Alvarado's Chinatown (Little Tijuana). After 1920 nothing further was found for this family.

R. Sugimoto:

R. Sugimoto was born in Japan in 1888. He entered the U.S. in 1906. His wife Shija was born in Japan in 1882 and entered the U.S. in 1912. They had no

children. They resided on the Union Pacific Salt Co. grounds where they shared their residence with four Japanese nationals who boarded with them. Nothing is shown for them after 1920.

Tokiche Teramoto:

Tokiche Teramoto was born in Japan in 1887. He entered the U.S. in 1907. His wife, shown only as "T. Teramoto," was born in Japan in 1898, and entered the U.S. in 1918. They lived on the grounds of the Pioneer Salt Company and had four Japanese nationals boarding with them. After 1920 nothing was found for the Teramoto family.

JAPANESE MERCHANTS:

Sadaguo Sana:

Mr. Sana was born in Japan in 1889. He entered the U.S. in 1905. His wife Suka was born in Japan in 1999. She entered the U.S. in 1917. They had a two-year old son Sadoo. Mr. Sana ran a grocery store in Alvarado's Little Tijuana (Chinatown). After 1920 nothing further was found for this family.

JAPANESE FIREMAN – SALT CO.:

K. Sakata / J. Sugimoto / Tsuma Taro Tanaka / S. Shimada /

K. Sakata:

K. Sakata was born in Japan in 1887. He entered the U.S. in 1901. He showed he was married but his wife was not living with him although his son and his daughter-in-law were residing with him. Mrs. Sakata was a fireman at the California Salt Co. and lived on the plant site.

J. Sugimoto:

J. Sugimoto was born in Japan in 1901. He entered the U.S. in 1916. He was single and living on the California Salt Plant site. He was employed as a fireman in 1920. After 1920 nothing could be found for Mr. Sugimoto.

Tsuma Taro Tanaka:

Tsuma Tanaka was born in 1872 in Japan. He entered the U.S. in 1903. He was married but showed no wife or children living with him. He resided on the Continental Salt Co. Road and he was employed as a foreman for a salt company. He also housed 10 Japanese national lodgers. After 1920 nothing was found for Mr. Tanaka.

S. Shimada:

S. Shimada was born in Japan in 1887. He entered the U.S. in 1906. He indicated that he was married, but showed no wife or children living with him. He was living on the California Salt Company plant road where he had 10 Japanese nationals boarding with him. He was a foreman for the salt company. After 1920 nothing was found for Mr. Shimada.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL:

Jingo & Kina Takeuchi:

Jingo Takeuchi was born in Japan in 1888. He entered the U.S. in 1905. His wife Kiwa was born in Japan in 1894. She entered the U.S. in 1917. The couple had one child in 1930, and they were both teachers in the Japanese language school in Alvarado in 1930, but by 1940 Kiwa left the school to be at home with the growing family.

LAUNDRY:

Masata Fujita, Proprietor: **Alvarado Steam Laundry**

Masata Fujita was born in Japan in 1889. He entered the U.S. in 1908. His wife, Asao, was born in Japan in 1897. She entered the U.S. in 1911. They showed having no children. Mr. Fujita owned the Alvarado Steam Laundry business on Smith Street, which was located near the Matsumoto grocery business.

Apparently, according to news reports, Mr. Fujita became enamored with one of his employees wife. Zoichi Fujikawa brought a \$25,000 lawsuit against Mr. Fujita for stealing the affections of Mrs. Toshima Fujikawa. The complaint stated that Fujita employed the Fujikawa's in his laundry in January 1926, and then, after gaining the confidence of Mrs. Fujikawa through flattery, he suddenly discharged the husband and ejected him from the plant. Later Fujita is declared to have induced Mr. Fujikawa to institute divorce proceeding against her husband, and has since enticed her away and hidden her from the husband. In her divorce complaint she alleges cruelty.

In July 1931 Masata Fujita, 42 of Alvarado received a marriage license to wed Toshima Fujikawa, 32, also of Alvarado. In 1940 Masato Fujita was still owner of the Alvarado Steam Laundry and was still married to Toshima. Mr. Fujita had a daughter Kijoka Fujita, 15 years of age, living with them. There is no further mention of Mrs. Asoa Fujita or Zoichi Fujikawa.

LUMBERYARD:

James Hamilton, Sunset Lumber Co. / Tilden Lumber Yard

James Hamilton, Manager: **Sunset Lumber Co. (Sold in 1924)**

James Hamilton was born in Michigan in 1876. His wife Sadie was born in California in 1877. They had two sons, William and Harold. Mr. Hamilton owned a lumberyard in Alvarado. What was Mr. Like you ask? Read his want ad for help at his lumberyard on Smith Street posted in the *Oakland Tribune* in 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.

James Hamilton, manager of the Sunset Lumber yard ty Alvarado, proclaimed the prosperity of Alvarado farmers, in 1922, as the reason there was a tremendous increase in building activity in the Alvarado-Decoto section of Washington Township

Tilden Lumber Yard (Bought in 1924)

In April 1924, the Sunset Lumber Yard in Alvarado was one of 14 Sunset Lumber Yards sold to E. M. Tilden of Richmond. Mr. Tilden also purchased four lumberyards of the Hogan Lumber and Mill Company. The combined company will be called the Tilden Lumber Company, and would be the second largest lumber company in California.

The Tilden Lumber Co. also used the *Oakland Tribune* to advertise their business. Here is an ad from October 1925:

Tilden Lumber Company
Lumber, Millwork, Sash and Doors
Building Materials
With a Yard located in Alvarado

There was nothing found on Tilden Lumber after 1925 in Alvarado. In 1938 Tilden & Sunset Lumber filed for liquidation.

MACHINISTS:

W. Russell Robie / William E. English / Burrell L. Bain

W. Russell Robie:

W. Russell Robie was born in April 1892 to Walter & Fannie Robie. In September 1914 William R. Robie, 22, took out a marriage license to wed Miss Alma Norris, 18, daughter of past Alvarado School Principal & Postmaster Albert Norris. Mr. Robie worked as a machinist at the Holly Sugar Mill in Alvarado. By 1930 William and Alma Robie moved to the San Joaquin Valley where Russell was employed at a local sugar mill.

William E. English:

William English was born in California in 1884. In 1920 he was living with Raymond Stewart, superintendent of the Alvarado sugar mill, who was his brother-in-law. William was employed as a machinist at the Alvarado sugar mill. By 1930 he was living in Holtville, Imperial County, working as a laborer at the local sugar mill. Up until 1930 William had never been married.

Burrell L. Bain:

Burrell (also Beryl, Burl) Bain was born in Kansas in 1882. He was married to Louise Bain, who was born in 1888 in Iowa. Date of their marriage is unknown. They show no children in the census.

Burrell worked at the Alvarado Sugar Mill during his 20 plus years in Alvarado. In 1920 he was shown as foreman of the night shift, and by 1930 he was made Ass't Superintendent of the plant.

In June 1939, Louise Bain died of a ruptured appendix. Mrs. Bain was a member of the Orient Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, No. 177 in Centerville. She was followed in death by Burrell in February 1941 due to pneumonia.

MERCHANTS:

F.C. Harvey & Co. / Sam Dinsmore / G.B. Cosso / Antone E. Vargas

F.C. Harvey & Co.

Sold to Sam Dinsmore 1926

Sam Dinsmore, Proprietor: **Dinsmore's General Store**

Sam Dinsmore was born in Ireland circa 1889. In 1909 he entered the U.S. He married Miss Viola Lund of Alvarado, and they had two children, Samuel Jr. and Clifford.

Sam Dinsmore was in the Alvarado area by 1911, as by that date he had joined the Sycamore Lodge #129 IOOF of Hayward where, in October 1966, he would receive his 55-year pin. The 1920 census showed Sam clerking in an Alvarado General Store, which was undoubtedly the F.C. Harvey & Co. store on Smith Street.

Sam Dinsmore bought out F.C. Harvey after the death of F.C.'S wife in 1924. Fred Harvey married Miss Bessie Curry of San Jose in March 1928. Fred and Bessie would then go on a world tour.



It was at this time that F.C. Harvey sold his business to Sam Dinsmore, who was to operate the store until the beginning of 1969. The Dinsmore store carried a complete line of groceries, various household and clothing goods, and in the backroom was located a complete hardware section filled with dozens of wooden bins in which every conceivable nut, bolt, screw, washer, cotter pins, nails, spikes and other fastening devices were to be found. Above the bins ran a gigantic banner, which almost stretched from one end of the room to the other that showed every nut, bolt, etc. that was carried in the bins.

I can still recall walking into his store, I was always struck by the swinging doors, which swung both ways depending upon which direction you were going. On the two doors were two white enamel push bars that were flat about three inches wide, which proudly advertised that Sam carried Wonder Bread. Just inside the door on the left as you entered was the pocketknives section the wall in a little glass case. I always remembered that knife case and the pocketknives because I loved the look of them, but could not afford to buy one. The inside of the store was dimly lit and cavernous. On the back wall stood Sam's pride and joy, for hanging there was a complete set of

leather straps attached to two horse collars just waiting for a modern farmer to buy and hook up two horses to a plow (1960).

If you needed something that wasn't in Sam's store you asked him about it. When I was a lad and too young to remember, my oldest brother Tom told me of the manure spreader that my father bought through Sam Dinsmore. I used that spreader until the last year I farmed with my dad before I went into the service in 1963.

My brother told me that our father had bought that manure spreader through Sam Dinsmore. My father and Sam poured over this large tome of a book until they spotted what my father needed. It was delivered to the SP Train Depot in Alvarado straight from the manufacturer in the Midwest in a gigantic crate. My brother and father put it together themselves. I still remember the name of the wagon: "Minneapolis-Moline."

Sam had a passion for fishing, and the articles about Alvarado always seemed to have a story about Sam Dinsmore and his friends going up to Rio Vista, MacAvoy Sloughs, or some other locale in the Sacramento Delta to go fishing on his vacations.

Sam was an avid member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, and participated in the many programs the Chamber devised to better Alvarado. Sam was a backer of the 1940 drive to establish a sanitary district in Alvarado and do away with septic tanks in town.

After the start of WWII Sam Dinsmore and James Wasley (Alvarado School Principal), would invade Alvarado farms and carry away huge wagon wheels, where the iron rims and hubs could be melted down for bullets, tanks and guns. By October of 1942 they had already collected 80 tons of scrap metal against their goal of 100 tons.

The following year Sam participated in the War Chest Drive. Sam collected money for the drive from Alvarado fraternal organizations and civic bodies. In 1944 Sam participated in the Washington Township 4th Victory Loan Drive in the quest of raising \$565,000 in the township to finance the war. This was followed immediately by the Red Cross Drive for donations to help the needy during the War. Sam was one of the local volunteers.

Dinsmore's store was the place of the first telephone exchange in Alvarado, having been located in F.C. Harvey's store since at least 1911. In 1946 new vacuum tube equipment came into being, and with it would come speedier phone calls. PT&T heralded that at dozens of places up and down the Pacific Coast they were going ahead with new vacuum tube equipment, which boosted the number of telephone calls wires can carry.

With progress comes change, and the change in this case was the moving of the Alvarado Telephone Exchange in June 1946, from Dinsmore's Store half a block away to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Munger on Watkins Street. Later PT&T would build its own building at the corner of Marsh Road and Canal Street.

Always a public spirited man, Sam Dinsmore made contributions to many Alvarado events, which included the 1946 Alvarado Independence Day

celebration. Sam contributed money to purchase bunting and flags to decorate the streets for this were a special year for the Independence Day celebration. First, it was the end of WWII, and second it was American Independence Day, and third the local Filipino's would choose the 4th of July to celebrate their independence in the U.S. And they chose Alvarado as the place to celebrate their independence from the Japanese. All of Alvarado chipped in to welcome our good friends, the Filipino's, to share in the Independence Day festivities.

In April 1949 Sam Dinsmore contributed to the Japanese American Club of Washington Township to help fund a picnic at Half Moon Bay for the new club. Sam Dinsmore again showed his concern for all citizens of Alvarado and Washington Township in an act of selfless giving.

But alas, the merchants of the town of Alvarado were slowly dying away. The first was Dinsmore's largest competitor in town, John Ralph who retired in 1950, and his store would remain empty for decades. In 1957 the East Shore Freeway (aka Nimitz Freeway & I-880) took away Alvarado downtown traffic as cars now zoomed past Alvarado on their way to Fremont, for prior to this the quickest way to Fremont from the San Mateo Bridge, western Hayward and San Lorenzo was through Hesperian Blvd. and Alvarado.

Sam Dinsmore's business dropped, as did a majority of the other businesses in downtown Alvarado. Sam hung on for another 11+ years, but mainly as something to do during the day as the store's activity faded away. In October 1969 Sam Dinsmore died in Alvarado only ten months after closing his store on Smith Street.

G.B. Cosso, Proprietor: **Cosso's Market**

John Cosso was born in Italy circa 1883. His wife Lena Cosso was born in Italy circa 1895. John entered the U.S. in 1907 and Lena in 1913. They were married circa 1913 and had two children, Florence born in 1914 and Angelo born in 1916, both in California.

In 1920 John Cosso was farming in the Decoto area. John moved to Alvarado and was known for his store and gas station just as you entered Alvarado heading south from Mt. Eden on Hesperian Blvd. The store stood on the east side of Levee Street as you entered into the town of Alvarado. In 1925 the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company shows this lot as being empty, so this structure was put up after 1925.

When completed, Cosso's complex had a small grocery store (7-11 size), a center area where oil and auto supplies were kept, on the east end was a complete soda fountain, and behind the soda fountain in a separate room, was a beer and wine tavern. In the front of the complex stood the Standard Oil Gas Pumps.



The store originally owned by G.B. Cosso is shown here when owned by Manuel Andrade circa 1948.

In 1928 they advertised themselves as a "Neighborhood Store." The largest California Grocery Organization of its kind with 800 members. "Neighborhood Stores," they said, "offer you every day in the week, the lowest prices consistent with the highest quality, with many extra specials on Fridays and Saturdays. It will pay you to visit the nearest store and see the new savings offered by these, your own neighborhood grocers, with whom you have been trading for years. Visit the store in your neighborhood. In Alvarado your local grocers are Anthony Lee and John Cosso.

In 1932 John's daughter Florence, 19, married Remigio Cerruti, 27, of Newark. They eventually settled down Lowry Road where Remigio became a successful farmer.

John Cosso died on October 13, 1935 at the age of 52. He was survived by his wife Lena Cosso, a daughter Mrs. Raymond Cerruti, a son Angelo, and a brother Carmello Cosso. He was a member of the Alvarado Eagles Lodge.

John's son Angelo, and John's wife Lena, continued to run the Alvarado store. Meanwhile Angelo became involved in Alvarado civic matters being one of the backers of the Alvarado Sanitary system movement of 1940. Angelo became a member of the Alvarado Eagles, and in 1941 was elected President of the local lodge. At this same time Angelo became a member of the Alvarado Chamber of commerce.

In 1941 Angelo Cosso was named Ass't Fire Chief of the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department. In June 1941 Angelo and Lena made big improvements to their property. Three modern gas pumps were installed for supplying Standard Oil gasoline. Soon thereafter they had asphalt laid over the parking area outside their gas station/grocery store.

In January 1943 it was that the business was now owned by Manuel J. and Aldina Andrade, who would run it for the next several decades.

Lena Cosso would later marry Bill Gianella and move to Fremont. Here she died on August 6, 1968. Angelo moved to Oakland where he owned a liquor store in Oakland, which sold in 1948. There are no further entries for Angelo Cosso after this date.

Antone E. Vargas:

Antone E. Vargas was born in California circa 1888. His wife, Leonora Freitas, was born in California in July 1888. In April 1906 Antone Vargas and Leonora Freitas received a license to marry. They had one son, Edward Vargas, who graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1923.

In 1920 Antone was a coal merchant in Alvarado but he then took up the business of being a commission merchant. Antone would visit local farmers as a buyer of vegetables for packers and shippers. In April 1921 the Alvarado area shipped 180 railroad cars of cauliflower, and 60 of those came from Mr. Vargas.

Over the years Antone Vargas made arrangements to buy and sell vegetables for many Alvarado farmers, and he worked with produce shippers such as the H.P. Garin Produce Company in 1926, the Farm Products Sales Co. of Hayward in 1935, and Andrew Barbera of San Francisco who shipped cauliflower from the warehouses opposite the SP Station in Alvarado.

In 1939 he started an association with the Valley Growers of San Jose, signing up local farmers to grow cauliflower for the San Jose Company. In 1941, Antone expanded the San Jose Company's reach by signing up lettuce growers in Alvarado.

In 1942 Antone Vargas aligned himself with A. Levy & J. Zentner & Co. in San Lorenzo. Levy & Zentner were one of the largest commission houses on the west coast. Antone would be engaged in purchasing vegetables and fruits that would be shipped through the Levy-Zentner Warehouse at the S.P. Railway Station at Estudillo Street in San Leandro.

Antone decided to get into the chicken business in a big way. In February 1942 he prepared a brooder house for 500 baby chicks, and a chicken house to prepare the chicks to become layers.

Antone was active for many years in the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles, serving on different committees, and several different official capacities. Antone was also active in the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, serving actively on the committee to develop a sanitary district for the town of Alvarado, and served as a commissioner of the Alvarado Sanitary District Board in 1941.

Alvarado was a victim of an epidemic in late 1940 due to raw sewage conditions, so they voted to establish a sanitary district. Officers named for the new sanitary district in January 1941 were Fred Wiegman, Clarence Flores, Manuel Borges, Manuel Perry, Joe Dutra and A. E. Vargas. In March 1941 Antone Vargas was added to the Board of Directors of the Alvarado Sanitary District.

In September 1941 Antone Vargas was one of the initial volunteers to man the Air Raid Lookout Tent at Hall Station just south of Alvarado. Although December 7, 1941 was still months away, Alvarado was already preparing for World War II.

Antone also served on the Board of Trustees of the Alvarado Grammar School in 1935.

Mrs. Nora Vargas was active in St. Anne's Catholic Church and several Portuguese Social/Benefit Organizations. Nora always participated in the annual St. Anne's Bazaar held to benefit the Alvarado Catholic Church. In 1936 Nora was one of the Alvarado ladies that helped spearhead the local church into joining the National Catholic Women's Club. Mrs. Vargas served as one of the founding officers of the organization.

Nora was an active member of the SPRSI and UPEC societies of Alvarado. Both were Portuguese social/benefit organizations. Nora also supported the local I.D.E.S. and S.D.E.S. Catholic organizations.

Mrs. Vargas was a member of the Alvarado Grammar School PTA, an election official, and served for many decades in the Alameda County Farm Home Department. She was also a member of the Alameda County Farm Bureau.

On December 3, 1943 *The Alvarado Pioneer* ran this article on Antone E. Vargas:

"There wasn't a finer man in Alvarado than A.E. Vargas. Tony was interested in his hometown, Alvarado, practically his whole life. His passing is a hard blow to an equally fine citizen, his good wife, Mrs. Nora Vargas. There was a love match if ever there was one, and in recent years when both had sieges of illness, there was that devotion that we call 100 percent.

We went to that home weekly, and it was a happy home, too. Tony had been conducting business in this city and later became a fruit buyer for a large fruit concern. His smile and cheery ways were known in fraternal orders like the Eagles, and by his large number of friends all over Alameda County."

Mrs. Nora Vargas passed away on June 1, 1967. She was born in 1888.

MILLINERY SHOP:
S. & R. Wakabayashi:
Wakabayashi Co., Milliners:

The Wakabayashi's are shown in Alvarado in the 1930 census. S. Wakabayashi was born in Japan in 1878. He entered the U.S. in 1906, his wife, R. Wakabayashi, was born in Japan in 1888. She entered the U.S. in 1913. They had one daughter, Shizako. The 1930 census shows Mr. Wakabayashi as a laborer in a garden and Mrs. Wakabayashi as a saleslady of general merchandise. After 1930 nothing further is shown on the Wakabayashi's.

NIGHT MARSHAL:
Andrew Anderson:

Andrew "Andy" Anderson was born circa 1891 in California. Helen Anderson, his wife, was born in California circa 1899. They were married in approximately 1916. In 1934 after eighteen years of marriage the Anderson's had a son they named Stanley.

The 1920 census shows Andy working at the Alvarado sugar mill as a fireman. A fireman at the sugar mill indicates a person who tends a fire or a boiler, much as a fireman on a train. Shortly after 1920 Andy left the sugar mill to become the night watchman for the town of Alvarado.

After turn of the 20th century Alvarado was still a pretty wild place with crime, such as gambling, illegal drugs, and alcohol (after prohibition), and prostitution. So the merchants in town hired a guard to patrol and look out after merchant's stores during the evening hours. Here are some of Andy's exploits in the two years he watched the town.

March 1921:

Four yeggs (safe crackers) were caught in the act of blowing the safe at the general store of K. Matsumoto, the padrone of the Japanese residents of this district. The four criminals fought a pistol battle at an early hour of the morning with Night Marshal Andrew Anderson, and then fled with half of the town aroused by the fusillade of bullets.

June 1922:

One man laid in critical condition, suffering from a deep knife wound in his right lung, and was confined to the county hospital at San Leandro; and two men were held by township officers pending the outcome of the victim's injuries as a result of an all night drinking bout in Alvarado's Mexican quarter (Little Tijuana). The stabbing affray occurred when a rock-throwing contest failed to quell their anger. According to Deputy Sheriff Andy Anderson, who arrested the two men charged with the stabbing, the three men had been drinking heavily. During a dispute one of them picked up a rock and threw it at one of the others. A general rock battle followed, but without serious wounding of any of the participants. Rocks failing to decide the dispute knives were drawn.

In the melee Pedro Hernandez was stabbed; he saved himself from more dangerous wounds by running into the store of Jacinto and Menezes. He was pursued by Baltasar Navirero, who is alleged to have done the stabbing, and by Jesus Sunega. Jesse Jacinto, one of the proprietors of the store, intervened and threw the two pursuers into the street, where they were taken into custody by Deputy Sheriff Anderson, who had just arrived in answer to a riot call.

December 1922:

Several shots were fired here when Andrew Anderson, night watchman, foiled the attempt of three men to rob the general store of K. Matsumoto. According to Anderson's story he spotted a lookout that spotted him. Two men ran out of the Matsumoto store and an exchange of gunfire occurred. No one was hit, the men escaped into the Chinatown section of town.

December 1922:

A series of pistol battles between Mexicans and the police during the past week resulted in the raid last night by a sheriff's posse in Alvarado's "Bad Lands." Two women were arrested and some two-dozen Mexicans were lined up and heard a lecture on obedience to the

law. The events leading up to the raid began on Thursday when Constable Tom Silva of Centerville received a call to arrest two Mexicans who were disturbing the peace. When he went to arrest them they fired at him and escaped.

A few days later, Marshal Andrew Anderson saw two Mexicans attempting to rob a store. When he tried to arrest them they opened fire on him. He returned fire and several shots were exchanged, friends of the two Mexicans joined in the battle.

January 31, 1923:

Tonight is the last night Andrew Anderson; the night watchman here, will look after the interest of the town. He had handed in his resignation some time ago and became effective at the end of this month. Anderson has been the night watchman here for two and a half years.

Andy then went to work for the Alvarado Grammar School as a custodian and just before 1940 he went to work for the county as laborer on the county road system.

Andy was a member of the Alvarado Eagles, the Paul Rivers VFW Post, and helped build the Air Raid Observation Tower on the grammar schools grounds during WWII. His wife Helen was also a member of the Paul Rivers VFW Post in Alvarado, as well as an Alvarado election official, a member of the Alvarado School Mother's Club, and the Alvarado SPRSI Lodge. Their son Stanley married Miss Shirley Silveira of Hayward in November 1955.

Andrew Anderson passed away on February 25, 1972.

PHYSICIAN: **Dr. Roscoe Gray:**

Roscoe Gray was born in California in 1893. His wife, Rene, was born in England in 1893 and entered the U.S. in 1896. In 1920 Dr. Gray was a physician in a hospital in Castoria Township (San Joaquin County), California. In December 1920 he moved his family to Alvarado. In September 1921 Dr. Gray went attended John Hopkins University, one of the largest medical schools in the country, to take postgraduate work in surgery.

Dr. Gray was civically active, and Mrs. Gray was socially active. In June 1924 Mrs. Gray held a tea (in the finest British tradition) for Mrs. Manla Perkins, sister of Mrs. F.C. Harvey. Those bidden to meet Mrs. Perkins were Mrs. August May, Mrs. John Scribner, Miss Mildred Nauert, Mrs. Milton Munger, Mrs. Walter Robie, Miss Anne Forbes, and Mrs. F. C. Harvey.

Dr. Gray showed his civic responsibility by being an active member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. In July 1924 Mr. Gray also took it upon himself to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the citizens of Alvarado suggesting the formation of an Alvarado Fire Commission and to name a panel of three persons as the fire commissioners of the town. Dr. Gray suggested that the Board of Supervisors should name, George Hellwig,

August May, and himself as the commissioners. The board was expected to approve these names.

Unfortunately, by September 1926 Dr. Gray had relocated to San Francisco, where by 1930 he was a physician in the insurance industry. Alvarado missed this progressive Dr. and civic minded individual. Mrs. Gray was also missed in the social activities of the town of Alvarado, as well as an active member of the Washington Township Country Club.

POSTMASTER:

Frances Luna, Ass't Postmaster:

Frances Luna was born in California in 1883. Her husband, Joseph Luna, was born in California in 1877. Joseph worked in the sugar mill and Frances was the Assistant Postmaster. Frances Luna had been made Ass't Postmaster in 1918.

Albert Norris, Post Master:

April 13, 1915 to September 1934

REAL ESTATE:

John Lemos, Proprietor:

Lemos Real Estate:

John Lemos was born in the Azores (Portugal) circa 1884. He entered the U.S. in 1901. He first appears in our area in 1915 when it was announced that he would build a new dairy on the August May property. In the 1920 Alvarado census he boarded with the Manuel F. Andrade family on Smith Street. With John were two young girls (presumed to be his daughters), Myrtle 17 and Laura 13. His marital status was listed as divorced.

His occupation at this time was as a manager/owner of a dairy. Just four years later John was quoted as saying, "He had turned down an offer for \$25,000 to purchase his dairy."

In 1919, John leased one of Fred Wiegman's best ranches. And this made John Lemos the largest dairy operator in Alvarado, operating seven ranches.

In 1920 John sold his dairy business for the sum of \$27,000. But he still controlled six other ranches in Washington Township. With the sale of his dairy Lemos had 250 tons of alfalfa and 500 tons of chaff and oat hay that he put out on the market.

By 1925 John had immersed himself in real estate sales, besides his ranching interests. In 1926 he purchased the Pacheco Ranch in Contra Costa County. The 381-acre ranch stretched from Concord to Pacheco, and it was sold to him for \$100,000. It was considered a top property of that area.

On August 1926 John Lemos, now known as the Alvarado Realtor and wealthy landowner in several different counties, left with Mrs. Lemos and their three daughters for a stay of three or four weeks in Los Angeles and vicinity. John

wanted to go down there to see just how those Los Angeles realtors manage to corral three fourths of the tourists that travel that way.

On February 15, 1927, Attorney Joseph M. Lemos and family of Tulare, visited Alvarado to visit with his father John Lemos. From here Joseph & family went to San Francisco to transact legal business and would the return to their home in Tulare.

One week later John Lemos, Alvarado's prominent real estate dealer committed suicide by jumping from his tank house. Mr. Lemos, who is financially comfortable, had been erratic and difficult to deal with at times. On Monday he became insane, imagining that some of his enemies were in his home, he fired rifle shots into his house. Neighbors tried to calm him, but finally he went to the top of his tank house and jumped off. He left a young wife and two small children.

RESTAURANTS:

Manuel T. Costa:

Costa's Lunch Counter

Manuel T. Costa was born in Portugal in 1873. Manuel entered the U.S. in 1889. His wife Amelia was born in California in 1879. They showed no children living with them in 1930. In the late 1920's Manuel owned a lunch room and tobacco shop in Alvarado. The couple was in Alvarado as late as 1935.

ROADMASTER:

Tony George:

Tony George was born in California in 1870. His wife Rosie was born in California in 1872. They did not show any children living with them in 1920. In 1920 to 1930+, Tony George was the Roadmaster for the Alvarado – Alviso area. In the 1940 census Mrs. Rose George was living on the Alvarado-Centerville Road in the Alviso district.

SALOON KEEPER:

Matt Machado:

Matt Machado was born in the Azores (Portugal) ca. 1890. He entered the U.S. in 1908. His wife, Virginia, was born ca. 1898, and entered the U.S. in 1906. Matt and Virginia were married ca. 1904, and had three children, one daughter and two sons. The two sons were William and Ernest and the daughter was Beatrice.

When Matt first arrived in the U.S. he worked on a dairy farm as a milker. In 1920 he was working as a laborer at the sugar mill. Sometime thereafter he became a fish dealer in Alvarado.

He achieved some notoriety when the *Hayward Review* printed this article on August 29, 1929:

“Mat Machado, fish dealer of Smith Street in Alvarado, wasn’t secretive enough to disguise five gallons of moonshine and two gallons of wine. He will have to appear in the justice court in Niles for sentencing.”

Matt would later opened a café and tavern directly across the street from the Alvarado Grammar School.

The *Alvarado Pioneer* had these flowing words for Matt:

“Matt Machado has a fine supply of dry and sweet wines for sale at his place of business on Smith Street, near the Firehouse. Matt says the prices are very reasonable, with a big supply on hand. Why not buy at home from a man anxious to please you, and who donates for flood control improvement and many church and fraternal benefits, and the father of outstanding children raised here?”

Matt was one of the first on board to advocate for the building of a sanitary system (sewer) in Alvarado to clean up the open sewage in some spots. He was also a big supporter of the Chamber of Commerce and its projects, including clearing the Alameda Creek of Brush and erecting the observation tower at the outbreak of WWII to spot enemy Jap planes on the horizon. Matt’s sons, Ernie and William served on the observation tower pulling their regular shifts on the lookout.

One of Matt’s big pleasures was serving as an officer in the annual Holy Ghost festa held in Alvarado after the end of WWII. Matt gave generously of his time on the Holy Ghost festa and to St. Anne’s Catholic Church in Alvarado.

Matt Passed away in August 1961. Matt was a member of the IDES of Hayward, UPEC Lodge of Alvarado, and the St. Anthony’s Society of Alvarado.

SHOE REPAIR:

Rinaldo Dalessi / Victoriano Naharro / Manuel C. Pinto

Rinaldo Dalessi, Proprietor:

Dalessi Shoe Repair

The 1929 R.G. Dunn Mercantile Report shows that Rinaldo Dalessi was the proprietor of a shoe repair business in Alvarado. I was unable to locate any articles or census data on Mr. Dalessi or his family.

Vic Naharro, Proprietor:

Naharro’s Shoe Repair

Victoriano Naharro was born in Spain in 1885. He entered the U.S. in 1914. Victoriano and Julia Naharro had four children, two sons and two daughters. The sons, Eliseo was born circa 1911 and Joaquin was born in 1927. The daughters, Mary was born in 1915 and Evelyn was born in 1923.

Mr. Naharro began in Alvarado from humble beginnings. Like many immigrants that settled in Alvarado, Victoriano had very little when arrived, and through hard work and thrift and shrewd investing he owned much of the west side of Levee Street in downtown Alvarado. He started out with a small

shoe repair shop across the street where the Alvarado Pioneer Newspaper hut was located.

In June 1935 Victoriano, and his 25-year old son Eliseo, moved the old Alvarado Theater from the old Salt Works Road west of 10th Street, to the Odd Fellows Hall in downtown Alvarado. The theater would occupy the lower floor of the two-story building, and it was being completely painted and repaired. The Naharro's expected to have a seating capacity of 327 persons. The first picture at the new location was shown on June 23, 1935. The same building had been used as a theater until about 1932 by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Browning, later of San Francisco. Mr. & Mrs. Browning operated the movie theater for about 10 years.

One year later Victoriano celebrated when he became a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. He attended Washington Union High School in Centerville at night to learn the English language and American History. Of the ten persons who received their citizenship papers from Washington Township five were from Alvarado. They were: Victoriano Naharro, Domaso Diaz, Anthony J. Vargas, Delmar Martinez and Ivor Paulsen. Mrs. Florence Shinn of Niles was the instructor.

In September 1940 the *Alvarado Pioneer* saluted Mr. Naharro and his progressive stance in downtown Alvarado with this article:

"Victoriano Naharro opened the Alvarado Sweet Shop, which was a thing of beauty with modern interior decorating. We met Miss Naharro (which daughter was not identified whether it was Mary or Evelyn) who is in charge of this corner ice cream shop, and she handled everything like an experienced person. The shop included a modern soda fountain and the tables and chairs make it very inviting for a party of friends to enjoy a cool soft drink these hot days or light refreshments if desired.

Borden's Ice Cream was used, and their ice cream guarantees an especially fine treat. Borden's desserts are kept in the refrigerator and they make something excellent to take home and serve along with your dinner. All the delicious flavors of ice cream to be found in the big city are found here.

We might say in passing that Mr. Naharro, the owner of the shop, has made years they have lived in Alvarado. Mr. Naharro Sr. owns the shoe repair shop opposite the *Alvarado Pioneer*. He has many homes, which he rents out. His son has proved himself a splendid movie theater manager and brings to his Alvarado Theater just as fine pictures as are to be found on Broadway in Oakland. All the family pulls together and now the daughter is showing her remarkable ability in handling the new "Alvarado Sweet Shop," which has been open only a short time."

In November 1941 the front of the Alvarado Theater (located on Levee Street) was upgraded by Mr. Naharro and was adorned in new red tile. Neon were added around the border of the cabinets (outside movie poster holders?) to make it a bright spot at night. This all helps to give Alvarado a look of prosperity. Mr. Naharro should be given credit for his progressive ideas.

However, shortly this project Mr. Naharro began to suffer from ill health, although in June 1943 the Alvarado newspaper did note that although Victor Naharro had been able to get around lately, he was far from strong.

On January 7, 1944 the *Alvarado Pioneer* ran the following obituary:

"A pioneer of Alvarado, V. Naharro, passed away last week at the age of 68 years, having lived here in Alvarado over 30 years. Here he prospered through thrifty methods and progressive ways in his shoe store and shoe repair shop. His acquisition of much property here proved him an exceptional businessman, and with his good wife, raised a fine group of children who are a credit to the community. A son, E. Naharro, owns the Alvarado Theater and the corner building block in which the theater is located. The children grew up here and have always called Alvarado their hometown. One of the Naharro daughters is Mrs. Mike Salido."

On June 30, 1966, Mrs. Julia Naharro passed away in Alvarado. Julia was the wife of the Victoriano Naharro and mother Mrs. Evelyn Sanchez, Mrs. Mary Salido and Joaquin Naharro and the late Eliseo Naharro.

Manuel C. Pinto:

Manuel C. Pinto was born in the Azores in 1886. He entered the U.S. in 1913. At this time he was already married to Mrs. Custodia Pinto (born in 1888) who remained in the Azores with their two sons, Manuel C Jr. who was born in 1910 and Peter who was born in 1912. Custodia, Manuel Jr. and Peter then entered the U.S. in the year 1921.

In the U.S. Manuel & Custodia had five more children, three of which grew to adulthood in Alvarado. Isabel Pinto was born in Alvarado in 1922, Hilda was born in Alvarado in 1923 and Frank was born in Alvarado in 1928.

Manuel Pinto operated a shoe shop in Alvarado. The 1920 Alvarado census shows Mr. Pinto rooming with Manuel & Isabel Drack on Levee Street. But after his family joined him in 1921 he moved to a residence on Smith Street. In October 1929 Manuel Pinto remodeled his Smith Street home by building a shop in the front part.

By 1940 Manuel Pinto and family had moved to a home on the Sugar Mill Road (today's Dyer Street). His shoe shop was then located on the west side of Watkins Street between Smith Street and the Alvarado Centerville Road.

In February 1946 a large group of Alvarado boys descended on Manuel's shoe shop on Watkins Street to build an addition to the little shoe shop. The building was owned by Manuel Perry, who owned the home on the corner of Watkins and Smith Street. Most of the men assembled to help put up the 10' X 20' worked either at the Graham Foundry in Newark or the local salt works.

The men working on the project were Manuel Pinto Jr., Joe Cardoza, Manuel Goularte, Peter Pinto, Elvin Rose, Joe Goularte, Clarence Flores and Manuel Pinto Sr. even threw in to help. While the men working on the addition in

Perry's side yard, the wives of most of the helpers were brewing coffee to rush out to the husbands, along with bandages and iodine for injuries. In fact, you can't make us believe those fellers work that hard on their job. Mrs. Manuel Perry and mother, Mrs. Frank Machado, served a fine noontime meal for all.

But at the end of February 1949 Mr. Manuel Pinto Sr. fell ill and although it seemed he was about recover he passed away. The exact date I could not find, however I did find a large advertisement in the *Alvarado Pioneer* of May 20, 1949 telling of the close out sale of Mr. Pinto's entire stock of shoes and boots due to his death.

Mrs. Custodia Pinto followed Manuel Sr. in death on March 7, 1966. She had been born on February 28, 1888.

SUPERINTENDENTS:

Raymond S. Stewart / H. Morton Springer

Raymond S. Stewart, Sugar Mill:

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, and in April 1918 he was named the 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, along with August May, John H. Ralph, H.M. Springer, Fred Wiegman and George Enos.

During his stay in Alvarado Ray Stewart also served on the Board of Trustees of Washington Union High School, Noble Grand of the Crusade Lodge, IOOF in Alvarado, and on the Board of Directors of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

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.

The last article about the Stewart's in Alvarado was in 1926. By 1930 the Stewart's had returned to Holtville in Imperial County where Raymond returned to general farming.

H. Morton Springer, Sugar Mill:

Henry Springer was born in California circa 1888. His wife, Rose G., was born in California circa 1889. They had one son, Henry M Springer Jr. Henry first appears in Alvarado in 1917 when his draft lotto number is drawn for service for the First World War.

In 1920 Henry is working for the sugar mill in Alvarado as an office manager. Although some reports claim he is the superintendent of the plant, it was more likely that he was an office manager, or perhaps operations manager for the company.

In 1921 Henry became the superintendent for the Alvarado sugar mill. He also wore many hats in Alvarado.

The Oakland Tribune called Henry M. Springer, "A man of many Titles."

"H.M. Springer has so many jobs he has forgotten the titles to them. He is now practicing for his new office; that of Fire Commissioner of Alvarado. He was recently appoint to the Board of Fire Commissioners when the Alvarado panel was increased from three members to five members. O.J. Emery will join Mr. Springer on the board."



Springer was among Alvarado's most energetic civic-minded persons by serving as:

- Alvarado Ballot Official
- On the board of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce
- On the Chamber committee to form an Alvarado Boy Scout Troop
- A member of the Washington Township Men's Club
- Scoutmaster for the Alvarado Boy Scout Troop
- Worthy Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star
- Alvarado Fire Commissioner

Mrs. Springer was active in the:

- Alvarado Study Club
- Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star
- The Alvarado Bridge Club
- The Alvarado Birthday Club

TEACHERS:

Miss Charlotte Young, Miss E. Celeste Bunker / Miss Beryl Farley / Mrs. Hodgson / Alfred B. Morris / F. Foster Morrison / Miss Nathalie Burger / Miss Dorothy Gordon / Miss Mary Bailey / Miss Cecilia Gifford / Miss Helen Hughes / Mrs. Laura Orelli / Thomas Van Vleet / Mrs. Bessie Van Vleet / Miss Ruth Gallagher / Miss Margaret McGrath / Mrs. Minnie Lorenzo / Miss Mildred Peach

Miss Charlotte Jung:

See Bio Chapter 7 (1910 – 1919), page 27

Miss E. Celeste Bunker:

See Bio Chapter 7 (1900 – 1909), page 51

Miss Beryl Farley:

Miss Beryl Farley was born in California in 1895 to Edward and Annie Farley. In 1914 she was attending the San Jose Normal School (forerunner to today's San Jose State University) studying to become a teacher. In the early 1920's Beryl was teaching in Needles California, taking her vacation and holidays with her parents in Alvarado. She did teach for a short period of time in Alvarado as a substitute teacher for Mrs. Hodgson when she became ill. In 1926 Beryl was teaching in Oakland, and on May 29, 1930 Miss Beryl Farley, 35, took out a marriage license to wed Benjamin A. Larsen, 29, of Oakland.

Mrs. Hodgson:

There was a Mrs. Hodgson who taught at the Alvarado School in the fall of 1921. No other information was discovered about her.

Alfred B. Morris:

Alfred B. Morris was a teacher at the Alvarado Grammar School in the early 1920's. Alfred was born in California circa 1892. His wife, Elsie, was born in California circa 1895. They had six children, three boys, Alfred, Calvin, and Brent; and three daughters, Sarah, Carol, and Elsie. The couple lived on Castro Valley Blvd after leaving Alvarado. Mr. Morris was the principal of a grammar school in Castro Valley.

E. Foster Morrison

Foster Morrison first appears as Principal of the Alvarado Grammar School in February 1922, when he is a committee member of grade school principals on the building committee of the new high school in Centerville.

One year later the Alvarado Board of School Trustees called a mass meeting to be held in the Odd Fellows Hall on Monday evening, April 30, 1933, to discuss the advisability of constructing a new school building in Alvarado. Principal Foster Morrison of the Alvarado School said that some provision would have to be made for the expected increase in attendance. A straw ballot taken at the last school election in the district showed a majority of the people are in favor of construction a new school in Alvarado.

A Boy Scout Troop at Alvarado was officially begun in November 1924. The following troop committee was selected: Foster Morrison, Chairman; M. H.

Springer, H. W. Bartlett, Albert Morris, O. J. Emery, J. S. Logan, J. H. Ralph and W. S. Robie. Henry F. Peixotto and Milton P. Munger were chosen master and assistant master, respectively. The membership had about 12 boys signed up initially.

The Hayward Review reported that the new Alvarado Grammar School was to be formally dedicated in March 1925. The new school opened with an enrollment of 227 pupils. The faculty staff was composed of: E. Foster Morrison, Principal, Dorothy Gordon, Charlotte Jung, Celia Gifford, Mary Bailey, and Nathalie Burger, teachers. The trustees of the district were: J. Scribner, Mrs. F. R. Robie, and F. C. Harvey.

In August 1925 Foster Morrison resigned his position at the Alvarado Grammar School to pursue a career in real estate in Southern California. T. S. Van Vleet, formerly of the Irvington Grammar School was named as the new Principal of Alvarado Grammar School.

Miss Nathalie Burger:

Miss Nathalie Burger was born in Wisconsin in 1897 to Benjamin and Luella Burger. In September 1924, Nathalie came to teach in the Alvarado Grammar School. In June 1926, Nathalie resigned to take a position in the Willow Glen School in San Jose, which was close to her parents' home.

Miss Dorothy Gordon:

Miss Dorothy Gordon came to Alvarado in March 1925 to teach the 5th and 6th grades. In July 1926 Miss Gordon resigned to take a position in Pittsburgh California.

Miss Mary Bailey:

Miss Mary Bailey came to the Alvarado Grammar School in September 1924. She taught one year at Alvarado and then resigned to teach at the Newark Grammar School. After one year at Newark Miss Bailey resigned to take a position at the Niles Grammar School, when she again resigned her position after one year. After this and I could find nothing further her.

Miss Celia Gifford:

Miss Celia Gifford was born in California in 1898 to Charles and Augusta Gifford. Celia taught one year at the Alvarado School resigning in July 1925, to take a teaching job in her home town of Berkeley California. While at Alvarado Celia taught grade school classes and music.

Miss Helen Hughes:

Miss Helen Hughes was born in California in 1902 to Francis and Mary Hughes. In July 1925 Helen came to Alvarado as a teacher for the grammar School. She stayed until July 1921 when she resigned to return to teach in her hometown of Oakland.

Mrs. Laura Orelli:

Mrs. Laura Orelli was born in California circa 1884. She married a California stock raiser in Coloma in El Dorado County. They had two children, Hazel born in 1911, and Evan born in 1915.

William Orelli was electrocuted on his farm in August 1920, when he went to turn on the pump for irrigation. In 1925 Mrs. Orelli left the Placerville area and moved to Alvarado.

In August 1925 Mrs. Orelli accepted the position as a teacher at the Alvarado Grammar School. Mrs. Orelli had been a former teacher in the Sacramento schools and her uncle, Alvarado Postmaster Albert Norris convinced her to apply for the Alvarado job.

The Alvarado Grammar School had the following persons on staff to start the new school term in January 1926. The principal was T.S. Van Vleet, and the teaching staff included Miss Nathalie Burger, Mrs. Laura Orelli, Miss Helen Hughes, Miss Charlotte Jung and Miss Dorothy Gordon.

In June 1926 Miss Dorothy Gordon, Miss Charlotte Jung and Mrs. Laura Orelli were invited to remain here with an increase in salary. Principal Van Vleet's salary was also increased. The vacancy created by the resignation of Nathalie Burger, who would teach at Willow Glen in San Jose next year, would be filled by the wife of Mr. Van Vleet.

Mrs. Orelli was a member of the Alvarado Rebekah's. In 1937 she was elected Worthy Matron of the Orient Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star at Centerville.

Mrs. Laura Orelli, teacher at the Alvarado Grammar School for 18 years lay seriously ill at her home where she suffered a stroke Sunday morning, January 18, 1942. Her children were called to her side.

Mrs. Laura Orelli, Alvarado Grammar School teacher for 18 years, died January 24, 1942 of complications from a stroke suffered January 20th. She was 58 years old. She left two children. Mrs. Orelli was active in the Orient Chapter of the OES, the Alvarado Rebekah's, and the National Education Association.

Mrs. Orelli left a son, Evan, who is a developmental engineer for Shell Oil in Oakland, and a daughter Hazel who taught school at Fair Oaks High School.

Thomas S. Van Vleet, Principal:

Thomas S. Van Vleet was born in Iowa in 1872. His wife Bessie was born in Nebraska in 1878. In 1920 Thomas Van Vleet was a teacher, along with his wife Bessie, in Ewing Township, Holt County Nebraska. In July 1925, Thomas became the principal of the Alvarado School after having been a teacher in the Irvington Grammar School. He replaced Foster Morrison.

In June 1926, it was announced that Principal T.S. Van Vleet's eighth-grade class had graduated with the highest marks among Alameda County elementary schools. Mr. Van Vleet was then offered the principalship of the Sunol Glen Grammar School District, but he was moved to remain at Alvarado

after refusing the offer. Also at this time Nathalie Burger resigned her position at the Alvarado School and her position was filled by Mrs. Bessie Van Vleet.

By the end of the year 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Van Vleet had left Alvarado for the Turlock School District in the San Joaquin Valley.

Mrs. Bessie Van Vleet:

Mrs. Bessie Van Vleet was the wife of Thomas Van Vleet (above), who was the principal of the Alvarado Grammar School. For one term, 1926 to 1927 Mrs. Van Vleet taught a class at the Alvarado School.

Miss Ruth Gallagher:

Miss Ruth Gallagher came to teach in Alvarado from a Marin County grammar school in July 1926. The marriage of Miss Ruth Gallagher, teacher at the Alvarado Grammar School to Mr. Merton Ross, of San Francisco, took place on Thanksgiving Day, 1927. Mr. and Mrs. Ross have an apartment in the City, but she will continue to teach at Alvarado until the end of this term.

Miss Margaret McGrath:

Miss Margaret McGrath came to Alvarado to teach in September 1928. She was engaged to teach vocal music in the school. She handled the Glee Club and Choral music. There is nothing more found for Miss McGrath after Sept. 1928.

Mrs. Minnie Lorenzo, Janitor 1920:

Mrs. Minnie Lorenzo was born in California in 1885. In 1920 she was a widow living in Alvarado with her son Raymond. She was employed at the Alvarado Grammar School as a janitor. In 1930 she was still living in Alvarado but was not working at that time. Her oldest son Manuel was now living with her as well as her youngest Raymond. They both worked on a boat, one as a laborer and the other as a fireman.

Miss Mildred Peach:

Miss. Mildred Peach was born in California in 1908. In 1930 she was rooming with Mrs. Orelli, an Alvarado school teacher. There are no articles about Miss Peach and nothing further was found for her.

TEAMSTERS:

Manuel J. Rose / John E. Vargas / Thomas Foster

Manuel J. Rose:

Manuel J. Rose was born in California in 1878. Manuel's wife Mary was born in California in 1880. They were married in 1903 and had four children, Mabel, Lawrence, Manuel Jr., and Aldena. In 1910 the family lived on the Creek Road where Manuel worked as a hired man for a private family. Prior to 1920 Mary Rose passed away. In 1920 Manuel was still residing on the Creek Road working as a teamster for the sugar mill. After 1920 nothing further was found.

John E. Vargas:

John E. Vargas was born in Portugal in 1869. He entered the U.S. in 1891. His wife Rita was born in Portugal in 1882; she entered the U.S. in 1895. They had four children, Manuel, Mamie, George and Frank. John was employed as a teamster on a dairy in 1920. In 1930 he was employed as a general laborer.

Thomas Foster:

Tom Foster was born in California in 1878 to Mrs. Mary Foster who was widowed in 1920. At this time Tomas was working as a teamster for a drayage company. After 1920 nothing could be found for Tom Foster.

TELEPHONE:

Pacific Telephone & Telegraph / F.C. Harvey & Sam Dinsmore / Genevieve Ford / Minnie Hiser / Louise Molter / Susie Amaral

F.C. Harvey & Sam Dinsmore General Store:

Pacific Telephone & Telegraph:

The local telephone exchange was located in the General Store of F.C. Harvey on Smith Street. In 1928 the telephone exchange and the general store would be operated by Sam Dinsmore. In April 1926 the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph began all night service by adding a night operator at the F. C. Harvey Store.

Genevieve Ford:

Genevieve was born in California in January 1898. She was the daughter of Boyd and Emma Ford. Genevieve had an older sister Dorothy, and a younger brother Donald, who passed away in 1923. In 1920 she was the telephone operator for the Alvarado switchboard. How long she stayed employed is not known. The last mention of Genevieve was in June 1929 when she attended a bridal shower for Miss Ruby Joyce.

Minnie Hiser:

Miss Minnie Hizer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hizer, became the bride of Alfred Duarte of Hayward at a wedding that was solemnized in Oakland in April 1926. Duarte, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Duarte of Hayward, was in the employ of the Morton Salt Works in Newark. He was well known in Alvarado. In 1926 Minnie was the telephone operator for Alvarado. After her marriage to Nick she resigned her position at the telephone office.

Louise Molter:

Louise Molter was the daughter of Jean (Jennie) Molter, who in 1920 was living in Red Bluff in 1920. Mrs. Jean Molter was divorced with two daughters, Louise and LaVon. Mrs. Jean Molter was employed as a telephone operator in Centerville. Louise Molter was born in Arizona in circa 1905. Louise graduated from Washington Union High School in 1925. In 1926 Louise was a substitute operator at the Alvarado switchboard in 1926. After 1926 nothing was found for Louis Molter.

Susie Amaral:

Susie Amaral was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Amaral of the Creek Road. She was born in 1905 in California. In 1926 Susie worked the Alvarado Switchboard. Susie would fill in on the switchboards for Centerville and Alvarado until 1927.

THEATER:

There was a theater in downtown Alvarado from approximately 1922 to about 1932. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Browning, later of San Francisco, ran the theater in the IOOF Hall. In 1932 the picture shows ended there.

TOBACCO:

Manuel A. Silver:

Manuel A. Silver (could also be Manuel A. Silva) was born in the Azores in 1866. He entered the U.S. in 1884. His wife Rosa was also born in the Azores in the year of 1876. Their date of marriage is unknown. They showed no children living with them. In 1920 Manuel was the owner of a tobacco stand in Alvarado. In 1930 he owned a soda fountain. Nothing was found after 1930 for Manuel Silva.

WATER WORKS:

William Laplante / Alfred Widdop / Charles Bush / Seraphine Daviner / William Fisher / Arthur Hansen

William LaPlante:

East Bay Water Co. (EBMWD)

William Laplante was born in French Canada in 1883. The date of his entry into the U.S. is not known. Mrs. Emily Laplante was born in New Jersey in 1882. They were married in 1909 and had two children while they lived in Alvarado, Dorothy M. and Willa June. William Laplante came to Alvarado in 1911 from San Francisco, where he had been employed as a baggage man for a railroad. He went to work for the water company as an engineer at the water works on the west side of Alvarado. Mr. Laplante stayed in Alvarado until 1931 when he moved to Berkeley.

Mrs. Emily Laplante was socially active in Alvarado during this period being a member of the Alvarado Rebekah's, a member of the "Butt Ins" and a founding member of the Alvarado PTA.

Alfred Widdop:

Alfred Widdop was born in 1878 in Rhode Island. His wife Glenora was born in Maine in 1877. They showed no children living with them in Alvarado. Alfred worked as an engineer at the Alvarado Water Works on 10th Street in old Union City.

In January 1949, Mr. Alfred Widdop married Miss Hilda Hughes, a teacher in the Alvarado School system. Mr. Widdop had either been divorced or widowed. Alfred Widdop passed away on October 7, 1955 in Alvarado.

Charles Bush:

Charles Bush was born in California in 1880. He showed his marital status as widowed and showed no children living with him. He was employed as an engineer at the Alvarado Water Works on 10th Street in old Union City.

Seraphine Daviner:

Seraphine Daviner was the son of Seraphine S. and Mary E Daviner of Alvarado. The elder Daviner's were born in the Azores (Portugal), Seraphine circa 1836 and Mary circa 1860. Seraphine entered the U.S. in 1855 and Mary entered the U.S. in 1882. They had three children, a son Seraphine, and two daughters Mamie and Rose.

Seraphine Daviner was born circa 1886 in either California or Oregon (he shows both on various census records). Seraphine and his wife Minnie had three children, Seraphine Jr., Bernice and Rosaline.

Seraphine worked at the Alvarado Water Works (Oakland Water Co, later to become the Contra Costa Co., then the People's Water Co., and finally EBMUD) as a laborer in 1905. In 1945 EBMUD honored Seraphine for his 40 years of Service at the Alvarado Water Works. He had worked his way up from laborer to fireman and finally engineer at the plant.

Seraphine was active in the Catholic Church giving up of his time for the benefit of the annual Holy Ghost Festa in Alvarado.

Mrs. Mary Daviner:

Mary Daviner was very active in the Catholic Church. She was a member of S.D.E.S. Society as well many fund raising activities for the church. Mrs. Daviner was also an active member of the Alvarado Grammar School PTA.

Miss Bernice Daviner:

Bernice Daviner was born circa 1918 in California to Seraphine and Minnie Daviner. Bernice married Louis Serpa of Hayward in April 1941. The happy couple would reside in Hayward. In 1944 Bernice is reported as being employed at Friden Calculator Co. in San Leandro along with sister Rosaline.

Seraphine Daviner Jr.:

Seraphine Jr. was born circa 1919 in California to Seraphine and Minnie Daviner. In July 1941 Seraphine Daviner Jr answered the call of duty and duly registered with the Niles Draft Board No. 75, having reached his 21st birthday. In January 1946 it was reported that Seraphine Jr. was in the Army in China.

Miss Rosaline Daviner:

Rosaline Daviner was born in California circa 1925 to Seraphine and Minnie Daviner. Rosaline Daviner graduated from Washington High in June 1943 joining fellow Alvaradan's Ernie Machado, Lorraine Alameda, Jeanette Silveira, Anita Cabaran and Eileen Wilson. The year 1944 finds that Bernice and Rosaline were both employed at the Friden Calculator Plant in San Leandro.

William Fisher:

William Fisher was born in Austria in 1858. He entered the U.S. in 1868. William was first listed in Alvarado in 1920 working as a fireman for the Alvarado Water Works. He was single having been widowed, and he showed

he was living alone on "V" Street. By 1930 he had retired but was still living in Alvarado. Nothing was found after that.

Arthur Hansen:

Arthur Hansen was born in California in 1885 to Ludwig and Ellen Hansen. Ludwig Hansen operated a hotel in Alvarado (see above). Sometime before 1920, Arthur became a fireman at the Water Works in Alvarado. By 1930 he had a wife Mary, and two children, Louis six-years old and Katrina four-years old and he was still employed as a fireman at the Alvarado Water Works.

WELL BORER:

Martin Joseph:

Martin Joseph was born in California circa 1875. In 1920 he was rooming with John Lemos of Alvarado. Martin was the owner of a well boring operation. In 1930 he was rooming with Henry Henrickson and was still in the well boring business.

*** ALVARADO BANK ROBBERY ***

The date was Wednesday, October 13, 1920, at noon when three masked gunmen burst into the Bank of Alameda County. They were armed with shotguns and revolvers when they entered the bank.

August May, President of the Bank of Alvarado, sprang up from his chair and knocked the revolver from one of the robbers hand. May then floored the bandit with a punch to the face, a struggle ensued, and the robber regained control of his weapon and shot May twice, once in the throat, and once in the shoulder.

The men ransacked the bank, and then drug August May into the vault along with Mrs. Anderson, Ass't Cashier, and Ted Lydecker an employee of the bank. Then they closed and locked the vault door.

The robbers worked fast and fled from the scene in a few minutes. A passerby heard the imprisoned bank officials knocking on the vault door and went to their rescue. Following shouted instructions, he was able to open the vault and release the bank personnel. The thieves had made good their escape with \$50,000 in cash.

August May was placed in an automobile and rushed to the hospital in Hayward, from which place Alameda County District Attorney Ezra Decoto (May's brother-in-law), took him to Merritt Hospital in Oakland. His wounds appeared fatal initially, but Mr. May hung tenaciously to life, and hope was gained for his life after he spent a peaceful first night in the hospital

The following day police tried putting the pieces of the puzzle together. They did discover three valuable clues. The first was the discovery at 4:15 a.m. of the automobile in which the three bandits made away from San Lorenzo, after ditching the big green car in which they used roared out of Alvarado. The second was the

questioning of John Sullivan, who says his big green car was stolen from him. Sullivan was being held in the county jail. The third, which was a result of the first, was a conference between Sheriff Frank Barnett and District Attorney Ezra Decoto, who is the bother-in-law of the wounded bank President August May.

Three days after the robbery the authorities were still working with meager clues on the robbery. Sheriff Barnett said he had information that may lead to the arrest of the bank robbers. The information was obtained, he said, through tracing the identity of the owners of the hats found in the tonneau of the car that was used in the getaway, which the robbers abandoned a short distance outside of Alvarado when the robbers exchanged vehicles. The hats were purchased from a San Francisco store.

On October 26, a break in the case was made when James Carey and W. Curley were arrested San Francisco as suspects in the bank robbery. They were only partially identified as participants in the robbery. Theodore Lydecker, bank clerk, identified Carey as one of the robbers; Mrs. Christina Anderson said neither of the men was involved in the robbery, August May said neither was the man that shot him.

As a result of this robbery country banks are being urged by the State Bankers Association to close their doors for the noon hour and permit all employees to lunch simultaneously. The plan is in the interest of discouraging bank robbers. It has been found that the robbers had watched for the noon hour when part of the bank staff leaves for lunch and then they made their strike. In the Alvarado robbery the bandits attacked while Cashier Robert Blacow was absent.

On December 10, 1920, four men were arrested in San Francisco, and were brought to Alvarado in an effort identify the men as the Alvarado bank robbers. August May, President of the Bank of Alameda County could not identify all of the four robbers, nor even two of them. But he did pick out "Spud" Murphy, a prizefighter, as closely resembling the man that shot him.

One week later another break in the case was made when James Carey was identified for the second time as one of the participants in the Alvarado bank robbery. Albert Lawrence, Hayward rancher, identified Carey as one of the four men that hi-jacked his car after the Alvarado robbery. He also picked out James Anselm as one of the four.

The police continued to work on the suspects, and on January 12th, 1921, Larry Fitzgerald, the fourth suspect in the robbery of the bank at Alvarado was gradually being broken in his whereabouts on the day of the robbery, and was admitting to facts, which will help the district attorney's office in the prosecution of the crime.

Then three men were captured in Marysville and brought to Alvarado on January 22nd for identification in the bank robbery. One, Jack Beebe, alias Cady, was positively identified as one of the participants in the robbery. The other two men, Clarence Dye and Arthur Floyd, were also implicated in the robbery by several eyewitnesses although the identification was not as positive as it was with Jack Beebe. Two of the three men, Jack Beebe and Arthur flood were bound over for trial.

John Sullivan, said to be the owner of the automobile that was used in the robbery of the Alvarado bank, was taken into custody on February 6th in Los Angeles upon the

request of local police who learned of his whereabouts through the contents of a letter written to him by one of the alleged bandits in custody San Francisco.

Clarence Dye one of the three men arrested in Marysville on suspicion of having been implicated in the Alvarado bank robbery and who, along with Jack Beebe and Arthur Floyd, were arraigned before the Justice of the Peace in Centerville, was released from County Jail on February 8th.

District attorney Ezra Decoto Jr. has announced that he has positive proof that Larry Fitzgerald, on his way here from San Diego, drove the automobile that was used at the Alvarado bank robbery, and he will be definitely connected with the crime. Authorities believe that the net is closing on the remaining members of the largest and boldest gang of criminals to operate in California for years.

Two new developments in the bank robbery case came up on February 16th. The first was the return to Alameda County of Larry Fitzgerald, re-arrested in San Diego on the order of county authorities. The second was the arraignment at Centerville this afternoon of Mrs. Jack Flemming, alias Hazel Kirk, charged with being an accomplice in planning the Alvarado bank robbery, and Prescott Rea who with his wife were arrested and charged with receiving stolen property.

Reports that Larry Fitzgerald, Alvarado bank robbery suspect, had "snitched" on his pals were circulated at the courthouse February 18th, when after a conference with District Attorney Decoto and Deputy Frank Shay, a stenographer was called in by the prosecutors. Fitzgerald was then taken by the secret Grand Jury passage to an automobile and was spirited away to Alvarado by the district attorney and Deputy Sheriff Jack Collier. Fitzgerald was brought here from San Diego by Deputy Collier and County Detective George Helms when letters and other evidence found at the headquarters of the "Thirty Strong" gang connected him with the Alvarado robbery. He had been arrested previously but was released because of insufficient evidence.

Prescott N. Rea, also a member of the so-called "Thirty Strong" gang, who turned state's evidence, and then revealed the names of the criminal clique to District Attorney Ezra Decoto, pleaded guilty to the crime of receiving stolen property in connection with an Alvarado store robbery before Judge Lincoln S. Church March 15, 1920, and had his case referred to his probation officer.

Meanwhile, Jack Beebe, on trial before Judge Lincoln S. Church in connection with the Alvarado bank robbery, was found guilty this morning by a jury after a ten-minute deliberation. Life imprisonment at hard labor in Folsom penitentiary was the sentence imposed upon Jack Beebe, "Thirty Strong" gangster and Alvarado bank robber. Beebe was convicted by the jury of sticking a revolver in the face of Mrs. Christina Anderson during the bank robbery after Bank of Alameda President August May was shot twice.

Then in a sensational break in the Alvarado bank robbery case of October 13th, William Kirk turned states evidence on April 6, 1921, on the so-called "Thirty-Strong" gang giving testimony that John A. Sullivan, San Francisco bon vivant was the criminal mastermind of the clique.

Two days later Marian Appleton, whose former sweetheart, John A. Sullivan, is on trial for conspiring to rob the Bank of Alameda County, and who was a witness yesterday against him, appeared before the court today for her preliminary hearing

on a charge of receiving stolen goods. The case was continued for a month on the motion of the district attorney.

John A. Sullivan, San Francisco insurance broker, and "mastermind" of the "Thirty Strong Gang" appeared before Judge Lincoln S. Church last night. He will be sentenced to a term in the state penitentiary of one to fifty years.

On April 25th the destruction of the "Thirty Strong" gang was completed with the capture of "Little Goog" Rossi and "Lefty Foley." Both men, were captured in the East, and were indicted secretly some time ago by the Alameda County Grand Jury. Foley's name came out in the Sullivan trial, but "Little Goog's" identity was never revealed until the police picked him up in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Foley was picked up in St. Paul Minnesota.

With four members of the "Thirty Strong" gang in San Quentin, three others having pleaded guilty and two more scheduled for trial this week, the capture of "Little Goog" Rossi and Thomas "Lefty Foley," another of the suspected bank robbers, has completed the destruction of the biggest robbery clique that ever operated in Oakland, according to District Attorney Decoto. "Little Goog" has been accused by the gangsters, who have "squealed," as the man who shot August May on October 13, 1920. The two are "three time losers" with records in San Quentin and Folsom Penitentiaries.

William Alberton, alias "Little Goog" Rossi and Thomas "Lefty" Foley, were identified on May 17, 1921 by August May, President of the Alvarado bank, as the men who fought with and shot him during the robbery of October 13, 1920. May, whose right arm and right side still are partially paralyzed from the wound, was taken to the jail by Sheriff Frank Barnett and District Attorney Ezra Decoto, who is May's brother-in-law, where Foley and Alberton were brought before him.

Machinations of the "inner convict rings" at San Quentin and Folsom Penitentiaries allied with the efforts of underworld criminals, are responsible for the hard fight that was being made by the "Thirty Strong Gang" to save "Lefty" Foley and "Little Goog" Rossi from serving terms in prison for the Alvarado bank robbery. "Some powerful, sinister influence or master mind, either in San Francisco or in one of the prisons, has organized this fight to free Foley and Alberton, and eventually get the other members of the "Thirty Strong Gang" out of prison," charges District Attorney Shay. "We have been forced to keep William Kirk, who turned state's evidence, under cover to save him from being killed. The Alvarado bank robbery was directed by a master crack who has never been discovered, and who is now marshalling all the forces of the underworld to free these gangsters."

On July 22, 1922 Thomas "Lefty" Foley, convicted of the Alvarado bank robbery, was taken from the county jail to San Quentin Penitentiary to begin serving the indeterminate sentence of from one year to life. He was convicted a year ago, but appealed to the Supreme Court, when a motion for new trial was denied. The higher court sustained the Superior Court. Foley was the last of the "Thirty Strong" gang of robbers to go to the penitentiary.

For the first time since the State Legislature passed a law making an assault by a life-termer a capital offense, in order to hang Jake "Tiger Man" Oppenheimer, San Quentin prison authorities revived the statute to cause the execution of Larry Fitzgerald, Alvarado bank robber on May 2, 1925, for his instigation of a riot.

Fitzgerald, a member of Oakland's notorious "Thirty-Strong" gang, has been charged with assaulting a convict with an iron bar by Elmer J. Hobbs, a Captain of the Guard. He will go to trial for his life soon in the Marin County Superior Court.

Thomas Kelly, 59, already serving a life term for a Los Angeles murder, probably will face a new charge of murder because he was jealous of a flower garden. Kelly is in solitary confinement today while District Attorney Otis Babcock investigates circumstances under which he yesterday stabbed and killed John (Jack) Beebe on May 21, 1936, 48-year old Oakland man, who was serving time for the spectacular robbery of the Bank of Alameda County at Alvarado. Both men had been imprisoned twice before on felonies. Beebe, according to Warden A. Larkin, was playing catch with another convict when their ball rolled into a flowerbed under the care of Kelly. The latter seized the ball and threw it into a nearby canal. A fight ended the stabbing Beebe.

Larry Fitzgerald, the Alvarado bank robber sent to San Quentin Prison 24 years ago for his part in the hold-up of The Bank of Alameda County, was transferred to the Mendocino State Hospital on May 21, 1945, and routine parole action on his case has been suspended. Fitzgerald, who was given a life sentence for first-degree robbery under an old California law, figured in a sensational bank hold-up at Alvarado in October of 1920, in which bank President August May was shot and wounded. Fitzgerald, a former prizefighter, was captured later in southern California after a wild chase to within 15 miles of the Mexican border, in which officers also picked up his brother.

Parole was again denied to Larry Fitzgerald on March 14, 1949.

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

Alvarado Drama Club:

Preparations were made in December 1926 by the Alvarado Dramatic Club for the presentation of a benefit show at St. Anne's Church. Local residents who participated were:

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Mrs. A. Flores | Mrs. M. Roderick | Miss W. Mello | Miss Eva Costa |
| Miss Eliz. Costa | H. Gomes | N. Lewis | C. Flores. |

The Drama Club then followed their recent hit performance with a new production entitled the "Bashful Mr. Bobbs." The will be for the benefit of the Centerville Fire Department. The production was staged in the Centerville Parish Hall on Wednesday evening, January 19, 1927. The play was a three-act farce-comedy under the supervision of Frank Jones. The cast included the following:

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| Mrs. A. Flores | Mrs. M. Roderick | Miss Edith Mello | H. Gomes |
| Miss H. Roderick | Miss G. Mello | Miss Eva Costa | Nick Lewis |
| Miss Eliz. Costa | S. Costa | | |

The Drama Club continued its performances on December 2, 1927 with the play "Family Disturbance," given at the Newark School auditorium for the benefit of St. Edward's Church in Newark. Proceeds of the play will go into the church fund.

The cast of "Family Disturbance:"

Harry Harrison, a henpecked husband
Mrs. Dorothea Harrison, who does the pecking
June, their daughter
Nellie Harrison, Mr. Harrison's cousin
Joshua Judson, Mr. Harrison's uncle from the country
Nora McBride, the Irish cook
Pat O'Donnely, in love with the cook
Elmer Slimoroy, June's sweetheart
Count Vallencia, an imported product

V. Langdon
Mrs. Annie Flores
Miss Hazel Roderick
Miss Mello
Henry Gomes
Mrs. Mayme Roderick
N. Lewis
C. Flores
G. Gomes

Director of the production is Frank Jones.

The Alvarado Drama Club was to present another entertainment for the benefit of St. Anne's Church. They planned to stage the play, "And Here Comes Ted," in May or June of 1929. The director, Frank Jones, says this is one of the cleverest plays so far staged by the group. Those who will appear in the play are:

Wm. Lazzarini	Hazel Roderick	Annie Flores	Sam Costa
Madelyn Avila	Jim Collins	Clarence Flores	Edith Mello
Mayme Roderick	Kenneth Ferry	May Avila	Joseph Lemos.

Alvarado Study Club:

The Alvarado Study Club met at the home of Mrs. John H. Ralph on September 11, 1924. Miss Charlotte Jung gave an illustrated talk on European countries before and after the war. Mrs. Ralph read a paper on France, and Mrs. August May read a paper on Germany. At the next meeting, which will be at the home of Mrs. H. M. Springer, Miss G. Crocker of Centerville is expected to present and give a presentation of peace and the League of Nations.

Birthday Club:

The Alvarado Ladies Birthday Club, whose only meetings occur at the time of a member's birthday, met with the following people:

Mrs. W. S. Robie	Mrs. August May	Mrs. John Ralph
Mrs. Emma Hellwig	Mrs. George Hellwig	Mrs. Dora Richmond
Mrs. Morton Springer	Mrs. Raymond Stewart.	Mrs. E. R. McCarty
Mrs. Edgar Tainton	Mrs. James Scribner	

Boy Scouts:

In 1924 there were four towns that did not have active Boy Scout Troops. They were: Decoto, Alvarado, Mission San Jose, and Warm Springs. Near the end of 1924 Henry L. Hopkins, Alameda County Field Executive for the Boy Scouts, announced that he expected Alvarado and Decoto to have fully formed Boy Scout Troops by the end of 1924.

In November of 1924 Alvarado had appointed a Scout Master and a Troop Committee. The organization of a Boy Scout Troop at Alvarado had officially begun. The following partial troop committee was selected:

Chairman:	Foster Morrison
Scout Master:	Henry F. Peixotto
Ass't Scout Master:	Milton P. Munger

Committee Members: H.M. Springer O.J. Emery J.S. Logan
 H.W. Bartlett J.H. Ralph W.S. Robie

The first meeting of the new troop, which had a membership of about 12 boys initially, was held on November 21, 1924.

On December 17, 1925 Jesse Jacinto and Irwin Emery were named athletic directors of the troop; M. Logan was named chairman of the athletic committee, and H. M. Springer and John Logan general committeemen.

On the anniversary of their first year the Boy Scouts planned a card party that was held on the evening of December 19, 1925 in the Odd Fellows Hall for the purpose of raising funds for athletic equipment. The Scout Troop then had a membership of 24 scouts with several new candidates ready to sign up.

M. Peixotto resigned as Scoutmaster of the Alvarado Troop of Boy Scouts on July 12, 1926. H. M. Springer, Manager of the Alameda Sugar Company was named temporary Scoutmaster. On November 26, 1927 Mr. A. J. Gage was appointed new scoutmaster of the newly reorganized Alvarado Boy Scout Troop. The boys made a trip to the Chabot Observatory in December with the Irvington Troop.

Bridge Club (Jr. and Sr.):

The Alvarado Bridge Club was formed in the spring of 1920. Tournaments were held throughout the 20's. Members in the club included:

Senior Bridge Club:

Mildred Nauert	Mrs. E.A. Richmond	Mrs. J.M. Scribner
Mrs. Walter Robie	Mrs. G.P. Hellwig	Mrs. August May
Mrs. John Ralph	Miss Maude McCarty	Mrs. Fred Joyce
Mrs. Erle Hellwig	Mrs. Henry Heitmuller	Mrs. Charles Baird
Mrs. R.S. Stewart	Mrs. H.S. Springer	Mrs. Dora Tainton
Mrs. Emma Ford	Mrs. V. Linderman	

Junior Bridge Club:

Miss Nancy McKeown	Miss Flora McKeown	Mrs. Milton Munger
Miss Jane Logan	Mrs. Theodore Lydecker	Mrs. Fred Joyce
Mrs. Erle Hellwig	Mrs. Ev Richmond	Mrs. G. Bartlett
Mrs. Percy Brown	Miss Mildred Nauert	Mrs. Jensen
Mrs. Ruth Hellwig		

Fortnightly Bridge Club:

Andrew Logan	Mrs. Andrew Logan	Charles Baird
Mrs. M. Trumpler		

Chamber of Commerce:

The Alvarado Chamber of Commerce was extremely active in the first part of the decade of the 20's with hope of bringing the newly envisioned bridge across the San Francisco Bay to Alvarado. The original concept of the San Mateo Bay Bridge, in October 1922, was to locate the bridge at Coyote Point in San Mateo County to Alvarado in Alameda County. In its original form, the bridge to Alvarado received support from the Chambers of Livermore, Hayward, Oakland, San Leandro, and San Mateo.

The Alvarado cause was championed by John Logan, Fred Harvey, O.J. Emery, and August May of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. Nearly everyone was in agreement that the new San Mateo Bridge should go through Alvarado.

However, there was a quirk in California State Law of the time that expressly limits the right to grant toll bridge franchises to the supervisors on the county on the left, or descending bank of the bay, river creek, arm or slough of the waterway, the letter sets forth, and, it points out, this position in this instance was occupied by San Mateo County.

When the final decision was made, the bridge was to be built from Coyote Point in San Mateo County to Jackson Street (Hiway 92) in Hayward. Alvarado had lost out.

Apparently the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce went into some doldrums and the Chamber fell silent somewhere at the end of 1923; their next meeting in June of 1926 when the Chamber was reorganized.

There were other pressing items that also needed attention in the town of Alvarado, and the Chamber took up their cause. One was the construction of a new bridge for the creek to replace the old iron bridge at the meeting of Smith Street and the Sugar Mill Road. Another was the enlargement of the fire department, and finally was the installation of additional lighting along Mt. Eden - Alvarado Hiway.

A committee was called for the planning of new lights while the County Board of Supervisors was petitioned for the erection of the new span. F. C. Harvey, John H. Ralph and George R. Hellwig were appointed to the committee to confer with the supervisors toward increasing the size of the Fire District. The present district was confined to the downtown section of Alvarado and did not offer any protection to outlying areas.

A meeting was held on April 8, 1927 to discuss the purchase of a chemical engine for the Fire Department and also to increasing the diameter of water mains in Alvarado from four inches to six inches.

Members with reported activity in the Chamber during the 1920's were:

August May	John H. Ralph	R.S. Stewart	Fred Wiegman
George Enos	O.J. Emery	Dr. R.N. Gray	F.C. Harvey
G.P. Hellwig	August May	E.A. Richmond	J.M. Scribner
J. P. Boyd	H. M. Springer	John Menezes	E. W. Baird

Fire Department:

Formation / Notable Fires

Formation:

Alvarado started the decade of the 20's with a fire cart, about 500 feet of hose (both of which date back to about 1905), and five fire hydrants, mostly in the center of town. Quite a bit of new building was being done in town and more consideration was being given to the needs of fire protection.

In July of 1924 Dr. Roscoe Gray wrote a letter to Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the citizens of Alvarado, suggesting three names for fire commissioners for the town.

They were Dr. Gray himself, George Hellwig, and August May. A week later a petition signed by Dr. Gray and 61 others of the town of Alvarado asking the Board to take the necessary steps to form a fire district was presented to the Board.

With this step Alvarado citizens had taken steps to form a fire district and equip a modern fire department with motor trucks and other apparatus. The numerous new buildings that had been erected recently, and others underway made the step necessary as a precaution against possible fire loss. But very little headway was being made as the district attorney's office in Oakland advised that there was no act at that time under which a fire department could be formed.

Finally, in August 1925, the Alameda County Board of granted their intention to allow the town of Alvarado to form the Alvarado Fire Protection District. On September 14, 1925, the district was formed with the object of affording fire protection to the town of Alvarado.

In July 1927 the organization of a volunteer Fire Department was well under way in Alvarado. This had been contemplated since the new firefighting equipment was purchased several weeks ago, and the recent destruction of "Little Tijuana" spurred the fire commissioners of the district into naming officers of the department earlier than had been expected. The officers were:

Fire Chief:	John H. Ralph
Captain:	Jack Boyd, Captain
Lieutenants:	Harry Springer Tony Santos W. H. Costa

The officers of the department were to recruit a force of 12 firemen and regular drills would begin in the near future.

In September 1927 the new Alvarado Fire Department looked to adding five new fire hydrants to bring the total in town up to 12. The department had increased the amount of fire hose from the 500 feet they had several years ago to 1,200 today. With 12 fire hydrants and twelve hundred feet of hose, the Fire Department will be able to fight a blaze anywhere within the town of Alvarado. At this time the members of the Fire Department were building their own chemical truck, which was being built on a fast six cylinder chassis recently purchased.

Closer cooperation between the fire departments in Washington Township was assured through a meeting of the fire chiefs in December 1927, at which time the territory was divided into districts, and an arrangement reached as to the order in which the departments would answer alarms in case the blaze gets beyond the control of the department answering the first alarm. The meeting was held in Newark, out of respect for Louis Ruschin, the oldest chief in point of service in the township. The Fire Chiefs in Washington Township are:

Newark:	Louis Ruschin
Decoto:	Roland Bendel
Alvarado:	Jack Boyd
Centerville:	Fred Rodgers
Niles:	H.B. Rathbun

Fire commissioners who served in the 1920's as reported to the local newspapers were:

H.M. Springer	O.J. Emery	F.C. Harvey	George Hellwig
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Notable Fires:

On January 14, 1923, the largest salt plant in the world, that of the California Salt Company near Alvarado, was a total loss after a fire of unknown origin, which raged out of control all day and most of the night. The property damage was said to be in excess of \$300,000, but was covered by insurance. All of the company's buildings, including the machine shops, together with the large salt storage houses and oil reserves were destroyed. The company's plant covered 5,000 acres west of town here, bordering on the bay.

Little Tijuana, once called "that hell hole in Alvarado" by Alameda County District Attorney Earl G. Warren, was destroyed by one of the most spectacular blazes in this part of California, with five Fire Departments fighting the flames. Only by prompt and efficient efforts, did fireman prevent the fire from spreading to an adjoining lumberyard, and for a time the entire Alvarado community was threatened.

The fire was believed to have been started by a group of hoboes who camped in one of the buildings on July 3, 1927. The entire two blocks of buildings comprising that notorious district had been padlocked several months ago, so that aside from hoboes they were unoccupied. The frame shacks proved to be kindling wood, and within a short time they began eating across the street from the Catholic Church on Watkins & Smith Streets and the Alvarado Grammar School at Smith and Alvarado Streets on the east.

The heroic efforts of the fire fighters kept the blaze contained to the north side of Smith Street away from the church and the school. Everything east of Watkins Street to nearly Alvarado Street (today's Fredi Street) burned to the ground. The firefighters managed to save the lumberyard at the NE corner of Watkins and Smith Streets, the only structure saved from fire.

Little Tijuana obtained its name from the Mexican city where vice is given a free reign. This district consisted of two blocks of shacks in Alvarado, where the prohibition law was openly flouted, the scene of kidnappings and holdups, and the refuge of lawbreakers. Violation of the law became so flagrant that authorities finally stepped in and padlocked the entire district, at the same time starting abatement proceeding against all of the buildings.

Prompt action on the part of the Alvarado Fire Department saved the business section of the city from destruction on May 23, 1928, when a fire started in the kitchen of the Alvarado Hotel. The blaze had gained considerable headway before it was discovered and damaged the building to the extent of approximately \$3,000 before it could be extinguished. The fire appeared so serious for a time that the departments from Decoto and Centerville were called, but the blaze was under control by the time they reached the scene.

Fraternal Order of Eagles:

The Alvarado Eagles were very active during the twenties in both activities and publicizing their events.

Joe Roderick was delegated to represent the Alvarado Eagles at a meeting, which would discuss the building of a new township high school to be held on March 13, 1922. The members of the meeting would consist of various civic and fraternal groups.

Officers installed in May 1922 by the Alvarado Aerie, No. 1695, Fraternal Order of Eagles were:

Past President:	A.S. Mello
President:	A.E. Vargas
Vice President:	P.D. Brown
Captain:	M.D. Luiz
Secretary:	T.E. Amaral
Treasurer:	H. Henrickson
Inside Guard:	Richard Silva
Outside Guard:	T.C. Silva
Trustee:	A.M. Moffitt

A.S. Mello, retiring President; A.E. Vargas, incoming President; and Antonio A. Lee have been appointed delegates to the convention of the lodge to be held in Santa Cruz this year.

Eleven candidates were initiated into the ranks of the Eagles in March 1923 at a meeting held in the Odd Fellows Hall in Alvarado. A banquet was served under the supervision of:

Andrew Anderson	Charles Baird	L. J. Moffitt.
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New officers of the local lodge of the Eagles were installed at the first meeting in June 1927. The officers to be installed are:

President:	W. H. Costa
Vice President:	W. Dutra
Secretary:	T. E. Amaral
Treasurer:	J. Menezes
Chaplain:	Mr. J. Bernardo
Inside Guard:	A. Moffitt
Outside Guard:	Manuel Goularte

The 20th anniversary of the founding of the Alvarado Aerie of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles was celebrated at the Parish Hall of the Centerville Eagles on September 3, 1927. A dance was held and funds were raised for the social fund of the lodge and the greater part of it would be spent in preparations for the lodge's celebration to be held in Alvarado early in October, according to W. H. Costa, president of the aerie. At this time, officers from all sections of Central California would visit Alvarado for a class initiation.

I.D.E.S. Lodge, Alvarado, Vasco de Gama:

Irmandade do Divino Espiritu Santo, which translated from Portuguese means, "Brotherhood of the Holy Ghost" was a Portuguese Lodge, which held fund raising events to benefit the annual Holy Ghost festa in Alvarado.

Conferring the initiatory degree on ten candidates for membership into the I.D.E.S. Lodge on August 15, 1926, featured the regular meeting of the society in the Odd Fellows Hall. Mr. P. Rose of Oakland, Grand President of the order, was the honored guest of the occasion. Manuel Ferrea, President of the local I.D.E.S. Lodge officiated as Master of ceremonies.

IOOF:

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Crusade Lodge:

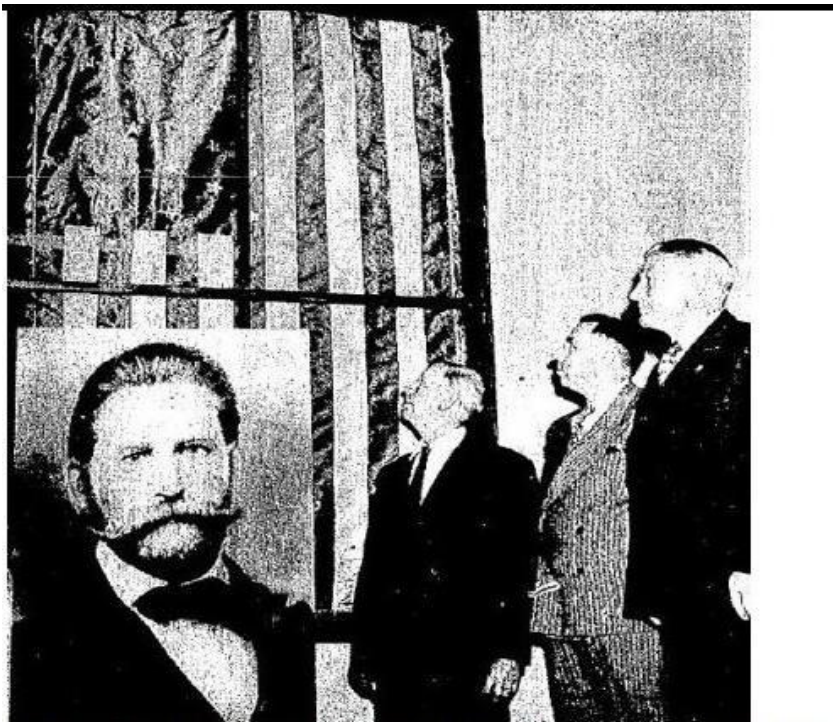
A banquet following initiation services featured the meeting of the Crusade Lodge, IOOF here on March 7, 1922. A number of candidates were initiated and the banquet was served in their honor. A large class of candidates would be initiated by Crusade Lodge next month, the lodge having a heavy increase in membership at present.

To halt the demolishing touch of time, the "Old Armory" at Alvarado, one of California's most treasured relics of the Civil War, was completely overhauled in November 1924. Alvarado's IOOF Hall, which has stood at the corner of Vallejo & Smith Streets in Alvarado for sixty years, was updated.

This is the building where, in the time of Abraham Lincoln, the flower of Alameda County's young manhood answered the call for volunteers. As result of that call, the "Alvarado Hundred" (actually it was more like the "Alameda County Hundred") was organized, and the hundred sturdy youths enlisted before the first battle of Bull Run. That group of men drilled, perfected their organization in that hall, and then went to war, carrying with them a large silk flag, which their sweethearts, wives and mothers had made for them.

That flag is still furled in their armory, their drill hall has changed little or none since, and though a new floor was going in, and the hall was being thoroughly renovated, its distinctive style will not be changed. Alvaradan's have spoken and orders have been given the workmen that they must not change one iota of the former hall.

The unit fought through 54 battles in the Civil War and was lead by Capt. Charles S. Eigenbrodt, whose picture still smiles form its frame on the wall. Capt. Eigenbrodt fell in a battle of the Shenandoah Valley.



The "Alvarado Hundred" battle flag on display at the I.O.O.F. Sycamore Lodge in Hayward. The inset is a picture of Captain Charles S. Eigenbrodt of Alvarado who died in a Civil War battle.

Ladies Aid Society:

The ladies who participated in Ladies Aid events that were publicized in the 1920's were:

Mrs. Joseph Fyffe

Mrs. J.H. Ralph

Mrs. Ormond J. Emery

Mrs. John Scribner

Mrs. James Logan

Mrs. August May

Mrs. Walter Ziegler

Mrs. A.K. Logan

Mrs. M.P. Munger

Native Sons:

There was a meeting held in Alvarado in December 1928 to determine if the Native Sons of the Golden West parlors in Alvarado, Niles and Centerville should be combined to form one Washington Township Parlor. Although the three parlors are relatively small in members they are all prosperous parlors.

Post Office:

The Alvarado Postmaster in the 1920's was Albert Norris, his assistant was Mrs. Frances Luna.

The Alvarado Post Office was raised from a fourth class Post Office to a third class Post Office due to the increase in Post Office receipts, which had entitled the office to the higher rating. The increase in business was attributed to the influx of new residents and the steady growth not only of the town but also of the farms.

Presbyterian Church:

Activities reported by the Presbyterian Church this decade were:

The Sunday school of the Presbyterian Church held its annual picnic in June of 1924 under the auspices of the Ladies Aid Society. The children motored over to the Henry May ranch in the hills near Decoto. Games were played and races were held. The ladies served a picnic lunch.

Dr. Campbell of Centerville filled the pulpit of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church in September 1924 during the absence of Rev. McElhenny, who will return to his pulpit next Sunday after his return from vacation.

PTA:

The first mention of an Alvarado PTA is this reference made in the *Oakland Tribune* on January 8, 1928:

"Plans for its spring campaign will be outlined at the meeting for the Alvarado PTA to be held Monday afternoon, according to Mrs. W.S. Robie, the president."

Rebekah's:

The Rebekah's celebrated the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the order with a whist party and social time on September 22, 1921. Favors at the whist tables were won by John Ralph and by Mrs. A. Belne. Following the whist, refreshments were served to the fifty members who had gathered.

Initiation by the Alvarado Rebekah's for Mrs. Henry Smith and Mrs. Mathias Johnson was held October 22, 1922; it was announced by Miss Orma Emery, who is in charge

of the initiation. Beside Miss Emery, Noble Grand, the initiating officers were: Mrs. Emily Laplante, Mrs. Clara Scribner, and Mrs. Petra Gronley.

The Alvarado Rebekah Lodge, No., 142, ended one of its most successful terms on Friday, February 5, 1926 under the leadership of Mrs. Edmund Graff. Mrs. Graff was a most successful leader, and has a charming personality, and so made a host of friends. The officers and friends showered her with beautiful and useful gifts. The newly installed officers are:

Past Junior Noble Grand: Henrietta Graff
Noble Grand: Mrs. Forest Langdon

Other officers were:

Elsa Anderson	Corinne Munger	Anna Skow	Petra Gronley
Emily Laplante	Minnie Hunter	Margaret Emery	Jane Logan
Mrs. James Hunter	Mary Lang	Anna Salas	Orma Emery
Mabel Joyce	Annie Baird	Mrs. Edward Callow	

After the meeting a banquet was served.

John T. Carren, local agent for the *Oakland Tribune*, and active lodge man, has been selected to drill the Rebekah Drill Team of the Alvarado district. Carren has already started his drilling program, with headquarters at the Alvarado Rebekah Lodge. The team will officiate at installation ceremonies for lodges at Alvarado, Irvington, Livermore, Pleasanton and Niles. Uniformed and comprising twenty-four women, the team will be an impressive and proficient body when the first installation program will take place late this month, Carren said on January 6, 1928

SPRSI Auxiliary, Council No. 21, Estrella Oriental:

Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel do Estado da California (S.P.R.S.I.)

The SPRSI Council, No. 21, of Alvarado installed new officers for the year 1921 in June. They new officers are:

President:	Mrs. Annie Amaral
Vice President:	Mrs. F. Roderick
Secretary:	Reta L. Soito
Treasurer:	Mary L. Lopes
Marshal:	Annie Andrade
Conductor:	Mrs. Mello

Ranking officers of the SPRSI Lodge from Oakland, Hayward, San Leandro and Livermore were honored guests at the annual officer's installation ceremony of the Alvarado Ladies Council in the local IOOF Hall in Alvarado. Miss Mamie Andrade was installed in the president's chair, succeeding Mrs. Edith Mello who has guided the destiny of the council during 1926.

Mrs. A. E. Vargas and Mrs. Anna Amaral have returned from San Francisco, where they attended the convention of the SPRSI Lodge as delegates from the Alvarado society in July 1926.

St. Anne's Church:

The 1920's would be a decade of change for St. Anne's Church. A new church would be built in this decade and the first Holy Ghost would be held in Alvarado.

One of the annual events of St. Anne's Church was their annual bazaar. The 1921 bazaar was one of the largest held with ten daintily decorated booths, and with the most choice articles ever offered for sale to the parishioners of Alvarado. Participation was large as the money collected was going to build the new church.

One month later the Altar Society of St. Anne's Church held a necktie and apron party at the IOOF Hall. Money garnered from this event was also slated to go to the building fund. Father Casey of St. Anne's Parish in Alvarado said proceeds of the bazaar of November 1921 brought \$1,200 in for the new church building fund.

As the time drew near for the building of the church an all out push was made with a giant bazaar. This was a giant six-day event that was held in December 1925, and according to Mrs. Tony Vargas, who had been working on it for several months, was the largest church sale ever held in Alvarado. Parish women from throughout the district joined in gathering articles for the various booths, and so many were brought to the sale that two extra nights were added to the original program. Father John Casey, head of St. Anne's Church, presided at the opening evening and was present on the last night to thank the Parish workers who had worked so hard to make this a successful event.

St. Anne's Church, known to early residents since its erection in 1862 as the "Little Church of Lucky Weddings," would terminate its usefulness as a house of worship. The church was dedicated 64 years ago by Bishop Alemany of San Francisco and was now obsolete and weather beaten from the unrelenting use of its Catholic parish.

The little structure would make way for a bigger and better, but no more sanctimonious, St. Anne's Church. With finishing touches now being applied to the new mission edifice by the workmen, members expect dedicatory services in early to mid March 1926.

Archbishop Edward Hanna would officiate as master of ceremonies at the dedication and the laying of the cornerstone St. Anne's Catholic Church. Church dignitaries from many parts of California would lend color to the spectacle. The joint ceremony will likely be held on Sunday, March 7th, Father Casey said.

Construction work on the concrete building would be completed within two weeks, about February 14, 1926, according to present indications. While the dedication and cornerstone laying ceremonies are not scheduled until early March, initial services in Alvarado's new house of worship would be conducted about Sunday, March 14th, the Rev. Casey said.

"Progress of the building and the workmanship displayed by the employees has far exceeded my most optimistic expectations," Father Casey declared. "Our parish will have one of the most modern, if not the most modern, church structure on the Pacific Coast."

The people of Alvarado, both Catholic and Protestant, have been exceedingly generous toward the building of the new church. The congregation has donated all windows, altars, Stations of the Cross, and pews. The one thing lacking is a new bell, and that the Pastor believes, will be forthcoming in the near future. The stained glass windows certainly are a credit to the artist who designed them in beauty and tone.



Mr. & Mrs. John Ralph opened their home to the ecclesiastical dignitaries who participated in the dedication of St. Anne's Church. Tables were served by Mrs. Mamie Roderick, Mrs. Clarence Flores, Mrs. Rita Rivers and Miss Geraldine Mello.

Second only in importance to the recent dedication of the recently erected St. Anne's Catholic Church, would be the two day Holy Ghost celebration Saturday and Sunday, May 1st and 2nd, 1926, when blessings were showered on the new structure. The observance was ushered in with a procession of the Holy Ghost Crown to the house of worship for the bestowal of the blessings. A benefit dance was given in the Alvarado Odd Fellows Hall. The service Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. was featured by the crowning of the Holy Ghost Queen. Solemn high mass was sung by Rev. Father Casey.

Hazel Roderick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Roderick of Alvarado, was the queen of the first annual Holy Ghost celebration, which was held in Alvarado on May 1st and May 2nd in honor of the completion of St. Anne's Church. The selection was made in the parish hall by a special committee of which T. S. Mello was chairman. Maids for the celebration were Madeline Avila and Minnie Gomes.

The year 1926 continued with fundraisers for the new church. In May the people of Alvarado were treated to the presentation of "Penelope," a comic operetta, on Saturday night May 8th. The production was put on for the benefit of St. Anne's Church, and was staged by twelve of Burlingame's brilliant young singers and performers. The offering was held at the Odd Fellows Hall.

Then in October a monster bazaar was held the IOOF Hall on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights (October 21st, 22nd, 23rd & 24th). Donations were being received and the committee spared no effort to make this a success. The bazaar was the biggest ever held in Alvarado. Offerings were accepted by Mrs. Mayme Roderick, chairman of all committees, at Ralph's Store in Alvarado.

St. Anne's Church – Annual Holy Ghost Festa:

Second only in importance to the recent dedication of the recently erected St. Anne's Catholic Church, will be the two day Holy Ghost celebration Saturday and Sunday, May 1st and 2nd, 1926 when blessings were showered on the new structure. This Portuguese celebration would be held in Alvarado annually (as well as many other towns locally). The observance was ushered in with a procession of the Holy Ghost Crown to the St. Anne's Church for the bestowal of the blessings. A benefit dance was given at the Alvarado Odd Fellows Hall. The service on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. was featured by the crowning of the Holy Ghost Queen. The Rev. Father Casey sung the solemn high mass.

Red, green, and yellow banners were fluttering above the streets of Alvarado on May 12, 1927, as the community put on its gala attire for the second annual Holy Ghost celebration, which was held there Saturday and Sunday. The celebration opened Saturday with a parade when the crown to be worn by Miss Madelyn Avila was brought from a private home to the hall, where the ceremonies will begin. During the evening there will be a ball at the Odd Fellows Hall, and then a fireworks exhibit.

The annual Holy Ghost was celebrated on May 5, 1928, with the usual parade, mass, dancing, and a fireworks display. President of the Holy Ghost Association, Tony Mello, said Miss Alice Menezes, of Alvarado, would reign as queen of the Holy Ghost to be held on May 5, and 6, 1928. Miss Menezes maids were Miss Beatrice Machado and Irene Freitas. Events for the two days were planned by T.S. Mello, M.P. Goularte, Frank Silva, and John Menezes.

The Alvarado Holy Ghost Society held its annual Holy Ghost on April 27, 1929. The usual parade, mass, dancing, and fireworks display was again a feature of the festa. Miss Beatrice Machado, a student at the Alvarado Grammar School was the queen this year.

Washington Township Country Club:

The Country Club of Washington Township will held a meeting on June 7, 1921. The President, Mrs. George Hellwig of Alvarado, would return from her tour of the eastern states in time to preside at the meeting. The music committee had a treat in store for the members on that day and it was hoped that the attendance will be large.

The Washington Township Country Club held its regular meeting on May 8, 1924 with Mrs. August May of Alvarado, the new president presiding for the first time. Mrs. Fred Harvey and Mrs. Roscoe Gray, also of Alvarado, were the hostesses for the day to an unusually large attendance of members and guests. The new president, Mrs. May, appointed standing committees for the year.

Mrs. August May, President of the Washington Township Country Club, held a reception at her Alvarado home in April 1925. Nearly four hundred guests from the township and old friends living in Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco were present. The affair was given in honor of the Misses Eloise Hellwig and Marjorie May, who are to be spring brides. The spacious residence was tastefully decorated with baskets of flowers. The hostess was assisted in receiving by Mrs. E. Hellwig, Mrs. Henry May, the Misses Eloise Hellwig and Marjorie May. The Arion Trio played several selections during the reception.

A program of music entertained members and guests of the Country Club of Washington Township when they met at the Centerville Clubhouse on March 2, 1926. Mrs. A. Logan of Alvarado, and Miss Elizabeth Lowrie of Irvington were the hostesses. Mrs. August May, President, presided as chairman.

Five Alvarado members of the Country Club of Washington Township attended the card party in March 1926, at the Rock Ridge Women's Club in Oakland to provide funds for nursing children in the hospital. The party from Alvarado included Mrs. George Hellwig, Mrs. W. S. Robie, Miss Mildred Nauert, Mrs. August May, and Mrs. John Ralph. Joining them from Niles was Mrs. George Hudson, and Mrs. Howard Chadbourne.

The dramatic section of the Country Club presented the play "Much Too Sudden" in June of 1927. Taking parts in the play from Alvarado were Mrs. Walter Robie, Mrs. August May and Mrs. Andrew Logan.

Mrs. Walter Robie, President of the Country Club of Washington Township, has announced that the club will hold a cake sale and card party Friday, November 15, 1929. The proceeds will go to defraying the cost of remodeling and redecorating the clubhouse.

Washington Township Horseshoe Club:

In August 1926, horse shoe hurlers of Southern Alameda County organized the Washington Township Horseshoe Club, comprised of members from Alvarado, Centerville, Decoto, Irvington, Niles, Newark, Mission San Jose and Warm Springs.

By August 29, 1926, membership in the Washington Township Horseshoe Club was above 100. The oldest member of the club is Alvarado's Postmaster, Albert Norris, who is 76 years old and has played horseshoes for seventy years.

Washington Township Lodge of Maccabees:

Mrs. Susie Lemos, Miss Susie E. Amaral and Mrs. Emily Fields have charge of the pre-Lenten social dance to be given by the Ladies of the Maccabees in the Odd Fellows Hall in Alvarado on the evening of February 6, 1924.

Whist Club:

Interest was aroused in December 1928 by talk of reviving the old original Alvarado Whist Club. This club existed prior to the World War, but was suppressed by war activity when the members devoted their time to Red Cross and Liberty drives.

Woodmen of the World:

The Alvarado Camp, Woodmen of the World, hosted the dancers of Alvarado and vicinity on the night of Saturday September 22, 1921. The Woodmen arranged an entertaining program for the evening and obtained the services of an Oakland jazz Orchestra for the dancing.

The Woodmen of the World have the Bank of Alameda County at Alvarado for \$2,196, for holding funds which belonged to the former Alvarado Camp of the Woodmen, whose charter was revoked in November 1925. At that time the organization directed that the membership of the Alvarado Camp be transferred to the Centerville Camp.

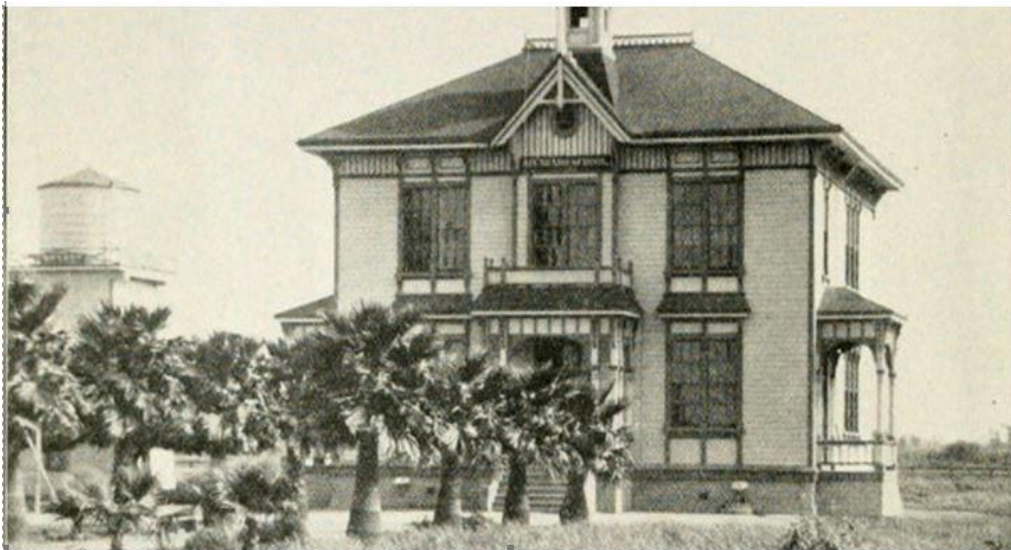
Attorney for the camp, who filed the suit, explains that former officers of the Alvarado Camp have objected to revocation of the charter and contest the release of the funds.

* **ALVARADO GRAMMAR SCHOOL** *

Alvarado's New School / Alvarado School Students / School Purchases More Land / Old School / Other School Events

Alvarado's New School:

Alvarado's venerable grammar school had stood for forty years on Smith Street in Alvarado. But by the 1920's it was recognized that it was time for the replacement of the school. On Monday evening, April 30, 1923 the Alvarado Board of Trustees called for a mass meeting to be held in the Odd Fellows Hall. E.F. (Foster) Morrison had taken a straw poll at the last school election in the district and it showed that a majority of the people in favor of construction of a new school.



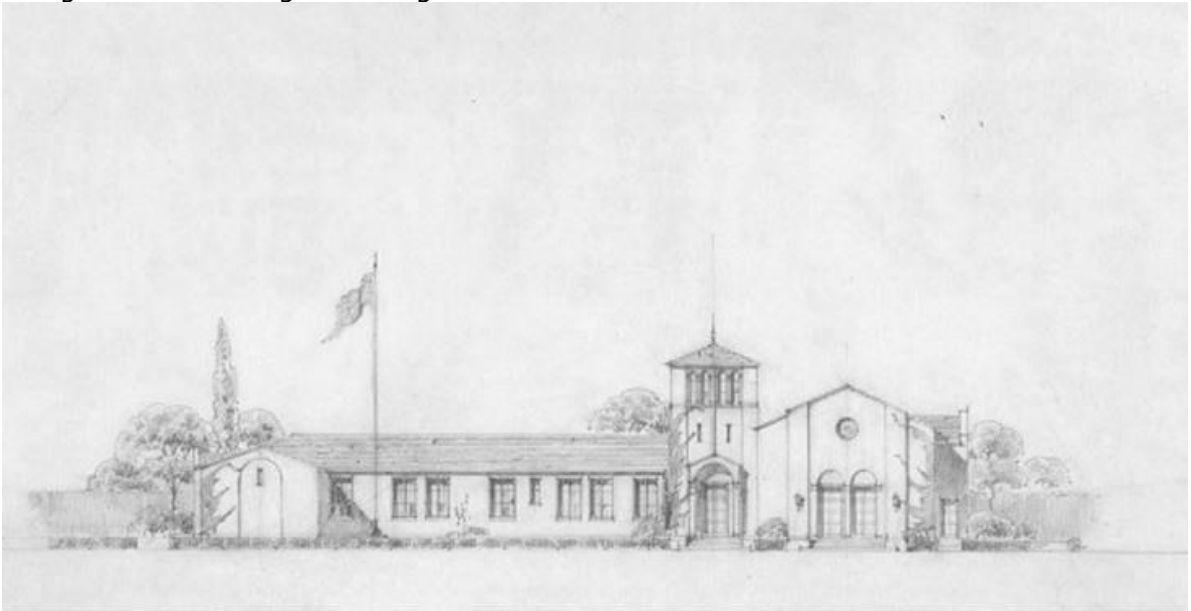
The old Alvarado Grammar School

After discussion and an eventual vote for the purchase bonds for a new school the wheels began to turn. The construction of the new school building would begin in 1924. The building would be of hollow tile and would have an auditorium and six classrooms. It would stand in front of the present school so construction can go on while school is being held in the regular classrooms as before. The trustees in charge of the work were: J. M. Scribner, Mrs. W. R. Robie, and F. C. Harvey. Henry Meyers of Oakland was the architect (Henry married for the former Miss Bertha May), and a former Alvaradan.

On June 21, 1924, the cornerstone was laid for the new \$60,000 Alvarado Grammar School, and nearly the entire town turned to see the event. The exercises were held under the direction of the Crusade Lodge, No. 93, of Odd Fellows with Past Grand Master H. Brunck at the placing of the stone. All of the fraternal organizations of Alvarado joined in a parade preceding the exercises. At the head of the column

waved the oldest flag in Alameda County, the Alvarado Battle Flag made by the women of Alvarado in 1862 to accompany the men from Alameda County who went off to fight in the Civil War with Massachusetts 2nd Cavalry. Also on hand was C.P. Johnson, Alvarado's first public teacher in Alvarado. He taught here in the 1850's.

School opened in the new Alvarado Grammar on September 12, 1924 with approximately 200 pupils and two new teachers, Miss Nathalie Burger, who taught the first grade and part of the second grade, and Miss Gordon, who taught the fifth and sixth grades. The other teachers were Miss Charlotte Jung, teaching the fourth grade, Miss Mary Bailey, teaching the third grade and part of the second grade and Foster Morrison, teaching the seventh and eight grades. Andy Anderson was in charge of the building and the grounds.



The architect's rendering of the new Alvarado Grammar School.

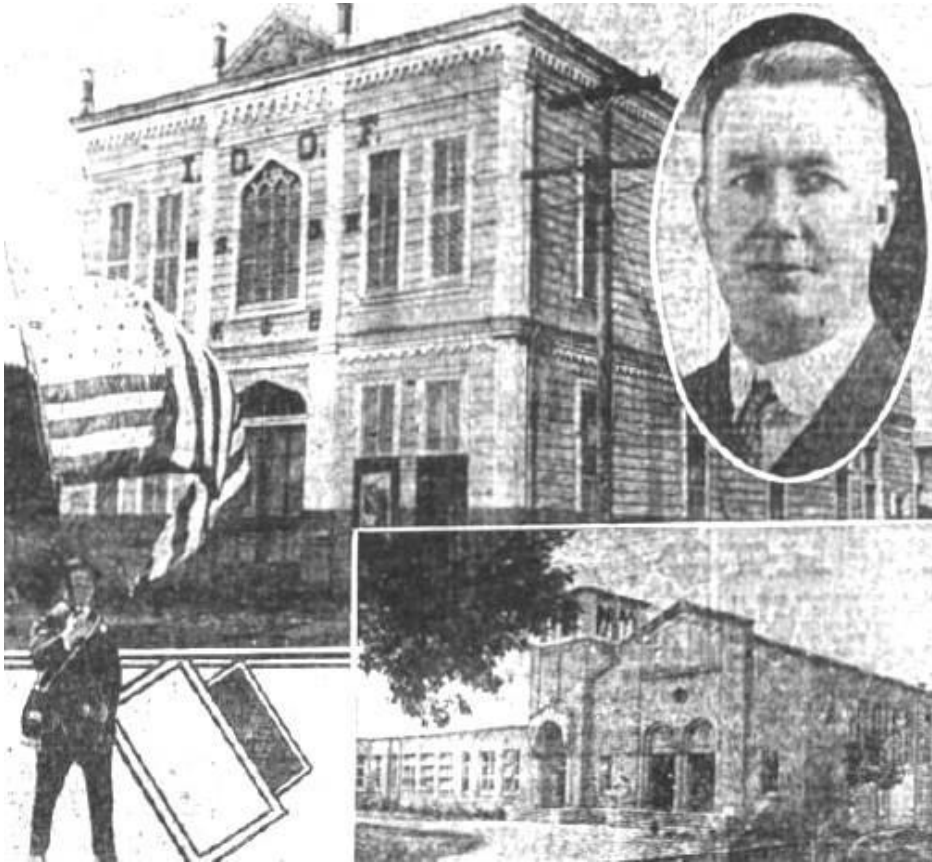
Alvarado's new \$60,000 school building is second to none in the state of the same size. It was built of brick and is steam heated throughout. One of the features is the warming bench in the main hall for the benefit of the students arriving wet and cold during the winter months. There were six classrooms, five of which are in immediate use and one to be used in case of expansion. Each room is equipped with a cloakroom and a private teacher's office.

There was also a large auditorium in the building, a teacher's rest room, the principal's office, two rooms for school supplies and a room for janitor's supplies. The school is built in the Spanish Mission style in the shape of a letter "U" so as to afford protection from the wind to pupils on the playground.

The Alvarado School trustees mailed invitations to prominent educators of the Pacific Coast to be present at the dedication of Alameda County's newest educational institution, the Alvarado Grammar School. The affair is slated for March 20, 1925.

The Alvarado School replaces one of the first built in Alameda County. It was built 45 years ago when Alvarado was the center of the shipping industry with salt and sugar factories well started. The Grammar School of those days was a two-story affair, with

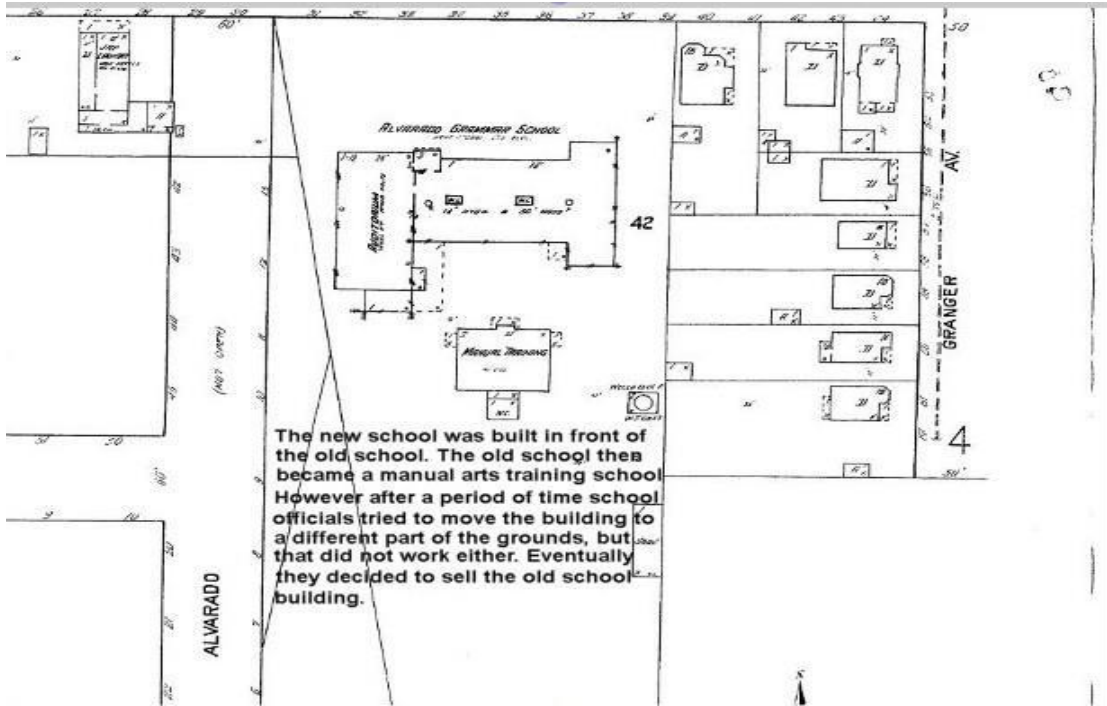
what was the latest in teaching apparatus. This building has been moved to the rear of the school site, and could be used, if necessary, but at present it stands idle.



May 31, 1925 – A sixty-four year-old flag, made by the women of '61 for the "Alvarado Hundred" when Abe Lincoln's call for volunteers was answered by the little Alameda County community, was the center of the year's Memorial Day service and departed heroes of three wars. Alvarado Hall (IOOF), was used as an armor during the Civil War; Lt. N.W. Armstrong, who addressed Alvarado school children on the "Need for Patriotism," as part of the Memorial exercised. Andy Anderson, Alvarado Grammar School custodian carried the flag, also pictured if the new Alvarado Grammar School.

One of the unusual features of the school is that nature has provided a "rain-proof" playground. Nature has thrown a canopy over an area large enough to shelter about 400 children where the branches of two weeping willows cover a large stretch of ground. Here children play in security every day of the school year.

Note on the left wide of the drawing, this is the school auditorium, which was a cavernous structure that included a full functioning stage, with a back curtain, four side wing curtains, and a forward curtain. The elevated stage had doors on to left and to the right which led to stage. In the front of the stage were footlights which could be lifted to shine brightly on the activities going on the stage.



The new Alvarado Grammar School is shown in the front of the school property south of Smith Street and east of Alvarado Street (today's Fredi Street). Behind the school is the old two-story school built in the late 1800's. The street to the east of the school is Granger Avenue. This drawing is from the Sanborn Fire Map collection.



A school play on stage, circa 1953, with Anthony Gualco on the left, David Brune in the center, and Jose Martinez on the right.



This photo shows the cavernous auditorium filled with the student body. Students shown are Rosemary Alvarez, bottom left; Bob Harvey, wearing cowboy shirt; and Gaspar Gonzalez directly above Bob Harvey. This photo was taken from the auditorium stage looking down on the auditorium floor. In the background you could see the set of two double doors that allowed entry into the auditorium. There was also an entry to the auditorium from the main hallway inside the school and another entrance was on the east side of the auditorium from the playground.

Alvarado Grammar School was formally dedicated and the new school opened with an enrollment of 227 pupils. The faculty staff was composed of: Foster Morrison, Principal, Dorothy Gordon, Charlotte Jung, Celia Gifford, Mary Bailey, and Nathalie Burger, teachers. The trustees of the district are: J. Scribner, Mrs. F. R. Robie, and F. C. Harvey. The grounds keeper and custodian was Andy Anderson.

Alvarado School Students:

David E. Martin, County School Superintendent, released the list of pupils graduating from Alvarado Grammar School for 1923: They were:

Mayme Avila	Victor Allegre	Ramona Hinkley	Alma Logan
Vernie Machado	Edward Vargas	George Vargas	William Vargas

Alfred B. Morris was class teacher.

The closing exercises of the Alvarado Grammar School graduating class 1925 were held in the school auditorium with a class of nineteen pupils receiving their diplomas.

A program was offered by Miss Celia Gifford, Music Teacher. Those participating were:

Gertrude Trumpler	Dorothy La Vant
Talk to Graduates:	Albert Lyser, school principal over forty years ago.
Diplomas:	Mrs. Fanny Robie, Clerk of the Board of Trustees.
School Principal:	E.F. Morrison

The Graduates:

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

Lulu Bettencourt has been announced as a winner of a scholarship to Heald's Business College in October 1925.

The following students from Alvarado Grammar School have signed up for the Better Homes and Garden contest, which started in March 1926 and was being fostered by the Washington Township Country Club. The students are:

Charles Hizer	George Goularte	Edna Avilla	John Munger
Ralph Logan	Evan Orelli	Edna Salmon	James Perry
Morton Springer	Ruth Avila	William Laplante	Grace Avila
Donald Flores	Antoinette Rose	Joseph Otto	Edwin Rose
Tony Ortega.			

Commencement exercises took place on Friday, June 4th for the 1926 graduating class of Alvarado Grammar School. The graduates are:

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

"Grandmothers Flower Garden," an elaborate operetta is to be presented by the pupils of the Alvarado Grammar School June 4, 1929 under the direction of Charlotte Huntley Foster. About 60 children took part in the production and the majority of them were to be costumed as fairies, birds, flowers, butterflies and trees. Their costumes were said to be the most elaborate ever used in a local school play.

The principal roles are to be played by:

Beatrice Machado	Adeline Silva	Richard Munger	Sam Dinsmore (Jr.)
Ralph Logan	Morton Springer		

School Purchases More Land:

The new school having been built, it was decided that land around the school should be to make the school property larger for playgrounds and ball fields. Starting in 1926, the school started negotiations with three landowners, the East Bay Water Company, the Catholic Church, and K. Matsumoto, for purchase of the land to make the school grounds larger and more symmetrical.

In May of 1926, Mrs. Francis Robie, Clerk of the School Board, announced satisfactory negotiations for the purchase of an acre of land adjoining the Alvarado Grammar School from Farley Granger. This land was south of where Granger Ave. dead ended and provided another entrance to the school.

The board then turned its attention to purchasing a parcel of land behind the present school building, which was jointly owned by the East Bay Water Co., St. Anne's Catholic Church, and K. Matsumoto. This land would be used as a playground.

Notice was given by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors at which time the purchase of a parcel of land adjoining the Alvarado Grammar School from Katsusaburo Matsumoto would be consummated. The property is located at Smith and Alvarado Streets, and was sought by the board to straighten out the Grammar School playground.

Purchase of a parcel of property adjoining the Alvarado Grammar School at Smith and Alvarado Streets from Katsusaburo Matsumoto was completed for the purchase price of \$700. Upon the completion of the purchase it was proposed that the property just acquired for the school be completely fenced, and a lawn be planted in the front of the school.

The Old School:

In July 1926 the board recommended that the old school structure be completely remodeled and moved in line with the new building, which will provide emergency classrooms.

Voters of the Alvarado School District went to the polls on August 14, 1926, and approved an expenditure of \$16,000 for improvements to the buildings and grounds of the Alvarado Grammar School. The funds were to be used for the purchase of school lots, erection of one or more buildings, alteration and additions to buildings, the purchase of furniture, and necessary apparatus and the improving of grounds.

County architect Henry Meyers then contacted the Alvarado School Board of Trustees, expressing a desire to choose a date to confer in regard to additional school buildings.

In discussions with Mr. Meyers, Principal Van Vleet plans to "de-roof" the old school and dwarf its height to the same size as the new school and then attach it to the auditorium. The school authorities recently purchased five additional acres adjoining the school property to be used as athletic fields.

Trustees of the Alvarado Grammar School district solicited bids for the remodeling and moving of the old two-story school building adjoining the new school. The announcement was made on September 26, 1926, by Mrs. W. S. Robie, Clerk of the Board. Voters of the school district had already approved a bond measure of \$16,000 to pay for remodeling and moving.

Abandoning the idea of remodeling and moving the old Alvarado School, the Board of decided to put the old school on the market for sale in November. The additional space that will be gained would be added to the children's playground.

School Events:

For the first time the grammar schools of Washington Township were joined in an athletic league. The league would start with the current semester year, 1922 to 1923.

The schools in the league were: Alvarado, Centerville, Decoto, Irvington, Newark, and Niles. The smaller schools of the township may be asked to join in at a later time if the plan works out successfully.

Five of six Japanese children attending school in Newark have put in for transfers to the Japanese School in Alvarado. Present laws allow the transfer of children from one district to another for special schooling. In this case the transfer would require the approval of the Alvarado district. Newark does not have a Japanese language school.

Organization of a permanent Washington Township Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was perfected at a meeting of parents in October 1926, and faculty members of the 12 township schools in the Washington Union High School building there. Mrs. W. S. Robie, of Alvarado was elected President.

In November 1927 concrete curbs were installed along the circular driveway in front of the Alvarado Grammar School. The school Board of Trustees then called for bids on a sprinkler system, which would irrigate the lawn now being laid. Additional shrubs are to be planted in front of the building.

On September 1928, the Alvarado Grammar School held its first fire drill under the new automated fire alarm signal. The building can now be automatically emptied in a few minutes. Regular fire drills are held, and safety first in the handling of the crowds is practiced periodically.

* **DUCKS** *

Enthusiasm for duck hunting was still high in the 1920's, and duck hunters from all around Bay made their annual treks down to Alvarado. But first we start off with a duck story from "Aunt Elsie's" children's page in the *Oakland Tribune*.

"Hi, I am Quack Quack, a Mallard duck. I lived on the marsh near Alvarado with a big flock of ducks until one day some boys were out shooting and one of them shot me through my wing. Then I fell to the ground and could fly no more. A big dog named Jerry came after me and carried me to his master who took me home, bound my wound and made a nest for me in a box until I got well enough to waddle. I found that I could fly but very little, and not very high, so there was nothing else to do but stay with my newfound friends. I soon loved them all because they were very good to me.

I stayed on this farm about two years until one day a boy came to visit there. We soon became very good friends, and when it was time to go home my friend said that he might take me with him. So he put me into a sack and put a hole for my head to go through so I could breathe. He put me in an automobile and took me to his home in Oakland.

He made a good pond for me to swim or bathe in and gave me plenty to eat. I know him so well that I sometimes eat out of his hand, and when he speaks to me I say "quack, quack." I am so tame that you would never think that I was ever a wild duck from the marshes except for my feathers."

By: Howard Graham, 9 years old, Oakland Calif., March 13, 1920

The 1920 duck-hunting season started off slow, with word that ducks were scarce in the Newark, Alviso, and Alvarado marshes, but that they were plentiful along the Bayshore. A good storm was needed to drive the ducks inland towards the marshes. Within several days large flocks of ducks flew in from the more exposed portions of the bay at the Golden Gate to Alameda, and down to shores of the bay from Alvarado to Newark and Alviso seeking protection. By the end of November 1920, the season had turned around and duck hunting was considered good.

Duck hunters looked towards the opening of the 1921 season with eager anticipation. But the duck hunters had to prepare for the coming season. Their duck blinds and duck hunting cabins had been vacant for seven months and people like Mr. Basset of the Loma Prieta Lumber Co. of Santa Cruz were in town preparing their hunting locations for the coming season. This was an annual tradition and Mr. Bassett was in Alvarado to groom the grounds and buildings of the Garden City Gun Club.

Beginning early in the morning of Sept. 30, 1921, a continuous line of automobiles conveying parties of duck hunters to the marshes near here passed through Alvarado intending to be ready for the opening of duck hunting season. Scores of hunters had arrived and were taking up quarters at some of the Alvarado and Newark Hotels. Old hunters of this section say that more ducks are in the flats this year than for nearly a dozen years past.

Well, here we have another duck story. This one, again from the *Oakland Tribune* of October 9, 1921:

"When Mrs. C.L. Johnson, wife of superintendent of the Turk Island Salt Works, wants ducks she doesn't go after them with a shotgun. Instead she takes a sack full of wheat and a camera, and as a result of it there are ducks all over the place. There are mallards on the kitchen steps when she gets up in the morning; there are sprig in the woodshed and teal on the lawn out in front. Like a pup picked up on the street, they refuse to be lost or driven away.

At the present time she has a flock of fifty odd mallards, and it is her word that they are as intelligent as a setter dog and fully as affectionate. They climb into her lap and upon her shoulder while she is feeding them and they quack their way into her kitchen to see what's detaining her if she happens to be a few minutes late on the breakfast schedule.

With the duck season open they are serving as very effective decoys for a duck club that has a preserve near the salt works, of which Superintendent Johnson is a member."

However, by the end of October Oakland duck hunters were scratching their heads. Many duck hunters left their blinds in Alvarado and returned to Oakland to see their first ducks of the day in Lake Merritt. Some hunters were beginning to believe that the ducks migrate to Lake Merritt on the opening day of duck season where they are fed and do not have to fear shooters. However, by the third week of November, stormy weather brought ducks into the East Bay marshes by the thousands.

Those who prefer wild duck for the Christmas feast and who are fortunate enough to have a membership in one of the hunting clubs owning duck ponds here, had no difficulty in bringing down the limit of birds, according to Deputy Sheriff Andy Anderson and Chris Baird, who on December 21st had excellent success on the marshes. The rain brought in the ducks and although they are keeping close to cover, it is easy to bring them in from the ponds and rushes, say the two local sportsmen. By the end of December C. L. Johnson, Sup't of the Turk Island Salt Company, estimated that 2,100 ducks had been taken by hunters on the Turk Island preserves in Alvarado alone.

The 1922 duck hunting seemed as though it was going to be a good one according to C.L. Johnson, Superintendent of the Turk Island Salt Company. In August he reported that wild ducks are already flocking to the Turk Island Salt Company's duck ponds. He mentioned this fact to the natives of the area and he was told that this foretells of early rains.

* **LITTLE TIJUANA** *

Little Tijuana was that part of Smith Street that was across from St. Anne's Church east to Alvarado Street (today's Fredi Street). Originally called China Town in the late 1800's, after the turn of the century Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Japanese began to move in. Once this had been a quiet section of Alvarado under the influence of the Chinese. But under the influence of newcomers, this section of town turned into a raucous row of bawdy houses selling liquor, narcotics, and illicit sex under the guise of being entertainment parlors.

Then in 1926, Earl G. Warren, District Attorney for Alameda County, shut down all of "Little Tijuana" under the California Abatement Act. Less than one year later the entire area burned to the ground. Alvarado's Post Office is located today in what would have been "Little Tijuana" 86 years ago.

I will not tell the entire tale of "Little Tijuana" for that complete story is told in my work titled: "The End of Little Tijuana."

* **BASEBALL** *

Alvarado Teams / Fred Muller, Jr. / Albert "Spud" Degermark / Leonard Dondero / Larry Bettencourt

Alvarado Teams:

During the 1920's, the game of baseball became very popular in the East Bay and Alvarado fielded some of the best teams of the day. There were varying degrees of baseball played, from the pros like the Oakland Oaks and the San Francisco Seals, to the semi-pros, some of whom were off-season major leaguers. Other leagues were simply local teams out playing for the fun and the love of the game.

In August 1926, the Amaral Bros. Garage of Alvarado took home the championship of the Washington Township Baseball League, by defeating the team from Decoto in the best of a two out of three games.

The Alvarado lineup:

Jacinto, Catcher	Pimentel, Left Field	Perry, Second Base
Muller, Short Stop	Searles, First Base	Dondero, Third Base
Marshall, Center Field	Machado, Right Field	Kersten, Pitcher
Amaral, Manager		

Fred Muller was a Pacific Coast League professional player (AAA) that at one time was considered the equal of Joe DiMaggio. Fred played briefly for the Boston Red Sox in the American League. But mostly he played PCL ball for Seattle and the Oakland Oaks and in 1937 he was one of four Pacific Coast League players featured on the back of a Wheaties cereal box. Leonard Dondero played briefly in the American League in 1929 for the St. Louis Browns.

Alvarado would go on the following year to play teams from San Francisco, Oakland, Martinez, Hayward, and Washington Township. The lineup for the Amaral Bros.

Garage in 1927 team was:

McCord, Third base	Jacinto, Catcher	Velosa, Center Field
Amaral, First Base	Muller, Short Stop	Pimentel, 2nd Base
Dondero, Right Field	Lazzreal, Left Field	Degermark, Pitcher

In 1928 Alvarado fielded a semi-pro girl's team and actively sought games from girl's teams in nearby cities and industrial plants. The manager of the team was Genevieve Davilla. The other players were:

Edith Mello	Bernice Boyd	Helen Silva	Cecelia Andrade
Madelyn Avila	Agnes Silva	Helen Baird	

In 1929 Alvarado played baseball under the banner of the "The Leslie Salts." Some of the best players would sign contracts for the larger leagues, but they would return in the off-season to play for Alvarado.

Fred Muller Jr.:

Fred Muller Jr. was from Newark and played for Alvarado while a member of the Seattle Indians of the Pacific Coast League. Muller was in pro-baseball from 1928 to 1940 with various minor league teams. In 1933 and 1934 he was member of the Boston Red Sox where he batted 49 times with an average of .184. Muller was originally from Newark, but bought a ranch in Alvarado where he raised spinach and asparagus. His grandmother was Mrs. Fanny Robie of Alvarado who, for many decades, was clerk of the Alvarado School Trustees.

Albert "Spud" Degermark:

Albert Degermark, who pitched for the Leslie Salts of Alvarado, was signed to a contract to play for the San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League in January 1929. The Seals sent him down to play for the Bakersfield Bees of California State League. He pitched in twelve games amassing 5 wins and 4 losses. Bill had formerly played for the Amaral Brothers baseball team in Alvarado.

Leonard Dondero:

Leonard Dondero was from Newark, but played a lot of ball for the Alvarado teams. In 1929 Len played for the St. Louis Browns (the Browns changed their name to the Baltimore Orioles in 1954) of the American League where he batted .194. In 1929, the Leslie Salts played for the league championship. The game involved a lot of controversy as to who was eligible to play. "Babe" Pieretti was declared eligible for competition with Alvarado and league officials granted Alvarado permission to use either Larry Bettencourt or Len Dondero of the St. Louis Browns (today's Baltimore Orioles) in the place of Fred Muller of Seattle

Larry Bettencourt:

Larry Bettencourt was a Newark lad that grew up in Decoto. He went to St. Mary's in Moraga where he earned All-American honors on the football team. In 1928 he signed with the St. Louis Browns of the American League and played for three seasons. He was active in the major league from 1928 to 1932, batting 395 times with 102 hits (.258 avg). He did not play during the 1929 season. After his baseball career Larry would play center for the Green Bay Packers.

* **WATER** *

Washington Township had been at odds with the Spring Valley Water Company of San Francisco and the water companies of Oakland that continued to suck up or impede the underground water of the Niles Cone. The problem was two fold: first Oakland was taking millions of gallons out of the aquifer at Alvarado daily via the artesian wells, and second, the Spring Valley Water Company limited the amount of water available to recharge the Niles Cone (the gateway to the Niles aquifer) by diverting the water in the Alameda Creek for the use of the citizens of San Francisco. The aquifer recharges the Niles Cone and Spring Valley was preventing this recharging by limiting the flow. The complete story is told in a small book in the back of this work titled: "Washington Township Water."

Farmers in lower Alameda County, below Alvarado and between the foothills and the bay were threatened with possible ruin from salt water intrusion unless the East Bay Water Company ceased its daily pumping of 8,000,000 gallons of fresh water from the Alvarado wells, representatives of the Alameda County Water District told the directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District in January 1927. The fresh water table was now far below the level of the bay, the utility district was told, and many wells in the district have already been rendered useless by the intrusion of salt water into local wells. The water company does not see any short-term solution to the problem.

The Spring Valley Water Co. on the other hand, had a big water year in 1926 and it had chosen to pay back, very liberally, the water loaned to it from our water district during the shortages of 1920. The East Bay Water Company, which pumps from the district's underground supply at Alvarado, pursued a very different course. It also had the greatest water storage for years, in fact the greatest in its history. It owned only a few hundred acres of land at Alvarado, but it was draining the water from the entire 50,000 acres of fine farmland in the Alameda County Water District. Although the Alameda County Water District (Washington Township) has kept up the underground supply for the past ten critical years and has made it possible for the

East Bay Water Company to meet the growing needs of the Eastbay cities, the company in spite of its greatly increased storage, has refused to cut down its daily pumping at the Alvarado wells.

The year 1929 was a dismal water year for the farmers around the Newark area in Southern Alameda County, whose wells either went dry or was pumping salt water. Chris Runckel, secretary of the Alameda County Water District, advised farmers against going to the expense of sinking their wells deeper this summer in an attempt to reach a supply of fresh water.

Despite the release of water obtained from the Spring Valley Water Co. the water in southern Alameda County was said to be at its lowest stage in many years, and a number of farmers had lost their crops because they have no water for irrigation. The condition of the water table was said to be due to the shortage of rains last winter, and the heavy pumping at Roberts Landing and Alvarado to supply the bay cities. Mr. Runckel further stated that if rains are heavy this winter the underground supply would be raised sufficiently to produce an adequate supply of water from the private wells at their present depth.

In August of 1929 the Alameda County Water Company purchased 334 acres of land in Alvarado, the water pumping plant, a water pipeline from Alvarado to San Lorenzo, and the water distribution system of Alvarado, Mt. Eden and Newark from EBMUD (The East Bay Municipal Utilities District) in hopes to have a positive effect on the usage of water pumped from the Alvarado water basin. The underground water table below Alvarado is becoming depleted and salt water is starting to intrude into our fresh water underground supply. The thirty years of unabated pumping of water from Alvarado by the Oakland water companies was starting to show.

Farmers looked to the skies in October in hopes that the light rains that had fallen would bring hope for an early winter in the Newark section. Many farmers have had to abandon their wells because of the low water. Even though the East Bay Municipal Utilities District reduced its pumping from the Alvarado plant, the water below the Niles fault is the lowest it has been in many years.

* **PROHIBITION** *

The U.S. was under the influence of prohibition from 1919 to 1933. It ushered in an era of lawlessness and helped fuel the growth of organized crime in throughout the U.S. In Washington and Eden Townships people could not do without their booze just like everywhere else in the U.S. Although it was a crime to brew, possess or drink alcohol, it did not stop locals from trying to brew up some happiness or selling a bit moonshine for an extra buck in their jeans.

Vying against the local brewers were prohibition officers and sheriffs deputies whose job it was to ferret out caches of the illegal brew. Some hard detective work was necessary to locate and eradicate illegal alcohol.

Two enterprising men entered the Alvarado Hotel in August 1922. They persuaded owner Jack Marlot that one of them was seriously ill and needed a stimulating drink. Marlot obliged and when he returned with the drink the sick man rushed into the

room that Marlot had just been in, and secured the rest of the small bottle of liquor. The men then announced themselves as prohibition officers and left with the evidence. Mr. Marlot was left without a leg to stand on.

Other ways of securing the location of illegal sites serving alcohol was the popular method of "raiding a joint." Places suspected of serving illicit booze were raided by policemen or prohibition officers. In 1923 the officers descended on the Travelers Inn in Niles where they arrested Harry Silva as he attempted to pour liquor out the back window.

But business was not the only targets of raids. In 1925 the home of "Buck" Manual Joseph in Alvarado was raided by the county liquor squad. Officials claimed to have obtained evidence at the raid.

But the major league of serving illegal booze was the "Little Tijuana" section of Alvarado. Authorities were always conducting raids in the little enclave. In February 1926 a raid garnered six persons, two of them minor girls, during a raid on an alleged bootlegging establishment in the section. The four adults were charged with possession of liquor. Additional charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor were placed against two of the men.

Bootlegging was not limited to just the occidental population of Alvarado. In January 1927 a large supply of sake, an intoxicating Japanese drink made from rice, was confiscated in "Little Tijuana." T. Kanaka, a Japanese national was arrested in the raid and was charged with operating the plant that provided the sake. More than 155 gallons of the drink, ready for delivery, was seized. Kanaka was released on \$1,000 bail.

With the closure of "Little Tijuana" by abatement proceedings in 1926, and its eventual destruction by fire in July 1927, the most readily available supply of liquor available in Alvarado was shut off. But it didn't stop the bootlegging.

Next the prohibition officers turned their attention to the Mexican population of Decoto and Alvarado, and took the first steps toward cleaning out the gangs who were responsible for the unrest and the alleged liquor running and shootings in Southern Alameda County. In May 1927, deputies and the Federal Immigration Bureau raided gathering points in Alvarado and Decoto. The raid netted one arrest in Decoto, Ralph Lopez, owner of a poolroom for possession of liquor; and one arrest was made in Alvarado, Susano Mantann, owner of a poolroom for possession of liquor.

Citizens of Alvarado who wanted to supply or consume alcohol then had to turn to devious ways to fool the deputy sheriffs and prohibition officers. A raid on the Alvarado Hotel in July 1927 revealed a clever trick to fool the dry people. The little poem below sums up the scheme:

*"Mary, Mary, quite contrary."
"How does your garden grow?"
"With beer, wine & whisky too."
"In bottles all in a row."*

That is the way the nursery rhyme should be brought up-to-date, according to the county dry squad and their opinion was based on a raid at the Alvarado Hotel. There,

beneath a well-kept garden marked with packages that had contained turnip, carrot, and other vegetable seeds, the officers report they found a cache of assorted liquors and now they are searching for the "gardener." The "planted" liquor was confiscated and destroyed.

But Alvarado was not the only town that used clever ploys to trick the dry squad. Liquor was also in the vegetable kingdom at the Newark poolroom, operated by Louis Ruschin, the raiders reported. In a large basket of vegetables on the back porch they found whisky and white wine concealed, they said. Purchasers ordered turnips and got whisky, they declared, while an order of carrots brought forward wine. Ruschin was brought before Justice of the Peace A. J. Norris of Centerville and fined \$25.

The town of Niles was not to be outdone. A cleverly concealed cache was discovered at the business of Mrs. Catherine Pratali, arrested at the Travelers Rest in Niles. When officers entered the establishment Mrs. Pratali denied having any liquor in the place but there was a long, old-fashioned hatpin lying on the kitchen table, and Mrs. Pratali had bobbed hair. Taking the pin the sleuths began poking it into sundry holes in the wall and floor and finally a trapdoor in the floor swung open and a quantity of liquor was revealed. Mrs. Pratali was fined \$300 by Justice of the Peace J. A. Silva.

But for sheer cleverness the soft drink parlor of John Gomez, of Alvarado, takes the prize. Taken into custody during the raid in February 1928 was Alameda County's first bootleg dog. The squad entered Gomez' soft drink place just as Gomez gave a shrill whistle. In trotted the dog with a basket in its mouth, in which was a pint of brandy for the customer. The dog's collar was fastened to a wire, which connected the bar with a kennel, by a ring. This was to keep the dog on the wire so as to not escape. A search of the kennel revealed numerous baskets all ready for delivery. The dog stayed in the kennel and brought in a load when Gomez whistled. Gomez has been booked for sale and possession and the dog was held on general principles.

* **MEMORABLE ALVARADO EVENTS** *

October 1920:

Alvarado Water Works:

QUICK! MORE STEAM PRESSURE

If you should look in on Ed Foley, fireman at the great oil burning, steam pumping plant at Alvarado, you might think his job is monotonous and uninteresting. But suddenly there is a change in the constant "push - pull - push - pull" of giant pumps, which transport 10 million gallons of water each 24 hours, to the next relay pumping station. Perhaps a dozen fire engines have begun to suck water from the mains. Or there's a break in the pipes or a broken relay down relay pump. Foley must act quickly or there will be more trouble.

His trained ears tell by the sound of the pumps what should be done. Even before orders can be telephoned from headquarters, he has adjusted the steam pressure. E. Foley and the night man, P. Juhl, as well as 55 other engineers, firemen and motormen in 16 other steam and electric pumping plants are on the job constantly. 24 hours of the day, 365 days in the year, watching, waiting, listening that you may not be deprived of water at your faucet for a single moment.

EAST BAY WATER COMPANY

December 1920:

Death at Hall Station Train Crossing:

Confused in the darkness, Samuel P. Mesick of Alameda, stopped his vehicle and then, according to the story told by two companions to F. S. Bontelho, deputy coroner at Centerville, started it again and drove head-on into a fast running Southern Pacific train at Hall Station. The accident occurred a mile south of Alvarado at 7 o'clock last night. Mr. Mesick was killed immediately upon impact. Charles Shein and J. H. Poyzer, who were riding with him, saw Mesick's predicament too late to warn him but in time to leap from car to save their lives, they said. They were not hurt.

January 1921:

Tennyson Takes Alvarado Students:

The petition to take certain territory from the Alvarado and Eureka School Districts in Eden Township, and to annex it to the newly formed Tennyson district was granted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

April 1921:

Alvarado Hotel:

The Alvarado Hotel is selling their electric Peerless Piano, in first class condition, for \$550. They are also selling their Gates Root Beer Barrel, with machinery, just like new for \$275. See at the Alvarado Hotel. Phone: Alvarado 41; Alameda County

June 1921:

Railroad Section House Robbed:

The Southern Pacific railroad section house at Alvarado Station, occupied by Section Boss Carroll, was robbed yesterday morning, June 30, 1921. The robbers gained entrance by "jimmying" a window open. They took \$4 in coin. Eddie Vargas, a boy living across the road saw two suspicious men lurking around the station previous to the robbery and reported it to his mother. They have a fairly good description of the two men.

September 1921:

Iron Bridge:

The old bridge known as the "Iron Bridge" leading from Alvarado to Decoto is to be torn away to give place to a much-needed new bridge. Work will begin on September 12th. C. A. Bruce, contractor from Pleasanton will do the work.

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**Continental Salt Library:**

Following the example of Ernest Hardy, librarian of the Continental Salt Works, residents of the community surrounding the California Salt Works have established a branch of the county library at their plant. Mrs. B. F. Jackson has been appointed librarian and during the past week has formally opened the library to the public. The library is under the supervision of the county librarians. The library at the Continental Salt Works has been opened for the past four years.

**October 1921:**

**Mrs. Mary A. Smith Birthday:**

Mrs. Mary A. Smith, for 75 years has been a bay area resident, turned 95. She is the widow of the late Henry C. Smith, who is known as the "Father of Alameda County." Mrs. Smith arrived in Yerba Buena (now San Francisco) in 1846 at the age of 20. Mrs. Smith came to Alvarado in 1852 with her husband who later was a member of the California State Legislature representing Santa Clara County (Alvarado was then part of Santa Clara County). Until a few years ago Mrs. Smith had made her home in Livermore.

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Alvarado Wooden Sidewalks are to be Replaced:

Preliminary work has been started this week by the committee in charge of replacing Alvarado's old wooden sidewalks with concrete walks, and by the end of the week it is expected that most of the old sidewalk will have been torn up. Gravel will be placed on the sidewalks until next spring when a concrete coating will be laid. Money for the building of the new sidewalks has been obtained by entertainments given recently.

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#### **Brothels in "Old Chinatown" Shut Down:**

Sheriff Frank Barnett lead the Vice Squad to Alvarado where operatives had secured evidence against the proprietors of immoral houses in the "old Chinatown district," which are said to rival the worst haunts of vice on the old Barbary Coast (San Francisco). Peter Adelano, alleged proprietor of a brothel, was arrested and will be arraigned today before Judge Frank Mitchell of Hayward. At the same time a girl giving the name of Jesse Miller was arrested as an inmate, and today was arraigned on a charge of vagrancy in order that this action might be taken to quickly rid the county of her. At another resort, Anita Garcia, a Spanish girl, was arrested and brought to the county jail, where she was charged with vagrancy as well. A number of other denizens of the red light houses were ordered to dress and leave the county immediately or face the pain of arrest.

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Children Almost Killed:

Mothers of children attending the Alvarado School today were indignantly discussing the narrow escape from death of two young boys when a bullet fired from the gun in the hands of an irate Chinese passed between the heads of two youths as they were walking arm in arm from the school last Friday afternoon. The boys, Bliss Lawrence, 14, and Harold Hamilton, 11, had been playing in the schoolyard. As they left they locked arms. Suddenly, five shots rang out and the swish and whistle of a bullet startled them. The wind from the bullet fanned their cheeks. The bullet struck and embedded itself in a tree a few feet behind the boys. Investigation developed the fact it was said today, that a Chinese truck gardener near the schoolyard had been the victim of Mexican tomato thieves and that when the Mexicans entered his field that afternoon he secured a rifle and started firing at them. It is said one of the bullets passed through the hat of one of the Mexicans. When the story of the narrow escape of the youths was told about Alvarado, indignation ran high, but so far no action has been taken.

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**Alvarado Roads Suffer:**

County roads in the vicinity of Alvarado were destroyed by farmers using overloaded iron-wheeled vehicles; reports a communication from the Alameda County Drayman’s Association.



**Young Farmer’s Amazing Production:**

Alvarado ranchers today were amazed at the accomplishments of a recent U. C. Berkeley graduate who insisted his modern farming methods would increase potato yields. He bought a 20-acre ranch and managed to produce 200 sacks of potatoes from a single acre. On the whole he averaged 150 sacks of potatoes per acre. Lloyd E. Bailey credits careful analyzation of soil and replenishing nutrients that he finds lacking. Lloyd Bailey would go on in future decades to become one Alvarado's and Centerville's leading farmers.

**December 1921:**

**Poisoned Milk:**

Milk, poisoned as a result of cows eating sugar beets, today is blamed for the death of the six month-old son of Frank Goularte, an Alvarado rancher. The death is the first of its kind and the illness of the child had at first puzzled two physicians, who were called into the case. Both agreed, after an examination, that the milk given the babe had been poisoned as the result of the sugar beets fed to the cows.

**April 1922:**

**Cauliflower:**

Over 84 tons of cauliflower was shipped from the Alvarado section in Alameda County this season to eastern markets. The local season is now at its peak, between eight and ten cars being shipped to eastern markets via train. Large shipments will continue up till about the tenth of April, and the total for the season will be about 125 tons.

**May 1922:**

**Alviso Dramatic Club:**

The Alviso Dramatic Club presentation of the play, "Safety First" in May 1922 was a decided hit. Miss Elsie Costa (Madruga), principal of the Alviso School, had been coaching the cast and deserves much of the credit for the plays’ success. The members of the cast were:

|                |                            |                        |
|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Joe Duarte     | as Jack Montgomery         | a young husband        |
| Nick Lewis     | as Jerry Arnold            | an unsuccessful fixer  |
| Sam Costa      | as Mr. McNutt              | a defective detective  |
| Alvin Joseph   | as Elmer Flannel           |                        |
| William Amaral | as Abou Ben Mocha          | a Turk                 |
| Alice Duarte   | as Mabel Montgomery        | as Jack’s wife         |
| Irma George    | as Virginia Barrington     | Mabel’s younger sister |
| Madeline Rose  | as Mrs. Barrington Bridger | their mother           |
| Viola Amaral   | as Suleika                 | a Turkish maiden       |
| Irene George   | Mary O’Flaherty            | an Irish cook          |

Safety was a merry comedy of errors in which the students made the most of in previous performances. At Hayward the success of the young thespians was said to be complete, and it was following this performance that they were asked to perform at the IOOF Hall in Alvarado.

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Alvarado Tomatoes:

Alvarado intends to give Centerville a close race for tomato growing honors this season, a survey of the ranches near here reveals. Scores of ranchers are planting tomatoes for the first time and it is believed that the acreage of tomatoes in the Alvarado district will rival that of Centerville.

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**Alvarado Farmers Prosper:**

The prosperity of Alvarado ranchers, due to the excellence of the season's crops and the boom in the dairy industry, is reflected in the tremendous increase in building activity in the Alvarado-Decoto section of Washington Township, according to a survey made by James Hamilton, manager of the Alvarado yard of the Sunset Lumber Company.

**August 1922:**

**I.V. Ralph Passes:**

Ivens Vernet Ralph died in Oakland on August 2, 1922. I.V. Ralph was the husband of Alice A. Ralph. Mr. Ralph was a native of Alvarado, California. Ivens was the son of Joseph Ralph one of the first men in Alvarado and was the uncle of John H. Ralph Jr.

**September 1922:**

**High School District May Expand:**

There is a move afoot to include several more towns into the Washington Union High School District. There will be an election held on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> to decide whether Sunol, Vallecitos and Sheridan school districts will join the high school district, or whether Sunol and Vallecitos will stay out. Sheridan is rightfully in the district. It is proposed to build the new high school in Centerville.

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Mrs. Mary A. Smith Passes:

Mrs. Mary A. Smith passed away on November 19th at the age of 96 years. Mrs. Smith came to California in 1846, and was a pioneer resident Washington Township. She was the widow of the late Henry C. Smith, also a pioneer of the state, who died in 1875. He was prominent in the early history of Alameda County, having been elected to the legislature from New Haven (then in Santa Clara County), and was instrumental in forming Alameda County from Santa Clara County and Contra Costa County. The Smith's settled in Alvarado in 1852.

March 1923:

Death Takes George Lowrie Sr.:

George Lowrie Sr., rancher of Alvarado/Alviso, died recently at his home at the age of 92 years. Mr. Lowrie came to California around Cape Horn in the early days with a colony of settlers. He was the oldest member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Alvarado, having been given a badge at the 50th anniversary of his membership. A widow, a daughter and two sons survive him.

April 1923:

Oakland Roads are Poor:

Do you know that you cannot get into the great city of Oakland on a good road? It is true. You approach the city from the south by several roads, the one through Altamont Pass and Hayward, and the one through Alvarado or Niles, and the one through the tunnel road if you come through the hills, and all roads become gravel paths when they enter the city limits, with the exception of San Pablo Avenue, which is macadam, but is in poor repair now. When you enter Oakland over the East Fourteenth Street pavement you wonder why the roads are paved with concrete right up to the city limits and then they become rough and gravelly.

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**Potato planting has started:**

Planting of seed potatoes has begun in Alameda County. Potatoes planted in the neighborhood of Alvarado are known throughout the state as the standard of potato excellence, according to farmers here, and are in constant demand. In the Alvarado region 250 acres are now being planted in potatoes. Most of the plantings are on lots of five to ten acres. O. J. Emery, the Martin Brothers, George Enos and Joseph Silver are among the leaders in planting in this district.

**June 1923:**

**Ralph Store Robbed:**

The general store of John H. Ralph in Alvarado was robbed last night. The thief made away with several pair of overalls, handkerchiefs, and a bunch of small items. The thief gained entrance through a slit screen in the rear of the store.

**April 1924:**

**Hiram Johnson Club:**

A club has been formed in Alvarado to work for the nomination of Hiram Johnson for President. Members are:

|                       |                    |                       |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| E. Foster Morrison    | Mrs. Edith Mello   | Charles W. Baird      |
| Mrs. Millie Amaral    | Antone Davilla     | Mrs. Isabelle Menezes |
| A. J. Hammer          | Mrs. Clara Jacinto | Joseph N. Lewis       |
| A. V. Moffitt         | Mrs. Frank Silva   | M. E. Perry           |
| Fred Hafen            | Manuel E. Joseph   | Enos S. Hendricks     |
| N. Boysen             | J. E. Avilla       | Peter L. Juhl         |
| Mrs. Joe Lima         | Antonio S. Mello   | Mrs. George Vargas    |
| Mrs. Charles W. Baird | Louis Amaral       |                       |

**May 1924:**

**Order of Gregg Artists:**

William Fyffe of Alvarado has just become a member of the Order of Gregg Artists. Julia Ruschin and Stella B. Dutra have also been granted, as has Mr. Fyffe, special certificates showing that they have completed three sets of bookkeeping courses, retail, wholesale, and corporation with a grade of "1" in each set.

**November 1924:**

**Mr. A.P. Machado Dies:**

Mr. A. P. Machado, of Alvarado, died late in the evening of November 10th. He was 97 years old. Mrs. Machado died three months ago at age 93. They were among the first to settle in this part of Alameda County. They came to California during the gold rush. Twenty-one grand children, nine great grand children and twelve children, the youngest being 30 years old survives Mr. Machado.

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Milk War:

Violence marked the milk war this morning when five dairymen from Alvarado, said to be members of the East Bay Milk Producer's Association, attempted to stop a truck loaded with milk just east of San Leandro, during which one shot was fired. Milk producers are refusing to ship milk for less than 29 cents a gallon and they claim to control 30,000 of the 32,000 gallons of milk shipped daily.

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**Mushroom Seekers:**

Mushroom seekers were out in force in Southern Alameda County looking for the delicious fungi. While pickings are good all around, Alvarado seems to be a particularly favorite spot of many.

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Milk Shipments:

Deputy Sheriff's detailed to convoy milk shipments from the lower county into Oakland arrived just too late to encounter masked men who destroyed large quantities of milk at several ranches near Alvarado this morning. When Deputy Sheriffs Charles Blagmonne, Jack Wamsley and Jeff Brown arrived with a Walnut Grove creamery truck at the ranch of George Harvey at 9:15 a.m., they were informed that about 25 masked men, some of whom were armed, had just left the place after pouring 180 gallons of milk upon the ground. They notified the sheriffs that several other farmers in the area had also received visits.

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**Death Takes Mrs. Selma Harvey:**

Mrs. Selma Harvey, wife of Frederick C. Harvey, and mother to Theodore Harvey, passed away on November 26th.

**February 1925:**

**Cauliflower:**

Cauliflower is going forward to Eastern markets at the rate of two freight carloads daily. Twenty-five carloads have been shipped so far this year. This district is keeping with its previous record of being the earliest cauliflower shipped in the Bay district, according to local growers. Centerville is the city in the district accredited with starting the earliest shipments forward this year, having picked and shipped about six days ahead of Alvarado. Alvarado cauliflower this year has the honor of having been chosen for the cuisine of a line of large ocean liners and today Atlantic Ocean liners are eating the earliest of California cauliflower grown by the farmers at Alvarado.

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Levee Street Curve Widened:

The Board of Supervisors today accepted a gift of deeds to property to be used to widen the highway curves into Alvarado. The Bank of Alameda County and Antone Davilla, and his wife Marie, were the donors of the property. In the early days of Alvarado, ships would go up the Alameda Creek as far as the sugar mill to pick up

cargo. When the ships reached Levee Street they met a drawbridge that made it possible for them to pass through. In those days the Alameda Creek came down into the town of Alvarado and crossed over the highway just before you reached downtown. The drawbridge was nearly perpendicular to the highway, which meant there was a jog upon entering Alvarado. Coming into Alvarado and crossing this jog was not particularly bothersome to horseback riders, or horses with carriages. With the advent of the automobile the jog became more of a problem because of the higher speeds. Slowly over time the county tried straightening the jog.

When I first drove, in 1958, I could clearly recall the jog, although I did not pay much attention to it. When Alvarado became Union City the road was changed even further, with the jog now being elongated and is now unnoticeable.

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**William Barton Passes:**

Death has taken Willard Barton, millionaire and prominent resident of Alameda California while in New York. Mr. Barton was the President of the Union Pacific Salt Company of Alvarado and was also connected with several other prominent Pacific Coast industries.

**April 1925:**

**Charles Johnson Dies:**

Charles Johnson, California pioneer and first teacher of the Alvarado School, died at his residence in Alameda this morning at age 89. Johnson assisted in the organization of the Congregational church at Alvarado, and became a leader in that church in California. Surviving was a widow, Mrs. Sarah Johnson, four sons, Charles E., Ben W., H.R., and Cyrus C.; and three daughters, Mrs. Gertrude Clark, Mrs. Mabel McCullen, and Mrs. Harry Kemp. None of the children currently reside in Alvarado.

**July 1925:**

**Alvarado to Centerville Road in Poor Shape:**

Gangs of county workers were at work this week filling the breaks in the concrete highway between Alvarado and Centerville. This stretch of highway has been in bad condition for some time due to deep chuckholes in the edge of the concrete caused by heavily loaded trucks.

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Death Calls Albert Norris:

Albert Norris, Alvarado Postmaster and Librarian, died at age 74. In his early life he took up the policy of following in the footsteps of Lincoln and chopping wood; he took a lot of hard knocks. To be exact, he chopped 817 cords of wood and that gave him enough money to follow his chosen calling, teaching.

Norris was born in Farmington Iowa in 1851, and in 1853 his parents placed him in a cot in a covered wagon and brought him to California. Norris says he does not remember much of the trip. A few years later, however, after hearing his father tell of the hardships of the voyage he set out to retrace his steps and see for himself if it was as hard as he had pictured. He found it was worse than that. He reached Idaho finally, and that is where he put on his wood chopping stint.

Returning to California he taught grade school at Pleasant Valley, El Dorado County for eight years. The following nine years Norris was Principal of the Colfax School. In 1898 he moved to Alvarado and had the helm of the Alvarado School for ten years.

The Norris' recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and are as much in love as the day they were married.

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#### **Flores – Amaral Marriage:**

Miss Annie Amaral and Clarence Flores, both members of pioneer families of Alvarado, were married on the morning of July 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Anne's Church in Alvarado by Rev. Father Casey. Mrs. Mamie Roderick will attend the bride and Frank Roderick was the best man.

#### **August 1925:**

#### **Elwood – Logan Marriage:**

One of the foremost events in the summer social life in Alvarado occurred on August 10<sup>th</sup> with the marriage of Miss May Logan, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Logan to Dr. Paul Elwood of Chicago. The romance, which started at the Lane Hospital, where Miss Logan was in training as a nurse, while Doctor Elwood was attending a patient, will culminate at a wedding to be held at the First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. Miss Matilda Logan will act as maid of honor, and Dr. Roland will attend the groom. They plan to establish their future home in Chicago.

#### **September 1925:**

#### **Prized Rhode Island Reds:**

Mr. T.S. Van Vleet, Principal of the Alvarado Grammar School is selling a pen of his award winning Rhode Island Reds. They include 9 hens and one rooster, only fourteen months old, from true color and prize-winning stock. This is your chance to own the very best at a moderate price. You can contact Mr. Van Vleet by calling Alvarado 32.

#### **October 1925:**

#### **California Patrol Service:**

A detective organization for the protection of business interests of all Washington Township towns has been formed, according to reports from interested parties. The first step has been completed and nine patrolmen in five of the principal business center are now on duty. The patrolmen are being placed under the supervision of J. F. Goldner, of the California Patrol Service, who is giving war veteran's first opportunity for the positions. The present force is placed as follows:

Mt. Eden, 1 man

Alvarado, 3 men

Irvington, 1 man

Centerville, 2 men

Niles 2, men

Action for the establishment of an organized patrol was started recently following numerous robberies throughout this district, thought to be the work of an organized gang who are familiar with the territory.

#### **November 1925:**

#### **Harvey – Galbraith Betrothal:**

Mr. F.C. Harvey has announced the betrothal of his son, Theodore P., to the Piedmont socialite and fellow classmate at U.C. Berkeley, Miss Marguerite Galbraith. They expect to marry shortly after their graduation from the university.

**December 1925:**

**Death Takes Joseph Avila:**

Funeral services were December 4<sup>th</sup> for Joseph Avila, the 9-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Avila of Alvarado, who died at the Hayward General Hospital. He was a pupil of the Alvarado Grammar School.

**January 1926:**

**Mrs. A.S. Machado Taken by Death:**

Mrs. A. S. Machado, 73, pioneer resident of Alvarado, passed away at her home on the Creek Road. She was one of the first settlers in this section. She was survived by one son, Frank Machado of Alvarado, and three daughters, Mrs. Minnie Perry of Alvarado, Mrs. May Kintz of San Francisco, and Mrs. Annie Roderick of Alvarado.

**February 1926:**

**Township Men's Club:**

Ninety-three persons were in attendance at the regular meeting of the Washington Township Men's Club held in Niles. In attendance from Alvarado were:

H. M. Springer            E. A. Richmond            F. C. Harvey            James Hunter

**March 1926:**

**Alvarado Babies to be Photographed:**

Just how many babies Alvarado has, and how adorable each of them is, was evident when they flocked to Ralph's General Merchandise Store between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Monday, to pose for the Wallace Studio photographer, with whom the Hayward Review has made special arrangements to photograph all the kiddies between the ages of 6 months and 5 years in Washington and Eden Townships. These charming youngsters will soon see their pictures in the Hayward Review along with the many other little entrants in the Baby Revue.

**May 1926:**

**Beautiful Baby Contest:**

The *Hayward Review* held a beautiful baby contest. Their photos were printed in the newspaper and people could vote by sending in a coupon printed in the paper.

Babies entered from Alvarado were:

Irma Borges            Clarence C. Gomes            Mary Jane Hinkley  
Winifred Santos

**July 1927:**

**Polling Officials:**

Officials and the polling place for the upcoming elections are:

Polling Place:            IOOF Hall  
Inspector:                Andrew K. Logan  
Judges:                    Helen Anderson                Rose Springer  
Clerks:                    Mayme Roderick                Annie L. Baird  
                                  Clarence L. Flores

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Bandits Rob Alvarado Steam Laundry:

Lining their victims up against the wall, threatening them with instant death if they offered resistance, four armed bandits entered the Alvarado Steam Laundry here late pm the night of July 23rd, and escaped with over \$500 in cash and jewelry. While two of the men covered six Japanese employees of the establishment, the others marched into a rear room, where they ransacked the place, opening drawers and breaking furniture. After ordering their victims to remain in the laundry with their arms upraised for ten minutes or they would be shot to pieces. They jumped into a waiting auto with a fifth companion and raced off towards Decoto.

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### **Scarecrow Stops Traffic:**

Vehicular traffic on the Oakland-San Jose Hiway near Alvarado was paralyzed on the night of July 25th for nearly 15 minutes, all because of a scarecrow policeman used by a Washington Township Constable candidate for advertising purposes. As a result, hundreds of motorists would like to get their hands on the vandals who strung a dummy officer across the Hiway. The scarecrow, formed of rags and sawdust and attired in a khaki uniform, was marched to the center of the Hiway by use of pulleys. Finally, irritated by the delay, one motorist climbed from his vehicle to investigate. The discovery was greeted with jeers and cheers as the line began to move.

### **November 1926:**

#### **Order of Eastern Star:**

At a meeting held in the Masonic Hall in Centerville last night, Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Springer of Alvarado were elected worthy patron and worthy matron respectively of the Order of the Eastern Star. They succeed Mrs. Dora Richmond of Alvarado and J. M. Scribner of Livermore.

### **January 1927:**

#### **Alvarado Cauliflower:**

Various counties throughout California are bragging about their wonderful crops, says county supervisor Charles Heyer, but Alameda County ranks first in many instances. Mr. Heyer calls attention to the cauliflower grown in the Alvarado section and the early green peas that tickle the palate of eastern millionaires.

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Ed S. Harvey Jr. Passes:

Died at Alvarado, 4:30 o'clock Thursday January 27th, E.S. Harvey Jr., son of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Harvey of Alvarado, nephew of F.C. Harvey of Alvarado, nephew of Mr. & Mrs. F.B. Granger Jr. of San Leandro, nephew of Misses Nancy and Flora McKeown, and grandson of Mrs. McKeown of Newark.

August 1927:

20-Mule Team Skinner:

For those of you who remember the 20-mule team ads on TV from the 50's, this article will be of interest you. Ben Connor, believed to be about 80 years old, was found wandering along the Hiway near Alvarado yesterday, and was taken to the Alameda County Infirmary. In his prime, Connor was known as the champion "mule skinner" of the Mojave Desert, being the first man to drive a 20-mule team across the desert.

October 1927:
Harvey's Entertain:

Mrs. Theodore Perkins Harvey of Alvarado gave a tea in November in honor of her sister, Miss Eleanor Galbraith, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Galbraith of Piedmont. The affair was given at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.



The Ted Harvey home stood on the corner of Fair Ranch Road and the Alvarado-Centerville Hiway. The home was destroyed after being sold to a developer to build a shopping center. The only remaining part of the estate is a tall, stately, old pine tree alongside Alvarado Blvd that once stood guard over the formal entrance to the property. On the north side of the house, along Fair Ranch Road (stretching to the SP tracks) were a series of three pastures for horses and Shetland ponies. The home had one acre of ground devoted to gardens, rustic little bridges, and small rivulets. There was also a full tack room, a complete glass-paneled greenhouse, and a caretaker's cottage. The home was destroyed because it would have been too expensive to move. This photo was taken from the book, *The History of Washington Township*, published by the Washington Township Country Club, 3rd Edition 1950 - 1965.

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey are building a new home of the English style of architecture, which will be situated on the Oakland San Jose Hiway just outside of Alvarado (at the corner of Fair Ranch Road). An acre of ground will be devoted to the garden, which will be attractive with rustic bridges and pools.

December 1927:
Water Co. Reduces Water Taken:

Chris Runckel has reported that the pumping of water from the wells at Alvarado by the East Bay Water Company was reduced to about four million gallons a day. This is a reduction of about one-half of the water that the company has been taking from the underground aquifer at Alvarado. The reductions have come as a result of the Alameda County Water Company's efforts of protecting our water supply.

April 1928:
Natural Gas Soon to Available:

Having been granted a certificate of public necessity and convenience, the Pacific Gas & Electric Company will start shortly to extend gas mains from the end of the present gas system south of Hayward to serve Decoto, Niles, Centerville and Alvarado.

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**Mrs. Albert Norris Passes:**



Mrs. Albert Norris, of Alvarado, died in her home Thursday, April 26th, at age 71. She was the wife of Albert Norris, long time Alvarado Postmaster, and she was the mother of Mrs. W.R. (Alma) Robie of Crockett.

#### **May 1928"**

##### **I Am a California Indian:**

Here is an absolutely new alibi! Do not be yourself, be an Indian! A man was recently arrested in Alvarado for being in a house of ill repute and brought before Judge J.A. Silva. The man stepped up before the Judge and said, "I am a California Indian." Judge Silva dismissed the case. There is a State law against holding a California Indian for a charge of vagrancy.

#### **September 1928:**

##### **Harold P. Dyer Dies:**

Harold Parker Dyer, of Saratoga California, died last Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Born in Alvarado to Ehpraim and Ellen (Ingalls) Dyer he was the husband of Mrs. Elizabeth (Ralph) Dyer. He was born in the year 1860.

#### **November 1928:**

##### **Progressive Dinner:**

Ten Washington Union High School students held a progressive dinner Friday at the homes of the students:

##### The Salad Course:

Miss Gertrude Ellsworth, with Miss Ellsworth and Miss Mary Sullivan served the salad course.

##### The Meat Course:

Miss Elizabeth Shinn and Miss Lois Abbott were hostesses at the Shinn residence for the meat course.

##### The Dessert Course:

Then the party made a trip to Alvarado where Miss Rosalie Joyce served desert. The evening was spent in games and dancing.

#### **December 1928:**

##### **Cauliflower:**

The recent cold weather has held down the volume of the cauliflower harvest, although a few carloads have been shipped to the coast and the eastern markets in the past two weeks. Alvarado, Hayward, and Santa Cruz are the chief production and shipping centers for this vegetable in California at this time of the year.

#### **January 1929:**

##### **Peter G. Lowrie Passes:**

Mr. Peter Gordon Lowrie, 77, passed away on the morning of January 21<sup>st</sup>, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Ralph in Alvarado. He is survived by his wife Isabelle; they had been married 52 years. He was a retired butcher and came to California when he was 14 years old.

#### **February 1929:**

##### **Mason Feted:**

Albert Norris, Alvarado Postmaster and one of the most picturesque of Washington Township's old-timers, has been presented with a gold emblem by the members of

Alameda Lodge, F. & A. M. on the occasion of the fifty-seventh anniversary of his joining the Masonic Order. Norris was a schoolteacher, Justice of the Peace and businessman during the gold rush days.

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Aerial Guide Sign:

The roof of the IOOF building here is being considered by the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce as the location of an aerial guide sign, which will advertise Alvarado to occupants of airplanes passing over the town between valley points and the airports at Oakland and San Francisco, according to Albert Norris, Postmaster of Alvarado who is sponsoring the idea. Alvarado is on a well-traveled commercial airway and many planes pass over it with sightseers from the Oakland Airport. The businessmen feel the proposed sign would do much to advertise the town and at the same time serve to keep flyers on their course.

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**Death Takes Mrs. Annie McKeown:**

Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Mrs. Annie McKeown, 79, a resident of Alvarado for 40 years, who died recently after a long illness. Mrs. McKeown was the widow of the late James McKeown, and the mother of Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey, Joseph, A. W., Nancy and Flora McKeown.

**September 1929:**

**Bank of Alameda County:**

Conference rooms of the beautiful new home of the Niles Branch of Bank of Alameda County have been placed at the disposal of the Niles Chamber of Commerce courtesy of the President of the bank, Mr. August May of Alvarado. The new building is an attractive modern design, which gives it a distinctly metropolitan flair.

