

# CHAPTER 09

## 1930 – 1939

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### \* DEMOCRAPHICS \*

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1930 Table:

Country	Number	Pct. Of Pop.
Australia	0	0.00%
Bohemia	1	0.10%
Canada	13	0.70%
Cape Verde Is.	4	0.20%
Chile	0	0.00%
China	10	0.50%
Denmark	7	0.40%
England	20	1.10%
Finland	2	0.10%
France	11	0.60%
Germany	29	1.50%
Ireland	31	1.60%
Italy	56	3.00%
Japan	138	7.30%
Mexico	387	20.50%
Norway	4	0.20%
Philippines	33	1.70%
Porto Rico	42	2.20%
Portugal/Azores	682	36.10%
Rumania	27	1.40%
Russia	1	0.10%
Serbia	16	0.80%
Spain	67	3.50%
Sweden	4	0.20%
Swiss	28	1.50%
U.S.	276	14.60%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Alvarado continued to evolve during the 1920's. The population grew from 1,281 in 1920 to 1,889 in 1930, but this was due mostly to enlarging the enumeration district around Alvarado.

The Portuguese speaking population increased by 69 persons during the decade, or 11.3% over 1920, but dropped as a percentage of the population from 48% to 36.1%. The Northern European population continued to lose their share of the population dropping from over 10% in 1920 to 5.7% in 1930. The number of persons born in the US to US born parents dropped from 15.2% in 1920 to 14.6 in 1930. The Japanese dropped as a percent of the population from 12% to 7.3% in 1930.

The big gainer during the 1920's was the Mexican population, which grew more than 3,000%. In the 1920 census they were just 1.6% of the population, which grew to 387 people in the 1930 census for a 20.5% share of the population. Also showing considerable gains in population in this decade were the Italians and the Spaniards.

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\* **CORPORATE BUSINESSES** \*  
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*Sugar Mill / Salt Industry / Bank / Produce Packing Co.*

**SUGAR MILL:**

*1930's Operation / Major Building Project @ Alvarado mid-1930's*

**1930's Operations:**

This decade of sugar processing in Alvarado was another pivotal one with changes being advocated by the farmers who wished to lobby for higher prices for their beets and hauling allowances for delivery to the mill. Employees also began the process of forming a collective bargaining unit at the mill. Holly Sugar themselves militantly started firing back at the some of the larger sugar companies that had reached sweetheart deals with the railroad for transportation of beets to the mills. Meanwhile the mill itself continued to grind throughout the decade.

The largest output of beet sugar in the history of the Alvarado sugar plant was reported by the officials of the sugar mill in Alvarado in the beginning of October 1930, which started its seasonal run in August. Some 200 persons were employed, and the daily production was about 4,000 100-pound sacks of sugar a day. The facilities of the plant had been improved with the recent addition of a beet unloading conveyor, a new evaporator, and other new machinery. A new warehouse had also been built and the plant was now served by a new rail spur line, which ran from the refinery to the Western Pacific's Halvern Station, approximately one mile from the Alvarado mill. The Halvern Station is located near Alquire Road on the Western Pacific Railroad line.

The 1930 season was so successful that the processing of beets at Alvarado would be carried over into 1931. Mr. Richard C. Kennedy, who was the chairman of the Alameda County Farm Bureau, said that local farmers were looking to form a marketing coalition of local beet growing farmers. Mr. Kennedy was busy interviewing growers, and learning their sentiments regarding a plan for a beet grower's cooperative marketing association.

The sugar mill countered the lawsuit by releasing figures that showed the importance of the sugar to the people of Washington Township. They cited a daily payroll of \$1,200. The operation of the mill for the annual sugar beet season was expected to bring in an average of \$3,200 a day to farmers and employees of this district. During the season the mill expected to purchase more than 150,000 tons of sugar beets at a range of \$5.00 to \$6.50 a ton. Of this tonnage, 25 per cent was supplied by Washington Township, while the remainder came from Stockton and Sacramento.

The 1932 campaign began with the outlook for a normal run with about 20,000 acres of sugar beets planted in the Stockton, Sacramento and Alvarado sugar factory districts. An average season's production was predicted. Last year's production set a record with 407,720 100-pound sacks being produced at the Alvarado sugar mill. More than 200 employees were busy during the past beet-processing run. About a fourth of the factory's production was still on hand with the rest having been shipped out.

One of the problems faced by the Holly Sugar Co. was that the demand for cane sugar was higher than it was for beet sugar. A plea for increased home consumption of California beet sugar was made by the secretary of the sugar beet growers association in June 1932. It was pointed out that while many Southern Alameda County men are employed at the Holly Sugar mill at Alvarado, their product is crowded out of the local markets by cane sugar to a large extent in Southern Alameda County and throughout California.

When the California consumer buys beet sugar, 97 per cent of the money he expends stays in his home state. But when he buys cane sugar, no more than 17 per cent remains at home. Despite this fact California, which produced 165,000 tons of beet sugar, consumed only 70,000 tons of the product. At the same time she consumed about 230,000 tons of cane sugar. As a result 95,000 tons of California sugar product had to be shipped under heavy freight charges to eastern markets.

Charges of discrimination in freight rates were made December 1932 by the Holly Sugar Co. at their refineries in Alvarado and Tracy. The company filed a protest with the State Railroad Commission (forerunner to the California PUC) for a probe into the difference charged for hauling sugar by Holly Sugar, versus the better rate given to the larger sugar companies.

As one basis for a probe, mill officials assert that it was forced to pay 2½ cents more per 100 pounds from its plants to Los Angeles harbor, than is paid by the Hawaiian Sugar Refinery from the latter's plant at Crockett. As a second basis, the corporation charged that the carriers were absorbing the draying and switching charges on shipments originating at the Western sugar Refinery in San Francisco, but refuse to do the same for the Holly Sugar refinery.

In April 1935 it was reported that the Holly Sugar Co. planned to buy the E. H. Dyer estate here. The Dyer estate, then tenanted by Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Langdon, contained about eight acres and the old Dyer home, and lay next to the other company property.

Oddly, a fire destroyed the old home of Ebenezer Dyer on May 31, 1925. The venerable home was one of southern Alameda County's oldest structures, the three-story, 14-room home on the Dyer estate was located on the Sugar Mill Road in

Alvarado. The house was built in 1864 by the late Ebenezer Herrick Dyer, who in 1869 organized the California Beet Manufacturing Co., the oldest beet-sugar manufacturer in the United States. It had been mentioned only a month earlier that Holly Sugar wanted the property to expand its plant located next door to the property.



The blaze, first noted about 7:30 o'clock, apparently started in the attic of the old house, presumably from an electrical short circuit. Inasmuch as the place is outside the Alvarado Fire Districts limits, and far from a fire hydrant, the Alvarado Fire Department could do nothing but bucket brigade work and assist neighbors and volunteers in removing furnishings from the house. Virtually everything of value was removed from the house, which burned to the ground. Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Langdon had occupied the place. The Holly Sugar Co had recently purchased the surrounding farm, and was planning to erect a large addition to the sugar mill the following year. The old house was to be wrecked over the summer.

An announcement made the Alvarado Sugar mill stated that for the first time since 1916 sugar beets would be grown in Pleasanton and delivered to Alvarado for the 1936 campaign. A new spur line the Western Pacific Railroad installed from their Halvern Station (Industrial Ave. railroad crossing) to the mill weighed heavily in favor of moving back into Pleasanton, said Mr. A. K. Logan of the Holly Sugar Company.

The newly organized sugar growers of Southern Alameda County flexed their collective muscles in November 1936, when they demanded haulage allowances from the Holly Sugar Company. The haulage proposal would affect growers within a six-mile radius of the sugar factory, who now do not receive any haulage allowance. At present farmers outside the six-mile radius receive an allowance of 5¢ a mile,

which amounts to about \$1.20 a ton for farmers in the Concord neighborhood. A major proportion of the hauling expense to the farmer is incurred in loading the beets and trucking them out of the fields, which are often muddy and sticky. The growers want a minimum of 50¢ per ton for the haul within the six-mile radius, correspondingly more for those outside the area.

In April 1937, an Employees Cooperative Association was formed at the Holly Sugar Company plant in Alvarado with the approval of company officials. The association was formed for the purpose of collective bargaining.

All employees signed up for membership in the union. Members of the governing committee were:

F. W. Joyce, Chairman	George Davis	James E. Patterson
Forrest Wooley	Dan L. Patterson	J. M. Logan
Frank Zeller	Manuel Mello	H. N. Boles
Joe Silva	R. L. Burns, Treasurer	David E. Bourne, Secretary

The association would cooperate with similar organizations in other sugar mills at Tracy, Woodland and Manteca.

Holly Sugar Corp. reported earnings for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1937, a consolidated net profit of \$2,881,670, after preferred dividends to \$5.42 a common share. The company planned to spend \$2,500,000 on plant improvements and construction during the year. This included roughly \$500,000 for miscellaneous improvements and more than \$2,000,000 rebuilding the plant at Alvarado, and for a new factory in Hardin, Montana.

Sugar Act Wage provisions for the 1939 sugar beet crop was announced for Southern Alameda County sugar beet producers. Northern California wage rates announced for 1939 were as follows:

Blocking and thinning	\$7.50 per acre	40 cents per hour
First hoeing:	\$2.00 per acre	35 cents per hour
Second + hoeings:	\$1.50 per acre	35 cents per hour

The sugar mill began its 1939 campaign on August 9th. Approximately 300 men were employed in a run that was originally expected to run three or four months.

This year the mill employed a new lime treating plant. This enabled the lime used in the sugar refining process to be used over several times under an experimental process developed by the Holly Sugar Company.

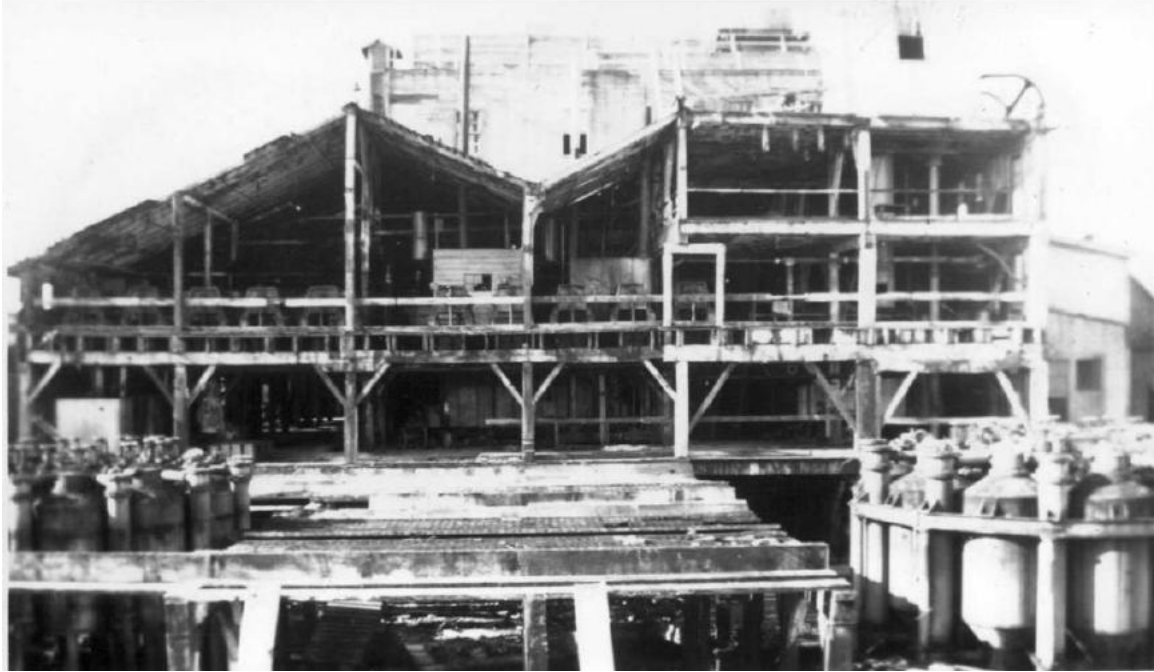
A group of men employed at the sugar mill showed their Christmas spirit when they armed themselves with holly wreaths, Christmas trees, tinsel and ornaments and invaded the U.S. Veterans Hospital at Livermore Sunday to decorate every room, ward, and corridor for the Yule activities planned for about 300 sick and disabled ex-servicemen. Among the groups supporting this union effort was the Alvarado Sugar Refinery Workers Union Local 20603.

### **Major Building Project @ Alvarado late 1930's:**

Following are various photos of Holly's plant expansion at the Alvarado Holly Sugar Mill in 1935. From a collection of Norman Silveira and supplied by Tim Swenson.



The old Alameda Sugar Co. wooden building with the town of Alvarado in the west in the background (top photo). The outside of the old building (bottom photo).



View of the inside of the old plant versus a view of the inside of the new Holly Sugar Plant.

## **SALT INDUSTRY:**

This decade saw another series of consolidations in the East Bay salt flats. By the end of the decade there would be only one major player left refining salt.

The decade started with three major players:

The Arden Salt Company

The Leslie California Salt Company

The Oliver Brothers Salt Company

The Leslie California Salt Co. absorbed the Oliver Brothers in 1931. The Arden Salt Co. absorbed the Alviso Salt Company, also in 1931.

On November 2, 1936 the Leslie California Salt Company and the Arden Salt Company merged to form the Leslie Salt Company

## **BANK:**

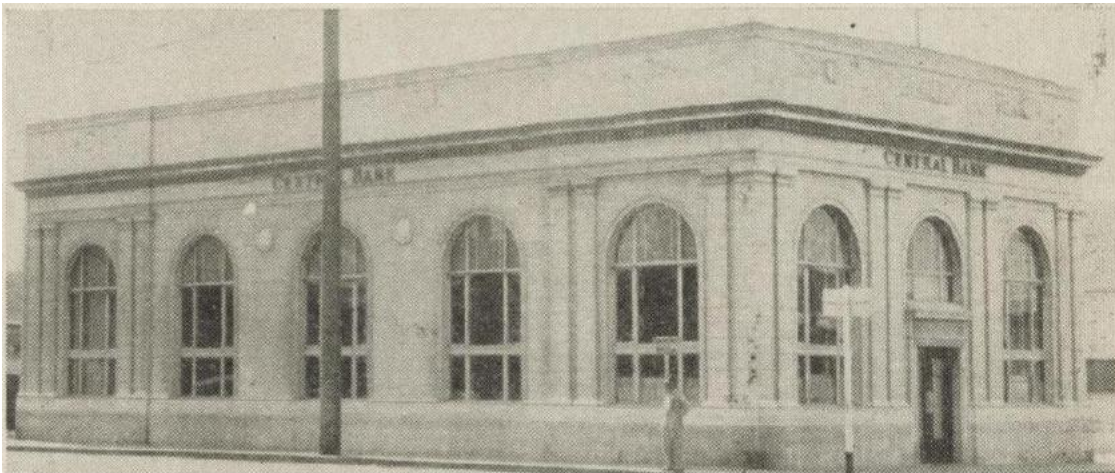
### **August May Jr., President:**

**Bank of Alameda County**

**Central Bank**

**Carl F. Wentz, President - Central Bank**

The Bank of Alameda County continued its growth and in July 1932 *The Hayward Daily Review* stated that the Bank of Alameda County then had gross deposits approximating \$3,000,000 in its three branches.



The Bank of Alameda County now rebranded as the Central Bank. The new bank building was built on the site of the old Cosmopolitan Saloon, which had been owned by Tony Lee, Sr.

That the major stock interest in The Bank of Alameda County was acquired by interests closely associated with Central Bank was announced January 18, 1938, by August May, president of the Bank of Alameda County. At the same time Carl F. Wentz, of Central Bank, revealed that his institution was conducting negotiations with a view toward making the three offices of The Bank of Alameda County branches of Central Bank. These offices were located in Alvarado, Niles and Irvington. Central Bank then operated two offices in the outlying areas of Oakland, besides its head office in downtown Oakland. The Bank of Alameda County had

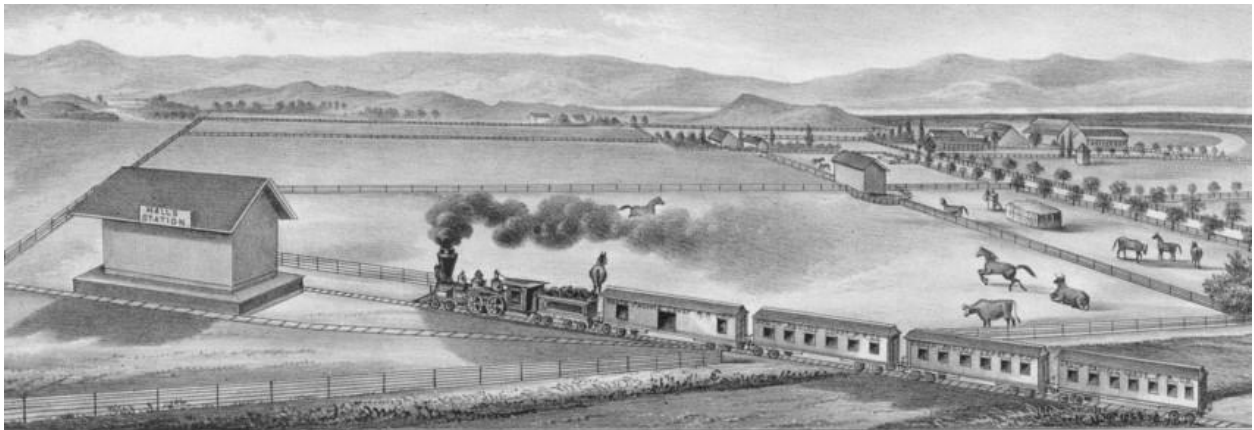


\$3,000,000 in assets. Bankers had long considered it an exceptionally strong and well-managed bank.

On April 11, 1938, the Bank of Alameda County began operations as branches of Central Bank, Oakland. The bank, which started out as The Bank of Alvarado in 1902, expanded into Irvington and Niles, under the leadership of August May.

## **PRODUCE PACKING HOUSES: Alvarado Vegetable Growers Assn:**

Circa 1924 the Southern Pacific Railroad built a structure that was about 125 feet long and about fifty feet wide as a packing plant. The structure was located south of where the Southern Pacific train tracks crossed Alvarado Blvd. between Dyer Street and the S.P. Harvey Park. There, located in a wedge of land, between, Alvarado Blvd and the SP tracks was the packing shed that was to become the home of the Alvarado Vegetable Growers.



This is a drawing of the John Hall farm from the 1878 Thompson & West Atlas of Alameda County. The road you see at the bottom of the drawing is today's Alvarado Boulevard. The little train crossing the street is the South Pacific Coast Rail Road, today's Southern Pacific. The shed you see in the drawing is Hall's Station, where the train would stop for passengers or freight. The shed was located in a wedge shaped piece of property, where circa 1924, the Southern Pacific would build a packing shed, and a spur line, to receive for transport locally grown produce for distribution throughout the U.S. and parts of Canada.

H.P. Garin, who already had a packing shed at Centerville, was the first to occupy the packing shed. When H.P. Garin left Alvarado for Sunnyvale, Al Caeton and Lloyd Bailey took over the packing shed. Al Caeton, Lloyd Bailey, and Wes Emery operated the shed until 1938, when Lloyd left to join Garin in Sunnyvale.

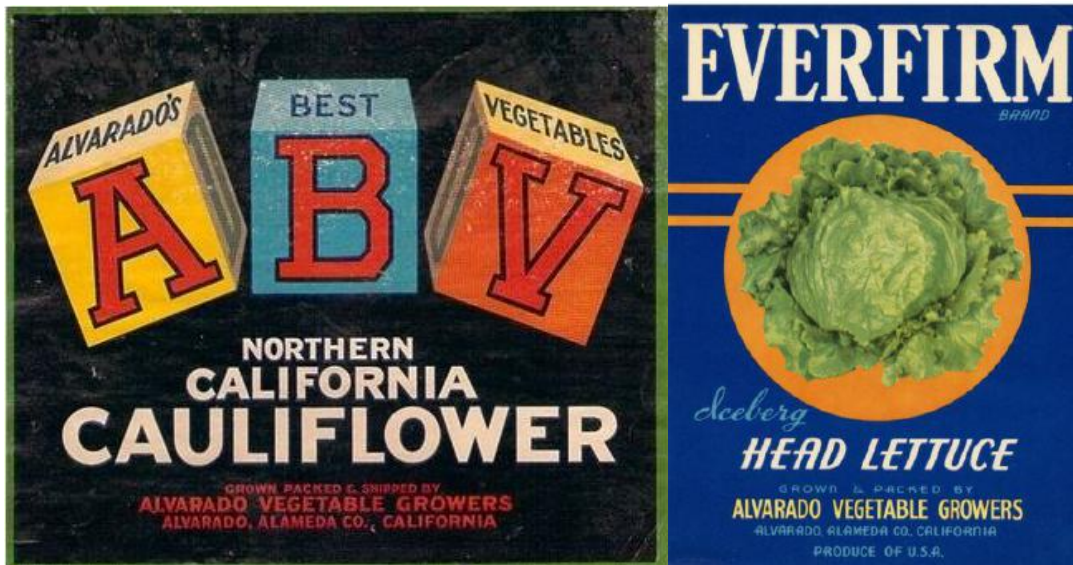
When Bailey left in 1938, Al and Wes Emery cut back on to only shipping to Sacramento, the San Joaquin Valley, and to San Francisco. But the farmers had so much to ship, they needed more markets, so Al was asked to take over the marketing. Al gave up his farming operation on Beard Road and turned the packing shed into a year-around, day and night operation.

Alvarado led Southern Alameda County in total number of carloads of vegetables shipped during 1937, according to a report made by the Washington-Eden Farm Center in Centerville. Total carloads of vegetables shipped from the entire section

numbered 2,224. Figures released showed that 761 carloads of peas, tomatoes, cauliflower, snap beans and other vegetables, were shipped from the Alvarado growers association. This was made up of 567 carloads of cauliflower, 84 of peas, 13 of tomatoes and 16 of snap beans.

In December 1938 the Alvarado Vegetable Growers, at their headquarters at the Hall Station warehouse on the Alvarado-Centerville Highway, shipped three carloads of cauliflower a day to the east, the Northwest, and Canada. Manager David Caeton saw to it that the cauliflower was iced to keep it fresh on the long trip across the continent. Some \$36,000 of ice was bought each year for icing Alvarado vegetables to be shipped via railroad. At this time all growers had employees cutting cauliflower on their land for steady shipment, and this vegetable would continue to yield until April 15<sup>th</sup>. Starting on April 16<sup>th</sup> green peas and fava beans would be shipped from Alvarado. They ship \$2,000,000 worth of vegetables every year.

In September 1939, the Alvarado Vegetable Growers started packing green tomatoes in boxes to be shipped via a refrigeration system in Southern Pacific cars to the Eastern market. They would ship 100 carloads this season from the Hall Warehouse. The tomatoes would ripen as they are shipped across the United States in box cars. When the tomatoes reach the eastern seaboard, they would have a nice rosy color, ready to be sold and then fully ripen on grocery store shelves.



Cauliflower and lettuce was packed in wooden crates and loaded into railroad boxcars at the spur line behind the packing shed. Each cauliflower crate carried the "ABV" brand on the box and the lettuce crates carried the Everfirm Brand from the Alvarado Vegetable Growers.

The Alvarado Vegetable Grower Association was fortunate to have such a well-known pioneer grower as Fred C. Harvey as Secretary-Treasurer. Thirteen growers who shipped through the association at Hall Station in 1940 were:

T.P. Harvey	F.C. Harvey	Wallace McKeown
Weston Emery	Ed Lebon	Herbert Young
M.P. Rose	Harvey Granger	Joe Langdon
Soares Bros.	Al Caeton	Morrill King
Andrade Bros.		

Green tomatoes were being shipped by Southern Pacific railway from Hall Station in September 1941. They were being sent to Chicago and other points. Ted Harvey, who, with his father Fred C. Harvey, would have the greatest harvest of potatoes in Southern Alameda County. The Harvey's had a tremendous yield that was also of high quality. Ted's cousin George Harvey, also has quite a crop at the adjoining farm on the Centerville-Alvarado Road near Hall Station.

Bet not all was bright in late 1941, Wes Emery, President of the Alvarado Vegetable Grower Assn., said that there was a shortage of labor. This scenario would only worsen as the months wore on and WWII started. For the period of time the war lasted, labor for harvesting vegetables was in short supply. In 1942 school children were used in the fields to help bring in the crops to feed the nation. Also used was female labor, school children from the urban cities, and finally, "braceros" from Mexico.

After the war the Alvarado Vegetable Growers were still in high gear. Shipping good Alvarado produce throughout the U.S. In November 1946, Al Caeton said that in two weeks the new cauliflower would be shipped strong to the eastern market by Southern Pacific's fast freight in well-iced cars.

Here are some figures that Al Caeton of the warehouse gave us. Lettuce was the biggest crop shipped with 810 boxcars going by Southern Pacific this past season, and that was followed by 400 boxcars of cauliflower. This all cleared though Ed Wilson, the Southern Pacific station agent at Alvarado.

The growers shipping from the Alvarado and Alviso district are:

T.P. Harvey	Al Caeton	Harvey Granger	Gus King
George Harvey	Dick Kennedy	Walter McKeown	M.P. Rose
Herbert Young	Gunther Ripke	Roy Gomes	Wes Emery
M.S. Abreu			

Officers of the Association are:

President:	T.P. Harvey
Vice-President:	Al Caeton
Secretary:	George Harvey
Office Manager:	Ralph Chapman

The Alvarado Vegetable Grower Assn. started in 1928 with four employees as a cooperative group of farmers. In 1949 the Alvarado Vegetable Growers had grown into a full-scale business with 50 employees.

The group, which formerly shipped 30 cars a season, now sends off some 750 cars every season to various parts of the United States and Canada.

President for the growers is Weston B. Emery, who has been with the group since 1928, and Al Caeton is the General Manager. Although they grow all varieties of vegetables, the Alvarado group specializes in cauliflower and Lettuce, which is used for interstate shipments.

Al Caeton retired in the 1950's and the association went on for another year without him, then dissolved. The shed remained empty for about 12 years before another company came in for a spell. Today the space is occupied by a triangular strip mall, which fits into the tight space.

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\* **BIOS OF NOTABLE CIIZENS** \*

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*Auto Repair Garages / Auto Service Stations / Bank Employees / Barber / Beauty Salon / Billiard Parlor / Bookkeeper / Butcher / Carpenter / Clerks / Dentist / Druggist / Engineer / Farmer / Foreman / Hotel Keepers / Japanese Carpenter / Japanese Teacher / Library / Manager / Merchant / Music / Newspaper / Post Office / Rail Road / Restaurant / Saloons & Barkeepers / School Trustee / Stenographer / Salto Company Executives / Sugar Company Executives / Teachers / Telephone Co. / Theater / Oil Company Executive / Wholesale Petroleum Dealer*

**AUTOMOBILE REPAIR GARAGES:**

*Manuel Faria / Nick Lewis / George Kuebler / Clyde Smith / Santos Brothers Garage / Amaral Brothers Garage / Steve Smith*

**Manuel Faria:**

Manuel Faria was born in California in 1909. His wife Emma was also born in California in 1909. Their residence was on the Creek Road. They had four children, Gilbert, Richard, Donald and Phyllis. Manuel worked as a garage mechanic, but which garage is not known. He was employed for wages. There was no social or civic information on Manuel.

**Nick Lewis:**

Nick Lewis was born in Portugal in 1902. He entered the U.S. in 1904. His wife Helen was born in California in 1912. The couple lived on the Leslie California Salt Company Road where Nick was a mechanic for the salt company. Nick was a member of the Alvarado Drama Club, and took part in the 1927 presentation of the "Bashful Mr. Bobbs." In 1936 it was noted that several employees of the Leslie Salt Co. visited the Alvarado marshes for some duck shooting. Nick joined with John Buchannan, Clarence Flores, Joe Dutra, and Jimmy Critchfield for a day of hunting. In 1943 Nick was a member of the Union City Duck Club of Alvarado.

**Reliance Garage:**

**George Kuebler:**

George Kuebler was born in California in 1903. In 1930 he was living in Mt. Eden with his mother, Mrs. Margaret Kuebler, a widow; and several brothers and sisters. He was working as an auto mechanic in a local garage. Up until 1940 he was not married.

By 1934 he was in Alvarado, and soon thereafter he operated the Reliance Garage, a huge structure on the SE corner of Union City Boulevard and Horner Street in downtown Alvarado. On December 12, 1936 the patio under the tanks of gasoline of the garage was town torn down when a huge truck that had stopped under it started on its way. The truck was too large to make it out without tearing down the patio. No one was hurt and a new patio was soon built.

In June 1938 George Kuebler sold the Reliance to Clyde Smith. George then went back to live with his mother and sisters in Mt. Eden, where he was working as a farm hand in 1940.

### **Clyde Smith:**

Clyde Smith was born in Michigan in 1900. His wife Ethel was born in Wisconsin in 1904. They had two children, Beverly and Harold. Clyde was living in Mt. Eden when he bought the business of George Kubler at the Reliance Garage in Alvarado in 1938. George had been in the employ of the Montgomery Ward's store in Hayward before coming to business in Alvarado. Besides working with autos, Clyde also worked on tractors and was an expert with tools and dies, as he used to be a foreman at the Caterpillar Tractor Co. in San Leandro. However by 1940 Clyde was back working again in Eden Township where he was employed as a toolmaker in a machine shop.

### **Santos Brothers Garage:**

Wallace Santos was born in Texas in 1906. His wife Grace was born in Arkansas in 1914. They had a daughter Dolores. The couple lived on "V" Street in Alvarado. Joseph J. Santos was born in California in 1906. His wife Alice was born in California in 1919. They had a daughter Barbara. The couple lived in Centerville. The brothers were partners in the garage business with Joseph being the owner and Wallace being the manager. Besides auto repair they also sold tires, batteries and sold Texaco gas and oils.

#### **SANTOS BROS. GARAGE**

Wallace Santos, Manager  
AUTO REPAIRING – ALVARADO  
Fine equipment for AUTO REPAIRING,  
AUTOMOBILE PAINTING  
BATTERIES RECHARGED  
Will get and deliver BATTERY  
Try Our Speedy Service

#### **TEXACO GASOLINE & OILS WE SELL BATTERIES RECAP & GOODRICH TIRES**

At Steve Smith's Corner  
Phone: ALVARADO 60

Nothing was found after 1940 for this business or the partners.

### **Amaral Bros. Garage:**

#### **Antone S. (Tony) Amaral:**

Antone S. Amaral was born in California in 1884. His wife Millie was born in California in 1893. In 1930 they had three children, Jewell, Donald and Lester. Their children attended the Alviso Grammar School. After completing school Tony went into plastering homes, but by 1920 he went into the auto repair business.

#### **Louis Amaral:**

Louis Amaral was born in California in 1895. His wife Minnie was born in California in 1897. As of 1930 they did not have any children. In 1920 Louis

was in the general farming trade, but he switched his focus and by 1930 he was a mechanic.

Tony & Louis started the Amaral Bros. Garage in the 1920's outside of Alvarado in the Alviso District of the township. Besides their mechanical repair business they sponsored a baseball team, the Amaral Bros., which played teams from around the East Bay. The team played in the mid 1930's to the early 1940's, but the name of the Amaral's continued to be shown playing on Alvarado teams.

### **Steve Smith:**

Steve Smith operated an auto repair shop and service station known as "Smith's Corner" from approx. 1926 to almost 1940. They sold Texaco products. He had a daughter named Bessie Smith. That is all that I found for Steve Smith and Smith's corner. If I had to make a guess of the location of Smith's Corner I would say the NW corner of Levee & V Streets.

### **AUTOMOBILE SERVICE STATIONS:**

*Arlo K. Barton & Mike Hye / Earl Hefner / Al Schwab / Frank Vargas / Sam Dinsmore & Ed Martinez / Theodore Soderlund / Edward Johnson /*

### **Alvarado Mobil Gas Station:**

#### **Mike's Gas Station:**

##### **Arlo K. Barton:**

Arlo K. Barton was born in Oklahoma in 1906. His wife Gerda was born in Canada in 1906. She entered the U.S. in 1921. They were married in 1929 and had a son William in 1931. In 1930 Arlo was living in Mt. Eden and working as an automobile salesman, then in early/mid 1930's he partnered with Michael Hye at the Alvarado Mobil Gas Station. But, by about 1937, they gave the business up. On April 5, 1940 Arlo was working as a plasterer for a building contractor in Diamond Springs, El Dorado, California. Nineteen days later (April 24, 1940) he was plastering homes for a contractor in Vallejo Calif. Arlo and family were counted twice in the 1940 census.

##### **Michael Hye:**

Michael Hye was one of the principals in Mike's Gas Station in Alvarado. Nothing can be found about Michael Hye other than he was a partner with A.K. Barton of this gas station in Alvarado. The station was described as across the street from the Alvarado Hotel, which would have made it the Mobil Gas Station at the west end of Smith Street where the old County Seat was first located. They sold "Upperlube," which was a General Gasoline (Mobil) product. In January 1936 Barton and Hye remodeled the station, but soon thereafter the management changed hands. I was unable to determine how long Barton and Hye had operated the station.

### **Earl Hefner, Alvarado Shell Station:**

Earl Hefner was born in California in 1888. His wife Edna was also born in California and in the same year, 1888. They had three children, two daughters, May and Ila and a son Kenneth. In 1930 they were living in Hayward where Earl was the foreman of a garage. Early in 1930 he operated the Santos Shell Service Station on the corner of Vallejo Street and the

Alvarado Centerville Road (State Hiway 17). He operated the station until about 1934 and he was found living in Hayward in 1940 working as a substitute mail carrier.

### **Al Schwab, Alvarado Shell Station:**

Al Schwab operated the Shell Service Station adjoining the A. Santos residence from 1934 to 1936. He was then transferred to Ashland to take over another station. This is all the information I could find on Mr. Schwab.

### **Frank Vargas, Alvarado Shell Station:**

Frank Vargas was born in California in 1912 to John & Rita Vargas of Alvarado. His wife, Mary Diaz, was born in 1912 in Alvarado to Damaso and Josephine Diaz. Frank and Mary were married in January 1937. Two years later, January 1939, Frank was working Antone Santos' Shell Gas Station, by 1940 Frank working in the salt works.

### **Sam Dinsmore Jr. & Ed Martinez, Alvarado Shell Station:**

#### **Sam Dinsmore Jr.:**

Sam Dinsmore Jr. was born to Sam & Viola Dinsmore of Alvarado in 1918. He graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in 1931 and Washington Union High School in 1935, where he was the class president in his senior year. Sam went on to San Jose Normal School (forerunner to today's San Jose State University). Sam kept very busy besides his class work. He partnered with Eddie Martinez of Alvarado in the Shell Gas Station, but also found time to marry (Miss Jewel Brady of San Jose) in November 1939. Sam Jr. also worked part time at wholesale shoe firm San Francisco. The May 1940 census shows Sam Dinsmore Jr. married, but living at home with mom and dad without his wife. His occupation was as an employee of a storage warehouse firm.

#### **Eddie Martinez:**

Eddie Martinez was born in California in 1922 to Galo and Gertrude Martinez. Eddie attended and graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in 1935 and Washington Union High School in 1939. After graduating high school it appears that Eddie and Sam Dinsmore Jr. became partners in the Shell Gas Station at the southern end of Vallejo Street. The partnership was probably entered into shortly after Eddie's graduating from Washington High. From reading newspaper accounts of the partnership it would appear that Eddie operated the station with Sam Jr., but Sam Jr. was a very busy young man with many other irons in the fire. By May 2, 1940, when the Alvarado census was completed, Eddie did not show any employment, and was living at home with his parents.

#### **Theodore Soderlund:**

Theodore Soderlund was born in Michigan in 1904. His wife Pearl was born in California in 1908. The Soderlund's first appear in Alvarado in the spring of 1930. In 1931 they had their first child, a daughter Caroline. Theodore's occupation was that of a gas and oil salesman at a local (and unnamed) service station.

In October 1930 a small sensation was caused locally by Theodore when he received a letter from a good friend in Finland. The letter was carried by the Graf Zeppelin from Finland to Germany; then crossed the Atlantic by boat, and was sped across the continent by airmail. Written by a friend, Walter Sockki, the letter was mailed in Finland on September 24<sup>th</sup>, making the trip half way around the world in 15 days. The face of the envelope was literally covered with stamps and cancellations. Mr. Soderlund has been besieged by local stamp collectors seeking to add the envelope to their collections. They state the Graf Zeppelin cancellations are as yet very rare.

After 1932 nothing further was found for Mr. Soderlund in Alvarado. I did find Theo in Oakland where he worked as a mail carrier for 31 years. He would later move to Napa where he passed away January 16, 1997 at the age of 92 years. He left his wife Pearl and three children.

### **Edward Johnson:**

Edward Johnson was born in Illinois in 1889. His wife Mary was born in Mississippi in 1900. They had two sons, Alton and Edward. The Alvarado 1930 census shows Edward as the operator of gas service station, but which one was not identified. No further information was found on Edward Johnson, although I was able to locate Alton Johnson working in the steel mill at Decoto and living in Niles in 1940.

### **BANK:**

*William D. Patterson / Joseph Orsetti / Erle Hellwig / Galo Martinez / Mrs. Christina Anderson / John R. Blacow / Joseph Otto*

### **William D. Patterson Jr.:**

William D. Patterson Jr. was born in California in 1906 to William D. and May Bird Patterson, and was the grandson of George Washington Patterson of Newark. In 1930 Will Jr. was employed as a clerk at the Alameda County Bank in Alvarado. He was single and still living at home. After 1930 nothing further was found for Will Jr.

### **Joseph Orsetti:**

Joseph Orsetti was born in California in 1909 to Virgil and Mary Orsetti who eventually settled down on Hiway 17 in the Alviso District. In the 1930 census Joseph showed he was employed as a clerk in the Bank of Alameda County. Circa 1940 he married Lydia Perry, who was born in 1917 in California. They had three children, a daughter Norma, and two sons Stephen and Paul. Joe later became a farmer in the Alviso district.

#### **Lydia Orsetti:**

Lydia Orsetti was active in Alviso school activities. She was an active member of the Alviso Grammar School Mother's Club, which performed the same duties at a school PTA. Lydia also led the young girls of the Alviso school district in Brownie and Girl Scout activity, and later would extend her leadership to the Girl Scouts of Centerville. Lydia was also active in the Alviso area drama club, in February 1941 she took part in the Portuguese play, "Father Takes Mother's Place."

### **Erle Hellwig:**



Erle Hellwig was born in 1899 in California to Fred & Emma Hellwig. Erle was the nephew of George Hellwig and grandson of Philip Hellwig all of Alvarado. His wife Ruth was born in Missouri in 1899. They had one daughter Linda Jane Hellwig. In 1930 Erle was employed as a teller at the Alameda County Bank in Alvarado. In 1940 Erle had elevated himself to Cashier of the bank.

### **Galo Martinez: 1940**

Galo Martinez was born in Porto Rico in 1890. His wife Gertrude was born in Porto Rico in 1899. They had been in Alvarado since at least 1930 where Galo worked as a general laborer. In 1930 Galo was working at the Alameda County Bank as a custodian. Later in life he became the caretaker of the T.P. Harvey property on Hiway 17 and Fair Ranch Road. The property had many flower beds, rivulets, and full functioning glass hot house, a chicken coop, three pastures with horses and Shetland ponies and a complete tack room. Mr. Harvey passed away in 1952 and Galo helped Mrs. Harvey take care of the property. Oh, there was also a little caretaker's home on the property.

### **Mrs. Christina M. Anderson:**

Christine Anderson was born Christine Stoppel, the daughter of Antone (from Germany) and Magdalena (from Austria) Stoppel. They both entered the U.S. in 1879. Christine was born in July 1881.

In 1901 Christine married William Anderson, who would become a farmer in the Alvarado area. They had two children, William and Walter Anderson. Shortly after 1910 she was divorced from William and circa 1912 went to work for the Bank of Alameda County in Alvarado.

Christine was on duty when the Bank of Alameda County was robbed on October 13, 1920. Bank President August May was shot and seriously injured in the robbery. One of the robbers stuck a revolver in the face of Mrs. Christina Anderson and forced her to stand with her hands on the counter while his three accomplices looted the safe and cash drawers. The men then dragged May into the vault and locked him up with Mrs. Anderson, Ass't Cashier, and Ted Lydecker an employee of the bank, and then shut them in the vault. The men got away with over \$50,000. However, within a period of several years the men were all rounded up and sent off to prison. Mr. May, the bank president who was shot, eventually recovered but lost the use of one his arms.

Mrs. Christine Anderson received word from the State of California that she had passed her examinations for the insurance business. Mrs. Anderson, who resided on the Whipple Road, took over the insurance agencies held by the late August May. They were: The Hartford Fire Insurance, The Hartford Accident and Indemnity, and the Fireman's Fund Insurance. Mrs. Anderson would retire from the employ of the Alvarado branch of the Central Bank in July 1941, after 29 years, and would give her entire time to the insurance business, making her headquarter at her home.

During WWII Mrs. Anderson spent time on the Alvarado Air Raid Tower on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds. Mrs. Anderson stood a two-hour shift on Monday's between the hours of 8 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Mrs. Anderson also participated in the annual Red Cross Drive put on by the American Red Cross and lead by J.R. Blacow, Central Bank Manager.

Mrs. Also participated in the Union City Incorporation Steering Committee. Mrs. Anderson owned property in the area that the City of Hayward was trying to annex.

### **John R. Blacow:**

John R. (Jack) Blacow was from an old and prominent family in Washington Township. John graduated from Washington Union High School in 1896. He resided on South Main Street in Centerville with his wife Florence. J. R. Blacow presented his resignation as indigent clerk, and assistant in the Alameda County expert office to take effect February 1<sup>st</sup>. He then accepted a job with the Bank of Alvarado. In 1912 John was elected as the Alvarado Bank's Cashier. In 1924 John was elected to the Board of Directors of the bank along with August May Jr., Henry H. Patterson, Farley B. Granger Jr., E.H. Stevenson, E.H. Hirsch and J.H. Silva. In 1931 John was shown as a Vice-President in the bank. Over the war years John Blacow would lead the bank in fund drives for war bonds, the Red Cross, and was an active participant in the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

On August 1, 1944 John R. Blacow retired from Central Bank. The *Alvarado Pioneer* wrote the following of Mr. Blacow:

"John R. Blacow will retire on July 31<sup>st</sup> after 40 years of banking experience, serving with the Bank of Alvarado in 1904. This bank was later merged with the Bank of Alameda County, which merged with Central Bank in 1938, so that his whole banking career was spent in one institution. We must pay tribute to the late August May of Alvarado for making the Bank of Alameda County the great success it was from the start of his promotion of it. In this enterprise J.R. Blacow at Alvarado and his brother Robert Blacow of Niles Branch, were his two right-hand bowers.

John Blacow was born in Centerville and attended grade and high schools there. He has made his home in that city all during his career. When presented with a testimonial watch at a banquet given by 40 friends and banking associates in honor of his retirement, Blacow said: I am just a small town boy who was born and lived on Main Street all my life."

### **Joseph Otto:**

Joseph Otto was born in Germany in 1915. His date of entry into the U.S. is not known. In the U.S. he lived with his mother (widowed) and two brothers Karl and Albert. They also resided for a time with their uncle, Joe Marlot proprietor of the Alvarado Hotel in the mid 30's. Joseph's mother operated a lunch counter at the sugar mill for a time and then moved to work with her brother at the Alvarado Hotel.

Joseph graduated from Washington Union High School with honors in 1935. Sometime thereafter Joseph went to work for the Bank of Alameda County. In March 1936 he was made an officer of the bank as an Assistant Cashier at Bank. The position was a new addition to the staff of the bank. In 1940 his

mother moved to Hayward and Joseph obtained a job in town in the refund department of an unidentified office.

## **BARBER:**

*Joseph Roderick / Ramiro Machado / Louis Joseph*

### **Joseph Roderick:**

Joseph Roderick was born in California in 1870. His wife Anna was born in California in 1882. They had two children, Stanley and Hazel (Hendricks) Roderick. Joseph appeared after 1920 and was employed as a barber in town. The family lived on Vallejo Street, but in May 1931 Joseph passed away.

### **Ramiro Machado:**

Ramiro Machado was born in Portugal in 1898. He entered the U.S. in 1920. He was the brother of Matt Machado, who owned the tavern and grill across the street from the Alvarado Grammar School. Immediately upon arriving in Alvarado in 1920, Ramiro commenced to barbering in town, an occupation he would pursue until his retirement. Ramiro never married and later in life he moved to a small office next to his brother's tavern from which he pursued his barbering.

### **Louis Joseph:**

Louis Joseph was born in 1879 in California to Frank and Mary Joseph. Louis was one of ten surviving children of the couple that lived until adulthood. Louis' wife Mary was born in 1888 in California. Louis showed he was farming with his father and then on his own until 1920. Sometime in the 20's Louis switched from farming to barbering and continued this occupation throughout the 1930's. The Joseph's lived on Beard Road in Alviso.

## **BEAUTY SALON:**

*Miss Carmen (Luevano) Lambaren / Ms. Mary Rodrigues*

### **Miss Carmen Lambaren: Alvarado Beauty Shop:**

Miss Carmen Lambaren was born in Mexico circa 1918 to Manuel and Frances Lambaren. Their date of entry into the U.S. is not known. She had a sister Lupe who was born in Mexico in 1906, and a brother Reyes who was born in Mexico in 1912. Miss Lambaren operated the Alvarado Beauty Salon. Later in the 30's Carmen married Lawrence Luevano of Decoto, where she moved and started a family. The Luevano's had two children, Cecilia and Richard. Carmen handed over proprietorship of the salon to Ms. Mary Rodrigues of San Francisco in November 1936. The Alvarado Beauty Salon was located on the south side of Smith Street just to the east of the Catholic Church.

### **Ms. Mary Rodrigues:**

Mary Rodrigues of San Francisco began operating the Alvarado Beauty Salon in November 1936. In July 1940 Mary Rodrigues was still mentioned in Alvarado but it was not known if she was still in charge on the Alvarado Beauty Salon.

## **BILLIARD PARLOR:**

*Victoriano Perez / Joe Guzman / Maria Dos Palos*

## **Victoriano Perez, Proprietor:**

### **Alvarado Pool Hall:**

Victoriano Perez was born in Mexico in 1901. He entered the U.S. in 1907. In 1930 he was residing as a boarder with John Garcia on the Marsh Road in Alvarado. He was employed at this time as a farm laborer. By November 1930 he managed to acquire a poolroom in Alvarado (which one is not known for there were three that I knew personally that stood in Alvarado).

There is only one article about Victoriano and his poolroom in Alvarado. Then he forever disappears from Alvarado. On the morning of November 20, 1930 the poolroom attendant, Jesus "Eradia" Heredia was shot and killed, when two men and a woman held up and robbed the Victoriano Perez poolroom at Alvarado. The men emptied the cash register and ransacked the residence before leaving. Only a meager description of the robbers was obtained.

## **Joe Guzman:**

On June 30, 1932, Joe Guzman applied to County Board of Supervisors for a dance permit at the Guzman Pool Hall in Alvarado to be held on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. This singular article is the only known fact between Joe Guzman, his pool hall, and Alvarado.

## **Mrs. Maria Dos Palos:**

Mrs. Maria Dos Palos was born in Mexico in 1899. She entered the U.S. in 1907. She showed she was married, however her husband is not shown as living with her. She had four children, all born in California. In 1930 she was shown as owning a pool hall in Alvarado, but nothing is given as to its location nor how long she owned it. After this singular article nothing further was found for her.

## **BOOKKEEPER:**

### **Manuel Hendricks Jr.:**

Manuel Hendricks Jr. was born in 1903 in California to Manuel & Rosie Hendricks, who were living on Watkins Street in Alvarado during the 1930 census. At this time Manuel was working as a bookkeeper for the salt works. By 1940 Manuel had married Hazel V. Hendricks and was living in Hayward and working as a bookkeeper for a salt company.

## **BUTCHER:**

*Segundo Diaz / Alois Brinek*

## **Segundo Diaz:**

Segundo Diaz was born in Hawaii in 1915 to Damaso and Josephine Diaz. "Sig" grew up in Alvarado where he trained in his father's Union Meat Market to learn the butcher business. After he graduated from school Sig bought a little rig so that he could deliver meat to the farm households around the township. Many of the farmers were busy on the farm, and their wives did not usually drive, so it was helpful to have the meat man, the fish man, the milk

man, etc. deliver products directly to farmer's doors. Sig did this and built up a fine trade around the township. "Sig" served Decoto, Alviso, Newark and Creek Road customers.

### **Alois Brinek:**

Alois Brinek was born in Germany in 1875. His date of entry into the U.S. is not known. He was married to Minnie Brinek, who was born in California in 1893. They lived on "V" Street in Alvarado in 1930. Alois worked as sausage maker in a butcher shop in Alvarado. After 1930 nothing was found for the Brinek's.

### **CARPENTER:**

*Joseph Maciel / Fred W. Joyce*

### **Joseph Maciel:**

Joseph Maciel was born in California in 1895 to Manuel & Katrina Maciel of Decoto. Joseph's wife Hortense, was born in California in 1897. The couple had two daughters and they lived on the Creek Road. In his early years Joseph worked on the family farm, but by 1930 he was working as a carpenter. This was an occupation he followed through to the 1940 census. Hortense Maciel was an active supporter of the Alvarado School PTA.

### **Fred W. Joyce:**

Fred Joyce (Sr.) was born in Alvarado in April 1884 to John and Dora Joyce. John & Dora Joyce had three children, Arthur, Dora and Fred Joyce. There were also three children from a previous marriage of Dora Joyce: Alice, Louisa & John M. Scribner.

Fred Joyce moved to San Francisco in the late 1890's to live with his married sister Mrs. Louisa Winegar, who was married to a San Francisco hardware salesman. Fred was employed as a hardware salesman in San Francisco at this time. Arthur Joyce, Fred's brother, was also a resident in the Winegar home working as a machinist in San Francisco.

In March 1901 Fred Joyce returned to Alvarado and accepted a job as a clerk with the F. C. Harvey Co., however he resigned that position in July 1901.

Fred found his way back to San Francisco, and in 1905 he was married to Mabel A. Joyce, They had a daughter Ruby Joyce. The year 1910 found Fred living with Edward Kamps, his wife Mabel's step father in San Francisco.

By September 1918, Fred Joyce was back in Alvarado where he was working at the sugar mill as a carpenter. His daughter Ruby was now eleven years old, and he had added a daughter Rosalie, who was six years old at this time.

Fred loved the game of baseball, and in 1918 he was embroiled in a controversy over the best baseball team in Washington Township. Fred Joyce believed that it was his Alvarado team, of which he was the manager. But the Newark Wedgewoods disputed this and they laid claim to being the best. A three game series was planned to determine the champion. In that series Newark took Alvarado two games to one.

In 1926 Fred Joyce was a member of the Alvarado Grammar School Board of Trustees. He joined Clerk of the Board Fannie Robie, and F.C. Harvey, President of the Board.

Fred's oldest daughter Ruby became engaged to Mr. George Harvey, son of Edward Harvey. The couple would marry and live in the home built by Sylvester Harvey, which today is the centerpiece of the S.P. Harvey Park off of Alvarado Boulevard.

An Employees Cooperative Association was formed at the Holly Sugar Company plant in April 1937, with the approval of company officials. The association was formed for the purpose of collective bargaining. All employees signed up for membership in the union. Fred Joyce was chairman of the union. The association would cooperate with similar organizations in other sugar mills at Tracy, Woodland and Manteca.

Plans for a new fire hall were floated in December 1941. The project was led by Fred Wiegman, and was in the hands of the Alameda County architect. The site for the building had been purchased on Smith Street where "Little Tijuana" had once been located. The Fire Commissioners who cooperated on the building of the new fire hall were A. A. Lee, Joe Lewis, Fred Joyce, John Ralph and Fred Wiegman.

About the same time the new fire house was in the planning stages, there was also a severe problem with sewage in Alvarado. The entire town was on cesspools, and many were in poor condition, which could have led to severe health problems. A sewage district was formed and implemented. On September 16, 1946 a vote was held for the Board of Directors for the district. Those chosen were: F.W. Joyce Sr., Manuel P. Goularte, and Elvin Rose.

When Alvarado and Decoto were forced to consider incorporation due to the land grab by the City of Hayward, one of the problems facing the new city was the lack of a modern sewer system in Alvarado. In April 1956 the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce urged a merger of the Alvarado Sanitary District and the Union Sanitary District. Joseph Lewis asked that a letter to that effect be sent to President Elvin Rose and Secretary-Treasurer Fred Joyce of the Alvarado District advising them of merging their system into the Union Sanitary District.

Fred was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and served as Treasurer of the Christian Endeavor Society of the Presbyterian Church in Washington Township.

Mabel Joyce became a member of the Country Club of Washington Township along with Mrs. George Harvey and Miss Mildred Nauert.

Fred Joyce passed away on September 28, 1966, Mabel Joyce passed away on September 10, 1969.

## **CLERKS:**

### **Mrs. Susie E. Davis:**

Susie Davis was born in California in 1905. She was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Amaral of the Creek Road where Joseph was a farmer. In August 1925 Susie accepted the position of relief operator at the Centerville telephone Exchange. Later Susie would become the telephone operator for the town of Alvarado, but she resigned this position in April 1926. This is about the time Susie would marry George Davis, who had recently come to Alvarado to work for the sugar mill as a foreman. After their marriage they settled down on the Creek Road near Susie's parents and raised their family. George kept working for the sugar mill, and in 1930 Susie took a job as a clerk in a general store. Besides raising three children in the 30's Susie also devoted time to the American Red Cross during World War II, the Alvarado PTA, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles auxiliary.

### **Lawrence George:**

Lawrence George was born in California in 1902 to Emmanuel and Mary George of the Alviso District. In 1930 Lawrence single living at home and was a clerk in a stock and bond house. In 1940 Lawrence had married but was still living at home with parents. His wife Mary was born in California in 1912. They had two children. In 1940 Lawrence had improved employment as a salesman of stock and bonds.

### **Edward Vargas:**

Edward Vargas was born in California in 1908 to A.E. and Nora Vargas of Alvarado. Ed graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in June 1923 with fellow classmates: Mayme Avila, Victor Allegre, Ramona Hinkley, Alma Logan, Vernie Machado, George Vargas and William Vargas. A. B. Morris was class teacher.

In October 1929 Edward married Miss Lena A. Bernard of Hayward, which was celebrated at the All Saints Church on D Street in Hayward. The young couple settled in the home of the groom's parents on Smith Street in Alvarado. At this time Ed worked as a salesman in a garage. Ed and Lena divorced, and in June 1939 Ed was given to license to marry Rose Cecilia Simas of Hayward. After their marriage they settled in the home of the Ed's parents on Smith Street in Alvarado. Edward was employed as a sales clerk by the Hayward Feed & Poultry Company.

### **Mrs. Mayme Roderick:**

Frank S. Roderick Jr. was the son of Frank S. Sr. and Mary Roderick who lived on the Landing Road in Alviso (Jarvis). Frank & Mary had three children, Carrie born in 1887. Louisa was born in 1887 and Frank S. Jr. was born 1886.

In July 1914 Frank S. Jr. married Miss Mayme Gomes, daughter of Joe and Frances Gomes of Alvarado. Mayme had one sister Evelyn Gomes who married Manuel P. Rose of Alvarado, who lived on Fair Ranch Road. Frank and Mayme had one daughter, Eleanor.

Frank Roderick was a farmer in the Alviso District of Washington Township. Besides his time spent on the farm Frank also contributed his time to the

Alvarado Catholic Church by serving on committees to promote the annual St. Anne's Church bazaar.

Mrs. Mayme Roderick was very active in the Alvarado and Alviso Districts of Washington Township. Chief among her interests was Alvarado's St. Anne's Catholic Church, for which she volunteered for decades in fund raising activities to benefit the church. In October 1926, Mayme was the chairman of all committees of the annual bazaar in Alvarado and collected donations for the church event at her place of employment, Ralph's Store on Levee Street in Alvarado.

Also in 1926 Mayme joined the Alvarado dramatic club along with fellow thespians Annie Flores, the Misses Geraldine and Edith Mello, the Misses Elizabeth and Eva Costa, Nick Lewis and Clarence Flores. In 1926 they put on a benefit show for the St. Anne's Church in Alvarado.

They followed this up in 1927 with the play "The Bashful Mr. Bobs," a three-act farce comedy. Then in December 1927, the play was followed by "Family Disturbance," a play presented at St. Edward's Church in Newark. In April 1929, they presented the play, "And Ted Comes Home," which was said to be one of the cleverest staged by the club. Those who appeared in the play were: William Lazzarini, Hazel Roderick, Annie Flores, Sam Costa, Madelyn Avila, Jim Callins, Clarence Flores, Mayme Roderick, Edith Mello, Kenneth Ferry, May Avila and Joseph Lemos.

Beginning in 1928 Mayme served on the Board of Trustees of the Alviso School District. This was a public service would last for over 22 years.

Mrs. Roderick had a long relationship with the Alvarado SPRSI, Council #21. SPRSI is an acronym for "Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel," a benevolent and fraternal society of the Portuguese people in California founded in 1898 in Oakland California. This organization was merged into the Luso-American Life Insurance Society in 2008. Over the decades Mayme Roderick would serve in many official capacities of this Alvarado organization.

In January 1936, Supervisor Ralph V. Richmond officially appoints Mayme the voter registrar for Alvarado. She would handle this duty of the John H. Ralph General Store on Levee Street.

Besides being named registrar for Alvarado, the Catholic Church of Alvarado kept Mayme very busy in 1936. In July the church celebrated St. Anne's Day on July 26<sup>th</sup> with a special celebration under the auspices of the St. Anne's Confraternity. Mrs. Roderick was the president of this organization and made sure all preparations were made for a successful celebration.

In November 1936 Mayme served on the committee for the upcoming St. Anne's Catholic Church annual bazaar. On the committee with her were Antone Vargas, Joseph Martin, Joe Dutra, Mrs. Henry Flores, and Mrs. Antone Vargas.

December 1936 saw the Women's Club of St. Anne's Church vote to join the National Catholic Women's Club. The ladies voted Mayme Roderick as the first president of the Alvarado Society.



The De Guadelupe Institute YLI; a catholic Women's Organization, planned its annual costume carnival at the Odd Fellows Hall at Niles in October 1937. Mayme Roderick was named as general chairman of the carnival and her associates were Laura Secada, Mary Azevedo, and Eleanor Roderick.

During World War II Mayme served as an observer on the Alvarado Observation Tower located on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds. After the Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor, Alvarado had a group of observers who manned the observation tower 24/7 looking for enemy planes. Mayme also served in the Alviso area War Chest drive for needy person because of the war. Alviso raised \$672.75 for the War Chest Drive.

In November 1944 Mayme again led a drive to get the people in the Alvarado precinct (which also included most of the Alviso School District) to register to vote. For this civic-minded effort she had the help of Miss May Fontes of the General Petroleum Company Office (Frank George's Mobil Gas dealership).

Raising money to pay for the war effort was an ongoing effort in the U.S. and it was no different in Alvarado. To spur people to raise the most money in the effort to sell War Bonds, three teams were chosen in Alvarado to canvass the area. The first team was called the "MARINES," which was headed by Mrs. Mary Rivers. The second team was called the "NAVY," was led by Mrs. Mayme Roderick; and the third was the "ARMY," championed by Mrs. Genevieve Dutra. Nearly \$30,000 in bond sales for the sixth war loan was credited to the women's committee.

Mrs. Roderick followed up this effort with an effort to help the Washington Township Red Cross with a two-week drive for the annual fund to begin on March 1, 1945. The local town chairman for Alvarado was Walter Oakey, and for Alviso is Mrs. Mayme Roderick.

After the war Mayme's attention again turned to the Alvarado Catholic Church. In May 1946 it was announced that the St. Anne's Confraternity of St. Anne's Church in Alvarado would hold a food sale May 11<sup>th</sup>, at Ralph's Food Store. The ladies participating in the event were Mrs. Gregory Perry, Mrs. Mary Rivers, and Mrs. Frank Roderick.

Four months later in November 1946, the annual bazaar for the benefit of St. Anne's Church would be held at the IDES Hall under the chairmanship of Mrs. Mayme Roderick. Serving with her on the committee were Mrs. Mary Rivers, Mrs. Henry Flores, and Mrs. Joseph Dutra.

Mrs. Mayme Roderick retired after 22 years of service as a member of the Alviso Grammar School. Her last official act on the Board was to hand out diplomas to the Alviso graduating class of 1950:

Joseph Abreu  
Robert Hailey

Rina Ciarlo  
Leon Mings

William Emery

Through the 1950's Mayme continued her active work with the SPRSI. In 1952 Mayme was a delegate to the annual convention held in San Diego. In

1954 she served as an assistant to the President, Mrs. Helen Goularte. Again in 1955 Mayme was called to serve, this time as Secretary to the SPRSI.

In December 1995 Mrs. Mayme Roderick was honored for her almost 30 years in the YLI Organization. She was born in San Francisco but has spent her entire life in Alvarado, where she was a member of the board of trustees for the Alviso School in the Alvarado Elementary School District for 24 years.

Frank Roderick passed away in November 1960. Mayme Roderick followed Frank on April 7, 1994 at the age of 97 years.

## **DENTIST:**

### **John Bettencourt, DDE:**

Dr. John Bettencourt was born in Hawaii in 1901. John came to the U.S. and opened his own dental practice office. He married Miss Lulu Dekidos, daughter of Domingo and Mary Dekidos of old Union City, on the west end of Alvarado. In 1930 Dr. John and Lulu had their first child, a daughter Norma. Dr. Bettencourt was a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. In 1944 it was noted that Dr. Bettencourt owned a business block in downtown Alvarado that included a pool room and a restaurant. In November 1949 it was announced that Miss Norma Bettencourt of Alvarado would be wed to Everett de Salles of Niles. Dr. Bettencourt had his dental office in Hayward.

## **DRUGGIST:**

*Thor Nordvik / Lloyd W. Russell*

### **Thor Nordvik:**

Thor Nordvik was born in Norway in 1911 to Johan and Bergljot Nordvik. The three of them entered the U.S. in 1911. Johan became a pharmacist, an occupation, which Thor followed. Late in 1929 Thor became the druggist for Alvarado. Thor's wife Wilma was born in California in 1912. In 1930 the couple had a daughter Carolyn.

In October 1934 Thor was appointed as acting Postmaster for Alvarado when Albert Norris resigned due to health problems. Thor acted as Post Master while the search for a permanent Postmaster could be carried forward. That happened in December 1934, when Mrs. Frances Luna, Ass't Postmaster was appointed acting Postmaster to replace Thor, and then she was later permanently appointed.

In March 1935, Thor became the leader of the recently reorganized Chamber of Commerce in Alvarado. Thor was the head of the C of C when it was decided that Alvarado, like the town of Decoto, needed a sewage district to ward off possible diseases.

Thor was also active in the Alvarado Eagles, serving in several official capacities including president. After 1937, nothing further was found in Alvarado for Thor Nordvik, but I did locate him living in Centerville.

### **Lloyd W. Russell:**

In 1937 the pharmacy was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Russell. They stayed in business for two years before moving to San Mateo to open a drug store there. Mr. Russell had taken an active part in the Chamber of Commerce and Eagles Lodge, being President of the Eagles in 1939, while Mrs. Russell had been President of the PTA in 1938. Mrs. Russell also had taken an active part in the Rebekah's and Ladies Aid.

Then in September 1939 the Russell's announced their relocation to the City of San Mateo. The town would greatly miss the couple. Their son Wayne, who delivered the "*Pioneer*" newspaper around town, would be greatly missed, and the Main Street of Alvarado would not seem the same without Jean Russell on her tricycle with the doll buggy holding her favorite kitten, hitched on behind.

Alvarado was indeed fortunate in having a new pharmacy, which opened in December 1939, in the former drug store location in the Diaz Building. The store was newly remodeled and re-tinted, and the whole space within is used for drug store purposes. The tremendously complete stock of drug supplies needs all this space because never before has such a complete stock been displayed in Alvarado in recent years.

### **ENGINEER:** **Claire Lopez:**

Claire Lopez was born in Rhode Island in 1899 of Portuguese or Spanish parentage. His wife Evelyn Lopez was born in California in 1909. In 1920 Claire was single living in Monterey California, and employed at the Hotel Del Monte. By 1930 he was in Alvarado and was employed by the Leslie Salt Co. as an engineer and later Ass't Superintendent of the plant.

Little Patricia Lopez, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Claire Lopez, entered the Alvarado Grammar School in January 1936 after an absence of nine months. Patricia was away with her grandmother in Modesto, while Mrs. Lopez took a beauty culture course in Oakland. Mrs. Lopez has since completed her beauty course, and looks forward to putting it to use.

### **FARMERS:** **Frederick Wiegman Jr.**

Frederick Wiegman Jr. was born in November 1893, twenty-six months after his four siblings all died of diphtheria within ten days of each other in September 1891. Fred married Beatrice Ida Wiegman. I could find no children born to this couple. Beatrice Ida was born in Switzerland in 1893. She gives the year 1893 as her date of entry into the U.S.

Fred Wiegman was elected to the board of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce in December 1922 along with August May, John H. Ralph, R. S. Stewart, George Enos and Harry M. Springer.

One of the banes of Fred Wiegman was the almost seemingly annual flooding that ravaged Alvarado. The December 1937 flood was called the worst in fifteen years when the water of the Alameda Creek broke through the Sugar Mill dam near the Fred Wiegman farm. The water broke through and immediately submerged the Wiegman farm, flowing over the Southern Pacific

tracks and flooding a half-mile section northward. Water submerged the old Chinatown area and the downtown section to Watkins and Levee Street, rising to a reported four to six feet high.

Again the townspeople got together in February 1938 to discuss what could be done to work out plans for formation of a flood control district in Eden and Washington Townships. Charles Baird, President of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, appointed a committee to investigate what could be done about the flooding in Alvarado.

The committee was composed of:  
Fred Wiegman and F. C. Harvey, leading Alvarado ranchers  
August May, bank president  
Henry Patterson, large landowner  
Adolph A. Oliver, Mt. Eden farmer  
J. C. Buchanan, Leslie Salt Co. Superintendent  
Andrew Logan, Holly Sugar Co. official

A delegation was formed of August May, Fred Harvey, Fred Wiegman and A. Amaral to petition the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to protest present conditions. They contended that culverts along the Mt. Eden-Alvarado Highway are inadequate and that flood waters from Alameda Creek had spread over large areas on the east side of the highway (between Hesperian Blvd. east to the Alameda Creek). Members of the board informed the group that the county had no jurisdiction over the matter, as the road was a state highway (State Hiway 17).

In July 1940 Fred Wiegman was one of the persons from the Chamber of Commerce to serve on a committee to study the feasibility of establishing a sanitary district in Alvarado to replace open and damaged cesspools that create a health hazard to the town of Alvarado. On this committee with Fred were Charles Baird, Frank Machado, John Ralph, Tony Lee, George Oakes and Antone E. Vargas.

By January 1941 Alvarado voted to establish a sanitary district similar to the Castro Valley and the Oro Loma sanitary districts. They expected to vote some \$42,600 in 40 year bonds sometime in March. Officers named for the new sanitary district were Fred Wiegman, Clarence Flores, Manuel Borges, Manuel Perry, Joe Dutra and A. E. Vargas.

An election was held in September 1944 for officers for the Alvarado Sanitary District. Joseph Jacinto was elected Assessor for the Sanitary District, the office formerly held by Fred Wiegman, who after doing a fine job in helping organize the District expressed the desire to retire. Peter Pinto was elected as a new Director of the Sanitary District and Clarence Flores was re-elected to the Board of Directors. Dan Riley was named Inspector to check on the pumps at the booster station on V Street daily, as well as seeing the disposal plant lower down V Street is performing satisfactorily. Joseph Dutra was elected as secretary of the board.

As well as being involved in the establishment of the Alvarado Sanitary District in 1940 to 1944, Fred was also involved in the Alvarado Fire District, and the Alvarado Fire Department. Plans for a new fire hall were drawn up

and given to the Alameda County architect by Fred Wiegman, Fire Commissioner. A site for the building was purchased on Smith Street not far from the grammar school. School Principal J. C. Wasley had been recently named Fire Chief of the reorganized department. The Alvarado Fire District had been enlarged about a year ago to assume the same boundaries as those of the school district.

Fred announced that Alvarado's new \$5,000 brick fire station was expected to be completed early in September 1942 and plans were discussed to hold an open house to honor Fred Wiegman, President of the Fire Commission who had devoted many hours to bringing this project to conclusion. The first unit of the fire hall was 34 by 29 with brick walls and tar and gravel roof. It would have space for two engines and later an annex is to include a clubroom and kitchen would be added.

*The Alvarado Pioneer* saluted Fred Wiegman's efforts in bringing the fire station to fruition with this article in October 1944:

*"The Alvarado Pioneer salutes Fred Wiegman as the real "father of the Alvarado Fire House." As Alvarado's Fire Commissioner, Fred Wiegman steered the construction of the firehouse to completion. The Chamber of Commerce officers started the crusade for a Fire House, but without the personal guidance of Mr. Wiegman, we would not have gotten to first base."*

Fred was always ready to give generously to Alvarado civic projects out of his own pocket, as well as giving as giving freely of his time. Fred donated \$30 in January 1943 (in 1943 \$30 was like \$350 today) to help build the Observation Tower on the grammar school grounds to scan the skies for enemy planes. The next year he donated \$25 to help cleanup brush at the mouth of the Alvarado Creek to help prevent flooding.

Beatrice Ida Wiegman passed away on January 26, 1965. She was followed in death by Fred in January 4, 1975.

## **FOREMAN:**

### **George C. Davis:**

George Davis was born in Colorado in 1901. George Davis married Susie E. Amaral of Alvarado circa 1930. They had three children: two daughters, Cherrie born circa 1931, and Georgia born circa 1934; and a son Clyde was born circa 1933.

George Davis was an employee of the Holly Sugar Mill in Alvarado. He was a foreman on the production line. In 1937, in concert with F.W. Joyce; George Davis became a member of the Employees Cooperative Association at the sugar mill to implement a collective bargaining agreement. The association would cooperate with similar organizations in other sugar mills at Tracy, Woodland and Manteca.

In 1943 George was a member of the Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department. With a new firehouse built, George joined Fire Chief James Wasley, fellow ass't fire chief Anthony J. Vargas, and Fire Commissioner Joe Lewis in picking out furniture and living essentials for the men housed in the fire house.

In that same year the people of Alvarado erected an observation tower on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds to look for possible enemy planes in the sky. The tower was manned 24/7 by volunteers from the town of Alvarado. George Davis joined Manuel Goularte, Joe Maciel, Anthony Jardine, Clarence Flores, Charles Baird, Manuel P. Rose, F.E. Machado, Manuel Silva, Frank Goularte, Frank Dutra and Joe Lewis in the erection of the tower.

Charles Baird, of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, led an enthusiastic group of men from the Alvarado Fire Dept. for his Boy Scout Troop in March 1944. It seemed that many of the firemen belong to the Chamber committee on Boy Scouts. Men would be asked to serve in groups, one to encourage the boys to pass tests, others to emphasize attendance and fine citizenship, etc. Charles Baird announced that his committee would be composed of Anthony J. Vargas, Manuel E. Perry, George Davis, B. Wilson, Joe Dutra, James Wasley, Joe E. Lewis, Manuel Lewis, Tony Borges and Clyde Lewis.

George Davis was also a member of the Alvarado Eagles Aerie and in May 1944 was elected to the post of Chaplain for the lodge.

## **HOTEL KEEPERS:**

*Joe Marlot / Paul Bruhn / Fernandes Paredes / Bertha & Raymond Cushing*

### **Joe Marlot, Proprietor:** **The Alvarado Hotel:**

**See Bio Chapter 8 Page 30**

### **Paul Bruhn, Proprietor:** **The Alvarado Hotel:**

Paul was born in Germany on May 24, 1883. His date of entry into the U.S. is not known. He married Emelie Straub who had two children, Meta and William. Mrs. Emelie Bruhn passed away in Oakland on April 13, 1927.

The 1920 census showed Mr. Bruhn working as a bartender in Oakland. After the death of his wife Emelie, Paul appears to have continued to live in Oakland, finally coming to Alvarado in about 1935, when he joined the Alvarado Eagles Lodge.

In 1936 Paul was actively known to be running the Alvarado Hotel. In March 1936 the Alvarado Hotel played host to the Alameda County Postmasters Association with a splendid meal hosted by Alvarado Postmaster Mrs. Frances Luna.

Paul continued expand his trade in the hotel business, but on June 5, 1939 he passed away suddenly at the age of 56. His hotel business was sold to a new owner, Fernandes Paredes.

### **Fernandes Paredes, Proprietor:** **The Alvarado Hotel:**

Fernand Paredes was born in Spain circa 1898. Fernando entered the U.S. circa 1928 but his history prior to coming to Alvarado is unknown. He married Miss Dolores Salido (born 1902) of Winters California, who was the daughter

of Placido & Dolores Salido. Mike Salido of Alvarado was her brother. The Paredes had three sons: Antonio born circa 1923, Fernando (Fred, aka Mencho) born circa 1925 and Placido born circa 1930.

The first mention of the Paredes family in Alvarado is January 1935 when Mr. & Mrs. Paredes were mentioned as the owners of a local restaurant, just before they were making plans to visit Spain. A June 1944 article gave the following location of their original restaurant:

“Mrs. Manuel Silva of Alvarado sold her business property opposite the Central Bank to E. Naharro, owner of the Alvarado Theater. The business property includes the former poolroom location and also the building where Mr. Fernand Paredes used to have his restaurant years ago before he moved to his Alvarado Hotel location.”

In October 1939 Fernando Paredes bought the old Alvarado Hotel from the estate of Paul Bruhn who had passed away several months before. By the middle of October 1939 the last residents staying at the hotel had left and Fernand started a remodeling of the hotel that would turn its architecture into a Spanish style stucco motif.

*The Oakland Tribune* said of the old Alvarado Hotel:

“The historical old Alvarado Hotel will be remodeled and redecorated by the new owner, Fernand Paredes. The hotel was one of the buildings moved from the original site of Alvarado, then known as Union City more than 75 years ago\*. It was the stopping place for men on early day boats, which carried grain from the Union City wharves to the San Francisco docks. Employees of the early flourmill at Union City, which had been annexed to the hotel structure after it was moved, used the hotel as a place of residence.”

\*Actually the Alvarado Hotel was built in 1881 by William Liston to replace the old Brooklyn Hotel, which was destroyed by an arsonist in September 1878 as retribution for dealing with Chinese citizens. It may have been the old Brooklyn Hotel which was moved 75 years ago.

In another article of the same period *The Oakland Tribune* referred to Fernando Paredes as the “Hamburger King.” I had one of his hamburgers at the Alvarado Hotel in 1960 I can attest they were as good as any I have had. So, during the Depression Fernand made enough money to buy the Alvarado Hotel, and then spend \$25,000 in remodeling (remember this is 1939 Depression money).

The Alvarado Hotel was the meeting place for the town. The Riverside Hotel had been going downhill ever since the sale of the property F.B. Granger Jr. in the early 1900’s. Fernando’s meals were superb.

In 1943 the *Alvarado Pioneer* told of the sumptuous dinner served by Fernando to the Mobil Gas Dealers of Frank George in Southern Alameda County. The dining room of the hotel was used exclusively for this banquet and F. Paredes head chef, was in rare form. All said they had never tasted more delicious wild duck in their lives and the tables were attractively festooned with flowers.

Besides his famous hamburger Fernando also made his famous Coney Island Clam Chowder. Those who tasted this delight would come from far to get a bowl now and then. Besides his famous meals Fernando had the finest bar in Alvarado, fully stocked and of the most ornate fashion. It was common after the Eagles met at the old Hall on Smith Street that many of the participants would go to the Alvarado Hotel for informal discussions and camaraderie.

### **THE ALVARADO HOTEL THROUGH THE YEARS**



The Alvarado Hotel was built by William Liston in 1881, and owned by the Henningsen Bros. in the 1890's.



The Alvarado Hotel, which was remodeled in 1939 by Fernandes Paredes.



The Alvarado Hotel as it sits today at the corner of Smith Street and Union City Boulevard.



Downtown Alvarado began to fade away after WWII with the advent of super markets that drew much of the local business from Mom & Pop stores such as Tony Lee, the Jacinto's, Sam Dinsmore, John Ralph, the Andrade's, and Market. The final blow came in 1957 when I-880 came in and the town of Alvarado was bypassed. Matsumoto's and Priego have continued to thrive by serving a niche market.

After the freeway opened, *The Oakland Tribune* came through town interviewing the various businesses. The gas stations suffered the most, and for a small town Alvarado had a lot of gas stations. The Andrade's had their Chevron Station on the east side of Levee Street as you entered Alvarado from Mt. Eden. Directly across the street was Ambrose Loyola's Flying "A" Station. Just across from Central Bank (just about on the spot where the old County Seat was located) was the retail Mobil Gas Station of Frank George. There used to be a Texaco Station across the street Priego's on the west side of Levee Street. Machado had the Eagle gas station at the corner of Levee and Horner Streets, and Antone Santos had the Shell Gas Station next to the Silver Dollar on your way out of Alvarado to Centerville. Fernando said his restaurant and bar sales were way down, but not nearly as bad as during the depression.

My father was an Eagle when I was first born, and knew many of the people in town from the gatherings at the Alvarado Hotel. I had occasion to go the hotel once with my good friend Dave Brune for lunch.

I had a hamburger prepared by "Fernand" as they called him. Although relatively plain it was as good a hamburger as I have ever had. As he was preparing my hamburger my friend Dave said to Fernand, "This is the young Gualco boy." Fernando looked over at me, smiled and said, "Little Bocci!" Then he repeated it, and shook his head. My father was known in town as Bocci Gualco, why I do not know, for he never picked up a Bocci ball for as long as I knew him.

Fernando Paredes passed away on October 6, 1967. The Alvarado Hotel stayed open to the public until November 2, 1967

## **Bertha & Raymond Cushing:**

### **The Riverside Hotel:**

Raymond Cushing was born in California in 1900. He was the son of James and Bertha Cushing. Mrs. Cushing moved to Alvarado in the late 1920's and lived on Smith Street with her son Raymond. She was widowed and showed her employment as the owner of a hotel in Alvarado, with her son Raymond as a helper. In 1933 Raymond Cushing received an on-sale and off-sale liquor license for the Riverside Hotel. In 1933 and again in 1940, the Riverside Hotel was the voting headquarters for Alvarado's 2<sup>nd</sup> precinct. Raymond Cushing was a voting official in both of those elections.

## **JAPANESE CARPENTER:**

*Minoru Tsuno / Masanori Tsutsui*

### **Minoru Tsuno:**

Minoru Tsuno was born in Japan in 1885. He entered the U.S. in 1907. His wife, Kamei, was born in Japan in 1890. She entered the U.S. in 1914. They had three sons and a daughter. In 1930 Minoru was working as a carpenter in the salt works. By 1940 he had left the salt company to go into carpentering on his own. He and his family were living on Beard Road in the Alviso District.

### **Masanori Tsutsui:**

Masanori Tsutsui was born in Japan in 1896. He entered the U.S. in 1915. His wife, Masuju was born in Japan in 1899. She entered the U.S. in 1919. They were married circa 1919. In 1930 they were living in Alvarado and had one son. Masanori worked as a carpenter in the salt company. By 1940 Masanori had moved to Beard Road and changed had changed his occupation to that of a farmer. The family had grown to a son and two daughters by this time. The family was moved to Central Utah (Camp Abraham) during the Japanese resettlement of WWII.

### **JAPANESE TEACHERS:**

*Jingo & Kiwa Takeuchi / Suye Toda*

### **Jingo & Kiwa 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 at the Kendyusha Japanese language school in Alvarado in 1930, but by 1940 Kiwa left the school to be at home with their growing family.

After the onset of WWII and the bombing of Pearl Harbor Japanese/American citizens came under suspicion of enemy activity. On February 28, 1942, Jack Gleason, Chief of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, revealed portions of the contents of the Tokyo published dictionary of the Kendyusha Japanese Language School at Alvarado. Gleason was the authority for the statement that the text had been used there, and had been found in the possession of M. Tsutsui, secretary of the Japanese assoc., who was taken into custody on February 21, 1942

After stating in the foreword "should emergency arise, offer yourselves courageously to the State; and thus guard and maintain the prosperity of our Imperial Throne, co-equal with heaven and earth," the text adds, "The way here set forth is indeed the teaching bequeathed by our Imperial Ancestors, to be observed alike by their descendants and the subjects, infallible for all ages and true in all places." The text was apparently written primarily for Japanese subjects but had been utilized, Gleason said, in local language schools.

On March 7, 1942 Jingo Takeuchi, 54, of Alvarado, father of eight children was arrested. His apparent crime was that he once taught at the Kendyusha Japanese School in Alvarado, although then he was a carpenter by trade. The only contraband found in his home, it was reported, was an eight-inch dagger.

Sometime later seven members of the Takeuchi family were interned in Camp Abraham in Central Utah. Jingo Takeuchi was not among the family members interned.

### **Suye Toda:**

Suye Toda was born in Japan in 1896. Her date of entry into the U.S. is not known. She was married to Sakae Toda who was born in Japan in 1890. His date of entry into the U.S. is not known. Sakae worked in a chemical factory. The couple had four children, two daughters and two sons. Suye was a teacher in the Japanese language school in Alvarado in the 1930's and early 1940's. Suye was moved to Central Utah (Camp Abraham) during the Japanese resettlement of WWII along with Takeo Toda.

## **LIBRARY**

*Albert Norris / Mrs. Bessie Corwin / Mrs. Anne Forbes*

### **Albert Norris:**

**See Bio Chapter 5 Page 38**

### **Mrs. Bessie E. Corwin:**

Mrs. Bessie Corwin was named Librarian for Alvarado after Albert Norris retired. Although Bessie never showed in the Alvarado census, I was able to locate a Bessie E. Corwin in Hayward who was married to a dentist, Dr. Cecil Corwin, of 451 Maple Court Hayward. Bessie was born in California in 1875. Her husband Cecil was born in Oregon in 1872.

### **Anne Forbes:**

Mrs. Anna Forbes married William W. Forbes in the 1890's. William was born in New York in 1857, and Anna in Alabama in May 1870. They had two children, Sidney born 1894, and Marian born 1898. At the turn of the century they were living in Portland Oregon, and eventually they went to Los Angeles where William passed away.

Anna Forbes was the sister of Mrs. Fannie Robie of Alvarado, who had been clerk of the school board for over three decades. Mrs. Forbes was already known in Alvarado by her frequent visits to her sister and in the 1920's and the 1930's, when she came to live with Mrs. Fannie Robie on Vallejo Street.

Mrs. Forbes became active in the Alvarado Presbyterian Church and the Ladies Aid Society. Sometime prior to 1937, Mrs. Forbes became the Librarian for Alvarado. Alvarado's Library ran on a shoestring, and Mrs. Forbes tried her best to get the best books and magazines for her reading public. So tight was the Library budget that when Mrs. Forbes went on vacation the library would shut down for the interim.

Mrs. Forbes kept trying to obtain the most interesting magazines for the tables at the Alvarado Library. In 1939 she reported a good attendance at the facility. She made every effort interest the children in some beautiful editions of favorite classics that she had recently been able to acquire through the library system.

Even the *Alvarado Pioneer* joined in celebrating the praises of our little library. The editor questioned why more people don't enjoy that up-to-date Alvarado Library, a branch of the Alameda County Library. "Mrs. Forbes is a fine librarian," wrote the editor, "and so accommodating." The Editor asked the public to come in and enjoy some of the new books Mrs. Forbes had acquired.

Then in September 1944 Mrs. Forbes missed work due to ill health and her place was taken by a substitute librarian. The newspaper continued to follow her health and made several comments about her improving health, but she was not able to leave her home. Then on April 30, 1949 Mrs. Anne Augusta Forbes, 80, Alvarado Librarian died at the home of her sister, Mrs. Fannie Robie, in Alvarado. A native of Alabama, Mrs. Forbes had been a resident of Alvarado for several decades.

## **MANAGER:**

### **David Caeton:**

#### **Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association:**

David Caeton was born in Hawaii in 1901 to Manuel Sr. and Arminda Caeton, who were both from the Azores. Circa 1901 the Caeton's came to Oakland, California, where Manuel Sr. worked as a laborer on various jobs.

Dave was married to Dahlia Caeton, and in 1940 they had one child Ronald Caeton. By the late 1930's Dave had become the manager of the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association, with their packinghouse located on the SW corner of Alvarado Blvd. and the Southern Pacific railroad tracks. The tracks at this point were diagonal to the street and behind the packinghouse the tracks veered towards Newark making the packinghouse footprint a long narrow triangle. At this RR crossing there was a wig-wag signal to alert drivers of oncoming trains. If you were going north towards downtown Alvarado from Fremont and a train was also going north on the tracks, you could not see the train as it was hidden by the packinghouse. If you did not see the wig-wag signal you could be killed (as sometimes happened here) by an unnoticed train.

Behind the station was a siding where the SP left box cars used by the growers association to load and fill with vegetables and ice (there being no refrigerated cars in those days).

Dave Caeton was the manager and business agent for the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association. In the year 1938 the Alvarado Vegetable Growers were shipping three carloads of cauliflower a day to the east, the Northwest and Canada. Manager David Caeton saw to it that the vegetables were properly iced to keep it fresh on the long trip across the continent. Some \$36,000 of ice was bought each year for icing Alvarado vegetables to be shipped via railroad. The Alvarado Vegetable Growers Assoc. shipped \$2,000,000 worth of vegetables every year.

In 1940 the Alvarado Vegetable Grower Association had thirteen growers in the association, headed by F.C. Harvey, president; and David Caeton, as manager of the packinghouse.

In January 1944 Dave Caeton departed the growers association to go into business for himself, shipping from an interior township town. Nothing further was found for him.

## **MERCHANTS:**

### **George "Chick" & Angie Vargas:**

George Vargas was born in 1909 in Centerville to John E. and Rita Vargas. Both John & Rita were born in Portugal, but were married in the U.S.

John was born in Portugal in September 1866 and entered the U.S. in 1895. Rita was born in Portugal in 1882 and entered the U.S. in 1896. John and Rita first lived with John's brother Jose as a boarder on the Centerville Road. John E. married Rita Vargas in 1907 and in 1908 they had their first child Manuel. George was the second son born in 1908. Mamie was born in 1911; and a third son, Frank, was born in 1912.

George Vargas and Angie Allegre announced their intention to wed in June 1934. As of 1940 George and Angie were living on the Creek Road near Angie's parents. At this time they showed not having any children. George was showing his employment as a mechanic at a salt plant in 1940.

George became a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, and in December 1941, he was elected Ass't Scoutmaster of the new Alvarado Boy Scout Troop. The Scoutmaster was Anthony Silva. In March 1942 the Alvarado Boy Scout Troop No. 1 became officially sanctioned with Anthony Silva as Scoutmaster, and George Vargas and James C. Wasley Jr. as Ass't Scoutmasters.

George was installed as Chamber president in January 1953. He immediately named Warren Silva, Bill Gianella, and himself, as representatives to the Washington Township Chamber of Commerce. He also welcomed new members Warren Silva, Joe Lewis, Mrs. Tony Rogers, and John Ralph.

Two months later Alvarado had to prepare for the Centennial celebration of the Alvarado County Seat. Anthony Silva, President of the C of C needed to secure a speaker's platform and complete decorations. He appointed Manuel Borges, Damaso Diaz, Leslie Maffey, Warren Silva, John Ratekin, Frank George, and George Vargas to gather the required equipment for this important celebration in June 1953. The celebration would see the unveiling of the State Historical Marker for the first Alameda County Seat at Alvarado.

At the same time the celebration was being planned, Anthony Silva unveiled a plan to investigate and implement a house numbering system in Alvarado. For a group to perform this task he chose George Vargas, Elvin Rose, and Warren Silva.

William E. Silva resigned his seat on the Alvarado Elementary School in April 1957, because he was moving out of the district. The Alameda County Board of Education approved the appointment of George Vargas to succeed Mr. Silva. At this time George was a chief electrician for Leslie Salt Co., His wife Angie was the acting Postmaster for Alvarado. George was elected to the school board in May 1958. He was running unopposed.

When Hayward moved into Alvarado and Decoto territory in 1954-1955 the fever for the two towns to incorporate into Union City grew. But there were many problems with several persons pulling in different directions. In 1957 a group of persons decided to abandon the Union City incorporation effort and start their own city. They were going to name the city New Haven instead of Union City. In May 1957, a group started the New Haven Steering Committee. Wilbert Hendricks of Alvarado was elected President of the committee with strong support from Kenny Garcia of Decoto. The other officers chosen besides Hendricks and Garcia were: Oscar Dowe, George Hocking, Mike Rodriguez, Herbert Harrold, Segundo Diaz, Joe Seoane, Ray Orozco, George Vargas, Bill Machado, and Dr. John Bettencourt.

Besides George's duties on the New Haven Steering Committee there was also the challenge of getting the new Alvarado Elementary School off the ground. The first shovel full of earth was turned over by Board Clerk Wilbert Hendricks in December 1957. On hand to observe the brief noon hour ceremonies were other trustees, William Machado and George Vargas, school Supt. Leslie Maffey, school employees, architects, and representatives of the contractors.

At the end of 1958 George decided to throw his hat into the ring for a seat on the city council for Union City. However a few weeks later he withdrew from the race and asked his supporters to shift their votes to the other six Alvarado candidates on the ballot. He had hoped that this move would improve the chances for Alvarado's representation on the council if the incorporation measure passed. There were 14 candidates in the race with eight from Decoto. George's ploy seemed to have worked for the little town of Alvarado captured three of the five seats on the city council.

George took to a hobby in the late 1940's with several Alvarado friends. The Alvarado Homing Pigeon Club was formed by:

Will Machado	Ed Vargas	Melvin Silva
George Vargas	Anthony Vargas	Joe Perez
Frank George	Tony George	Manuel Silva
Elvin Rose	Vernon Perry	Sanchez Bros

The club raised pigeons and would take them out several hundred miles and let them fly home. They would then time the results and calculate their actual speed to see which bird was the fastest bird.

#### **Angie Allegre Vargas:**

Angeline V. (Angie) Allegre was born in 1913 to Dominic and Frances Allegre. Domingo S. (Dominic) Allegre was born in the Azores (Portugal) in May 1875. He entered the U.S. in 1892. In May 1904 he took out a marriage license in Alameda County to marry Francesca B. de Azevedo, 18, of Alvarado.

Domingo and Frances had five children, three sons, Victor, Joseph and Melvin; and two daughters, Angeline (Angie) and Pauline.

George Vargas and Angie Allegre announced their intention to wed in June 1934. Almost immediately Angie became interested and active in the Portuguese Fraternal Society S.P.R.S.I. (Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel) whose patroness, St. Isabel, graced the Portuguese throne in the 13<sup>th</sup>

century, and was canonized in 1625 for her good deeds and acts of Charity to the poor and unfortunate. The society's motto, "Charity, Scalability and Protection" pretty much tells of its mission and its vision. This society was merged into the Luso-American Life Insurance Society in 2008. In April 1935 Angie was elected as an officer in the society joining with:

Mrs. Anna Amaral	Mrs. Edith Mello	Mrs. Clara Flores
Mrs. Mabel Rogers	Mrs. Anna Perry	Mrs. Evelyn Silva
Mrs. A. E. Vargas	Mrs. Frances Allegre	Mrs. Rose Silva
Mrs. Edith Lemos.		

Over the years Angie would continue to serve in the organization. In 1940 she attended the S.P.R.S.I. State convention held in Sacramento, along with Mary Borges and Mabel Rodgers. In 1946 she served as Treasurer to the Alvarado Lodge. Then Angie was elected to the post of President of the S.P.R.S.I in 1949. Again she was called on for the 1955 – 1956 service year; Angie was again elected as an officer in the SPRSI serving as Treasurer for the organization.

Another Portuguese society of which Angie Vargas was a member was the U.P.P.E.C. (União Portuguesa Protectora do Estado da California), which was a mutual-aid society for women. The local council was known at Council Bernice No. 131 of Alvarado. In June 1948 Angie was elected as Treasurer of this organization. She served again in 1950.

During WWII Angie served on the Alvarado Observation Tower, which was built on enemy planes since September 1941 (three months before Pearl Harbor), and the ground observer corps was kept up until 1942 when the tower was built on the school grounds. The tower was manned 24/7 by volunteers. Angie was one of the tower captains.

In June 1943, sad news was received for the town of Alvarado, and the Allegre family in particular. Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Allegre of Alvarado-Niles Road received a telegram that their son, Sgt. Joseph Allegre, 39, was killed in action of the Island of Attu in the Alaskan Aleutians. The telegram was received from the War Department by Sergeant Allegre's widow in Berkeley. He was inducted in April 1941, and had returned home for a furlough last April. His brother, Melvin had been inducted just a few weeks before. He was the brother of Angie Vargas and Pauline Dutra.

Then in September 1950 Angie received more bad news. Her sister, Mrs. Pauline Allegre Silva, 33, was crushed to death when the jeep in which she was riding overturned on Dry Creek Road near Decoto. Her husband, Melvin J. Silva, 37, Alvarado truck line operator, escaped injury in the accident and rescued his son, Melvin Jr. from beneath the Jeep, but Mrs. Silva died before help could arrive. The youngster suffered cuts and bruises. Mrs. Silva was the daughter of Mrs. Frances Allegre of Alvarado, and sister to Mrs. Angie Vargas of Alvarado and Victor Allegre of Hayward, and Melvin Allegre of Alvarado. She left a daughter Myrna Jean and son Melvin Joseph Silva Jr.

Angie was active in the Alvarado Mother's Club, an organization with similar goals and vision as the PTA. In 1953 the Mother's Club met at the school to discuss the need for a playground instructor for the summer vacation months. Also meeting was the committee in charge of arrangements for the

installation of club officers. The committee members were Angie, along with Mrs. Winifred Harper and Mrs. Jean Rose. Soon after this the Mother's Club was merged in the Alvarado Grammar School PTA. In March 1955 delegates were chosen to go the 16<sup>th</sup> District convention (PTA) at Hayward. Those chosen were:

Mae Santos	Hilda Allegre	Josephine Tenorio
Angie Vargas	Wilma Silva	Lavern Shestack

Besides the organization mentioned above Angie was also active in the Alvarado Eagles Auxiliary Aerie, St. Anne's Catholic Church Bazaar, the Paul E. Rivers Post of VFW, Auxiliary 7906, and the Alvarado 4-H club.

In June 1956 Angie was appointed as acting Postmaster of Alvarado upon the resignation of former Postmaster Mrs. Genevieve Dutra, who resigned her post in May 1956. Examinations were held for a new Postmaster, and that appointment would eventually be handed to Mrs. Alvina Brune.

## **MUSIC:**

### **Pinto Brothers Orchestra:**

Manual C. Pinto was the patriarch of the Pinto Brothers Orchestra. He was born in small town outside of Lisbon Portugal circa 1887. He entered the U.S. in 1913. At this time Manuel was married, but in 1920 his wife and children were still in Portugal. At this time Manuel boarding with Manuel and Isabel Drack on "V" Street. It is then that Manuel got into the shoe repair business in Alvarado.

In 1921 Manuel was joined by his wife Custodia and sons Manuel and Peter from Portugal. Once the family was together in the U.S., Manuel and Custodia added daughters Isabel and Hilda, and sons Antone, Armand and Frank. At this time Manuel and family were residing on Smith Street.

In 1940 the Pinto family was residing across the street from the sugar mill, and Manuel was still in the shoe business, making and repairing shoes. At this time Isabel May Pinto announced her intention to marry Wilbert Edward Martin; both were from Alvarado. In 1942 Hilda C. Pinto announced her intention to marry Melvin A. Allegre, who at this time was living in Niles.

The Pinto children were talented musicians and they naturally gravitated towards entertaining and playing music together. Their earliest recorded session was when they played at the Alvarado Grammar School for a PTA dance in September 1934.

The band was made up of Manuel Pinto, who played the alto and tenor saxophones, Peter Pinto, who played the electric accordion, Isabel Pinto Martin, who played the piano, and Eddy Manuel who played the drums.

Their theme song, which they used to open and close each night of dancing was "Day Dreams Come True at Night," which was also the theme song for the nationally known Dick Jorgen's Band who often played at the Fairmont Hotel in Berkeley Ca. The band played both "modern" music and 2 different Portuguese folk dances called the "Chamarita" and the "Fado".



The Pinto's wrote music for their own versions of these 2 folk dances that are still very popular with Portuguese communities in the USA, the Azores Islands, and mainland Portugal. The orchestra played every Saturday night at the SDES Hall in Alvarado for many years.

The price to come into the dance was 50 cents. They sold linguica sandwiches for 50 cents, malasadas (Portuguese donuts) for 10 cents, and soda water for 20 cents, and beer for 50 cents. To prepare the dance floor they sprinkled Ivory "Snow Flakes" clothes detergent on the hardwood floor.

The Pinto Brothers Orchestra played regularly at Alvarado dances, both at the S.D.E.S. Hall on Watkins Street and at the Alvarado Grammar School where the spacious auditorium was used for dances and recitals.

As their fame grew in the township they would play venues other than Alvarado, like the Apricot festival at Centerville. They also became popular in the East Bay playing an extended engagement at the Café Alabam at the San Lorenzo Junction. The orchestra was a point of pride for the people of Alvarado and gave the locals a chance to hear live music in the 30's, 40's and 50's.

(Note: Many thanks to Donald Martin for his input for this article.)

## **NEWSPAPER:**

### **George H. Oakes, Publisher:**

#### **Alvarado Pioneer Newspaper**

George Oakes was very active in Alvarado civic affairs. In 1940 he threw the weight of his newspaper behind the proposition to bring a sanitary system to Alvarado. George was among the boosters of the revived Chamber of Commerce in Alvarado in 1940. George was also behind the sale of War Bonds during WWII to help finance our fight against the Axis Powers.



George Oakes printed the *Alvarado Pioneer* from this little office located between the Alvarado Hotel and John Cosso's Chevron service station on the south side of Levee Street. The above photo was taken from "Union City through the Years," by the Union City Historical Museum.

## **POST OFFICE:**

## **Albert Norris:**

**See Bio Chapter 5 Page 38**

## **Thor J. Nordvik:**

Thor Nordvik was born in Norway in 1877, and entered the U.S. in 1911. He was married to Berglyot Nordvik, who was also born in Norway, and also entered the U.S. in 1911. They had one son in Norway, Thor J. in 1907; who also entered the U.S. in 1911. After they entered the U.S. they had another son Karl E. in 1915.

Thor's residence in the 1930 census put him in Newark, and the in 1940 census put him in Centerville. He came upon the Alvarado scene in October 1934, when he was appointed Alvarado's Postmaster after the resignation of Albert Norris, who had to leave due to ill health.

At this same Thor was president of the Alvarado Eagles. In December 1934, Mrs. Frances Luna was appointed acting Postmaster for Alvarado succeeding Thor Nordvik, who had been appointed acting Postmaster after the resignation of the late Albert Norris. Mrs. Luna chose Mrs. Annie Baird as Alvarado's Postal Clerk.

Thor was elected president of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce in March 1935, serving with him as officers were Charles Baird, D.R. Howell, John Menezes, James C. Wasley, Tony Santos and Frank George. One of Thor's first projects was to enlarge the Alvarado fire district. The Chamber president decided to ask the fire commission to take steps to enlarge the boundaries of the district, then limited to the town proper. Need for protection in a wider area was stressed.

Two months later in June 1935 Thor took on the challenge of putting a sewage system in place for the town of Alvarado. The town of Decoto had recently began talks on implementing a sanitary system for their town, and the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce if Decoto's proposed system could be extended to Alvarado. If Alvarado and Decoto combined their plans, the sum of \$40,000 would be required as Alvarado's share.

Thor Nordvik was also the town pharmacist for Alvarado. In April 1937 his drug store was robbed. Damaso Diaz, resident next door saw the burglar escape across the back of his yard. The man entered the store through the office of Dr. W. Cooper, breaking a window there, and then breaking a panel in the door leading into the store. Mr. Nordvik was out of town so the sheriff's deputies were unable to determine what was stolen.

This is the final in Alvarado for the Nordvik family.

## **Mrs. Frances Luna:**

Mrs. Frances Luna was married to Joseph Luna, who was born in California circa 1880. Frances was born in California circa 1883. They were married in 1905.

In 1910 Joseph Luna was working as a laborer in Centerville, but later in the same decade he came to Alvarado where he worked at the sugar mill. After 1930 he became a fireman (a boiler tender) at the Salt Works in Alvarado.

In 1918 Mrs. Frances Luna was appointed Ass't Postmaster of Alvarado under Albert Norris. Later she would be appointed as the Alvarado Library assistant during the absence of Albert Norris. Mrs. Luna continued as Ass't Postmaster at Alvarado and in 1933, she attended a tri-county session of the National League of District Postmasters in the Bay Area. She attended in concert with the Alvarado Postmaster Albert Norris.

In 1934 Alvarado Postmaster Albert Norris died and the *Hayward Daily Review* lobbied for the appointment of Mrs. Luna to Postmaster of the Alvarado Post Office. On December 4, 1934 the *Hayward Review* hastened to congratulate Mrs. Frances Luna on her appointment as acting Postmaster at Alvarado, the appointment having been made in Washington D.C. on December 3, 1934. Mrs. Luna, a loyal Democrat, and an experienced assistant in the post office and the branch library at Alvarado, richly deserved this appointment said the *Review*.

The *Hayward Daily Review* again lobbied for the appointment of Mrs. Luna in Alvarado with another article indicating that her many friends in southern Alameda County would rejoice with her as the new Alvarado Postmaster.

Added *The Review*:

“Undoubtedly her appointment will be made permanent when the Senate convenes next month, as well as all the appointments of the President for such positions must be approved by the Senate.”

In mid-December 1934 Mrs. Luna became Alvarado Postmaster and chose Mrs. Charles (Annie) Baird as the clerk for the Alvarado Post office.

Mrs. Luna was a popular choice for the Postmaster position, and she set out to improve the Post Office by joining the Chamber of Commerce, where she was quickly named as Secretary of the organization. Mrs. Luna then joined with Mrs. Frances Robie in trying to reorganize an active Circle of the Neighbors of Woodcraft in Alvarado.

In July 1936 Mrs. Frances Luna resigned her position as Postmaster of Alvarado. The following year her husband became very ill. In 1940 Mrs. was widowed and living alone in Hayward California. At the time she had no occupation.

### **Mrs. Annie Baird:**

Annie Baird was born in California in 1891. Her husband Charles was born in California in 1885. They had one daughter Helen. Charles Baird owned the Alvarado Garage.

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. 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. Francis Luna as Postmaster.

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. Also during WWII, Annie served as member of the Ground Observer Corps at the Alvarado Grammar School Air Raid Tower, manning a four hour shift on the watch tower on the school grounds.

After the war Annie served as a ballot official for elections that were held at the Alvarado Grammar School. In December 1945 Annie served on the committee to decorate Alvarado in Christmas fare for our returning veterans from the War overseas. Annie also served as an official of the Alvarado Eagles Auxiliary.

In 1934, when Frances Luna was confirmed as Postmaster for Alvarado, she chose Annie Baird to be the Ass't Postmaster for Alvarado.

### **Mrs. Genevieve (Davilla) Dutra:**

Genevieve Davilla was the daughter of Antone Davilla (see separate bio: Antone Davilla) and Marie Foster (see separate bio: Manuel Foster). Circa 1934, Joseph E. Dutra married Miss Genevieve Davilla. I could find nothing prior about Joe Dutra before his marriage to Genevieve. Genevieve was born and raised in Alvarado.

Genevieve (Davilla) Dutra was appointed acting Postmaster of the Alvarado Post office July 16, 1936, by the post office department in Washington upon the resignation of Mrs. Frances Luna. Genevieve was named Postmaster for Alvarado in October 1936.

Genevieve Davilla graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School in June 1925. Among her classmates who graduated that year were: Minnie Rivers, Mabel Amaral, Edith Mello, Conception Gomes, Edith Amaral, Norma Peixotto, Rosalie Joyce, Bernice Boyd, Joe Lemos, Toshie Soto, Wilbert Hendricks, Mamie Vargas, Melvin Skow, Raymond Hinkley, Madeline Goularte, Helen Baird and Minnie Hizer.

In April 1926 Genevieve was one of eleven students representing Washington Union High School at the California Scholarship Society convention in Stockton. In 1929 Genevieve was vice-president of Girl's League, and associate member of the Washington Union High School newspaper, "The Hatchet." Genevieve graduated from Washington Union High School in June 1929.

In 1928 a group of Alvarado girls formed a semi-pro baseball team and advertised to take on other girl baseball teams in the area and industrial plants. The manager of the Alvarado team was Genevieve Davilla. The other players were: Edith Mello, Bernice Boyd, Helen Silva, Cecelia Andrade, Madelyn Avila, Agnes Silva and Helen Baird.

In July 1936, Mrs. Frances Luna resigned as Postmistress of the Alvarado Post Office. Mrs. Annie Baird was appointed acting Postmistress in the interim. On July 22, 1936, Mrs. Dutra was appointed Postmistress for the Alvarado Post Office. Mrs. Dutra named Miss Alice Menezes, her niece, as her assistant. Both would work for the Post Office for twenty years and both would retire on their twentieth anniversaries.

Genevieve attended the war conference of Postmasters of California in June 1943, which was held at Robergs in Lake County. Accompanying Genevieve was her husband Joe and son Robert. They went horseback riding every day, and enjoyed swimming. Robert Dutra showed himself quite an expert at softball, and large crowds watched him hit the ball for circuits every trip. Mother, father, and son were all dressed alike in cowboy sombreros and like shirts and jeans.

Genevieve retired as Alvarado's Postmaster in 1956. Mrs. Dutra Told the *News Register* she submitted her resignation to the postal authorities last month "for reasons of health, and to enable me to devote my time to my husband's business." Her husband, Joe Dutra, operated the Bearcat Café in Centerville.

Mrs. Dutra's sole assistant, Alice Menezes (Genevieve's niece), said she would also resign. She also had 20 years of service with the Post Office. Both women were eligible for federal retirement benefits. Mrs. Dutra's replacement as Postmistress in Alvarado was Mrs. Alvina Brune, another niece of Mrs. Dutra.

Genevieve was also active in St. Anne's Catholic Church in Alvarado. In 1941 Genevieve was President of St. Anne's Confraternity, which held the annual Bazaar at the S.D.E.S. Hall on Watkins Street.

During WWII Genevieve was put in charge of collection money from the business community in Alvarado for the War Chest Drive. Following that Mrs. Dutra was in charge of a section of people to raise money in the 4<sup>th</sup> Drive of the Victory Loan drive in Washington Township. Then several months later Genevieve partnered with Mrs. Mary Rivers and Mrs. Mayme Roderick in the Liberty War Drive effort.

Joe and Genevieve Dutra would built the new Post Office on Smith Street. The Post Office would move into that building in January 1952. Next to the Post Office was a room for the Alvarado Library. The old Post Office (and I do mean old) was behind Central Bank facing Smith Street.

Mrs. Dutra was active in the Portuguese Society UPEC acting as treasurer in 1950. She was also a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, the annual Christmas Seal Drive, and the March of Dimes campaign.

### **Miss Alice Menezes:**

Miss Alice Menezes was born in Alvarado in 1915 to John and Isabel (Davilla) Menezes. Alice grew up in Alvarado, and in 1936 she was appointed Ass't

Postmaster for Alvarado by Mrs. Genevieve Dutra, her aunt. Alice would hold this position for 20 years until she retired.

## **RAILROAD:**

*Dorcey R. Howell / Alvin Bailey*

### **Dorcey R. Howell, Agent:**

Dorcey Howell was born in Oregon in 1891. His wife Ruth was born in Pennsylvania in 1891. In 1930 Dorcey was the Southern Pacific Railroad agent for Alvarado. Dorcey came to Alvarado from Richmond in 1927. In 1935 Dorcey was elected Secretary of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. By 1940 Dorcey and Ruth were living in Newark where he was employed as a telegraph operator for the railroad.

### **Alvin Bailey, Foreman:**

#### **Southern Pacific Railroad:**

Alvin Bailey was born in California in 1911. His wife Clarinda was born in Missouri in 1916. The 1930 census shows Alvin living on Granger Avenue in Alvarado with his wife and three children, two sons and a daughter. Alvin worked for SP railroad as a section foreman. There were no articles about Alvin in Alvarado, and by 1940 he was residing in Newark working as a section foreman for the railroad. There is no date as to when the Bailey family left Alvarado.

## **RESTAURANT:**

### **Mary Vierra:**

Mary Vierra was born in Mexico in 1892. According to the 1930 census Mary owned a restaurant and catering business in Alvarado, but I was unable to determine the name or address of the restaurant, but the family resided on Smith Street. She was widowed and had three children, a son and two daughters. The son, Savino worked as a farm laborer. The two daughters, Polie and Delfinia, helped their mother in the restaurant. I could find nothing further about the Vierra's other than the census information.

## **SALOONS & BARKEEPERS:**

### **Richard Phillips:**

Richard Phillips was born in California in 1910. In 1940, he was renting a small house or a room on Granger Road near the Riverside Hotel. He was single and working as a bartender. As to the close proximity to the Riverside Hotel he was probably employed as a bartender in the Hotel.

## **SCHOOL TRUSTEE:**

### **Mrs. Frances Robie:**

Mrs. Frances Robie (maiden name unknown) was born April 1868 in California. In 1887 she married Walter S. Robie and they eventually settled in Alvarado. They are first mentioned in Alvarado in 1909. Walter worked in the salt industry, initially for the Solar Salt Company, and eventually becoming superintendent for the Pioneer Salt Co. Walter actively participated in the

Alvarado political arena by becoming an election official in town. He also was instrumental in the development of the Boy Scouts in Alvarado.

Frances Robie was very active in Alvarado social, civic and fraternal clubs. Listed below are the clubs and societies that Frances participated in about Alvarado:

July 1911: Butt-Inns Club  
August 1912: The Birthday Club  
July 1913: At Homes Club  
March 1914: The Whist Club  
October 1914: Women's Board of the Pan-Pacific Exposition for Alvarado.  
August 1916: Alvarado Polling Place Official  
February 1925: Member of the Alvarado Bridge Club  
September 1925: Member of the Country Club of Washington Township  
February 1926: Order of the Eastern Star, Masonic Order, Centerville Calif.  
October 1926: President of Washington Township Parent Teacher Association  
September 1934: Active in the Ladies Aid Society of Alvarado  
April 1935: Reorganized active Circle of Neighbors of Woodcraft  
January 1940: Began selling Avon products in Alvarado  
September 1941: Member of the Alvarado Chapter of the Red Cross  
November 1944: Member of the Annual Christmas Seal Campaign

From 1912 to 1944, when she resigned, Frances Robie was the Clerk of the Board of Trustees for the Alvarado Grammar School. Frances spent a lot of time working on the new grammar school in 1924.

Walter and Frances had two children: Evangeline, who married Fred Muller of Newark; and Russell who married Miss Alma Norris, daughter of the Alvarado School Principal and also Postmaster.

Russell would work in the beet sugar industry, first at Alvarado, and then he would move to Crockett to work in the large sugar plant there.

Evangeline lived in Newark and had son, Fred Muller, who spent a lot of time in Alvarado with his grandmother Frances in Alvarado. Fred turned out to be a very proficient ball player as outlined in this article by the *Oakland Tribune* of July 1935:

"Fred Muller, the Alvarado spinach grower, who plays second base for the Oakland Oaks, is being given a bit of a rest by his manager, who feels it is only a matter of time before Muller is called back up to the big leagues. Muller has driven in more runs than other batter in the PCL with 78, even more than Joe DiMaggio, who is currently at 71."

Said the *Alvarado Pioneer* of February 1944:

"Mrs. Robie is Proud:  
Mrs. W.S. Robie of Alvarado has reason to be proud of her grandchildren who live in Albany, because so many are in the service. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Russell Robie. One of the children, Walter Starr Robie, is with the Marines located near La Jolla, San

Diego County for a year or so. His parents went south recently to visit him. Rosalie Robie was at Hunters College in New York, but has been transferred to southern California. She is a Marine and we don't mean maybe."

Mrs. Robie's sister, Mrs. Anne Forbes of Berkeley, moved to Alvarado late in life. She became the Alvarado librarian in 1939. She was the librarian for many years and passed away on February 28, 1949 in Alvarado.

Frances Rebecca Robie died in Newark November 11<sup>th</sup> at the age of 90. She was the beloved wife of the late Walter Starr Robie, mother to W. Russell Robie and Mrs. F. A. Muller, and grandmother to Fred Muller. Mrs. Robie spent many years in Alvarado, and was active in the Order of Eastern Star, the Washington Township Country Club, First Presbyterian Church, and Toyon Branch of the Children's Hospital, Women of Woodcraft, and clerk of the Alvarado Board of Trustees for 32 years.

### **STENOGRAPHER:**

#### **Kathleen Duster:**

Kathleen Duster was born in Pennsylvania in 1909. Her husband Francis was born in California in 1909. In 1930 they were living on the Leslie California Salt Co. Road. Kathleen was employed by Leslie Salt as a stenographer. Francis was employed as a shipping clerk for a fountain pen company. Nothing was found for this couple after 1930.

### **SALT COMPANY EXECUTIVES:**

*Davis H. Kirk / Anker B. Christensen*

#### **Davis H. Kirk, Superintendent:**

##### **Leslie California Salt Company:**

Davis Kirk was born in California in 1894. His wife Jenny was born in California in 1892. They had two children and resided in San Mateo. In June 1931, the offices of Leslie Salt Company San Mateo were closed and transferred to the Alvarado plant, which included Mr. Kirk and all office employees. The laborers were kept in San Mateo to care for the San Mateo salt ponds. Mr. Kirk never appeared to have moved to Alvarado, as he was still living in San Mateo in 1940.

#### **Anker B. Christensen, Salt Plant:**

##### **Leslie California Salt Company:**

Anker B. Christensen was born in Denmark in 1898. He entered the U.S. in 1918. His wife Hilda V. was born in California in 1898. Their two sons, Mervyn and Alden, were born in California in 1925 and 1931 respectively. The family resided on 10<sup>th</sup> Street (today's Veasy Street) on the far west end of town. Anker and family were in both the 1930 and 1940 census. Anker was employed as a superintendent of the Newark Leslie Salt plant. While in Alvarado Anker was a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. In 1941 Anker, and his family, moved to Newark.

### **STANDARD OIL CO. EXECUTIVE:**



## **Joseph E. Lewis Sr.:**

Joseph Lewis was born in California circa 1893. In the year 1910 he was living in the Irvington area of Washington Township working as a clerk in a dry goods store helping to support his widowed mother, brothers, and sisters.

In 1916 Joe went to work for the Standard Oil Company as a salesman. It would be his career choice that he would follow for the rest of his working years. In the mid 1920's he would marry Aurora Maciel, who would become his lifelong companion. They had two sons, Joe E. Jr. born in 1925, and Stanley J. born in 1928. Joe and Aurora made their home on the south side of Smith Street at the second house east of the Alvarado School.

Joe Lewis was a member of the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles by January 1935. He took an active interest in the lodge serving on various committees over the years.

In May 1936, one of the largest crowds in years gathered at Alvarado over the weekend to take in the annual Holy Ghost celebration held under the auspices of the S.D.E.S. Hall and St. Anne's Catholic Church. Several hundred people witnessed the opening ceremonies including a procession to receive Miss Shirley Perry, the queen, and her attendants, Lucille Vierra and Irene Mello, and the crown at the home of Mrs. Antone Santos, custodian. A huge display of fireworks followed the procession and a dance wound up the evening. President Ernest Perry and his committeemen: M. P. Goularte, Manuel Martin, Seraphine Daviner, John Menezes, J. E. Lewis, Manuel White and Frank Goularte were responsible for the success of the affair.

In August 1938, St. Anne's Church of Alvarado planned a whist party in connection with St. Anne's festival. The card party was given at the S.D.E.S. Hall on Saturday, August 21, 1938, preceding the services at the church on Sunday. A. K. Perry, M. P. Goularte and Joe Lewis made the arrangements.

In July 1940 Joe Lewis was the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce meeting that suggested that Alvarado should install a sanitary system. Besides the obvious dangers to health of open sewers and cesspools in town, a sanitary system would offer a more acceptable place persons to raise their families.

In December 1940, the Alvarado Chamber was revitalized and reorganized by Frank Machado, with more than 80 paid up members. Joe Lewis was elected to the position of Vice President serving under President Frank Machado. One major issue discussed at the initial meeting was the formation of an Alvarado Sanitary District. The membership heard from J. N. Stage, consulting engineer, from the L. Cedric Macabee Co. on the prospect of setting up our own district.

In December 1941 the Alvarado Chamber voted to organize a Boy Scout Troop in Alvarado. Charles Baird and Joe Lewis were voted President and Vice President to get the troop going.

On March 1, 1942 the Alvarado Troop No. 1 was formed. The troop was under the leadership of Anthony J. Silva, Scoutmaster; James C. Wasley Jr. and George Vargas, Assistant Scoutmasters; and the following persons served on

the troop committee: Charles W. Baird, Joseph E. Lewis, James C. Wasley Sr., Frank E. Machado, Manuel E. Perry, Mike Gardetto, Anthony J. Vargas and Julian Yabut.

In 1943 Joe Lewis was Fire Commissioner for Alvarado and helped James Wasley Sr., George Davis and Anthony J. Vargas outfit the new firehouse. They bought card tables, curtains, chairs, a magazine rack, rug, etc.

In January 1944 the officers of the Fireman's Association at the Alvarado Firehouse were: President, James Wasley; Vice President, Anthony J. Vargas, Secretary-Treasurer, Joe. E. Lewis; and Sergeant-at-Arms, Tony Alexander.

World War II kept Joe Lewis very busy also. The drive for the War Chest for the needy resulting from the war, as well as for men in the service started on November 8, 1943 in the Alvarado area. Joseph Lewis was appointed by Postmaster Enos from Niles as the Alvarado chairman. Some \$17,000 was to be raised in the Township, and Alvarado was asked to do its share of around \$2,000. Joe Lewis went to work in an earnest manner and had a fine committee of dependable workers from various parts of Alvarado. His committee was comprised of Sam Dinsmore, Genevieve Dutra, and James C. Wasley Sr.

In March 1944 J.R. Blacow, Central Bank Manager in Alvarado was appointed to head the annual American Red Cross Drive in Alvarado. One of the members of his committee was Joe E. Lewis.

In May 1944 the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce voted to look into starting a boys club for the town of Alvarado. A committee was raised that included J. C. Wasley, Joe E. Lewis, and M. A. Silva Jr., of the fireman; and Ed Wilson of the Chamber of Commerce.

In July 1944 Joe Lewis and family moved from their home next to the grammar school to their family's home on the Creek Road. Aurora Lewis had just lost her father recently at the family home.

In 1955 the City of Hayward intruded into Washington Township, taking valuable industrial land from Decoto and Alvarado. There rose from citizens of the two towns an initiative to incorporate Alvarado and Decoto into the City of Union City. There were many civic spirited men and women who gave freely of their time to make this a reality and protect the property that was rightfully ours.

One of the problems that faced Union City was the antiquated Alvarado Sanitary District, which offered only primary sanitary services, that being collection of sewage of at the west end of Alvarado in large wooden tanks. Liquid waste was allowed to drain into the Alameda Creek and then flow into SF Bay. Solid wastes were occasionally collected from the bottom of the tanks and disposed of. In 1956 Joe Lewis urged the merger of the Alvarado Sanitary System and the Union Sanitary District (Fremont) and asked at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce that a letter to that effect be sent to President Elvin Rose, and Secretary-Treasurer Fred W. Joyce of the Alvarado District.

At that same meeting Oscar Dowe was appointed chairman of a committee to draw up by-laws for the recently approved Union City Chamber of Commerce. Other committee members chosen were Manuel Seoane, J. A. Ratekin, and Joseph Lewis. Directors of the Alvarado and Decoto Chambers had met two weeks earlier and approved the merger into the Union City Chamber of Commerce.

In March 1957 Oscar Dowe was installed as President of the Union City Chamber of Commerce at the International Kitchen in Niles. Other officers to be seated were Mike Salido, Vice President; Mrs. Florence Spencer, Secretary; and Frank George, Treasurer. The directors installed at the meeting were Joe Lewis, Frank Borghi, Mrs. Spencer, Bernie Joseph, Wilbert Hendricks, John Ratekin, Oscar Dowe, Frank George, Fred Brown, William Machado, Kenneth Garcia and Mike Salido.

In December 1957 two years' worth of hard work on bringing the City of Union City to life went down in flames when it was disclosed at a meeting that a prominent committee member of the Union City Steering Committee had signed a petition asking that the City of Fremont annex to the town of Decoto.

The *Hayward Daily Review* wrote this scathing review of the proceedings at the Union City Incorporation meeting of the previous night:

"The verbal free-for-all, which rang down the curtain on the Union City Steering Committee, was a perfect ending for an attempt to con the people of Alvarado and Decoto. The show was a flop because of the deceit, which marked most of the group's activities.

Organized to halt Hayward's tactless 1955 attempt to annex most of the area's industrial land, the Union City Steering Committee spoke commendably of providing leadership in assaying the future. Instead of that, however, it retired to secret meetings in smoke-filled backrooms and proclaimed itself spokesman for the Alvarado-Decoto area."

Rejuvenated Union City took a step on the comeback trail on January 9, 1958 with the formation of the Alvarado Area Steering Committee. Headed by Wilbert Hendricks, this group announced it would oppose Fremont annexation of Alvarado, Fremont annexation of Decoto, and strive instead for incorporation of the two communities into Union City.

At the January 9, 1958 meeting of 10 citizens (the Alvarado segment of the defunct Union City Steering Committee), hope was expressed a similar fighting unit would be formed in Decoto and the two could merge.

Before accepting the helm, Wilbert Hendricks declared, "This committee won't be run like before, the public will be kept informed on what's going on through the newspapers and mass meetings."

Joe Lewis said, "He would personally circulate a petition to sign up owners of 51 per cent of the assessed valuation of the property to defeat the Decoto Annex, and that he has an attorney preparing the petition now."

Two days later Union City Chamber of Commerce President Kenneth Garcia said today that two chamber directors would try to form a Decoto steering

committee to work for Union City incorporation. They were Oscar Dowe and Joe Lewis.

After Oscar Dowe and Joe Lewis had successfully submitted a signed petition with more than 51% of the property owners in the town of Decoto, Fremont's annex of the town of Decoto was declared dead. Joe Lewis and Oscar Dowe had almost single handedly pulled the burning ashes of Union City from the flames of ruin.

The way was now open for a vote by the citizens of Alvarado and Decoto to vote for the incorporation of the two towns. A slate of candidates for the City Council was compiled and the candidates ran their campaigns.

On January 14, 1959 the count on the election was in:

Votes in favor of Union City:	837
Votes against Union City:	220

City Council:

Tom Kitayama, 35, Alvarado Nurseryman, 701 votes.

J. A. Ratekin, 57, Supt. Holly Sugar Co. Alvarado, 654 votes

Joseph J. Seoane, 41, Decoto Chemical Worker and Union Official, 574 votes

Oscar Dowe, 51, Decoto steel plant executive, 571 votes

Joe Lewis, 65, retired oil company worker, 428 votes

### **Aurora Lewis:**

Aurora Lewis was also prominent in Alvarado activities, in both civic and affairs of the Catholic Church. Aurora was a prominent member of the Portuguese Society SPRSI, for which she held several prominent offices over the decades. In June 1946 she took over as President of the Alvarado SPRSI.

She was also prominent also prominent in the Alvarado Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie No. 1695. She held numerous official duties and served on many committees promoting the orders programs.

In May 1954 the Eagle's Ladies Auxiliary honored Mrs. Aurora Lewis as "Mother of the Year" at Monday's Mother's Day at the Eagle Hall in Alvarado. Mabel Rogers, past mother of the year, and Mary Amaral, honorary mother, shared the limelight with Mrs. Lewis.

Mrs. Lewis also served officially on the Alvarado Grammar School PTA.

## **SUGAR MILL EXECUTIVES:**

*Walter H. Ziegler / Andrew K. Logan*

### **Walter H. Ziegler:**

Walter Ziegler was born in Illinois in April 9, 1891. In 1928 he moved to California and was named Superintendent of the Holly Sugar Mill at Alvarado. He married Emily Ziegler circa 1917, and together they had four children, two sons and two daughters, the sons, Robert born 1919 and John born 1923; and the daughters, Marion born 1921 and Ruth born 1927.

In 1928 Walter was named Superintendent of the Alvarado mill and two years later he was also named the Superintendent of Holly Sugar's Tracy sugar mill. In 1941, Ziegler was named Pacific Coast Manager in charge of Holly's operations throughout California. Then in 1949, he was named Vice President of the firm and transferred to Holly Sugar's national headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He retired in 1957 and moved from Colorado to his farm near Woodland, California.

Mrs. Ziegler was active in the Alvarado social area, being a member of the Alvarado Bridge Club, the Ladies Aid Society of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church, and she was also a member of the Country Club of Washington Township.

In December 1940 it was announced that Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ziegler were moving to Stockton to take residence there in order to be more centrally located to the rest of the Holly Sugar Mills of California. Walter had the responsibility of being the superintendent of all the Holly Sugar Corp. plants in California.

Walter Ziegler died in Woodland California on November 15, 1974. He had managed Holly Sugar's plant in Alvarado California before being named manager of the corporation's refining facilities. After retirement he farmed sugar beets on his property in the Knight's Landing area for the Spreckels Sugar Company.

#### **Robert Ziegler:**

Robert Ziegler was born in 1919 to Walter and Emily Ziegler in California. Robert graduated from Washington Union High School in 1935. In August 1935, Bob Ziegler and Donald Flores decided to attend the University of California at Berkeley. As a Freshman Bob pledged to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Berkeley. In May 1939 Robert Boynton Ziegler received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in the College of Arts and Sciences from U. C. Berkeley. The following year Robert began taking medical courses at the U.S. Medical College in San Francisco.

In November 1944 news reached Alvarado that Robert Ziegler, former Alvarado Grammar School graduate, was in the big fight. He was a flight surgeon connected with the U.S. Army Air Corps overseas. It was recalled how James Wasley Sr., the Alvarado School Principal, always predicted a big future for this boy and his words of advice to Robert were filled with wisdom.

In 1945 a Red Cross worker in the Italian war zone (Gwendolyn Millet) described in letters home to her parents in Centerville, California, her many experiences she had overseas. She recalled the names of two local boys who were fighting in Italy, Jack Parry of Niles and Bob Ziegler of Alvarado.

#### **Marian Ziegler:**

Marian Ziegler was born in 1921 to Walter and Emily Ziegler in California. Marian attended the Alvarado Grammar School, and in June 1934, she graduated with the following classmates: Edward Avila, Joan Boyd, Bernice Daviner, Seraphine Daviner, Anthony Fields, Angel Ledesma Jr., Asuncion Ledesma, Bernice Lezand, Johnny Machado, Isabel Maciel, Richard Mateo,

Lawrence Roderick, Alvina Santos, Joseph Silva, Lillian Silva, and Lorraine Silveira

Marion Ziegler of Alvarado was honored as one of the new pledges of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority at UC Berkeley in February 1939. Miss Ziegler, formerly of Alvarado, was wedded to Mr. John Dusterberry of Centerville, who recently had graduated from Stanford University in April 1944.

### **John Ziegler:**

John Ziegler was born in 1923 to Walter and Emily Ziegler in California. John attended the Alvarado Grammar School where he was active in the Alvarado Troop of the Junior Traffic Patrol in 1935. The following year John Ziegler joined the new Alvarado Troop of the Boy Scouts. John was one of four leaders chosen at the formation meeting. The other three lads were James Wasley, Jr., Tony Paredes, and Benny Joyce.

In 1936 John graduated with the following classmates:

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

### **Ruth Ziegler:**

John Ziegler was born in 1927 to Walter and Emily Ziegler in California. Ruth attended the Alvarado Grammar School until the family moved away in 1940.

### **Andrew K. Logan:**

Andrew Kerr Logan was born on May 18, 1894, to James and Rebecca Logan in Alvarado. Andrew graduated from Washington Union High School on June 16, 1913. In June of 1919 he was married to Miss Vivian Millington of Petaluma, who had just graduated from an Academy of Music in San Jose, receiving her Bachelor of Music degree. Vivian was born on February 22, 1897.

The couple returned to Alvarado and took up residence near the old James Logan residence (between the Hall Station and Lowry Road). Andrew and Vivian had two daughters; Vivian Mae and Sally Ann. Vivian attended San Jose State University with the intent to become a teacher. In 1944 she was teaching in one of the big schools in Martinez. Sally attended University of the Pacific, also with the intent to get into teaching.

Andrew became employed at the sugar mill at Alvarado, first as an agriculturist for the company, and later he became the superintendent of field operations for the company.

Life was good for the Logan's, Andrew was successful at the Holly Sugar Mill and Vivian spent a great deal of time giving music lessons in the area. The Logan's enjoyed the competition of the Fortnightly Bridge Club, and Mrs. Logan was active in the Country Club of Washington Township and the Alvarado PTA. Andrew served as a precinct official for voting held in Alvarado.

Andrew also joined forces with other prominent Alvaradan's August May, Fred Wiegman, Henry Patterson, Adolph A. Oliver of Mt. Eden, and J.C. Buchanan of Leslie Salt in creating a flood control plan for Washington Township.

But WWII suddenly put a different priority on many projects and Alvaradan's had to shift gears to help defend our nation. Andrew was named a Chief Observer in the Air Raid Lookout Corps of Alvarado.

The Air Raid Observation Post was in a tent near the Hall Station. It proved to be a very cold place, so in February 1942 Andrew moved the Air Raid Lookout Station from the Hall Ranch to the guard shack at the sugar mill, where a heater kept the men warm as they performed their Air Raid Lookout duties. He even got the sugar mill to donate wood to burn in the shack heater to keep the men warm during the cold February nights.

Mrs. Vivian Logan also chipped in her time for the war effort, being one of the two volunteers of the OPA (Office of Price Administration) officers in Alvarado. She and Mrs. George Harvey were tasked to check prices of local products for sale at retail and wholesale outlets to see that they were within government guidelines. This was done to cut down on black marketing of rationed items during the war.

Andrew inherited his father's seat (James Logan) on the Board of the Washington Union High School in 1931. He kept that seat until he retired in 1955. James Logan had been a Washington High trustee until his untimely death in 1931.

In July 1951, Mrs. Vivian Logan, 52, was killed instantly when a train struck her car. Mrs. Logan was killed at a crossing of the Southern Pacific Railroad at Logan Road, located on property owned by the family. The location is roughly halfway between Lowry Road and Hall Station. Friends said that she must have gone over the crossing a thousand times before. Although there were no signals at the crossing there was an unobstructed view in either direction for hundreds of yards.

Andrew Logan retired from the Holly Sugar Company in June 1959 and took a vacation to Alaska with a close friend. There he died while vacationing. He was 65 years old and left his two daughters Mrs. Sally Patton of San Francisco and Mrs. Vivian Mae Fletcher of Taft.

## **TEACHERS:**

*James C. Wasley / Mrs. Edith Wasley / Mrs. Isabel (Ferry) Lucas / Miss Doris Kinne / Mrs. Mary Richmond / Mrs. Muriel Nelson / Miss Jessica Wiley / Clarence Ferreira*

## **James C. Wasley, Principal:**

James Wasley was born in California circa 1896. He was first married to Louise Wasley and had a daughter named Louise by that marriage. He then married Mrs. Edith Wasley, who was born in California in 1896. They were married circa 1920, and came to Alvarado just before 1930. They had three children, James C. Jr. born circa 1923, Edith M. born circa 1925, and Robert Wasley born circa 1932.

Mr. Wasley came to Alvarado as Principal of the Alvarado Grammar School just prior to 1930. Mrs. Edith Wasley was also a teacher and she secured a job at the Alviso Grammar School as a primary grade teacher. She also would fill in as a substitute teacher in Alvarado, Mt. Eden, and Russell City.

Upon arriving at Alvarado a PTA was formed at the Alvarado School with the founding officers being, Mrs. Earl Hellwig, Mrs. J.C. Wasley, Mrs. M.M. Maciel, Mrs. J. La Plante and Mrs. John Mendez.

Principals at the grade schools during the depression had to wear many hats and had to devote much of their own personal time to their students and to the town. Mr. Wasley gave freely of his time.

Although Alvarado was not the largest school in the area, the principal at the Alvarado School took on the duty of coaching the baseball team at Mt. Eden. Thursday afternoon after school hours, the Alvarado and Mt. Eden teams would play pro-active games.

During the school year 1932 the Alvarado School formed a local chapter of the Aunt Elsie Club of the *Oakland Tribune*. Children would submit their drawings and their stories to the *Tribune* for prizes and possible printing of their submissions. Included in this program from the Alvarado School were: John Accinelli, Leonard Silva, Eva Soares, Marian Ziegler, Alvina Santos, Lloyd Silva, Richard Munger, T. Akinaga, Helen Pilkington, Cyril Flores, Jim Wasley, Wilma Martin, Edward Martinez, Robert Avilla, Irma Borges, Mary Hinkley, Caroline Amaral, Olivia Nieto and Bernice Lezand. The chapter was under the guidance of James C. Wasley and Mrs. Laura Orelli.

For the year 1934 Mr. Wasley announced that the school enrollment had reached approximately 185 students by August 1934. By the time the local crop harvestings was over the school attendance is expected to be over 200 students.

The year 1935 saw the implementation of the Alvarado Junior Traffic Patrol. The traffic patrol was a group of students who would help children arrive at school, and then get home safely by guarding crosswalks. The participants are:

Sergeants:	Raymond Dias	Edward Olivencia	Albert Hinkley
	Bruno Orsetti	Warren Silva	
Privates:	Everett Alameda	Charles Merino	Tony Paredes
	Joe Lewis	Cyril Flores	Bert Johnson
	Benny Joyce	James Wasley	John Ziegler
	Edward Martinez		

1935 was also the year that James Wasley took on the added duty of becoming a member of the board of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. In 1936 Mr. Wasley influenced the Chamber of Commerce to back the initiation of an Alvarado Boy Scout Troop. Mrs. Wasley had been personally transporting a group of local boys to attend meetings of Boy Scout Troop #4 of Hayward.



Within a month of the suggestion by Mr. Wasley, the formation of an Alvarado Troop of Boy Scouts was underway. Four temporary patrol leaders were chosen: Benny Joyce, John Ziegler, Tony Paredes and Jim Wasley, Jr. These four boys had been attending Hayward Troop #4 meetings for four months, and ranked highest out of the six being transported regularly by Principal James C. Wasley. Five Alvarado boys were among the number who qualified at a recent Boy Scout tryout in Hayward to attend a jamboree in Oakland at Lakeside Park. Jim Wasley, John Ziegler and Jimmy Critchfield had the time of their lives pitching tents and doing their own cooking, at which they were judged along with handicraft and numerous subjects.

Did James Wasley have his own life? Actually Mr. Wasley had a passion for chickens! Not just any chicken, but prizewinning birds! Poultry men from Washington Township returned from the State Fair at Sacramento in September 1935, with their share of prize and awards. J.C. Wasley of Alvarado returned with four prizes on the five birds that he showed. He also received a special award for the best Buff Cochin bantam in the fair.

In 1937 Mr. Wasley again went to the California State Fair with his birds and won three of the special prizes at the California State Fair in the poultry division. These included two special awards offered by the American Poultry Association and an award for the best female in the Mediterranean Class. He also took five general awards for light brown Leghorns.

Later that same year, Principal Wasley garnered 19 nineteen ribbons on 19 of his fine brown Leghorns sent to the Indianapolis show. In 1938 Wasley, Principal of Alvarado Grammar School, took nine light brown leghorn and Cochin bantams to the California State Fair at Sacramento and brought home nine blue ribbons. "Miss California," his prize pullet, was declared the grand champion bird for the entire show. Then in 1938 Mr. Wasley took top honors with his Brown Leghorns at the Los Angeles Poultry Show. In open classes he had the best bird with his pullet. Mr. Wasley won eight silver cups and numerous first, second and third place ribbons.

In 1940 James Wasley joined Mrs. August May and Jack Blacow in raising funds for the March of Dimes campaign in Alvarado. He then went on in the same year to back the cause for a sanitary district in Alvarado saying, "I have talked to many people and they have realized like the County Health Officer has said, that sooner or later a real epidemic will occur if we don't act soon."

September 1940 the grammar school reopened with the same teaching staff as last semester. The teaching staff would consist of J. C. Wasley, Principal and instructor of the Eighth Grade; Miss Isabella Ferry, Sixth and Seventh Grades; Mrs. Laura Orelli, Fifth and Sixth Grades; Miss Charlotte Jung, Third and Fourth Grades, Mrs. Ruth Davis, Second Grade; Mrs. Muriel Nelson, First Grade and music instructor; and Mr. Dwight Thornburgh, Orchestra Leader.

James Wasley again was a member of the "March of Dimes" campaign for infantile paralysis victims. He joined Mrs. Genevieve Dutra, Frank Machado and Mrs. George Oakes.

With war clouds looming over Europe the U.S. began to shore up its infrastructure and it's military. Alvarado was one of the rural communities of

Alameda County that took part in the collection of aluminum for the national defense effort. The Alvarado drive was under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce and was spearheaded by supervisors George Janssen and George Hellwig. Frank Machado, Adam Lewis and James Wasley led the effort in Alvarado.

In July 1941, Mr. Wasley added a new hat to his collection. A Fire Captains helmet! Members of the newly formed Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department unanimously voted J. C. Wasley, Principal of Alvarado Grammar School, as Fire Chief for the newly formed fire department.

Two months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Alvarado was put on the alert to watch the skies for unfriendly airplanes. Alvarado was one of the four districts of Washington Township where a lookout station was established. The Alvarado district was headed by T. P. Harvey, with Chief Observers being Andrew Logan, Joseph Jacinto and Robert Whipple; 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 October 1941 James Wasley was named the Civil Defense representative for Alvarado. He would represent Alvarado at the Alameda County Civil Defense Corps.

In 1941 interest was again aroused for an Alvarado Troop of Boy Scouts. The Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of Frank Machado, was spearheading the drive. Alvarado Troop #1, is the newest addition to the Southern Alameda County Boy Scouts. The troop was under the leadership of Anthony J. Silva, Scoutmaster; James C. Wasley Jr. and George Vargas, Assistant Scoutmasters; and the following would serve on the troop committee: Charles W. Baird, Joseph E. Lewis, James C. Wasley Sr., Frank E. Machado, Manuel E. Perry, Mike Gardetto, Anthony J. Vargas, and Julian Yabut.

With the threat of the war coming to the Pacific Coast in 1942, the role of Mr. Wasley as Chief Air Raid Warden and Special Sheriff's Deputy took on a dire new meaning. The school auditorium was being blacked out for the duration of the war and an improvised foyer was built so that the interior can remain lighted even when entrances and exits were being made.

Alvarado was also the first grammar school in Washington Township to give first aid instruction to all Eighth Grade students. A first aid unit was placed in the school auditorium, and arrangements were made to have a staff on 24-hour duty if necessary. In May 1942 the newest of Alvarado School's duties would be as a sugar rationing registration site.

October 1942 saw old wagon wheels that helped carry settlers across the plains now being scrapped as part of Alvarado's effort for the Nation's war effort. J. C. Wasley, chief salvage warden, and Sam Dinsmore, loyal volunteer, 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 1942, Alvarado had already collected 80 tons of scrap metal, their goal was 100 tons.

ALVARADO: WANTED ONE PIED PIPER! This was the cry that went out to the manpower search in Alvarado after the Chamber of Commerce heard complaints from local grain farmers that rats from the dump on Union City Road were raiding local grain fields and devastating shocked grain.

Again, in this time of emergency James Wasley was assigned the task of forming a committee to rid the town of rats! Mr. Wasley chose Clyde Davis and Charles Baird to help him on this project.

Meanwhile the Alviso School District staff in 1943 was: Mrs. Elsie Madruga was the principal, with Mrs. Marie Dutra and Mrs. Edith Wasley as teachers.

The year 1943 saw rationing take hold in the U.S., and James Wasley and the Alvarado Grammar School was tasked with passing out the ration books to the citizens of Alvarado. You could not buy certain foods and strategic articles without the proper ration stamp. Mr. Wasley and his staff passed out 1,066 ration books to Alvaradan's in March 1943.

In October 1943 a drive was put forward in Washington Township to collect tin cans for recycling under the war effort. J.V. Goold, principal of the Washington Union High School in Centerville was chairman of the tin can drive. Children were asked to assist in collecting cans. Town chairmen were appointed as follows: Alvarado, J.C. Wasley; Warm Springs, Leslie H. Maffey; and Alviso, Mrs. Elsie Madruga. The cans must be dry and clean, free of wrappers, and flattened after the tops and bottoms have been removed.

A move to establish a recreation center for Alvarado boys was launched in May 1944 by the Alvarado Fireman's Association and endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce. A clubroom was being sought where pool tables and other recreational facilities can be installed and tentative plans are that members of local civic organizations would volunteer as directors. Other civic and fraternal groups were contacted for assistance. The committee included J. C. Wasley, Joe E. Lewis, and M. A. Silva Jr., of the fireman, and Ed Wilson of the Chamber of Commerce.

At the end of May 1944, Mr. James Wasley, Principal of the Alvarado Grammar School resigned his position. Named to replace Mr. Wasley was Leslie H. Maffey, Principal of the Warm Springs Grammar School. Mr. Maffey had been at Warm Springs for twenty years.

Anthony Vargas, son-in-law of A.A. (Tony Lee) was elected the new Fire Chief to take the place of James Wasley who resigned. Mr. Wasley's oldest daughter, Louise, who lived with her grandmother in Oakland, began attending San Jose State Teaching College with the aim of becoming a schoolteacher. Miss Wasley graduated from Fremont High School in Oakland last December.

In February 1941 Jim Wasley Jr. started working Sundays at Pete Rose's General Petroleum Station (Mobil gas) at Alvarado. Jim used to work for Sam & Eddy's Shell Gas Station last year. This young lad is attending San Jose State College, taking the pre-dental course. In April of 1941 Jim Wasley Jr. joined the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

In February 1943 Jim Jr. entered the U.S. Navy and received his commission as an ensign. In October of 1943 Jim began studying dentistry at the Affiliated Colleges in S.F. He came visiting in Alvarado in his U.S. Navy dress uniform and looked like the model of a Navy Officer.

In February 1946 Lieutenant James Wasley, Jr., who was a full-fledged dentist after finishing his Naval V-12 program at the Affiliated Colleges in San Francisco, was transferred to Camp Shoemaker. He drops in on the folks occasionally at the family home in Alvarado. His father, Principal James Wasley (former Alvarado Grammar School Principal) of Tennyson School, has made an outstanding record of handling an overcrowded school attendance, and plans are now going forth for a structure to house some six new classrooms. Mrs. James (Edith) Wasley is one of the well-known teachers of nearby Alviso School.

### **Mrs. Edith Wasley:**

Mrs. Edith I. Wasley was born in 1896. She was married to James C. Wasley, principal of the Alvarado Grammar School. Mrs. Wasley was a regular teacher at the Alviso Grammar School, but she also filled in on a substitute basis to cover absences of teachers at the Alvarado School. She also substituted, when the need arose, at the Russell City School in Hayward. Mrs. Wasley was an early member of the Alvarado PTA.

### **Mrs. Isabel Ferry Lucas:**

Isabel Ferry was born in 1910 to Joseph S. & Mary Ferry of Centerville. Joseph was born in the Azores, and entered the U.S. in 1888. By 1900 he was farming along the Alvarado Centerville Road. The Ferry's had four children that survived into adulthood. Mary, the oldest, was born in 1899. Rosy was born in 1902. Isabel was born in 1910, and Joseph was born in 1913.

In 1933 Isabel began teaching at the Alvarado Grammar School. In 1940 the teaching staff at the Alvarado School included:

Mr. J.C. Wasley	Principal & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
Miss Isabel Ferry	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
Mrs. Laura Orelli	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
Miss Charlotte Jung	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
Mrs. Ruth Davis	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher
Mrs. Muriel Nelson	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade & Music Instructor
Mr. Dwight Thornburgh	Orchestra Leader

Miss Isabel Ferry, teacher at the Alvarado Grammar School for nine years, announced her engagement to George Lucas of Niles. The wedding would take place in late summer. Miss Ferry was the daughter of Mrs. M. D. Ferry of Alvarado. After his marriage George went to work for the Navy Sea-Bees at Livermore, therefore he was able to make it home on weekends.

George and Isabel moved from Alvarado to a home that was being built near the Ellsworth Tract in Niles in October 1949. At this time Mrs. Lucas was teaching the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at the Alvarado Elementary School.

The teaching staff in Alvarado in September 1949 consisted of:

Mr. Leslie Maffey	Principal
Mr. John Bond	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mrs. Isabel Lucas	6 <sup>TH</sup> & 7 <sup>TH</sup> Grade:
Miss Patricia Renz	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Miss Shirley Pearson	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mrs. Hilda Widdop	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
Miss Charlotte Jung	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Miss Betty Culbertson	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade
Miss Shirley Everett	Kindergarten

### **Miss Doris Kinne:**

Miss Doris Kinne was born in Washington in 1912 to Carroll and Ada Kinne. In 1930 the Kinne's lived in San Jose, California. Doris had a younger sister, Lola, who was born in 1915. Miss Kinne came to the Alvarado Grammar School in the mid 1930's and taught music. In 1938 Miss Kinne was the director of instrumental music at the Castro Valley elementary school.

### **Miss Mary Richmond:**

In July 1937, Miss Mary Richmond of the University of California and the San Francisco State Teacher's College, was elected to teach music and second grade at the Alvarado Grammar School following the resignation of Miss Doris Kinne. This was all that could be found for Miss Richmond.

### **Mrs. Muriel Nelson:**

Mrs. Nelson was born in Oregon in 1910. Mrs. Nelson was widowed and had a daughter, Carol that was born in 1935. In January 1938 Mrs. Nelson was teaching at the Valle Vista School in Hayward. In that year she came to teach at the Alvarado Grammar School to teach the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. Mrs. Nelson finished the decade teaching at the Alvarado School.

### **Miss Jessica Wiley:**

### **Clarence Ferreira:**

Jessica and Clarence were recreational directors for the children at the Alvarado School. They provided outings (such as a trip to the Hayward Plunge in 1939), had after school activities, probably all of this under the auspices of the WPA (the Works Progress Administration), which offered employment during the depression. Unfortunately no background information could be found for these two young persons, who were well liked by the youngsters of Alvarado.

## **TELEPHONE COMPANY:**

### **Sam Dinsmore:**

The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph switchboard for Alvarado was located in the general store at Smith and Vallejo Streets since about 1906 (or earlier). Fred Harvey first operated it until he sold the business to Sam Dinsmore in the late 1920's. The number of telephones in the Alvarado exchange totaled 95 in 1937, which was one more than from the previous year.

## **THEATER:**

## **Mr. & Mrs. Charles Browning:**

Apparently a couple named Browning operated a theater out of the IOOF Hall in Alvarado from about 1922 to 1932. The only other information about this couple was that they were residing in San Francisco in June 1935.

## **Eliseo Naharro:** **ALVARADO THEATER:**

Eliseo Naharro was born in Spain in 1911 to Victoriano and Julia Naharro. Eliseo entered the U.S. in 1913 along with his parents. His father became a shoemaker in Alvarado and acquired a good amount of property in downtown Alvarado.

In June 1935, Victoriano and son Eliseo began construction of a theater inside the Alvarado IOOF Hall. Previously they had owned a movie theater on the Leslie California Salt Road, but they were now moving into town. The theater would occupy the lower floor of the two-story building, and it would be completely painted and repaired. The seating capacity of the theater was 327 persons. The first picture at the new location was shown on June 23, 1935.

Eliseo Naharro would later build a theater on the west side of Levee Street between "V" and Canal Street. This would be a building dedicated to just showing movies.

In May 1944, Eliseo Naharro, owner of the Alvarado Theater beautified and remodeled the interior of his Alvarado Theater. All new seats and rugs were installed in the lobby and aisles. He added new curtains on the stage. He also modernized the facilities in the rest rooms. Now more people could come from surrounding towns to enjoy his top-flight and late run pictures. Mrs. Joe Sanchez (nee Evelyn Naharro) officiated at the box office for her brother.

In June 1944, Mrs. Manuel Silva of Alvarado sold her business property opposite the Central Bank to E. Naharro, owner of the Alvarado Theater. The business property included a former poolroom location, and also the building where Mr. Ferd Paredes used to have his restaurant years ago before he moved to his Alvarado Hotel location.

Eliseo's mother bought the business property next to her home in the business district. On it were the places rented to the gas station and also the Half Way House. This is some of the most prominent business property in our city.

The two purchased properties by the Naharro's means that they virtually control half of the frontage on that business block. It runs from the Naharro home and former shoe store as far as Hellwig's Meat Market.

Eliseo supported the U.S. during WWII with fund raising efforts by promoting sales of War Bonds. The Alvarado Theater held a War Bond Premiere on Wednesday evening July 5, 1944. To gain admission it was necessary for you to present a ticket showing that you had bought at least a \$25.00 War Bond. The ticket was necessary to see a picture never shown before in our area.



The Alvarado Theater is shown circa the late 30's early 40's. The telephone pole stood at the SW corner of Levee & "V" Streets. Next to the Alvarado Theater stood the old Faig and Hansen Bros. Hotel.

The Alvarado Theater was a very public spirited business that donated the big show house just for this occasion. He was cooperating with Mr. Walter Oakey II of the Central Bank here, who is the local man in charge of the drive. The extraordinary picture "The Story of Dr. Wessell," starring Gary Cooper was shown. This was a top-flight picture and drew a crowded house.

In April 1946 Mr. Naharro invited all the boys in the Alvarado Junior Traffic Patrol to view a free movie at his Alvarado Theater. This is an event Mr. Naharro puts on annually.

During the summer of 1946 Eliseo Naharro brought hardball back to Alvarado by sponsoring the Alvarado Theater baseball team. Hardball would again be played in Alvarado as Ed Naharro has bought baseball uniforms for a hometown team. This should put his Alvarado Theater on the map with the publicity they will get.

On Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Alvarado School grounds at 2 p.m., Alvarado's fastball team played a colored team from Alameda. This fast aggregation is known as the Alameda Tigers. The Naharro's Alvarado Theater team is not choosing any set-ups, but taking on all the fast aggregations around the bay.

Alvarado has three pitchers, Stewart, Shanks and Alameda (the latter is from Centerville). Jesse Jacinto Jr. came in from the Navy this weekend and his dad, J Jacinto Sr., (team manager) will use this speedy shortstop in the lineup. Hubert Jacinto would also play. Alvarado scored a resounding victory over the Alameda Colored Team 13 to 3!

On November 15, 1965, Eliseo Naharro died at the age of 55 years. He was the husband of Katherine A. Naharro, son of Mrs. Julia Naharro, brother of Mrs. Evelyn Sanchez and Mrs. Mary Salido and Joaquin Naharro all of Union City. A native of Spain he had been the operator of the Alvarado Theater for 32 years.

**WHOESALE PETROLEUM AGENT:**

## **Frank George: General Petroleum Co., Mobil Gas:**

Frank P. George Jr. was born to Frank P & Mary P George in June 1898 in San Leandro. Frank P. George Sr. was born in the Azores (Portugal) in 1853. Frank's siblings were Clara, Joseph, Tony and Edward.

Frank Jr. and Tony George came to Alvarado in 1922 where they worked a 400-acre farm raising sugar beets, tomatoes, grain and hay. Although Frank was well known in Alvarado he resided in the town of Niles.

Frank Jr. (who will hereafter be referred to as just Frank) became a drayman, or what you would call a teamster today. This lasted for only a few years when Frank decided to get into the wholesale gas and oil business in Alvarado.

Frank acquired a General Petroleum wholesale dealership, which, in those days handled Mobil Oil and Gas products. He also sold U.S. Royal tires. He located his store directly across Levee Street from the old Alvarado Pioneer Newspaper Office. He also opened a retail Mobil Service Station across from the Alvarado Bank, on the west side of Levee Street.

In 1935 Frank was elected to the Board of Directors of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, an organization he would be associated with for many years.

Frank's business prospered and in 1949 he commented that the growth of General Petroleum in the southern part of Alameda County was due to the success users have had with his products. This plus the fact he and his brother Tony strove to give their customers every service and attention. Frank handled the office while Tony handled the delivery of gas, diesel, and stove oil to farmers in the outlying areas. Stove oil was a very economical fuel for the farmer's home uses, while diesel oil was the fuel used in farmer's tractors.

The war years were tough on the Frank & Tony's wholesale distributorship, as most of the supplies they sold were rationed during the war. Gas, oil, diesel, and rubber were all strictly rationed and in very limited supply to the American public. But that did not stop Frank George from doing his public duty during the war. Frank served as an alternate inspector for the Washington Township Rationing Board.

The War Chest drive in Washington Township got underway in October 1944 and was headed by E. Enos, purchasing agent of Leslie Salt. He chose Wilbert Hendricks as chairman, and Frank George to assist him. Two other Alvarado men on the committee were Gregory Perry and Mike Salido.

Mobil Gas was one of the premiere brands served at Alvarado Gas Stations. Frank George had a Mobil Gas Station (retail) just south of his dealership directly across the street from the bank at the end of west end of Smith Street. After the war it was operated by Joel Langdon of the Creek Road, and after he moved to Oroville Joe Perez took over the station.





Frank George's wholesale Mobil Gas Distributorship which was located between the Mobil Retail Service Station and Ambrose Loyola's Flying "A" Service Station on Levee Street.

After end of the war business boomed for Frank George as rationing had ended. He enlarged his headquarters on Levee Street, making room for two large desks. The front right of the large store was now devoted entirely to the office, and the other part was used for General Petroleum products, such as batteries, tires, accessories, etc. Frank then added Lester Gomes of Irvington to his staff, and when Lester was not at his desk in the office, he was on the outside acting as salesman and as contact man in this big General Petroleum distribution business.

Miss Mae Fontes was in charge of the office and occupied the other desk. In the delivery service to all farm accounts was Manuel Azevedo of Mission San Jose. Sam Mobely handled deliveries to all General Petroleum dealers at Service Stations.

Three large tankers were consistently used delivering Mobil Gas in the district covered by Mr. George, comprising all that territory from the San Leandro City limits to the Southern Alameda County line at Warm Springs.

In December 1956 a Board of Directors for the combined Alvarado-Decoto Chamber of Commerce was chosen. Representing Alvarado was: Frank George, Joe Lewis, John Ratekin, Wilbert Hendricks, Mrs. Mae Santos, Mike Salido and Mrs. Mabel Rogers. Representing Decoto was: Bernie Joseph, Frank Borghi, Kenny Garcia, Oscar Dowe, and Manuel Seoane. In December 1957 Board of Directors for the Union City Chamber of Commerce were extended. Frank George would serve additional two years on the board.

Frank also supported the Catholic Church in Alvarado by becoming active in the S.D.E.S. Fraternity in Alvarado. The S.D.E.S. hosts the annual Alvarado Holy Ghost. In July 1956 Frank was voted to the board of the S.D.E.S. along with Wilbert Hendricks, Emilio Re, Raymond Freitas and M.F. Machado. Officers of the lodge for this period were Manuel Perry, Pres.; Gregory Perry, V.P.; Manuel C. Pinto Jr., Secretary; Frank Goularte, Jr., Treasurer, Manuel Martin Jr., Marshal and John A. Silva, Chaplain.

Frank P. George Jr. passed away on June 19, 1977 in Monterey California. He was a member of the B.P.O.E. Lodge Fremont, F.O.E. Alvarado Aerie, N.S.G.W. Washington Parlor #169 Newark, and the S.D.E.S. Lodge Alvarado.

*The Hayward Daily Review* printed an article in their May 30, 1975 issue covering the life of Frank P. George Jr. Here is that article:

"Frank George, who will be 77 on Monday, has owned and operated a Mobil Oil Distributorship in Alvarado for 43 years.

He remembers when George Oakes Sr., the father of the present Hayward City Councilman, used to operate a printing press in a building still standing across the street from his. It is a weather beaten wooden structure so Lilliputian it appears to be a children's playhouse and its faded lettering can barely be made out – "Alvarado Pioneer Printing."

"I can remember talking with Mrs. Oakes and watching her work the linotype," George recalls as he puffs on his pipe and looks out at a scene, changed only by the progressively newer automobiles and trucks passing through it during the past quarter century.

On the other side of Union City Boulevard stands the Alvarado Produce Market (also known as Andrade's Market) with its big red circular "Drink Coca-Cola, Sign of Good Taste" metal signs that are collectors' items today. The tiny print shop, with wild berry vines reaching toward the sun against the building's boarded up front, and the old Alvarado Hotel, refurbished in 1939, and now standing vacant and forlorn, sharing silent company with a 1951 DeSoto rusting in the parking lot.

George grew up in San Leandro and used to come to Alvarado with his father occasionally to pick up a wagonload of potatoes back in the days when agriculture was king in Southern Alameda County, when Decoto was growing up around the railroad and Alvarado was a thriving port on the San Francisco Bay.

"Heck, I remember when the old barges used to sail right through town here," he says, gesturing down the street in the direction of the hotel. "They used to go right by my office here and on up to the sugar plant."

In those days, what is now Holly Sugar, was the Alameda Sugar Co. It was the first beet sugar mill in the United States, and now standing in icy disrepair behind a rusting chain link fence on the street named for its founder E.H. Dyer. It is abandoned now except for a few caretakers. A huge chunk on the roof and sides are missing so the sun can pour in. Its tall white smokestack stands as a sleepy sentinel with nothing left to guard.

Frank came to Alvarado in 1922 and worked a 400-acre farm with his father Antone, who died in 1949. They raised sugar beets, tomatoes, grain and hay. Frank has lived in Niles, Fremont's historical, colorful and less moribund version of Alvarado located at the other end of the road that joins the two – since 1929.

Decoto has changed a lot, Frank says, but Alvarado has not. "There used to be a lot of money in this town," he says, relighting his pipe and surveying the sun-splashed old buildings across the street.

"There was a bank and movie theater then, but that's all gone now. Those were the good old days, when you didn't have everyone breathing down your neck. Everyone knew each other. There are damned few old-timers left. I'm one. Most of them are gone too."

Frank doesn't like to see too many people jammed too close together, and he feels especially sorry for the children who must grow up in the apartments and condominiums of developments. "And things look like they are going to get worse, a hell of lot worse, before they get any better," he says.

Across the street the old hotel is fading from nearly white to nearly beige in the gathering gloaming. "That old hotel used to have a walkway around it about three feet high because the whole town used to flood," Frank recalls.

Originally it was a boarding house for foundry workers and boat passengers from San Francisco. "The original owner, Fernandes Paredes, died a few years ago, and his boys leased it out," Frank reflects, "the woman in the restaurant used to do a hell of a trade, but the place closed about two years ago and has been closed ever since."

Frank tilts his head at a 45-degree angle and jerks his thumb toward the back of his office. "Come back here, I've got something I want to show you," he says. The something was a safe, quite massive and very old.

"I got this from Chinatown when it burned down," he says. "Chinatown used to take up a whole block on Smith Street. Some things were really different then, in Chinatown there was gambling, women...everything."

### **Tony George:**

Tony George was born in California in 1902. His wife Irene was born in California in 1904. They had a son Marvin. The couple resided on Nursery Road (Alvarado Niles Road). Tony was employed as a truck driver in 1930.

By mid-1930 the George brothers got into the oil and gas business in Alvarado as wholesale distributors of Mobil Products under the firm name of the General Petroleum Company. The George brothers would deliver Mobil gas and oil to service stations and farms throughout southern Alameda County. They also sold U.S. Royal tires out of their store on Levee Street at the jog between Levee Street as you leave Alvarado and enter Hesperian Boulevard. Frank was the general manager of the store and Tony would deliver gas and oil products in their large truck. The firm was members of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce.

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\* **ALVARADO AREA SCHOOLS** \*  
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## **ALVARADO SCHOOL FACULTY:**

J.C. Wasley was principal of Alvarado Grammar School throughout the decade. For schoolteachers see "Teachers" category under "Bios" on page 53. The new school was finished in 1925, and the 1930's proved to be a quiet decade for the school.

The persons who served as Trustee for the Alvarado Grammar School during this decade were:

Mrs. Frances Robie	Mr. A.E. Vargas	C.J. Skow
Frank E. Machado	F.C. Harvey	

## **ALVARADO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:**

*Three Act Comedy / Gypsy Troubadour / Aunt Elsie Club / Junior Traffic Patrol / Magic Piper / Tom Sawyer /*

### **Three Act Comedy:**

A three-act musical comedy was enacted by pupils of the Alvarado Grammar School in February 1931. Costume dances and songs featured the play, which was under the direction of Miss Lesda Sayles.

### **Gypsy Troubadour:**

The public was invited to attend a two act opera, "The Gypsy Troubadour," at the Alvarado Grammar School auditorium given by the school children on the evening of May 29, 1934. The operetta was under the direction of Miss Doris Kinne, music director of the school. The orchestra will play several numbers. In the cast are:

Joan Boyd	Bernice Lezand	Marion Ziegler
Isabelle Pinto	Bruno Orsetti	Lillian Silva
Warren Silva	Angel Ledesma	Tony Fields
Isabel Maciel	Alvina Santos	Richard Munger
Bernice Daviner		

### **Aunt Elsie Club**

A group of juvenile artists and authors met in the Alvarado School to form a local chapter of the Aunt Elsie Club of the Oakland Tribune in June 1934. The club also included students from the Alviso Grammar School. The chapter members of the new club were:

John Accinelli	Leonard Silva	Eva Soares
Marian Ziegler	Alvina Santos	Lloyd Silva
Richard Munger	T. Akinaga	Helen Pilkington
Cyril Flores	Jim Wasley	Wilma Martin
Edward Martinez	Robert Avilla	Irma Borges
Mary Hinkley	Caroline Amaral	Olivia Nieto
Bernice Lezand.		

The chapter would be under the guidance of James C. Wasley and Mrs. Laura Orelli.

### **Junior Traffic Patrol**

One more new troop of Junior Traffic Patrol was added in February 1935, when the Alvarado Grammar School's new Junior Patrol was sworn in by Captain L. A. Elke of the California Highway Patrol. Members of the troop were:

Sergeants:	Raymond Dias	Edward Olivencia
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Albert Hinkley  
Warren Silva

Bruno Orsetti

Privates:  
Charles Merino  
Bert Johnson  
James Wasley

Everett Alameda  
Joe Lewis  
Edward Martinez  
John Ziegler

Tony Paredes  
Cyril Flores  
Benny Joyce

### **The Magic Piper:**

The "Magic Piper," resembling in idea the "Pied Piper," was produced as an operetta by the Alvarado Grammar School during Public Schools Week, on the evening of April 11, 1935. The play was held in the school auditorium under the direction of the music supervisor, Miss Doris Kinne, with Miss Ruth Koehle as pianist. Approximately 100 children took part.

Those taking the leads were:

John Ziegler  
Warren Silva  
Remedia Mateo  
Bruno Orsetti  
Everett Alameda

Marjorie Maciel  
Anthony Paredes  
Richard Avila  
James Wasley  
Richard Munger

Mieko Terezawa  
Junior Lewis  
Isabel Pinto  
Benny Joyce  
Peggy Wasley

There was a chorus of 20 "rats," and other choruses of children who followed the piper, and the fathers and mothers who followed the children. The operetta was in three acts, one scene being in the mountains, and the other two in the streets of town.

### **Tom Sawyer:**

Rehearsals have started for "Tom Sawyer" an operetta to be given by the Alvarado Grammar School for the first of March 1938. The lead parts were chosen as follows:

Tom Sawyer:	Jimmie Critchfield
Huckleberry Finn:	Stanley Lewis
Aunt Polly:	Doris Johnson
Becky Thatcher:	Ruth Ziegler
Amy Lawrence:	Mildred Martin
Injun Joe:	Eugene Martinez.

## **ALVARADO SCHOOL SPORTS:**

*Baseball / Basketball*

### **Baseball:**

On Sept. 18, 1934 the Alvarado Grammar School met Decoto on the local diamond and lost 3-2. In the lineup were:

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

Subs:  
Cyril Flores  
Tony Paredes  
Daniel Lezand



In November 1934 the Alvarado Grammar School baseball team lost to Alviso School 4-2. The following week Alvarado lost to Decoto 4-2.

The boys who saw action were:

Clifford Dinsmore	Tero Akinaga	Manuel Steves
Raymond Dias	Hiroshi Shimada	Manuel Pine
Warren Silva	Eddy Olivencia	Paul Rivers
Marion Cordoba	Tony Paredes	



Baseball reigns supreme at Alvarado Grammar School. A league has been formed comprising local grammar schools. The Alvarado players have been enthusiastically convincing the residents that they're a "cinch" for winning the silver cup offered by Don Harder's Sport Shop in Hayward for the championship nine. Proving their ability the Alvarado team journeyed to Niles in March 1935 for a practice game and came away with a 7 to 0 win. Members of the team were:

Paul Rivers	Al Hinkley	Warren Silva
Manuel Esteves	T. Akinaga	Cliff Dinsmore
Ray Dias	Marion Cordoba	Ed Olivencia

Louis Amaral and Tony Correia from the Eagles baseball team are the coaches.



Alvarado Grammar School defeated Centerville Grammar School 13-4 in a baseball game played at the Centerville field.

Pitchers:	Albert Hinkley	Manuel Esteves	Warren Silva
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Other players for Alvarado were:

Paul Rivers	Jesse Hernandez	Clifford Dinsmore
Marion Cordoba	Raymond Dias	Eddie Olivencia
T. Akinaga	Eddie Martinez	John Soares.



The Alvarado Grammar School bested Irvington 21-1 in May 1935. They hold the league lead in the race for the Don Harder Silver Cup with a record of four wins and no defeats.

Alvarado Grammar School clubbed Mission San Jose 15-4. Alvarado faces Newark next.



Alvarado Grammar School's hopes for winning the Don Harder silver cup, emblematic of the Washington Township Grammar School Baseball Championship, soared when Alvarado defeated Niles 4-1 at Niles.

### **Basketball:**

On February 2, 1939, the lightweight basketball team of Alvarado School lost to Mission San Jose 7 to 4, and the heavy weight team also lost, 9 to 3. Here is how the Alvarado teams lined up against Mission San Jose:

Alvarado Heavyweights:

Mencho Paredes	Center
Ernie Machado	Forward
Alfred Viana	Forward
Marcellino Ledesma	Guard
Vernon Amaral	Guard

Alvarado Lightweights:

William Martinez	Center
Joseph Jacinto, Jr.	Forward
Walter Gardetto	Forward
Elliot Jardin	Forward
Frank Lewis	Guard

### **ALVARADO GRADUATES:**

*1930 to 1938*

In June 1930 the graduates for the Alvarado Grammar School were:

Joseph Allegre	Manuel Amaral	Morris Davilla
Dorothy Chrysostomos	Cipriano Diaz	Irene Lemas
Edward Mateo	Alice Menezes	Daniel Nieto
James Perry	Walter Silva	

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In June 1931 graduation exercises for the Alvarado Grammar School were held in the school auditorium. The 21 graduates were:

|                     |                 |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Alexandria Martinez | Emily Olivencia | Antoinette Rose |
| Elvin Rose          | Joseph Otto     | Joseph Rose     |
| Adelene Silva       | Arthur Silveria | Henry Terazawa  |
| Robert Ziegler      | Pauline Allegre | Joseph Amaral   |
| Grace Avila         | Anthony Correia | Sam Dinsmore    |
| Donald Flores       | Irene Freitas   | Lois Hendricks  |
| Leonard Hinckley    | Anna Logan      | Erma Machado    |

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In June 1932 the graduates for the Alvarado Grammar School were:

Eleanor Roderick	Lillian Silva	Madeline Dutra
Mary Cordoba	Thelma Lemos	William Machado
Luis Silva	Anthony Silva	Lawrence Souza
Melvin Allegre		



In June 1933 graduation exercises for the Alvarado Grammar School were held in the school auditorium. The graduates were:

Eva Soares	Eldora Fields	Kykyko Fijko	Louie Muro
Leonard Silva	John Accinelli	Lloyd Silva	Tadora Fijko
Manuel Andrade	Joseph Goularte	Ben Matsumoto	George Terazawa



In June 1934 graduation exercises for the Alvarado Grammar School were held in the school auditorium. The 17 graduates were:

Edward B. Avila	Joan A. Boyd	Bernice B. Daviner
Seraphine E. Daviner	Anthony A. Fields	Angel Ledesma Jr.
Asuncion Ledesma	Bernice B. Lezand	Johnny N. Machado
Isabel E. Maciel	Richard Mateo	Lawrence Roderick
Alvina E. Santos	Joseph Silva	Lillian May Silva
Lorraine Silveria	Marion L. Ziegler	



David E. Martin, County Superintendent of Schools, delivered the commencement address at the Alvarado Grammar School June 1935 when 26 students graduated. The following will receive diplomas:

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



The Alvarado Grammar School graduated 23 students in June 1936 according to James C. Wasley, Principal. The graduates for this year were:

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



Graduates at the Alvarado Grammar School numbered a lucky thirteen and received their diplomas on June 7, 1937 at a program held at the school. The graduates were:

Allen Amaral	Bob French	Bert Johnson
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Joe Lewis  
Marylyn Critchfield  
Wilma Martin  
Isabel Silveira.

Raul Merino  
Alexis Lezand  
Hilda Pinto

Fujiko Akinaga  
Victoria Marshall  
Winifred Santos

Mr. James Wasley is school Principal.

Sixteen students graduated from the Alvarado Grammar School, in ceremonies held at Washington Union High School in June 1939. Herbert Dutra was the Valedictorian and Ernest Machado was the Salutorian.

## **ALVISO GRAMMAR SCHOOL:**

*1931 & 1932 graduates / 1935 Baseball League*

In June 1931 the graduates for the Alviso Grammar School were:

Pauline Lebon          Esther Orsetti          Frank George          Anthony Roderick  
Mrs. Elsie Madruga was the principal, and the teachers were Mrs. M. Dutra and Miss Niderost.

In June 1932 the graduates for the Alviso Grammar School were:

Eleanor Roderick          Lawrence Gonsalves          Delinda Bettencourt

In March 1935, the Township Grammar School Baseball League was organized with the following eight teams: Alvarado, Alviso, Centerville, Decoto, Irvington, Mission San Jose, Newark and Niles.

## **WASHINGTON UNION HIGH SCHOOL:**

*Sports / School Grounds*

### **Sports:**

Washington Union High School began sports in the 1930's as part of the ACAL (the Alameda County Athletic League), which consisted of the high schools of Alameda, Berkeley, Centerville (Washington High) Emeryville, Richmond and Hayward. This league was not consistent; for example, four or five schools may have participated in baseball in the league, but then maybe only four would participate in the league for football.

The Oakland High Schools had their own league, many teams of which Washington would play over the years. Those schools were: Castlemont, McClymonds, Oakland, Roosevelt, San Leandro, Technical, and University.

Then in 1937 Washington High would become part of the SCVAL (the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League) where they would remain until there were enough schools in the township to form their own league.

The 1937 football team from Centerville won the SCVAL championship in their first year in the league; they played and defeated Santa Clara, Los Gatos, Mt. View, Fremont (Sunnyvale), Gilroy, and Campbell. They also played, and defeated, Livermore, and Pleasanton.

The 1937 basketball team ended up with a 3 – 5 league record; defeating Live Oak (Morgan Hill), Fremont (Sunnyvale), and Gilroy; and losing to Santa Clara, San Jose Tech, Los Gatos, Campbell, and Mt. View.

Washington High also competed in the SCVAL in Tennis and Baseball.

Part of the ritual of high school sports at this time was pranking your opponents. In October 1930 the lawn at Washington Union High sported a huge letter "H" burned into the sod. Meanwhile the lawn at Hayward sported a huge letter "W" burned into their sod. At this time Washington Union High and Hayward Union High were great rivals in ACAL League.

Then in 1937 there was another instance of inter-school skullduggery against Piedmont High School their school was smeared with painted "H's" just a few hours before their football game with Hayward High.

The game went on even though the principals had the authority to cancel the game. Meanwhile, in an odd turn, Henry Hampton, Vice Principal of Hayward High said that several carloads of students from Washington High were turned away from Hayward High in an effort to smear their school with paint. J.V. Goold, Vice Principal of Washington High said that he couldn't see that his students would have any motive for paint smearing, for Washington High had not played Hayward High for a few years, and no games were scheduled this year or in the near future.

The annual "Big Game" at the beginning of the decade was a football game against their local rival, Hayward Union High School. In November 1931 the "Big Game" was played on the Centerville turf with Hayward High coming out on top 13 - 0. Besides playing for the pride of the schools, Hayward pledged half of the receipts for the game to the Community Chest. The Hayward win in the "Big Game" was the eighth straight win over Washington High in this annual football game.

In December 1931 Washington Union High football Coach Jesse Regli announced that a lawn was being planted at the high school football field. According to Coach Regli practicing on the dusty field had caused much illness and kept several valuable players off of the field in important games. The sod would also eliminate mud during the rainy season and permit the team to practice under the same conditions that it meets when playing on the grass fields on the larger schools of the league.

In February 1932 the Hayward Union High Farmers eliminated the Washington Union High Cornhuskers Varsity and "B" teams from championship play in basketball. At this time Washington Union High was not known as the "Huskies," but rather the "Cornhuskers" (like the University of Nebraska). Also their colors at this time were Black and Yellow, rather than the Orange and Black.

In baseball Washington High fared better when they went undefeated in baseball taking the Southern Alameda County championship in 1933. This was the second league title in a row in baseball. The ten teams they defeated ranged from San Leandro to San Jose. Washington averaged 12 runs a game, defeating Hayward 11 to 3 and then piling on 24 runs against Pleasanton, one of the strongest teams in Southern Alameda County. The school then went on to meet San Jose State College and lose 9 - 0, for their only loss of the season.

In October 1934 Washington Union High Cornhuskers held a rally prior to their meeting Emeryville in a football game. The yells and cheers were led by Bill Garcia and Harry Cesari.

Washington prevailed in the game played by a score of 44 – 6. This was their first league game of the season in the S.A.C.A.L. (Southern Alameda County Athletic League), where the Cornhuskers were expected to again win the league championship. In November Washington Union High School won their second consecutive Southern Alameda County football title by defeating Livermore Union High.

The Washington Cornhuskers won the football championship of the Southern Alameda County Athletic League for the third consecutive season in November 1935, closing the season with no league defeats and a 40 to 0 win over the Pleasanton Dons. The Cornhuskers scores for this season:

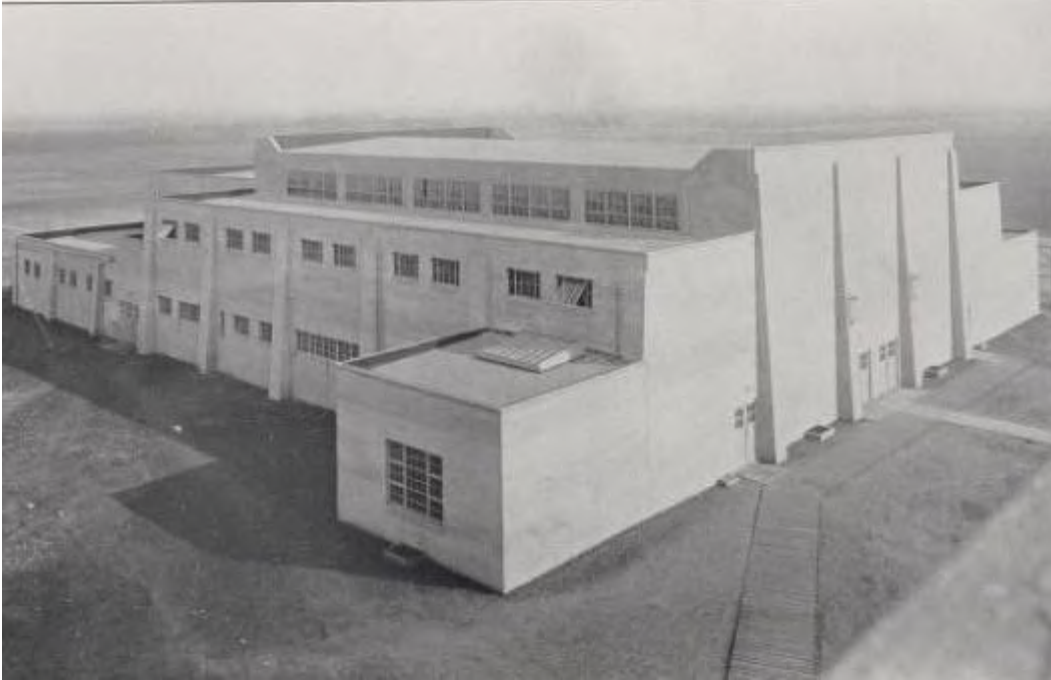
Washington	19	Livermore	6
Washington	26	School / Deaf	6
Washington	26	Emeryville	6
Washington	31	Albany	0
Washington	40	Pleasanton	0
Washington	27	Santa Clara	0
Washington	6	Menlo Park	0
Washington	0	Hollister	0
Washington	0	Pittsburg	6

### **School Grounds:**



This fish pond given by the class of 1930 was completed, and the trees were planted around the portion set apart as the gift from the class. It was located in a sheltered spot between the shop and the main building.

Work began on the new gymnasium for the high school in February 1930 with soil testing. The underlying soil was found to be sufficient to support the gym, which would house a basketball court, gym lockers, and showers for both the girls and boys. Building was expected to begin soon. The expected cost of the new structure was put at \$40,000.



The new Washington Union High Gymnasium, which was located east of the main building of the school.

Washington Union High got two new macadamized tennis courts in June 1931 as well as a new school bus to replace the Mooreland bus now driven by Mr. Kibby.

Washington Union High principal A.J. Rathbone presented a plan in December 1931 to the Lions Club for the establishment of a high school swimming pool to cost \$8,000. Fund raising continued for a few years and they reached over half-way to their goal, but the building of the pool languished. It was not until the mid-1950s' that a swimming pool for Washington High became reality.

In September 1933 a large showcase to hold the various trophies and cups that have been won by Washington Union High School students was donated to the school by the senior class. Prior to the showcase the various awards and trophies were scattered throughout the school in various rooms.

Students at Washington High were served lunch for the first time in the new \$60,000 school cafeteria, and home-making unit on January 23, 1939.

Washington Union High School opened Monday, September 11, 1939. Among those attending from Alvarado are:

Seniors:

Billy Rogers	Barbara Critchfield	Linda J. Hellwig
Vivian Mae Logan	Peggy Wasley	Jimmy Wasley
Tony Paredes	Anthony Fine	Marjorie Goularte
Frankie Cordoba	Shirley Mast	Manuel Silva
Everett Alameda	Don Lemos	Everett Fantuzzi
Tom Tao	Evelyn Correia	John Ziegler
Irma Borges	Frederick Joyce	

Juniors:

Allen Amaral	Joseph Lewis Jr.	Hilda Pinto
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Alexia Lezand  
Winifred Santos

Isabel Silveira  
Alberta Menezes

Wilma Martin

Sophomores:

Beatrice Fields  
Fatsuko Matsumoto  
Mervin Christensen  
Doris Johnson

Norman Silveira  
Grace Maciel  
Phyllis Cordoba  
Peggy Amaral

Adam Lewis  
Celeste Rose  
Myrtle Lemos

Freshman:

Rosaline Daviner  
Lorraine Alameda  
Anita Cabaran  
Walter Fasolis  
Mervin Mattos

Eleanor Silva  
Josephine Cordoba  
Betty Medeiros  
Elliott Jardin

Ernest Machado  
Jeanette Silveira  
Herbert Dutra  
Vernon Amaral

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\* **BASEBALL** \*

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Semi-pro baseball reached its height in Alvarado in the 1930's. There were several classifications of baseball leagues in those days in the Bay Area, with the San Francisco Seals and Oakland Oaks at the top of the heap as AAA Minor League teams. There were semi-pro leagues just below the Seals and Oaks, and like them, they had contracts to sign, but no mention is made of pay. Some of the local team names were: The Leslie Salts, the Alameda Sugars, the Alvarado Merchants, the Alvarado Eagles, and the Alvarado Pioneers. In the 20's Alvarado had fielded the Ralph's and the Amaral Brothers. Alvarado also field a softball team in 1939 called the Silver Dollars, which would have been associated with the Silver Dollar Tavern and Grill at the corner of Watkins Street and the Alvarado-Centerville Road.

Over the decade Alvarado would field some championship teams against some of the stiffest competition in the Bay Area. The teams played the best ball outside of the Major Leagues and local AAA Pro teams. One must remember that at this time there was no Major League ball played west of the Mississippi until the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants moved to the West Coast in the late 1950's.

**Bio: Fred Muller, Alvarado Ballplayer:**

The biggest name in baseball at this time in the Bay Area, was a young man named Fred Muller. He was Newark born, but later called Alvarado his home. He bought a farm in Alvarado and grew spinach and asparagus. Here is his story from a January 1935 article in the *Oakland Tribune*.

"In about another month Major League ballplayers will be headed to spring training camps and by that time it is expected that the New York Yankees will have a pretty fair idea of what players they will send to the Oakland Oaks. On the reserve list of the Yanks are 36 experienced players besides a lot of youngsters who are too green to make the camp.

A tip from an easterner yesterday was that Fred Muller, who starred for the Seattle Indians in 1932, when he set a double-play fielding record along with "Chick" Ellsworth, would come to the Oaks.

Muller was purchased by the Boston Red Sox during the 1933 season, and later became the property of the New York Yankees. He was in the International League last season, and it is reported that Manager Joe McCarthy may not be able to make a spot for him in the 1933 Yank infield because he specializes at second base, where he would have to beat out Tony Lazzeri. Tony hit .294 and fielded in the same stellar way.

It is a known fact that the Oaks are in the market for a second sacker and it is possible, now that the local club has been made a Yankee farm team, that McCarthy would willingly let Muller come to the Oaks rather than keep him on the bench. The more experience he gets the sooner he will be ready to step in at second when Lazzeri's legs or batting eye go back on him.

Muller would make an ideal batsman for the Oaks as he is of the long distance variety. He hit .327 in 1933, and drove in 66 runs in 83 games before he reported to the Red Sox. He hit 20 home runs and led second sackers in fielding. In 1932 Fred hit .282, but batted in 121 runs and among his hits was 49 doubles and 38 home runs.

Muller seems like too good a player to be shunted back to the minors without a fair trial, but our informant says he knows that Muller would prefer to return to the Coast, rather than spend his time on the bench. And no doubt nothing would suit him better than to come to the Oaks, for his hometown is Alvarado."

Muller returned to the west coast in March 1935 and was expected to join the Oakland Oaks immediately, however he was detained at his Alvarado asparagus fields and appeared several days later.

The Oakland Oaks started Fred at second base when the season started. There was joy in the little city of Alvarado on May 11, 1935, for Fred Muller returned there to tell his home town friends that the Oakland Oaks defeated the Sacramento Senators at the Oakland ball park on May 10<sup>th</sup>, and that his home run clout proved to be the telling blow. The Oaks won 4-2, and credit for driving in all runs for the locals belonged to the Alvarado spinach and asparagus grower.

By July Fred was given a bit of a rest by his manager, who feels it is only a matter of time before Muller is called back up to the big leagues. Muller has driven in more runs than other batter in the Pacific Coast League with 78, even more than *Joe DiMaggio* who is currently at 71.

By September Fred, who has been one the mainstays for the Oakland team throughout the season, was recalled by the New York Yankees. But he would finish the season with the Oaks, however.

Muller was the only player of the Oaks on option directly from the Yankees, other players owned by the Yankees having come through the Newark team of the International League. Muller, who batted at a fast clip at the beginning of the season,

has been in a slump recently, sending his average down to .271. Muller will probably taken to spring camp with the Yankees.

Fred would never made it back to the big leagues however. He finished his Major League career with the Boston Red Sox, playing actively for them in the 1933 and 1934 seasons. His Major League career spanned 17 games, he batted 49 times, with a lifetime batting average of .184.

His professional baseball career spanned the years 1928 to 1940. Besides the Boston Red Sox in the Majors, he played for the Seattle Indians, the Montreal Royals, the Newark Bears (NJ), the Toledo Mud Hens, and he finished his career with the Portland Beavers in 1940.

A major name in the baseball arena during this time was Don Harder. Don was from the family for which Harder Road in Hayward was named. Don owned a sporting goods store in Hayward. I bought my first baseball glove from Harder's in the early fifties.

But Don earned his baseball name from his participation and organizational skills in creating and managing leagues of baseball teams. In Southern Alameda County at this time Don Harder was the father of big time baseball for the local masses.

Here are some of the Alvarado teams and their line-ups in the 1930's:

#### **The Leslie Salts, February 1930:**

Ferry	CF
Robinson	2B
Searles	1B & CF
Bettencourt	3B
Dondero	SS
Jacinto	C
Lazzarini	P & 1B
Amaral	RF
Dutra	LF
W. Dondero	1b & P

Leonard Dondero (SS) would briefly make it to the major leagues, as would Larry Bettencourt (3B).

#### **The Alvarado lineup for October 1933:**

Correia	Second Base
Amaral	Left Field
Lebon	Short Stop
Dutra	Third Base
Escobar	First Base
Roderick	Center Field
DuValle	Right Field
Rivers	Catcher
Degermark	Pitcher
H. Jacinto	Second Base
J. Jacinto	Short Stop
Hendricks	Left Field

Albert (Spud) Degermark, was a noted local pitcher who played in several of the larger leagues in California.

**The Alvarado Merchants lineup for October 1934:**

Louis Amaral	Right Field
Hubert Jacinto	Second Base
John Silva	Third Base
James Perry	Center Field
Stanley Roderick	First Base
Frank Vargas	Left Field
Tony Rivers	Catcher
Manuel Amaral	
Dale Laybourne	
Art Silva	

**The Alvarado Eagles lineup for December 1938:**

Louis Silva	Catcher
"Duke"	Pitcher
Johnny Silva	First Base
Hubert Jacinto	Second Base
Dale Laybourne	Short Stop
Kelly	Third Base
Joseph Amaral	Left Field and Pitcher
J. Gonsalves	Center Field
Harold Faria	Right Field

Joseph Jacinto is one of their best boosters and for many years he has managed the hometown team.

**The Alvarado Eagles lineup for February 1939:**

Kelly	Third Base
Jacinto	Second Base
Laybourne	Short Stop
J. Silva	First Base
Faria	Left Field
Amaral	Right Field
Gonsalves	Center Field
L. Silva	Catcher
Dutra	Pitcher
Rose	Left Field (Relief)

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**\* FLOODS \***

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On December 28, 1931, a flood visited Alvarado, roads were blocked, the Alameda Creek overflowed its banks, and a large section in and around the vicinity was a veritable sea. Records from the high school weather bureau showed that seven inches of rain had fallen in the past week. Since December 26, 1931, 3.8 inches descended in this vicinity

High water between Russell City and Alvarado prevented the Oakland to San Jose Southern Pacific trains from getting through, and they had to be rerouted through



Hayward and Niles. At Alvarado a levee broke, flooding the countryside and washing out the Alquire Road (today's Dyer Road), and the Nursery Road (Alvarado-Niles Road) between Alvarado and Niles. These roads were dangerous but passable.



The heavy downpour of January 7, 1935, flooded the Southern Pacific underpass north of Niles, and caused many automobiles to be stalled when they attempted to push through the water. Ranchers in the area between Alvarado and Newark moved their livestock to higher ground in the fear that the rains would bring the Alameda Creek to the flood stage. Many of the ranchers have provided themselves with boats to be used in case of necessity to bring in supplies or to their take children to school. Farmers say the floods, if they occur, would be of more benefit than damage, for the silt and leaf mold brought down by the water enriches the land.

On January 9, 1935 more than an inch of rain fell in the vicinity of Niles, and sent Alameda Creek roaring through Niles Canyon. One bridge, leading from the highway into a private parking ground was swept away, and the lowlands between Alvarado and Newark were flooded.

Heavy rain returned again, and by February 13, 1935, the Alameda Creek in Niles Canyon had reached its highest point in five years, and the Marsh Road between Alvarado and Newark was closed by the overflow there. Crandall Slough, between Centerville and Alvarado was flowing for the first time in five years but roads in that area were not blocked.

By February 14, 1935, rainfall reached 14.00 inches above normal, the scene north and east of Alvarado was one huge lake. The Alvarado flood, nearly a dozen feet deep near the bridge over the Alameda Creek, sent that stream out of its banks yesterday afternoon. A lake nearly a mile long stretched eastward toward the Tennyson neighborhood.

A continuous succession of storms has filled Alameda Creek from Niles to Alvarado, causing it to overflow on February 23, 1935, and isolating nearby farmhouses. The Alvarado-Newark Salt Works Road has been closed by high water. Leslie-California Salt workers have been traveling daily through water.



Flood conditions of pioneer winters were in evidence in Alvarado over the weekend when part of this community was inundated by floodwaters escaping through the Sugar Mill dam along Alameda Creek, near the F. H. Wiegman farm. The flood situation is reported the worst experienced in 15 years.

At 6 o'clock on the evening of December 11, 1937 the water broke through and immediately submerged the Wiegman farm, flowing over the Southern Pacific tracks and flooding a half-mile section northward. Water submerged the old Chinatown area and the downtown section to Watkins and Levee Street, rising to a reported four to six feet high.



By February 4, 1938, nearly five inches of rain fell in Alvarado since January 26<sup>th</sup>. Three of the four roads approaching Alvarado from the south were closed. The following day the damage caused by the overflow of the Alameda Creek became apparent; 310 acres of cauliflower, peas, and spinach were under water. Damage to the farmers was estimated at \$25,000.



When Judy Hill set out for school from her ranch home near Alvarado on the morning of February 4<sup>th</sup> she found the house completely surrounded by floodwater. So her father, Blake Hill, launched a raft and paddled her to the road. Ten farms near Alvarado were flooded. Several of the families had to escape in boats.



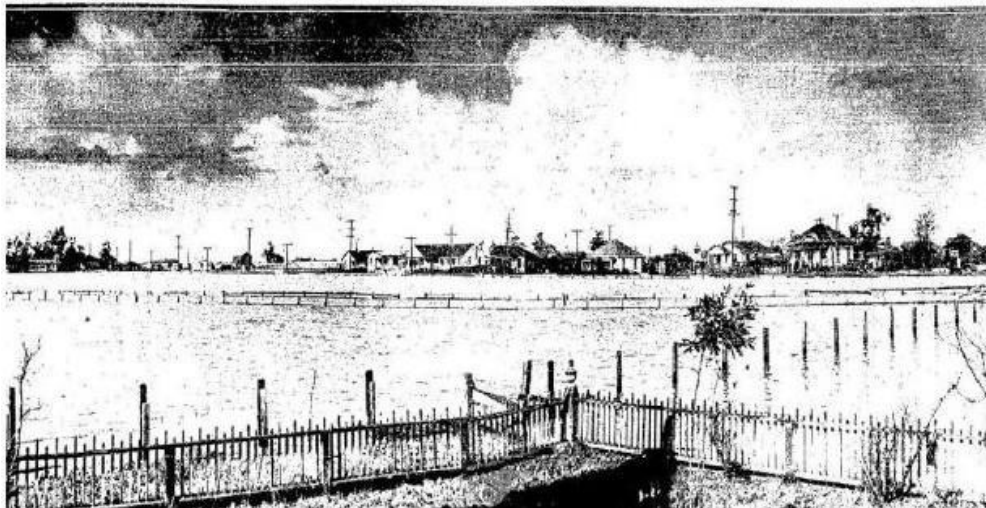
Another photo of the Alvarado flood on February 4, 1938.

Had the overflow occurred a half-mile further upstream the damage would have been far greater, according to the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association. Citizens down Alvarado way seek ways and means of preventing an annual flood of their lands and every citizen of the Hayward community will sympathize with them and hope they formulate plans to avert such losses. By February 9<sup>th</sup> the fears of another flood came alive as the continued rains revived the rise of floodwaters in Washington Township. Alvarado is virtually surrounded by runoff waters that broke out of the banks of the Alameda Creek.

The Alameda Creek went over its banks between Centerville and Alvarado flooding the highway on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of acres of orchards and farmlands in the area were covered with water. Some 400 acres of farmland at Alvarado were flooded. The Leslie Salt Works at Alvarado was closed because of high water over the approaching road. Southern Pacific trains from Oakland to San Jose were rerouted through Niles, because the tracks in the region of Alvarado were under water.

Two old time residents at Alvarado, Mrs. Walter Robie and A.D. Moffitt, said the flood there was the worst the town has seen in 22 years. Main streets were covered with three feet of water. Fifty families were marooned along Canal and "V" Streets, and at Union City west of town. The aforementioned 1916 flood occurred before Calaveras Dam was built. Floodwaters breaking through the levees of the Leslie Salt Company near Alvarado "diluted" brine in the ponds and washed away nearly 1,000 tons of salt, officials said. Production at the plant has stopped. Floods were increased by a 6 ft. 4 in. tide at noon yesterday.

IT LOOKS LIKE SPORT BUT THESE FLOODS SPELL DISASTER FOR VALLEY CITIES AND HAMLETS

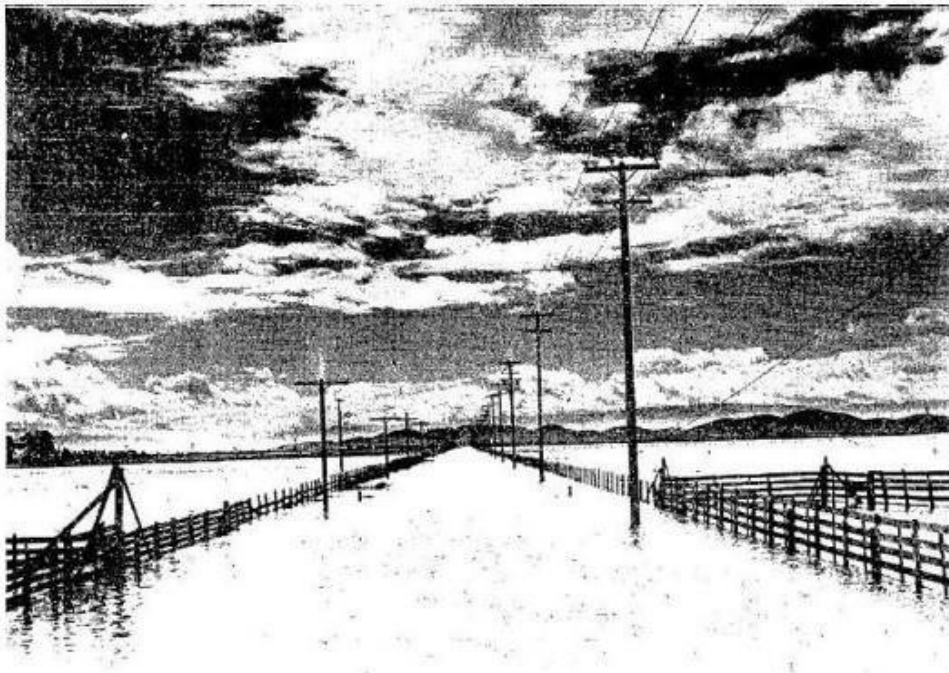


The flood February 13<sup>th</sup> at the west end of Alvarado. The row of houses seen near the middle of the photo are on "V" Street (today's Horner Street). The top of the posts running in front the homes on "V" Street are on Benson Road, which would dead-end on 17<sup>th</sup> Street (today's Bulmer St.). The picture is taken in the front yard of the home at the corner of Canal & 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Canal Street is today's Marsten Avenue.

But the rain was not finished for the early part of 1938. The weekend rain of mid-March, which was accompanied by hail in parts of the bay region, filled Alameda Creek to flood stage again, and caused some families in the region to leave their homes for the fourth time this season. A levee break north of Alvarado caused the closure of the Alvarado-Newark Road (Marsh Road) and made travel on the Alvarado to Niles Road (Creek Road) perilous.



February 13, 1938: Here is a scene on Alvarado's Canal Street (today's Marsten Avenue) where homes were flooded and boats became the only means of transportation. Arthur Silveira and Tony Fields are boating supplies home.



February 13, 1938: Flood waters made a beautiful scene, but an impassable highway of the Levee Road (today's Union City Boulevard) south of Alvarado. This view shows the water-covered road, distinguished only because it is between the fences as it appeared looking from Alvarado towards Newark.

Pleas of ranchers from the Mt. Eden-Alvarado district for relief from flood conditions resulting from heavy rains had been shifted by the Board of Supervisors to the State Highway Department. A delegation consisting of August May, Fred Harvey, Fred

Wiegman and A. Amaral appeared before the board yesterday to protest present conditions. They said that culverts along the Mt. Eden-Alvarado Highway (Highway 17) are inadequate and that flood waters from Alameda Creek had spread over large areas on the east side of the highway. A member of the board informed the group that the county had no jurisdiction over the matter, as the road is a state highway.

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\* **WATER** \*  
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At the beginning of this decade some of the Washington Township farmers that were near the marshes found they was in desperate straits due to the dropping of the water table in the underground aquifer. The drop in fresh water was being replaced with salt water, and those farmers nearest the Bay with shallow wells were sucking up salt water.

In February 1930 the reason for the drop in the water table was explained by Cyril Williams, an engineer for the Alameda County Water District. Mr. Williams explained the details of the gravel beds and the underground reservoirs in Washington Township, in an effort to show that the purchase of the pumping rights at Alvarado presently owned by the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (formerly the Oakland Water Co.) is the only way through which the water supply problem of Washington Township can be solved. Farmer's wells had been lowered by 40 feet since 1915, because of the pumping of water at the Alvarado wells by EBMUD. The total capacity of all the wells is about 13,000,000 gallons daily. The East Bay Municipal Utility District has already stopped pumping from its wells at Roberts Landing (Mt. Eden), thus releasing about 4,500,000 gallons of water for use for agricultural purposes. At a special election to be held March 28, 1930, voters of this section will vote to approve a bond issue of \$250,000 for the purchase of these pumping rights. The company is understood to have agreed to stop pumping at its Alvarado wells if the bond issue for purchase of the wells passes.

At the end of May 1930, the bond to purchase the wells and pumping station at Alvarado from EBMUD was passed by voters, and the water district ponied up \$265,000 for the station and wells.

Although the water district had purchased the EBMUD wells and pumping station at Alvarado, the City of Hayward still had rights to Alvarado water. In May of 1931 ranchers in Alvarado and Mt. Eden questioned the right of the City of Hayward to pump water from wells in Alvarado and pump it outside the district (East of Castro Street, now Mission Blvd). The ranchers asked that Hayward cease and desist from pumping Alvarado water into a reservoir in the east foothills.

It took one year but in May 1932, Judge John D. Murphey upheld the right of the City of Hayward to use water from its wells at Alvarado, and in so doing closed a threatening chapter in Hayward water history and assured that the City of Hayward would have an ample supply of water for domestic use sufficient to provide for considerable future expansion.

Meanwhile, on another front, the San Francisco Water Dept. (the old Spring Valley Water Company) released a most generous amount water from the Calaveras Dam in

April 1934 into the Alameda Creek. This led officials of the Alameda County Water District believe that there will be sufficient water in the wells Washington Township to meet the requirements on all ranches.

Several huge gravel pits in Alameda Creek, west of Niles, had to be filled by the flow before the water could reach the Alvarado District. These pits, according to W.D. Patterson, veteran member of the water district, will serve as reservoirs now that the annual release has been terminated, and the water will seep into the gravel strata and keep the wells supplied for several months.

In 1935 the Public Works Administration gave preliminary approval to a huge drainage project in Southern Alameda County. Allotment of funds under the five billion dollar Work Relief Act recently was signed by President Roosevelt.

The project was designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Open the outlet and lower the depth of the channel of Alameda Creek between Alvarado and the well of the Hayward Municipal Water wells, and eliminate winter flooding of a large flatland area in the Alvarado-Tennyson section.
2. Forward the possibility of re-establishing a boat channel in Alameda Creek, which in the early days was navigable. The Alvarado Sugar mill, founded in 1870, shipped out sugar on barges by way of the creek, according to Mr. Erle Ruus (of Ruus Road fame).
3. Provide an improved outlet into San Francisco Bay for surplus rainwater for the city of Hayward, South Hayward, Tennyson, Valle Vista, Alvarado, and the territory drained by the Alameda Creek, which runs through Niles Canyon.

Through the years, it was explained, the mouth of the Alameda Creek, which runs through the salt company property, has become heavily silted, as had the lower part of the channel. Winters of exceptionally heavy rainfall, it was felt, would witness the flooding of a large area of lowland because of the stoppage at the bay outlet.

The drainage project calls for the dredging of the old Alameda Creek channel as far as North Slough west of Alvarado, or the dredging of one or both of two channels between Alvarado and the Hayward wells, with provision made for drainage into these channels of adjacent low territory.

Further improvements were made in 1937 when the residents of three Washington Township towns, Centerville, Newark and Alvarado, were assured a supply of domestic water to replace that, which was pumped to them from wells by the Alameda County Water District.

Fifty WPA workers started digging a 10-mile ditch from the Clark Reservoir in Niles Canyon along the Niles-Centerville Road (Peralta Boulevard). The pipeline eventually to be installed will reach Centerville, Newark and Alvarado. While the three towns will be supplied for a time with the water from the Niles Canyon reservoir, it is hoped that a direct connection with the Hetch-Hetchy water system eventually can be made for the supply of domestic water.

Then in 1938 the water district invited bids for the purchase of approximately 100 acres of land, including a duck pond site, situated at Alvarado, on the former site of the East Bay Water Company. Information as to the acreage that was to be sold

could be obtained by contacting W.D. Patterson, Newark, E.A. Richmond, Alvarado, or Chris Runckel, Secretary, Board of Directors.

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**\* SOCIAL, CIVIC & RELIGIOUS ORG'S \***  
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*Alvarado Farm Home Center / Birthday Club / Boy Scouts / Bridge Club / Chamber of Commerce / Christian Endeavor Society / Echoes of Portugal / Fraternal Order of Eagles / I.D.E.S. / I.O.O.F. / Kendo Club / Ladies Aid Society / Library / Mother's Club / Order of the Eastern Star / Post Office / PTA / Rebekah's / S.P.R.S.I. / St. Anne's Catholic Church / St. Annes - Holy Ghost / S.D.E.S. / U.P.E.C. & U.P.P.E.C. / Woodmen of the World / Work Progress Administration / Y.L.I. Club*

**Alvarado Farm Home Center:**

The Farm Home Center was a group headed by a county agent that would visit farm homes in a meeting setting, and teach farm wives home making skills, how to stretch available food, how to can vegetables and fruits, and a variety of helpful hints around the house.

Persons who partook in the activities during the decade were:

- Mrs. Charles Sweet, County Chairman
- Mrs. Maryetta Holman, County Agent
- Mrs. A.E. (Nora) Vargas      Mrs. Edith Pfau      Mrs. Geraldine Rogers
- Mrs. Ida Rogers      Mrs. Aldine Goularte      Mrs. Ed Harvey
- Mrs. Joseph Williams      Mrs. George Enos      Mrs. Katherine Silva
- Mrs. Jesse Perry      Mrs. Forrest Langdon      Mrs. Adeline Santos
- Mrs. Mary Gastelum      Mrs. Irma Brown      Mrs. Roumilda Rose
- Miss Mary Hughes

**Birthday Club:**

The Birthday Club originated in 1911 and met on member's birthdays to help them celebrate the day. During this decade members mentioned in the newspapers were:

- Mrs. John Ralph      Mrs. E.A. Richmond      Mrs. Mary Scribner
- Mrs. Willa Jane Hellwig      Mrs. E.M. Tainton      Mrs. Morton Springer

**Boy Scouts:**

In May 1926 the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce voted to sponsor a Boy Scout troop. The decision followed an account by James C. Wasley, Alvarado School Principal, of the activity of a group of local boys whom he had been transporting to Hayward to attend meetings of Hayward Troop #4. By the end of May the new Boy Scout Troop got off to a flying start with the naming of four boys who would be Scout leaders. They were:

- Benny Joyce      John Ziegler      Tony Paredes      Jim Wasley

These four boys had been attending Hayward Troop #4 meetings for four months, and ranked highest out of the six being transported regularly by Principal James C. Wasley. Five Alvarado boys were among the number who qualified at a recent Boy Scout tryout in Hayward to attend a jamboree in Oakland.

As we started the year 1932, Alvarado did not have a Boy Scout Troop. Efforts were underway in April 1932 to organize troops in Irvington, Mission San Jose, and Warm

Springs. This would leave Alvarado as the only town in the township without a Boy Scout Troop.

### **Bridge Club:**

Members who were active this decade in the newspaper:

Miss Mildred Nauert	Mrs. August May	Mrs. Walter Robie
Mrs. Emma Hellwig	Mrs. Emma Koehvary	Mrs. H.M. Springer
Mrs. Louis Musick	Mrs. Walter Ziegler	Mrs. Harvey Granger
Mrs. Ted Harvey	Mrs. Allen Searles	Mrs. Andrew Logan
Mrs. Lloyd Bailey	Mrs. Milton Munger	

### Junior Bridge Club:

Mrs. H.M. Springer	Miss Nancy McKeown	Miss Flora McKeown
Mrs. A.C. Jensen	Mrs. Henry Jorgensen	Mrs. F.W. Joyce
Mrs. Walter Lund	Mrs. Mark Jenson	Mrs. William Jeppe
Mrs. George Harvey		

### **Chamber of Commerce:**

In March 1935 the Alvarado Chamber of commerce was reorganized. They immediately set out an energetic and ambitious pace of improvement for the town of Alvarado.

The first order of business was to choose officers for the organization.

President:	Thor Nordvik
Vice-President:	Charles Baird
Secretary:	Dick Howell
Treasurer:	John Menezes
Board of Directors:	J.C. Wasley Tony Santos Frank George

The first order of business for the new group was the fire protection district. The group asked the fire commissioners, the governing body of the Alvarado Fire Protection District, to take steps to enlarge the boundaries of the district, which were now limited to the town proper. The need for a wider area of protection was stressed.

This was followed up with plans for a Sanitary District within Alvarado. Proposals were made to extend to the Alvarado district the sewage plans now under discussion for the town of Decoto. It was noted that if Alvarado and Decoto combine their plans for a sanitary system Alvarado would save \$40,000 over the cost of going it alone.

In September 1935 Dick Howell, Secretary of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce came up with a novel idea to buy four acres of land in downtown Alvarado and start a subdivision. He believed that the four acres directly behind St. Anne's Church, up to the Alvarado Centerville Road would support 18 new homes. He believes that by starting this subdivision Alvarado's progress would be jump-started. Although nothing was known at the time about the church's willingness to sell the property, the homes were not built at this time.

Another proposal in September was building a jail for Alvarado. Their motto is "A jail for the bad boys and the Boy Scouts for the good boys." At the present time Alvarado has neither. This is part of the Chamber's project to push growth for Alvarado.



In February of 1936 the funds of the *old* Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, amounting to about \$60, were transferred to the reorganized group at a special meeting of the Board of Directors meeting. The money would be used to purchase insurance for the Alvarado Night Watchman Russell Larson. Joe E. Lewis, Mrs. Annie Baird, and Mr. Russell Larson were appointed to make investigations.

In conjunction with this action, letters were sent to the Board of the Fire Commissioners, O.J. Emery, H. M. Springer, J. H. Ralph, Fred Harvey and George Hellwig, requesting that they either provide adequate protection under the present fire system, or reorganize the Fire Department.

On March 10, 1936, the Chamber of Commerce announced that they would provide full insurance for Alvarado night patrolman Russell Larson, as required by a new policy of the state compensation board.

New Officers of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce were named in March of 1936: They were:

President:	Thor Nordvik	
Vice-President:	Charles Baird	
Secretary:	Mrs. Frances Luna	
Treasurer:	John Menezes	
Board of Directors:	J.C. Wasley	George Oakes
	E.A. Richmond	

Other Members:

J.H. Ralph	J.P. Boyd	Mrs. Frances Luna
George Hellwig	Joseph E. Lewis	Russell Larson
Andrew Anderson	A.B. Christensen	Peter Pinto
A.K. Barton		

The new board got to work immediately and announced the formation of a new Alvarado Boy Scout Troop. The Chamber followed the lead of Alvarado Grammar School Principal James Wasley, who had been transporting four boys to attend Boy Scout meetings in Hayward. By the end of May the new Boy Scout Troop had been organized and was off and running.

In September of 1936, the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce entered a float in the California Admission Day parade held in Oakland. The float depicted a replica of the county's first courthouse in Alvarado, voted the first county seat in 1853.

Supervisor George Hellwig addressed the Chamber of Commerce at its usual weekly luncheon at the Florence Restaurant in June of 1937, and pledged his continued support to Southern Alameda County when needed. He mentioned a bill sponsored by Congressman Albert Carter regarding a federal project to avoid flooding of farmlands in Alvarado and Newark by dredging the channel. Over the past 50 years silt has clogged the Alameda Creek outlet to the bay, and is causing ever more floods. At one time boats regularly plied the channel to the center of town and went as far as the Sugar Mill to pick up freight.

The year 1938 began with a subject near and dear to the hearts of all Alvaradans: flood control. Again the topic was raised and the cause for action was voiced. But this time it came from the township level as farmers and townsmen tried anew to

tame the Alameda Creek, which nearly every winter washes out crops and damages homes from Niles to Alvarado. Although rainwater from Niles Canyon is spread out over Patterson Slough to relieve the main channel, it was noted that the main problem is still far from solved. A year ago a part of Alvarado was flooded after heavy rains, part of the sugar mill dyke being broken.

Meanwhile at Alvarado the Chamber of Commerce reviewed plans drawn up by a consulting firm showing the of flood control for the area. Prevailing opinion, though, was that the estimated cost of \$1.5 million was excessive.

However the Chamber kept on the project and on the following month appointed a blue ribbon committee to further study and make recommendations on the subject.

The committee was composed of:

Ranchers:	Fred Wiegman	F. C. Harvey	Henry Patterson
Bank President:	August May		
Salt Industry:	Adolph A. Oliver	J. C. Buchannan (Leslie Salt Co.)	
Holly Sugar Exec:	Andrew Logan		
ACWD:	Will D. Patterson		

By the end of March 1938, Will D. Patterson made a preliminary report to the Chamber on lessening the cost of control of floodwaters and the conservation of water. The plan was designed to conserve sufficient quantity of floodwaters to fill the needs of dry lands in the summer, and to maintain a year-round water level to act as a natural salt-water barrier in wells along San Francisco Bay.

The Calaveras Lake, formed by the Calaveras Dam, was planned to release the water twice a year into the gravel beds near Niles. With the additional storage by the proposed reservoir, only one-third of the storm waters would flow into the Bay, thus eliminating flooding of farm lands and homes, and also reducing the cost of channel dredging and disposal of excess water.

### **Christian Endeavor:**

The only activity reported this decade was that Fred Joyce was elected Treasurer of the Christian Endeavor Society of the Presbyterian Church in Washington Township.

### **Echoes of Portugal:**

An old-fashioned "Chamarita" dance was given by the Echoes of Portugal Club at the IOOF Hall on April 27, 1935. Appropriate music was played on old-fashioned Portuguese instruments. The club was organized in August and now consists of approximately 25 members. The group is officered by:

President:	Manuel Gaspar
Vice-President:	Frank Pimentel
Secretary:	Rose Lezand
Treasurer:	Connie Gomes
Directors:	Mrs. Mary Amaral Delinda Pimentel M. E. Rose (Centerville)
MC:	Joseph E. Gomes
Outside Guard:	Mr. F. Andrade
Delegate:	A. P. Silva

A fine display of drilling was witnessed in the Armistice Day parade in Hayward on November 12, 1934, when the Alvarado Echoes of Portugal drill team exhibited its technique under the leadership of:

Captain: Lena Dutra  
Lieutenant: Beatrice Machado

The girls in the team are:

Lillian Silva	Bernice Lezand	Delinda Pimentel	Elveira Perry
Antoinette Rose	Isabel Muriel	Mary Pimentel	Constance Gomes
Dolores Mello	Carrie Amaral	Pearl White	Lorraine Andrade
Evelyn Correia	Erma Machado	Dale Carey	Thelma Silva

Marching in the June 16, 1935, Holy Ghost Parade in Santa Clara, was our local Echoes of Portugal Drill Team lead by:

Captain Lena Dutra of Decoto  
Director: Mrs. Zelma Correia

Marching with Lena will be:

Elveira Perry	Irene Freitas	Lorraine Andrade	Connie Gomes,
Ramona Monte	Antoinette Rose	Dolores Mello	Pearl White
Lucy Merino	Lillian May Silva	Mary Pimentel	Laura King
Evelyn Correia	Victoria Marshall	Thelma Silva	

### **Fraternal Order of Eagles:**

The order was active throughout the decade holding many activities.

Members in news:

Joseph Martin	John Silva	Raymond Peterson
Ernest Nagli	Manuel Andrade	Frank Cortez
E.E. Dias	E.S. Thomas	Thor Nordvik
Walter Merz	Walter Silva	Dr. H.C. Crockett
Dr. E.C. Grau	Ray Secada	A.A. Lee
John Menezes	C.W. Baird	A.E. Vargas
M. Abreu	Joe E. Lewis	James Perry
H.B. Crowl	Stanley Roderick	Louis J. Amaral
Henry Marshall	Manuel Azevedo	Joseph Allegre
Gregory Perry	Joseph Jacinto	Sidney Snow
Paul Dias	M.E. Gomes	Hubert Jacinto
T.R. Costa	Antone Rogers	Antone Santos
Edward J. Lebon	Martin Rose	T.E. Amaral Jr.
A.S. Mello	Andrew D. Moffitt	Jesse Jacinto
Fred King	Henry Enos	Frank Silva
Paul Bruhn	Joseph Luiz	Clarence Rose
Jerry Margarido	Joseph Lawrence	M.A. Silva Jr.
Vernon Rose	Frank E. Rose	Joseph Soares
Aza Keitner	Walter Muniz	Joseph Rivers
Gonsalo Ortega	T.E. Amaral	Dr. E.G. Dawson
Harold D. Faucett	Joe Monte	Antone Lawrence
Charlie Wahaub	Louis A. Silva	Leonard Silvey
Henry Andrade	E.D. Correa	Leonard Gonsalves
Seraphine Caldeira	Joseph S. Pierce	Edwin C. Ferrera
Ernest Albert	Tony J. DeValle	Franklin Rito

Joe S. Caldeira  
L.A. Russell

Louis Caldeira  
Antone Cosso

Joseph P. Oliver

### **I.D.E.S.:**

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

The I.D.E.S. Lodge was active throughout the decade. Members mentioned:

Mrs. Mayme Santos  
George Goularte

Vernon Rose  
Hubert Jacinto

Grace Avila  
Tony Perry

### **I. O. O. F.:**

The lodge was active throughout the decade, holding meetings, and hosting events. Members who were active and were mentioned in the newspaper were:

James Logan  
Farley Granger Jr.  
James Hunter

Oscar Nauert  
E.G. Lang  
Ed Richmond

Ed Farley  
K. Reinking  
Ed Hiser

The old IOOF hall at Alvarado, a state landmark, which was first occupied in 1861 by the Odd Fellows, and the Alvarado Guards, a militia company that was formed to protect the people of Alvarado during the Civil War. It was also the home of the "Alvarado Hundred" a group of Alameda County patriots that went east to fight with the Massachusetts Second Cavalry. A flag presented to the "Alvarado Hundred" still hangs in a prominent place in the lodge room as a treasured relic. Today this flag rests at the IOOF Lodge in Mission San Jose.

The Alvarado Odd Fellows lodge installed officers at Niles on January 22, 1939 as follows:

William Marshall  
James Hunter  
George Reinking  
Ed Richmond

Noble Grand  
Vice Grand  
Secretary  
Treasurer

### **Kendo Club:**

Japanese fencing, displayed by six members of the Kendo Club, and J. Fujita, referee, provided unique entertainment on June 23, 1936. Alvarado is headquarters for the (Japanese) North American Fencing Association.

### **Ladies Aid Society:**

The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church not only brought people together of the Protestant faith in a casual atmosphere, but it was also provided a fund raising organization to help improve the local church. During the decade the Ladies Aid raised funds for painting the church, roof repair, the laying of a concrete walk, construction of a fence, and new carpeting. They bought small chairs for the Presbyterian Sunday School. At meetings they did such things as make cushion covers for the hall, made drapes from material they bought for the dining room of the Odd Fellow's Hall.

Members who were active and participated in events as reported in the local newspapers were:

Mrs. John Ralph  
Mrs. M.P. Munger  
Miss Mary Hughes  
Mrs. F.C. Harvey  
Mrs. A.K. Culver  
Mrs. Forest Langdon  
Mrs. George Harvey

Mrs. Walter Ziegler  
Mrs. C.W. Baird  
Mrs. Ann Forbes  
Mrs. Curry  
Mrs. Dora Richmond  
Mrs. James Hunter  
Mrs. Christine Jung

Mrs. A.K. Logan  
Miss Hilda Hughes  
Mrs. Frances Robie  
Mrs. Emma Boyd  
Miss Mildred Nauert  
Mrs. Ruby Harvey

### **Library:**

Alvarado had library services under the auspices of Alameda County. Originally there was a library on the second floor of the IOOF that belonged to the Odd Fellows. In 1911 the Alameda County Library system added 100 books to the IOOF's 1,400 books. Eventually the Alameda County Library would move to the rear of the Post Office, which prior to the opening of the new Post Office in January 1952, was located directly behind the bank.

Albert Norris was Alvarado's early librarian. On his passing the library would be headed by Mrs. Bessie Corwin in 1934. Records show her at her post in 1937, but by the end of the year in 1939 the librarian was Mrs. Anna Forbes, sister of Mrs. Frances Robie.

### **Mother's Club:**

There existed in Alvarado in November of 1937 a "Mother's Club." As I recall the Mother's Club was similar to the PTA.

### **Order of the Eastern Star:**

The Order of the Eastern Star was a Protestant Organization, whose local headquarters was in Centerville. However, Alvarado ladies were very active in the organization, and they reached prominence when Mrs. Willa Jane Hellwig was named Grand Matron of the California State Chapter.

### **January 1931:**

Mrs. Willa Jane Hellwig, recently appointed Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, made an official tour of the state, and visited the principal chapters in her two months. She is made the tour by automobile. Her first official visit was made to the chapter in Livermore, which joined with the Pleasanton chapter in arranging for her reception.

### **August 1931:**

A reception and banquet was given in Salinas in honor of the visit of Willa Jane Hellwig, Worthy Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Eastern Star leader addressed the delegates from all parts of Monterey County who gathered in joint session with the Salinas Lodge at the Masonic Temple here.

### **October 1931:**

Mrs. E. A. Richmond and Jeanette Richmond, Mrs. J. H. Ralph and Mrs. G. P. Hellwig, have been attended the grand lodge of the O. E. S. in Coronado.

### **December 1934:**

Willa Jane Hellwig of Alvarado, past Grand Matron of the Orient Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was the installing officer at the Masonic Temple in Centerville. Ed Richmond of Alvarado was installed as Chaplain.

## **Post Office:**

With the passing of Albert Norris, Alvarado Postmaster, a position has opened up for a new postmaster. In a September 28, 1934 article the *Hayward Daily Review* noted:

"In appointing a new Postmaster at Alvarado, President Roosevelt and Postmaster General Farley could not make a mistake if they named Mrs. Frances Luna, who has been assistant Postmaster here for sixteen years. Mrs. Luna knows everyone for miles around and has been an able assistant to the lamented Postmaster, Albert Norris. Mrs. Luna has served as librarian of the county library in Alvarado, and is very popular with the people of this south county community. *The Review* hopes that Mrs. Luna will be appointed Postmaster for Alvarado."

On October 1, 1934 Thor J. Nordvik was temporarily named postmaster at Alvarado to replace Albert Norris. He succeeded the late Postmaster Albert Norris, who had passed away recently, after having resigned the office due to ill health.

On December 4, 1934 the *Hayward Daily Review* ran this article on Alvarado's new postmistress, Mrs. Frances Luna:

"We hasten to congratulate Mrs. Frances Luna on her appointment as acting Postmaster at Alvarado, the appointment having been made in Washington D.C. December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Luna, a loyal Democrat, and an experienced assistant in the post office and the branch library at Alvarado, richly deserves this appointment. The *Hayward Daily Review* feels that her many friends in southern Alameda County will rejoice with her in her new position. Undoubtedly her appointment will be made permanent when the Senate convenes next month, as well as all the appointments of the President for such positions must be approved by the Senate."

Mrs. Charles (Annie) Baird was chosen clerk in the Alvarado Post office by Mrs. Frances Luna, when she received her appointment as Postmaster of the office, succeeding the late Albert Norris and Thor Nordvik, who was appointed shortly after Albert Norris' death.

Mrs. Genevieve Dutra was appointed acting Postmaster of the Alvarado Post office on July 16, 1936 by the post office department in Washington upon the resignation of Mrs. Frances Luna. Genevieve Dutra would continue to serve as Postmistress for Alvarado for the next twenty years.

## **PTA:**

A Parent-Teacher Association was started in Alvarado in February 1930. The function of the organization was to bring parents and teachers together to improve the learning process and to improve school facilities. The association held fund raising events for school equipment and student improvements.

The initial drive was to gain fifty new members. The association was started with 26 members and the first officers were:

Mrs. Erle Hellwig	Mrs. J. C. Wasley	Mrs. M. M. Maciel
Mrs. W. J. Laplante	Mrs. John Mendez	

Members who participated in PTA activities during the decade were:

Mrs. Mayme Santos  
Miss Alvina Santos  
Mrs. Isabel Menezes  
Mrs. Mae Santos  
Mrs. Esther Gardetto  
Mrs. Gregory Perry  
Miss Isabel Ferry  
Mrs. Lenora Silveira  
Mrs. Aurora Lewis  
Mrs. Lauara Orelli  
Mrs. Lloyd Russell  
Mrs. George Harvey

Mrs. S. Daviner  
Joe Silveira  
Mrs. A.K. Logan  
Mrs. A.E. Vargas  
Mrs. George Enos  
Mrs. Hortense Maciel  
Mrs. Ethel Borges  
Miss Bernice Daviner  
Mrs. Mary Perry  
Mrs. Helen Amaral  
Mrs. Helen Alameda  
Mrs. Manuel A. Silva Jr.

William Avila  
Mrs. Mabel Rodgers  
Miss Mary Hughes  
Mrs. Anna Perry  
Mrs. Eldora Pinto  
Mrs. Mae Martin  
Mrs. Aldina Goularte  
Mrs. Joe Alameda  
Mrs. Delinda Rose  
Mrs. May Perry  
Mrs. Susie Davis  
Mrs. F.A. Silva

### **Rebekah's:**

The Rebekah's, the auxiliary arm of the IOOF, was extremely active during this decade, with fundraisers, entertainments, and visits to other Rebekah Lodges.

Persons who participated during the decade were:

Miss Mildred Sayles  
Mrs. Elsa Mikkelson  
Mrs. Minnie Hunter  
Mrs. Katherine Anderson

Mrs. Henrietta Graff  
Mrs. Chris Skow  
Mrs. Annie Baird  
Mrs. Wilma Miller

Mrs. Joe McKeown  
Mrs. O.J. Emery  
Mrs. Laura Orelli

### **SPRSI Auxiliary, Council No. 21, Estrella Oriental:**

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

The SPRSI was a Portuguese association. They held many fund raisers during the decade. Persons active by newspaper accounts during this were:

Mrs. Mabel Rogers  
Mrs. Clara Flores  
Mrs. Evelyn C. Silva  
Mrs. Anna Amaral  
Mrs. Frances Allegre  
Mrs. Emily Noia  
Mrs. Mary Silva  
Mrs. Marion Moniz  
Mrs. Carrie Fernandez  
Mrs. Mary Borges

Mrs. Nora Vargas  
Mrs. Anna Perry  
Mrs. Mayme Roderick  
Mrs. Edith Mello  
Mrs. Rose Silva  
Mrs. Sophie Mello  
Miss Pauline Allegre  
Mrs. Christine Bettencourt  
Mrs. Mary Bernard  
Mrs. Mary Rivers

Mrs. A. Mello  
Mrs. Aurora Lewis  
Mrs. Mamie Rose  
Mrs. Angie Vargas  
Mrs. Edith Lemos  
Mrs. Eldora Pinto  
Mrs. Carol B. Kelly  
Mrs. Anna Cardoza  
Mrs. Carolyn Mattos

### **St. Anne's Church:**

The parishioners of St. Anne's Church had a very busy decade with weekly whist parties, entertainments, dances, and of course, the Holy Ghost. In April 1935 the old St. Anne's Catholic Church was torn down. It had stood since 1862.

The 1930 Bazaar featured booths selling fruits and vegetables, jams, jellies, confectionary, home baking, fancy work, dishes and electrical appliances. The persons in charge of the various booths were:

Fancy Work:

Mrs. Anna Amaral  
Mrs. Lebon

Mrs. Frances Allegre

Refreshments:

Mrs. Nora Vargas

Mrs. John Menezes

Candy:

Mrs. J. Avila

Ice Cream:

Mrs. M. Flores

Groceria: Mrs. Alfred Perry

The 1934 bazaar featured several large prizes. The winners of those prizes were:  
Joseph Gomes Shirley Mast Harold Faria  
Mary Coit Paul Rivers  
Mrs. A. E. Vargas was charge of the committee for the event.

Others who participated in St. Anne's events over the decade were:  
Ramiro Machado Hubert Jacinto Mrs. Jessie Perry Paul Rivers  
Beatrice Machado Anne Roderick Seraphine Daviner Mrs. S. Daviner  
Matt Machado Mrs. John Menezes Mrs. M. Roderick Antone Vargas  
Joseph Martin Joe Dutra Mrs. F. Roderick Mrs. Henry Flores  
Mrs. Nora Vargas A.K. Perry M.P. Goularte Joe E. Lewis  
Mrs. Clara Jacinto M.F. Silva

**St. Anne's Church, Annual Holy Ghost Festa:**

The Portuguese of the bay district invaded Alvarado for the opening of the 1932 Holy Ghost season in northern California. A colorful procession, fireworks and a ball in the new I.D.E.S. Hall opened the fiesta. Miss Adeline Silva, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Silva was crowned queen of the festival.

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In June 1935 Carolyn Amaral, Queen of the Alvarado Holy Ghost festival, her two attendants, Shirley Perry and Irene Mello, along with Bertil Amaral and Betty Silva participated in the Hayward Holy Ghost parade.

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One of the largest crowds in several years gathered in Alvarado during May 1936 to witness the annual Pentecostal celebration held under the auspices of the S.D.E.S. Hall. Several hundred people witnessed the opening ceremonies Saturday evening, including a procession to receive formally, Miss Shirley Perry, the queen, and her attendants, Lucille Vierra and Irene Mello, and the crown at the home of Mrs. A. Santos, custodian. A huge display of fireworks followed the procession and a dance wound up the evening.

Sunday morning at 10 o'clock the queen, her attendants, and several queens from neighboring towns, drill teams from Alvarado, Niles, and Mission San Jose, several bands, including St. John's from El Cerrito, and numerous lodge members made a colorful parade around the community. High mass followed at St. Anne's Church, led by father Valin of San Rafael. A barbeque, an auction, and another dance concluded the festivities. Throughout the fiesta a carnival midway reigned.

President Ernest Perry and his committeemen: M. P. Goularte, Manuel Martin, Seraphine Daviner, John Menezes, J. E. Lewis, Manuel White and Frank Goularte are responsible for the success of the affair.

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The first Pentecostal (or Holy Ghost) festival of the season was held at Alvarado April 1937. Carnival attractions continued through Tuesday. Miss Irene Mello was crowned



as festival queen. Sunday the festival parade marched to St. Anne's Church for mass and coronation ceremonies. Afterward a barbeque was served at the S.D.E.S. pavilion.

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The first Holy Ghost of the 1939 season was held at Alvarado on May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> by the S.D.E.S. Lodge. Miss Lorraine Alameda reigned as queen and her maids of honor were Rosaline Daviner and Bernadette Martin. The festival opened with a parade, and then there were fireworks and a dance on Saturday night. Numerous drill teams, bands and uniformed marching groups participated in the Sunday morning parade, which was followed by a free barbeque. This annual Pentecostal celebration commemorates the legendary rescue of the Portuguese people from a famine at Lisbon in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. These celebrations are held weekly throughout California Portuguese societies from Ferndale to Fresno.

### **S.D.E.S.:**

(Sociedade Do Espirito Santo de Alvarado - Founded 1926)

The S.D.E.S. Lodge held various fund raising ventures, mostly whist parties. Persons named in articles were:

Mrs. Seraphine Daviner	Mrs. Seraphine Daviner	Miss Alvina Santos
William Avila	Mrs. Rose Martin	Joe Silveira

### **UPEC/UPPEC):**

(Uniao Portuguese do Estado da California)

One of several Portuguese fraternal and social societies designed to protect widows and orphans as well as for cultural activities. The organization used dances, among other events and entertainments, to raise money to help the society serve the Portuguese community.

There was only one mention of the UPPEC during the decade. The UPPEC Lodge celebrated its anniversary with a free public dance at the I.D.E.S. Hall on April 6, 1934.

### **Woodmen of the World, Neighbors of Woodcraft:**

Attempt to reorganize an active Circle, the Neighbors of Woodcraft met at the home of Mrs. Frances Robie on April 24, 1935 and installed the following officers:

Mrs. Frances Robie	Mrs. Frances Luna	Mrs. Margaret Emery
John Scribner	Lois Hendricks	

### **WPA (Works Progress Administration):**

Boys and girls of Washington Township, Livermore and Pleasanton are looking forward to the 1936 summer of recreational activity on school playgrounds following the inauguration of several WPA programs (Works Program Administration, a depression-era federal program) this week. Schools at which playground workers are already at work are Niles, Livermore and Pleasanton. A request has been made for a similar program at Alvarado by Principal J.C. Wasley. The playgrounds are supervised by men and women leaders from eight in the morning until six at night, six days a week. In addition to games and contests, there are classes in basket-making, leatherwork, block-printing, etc.

A Recreation Training Institute, to train recreation workers and publicize the advantage of an organized recreation program, will be held in the auditorium of the Alvarado Grammar School, starting November 30, 1937. The institute, part of the training program of the Work Progress Administration (WPA) Recreation Division under the direction of E. Rodney Overton, will consist of morning sessions from 9 to 12 o'clock on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and an evening program.

**Y.L.I. Club:**

Plans for the annual costume carnival of the De Guadalupe Institute of Y. L. I. will be made at a meeting of the institute at the Odd Fellows Hall at Niles on October 7, 1937. The carnival will be held during the latter part of next month. Mayme Roderick has been named as general chairman and her assistants are Laura Secada, Mary Azevedo and Eleanor Roderick.

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**\* MEMORABLE ALVARADO EVENTS \***  
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**February 1930:**

**Mrs. Sophie May Passes:**

Last rites were held today for Mrs. Sophie May 87, Alameda Resident and philanthropist, who died Saturday, February 22nd, after an illness of several weeks. Mrs. May came to California at the age of 18 years by the way of the Isthmus of Panama. She arrived in the Bay area by sailing ship in 1861, just as the Civil War was declared. Soon after her arrival in San Francisco she met and married August May (Sr.), who had preceded her from Germany by three years. The couple established their home in Alvarado. Mrs. May was actively engaged in charitable work in conjunction with the Lutheran Church of Alameda. She is survived by four grown children: August May Jr., President of the Bank of Alameda County and a resident of Alvarado; George B. May, San Jose; Henry May of Decoto, and Mrs. Bertha S. Meyers, wife of Henry H. Meyers, Alameda County Architect.

**March 1930:**

**False Alarm:**

Here is a story of six children who wondered what would happen if they pulled that handle. The six (all Alvarado Grammar School pupils) were arraigned before Justice of the Peace Allen Norris yesterday on a charge of malicious mischief. Their offense had been the curiosity of finding out what the handle was for and merely wanted to make a noise. They were released after Judge Norris explained that he usually gave terms in San Quentin prison for second offenses of turning in a false alarm.

**May 1930:**

**Washington Township Population:**

The population of Washington Township towns for the year 1930 was 12,705 people. In 1920 the township had a population of 8,494. By town the population was:

Alvarado	1,889 (Includes the Alviso District)
Centerville	1,657
Decoto & Niles	4,129
Irvington	1,234

Masonic Home	313
Mission San Jose	902
Newark	1,533
St. Mary's Orphanage	198
Warm Springs	850

**June 1930:**

**Vanguard Association:**

An invitation was issued to Mexican residents of Alvarado by the Vanguard Association, an organization of Latin American people in this country, to attend a meeting in Alvarado June 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 o'clock. The purpose of the association is the assembling of funds for traveling expenses for those desiring to return to Mexico. This and other matters affecting Mexicans in this country will be discussed at the meeting. Circulars are being issued by Vanguard officials, including Roberto Aragon, "Delegate of propaganda," Roman Mirele, President and Manuel Garcia, Secretary.

**October 1930:**

**Alvarado Doing Well:**

At one community in the United States has been found where the current "depression" has not been felt. That place is Alvarado. According to bank officials, merchants and citizens generally, business is good. There is little or no unemployment, and the farmers are doing well. This happy condition is due; it is agreed, to the fact that the community and region have long been one of the most prosperous in Alameda County.



**Zeppelin Letter Prized:**

A letter carried by the Graf Zeppelin from Finland to Germany; then crossed the Atlantic by boat, and was sped across the continent by airmail, was received by Ted Soderlund, a service station operator in Alvarado. Written by a friend, Walter Sockki, the letter was mailed in Finland on September 24<sup>th</sup>, making the trip half way around the world in 15 days. The face of the envelope was literally covered with stamps and cancellations. Mr. Soderlund has been besieged by local stamp collectors seeking to add the envelope to their collections. They state the Graf Zeppelin cancellations are as yet very rare.

**December 1930:**

**Undernourished Children:**

A house-to-house survey was made in Alvarado by the Parent Teacher Association, with the co-operation of the Township Health Center, in an effort to locate and treat under nourished or physically defective children who are to enter school for the first time during the coming semester. Classes in nutrition are to be organized for the mothers of the community in view of increasing the health and strength of the children now attending school.

**January 1931:**

**Bank of Alameda County:**

Officers and directors of the Bank of Alameda County were re-elected at a recent stockholder's meeting held in Alvarado, the headquarters of the institution, which operates banks in Alvarado, Irvington and Niles. The officers are:

President: August May Jr.  
 Vice President: J.R. Blacow

Cashier: R.A. Blacow  
Ass't Cashier: C.M. Christensen  
The Directors are:  
August May Jr. F.B. Granger Jr. Henry Patterson J.A. Silva  
A.A. Oliver J.R. Blacow

### **June 1931:**

#### **Antone Borges Azevedo Passes:**

A large throng of sorrowing relatives and friends of the late Antone Borges Azevedo followed his body to a grave at the Holy Ghost Cemetery yesterday after a service at St. Anne's Church in Alvarado. The pallbearers were Joseph Lewis, Joseph Roderick, Manuel Maciel, George Enos, Frank Silva and Manuel Avila. He was born in the Azores 76 years ago and spent 55 years in California, many at Alvarado. Locally he is survived by daughters Mrs. Frances Allegre and Mrs. Mary Soares and a son Manuel Borges Azevedo.

### **September 1931:**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Street in Niles Inches Closer to the Creek Road:**

Grading of the extension of First Street in Niles through the J. C. Shinn orchard to the California Nursery has been completed by the county road department. Work will be started immediately upon the widening of Niles-Alvarado Road north of the nursery. As soon as an agreement can be reached with between the county and George C. Roeding, president of the nursery, the road will be cut through his property and Niles will have a direct route to Alvarado, Mt. Eden and to the San Mateo Bridge.

### **October 1931:**

#### **James Logan – J.C. Whipple die in car crash:**

An auto-truck crash took the life of two Washington Township pioneers at Niles Road and Orchard Avenue about one quarter south of Hayward on the afternoon of October 16<sup>th</sup>.

James Logan, 65, of Alvarado, and James Cleveland Whipple, 51, prominent Decoto farmer, drove a light coupe into a gravel truck driven by Robert Roach of Oakland. Mr. Whipple is believed to have been killed instantly, while Mr. Logan died at the Hayward Hospital about 6 o'clock, three hours after the accident. They had been returning from a fishing trip.

Logan was believed to have dozed at the wheel of his car. It shot across the four-lane highway striking the truck and pushing the front wheel and axle back against its body. The coupe was telescoped in fearful fashion, both men being caught in the seat, crushed and deeply cut by the wreckage.

Mr. Whipple was a school trustee of the Decoto School District and a native of California. His wife, Edith, and three sons survive him. He was a member of the Centerville Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Logan was the newly elected trustee of Washington Union High School of Centerville and survived by his wife Rebecca, six sons, five daughters, and two sisters, Mrs. Maggie Fyffe and Mrs. Martha Kerr. He also was a member of the Centerville Masonic Lodge and of the Crusade Lodge of the Odd Fellows in Alvarado.

### **November 1931:**

### **Beet Top Milk:**

"Beet top milk" is the latest nuisance to invade the local milk market, according to City Milk Inspector R. L. Griffith today. Last year, certain cows got into the garlic fields and the local milk inspection bureau was busy tracing the source of the milk, which was totally unpalatable because of its strong garlic flavor. In the previous year, dairyman fed raw tomatoes to their cows because of lack of water, and this produced "tomato milk" which was also unpalatable.

This year Griffith said that some of the dairyman at Newark, Centerville and Alvarado are feeding beet tops to their cows. The beet tops are often old and form a sour mash which the cows like, he said, but the milk from these cows is more bitter and unpalatable than even the tomato or garlic milk. The Oakland milk inspectors are now striving to keep the producers of "beet top milk" out of the local market until after the cows have recovered from the beet orgy.

### **December 1931:**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> St in Niles Stopped at California Nursery:**

The Niles Chamber of Commerce and the board of supervisors are marking time while Earl Warren is deciding what action is advisable to procure the right-of-way through the California Nursery property which will permit the extension of First Street to make a direct connection between Niles and Alvarado. The extension will eliminate two sharp curves, an underpass and a grade crossing.

Through efforts of the Niles Chamber of Commerce, a right-of-way was procured and First Street extended through to the south line of the nursery property where it is now dead-ended. Efforts of the civic body and the Board of Supervisors to procure the remainder of the right-of-way have been futile.

### **January 1932:**

#### **Criminals Flee Heat in Alvarado:**

Apparently harboring the opinion that the atmosphere of Alvarado is becoming too "unhealthy," several Mexican families are reported to have left that place during the week. A recent raid by Alameda and San Clara County authorities which is rumored to have cleaned up the remnants of the old "Little Tijuana" gang and a report that another raid is being planned by federal authorities to round up aliens who are in this country without passports is believed to be reason for the Mexican migration. Information obtained by the Muller Detective Agency, which maintains a patrol system in several communities of Southern Alameda County, resulted in the recent raid in which nine Mexicans were arrested by San Clara and Alameda County authorities. The men were charged with stealing hogs from ranches in Santa Clara County and butchering them near their home here.

### **February 1932:**

#### **Alvarado Gains New Land:**

Heavy rainfall and the consequent wearing away of the foothills near Alvarado has resulted in Alameda County Supervisors finding themselves in possession of valuable property that did not exist 20 years ago. Thomas J. Power called attention to the situation by offering to purchase a piece of property that lies between Alameda Creek and Levee Street in Alvarado. A description of the property on old maps shows the boundary line to the edge of the creek at the time when the watercourse was wide. Since that time silt has been deposited on the banks of the creek until now the county owns the land where water used to be. District Attorney's Warren opinion

states that the county is entitled to increases in area, which have been built up by the deposit of earth.

**May 1932:**

**Supervisor Richmond Seeks Reelection:**

Ralph V. Richmond, supervisor of the first Supervisorial district of Alameda County, has announced his candidacy for re-election. Supervisor Richmond is completing his second term on the board. His district includes all of Washington, Pleasanton and Murray Townships. Ralph Richmond, prior to becoming supervisor, served as Justice of the Peace in Washington Township for 10 years. He is a native of Alvarado and at one time was engaged in business in Hayward.



**Death Takes Charles R. Nauert:**

Many in Alvarado are mourning the death of Charles R. Nauert, who died at his home early on the morning of May 25th. He had been a resident of Alvarado for 73 years, and remembered voting for Abraham Lincoln for President. He was married to the late Hattie Nauert, a relative of Supervisor Heyer; and father of Kathryn N., Boyd, Mildred H., August B., Henry P. Nauert and Mrs. Oscarna Heitmuller. A brother, Oscar P. Nauert also survives him. Mr. Nauert, one of the best-known old-timers of Southern Alameda County, was born in Buffalo, N.Y. and came to Alvarado at an early day in its history. Mr. Nauert was the long-time superintendent of the Geo. Tay Foundry and Stove Works in Alvarado.

**June 1932:**

**Holly Sugar Install Siren:**

The Holly Sugar mill installed a siren at its plant outside of Alvarado to be used as an emergency signal to call volunteers for local fire fighting emergencies. The siren will be tested each Saturday at noon.

**August 1932:**

**Foro Olivencia Weds:**

Judge Jacob Harder Jr. officiated at a sure enough "depression wedding" at the city hall yesterday. The bridegroom, Foro Olivencia, 40, of Alvarado, rushed to city hall just from work, without coat or vest, and was married in that unconventional costume. The bride was Lupe Vasquez, 36, also of Alvarado. After the judge had, with his usual pleasant smile, pronounced the couple man and wife, they boarded a coupe with a rumble seat. The newly made husband sat in the rumble seat while his wife occupied the front seat in the company of a canary. The coupe rushed both back to their work at an Alvarado factory. Foro Olivencia was father to Lucy Olivencia Cicairos, a prominent Alvarado family.



**Chivalry Alive in Alvarado:**

Page Sir Walter Raleigh!

Mike Oliveria and Pedro Pineda, both of Alvarado, went to the rescue of a handkerchief dropped by an unidentified woman on the main street of Alvarado. Oliveria beat Pineda to the handkerchief by a split second, but Pineda evened the score by kicking Oliveria in the mouth as he was retrieving the hanky. Dr. E. C. Grau of Niles had to take eight stitches in Oliveria's lip. Pineda, who figured as a material

witness in an Alvarado murder case two years ago, spent the night in jail. Oliveria refused to press charges, and the two were seen leaving the jail arm in arm.

### **September 1932:**

#### **Miss Marie Alvera Weds:**

Jose Santa, 7-foot Portuguese pugilist, was married in Oakland to Marie Alvera of Alvarado. Santa weighs in at 202 pounds for the match, Miss Alvera 113. She was queen of the Portuguese fiesta at Alvarado in May and Santa met her at that time. They are honeymooning in Sacramento and Santa will resume his boxing career later.



#### **Witchcraft in Alvarado:**

A tale of witchcraft from the pages of *The Oakland Tribune*, September 22, 1932: "Constable Tom Silva and Patrolman Don Bates today are seeking to adapt modern police methods to primitive voodooism and witchcraft spells. The aid was sought to quell the demonstrations of witchcraft in modern California when Mrs. Selca Agundez collapsed and became violently ill after discovering a substance known "as the powder of death" on her doorstep.

A second victim of the same "charm," Mrs. Elvira Brown, also asked for police protection, in the firm belief that her escape from similar ill effects was due solely to the fact that she saw the powder in time to avoid stepping over it, for this traditions avers, is the means of escaping its potency.

Both women demanded that Silva undertake a full investigation (witch hunt) for only an authentic witch, which they assert can compound the potent powder. Its formula includes earth gathered from a graveyard, crushed pepper seeds and various herbs, prepared with incantations of necromancy.

Mrs. Ramona Romero, friend of Mrs. Brown, and her husband Casimiro Romero, childhood friends of Mrs. Agundez, also sought the aid of the authorities in putting a permanent injunction, or something, against the proactive of witchcraft in Alvarado. They feel some hidden enemy has engaged the services of a witch to bring them bad luck, sickness or even death.

The questioning of a woman suspected by the victims of witchcraft proved to have its own difficulties, as the woman, Ramona, speaks no English. Accompanied by an interpreter, the officers sought her out. With wildly waving Medusa-like black curls and gesticulating hands she poured forth a torrent of rapid and emphatic Spanish that even left the interpreter gasping.

"She says," he tersely translated about 20 minutes worth of speech from the woman, "that people talk too much and you all can go to the devil."

### **November 1932:**

#### **Supervisor Charles Heyer Passes Away:**

Supervisor Charles Heyer passed away last night, November 19th, at 8:15 o'clock. He had been ill for about a year, but last spring he rallied and for a time in the summer seemed to be in good health. Early this fall he was stricken again, and for

last several days, had been in critical condition. Mr. Heyer was born in Alvarado in 1868 and his parents moved to Hayward the following year.

**December 1932:**

**Special Bond Election:**

Special bond election precincts:

Alvarado-Precinct No. 1:

Polling Place: IOOF Hall  
Inspector: Frances R. Robie  
Judges: Helen Anderson                      John P. Boyd  
Clerk: Nora Vargas

Alvarado-Precinct No. 2:

Polling Place: Riverside Hotel  
Inspector: Joseph George  
Judges: Marie J. Janeiro                      Mayme Roderick  
Clerk: Raymond Cushing

**January 1933:**

**Mosquito Control District:**

A considerable portion of work done by the officials and employees of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, was done on the Bay Shore below Hayward in the vicinity of Russell City, Mt. Eden and Alvarado. Two of the larger projects were west of Alvarado and on the Leslie Salt Company land.

**April 1933:**

**Labor Unrest in Pea Fields:**

From the pages of *The Hayward Daily Review*:

"Special squads of deputy sheriffs, constables and state highway officers were ordered to patrol Southern Alameda County from Hayward to Warm Springs at noon today as a result of outbreaks reported between pea pickers and labor agitators.

Driven out of Santa Clara County by armed guards, who are patrolling pea fields to prevent sabotage and threatened labor trouble, leaders of striking workers were attempting to invade Southern Alameda County. The situation had become so acute in Santa Clara County that Sheriff William J. Emig declared half of his regular deputies and a number of special officers had been assigned to patrol duty.

One man, Albert Vega, admitted San Jose radical, was arrested on vagrancy charges yesterday as a result of efforts to start a strike among pea pickers. Pickers working in the fields in the Valle Vista district suddenly quit their work this morning after a party of six unidentified men visited the fields. A spokesman for the laborers declared they had been threatened with beatings if they continued to work.

Agitators are reported to be working throughout Santa Clara and Alameda Counties urging pickers, mostly Mexican, to refuse to take part in the harvest unless a rate of 60 to 90 cents per hamper is paid for picking peas. The growers, who are receiving 3 cents per pound for their peas are offering 18 cents per hamper to the workers.



More than a score of indigents, who had been supported by the county during the winter months, were rounded up by sheriff deputy's yesterday afternoon and brought before Judge Norris to explain why they had refused to accept work when it was offered them.

Representatives of the Southern Alameda County Welfare Board were present in the courtroom and assured Judge Norris that county aid would be denied to any person who refused to work when a job was offered to him.

Deputy Sheriffs started through the camps today and demanded that the strikers either go to work in the fields or move out of the county. Hundreds of residents of Decoto, Alvarado, Niles and Centerville who have been provided with food, clothing and medical attention by the county are to be informed today they must either work or arrange for their own support."

#### **April 1933:**

##### **Labor Unrest in Alvarado Fields:**

"Communist sympathizers, it was stated, were behind labor unrest and strikes in the Bay area fields. Threats of violence accompanied their demands upon the spinach field workers to leave the fields, and as a result, seven additional deputy sheriffs were sworn in for 24-hour guard duty.

That the threats against spinach field workers was partially effective was evidenced through the inability of truckers to load their trucks and trailers with spinach in accordance with a prearranged schedule.

Twelve trucks and trailers that were to have been loaded with spinach remained empty at Alvarado. Many workers were reported in both the pea and spinach fields to have refused to continue their labors in the face of the threats against them."

#### **May 1933:**

##### **Death Takes Mrs. Elizabeth Ralph:**

Elizabeth Ralph, loving wife of John H. Ralph, died on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Ralph was active in the Alvarado Rebekah's and the Circle of Women of Woodcraft.

#### **June 1933:**

##### **Old Niles Friend Is Doomed:**

From the pages of *The Hayward Daily Review*:

"One of the oldest landmarks in the motion picture industry is being dismantled and will soon be only a memory. The old Essanay studio at Niles, where Charlie Chaplin, Ben Turpin, Gloria Swanson, and a score of other screen celebrities began their careers, was sold recently to Frank Rose, Niles businessman. He has made arrangements with a building contractor to dismantle the large wooden building for the material within it.

The studio was erected in 1911 by George Spore and G. M. Anderson, from which combination came the name Essanay, conspicuous on screens pictures for several years. The studio was abandoned in 1914, and has lain idle ever since. Recent attempts to revive its use by Hollywood firms have failed.

In those early times of the screen business, the hills about Niles and the canyon nearby served as "sets" for train robbery scenes and Wild West pictures."

**August 1933:**

**Alvarado Vegetable Growers:**

Southern Alameda County vegetable growers are showing good interest in entering their products in the State Fair at Sacramento. T. P. Harvey and the Varni Brothers from Alvarado were preparing their entries. Also, there will be an entry in the State Fair from the Newark-Alvarado Salt Producers.



**Pheasant Season:**

Pheasant season opens November 15<sup>th</sup> and lasts through November 29<sup>th</sup>. Only males may be taken, any hunter found in possession of a female pheasant will be arrested said Game Warden Fred Rogers. The birds look to be plentiful this year and hunters are expecting a good season.

**December 1933:**

**English Gypsies:**

Two families of "English Gypsies," comprising 16 persons, were arrested today by police in Oakland, Calif. as being fake mediums. The raids followed the complaints of several persons that have given large sums of money to clairvoyants who then disappeared without producing any results. One of the principal complainants was S. Daviner, 55, an Alvarado mechanic, who said he had paid a "Mme. Boyd" \$5,600 for "readings" who disappeared as soon as she had received the money.

**February 1934:**

**Transportation in the 1870s:**

From the pages of *The Oakland Tribune*:

"Stagecoaches, high wheeled freighters, and boats were still depended upon for transportation by the greater part of Washington Township when the *Oakland Tribune* was established (1874). The eastern part of the township could be served by the Central Pacific Railroad, but the western part was still dependent upon the landings at Jarvis, Mowry's and Union City. Small steamboats and schooners operated on a regular schedule between these points and Oakland and San Francisco. These boats handled practically all the freight and produce from this section. Boats regularly came up as far as the sugar mill in Alvarado and some low draft boats in the 1850's were said to have navigated the Alameda Creek as far as the Bell Ranch Bridge (just east of Paseo Padre Parkway on Decoto Road).

**March 1934:**

**Debtors Relief Court:**

A movement to seek appointment of a federal "Debtor's Relief Court Conciliation Commissioner" for Alameda County was launched during the monthly meeting of the Eden-Washington Township Farm Center meeting held in Alvarado. With such a plan farmers in distress may apply to the federal conciliator, who will survey his resources, pull all his creditors together, and suggest agreements for settling debts upon the farmers' ability to pay. In several other counties where this program is in place they have been able to save many farm homes and ranches from foreclosure.



**Motorist Killed at Hall Station Crossing:**

Trapped in the driver's seat of his automobile, Refugio Anda, 31, farm laborer was killed today by a speeding Southern Pacific freight train at the crossing about one mile south of Alvarado near the old Hall Station. Frank Garcia, who was riding with Anda jumped from the car before impact and survived the crash. Witnesses to the crash said the wigwag signal was in operation. Mr. Anda was headed north towards Alvarado and a packing shed to his left blocked his view of the train.

**April 1934:**

**Governor Appoints Fred Harvey:**

Governor James Ralph, Jr., has appointed Fred Harvey and August May to the Alameda County Farm Debt Adjustment Committee.

**May 1934:**

**Livermore Holy Ghost:**

Attending the Holy Ghost festival in Livermore was:

Frank Silveira	Manuel Vargas	Manuel Brun
Frank & Joseph Goularte	Manuel Amaral	Mr. & Mrs. Tony Hernandez

Lillian Silva, queen from Alvarado, and her two attendants, Carrie Amaral and Shirley Mast were participants in the parade.

**June 1934:**

**Watkins Street now County Road:**

Watkins Street in Washington Township, extending from the Alvarado-Centerville Road to Beard Street in Alvarado was voted into the county road system. Note: Watkins Street ended at Beard Street (today's Tay Street) and did not extend as far north as Vallejo Street did only a block away.

**August 1934:**

**Tall Weeds in March Mowed:**

Work done last week with a tractor and a grass-cutter was expected to lessen the woes of John A. Clark, Eden Township foreman for the Mosquito Abatement District. Acting temporarily as a "cat skinner" on a borrowed tractor, Clark mowed tall weeds covering approximately 80 acres of marsh west of Alvarado. This area is flooded each fall with the wastewater from the Holly Sugar mill. Until the resulting pond drains it must be sprayed with oil to prevent the emergence of millions of the once familiar salt marsh mosquitoes. The tall weeds in the past made oiling difficult, expensive, and only partially effective. Clark says he expects the mowing to improve the effectiveness and reduce the cost of oiling this year.

**September 1934:**

**Miss Clarabelle Logan to wed Allen G. Norris:**

The engagement of Miss Clarabelle Logan of Alvarado and Allen G. Norris, Justice of the Peace at Centerville, was announced at a recent affair in Oakland.

**October 1934:**

**Alpha Sigma Society:**

Attending the Alpha Sigma Society meeting in San Jose on October 7th from St. Anne's Children of Mary Society were:

Erma Machado  
Lillian Silva  
Dorothy Chrysostomos

Connie Gomes  
Inez Rivers  
Beatrice Machado

Alice Gomes  
Antoinette Rose  
Alvina Santos

#### **December 1934:**

##### **Mrs. James Hunter Very Ill:**

The many friends of Mrs. James Hunter have been saddened to learn that she is in a critical condition from an apparent appendix operation at the San Jose Hospital. Early Sunday morning Mrs. Hunter was rushed to San Jose, but the appendix broke just before the destination was reached.

#### **January 1935:**

##### **PTA Delegates:**

Mrs. A. K. Logan, Mrs. Isabelle Menezes, Miss Mary Hughes and Mrs. Mae Santos were delegates from the local PTA to the East Alameda County council meeting in Hayward Monday afternoon.

#### **February 1935:**

##### **Oakland Tribune Alvarado Correspondent:**

Miss Lois Hendricks, of Alvarado, has been chosen as one of four Washington Union High School students to work on the school newspaper, "The Hatchet," and to attend the press convention being held at the University of California at Berkeley March 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. Miss Hendricks is also the Alvarado Correspondent for the Oakland Tribune.

#### **March 1935:**

##### **Gardetto Brothers:**

Radio enthusiasts enjoyed hearing local talent in the persons of Walter and Andy Gardetto over Brother Bob's program Saturday on KLX. Little Andy sang two solos, "The Isle of Capri," and "I'll String Along With You," accompanied by his brother Walter on the accordion. Walter entertained with an accordion solo of "Venetian Nights." Andy and Walter are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gardetto. Andy is 5 years old and Walter is 9.

#### **April 1935:**

##### **Spider Bite:**

The dreaded black widow spider struck its victim in this district when little Laura Emery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weston Emery, received a poisonous bite on Friday. The little girl, four-years-old was at play when the injury occurred. She was immediately doctored and is resting comfortably.

#### **May 1935:**

##### **War on Mosquitos:**

A crew of half-a-dozen employees of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District was engaged in surveying drainage routes for the Tennyson-Alvarado drainage area project, which has been given preliminary approval by the Public Works Administration (PWA). Data resulting from the survey was expected to be used in determining the allotment of PWA funds for the drainage work, according to Granville Browning, secretary of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce who, with Erle Ruus, committee chairman and others has been instrumental in promoting the project. It is expected to clear an outlet for Alameda and Eden Creeks, thus draining the Tennyson and Alvarado districts, and it has been suggested that Alameda Creek might be made navigable to a point beyond the Holly Sugar factory at Alvarado for small boats and barges.

**June 1935:**

**Alvarado Streets in Dire Shape:**

Road crews are repairing several Alvarado Streets that are in dire need of fixing. The crews were grading and filling in Granger Avenue, Watkins Street, and the street that connects Vallejo and Watkins Streets.



**WUHS Senior Ball:**

Among those who enjoyed the Senior Ball at the Washington Union High School gymnasium Saturday evening was:

Erma Machado	Mrs. Edith Machado	Beatrice Machado
Billy Machado	Antoinette Rose	Elvin Rose
Martin Rose	Eleanor Roderick	Lois Hendricks
Mrs. Frances Luna	Lolly Amaral	Arthur Silveria
Ed Mateo	Ed Lebon	Manuel Azevedo
Donald Flores	Mrs. J. L. Flores	Lloyd Silva



**Miss Aileen Lee weds Anthony Vargas:**

Miss Aileen Arabella Lee, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony A. Lee, became the bride of Anthony Vargas of San Jose, Sunday afternoon at a ceremony held at St. Anne’s Church. Miss Irene Freitas was the maid of honor and the groom’s brother, Manuel Vargas, was best man.

**September 1935:**

**Wasley Wins Ribbons at State Fair:**

Poultry men from Washington Township returned this week from the State Fair at Sacramento with their share of prize and awards. J.C. Wasley of Alvarado returned with four prizes on the five birds that he showed. He also received a special award for the best Buff Cochin bantam in the fair.



**New History of Washington Township:**

The Country Club of Washington Township, who in 1904 published the History of Washington Township in California, will now bring the volume up to date with the history of the township after 1904. The 1904 version of this book is cited as reference material and is on the shelves of the University of California.

The book gives this interesting account of the meeting of the first Court of Sessions, with interesting insight into the beginning of Alvarado:

“Washington Township will celebrate it 82<sup>nd</sup> anniversary on May 18, 1936. Alameda County’s first Court of Session was convened at Alvarado on June 6, 1853, in a room above the store of A. M. Church and Company. The settlement, formerly known as New Haven, was established, it is recorded, because of “political spite” against its rival, Union City, a half mile away (to

the west), was named Alvarado in honor of Don Juan B. Alvarado, Governor of California in 1836 (then under Mexican rule).

**January 1936:**

**Trip to the Snow:**

Taking advantage of heavy snows in Strawberry the last few weeks several Alvarado lads spent a pleasant Sunday frolicking in the snow. In the group was:

Hubert Jacinto	Eddie Mateo	Lester Silvey
Tony Correia	Cipry Dias	Art Silveria
Johnny Jess	Leonard Santos	Joe Allegre
Melvin Allegre	Johnny Silva	Joe Montalbo
Frank Perez	Clifford Soares	

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**Alvarado Cauliflower:**

Shipping approximately three boxcar loads of cauliflower a day to the eastern states from the local Alvarado Southern Pacific train depot, Edward Barbera, vegetable producer from San Francisco, is well on the road to success in his first season in this community. Mr. Barbera's headquarters' is at one of the Varni Bros. warehouses (which are one of the old F.B. Granger warehouses near the Riverside Hotel).

**February 1936:**

**Tomato Growers:**

At a meeting of southern Alameda County tomato grower's fears were voiced over the contracts presented to the growers by the canners. The canneries contract was denounced as discriminatory against growers because it gave the canneries free reign over scores of tolerances, credits, cull allowances, dockage, box rents, seed costs and other charges. All of these charges are designed to reduce the net paid to growers under complete control of the cannery. At the suggestion of M. F. Silva, of Alvarado, the group decided that a special meeting of the tomato growers should be called soon to hear reports of tonight are meeting of growers and canners representatives.

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**School Closed due to Student Illness:**

Alvarado School has been in recess three days because of rampant illness. School was recessed again today until Monday because of poor pupil attendance due to illness. A third attempt to resume classes at the Alvarado Grammar School was dispelled Monday, February 13th, when approximately 35 absentees still on the absentee rolls. Pupils were dismissed until next Monday morning.

**April 1936:**

**Farmers Balk at Tomato Cannery Contracts:**

Many Southern Alameda County farmers are restraining from signing contracts with canneries for their tomatoes this season. It was estimated that the holdout impacts about 2,000 acres of tomatoes. Farmers are holding out for \$15 a ton and canneries are offering \$12.50 a ton. Some farmers are looking at co-op canneries; some are looking at self-pack, while others may forgo tomatoes altogether this season.

**May 1936:**

**Eastshore Freeway Through Township Planned:**

Indications of progress in state plans for constructing the Bayshore Highway (I-880), from Richmond to San Jose, were seen in reports here this week of highway surveys being made near Alvarado and west of Mt. Eden. It is expected the big highway will, when built, will pass west of Mt. Eden near the end of the fenced approach to the Hayward-San Mateo Bridge.

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**Eucalyptus Trees at Hall Station:**

There are three eucalyptus trees at Hall Station in Alvarado (near the Hall station) that were planted in 1865 by John Hall, which are still in good health. These trees are also known by the term "Blue Gum" whose scientific name is *Eucalyptus Globulus*.

**July 1936:**

**Mrs. Catherine Wiegman Passes:**

Mrs. Catherine Wiegman, 84, of Alvarado died at her home in Alvarado Monday. She arrived in California 70 years ago from New York. She was the widow of the late Frederick D. Wiegman, and the mother of Frederick H. Wiegman of Alvarado. In 1891 Mrs. Wiegman lost her four children: Freida 3, Anna 4, Henry 6, and Dora 8, to diphtheria. Fred Wiegman Jr. was born several years later.

**August 1936:**

**Death Takes Enos Hendricks:**

Enos Hendricks, a native of Alvarado, died in an Oakland hospital August 1<sup>st</sup> at age 61. Mrs. Emily Hendricks, his wife survives him as well as his son and daughter, Wilbert Hendricks and Lois Hendricks and his grandson Rodney Hendricks. He is the brother to A. E. Vargas and Manuel Hendricks of Alvarado.

**September 1936:**

**Lettuce Prices Increasing:**

Striking farm workers in the Salinas Valley are causing wholesale price increases for lettuce farmers in the southern Alameda County growing area. The Salinas Valley is known as the "Lettuce Capital of the World." Local farmers are gleaning the profits at the expense of growers in the Salinas Valley and consumers.

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**Increased Prices for Tomatoes Seen:**

Tomato farmers in central California, including southern Alameda County, see higher prices for market green tomatoes due to the operation of the California Pro-Rate Act. It is working so well that some want to see it extended to cover peas and green corn next year.

**October 1936:**

**Hayward Ice Co. Busy:**

The Hayward ice plant is spending \$20,000 to increase the capacity of ice produced due to the increasing need of local packing houses to ship its vegetables east in refrigerated cars. The packinghouse at Alvarado and Levy Zentner in San Leandro have seen the increase need for ice.

**November 1936:**

### **Tomato Growers Meet at Sacramento:**

Charles Langdon and L.S. Amaral are representing Alvarado at the Canning Vegetable Growers Association meeting of the tomato growers at Sacramento. Reports of today's meeting are expected to be made at the Washington-Eden Farm Center at the Washington Union High School tomorrow night.

### **December 1936:**

#### **Pinto Brothers Orchestra:**

The Pinto Brothers, with the help of Roy Secada, presented a recital in the Decoto Grammar School auditorium Friday evening. Among those who attended were:

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Roderick	Mr. & Mrs. Joe E. Dutra	Mr. & Mrs. A. Santos
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Perry	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lewis	Mr. & Mrs. C. Flores
Alice Menezes	Mrs. John Menezes	Billy Machado,
Frankie Lopes	Beatrice Machado	Mrs. Seraphine Noia
Junior Lewis	Mervin Mattos	Hilda Pinto
Isabel Pinto	Della Hendricks	

The recital consisted chiefly of accordion solos with pupils other than the Pinto Brothers, and several vocal solos by Della Hendricks.

### **February 1937:**

#### **Speeding Ticket Nets Jail Time:**

Admitting that he drove an automobile 65 MPH in a race with a deputy sheriff, Steve De Leon, 30, whose license had been revoked, today began a sentence of six months in County Jail. De Leon, operator of a pool hall in Alvarado, was sentenced after he pleaded guilty to violations, driving while intoxicated, and driving on a revoked driver's license. Deputy Sheriff L.A. Purdy said he chased De Leon for five-miles with the defendant vainly trying to give the officer the "slip." The Alvarado man recently served sixty days for driving while drunk.

### **March 1937:**

#### **Supervisor Richmond Dies:**

County Supervisor Ralph V. Richmond died Thursday night at age 56. Richmond was born in Alvarado in December 1881. His father, E. A. Richmond Sr., was Justice of the Peace and later Postmaster for Alvarado. His wife Bertha Richmond and a son Ralph A. Richmond survive him.

### **April 1937:**

#### **Gambling Machines Punch Cards Illegal:**

Alameda County deputy sheriffs last night gave a sharp point to the warnings from California State Attorney General Webb regarding the illegality of gambling machines of all types. They confiscated 10 such machines and two punchboards in raids on cafes and resorts in Alvarado, Decoto, Castro Valley, Ashland and Centerville.

### **May 1937:**

#### **Hellwig to Replace Richmond as County Supervisor:**

George Hellwig, Alvarado meat dealer, was appointed County Supervisor by Governor Mirriam to fill the two-year term of the late Supervisor Ralph Richmond. Mr. Hellwig, always a public-spirited man, and a useful citizen, would make a fine supervisor. His appointment by the governor is fully approved by *The Hayward Daily Review*.

### **June 1937:**

#### **Grocery Store Smashed:**



Several months ago a motorist smashed his car into the general store of Jesse Jacinto here, wrecking the store so badly that Jacinto decided to move the store across the street, more out of the line of traffic. Last night with the new store completed and ready for occupancy and as soon as the stock was transferred, Joseph Rodriguez, 29, of Oakland smashed his car into the new establishment, wrecking the building. Rodriguez said he fell asleep at the wheel.

**August 1937:**  
**Community Night:**

A moving picture depicting construction of California highways will be shown August 19th by the Alameda County Recreation Division 8-12; sponsored by David E. Martin and supervised by Charles G. Bertoli at Alvarado Grammar School. The affair, part of "Community Night, will start at 8:00 p.m. A news picture stressing the need for playground supervision also will be presented. Ray Spahr will act as Master of Ceremonies, directing community singing, a grand march, relative games, and dancing.

**November 1937:**  
**Orman J. Emery Passes:**

Funeral services were conducted for Orman J. Emery who passed away November 27th at the age of 76 years. His wife, Mrs. Margaret Emery and two children, Mrs. Orma Decker and Mr. Weston Emery, survive him.

**January 1938:**  
**The Bank of Alameda County Sold:**

Acquisition of the stock interest in The Bank of Alameda County by interests closely associated with Central Bank was announced today by August May, president of the former institution. At the same time Carl F. Wente of Central Bank revealed that his institution was conducting negotiations with a view toward making the three offices of The Bank of Alameda County branches of Central Bank. These offices are located in Alvarado, Niles and Irvington. Central now operates two offices in outlying areas of Oakland besides its head office in downtown Oakland. The Bank of Alameda County has \$3,000,000 in assets. Bankers have long considered it an exceptionally strong and well-managed bank.

**February 1938:**  
**Miss Mildred Jung Taken by Death:**

Many friends here of Miss Mildred Jung, life-long resident and native of Alvarado, mourn her death Tuesday after a long illness. She made her home with her mother, Christina Jung and her sister Miss Charlotte Jung on Vallejo Street.

**March 1938:**  
**Music Recital:**

A musical recital amused the student body of Hayward Union High School during assembly period Tuesday morning. Bill DeBernardi, student body president, turned the meeting over to Roy Secada, music teacher from Newark, who presented a small boy's orchestra. The youngsters performed several clever renditions. The musicians from Alvarado included:

Stanley Lewis	Junior Lewis	Vernon Vargas	Andrew Gardetto
Walter Gardetto	Ernie Machado		

Bud Maciel of Centerville presided as Master of Ceremonies.

Miss Veronica Peixoto of Hayward, a student of Mr. Secada's, played a piano solo.

**April 1938:**

**Duck Unlimited:**

Ducks Unlimited are displaying a mother mallard duck and her 13 ducklings at the Sportsman's Exposition being held at the Oakland Auditorium. The ducks were rescued from the Alvarado marshes by one of the contributing members. The mother had become entangled in the weeds and would have died leaving the large brood to die. The family of ducks will be released into Lake Merritt tonight after the show.

**May 1938:**

**Dinner at the Castlewood Country Club:**

Twenty of the younger high school set of Washington Township were guests of George Bonde Jr. of Niles at a dinner dance at the Castlewood Country Club this past weekend

The guest list included:

San Francisco:	Miss Joy Little		
Berkeley:	Polly Burgess		
Alvarado:	Linda Jane Hellwig	Vivian Logan	Marion Ziegler
	John Ziegler		
Niles:	Mary V. Bristow	Marge Williamson	Betty Donton
	Mae Witenmyer	Ilene Witenmyer	Louis Harvey
	George Bonde Jr.		
Centerville:	Tom McWhirter	George Emerson	James Emerson
	John Dusterberry		
Decoto:	Keith Whipple	Tom Whipple	Arch Sparrowe

**June 1938:**

**Supervisor George Hellwig Seeks Reelection:**

Supervisor George Hellwig, of Alvarado, has filed with the county clerk to enter the race to succeed himself on the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County. Mr. Hellwig has ably represented the southern end of the county from Alvarado to Livermore, and during the two years of his incumbency he has won many friends. Such a capable official should be retained in office and undoubtedly the voters of southern Alameda County will vote for him.

**August 1938:**

**Henry May Dies:**

Long time Decoto resident and area pioneer, Henry May, died Friday, August 18th, at age 67. A long time Decoto resident and wealthy farmer, Henry was born in Alvarado. Mrs. Clara Hawley May, his wife survives him as well as three children. His brother is August May, banker, of Alvarado.

**September 1938:**

**Gypsy Fortune Teller:**

Even when nearing the close of a long and useful life, Mrs. Seraphina Salas, 82, resident of Hendricks Lane, Alvarado, couldn't resist the lures of a Gypsy fortune-telling woman who came to her house the other day. Mrs. Salas told Deputy Sheriff Tom Silva that, at the Gypsy's request, she wrapped a \$10 bill in a handkerchief as a means of having her fortune told. When the Gypsy had gone, Mrs. Salas discovered that the \$10 bill had gone too, and she had only a scrap of paper in the handkerchief. She said the Gypsy, about 24-years old, was accompanied by a man in an auto. The Gypsy appeared to be "Hungarian" said Mrs. Salas.

**December 1938:**

**John Varni Builds Cottages:**

Mr. John Varni, who has built three new homes near Fred Wiegman's in Alvarado, has started to build two more new homes here. They will be built near the Riverside Hotel, we understand. John would eventually build a string of homes along Smith Street stretching east from New Haven Street to the old Smith Street Bridge (today's Dyer Road). The homes were built on the south side of Smith Street.

**January 1939:**

**WUHS Future Farmers:**

Proving that agricultural and stock-raising being carried on by members of the Washington Chapter of the Future Farmers of America at Washington Union High School are profitable as well as educational, recent sales of pure-bred stock amounting to \$165 are reported by Paul Dougherty of the local high school and president of the California Agricultural Teachers Association. During the past two-weeks John Soares of Alvarado, and George Nemoto of Newark, have sold \$165 worth of pure-bred Poland China and Duroc hogs to out of township breeders. Three of the sows were bought by the boys at \$9 each and sold for \$35 after they supplied litters of pigs now worth \$200.

**March 1939:**

**Citizenship Classes in Alvarado:**

In association with Washington Union High School, Alvarado Grammar School has begun offering classes in beginning English and citizenship for aliens want to prepare for their naturalization papers. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday nights at 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

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**Miss Emma C. Smith Passes:**

Miss Emma C. Smith, daughter of the California pioneer known as "the father of Alameda County," died yesterday. Miss Smith taught school and lived most of her life in Livermore. She was born in 1850 at the Mission San Jose. Her father Henry C. Smith moved to New Haven (Alvarado) in 1852 and helped create Alameda County out of Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties. Miss Smith was 89 years of age.

**April 1939:**

**Death Takes Charles H. Langdon:**

The death Charles H. Langdon, an Alvarado farmer, on April 7th brings sorrow to a legion of his friends throughout Southern Alameda County. He was 70 years old and a native of California. His wife, Mrs. Emma Langdon, three children and a brother Joel, with whom he operated a farm at Alvarado for many years, survives Mr. Langdon. Mr. Langdon had been a director for the Alameda County Farm Bureau, an East Bay Agent for State Pro-Rate Organization for tomatoes, and was active in cooperative efforts of tomato growers and other farmers in this county.

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**Mrs. Elizabeth Hawley Beard Passes:**

Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Mrs. Elizabeth Hawley Beard, 83, Alameda County pioneer. Born and educated in Alvarado when it was the county seat, Mrs.

Beard lived here all her life. Her parents settled in the Alvarado region in 1851 after crossing the Isthmus of Panama. Her husband, the late John L. Beard, was a member of another pioneer family, which settled at Mission San Jose in 1848.

**May 1939:**  
**College Grads:**

Robert Boynton Ziegler of Alvarado will receive his Bachelor of Arts Degree in the College of Arts and Sciences from U. C. Berkeley this Saturday.  
Donald Joseph Silva of Alvarado will receive his Bachelor of Science Degree in the College of Pharmacy from U. C. Berkeley this Saturday.

**June 1939:**  
**Death Takes Paul Bruhn:**

Paul Bruhn, Alvarado hotelman, died Monday at age 56.

**September 1939:**  
**Vegetable News:**

Bagnani Brothers, one of the leading commission houses of San Francisco praises the quality of Alvarado vegetables. Valentino Bagnani is a live-wire businessman and has bought much cauliflower through Dave Caeton of the Alvarado Vegetable Growers at Hall Station. Bagnani sells our cauliflower to major stores in San Francisco.

T.P. Harvey sells his potatoes to Hayward Poultry Association. If the Hayward people haven't time to come to Alvarado to buy the famous Alvarado Burbank potatoes, they can purchase them from the Hayward Poultry Association of Hayward. This week the Association took delivery of a large amount of T.P. Harvey's potatoes. Ted says they cook better than any other potato on the market.

The Alvarado Vegetable Growers started packing green tomatoes in boxes to be shipped via refrigeration system in Southern Pacific cars to the Eastern market. In ten days they will reach the capacity of one carload a day. They expect to ship 100 carloads this season from the Hall Warehouse.

Something entirely new in spraying in Washington Township is under way. It is the use of an airplane to spray calcium arsenate from the air upon the tomato plants to keep worms from getting a hold on our luscious quality tomatoes. Lloyd Bailey's were sprayed this Thursday and others to be treated in the same way are those of F.C. Harvey, Ed Harvey, Harvey T. Granger and A. M. King.



**Demonstrations on how to make war dressings:**

Demonstrations on how to make war dressings for European war hospitals will be made at two meetings next Monday under the auspices of the Washington Township Red Cross Committee following an organization gathering at the Washington Union High School yesterday. Residents of Niles, Decoto, Alvarado and Mission San Jose will meet at Niles Grammar School.

Trained workers from the Oakland Chapter of the American Red Cross will be present to demonstrate the making of the dressings.

**October 1939:**  
**Alvarado Potatoes:**

The fine Alvarado potatoes raised by Lloyd Bailey boost our community as much as any other individual, and we want to congratulate him on the red and black attractive lettering printed on the bags with the name, Alvarado, printed thereon. This tells the State what superior potatoes are grown here. Lloyd Bailey had some 55 acres in potatoes this year. He has one of the largest acreages in cauliflower coming up in a few weeks.

**November 1939:  
Sam Dinsmore Jr. Engaged to Marry:**

One of the handsomest young men in all Washington Township was captured by a San Jose gal when Sam Dinsmore Jr., of Alvarado, was wedded to Miss Jewel Brady at the bride's home in San Jose. Sam Dinsmore Jr. operates the Shell Gas Station in Alvarado with partner Eddie Martinez. Sam also is also very busy in the daytime with business affairs in San Francisco.

He is a real go-getter and has a sunny disposition. His wife comes from one of the most prominent families in Santa Clara County. Mr. Dinsmore's folks have the well-known Dinsmore Store in Alvarado.



**Alvarado's IOOF Hall Remodeled:**

Alvarado's historic Odd Fellows Hall that dates back to 1861, was the scene of a celebration at their meeting last week on the occasion of completing remodeling operations, when Odd Fellows and Rebekah's from all Alameda and San Francisco lodges were guests of the two Alvarado lodges.

The old IOOF hall at Alvarado, a state landmark, first was occupied in 1861 by the Alvarado Guards, an Alameda County militia company organized to fight for the North during the Civil War. A flag presented to the Guard still hangs in a prominent place in the lodge room as a treasured relic.

Arrangements for the celebration given last Friday evening were made by James Hunter and George J. Reinking of Crusade Loge and Lesda Brown and Annie Baird of the Alvarado Rebekah Lodge. Speaker was Judge Louis J. Hardie of Albany, grand representative to the sovereign lodge. Mrs. Wilma Miller, noble grand of the Alvarado Rebekah's, served refreshments.

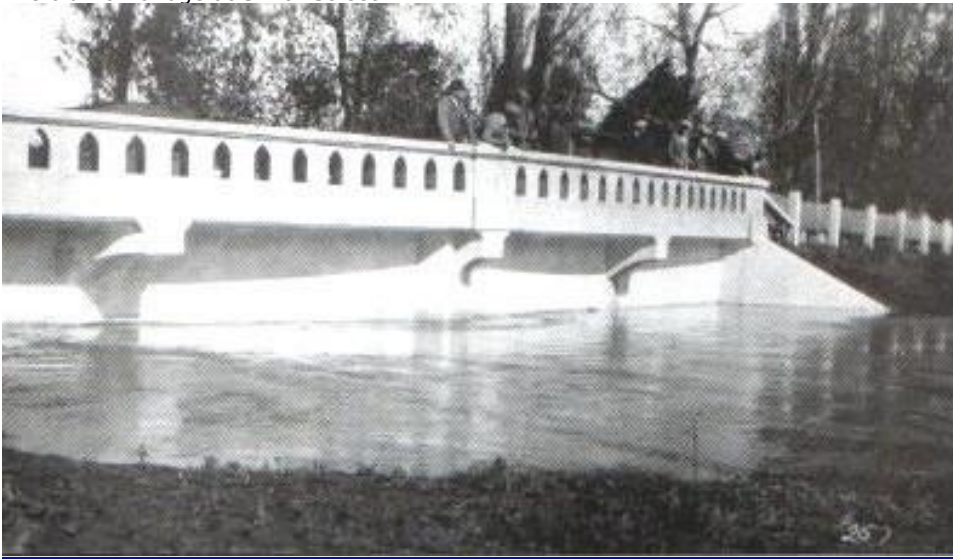
**Completed Circa 1927  
The Smith Street Bridge over the Alameda Creek at Smith Street:**

The bridge over Smith Street at Alquire Road would be located near the Smith Street and Alvarado Niles Road. The top photo is the old iron bridge that stood there for decades, when it was replaced circa 1927.

The iron bridge was replaced with a concrete bridge, seen here (below) during one of Alvarado's many floods at the high water mark of the Alameda Creek. Today the Alameda Creek no longer comes down into downtown Alvarado, it being diverted near Hop Ranch Road to the flood control channel that runs next to Lowry Road west to the Bay.



The old iron bridge at Smith Street



The new Smith Street concrete bridge